

From: [Howie, Matthew IRR:EX](#)
To: [Roberts, Connie A IRR:EX](#)
Cc: [French, Shawna IRR:EX](#); [Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX](#); [Howie, Matthew IRR:EX](#); [Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: Mar 16 FPCC languages event
Date: Thursday, March 8, 2018 1:14:14 PM
Attachments: [Invitation Indigenous Languages March 16.doc](#)

Hi Connie,

I see that MSF will attend this event on Mar 16. Just FYI that Laurel is also going to attend the event.

Matthew Howie
A/Senior Executive Assistant to
Doug Caul, Deputy Minister
Ministry of Indigenous Relations & Reconciliation
Phone: 250-356-1394



Honourable Scott Fraser
Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

And

Cynthia Callison
Chair of the Board, First Peoples' Cultural Council

Invite you to be part of an event to highlight the provincial government's commitment to Indigenous languages and celebrate the work of the First Peoples' Cultural Council and their partners in Indigenous language revitalization.

Friday, March 16, 2018
11:15 am

Location:
Our Living Languages exhibition
Royal BC Museum
675 Belleville Street
Victoria
V8W 9W2

The event will be followed by a luncheon in the museum's Newcombe Conference Hall

Please RSVP by March 13, 2018 to Rick Devereux
Rick.Devereux@gov.bc.ca.

Confidential Issues Note - ADVICE TO MINISTER

Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation Date: March 12, 2018 Minister Responsible: Hon. Scott Fraser	First People's Cultural Council Funding
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RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- For too long, support for Indigenous language revitalization has been neglected.
- We're supporting the important work of the First Peoples' Cultural Council so that Indigenous communities can reclaim connections to their language and culture.
- All Indigenous languages in B.C. are severely endangered.
- There was a concerted effort by the state to extinguish Indigenous language and culture through the residential school system.
- Many of the challenges communities face are systemic and are founded on our colonial past. By investing in Indigenous languages and culture, we start to address those systemic social challenges at community level, connecting people to their communities, land and cultures.
- It is critical to their identity and the key to reconciliation.

Secondary responses:

- The First Peoples' Cultural Council is an internationally recognized Indigenous-led B.C. Crown agency heading up this important and urgent work.
- We are thrilled to have the opportunity to work with First Peoples' Cultural Council.
- This Indigenous organization is leading the way in meeting the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples - for the benefit of Indigenous people and all British Columbians.

Funding:

- The Province is also providing \$50 million to the First Peoples' Cultural Council, and is working with the Council on a plan to manage and allocate that funding in ways to make significant strides to revitalize B.C.'s Indigenous languages.
- The First Peoples' Cultural Council will be seeking to co-ordinate this work

Confidential Issues Note - ADVICE TO MINISTER

through partnerships with Indigenous communities and organizations, and other provincial ministries and agencies – such as Advanced Education and Skills Training and Education – on the strategy to revitalize B.C.'s Indigenous languages.

- More information on the plan going forward will be available when it is finalized.

Other Indigenous languages initiatives:

- This new funding is additional to other funding and Indigenous language initiatives supported by the Province. The First Peoples' Cultural Council will co-ordinate their work through partnerships with Indigenous communities and organizations, and other provincial ministries and agencies.
- This will ensure that the council's work will complement and build from current work underway on Indigenous language revitalization.
- Ministry of Education is working closely with First Nations Education Steering Committee to develop an Indigenous Language Learning policy for the K-12 system.
- There are 17 First Nations languages that have developed approved curriculum to be taught in B.C. schools. And there are six more in development.
- Last year, the ministry provided an extra \$190,000 to support resource development for Indigenous language curricula of the 17 languages.
- The Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills training is currently working with academic and Indigenous partners to develop and Indigenous Language Fluency Degree.
- Public post-secondary schools in B.C. offer a range of Indigenous language courses and programs, all the way up to Masters level, and the ministry also supports language programs through the Aboriginal Community-Based Training Partnerships Program.

KEY FACTS:

- The Feb. 20, 2018 provincial budget announced \$50M for the First Peoples' Cultural Council of one-time year-end funding to support language preservation and revitalization. The funding from 2017/18 is being provided through three-year funding to address the current crisis of languages that may disappear forever.
- B.C. and the First Peoples' Cultural Council are also seeking federal support for this effort.

Confidential Issues Note - ADVICE TO MINISTER

- MLA Mike Morris has publicly criticized the funding, saying that it would be better spent providing additional policing to deal with crime in First Nations communities.
- In 2017/18, the Province is contributing \$1.75 million in annual operating funding to the First Peoples Cultural Council.

BACKGROUND:

- The 2017/18 – 2019/20 First Peoples' Cultural Council (FPCC) Service Plan noted the organization faces challenges with existing resources, primarily meeting the language and cultural revitalization needs of all 203 First Nations and 34 languages.
- FPCC receives funding from the Province of British Columbia, the Government of Canada, the New Relationship Trust, the BC Arts Council and various non-governmental agencies.
- FPCC has asked for greater funding from the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR). The minister's mandate letter priorities include supporting Indigenous communities seeking to revitalize connections with their languages.
- Part of the council's funding comes from the First Citizens Fund. In recent years, earned revenue from the fund had declined. Despite the decline, MIRR maintained funding levels of \$1,051,000 per year in 2015/16 and 2016/17. (\$600,000 of this comes from the First Citizens Fund).
- Canada, through the Department of Canadian Heritage has increased funding to Indigenous languages nationally through the Aboriginal Language Initiative. Canadian Heritage has contributed \$2.6M to FPCC in fiscal 2017/18 (an increase from \$800,000 in previous years). This level of funding should sustain until 2020 when the national Indigenous legislation process has completed and resulted in clarity in how Canada will fund Indigenous languages.

s.16

s.13

however the \$50M in the 2018 gained substantial coverage as part of general budget reporting.

Quote: Squamish First Nation Councillor and lecturer in Indigenous languages at Simon Fraser University Dustin Rivers (Squamish name: Khelsilem) quoted on CBC On The Coast (Feb 26, 2018)

"This kind of funding is a real tangible example of reconciliation in my opinion,"

"The government is committing to reversing the impact of residential schools and colonization with a serious investment in Indigenous languages."

Page 006 to/à Page 010

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s.22;s.13

Page 011

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13

Page 012 to/à Page 017

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.22;s.13

Event to celebrate \$50M funding to First Peoples' Cultural Council
 Venue – Royal BC Museum: Our Living Languages Exhibition (3rd floor)
 Pre-brief – Royal BC Museum: Newcombe Conference Hall (1st floor)

Time	Draft Event Itinerary
11:00 a.m.	Pre-brief with dignitaries: Newcombe Conference Hall Drummers will be performing in lobby outside event space
11:10 a.m.	Drummers stop their performance Dignitaries assemble in the Our Living Languages exhibit
11:15 a.m.	Emcee: Minister James opens proceedings, introduces Elder Butch Dick, Songhees Nation: Offers welcome to territory and opening prayer (English/Lekwungn)
11:25 a.m.	Emcee Minister James thanks Butch Dick, offers brief remarks and introduces speakers Remarks by dignitaries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minister Fraser offers remarks (3 mins) Note: Minister Fraser's remarks to include acknowledgement of Minister Fleming Cynthia Callison, Chair, First Peoples' Cultural Council (1mins) Ray Harris, First Nations Summit (3 mins) Tracey Herbert, CEO First Peoples Cultural Council (3 mins) Giselle Martin, youth speaker – English/Nuu-cha-nulth (3 mins) Video message from National Chief Perry Bellegarde (2 mins) STOLØEL John Elliott, Tsartlip Nation – language song
11:45 a.m.	Emcee Minister James thanks dignitaries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Photo op Media avail Dial in available
12:00 p.m.	Event breaks for lunch – dignitaries and guests move to Newcombe Conference Hall Ministers depart if needed
12:10 p.m.	Lunch: Newcombe Conference Hall Cultural Performance during lunch
1:10 p.m.	Close

Emergency contact: Events Director, Rick Devereux # (250) 812-1207

From: Pocock, Sharon GCPE:EX
To: Sas, Jonathan IRR:EX; Sam, Anne-Marie IRR:EX; Roberts, Connie A IRR:EX
Cc: Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX
Subject: Final package for Indigenous language event
Date: Thursday, March 15, 2018 3:51:59 PM
Attachments: NR-BG FPCC funding event FINAL.docx
MA NEWS-16610.pdf
SN FPCC funding event FINAL.docx
SN Emcee notes for Minister James- FINAL.docx
QA FPCC funding event FINAL.docx
Draft itinerary update 15March 9am.docx
IN First People's Cultural Council 12March2018.docx
IN Indigenous Languages 17Jan2018.docx
Slide 72dpi 1920x1080pixels (2).jpg
Copy of Copy of Guest List MIRR Event Draft March 15 2.xlsx

Hello, here is the final package for tomorrow's event

- News release/Backgrounder – **sending you the word version. We are waiting for the V5, but didn't want to delay the package**
- Media advisory
- Speaking notes for Minister Fraser
- Emcee notes for Minister James
- QA
- Itinerary
- Issues Note: FPCC funding
- Issues Note: Indigenous languages

Other assets

- Link to National Chief's video:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/10CVCyb4sB9WQUwxcbzAOwsUf-EVlnEu0/view?usp=sharing>
- Graphic to be projected on screen
- Guest List – As of today 85 confirmed attending – YES marked on spreadsheet, plus 15 FPCC Advisory Board

Result of media call rounds:

Rob Shaw/Van Sun –definite maybe.

Bhinder Sajjan/CTV – not sure. Depends on morning assignments.

Liza Yuzda/CKNW – day off work.

Victoria News/Black Press – Yes

CFAX – Yes

CBC TV - Decide story assignments in AM; very likely to be attended.

CHEK – Decide story assignments in AM; probably

Times Colonist – Attending federal event; might attend RBCM

Canadian Press/Dirk Meissner – Attending federal event; might attend RBCM

CBC radio – In consideration.

CTV 2 – In consideration. Decide story assignments in AM

Global TV - In consideration. Decide story assignments in AM
Globe and Mail – No. Reporter busy.
Shaw TV – left message
APTN – left message

Thank you
Sharon
Sharon Pocock
Communications
Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
250 387 1253
250 920 5012 (cell)

From: [Pocock, Sharon GCPE:EX](#)
To: [Sas, Jonathan IRR:EX](#); [Sam, Anne-Marie IRR:EX](#)
Cc: [Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX](#); [Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: FOR REVIEW: Materials for Friday's event - speaking notes and QA
Date: Tuesday, March 13, 2018 1:01:21 PM
Attachments: [SN_FPCC_funding_event_ADM_approved.docx](#)
[QA_FPCC_funding_event_ADM_approved.docx](#)

Hi Jonathan and Anne

Here are the final drafts of MSF's speaking notes and the QA for Friday's language event. They're running a little bit long due to the need to put a few lines about Education in.

We're still working with FPCC on the news release and will get that to you as soon as we can for sign off and quote approval.

Minister James and Minister Mark's quotes are with their GCPE shops for approval, and I'm working on MCJ's emcee notes. We will send those on as soon as we have some loose ends tied down.

I'll resend a complete package later in the week including social media and relevant issues notes.

Thank you
Sharon

From: [Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX](#)
To: [Sas, Jonathan IRR:EX](#); [Sam, Anne-Marie IRR:EX](#)
Cc: [Dick, Jolleen IRR:EX](#); [Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX](#); [Pocock, Sharon GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: FOR SIGN OFF - materials for Friday
Date: Wednesday, March 14, 2018 5:29:31 PM
Attachments: [NR FPCC funding draft updated 2018-03-14 4pm.docx](#)
[MA FPCC funding event draft3 SP.docx](#)
[QA FPCC funding event ADM approved.docx](#)
[SN FPCC funding event 2018-03-14 5pm.docx](#)
[Copy of Guest List MIRR Event Draft March7 1215pm.xlsx](#)
[SM FPCC funding event draft 2.docx](#)
[Slide 72dpi 1920x1080pixels \(2\).jpg](#)
Importance: High

Hi Jonathan and Anne – looking for your sign off of the materials for Friday.

Top of the list is the **media advisory**, to go out tomorrow before noon, and the **Minister's quote** in the news release, as well as the **news release** itself.

For your reference, I have included a copy of the map that will be projected onto a screen beside the podium, and a copy of the guest list (Note: RSVPs are not included in this list, but FPCC has had about 85 RSVPs now – we will get that list to you).

Also this is the video that will be played at the event:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/10CVCyb4sB9WQUwxcbzAOwsUf-EVlnEu0/view?usp=sharing>

Thanks!

Sarah.

Sarah Plank

Communications Director | Ministry of Indigenous Relations & Reconciliation
Government Communications & Public Engagement
Office: 250.952.1889 | Mobile: 250.208.9621 | Email: sarah.plank@gov.bc.ca

From: [Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX](#)
To: [Sas, Jonathan IRR:EX](#); [Sam, Anne-Marie IRR:EX](#)
Cc: [Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX](#); [Dick, Jolleen IRR:EX](#)
Subject: FW: FPCC event March dates
Date: Thursday, February 22, 2018 12:57:02 PM
Attachments: [EP_FPCC_funding_announcement_FINAL_updated.docx](#)

Another one for your pitch meeting – some more detailed information below as well. In reaching out to the Royal BC Museum, they seemed open to the idea of hosting an event in that venue, but couldn't commit to anything yet, as obviously dates will be a significant factor to consider. Hopefully Connie can get some potential dates today, so you can have potential dates to pitch tomorrow...

From: Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, February 21, 2018 9:50 PM
To: Roberts, Connie A IRR:EX; Dick, Jolleen IRR:EX
Cc: Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX; Pocock, Sharon GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: FPCC event March dates

Thanks Connie! 😊

The event is to announce more details about and celebrate the \$50 million investment into language revitalization profiled as part of the budget this week. It will be a joint event with the First Peoples Cultural Council (FPCC). I am attaching a document with a few more details.

