CABINET MINUTES

October 1, 2003 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Mem	ners	Present.

Honourable Gordon Campbell	(PREM)
Honourable George Abbott	(CA&WS)
Honourable Bill Barisoff	(PR)
Honourable Shirley Bond	(AE)
Honourable Graham Bruce	(SD&L)
Honourable Gulzar Cheema	(MoSMH)
Honourable Murray Coell	(HR)
Honourable Gary Collins	(FCR)
Honourable Mike de Jong	(MOF)
Honourable Kevin Falcon	(MoSD)
Honourable Christy Clark	(MOE)
Honourable Greg Halsey-Brandt	(MoSIGR)
Honourable Colin Hansen	(HS)
Honourable Sindi Hawkins	(HP)
Honourable Gordon Hogg	(CFD)
Honourable Joyce Murray	(WL&AP)
Honourable Ted Nebbeling	(MoSCC)
Honourable Judith Reid	(MOT)
Honourable Linda Reid	(MoSECD)
Honourable Sandy Santori	(MS)
Honourable Lynn Stephens	(MoSWE)
Honourable Rick Thorpe	(CSE)
Honourable John van Dongen	(AFF)
Honourable Katherine Whittred	(MoSIL&HC)
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Members Absent:

Honourable Christy Clark	(MOE)
Honourable Rich Coleman	(PS&SG)
Honourable Stan Hagen	(SRM)
Honourable Richard Neufeld	(EM)
Honourable Geoff Plant	(AG)

A. <u>CABINET MINUTES:</u>

1. Minutes of Meeting: September 17, 2003

Approved.

B. <u>COMMITTEE REPORTS:</u>

GCC: Natural Resources - September 9, 2003

The Chair reported the Committee's review for information of the updated Streamside Protection Regulation. The Committee reviewed and approved the following legislation for the Ministry of Energy and Mines: Heritage Contract Act, BC Hydro Privatization Repeal Act, and the Columbia Basin Trust Act. Their s.14

s.14 The Committee also recommended that the timing of the *Wildfire Act* be discussed with the House Leader.

The Committee also received a briefing on the *Flood Hazard Statutes Amendment Act* which will be debated in the Fall Session.

GCC: Natural Resources - September 24, 2003

The Chair reported the Committee's support for the proposed *Private Managed Forest Land Act* conditional on notice being given in advance to landowners with holdings in the 'Managed Forest' class and 's.14 s.14

The Committee also supported amendments to the Assessment Act and the Land Titles Act.

s.14

Cabinet suggested that the proposed *Wildfire Act* be tabled with the independent Commissioner who is investigating the recent interface fires, for review and recommendations before it is debated in the House.

Cabinet Committee on Economy and the Environment - September 9, 2003

The Chair reported on the follow-up done by staff and Ministers to the "Forest Ethic's Endangered Forest Report". It was noted that industry has requested government to respond to this group.

A brief report for information was provided on the "Conservation Investments and Incentive Initiative" where foundations and ENGOs have offered to partner with the provincial and federal governments to help fund economic development and diversification in coastal communities and with coastal First Nations. The "quid pro quo" would be a higher level of land protection in the three ongoing land use planning processes. A detailed submission will come to the Committee within 6-8 weeks.

The Committee also received an update for information on the management of contaminated Crown land and liability considerations.

Cabinet Committee on Economy and the Environment - September 23, 2003

The Chair reported the Committee's review of the amendments to the Protected Areas of BC. The Committee recommended the amendments proceed on the basis that all government MLAs will be notified where their constituencies include lands that will be affected by these amendments. It was noted that the caucus committee headed by Bill Belsey should provide direct connection between MLAs and land use plans that must make sense at the community level.

The Committee also reviewed the *Park Act* amendments and approved the proposals for lodge and tourism development, and for directional drilling to proceed. Approval in principle was given to the proposals for management and partnership agreements and the new category of land but it was recommended that these proposals not proceed in the Fall session.

