

## OOP FOI PREM:EX

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**From:** Hockin, Amber PREM:EX  
**Sent:** June 10, 2019 1:25 PM  
**To:** Wade, Debbie PREM:EX  
**Subject:** FW: Flagging: Odd Post

Amber Hockin  
Deputy Chief of Staff  
West Annex, Office of the Premier  
Cell#s.17

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**From:** Russell, Shannon CITZ:EX  
**Sent:** April 11, 2019 7:42 AM  
**To:** Hockin, Amber PREM:EX  
**Subject:** Flagging: Odd Post

Sharing with you as this was in the TNO clips today. I've flagged for MJS and Roseanne.

Shannon Russell  
*Senior Ministerial Assistant to Jinny Sims*  
*Minister of Citizens' Services*  
[Shannon.Russell@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Shannon.Russell@gov.bc.ca) / 250-387-9699

s.22

## Shortt, Amanda PREM:EX

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**From:** Meggs, Geoff PREM:EX  
**Sent:** March 7, 2019 3:19 PM  
**To:** Hockin, Amber PREM:EX  
**Subject:** Fwd: E-mail complaint from Kate Gillie

FYI

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Meggs, Geoff PREM:EX" <[Geoff.Meggs@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Geoff.Meggs@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Date:** March 7, 2019 at 2:13:59 PM PST  
**To:** "Wright, Don J. PREM:EX" <[Don.J.Wright@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Don.J.Wright@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Cc:** "MacLennan, Alex PREM:EX" <[Alex.MacLennan@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Alex.MacLennan@gov.bc.ca)>, "Kennedy, Christine PREM:EX" <[Christine.Kennedy@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Christine.Kennedy@gov.bc.ca)>, "Moran, Roseanne LASS:EX" <[Roseanne.Moran@leg.bc.ca](mailto:Roseanne.Moran@leg.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** E-mail complaint from Kate Gillie

Dear Don,

I am writing with regard to the e-mail sent to Alex MacLennan on March 4 by Kate Gillie. After reviewing the e-mail, I have followed up with Roseanne Moran, executive director of the NDP caucus, and Jinny Sims, Minister of Citizens' Services.  
s.22

Sincerely,

Geoff

**GEOFF MEGGS**

Chief of Staff, Premier's Office  
West Annex, Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC, V8V 1K7  
250 387-1715

## Shortt, Amanda PREM:EX

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**From:** MacLennan, Alex PREM:EX  
**Sent:** March 7, 2019 4:32 PM  
**To:** Meggs, Geoff PREM:EX; Wright, Don J. PREM:EX  
**Cc:** Kennedy, Christine PREM:EX; Moran, Roseanne LASS:EX  
**Subject:** Re: E-mail complaint from Kate Gillie

Thank you

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

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

**From:** "Meggs, Geoff PREM:EX" <Geoff.Meggs@gov.bc.ca>  
**Date:** 2019-03-07 4:28 PM (GMT-08:00)  
**To:** "Wright, Don J. PREM:EX" <Don.J.Wright@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** "MacLennan, Alex PREM:EX" <Alex.MacLennan@gov.bc.ca>, "Kennedy, Christine PREM:EX" <Christine.Kennedy@gov.bc.ca>, "Moran, Roseanne LASS:EX" <Roseanne.Moran@leg.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: E-mail complaint from Kate Gillie

Alex, I have reviewed the new e-mail and have nothing to add. Just acknowledging receipt.

Geoff

### GEOFF MEGGS

Chief of Staff, Premier's Office  
West Annex, Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC, V8V 1K7  
250 387-1715

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**From:** Meggs, Geoff PREM:EX  
**Sent:** March 7, 2019 2:14 PM  
**To:** Wright, Don J. PREM:EX <Don.J.Wright@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** MacLennan, Alex PREM:EX <Alex.MacLennan@gov.bc.ca>; Kennedy, Christine PREM:EX <Christine.Kennedy@gov.bc.ca>; Moran, Roseanne LASS:EX <Roseanne.Moran@leg.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** E-mail complaint from Kate Gillie

Dear Don,

I am writing with regard to the e-mail sent to Alex MacLennan on March 4 by Kate Gillie. After reviewing the e-mail, I have followed up with Roseanne Moran, executive director of the NDP caucus, and Jinny Sims, Minister of Citizens' Services.

s.22

Sincerely,

Geoff

**GEOFF MEGGS**

Chief of Staff, Premier's Office  
West Annex, Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC, V8V 1K7  
250 387-1715



## Shortt, Amanda PREM:EX

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**From:** Moran, Roseanne <Roseanne.Moran@leg.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** March 7, 2019 5:36 PM  
**To:** Meggs, Geoff PREM:EX  
**Subject:** RE: E-mail complaint from Kate Gillie

Okay. Got that too. Nothing new in it. R.

---

**From:** Meggs, Geoff PREM:EX [mailto:Geoff.Meggs@gov.bc.ca]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 7, 2019 5:33 PM  
**To:** Moran, Roseanne <Roseanne.Moran@leg.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** Re: E-mail complaint from Kate Gillie

Yes, but one line - s.22

Geoff

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 7, 2019, at 4:39 PM, Moran, Roseanne <[Roseanne.Moran@leg.bc.ca](mailto:Roseanne.Moran@leg.bc.ca)> wrote:

Hi Geoff. Was there another email?

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**From:** Meggs, Geoff PREM:EX [mailto:Geoff.Meggs@gov.bc.ca]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 7, 2019 4:29 PM  
**To:** Wright, Don J PREM:EX <[Don.J.Wright@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Don.J.Wright@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Cc:** MacLennan, Alex PREM:EX <[Alex.MacLennan@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Alex.MacLennan@gov.bc.ca)>; Kennedy, Christine PREM:EX <[Christine.Kennedy@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Christine.Kennedy@gov.bc.ca)>; Moran, Roseanne <[Roseanne.Moran@leg.bc.ca](mailto:Roseanne.Moran@leg.bc.ca)>  
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Alex, I have reviewed the new e-mail and have nothing to add. Just acknowledging receipt.

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250 387-1715

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**To:** Wright, Don J. PREM:EX <[Don.J.Wright@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Don.J.Wright@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Cc:** MacLennan, Alex PREM:EX <[Alex.MacLennan@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Alex.MacLennan@gov.bc.ca)>; Kennedy, Christine PREM:EX <[Christine.Kennedy@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Christine.Kennedy@gov.bc.ca)>; Moran, Roseanne LASS:EX <[Roseanne.Moran@leg.bc.ca](mailto:Roseanne.Moran@leg.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** E-mail complaint from Kate Gillie

Dear Don,

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s.22

Sincerely,

Geoff

**GEOFF MEGGS**

Chief of Staff, Premier's Office  
West Annex, Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC, V8V 1K7  
250 387-1715

## Smith, George PREM:EX

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**From:** Hooper, Tyler GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** May 15, 2019 6:52 AM  
**Subject:** Morning Media Report, Wednesday May 15th

### Morning Media Report, Wednesday May 15<sup>th</sup>

#### Top Stories:

- Sims denies endorsing for money
- B.C. information minister accused of secret MLA office dealings
- B.C. cabinet minister under fire for penning visa references for foreign nationals on watch list
- NDP's Sims Again Accused of Dodging of FOI Rules
- Money-laundering inquiry needs clear terms: expert
- B.C. considers public inquiry into money laundering
- The pros and cons of a public inquiry into B.C. money laundering
- Vancouver gas prices eclipse all other markets: NEB
- Province mulls extending SkyTrain to North Shore
- B.C. government looking at North Shore to Vancouver rapid transit line
- Province looking at rapid transit to connect Vancouver and North Shore
- Blaze near Osoyoos burning out of control
- B.C. Hydro powering up for more electric vehicle charging demand
- Growing Osoyoos-area wildfire puts more properties under evacuation alert
- Class size, composition making for 'rougher than expected' teachers' contract negotiations: advocate
- Global BC Morning News: James - BCTF contract talks

#### Other Stories of Note:

- Richmond Hospital leads way as birth tourism rises
- City council unanimously supports 30km/h speed-limit pilot project
- Ministry of Environment office in Kamloops inundated with dead animals
- 80 fall ill in norovirus outbreak at Richmond hotel

#### Opinion:

- Green Party win not likely the start of a wave
- B.C. LNG will help countries cut emissions
- Liberals Accuse NDP of covering up for Sims
- Is B.C. really ready for the big one?
- How bad is our money-laundering problem?
- B.C. minister breached rules, says fired worker
- LNG creates opportunities for B.C. First Nations
- We must stop investors from suing governments over environmental rules

