

Page 01

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From: Holmwood, Jen PREM:EX
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2018 4:06 PM
To: 'vpalmer@postmedia.com'
Subject: transcript

Horgan - session end

By Horgan - Legislature Rose Garden

John Horgan: Good morning, everybody, afternoon. Good to see you here today on the last day of the spring session of the Legislature. I'm very pleased with the work we've been able to accomplish over the past number of months. I don't want to take you back down Memory Lane too far but you'll remember in February we tabled a three-year fiscal plan that showed balanced budgets going forward and investments every year in initiatives that made sense and are important to the people of BC. Housing, child care, public education, health care investments, transit and transportation investments, all within a framework that will be balanced over the three-year fiscal plan. I'm particularly proud of the work that Minister Adrian Dix has been able to do in transforming the delivery of health care services in BC in the very short time he's been heading up the Ministry of Health.

Transforming primary care delivery, making sure that we have more access to diagnostic equipment like MRIs -- 37,000 more MRIs this year. Making sure that we build team-based approaches to delivering health care services in communities takes the burden off of doctors and spreads that over the whole host of health care providers available to provide health care services to BCers. And critically important is reducing wait times for knee and hip replacement. Those of us of a particular age are most interested in that question but that opens up ORs and other procedures within hospitals to other important procedures, and getting the knee and hip stuff out of the way is important.

And lastly on the health care side was the investment we made in dental surgeries, to make sure that we reduced the wait times for that, and those who are having serious oral health issues can get that service done in a hospital paid for by the medical plan here in BC. So on the health care front we've made great progress, on the education front we've made great progress, and there's a host of other issues. I'm very excited but I know you'll have a number of questions on these important public policy issues so I'll open it up to that.

Reporter: There seems to be a gas shortage in Alberta with certain gas stations. Some analysts are saying it could spread to other western provinces. How closely are you watching that and are you concerned about that?

Horgan: This is the first I've heard of a gas shortage in Alberta but it does speak to, I think, the refrain I've been using for the past couple weeks, that we have a supply problem in BC. I guess that translates to western Canada and it's ironic, I think, for people when you have a resource-rich province like Alberta, the economy depends on oil, that they would have a shortage of gas for the travelling public. These are issues that we all have to work on together and I'm hopeful that we'll be able to establish good working relationships to ensure that we can increase the supply of gasoline here in BC and across western Canada.

Reporter: With regards to the tariffs announced by the US and the retaliatory measures by Canada, what does that mean for BC and what do you think about getting into another trade war?

Horgan: Another day, another tweet, another trade war. I'm very concerned about our aluminum sector. We've been in contact with the manager at the Kitimat smelter today. We've reached out to Unifor representatives there as well as the mayor of Kitimat. My office was in touch with the PMO today. Minister Freeland is seized of this issue. She's been the Minister of Trade, federally. She and I have been in regular contact on a range of issues and we're looking at what responses we can make here in BC to support the work of the federal government. But this is another provocation from a government south of the border that appears to be more focused on protectionism and disrupting the economy rather than assisting all of us to benefit from the relationships that international trade allows us to build.

Our largest trading partner is the US. Here in BC we're fortunate that we, over the past 20 years, have been diversifying our markets so the impact of protectionist measures in the States don't have the same impact here but we have a softwood lumber agreement that is only being dealt with because of high lumber prices. That, again, has a negative impact on construction in the US and is harming US citizens. We've made that case to Secretary Wilbur Ross directly, as has Minister Freeland. Coated paper here in BC, particularly the Catalyst mills in Powell River, Crofton, and Port Alberni are adversely affected by tariffs that are being brought forward not in a competitive way but by a hedge fund operator who purchased a pulp mill in Washington State for the expressed purpose of bringing a trade action. That type of behaviour does not make for good neighbours.

Reporter: We started the session covering your budget. Two major tax items, a speculation tax and EHT. If anything, the session was not clear on how the taxes are going to work. You were asked yesterday on the speculation tax and its applicability to vacant land or to development. We have no idea what the Finance minister has in store on the EHT for charities and non-profits. Is this the position you wanted to be in at the end of your first session on your two marquee tax proposals? The uncertainty that we all have on how they're going to work and if not, how did we get to this point?

Horgan: Both the taxes that you're referring to are not taking effect this year. They were tabled by the Minister of Finance with the expressed purpose of making sure we would be able to consult and talk to people broadly to make sure that the impact was as minimal as possible and the benefit, particularly on the speculation tax, of ensuring that we're bringing more housing supply back on stream rather than having it sit vacant were going to be effective or not. I have every confidence that the Minister of Finance has been managing this effectively and we'll see what she has to say in the days ahead.

Reporter: Your budget had numbers in it, we covered it, talked about it the entire session. Just wondering personally, as Premier, are you happy at the end of the session that we're still not clear on the biggest tax proposals that your government [inaudible]?

Horgan: The tax proposals are not taking effect this year, they're taking effect in future years. We have a three-year fiscal plan that incorporated revenue expectations from those taxes and the Minister of Finance has and will manage those in the best interest of the treasury and the people of BC.

