

# Chinese Canadian Community Advisory Committee

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## Meeting Minutes

Friday, February 21, 2020  
Vancouver Cabinet Office  
Suite 740, 999 Canada Place  
Vancouver  
1:00 to 4:00 pm

**Present:**

**Co-Chair:** Winnie Lee, Bill Yee

**Members:** Thomas Chan, Christina Chang, Debbie Chen, Queenie Choo, Alex Fan, Sunny Ho, Dr. Jo-Anne Lee, Dr. Imogene Lim, David Lin, Fred Mah, Harris Niu, Zili (Frank) Wu, Jeffrey Yu

**Ministers:** Minister of State George Chow, Minister Anne Kang

**Ministry Staff:** Stephanie Chang, Eugene Tseng, Naveen Girn, Paul Irwin, Prerna Dugar

**Special Guests:** Heather Wood, Associate Deputy Minister and Secretary to Treasury Board  
Deb Zehr, Executive Director, Immigration Programs Branch, JEDC

**Regrets:** Carol Lee

### 1. Introductory Remarks

- Minister Chow welcomed all attendees to the meeting and gave the indigenous territorial acknowledgement.
- He mentioned concerns over the emergence of anti-Asian sentiments arising from COVID-19 and reinforced the BC Government's commitment to addressing any situations of racism.
- Minister Chow noted his visit with Health Minister Adrian Dixon, MP Peter Julian, MLA Raj Chouhan, and Burnaby Mayor Mike Hurley to the Crystal Mall in Richmond to show their support for these businesses
- s.12; s.13
- The meeting was called to order; the agenda was accepted without any amendments.

## 2. Updates on The Chinese Canadian Museum

- Minister of State George Chow gave a brief update on the Chinese Canadian Museum
- The Museum Working Group has concluded that establishing a non-profit society with a board of directors is the best governance structure. The Pocket Gallery in Chinatown was officially opened on November 8, 2019.
- Under a 'hub and spoke' model, from the museum's base in Chinatown, the plan is to highlight the role of Chinese Canadians in other regions of British Columbia, engaging with other institutions including the Vancouver Museum.
- The objective is to promote interaction and dialogue on the important role of Chinese Canadians in British Columbia – highlighting past, present and future
- Bill Yee mentioned the groups' desire to include a Board member from the Indigenous community s.12; s.13

## 3. Update on the work on Ministry of Citizens' Services and Minister Anne Kang's new role:

- Minister Anne Kang provided a brief overview of her new role as the Minister of Citizens' Services. She touched on several areas of innovation associated with providing service to British Columbians, including services online, through BC Service Cards and at the sixty-five BC Service Centres across the Province.
- Minister Kang remains the MLA responsible for the Multiculturalism file. In this regard, the Minister remains committed to addressing racism and hate speech directed at the Asian-Canadian community as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak. She highlighted the Ministry of Health's efforts to increase information and awareness of the facts associated with the virus and how to avoid contracting or spreading respiratory illnesses.

## 4. Future Topics and Review of Future Agenda Item

- The Co-Chair led a discussion on possible topics for future presentations to the committee.
- One topic to be raised was the need to engage in a **meaningful and multifaceted discussion on Indigenous reconciliation** and efforts to build bridges between Indigenous and Asian Canadian communities in BC. A dialogue, focusing on efforts to bring the two communities together, could potentially include K-12 educational components, featuring indigenous perspectives and understanding of historical wrongs
- Building on this suggestion, a future presentation on BC's commitment to action under the **UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)** was also highlighted.
- Another topic suggested for future consideration was the role of government in ensuring the need for **culturally appropriate seniors care** in BC, noting that cultural barriers still exist.
- The suggestion of continuing to build out a **communications and outreach strategy** for the CCCAC was also raised, providing a higher profile to Committee members within Chinese Canadian communities
- Minister Kang suggested that Committee members come prepared to deliver **brief presentations** on the topics that they would like more information or engagement with the

BC Government – to enable the appropriate ministers and government officials to consider and respond to these issues.