We have yet to work out the roles, but we understand that both Minister James and Minister Mark have a keen personal interest in language revitalization, so wanted to extend an invitation to participate if they are interested. We will also be inviting key Indigenous dignitaries and elders, as well as language speakers (including youth); and of course officials from FPCC will participate. We expect Minister Fraser would have a speaking role, as the minister responsible for overseeing the funding agreement with FPCC.

We would be looking at a day-time media event during March. If the house is sitting, it would have to be during the lunch hour. If during a break week, sometime between 9am and 2pm (to accommodate media production times). The event would take up to an hour.

Please let me know if you need any more details.

Thanks!
Sarah.

Sarah Plank
Communications Director | Ministry of Indigenous Relations & Reconciliation
Government Communications & Public Engagement
Office: 250.952.1889 | Mobile: 250.208.9621 | Email: sarah.plank@gov.bc.ca

From: Roberts, Connie A IRR:EX
Sent: Wednesday, February 21, 2018 5:20 PM
To: Dick, Jolleen IRR:EX
Cc: Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: FPCC event March dates

Looping you in now, Sarah!

Thanks,
Connie Roberts
*Administrative Coordinator to the
Honourable Scott Fraser
Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
Room #323, Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC
Phone: 250-387-0680*

From: Dick, Jolleen IRR:EX
Sent: Wednesday, February 21, 2018 5:13 PM
To: Roberts, Connie A IRR:EX
Subject: RE: FPCC event March dates

Looping Sarah in as I'm not entirely sure. Sarah do we have a note on the details ready?

Jolleen Dick | Executive Assistant to the Honourable Scott Fraser | Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation | 250-812-5247 (cell)

From: Roberts, Connie A IRR:EX
Sent: Wednesday, February 21, 2018 5:04 PM
To: Dick, Jolleen IRR:EX
Subject: RE: FPCC event March dates

Hi Jolleen,

What is the event as the other office will want to know what it's about? Evening, lunch hour, early morning? How long would this event be? Would MSF be speaking? Does Minister James and Minister Mark have a role?

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From: Dick, Jolleen IRR:EX
Sent: Wednesday, February 21, 2018 2:18 PM
To: Roberts, Connie A IRR:EX

Subject: FPCC event March dates

Hi Connie

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Can we find some dates that we can propose for MSF.

We will need to coordinate availability with Minister James and Minister Mark as well for this event

I understand that March is busy...

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Cc: [Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX](#); [Pocock, Sharon GCPE:EX](#); [Dick, Jolleen IRR:EX](#)
Subject: RE: FPCC event March dates
Date: Friday, February 23, 2018 2:18:17 PM

Hey Connie,

Why don't you and I connect directly as we are now juggling constit week, Fresh Voices, and a whole range of other stuff.

We can do this early next week...

Jonathan Sas | Senior Ministerial Assistant | Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation | 778 587 4376

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Sent: Friday, February 23, 2018 1:29 PM
To: Roberts, Connie A IRR:EX
Cc: Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX; Pocock, Sharon GCPE:EX; Dick, Jolleen IRR:EX; Sas, Jonathan IRR:EX
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Hi Connie – direction from the senior MA meeting this morning was to do this during one of the break weeks in March/early April. Would you mind please checking with the other MOs for dates in that three-week window?

Thanks!
Sarah.

From: Roberts, Connie A IRR:EX
Sent: Thursday, February 22, 2018 10:16 AM
To: Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX
Cc: Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX; Pocock, Sharon GCPE:EX; Dick, Jolleen IRR:EX
Subject: RE: FPCC event March dates

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Subject: RE: FPCC event March dates
Date: Friday, February 23, 2018 2:19:52 PM

Ok

Thanks,
Connie Roberts
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Cc: Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX; Pocock, Sharon GCPE:EX; Dick, Jolleen IRR:EX
Subject: RE: FPCC event March dates

Thanks, I have put the ask out to the other Minister's for dates, so will let you know.

Thanks,
Connie Roberts
*Administrative Coordinator to the
Honourable Scott Fraser
Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
Room #323, Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC
Phone: 250-387-0680*

From: Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, February 21, 2018 9:50 PM
To: Roberts, Connie A IRR:EX; Dick, Jolleen IRR:EX
Cc: Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX; Pocock, Sharon GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: FPCC event March dates

Thanks Connie! ☺

The event is to announce more details about and celebrate the \$50 million investment into language revitalization profiled as part of the budget this week. It will be a joint event with the First Peoples Cultural Council (FPCC). I am attaching a document with a few more details.

We have yet to work out the roles, but we understand that both Minister James and Minister Mark have a keen personal interest in language revitalization, so wanted to extend an invitation to participate if they are interested. We will also be inviting key Indigenous dignitaries and elders, as well as language speakers (including youth); and of course officials from FPCC will participate. We expect Minister Fraser would have a speaking role, as the minister responsible for overseeing the funding agreement with FPCC.

We would be looking at a day-time media event during March. If the house is sitting, it would have to be during the lunch hour. If during a break week, sometime between 9am and 2pm (to accommodate media production times). The event would take up to an hour.

Please let me know if you need any more details.

Thanks!
Sarah.

Sarah Plank
Communications Director | Ministry of Indigenous Relations & Reconciliation
Government Communications & Public Engagement
Office: 250.952.1889 | Mobile: 250.208.9621 | Email: sarah.plank@gov.bc.ca

From: [Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX](#)
To: [Roberts, Connie A IRR:EX](#)
Cc: [Sam, Anne-Marie IRR:EX](#); [Dick, Jolleen IRR:EX](#); [Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX](#); [Pocock, Sharon GCPE:EX](#); [Sas, Jonathan IRR:EX](#)
Subject: RE: Mar 16 event - lunch
Date: Tuesday, March 6, 2018 12:30:45 PM

Thanks Connie.

From: Roberts, Connie A IRR:EX
Sent: Tuesday, March 6, 2018 12:20 PM
To: Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX
Cc: Sam, Anne-Marie IRR:EX; Dick, Jolleen IRR:EX; Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX; Pocock, Sharon GCPE:EX; Sas, Jonathan IRR:EX
Subject: RE: Mar 16 event - lunch

Ok, I just spoke with his office and they are ok with that time, however, it's going to be very tight for MRF, so they will do their absolute best to have him there by 11:15 am. MCJ is good to go and MMM is not available.

I will confirm if MCJ and MRF are good to stay for the luncheon as well.

Thanks,
Connie Roberts
*Administrative Coordinator to the
Honourable Scott Fraser
Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
Room #323, Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC
Phone: 250-387-0680*

From: Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, March 6, 2018 12:10 PM
To: Roberts, Connie A IRR:EX
Cc: Sam, Anne-Marie IRR:EX; Dick, Jolleen IRR:EX; Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX; Pocock, Sharon GCPE:EX; Sas, Jonathan IRR:EX
Subject: RE: Mar 16 event - lunch

Hi Connie – we can start as late as 11:15am, but there are concerns about starting any later. Can we make that work? Thanks, Sarah.

From: Roberts, Connie A IRR:EX
Sent: Tuesday, March 6, 2018 12:06 PM
To: Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX
Cc: Sam, Anne-Marie IRR:EX; Dick, Jolleen IRR:EX; Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX; Pocock, Sharon GCPE:EX; Sas, Jonathan IRR:EX
Subject: RE: Mar 16 event - lunch
Importance: High

MCJ will make herself available for this event. MRF will attend based on if we can shift the timing, so I will wait to hear from you.

Thanks,
Connie Roberts
*Administrative Coordinator to the
Honourable Scott Fraser
Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
Room #323, Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC
Phone: 250-387-0680*

From: Roberts, Connie A IRR:EX
Sent: Tuesday, March 6, 2018 11:15 AM
To: Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX
Cc: Sam, Anne-Marie IRR:EX; Dick, Jolleen IRR:EX; Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX; Pocock, Sharon GCPE:EX; Sas, Jonathan IRR:EX
Subject: RE: Mar 16 event - lunch

FYI – MMM is not available at all on March 16th. Still waiting to hear from MCJ's office.

Thanks,
Connie Roberts
*Administrative Coordinator to the
Honourable Scott Fraser
Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
Room #323, Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC
Phone: 250-387-0680*

From: Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, March 6, 2018 10:50 AM
To: Roberts, Connie A IRR:EX
Cc: Sam, Anne-Marie IRR:EX; Dick, Jolleen IRR:EX; Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX; Pocock, Sharon GCPE:EX; Sas, Jonathan IRR:EX
Subject: RE: Mar 16 event - lunch

Hi Connie – we can definitely do 11:15. 11:30 is a possibility but does push lunch a little late. We will just confirm with FPCC and the museum that that wouldn't create any significant issues, and that the venue is available until a little later. We'll also need to confirm with the central calendar folks at GCPE. Will get back to you shortly.

Thx, S.

From: Roberts, Connie A IRR:EX
Sent: Tuesday, March 6, 2018 10:48 AM
To: Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX
Cc: Sam, Anne-Marie IRR:EX; Dick, Jolleen IRR:EX; Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX; Pocock, Sharon GCPE:EX; Sas, Jonathan IRR:EX
Subject: RE: Mar 16 event - lunch
Importance: High

Hi Sarah,

MRF, cannot make the 11 am time-slot for this event, as time coming in from a commitment in Langford, 11:30 would be optimal, 11:15 possibly do-able.

MCJ might be available and MMM might be available at 11:00 am, so I've gone back to them to see about 11:15 or 11:30 am start time.

Can you please confirm if it's possible to do this event at perhaps 11:15 or 11:30?

Thanks,
Connie Roberts
*Administrative Coordinator to the
Honourable Scott Fraser
Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
Room #323, Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC
Phone: 250-387-0680*

From: Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, March 2, 2018 6:18 PM
To: Sas, Jonathan IRR:EX
Cc: Roberts, Connie A IRR:EX; Sam, Anne-Marie IRR:EX; Dick, Jolleen IRR:EX; Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX; Pocock, Sharon GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: Mar 16 event - lunch

Maybe, but can we also see whether other ministers have any constraints? Minister James had something in her calendar too, at 11:30 of course... I don't know if it was moveable though.

On Mar 2, 2018, at 6:09 PM, Sas, Jonathan IRR:EX <Jonathan.Sas@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hey all,

Just heard MRF can attend if we start 1130... anyway we can push things back half hour?

Jonathan Sas I Senior Ministerial Assistant to Minister Scott Fraser I Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

From: Sarah.Plank@gov.bc.ca
Sent: March 2, 2018 5:48 PM
To: Connie.Roberts@gov.bc.ca
Cc: Jonathan.Sas@gov.bc.ca; AnneMarie.Sam@gov.bc.ca; Jolleen.Dick@gov.bc.ca; Leanne.Ritchie@gov.bc.ca; Sharon.Pocock@gov.bc.ca
Subject: Mar 16 event - lunch

Hi Connie - can you please hold the minister's calendar for 12:00 - 1:30pm after the languages event to join the luncheon that FPCC is hosting? He indicated to me this afternoon that he would like to attend. It looks like it will work in his calendar.

Also, it's looking more like 11:00 - 12:00 for the actual event. Hold right now is for 10:00 in his calendar. It could possibly shift a bit if other Ministers have calendar issues, but we're close to nailing it down for that time.

Thanks!
Sarah

Sarah Plank
Communications Director | Ministry of Indigenous Relations & Reconciliation
Government Communications & Public Engagement
Mobile: [250.208.9621](tel:250.208.9621) | Email: sarah.plank@gov.bc.ca

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Pocock, Sharon GCPE:EX](#)
To: [Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX](#); [Sam, Anne-Marie IRR:EX](#)
Cc: [Sas, Jonathan IRR:EX](#); [Dick, Jolleen IRR:EX](#); [Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: RE: March 16 language event
Date: Friday, March 2, 2018 9:35:14 AM

I've asked FPCC to share the invite list they've already compiled so we can see where the gaps are and if they've already included some of those we'd want to invite. Will share when I receive it.

Thanks
Sharon

From: Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, March 2, 2018 9:18 AM
To: Sam, Anne-Marie IRR:EX
Cc: Sas, Jonathan IRR:EX; Dick, Jolleen IRR:EX; Pocock, Sharon GCPE:EX; Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: March 16 language event

Absolutely Anne! Guest list is under development. It's already fairly long from what FPCC has said about who they'd like to include. The space can hold up to about 200 people I think, so we will make sure all the right people are invited. Thanks for these ones to add to the list if not already there!

S.

Sarah Plank
Communications Director | Ministry of Indigenous Relations & Reconciliation
Government Communications & Public Engagement
Mobile: [250.208.9621](tel:250.208.9621) | Email: sarah.plank@gov.bc.ca

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 2, 2018, at 9:15 AM, Sam, Anne-Marie IRR:EX <AnneMarie.Sam@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hello,

Just wondering if an invite has gone out to FNLC for March 16 ? Leadership would like to be aware of this. And the green caucus ? Adam Olsen said his nation is a example of a good language program would he want to invite his leadership ? And school trustee the aboriginal caucus or school board reps ? Aboriginal child care ? Just to bring this beyond FPCC this should be celebrated far and wide

Anne

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Sas, Jonathan IRR:EX](#)
To: [Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX](#); [Sam, Anne-Marie IRR:EX](#)
Cc: [Dick, Jolleen IRR:EX](#); [Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX](#); [Pocock, Sharon GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: RE: FOR SIGN OFF - materials for Friday
Date: Wednesday, March 14, 2018 6:59:36 PM

MA looks great!

Jonathan Sas | Senior Ministerial Assistant | Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation | 778 587 4376

From: Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2018 5:29 PM
To: Sas, Jonathan IRR:EX; Sam, Anne-Marie IRR:EX
Cc: Dick, Jolleen IRR:EX; Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX; Pocock, Sharon GCPE:EX
Subject: FOR SIGN OFF - materials for Friday
Importance: High

Hi Jonathan and Anne – looking for your sign off of the materials for Friday.

