From: Mills, Shane PREM:EX

To: O"Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX

Cc: Chin, Ben PREM:EX

Subject: FW: Anbang defends seniors" homes takeover - Steven Chase and Justine Hunter - Globe and Mail

Date: Friday, February 24, 2017 6:29:00 AM

Hi Kellie

Can I get precisely how the rules are implemented?

My understanding is:

The approval of the sale was made by the Trudeau government

Our number one focus is ensuring the health and safety of persons in care. That focus remains the same regardless of it's a non profit, a society or a foreign company, who is purchasing the facility.

B.C.'s Assisted Living and Residential Care regulations outline requirements of applicants for registration or licensing when there is a change in ownership. These regulations are in place to protect the health and safety of residents and persons in care irrespective of ownership.

Looking for clarity on our review status.

Thanks Shane

Shane Mills
Director Issues Management
Office of the Premier

250-661-1015 - Mobile

From: tno@gov.bc.ca [mailto:tno@gov.bc.ca] Sent: Friday, February 24, 2017 5:32 AM

Subject: TNO: Anbang defends seniors' homes takeover - Steven Chase and Justine Hunter - Globe and

Mail

Anbang defends seniors' homes takeover

Globe and Mail 24-Feb-2017 Page A03

By Steven Chase and Justine Hunter

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Page 02 to/à Page 03

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From: Mills, Shane PREM:EX
To: Smart, Stephen PREM:EX

Subject: Fwd: Retirement Concepts - Federal Decision - Justine Hunter request

Date: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 9:52:49 AM

Attachments: KM Approved Sale of Retirement Concepts Feb 21 17 FINAL.DOCX

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

----- Original message -----

From: "Chan-Kent, Marissa HLTH:EX" < Marissa.Chan-Kent@gov.bc.ca>

Date: 2017-02-21 8:51 AM (GMT-08:00)

To: "Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX" < Katy.Merrifield@gov.bc.ca>, "Chin, Ben PREM:EX"

<Ben.Chin@gov.bc.ca>, "Mills, Shane PREM:EX" <Shane.Mills@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: "O'Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX" <Kellie.OBrien@gov.bc.ca>, "Robertson, Derek HLTH:EX"

<Derek.Robertson@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Retirement Concepts - Federal Decision - Justine Hunter request

Hey,

We just got word that the Federal Competition Bureau has approved Anbang's takeover of Retirement Concepts. Justine Hunter is looking for comment. We have updated the KMs as reflected below. We are running these through our DM.

Key Messages - Proposed sale of Retirement Concepts - Approved

Feb. 21, 17

- Our number one focus during the sale of any private care facility is ensuring the health and safety of persons in care.
- We understand the Federal Government has approved the sale of Retirement Concepts to Cedar Tree Investment Canada Inc.
- There are checks and balances that go along with any transition of ownership of a residential care facility.
- B.C.'s Assisted Living and Residential Care regulations outline requirements of applicants for registration or licensing when there is a change in ownership. These regulations are in place to protect the health and safety of residents and persons in care irrespective of ownership.
- This includes a review by the Medical Health Officer, who is an independent statutory decision maker.
- This review is conducted to ensure that the purchasing company or individuals is able to meet the needs of patients and provide quality care.

- The priority of the ministry and health authorities is, and will continue to be, the care of patients.
- Now that the federal government has approved this sale, we will wait for the medical health officer or the Registrar to approve Cedar Tree to operate.
- We expect the transition to be seamless, with patients residing in these facilities continuing to receive the same quality of care and services.
- Retirement Concepts has assured patients, families and staff that it does not intend to make any changes to the day-to-day operations, patient care, staff or leadership.
- The Seniors Advocate has said that we need to let the process transpire, and has also pointed out that we have legislation in place that allows the health authorities and the Registrar to continue to monitor these facilities.
- The Seniors Advocate analyzes and reports on quality of care in all care facilities in B.C., and in that role, will continue to focus on quality indicators to ensure the best care is provided for seniors.

