

Chang, Stephanie JTT:EX

From: Spencer, Brad GCPE:EX
Sent: December 18, 2018 10:07 AM
To: McNish, James JTT:EX; Chang, Stephanie JTT:EX
Cc: Stewart, Courtney GCPE:EX; Talbot, Sarena GCPE:EX
Subject: IN on Minister Chow's travel to China
Attachments: IN MoSC Personal Travel 17 Dec 18 FINAL.docx

Hello

The attached IN provides easy reference for future requests about Minister Chow's personal trip to China.

It has been reviewed by:

- Stephanie
- Minister Chow
- DMO
- ADM of the IBD division

Regards
Brad

Brad Spencer | Communications Director
Ministry of Jobs, Trade and Technology
Government Communications and Public Engagement
778 974-3546 (office)
250 213-8637 (mobile)
brad.spencer@gov.bc.ca

ADVICE TO MINISTER

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|---|--|
| <p>CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE</p> <p>Ministry of Jobs, Trade and Technology</p> <p>Date: Dec. 17, 2018 Minister Responsible: Hon. Bruce Ralston</p> | <p>Minister Chow – Personal Travel to China</p> |
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SUGGESTED RESPONSES:

- Minister of State for Trade George Chow was on a personal trip to China from s.22
- No government resources were used to plan this trip, and no government funds were used to pay for travel expenses.
- Minister Chow was not travelling in his role as the Minister of State for Trade and he was not representing the Province on this trip.
- Minister Chow was not involved in the decision to postpone the China leg of the forestry mission to Asia.
- As a private citizen and a member of the Yue Shan Society, Minister Chow had a meeting with Guangzhou City officials on December 7, 2018
- Minister Chow's itinerary included leisure travel to Guangzhou, Xi'an and his ancestral home town in the s.22

BACKGROUND:

Minister of State for Trade Chow was on approved vacation leave from s.22 He travelled to China on a personal trip during his leave, departing Vancouver s.22 s.22

Because of the timing of the trip and the Dec. 10, 2018 decision by the Province to postpone the China leg of the Asia mission, there may be questions about Minister Chow's presence in China.

The Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of the People's Government of Guangzhou Municipality posted photos of a Dec. 7, 2018, meeting with Minister of State for Trade Chow. The photos were posted Dec. 10, 2018. The minister attended that meeting in his role as a member of the non-profit Yue Shan Society, not as MLA and not as Minister of State for Trade.

<http://www.gzqw.gov.cn/qzqw/qzdt/201812/459db828eda14b06890835cc949393d6.shtml>

A blog story about Minister Chow's visit to China was posted online, erroneously conflating it with the decision to cancel the China leg of the forestry mission: *Exclusive: B.C. cabinet minister in China while Huawei CFO intrigue unfolded*

<https://thebreaker.news/news/chow-in-china-again/>

The Yue Shan Society is a historical non-profit organization located in Vancouver's Chinatown. The primary purpose of the society is to provide mutual support and kinship among newcomers from the Guangzhou area. The society will be celebrating its 80th anniversary in Vancouver next year.

ADVICE TO MINISTER

Program Area Contacts: n/a

Chang, Stephanie JTT:EX

From: Spencer, Brad GCPE:EX
Sent: December 17, 2018 3:37 PM
To: Chang, Stephanie JTT:EX
Subject: RE: IN MoSC travel to China

Thanks for the feedback. I will update the note.

From: Chang, Stephanie JTT:EX
Sent: December 17, 2018 3:12 PM
To: Spencer, Brad GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: IN MoSC travel to China

Hi Brad,

In the line where it refers to MGC's hometown, please change it from

s.22

s.13

Thanks,

Stephanie Chang
Ministerial Assistant to the Honourable George Chow, Minister of State for Trade
Ministry of Jobs, Trade, and Technology
British Columbia Parliament Buildings | 501 Belleville St, Victoria, BC V8V 2L8
Stephanie.Chang@gov.bc.ca | Office: 250-387-9142 | Cell: 250-886-5442

From: Spencer, Brad GCPE:EX
Sent: December 17, 2018 2:34 PM
To: Chang, Stephanie JTT:EX <Stephanie.Chang@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Chang, Johann GCPE:EX <Johann.Chang@gov.bc.ca>; Hickli, Hope A GCPE:EX <Hope.A.Hickli@gov.bc.ca>; Stewart, Courtney GCPE:EX <Courtney.Stewart@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: IN MoSC travel to China

Hi Stephanie

Can you please fact-check this note for us. This note was prepared as quick reference for future requests about Minister Chow's trip to China.

