

**From:** [Meggs, Geoff PREM:EX](#)  
**To:** [Aaron, Sage PREM:EX](#)  
**Subject:** RE: End of session list - news you can use  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2017 2:13:00 PM

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No, I think it's good.

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**GEOFF MEGGS**

Chief of Staff, Office of the Premier  
West Annex, Parliament Buildings,  
501 Belleville St, Victoria, BC V8V 2L8  
(250) 356-6271

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**From:** Aaron, Sage PREM:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 30, 2017 1:33 PM  
**To:** Meggs, Geoff PREM:EX  
**Subject:** End of session list - news you can use  
Hi Geoff,

This post is intended to capture many of the announcements we've made, and connecting people to services and information about the changes.

For the BC Government website and social media.

The 'news you can use' part keeps it in the realm of informational.

Any concerns?

## 20 things the BC Government did this Fall and Summer – And Why You Need to Know

It's been a whirlwind summer and fall. In case you missed it, here's a breakdown of major new programs and announcements, with links to new services for people.

### **1. Banned Big Money from B.C. politics**

People should power our politics, not big money. We reformed campaign finance rules for political parties so our democracy can't be undermined by deep-pocketed special interests. Learn more about the big changes provincially and municipally.

### **2. Closed the fixed-term lease loophole**

Be evicted or pay hundreds more in rent? That's a dilemma B.C. renters will no longer face, now that fixed-term lease rent hikes have been eliminated.

Learn more about the new rules.

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/housing-tenancy/residential-tenancies/news>

### **3. BC's Budget cut MSP Premiums in half**

Starting January 1, Medical Services premiums will be cut by 50 per cent. We're working towards completely eliminating this unfair fee altogether.

Have your say on the path to eliminate MSP fees.

<https://engage.gov.bc.ca/msptaskforce/>

### **4. Took first steps to tackle the overdose crisis**

We created a stand-alone Ministry for Mental Health and Addictions to take province-wide action to stem the overdose emergency, and help people living with mental health and addictions.

[Judy Darcy video]

For more information on mental health supports in BC:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/mental-health-support-in-bc>

Overdose prevention and response in BC and to find out how you can save a life:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/overdose>

## **5. Eliminated unfair tolls on the Golden Ears and Port Mann**

Eliminating tolls can save Lower Mainland commuters up to \$1,500 a year.

Learn more about the new changes.

## **6. Tackled the root causes of poverty**

Our newly-formed Poverty Reduction Advisory Council is listening to people across B.C. who are working to eliminate poverty.

Share your input on how to reduce poverty in BC.

<https://engage.gov.bc.ca/bcpovertyreduction/>

## **7. Got started on solutions for housing**

We're working hard to increase the supply of housing, to find ways to curb speculation in B.C.'s housing market, and to get thousands of modular housing units online to help people get off the street.

[Modular housing video]

## **8. Fast-tracked seismic upgrades, so schools are earthquake safe**

We're addressing the backlog of seismic upgrades to schools to keep BC students safe.

Read more about our new approach to supporting schools.

(<https://news.gov.bc.ca/factsheets/back-to-school-a-time-for-renewal>)

## **9. Gave people the power to change #HowWeVote**

We passed legislation to hold a referendum asking voters if they want a change from our current voting system to a system of proportional representation.

Share your ideas about the upcoming referendum on electoral reform.

## **10. Raised income assistance and disability rates by \$100 per month**

Lifting families out of poverty starts with raising income assistance and disability rates. This is the first rate increase in 10 years.

Find out more about disability assistance and income assistance.

## **11. Opening the door for Adult Basic Education and English Language Learning**

We're opening the door for people to upgrade their education and get ahead.

Find out how to apply.

For a list of public institutions that offer ABE programs:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/adult-education/adult-upgrading>

For a list of public institutions that offer ESL courses;

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/adult-education/adult-upgrading-learn-english>

## **12. Created a new transportation supplement for persons with disabilities**

People can use the new supplement for an annual bus pass or for other transportation needs.