Reporter: How significant do you view Petronas taking a rather large [inaudible] stake from LNG Canada? Do you think that's another sign that the FID's going to be a positive one?

Horgan: I do know that LNG Canada is in the final stages of their FID package that will go to the joint venture board, I believe, this fall. To have Petronas join what is already a pretty diverse joint venture - Petro China, Cogas, Mitsubishi, Shell, as well as now Petronas -- you have all of the main players in the natural gas sector, whether they be upstream producers here in BC or takers in Asia, all participating in this joint venture. So I think that speaks very well for a positive FID and we're working

closely with the proponents to make sure that we're doing everything we can within our ability, as well as the federal government, to land this significant investment but it needs to be done within the framework that I laid out, not just during the election campaign but on my trip to Asia, we need to ensure that First Nations' participation is there, we need to make sure there's a benefit to BC, and that it's consistent with our climate action goals, and so far, so good.

Reporter: There's a lot of First Nations support for this project --

Horgan: Significant, yep.

Reporter: -- but there is this one camp or protest point along the pipeline route. Would your government seek an injunction to get rid of them?

Horgan: I don't want to look that far into the future. I believe that the pipeline proponent and the joint venture are working with indigenous communities right across the corridor and they've been very successful, almost unanimous support, and I'll leave it up to them to do the work that they need to do and will address issues after a FID. All of the commitments that we made in a framework were contingent on the joint venture making a positive decision. We're not going to change anything unless they're committed to investing and then we'll deal with whatever outstanding issues there are at that time.

Reporter: You were mentioning gas supply. I wonder if you can just fill us in on how your work with the state of Washington is going in terms of accessing gas?

Horgan: Governor Inslee has been very helpful. We've developed a positive working relationship, north-south, and we have been in touch as recently as last week to see what measures we could bring to bear should Alberta use the elements of their Bill 12 and we have not pursued anything further on that because we've been advised by the government of Alberta that they have no intention of proclaiming the bill and now with new ownership in the Trans Mountain project we're going to wait and see what happens there.

On the broader question, though, which goes back to Bhinder's question, what are we doing to try and increase supply? We're talking to everyone to see if we can assist in bringing more product here for purchase by BC citizens so that we can bring the price down.

Reporter: [inaudible] there's a new report out from UBC today suggesting that all the tax measures you're doing on housing are really good at filling the treasury but not going to actually cool prices. Does your government need to do more on the supply side?

Horgan: On the supply side we're working with municipalities to streamline decision making, we're working with not-for-profits within what we call our housing hub, it was established with BC Housing and Minister Robinson to streamline the decision making and getting more supply brought into the market place as quickly as possible. And the revenues that are coming from our measures on housing are going to go right back into building more housing. So over the long term, again, I need to stress this, the challenges on the housing front didn't arrive in July of 2017, they were building over a number of years and it's going to take us some time to delicately manage the free market in this instance. The province has a roll to play with land. We have a role to play in working with municipalities to assist them in ensuring that when they are building density that we're putting in place opportunities for transit.

Those things are working, I think, fairly effectively with the existing mayors' council. We'll see what October brings, when councils will be renewed. There's a number of mayors, as you know, not

seeking re-election and the public will be sending new people to the mayors/council table and we'll go from there.

Reporter: The report on the public consultations on the electoral reform referendum says there was no consensus on the ballot structure and no consensus on which system should be offered to BCers [inaudible]. David Eby's recommending three options, two of which -- he said it in the House today -- are new, they've not been tried anywhere else, and, as I read the report, there are about two dozen things that would have be decided after the vote by a Legislature committee. So unproven systems, lots of things to be decided afterward. Are BCers really going to have a clear sense of what they're voting for this fall?

Horgan: I think they will and I know there's a difference of opinion in the Legislature. The official opposition does not want to see change. They've been pretty clear on that. Minister Eby tabled his report. He was meticulous in keeping that information to himself and his officials until it was released yesterday. I received it at the same time you did, Vaughn. Cabinet received it yesterday and we haven't made a decision on where we're going to go but I'm comfortable on balance with the recommendations as I see them. I do believe that there is adequate time for the public to be made aware, either through the campaign or their own initiative, about what they want to see as an electoral system in BC. And this first question, which is the foundation, I believe, of whether we change or not, is pretty straightforward. We have something, you can keep it, or you can try something else, and if you say we want to try something else here are three options. Rate them in your priority and we'll go from there.

But cabinet will make the ultimate decision on that. The point, though, is the public is in charge of this. If the public wants change it then falls to us to fill in the blanks, as it will be characterized by the opposition, but that's not, I don't believe, a big challenge. We'll have a legislative committee, the chief electoral officer's going to be running the referendum, the chief electoral officer will be running whatever form of electoral change is coming forward. These are processes that will be dealt with by officials once the public ultimately makes their decision and I think that's as it should be.

Reporter: The report says many of these 24 things are significant and will affect how the system works. How can people know what they're voting for when 24 big deals will be decided after the fact?