**5. Next Meeting**

- Members will be canvassed on their availability in the coming month to finalize the date for the next CCCAC meeting.

**6. Presentation and Discussion: Budget 2020**

- s.12; s.13; s.16

- Members expressed concerns about the negative economic impact on the BC economy due to COVID-19. Any temporary impacts on the economy will be addressed through economic and fiscal prudence within the budget. The Ministry of Finance is actively monitoring the impacts on various sectors of BC's economy.
- Members asked how they might provide input at an earlier stage during next year's budget preparation, noting that there are opportunities for government to improve the way that culturally appropriate services are provided to Asian Canadian communities. Heather Wood indicated she would welcome insight from the committee – either by returning to a future CCCACC meeting with a colleague in the Ministry of Finance responsible for Gender-Based Analysis + implementation across the BC public service, and/or the committee may wish to engage with the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services.
- Other topics raised included steps to promote competitiveness of BC business in a time of heightened tensions with China; and rising insurance rates for strata properties and lease space for businesses and non-profits in BC.

**7. Presentation and Discussion: BC Provincial Nominee Program**

- Deb Zehr, Executive Director for Immigration Programs at JEDC gave an overview of BC's Provincial Nominee Program (PNP) and discussed its goals and challenges. BC PNP offers an immigration pathway to support permanent residence of economic immigrants and constitutes 41% of all BC economic immigrants
- The most recent stream under the PNP, launched in March 2019, is the Entrepreneur Immigration - Regional Pilot, aimed at attracting and retaining immigrant entrepreneurs in smaller centres in BC regions. The new stream features innovative steps to identify potential entrepreneur applicants, including active engagement with communities, entrepreneur visits to communities and orientation sessions that include a range of stakeholders including settlement organizations.

- Taking steps to enhance program integrity to address challenges of fraud and misrepresentation remain a key priority challenge in ensuring the ongoing success of the BC PNP.
- Discussion topics raised by the Committee members included challenges associated with international credential recognition, ongoing labour market shortages in key sectors, work load of case officers within the PNP program, the role of settlement agencies within the Entrepreneur Immigration Regional Pilot program and the role of gender-based analysis in the PNP screening process.

#### **8. COVID-19: Addressing racial discrimination:**

- The emergence of COVID-19 in China, and its subsequent spread around the world, has had negative impacts on the Asian Canadian community, with the emergence of racial discrimination in various forms. Committee members noted cases of Asian-Canadian students being victims of hate speech and social isolation. Asian-Canadian-owned businesses have seen a significant drop in sales, and members from the community have recorded incidents of bigotry and racism. These immediate reactions are likely to be compounded by longer-term economic impacts to BC consumers, due to the disruption of supply chains as the virus spreads
- While BC's political leadership have strongly condemned hate speech and racism, members expressed the need for a more holistic strategy to increase awareness and address racial discrimination in the context of COVID-19. s.13

s.13

- Longer-term suggestions included undertaking a new anti-racism campaign under the Province's new program entitled *Resilience BC* to be launched this spring, focused on addressing and shifting racial profiling and unconscious bias.

#### **9. Closing Remarks**

- Closing remarks were given by Minister Chow and Co-Chair Winnie Lee, thanking members for their active participation and input to the meeting discussions.
- The meeting was adjourned at 4:00pm.

