

## Event Information / Speaking Notes – CBA Conference

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**Event:** Building for the Future – Maximizing Community Benefit Agreements

**When :** Friday, January 25, 2019

**Where:** Westin Bayshore Hotel – 1601 Bayshore Drive, Vancouver

**Directions:** Parking available at hotel

**Contact:** Vicki Willow (TRAN) – 250-356-7436 and Murray Tekano (TRAN)  
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**Length:** 7-10 minutes

**Audience:** Industry experts across North America who are building with CBAs.

### Background:

- Community Benefit Agreements provide good-paying jobs, better training and apprenticeships, and better opportunities for Indigenous people, women and youth so local people stand to gain the most from public infrastructure spending.
- A new, landmark framework for major infrastructure projects in B.C. will deliver good paying jobs, better training and apprenticeships, and more trades opportunities for Indigenous people, women and youth around the province.
- With this agreement we're not just investing in roads, bridges and other infrastructure, we're investing in good jobs and new opportunities for people who live B.C. And with our focus on expanding apprenticeships for young British Columbians, we're helping build B.C.'s next generation of construction workers.
- British Columbians deserve the opportunity to work on major government projects being built in and near their communities.
- This Community Benefits Agreement will put local people first in line for good jobs building the roads, bridges and other infrastructure we need.

### Focus of speech:

- With CBAs, we're helping create opportunities for people in all parts of the province to build a solid and secure career and future in the community they call home – with priority on local workers, young people, women, Indigenous people, people with disabilities, and other under-represented workers.

Speaking Notes

for

**Minister Harry Bains**

Minister of Labour

**Westin Bayshore Hotel  
1601 Bayshore Drive, Vancouver**

Friday, January 25, 2019

# Schedule

Moderator: John Calvert, associate professor, Labour Studies, Simon Fraser University

8:00 am – 9:00 am	Registration and Continental Breakfast
9:00 am – 9:15 am	Welcome and First Nations Greeting <b>Morgan Guerin</b> , Musqueam First Nation <b>Tom Sigurdson</b> , Executive Director, BC Building Trades <b>Kirsten Wilson</b> , President. Jack Cewe Ltd.
9:15 am – 9:25 am	Greetings from Government <b>Hon. Claire Trevena</b> , Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure
9:25 am – 10:00 am	Managing BC's Skilled Trades Shortage <b>Bob Collins</b> , Economist, BuildForce Canada
10:00 am – 10:30 am	Community Benefits Framework <b>Vicki Willow</b> , Project Executive Director, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
10:45 am – 12:00 pm	Community Benefits Agreements in Action <b>Mark Hovatter</b> , Chief Facilities Executive, LA Unified School District <b>Mark L. Johnson</b> , Nationally Recognized Labour Relations Professional <b>Anna Pavlik</b> , Labor Equity Program Manager, City of Seattle <b>Mark Wheeler</b> , PLA Deputy Director, Sound Transit
12:00 pm 12:30 pm – 12:40 pm 12:45 pm – 1:15 pm	Lunch <b>Hon. Harry Bains</b> , Minister of Labour <b>Mark L. Johnson</b> , Nationally Recognized Labour Relations Professional
1:30 pm – 2:45 pm	Building on Past PLA Success From Coast to Coast <b>Wally Penner</b> , Project Manager, SNC-Lavalin, John Hart Dam <b>Arlene Dunn</b> , Deputy Director, CBTU, Hebron Project <b>Tony Fanelli</b> , CLRAO, Kitimat Modernization Project
2:45 pm – 3:00 pm	Break
3:00 pm – 4:15 pm	Breakout Sessions Session 1: <b>Irene Kerr</b> , CEO, Transportation Investment Corporation and; <b>Vicki Willow</b> , Project Executive Director, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure Session 2: <b>Sheri Cook</b> , Manager of the Construction Labor Group, Engineering, Port of Seattle and; <b>David Freiboth</b> , Senior Director of Labor Relations, Port of Seattle
4:15 pm – 4:30 pm	Closing <b>Allan Bruce</b> , Chair, BC Infrastructure Benefits
4:30 pm – 5:30 pm	Reception: H Tasting Lounge