Horgan: Again, the ultimate question is do you want what you have or do you want something different? And people will make that choice this fall. I reminded -- someone used this analogy and it may not work, I'm throwing it out for the first time -- in the 1960s Kennedy said do you want to go to the Moon and everyone said yeah, let's do that. And then when they were asked what type rocket would you like to use they said, I don't know what kind of rocket, that's up to you. So the choice to make the change is up to the public and then we will put together, through a whole bunch of consultative processes -- as I say, there will be a legislative committee -- Mr Wilkinson and his colleagues will have ample opportunity to put forward their ideas at that time and the chief electoral officer will work with a boundaries commission of independent individuals -- oftentimes, as you know, judges and prominent people -- and that will be a fully public process as well.

This notion that somehow we've established a framework here that will get the result we want is just not the case. It will get the result the public wants. Do you want this, that we have today, that has not produced a genuine majority but once since Confederation, or do you want to look at PR, which works effectively in other jurisdictions or could be created with a made-in-BC solution. And I suggest the made-in-BC solution and the hybrids that are in the report, Vaughn, because BC is a vast place with sparse populations in significant parts of the province. In the debate today that I was monitoring from my office, preparing for estimates this afternoon, there was a notion that some of the ridings will be as large as European countries.

Well, some of them are as large as European countries now and some of them have very small populations in very vast geographies and that's why a unique approach to PR might be the best way to go here in BC.

Reporter: The last two days the Liberals have talked about the lack of maps and the fact that people will be voting not knowing exactly what their boundaries will look like. You say your government has committed to campaigning for the yes side, people learn visually a lot of times. If you are committed to people voting for this is there no way that you could direct Elections BC to fast-track the mockup of what this could look like for voters?

Horgan: We could do that but I want to look at -- first of all, the new chief electoral officer's just been appointed. The good news is he is the deputy in the office now so he understands BC. He's just participated in an election here and he knows the challenges and diversity of BC. But, again, I'll use a local analogy. I don't know how many people come up to me and say hey, I was really happy to vote for you and I say oh, where do you live and they say I live in Colwood and I say well, you didn't vote for me because I don't represent Colwood. And so the public goes to vote on election day and they look at the names on the ballot and they select the person that they want.

They do not often worry about whether they're in riding A or riding B, they exercise their franchise by looking at the names on the ballot and making a choice. So this notion that every BCer wants to have a map before they make a decision, I think, is distorting the reality of most people's lives. What people want to know is do I have a better opportunity to have my views reflected in my Legislature with the system that we have today or with a new system? That's the question that we're posing. The map issue is one that seems to be very important to many people and we're going to do our level best to be as comprehensive with the information as possible but then that will be driven by the chief electoral officer and the pro and con campaigns.

And I'm fairly confident, based on the leader of the opposition's remarks so far, he's going to be on the con side and he's going to be using whatever tactics he can to discourage people from voting for change. I'm going to be doing my level best to encourage people to vote to have their views represented in the Legislature. Right now in our minority parliament almost 58% of the people who cast ballots are seeing their values represented in government. That has not happened but for one time since Confederation and I believe that it's time for change.

Reporter: One of the things that an all-party committee will decide afterwards, if this goes forward, is the idea of protected seats for indigenous people.

Horgan: I want to be clear, that was one of the issues that was raised, it's not one of the issues that will be up for discussion if the public chooses to change the electoral system. It's protecting rural representation and not diminishing representation outside the metropolitan areas and a host of other issues but Mr Eby was clear in his briefing to me and cabinet yesterday that the question of indigenous representation came up but was not part of the recommendations that he brought forward.

Reporter: Regarding child care, your government took a lot of heat over the rollout of the opt-in program. Looking at it at this point are you happy with how it rolled out and have you learned anything for the new subsidy program in the fall and how you roll that out?

Horgan: Very pleased with where we are after two months. Almost 85% of the seats in BC have applied to opt in. That means immediate savings for families right across BC. I'm hearing from families everywhere I go about how excited they are to have a break when it comes to their child care costs. We learned, certainly, from the rollout but I want, again, people to remember that we had a

significant change in the status quo and that often happens when governments change. People didn't vote for more of the same, they voted to make life better and to change the issues that matter to them. Child care was a very high priority for me during the campaign, it was a high priority for families, we've made some great steps so far, and we've got much more to do.

Reporter: What will the role be for your caucus as they head back into the ridings and the campaign begins for PR?

Horgan: I think every MLA will make their own choices on how they spend their summer but I know what I'm going to do. I'm going to spend time in Sooke, I'm going to spend time in Port Renfrew. Had there not been almost a complete closure of the chinook fishery in the Strait of Juan de Fuca I probably would have gone fishing with some friends. So there's a whole bunch of things that people are going to want to talk to me about, not least of which is salmon, wild salmon in BC. Where are we going, how are we going to get out of this mess where we find no access to salmon save for the sea lions at the mouths of rivers at the start and end of every season?

So those are the types of things I'm going to be talking about. MLAs are going to be hearing from their constituents about issues like housing and health care and we will be talking about PR but I believe the campaign, as it were, will be conducted in earnest this fall.