# Chinese Canadian Community Advisory Committee

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## Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 25, 2020

Call with Premier and Multicultural Advisory Committee

1:15 – 2:15 pm

CCCAC Meeting via Zoom

2:15 – 4:00 pm

***Present:***

**Co-Chair:** Winnie Lee, Bill Yee

**Members:** Thomas Chan, Christina Chang, Debbie Chen, Queenie Choo, Alex Fan, Sunny Ho, Carol Lee, Dr. Jo-Anne Lee, Winnie Lee, Dr. Imogene Lim, David Lin, Fred Mah, Harris Niu, Zili (Frank) Wu, Jeffrey Yu, Shumei Liu

**Ministers:** Minister of State George Chow, Minister Anne Kang

**Ministry Staff:** Stephanie Chang, Naveen Girn, Alison Dudley, Paul Irwin, Patrick Chandler

**Special Guests:** BC Premier John Horgan, Kevin Huang of Hua Foundation

***Regrets:***

### CCCAC Call with Premier John Horgan

1:15-2:15 pm

#### 1. Premier John Horgan opening remarks

- The Premier opened the joint call with the CCCAC and MAC by reaffirming that racism has no place in BC society. COVID19 doesn't discriminate and neither should we. Instead, diversity is our strength, including BC's indigenous and immigrant communities. He highlighted the progress being made on the Chinese Canadian museum project as an example of how BC wants to celebrate our diversity.
- The Premier noted the steps his government has taken to respond to racism and discrimination through the Resilience BC program, noting that local communities need support in stepping up their anti-racism response
- The Premier has reached out to the Opposition on the issue of addressing racism against the Asian community in BC in the wake of the pandemic. He reiterated that we all need to work together, arm in arm to combat racism in our communities.

## 2. Minister Anne Kang opening remarks

- The Minister thanked everyone for doing their part – both in working to flatten the curve and also to stand up against racism.
- She acknowledged that we have all had to make sacrifices due to the pandemic, including the cancellation of cultural festivals and celebrations. While group gatherings cannot happen for the time being, celebrations can continue in other ways.
- The Minister has been saddened by these racially motivated attacks and has personally received hateful comments – but will not remain silent on these issues.
- Ministers Kang and Chow look forward to the suggestions and advice of the two committees.

## 3. Roundtable Discussion

- Committee members noted the importance of **building allies** in standing up to these racist attacks. This include allies within other ethnic communities and the indigenous community. Other allies include the business community such as the BC Business Council, which has spoken out against racism. This requires a longer-term strategy, given the potential of another wave of COVID19 in the fall – as well as relations with China and unrest in Hong Kong.
- These racially motivated attacks aren't just happening in the Lower Mainland. It's important to combat these incidents wherever they happen **throughout the province**. Do address this, we need to support the work of volunteer organizations like #healthnothate – and promote greater collaboration with local municipalities
- Members stressed the importance of stronger **reporting and documentation** of racist incidents, including gathering data from communities throughout the province. The issue of the timely reporting of these incidents as raised. People are feeling unsafe and unsure about how to report them. Members suggested a multilingual hotline to facilitate reporting of hate attacks
- Members suggested use of **ethnic media townhalls** to communicate directly with Asian communities. s.12; s.13  
s.12; s.13
- The issue of addressing anti-racism in the **education system** was raised – particularly as students prepare to go back to class in June. Beyond this immediate priority, we need to deepen anti-racism resources within BC's education system. There is currently no degree program in Asian studies in BC, for example.
- A final key point raised in the discussion was the need for a systematic **cross-government approach** to addressing racism is all government programs. Similar to UNDRIP legislation to protect and reinforce the rights of indigenous people, an anti-racism framework should be applied to all mandate letters of BC's cabinet ministers.

#### 4. Closing comments

- Premier Horgan thanks everyone for their suggestions and input – and highlighted again the government’s increased budget allocations for anti-racism and multiculturalism initiatives.
- Minister Anne Kang noted that there is a hotline available for people to call into on issues of racism, and that there are initiatives within the K-12 system, such as the Bamboo Shoots project. The Royal BC Museum also has an online program created by the Liu Family for Asian Heritage Month.
- Minister George Chow thanked everyone for their timely and important input.
- CCCAC members exited and transferred to the next portion of the meeting, held on Zoom.