Thanks
Brad

Brad Spencer | Communications Director
Ministry of Jobs, Trade and Technology
Government Communications and Public Engagement

778 974-3546 (office)
250 213-8637 (mobile)
brad.spencer@gov.bc.ca

Chang, Stephanie JTT:EX

From: Chang, Stephanie JTT:EX
Sent: December 17, 2018 1:12 PM
To: May, Ed LASS:EX
Subject: FW: media request

Hi Ed,

GCPE advised that Caucus draft a response to Mr. Mackin, as this is a personal trip.

Thanks,

Stephanie Chang

Ministerial Assistant to the Honourable George Chow, Minister of State for Trade

Ministry of Jobs, Trade, and Technology

British Columbia Parliament Buildings | 501 Belleville St, Victoria, BC V8V 2L8

Stephanie.Chang@gov.bc.ca | Office: 250-387-9142 | Cell: 250-886-5442

From: Bob Mackin [mailto:bob@thebreaker.news]
Sent: December 13, 2018 11:29 AM
To: Spencer, Brad GCPE:EX <Brad.Spencer@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Chang, Stephanie JTT:EX <Stephanie.Chang@gov.bc.ca>; Chow.MLA, George LASS:EX <George.Chow.MLA@leg.bc.ca>; Minister, TRD JTT:EX <Minister.TRD@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Re: media request

The Chinese state website did not feature Mr. Chow as a private citizen, but as a member of the government of British Columbia.

Please explain the costs, reasons and outcomes for his trip and whether he will be available for an interview when he returns.

In the meantime, does he have any more meetings with Chinese government officials? Is he still in China, despite potential risks after Canadians have been detained in retaliation to the Meng arrest?

On Thu, Dec 13, 2018 at 10:03 AM Spencer, Brad GCPE:EX <Brad.Spencer@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hi Bob

The minister is on a personal trip in China and not available for an interview.

Thanks

Brad

From: Bob Mackin [mailto:bob@thebreaker.news]

Sent: December 12, 2018 5:26 PM

To: Spencer, Brad GCPE:EX; Minister, TRD JTT:EX; Chang, Stephanie JTT:EX; Chow.MLA, George LASS:EX

Subject: media request

Hello,

Would Minister Chow be available for an interview, about the costs, reasons and outcomes of his trip to China, which included meetings with Communist Party of China officials?

<http://www.gzqw.gov.cn/gzqw/gzdt/201812/459db828eda14b06890835cc949393d6.shtml>

I notice the date of publication was Dec. 10, which was United Nations Human Rights Day.

Sincerely,

Bob Mackin

reporter, theBreaker.news

604-982-9130

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Chang, Stephanie JTT:EX

From: Bob Mackin <bob@thebreaker.news>
Sent: December 12, 2018 5:26 PM
To: Spencer, Brad GCPE:EX; Minister, TRD JTT:EX; Chang, Stephanie JTT:EX; Chow.MLA, George LASS:EX
Subject: media request

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Bob Mackin
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From: [Chang, Stephanie JTT:EX](#)
To: [Robb, Amanda JTT:EX](#); [Duguay, Ilene JTT:EX](#)
Subject: RE: MGC China SIM Card
Date: December 3, 2018 11:22:10 AM

It is [s.17](#)

Stephanie Chang

Ministerial Assistant to the Honourable George Chow, Minister of State for Trade

Ministry of Jobs, Trade, and Technology

British Columbia Parliament Buildings | 501 Belleville St, Victoria, BC V8V 2L8

Stephanie.Chang@gov.bc.ca | Office: 250-387-9142 | Cell: 250-886-5442

From: Robb, Amanda JTT:EX
Sent: December 3, 2018 11:21 AM
To: Chang, Stephanie JTT:EX; Duguay, Ilene JTT:EX
Subject: RE: MGC China SIM Card

Ok, can you confirm his phone #? Sorry – I don't have it handy at the moment as I'm not in the office.