Top of the list is the **media advisory**, to go out tomorrow before noon, and the **Minister's quote** in the news release, as well as the **news release** itself.

For your reference, I have included a copy of the map that will be projected onto a screen beside the podium, and a copy of the guest list (Note: RSVPs are not included in this list, but FPCC has had about 85 RSVPs now – we will get that list to you).

Also this is the video that will be played at the event:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/10CVCyb4sB9WQUwxcbzAOwsUf-EVlnEu0/view?usp=sharing>

Thanks!
Sarah.

Sarah Plank
Communications Director | Ministry of Indigenous Relations & Reconciliation
Government Communications & Public Engagement
Office: 250.952.1889 | Mobile: 250.208.9621 | Email: sarah.plank@gov.bc.ca

Media Event Plan

Event Title: Celebration of \$50M to First Peoples' Cultural Council for Indigenous languages

Date: March 16, 2018 Time: 11:00 a.m.	Media Market: Provincial, regional, Indigenous
Location: Royal BC Museum, 675 Belleville Street, Victoria	English Media Spokesperson: Minister Fraser, Tracey Herbert, CEO First Peoples' Cultural Council
	Multicultural Media Spokesperson: Minister Fraser, Tracey Herbert, CEO First Peoples' Cultural Council
Author: MIRR GCPE	Communications Director Signoff: _____
Version #: 1	Date: March 1, 2018

THE EVENT

PROACTIVE EVENT OR INVITATION

- Proactive event

EVENT (what will the news headline be)

Headline: Investment in Indigenous languages will build stronger communities

The event will have two distinct sections:

1. Media event starting at 11:00 a.m. in the Our Living Languages exhibit in the Royal BC Museum
Event will comprise drumming, remarks from dignitaries and Indigenous language speakers, photo op and media avail.
2. Separate lunch in RBCM's Newcombe Conference Hall. Ministers are welcome to attend if available, or could use the break as an opportunity to retire.
There may be a short language champion panel and QA following lunch. This is not confirmed, but would be led by FPCC.

WHO'S ORGANIZING? (Specify lead individual and coordinates)

MIRR GCPE and First Peoples' Cultural Council (FPCC)

BACKGROUND NOTES

- In Budget 2018, B.C. allocated a \$50M three-year funding grant to FPCC to make significant strides to revitalize Indigenous languages in British Columbia and address the current crisis of languages that may disappear forever.
- In British Columbia, 203 First Nations communities have 34 languages, more than any other province in Canada, and 61 dialects.
- There are currently less than 6,000 people who speak one of the 34 Indigenous languages in B.C.
- The First Peoples' Cultural Council is a First Nations-run Crown Corporation with a mandate to support the revitalization of Indigenous languages, arts, culture and heritage in British Columbia.
- There has been recent comment in the media by an opposition MLA questioning whether the funding could have been better targeted towards supporting services to meet the many social challenges facing Indigenous communities.

VENUE DESCRIPTION

Royal BC Museum's award winning [Our Living Languages](#) exhibit

EVENT PARTICIPANTS (SPEAKERS) - to be discussed

- Songhees or Esquimalt Nation Elder
- Minister Scott Fraser
- Tracey Herbert, CEO First Peoples' Cultural Council
- Jack Lohman, CEO Royal BC Museum (tbc)
- Community language champion (tbc)
- Youth language champion (tbc)

Other potential government speakers

- Minister Melanie Mark
- Minister Carol James

KEY VALIDATORS & STAKEHOLDERS

- Cynthia Callison, President of the First Peoples' Cultural Council
- Professor Jack Lohman, CEO, Royal BC Museum
- Elder John Elliot, Tsartlip First Nation, co-founder of FirstVoices
- Perry Bellegarde, National Chief, Assembly of First Nations
- Dustin Rivers (Khelsilem), Squamish First Nation councillor & SFU lecturer in Indigenous languages

TARGET AUDIENCE

- Indigenous communities, Indigenous language partners, Academics, British Columbians

Draft Program: tbc

11:00 a.m.		Prebrief
11:10 a.m.		Dignitaries are drummed into the Our Living Languages exhibit Emcee welcomes everyone to the event Elder welcomes everyone to the territory /opening prayer
11:15 a.m.		Dignitaries offer remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minister Fraser • Tracey Herbert (FPCC) • Professor Jack Lohman - tbc • Community language champion – tbc • Youth language champion - tbc Other speakers - tbc
11:45 a.m.		Emcee thanks speakers Photo Op Media Avail
12:00 p.m.		Event ends
12:05 p.m.		Lunch served in Newcombe Conference Hall Possible language champion panel and QA

VISUAL MESSAGE(S)

DESIRED PICTURE (STILL)

Ministers with FPCC representatives and language champions in front of the Our Living Languages exhibits

Digital (social media) opportunities

DESCRIBE

- Twitter
- Facebook
- You Tube
- Flickr

WRITTEN MESSAGE(S)

DESIRED SOUNDBITE / KEY NEWS RELEASE SOUNDBITE

"Indigenous languages came under state-sponsored attack during the residential school era and Indigenous people have been suffering with the consequences ever since. Not only is language an Indigenous peoples' right under the UN Declaration, the teaching of language strengthens the cultural and social health of a community, and connects children to their heritage, community values and the lands they come from."

DRAFT Key Messages

- For too long, support for Indigenous language preservation has been neglected.
- We're supporting the important work of the First Peoples' Cultural Council so that Indigenous communities can reclaim connections to their language and culture.
- All Indigenous languages in B.C. are severely endangered.
- There was a concerted effort by the state to extinguish Indigenous language and culture through the residential school system.
- Investing in language revitalization is an important way to support Indigenous people in connecting with their communities, land and cultures. We see this work as integral to reconciliation.

From: [Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX](#)
To: [Sas, Jonathan IRR:EX](#); [Sam, Anne-Marie IRR:EX](#); [Dick, Jolleen IRR:EX](#)
Cc: [Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: FW: Event plan - languages funding
Date: Thursday, March 1, 2018 3:55:41 PM
Attachments: [EP Event Plan FPCC funding announcement.docx](#)

Just FYI that I have looped in the other ministers' comms shops. The attached is what I provided in the way of background, so you have it too. Thx,S.

From: Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, March 1, 2018 3:40 PM
To: Porter, Rodney GCPE:EX; Fillion, Corinna GCPE:EX; Currie, David GCPE:EX
Cc: Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX; Pocock, Sharon GCPE:EX
Subject: Event plan - languages funding

Hi all,

Just want you to be aware that our MO has invited your ministers to attend this event on Friday, March 16th at 11am at the Royal BC Museum in Victoria. It's a lot of ministers, so haven't finalized roles yet – will need to do that once we know who will attend.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Thanks,
Sarah.

Sarah Plank
Communications Director | Ministry of Indigenous Relations & Reconciliation
Government Communications & Public Engagement
Office: 250.952.1889 | Mobile: 250.208.9621 | Email: sarah.plank@gov.bc.ca

From: Pocock, Sharon GCPE:EX
To: Sas, Jonathan IRR:EX; Sam, Anne-Marie IRR:EX; Dick, Jolleen IRR:EX; Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX
Subject: FPCC invite list for March 16 - draft
Date: Friday, March 2, 2018 11:15:59 AM
Attachments: Copy of Guest List MIRR Event Draft March 2.xlsx

Hello there, FPCC have shared their draft invite list. s.22
s.22 so they've not run it by her yet.

Leadership are on there – Grand Chief Ed Joh, Grand Chief Stewart Phillip Chief Chamberlin, Regional Chief Terry Tegee. National Chief Perry Bellegarde Andrew Weaver is also there. Also Judith Sayers for NTC and obviously Jack Lohman for RBCM

Also representatives from FNEESC, UVic, UBC, New Relationship Trust, First Nations Technology Council First Voices and Department of Canadian Heritage

We have capacity to add, so if there are gaps, we can add to this list.

Thanks
Sharon

From: Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, March 2, 2018 9:18 AM
To: Sam, Anne-Marie IRR:EX
Cc: Sas, Jonathan IRR:EX; Dick, Jolleen IRR:EX; Pocock, Sharon GCPE:EX; Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: March 16 language event

Absolutely Anne! Guest list is under development. It's already fairly long from what FPCC has said about who they'd like to include. The space can hold up to about 200 people I think, so we will make sure all the right people are invited. Thanks for these ones to add to the list if not already there!

S.

Sarah Plank
Communications Director | Ministry of Indigenous Relations & Reconciliation
Government Communications & Public Engagement
Mobile: [250.208.9621](tel:250.208.9621) | Email: sarah.plank@gov.bc.ca

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 2, 2018, at 9:15 AM, Sam, Anne-Marie IRR:EX <AnneMarie.Sam@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hello,

Just wondering if an invite has gone out to FNLC for March 16 ? Leadership would like to be

aware of this. And the green caucus ? Adam Olsen said his nation is a example of a good language program would he want to invite his leadership ? And school trustee the aboriginal caucus or school board reps ? Aboriginal child care ? Just to bring this beyond FPCC this should be celebrated far and wide

Anne

Sent from my iPhone

Page 046 to/à Page 049

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.22;s.13

From: Groves, Joanna
Subject: FW: B.C. investment in Indigenous language revitalization puts reconciliation into action - BC Gov News
Date: Friday, March 16, 2018 2:27:18 PM

FYI

From: Groves, Joanna
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 2:26 PM
Subject: FW: B.C. investment in Indigenous language revitalization puts reconciliation into action - BC Gov News

Lots of news today! The following release went out this morning.

Joanna Groves | Research and Communications Officer | Joanna.Groves@leg.bc.ca | P: 250-952-0542 | C: 250-886-5172
New Democrat BC Government Caucus | www.facebook.com/johnhorganbc/

For Immediate Release
2018IRR0006-000422
March 16, 2018

Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
First Peoples' Cultural Council

NEWS RELEASE

B.C. investment in Indigenous language revitalization puts reconciliation into action

VICTORIA - First Peoples' Cultural Council will work in partnership with First Nations communities to develop and implement revitalization plans for each of the living Indigenous languages in B.C., to reverse the disruption to Indigenous languages from Canada's history of colonization and residential schools.

"Language is critical for connecting Indigenous peoples to their culture, spirituality, identity and land," said Scott Fraser, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation. "For too long, Indigenous language has been under threat. The time has come for us to support First Nations in exercising their human right to speak and pass on their language and culture."

In Budget 2018, B.C. allocated a \$50-million grant to the First Peoples' Cultural Council (FPCC) to help revitalize Indigenous languages in British Columbia, and address the current language crisis. Fewer than 6,000 people speak one of the 34 Indigenous languages in B.C.

"We are taking action now to support Indigenous communities' work to preserve and revitalize endangered languages - languages that are cornerstones of cultural and social identities across our province," said Carole James, Minister of Finance. "By investing in Indigenous languages, we invest in the future of Indigenous communities. I am proud our government is making this historic commitment."

As a result of the funding, the First Peoples' Cultural Council will expand community immersion programs that support the development of fluent speakers of Indigenous languages. These include the Mentor-Apprentice program, which pairs fluent speakers with apprentices for one-on-one immersion training, and the Pre-school Language Nest program, which supports the creation of language and culture immersion environments for children and their parents. The pilot Silent Speakers program will become permanent. Silent Speakers helps those who understand, but do not speak their language, overcome challenges with using it in their communities.

"We sincerely thank the B.C. government for its strong leadership and new investment in the revitalization of Indigenous languages across B.C., and for recognizing the importance of Indigenous languages to the well-being of Indigenous peoples," said Cynthia Callison, FPCC board chair. "This funding is essential to restore and continue the unique diversity of Indigenous languages in B.C. It is a concrete example of implementing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's calls to action toward reconciliation."

The language revitalization plans will be developed with Indigenous communities and tailored to their individual needs. The First Peoples' Cultural Council will also provide funding to increase the number of words and phrases uploaded to the FirstVoices online oral dictionary, and expand the online resources available for language learners and speakers.

"Urgent action is needed as many Indigenous languages are in danger of becoming extinct," said Melanie Mark, Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training. "One of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's key priorities is revitalizing language. That's what this work is about - not just giving lip service to reconciliation, but taking action."

FPCC will work in collaboration with communities and partners to support additional priority actions to revitalize languages. These include creating new speakers and developing new language resources that will support communities to build skills and capacity for language mobilization.

"The First Nations communities we have been working with are seeing clear and measurable results, creating fluent language speakers as new knowledge keepers and documenting languages for future generations," said Tracey Herbert, CEO of the FPCC. "This new funding will help us to build on our strong track record of success, and expand our work to all Indigenous communities in B.C., to help their mother-tongue languages flourish again."

Quick Facts:

- * The First Peoples' Cultural Council is a First Nations-run Crown corporation with a mandate to support the revitalization of Indigenous languages, arts, culture and heritage in B.C.

- * British Columbia has the greatest diversity of Indigenous languages in Canada. The 34 unique Indigenous languages, and over 90 dialects, represent 60% of all Indigenous languages in the country.

* Investing in languages aligns with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's calls to action and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which recognize that knowing and being able to speak one's language is a human right.

Learn More:

First Peoples' Cultural Council: www.fpcc.ca

FirstVoices: www.firstvoices.com/en

Map of Indigenous languages in B.C.: ow.ly/rOub30iYgmq

B.C. Budget 2018: bcbudget.gov.bc.ca/2018

A backgrounder follows.