**Top Stories in Chinese Media:** No Top Stories in Chinese Media today.

#### Top Stories in South Asian Media:

- International student issue: an international student from Ontario is set to be deported for working too many hours. Mr Thind took calls from people , many of whom were of the opinion that if these students are hardworking individuals trying to pay their fees by working a few hours extra, they should not be punished.
- Indian federal elections

- Other social and international topics

## Section 1 – Press Gallery Summary

**Justine Hunter (Globe and Mail)**

**Vancouver gas prices eclipse all other markets: NEB**

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## Section 4 – TV/Radio

### 6pm TV News clips

#### **Global:**

3/17	1803	North Shore municipalities undertake rapid transit feasibility study with province
6/17	1806	Vancouver city council approves motion to lower speed limits on residential streets
7/17	1808	Jinny Sims responds to allegations of inappropriate letters and FOI evasion efforts
8/17	1810	Some Twitter acrimony is already emerging as BCTF contract talks get underway
11/17	1816	Farm's eatery on Vancouver Island must open brewery to conform with ALR rules

#### **CTV:**

4/8	1806	Jinny Sims responds to allegations of inappropriate letters and FOI evasion efforts
7/8	1811	Vancouver city council approves motion to lower speed limits on residential streets

#### **CBC:**

3/13	2005	North Shore municipalities undertake rapid transit feasibility study with province
6/13	2008	Vancouver hotel and two connected restaurants close after outbreak of norovirus
8/13	2011	Jinny Sims responds to allegations of inappropriate letters and FOI evasion efforts
9/13	2013	Mike Lee sponsors bill to improve transparency for spouses of violent offenders
10/13	2014	Surrey fire chief calls for changes to social assistance to decrease overdose rate
11/13	2015	Dying red cedars on Vancouver Island signal growing impact of climate change

### News Radio clips

#### **CKNW (Vancouver)**

CKNW 15-May-2019, 06:00 Money laundering inquiry - [\[new window\]](#) OR [\[inline\]](#) OR [\[Transcript\]](#) - (444K)

CKNW 15-May-2019, 06:03 Sparling - mental illness supports - [\[new window\]](#) OR [\[inline\]](#) OR [\[Transcript\]](#) - (856K)

#### **CHNL (Kamloops)**

CHNL 15-May-2019, 06:00 Karpuk - \$10-a-day child-care - [\[new window\]](#) OR [\[inline\]](#) OR [\[Transcript\]](#) - (718K)

CHNL 15-May-2019, 06:02 Matkowski - bus service expansion - [\[new window\]](#) OR [\[inline\]](#) OR [\[Transcript\]](#) - (641K)

CHNL 15-May-2019, 06:03 Singh - civic salary increases - [\[new window\]](#) OR [\[inline\]](#) OR [\[Transcript\]](#) - (725K)

## Talk Radio clips

### CKNW (Vancouver)

CKNW View From Victoria 15-May-2019, 06:36 Palmer - money laundering - [new window] OR [inline] - (899K)

## Section 5 – Inside Government

Wed May 15	Lead	Activity/Details	RLS	CC ID#
10:30 AM TBC	HQ	Hold for HQ: Details to come. (RESULTS)	-	HQ-93253
2:00 PM	HQ	VICTORIA (Legislature) -- Question Period: Time approx. <a href="https://leg.bc.ca/documents-data/broadcasts-and-webcasts">https://leg.bc.ca/documents-data/broadcasts-and-webcasts</a>	-	HQ-92146
9:10 PM	TAC	VICTORIA -- Minister Beare speaks at RBCM's annual Francis Kermode Group Gala and official opening of "Maya: The Great Jaguar." Royal BC Museum's private fundraiser. Not a media event. Takes place from 6:00pm-10:00pm	-	TAC-93478

## Section 6 – Outside Government

- PARAGUAY National Day
- Richmond -- BC Games Society AGM and Board meeting: Organization responsible for setting the ongoing policy and direction of the BC Winter and BC Summer Games
- Vancouver Coastal Health news release -- Launch of street degree program: Vancouver Coastal Health and Portland Hotel Society announce new Street Degree program that trains peers in overdose response best practices. Quote from Minister Darcy included in NR
- UBC news release on development for diagnosing and treating disease: University of BC researchers have developed a specialized microscope that has the potential ability to both diagnose diseases that include skin cancer and perform incredibly precise surgery without ever cutting skin
- Vancouver Police Department K9 unit present BC Cancer Foundation with a cheque: Media will be invited to the celebration. Every year the VPD issues a VPD K9 calendar for sale and one of the charities that benefit from the funds raised is the BC Cancer Foundation. Event location: BC Cancer Research Centre
- Victoria -- National Farm to Cafeteria Conference: Workshop connecting educators and healthy eating experts directly to farmers. Conference taking place in Victoria at the conference Centre. See also AGRI 92733 for workshop info. Minister Popham speaks on May 16 in evening, see AGRI 92915

## Section 7 – Most Shared on Social Media

1. Good summary of the discussion on TransMountain right now with jjhorgan Bill12 BcPoli | Oil Sands Action on Twitter
2. Hey! Jay Inslee bans fracking in Washington State and blocks two big fossil fuel projects. That's leadership! | Bill McKibben on Twitter
3. On the Energy Innumeracy of the supporters of Canada's Green New Deal | <https://achemistinlangley.net/>
4. Money laundering funded \$5.3B in B.C. real estate purchases in 2018, report reveals | <https://www.cbc.ca/>
5. German Report reveals extensive money-laundering in B.C.'s luxury car market | <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/>
6. Why is conservative politics such a natural home for white supremacists?: Neil Macdonald | <https://www.cbc.ca/>
7. In B.C., criminals laundering money through luxury cars got a sales tax rebate | <https://www.thestar.com/>
8. Canadians value the rule of law and the Charter of Rights. We have trust in the Canadian judicial process. | Huawei Canada on Twitter
9. Hey bced do you know if current B.C. school counselling ratio was on this list we would the 2nd WORST ratio is North America ExpectBetter | dave mackenzie on Twitter
10. From Yellow Vests Canada Vancouver, this guy seems totally fine. | Yellow Vests Canada Exposed on Twitter
11. From B.C. to Ontario: Fighting for Tips | rankandfile.ca
12. BC Green Party on Twitter: "ýýýOnce these trees are gone, theyýýýre gone forever,ýýý says @SoniaFurstenau #bcpoli #oldgrowthýýý "
13. Rempel supports Morgane Oger....Oger is a child trans pimp! - YouTube
14. Either the BC NDP believe our students are worth funding or they don't | Lizanne Foster on Twitter

15. Electric Cars & Global Warming Emissions - YouTube
16. Martyn Brown: Shining a light on Canada's dirty money do-nothings in "Ozark North" |  
<https://www.straight.com/>
17. Liberal MLAs Rich Coleman and Laurie Throness are speaking at the pro-life rally outside the bcleg Coleman says  
abortion is <sup>Copyright</sup>  
<sup>Copyright</sup> | Rob Shaw on Twitter
18. Dirty money driving up B.C. home prices as more than \$40-billion laundered across Canada in 2018 |  
<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/>
19. Balloon is up on the bcleg lawn as Canadian Taxpayers Fed protests ICBC monopoly. | CTV Bhinder Sajan on  
Twitter <sup>Copyright</sup>
20. Brutally injured raccoon prompts calls for trapping prohibitions in Delta |  
<https://bc.ctvnews.ca/>

## Section 8 – Front Pages

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Vancouver Sun

Tyler Hooper  
Media Relations Officer  
Government Communications & Public Engagement  
250-213-8172



Where ideas work

2018  
TOP  
WORK UNIT  
AWARD

## Smith, George PREM:EX

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**From:** Howlett, Tim GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** May 14, 2019 6:19 PM  
**To:** Smith, George PREM:EX; Holmwood, Jen PREM:EX; Aaron, Sage PREM:EX; McConnell, Sheena PREM:EX; Brown, Evan PREM:EX  
**Subject:** FW: Issue note  
**Attachments:** 2019.05.15 Issues Scan - Victoria.docx

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**From:** Howlett, Tim GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 14, 2019 6:18 PM  
**To:** Hagglund, Jarrett PREM:EX <Jarrett.Hagglund@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: Issue note

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**From:** Hagglund, Jarrett PREM:EX  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 14, 2019 6:11 PM  
**To:** Howlett, Tim GCPE:EX <[Tim.Howlett@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Tim.Howlett@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Issue note

Hey Tim,

Any update on the issue note?

