

Media Report for Tuesday, October 5, 2021

From: Karn, David GCPE:EX <David.Karn@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: October 5, 2021 5:06:08 PM PDT

Media Report for Tuesday, October 5, 2021

Awaiting MO/HQ Approval

The Tyee (Michelle Gamage) - This is a follow-up to a media request from October 1, 2021. Reporter would like to reiterate their request to speak with Minister regarding this topic sometime in the next 2 weeks. She's holding her story on the chance that an interview will be possible. Deadline Friday, October 15, 2021 12:00 PM

National Observer (Bob Hackett) - Thanks for this useful summary of what the Ministry sees as the govt's major climate and environmental achievements. There are a range of welcome initiatives here. But I hope it would not be incorrect to say that the govt is not taking any direct measures to reduce and phase out the extraction and export of fossil fuels from BC, notably LNG and coal? Perhaps that might be addressed in the updated CleanBC Roadmap.

Also, I would still welcome answers on my latter two questions -- whether the environmental groups' criticisms are accurate, and what obstacles or considerations (including to be sure, the pandemic) stand in the way of phasing out fossil fuel production. I expect to write the article this week - there is still time to add statements on these dimensions if the Ministry would like to address them.

Background

This is a follow-up to a media request from September 29, 2021.

Recommendation

- But I hope it would not be incorrect to say that the govt is not taking any direct measures to reduce and phase out the extraction and export of fossil fuels from BC, notably LNG and coal? Perhaps that might be addressed in the updated CleanBC Roadmap.
 - The Province is taking a wide range of actions to cut greenhouse gas pollution in the fossil fuel sector and create new opportunities for people in the clean economy.
 - Through CleanBC, we've put regulations in place via the Oil and Gas Commission that will reduce methane emissions from the upstream oil and gas sector by 45% by 2025. The regulations are designed to reduce or avoid nearly 11 million tonnes of carbon dioxide-equivalent over ten years.
 - Our government is also working with industry to electrify the oil and gas sector with clean, renewable electricity. BC Hydro recently launched their \$260 million electrification plan, which will make it easier and more affordable to use more clean electricity in place of fossil fuels across different sectors, including industry.
 - If actions in the plan are fully realized, it will result in incremental GHG emissions reductions of more than 930,000 tonnes per year by 2026 – equivalent to taking approximately 200,000 passenger vehicles per year off the road and builds on the discounted CleanBC Industrial Electrification Rates and the CleanBC Facilities Electrification Fund [announced earlier this year](#).
 - In addition, the CleanBC Industry Fund jointly invests in projects that reduce climate pollution across industrial sectors, including in the oil and gas sector. The most recent round of the Fund invested in 22 projects in sectors like mining, pulp and paper, oil and gas and others supported by \$33 million in provincial investment and an additional \$55 million coming from industry and other partners.
- I would still welcome answers on my latter two questions -- whether the environmental groups' criticisms are accurate, and what obstacles or considerations (including to be sure, the pandemic) stand in the way of phasing out fossil fuel production.
 - **PREVIOUS QUESTION:** Since 2017, environmental NGOs and advocacy groups seem to have become increasingly disenchanted with the environmental and climate record of the government. Their criticisms include a continuation of the BC Liberal government's Site C dam; doubling down on support for LNG and fracking (including enabling the RCMP's raid on Wet'suwet'en land defenders' camps); delaying an end to old growth logging in BC; not using all the "tools in the toolbox" to stop the Trans Mountain pipeline (such as the province's licensing powers or a provincial health and

environmental assessment independent of the federal review process); a doubling of subsidies to fossil fuel industries beyond the level of the previous BC Liberal government; a Clean BC program of GHG reductions that, while welcomed in itself, has been considered contradictory to the expansion of LNG and its methane emissions. Are these criticisms fair and accurate? Or are they misleading and exaggerated?

- We continue to expand and accelerate climate actions and will be releasing the CleanBC Roadmap to 2030 shortly to provide a detailed plan on how we will meet our climate targets.
- Claims about fossil fuel subsidies are misleading. For example, they include CleanBC funding with combined with industry investments that are helping substantially reduce emissions and providing opportunities for people in communities across B.C.
- We've heard public concerns about the accumulation of royalty credits and are committed to ensuring B.C.'s natural resource sector is paying its fair share and contributing to our clean economy goals.
- That's why we're conducting a comprehensive review of royalty programs, which includes an independent assessment from expert academics and the release of a discussion paper for public input.
- The review will make sure B.C.'s royal credit systems meet our goals for economic development, a fair return on our resources and environmental protection.
- We've been clear that any new LNG proposal must meet our four conditions, including fitting within our climate commitments.
- On old growth – (FLNRO)
- B.C. is committed to implementing the 14 recommendations of the Old Growth Strategic Review panel, and completely transforming the way we manage our forests. It will move us from managing ecological targets as constraints in optimizing timber values to putting forest health first – beginning with an ecosystem perspective – and recognizing timber values as just one of many benefits that healthy forests provide – along with clean air, clean water, and sustaining biodiversity.
- B.C. also leads the country with science-based reforestation efforts, planting trees that hold carbon from the atmosphere and mitigate the impacts of climate change. By the time they are grown, one million trees planted today can have the equivalent greenhouse gas benefit of removing 42,000 cars from the road for a year.
- We also saw the impacts of climate change this wildfire season and are deeply committed to understanding, predicting and mitigating the effects of climate change in British Columbia.
- Through StrongerBC, B.C.'s economic recovery plan, we've invested \$90 million to help B.C. deal with climate change and support jobs.
- We're also working with First Nations and local governments to reduce wildfire threats around their communities and funded B.C.'s research chair in predictive services, emergency management and fire science at Thompson Rivers.
 - On TMX –
 - From the outset, our government has taken a consistent and balanced approach, all within, and respectful of, the rule of law.
 - Our government maintains that the TMX project poses unacceptable risks to our environment, our coast, and our economy.
 - We have responsibly referred matters to court when appropriate. Where there have been questions raised about the province's jurisdiction to introduce regulations to

protect the environment, we took the responsible approach and referred the matter to the courts.