Contacts:

Sarah Plank
Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
250 208-9621

Nancy McHarg
First Peoples' Cultural Council
604 760-4366

BACKGROUNDER

First Peoples' Cultural Council

The First Peoples' Cultural Council is a unique organization in Canada. As a First Nations-run Crown corporation with a mandate to support the revitalization of Indigenous languages, arts, culture and heritage in British Columbia, First Peoples' Cultural Council provides funding and resources to communities, monitors the status of Indigenous languages and develops policy recommendations for First Nations and government.

New funding

The B.C. government has committed a significant investment of \$50 million to support Indigenous language. This funding is the result of many years of advocacy, educating policy makers, and developing investment models by First Peoples' Cultural Council and community partners.

Why Indigenous language revitalization matters

Restoring connections to Indigenous language and culture builds resilience and supports healthy individuals and communities. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action report outlines the need to protect and invest in the restoration of Indigenous languages as a

concrete step toward reconciliation. Knowing and being able to speak one's language is recognized as a human right for Indigenous peoples. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples identifies that Indigenous peoples have the right to revitalize, use, develop and transmit to future generations their histories, languages, oral traditions, philosophies, writing systems and literatures, and to designate and retain their own names for communities, places and persons. First Peoples' Cultural Council has been working with the Assembly of First Nations and the federal government to advance the recognition and protection of Indigenous language rights in federal law.

How the funding will be used

The new funding will be used for language preservation and revitalization activities, including community grants, community language planning, and documentation and training aimed at rebuilding community-based language supports. The funding will also be used to expand language immersion programs and learning resources to support Indigenous languages in communities throughout the province.

The First Peoples' Cultural Council has served First Nations in B.C. for 28 years. The First Peoples' Cultural Council has mapped and documented Indigenous languages in B.C.; built tools and programs in community and online that support language learning; created partnerships with communities throughout the province; and worked with leaders in Indigenous languages around the globe to share their pioneering and proven approaches to language reclamation, documentation and revitalization.

Their efforts have been recognized as establishing British Columbia and Canada as leaders in Indigenous language revitalization. Limited resources have meant that the First Peoples' Cultural Council were able to touch only a handful (10% or less) of the Indigenous languages in the province. With this new provincial funding, it will work with the Indigenous language groups and communities that belong to the same cultural groups and speak the same language throughout the province. The program will be flexible in order to respond to the needs of the community. First Peoples' Cultural Council works collaboratively with communities, supporting leading language work led by Elders and other knowledge keepers of the land.

Language programs supported in communities include:

- * The Mentor-Apprentice program pairs a fluent language speaker (mentor) with a language learner (apprentice) to transfer language knowledge and increase fluency.

- * FirstVoices is the internationally recognized online Indigenous language archiving and teaching resource that allows Indigenous communities to document their language for future generations. FirstVoices provides state-of-the-art technologies, training and technical support to community language champions. Teams of fluent Elders and technically savvy youth upload dictionaries, alphabets, songs, stories, words and phrases, as well as audio and video to their community archives. FirstVoices keyboards includes apps for Apple and Android mobile devices, and more.

* The Silent Speaker program is for people who understand, but do not speak, their First Nations language. The course is based on a successful program that was developed in Norway and Sweden for, and by, Indigenous Sami people. The model uses cognitive behaviour therapy (CBT) to support silent speakers in overcoming barriers to using their Indigenous language in their communities.

* The Pre-School Language Nest program creates language and cultural immersion environments for pre-school children and their parents. In addition to creating an immersion environment with staff, volunteers and Elders, Language Nests allow young parents to learn the language and bring it back into their homes and daily lives, which is necessary for revitalizing a language.

* First Peoples' Cultural Council partners with Google.org on the Endangered Languages project, whose governance First Peoples' Cultural Council chairs.

To learn about the First Peoples' Cultural Council's language documentation website, visit:
www.firstvoices.com

To find out more about Indigenous languages legislation in Canada, visit:
www.fpcc.ca/language/Legislation/

To see current calls for language funding, visit: www.fpcc.ca/Grants/Language/

Contact:

Nancy McHarg
First Peoples' Cultural Council
604 760-4366

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[Government Operations, Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation](#)

Confidential Issues Note - ADVICE TO MINISTER

Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation Date: Jan. 17, 2018 Minister Responsible: Hon. Scott Fraser	Indigenous Languages Support
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RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- First Nations languages, culture, arts and heritage are integral to the health of all members of First Nations communities.
- B.C. is home to 60% of First Nations languages in Canada, with 34 languages and over 61 dialects.
- One of my key mandate priorities is to support Indigenous communities seeking to revitalize connections with their languages.
- B.C. is the only province in Canada with a Crown corporation that leads the revitalization of First Nations languages, culture, arts and heritage.

FIRST PEOPLES' CULTURAL COUNCIL PROJECTS WITH ROYAL BC MUSEUM:

- The First Peoples' Cultural Council has a strong partnership with the Royal BC Museum (RBCM) and in 2016 signed a memorandum of understanding to work together on language and culture-related projects.
- This includes working collaboratively with First Nations communities in B.C. on the repatriation of ancestral remains and cultural belongings.
- Since 2014, the ground-breaking "Our Living Languages" exhibition has used interactive technologies, original artwork, video, audio and live engagement to showcase the history and diversity of First Nations languages in B.C.
- FPCC is represented on RBCM's newly formed First Nations Advisory Council which will give advice on matters of cultural protocols, policies, exhibitions, program and the curation of collections related to First Nations in B.C.

FEDERAL INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES ACT:

- In 2016, the federal government announced that they would be co-developing an Indigenous languages Act with Indigenous peoples to preserve, protect and revitalize Indigenous languages.
- The First Peoples' Cultural Council held five regional engagement and information sessions in 2017 to inform people of the proposed legislation and provide the opportunity to provide input to the federal government.
- We look forward to hearing more about federal plans for an Indigenous

Confidential Issues Note - ADVICE TO MINISTER

Languages Act and how it can enhance ongoing work in B.C.

KEY FACTS:

- In 2014, the First Peoples Cultural Council (FPCC) released its “Report on the Status of B.C. First Nations Language,” providing statistics on 185 out of 203 First Nations communities.
- The report states the number of fluent speakers declined since 2010 to slightly more than 4% (down from 5%). At the same time, language revitalization efforts are paying off with the next generation as the number of semi-fluent speakers is increasing to slightly more than 9% (up from 8%).
- The FPCC is due to update this report in 2018. Support for language, culture, arts and heritage are integral parts of the Truth and Reconciliation 94 Calls to Action as language loss is a direct result of the residential school system, as well as part of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous peoples (UNDRIP).
- The FPCC is a provincial Crown corporation established to assist B.C. First Nations with revitalizing and protecting their languages, arts, cultures and heritage.
- FPCC offers grants for language and arts programs. In 2016/17, the council provided \$978,000 to 75 Indigenous artists and arts projects. A call for language grants closed on June 16, 2017.
- While provincial funding has remained stable, FPCC funding has increased from other sources, including the federal government as a result of a provincial effort to secure increased federal support for languages.

FIRSTVOICES UPGRADE:

- In 2014/15, MIRR provided \$300,000 for the council to upgrade FirstVoices.
- Upgrades to the database and front end have taken place and an additional \$300,000 of in-kind development services was provided through the Ministry of Advanced Education. The council also received funding for the upgrade from the New Relationship Trust (\$250,000), First Peoples’ Cultural Foundation (\$100,000) and the federal government (\$1M 2017/18 funding).
- FirstVoices will be relaunched on Jan. 29, 2018 at an event at the FPCC offices in Brentwood Bay.
- FirstVoices is the council’s internationally recognized online Indigenous language archiving and teaching resource that allows Indigenous communities to document their language for future generations. Teams of fluent Elders and youth upload dictionaries, alphabets, songs, stories, words and phrases, and audio and video to their community archives.
- Other components of FirstVoices include a keyboard app for mobile devices, language lab, and language tutor. Twelve interactive dictionaries have been developed for ipad and iPhone with more in development.

FEDERAL INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES ACT:

- In December 2016, the Prime Minister announced a commitment to implement an Indigenous Languages Act.
- The 2017 federal budget allocated \$69 million over 3 years to substantially enhance the Aboriginal Language Initiative. This is part of an overall \$89.9 million federal investment over the next three years to support Indigenous languages and cultures.
- The FPCC held a series of regional sessions in May and June 2017 to discuss the proposed Indigenous language legislation and compiled a report based on the information. Sessions took place May 17 in Kelowna, May 25 in Prince George, May 31 in Richmond, June 2 in Nanaimo, and June 12 in Terrace.
- A presentation by Chief Dr. Ron Ignace at the Union of BC Indian Chiefs Annual General Assembly in September 2017 suggested that the federal government is targeting June 2018 to introduce the proposed legislation to the House of Commons, however given the scale of work (a co-development working group starts work in Jan 2018) this seems unlikely.

Media: s.13

March 15, 2018

MEDIA ADVISORY – Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation – Victoria
First Peoples' Cultural Council

VICTORIA – Scott Fraser, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation and Cynthia Callison and Tracey Herbert of the First Peoples' Cultural Council will welcome honoured guests for a celebration of the provincial government's commitment to Indigenous languages. They will also provide more detail on the work of the First Peoples' Cultural Council and their partners on Indigenous language revitalization, made possible from a recent provincial investment.

Speakers and guests will include representatives from the provincial government, Indigenous leaders, community language champions and supporters and partners of the First Peoples' Cultural Council. Dignitaries will share some thoughts in their own Indigenous languages.

The ANSWER -All Nations Strong Women for Education and Reconciliation drum group will perform in the museum's third floor lobby prior to the event.

Event Date: Friday, March 16, 2018

Time: 11:15 p.m.

Location:

Our Living Languages exhibit
Third floor
Royal BC Museum
675 Belleville Street
Victoria

Special Instructions:

Media should report to the event registration desk in the main museum lobby

A dial in line will be available from [insert time and phone number]

Contact:

Sharon Pocock
Communications
Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
250 920-5012

Nancy McHarg
McHarg Communications for the First Peoples' Cultural Council
604 760-4366

MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release

Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

March 15, 2018

MEDIA ADVISORY – Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation – Victoria; teleconference

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They will also provide more detail on the work of the First Peoples' Cultural Council and their partners on Indigenous language revitalization, made possible by a recent provincial investment.

Speakers and guests will include Carole James, Minister of Finance; Rob Fleming, Minister of Education; Indigenous leaders; community language champions; and supporters and partners of the First Peoples' Cultural Council. Dignitaries will share some thoughts in their own Indigenous languages.

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Dial-in information:

In Vancouver: 604 681-0260

From elsewhere in Canada and the USA: 1 877 353-9184

Participant passcode: 18026#

Contacts:

Sharon Pocock
Communications
Ministry of Indigenous Relations and
Reconciliation
250 920-5012

Nancy McHarg
McHarg Communications,
For the First Peoples' Cultural Council
604 760-4366

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
[release number]
March 16, 2018

Ministry of Indigenous Relations and
Reconciliation
First Peoples' Cultural Council

B.C. investment in Indigenous language revitalization puts reconciliation into action

VICTORIA – First Peoples' Cultural Council will work with Indigenous communities to develop and implement language revitalization plans for all 34 Indigenous languages in B.C., to reverse the disruption to Indigenous languages from Canada's history of colonization and residential schools.

"Language is critical for connecting Indigenous people to their culture, spirituality, identity and land," said Scott Fraser, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation. "For too long, Indigenous language was under state-sponsored attack. The time has come for us to support First Nations in exercising their human right to speak and pass on their language and culture." [draft]

In Budget 2018, B.C. allocated a \$50-million grant to the First Peoples' Cultural Council (FPCC) to help revitalize Indigenous languages in British Columbia and address the current language crisis. Fewer than 6,000 people speak one of the 34 Indigenous languages in B.C.

"We are taking action now to support Indigenous communities' work to preserve and revitalize endangered languages – languages that are cornerstones of cultural and social identities across our province," said Finance Minister Carole James. "By investing in Indigenous languages, we invest in the future of Indigenous communities. I am proud our government is making this historic commitment.

As a result of the funding, the First Peoples' Cultural Council will expand community immersion programs that support the development of fluent speakers of Indigenous languages. These include the Mentor-Apprentice program, which pairs fluent speakers with apprentices for one-on-one immersion training, and the Pre-school Language Nest program which supports the creation of language and culture immersion environments for children and their parents. The pilot Silent Speakers program will become permanent, helping those who understand but do not speak their language overcome challenges with using it in their communities.

"We thank the B.C. government for its strong leadership and investment in the preservation and revitalization of Indigenous languages across B.C., and for recognizing the importance of Indigenous languages to the well-being of our first peoples," said FPCC board chair, Cynthia Callison. "This funding is essential to protecting our shared cultural heritage and B.C.'s unique diversity of Indigenous languages and is a concrete example of reconciliation."

The language revitalization plans will be developed with Indigenous communities and tailored to their individual needs. The First Peoples' Cultural Council will also provide funding to

increase the number of words and phrases uploaded to the FirstVoices online oral dictionary, and expand the online resources available for language learners and speakers.

“Urgent action is needed as many Indigenous languages are in danger of becoming extinct,” said Melanie Mark, Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training. “One of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s key priorities is revitalizing language. That’s what this work is about; not just giving lip service to reconciliation but taking action.”

FPCC will work in collaboration with communities and partners to support additional priority actions to revitalize languages, including initiatives to create new speakers and new language resources that will support communities to build skills and capacity for language mobilization.

“The First Nations communities we have been working with are seeing clear and measurable results, creating fluent language speakers as new knowledge keepers and documenting languages for future generations,” said Tracey Herbert, CEO of the FPCC. “This new funding will help us to build on our strong track record of success and expand our work to all Indigenous communities in B.C to help their mother tongue languages to flourish again.”