Jarrett Hagglund | Executive Coordinator  
Office of the Premier  
604-817-1458 | [Jarrett.Hagglund@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jarrett.Hagglund@gov.bc.ca)

## Smith, George PREM:EX

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**From:** Marriott, Sarah GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** May 14, 2019 3:34 PM  
**To:** Howlett, Tim GCPE:EX; Smith, George PREM:EX; Holmwood, Jen PREM:EX  
**Subject:** Fletcher article out

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**From:** Harbord, Chris GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** May 14, 2019 3:28 PM  
**To:** Russell, Shannon CITZ:EX <Shannon.Russell@gov.bc.ca>; Parmar, Ravi CITZ:EX <Ravi.Parmar@gov.bc.ca>; Marriott, Sarah GCPE:EX <Sarah.Marriott@gov.bc.ca>; Kot, Jill CITZ:EX <Jill.Kot@gov.bc.ca>; Ritchie, CJ CITZ:EX <CJ.Ritchie@gov.bc.ca>; Fairbairn, Joel CITZ:EX <Joel.Fairbairn@gov.bc.ca>; Pridmore, Kerry CITZ:EX <Kerry.Pridmore@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Ingram, Ben GCPE:EX <Ben.Ingram@gov.bc.ca>; Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX <Joanne.Whittier@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** FYI: Surrey Now Leader - Tom Fletcher - BC information minister accused of secret MLA office dealings

Fairly balanced piece insofar as it includes the allegations and minister's and attorney general's responses.

### Surrey Now Leader, 14-May-2019

3

## B.C. information minister accused of secret MLA office dealings

By Tom Fletcher

Copyright

Chris Harbord  
Communications Director  
Ministry of Citizens' Services  
Government Communications and Public Engagement  
P: 250 952-7302 | M: 250 920-5079 | [chris.harbord@gov.bc.ca](mailto:chris.harbord@gov.bc.ca)

## Smith, George PREM:EX

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**From:** Hooper, Tyler GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** May 14, 2019 6:55 AM  
**Subject:** Morning Media Report, Tuesday May 14th

### Morning Media Report, Tuesday May 14<sup>th</sup>

#### Top Stories:

- [Alberta government questions B.C.'s data in money-laundering report](#)
- [The power of public inquiry into money laundering](#)
- [B.C. college can't find evidence of student in drug cartel](#)
- [NDP's Sims Again Accused of Dodging of FOI Rules](#)
- [Update expected this week in B.C. Legislature spending scandal](#)
- [Mom-and-pop shops could get hit hard by newest B.C. taxes](#)
- [Panel calls for regulating money-service businesses](#)
- [B.C. Greens call for halt on logging Island old-growth](#)
- [Wildfire service believes weekend fires were just 'an early-season blip'](#)
- [Crews containing early-season wildfire near Fraser Lake](#)
- [Be prepared for wildfire season](#)
- [Mental health concerns raised as early wildfires spark renewed anxiety in tinder-dry B.C.](#)
- [June rain will tell if B.C. is in for another hot wildfire season](#)
- [Wildfire burning west of Osoyoos](#)
- [The union 'battle zone' for pipeline construction](#)

#### Other Stories of Note:

- [RCMP patrol schools in Kitimat, Terrace after shooting](#)
- [B.C. port workers vote overwhelmingly to strike](#)
- [Danger subsiding after properties threatened by fires](#)
- [UBC to design safer donation bins following deaths](#)
- [View Royal looks to allow overnight stays in parks](#)
- [Developer of B.C. Woodfibre LNG project buys Calgary-based natural gas producer](#)

#### Opinion:

- [Public inquiry beyond NDP's Political reach](#)
- [Are We Seeing the First Cracks in the BC Liberal Coalition?](#)
- [Old-growth trees worth more if we leave them standing](#)
- [No more secrets on who holds property titles](#)
- [Internal trouble for Singh as ex-MP Robinson lashes out](#)
- [Roadside workers deserve to feel safe on the job](#)
- [Fight anti-vaccination forces on social media](#)
- [How Canada helps advance global corruption](#)
- [Seeing our economy as outsiders do](#)
- [How bad is Canada's money laundering problem? We don't really know](#)

**Top Stories in Chinese Media:** No Top Stories in Chinese Media today.

**Top Stories in South Asian Media:**

- Gas prices – Talking about high gas prices, Mr. Thind said that there are several factors that contribute to the high gas prices and the premier has ordered investigation into it and spoken to the Prime Minister, but people are suffering now and something needs to be done immediately. He said that its interesting that the money laundering report has been released now, perhaps to distract people from rising gas prices.
- KidSport funding announcement – MLA Ravi Kahlon interviewed on KRPI 1550, Dr Romana show and Spice radio. MLA Kahlon talked about the funding explaining how it will help children who face numerous barriers. Positive feedback from the hosts.
- UTA container truckers meeting in Surrey –Positive feedback from the media. All of them praised the work done by Surrey MLAs on this file. Trucking commissioner Michael Crawford was praised for his role as well. Federal MPs were criticized for not listening to their demands, even as small but as important as building washrooms at the port waiting area. Harjinder Thind in his editorial said that he hopes that the port truckers' issues are about to be solved very soon after a meeting of BC's trucking commissioner, NDP MLAs Harry Bains, Jagrup Brar, Bruce Ralston, Rachna Singh, Garry Begg, and Surrey MPs Sukh Dhaliwal, Randeep Sarai and Ken Hardie with the truckers yesterday in Surrey. Calling it very complex issue involving many stakeholders, the host notes provincial jurisdiction is much clear now and the trucking commissioner's office is now working with the truckers on many issues, including wages and empty chassis issues.
- Money laundering – KRPI 1550. Mr Harjit Gill discusses the issue of money laundering in BC calling it a serious problem.
- Indian International student set to be deported for working extra hours
- Indian federal elections

## Section 1 – Press Gallery Summary

**Justine Hunter (Globe and Mail)**

**Alberta government questions B.C.'s data in money-laundering report**

*Justine Hunter & Mike Hager, Page A04*

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**Seeing our economy as outsiders do**

*Martin Pelletier, National Post*

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**Are We Seeing the First Cracks in the BC Liberal Coalition?**

*Paul Willcocks, The Tyee, Online*

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**Section 4 – TV/Radio**

**6pm TV News clips**

**Global:**

Top Story	1800	US Coast Guard responds after two float planes carrying cruise passengers collide
5/18	1805	Hot dry conditions across province led to numerous early wildfires in Interior
7/18	1808	David Eby confirms Cabinet will decide on public inquiry in Wednesday's meeting

8/18	1810	Commercial Drive business owners complain about impact of low-barrier shelter
10/18	1813	Mike Farnworth considers BCAA request for blue flashing lights on roadside vehicles

#### CTV:

4/11	1804	Hot dry conditions across province led to numerous early wildfires in Interior
7/11	1808	Liberals accuse Jinny Sims of trying to evade FOI requests by using personal email
8/11	1809	New book claims El Chapo lieutenant was registered as student at Columbia College
9/11	1810	David Eby confirms Cabinet will decide on public inquiry in Wednesday's meeting

#### CBC:

3/9	2045	Hot dry conditions across province led to numerous early wildfires in Interior
5/9	2048	Former Chief Justice McLachlin provides legislative spending report to House leaders
7/9	2051	Commercial Drive business owners complain about impact of low-barrier shelter
8/9	2052	Federal government provides \$62m in new funding for French teachers across BC

#### News Radio clips

##### **CKNW (Vancouver)**

- | CKNW 14-May-2019, 06:01 Coquitlam crash reenactment - [new window] OR [inline] OR [Transcript] - (546K)
- | CKNW 14-May-2019, 06:02 Skrepnek - Osoyoos wildfire - [new window] OR [inline] OR [Transcript] - (378K)
- | CKNW 14-May-2019, 06:03 Horgan - wildfire season prep - [new window] OR [inline] OR [Transcript] - (638K)
- | CKNW 14-May-2019, 06:04 Oppal - money laundering inquiry - [new window] OR [inline] OR [Transcript] - (702K)

##### **CFOX (Victoria)**

- | CFOX 14-May-2019, 06:01 Paul - horse carriage ban - [new window] OR [inline] OR [Transcript] - (889K)

##### **CHNL (Kamloops)**

- | CHNL 14-May-2019, 06:00 Hobler - new KSAR centre - [new window] OR [inline] OR [Transcript] - (639K)
- | CHNL 14-May-2019, 06:01 Lee - money laundering - [new window] OR [inline] OR [Transcript] - (872K)
- | CHNL 14-May-2019, 06:02 Albas - disaster evac bill - [new window] OR [inline] OR [Transcript] - (572K)
- | CHNL 14-May-2019, 06:03 Christian - Ronald McDonald House - [new window] OR [inline] OR [Transcript] - (702K)
- | CHNL 14-May-2019, 06:04 Kamloops free buses - [new window] OR [inline] OR [Transcript] - (403K)

#### Talk Radio clips

##### **CKNW (Vancouver)**

- | CKNW View From Victoria 14-May-2019, 06:35 Smyth - money laundering public inquiry - [new window] OR [inline] - (1461K)