- While our concerns regarding this project remain, we have been processing project permits in a fair and timely manner – doing the work necessary to make sure each permit respects Indigenous interests and is protective of the environment.
- While the federal government is responsible for approval of the TMX project, when it comes to protecting our coast, our environment and our economy we will continue to do all we can within our jurisdiction.
- - **PREVIOUS QUESTION:** Currently a coalition of 200 organizations are calling for a "reboot" of the BC government's climate policy. In light of Canada's Paris climate commitments, the GHG reduction goals of the CleanBC plan, and the IPCC's now-urgent calls to move away from fossil fuels, does the government intend to adopt a more robust and consistent policy of reducing GHG emissions, and move towards a zero-carbon economy less dependent on resource extraction and export? What are the main challenges or obstacles towards more rapid progress in those areas?
 - We recognize that more needs to be done to meet B.C.'s climate targets – that's why we will soon be releasing a detailed roadmap to meet our 2030 emissions targets and set B.C. on the path to a net-zero emissions economy.
 - The Roadmap will include a wide range of accelerated and expanded actions that will redouble our efforts to cut carbon pollution across sectors and build a cleaner future for everyone.

Today's requests

CFAX 1070 (Josh Hylden) - Hoping to speak with Minister Heyman on the radio today. Wanting to discuss planned new Prov. Park for the Cowichan Valley.

Also want to discuss BC Parks is investing \$21.5 million during the next three years to expand and enhance opportunities for outdoor recreation, including new campsites, trails and upgrades to facilities.

Host Ryan Price can pre-tape a 7-8 minute telephone chat today at 1:00pm if this works for him.

Minister Heyman did the interview

Glacier Media (Stefan Labbe) - looking to clarify a release that went out this morning about park funding:

GCPE responded

Is the \$21.5 million only earmarked for the 10 sites mentioned?

- The 10 projects account for only about 13% of the available 3-year budget.
- How much of that \$21.5 million is going to each park?
 - Planning is underway to identify additional projects for future years and to determine where the remaining funds will be allocated so it is not possible to provide a breakdown by park at this point.
- Of the additional \$2 million slated to improve high-use trails, where are projects already underway?
 - Projects will be completed in all regions of the province however specifics are unavailable at this time as planning is underway.
- How many campers and reservations were there in 2020?
 - In 2020, and despite a 6-week closure of provincial parks due to COVID-19, BC Parks had another record-breaking year with over 2.9M campers.
- Were this year's numbers significantly higher than expected or is this just a continuation of growing demand?
 - 2021 season stats are not yet available, and would not be comparative to previous years given the pandemic (out-of province visitor limits, intra-provincial travel restrictions, etc) and challenges related to wildfires and smoke advisories.
- Finally, how many day-use visitors have there been so far in 2021?
 - 2021 day-use visitation statistics are not yet available.
- How does this compare to last year?

- As the 2021 data is not yet available, no comparison can be drawn.

CHEK TV (Kevin Charch) - Reporter following on the Times Colonist story regarding rodenticide ban and impacts on owls in the Victoria region, asking about what enforcement efforts are being made by the ministry since the second generation ban this summer.

GCPE responded

- In recent weeks, ministry inspectors have been conducting inspections under the ministerial order on rodenticides, which came into effect on July 21st, 2021. Inspections of both vendors and users of second generation anticoagulant rodenticides (SGAR's) have taken place in different areas of the province. Inspectors are verifying that both vendors and users are aware and complying with the requirements of the ministerial order.

- Stores are restricted in who they can sell SGAR's to. Purchasers of these products must now show proof at the point of sale that they meet one of the exemptions under the order. Purchasers must provide proof that they are either businesses that are considered essential services, licensed pest control companies, or agricultural operators.

- In the North Saanich area, ministry inspectors conducted inspections of several farms in mid-September to verify if rodenticides were being used. No use of rodenticides was discovered. In addition, inspections under the Ministerial Order of multiple vendors and Structural Pest Control companies in the greater Victoria area have been completed in recent weeks. Once completed, inspection reports will be posted on the Natural Resources Compliance and Enforcement website here: <https://nrced.gov.bc.ca/>

GCPE responded

- FNLR and CWS (Environment and Climate Change Canada – Canadian Wildlife Service) jointly respond to the provincial Bird Mortality Line, a 24-hour call line for public reporting of dead birds.
- Depending on the species, specific case conditions, and condition of the specimen, carcasses may be collected and submitted to Ministry of Agriculture Food and Fisheries Animal Health Lab for necropsy and further testing for cause of death determination.
- There are many potential causes of bird deaths and not all submissions are determined to be linked to exposure to toxins.
- If required, laboratory testing for toxins (such as rodenticides) are carried out by an external lab.
- Final reports are usually shared with the specimen submitter, and data from the Bird Mortality Line is maintained by both FLNR and by ECCC's Canadian Wildlife Service.
- Data from the Bird Mortality Line has been shared with ENV for the purposes of the Rodenticide Action Plan and will be considered when developing future recommendations.
- To report a dead raptor, call the Interagency Wild Bird Mortality Investigation Program hotline: 1-866-431-2473
- To report a raptor that is alive but appears sick, call the BC SPCA provincial call centre: 1-855-622-7722

InfoNews (Rob Munro) - I was just talking to someone in the rural area bordering Kelowna who says there's a lot of wildlife moving into these more occupied areas - killing cats and chickens.

They figure it's due to the heat so there is a shortage of food in their natural habitats so they're looking for other prey.

Is there anyone there who can talk about the impact of the heat and the fires on wildlife throughout the Thompson-Okanagan regions. I know there are various conservation officers but they generally work is specific areas so wonder who would be best for giving an overall picture.

Trying to get something out on this today if someone is available?

The Breaker News (Bob Mackin) - Regarding the upcoming UN climate change conference in Glasgow, is Minister Heyman leading a delegation to the event?

How many staff members will be traveling to Glasgow -- what are the numbers of people and budgets approved under the government's policy for "Minister out-of-province/country travel" (10.4.4), which includes the Minister, Parliamentary Secretary, DM and Minister's office staff?

Will the Ministry be funding the travel expenses of any contractors or NGOs?

