

Rioux, Luke MUNI:EX

From: Sanderson, Melanie PSSG:EX
Sent: June 30, 2021 4:25 PM
To: LP Ministerial Advisors; LP Executive Assistants; LP Senior Ministerial Advisors; Ranjan, Ramesh LASS:EX; Vasilev, Susan LASS:EX; Aaron, Sage PREM:EX; Smith, George PREM:EX; Brewer, Lia PREM:EX; Geary, Vanessa PREM:EX; May, Ed LASS:EX; Brownsey, Sophia LASS:EX
Cc: Maher, Melissa PSSG:EX; Douglas, Andrew PSSG:EX; Maartman, William PSSG:EX
Subject: Heat Wave KMs

Hi All,

Attached are KMs for caucus on the heat wave. Please reach out if any questions.

Thanks,

Melanie Sanderson
Senior Ministerial Advisor
Office of the Minister of Public Safety & Solicitor General
250-880-9508 | melanie.sanderson@gov.bc.ca
Pronouns: she/her

Extreme Heat Messaging

June 30, 2021

Top Lines

- Over the past several days, B.C. has seen an unprecedented heat wave, with record-breaking temperatures across the province that have lasted into the night.
- I want to offer my sincere condolences to those who have lost loved ones over this past week.
- Our systems across the province are working hard.
- I want to thank the first responders who have been working tirelessly to respond to calls at this time.
- Please take a moment to check in with people in your life – your parents and grandparents, and elderly or vulnerable neighbours – to make sure they are ok and if they need support.

Provincial Supports

- As a province, we've provided support in a number of ways to help people and communities get through this unprecedented heat wave.
- We have worked with local communities and First Nations and made supports available to them. This includes reimbursements for:
 - Transportation to and from cooling centers in communities where no scheduled public or reasonable transportation exists.
 - Staff wages and overtime to open a civic facility that would otherwise not be open.
 - Water for distribution within the facility.
- Emergency Management BC is also working with the First Nations Health Authority and Indigenous Services Canada throughout this event.
- BC's Health Authorities and BCCDC also provide resources to support local governments in developing Heat Alert and Response Plans and in declaring heat alerts and sharing information about how to stay safe.
- For those receiving support from BC's Home Health, nurses contacted clients and scheduled visits to make sure people with underlying health conditions were hydrated and staying as cool as possible.
- In long-term care networks, staff were redeployed to keep residents cool and hydrated.

Public Health Advice

- We are asking everyone to remember the advice distributed by Emergency Management BC last week:
 - Never leave children or animals alone in a parked car
 - Drink plenty of fluids
 - Keep cool in air-conditioned buildings, or take a cool bath or shower

- Plan activity before 10am or after 4pm
- Avoid tiring work or exercise in hot, humid environments
- Wear lightweight, light-coloured, loose-fitting clothing and a wide brimmed hat
- Many businesses and organizations that offer air conditioning and a cool centre, such as libraries, are extending hours to provide relief for those who do not have access to a cool place.

Ambulance Call Volumes and Supports

- We appreciate the incredible work paramedics and dispatchers are doing during this challenging time and we recognize they're doing everything they can to respond to emergencies quickly and effectively.
- I offer my gratitude to the paramedics throughout our province.
- Minister Dix has taken significant actions that have reduced wait-times for the most critical calls.
- But paramedics are facing two public health emergencies and record high call volumes. The stories we've heard over the past few weeks are heart wrenching.
- BCEHS is hiring 170 paramedics right now, in addition to the hundreds of paramedics we've hired since we formed government.
- Since 2016/17, B.C. has increased funding to BC Emergency Health Services by 25%. BCEHS also continues to strengthen paramedic mental health supports.

Moving Forward

- This kind of heatwave is not typical of British Columbia, but with the reality of climate change, we can't ignore the potential for this to become more common in the future.
- And weather records have been broken and broken again. This week has seen the hottest temperatures ever recorded in Canada.

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- We're taking more than a dozen actions this year as part of the first phase of the Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy to help set the stage for future work.

Rioux, Luke MUNI:EX

From: Spilker, Robyn MUNI:EX
Sent: June 30, 2021 3:01 PM
To: Kilpatrick, Melanie GCPE:EX; Richardson, Roari MUNI:EX; Banh, Lindsay MUNI:EX
Cc: Venn, Tania GCPE:EX; Mulholland, Lauren GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: LBR Media Request: migrant farm workers and the heat wave

Thanks Melanie!