Find out how to apply for the transportation supplement.

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/transportation/passenger-travel/buses-taxis-limos/bus-pass/people-with-disabilities>

## **13. Gave help to children-in-care with tuition waivers for post-sec**

It's now easier for youth aging out of the foster care system to enroll in post-secondary education programs.

Facebook live of event

Find out if you're eligible and how to apply.

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/post-secondary-education/pay-for-school/provincial-tuition-waiver-program?keyword=tuition&keyword=waiver>

## **14. Added 500 trades training spaces for students across BC**

[Melanie Mark video]

Find a spot in a trades program.

<https://www.tradetrainingbc.ca/>

**15. Expanded efforts to tackle gang violence**

We doubled the funding for the Surrey WrapAround (WRAP) program, which keeps at-risk youth out of gangs.

Learn more about the Surrey WRAP program.

**16. Put BC on the path to \$15-an-hour minimum wage**

The Fair Wages Commission is consulting the public on how we get BC to \$15 an hour, to lift all wages and help people earning the least.

Share your perspective on the best path to raising B.C.'s minimum wage.

**17. Provided support to people affected by the wildfires**

Farmers, ranchers, small business owners, tourism operators, people and communities were all affected by the worst wildfire season on record. We supported communities and businesses affected by wildfires with \$100 million for recovery and \$140 million for risk reduction, reforestation, habitat restoration, and the FireSmart program

[Video of Doug Donaldson?]

**18. Welcomed 1,000 new good-paying tech jobs**

[Amazon video]

**19. Launched the renewal of the human rights commission**

Because every person should feel welcome to share in the future of our province.

**20. We cut the small business tax rate by 20 per cent**

B.C.'s small-business owners can now keep more of their hard-earned revenue and reinvest it back in their communities.

Learn more

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2017JTT0152-001884>

This is only the beginning. We're working hard to build a better B.C. for everyone.

**Sage Aaron, Communications Director**

Office of the Premier | Government of BC

501 Belleville St, Victoria, BC V8V 2L8 | 778-678-0832

From: [Meggs, Geoff PREM:EX](#)  
To: [Aaron, Sage PREM:EX](#)  
Subject: Re: FOR SIGNOFF: End-of-Session NR  
Date: Thursday, November 30, 2017 5:43:53 PM

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It would be helpful to see the policy guidance they are relying on as well as any style guide.

G

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 30, 2017, at 5:42 PM, Aaron, Sage PREM:EX <[Sage.Aaron@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Sage.Aaron@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

Yes. They are the copywriters who proof and check tone, as well as content. We  
s.13

Sage  
778-678-0832  
Sent from my mobile device

On Nov 30, 2017, at 5:37 PM, Meggs, Geoff PREM:EX  
<[Geoff.Meggs@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Geoff.Meggs@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

Who are these people? In GCPE?

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 30, 2017, at 5:26 PM, Aaron, Sage PREM:EX  
<[Sage.Aaron@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Sage.Aaron@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

A big part of the challenge was recapping the  
accomplishments under the 3 priorities (ie most of the  
back end, substance of PJH quotes) in such a way as to  
not trigger Writing and Editorial.

No such luck. They s.13  
s.13 are suggesting rewrites.

Sage  
778-678-0832  
Sent from my mobile device

On Nov 30, 2017, at 4:36 PM, Meggs, Geoff PREM:EX  
<[Geoff.Meggs@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Geoff.Meggs@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

Looks good - why hard?

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 30, 2017, at 3:25 PM, Aaron, Sage  
PREM:EX <[Sage.Aaron@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Sage.Aaron@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

This one was hard to land but I  
hope this does it.