GCPE responded

- We recognize the significance of COP26 at this time. We are all feeling the impacts of climate change.
- Our priority is making sure that we can share and learn from all participating jurisdictions.

- We will have more to say about provincial participation in the days ahead.

Tri-City News (Diane Strandberg) - seeking information about a bear that was in downtown Port Coquitlam on Saturday, and was tranquilized and removed.

Apparently, it climbed a tree. Do you have a report about this, what time it occurred (there was also a big event nearby on Saturday), if the bear was taken to Critter Care or relocated, if it was a male or female and how old it was?
COS response

Previous requests completed

n/a

FW: Media request - The Breaker News - COP26

From: Sather, Kelly ENV:EX <Kelly.Sather@gov.bc.ca>
To: Smith, George PREM:EX <George.Smith@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: October 14, 2021 1:51:37 PM PDT

Thoughts?

From: Karn, David GCPE:EX <David.Karn@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: October 14, 2021 12:59 PM

To: Sather, Kelly ENV:EX <Kelly.Sather@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Hewitt, Jeremy ENV:EX <Jeremy.Hewitt@gov.bc.ca>; Pollard, Desmond ENV:EX <Desmond.Pollard@gov.bc.ca>; Brandt, Alissa GCPE:EX <Alissa.Brandt@gov.bc.ca>; Corns, Paul GCPE:EX <Paul.1.Corns@gov.bc.ca>; Lo, Reamick ENV:EX <Reamick.Lo@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Media request - The Breaker News - COP26

Kelly,

Approved by Jeremy Hewitt.

Reporter

Bob Mackin, The Breaker News

bob@thebreaker.news

604-982-9130 c: 604-724-5604

Deadline ASAP

Request

It's been a week now.

Attendance at COP26 is not as simple as taking the next Helijet from Victoria to Vancouver. So accreditation, transportation and accommodation arrangements must have been handled weeks, if not months, ago. Not to mention travel insurance and pandemic travel protocols and the government policy handbook on travel.

How many elected and appointed officials are going from the B.C. government?

What about any contractors or NGOs funded by the B.C. government?

What is the approved budget?

Recommendation

The B.C. delegation is three people and includes Minister Heyman, Climate Action Secretariat Assistant Deputy Minister Jeremy Hewitt and Ministerial Assistant Kelly Sather.

No contractors or NGO's are being funding by the province to attend.

The trip is funded out of the ministry budget. Final costs will be released after all expenses are tabulated.

We are constantly monitoring the COVID situation and will be following the additional safety protocols put in place by the COP organizers.

Previous Response:

- We recognize the significance of COP26 at this time. We are all feeling the impacts of climate change.
- Our priority is making sure that we can share and learn from all participating jurisdictions.
- We will have more to say about provincial participation in the days ahead.

Media Report for Thursday, October 14, 2021

From: Karn, David GCPE:EX <David.Karn@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: October 14, 2021 4:44:31 PM PDT

Media Report for Thursday, October 14, 2021

Awaiting MO/HQ Approval

The Breaker News (Bob Mackin) - It's been a week now.

Attendance at COP26 is not as simple as taking the next Helijet from Victoria to Vancouver. So accreditation, transportation and accommodation arrangements must have been handled weeks, if not months, ago. Not to mention travel insurance and pandemic travel protocols and the government policy handbook on travel. How many elected and appointed officials are going from the B.C. government? What about any contractors or NGOs funded by the B.C. government? What is the approved budget?

Recommendation

The B.C delegation is three people and includes Minister Heyman, Climate Action Secretariat Assistant Deputy Minister Jeremy Hewitt and Ministerial Assistant Kelly Sather. No contractors or NGO's are being funding by the province to attend. The trip is funded out of the ministry budget. Final costs will be released after all expenses are tabulated. We are constantly monitoring the COVID situation and will be following the additional safety protocols put in place by the COP organizers.

The Discourse.ca/Cowichan Valley (Jacqueline Ronson) - Questions about the newly announced Hwsalu-utsum Park.

I did some digging in my LSTA and I'm wondering if you can confirm if the attached screenshot accurately depicts the proposed park boundaries?

If that is the location, is there a reason this is being established as a new park, versus as an addition to Koksilah River Park?

Also, is there any more you can share at this point about what infrastructure is planned for the park, etc?

I'm also curious about the history of this land and parcel. Was it purchased by the province at some point from a private landowner? When, from who and for how much?

Thanks for considering all my questions! Nearby residents are very eager to hear more about this park.

Recommendation

- *I did some digging in myLSTA and I'm wondering if you can confirm if the attached screenshot accurately depicts the proposed park boundaries?*
 - In an effort to protect the park's sensitive values until better management controls (e.g., signage, enforcement, etc) can be put in place, Cowichan Tribes and BC Parks are not producing detailed maps of the new park area. The park designation will provide BC Parks the authority to manage activities which may be impacting these values, and in the longer term, the development of a management plan for the site will further determine exactly what activities are considered appropriate for the new park.
- *If that is the location, is there a reason this is being established as a new park, versus as an addition to Koksilah River Park?*
 - The decision was made to establish a new park rather than add the park to the existing Koksilah River Park because the new park has different management objectives than the existing park. For example, there is a commitment with one of the Hwsalu-utsum Park acquisition partners to allow for hunting in the new park and hunting is not allowed in Koksilah River Park.
- *Also, is there any more you can share at this point about what infrastructure is planned for the park, etc?*
 - The focus of this park is on protecting ecological and cultural values.
 - The park designation will provide BC Parks the authority to manage activities which may be impacting these values.
 - Future development of a management plan for the site will determine exactly what activities are considered appropriate for the new park.
- *I'm also curious about the history of this land and parcel. Was it purchased by the province at some point from a private landowner? When, from who and for how much?*
 - The land was purchased from Island Timberlands in March 2018 at a cost of \$7,150,000. \$225,000 was contributed from the Cowichan Community Land trust and \$400,000 was contributed from the

Cowichan Valley Regional District via a grant from the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation. The province contributed the remaining \$6,525,000

- Cowichan Tribes, the Cowichan Valley Naturalists and the BC Wildlife Federation were also active supporters of the acquisition and grant applications.