Reporter: The report about the referendum yesterday was received, I would say, fairly negatively. There was a lot of criticism about the uncertainty about the approach that your government, as they want to change the system, has chosen to take. Do you think you're making it easy for people who do want to change the system to agree with you given that a lot of people have characterized your approach as manipulative, shall we say?

Horgan: I've heard that from the opposition. I haven't heard that from people and I'm going to put my faith in the people of BC to make choices in their best interest. And I appreciate opinion shapers like those here today and politicians will have a point of view but I have every confidence that the public will look at what they've had and look at what they could have and they'll make a choice. And if it falls on the side of keeping what they've got, that's the will of the public and we'll carry on from there.

But I campaigned to give people a choice between keeping FPTP or opting for PR and I think that's abundantly clear in the question and if people choose change we're giving some options and we'll have a committee that will work on the details after the public decides to make the change.

Reporter: Do you think BCers will be talking about the issue at BBQs this summer?

Horgan: I think they'll be talking about salmon because there won't be any. They'll be talking about having to eat steak and chicken instead of beautiful wild salmon. No, they'll be talking about all the things that we always talk about. As much as the past couple of days have been about PR and reports, you all know that what's really on people's mind, gas prices, are my kids getting the best education possible, I need a hip replacement and I have to wait nine months, oh, no, it's only six months now because the new government made some changes. That's what people will be talking about.

Reporter: [inaudible] KM. You said you were not convinced that Alberta and the federal government could embrace their commitment to genuine reconciliation and the UNDRIP when they were disregarding the rights of indigenous groups along the power corridor. How do you reconcile that statement with your government's position on the Site C dam when Treaty 8 court cases against the project [inaudible]?

Horgan: The Site C decision was one that we made based on it being 25% completed and decisions and choices that were made by the previous government. We weighed the fiscal impact of proceeding or not proceeding, we weighed the impact it would have on our genuine desire to have reconciliation with indigenous peoples across BC, and we opted to certainly respect the wishes of West Moberly and other Treaty 8 nations to continue to be in the courts where they already were before we arrived, and we'll await the outcome of those rulings.

I believe that Minister Fraser and the cabinet are absolutely focused on making sure that reconciliation can and will happen during the term of this government. We are in the 26th year of a treaty process that has produced some benefits for some nations and not a lot of benefits for others. We have a whole host of issues that are facing us. Indigenous communities that want to have access to timber in their territory, but timber has now been completely removed. So we have to start fresh on how do we find reconciliation in areas where resources have already been depleted? There's a lot of work to do, and I'm going to do my level best to meet the objectives that we set out for ourselves when we were sworn in last summer.

Reporter: The Assembly of First Nations have asked that work on the Site C dam be halted until the court cases are determined. Is that something your government is considering?

Horgan: No.

Reporter: There's a report out today, I know it's an issue you held pretty close to your heart over the last little bit. So do you think we have enough protection along the coast, and have you had a chance to look at the body of the report?

Horgan: I haven't had a chance to look at the findings, but I remember very vividly being in Bella Bella when the Nathan E Stewart was still on the rocks, and the distress on the faces of people in Bella Bella, and the broader indigenous community on the central coast, that this sort of thing could happen and the response could be so tepid from first responders. The need to have adequate spill response on the central coast is clearly evident, and I haven't seen the recommendations. I haven't seen what the federal government proposes to do about this. But I do know that it was the Nathan E Stewart that inspired me to ensure that when we are expecting a seven-fold increase in tanker traffic in BC's waters, that we have every opportunity and tool at our disposal to protect and defend our coast. And the Nathan E Stewart is a symbol of that, and that was diesel. A limited amount of diesel, and it took over a month to get our head around that in terms of booming it, in terms of removing the vessel, and the impact on the clam beds, which were not a nicety, it was the bread basket of the people that live in Bella Bella, these are issues that will be around for a long, long time. And that's why it's so important that we work with the federal government to fill the gaps in the coastal protection plan, and that we make sure that their ten-year, three-coast plan has a focus that BCers can embrace, and that will benefit us in the long term.

Reporter: What are your priorities for the summer and how many Shamrocks games are you going to go to?

Horgan: The Salmon Bellies are in town on Sunday. I invite everyone to come out. We thumped Burnaby on Friday night, although it was a very good game. Almost 70 shots, which is unheard of. But I'm going to spend as much time as we can with the people in my neighbourhood. I absolutely enjoyed the past ten months as Premier. I'm going to continue to do that through the summer. I have a plan to travel to every corner of the province, but I do want to spend some time in Langford and Sooke and in Port Renfrew, talking to people, and I would really like to go catch a chinook, but I have to go in a very confined area based on the recent closure statements by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. [zpz, pjhh, hlth, sss, empr, jtst, fin, maz, abo, mjag, mcf, forr, env]

Jen Holmwood, Deputy Communications Director

Office of the Premier | Government of BC

British Columbia Parliament Buildings | 501 Belleville St, Victoria, BC V8V 2L8 | 250-818-4881

Wensink, Alison PREM:EX

From: Holmwood, Jen PREM:EX
Sent: Thursday, March 1, 2018 8:31 AM
To: Holmwood, Jen PREM:EX
Subject: day ahead overview

March 1, 2018

Happy first day of March!
Government events and activities are listed below.