Ed John, Grand Chief of the First Nations Summit - TBC

Quick Facts:

- The First Peoples' Cultural Council is a First Nations-run Crown Corporation with a mandate to support the revitalization of Indigenous languages, arts, culture and heritage in B.C.
- British Columbia has the greatest diversity of Indigenous languages in Canada. The 34 unique Indigenous languages and over 90 dialects represent 60 per cent of all Indigenous languages in the country.
- Investing in languages aligns with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada’s calls to action and United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which recognize that knowing and being able to speak one’s language is a human right.

A backgrounder follows.

Learn More:

First Peoples’ Cultural Council: www.fpcc.ca

FirstVoices: www.firstvoices.com/en

Map of Indigenous languages in B.C.: <need flickr link>

B.C. Budget 2018: bcbudget.gov.bc.ca/2018

Contact:

Sarah Plank

Ministry of Indigenous Relations

250 208 9621

Nancy McHarg

First Peoples’ Cultural Council

604 760 4366

NEWS RELEASE

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[release number]
March 16, 2018

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Reconciliation
First Peoples' Cultural Council

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"Language is critical for connecting Indigenous people to their culture, spirituality, identity and land," said Scott Fraser, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation. "For too long, Indigenous language has been under threat. The time has come for us to support First Nations in exercising their human right to speak and pass on their language and culture."

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A backgrounder follows.

Learn More:

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FirstVoices: www.firstvoices.com/en

Map of Indigenous languages in B.C.: ow.ly/rOub30iYgmq

B.C. Budget 2018: bcbudget.gov.bc.ca/2018

Contact:

Sarah Plank

Ministry of Indigenous Relations

250 208 9621

Nancy McHarg

First Peoples’ Cultural Council

604 760 4366

BACKGROUND

First Peoples' Cultural Council

The First Peoples' Cultural Council is a unique organization in Canada. As a First Nations-run Crown Corporation with a mandate to support the revitalization of Indigenous languages, arts, culture and heritage in British Columbia, First Peoples' Cultural Council provides funding and resources to communities, monitors the status of Indigenous languages and develops policy recommendations for First Nations and government.

New funding

The B.C. Government has committed a significant investment of \$50 million to support Indigenous language. This funding is the result of many years of advocacy, educating of policy makers, and the development of investment models by First Peoples' Cultural Council and their community partners.

Why Indigenous language revitalization matters

Restoring connections to Indigenous language and culture builds resilience and supports healthy individuals and communities. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action Report outlines the need to protect and invest in the restoration of Indigenous languages as a concrete step towards reconciliation. Knowing and being able to speak one's language is recognized as a human right for Indigenous peoples. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples identifies that Indigenous peoples have the right to revitalize, use, develop and transmit to future generations their histories, languages, oral traditions, philosophies, writing systems and literatures, and to designate and retain their own names for communities, places and persons. First Peoples' Cultural Council has been working with the Assembly of First Nations and the federal government to advance the recognition to protection of Indigenous language rights in federal law.

How the funding will be used

The new funding will be used for language preservation and revitalization activities, including community grants, community language planning, and documentation and training, aimed at rebuilding community-based language supports, as well as to expand language immersion programs and learning resources to support Indigenous languages in communities throughout the province.

The First Peoples' Cultural Council has served First Nations in B.C. for 28 years. The First Peoples' Cultural Council has mapped and documented Indigenous languages in B.C.; built tools and programs in community and on-line that support language learning; created partnerships with communities across the province; and worked with leaders in Indigenous languages around the globe to share their pioneering and proven approaches to language reclamation, documentation and revitalization.

Their efforts have been recognized as establishing British Columbia and Canada as leaders in Indigenous language revitalization. Limited resources have meant that they were able to touch only a handful (10% or less) of the Indigenous languages in the province. With this new provincial funding, they will work with the Indigenous language groups and communities that belong to the same cultural groups and speak the same language throughout the province. The program will be flexible in order to respond to the needs of the community. First Peoples' Cultural Council works collaboratively with communities, supporting leading language work led by Elders and other knowledge keepers of the land.

Language programs supported in communities include:

- The Mentor-Apprentice program pairs a fluent language speaker (mentor) with a language learner (apprentice) to transfer language knowledge and increase fluency.
- FirstVoices is the internationally recognized online Indigenous language archiving and teaching resource that allows Indigenous communities to document their language for future generations. FirstVoices provides state-of-the-art technologies, training and technical support to community language champions. Teams of fluent Elders and technically savvy youth upload dictionaries, alphabets, songs, stories, words and phrases as well as audio and video to their community archives. FirstVoices Keyboards includes apps for Apple and android mobile devices, and more.
- The Silent Speaker program is for people who understand but do not speak their First Nations language. The course is based on a successful program that was developed in Norway and Sweden for and by Indigenous Sami people. The model uses Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CBT) to support silent speakers to overcome barriers to using their Indigenous language in their communities.
- The Pre-School Language Nest program creates language and cultural immersion environments for pre-school children and their parents. In addition to creating an immersion environment with staff, volunteers and elders, Language Nests allow young parents to learn the language and bring it back into their homes and daily lives, which is necessary for revitalizing a language.
- First People's Cultural Council partners with Google.org on the Endangered Languages project, whose governance First People's Cultural Council chairs.

To learn about FirstVoices.com, First Peoples' Cultural Council's language documentation website, visit: www.firstvoices.com

To find out more about Indigenous languages legislation in Canada, visit: www.fpcc.ca/language/Legislation/

To see current calls for language funding, visit: www.fpcc.ca/Grants/Language/

Contact:

Nancy McHarg

First Peoples' Cultural Council

604 760 4366

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

First Peoples' Cultural Council Funding event March 16, 2018

1. Why is B.C. giving the First Peoples' Cultural Council this funding?

- Indigenous languages are in a state of emergency – less than 6,000 people speak one of the 34 Indigenous languages in British Columbia.
- We're working with the First Peoples' Cultural Council on a plan to make significant strides to revitalize B.C.'s Indigenous languages.
- Language is a right under the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- The teaching of language strengthens the cultural and social health of a community, and connects children to their heritage, community values and the lands they come from.

2. Is \$50M for languages annual, ongoing funding?

- The \$50 million to support the revitalization of Indigenous languages is three-year funding to address the current crisis of languages that may disappear forever.
- B.C. and the First Peoples' Cultural Council are also seeking federal support for this effort.

3. How much funding did Province provide the FPCC this year?

- In 2017/18, the Province is contributing \$1.75 million in annual operating funding to the First Peoples Cultural Council.
- The Province will continue to provide First Peoples' Cultural Council annual operating funding over and above \$50 million announced in budget 2018.

4. This is a significant budget increase the FPCC. Does the FPCC have the capacity to manage this budget increase?

- The First Peoples' Cultural Council has been working with Indigenous language experts throughout Canada and internationally for over 25 years, and is well-placed to undertake this work.
- First Peoples will work with a range of partners to develop a robust plan on revitalizing Indigenous languages across B.C.

5. Are organizations other than the FPCC receiving funding for language revitalization?

- The Province is providing \$50 million to the First Peoples' Cultural Council, and is working with the First Peoples on a plan to manage and allocate that funding in ways to make significant strides to revitalize B.C.'s Indigenous languages.

- The First Peoples' Cultural Council will be seeking to co-ordinate this work through partnerships with Indigenous communities and organizations, and other provincial ministries and agencies – such as Advanced Education and Skills Training and Education – on the strategy to revitalize B.C.'s Indigenous languages.
- FPCC will work with a range of partners to develop a robust plan on revitalizing Indigenous languages across B.C.

6. How will Indigenous language support from the FPCC intersect with work underway with other BC government ministries?

- The First Peoples' Cultural Council will co-ordinate their work through partnerships with Indigenous communities and organizations, and other provincial ministries and agencies – such as Advanced Education and Skills Training and Education – on the strategy to revitalize B.C.'s Indigenous languages.
- This will ensure that the council's work will complement and build from current work underway on Indigenous language revitalization.

7. Will any of this new funding go directly to First Nations who are working on revitalizing their languages?

- Many individual First Nations have taken a lead role in teaching and preserving their respective languages, and we will continue to support those First Nations.
- First Peoples' Cultural Council's existing programming supports First Nations communities implementing language revitalization programs, as well as programs that create fluent speakers of First Nations languages in communities across B.C.
- FPCC will work with a range of partners to develop a robust plan and to manage and allocate the \$50 million in funding in ways to make significant strides to revitalize B.C.'s Indigenous languages.

8. What other Indigenous language revitalization work does government support?

- Ministry of Education is working closely with First Nations Education Steering Committee to develop an Indigenous Language Learning policy for the K-12 system.
- There are 17 First Nations languages that have developed approved curriculum to be taught in B.C. schools. And there are six more in development.
- Last year, the ministry provided an extra \$190,000 to support resource development for Indigenous language curricula of the 17 languages.
- The Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills training is currently working with academic and Indigenous partners to develop and Indigenous Language Fluency Degree.
- Public post-secondary schools in B.C. offer a range of Indigenous language courses and programs, all the way up to Masters level, and the ministry also supports language programs through the Aboriginal Community-Based Training Partnerships Program.

9. How do you answer people who say that the funding could be better used to address the many social challenges facing Indigenous communities such as increasing the level of policing?

- It's not an either/or situation. It's not language support or policing.
- Community safety in Indigenous communities is an important issue. Many of the challenges communities face are systemic and are founded on our colonial past. By investing in Indigenous languages and culture, we start to address those systemic social challenges at community level.
- Having a higher police presence is reactive and doesn't address root problems. By investing in language, culture, in identity and pride, we become part of the solution to these key social issues.

10. What are the priorities for the funding?

- The First Peoples' Cultural Council will be seeking to co-ordinate their work through partnerships with Indigenous communities and organizations, and other provincial ministries and agencies – such as Advanced Education and Skills Training and Education – on the strategy to revitalize B.C.'s Indigenous languages.
- FPCC will work with a range of partners to develop a robust plan on revitalizing Indigenous languages across B.C.
- The funding will be targeted in a number of priority areas:
 - Programs and projects that will turn new speakers into fluent speakers;
 - Projects for documentation of languages;
 - Language planning across communities; and.
 - Develop high quality resources, tools and training to support language programs.

11. Will the funding be shared with partner organizations?

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12. How many living languages are there?

- British Columbia has the greatest diversity of Indigenous languages in Canada. The 34 unique Indigenous languages and over 90 dialects represent 60 per cent of all Indigenous languages in the country.
- Part of the work will be to map out the number of living Indigenous languages in B.C. and work in partnership with First Nations communities to develop and implement revitalization plans.

13. What does a language revitalization plan entail?

- Every Indigenous language group in B.C. is unique and we will work in partnership with First Nations communities to develop and implement revitalization plans that work for their needs.

From: [Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX](#)
To: [Dick, Jolleen IRR:EX](#); [Sas, Jonathan IRR:EX](#); [Sam, Anne-Marie IRR:EX](#)
Cc: [Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX](#); [Pocock, Sharon GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: RE: FOR SIGN OFF - materials for Friday
Date: Wednesday, March 14, 2018 5:47:30 PM

Bless you! Much appreciated. ☺

From: Dick, Jolleen IRR:EX
Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2018 5:47 PM
To: Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; Sas, Jonathan IRR:EX; Sam, Anne-Marie IRR:EX
Cc: Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX; Pocock, Sharon GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: FOR SIGN OFF - materials for Friday

Thanks Sarah :D Will get the media advisory, quote and NR in front of AMS and JS

Jolleen Dick | Executive Assistant to the Honourable Scott Fraser | Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation | 1-250-812-5247

From: Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2018 5:29 PM
To: Sas, Jonathan IRR:EX; Sam, Anne-Marie IRR:EX
Cc: Dick, Jolleen IRR:EX; Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX; Pocock, Sharon GCPE:EX
Subject: FOR SIGN OFF - materials for Friday
Importance: High

Hi Jonathan and Anne – looking for your sign off of the materials for Friday.

Top of the list is the **media advisory**, to go out tomorrow before noon, and the **Minister's quote** in the news release, as well as the **news release** itself.

For your reference, I have included a copy of the map that will be projected onto a screen beside the podium, and a copy of the guest list (Note: RSVPs are not included in this list, but FPCC has had about 85 RSVPs now – we will get that list to you).

Also this is the video that will be played at the event:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/10CVCyb4sB9WQUwxcbzAOwsUf-EVlnEu0/view?usp=sharing>

Thanks!
Sarah.

Sarah Plank
Communications Director | Ministry of Indigenous Relations & Reconciliation
Government Communications & Public Engagement
Office: 250.952.1889 | Mobile: 250.208.9621 | Email: sarah.plank@gov.bc.ca

Sam, Anne-Marie IRR:EX

From: Groves, Joanna <Joanna.Groves@leg.bc.ca>
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 2:27 PM
Subject: FW: B.C. investment in Indigenous language revitalization puts reconciliation into action - BC Gov News

FYI

From: Groves, Joanna
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 2:26 PM
Subject: FW: B.C. investment in Indigenous language revitalization puts reconciliation into action - BC Gov News

Lots of news today! The following release went out this morning.

Joanna Groves | Research and Communications Officer | Joanna.Groves@leg.bc.ca | P: 250-952-0542 | C: 250-886-5172
New Democrat BC Government Caucus | www.facebook.com/johnhorganbc/

For Immediate Release
2018IRR0006-000422
March 16, 2018

Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
First Peoples' Cultural Council

NEWS RELEASE

B.C. investment in Indigenous language revitalization puts reconciliation into action

VICTORIA - First Peoples' Cultural Council will work in partnership with First Nations communities to develop and implement revitalization plans for each of the living Indigenous languages in B.C., to reverse the disruption to Indigenous languages from Canada's history of colonization and residential schools.

"Language is critical for connecting Indigenous peoples to their culture, spirituality, identity and land," said Scott Fraser, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation. "For too long, Indigenous language has been under threat. The time has come for us to support First Nations in exercising their human right to speak and pass on their language and culture."