Sage  
778-678-0832  
Sent from my mobile device

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "McGregor,  
Cara GCPE:EX"  
<[Cara.McGregor@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Cara.McGregor@gov.bc.ca)>

**Date:** November  
30, 2017 at 3:01:24  
PM PST  
**To:** "Aaron, Sage  
PREM:EX"  
<[Sage.Aaron@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Sage.Aaron@gov.bc.ca)>,  
"Holmwood, Jen  
PREM:EX"  
<[Jen.Holmwood@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jen.Holmwood@gov.bc.ca)>

**Cc:** "Hardin, Karl  
GCPE:EX"  
<[Karl.Hardin@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Karl.Hardin@gov.bc.ca)>

**Subject: FOR  
SIGNOFF: End-  
of-Session NR**

**B.C.'s New  
Government is  
Working for British  
Columbians, Doing  
Politics Differently**  
VICTORIA – The new  
government has  
passed several

pieces of historic  
legislation that put  
people at the heart  
of politics and make  
life better for  
families.

“At the conclusion of  
the first legislative  
sitting of our  
government, I’m  
proud of what we’ve  
accomplished,” said  
Premier John  
Horgan. “For the first  
time in a long time,  
British Columbians  
have a government  
that’s working hard  
for them. We have  
put forward  
innovative and  
collaborative  
solutions that put  
people first and  
build a better B.C.”

Legislation  
introduced and  
passed by the new  
government in the  
fall sitting will  
transform B.C.’s  
political culture and  
get results for  
people:

<!--[if  
!supportLists]-  
->•<!--  
[endif]--  
>The  
*Election  
Amendment  
Act* bans  
corporate  
and union  
donations as  
well as out-  
of-province  
donations,

and imposes  
strict limits  
on individual  
political  
contributions;

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[endif]--  
>The *Local  
Elections  
Campaign  
Financing  
Amendment*  
Act extends  
campaign  
finance  
reform to  
local  
government  
elections,  
levelling the  
playing field  
for local  
candidates;

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!supportLists]-  
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[endif]--  
>The  
*Tenancy  
Statutes  
Amendment*  
Act close  
fixed-term  
lease  
loopholes to  
protect  
renters from  
unfair rent  
increases;

<!--[if  
!supportLists]-  
->•<!--  
[endif]--  
>The  
*Lobbyists  
Registration  
Amendment*  
Act imposes  
a two-year  
cooling off

period for  
former  
public office  
holders, to  
make sure  
the public  
interest  
comes first;  
and  
<!--[if  
!supportLists]-  
->•<!--  
[endif]--  
>The  
*Electoral  
Reform  
Amendment  
Act* provides  
a framework  
for a  
referendum  
on  
proportional  
representation  
no later than  
Nov. 2018,  
to give  
people the  
final say on  
how they  
vote.

The new  
government also  
passed a budget that  
includes important  
measures to make  
life more affordable,  
including removing  
tolls on the Port  
Mann and Golden  
Ears bridges, raising  
the minimum wage,  
and cutting Medical  
Services Premiums  
by 50% effective Jan.  
1, 2018. The  
government also  
tackled housing  
affordability with a  
new \$208 million

investment to build 1,700 new units of affordable rental housing throughout the province, and \$291 million to construct 2,000 modular supportive housing units for people who are homeless.

To improve services, the new government made college and university tuition-free for former children in care, added 500 new trades training spaces, ended the bus pass claw back for people with disabilities, established a Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions, and invested \$322 million in fighting the overdose crisis, and added more funding to the Residential Tenancy act to resolve landlord-tenant disputes more quickly.

As part of their plan to build a strong, sustainable economy, the new government cut the small business tax rate from 2.5 to 2 per cent, and is

phasing out the PST on electricity for all businesses starting January 1, 2018. Government also committed \$14.6 billion in capital spending over three years to build roads, transit, schools and hospitals. The government also opened B.C. Trade and Investment Representative Offices in San Francisco and Seattle to expand the province's trade presence in the U.S and led a forestry trade mission to Asia to promote B.C.'s wood products. "We've made progress on our key commitments: making life more affordable, improving services and creating good-paying jobs for people throughout B.C. We have more to do to fix the problems, but we're committed to work hard every day to get the job done," said Horgan.

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