##### **CBU (CBC Vancouver)**

- | CBC Early Edition 14-May-2019, 06:12 Duchene - Residential Tenancy Branch enforcement - [new window] OR [inline] - (6805K)
- | CBC Early Edition 14-May-2019, 06:20 Rosen - Rip Curl Pro Tofino - [new window] OR [inline] - (5969K)

## Section 5 – Inside Government

Tue May 14	Lead	Activity/Details	RLS	CC ID#
Time TBD NEW	FLNR	Regional information bulletin -- BC Wildfire Centre and Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine are working on a fuel management project in the Northwest Fire Centre near Dease Lake. <b>Timing: ASAP on approval</b>	BCGov IB	FLNR-93735
7:30 AM	HLTH	<b>VICTORIA -- Minister Adrian Dix speaks at LifeScan breakfast</b>	-	HLTH-93285
9:00 AM	FLNR	Provincewide news release -- Funding for Fraser Basin Council to support and explore flood management strategies	BCGov NR	FLNR-93703
10:15 AM	HQ	<b>VICTORIA (Legislature) -- Question Period:</b> Time approx. <a href="https://leg.bc.ca/documents-data/broadcasts-and-webcasts">https://leg.bc.ca/documents-data/broadcasts-and-webcasts</a>	-	HQ-92385
11:00 AM	TRAN	Regional news release -- Hold for Transit feasibility study	BCGov NR	TRAN-93481
12:00 PM	AGRI	<b>VICTORIA (Legislature) -- Minister Lana Popham and others participate in annual B.C. Beef Day event:</b> Hosted by BC Cattlemen's Association. Provincewide ministry news release issued <b>EVENT LEAD:</b> Marlene Behrens	BCGov NR 12:15 pm	AGRI-92580
1:30 PM CHANGED	ENV	Provincewide information bulletin -- BC Parks would like to remind campers that campsites are in high demand this weekend and to make a reservation or check the site before going	BCGov IB	ENV-93718
3:00 PM TBC CHANGED	CFD	Opinion Editorial on Child Care Affordability. <b>UPDATE: May move to May 16 or 17, TBC</b>	BCGov OpEd	CFD-93628

## Section 6 – Outside Government

- Genome BC news release -- Quantifying the value of genomics driven health care for children with rare diseases: 80% of rare diseases are thought to have a genetic origin. And while next generation sequencing technologies, such as whole exome and whole genome sequencing, may enable more accurate disease diagnosis and treatment guidance for childhood rare diseases, these technologies are not routinely available in clinical care
- Vancouver -- St. Paul's Foundation event for gift announcement: This gift supports health care in British Columbia for youth with serious health issues transitioning from pediatric care to adult care. It will provide a safety net for youth as they take their first step towards managing their own health care in the midst of concurrent life transitions. By expanding current resources, the program will provide a more comprehensive model of care for this vulnerable patient population. St. Paul's Foundation event and NR
- Forest Enhancement Society of B.C. news release -- Cheakamus Community Forest project
- BC Cancer Foundation and Terry Fox Research Institute joint news release -- Pancreatic cancer study: Study led by BC Cancer researchers which looked into the genetic profiles of advanced pancreatic cancers has led to a unique treatment and is offering reason to be hopeful with a cancer that is hard to diagnose and treat effectively
- Prince George -- Destination BC Stakeholder meeting: Tourism stakeholder meeting followed by Tourism Industry Event hosted by Destination BC

## Section 7 – Most Shared on Social Media

1. Good summary of the discussion on TransMountain right now with jjhorgan Bill12 BcPoli | Oil Sands Action on Twitter
2. Hey! Jay Inslee bans fracking in Washington State and blocks two big fossil fuel projects. That's leadership! | Bill McKibben on Twitter
3. On the Energy Innumeracy of the supporters of Canada's Green New Deal | <https://achemistinlangley.net/>
4. Money laundering funded \$5.3B in B.C. real estate purchases in 2018, report reveals | <https://www.cbc.ca/>
5. German Report reveals extensive money-laundering in B.C.'s luxury car market | <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/>
6. Why is conservative politics such a natural home for white supremacists?: Neil Macdonald | <https://www.cbc.ca/>
7. In B.C., criminals laundering money through luxury cars got a sales tax rebate | <https://www.thestar.com/>
8. Huawei Canada on Twitter: "Canadians value the rule of law and the Charter of Rights. We have trust in the Canadian judicial process.ýýý "

9. Hey bced do you know if current B.C. school counselling ratio was on this list we would the 2nd WORST ratio is North America ExpectBetter | dave mackenzie on Twitter
10. Canada on pace to meet Paris climate target -- two centuries late | National Observer
11. From Yellow Vests Canada Vancouver, this guy seems totally fine. | Yellow Vests Canada Exposed on Twitter
12. From B.C. to Ontario: Fighting for Tips | rankandfile.ca
13. Either the BC NDP believe our students are worth funding or they don't | Lizanne Foster on Twitter
14. Martyn Brown: Shining a light on Canada's dirty money do-nothings in "Ozark North" | <https://www.straight.com/>
15. Liberal MLAs Rich Coleman and Laurie Throness are speaking at the pro-life rally outside the bcleg Coleman says abortion is <sup>Copyright</sup> | Rob Shaw on Twitter
16. Rempel supports Morgane Oger....Oger is a child trans pimp! - YouTube
17. Dirty money driving up B.C. home prices as more than \$40-billion laundered across Canada in 2018 | <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/>
18. Balloon is up on the bcleg lawn as Canadian Taxpayers Fed protests ICBC monopoly. | CTV Bhinder Sajan on Twitter
19. <sup>Copyright</sup> Brutally injured raccoon prompts calls for trapping prohibitions in Delta | <https://bc.ctvnews.ca/>
20. Why does Justin Trudeau succumb to corporate pressure? | <http://theconversation.com>

## Section 8 – Front Pages

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Vancouver Sun

Tyler Hooper  
Media Relations Officer  
Government Communications & Public Engagement  
250-213-8172



Where ideas work

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AWARD

## OOP FOI PREM:EX

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**From:** Howlett, Tim GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** May 22, 2019 4:55 PM  
**To:** Hagglund, Jarrett PREM:EX; Dunnett, Jennifer PREM:EX; Aaron, Sage PREM:EX; Holmwood, Jen PREM:EX; Brown, Evan PREM:EX  
**Subject:** Community & Issues Scan  
**Attachments:** 2019.05.23 Issues Scan - Surrey.docx

Tim Howlett  
Director of Issues Management  
250.208.4828

## **Community & Issues Scan**

May 23, 2019

Surrey

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## Community Overview

- Second-largest city in B.C., population 517,997<sup>1</sup>.
- Priority sectors: clean technology, health technology, advanced manufacturing, agri-innovation and creative economy<sup>2</sup>

## Mayor

- Doug McCallum – elected to his fourth term as Mayor in 2018.

## MPs

- **Surrey-Newton:** MP Sukh Dhaliwal
- **South Surrey-White Rock:** MP Gordie Hogg
- **Surrey Centre:** MP Randeep Sarai

## MLAs

- **Surrey-Cloverdale:** MLA Marvin Hunt
- **Surrey-Fleetwood:** MLA Jagrup Brar
- **Surrey-Green Timbers:** MLA Rachna Singh
- **Surrey-Guildford:** MLA Gary Begg
- **Surrey-Newton:** Hon. Harry Bains
- **Surrey-Panorama:** Hon. Jinny Sims
- **Surrey South:** MLA Stephanie Cadieux
- **Surrey-Whalley:** Hon. Bruce Ralston
- **Surrey-White Rock:** MLA Tracy Redies

## Recent Announcements

- **May 22 NR/Event (AEST): Two 2-year pilot projects announced that will work to break down barriers to participation for equity-seeking groups in tech-related sectors.** BC's tech sector continues to grow but has a projected talent shortfall and low levels of diversity and inclusion from key groups, including women, people with disabilities, and Indigenous peoples. This \$2M investment will work to close this gap.

**May 17 NR/Event (EDU): Construction underway on Grandview Heights, Douglas schools for Surrey students:** Two new Surrey schools – Grandview Heights Secondary and a Douglas-area elementary school – are now under construction and will provide more than 2,100 new student spaces by 2021. Government has approved an additional \$32.6 million for the Grandview Heights Secondary school, for a total budget of up to \$93.2 million. The school will have capacity for 1,500 students. The new Douglas-area elementary school, near Peace Arch border crossing, has a total budget of up to \$33.1 million and will have capacity for 605 students.