In Budget 2018, B.C. allocated a \$50-million grant to the First Peoples' Cultural Council (FPCC) to help revitalize Indigenous languages in British Columbia, and address the current language crisis. Fewer than 6,000 people speak one of the 34 Indigenous languages in B.C.

"We are taking action now to support Indigenous communities' work to preserve and revitalize endangered languages - languages that are cornerstones of cultural and social identities across our province," said Carole James, Minister of Finance. "By investing in Indigenous languages, we invest in the future of Indigenous communities. I am proud our government is making this historic commitment."

As a result of the funding, the First Peoples' Cultural Council will expand community immersion programs that support the development of fluent speakers of Indigenous languages. These include the Mentor-Apprentice program, which pairs fluent speakers with apprentices for one-on-one immersion training, and the Pre-school Language Nest program, which supports the creation of language and culture immersion environments for children and their parents. The pilot Silent Speakers program will become permanent. Silent Speakers helps those who understand, but do not speak their language, overcome challenges with using it in their communities.

"We sincerely thank the B.C. government for its strong leadership and new investment in the revitalization of Indigenous languages across B.C., and for recognizing the importance of Indigenous languages to the well-being of Indigenous peoples," said Cynthia Callison, FPCC board chair. "This funding is essential to restore and continue the unique diversity of Indigenous languages in B.C. It is a concrete example of implementing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's calls to action toward reconciliation."

The language revitalization plans will be developed with Indigenous communities and tailored to their individual needs. The First Peoples' Cultural Council will also provide funding to increase the number of words and phrases uploaded to the FirstVoices online oral dictionary, and expand the online resources available for language learners and speakers.

"Urgent action is needed as many Indigenous languages are in danger of becoming extinct," said Melanie Mark, Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training. "One of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's key priorities is revitalizing language. That's what this work is about - not just giving lip service to reconciliation, but taking action."

FPCC will work in collaboration with communities and partners to support additional priority actions to revitalize languages. These include creating new speakers and developing new language resources that will support communities to build skills and capacity for language mobilization.

"The First Nations communities we have been working with are seeing clear and measurable results, creating fluent language speakers as new knowledge keepers and documenting languages for future generations," said Tracey Herbert, CEO of the FPCC. "This new funding will help us to build on our strong track record of success, and expand our work to all Indigenous communities in B.C., to help their mother-tongue languages flourish again."

Quick Facts:

- * The First Peoples' Cultural Council is a First Nations-run Crown corporation with a mandate to support the revitalization of Indigenous languages, arts, culture and heritage in B.C.
- * British Columbia has the greatest diversity of Indigenous languages in Canada. The 34 unique Indigenous languages, and over 90 dialects, represent 60% of all Indigenous languages in the country.
- * Investing in languages aligns with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's calls to action and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which recognize that knowing and being able to speak one's language is a human right.

Learn More:

First Peoples' Cultural Council: www.fpcc.ca

FirstVoices: www.firstvoices.com/en

Map of Indigenous languages in B.C.: ow.ly/rOub30iYgmq

B.C. Budget 2018: bcbudget.gov.bc.ca/2018

A backgrounder follows.

Contacts:

Sarah Plank
Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
250 208-9621

Nancy McHarg
First Peoples' Cultural Council
604 760-4366

BACKGROUND
First Peoples' Cultural Council

The First Peoples' Cultural Council is a unique organization in Canada. As a First Nations-run Crown corporation with a mandate to support the revitalization of Indigenous languages, arts, culture and heritage in British Columbia, First Peoples' Cultural Council provides funding and resources to communities, monitors the status of Indigenous languages and develops policy recommendations for First Nations and government.

New funding

The B.C. government has committed a significant investment of \$50 million to support Indigenous language. This funding is the result of many years of advocacy, educating policy makers, and developing investment models by First Peoples' Cultural Council and community partners.

Why Indigenous language revitalization matters

Restoring connections to Indigenous language and culture builds resilience and supports healthy individuals and communities. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action report outlines the need to protect and invest in the restoration of Indigenous languages as a concrete step toward reconciliation. Knowing and being able to speak one's language is recognized as a human right for Indigenous peoples. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples identifies that Indigenous peoples have the right to revitalize, use, develop and transmit to future generations their histories, languages, oral traditions, philosophies, writing systems and literatures, and to designate and retain their own names for communities, places and persons. First Peoples' Cultural Council has been working with the Assembly of First Nations and the federal government to advance the recognition and protection of Indigenous language rights in federal law.

How the funding will be used

The new funding will be used for language preservation and revitalization activities, including community grants, community language planning, and documentation and training aimed at rebuilding community-based language supports. The funding will also be used to expand language immersion programs and learning resources to support Indigenous languages in communities throughout the province.

The First Peoples' Cultural Council has served First Nations in B.C. for 28 years. The First Peoples' Cultural Council has mapped and documented Indigenous languages in B.C.; built tools and programs in community and online that support language learning; created partnerships with communities throughout the province; and worked with leaders in Indigenous languages around the globe to share their pioneering and proven approaches to language reclamation, documentation and revitalization.

Their efforts have been recognized as establishing British Columbia and Canada as leaders in Indigenous language revitalization. Limited resources have meant that the First Peoples' Cultural Council were able to touch only a handful (10% or less) of the Indigenous languages in the province. With this new provincial funding, it will work with the Indigenous language groups and communities that belong to the same cultural groups and speak the same language throughout the province. The program will be flexible in order to respond to the needs of the community. First Peoples' Cultural Council works collaboratively with communities, supporting leading language work led by Elders and other knowledge keepers of the land.

Language programs supported in communities include:

- * The Mentor-Apprentice program pairs a fluent language speaker (mentor) with a language learner (apprentice) to transfer language knowledge and increase fluency.
- * FirstVoices is the internationally recognized online Indigenous language archiving and teaching resource that allows Indigenous communities to document their language for future generations. FirstVoices provides state-of-the-art technologies, training and technical support to community language champions. Teams of fluent Elders and technically savvy youth upload dictionaries, alphabets, songs, stories, words and phrases, as well as audio and video to their community archives. FirstVoices keyboards includes apps for Apple and Android mobile devices, and more.
- * The Silent Speaker program is for people who understand, but do not speak, their First Nations language. The course is based on a successful program that was developed in Norway and Sweden for, and by, Indigenous Sami people. The model uses cognitive behaviour therapy (CBT) to support silent speakers in overcoming barriers to using their Indigenous language in their communities.
- * The Pre-School Language Nest program creates language and cultural immersion environments for pre-school children and their parents. In addition to creating an immersion environment with staff, volunteers and Elders, Language Nests allow young parents to learn the language and bring it back into their homes and daily lives, which is necessary for revitalizing a language.
- * First Peoples' Cultural Council partners with Google.org on the Endangered Languages project, whose governance First Peoples' Cultural Council chairs.

To learn about the First Peoples' Cultural Council's language documentation website, visit:
www.firstvoices.com

To find out more about Indigenous languages legislation in Canada, visit: www.fpcc.ca/language/Legislation/

To see current calls for language funding, visit: www.fpcc.ca/Grants/Language/

Contact:

Nancy McHarg
First Peoples' Cultural Council
604 760-4366

► **READ MORE**

Government Operations, Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

Sam, Anne-Marie IRR:EX

From: Pocock, Sharon GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 8:34 AM
To: Sas, Jonathan IRR:EX; Sam, Anne-Marie IRR:EX
Cc: Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX
Subject: 2018IRR0006-000422 with logos.pdf
Attachments: 2018IRR0006-000422 with logos.pdf

Good morning, here is the final NR and backgrounder. We will print hard copies to bring to the event.

Thank you
Sharon

Sam, Anne-Marie IRR:EX

From: Pocock, Sharon GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 8:24 AM
To: Dick, Jolleen IRR:EX
Cc: Sas, Jonathan IRR:EX; Sam, Anne-Marie IRR:EX; Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX
Subject: Draft social media for today's event

Hi Jolleen, here is social media for this morning's event. Link in twitter is to news release which will be live at 11.30.

Twitter

Wonderful to be with our partners @_FPCC celebrating government's \$50M investment in Indigenous language revitalization. Investing in Indigenous language and culture strengthens communities. ow.ly/mWJz30iZmsv #LanguageRevitalization

Thanks to @RoyalBCMuseum for hosting our celebration of Indigenous languages today. It was great to join with @_FPCC to highlight the importance of Indigenous language revitalization to healing the generational wounds left by the residential school system ow.ly/mWJz30iZmsv #LanguageRevitalization

Facebook

I was proud to stand with our partners at the First Peoples' Cultural Council today to highlight the importance of Indigenous language revitalization to the health of Indigenous communities. That's why our government has invested \$50M to support FPCC's great work in this vital area. Thanks to the Royal BC Museum for being great hosts and to FPCC for allowing us to use their amazing Our Living Languages exhibit as a wonderful backdrop to our gathering.

Thanks
Sharon
Sharon Pocock
Communications
Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
250 387 1253
250 920 5012 (cell)

Sam, Anne-Marie IRR:EX

From: Pocock, Sharon GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 3:52 PM
To: Sas, Jonathan IRR:EX; Sam, Anne-Marie IRR:EX; Roberts, Connie A IRR:EX
Cc: Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX
Subject: Final package for Indigenous language event
Attachments: NR-BG FPCC funding event_FINAL.docx; MA_NEWS-16610.pdf; SN_FPCC funding event_FINAL.docx; SN_Emcee notes for Minister James-_FINAL.docx; QA_FPCC funding event_FINAL.docx; Draft itinerary update_15March 9am.docx; IN_First People's Cultural Council_12March2018.docx; IN_Indigenous Languages_17Jan2018.docx; Slide_72dpi_1920x1080pixels (2).jpg; Copy of Copy of Guest List MIRR Event_Draft March 15 2.xlsx

Hello, here is the final package for tomorrow's event

- News release/Backgrounder – **sending you the word version. We are waiting for the V5, but didn't want to delay the package**
- Media advisory
- Speaking notes for Minister Fraser
- Emcee notes for Minister James
- QA
- Itinerary
- Issues Note: FPCC funding
- Issues Note: Indigenous languages

Other assets

- Link to National Chief's video: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/10CVCyb4sB9WQUwxcbzAOwsUf-EVInEu0/view?usp=sharing>
- Graphic to be projected on screen
- Guest List – As of today 85 confirmed attending – YES marked on spreadsheet, plus 15 FPCC Advisory Board

Result of media call arounds:

Rob Shaw/Van Sun –definite maybe.

Bhinder Sajan/CTV – not sure. Depends on morning assignments.

Liza Yuzda/CKNW – day off work.

Victoria News/Black Press – Yes

CFAX – Yes

CBC TV - Decide story assignments in AM; very likely to be attended.

CHEK – Decide story assignments in AM; probably

Times Colonist – Attending federal event; might attend RBCM

Canadian Press/Dirk Meissner – Attending federal event; might attend RBCM

CBC radio – In consideration.

CTV 2 – In consideration. Decide story assignments in AM

Global TV - In consideration. Decide story assignments in AM

Globe and Mail – No. Reporter busy.

Shaw TV – left message

APTN – left message

Thank you
Sharon
Sharon Pocock
Communications
Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
250 387 1253
250 920 5012 (cell)

Sam, Anne-Marie IRR:EX

From: Pocock, Sharon GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 9:16 AM
To: Dick, Jolleen IRR:EX
Cc: Sas, Jonathan IRR:EX; Sam, Anne-Marie IRR:EX; Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX
Subject: Twitter for consideration for today

Hi Jolleen

Here are the suggested tweets for today, pointing to tomorrow's event.

Looking forward to celebrating the richness of Indigenous languages in #BC tomorrow @RoyalBCMuseum with our partners @_FPCC #LanguageRevitalization

Coming together with @_FPCC tomorrow to highlight great work in language revitalization. Helping people take back their voice is the first step to righting past wrongs & addressing social challenges facing Indigenous communities.
#LanguageRevitalization

Thanks
Sharon

Sharon Pocock
Communications
Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
250 387 1253
250 920 5012 (cell)

Sam, Anne-Marie IRR:EX

From: Sam, Anne-Marie IRR:EX
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2018 7:06 PM
To: Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX
Subject: SN_FPCC funding event_Ams edits
Attachments: SN_FPCC funding event_Ams edits.docx

Some changes near the end

anne

Sam, Anne-Marie IRR:EX

From: Pocock, Sharon GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2018 1:01 PM
To: Sas, Jonathan IRR:EX; Sam, Anne-Marie IRR:EX
Cc: Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX
Subject: FOR REVIEW: Materials for Friday's event - speaking notes and QA
Attachments: SN_FPCC funding event_ADM approved.docx; QA_FPCC funding event_ADM approved.docx

Hi Jonathan and Anne

Here are the final drafts of MSF's speaking notes and the QA for Friday's language event. They're running a little bit long due to the need to put a few lines about Education in.