InfoNews (Dan Walton) - Bit of a loaded question, but I'm wondering what it would take for the Province to relinquish OK Falls Provincial park to the OIB.

And why does the Province agree with some of the OIB's land claims but not that one?

Recommended response sent Thursday, October 07, 9:18am

National Observer (Bob Hackett) - This is a follow-up to a media request from September 29, 2021. Thanks for this useful summary of what the Ministry sees as the govt's major climate and environmental achievements. There are a range of welcome initiatives here. But I hope it would not be incorrect to say that the govt is not taking any direct measures to reduce and phase out the extraction and export of fossil fuels from BC, notably LNG and coal? Perhaps that might be addressed in the updated CleanBC Roadmap.

Also, I would still welcome answers on my latter two questions -- whether the environmental groups' criticisms are accurate, and what obstacles or considerations (including to be sure, the pandemic) stand in the way of phasing out fossil fuel production. I expect to write the article this week - there is still time to add statements on these dimensions if the Ministry would like to address them.

Recommended response sent Tuesday, October 05, 4:26pm.

Today's requests

CBC (Jeremy Allingham) - hoping to find out what, if anything, George Heyman is doing surrounding COP26. Is he going? Are there any announcements or other plans?

We will be doing a bunch of coverage on this. We'd like to interview the minister at some point. Might that be possible?

I think the Thursday or Friday (Oct 28-29) before or sometime the week after (Nov1-5) would work well.

Please let me know if we can figure something out.

GCPE responded

Yes, the minister is attending and would welcome the opportunity to discuss his participation at COP. We'll have more details in the next week or so.

CBC (Dominika Lirette) - I saw this story about elk and a grizzly bear being illegally shot. I am wondering if there is someone with the COS that I can record a quick phone interview with this afternoon about this?

https://www.kelownacapnews.com/news/hunters-urged-to-come-forward-after-grizzly-bear-elk-illegally-shot-and-left-near-elk-valley/?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter

CO Patricia Burley responded

CBC (Chad Pawson, Dan Burritt) - is there an update about the people arrested in late September in relation to feeding coyotes in Stanley Park?

Have they been charged, fined?

GCPE responded

The investigation is ongoing

Energetic City (Tre Lopushinsky) - looking to get some stats on checkpoints this past weekend.

I heard local Conservation Officers were conducting road checks and patrols on Monday near FSJ.

Similar to the COS post on Facebook about the Revelstoke stops, I am wondering how many violation tickets were issued in the Peace?

COS responding

Previous requests completed

n/a

RE: Media request - The Breaker News - COP26

From: Karn, David GCPE:EX <David.Karn@gov.bc.ca>
To: Sather, Kelly ENV:EX <Kelly.Sather@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: October 15, 2021 9:10:04 AM PDT

thanks

From: Sather, Kelly ENV:EX <Kelly.Sather@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: October 15, 2021 9:09 AM

To: Karn, David GCPE:EX <David.Karn@gov.bc.ca>; Brandt, Alissa GCPE:EX <Alissa.Brandt@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Hewitt, Jeremy ENV:EX <Jeremy.Hewitt@gov.bc.ca>; Pollard, Desmond ENV:EX <Desmond.Pollard@gov.bc.ca>;

Corns, Paul GCPE:EX <Paul.1.Corns@gov.bc.ca>; Lo, Reamick ENV:EX <Reamick.Lo@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Re: Media request - The Breaker News - COP26

Yes. Good to go.

From: Karn, David GCPE:EX <David.Karn@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: Friday, October 15, 2021 9:09:04 AM

To: Brandt, Alissa GCPE:EX <Alissa.Brandt@gov.bc.ca>; Sather, Kelly ENV:EX <Kelly.Sather@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Hewitt, Jeremy ENV:EX <Jeremy.Hewitt@gov.bc.ca>; Pollard, Desmond ENV:EX <Desmond.Pollard@gov.bc.ca>;

Corns, Paul GCPE:EX <Paul.1.Corns@gov.bc.ca>; Lo, Reamick ENV:EX <Reamick.Lo@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: RE: Media request - The Breaker News - COP26

Are we keeping this line: Final costs will be released after all expenses are tabulated.

From: Brandt, Alissa GCPE:EX <Alissa.Brandt@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: October 14, 2021 5:31 PM

To: Sather, Kelly ENV:EX <Kelly.Sather@gov.bc.ca>; Karn, David GCPE:EX <David.Karn@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Hewitt, Jeremy ENV:EX <Jeremy.Hewitt@gov.bc.ca>; Pollard, Desmond ENV:EX <Desmond.Pollard@gov.bc.ca>;

Corns, Paul GCPE:EX <Paul.1.Corns@gov.bc.ca>; Lo, Reamick ENV:EX <Reamick.Lo@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: RE: Media request - The Breaker News - COP26

s.13

From: Sather, Kelly ENV:EX <Kelly.Sather@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: October 14, 2021 17:27

To: Karn, David GCPE:EX <David.Karn@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Hewitt, Jeremy ENV:EX <Jeremy.Hewitt@gov.bc.ca>; Pollard, Desmond ENV:EX <Desmond.Pollard@gov.bc.ca>;

Brandt, Alissa GCPE:EX <Alissa.Brandt@gov.bc.ca>; Corns, Paul GCPE:EX <Paul.1.Corns@gov.bc.ca>; Lo, Reamick

ENV:EX <Reamick.Lo@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Re: Media request - The Breaker News - COP26

A couple edits below.

From: Karn, David GCPE:EX <David.Karn@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: Thursday, October 14, 2021 12:58 PM

To: Sather, Kelly ENV:EX

Cc: Hewitt, Jeremy ENV:EX; Pollard, Desmond ENV:EX; Brandt, Alissa GCPE:EX; Corns, Paul GCPE:EX; Lo, Reamick ENV:EX

Subject: Media request - The Breaker News - COP26

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Approved by Jeremy Hewitt.