GCC: Economy & Government Operations - September 10, 2003

The Chair reported the Committee's support for the amendments to the BC Railway Act, and made recommendations on the amendments. \$.14 s.14

The Committee also reviewed and approved amendments on the Railway Act, the Motor Vehicle Act, and the PNE Enabling and Validating Act.

C. ORDERS IN COUNCIL:

3. Appointments/Regulations

Cabinet reviewed and approved the attached list of Orders in Council and Proclamations.

D. <u>ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/DECISION</u>

4. For Information: Legislative Update

The House Leader noted that some Ministries were lagging in getting the necessary work done that would enable Ministries to introduce legislation this Fall.

5. For Decision: BC Rail Issues

Cabinet reviewed the recommendations of the Evaluation Committee against the objectives set for restructuring, and the criteria given for second round proposals.

Cabinet then considered the value of the proposals to date.

Cabinet agreed in principle that the Minister of Transportation should pursue negotiations toward a partnership agreement with CN acknowledged as the lead proponent of 3 strong proposals. Negotiations should aim at clarity in performance on growth opportunities for freight and for the Prince Rupert terminal, and at where value can be driven without encumbering business efficiency. An advance ruling on tax pool as value should be considered.

The Minister of Transportation will make recommendations to the Premier on an optimum timetable for proposed legislative amendments necessary to enable the partnership and for announcements.

A communications strategy that will outline the economic benefit of the partnership to the province and the positive elements of the successful partner will be required.

[Honourable Colin Hansen, Minister of Health Services, declared a conflict and withdrew from the meeting without participating in the consideration of the BC Rail Issues.]

For Decision: Digital Divide

Cabinet reviewed the submission "Closing the Digital Divide" which requested approval for aggregation of demand where feasible, for broader public sector telecommunications services to achieve savings and deliver benefits to the province. It suggested a short term and a longer term strategy that will require Treasury Board approval for the reallocation of savings achieved from ministry budgets to be reinvested in the acceleration of the closure of the digital divide.

Cabinet approved aggregating strategic purchasing approaches across the broader public service, and leveraging partnerships with the federal government and with First Nations. Cabinet also approved a 12-month tactical plan for re-negotiating and extending existing contracts with current suppliers to provide 60-80 new communities with broadband access.

Cabinet's approval of a 36-month strategy to design, procure and transition to the next generation provincial network which will connect the remaining communities is conditional on obtaining Treasury Board approval of the plan which would re-allocate savings obtained from re-tendering and aggregation of services over the longer term, from ministry budgets to be applied to accelerating closure of the digital divide.

7. For Decision: Treasury Board Minutes: September 22, 2003

Cabinet approved the Treasury Board decisions of their meeting of September 22, 2003 on the following:

Item 1: Western Economic Partnership Agreement. Cabinet added that to the extent which it is feasible and proper, the jointly funded projects should be split between the Heartlands and urban British Columbia, consistent with a strategic table that was attached to the submission.

Item 2: Oil and Gas Initiative II;

Item 3: MSER- Alternative Service Delivery- Payroll Operations and Information Management; and

Item 4: Abbotsford Hospital and Cancer Centre.

8. For Information: Health Issues Update

The Minister of Health Services presented an update on the roll-out of lab reform.

E. REPORTS:

Intergovernmental Relations Status Report

The Intergovernmental Relations Status Report was received.

Other

a) BC/Alberta meeting of the Premiers and of Ministers

A quick overview was provided of the joint BC/Alberta meeting of the Premiers and of Ministers on October 7 and 8, 2003.

Deputy Cabinet Secretary

CABINET MINUTES

October 22, 2003 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

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Honourable Christy Clark	(A/Chair)
Honourable Gary Collins	(FCR)
Honourable George Abbott	(CA&WS)
Honourable Bill Barisoff	(PR)
Honourable Shirley Bond	(AE)
Honourable Graham Bruce	(SD&L)
Honourable Rich Coleman	(PS&SG)
Honourable Kevin Falcon	(MoSD)
Honourable Stan Hagen	(SRM/AFF)
Honourable Greg Halsey-Brandt	(MoSIGR)
Honourable Colin Hansen	(HS)
Honourable Sindi Hawkins	(HP)
Honourable Gordon Hogg	(CFD)
Honourable Joyce Murray	(WL&AP)
Honourable Ted Nebbeling	(MoSCC)
Honourable Richard Neufeld	(EM)
Honourable Geoff Plant	(AG)
Honourable Judith Reid	(MOT)
Honourable Linda Reid	(MoSECD)
Honourable Sandy Santori	(MS)
Honourable Lynn Stephens	(MoSWE)
Honourable John van Dongen	(AFF)
Honourable Katherine Whittred	(MoSIL&HC)