#### CCCAC Meeting via Zoom 2:15pm-4:00pm

##### 1. Minister Anne Kang on Resilience BC

- Minister Kang introduced Resilience BC, designed to connect communities with a network of information, supports and training to help them respond to incidents of racism and hate.
- She noted the program is one of many actions the B.C. government is taking as part of its commitment to stand up for diversity, end racism and all forms of discrimination, and support multiculturalism in British Columbia.
- The Province recently selected the Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society (VIRCS) to serve as a provincial hub for Resilience BC, which will connect to spoke communities working to address hate activity and take on systemic and institutionalized racism and promote multiculturalism throughout the province.
- In addition to program funding under Resilience BC, communities have an opportunity to coordinate at a regional level and apply for additional funding through gaming grants of up to \$225 thousand.

##### 2. Kevin Huang, the Hua Foundation

- Kevin Huang, Co-Founder & Executive Director of the Hua Foundation introduced the foundation’s activities, aimed at empowering youth to promote their identity. The organization is seven years old.
- On **acknowledging racism and discrimination** the Hua Foundation have developed a range of programming around race and equity, including direct outreach to seniors, providing credible information on COVID-19 in multilingual formats. They also provide some food outreach to seniors in the community.
- Hua Foundation provides an opportunity for young people to talk about race, organizing workshops and creating safe environments for young people to discuss topics like xenophobia, racism, bigotry, and discrimination. This has included workshops on issues like race and food – the ‘stinky lunchbox story’ – providing a chance to unpack and discuss shared experiences.

- Hua Foundation has also brought race into the education sector with resources for teachers, recognizing that our overall literacy on race issues needs to be upgraded. It's not just about violence and obvious racism, there is also underlying structural racism to address also.
- On **building resilience in the community**, Kevin discussed the need to build networks to respond effectively to issues like COVID19, and the need to work with other communities to respond to racism. For example, the Union of BC Indian Chiefs came out in solidarity with Asian Canadians on COVID-19 racism – and Asian Canadians need to do the same for other groups who may be facing discrimination during these times.
- He noted we are learning more about race-based data collection around frontline workers during COVID19, for example, the experiences of many frontline Filipino workers.
- There are opportunities to build relationships with other groups to respond to the shocks of racism when they happen. Racism isn't just happening to Chinese Canadians. It's important to remember that we'll all in this together – and why building relations and building literacy on race issues is so important.

### 3. Roundtable Discussion

- Members agreed with the need to **work with other communities and groups outside of the Chinese community** to build alliances to combat racism. It was noted that the Chinese Canadian community is perceived to have a certain level of influence and privilege in Canadian society.
- Members noted a generational divide in terms of comfort with “stepping up” on these issues. Earlier generations of Chinese immigrants were taught to “keep their heads down” and avoid confrontation. Younger Chinese Canadians have more confidence in speaking up. While its important for the Chinese community to stand up against racism, the broader Canadian culture ultimately needs to join in saying “this is against Canadian values.”
- Building on the theme of allies, members highlighted opportunities to **work with high profile individuals in business, media and government at the national level**. Given that racism is an attack on Canadian values, this requires a national campaign/response. The suggestion was made of a campaign involving prominent Asian Canadians in the entertainment business, such as Simu Liu, the Chinese Canadian actor who will play the first Asian superhero in the Marvel universe.
- Members highlighted the need for more **support for groups and organizations** taking up anti-racism campaigns. For example, the #healthnothate campaign is a completely voluntary initiative led by Sonny Wong of multicultural marketing firm Hamazaki and Wong. The committee will follow up with the MAC on what more can be done in this area – also to support groups collecting race-based data.
- In terms of the immediate matter of addressing acts of hate and violence, a number of issues were raised including information on how and when to report these incidents and the need to work more **effectively with law enforcement on reporting**. Members noted that the Chinese community often doesn't know how to report and who to report racist

incidents. The suggestion of a **dedicated reporting hotline** was raised – as well as a Chinese-specific hub within Resilience BC to address these issues.