From: Kilpatrick, Melanie GCPE:EX <Melanie.Kilpatrick@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 30, 2021 2:46 PM
To: Spilker, Robyn MUNI:EX <Robyn.Spilker@gov.bc.ca>; Richardson, Roari MUNI:EX <Roari.Richardson@gov.bc.ca>; Banh, Lindsay MUNI:EX <Lindsay.Banh@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Venn, Tania GCPE:EX <Tania.Venn@gov.bc.ca>; Mulholland, Lauren GCPE:EX <Lauren.Mulholland@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FYI: LBR Media Request: migrant farm workers and the heat wave

Hi Tania,

Sharing as an FYI as LBR are responding to this one.

Our program staff have reviewed, no changes from our team.

Reporter

Anna Mahler Paperny, Reporter
Thomson Reuters
anna.mehlerpaperny@thomsonreuters.com
416-941-8159 c: 647-225-9609

Deadline Wednesday, June 30, 2021 3:00 PM

Request

How many migrant farmworkers are there in the province?
If an employer halts work due to the heat, are they still entitled to pay?

Recommendation – To go from Ministry of Labour on background

1. How many migrant farmworkers are there in the province?

- For 2021, upwards of 11,000 Temporary Foreign Workers are expected in B.C., which is similar to 2019. So far this year, B.C. has received approximately 7,500 TFWs.

2. If an employer halts work due to the heat, are they still entitled to pay?

- When weather events such as high heat interrupt agricultural work, employers are not required by B.C. law to pay hourly wages while their work is paused. This applies to both domestic and foreign workers. However, private employment contracts, and obligations under the federal Temporary

Foreign Worker's Program may establish other requirements such as a minimum number of hours paid per week.

Rioux, Luke MUNI:EX

From: Osborne, Josie MUNI:EX
Sent: July 23, 2021 1:17 PM
To: Spilker, Robyn MUNI:EX
Subject: FW: KMs Hot Weather

Hi Robyn,

Here is the only responsive record I have for the recent request.

Apologies it's late – I see now I did not press send earlier this week!

From: Spilker, Robyn MUNI:EX <Robyn.Spilker@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 27, 2021 8:54 PM
To: Osborne, Josie MUNI:EX <Josie.Osborne@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Banh, Lindsay MUNI:EX <Lindsay.Banh@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Fwd: KMs Hot Weather

KMs on the weather, in case the topic comes up at tomorrow's events.

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Venn, Tania GCPE:EX" <Tania.Venn@gov.bc.ca>
Date: June 27, 2021 at 8:42:55 PM PDT
To: "Spilker, Robyn MUNI:EX" <Robyn.Spilker@gov.bc.ca>, "Banh, Lindsay MUNI:EX" <Lindsay.Banh@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: "Mulholland, Lauren GCPE:EX" <Lauren.Mulholland@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: KMs Hot Weather

Hi Robyn and Lindsay,

Some KMs from HLTH to support Minister is she's asked.^{s.13}
s.13 Not necessarily for tomorrow if
media asks, but thought I'd add it in there as well for future reference.

Thanks,

Tania

- With temperatures across our region soaring this week, we want to remind everyone that too much heat can be harmful to your health.
- We encourage people to visit their local health authority website to review important tips for staying cool and avoiding heat-related illness during this hot weather.

- Key tips include:
 - staying hydrated,
 - seeking out shade,
 - avoiding strenuous exercise during peak sun hours (10am – 4pm),
 - applying SPF 30+ early and often,
 - wearing hats and protective clothing, and
 - NEVER leaving children or pets alone in a parked car
- Hot weather can affect everyone's health but seniors and persons with chronic poor health are at greater risk.
- Being safe during hot weather means checking in on your family, friends, and neighbours who are vulnerable to heat – in person if it is safe to do so, or by phone or video.
- Call your local municipality or check their website to see where there are air conditioned cooling centres for those who need them. If these are available be mindful of physical distancing rules during COVID-19.
- The BC Centre for Disease Control website has important tips for how to keep cool and COVID-19 safe during this hot weather, and we encourage people to check in with loved ones, particularly vulnerable and elderly family members who live alone.
<http://www.bccdc.ca/about/news-stories/stories/2020/warm-weather-safety-in-a-time-of-covid-19>

s.13

Tania Venn

Communications Director | Ministry of Municipal Affairs

Government Communications & Public Engagement

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