Reporter

Bob Mackin, The Breaker News

bob@thebreaker.news

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How many elected and appointed officials are going from the B.C. government?
What about any contractors or NGOs funded by the B.C. government?
What is the approved budget?

s.13

Previous Response:

- We recognize the significance of COP26 at this time. We are all feeling the impacts of climate change.
- Our priority is making sure that we can share and learn from all participating jurisdictions.
- We will have more to say about provincial participation in the days ahead.

Fwd: media request - UN climate change conference

From: Sather, Kelly ENV:EX <Kelly.Sather@gov.bc.ca>
To: Brandt, Alissa GCPE:EX <Alissa.Brandt@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: October 15, 2021 10:04:41 AM PDT
From: Karn, David GCPE:EX <David.Karn@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Friday, October 15, 2021 10:00:14 AM
To: Sather, Kelly ENV:EX <Kelly.Sather@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Fwd: media request - UN climate change conference

David Karn

Begin forwarded message:

From: Bob Mackin <bob@thebreaker.news>
Date: October 15, 2021 at 9:29:13 AM PDT
To: "Karn, David GCPE:EX" <David.Karn@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Re: media request - UN climate change conference

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Hi David,

I am not interested in final costs, because I know final costs are the end result and, therefore, impossible to calculate before the trip has even commenced.

I made it clear that I wanted the dollar amounts for the **approved budgets**.

Oxford defines budget as: the money that is available to a person or an organization and a plan of how it will be spent over a period of time

The government's own policy and procedure manual includes a chapter on travel and the requirements for approved budgets, prior to travel. For your reference, I have copied the relevant portions below.

What is the approved budget for the delegation led by Minister Heyman?

Are any other ministers or department heads going? What about from BC Hydro?

Sincerely,

Bob Mackin

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/policies-for-government/core-policy/policies/travel>

10.3.2 Travel Approval

1. The means of travel chosen needs to be operationally feasible, cost effective and consider travel methods that will mitigate the production of greenhouse gas emissions. Government employees are eligible for reimbursement of travel expenses when:
 - trip approval is obtained (from the employee's Expense Authority) before travel expenses are incurred;
 - the expenses are paid by the employee while on travel status* or away from headquarters**;
 - claims are reasonable, properly reported and comply with established rates and allowances.

*Group I, II and III employees are on travel status when absent from their designated headquarters on approved government business. This does not apply to employees who are temporarily reassigned or on field status, or on board and lodging status.

**An employee's headquarters is their usual work place or normal point of assembly and the area within a 32 kilometre radius. If necessary, the director must designate a headquarters for their staff, and can also approve changes to their staff's assigned headquarters as changes in operational conditions warrant. The designation for directors and executive directors are made by the assistant deputy minister of the program area. The executive financial officer must make designations for assistant deputy ministers.

The terms "travel status" and "headquarters" are not used in reference to Group IV travel policy. Travel policy applies to Group IV during the period an official is away from home to discharge official duties.

2. Reimbursement claims require approval by the appropriate Expense Authority before they can be paid. (see Procedure Requirements - C.1.4, C.1.5)
3. Management has the right to designate an employee's (other than officials) mode of transportation and manner of accommodation. Other considerations must include:
 - the cost and efficiency of alternative transportation modes (i.e., time required to reach the destination and lost productivity);
 - additional travel costs (accommodation, meals, taxi, vehicle rentals, overtime) associated with each alternative; and
 - travel arrangements that mitigate the production of greenhouse gas emissions.
4. Government employees required to resource cabinet and government caucus meetings are eligible for reimbursement of expenses.

Procedure Requirements - C.2

10.3.3 Combining Personal Travel

1. Travel that combines government and personal business must be reimbursed at the lesser of
 - actual transportation expenses; or
 - an estimate of the minimum acceptable expenses that would have been incurred if the personal travel had not taken place.
2. Additional expenses arising from personal extensions to business travel are the employee's responsibility.
3. Expenses for an employee's spouse or family members are not reimbursable, except:
 - when a spouse is formally representing the government and a written invitation has been issued to the spouse (see also 10.4.4 and C.14.3);
 - travel is to a pre-retirement seminar or awards function; or
 - the employee is relocating (for details refer to Administration, Relocation).
4. Employees must not claim any optional payments or surcharges related to carbon offset programs administered by travel service providers.

10.3.4 Out-of-Province/Country Travel

1. Staff (and contractor) out-of-province and out-of-country travel, including complete plans to combine personal travel, requires prior approval of the respective director (Treasury Board Directive 4/04). Approvals for directors and executive directors

are made by the assistant deputy minister of the program area. The executive financial officer must make approvals for assistant deputy ministers. Refer to C.2 for staff approval procedures and to 10.4.4 for approval requirements for ministers, parliamentary secretaries, deputy ministers and ministers' office staff.

2. For out-of-province accommodation a reasonable amount must be established considering business requirements and federal accommodation rates. For out-of-country or U.S. accommodation, employees will be reimbursed for actual commercial accommodation expenses for the travel location up to those rates established by the federal government through their standing offer arrangements for accommodation. (Refer to this federal accommodation site for rate information).
3. For travel in the U.S. the Group I meal rate, Group II or III per diem allowance, or Group IV meal allowance must be the amount claimed for BC in U.S. currency (as required by PSA Policy Statement 17. Travel, Appendix 1 sec. 8. (1) (PDF)), which will be converted to Canadian dollars, including claims for partial day travel. Meals received without charge or paid for from public funds cannot be claimed.
4. For other foreign locations (as required by PSA Policy Statement 17. Travel, Appendix 1 sec. 9) (PDF)), meal rates for full days must be calculated using the "Meal Total" rate published by the federal Foreign Affairs Department. This is then grossed up for incidental amounts as specified in the PSA table at Appendix 1 sec 9. (1).

For partial days or for situations where meals are received without charge or paid with other public funds, the related individual meals (using the federal Foreign Affairs Department rates) must be deducted from the full day rates calculated above. Where the individual meal rates are not published, refer to the percentages to deduct from the calculated full day rate specified in the PSA table at Appendix 1 sec 9. (2).

Procedure Requirements -- C.1.6 (iExpenses & foreign exchange); C.2 (Approval Requirements); C.11 (Miscellaneous Foreign Travel Expenses)

On Fri, Oct 15, 2021 at 9:11 AM Karn, David GCPE:EX <David.Karn@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Bob, thanks for your patience.