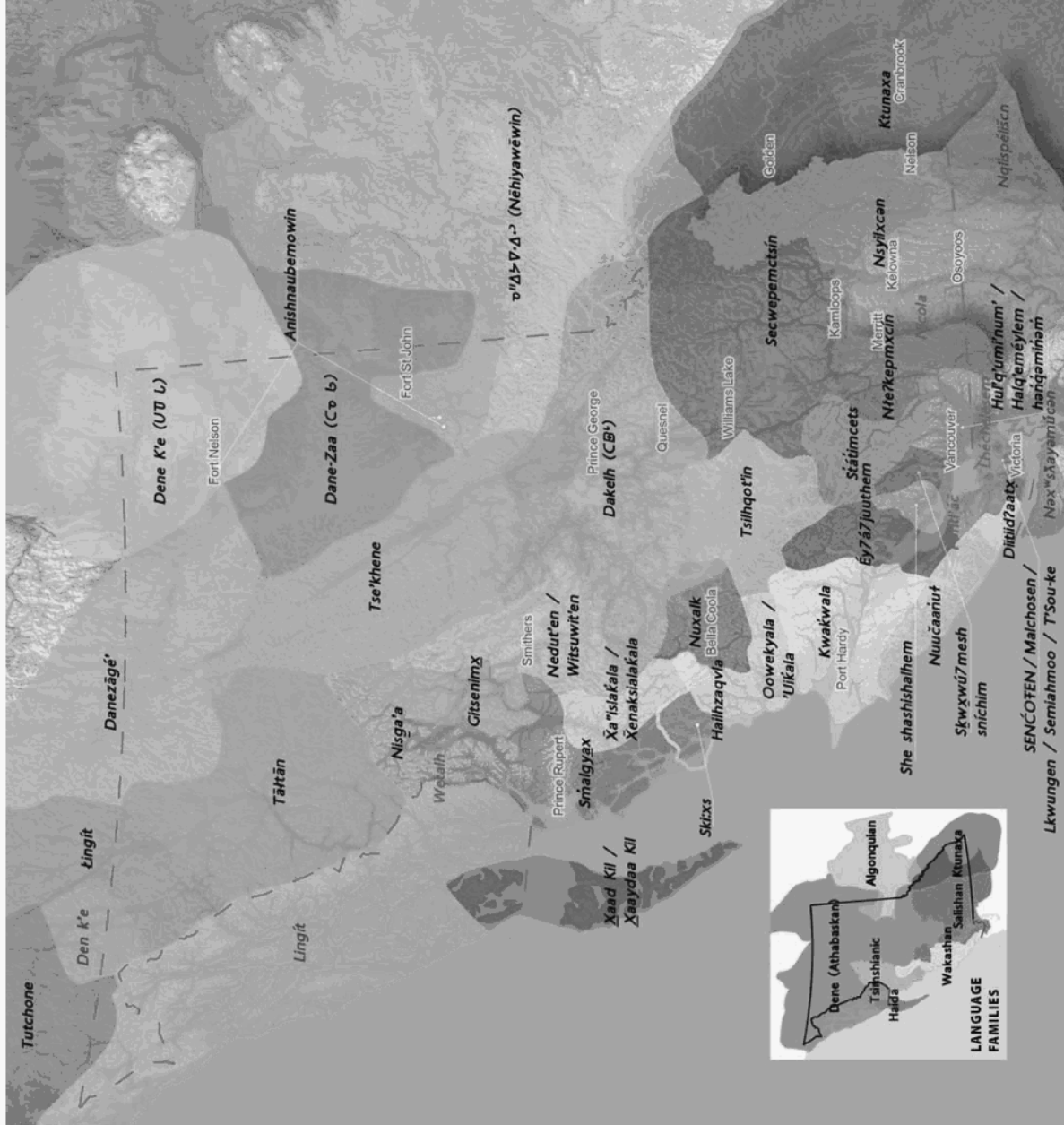
We're still working with FPCC on the news release and will get that to you as soon as we can for sign off and quote approval.

Minister James and Minister Mark's quotes are with their GCPE shops for approval, and I'm working on MCJ's emcee notes. We will send those on as soon as we have some loose ends tied down.

I'll resend a complete package later in the week including social media and relevant issues notes.

Thank you
Sharon

Revitalizing Indigenous Languages in B.C.



Social media – FPCC language event

<http://www.fpcc.ca/>

@_FPCC

March 15

Looking forward to celebrating the richness of Indigenous languages in #BC tomorrow @RoyalBCMuseum with our partners @_FPCC

Coming together with @_FPCC tomorrow to highlight great work in language revitalization. Helping people take back their voice is the first step to righting past wrongs & addressing social challenges facing Indigenous communities.

March 16

Wonderful to be with our partners @_FPCC celebrating government's \$50M investment in Indigenous language revitalization. Investing in Indigenous language and culture strengthens communities. [link to news release]

Thanks to @RoyalBCMuseum for hosting our celebration of Indigenous languages today. It was great to join with @_FPCC to highlight the importance of Indigenous language revitalization to healing the generational wounds left by the residential school system [link to news release]

Draft Facebook

I was proud to stand with our partners at the [First Peoples' Cultural Council](#) today to highlight the importance of Indigenous language revitalization to the health of Indigenous communities. That's why our government has invested \$50M to support FPCC's great work in this vital area. Thanks to the Royal BC Museum for being great hosts and to FPCC for allowing us to use their amazing [Our Living Languages](#) exhibit as a wonderful backdrop to our gathering.



Emcee Notes
for

**Hon. Carole James
Minister of Finance**

**First Peoples Cultural Council Funding
event**

**Royal BC Museum
Our Living Languages Exhibition
675 Belleville Street
Victoria
March 16, 2018
TIME: 11:15 a.m.
Pre-brief: 11:00 a.m.**

Information for Minister

Event Summary:

- Minister James acts as emcee at a celebratory event to highlight government's commitment to supporting the preservation and revitalization of Indigenous languages in B.C.
- B.C. is providing First Peoples' Cultural Council with a \$50M three-year funding grant, announced in February 2018 on Budget Day.
- The First Peoples' Cultural Council is a First Nations-run Crown Corporation with a mandate to support the revitalization of Indigenous languages, arts, culture and heritage in British Columbia.
- In British Columbia, 203 First Nations communities have 34 languages, more than any other province in Canada, and over 90 dialects.

Action/Visual: Minister Fraser and Minister James with representatives of the First Peoples' Cultural Council and community language champions.

Venue: Royal BC Museum, Our Living Languages exhibit (third floor)

Audience: Indigenous language champions, members of First Peoples' Cultural Council Board, language partners, community members

Podium/microphone: Yes

Event Start Time: 11:15 a.m. (Pre-brief at 11:00 a.m.)

Attire: Business

Emcee: Minister James

Media attendance: Media will be invited.

Other speakers:

- Elder Butch Dick, Songhees Nation
- Minister Fraser
- Cynthia Callison, Chair First Peoples' Cultural Council
- Ray Harris, First Nations Summit (Chemanius First Nation)
- Tracey Herbert, CEO First Peoples' Cultural Council
- Giselle Martin, youth language champion (Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation)
- STOLŹEŁ [Stol-quitz] John Elliott, Tsartlip First Nation

Minister Fleming will also be present

Logistics:

- A registration desk will be set up in the museum lobby.
- Pre-brief will take place in the Newcombe Conference Hall (ground floor) at 11.00 am.
- A drum group – ANSWER (All Nations Strong Women for Education and Reconciliation) will play in the third floor lobby prior to the event starting.

Emergency contact: Events Director, Rick Devereux # (250) 812-1207

Key messages:

- The Province is providing \$50 million to the First Peoples' Cultural Council, and is working with the First Peoples on a plan to manage and allocate that funding in ways to make significant strides to revitalize B.C.'s Indigenous languages.
- Canada's colonial history had devastating outcomes for Indigenous communities across the province.
- If you take away someone's language, you take away their voice.
- Language is critical for connecting Indigenous people to their culture, spirituality, identity and land. The time has come for us to support First Nations in exercising their human right to speak and pass on their language and culture.

Time	Draft Event Itinerary
11:00 a.m.	Pre-brief with dignitaries: Newcombe Conference Hall Drummers will be performing in lobby outside event space
11:10 a.m.	Drummers stop their performance Dignitaries assemble in the Our Living Languages exhibit
11:15 a.m.	Emcee: Minister James opens proceedings, introduces Elder Butch Dick, Songhees Nation: Offers welcome to territory and opening prayer (English/Lekwungn)
11:25 a.m.	Emcee Minister James thanks Butch Dick, offers brief remarks and introduces speakers Remarks by dignitaries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minister Fraser offers remarks (3 mins) Note: Minister Fraser's remarks to include acknowledgement of Minister Fleming Cynthia Callison, Chair, First Peoples' Cultural Council (1 mins) Ray Harris, First Nations Summit, Chemanius First Nation (3 mins) Tracey Herbert, CEO First Peoples Cultural Council (3 mins) Giselle Martin, youth speaker – Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation (3 mins) Video message from National Chief Perry Bellegarde (2 mins) STOLØEŁ John Elliott, Tsartlip Nation – language song
11:45 a.m.	Emcee Minister James thanks dignitaries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Photo op Media avail Dial in available
12:00 p.m.	Event breaks for lunch – dignitaries and guests move to Newcombe Conference Hall Ministers depart if needed
12:10 p.m.	Lunch: Newcombe Conference Hall Cultural Performance during lunch
1:10 p.m.	Close

SPEAKING NOTES:

- Good morning everyone.
- My name is Carole James and I have the dual honour of being the Minister of Finance for the B.C. provincial government and the MLA for Victoria-Beacon Hill.
- Thank you for being here today, gathered on the territory of the Lekwungen [La-kwung-en] people and the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations.
- I also want to thank the drum group for their wonderful performance today. Their name is ANSWER, which stands for All Nations Strong Women for Education and Reconciliation.
- I think it's a wonderful name.
- Before I say anything else, I'd like to ask Elder Butch Dick of the Songhees Nation to open our proceedings.

[Elder Butch Dick speaks – welcome and prayer]

- Thank you Butch for your wise words. I know everyone here appreciates them, and you for joining us today.
- I'd also like to thank the Royal BC Museum for hosting our event.

- It's fitting that we are doing it here in the 'Our Living Languages' exhibit, a partnership between the museum and the First Peoples' Cultural Council.
- It's fitting because we're here to celebrate the richness of Indigenous languages in British Columbia...
- And to acknowledge that revitalization of these languages is vitally important, to Indigenous communities and to the social well-being of our province.
- There is a strong link between linguistic and cultural identity and wellness.
- Teaching language to new generations supports well-being and strengthens that cultural identity.
- That's why I was delighted to be able to announce in this year's budget speech that we're investing \$50 million into this important revitalization work through the First Peoples' Cultural Council.
- It's a priority that has been neglected for too long, and it was a privilege to stand in the Legislature on budget day and announce this investment.
- Also with me are today are:

- Scott Fraser, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
 - Cynthia Callison, Chair, First Peoples' Cultural Council
 - Tracey Herbert, CEO, First Peoples' Cultural Council
 - Ray Harris, Chemanius First Nation, and representing the First Nations Summit
 - Giselle Martin, Tla-o-qui-aht [Tu-low-qui-at] First Nation
 - STOLꞌEŁ [Stol-quit] John Elliot, Tsartlip [Sart-lip] First Nation
- I'd like to ask my friend and colleague Scott Fraser to say a few words.

[Minister Fraser speaks]

- Thank you, Scott.
- Cynthia Callison is Chair of the Board of the First Peoples' Cultural Council and I know she has some thoughts she'd like to share.

[Cynthia Callison speaks]

- Thank you Cynthia.
- Now, I'd like to welcome Ray Harris, of the Chemanius First Nation and representing the First Nations Summit to say a few words.

[Ray Harris speaks]

- Thank you Ray.

- It's my pleasure to ask Tracey Herbert, CEO of the First Peoples' Cultural Council to share her thoughts with us.

[Tracey Herbert speaks]

- Thank you Tracey.
- Indigenous youth is the fastest growing demographic in the province.
- For Indigenous language to flourish, it is vital that youth are integral to this revitalization process.
- I'm delighted to ask Giselle Martin of the Tla-o-qui-aht [Tu-low-qui-at] First Nation to talk about her experiences and what learning her language means to her.

[Giselle Martin speaks]

- Thank you Giselle.
- Now we have a special video greeting. The National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations, Perry Bellegarde was unable to be here today, but as a great champion of Indigenous languages, he wanted to share a few words.

[Run video of Perry Bellegarde's greeting]

- We're just about at the end of our event and in a short while we'll be doing some photos and will be available to take questions from media.
- But before that, I'm delighted to ask STOLØEL [Stol-quit] John Elliot of the Tsartlip [Sart-lip] First Nation to share a song with us.

[John Elliot song]

- Thank you, John.
- Thank you all for coming. Don't forget that the First Peoples' Cultural Council will be hosting a lunch in the Newcombe Conference Hall down on the ground floor.
- But before that, I'd like to ask all our speakers to come together so we can get some photos in memory of this wonderful gathering.
- Then we will open the floor for questions from media in the room and on the line.
- Thank-you.

Photo Op and media avail

Event ends

Guests proceed to the Newcombe Conference Hall on the Ground Floor for lunch



Speaking Notes
for

Hon. Scott Fraser
**Minister of Indigenous Relations and
Reconciliation**

**First Peoples Cultural Council Funding
event**

**Royal BC Museum
Our Living Languages Exhibition
675 Belleville Street
Victoria
March 16, 2018
TIME: 11:15 a.m.**

Pre-brief: 11:00 a.m.

Information for Minister

Event Summary:

- Minister Fraser offers remarks at a celebratory event to highlight government's commitment to supporting the preservation and revitalization of Indigenous languages in B.C.
- B.C. is providing First Peoples' Cultural Council with a \$50M three-year funding grant, announced in Budget 2018.
- The First Peoples' Cultural Council is a First Nations-run Crown Corporation with a mandate to support the revitalization of Indigenous languages, arts, culture and heritage in British Columbia.
- In British Columbia, 203 First Nations communities have 34 languages, more than any other province in Canada, and 61 dialects.

Action/Visual: Minister Fraser and Minister James with representatives of the First Peoples' Cultural Council and community language champions.

Venue: Royal BC Museum, Our Living Languages exhibit (third floor)

Audience: Indigenous language champions, members of First Peoples' Cultural Council Board, language partners, community members

Podium/microphone: Yes

Event Start Time: 11:15 a.m. (Pre-brief at 11:00 a.m.)

Length of speech: 3 minutes

Attire: Business

Emcee: Minister James

Media attendance: Media will be invited. CBC reporter Briar Stewart has indicated strong interest in the event.