Minister Ralston will announce that the BC Innovation Council's mandate will be expanded and be renamed Innovate BC. Once appointed, the new board will act as the Innovation Commission. News Release.

Minister Eby will announce final numbers from the How We Vote engagement process, and next steps on electoral reform. News Release.

BC Utilities Commission (BCUC) Decision on Rate Freeze expected.

Minister Farnworth will attend a wreath laying ceremony at Legislature with representatives from Search And Rescue volunteer organizations.

Minister Trevena is announcing a 5-year extension to the Provincial Livestock Fencing Program, with \$1 million invested every year. News Release.

Info bulletin to announce members of the Independent Review Panel of the Education Funding Model Review and the guiding principles of the review.

Flood and Fire Review Open House in 100 Mile House.

Other events of note:

The Ministry of Advanced Education is organizing a sector forum on student housing for discussion and feedback on key components of a student housing strategy.

The BC Coroners Service will announce that a public inquest will be held into the death of Deanna Renee Desjarlais.

Lemon Creek court decision.

Jonathan Bacon murder trial ends.

Interior Health announced it is moving forward with a \$970,000 upgrade to the emergency department at South Okanagan General Hospital, which will improve patient privacy, flow, and the overall quality care provided to residents in the Oliver area.

Farmer2Farmer Conference in Saanichton.

2018 Vancouver International Dance Festival begins.

**This email is confidential and intended only for the recipients. Please do not forward. The events are subject to change. **

Jen Holmwood, Deputy Communications Director

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Wensink, Alison PREM:EX

From: Holmwood, Jen PREM:EX
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 8:42 AM
To: Holmwood, Jen PREM:EX
Subject: day ahead

May 30, 2018

VICTORIA (Legislature/Hall of Honour) -- AG David Eby holds Media Avail on the report and recommendations of 2018 electoral reform referendum.

VICTORIA (Legislature/Front Lawns) -- Hold for AccessAbility Awareness Week event.

VICTORIA -- Minister Selina Robinson gives welcome remarks during luncheon at 2018 Annual Conference for the Planning Institute of B.C.

Victoria (Legislature) -- Kits for Kids.

VANCOUVER ISLAND -- Telephone Town Hall: Ministers Conroy and Chen speak to parents on government's new child care benefits/programs.

Information bulletin on new compensation for manufactured home park tenants.

Information bulletin, web post only -- School District 27 appointment announced.

Williams Lake -- Wildfire recovery and preparedness info session.

Quesnel -- Open House for shelter relocation proposal.

Other items:

Northern Health news release -- Northern Health Connections expands eligibility to improve access to health-related travel.

Fort St. James -- BC Institute of Agrologists 2018 Conference & AGM.

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Jen Holmwood, Deputy Communications Director
Office of the Premier | Government of BC
British Columbia Parliament Buildings | 501 Belleville St, Victoria, BC V8V 2L8 | 250-818-4881

OOP FOI PREM:EX

From: Aaron, Sage PREM:EX
Sent: Friday, June 22, 2018 4:02 PM
To: Brown, Evan PREM:EX
Subject: Fwd: Scan
Attachments: 2018.06.22 Issues Scan Supplement - Kamloops.docx; ATT00001.htm

Evan would you print pls

Sage
778-678-0832
Sent from my mobile device

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Hannah, Matt GCPE:EX" <Matt.Hannah@gov.bc.ca>
Date: June 22, 2018 at 3:42:42 PM PDT
To: "Aaron, Sage PREM:EX" <Sage.Aaron@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Scan

How's this?
Matt Hannah
Director of Issues Management
778.584.1249

Contents

Wildfires..... 2

 Abbott/Chapman Report..... 3

 Proportional Representation..... 4

 Speculation Tax..... 5

 Equalization 6

 Federal Ocean Protection Plan Announcement..... 7

Wildfires

Background:

- As of 7 AM on June 22, BC Wildfire Service had responded to and provided air support for a fire in Batchelor Heights area in Kamloops that was initially responded to by Kamloops Fire Department. The fire is approximately 60 hectares in size and caused the evacuation of a number of homes.
 - Evacuated people were allowed to return to their homes later in the evening on Thursday, June 21. The fire is ranked as Under Control and rank 1, which indicates a smouldering surface and no open flame.
 - As of June 21 at 9:12 PM, the suspected cause of the fire was lightning.
 - BC Wildfire Service was assisting Kamloops Fire Department with 20 personnel and 3 air tankers.
- One wildfire of note is west of Tunkwa Lake, 28 km southwest of Kamloops and 13 km northwest of Logan Lake. It is approximately 21 hectares in size.
 - As of Thursday, June 21 at 9:10 PM, there were 30 firefighters and 1 helicopter fighting this fire. It is classified as Out of Control.
- These are the only two wildfires of note for the Kamloops Fire Centre, but there are other wildfires in the area. A wildfire is considered “of note” if it is especially visible or poses a threat to public safety.
- A severe thunderstorm watch is in effect for parts of the province, including South Thompson.
- The area from Kelowna to McBride is expected to get some rainfall and is at risk for thundershowers. This could lead to flooding.