Please attribute to the Ministry.

The B.C delegation consists of Minister George Heyman, Climate Action Secretariat Assistant Deputy Minister Jeremy Hewitt and one support staff.

No contractors or NGOs are being funded by the province to attend.

The trip is funded out of the ministry budget. Final costs will be released after all expenses are tabulated.

From: Bob Mackin <bob@thebreaker.news>

Sent: October 13, 2021 7:57 AM

To: Karn, David GCPE:EX <David.Karn@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Re: media request - UN climate change conference

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Hi David,

It's been a week now.

Attendance at COP26 is not as simple as taking the next Helijet from Victoria to Vancouver. So accreditation, transportation and accommodation arrangements must have been handled weeks, if not months, ago. Not to mention travel insurance and pandemic travel protocols and the government policy handbook on travel.

How many elected and appointed officials are going from the B.C. government?

What about any contractors or NGOs funded by the B.C. government?

What is the approved budget?

Sincerely,

Bob Mackin

On Tue, Oct 5, 2021 at 8:55 AM Karn, David GCPE:EX <David.Karn@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Bob, please attribute to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy.

- We recognize the significance of COP26 at this time. We are all feeling the impacts of climate change.
- Our priority is making sure that we can share and learn from all participating jurisdictions.
- We will have more to say about provincial participation in the days ahead.

From: Bob Mackin <bob@thebreaker.news>

Sent: October 5, 2021 8:24 AM

To: Karn, David GCPE:EX <David.Karn@gov.bc.ca>; Duffus, Robert GCPE:EX <Robert.Duffus@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: media request - UN climate change conference

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Hello,

Regarding the upcoming UN climate change conference in Glasgow, is Minister Heyman leading a delegation to the event?

How many staff members will be traveling to Glasgow -- what are the numbers of people and budgets approved under the government's policy for "Minister out-of-province/country travel" (10.4.4), which includes the Minister, Parliamentary Secretary, DM and Minister's office staff?

Will the Ministry be funding the travel expenses of any contractors or NGOs?

Sincerely,

Bob Mackin

reporter, theBreaker.news

604-982-9130

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Media Report for Friday, October 15, 2021

From: Karn, David GCPE:EX <David.Karn@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: October 15, 2021 5:06:01 PM PDT

Media Report for Friday, October 15, 2021

Awaiting MO/HQ Approval

InfoNews (Dan Walton) - Bit of a loaded question, but I'm wondering what it would take for the Province to relinquish OK Falls Provincial park to the OIB.

And why does the Province agree with some of the OIB's land claims but not that one?

Recommended response sent Thursday, October 07, 9:18am / request for takeover is with MIRR GCPE

National Observer (Bob Hackett) - This is a follow-up to a media request from September 29, 2021. Thanks for this useful summary of what the Ministry sees as the govt's major climate and environmental achievements. There are a range of welcome initiatives here. But I hope it would not be incorrect to say that the govt is not taking any direct measures to reduce and phase out the extraction and export of fossil fuels from BC, notably LNG and coal? Perhaps that might be addressed in the updated CleanBC Roadmap.

Also, I would still welcome answers on my latter two questions -- whether the environmental groups' criticisms are accurate, and what obstacles or considerations (including to be sure, the pandemic) stand in the way of phasing out fossil fuel production. I expect to write the article this week - there is still time to add statements on these dimensions if the Ministry would like to address them.

Recommended response sent Tuesday, October 05, 4:26pm.

Today's requests

The Breaker News (Bob Mackin) - It's been a week now. Attendance at COP26 is not as simple as taking the next Helijet from Victoria to Vancouver. So accreditation, transportation and accommodation arrangements must have been handled weeks, if not months, ago. Not to mention travel insurance and pandemic travel protocols and the government policy handbook on travel.

How many elected and appointed officials are going from the B.C. government?

What about any contractors or NGOs funded by the B.C. government?

What is the approved budget?

GCPE responded

The B.C. delegation consists of Minister George Heyman, Climate Action Secretariat Assistant Deputy Minister Jeremy Hewitt and one support staff.

No contractors or NGOs are being funded by the province to attend.

The trip is funded out of the ministry budget. Final costs will be released after all expenses are tabulated.

Previous requests completed

The Discourse.ca/Cowichan Valley (Jacqueline Ronson) - Questions about the newly announced Hwsalu-utsum Park.

I did some digging in my LSTA and I'm wondering if you can confirm if the attached screenshot accurately depicts the proposed park boundaries?

If that is the location, is there a reason this is being established as a new park, versus as an addition to Koksilah River Park?

Also, is there any more you can share at this point about what infrastructure is planned for the park, etc?

I'm also curious about the history of this land and parcel. Was it purchased by the province at some point from a private landowner? When, from who and for how much?

Thanks for considering all my questions! Nearby residents are very eager to hear more about this park.

Recommendation

- *I did some digging in my LSTA and I'm wondering if you can confirm if the attached screenshot accurately depicts the proposed park boundaries?*
 - In an effort to protect the park's sensitive values until better management controls (e.g., signage, enforcement, etc) can be put in place, Cowichan Tribes and BC Parks are not producing detailed maps of the new park area. The park designation will provide BC Parks the authority to manage activities which may be impacting these values, and in the longer term, the development of a management plan for the site will further determine exactly what activities are considered appropriate for the new park.

- *If that is the location, is there a reason this is being established as a new park, versus as an addition to Koksilah River Park?*
 - The decision was made to establish a new park rather than add the park to the existing Koksilah River Park because the new park has different management objectives than the existing park. For example, there is a commitment with one of the Hwsalu-utsum Park acquisition partners to allow for hunting in the new park and hunting is not allowed in Koksilah River Park.
- *Also, is there any more you can share at this point about what infrastructure is planned for the park, etc?*
 - The focus of this park is on protecting ecological and cultural values.
 - The park designation will provide BC Parks the authority to manage activities which may be impacting these values.
 - Future development of a management plan for the site will determine exactly what activities are considered appropriate for the new park.
- *I'm also curious about the history of this land and parcel. Was it purchased by the province at some point from a private landowner? When, from who and for how much?*
 - The land was purchased from Island Timberlands in March 2018 at a cost of \$7,150,000. \$225,000 was contributed from the Cowichan Community Land trust and \$400,000 was contributed from the Cowichan Valley Regional District via a grant from the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation. The province contributed the remaining \$6,525,000
 - Cowichan Tribes, the Cowichan Valley Naturalists and the BC Wildlife Federation were also active supporters of the acquisition and grant applications.