Members Absent:

Honourable Gordon Campbell
Honourable Gulzar Cheema
(MoSMH) (after 9 am)
Honourable Murray Coell
Honourable Mike de Jong
Honourable Rick Thorpe
(CSE)

A. <u>CABINET MINUTES:</u>

1. Minutes of Meeting: October 1

Approved.

B. <u>COMMITTEE REPORTS:</u>

2.

GCC: Communities and Safety - July 21

The Committee reviewed and supported the following legislation:

• Residential Tenancy Act and Manufactured Home Park Act amendments.

The Committee reviewed a submission titled "Residential Developers Access to Purchasers' Deposits if Insured", dated May 23, 2003. It proposed amendments to the Real Estate Act and the Insurance Act to allow residential developers access to purchasers' deposit funds, if they adequately insured the deposits to protect the purchasers.

The Committee supported the proposals.

The Committee reviewed a status report on the "BC Community Financial Services Corporation". The GCC supported the recommended option to close Four Corners Bank, pending one final offer to the City of Vancouver to take over the bank. If the offer is unsuccessful, operations would wind down by the end of October, 2003.

The issue of timing should be discussed with the Minister of Competition, Science and Enterprise.

Communities and Safety - September 11

The Chair noted that the Committee's review of the *Police Amendment Act* amendments had been superceded by decisions made and announced at UBCM this year.

Communities and Safety - October 7

The Committee reviewed and supported the following legislative proposals:

- · Election Act amendments; and
- Police Act amendments to correct the provisions for the Police Complaints Commissioner.

Cabinet noted that more discussion of the *Election Act* amendments was warranted.

The Committee reviewed a civil liability reform package consisting of submissions "Limitation Act" and Reform of three areas of law arising out of the Civil Liability Review, Joint and Several Liability, Apologies, and s.39 of the Class Proceedings Act."

The Committee acknowledged that there was general support for the initiative but still some sensitive consumer protection issues to be decided.

The Attorney general will hold a session for all interested caucus members before this is finalized at Cabinet.

GCC on Economy and Government Operations - September 3

The Committee reviewed the following fees:

- 1) Securities Dealer Registration Fees (CSE)
 Of 6 proposed fees, the GCC approved five. The GCC was not convinced that the proposal to extend the scope of the current \$50/yr registration fee to cover all branch offices met the criteria of competitiveness, cost justification, or enhanced service.
- 2) Land and Water BC Crown Land Rentals (SRM)

 The Committee reviewed that 14 fees remain at current rates and one fee be eliminated. The Committee did not think the fee proposals reflected the criteria of appropriateness, enhanced service, and cost justification and asked the Ministry to return with a revised proposal. The Committee also recommended that rates based on assessment remain at the same rates until the revised proposal is approved.

Cabinet made the distinction between fees vs. rental rates. Cabinet supported the Ministry's proposal and encouraged the continuation of charging more for particular uses where the land use was considered more valuable.

[Honourable Judith Reid, Minister of Transportation, declared a possible conflict of interest and did not participate in the consideration of the matter.]

GCC on Economy and Government Operations - September 15

The Committee reviewed the following fees:

Miscellaneous Parks Fees (WLAP)
 fees were proposed for introduction or for increase in park user fees.

The GCC did not support the proposals on the basis that the criteria of competitiveness, service enhancements, cost justification, and simplicity were not met.

The Minister discussed the fees in terms of consistency with the principles of user pay and addressed the criteria of the GCC, as well as the consequences of withdrawing services that could not be maintained without a fee increase.