Message:

- We must all work together to prepare for, and respond to wildfires and other disasters.
- For people wondering how they can best prepare in case of an emergency, there are resources online through PreparedBC to help people develop a household plan, put together an emergency kit, and connect with neighbours.
- We are committed to working collaboratively to improve public safety and disaster preparedness for all British Columbians.

What about the fire at Batchelor Heights?

- The fire was discovered on June 21 and contained that evening.
- I’m glad the people who were evacuated were able to go back to their homes.

Abbott/Chapman Report

Background:

- Chief Maureen Chapman and former cabinet minister George Abbott publicly released their report on the 2017 flood and wildfire report on May 10, containing 108 recommendations.
- 19 of 108 recommendations are already being implemented.
- The Ministry has accepted the report and committed to releasing an action plan by Oct. 31, 2018 that will include cost estimates.

Message:

- The 2017 wildfire season was exceptional and many people worked tirelessly to mitigate the damage.
- We are committed to being better prepared, and that's why we announced \$50 million over 3 years in Budget 2018 for wildfire prevention and risk reduction around communities.
- Our government is already working to implement 19 of the 108 recommendations put forward by this report.
- The old government got the Filmon report in 2003, and made "disappointingly little progress" to enhance community safety according to Chief Chapman and Abbott.
- Our government has committed that we will do whatever it takes to ensure community safety if we experience another wildfire season like 2017.

Proportional Representation

Background:

- FairReferendum has been buying wraps for the Province and the Vancouver Sun to oppose the referendum. Sam Sullivan sits on the board of FairReferendum. The group is led by Jim Shepard from Concerned Citizens for BC, which ran attack ads against the NDP in 2013 & 2017.
- Regulations were made public Friday June 22nd. The regulations ensure Elections BC has even greater independence than in previous referenda on electoral reform.
- In previous STV referenda the AG's office was responsible for putting out information about voting systems. In this referendum Elections BC will play that role
- The question was sent to Elections BC by the Premier for review. The Chief Electoral Officer responded with small tweaks and said the question was "simple and clear."

Message:

- This is an historic opportunity to replace our old, outdated and unfair voting system with a new way of voting that works for people.
- For too long, our outdated voting system has given absolute power to the minority of voters and benefited people at the top.
- Just look at the big money that is lining up to try to derail the referendum.
- With proportional representation, people can elect a government that reflects the way people voted and where parties must work together to get things done.
- Elections BC has affirmed that the question is clear and ultimately, the people will decide.

How do you explain these systems? Some have said they're complex.

- Elections BC will be providing independent information on the voting systems to the public.
- With proportional representation, 25% of the vote will mean 25% of the seats.
- All of these options ensure strong local representation and are much better than our old, outdated voting system that gives absolute power to the minority of voters, and benefits the people at the top.

Speculation Tax

Background:

- The Speculation tax applies to the 2018 property tax year. Kamloops is not subject to the Speculation Tax.
- The vast majority of the tax paid will be by foreign or out-of-province owners (\$140 million of \$200 million), and 99% of British Columbians will not be subject to the tax.
- Former Premier Mike Harcourt spoke at an event Tuesday in Victoria with developers opposed to the Speculation Tax.
- Weaver has sent a letter to members of the public expressing opposition to the speculation tax. Legislation is anticipated in the fall and media may ask if it is a confidence vote.

Message:

- We want to ensure British Columbians can afford to live and work in their own province.
- The old government completely ignored the impacts of the housing crisis on people who could no longer find a place to live in their community.
- Now they are fighting against absolutely every measure we're taking to make housing more affordable.
- They are standing up for speculators, the top 2%, and those who have benefitted from out-of-control housing prices.
- More than 99% of British Columbians will not be subject to the speculation tax.
- But British Columbians who are sitting on 2, 3, 4 empty homes in the communities hit hardest by the housing crisis will pay - or can choose to rent out their vacant homes.

Equalization

Background:

- On June 21st the federal government announced it has renewed the existing equalization formula for five years starting in April 2019.
- The renewal was included in a budget bill that passed in the House of Commons on Thursday and the Federal government said the intention was clearly communicated to the provinces.
- Saskatchewan and Alberta had said they were looking for modifications to the program.
- Under Equalization, the federal government distributes \$19 billion in federal cash to provinces and territories with below-average fiscal capacity to ensure Canadians have access to a similar level of public services.
- *Note: the Federal government had previously been contemplating changes to the equalization formula that would have hurt BC by factoring in high real estate values.*

Message:

s.13

Federal Ocean Protection Plan Announcement

Background:

- On June 21st, the Prime Minister announced a Reconciliation Framework Agreement for bioregional oceans management and protection involving 14 First Nations along the northern BC Coast.
- The Agreement applies to the Northern Shelf bioregion which includes Haida Gwaii, the North Coast, the Central Coast and North Vancouver Island.
- It builds on the partnerships established through the Pacific North Coast Integrated Management Area Plan and seeks to establish more collaboration and coordination in governance, management and protection of oceans, including developing a network of marine protected areas.
- A copy of the agreement has not been made public.
- On June 22nd, the federal Transport Minister announced measures to support recovery of the Southern Resident Killer Whale, including limiting fishing competition, reducing underwater vessel noise, and increasing monitoring and enforcement of boating rules.