## **INTRODUCTION**

- **Thank you Brenda.**
- **It's a real pleasure to be here with you all today.**
- **To be with people who have a common interest in building B.C.**
- **And with people from all over the continent who are sharing their experiences with Community Benefits Agreements... stories of lasting benefits for workers and communities.**
- **I appreciate that sometimes those are not easy experiences to share.**
- **Because when I go around British Columbia talking about CBAs, I can tell you what I get back...**
- **It's a pretty blank expression.**

- **And I get it. It's hard to get people's eyes to light up when you mention those three words, Community Benefits Agreements.**
- **So I've come to use a whole different set of three words – people, place, opportunity – and that's when people perk up and pay attention.**
- **And it's easy to talk about because those three words lie at the heart of why our government has brought back Community Benefits Agreements...**
- **To provide more opportunities for people in the place they call home.**

## **Personal Stories**

- **People like Jasmine who – after graduating from fine arts with significant student debt – moved into the trades...**
- **And took the opportunity to work on her apprenticeship at the Kitimat Modernization Project with Bantrel Constructors.**
- **Or Patrick, who says he was barely surviving on seasonal jobs before becoming a journeyman millwright and apprentice welder.**
- **Or Laura-Lee, who is working as an apprentice heavy equipment operator in her home of Fort Saint James.**

- **Real people. Real places. Real opportunities.**
- **And when they're asked about Community Benefits Agreements, they *do* light up.**
- **Just ask Laura-Lee up in Fort Saint James... she says she sees only opportunities... communities thriving and building... people working and giving back to their communities.**
- **But this is not going to come without a lot of work by all of us... in talking this through... in making this work the way it needs to work for British Columbia.**

## **Benefits of CBAs**

- **And that's why this conference is so important.**
- **Because all of us have seen the ads, the social media posts, the op-eds...**
- **Claiming that CBAs are the ruination of the construction industry.**
- **I say, tell that to the old-timers, who worked on Hydro dam projects as long as half a century ago...**
- **Built under Project Labour Agreements, as they were known then...**
- **Who had good work, solid pay... benefits and pensions.**
- **And try telling that to Laura-Lee up north... because she knows exactly how much being in the construction industry – and being in a union – has meant for her and her family.**



- The fact is there are thousands of people with stories like Laura-Lee and Patrick and Jasmine...
- People working multiple jobs... working in the gig economy... just to get by.
- Who want nothing more than to lay down their *own* roots in their *own* communities, knowing they have security... knowing they have a future.
- One of my jobs as Labour Minister is to help set the stage for those opportunities...
- And particularly for those in our province who've historically faced significant challenges in taking advantage of those opportunities.

- **Young people... women... Indigenous people... people with disabilities... and others who are vastly under-represented in B.C.'s construction industry.**
- **There are going to be many criteria on which all of us will be judging the success of Community Benefits Agreements...**
- **But our ability to open up opportunities to people who've historically had those opportunities closed down...**
- **That's at the top of my list.**

## **Conclusion**

- **And it is absolutely essential that we make real this commitment.**
- **Practically, because as my colleague Minister Trevena pointed out this morning, we are looking head on at a massive skills shortage in the trades...**
- **And we need new ways of bringing more talent into the tent.**
- **But more importantly, we need to get this right because so many people are counting on all of us.**

- **The concern we're hearing from people around the province is that this only works if the people we're trying to attract know about CBAs...**
- **Know about their opportunities...**
- **Know how to take advantage of those opportunities.**
- **Obviously, B.C. Infrastructure Benefits will play a key role in advancing this work.**
- **But I challenge all of us in this room... government, unions, industry... to do all we can to communicate, promote, seek out and include...**
- **So that more people can feel the pride... the accomplishment... of helping to build British Columbia.**
- **Thank you very much.**

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