Cabinet approved the new park user fees and day fees subject to local MLA approval being received, and approved the Tatshenshini rafting fees for the season starting 2004, and the new tour bus parking fees to begin in the 2005, consistent with the agreement reached with the tour operators.

The Committee approved the following legislative amendments:

- 1) Motor Dealer Act (CSE) as long as the Consumer Transaction Act is on track for 2004
- 2) Financial Institutions Act/Credit Union Incorporation Act (FIN)
- 3) Strata Property Act (FIN)
- 4) Personal Property Security Act/ Miscellaneous Registrations Act (FIN)
- 5) Coastal Ferry Act (FIN)
- 6) Unclaimed Property Act (FIN)

GCC on Economy and Government Operations - October 6 (a.m.)

The Committee reviewed a submission titled "Cost Recovery Fee for Strategic Occupations Category of the BC Provincial Nominee Program", dated September 30, 2003.

A cost recovery fee of \$500 per applicant was approved so that skilled workers could receive expeditious processing to arrive in BC as quickly as possible.

The Committee reviewed and approved a fee increase of \$12.50 for admission to Barkerville Historic Town, as part of moving toward cost recovery for the operation of the site.

The Committee reviewed a "Report Back on Fees Consultation" (WLAP) which was the result of Cabinet's direction that the Ministry consult stakeholders on Waste Permit fees, Pesticide Act fees, Special Waste fees, and that the Ministry consult with Guide Outfitters. The Ministry has used and received approval for an improved service Innovation Model.

The Committee accepted the Report Back as completion of Cabinet's direction to consult on proposed fees before implementing them.

GCC on Economy and Government Operations - October 6 (p.m.)

The Committee reviewed and approved the following legislative amendments from the Ministry of Finance:

- 1) Insurance (Motor Vehicle) Act amendments;
- 2) Financial Institutions Act, and the Credit Union Incorporation Act amendments; and
- 3) new Real Estate Act.

GCC on Natural Resources - October 7

The Committee reviewed and approved the following legislative amendments from the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management:

- 1) Assessment Act amendments;
- 2) repeal of Commission on Resources and Environment Act;
- 3) repeal of Kootenay Canal Land Acquisition Act;
- 4) repeal of obsolete sections of Okanagan River Boundaries Settlement Act;
- 5) Agricultural Land Commission Act amendments to allow First Nations to apply to the Commission and provide the Commissioner with greater flexibility to appoint special panels;
- 6) Land Act amendments to provide authority for modern methods of land disposition, including using multiple listing services and not having to advertise publicly when a leaseholder applies to purchase the same land; and
- 7) Land Title Act amendments.

The Minister responsible advised Cabinet that an amendment had been withdrawn to provide the Minister with greater authority to lease large parcels of land for conservation purposes.

GCC: Education - September 15

The Committee reviewed and approved amendments to the Accountants (Chartered) Act (AE).

GCC: Education - October 20

The Committee reviewed and approved minor legislative amendments to the following:

- Workers Compensation Act (SDL) minor amendments affect provisions covering the Chief Review Officer, Fishing Industry Appeals and Health Professional Assistance;
- 2) Trinity Western University Act (AE) amendments; and
- 3) Engineers and Geoscientists Act (AE) amendments.

C. ORDERS IN COUNCIL:

3. Appointments/Regulations

Cabinet reviewed and approved the attached list of Orders in Council with the following clarification:

s.14

D. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/DECISION

4. GCC on Communities and Safety - July 21 Excerpt (Consumer Protection)

The Committee reviewed a submission titled "Consumer Protection Authority", dated July 14, 2003 which proposed an arms-length assumption of delegated administrative authority for consumer protection functions. The Committee supported the proposed direction to establish a Consumer Protection Authority and to consolidate consumer protection services within the Authority.

Treasury Board Minutes of October 16 Excerpt (Consumer Protection)

Cabinet approved the Treasury Board decision of October 16, 2003 on the following: Item 1: Consumer Protection Authority-Business Case.