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<sup>1</sup> Statistics Canada: Census Profile, 2016

<sup>2</sup> City of Surrey: Invest Surrey <https://www.surrey.ca/business-economic-development/3506.aspx>

- **May 10 NR/Event (TAC): Creating opportunities for kids to thrive through power of sport:** More children and youth will be able to get in the game and gain the benefits of sport and active living, thanks to the Province's historic \$2.5M investment in Sport BC.
- **May 2 NR/Event (HLTH): Achieving results and delivering more MRI exams:** People throughout B.C. will continue to get improved access to magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) exams as government adds 15,000 more exams in the second year of the B.C. Surgical and Diagnostic Imaging Strategy after exceeding its first-year targets.
- **May 2 NR (ENV): Pattullo Bridge replacement granted environmental assessment certificate:** An environmental assessment certificate has been issued to the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure for the Pattullo Bridge Replacement project. The certificate confirms confidence that construction, demolition and operational activities would be conducted in a way that ensures that no significant adverse environmental effects are likely to occur.
- **April 25 NR/Event (TRAN): Major Trans-Canada improvements to boost trade and support safe efficient travels in and around Langley:** Transportation infrastructure improvements include widening a total of ten kilometres between 216th Street and 264th Street by adding a new high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lane in each direction, reconfiguring the 232nd Street interchange and adding a new underpass at Glover Road and the CP Rail crossing. A new truck parking lot will also be added near Highways 1 and 17 for up to 150 commercial trucks and up to 45 passenger vehicles.
- **April 25 NR/Event (AEST): Students gear up for clean tech futures with new SFU facility:** In September 2019, Simon Fraser University (SFU) students will be able to train, for the first time, in new state-of-the-art facilities for sustainable energy engineering, a program unique to Western Canada.
- **April 18 NR/Event (EDU): More new classrooms on the way for Surrey students:** Students will soon be moving out of portables at Sullivan Elementary, with the creation of 200 new spaces. Since September 2017, the Province has announced 2,510 new student seats for Surrey and 6,350 in other communities throughout British Columbia, with many more to come.
- **April 12 NR/Event (PSSG): Seizures of proceeds of crime lead to safer communities:** Programs that mentor youth to resist joining gangs, support women escaping violence and help Indigenous families heal from intergenerational traumas will benefit from just over \$6 million in grants supporting government crime prevention priorities. In total, more than 170 local organizations and projects – led by community not-for-profits, school districts, and more – will receive a one-time grant through the Crime Prevention and Remediation grant program.
- **March 12, NR/Event: Helping B.C. students fight lure of gangs with the new ERASE strategy (EDUC):** \$1.12-million-dollar investment from the Province. Students, parents,

educators, law enforcement and local partners in 12 B.C. communities will immediately begin receiving additional support and training opportunities to help at-risk kids get off the pathway to gun and gang violence

## **News**

Copyright

### **Wait times for MRIs drops after province ups scans ‘**

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” (Vancouver Sun, May 10, 2019)

Copyright

### **Health minister touts success of MRI strategy**

Copyright

(Vancouver Sun, May 3, 2019)

### **60 homeless people admitted to Surrey Memorial Hospital ‘on any given day’: councillor**

Copyright

[Surrey Now-Leader, May 11, 2019)

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## **Immigrant Services Society of B.C. opens new welcome centre in Surrey**

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' (Vancouver Sun, May 1, 2019)

## **Surrey Fire Service sees 'dramatic' decrease in overdose calls with 911 dispatch system**

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(Surrey Now-Leader, May 15, 2019)

## Issues Scan

### Statement by OIPC on Minister Sims

#### Background:

- Media is reporting on a May 17 statement from Information and Privacy Commissioner McEvoy responding to Kate Gillie's claims about Minister Sims records' management.
- The Commissioner states that the Minister's alleged failure to document government decisions does not fall under his authority, as the Minister herself is designated under the Information Management Act with ensuring compliance with a duty to document.
- He calls on government to make changes so that his office holds that responsibility under FIPPA.
- On the alleged use of personal email, he states that there is no prohibition against using personal email and therefore "the individual's concern is not, by itself, evidence of a violation of FIPPA that would cause my office to investigate." He reinforces however that using personal communication for public business is "extremely poor practice."
- Kate Gillie worked as a constituency assistant for MLA Sims for six weeks in January and February 2019 before being terminated.
- The email Ms. Gillie sent to the Premier's Office on March 4th does not relate to FOI, but rather constituency matters, including a support letter for 10 visa applicants.

#### Message:

- I understand this was a challenging HR matter involving a former employee and the Minister has been clear that the claims aren't true.
- As the Minister has said, constituency staff are not government employees and don't do government work - it's perfectly normal that constituency business be done on non-government accounts. That's how the system works.
- Last month, B.C. became the first province in Canada to legislate government's obligation to create adequate records of key decisions.
- The former Commissioner, David Loukidelis has said B.C.'s new approach will meet or exceed requirements to document government decisions in other jurisdictions around the world.

*Why did your office receive allegations in March and do nothing?*

- My Chief of Staff met with the Executive Director of Caucus as the individual did not work for government and her claims relate to her employment as a CA.
- Her claims were looked into at the time and it was determined no donations had been made and there was no other evidence found to support them.
- As it is an HR matter, and the purview of caucus -- not government, we can't go into any further details.

*On the Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> letter regarding visa applications from Pakistan:*

- MLAs get requests for all sorts of assistance from members of the public.
- Minister Sims has said she didn't see this letter before it went out but that she has taken responsibility.
- I also understand she took steps to make sure it wouldn't happen again.

## **Potential Sale of Private Surgical Centre**

### Background:

- Pamela Fayerman of the Vancouver Sun reported on May 22 that the False Creek Healthcare Centre may be up for sale.
- It is one of B.C.'s first and biggest private surgery facilities. It's parent company appears to have put all 5 surgery centres it owns across the country up for sale, highlights perceived risks facing private surgery businesses, including the Cambie case in B.C.
- Government have asked physicians at private clinics that receive public funding to sign the letters to ensure a full understanding and awareness of the *Medicare Protection Act* and indicate they will abide by it.
- The Act states that its purpose is to ensure that "access to necessary medical care is based on need and not an individual's ability to pay." Extra billing has been, and remains to be, illegal under the Medicare Protection Act.
- Fayerman's reports are based on company reports to shareholders. Government does not have information on whether False Creek is for sale - that is an independent business decision.

### Message:

- Businesses always make their own business decisions based on a variety of factors.
- Our focus is on improving fair and equitable access to the public health care that people in B.C. rely on.
- We're increasing access to publicly funded surgeries and MRIs to decrease wait times.
- We've purchased two private MRIs and brought them into the public system, and embedded the innovations of the former Richmond hip and knee program into our surgical strategy to increase the number of hip and knee replacements being performed.
- We're also expanding the use of our existing public capacity by opening unused operating rooms.

## **B.C. Care Providers Report on Long-Term Care**

### Background:

- A new report out from the B.C. Care Providers Association on May 22 claims that 45,000 new long-term care beds will be needed over the next decade
- Government is working to improve residential care services for services for seniors, while ensuring they can live independently at home for as long as possible.
- It is a complex issue that can't be limited to beds – it includes having appropriate staffing for current beds and facilities, working with health authorities to determine where investments are needed in the short and long term and attracting and retaining care professionals.
- Canada's ministers responsible for Seniors are also meeting this week in PEI. The Canadian Medical Association and other organizations are advocating in the media for improved supports for seniors in light of Canada's aging population.
- Parliamentary Secretary Kang is attending the meetings on behalf of B.C.

### Message:

- Seniors deserve dignified and quality care. We've received the report and are staff are taking a look at it now.
- The old government failed to invest adequately to support seniors. On their watch, nine out of ten seniors' care homes didn't meet minimum government standards.
- Helping seniors live at home and independently for as long as possible is our first priority. We're investing in primary care, and expanded adult day programs and respite care programs in the community to support seniors and the people who care for them.
- We're also working to rebuild the residential care services seniors count on:
  - We've increased staffing in residential care homes so seniors get more one-on-one time with staff
  - We've put an end to the contract flipping and unstable working conditions in residential care homes that diminished quality of care for seniors
- There's more to come - we're going to keep working to improving and strengthening services to ensure seniors receive the care they deserve



## Surrey Hospital & Healthcare

### Background:

- People continue to inquire about when people can expect news on the new Surrey Hospital, including the location.
- Government announced on Dec. 18, 2017 that concept planning was starting and would take approximately a year, but there has been no news since then.
- The new urgent care centre opened in November 2019.

### Message:

- For too long, people in Surrey have struggled to access the healthcare they need - that's why our government is planning for a brand-new hospital in Surrey.
- We're working as fast as we can – The Minister has said we hope to have something to announce soon. We know that this is important for people in Surrey.
- In the meantime, we've also opened a new urgent primary care centres in Surrey so people who don't have a family doctor access teams of health care providers.
- Earlier this year, we announced a new emergency department and surgical suite at Peace Arch Hospital to provide better care and more surgeries for people in South Surrey and White Rock.
- There's more to do – we're just getting started.