Thanks,

Lori

Marissa Chan-Kent

Ministerial Assistant to the Honourable Terry Lake Minister of Health

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From: Mills, Shane PREM:EX
To: Csillag, Peter LASS:EX
Cc: Hodson, Blake PREM:EX
Subject: QP PREP - Feb 22.17

Date: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 10:57:24 AM

Attachments: QP PREP - Feb 22.17.docx

STILWELL – SDSI – BUDGET 2017: WELFARE RATES

- Well, it's clear who the premier serves her buddies who can afford high-priced dinners with the premier. What did they get yesterday, two tax breaks for corporations.
- Her friends got another tax break and those who are most in need got nothing.
- The government's newfound generosity didn't extend to those living on social assistance, who have not seen an increase in the provincial welfare rate in a decade
- Meanwhile, under this government's watch, life has gotten more expensive: with Hydro and ICBC rates skyrocketing.
- British Columbia has one of the country's lowest rates for the vulnerable on welfare, and no poverty-reduction plan.
 According to the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, the welfare rate is QUOTE, "miserably low." (Globe and Mail – Feb 21/17)

QUESTION

Minister, why did the government not raise the welfare rate for vulnerable British Columbians?

Follow-up

- \$610 a month isn't much certainly not enough to cover the price of admission to one of this government's cash-foraccess soirees.
- Maybe that's why this Minister and this government are so content to turn a blind-eye here – the most vulnerable just aren't raising their voices at those fundraisers.
- But people are expected to pay their rent and live with this minuscule amount - \$610.

Question

The level of assistance rates in this province is an embarrassment. Does this Minister *personally* think that \$610 a month is enough to live on?

BENNETT – HYDRO RATES

- Despite this government's flashy budget, the reality is that hydro rates for BC families have been going up under their watch.
- And while the government's corporate friends get off the hook, it's everyday British Columbians paying the price.
- Just last year, it was made clear that the current hydro rate hikes were based on a plan that didn't expect that extra billion dollars in debt, which means that there would be an inevitable day of reckoning to come
- That billion dollar blunder breaks down to an extra \$500 for every ratepayer in B.C. Those are families and businesses across the province that are on the hook.
- This Budget doesn't address what has happened to hydro rates under this government's watch.

QUESTION

Minister, when will this government get serious and reign in hydro rates for everyday British Columbians?

Follow-up

- Well, Minister last year, we re-introduced a bill aimed at making hydro rates cheaper for our province's most vulnerable.
- The government chose not to support it then, just as they didn't in 2014. Time and time again, this government turned their back on our province's most vulnerable.
- Some of those most affected are hard-working British Columbians.
- Low wage growth means many of our struggling citizens are making the choice between keeping the lights on or buying groceries.

QUESTION

Since this government took office, BC Hydro rates have gone up nearly 80 percent. When will this government finally protect the interests of ordinary British Columbians who are desperately in need of financial help?

LAKE - HEALTH/SENIORS - Retirement Concepts

- The new Budget does precious little for senior's care in our province. That's disappointing for a province with an aging population, and disappointing to our seniors, who built our province.
- But now, it appears that this government isn't even interested in what little is being done for seniors.
- B.C.'s largest retirement home chain, Retirement Concepts, is being sold off to a foreign entity, Anbang Insurance, putting an unprecedented piece of B.C.'s health care system into foreign control.
- This is a group that lacks so much transparency that even Wall Street Firms like Morgan Stanley refuse to advise them because they can't meet basic "know your client" guidelines.

QUESTION

According to the Globe Mail, this provincial government is "not concerned" about the sale – Minister, why not?

Follow-up

- Well Minister, the federal government said that they had conducted at least some review – but we don't know what, if any, review this provincial government has done before rubber-stamping the federal decision.
- But what we do know is that British Columbians are concerned. It's a loss of control of a public asset, subsidized by BC taxpayers.
- These are homes for seniors and this government doesn't seem to care about what might happen to them and the stress that will put on them.

QUESTION

Minister, if this foreign company runs into liquidity problems, for example, how will this government ensure that this seniors' care asset is actually protected? Have they given this any consideration?

MORRIS - PUBLIC SAFETY - ABBOTSFORD COMPLAINTS

- British Columbians rely on law enforcement to keep their communities safe; they're supposed to be able to trust the integrity of their police officers.
- British Columbia's police complaints commissioner is dropping an investigation into more than 100 misconduct allegations against police officers in Abbotsford.
- According to the Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner, they're not allowed to investigate.
- Back in February of 2015, the commissioner's office said its investigation involved 17 members and 148 misconduct allegations, including assertions that some members used inaccurate statements to obtained search warrants.
- These are not insignificant matters.

QUESTION

Minister, is your government taking any action to resolve this situation or do you personally think it's acceptable that the police complaints commissioner is not allowed to investigate?

Follow-up

- Well Minister, Abbotsford Police Chief Bob Rich said in a statement that the commissioner's investigation showed some officers had made mistakes due to a lack of clear policy and training.
- There's no longer a court decision to blame for that. It's a problem that's happening on this government's watch.
- And British Columbians are paying the price.