Thanks,

Amanda Robb

Administrative Coordinator to the Honourable Bruce Ralston Minister of Jobs, Trade and Technology

Administrative Coordinator to the Honourable George Chow Minister of State for Trade

Room 138 | Parliament Buildings | Victoria | British Columbia | V8W 9E2
Phone: 250-387-9133 | Fax: 250-356-3000 | Email: amanda.rob主@gov.bc.ca

From: Chang, Stephanie JTT:EX
Sent: December 3, 2018 10:41 AM
To: Robb, Amanda JTT:EX <Amanda.Robb@gov.bc.ca>; Duguay, Ilene JTT:EX <Ilene.Duguay@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: MGC China SIM Card

Yes, [s.22](#) No need to purchase roaming package for his iPad. Thanks!

Stephanie Chang

Ministerial Assistant to the Honourable George Chow, Minister of State for Trade

Ministry of Jobs, Trade, and Technology

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Stephanie.Chang@gov.bc.ca | Office: 250-387-9142 | Cell: 250-886-5442

From: Robb, Amanda JTT:EX
Sent: December 3, 2018 10:40 AM

To: Chang, Stephanie JTT:EX; Duguay, Ilene JTT:EX
Subject: RE: MGC China SIM Card

Hi Stephanie,

Will do – can you confirm the dates that the Minister will need the roaming package? Also, can you confirm if he also plans to travel with his iPad? If so this will also require a roaming package.

Thank you,

Amanda Robb

Administrative Coordinator to the Honourable Bruce Ralston Minister of Jobs, Trade and Technology

Administrative Coordinator to the Honourable George Chow Minister of State for Trade

Room 138 | Parliament Buildings | Victoria | British Columbia | V8W 9E2
Phone: 250-387-9133 | Fax: 250-356-3000 | Email: amanda.rob主@gov.bc.ca

From: Chang, Stephanie JTT:EX

Sent: December 3, 2018 10:38 AM

To: Robb, Amanda JTT:EX <Amanda.Robb@gov.bc.ca>; Duguay, Ilene JTT:EX
<Ilene.Duguay@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: MGC China SIM Card

Hi Amanda and Ilene,

Prem tech has advises us to add a roaming plan to MGC's current SIM card for the dates he will be in China, then we will have to order a new SIM card for when he gets back. Could you contact Ralph's radio to add the roaming plan?

Thanks,

Stephanie Chang

Ministerial Assistant to the Honourable George Chow, Minister of State for Trade

Ministry of Jobs, Trade, and Technology

British Columbia Parliament Buildings | 501 Belleville St, Victoria, BC V8V 2L8

Stephanie.Chang@gov.bc.ca | Office: 250-387-9142 | Cell: 250-886-5442

From: [Chow, George JTT:EX](#)
To: [Robb, Amanda JTT:EX](#)
Cc: [Chang, Stephanie JTT:EX](#); [Duguay, Ilene JTT:EX](#)
Subject: Re: Vacation time for your Ministers
Date: November 8, 2018 2:05:32 PM

I will be in China in the cities of Guangzhou and Xian.
Geo

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 8, 2018, at 9:21 AM, Robb, Amanda JTT:EX <Amanda.Robb@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hi Minister,

If you are going to be out of Province or Country on these dates we are required to provide the Whip and PO with your location. Can you please confirm?

Thank you,

Amanda Robb

Administrative Coordinator to the Honourable Bruce Ralston Minister of Jobs, Trade and Technology

Administrative Coordinator to the Honourable George Chow Minister of State for Trade

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Phone: 250-387-9133 | Fax: 250-356-3000 | Email: amanda.rob主@gov.bc.ca

From: Robb, Amanda JTT:EX

Sent: November 7, 2018 4:48 PM

To: Chow, George JTT:EX <George.Chow@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Chang, Stephanie JTT:EX <Stephanie.Chang@gov.bc.ca>; Duguay, Ilene JTT:EX <Ilene.Duguay@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: RE: Vacation time for your Ministers

Thanks Minister,

I have put forward your leave request to the Whip and to the PO for consideration. The following is what has been submitted. Let me know if you have any further events/meetings you may require Leave for. Thank you.