### *Where is the new hospital going to be located?*

- That's something that's being looked at right now - part of the concept planning stage is identifying potential locations.
- The old government made that work more challenging when they sold off land in Surrey that could potentially have been used for the hospital.
- We're working as fast as we can to clean up their mess and get this done for people.

## **New Hospital Pay Parking Petition**

### Background:

- On May 20, Global reported that another petition has been started on hospital pay parking calling for 4 hours of free parking at the Langley Hospital for emergency room patients.
- Media may ask when government will take action provincially.
- In November 2018, the City of Surrey voted to formally eliminate pay parking on the streets near Surrey Memorial Hospital but not at the hospital itself, and asked Fraser Health to reconsider its parking fee structure.
- Another campaign continues to call on Fraser Health to institute free two-hour parking at the lots at Surrey Memorial itself.
- Coquitlam's mayor is also calling on the provincial government to help reduce the cost of parking at hospitals, specifically Royal Columbian in New Westminster.

### Message:

- I appreciate people's frustration on hospital parking. That's why we decided shortly after forming government that we would not put in pay parking at any new hospital sites.
- Pay parking revenue increased dramatically over the past ten to fifteen years under the old government.
- I know Minister Dix is looking at how we can make things fairer and reduce this burden, while maintaining the resources to support the health care people deserve.
- For people who need relief now, health authorities have a hardship process to waive fees where it poses a particular challenge to patients and families.

## Gas Prices - BCUC Investigation

### Background:

- Government issued Terms of Reference regarding the BCUC investigation of high gas prices. The BCUC is to report back to Minister Ralston by August 31st.
- The Opposition has complained that the terms prevent the BCUC from looking at impacts of government policy including gas taxes and the Low Carbon Fuel Standard.

### Message:

- The rapid increase in gas prices in B.C. is alarming and increasingly out of line with the rest of Canada. People in B.C. deserve answers.
- We have asked the BCUC to conduct a fair, transparent and comprehensive independent investigation, to get some of those answers.
- The BCUC has the investigative powers to address questions like, why are the gas companies' margins so much higher in B.C. than the rest of Canada.
- I've also spoken to the Prime Minister about increasing capacity in the existing pipeline to improve the current supply of gasoline and relieve prices.

### *Why is the BCUC not looking at impacts of taxes on gas prices?*

- Taxes on gasoline are publicly known. We publish regular bulletins on it.
- What's not transparent is how and why the oil and gas companies make huge increases to the price at the pump without any apparent link to what's reasonable.
- Over the past few months gas prices in greater Vancouver have gone up 40 cents, while the carbon tax only went up one cent. The other 39 cents goes to oil & gas companies.
- The BCUC investigation will finally be able to get British Columbians some answers from the oil and gas companies on their price hikes.

### *Will the BCUC be able to look at the how the Low Carbon Fuel Standard is affecting prices?*

- We've maintained the 2020 target for the Low Carbon Fuel Standard set by the previous government.
- That cannot explain the massive increases in gas prices we've seen in recent months.
- But as British Columbians, we are completely in the dark when it comes to how oil and gas companies choose to make massive increases in the price at the pump.
- Many in the media have commented how difficult it is to get someone from that sector to explain their decision when it comes to gas prices.
- Clearly, we need the powers of the Commissioner in order to get some answers.

## Teacher Bargaining

### Background:

- Over the weekend multiple media stories and social media posts covered the BCTF's position that the proposals around class size and composition tabled by the BC Public School Employers' Association (BC PSEA) amount to requests for concessions and the undoing of the language restored by the Supreme Court case win.
- The BC PSEA lead negotiator has responded to media with more detail about what led to the proposals and clarified that the language can be negotiated through bargaining.
- The BCTF has said they're willing to bargain over the summer and that they don't intend to initiate strike action in the fall.

### Message:

- After 16 years of underfunding by the last government, we are focused on improving services and putting the success of our students at the centre of all we do.
- We are investing in schools for our kids and families, for our teachers and support staff.
- We have invested \$1 billion more than the old government did in 2016/17.
- We are looking forward to a respectful round of negotiations between the teachers' union and the BC Public School Employers' Association.
- Unlike the former government that ripped up contracts, we respect teachers and all they do for our kids.
- No one is looking for concessions. Both sides are looking for change – change that is good for teachers, good for students, and good for the education system.
- Bargaining belongs at the bargaining table – that is where the parties are working to achieve positive results and it's where solutions will be found.

*What do you think it means hearing the teachers' union say they're willing to bargain over the summer and that they don't intend to initiate strike action in the fall?*

- It's positive to hear that the parties are so engaged in negotiations.
- We know it's going to take some give and take - seeing their commitment is a good sign - good for parents and for the teachers.

## **Housing market downturn**

### Background:

- Vancouver Sun has reported on a study by a real estate consultant who says that property owners have lost \$89 billion in paper value equity over the past year as the housing market undergoes moderation.
- In May 2017, at the peak of the market, the benchmark price for a single family home in Greater Vancouver was \$1.6 million. Today it's \$1.4 million, a drop of more than 10%.
- CMHC's latest market analysis said that overvaluation is coming down and house prices in Vancouver are moving closer to levels supported by market fundamentals.

### Message:

- Having a housing market and economy driven by speculative investment and money laundering isn't good for anyone.
- In Vancouver, we saw prices increase by over 75% in 5 years.
- People can't afford a home in their own communities, and businesses can't find the workers they need.
- We're cautiously optimistic that the housing market is returning to balance. The cost of housing in Vancouver are moving closer to levels supported by market fundamentals.
- We'll be watching the market trends closely.

## **Spec Tax and Assessment Notices**

### Background:

- On Friday May 17, the Ministry of Finance released information confirming that based on the returned declarations more than 99% of British Columbians will not be subject to the Speculation and Vacancy Tax.
- Additionally, 80% of respondents who will have to pay the tax are made up by foreign owners, satellite families and non BC residents.
- Those who still haven't filled out their declarations will begin to receive Notices of Assessment in the coming days and weeks.
- The notices include a reminder that owners who are exempt but haven't submitted their declarations are still able to do so and will not have to pay.
- If owners who are exempt submit a declaration even after the tax is due on July 2nd they will be exempt. However, if an owner is not exempt and fails to pay the tax by August 2nd the amount owing will begin to accrue interest (but no penalties).

### Message:

- We committed to taking action on out-of-control housing prices and that's what we've done.
- I'm pleased to see that the Speculation and Vacancy tax is doing what we said it would, by helping get speculation out of the market and returning some balance to the housing market.
- The initial data confirms that over 99% of British Columbians won't be paying this tax.
- And the vast majority of those subject to the tax are foreign owners, satellite families and Canadians who aren't residents in B.C.
- Assessment notices are beginning to go out but for people who are exempt it's not too late to fill out declarations online without any penalty.

## Illecillewaet/CBA

### Background:

- The Illecillewaet four-laning project along Highway 1 to Alberta is the first CBA contract to be awarded.
- The winning bid came in \$22 million over budget (approx 33%) as a result of increased costs in building materials and labour unrelated to the CBA.
- The project was awarded to Emil Anderson Construction and work is expected to get underway in June with completion expected in Spring 2022.
- Tom Fletcher wrote a column highlighting ICBA claims that the cost overruns were due to the CBA.

### Message:

- We're moving forward with major improvements on Highway 1 to make life better for people who travel in the region, beginning with the Illecillewaet four-laning project.
- We're building it using a Community Benefits Agreement, because when we invest in major projects we should also invest in the people of B.C.
- This will ensure good-paying jobs for local workers, women and Indigenous people and will offer apprenticeship and training opportunities.
- While the previous government ignored the labour shortage, we're using these projects to ensure that BC has the workforce we need going into the future.

### *If pressed on costs of CBA:*

- We're in a hot construction market with escalating costs of materials and a labour shortage affecting all projects across the board.
- That means all projects have experienced increased in costs. Last month we were forced to defer a non-CBA project in Terrace because its costs had doubled.
- The solution to address the labour shortage, isn't to continue to ignore it as the Liberals have, but rather to ensure we're training skilled workers and benefiting British Columbians.
- If others believe these jobs should be going to Albertans or Americans they can defend that.

## **Mobile home park demolition - Surrey**

### Background:

- A real estate developer has purchased the mobile home park West Villa Estates.
- On May 8 they presented a contract to the over 200 owner residents, largely seniors, stipulating that residents will need to vacate their homes in 2021.
- The deadline to sign the contract in order to receive the terms is Wednesday May 22.
- MLA Brar met with some residents on May 22 and there has been some media interest.
- The same developer started redeveloping another mobile home park, Green Tree Estates, in early 2018.
- They secured all proper approvals and compensated \$11 million, total, to the 80 residents. Tenants have until December 2019 to move, but some already have, resulting in empty mobile homes needing to be demolished for health and safety reasons.