QUESTION

Has the Minister given any instruction to his department to remedy this clear lack of policy and training – or is this too par for the course under this government's watch?

From: Mills, Shane PREM:EX
To: Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX

Subject: RE: I need to get lines on anbang to Ben Stewart
Date: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 9:28:00 AM

Look good.

From: Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX

Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 9:28 AM

To: Mills, Shane PREM:EX

Subject: I need to get lines on anbang to Ben Stewart

See below – I re worked the lines sent to me by Health slighty to be more provincial in focus and straightforward.... Let me know if these work.

Key Messages – Retirement Concepts/ Cedar Tree Investment Canada Inc. Partnership Arrangement

- Our number one focus during any potential sale is patient care and ensuring the continuity of quality care for patients.
- The sale of any private care facility big or small results in the ministry of health or
 regional health authority conducting a due diligence process. This process includes a
 review by the Medical Health Officer, who is an independent statutory decision maker.
- This review is conducted to ensure that the purchasing company or individual(s) is able
 to meet the care needs of patients. If the review is successful, it results in the facility
 receiving a license to operate.
- The Ministry of Health is aware that Retirement Concepts a private company –
 intends to enter into a partnership arrangement with Cedar Tree Investment Canada
 Inc. A comprehensive due diligence process is being undertaken which includes the
 federal government conducting a foreign investment review. That review is necessary
 for the purchase to be approved and we await the decision of the federal review.
- The key priority of the province is always the care of patients.

Matt Gordon
Assistant Deputy Minister
Corporate Priorities & Communications Operations
4th Floor, 617 Government Street
Victoria, BC
s.17

From: Mills, Shane PREM:EX

To: Denney, Jay MIT:EX; O"Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX; Chan-Kent, Marissa HLTH:EX

Subject: RE: MIT Media Request: Anbang
Date: Friday, February 24, 2017 11:13:00 AM

Attachments: image001.png

This is our response:

The approval of the sale was made by the Trudeau government

Our number one focus is ensuring the health and safety of persons in care. That focus remains the same regardless of it's a non-profit, a society or a foreign company, who is purchasing the facility.

B.C.'s Assisted Living and Residential Care regulations outline requirements of applicants for registration or licensing when there is a change in ownership. These regulations are in place to protect the health and safety of residents and persons in care irrespective of ownership.

Shane Mills Director Issues Management Office of the Premier

250-661-1015 - Mobile

From: Denney, Jay MIT:EX

Sent: Friday, February 24, 2017 11:13 AM

To: O'Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX; Chan-Kent, Marissa HLTH:EX

Cc: Mills, Shane PREM:EX

Subject: MIT Media Request: Anbang

FYI – will advise further once we have response info.

Reporter

Joanne Lee-Young, Reporter Vancouver Sun <u>Jlee-young@postmedia.com</u> s.22

Deadline ASAP

Request:

What involvement, if any, has MIT had in Anbang's purchase of Retirement Concepts? Did MIT have anything to do with attracting Anbang to B.C. to purchase Retirement Concepts?

Background:

Recommendation: sourcing

Lauren Mulholland

Communications Manager

Government Communications and Public Engagement

Ministry of International Trade & Responsible for Asia Pacific Strategy and Multiculturalism Off: 250 356-0613 Cell: $^{\rm s.17}$



From: Mills, Shane PREM:EX
To: Smart, Stephen PREM:EX

Subject: Today

Date: Wednesday, June 14, 2017 7:45:00 AM

Attachments: image001.gif

Political:

Smyth column on GreeNDP and speaker/Gary Collins column as well

Vaughn on Site C and Waneta Dam

Laura departure

Other issues:

Anbang head in custody in China – feds say no need to review sale of retirement concepts, our role remains one of ensuring standards maintained

Housing affordability avail by Horgan

Real estate sales in May were down but in Vancouver the average sale increased by 8.8 per cent

Shane Mills

Director Issues Management
Office of the Premier

250-661-1015 - Mobile

 From:
 Yuen Pau Woo

 To:
 Minister, MIT MIT:EX

 Cc:
 Denney, Jay MIT:EX; \$.22

Denney, Jay MIT:EX; \$.22 Baskerville, Shannon AEST:EX

Subject: Request for Meeting with Head of Zhejiang Business Association Canada

Date: Wednesday, March 16, 2016 12:39:08 PM

Attachments: image003.jpg

浙商创建北美总部英文稿.pdf

Dear Minister:

I wanted to bring to your attention an unusual but promising head office prospect that HQ Vancouver is working on.