For Decision: Consumer Protection Authority

Cabinet received a presentation on this initiative which is part of an Alternative Service Delivery initiative to assume functions currently performed for regulated and non-regulated industries by the Consumer Services Division. After the creation of the agency, the next step will be to obtain industry buy-in and to move fees toward full cost recovery.

Cabinet directed that the Consumer Protection Authority be established, and that the consolidation of other consumer protection functions be pursued, including that of the regulation of telemarketers.

For Information: Legislative Update

The House Leader noted that finalization of legislation is proceeding slowly for the Spring Session 2004 and encouraged Ministers to keep up with the time demands and deadlines to accomplish this.

6. For Information: Institute of Indigenous Government (IIG)

Cabinet received some information about necessary changes to the Institute of Indigenous Government. The timing of releasing this information was delegated to the Premier, the Minister of Advanced Education, and the Attorney General.

7. For Decision: Treasury Board Minutes: September 29

Cabinet approved the Treasury Board decisions of their meeting of September 29, 2003 on the following:

Item 3: BC Timber Sales Net Revenue Target; and

Item 4: Legacy Project Business Case Funding.

8. For Information: First People's Forum - October 31

Cabinet received a briefing for information.

9. Question Period Preparation

10. For Information: Health Issues Update

Cabinet was briefed on the issues surrounding the financial difficulties of St. Mary's Hospital and the contingency plans that Fraser Health Authority have been asked to put in place.

11. For Information: Aboriginal/Legal Decisions Update

s.14

E. REPORTS:

12. <u>Intergovernmental Relations Status Report</u>

The Intergovernmental Relations Status Report was received.

All Ministers were reminded to notify the Minister of State for Intergovernmental Relations prior to attending a federal/provincial conference and asked to have Deputy Ministers send a summary of the meeting to IGR.

13. Deregulation Progress Status Report

The report was received.

14. Other

a) For Decision: New Real Estate Act (FIN)

Cabinet reviewed a submission titled "New Real Estate Act to Replace Existing Real Estate Legislation", dated August 1, 2003.

It streamlines the process for developers' marketing activities, and creates a self-regulating organization to regulate the participants in the sale of real estate - reducing current regulatory requirements imposed on the real estate sector. The Minister responsible discussed the principle of consumer protection as being paramount to the resolution of the issue of whether lawyers' staff engaged in real estate sales would be exempted from the licensing requirement.

Cabinet approved the policy direction and directed that new legislation be developed.

b) For Information: Burns Bog

s.14

Joy Illington

Deputy Cabinet Secretary

CABINET MINUTES

October 29, 2003 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Members Present:

Honourable Gordon Campbell Honourable George Abbott Honourable Bill Barisoff	(PREM) (CA&WS) (PR)
Honourable Shirley Bond	(AE)
Honourable Graham Bruce	(SD&L)
Honourable Gulzar Cheema	(MoSMH)
Honourable Christy Clark	(MOE)
Honourable Murray Coell	(HR)
Honourable Rich Coleman	(PS&SG)
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Honourable Gordon Hogg	(CFD)
Honourable Joyce Murray	(WL&AP)
Honourable Ted Nebbeling	(MoSCC)
Honourable Richard Neufeld	(EM)
Honourable Geoff Plant	(AG)
Honourable Judith Reid	(MOT)
Honourable Linda Reid	(MoSECD)
Honourable Sandy Santori	(MS)
Honourable Lynn Stephens	(MoSWE)
Honourable Rick Thorpe	(CSE)
Honourable John van Dongen	(AFF)
Honourable Katherine Whittred	(MoSIL&HC)

A. <u>CABINET MINUTES:</u>

1. Minutes of Meeting: October 22, 2003

Approved, with one correction to the front of the Minutes - Honourable Christy Clark was Acting Chair.

B. ORDERS IN COUNCIL:

2. Appointments/Regulations

Cabinet reviewed and approved the attached list of Orders in Council and Proclamations with one amendment:

 Appointments to the Labour Relations Board were deferred until the next meeting.

Cabinet suggested amendments to the proposed Liquor Control and Licensing regulation OICs. The Minister responsible understood the intent of the suggestions and will look into these amendments.