- Members discussed the issue of **intervention training**, to empower bystanders to intervene when safe to do so, when witnessing racist attacks. Minister Kang highlighted a Burnaby Family Life program on what to say and do when confronted with racism. She noted that Asian Canadians tend to stay silent and don't want to get involved; this type of intervention program empowers them by giving them a script to follow, when feeling safe to do so. There may be opportunities to work with police on expanded intervention training.
- Similar to workplace harassment, where clear rights and responsibilities have been outlined, members suggested an **anti-racism framework or code** to address and respond to racist behaviour. Just as clear messages are in place for how to respond in an earthquake (duck, cover and hold) perhaps a similar message could be developed when witnessing racism (for example, stand, speak and act).
- Beyond current instances of racist behaviour and attacks is the deeper issues of **systemic racism** in Canadian society. Members noted the persistence of stereotypes and xenophobia, including that Asians carrying disease or questioning of Asian Canadians' loyalty to Canada. Even Canada's chief public health officer, Dr. Theresa Tam, had her loyalty questioned. Members noted situations where Chinese associations in Canada have also had their loyalties questioned and been accused of working for the Chinese government.
- On the issues of **international trade and the BC economy** members noted areas where racial stereotypes and systemic bias could emerge in the near future. **S.13**  
s.13

- Members highlighted the need for additional **anti-racism curriculum** within BC's education system. This is particularly important as students head back to the classroom on June 1<sup>st</sup>
- Finally, members raised the need to engage **ethnic media** with more resources on building community awareness to respond to racist attacks. **S.12; S.13**  
s.12; s.13

#### 4. Next Steps

- s.13
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- The Co-Chairs will keep the Committee members informed on any draft messaging and recommendations to government before these are finalized.

**5. Next Meeting**

- Members will be canvassed on their availability in the coming month to finalize the date for the next CCCAC meeting.

**6. Closing Remarks**

- Minister Chow, Minister Kang, and Co-Chairs Winnie Lee and Bill Yee thanked members for their active participation and input to these key issues.
- The meeting was adjourned at 4:00pm.

# AGENDA

## Chinese Canadian Community Advisory Committee (CCCAC)

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Monday, May 25, 2020  
Zoom Conference Call (Details to follow)  
2:15 PM to 4:00 PM

TIME	ACTIVITY	PRESENTER / LEAD
2:15 pm	Members Join Call	Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Competitiveness (JEDC) Staff support as needed
2:18 pm	Meeting Call to Order Brief Introductory Remarks Welcome to new member Liu Shumei	Co-Chairs
2:20 pm	Presentation by Minister Anne Kang on Resilience BC	Minister of Citizens' Services Anne Kang
2:30 pm	Q&A; Discussion on presentation	CCCAC Members
2:40 pm	Presentation by Kevin Huang on acknowledging racism and discrimination and building community resilience	Kevin Huang, Co-Founder & Executive Director, Hua Foundation
3:00 pm	Discussion on anti-racism initiatives and recommendations for action from the Advisory Committee	Co-Chair and CCCAC Members
3:45 pm	Discussion of future agenda items	Co-Chair and CCCAC Members
3:55 pm	Closing Remarks; Adjourn Meeting	Minister of State for Trade George Chow

## Comments from Chinese Canadian Community Advisory Committee Members

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**Fred Mah:**

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-END-

**Imogene Lim:**

s.13

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**Christina Chang:**

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# Chinese-Canadian Community Advisory Committee – Virtual Briefing

Presented by:  
Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and  
Competitiveness

Government of British Columbia



# Chinese Canadian Community Advisory Committee

## Virtual Briefing

### Provincial Update

- B.C.'s COVID-19 Go-Forward Strategy
- International Trade and Investment Activities
- Update on Major Energy Projects



# COVID-19 Go-Forward Strategy

- Unlike many other places that imposed strict “lock down” policies, BC’s approach was to require *safe operation* of a broad range of services designated as essential services to protect our health care system and maintain access to key services and supplies.
- Also many non-essential businesses remained open, provided that they could operate safely.
- As a result, BC’s economy has continued to operate in ways that other provinces haven’t. But it’s undeniable that local businesses have suffered.