David Karn
 Ministry of Environment
 M 250-213-3760

Media Report for Tuesday, October 19, 2021

From: Karn, David GCPE:EX <David.Karn@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: October 19, 2021 5:03:28 PM PDT

Media Report for Tuesday, October 19, 2021

Awaiting MO/HQ Approval

The Breaker News (Bob Mackin) - This is a follow-up to a media request from October 13, 2021. I am not interested in final costs, because I know final costs are the end result and, therefore, impossible to calculate before the trip has even commenced. I made it clear that I wanted the dollar amounts for the approved budgets.

Oxford defines budget as: the money that is available to a person or an organization and a plan of how it will be spent over a period of time

The government's own policy and procedure manual includes a chapter on travel and the requirements for approved budgets, prior to travel. For your reference, I have copied the relevant portions below.

What is the approved budget for the delegation led by Minister Heyman?

Are any other ministers or department heads going? What about from BC Hydro?

Recommendation

No contractors or NGOs are being funded by the province to attend.

The trip is funded out of the ministry budget. Final costs will be released after all expenses are tabulated.

Today's requests

Hakai Magazine (Larry Pynn) - I plan to make reference to the violations (attached) involving Running W Egg Farm Ltd. in an article soon.

Can you please tell me whether there have been any updates such as appeals or fines or such I should know about?

GCPE responded

There has been no further compliance actions regarding this facility.

Provided a Non-compliance decision matrix table

CBC (Askay Kulkarni) - reports of a pack of five coyotes following a 13-year-old kid in West Vancouver.

GCPE responded

- The COS is aware of a coyote report in West Vancouver this morning.
- Conservation Officers followed up on the report and learned the animals did not make contact with the individual.
- There has also been no history of coyote conflicts reported in the area.
- Conservation Officers will monitor and respond to coyote reports as necessary.
- The COS encourages the public to take precautions in case of any wildlife encounters, especially if you are near a forested area.
- Safety tips include scaring away approaching coyotes – do not run away, wave your arms and make noise; be aware of your surroundings and walk in groups if possible. For more information and safety tips, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/3jy5cwtu> or WildSafeBC.
- Aggressive coyote behaviour can be reported to the COS Report All Poachers and Polluters hotline at 1-877-952-7277.

Times Colonist (Jeff Bell) - doing a story on beavers on Vancouver Island – partially stemming from a beaver released back into the wild by WildArc.

He wants to know beaver population numbers or at least if beavers are doing well on the island?

COS Insp Scott Norris

Provided info on hunting/trapping restrictions, beaver habitat and diet.

Advised to check with FLNROD Regional Biologists.

Revelstoke Review (Jocelyn Doll) - working on a story about a bear cub that died in Revelstoke recently. The vet in town assumes it was hit by a car.

I would love to talk to our local conservation officer about bears this season and what people should do if they find an injured or dying.

A/Sgt Matt Hall responded

Previous requests completed

Globe and Mail (Justine Hunter) - I have a question about funding for protected areas. I know Canada has a big nature fund in its last budget. What is the BC equivalent? I'm looking at the premier's remarks the other day, calling on celebrities to pony up if they want to save old growth. I am curious how much is in his budget for this. I'm guessing this might cross some ministry lines so if you can't answer, please help me figure out who can get me this info for a story today.

GCPE responded

Protecting our air, land and water for generations to come is critical to building a stronger, cleaner province for everyone. BC is a leader among the provinces and territories with one of the highest percentages of protected areas. Our government has dedicated more than \$122 million this year to environmental sustainability and resource stewardship, which includes support for land protection, ecosystem management, species at risk recovery and conservation of wildlife habitat.

While BC has not adopted federal targets, B.C. and Canada are working on the development of a bilateral Nature Agreement that supports our commitment to strengthening conservation and stewardship province-wide. We will be working with Indigenous communities on new approaches to protect ecosystems and species at risk, enhance biodiversity, restore habitat, and strengthen ecosystem resilience to climate change.

s.16

GCPE MIRR responded

- *The OIB currently operates and manages the park under a unique park operations agreement with BC Parks. Land transfer, including park land, would require further discussion, including an analysis of the values of the land, impacts on public and the interests of the OIB and Syilx people.*

RE: ENV Follow-up Media Request: COP 26

From: Brandt, Alissa GCPE:EX <Alissa.Brandt@gov.bc.ca>
To: Sather, Kelly ENV:EX <Kelly.Sather@gov.bc.ca>, Karn, David GCPE:EX <David.Karn@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Corns, Paul GCPE:EX <Paul.1.Corns@gov.bc.ca>, Duffus, Robert GCPE:EX <Robert.Duffus@gov.bc.ca>, Hewitt, Jeremy ENV:EX <Jeremy.Hewitt@gov.bc.ca>, Pollard, Desmond ENV:EX <Desmond.Pollard@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: October 20, 2021 12:19:31 PM PDT

I'm good with that approach.

From: Sather, Kelly ENV:EX <Kelly.Sather@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: October 19, 2021 19:03

To: Karn, David GCPE:EX <David.Karn@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Brandt, Alissa GCPE:EX <Alissa.Brandt@gov.bc.ca>; Corns, Paul GCPE:EX <Paul.1.Corns@gov.bc.ca>; Duffus, Robert GCPE:EX <Robert.Duffus@gov.bc.ca>; Hewitt, Jeremy ENV:EX <Jeremy.Hewitt@gov.bc.ca>; Pollard, Desmond ENV:EX <Desmond.Pollard@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: RE: ENV Follow-up Media Request: COP 26

s.13

From: Karn, David GCPE:EX <David.Karn@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: October 19, 2021 4:46 PM

To: Sather, Kelly ENV:EX <Kelly.Sather@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Brandt, Alissa GCPE:EX <Alissa.Brandt@gov.bc.ca>; Corns, Paul GCPE:EX <Paul.1.Corns@gov.bc.ca>; Duffus, Robert GCPE:EX <Robert.Duffus@gov.bc.ca>; Hewitt, Jeremy ENV:EX <Jeremy.Hewitt@gov.bc.ca>; Pollard, Desmond ENV:EX <Desmond.Pollard@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: ENV Follow-up Media Request: COP 26

Kelly,

Recommend using the previous response.