Other speakers:

- Elder Butch Dick, Songhees Nation – welcome and prayer
- Tracey Herbert, CEO First Peoples' Cultural Council
- Cynthia Callison, Chair First Peoples' Cultural Council
- Giselle Martin, youth language champion

Minister Fleming will also be present

Logistics:

- A registration desk will be set up in the museum lobby.
- Pre-brief will take place in the Newcombe Conference Hall (ground floor) at 11.00 am.
- A drum group – ANSWER (All Nations Strong Women for Education and Reconciliation) will play in the third floor lobby prior to the event starting.

Emergency contact: Events Director, Rick Devereux # (250) 812-1207

Key messages:

- The Province is providing \$50 million to the First Peoples' Cultural Council, and is working with the First Peoples on a plan to manage and allocate that funding in ways to make significant strides to revitalize B.C.'s Indigenous languages.
- Canada's colonial history had devastating outcomes for Indigenous communities across the province.
- If you take away someone's language, you take away their voice.

Time	Draft Event Itinerary
11:00 a.m.	Pre-brief with dignitaries: Newcombe Conference Hall Drummers will be performing in lobby outside event space
11:10 a.m.	Drummers stop their performance Dignitaries assemble in the Our Living Languages exhibit
11:15 a.m.	Emcee: Minister James opens proceedings, introduces Elder Elmer George Elder Butch Dick, Songhees Nation: Offers welcome to territory and opening prayer (English/Lekwungn)
11:25 a.m.	Emcee Minister James thanks Elder Elmer George, offers brief remarks and introduces speakers Remarks by dignitaries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minister Fraser offers remarks (3 mins) Note: Minister Fraser's remarks to include acknowledgement of his colleague Minister Fleming Cynthia Callison, Chair, First Peoples' Cultural Council (1 mins) Ray Harris, First Nations Summit (1 min) Tracey Herbert, CEO First Peoples Cultural Council (2 mins) Giselle Martin, youth speaker – English/Nuu-cha-nulth (3 mins) John Elliott, STOLØEL (2 min) Video message from National Chief Perry Bellegarde
11:45 a.m.	Emcee Minister James thanks dignitaries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Photo op Media avail Dial in available
12:00 p.m.	Event breaks for lunch – dignitaries and guests move to Newcombe Conference Hall Ministers depart if needed
12:10 p.m.	Lunch: Newcombe Conference Hall Cultural Performance during lunch Video message from Perry Bellegarde during lunch
1:10 p.m.	Close

SPEAKING NOTES:

- Good morning
- I'm delighted to be here on the territory of the Lekwungen [Lakwung-en] people and the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations.
- Thank you to Elder, Butch Dick for your welcome to this wonderful territory and to this magnificent museum.
- Thank you to Tracey and Cynthia and all the representatives of the First Peoples' Cultural Council for being here today...
- And to the elected and hereditary chiefs, Elders and youth.
- I am honoured to be in your company this morning.
- I bring greetings from Premier Horgan and my colleague Minister Mark, who are unable to be here.
- I'd also like to acknowledge Rob Fleming, Minister of Education, who has joined us today for this important event.

- We're here today to highlight our commitment to Indigenous languages – through our recent \$50 million commitment to the First Peoples' Cultural Council.
- It's a significant investment.
- I'll add my voice to Carole's...
- I'm proud to be part of a government that recognizes that Indigenous languages have been under-funded for far too long.
- I'm very happy we are taking steps to address that.
- And I'm proud to work in partnership with the First Peoples' Cultural Council...
- Because partnership and collaboration is the best way to move forward to ensure the needed supports are there.
- This funding will build on the current work of the Council – which you'll hear more about shortly – and other parts of government.

- Like the work of the Ministry of Education and the First Nations Education Steering Committee.
- They are developing an Indigenous Learning policy for K-12, and curriculum for First Nations languages.
- 17 First Nations languages now have an approved curriculum for being taught in B.C. schools.
- And six more are in development.
- There's also great work going on at the post-secondary level.
- The Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training is currently working with academic and Indigenous partners to develop an Indigenous Language Fluency Degree.
- But more importantly, I want to talk about the 'why' of this new funding...
- Why this funding is so critical.

- Our colonial history tells us that when settlers arrived, there were calculated, state-sponsored attacks on Indigenous peoples and their cultures.
- It was done through government, the residential school system and the Indian Act.
- Language and culture were suppressed.
- Children were removed from their homes and lands.
- There were severe punishments – physical and mental – for Indigenous children and adults who tried to stay connected with their heritage...
- **All of these actions had devastating outcomes for Indigenous communities.**
- **If you take away someone's language, you take away their voice.**
- Many Indigenous languages have words that cannot be expressed in the English language.

- And when you take away a person's ability to express concepts, you take away their identity.
- Many years ago, I learned an important phrase from Ahousaht Hereditary Chief Earl Maquinna George.
- He passed a few years ago, but this teaching has never left me.
- 'Hishuk ish tsawalk' – 'all things are one – everything is connected.'
- This phrase has shaped my world view.
- But I am aware that it is a translation into my own vocabulary.
- It is constrained by the English language.
- My words cannot express the richness of the original phrase.
- It is a phrase that speaks to the depth of interconnection known to Ahousaht chiefs – whose people have lived on the land for millennia.
- 'Isaak' is another example.

- It is the Nuu-chah-nulth word for respect, but its meaning is so much deeper.
- “Respect” in English is the closest we can come.
- We are committed to supporting communities to ensure their languages thrive.
- They are too important to lose.
- Indigenous languages are a cause for celebration and pride – never for shame.
- **By investing in culture, in identity and pride, communities can begin to heal together...**
- **To address the fundamental social issues stemming from Canada’s history of colonization, residential schools and cultural extermination..**
- There’s a reason both the TRC’s Calls to Action and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples highlight the importance of language.

- If we want to pursue true reconciliation, this happens through strong partnerships with Indigenous communities...
- So that communities themselves are leaders in finding solutions to language preservation – to taking their languages back.
- This is powerful work and I look forward to working with the First Peoples' Cultural Council and with communities on this.
- 'Hishuk ish tsawalk.'
- It's an honour to be with you all today. Thank you for listening.
- Klecko, klecko.

-End-

Information for Minister

Event Summary:

- Minister Fraser offers remarks at a celebratory event to highlight government's commitment to supporting the preservation and revitalization of Indigenous languages in B.C.
- B.C. is providing First Peoples' Cultural Council with a \$50M three-year funding grant, announced in Budget 2018.
- The First Peoples' Cultural Council is a First Nations-run Crown Corporation with a mandate to support the revitalization of Indigenous languages, arts, culture and heritage in British Columbia.
- In British Columbia, 203 First Nations communities have 34 languages, more than any other province in Canada, and 61 dialects.

Action/Visual: Minister Fraser and Minister James with representatives of the First Peoples' Cultural Council and community language champions.

Venue: Royal BC Museum, Our Living Languages exhibit (third floor)

Audience: Indigenous language champions, members of First Peoples' Cultural Council Board, language partners, community members

Podium/microphone: Yes

Event Start Time: 11:15 a.m. (Pre-brief at 11:00 a.m.)

Length of speech: 3 minutes

Attire: Business

Emcee: Minister James

Media attendance: Media will be invited. CBC reporter Briar Stewart has indicated strong interest in the event.

Other speakers:

- Elder Butch Dick, Songhees Nation – welcome and prayer
- Tracey Herbert, CEO First Peoples' Cultural Council
- Cynthia Callison, Chair First Peoples' Cultural Council
- Giselle Martin, youth language champion

Minister Fleming will also be present

Logistics:

- A registration desk will be set up in the museum lobby.
- Pre-brief will take place in the Newcombe Conference Hall (ground floor) at 11.00 am.
- A drum group – ANSWER (All Nations Strong Women for Education and Reconciliation) will play in the third floor lobby prior to the event starting.

Emergency contact: Events Director, Rick Devereux # (250) 812-1207

Key messages:

- The Province is providing \$50 million to the First Peoples' Cultural Council, and is working with the First Peoples on a plan to manage and allocate that funding in ways to make significant strides to revitalize B.C.'s Indigenous languages.
- Canada's colonial history had devastating outcomes for Indigenous communities across the province.
- If you take away someone's language, you take away their voice.
- s.13
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Time	Draft Event Itinerary
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11:45 a.m.	Emcee Minister James thanks dignitaries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Photo op Media avail Dial in available
12:00 p.m.	Event breaks for lunch – dignitaries and guests move to Newcombe Conference Hall Ministers depart if needed
12:10 p.m.	Lunch: Newcombe Conference Hall Cultural Performance during lunch Video message from Perry Bellegarde during lunch
1:10 p.m.	Close

SPEAKING NOTES:

Good morning

I'm delighted to be here on the territory of the Lekwungen [Lakwung-en] people and the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations.

Thank you to Elder, Butch Dick for your welcome to this wonderful territory and to this magnificent museum.

Thank you to Tracey and Cynthia and all the representatives of the First Peoples' Cultural Council for being here today.

And to the elected and hereditary chiefs, Elders and youth.

I am honoured to be in your company this morning and I bring greetings from Premier Horgan and my colleague Minister Mark, who is unable to be here today.

I'd also like to acknowledge Rob Fleming, Minister of Education who's in the audience.

We're here today for two purposes.

The first is to highlight our commitment to Indigenous languages through the \$50 million commitment to the First Peoples' Cultural Council.

It's a significant investment.

I'll add my voice to Carole's - I'm proud to be part of a government that recognizes that the Indigenous languages have been underfunded for far too long.

I'm very happy we are taking steps to address that.

And I'm proud to work in partnership with the First Peoples' Cultural Council.

Because partnership and collaboration is the best way to move forward to ensure people have the supports they need.

And this funding will build on the current work of the Council and also of other parts of government.

For example, the Ministry of Education is working closely with the First Nations Education Steering Committee on an Indigenous Learning policy for K-12 and on the development of curriculum for First Nations languages.

There are 17 First Nations languages that have developed approved curriculum to be taught in B.C. schools. And there are six more in development.

There's also great work going on at the post-secondary level.

But if the funding supports is about the 'what, it's the second purpose that I really want to talk about.

I want to talk about the 'why'.

I want to talk about 'why' this funding is important.

Our colonial history tells us when settlers arrived, there were premeditated attacks on Indigenous peoples and their cultures.

It was done through government, the residential school system and the Indian Act.

There was suppression of language and culture, and removal of children from their homes...

There were severe punishments – physical and mental – for Indigenous children and adults who tried to stay connected to their heritage...

All of these actions had devastating outcomes for Indigenous communities.

If you take away someone's language, you take away their voice.

Many languages have words that cannot be expressed in the English language.

When you take away a person's ability to express concepts, you take away their identity.

Many years ago, I learned an important phrase from Ahousaht First Nation Hereditary Chief Earl Maquinna George.

'Hishuk ish tsawalk' – 'all things are one – everything is connected.'

This phrase has shaped my world view.

But I am aware that it is a translation into my own vocabulary.

It is constrained by the English language.

My words cannot express the richness of the original phrase.

It is a phrase that speaks to the depth of interconnection known to Ahousaht chiefs, whose people have lived on the land for millenia.

My words fail me.

‘Isaak’ is another example.

It is the Nuu-chah-nulth word for respect, but its meaning is so much deeper.

But respect is the closest we can come.

s.13

Indigenous languages are a cause for celebration and pride - never for shame.

s.13

There’s a reason both the TRC’s Calls to Action and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples highlight the importance of language.

If we want to pursue true reconciliation we must help people take back their voice...

This is powerful work and I look forward to working with the First Peoples' Cultural Council and with communities on this.

s.13

'Hishuk ish tsawalk.'

It's an honour to be with you all today. Thank you for listening.

Klecko, klecko.

-End-



Speaking Notes
for

Hon. Scott Fraser
**Minister of Indigenous Relations and
Reconciliation**

First Peoples Cultural Council Funding

**Royal BC Museum
Our Living Languages Exhibit
675 Belleville Street
Victoria
March 16, 2018
TIME: 11:15 a.m.**

Pre-brief: 11:00 a.m.

Information for Minister

Event Summary:

- Minister Fraser offers remarks at a celebratory event to highlight government's commitment to supporting the preservation and revitalization of Indigenous languages in B.C.
- B.C. is providing First Peoples' Cultural Council with a \$50M three-year funding grant, announced in Budget 2018.
- The First Peoples' Cultural Council is a First Nations-run Crown Corporation with a mandate to support the revitalization of Indigenous languages, arts, culture and heritage in British Columbia.
- In British Columbia, 203 First Nations communities have 34 languages, more than any other province in Canada, and over 90 dialects.

Action/Visual: Minister Fraser and Minister James with representatives of the First Peoples' Cultural Council and community language champions.

Venue: Royal BC Museum, Our Living Languages exhibit (third floor)

Audience: Indigenous language champions, members of First Peoples' Cultural Council Board, language partners, community members

Podium/microphone: Yes

Event Start Time: 11:15 a.m. (Pre-brief at 11:00 a.m.)

Length of speech: 3 minutes

Attire: Business

Emcee: Minister James

Media attendance: Media will be invited.

Other speakers:

- Elder Butch Dick, Songhees Nation
- Minister James, emcee
- Cynthia Callison, Chair First Peoples' Cultural Council
- Ray Harris, First Nations Summit
- Tracey Herbert, CEO First Peoples' Cultural Council
- Giselle Martin, youth language champion
- STOLꞤEL [Stol-quit] John Elliott, Tsartlip First Nation

Logistics:

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- Pre-brief will take place in the Newcombe Conference Hall (ground floor) at 11.00 am.
- A drum group – ANSWER (All Nations Strong Women for Education and Reconciliation) will play in the third floor lobby prior to the event starting.

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- Klecko, klecko.

-End-