### Message:

- This is obviously a difficult time for these people.
- MLA Brar is making sure that they're fully aware of their rights and the resources available to them.
- If they feel the law isn't being followed, we encourage them to appeal to the residential tenancy branch.
- Ultimately, decisions about land use are up to the municipality.
- The province's role is to ensure people's rights are protected.
- That's why we took action to provide more security for park tenants facing eviction as a result of park owners closing or converting a park. Changes include:
  - ensuring a minimum 12-month notice to end a tenancy
  - increased compensation landlords must pay tenants to at least \$20,000



## Surrey Police Force

### Background:

- On May 22, Surrey City Council had a closed door meeting, during which time they reviewed the Surrey Police Report for the first time.
- Later that day, the City of Surrey delivered the report to the provincial government.
- Starting May 23, the City of Surrey will launch public engagement on their plan to transition from a the RCMP to a Surrey Police Force.
- The city says the purpose of the engagement is for people to learn about the transition process and offer input into the priorities of the new force.
- The first engagement session is scheduled at the Cloverdale Recreation Centre from 3pm-7pm.

### Message:

- We want to make sure the people of Surrey feel safe in their community.
- I'm glad to say we've now received the Surrey Police report and I know the Minister and officials are working diligently to review it.
- The Minister of Public Safety has a responsibility to ensure it is a thorough plan and will keep Surrey safe.
- Our top priority in this is the safety of people living in Surrey, so we'll be taking the time needed to get this right and not rush through this important work.

### *Will you publicly release the report?*

- I understand the City of Surrey is launching public consultations. It seems to me they will need to release the report in order to consult the public on it.

## Reference Case

### Background:

- On Friday May 24, the BC Court of Appeal will publicly release the verdict on BC's reference question.
- In April 2018, BC sent a reference to the BC Court of Appeal which consists of a proposed amendment to the Environmental Management Act and three questions to confirm the province's authority to make such a law and its application to an interprovincial project like a railway or pipeline.
- The reference questions seeks to confirm the scope and extent of provincial powers to regulate environmental environmental and economic risks related to the transportation of heavy oils across BC.
- In December 2018, BC and the federal government submitted written arguments for the reference case.
- Each jurisdiction responded to each other's written arguments in February 2019 and hearings for the case occurred in March 2019.
- During the hearings, media reported that BC argued it can't stop TMX, but has the authority to introduce laws to protect the environment from an oil spill.

### Message:

- Our government has been clear - we are concerned by the risk that an oil spill poses to our environment, our coast, and the tens of thousands of jobs that depend on it.
- We have a responsibility to defend the interests of British Columbians and that's exactly what we've been consistent in doing.
- We launched this case to confirm our jurisdiction to address the serious risks of diluted bitumen.
- I look forward to hearing the verdict from the court this Friday.

### *Will you appeal the verdict if the court rules against your government?*

- We've always said that this case would likely end up before the Supreme Court of Canada.
- That's why we asked the federal government if they'd join with us to go straight to the Supreme Court for it to be heard, rather than starting with the Court of Appeal.
- Unfortunately, they turned us down at that time.

## **Massey Replacement**

### Background:

- At the end of April, the regional mayors wrote a letter to the Premier urging completion of the Massey replacement by 2025/2026.
- The letter also stated that only tunnel options should be considered, matching an independent review found the former government's plan for a 10-lane bridge that included tolling users, what the wrong for the region.

### Message:

- People are frustrated with congestion and bottlenecks at the George Massey tunnel. I understand their frustration.
- People also don't want a massive project that's they were not consulted on, that isn't right for the region and would have forced drivers to pay unfair tolls to cover the massive costs.
- Unlike the old government, we are building consensus with communities and ensuring their voices are heard and a part of the decision.
- We will ensure local communities and people in the area help determine the solutions that will get them out of traffic and home with their families.

## **Community Safety Act Criticized by BC Civil Liberties Association**

### Background:

- The B.C. Civil Liberties Association and the Canadian Civil Liberties Association have criticized the recently introduced Community Safety Act legislation.
- These groups have said the legislation will violate rights such as the presumption of innocence when charged with a crime and due process in the court system.
- They've also said changes violate the Constitution's Charter of Rights and Freedoms section on right to life, liberty and security of the person.
- In the next few days, the B.C. Civil Liberties Association is expected to publish a letter in the media calling on government to withdraw the bill or make changes.
- Second reading of the bill wrapped up on May 1, and it will go to committee stage during the week of May 27-30.

### Message:

- This is intended to target properties which have links to gangs and organized crime.
- We're giving neighbours of places like drug labs and those commonly linked to gun and gang activity—a safe, effective, and timely solution, and giving authorities more powers to shut down those sites.
- We've moved quickly to modernize the act to address the current realities of organized crime in B.C., and to ensure that it's fair, efficient and minimizes administrative burden.
- Similar legislation exists in five other provinces and one territory.

## OOP FOI PREM:EX

---

**From:** Howlett, Tim GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** May 23, 2019 4:53 PM  
**To:** Hagglund, Jarrett PREM:EX; Holmwood, Jen PREM:EX; Aaron, Sage PREM:EX; Brown, Evan PREM:EX; Dunnett, Jennifer PREM:EX  
**Subject:** scan attached  
**Attachments:** 2019.05.24 Issues Scan - Kelowna.docx

Tim Howlett  
Director of Issues Management  
250.208.4828

## **Community & Issues Scan**

May 24, 2019

Kelowna

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## Community Overview

- Kelowna is the largest community in the Regional District of Central Okanagan with a population of 196,882<sup>1</sup>.
- Key economic sectors: agriculture, tourism, retail trade, manufacturing, forestry and construction.<sup>2</sup>
- Key growth sectors: information and technology, film, viticulture and wine production, health care.<sup>3</sup>

## Mayor

- Colin Basran

## MP

- **Kelowna – Lake Country:** Stephen Fuhr

## MLAs

- **Kelowna – Lake Country:** Norm Letnick
- **Kelowna – Mission:** Steve Thomson
- **Kelowna West:** Ben Stewart

## Recent Announcements

- **May 21 NR/Event (CFD): New child care spaces provide West Kelowna families peace of mind:** A new child care centre in West Kelowna will soon provide local families with quality licensed child care spaces. The Province is investing \$250,000 through its Childcare BC New Spaces Fund to support KinderHeart Montessori to create 76 licensed child care spaces. These new spaces will include 24 for infants and toddlers, 32 for children aged three years to kindergarten and 20 for preschoolers. The centre is expected to open in August 2019.
- **May 17 NR (MAH): Cornerstone shelter extended until more housing is built:** The Province is working with the City of Kelowna and community partners to continue Cornerstone shelter operations at 425 Leon Ave. to help people experiencing homelessness while permanent housing options are built. The Province will allocate annual funding of approximately \$2.4 million so the 80-bed shelter will remain open until another location is found or people are relocated and housed. The shelter had been scheduled to close on June 30, 2019.

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<sup>1</sup> Statistics Canada, 2016 Census

<sup>2</sup> Trade and Invest British Columbia: <https://www.britishcolumbia.ca/invest/communities/british-columbia/thompson-okanagan/central-okanagan/kelowna/>

<sup>3</sup> Trade and Invest British Columbia: <https://www.britishcolumbia.ca/invest/communities/british-columbia/thompson-okanagan/central-okanagan/kelowna/>

- **May 13 NR (EDU): Kelowna parents supported to help kids fight the lure of gangs:** A 90-minute education session is being offered in Kelowna as part of a new school-based gang prevention program to provide parents with practical knowledge on how to help prevent their children from getting involved in youth gangs. The new ERASE school-based gang prevention program is funded through \$1.12 million announced in July 2018. In March 2019, Kelowna became one of 12 priority communities identified by police and safety experts as those that could benefit from additional gang prevention support.
- **May 10 NR (PSSG): Partners in Preparedness Program expands to include MEC:** British Columbians now have more resources for creating an emergency kit. The Partners in Preparedness program has expanded to include outdoor recreation retailer Mountain Equipment Co-op (MEC). The Partners in Preparedness program launched in May 2018 as a way to make it easier for people to buy the supplies they need for emergency kits.
- **April 26 IB (MAH): West Kelowna shelter stays open while supportive housing is built:** To help people experiencing homelessness in the community, the Province is extending the Westbank United Church shelter until more supportive homes open in the area. In partnership with the City of West Kelowna and the West Kelowna Shelter Society, the Province will continue to fund up to 38 beds at 3672 Brown Rd. as interim support beds with 24/7 supports. The current shelter was expected to close at the end of April 2019.
- **April 26 NR (AGRI): B.C. Land Matching Program brings opportunities for young farmers:** After launching as a pilot in Metro Vancouver in 2016, the program expanded across southern B.C. in July 2018. Since 2018, the B.C. Land Matching Program has helped 19 new farmers and farming families connect with landowners in the province to sign farming agreements, with a total of 26.71 hectares (66 acres) brought into, or maintained in, agricultural production. The Province has committed \$375,000 in funding to build on the success of the program for the 2019-20 fiscal year.