Message:

s.13

Wensink, Alison PREM:EX

From: Aaron, Sage PREM:EX
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2018 11:44 AM
To: Dewar, Bob PREM:EX; Meggs, Geoff PREM:EX
Subject: FW: Furstenau delivers petition to extend voting rights to 16 year-olds
Attachments: Furstenau delivers petition from 14 year-old constituent Simon Minkow to extend voting rights to 16 year-olds.pdf

Sage
778-678-0832

From: Oliver, Jillian [<mailto:Jillian.Oliver@leg.bc.ca>]
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2018 11:39 AM
Subject: Furstenau delivers petition to extend voting rights to 16 year-olds

B.C. GREEN CAUCUS

For immediate release
May 31, 2018

Furstenau delivers petition to extend voting rights to 16 year-olds

VICTORIA, B.C. – Sonia Furstenau, B.C. Green Party spokesperson for electoral reform and MLA for Cowichan Valley, delivered a petition to extend voting rights to 16 and 17 year-olds on behalf of her constituent Simon Minkow, a 14 year-old advocate for the issue. The B.C. Green Caucus supports making the change, with Leader Andrew Weaver having twice introduced Private Members Bills on the issue.

“It is an honour to deliver Simon’s petition to the B.C. Legislature,” said Furstenau.

“Simon’s keen engagement in our democratic process is a prime example of why this change is the right thing to do. The decisions we make today will have a major impact on young people. They are fully capable of making informed voting choices. This change would make politicians more accountable to consider their interests and make decisions that will provide them with a bright future.”

16 and 17 year-olds have been given the right to vote in countries across the world, including Scotland, Argentina, Austria and Brazil. Minkow’s petition has been signed by more than 400 students from various schools in the Cowichan Valley.

“Lowering the voting age would give youth a voice and the legal leverage we need to take issues forward,” added Minkow, who is a grade 8 student at the Quamichan Campus of Cowichan Secondary.

“A lot of youth don’t feel respected by society, but we have an important perspective to offer and should have a say in what happens to schools, for example. Allowing 16- and 17-year-olds to register to vote would be good for democracy. It’s a good age for schools and parents to educate new voters and get them engaged in issues

that matter to them. There would also be greater voter turnout because the earlier you start voting the more likely you'll be a voter for life."

-30-

Media contact

Jillian Oliver, Press Secretary
+1 778-650-0597 | jillian.oliver@leg.bc.ca

Jillian Oliver | **Press Secretary**

BC Green Caucus

Room 028 Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4
Phone: (250) 882-6187 | Fax: (250) 387-8338

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For immediate release

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Wensink, Alison PREM:EX

From: Aaron, Sage PREM:EX
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 11:02 AM
To: Meggs, Geoff PREM:EX; Dewar, Bob PREM:EX
Subject: Fwd: B.C. Green Caucus statement on Attorney General's proportional representation recommendations
Attachments: B.C. Green Caucus statement on Attorney General's proportional representation recommendations.pdf; ATT00001.htm

Sage
778-678-0832
Sent from my mobile device

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Oliver, Jillian" <Jillian.Oliver@leg.bc.ca>
Date: May 30, 2018 at 11:00:32 AM PDT
To: undisclosed-recipients;;
Subject: B.C. Green Caucus statement on Attorney General's proportional representation recommendations

B.C. GREEN CAUCUS

For immediate release
May 30, 2018

B.C. Green Caucus statement on Attorney General's proportional representation recommendations
VICTORIA, B.C. – Sonia Furstenau, B.C. Green Party spokesperson for electoral reform, responded to the Attorney General's report and recommendations on B.C.'s upcoming proportional representation referendum.

"I look forward to the Attorney General's recommendations being finalized by cabinet. It's time to get started on this important conversation about the future of our democracy," said Furstenau.

"I am pleased that the AG took advice from a wide range of voices who participated in this consultation process and that his recommendations reflect the concerns and desires of the whole province. Going forward is that voters receive good quality, factual information and a healthy, vibrant debate about their electoral process.

"The B.C. Greens support proportional representation because it leads to more democratic outcomes. Too many people feel they have to vote strategically against whichever party they don't want. Proportional representation gives voters the chance to vote for what they actually want, so they can vote out of hope, not fear.

"Proportional representation also requires parties to work together to put policy ahead of politics. Under First Past the Post in B.C., parties have received 100% of the power with as little as 39% of the vote and do not have to consult or collaborate with anyone. This leaves voters feeling like their government does not represent their interests and puts political parties into an adversarial, zero-sum situation where they become more focused on tearing each other down than working on solutions to the challenges and opportunities we all face."