The Zhejiang Business Association (Zheshang) is planning to open its North American Head Office in Vancouver in late 2016/early 2017. Zheshang is an umbrella organization for companies from Zhejiang with global aspirations. The head of the organization is Jack Ma from Alibaba http://www.wzs.org.cn/zszh/ and the intention is for Mr Ma to come to Vancouver for the opening of their North American head office. They are planning to take space in one of the Bentall towers that Anbang has just purchased (Anbang is also a member of Zheshang).

The head of Zheshang's head office preparatory committee is Mr Pan Xiangsheng. He has asked for a meeting with you to tell you about Zheshang's head office plans and their annual conference in Ningbo (which we likely will take part in)

http://www.wzs.org.cn/sjzsdh/dsjzsdh/

I hope you will be able to meet with Mr Pan and will ask Kenny to coordinate with your office to try and find a time. Please let me know if you have any questions or would like to discuss. Many thanks.

With best regards,

Pau

Yuen Pau WOO

President



Global Horizon, Global Expansion - Zheshang to establish North America headquarter

March 2, 2016 BCBay

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Page 23

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From: MacDonald, Alex GCPE:EX

To: <u>Aaron, Sage PREM:EX; Holmwood, Jen PREM:EX</u>
Subject: FW: IN - Sale of Retirement Concept - Feb 23_18_DRAFT

Date: Friday, February 23, 2018 10:40:44 AM

Attachments: IN - Sale of Retirement Concept - Feb 23 18 DRAFT.docx

Here is the note from Health.

Response is a little long but I would focus on:

- Our government is reaching out to our contacts in Beijing to discuss any potential implications this may have for Anbang-operated facilities in B.C.
- Our focus will continue to be the health and safety of persons in care regardless of ownership.
- The Office of the Seniors Advocate, Medical Health Officers and the Assisted Living Registrar has been and will continue to monitor the care being provided in these facilities
- As part of our focus on seniors, Budget 2018 will invest \$548 million over the next three years to improve care for seniors – including investments in primary care, home and community care, residential care and assistive living.

From: May, Stephen GCPE:EX

Sent: Friday, February 23, 2018 10:08 AM

To: MacDonald, Alex GCPE:EX

Cc: Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX; Heinze, Laura R GCPE:EX; Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX

Subject: IN - Sale of Retirement Concept - Feb 23_18_DRAFT

As discussed. Stephen May GCPE – Health

Phone: 250 952 3401 Cell: 250 888 9879

ADVICE TO MINISTER

CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE

Ministry: Health

Date: February 23, 2018

Minister Responsible: Adrian Dix

Sale of Retirement Concepts

BACKGROUND REGARDING THE ISSUE:

- On February 23, 2018, Reuters reported that the Chinese government seized control on Anbang Insurance Group Co Ltd, and said its chairman had been prosecuted.
- In a statement, the China Insurance Regulatory Commission (CIRC) said Anbang had violated laws and regulations which "may seriously endanger the solvency of the company."
- Anbang will be taken over for the period of at least one year and will be managed by a group of officials from the CIRC.
- An announcement says the group will seek to undertake an equity restructuring of the company. The CIRC also said that Anbang's debt's and obligations will not be impacted by the takeover.
- On June 13, 2017, a Globe and Mail a reporter contacted the Ministry of Health to inform the ministry that Chinese media were reporting Anbang's chairman Wu Xiaohui had been detained by authorities.
- Anbang, a Chinese insurance-holding company, owns Cedar Tree who recently purchased 23 of 25 facilities owned by Retirement Concepts (20 in BC, 2 in Alberta and 1 in Quebec). The sale was subject to federal approval. Under the Investment Canada Act (ICA) it is the Federal Minister that is responsible to approve the sale to a non-Canadian if over \$600m (increases to \$800m in 2017).
- Criticism of the sale and its lack of transparency received media coverage:
 - 1. http://vancouversun.com/business/local-business/chinese-company-anbang-aims-to-buy-retirement-concepts-seniors-housing
 - 2. https://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/british-columbia/sale-of-retirement-homes-puts-bc-seniors-at-risk-says-ndp-critic/article34156837/
- s.13,s.16
- •
- •
- BC's Assisted Living and Residential Care regulations outline requirements of applicants for registration or licensing when there is a change in ownership. These regulations are in place to protect the health and safety of residents and persons in care irrespective of ownership.
- s.13,s.14
- Under the partnership agreement, Retirement Concepts retains a minority stake and will
 continue to manage the day-to-day operations of all of the facilities. Retirement Concepts
 committed that there is to be no change to staffing plans, the quality of care provided to
 residents, or to policies, procedures and other operating standards.