[Honourable Gulzar Cheema, Minister of State - Mental Health, declared a conflict and withdrew from the meeting without participating in the OIC passed pursuant to the *Medical Practitioners Act*.]

C. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/DECISION

For Update: Forest Revitalization Implementation

Cabinet reviewed the presentation on the Forest Revitalization Plan and the timetable of on-going implementation.

Cabinet directed that two changes be considered to the proposed plan:

- 1. that the reallocation process be concluded, with all Ministers Orders issued by December/04;
- 2. that the legislation for the *Forest Revitalization Act* be ready for introduction in January /04.

The Ministry was requested to try to finalize scenarios of significantly accelerated harvests of beetle killed and burned wood in time for meetings in Quesnel in November.

Four OICs were approved that bring into force provisions of the *Forest Revitalization Amendment Act* and *Forest Revitalization Amendment Act* (No. 2) that received Royal Assent on May 29, 2003. One of the OICs does not come into effect until March 31, 2004.

For Update: BC Rail

Cabinet reviewed an update on the points of negotiation toward a partnership agreement that reflected the elements of maximum monetary return for the tax payer, service investment and efficiency, and employment and community benefits. Timing for the enabling legislation was discussed.

5. For Information: Oil and Gas Initiative II

Cabinet received a presentation on Oil and Gas Development Strategy for the Heartlands Phase II, for information.

Joint GCC: Economy & Government Operation and GCC: Natural Resources- October 9
 For Decision: Climate Change

This item was deferred to the next Cabinet meeting.

7. Cabinet Committee on Economy and the Environment-October 7

For Decision: Fast Track

Cabinet reviewed the Minutes of the Committee which supported the following submission: "A New Fast Track Program to Accelerate and Increase Capital Investment and Job Creation." The Fast Track protocol sets out the cross-Ministry initiative to aggressively reduce the time required to issue the necessary Provincial permits.

Cabinet requested that all steps be taken to eliminate any unnecessary steps - including a proposed ADM's Committee if it isn't adding value and is adding time to the process.

Cabinet approved the Program and Protocol to be presented to Caucus on November 4 and for implementation thereafter.

For Information: Legislative Update

The House Leader outlined his expectations for legislation to the end of the Fall Session.

9. For Decision: Treasury Board Minutes:

Cabinet approved the Treasury Board decision of their meeting of October 21, 2003 on the following:

Item 3: Digital Divide Project

Cabinet approved the Treasury Board decision of their meeting of October 28, 2003 on the following:

Item 1: National Culled Animal Market Transition Program

Access to Contingencies in 2003/04 for up to \$ 7.3 M was approved on the basis that

MAFF is to manage its budget to minimize the contingencies draw if possible.

10. Question Period Preparation

11. For Decision: Open Cabinet Agenda - November 14

Cabinet reviewed and amended the proposed agenda.

Cabinet expressly waived confidentiality for the specific topics to be discussed at the November 14 meeting only.

Cabinet authorized the release of documents to the public that will be utilized at the Open Cabinet meeting, subject to any legal requirements. This waiver of confidentiality is specific to this meeting and to those supporting documents utilized at the meeting only.

12. For Information: Health Issues Update

Cabinet discussed the possible closure of St. Mary's Hospital. The views of the local MLAs were requested and considered. Cabinet delegated the final decision to the Health Services Minister and to the Premier.

13. For Information: Aboriginal/Legal Decisions Update

This matter was not dealt with.

D. REPORTS:

14. <u>Intergovernmental Relations Status Report</u>

The Intergovernmental Relations Status Report was received, along with the Minutes of the BC/Alberta Joint Premiers and Ministers meeting.

15. Other:

(a) Cabinet Committee on Economy and the Environment Meeting-October 20 (Item 3) The Chair reviewed Item 3 which was the proposal to allocate Crown Royalty volumes of crude oil to Husky Refinery in Prince George. The Committee recommended that the proposed allocation not be approved, consistent with the Cabinet submission's recommendations.

Cabinet agreed.

(b) The Premier asked all Ministers to provide their top achievement lists to Tom Syer by November 14th.

Deputy Cabinet Secretary