# COVID-19 Go-Forward Strategy

## What We Are Doing

Measures we have taken in B.C. include:

- Providing physical distancing and hygiene guidelines for industry.
- Banning mass gatherings of more than 50 people.
- Closing bars, restaurants, and personal service establishments.
- Reducing in-classroom learning and childcare.
- Requiring travelers to implement a 14-day self-isolation plan.
- Restricting visitors in health care and assisted living settings.
- Postponing elective surgeries and decanting hospitals.

# COVID-19 Go-Forward Strategy

## What We Need To Do Next

Measures we have taken in B.C. include:

### **Five goals for our strategy:**

1. Suppress transmission rate to lowest rate possible for at-risk populations until a vaccine becomes available.
2. Avert the health system being overwhelmed such as to be unable to offer quality care to both non-COVID-19 and COVID-19 patients.

### **Balanced against.....**

3. Meeting the very real ongoing physical and mental health needs of the non- COVID-19 patients and populations.
4. Getting people back to work and rebuilding the economy.
5. Optimizing the social fabric of our families and communities.

# COVID-19 Go-Forward Strategy

## Dynamic Modelling

While a return to near normal levels is expected to radically increase transmission, the move to 60% of normal is expected to result in a relatively flat transmission rate.

Practically, British Columbians could almost double the amount of social contacts they have currently and still maintain a flat transmission rate.

This presents opportunities we need to improve economic, social and personal well being for citizens – to find the right balance.

This should provide a sustainable “new-normal” for the coming 12 to 18 months, while a vaccine is developed and deployed. We can continue to refine and tweak the balance of actions based on closely monitoring transmission rates.

# COVID-19 Go-Forward Strategy

## Areas of Focus to Reduce Transmission

### Guidelines for Personal Self Care

- No hand shaking; practice good hygiene; maintain reasonable physical distance when out; if you have symptoms of a cold, flu, or COVID-19 you must stay home; If you are at greater risk get informed.

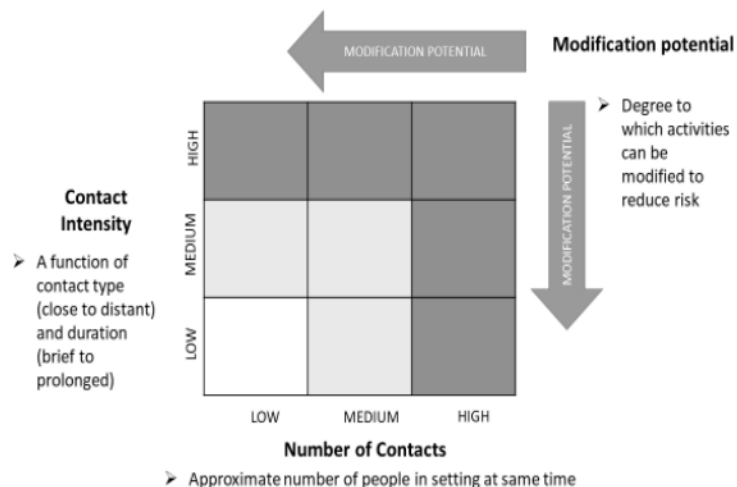
### Guidelines for Managing Social Interaction

- Clear policy for not socializing when you have the symptoms of a cold, flu, or COVID-19; maintain regular social contact with family or small groups of (around 2-6 guests) while maintaining a safe physical distance.