December:

10th – Appointment Board Committee Meeting **AND** BC ^{s.15} Premier & Cabinet Luncheon (**Command attendance from PO**)

11th – All Day Caucus Meeting/Retreat
th

Amanda Robb

Administrative Coordinator to the Honourable Bruce Ralston Minister of Jobs, Trade and Technology

Administrative Coordinator to the Honourable George Chow Minister of State for Trade

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Phone: 250-387-9133 | Fax: 250-356-3000 | Email: amanda.rob主@gov.bc.ca

From: Chow, George JTT:EX

Sent: November 7, 2018 3:30 PM

To: Robb, Amanda JTT:EX <Amanda.Robb@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Re: Vacation time for your Ministers

Not for 4th and 5th. Yes, **s.22** Thanks.

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 7, 2018, at 9:41 AM, Robb, Amanda JTT:EX <Amanda.Robb@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Thanks Minister,

Please note these dates will require leave approval for the following meetings on corresponding dates. Please confirm you are seeking Leave from all listed below. Thank you.

December:

4th – SSP **AND** Appointment Board Committee Meeting

5th – Cabinet

10th – Appointment Board Committee Meeting **AND** BC **s.15** Premier
& Cabinet Luncheon (**Command attendance from PO**)

11th – All Day Caucus Meeting/Retreat

12th – Cabinet

Amanda Robb

Administrative Coordinator to the Honourable Bruce Ralston Minister of Jobs, Trade and Technology

Administrative Coordinator to the Honourable George Chow Minister of State for Trade

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Phone: 250-387-9133 | Fax: 250-356-3000 |
Email: amanda.rob主@gov.bc.ca

From: Chow, George JTT:EX
Sent: November 6, 2018 5:44 PM
To: Robb, Amanda JTT:EX <Amanda.Robb@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Re: Vacation time for your Ministers

I will be on vacation from s.22
Geo.

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 6, 2018, at 11:05 AM, Robb, Amanda JTT:EX
<Amanda.Robb@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hi Ministers,

Can you please let me know if you have any vacation plans in
December or the first week of February? If so PO would like
to know ASAP which dates you'll be on leave.

Thank you,

Amanda Robb
Administrative Coordinator to the Honourable Bruce Ralston
Minister of Jobs, Trade and Technology
Administrative Coordinator to the Honourable George Chow
Minister of State for Trade

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Columbia | V8W 9E2
Phone: 250-387-9133 | Fax: 250-356-3000 |
Email: amanda.rob主@gov.bc.ca

From: Wade, Debbie PREM:EX
Sent: November 6, 2018 10:22 AM
To: LP Administrative Coordinators
<s.17
Cc: Van Meer-Mass, Kate PREM:EX <Kate.VanMeer-Mass@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Vacation time for your Ministers

Hi everyone;

Can you please advise ASAP, if your Minister plans to take vacation during the first **2 weeks of December or the first week of February**. If so, please provide the dates as well.

Thanks!

Debbie Wade

Executive Coordinator to Geoff Meggs - Chief of Staff

and Amber Hockin - Deputy Chief of Staff

Office of the Premier

250-356-2785

From: [Robb, Amanda JTT:EX](#)
To: ["Lana Garraway"](#)
Cc: [\(corporatepublicservice.bc@telus.com\)](#); [Duguay, Ilene JTT:EX](#)
Subject: Roaming package for Minister Chow: Dec 5-15, 2018
Date: December 3, 2018 11:26:40 AM

Hi Lana and Telus,

Can we please add an international call & data roaming package for Minister George Chow from
s.22 on cell #: **s.17** He will be travelling to China.
The same package he had for his last Trade Mission should suffice.

Thank you,

Amanda Robb

Administrative Coordinator to the Honourable Bruce Ralston Minister of Jobs, Trade and Technology

Administrative Coordinator to the Honourable George Chow Minister of State for Trade

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