

## BRIEFING NOTE FOR DECISION

**Date:** January 26, 2021  
**Prepared For:** Don Zdravec, Acting Deputy Minister, GCPE  
**Title:** TNO Press Theatre Hardware Upgrade  
**Issue:** Proposal for GCPE to upgrade the audio/video production equipment used to produce media events hosted in the Parliament Buildings' Press Theatre.

### SUMMARY:

- **COVID-19 has changed the look and feel of live media events – TNO's press theatre hardware must be upgraded to meet these new realities.**
- **Much of TNO's existing event infrastructure was purchased in 2015 and is reaching the end of its operational life.**
- **COVID-19 has increased press theatre usage over 800% since 2019 creating unanticipated wear and tear on the equipment.**

### BACKGROUND:

Today's News Online staff have been operating and supporting the Legislature Press Theatre since 1993. The last significant upgrade of the theatre hardware was in 2015. As a result of COVID-19, the nature of live media events has changed. The press theatre equipment must change to accommodate evolving client and media demands. Upgrades are needed to create greater redundancy and avoid unexpected equipment failures.

### DISCUSSION:

The proposed capital purchase would allow GCPE to replace ageing hardware with new and current models. This new equipment will better meet the needs of press theatre clients, specifically; the ability to integrate Zoom calls and RTMP feeds into live media events. As well, the upgrading of TNO cameras to K4 will align with a similar move by the GCPE Digital Communications unit earlier this year allowing for maximum flexibility and coverage of live media events.

TNO produced 217 media events in the Press Theatre in 2020. That is compared to 24 the year before. As a result of this increase, additional staff time has had to be allocated to system maintenance including several complete rebuilds in the last six months.

Although there is no indication that 2021 will have the same extreme number of events as 2020, it is a reasonable assumption that media events at the press theatre will continue to be higher than in previous administrations due to the current government doing more of their work at the Legislature.

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

We have secured a single quote, showing a one-time capital outlay of \$82,924.80. The quote includes all equipment required to replace the obsolete theatre hardware. Once approved, we will be posting an invitation to quote for the goods and services on BC Bid.

With the upgrading of the press theatre equipment there would be a potential to eliminate the overlap of duplicated TNO and Digital Comms feeds providing more reliable technical output and better utilize staff time going forward.



## APPROVED/NOT APPROVED

(Please circle)

Don Zadravec, Acting Deputy Minister  
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