# COVID-19 Go-Forward Strategy

## Guidelines for Organizations and Public Institutions

Variables we need to modify to reduce transmission risk: contact intensity (how close you are to someone and for how long); and number of contacts (how many people in same setting at same time).



Modifying from high to low can be based on a range of actions:

- Physical distancing measures – to reduce density of people
- Engineering controls – physical barriers, increased ventilation
- Administrative controls – rules and guidelines
- Non-medical masks

# COVID-19 Go-Forward Strategy

## Core Workplace Guidelines

- Actively promote and monitor personal self care actions in your organization.
- Actively promote and implement core measures for managing social interaction in your organizational setting in congregate social areas (kitchens, staff rooms, canteens, shared public spaces).
- Ensure that individuals who have the symptoms of a cold, flu, or Covid-19 including any coughing or sneezing do not come into the workplace.
- Require and sustain higher levels of frequent cleaning of “high touch” areas in workplaces and retail outlets throughout the day and availability of hand sanitizer stands at entrances or around workplaces and shops.
- Where appropriate and practical increase use of temporary physical barriers (such as plexiglass at service counters or checkouts).
- Focus on how you will support and accommodate higher-risk populations including those 65+ and those with underlying medical conditions. Workplaces, retail and personal service businesses are encouraged to exercise greater accommodation for these age groups in terms of work space, more flexible hours of work or shopping (earlier, later, mid-day) or working at home options.

# COVID-19 Go-Forward Strategy

## Additional Guidelines for Offices

- Where possible continue to encourage working from home part of the time to reduce “contact intensity” and “number of contacts” in the work place.
- Where this is not possible or in addition to working from home policies, enable employees to have less contacts by suggestions include:
  - Using staggered shifts or work hours for individuals or groups.
  - Teams working together virtually or small team task groups.
  - Forgoing in person group meetings as much as possible

# COVID-19 Go-Forward Strategy

## Additional Guidelines Schools (K-12) and Post-Secondary

- Routine daily screening protocol for all staff and students.
- Routine and frequent environmental cleaning.
- Clear policy for students and staff who have symptoms of a cold, flu, or COVID-19, with any coughing or sneezing not coming into school or taking part in extra curricular activities, sports or work.
- Early arrival and self-isolation for 14 days of international students.

# COVID-19 Go-Forward Strategy

## A Safe Restart for Additional Businesses

- To help these businesses and other organizations get back on their feet, we need workplace practices that ensure British Columbians feel safe, whether they are returning to work, or going out as a customer.
- Employers will need to engage with their employees to find the right solutions and consider the concerns and needs of their customers.
- For the different organizational sectors to move forward they will be asked to develop operational protocols aligned with the Public Health and Safety Guidelines.
- **WorkSafeBC will work with industry associations** to ensure the direction and guidance they provide to their members meets the requirements set out by the Provincial Health Officer.
- **WorkSafeBC will work with employers and workers** through educational materials, consultation, and workplace inspections to help them restart safely.
- A cross-ministry deputy minister's committee will monitor the process and ensure overall alignment with Public Health and Safety Guidelines and WorkSafeBC

# COVID-19 Go-Forward Strategy

May 19<sup>th</sup> Onwards

## Under enhanced protocols

- Restoration of health services
  - Re-scheduling Elective Surgery
  - Medically-related services
    - Dentistry, Physiotherapy, Registered Massage Therapy, Chiropractors
    - Physical therapy, speech therapy and similar
- Retail sector
- Hair salons/ barbers/other personal service establishments
- In-person counselling
- Restaurants, cafes, pubs – with sufficient distancing measures
- Museums, art galleries, libraries
- Office based worksites
- Recreation/sports
- Parks, beaches and outdoor spaces. BC Parks opening for day use on May 14.
- Transit Services
- Child care