-30-

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From: Aaron, Sage PREM:EX
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 10:13 AM
To: Meggs, Geoff PREM:EX; Dewar, Bob PREM:EX
Subject: Fwd: Advisory: Furstenau to respond Attorney General's proportional representation recommendations
Attachments: Advisory_ Furstenau to respond Attorney General's proportional representation recommendations.pdf; ATT00001.htm

Sage
778-678-0832
Sent from my mobile device

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Oliver, Jillian" <Jillian.Oliver@leg.bc.ca>
Date: May 30, 2018 at 10:09:12 AM PDT
To: undisclosed-recipients;;
Subject: **Advisory: Furstenau to respond Attorney General's proportional representation recommendations**

B.C. GREEN CAUCUS

For immediate release
May 30, 2018

Advisory: Furstenau to respond Attorney General's proportional representation recommendations

VICTORIA, B.C. – Sonia Furstenau, B.C. Green Party spokesperson for electoral reform, will be available to respond to the Attorney General's report and recommendations on the upcoming proportional representation recommendation.

WHO: Sonia Furstenau, B.C. Green Party spokesperson for electoral reform and MLA for Cowichan Valley

WHEN: 11:00am on Wednesday, May 30, 2018

WHERE: Rose Garden, B.C. Legislature, Victoria

Unfortunately due to technical issues with our dial-in system, we will not be able to provide a dial-in. Ms. Furstenau will be available for one-on-one phone interviews following the availability.

-30-

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May 30, 2018

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OOP FOI PREM:EX

From: Aaron, Sage PREM:EX
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2018 1:10 PM
To: McGregor, Cara GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: FOR REVIEW - Comm Products scheduled for Wednesday

One more day's distance. May 31 is good.

Sage
778-678-0832

From: McGregor, Cara GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2018 1:09 PM
To: Aaron, Sage PREM:EX
Subject: FW: FOR REVIEW - Comm Products scheduled for Wednesday

Hi Sage – is PSSG OK to go tomorrow with flood recognition, or should we wait a bit longer?

From: Stagg, Linda R GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2018 1:08 PM
To: GCPE Comm Directors; GCPE Comm Managers; McGregor, Cara GCPE:EX; Jones, JJ GCPE:EX; Croft, Robyn J GCPE:EX; Kristianson, Eric GCPE:EX; Hannah, Matt GCPE:EX; Lowe, Mike GCPE:EX; Gibbs, Robb GCPE:EX; Zaharia, Sarah GCPE:EX; LeGuilloux, Marg GCPE:EX; Zadravec, Don GCPE:EX; Sherlock, Stephanie GCPE:EX; Tounsi, Marielle GCPE:EX; GCPE Writing & Editorial Services; GCPE Editors; Cox, Michael GCPE:EX; Copeland, Kimberly GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: FOR REVIEW - Comm Products scheduled for Wednesday

If you are unable to have your scheduled items for the ***Wednesday morning to the editors by 3 p.m.*** today, please notify the **Calendar and Writing and Editorial teams**, so you can be assigned another release time.

This confidential list is for planning purposes, and is neither complete nor final.

COMMUNICATIONS PRODUCTS – PLANNED FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 30, 2018

TIME	CORP CAL #	MIN	ITEM	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
Time TBD	88069	EDUC	IB	Web-post: School District 27 appointment	RECEIPT PENDING
8:00 AM	88088	PSSG/EMBC	STMT	provincewide -- As flooding eases, time to give thanks	IN SYSTEM
9:15 AM	87116	AG	NR	provincewide -- report and recommendations - 2018 electoral reform referendum	IN SYSTEM
9:40 AM		LT GOV	MA	garden party to celebrate the 65th anniversary of the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II	IN SYSTEM

12:15 PM	87482	SDPR	NR	Victoria event: Hold for AccessAbility Awareness Week event	RECEIPT PENDING
1:00 PM	88080	MAH	IB	provincewide – Hold for MAH	RECEIPT PENDING



Linda Stagg

Editor

Government Communications and Public Engagement

Government of British Columbia

250 387-4534 | Mobile: 250 882-8673

linda.stagg@gov.bc.ca

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OOP FOI PREM:EX

From: Dewar, Bob PREM:EX
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2018 9:37 PM
To: Aaron, Sage PREM:EX
Subject: Re: Next steps in campaigning for electoral reform

We do have a cabinet person agreed upon but she hasn't been approached or briefed. Bob has got the messaging so I would go with him. Just realized the time sorry I didn't back to you earlier.

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 5, 2018, at 2:24 PM, Aaron, Sage PREM:EX <Sage.Aaron@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Do we send him to D'Eith? Or have we picked a cabinet spokesperson?

Sage

778-678-0832

From: Bailey, Ian [<mailto:IBailey@globeandmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2018 12:07 PM
To: Holmwood, Jen PREM:EX
Cc: Aaron, Sage PREM:EX
Subject: Next steps in campaigning for electoral reform

Hi there,

Wondering who I might reach out to for comment on how the government will be making the case for electoral reform in the looming referendum. Andrew Wilkinson's election as BC Liberal leader deploys a major player in the debate. He has made it clear that he opposes reform.

I am writing on this for tomorrow.

Regards

Ian Bailey

Ian Bailey | Reporter B.C. Bureau
p: 604-631-6652 | f: 604-684-7956 | e: ibailey@globeandmail.com
[@ianabailey](https://www.instagram.com/ianabailey)