Reporter

Bob Mackin, The Breaker News

bob@thebreaker.news

Deadline ASAP

Request

I am not interested in final costs, because I know final costs are the end result and, therefore, impossible to calculate before the trip has even commenced.

I made it clear that I wanted the dollar amounts for the approved budgets.

Oxford defines budget as: the money that is available to a person or an organization and a plan of how it will be spent over a period of time

The government's own policy and procedure manual includes a chapter on travel and the requirements for approved budgets, prior to travel. For your reference, I have copied the relevant portions below.

What is the approved budget for the delegation led by Minister Heyman?

Are any other ministers or department heads going? What about from BC Hydro?

Recommendation

s.13

Background

This is a follow-up to a media request from October 13, 2021.

REQUEST:

It's been a week now.

Attendance at COP26 is not as simple as taking the next Helijet from Victoria to Vancouver. So accreditation, transportation and accommodation arrangements must have been handled weeks, if not months, ago. Not to mention travel insurance and pandemic travel protocols and the government policy handbook on travel.

How many elected and appointed officials are going from the B.C. government?

What about any contractors or NGOs funded by the B.C. government?

What is the approved budget?

RESPONSE:

Provided Statement

The B.C delegation consists of Minister George Heyman, Climate Action Secretariat Assistant Deputy Minister Jeremy Hewitt and one support staff.

No contractors or NGOs are being funded by the province to attend.

The trip is funded out of the ministry budget. Final costs will be released after all expenses are tabulated.

FW: ENV Follow-up Media Request: COP 26

From: Brandt, Alissa GCPE:EX <Alissa.Brandt@gov.bc.ca>
To: Sather, Kelly ENV:EX <Kelly.Sather@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: October 20, 2021 2:51:24 PM PDT

From: Alissa Brandt <Alissa.Brandt@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: October 20, 2021 14:35
To: Brandt, Alissa GCPE:EX <Alissa.Brandt@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: ENV Follow-up Media Request: COP 26

Reporter

Bob Mackin, Reporter
The Breaker News
bob@thebreaker.news
604-982-9130 c: 604-724-5604

Deadline ASAP

Request

as previously stated, I asked for the approved budget. I know you are an intelligent person who knows the difference between budget (which is known internally) vs. costs (which aren't known until the expenditures occur).

Just to be crystal clear, I asked for the budget for the trip and supplied chapter and verse the relevant government policy manual sections.

Please get me the budget dollar figure, thank-you!

Recommendation

Background

This is a follow-up to a media request from October 15, 2021.

REQUEST:

I am not interested in final costs, because I know final costs are the end result and, therefore, impossible to calculate before the trip has even commenced.

I made it clear that I wanted the dollar amounts for the approved budgets.

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RESPONSE:

Provided Statement

The B.C delegation consists of Minister George Heyman, Climate Action Secretariat Assistant Deputy Minister Jeremy Hewitt and one support staff.

No contractors or NGOs are being funded by the province to attend.

The trip is funded out of the ministry budget. Final costs will be released after all expenses are tabulated.

Recommend you contact BC Hydro as we don't speak for them.

RE: Media Request - The Breaker News - COP26 travel

From: Sather, Kelly ENV:EX <Kelly.Sather@gov.bc.ca>
To: Karn, David GCPE:EX <David.Karn@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Brandt, Alissa GCPE:EX <Alissa.Brandt@gov.bc.ca>, Corns, Paul GCPE:EX <Paul.1.Corns@gov.bc.ca>, Duffus, Robert GCPE:EX <Robert.Duffus@gov.bc.ca>, Hewitt, Jeremy ENV:EX <Jeremy.Hewitt@gov.bc.ca>, Pollard, Desmond ENV:EX <Desmond.Pollard@gov.bc.ca>, Lo, Reamick ENV:EX <Reamick.Lo@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: October 5, 2021 8:48:35 AM PDT

Approved thank you!

From: Karn, David GCPE:EX <David.Karn@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: October 5, 2021 8:46 AM

To: Sather, Kelly ENV:EX <Kelly.Sather@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Brandt, Alissa GCPE:EX <Alissa.Brandt@gov.bc.ca>; Corns, Paul GCPE:EX <Paul.1.Corns@gov.bc.ca>; Duffus, Robert GCPE:EX <Robert.Duffus@gov.bc.ca>; Hewitt, Jeremy ENV:EX <Jeremy.Hewitt@gov.bc.ca>; Pollard, Desmond ENV:EX <Desmond.Pollard@gov.bc.ca>; Lo, Reamick ENV:EX <Reamick.Lo@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Media Request - The Breaker News - COP26 travel

Kelly,

With approved lines used yesterday.

Reporter

Bob Mackin, Reporter

The Breaker News

bob@thebreaker.news

604-982-9130 c: 604-724-5604

Deadline ASAP

Request

Regarding the upcoming UN climate change conference in Glasgow, is Minister Heyman leading a delegation to the event?

How many staff members will be traveling to Glasgow -- what are the numbers of people and budgets approved under the government's policy for "Minister out-of-province/country travel" (10.4.4), which includes the Minister, Parliamentary Secretary, DM and Minister's office staff?

Will the Ministry be funding the travel expenses of any contractors or NGOs?

Recommendation

- We recognize the significance of COP26 at this time. We are all feeling the impacts of climate change.
- Our priority is making sure that we can share and learn from all participating jurisdictions.
- We will have more to say about provincial participation in the days ahead.

David Karn

Ministry of Environment

M 250-213-3760