# COVID-19 Go-Forward Strategy

June to September – If Transmission Rates Remain Low

## Under enhanced protocols

- Hotels and Resorts (June)
- Parks – broader reopening, including some overnight camping (June)
- Film industry – beginning with domestic productions (June/July)
- Select entertainment – Movies and symphony, but not large concerts (July)
- Post-secondary education – with mix of online and in-class (September)
- K-12 education – with only a partial return this school year (September)

# COVID-19 Go-Forward Strategy

## More Challenging or To Be Determined

- The timing of a safe restart of night clubs, casinos and bars is a more complicated consideration.
- Conditional on at least one of: wide vaccination; “community” immunity; or broad successful treatments:
  - Restrictions of large gathering will remain in place for now
  - Activities requiring large gatherings will be prohibited
  - International tourism

# COVID-19 Go-Forward Strategy

## Supports for Businesses, Organizations, and Industry

- Tax relief for commercial property owners and tenants.
- Rent reduction by 75% for small businesses with federal-provincial Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance Program (CECRA).
- COVID-19 Supply Hub to help source medical and non-medical products and services.
- BC Hydro Relief.
- ICBC payment relief.
- BC Business COVID-19 Support Service – one-on-one support.

# International Trade and Investment Activities

## International Engagement Framework

- The Province continues to build upon its International Engagement Framework led by JEDC.
- The Framework takes a whole of government approach to international business development, through ministries working together to identify priorities and opportunities globally.
- Under the Framework, BC will be co-locating in Canadian missions in Asia, bringing us closer to the Canadian Trade Commissioner Service and Invest in Canada teams so we can broaden our business development network.
- Continuity of service for clients is a top priority through the transition and staff are working closely with the Trade Commissioner Service in Asia to ensure support to BC businesses through the transition period, and through the COVID-19 pandemic.
- BC also maintains trade and investment representation in Europe and the USA, to provide support to international investors and BC exporters.

# International Trade and Investment Activities

## Economic Recovery – Trade

JEDC is communicating regularly with investors on issues related to COVID-19 like:

- Addressing immediate concerns
- Investor retention
- Incremental investment expansions
- Changes in operations
- Intelligence sharing for future planning

The Investor Services branch at the Ministry is working with partners in forestry and mining on regional initiatives, and with specific investors on pending projects. Discussions are happening with these partners on COVID-19 impacts and recovery ideas and opportunities.

In terms of larger projects, the Ministry is involved in the LNG Marine Bunkering initiative through working with strategic partners such as Fortis BC and my ministry, aiming to have the initiative become an important investment opportunity during economic recovery.

# International Trade and Investment Activities

## Economic Recovery – Investment

- The Province is continuing to work with its partners on international trade promotion, yet in a more reimagined way to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic and recovery, such as limiting travel and using in-market representatives to promote BC products at international trade shows.
- Regarding BC programming, the Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Competitiveness under the leadership of my colleague Michelle Mungall continues to deliver and support BC Trade programming initiatives:
  - **The Trade Accelerator Program**, offered by the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade and the Ministry, continues to deliver trade advice online rather than in-person.
  - Through the **Export Navigator** program, the Ministry continues to engage BC SMEs in all regions of the province through our dedicated regional export advisors as well as our dedicated Export Advisors for Women, Youth and Indigenous businesses. During COVID-19 Export Advisors have also been active in supporting BC SMEs looking to sell across Canada.

# Update on Major Energy Projects

- Before the COVID-19 pandemic there were multiple energy projects moving forward.
- Jobs and economic opportunities were growing, with thousands of people employed to work on the LNG Canada project (export facility and connecting pipeline) alone.
- Of course, these projects were responsive to the COVID-19 situation and took measures to protect health and safety of workers and neighbouring communities.
- These measures included workforce reductions, recommended social distancing protocols, and adhering to all other orders provided by health officials.
- LNG Canada/Coastal GasLink will support British Columbia's economic recovery. Jobs are being created and people will benefit. People will be employed to support construction and future operations.

# THANK YOU