- Retirement Concepts provides assisted living and residential care services through contract with the health authorities.
- In 2015/16, BC's five regional health authorities paid \$86.52 million combined to Retirement Concepts for contracted assisted living and residential care services. Out of 130 providers, Retirement Concepts was the highest paid across the province; however, health authorities' amount of contracted services varied.
- The table below shows the total amount paid to Retirement Concepts by health authority for 2015/16 and the relative ranking:

Health Authority	2015/16 (\$ Millions)	Ranking re: highest paid providers		
Interior	\$16.72	4		
Fraser	\$30.50	1		
Northern	n/a	n/a		
Vancouver Coastal	\$6.26	7		
Island	\$33.04	1		

- Following the approval of the sale, on March 1, Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) was given six-month's notice by Retirement Concepts to end its contract with VCH for 20 Assisted Living (AL) units (housing 21 residents) at the Terraces on 7th in Vancouver by September 30, 2017.
- The Terraces is one of two facilities that were not part of the federally approved sale and is still owned by Retirement Concepts.
- After significant media attention, Retirement Concepts rescinded its notice and worked with VCH to find a solution to allow residents to stay until the original agreement end date of March 2019.
- In response to concerns raised about Retirement Concepts and other providers suddenly
 ending contracts in the future the Board of Directors of the BC Care Providers
 Association struck an internal "Assisted Living Tenancy Task Force" to review this matter
 and provide recommendations to prevent future sudden terminations and evictions.

DISCUSSION/ADVICE:

- In a February 27, 2017 Globe and Mail Minister Darcy had the following quote regarding the sale:
 - "There are enough challenges with accountability and transparency, and seniors are suffering because B.C. regulators are not ensuring elder care is up to code,"
 Ms. Darcy said in an interview Monday. "Now, the decisions about this company's future will be made by a multinational company that is one step removed."
- Federal NDP MPs have had the following comments on the sale of Retirement Concepts to Anbang
 - NDP health critic Don Davies called the Anbang deal a "foreign takeover of vital healthcare and seniors facilities" in B.C., and asked the Liberals whether the purchase was ever discussed at one of their cash for-access fundraisers.
 - New Democratic Party MP Nathan Cullen said Retirement Concepts as a health care provider should be considered a "critical asset" for Canada to protect. "You would think any government would reject this proposal."

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

If asked about Chinese Government takeover of Anbang:

ADVICE TO MINISTER

- We are aware of the Chinese government's actions on February 23 regarding Anbang.
- Our government is reaching out to our contacts in Beijing to discuss any potential implications this may have for Anbang-operated facilities in B.C.
- Our focus will continue to be the health and safety of persons in care regardless of ownership.
- We need to be scrupulous about the type of foreign investments that we support in B.C.
- It is important to remember that although the federal government has exclusive jurisdiction for matters of international trade we believe that communication with patients, families, and the general public on these types of matter should be done more transparently.
- We also need to ensure we have the regulatory framework in place, to protect the health and well-being of seniors in care.
- As part of our focus on seniors, Budget 2018 will invest \$548 million over the next three years to improve care for seniors – including investments in primary care, home and community care, residential care and assistive living.
- Legislation in place allows the health authorities and the Registrar to continue to monitor these facilities.
- Medical Health Officers and the Assisted Living Registrar monitor care provided in these facilities and can require:
 - Reports on the operation of licensed facilities,
 - Results of any investigations, or investigations of complaints,
 - o Inspection of books, records or premises in connection with the operation,
 - o Require an audit of the operations of a community care facility, and
 - Specify policies and standards of practice.
 - Health authorities have used these powers in situations where facilities have not been in compliance.
- The Office of the Seniors Advocate has been and will continue to monitor the care being provided in these facilities to make sure Cedar Tree and Retirement Concepts are providing their residents with appropriate and quality care.
- This situation is an important reminder of the importance of public ownership and operation in health care.
- When facilities are publicly owned and operated, the focus of the facilities will be the care of patients and not the bottom line of the operator.
- Last year the ministry also took steps to make amendments to the Community
 Care and Assisted Living Act to provide better protections for seniors including

the inspection of a residence at any time if it is felt there is a risk to the health and safety of a resident, and increased oversight protections for incidences of senior's abuse.

Communications Contact	:	Reviewer:	
Program Area Contact:			
File Created:			
File Updated:			
Minister's Office	Program Area	Deputy	HLTH Communications