## News

**B.C. forest industry could see a dozen mill closures in next decade, analysts say**

Copyright

Copyright

Copyright

(Vancouver Sun, May 23,

2019)



## **More than 200 B.C. firefighters sent to Alberta to battle wildfires**

Copyright

needed....” (Vancouver Sun, May 22, 2019)

## **Kelowna company wins contract for LNG Canada project in Kitimat**

Copyright

Copyright

(Kelowna Capital News, May 22, 2019)

## **Has the province’s wildfire season already begun?**

Copyright

Copyright

(Globe and Mail, May 18, 2019)

## **Industry, Horgan clash on forests act changes**

Copyright

Copyright

(Vancouver Sun, May 18, 2019)

## **What you need to know about B.C.’s 2019 wildfire season so far**

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Copyright

(Toronto Star, May 13, 2019)

Copyright

## Evacuation orders lifted as firefighters make progress on central B.C. wildfire

Copyright

Copyright

(CBC News, May 12, 2019)

Copyright

## Flood risk reduced as snowpacks below normal

Copyright

Copyright

May 10, 2019)

(The Province,

Copyright

## Greyhound replacements find Western Canada is a tough road to prosperity

Copyright

Copyright

(The Province, April 29, 2019)

## **Statement by OIPC on Minister Sims**

### Background:

- Media is reporting on a May 17 statement from Information and Privacy Commissioner McEvoy responding to Kate Gillie's claims about Minister Sims records' management.
- The Commissioner states that the Minister's alleged failure to document government decisions does not fall under his authority, as the Minister herself is designated under the Information Management Act with ensuring compliance with a duty to document.
- He calls on government to make changes so that his office holds that responsibility under FIPPA.
- On the alleged use of personal email, he states that there is no prohibition against using personal email and therefore "the individual's concern is not, by itself, evidence of a violation of FIPPA that would cause my office to investigate." He reinforces however that using personal communication for public business is "extremely poor practice."
- Kate Gillie worked as a constituency assistant for MLA Sims for six weeks in January and February 2019 before being terminated.
- The email Ms. Gillie sent to the Premier's Office on March 4th does not relate to FOI, but rather constituency matters, including a support letter for 10 visa applicants.

### Message:

- I understand this was a challenging HR matter involving a former employee and the Minister has been clear that the claims aren't true.
- As the Minister has said, constituency staff are not government employees and don't do government work - it's perfectly normal that constituency business be done on non-government accounts. That's how the system works.
- Last month, B.C. became the first province in Canada to legislate government's obligation to create adequate records of key decisions.
- The former Commissioner, David Loukidelis has said B.C.'s new approach will meet or exceed requirements to document government decisions in other jurisdictions around the world.

*What did your office do after receiving allegations in March?*

- My Chief of Staff met with the Executive Director of Caucus as the individual did not work for government and her claims relate to her employment as a CA.
- Her claims were looked into at the time and it was determined no donations had been made and there was no other evidence found to support them.
- As it is an HR matter, and the purview of caucus -- not government, we can't go into any further details.

*On the Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> letter regarding visa applications from Pakistan:*

- MLAs get requests for all sorts of assistance from members of the public.
- Minister Sims has said she didn't see this letter before it went out but that she has taken responsibility.
- I also understand she took steps to make sure it wouldn't happen again.

## **B.C. Care Providers on Okanagan Health Care Assistant Shortage**

### Background:

- Last week, Okanagan media extensively covered the B.C. Care Providers Association comments that the lack of care aides in the Okanagan is at a “crisis” level in privately contracted homes.
- They're asking the province to reduce restrictions that would allow them to hire care aides from Alberta and Saskatchewan.
- While there may be Care Aides in Alberta that are interested in moving to BC, Interior Health has not found it to be a large source of employees (primarily due to the costs of relocating from Alberta to BC). The primary focus on recruitment for Interior Health has been on identifying and training people in local communities.
- The Association also put out a report on May 22 claiming that 45,000 new long-term care beds will be needed over the next decade.

### Message:

- Quality care has to be there for people when they need it.
- The old government failed to plan for the future to ensure a well-staffed health care system.
- Interior Health is working actively with its private providers to support staffing efforts
- Our government is focused on training people locally for good jobs in our communities.
- We've created new health care assistant seats at 11 post-secondary institutions throughout B.C. - including at Okanagan College.
- We're supporting good local jobs, and making sure people get the supports they deserve.

## **Vernon Overdose Prevention Site Proposed Location**

### Background:

- Media has reported concerns about a proposed downtown location for Vernon's first overdose prevention site, and opposition from the local Chamber of Commerce.
- Interior Health has proposed a location, but no final decision has been made.
- The opening date and exact location will be determined after Interior Health selects a community partner to deliver those services.
- The Chamber of Commerce has said that it doesn't want a site in the downtown core, and recommended that an OPS be located at or adjacent to Vernon Jubilee Hospital.

### Message:

- Overdose prevention sites are a critical part of our response to the overdose crisis, and to connecting people to treatment and care.

## **Kelowna - Urgent Primary Care Centre**

### Background:

- Kelowna and West Kelowna are still waiting for news on the possibility of a new urgent primary care centre in the Kelowna area.
- Some have called for the Centre to be in West Kelowna, and some physicians have suggested in the media that government is ignoring West Kelowna and has already decided to put it in Kelowna.
- There have been a number of media stories in the Okanagan about people being unable to access family doctors.

### Message:

- We have been working closely with local divisions of family practice, Interior Health and others around an urgent primary care clinic for the Kelowna area.
- We will have more to say soon.
- We know that after years of the old government's neglect, there are a lot of people in Kelowna who can't access the healthcare they need.
- We're rolling out team-based care across the province so that more people can access teams of health care providers and receive care after hours without having to wait long hours in emergency departments.

## Gas Prices - BCUC Investigation

### Background:

- Government issued Terms of Reference regarding the BCUC investigation of high gas prices. The BCUC is to report back to Minister Ralston by August 31st.
- The Opposition has complained that the terms prevent the BCUC from looking at impacts of government policy including gas taxes and the Low Carbon Fuel Standard.

### Message:

- The rapid increase in gas prices in B.C. is alarming and increasingly out of line with the rest of Canada. People in B.C. deserve answers.
- We have asked the BCUC to conduct a fair, transparent and comprehensive independent investigation, to get some of those answers.
- The BCUC has the investigative powers to address questions like, why are the gas companies' margins so much higher in B.C. than the rest of Canada.
- I've also spoken to the Prime Minister about increasing capacity in the existing pipeline to improve the current supply of gasoline and relieve prices.

### *Why is the BCUC not looking at impacts of taxes on gas prices?*

- Taxes on gasoline are publicly known. We publish regular bulletins on it.
- What's not transparent is how and why the oil and gas companies make huge increases to the price at the pump without any apparent link to what's reasonable.
- Over the past few months gas prices in greater Vancouver have gone up 40 cents, while the carbon tax only went up one cent. The other 39 cents goes to oil & gas companies.
- The BCUC investigation will finally be able to get British Columbians some answers from the oil and gas companies on their price hikes.

### *Will the BCUC be able to look at the how the Low Carbon Fuel Standard is affecting prices?*

- We've maintained the 2020 target for the Low Carbon Fuel Standard set by the previous government.
- That cannot explain the massive increases in gas prices we've seen in recent months.
- But as British Columbians, we are completely in the dark when it comes to how oil and gas companies choose to make massive increases in the price at the pump.
- Many in the media have commented how difficult it is to get someone from that sector to explain their decision when it comes to gas prices.
- Clearly, we need the powers of the Commissioner in order to get some answers.

## Teacher Bargaining

### Background:

- Over the past weekend multiple media stories and social media posts covered the BCTF's position that the proposals around class size and composition tabled by the BC Public School Employers' Association (BC PSEA) amount to requests for concessions and the undoing of the language restored by the Supreme Court case win.
- The BC PSEA lead negotiator has responded to media with more detail about what led to the proposals and clarified that the language can be negotiated through bargaining.
- The BCTF has said they're willing to bargain over the summer and that they don't intend to initiate strike action in the fall.

### Message:

- After 16 years of underfunding by the last government, we are focused on improving services and putting the success of our students at the centre of all we do.
- We are investing in schools for our kids and families, for our teachers and support staff.
- We have invested \$1 billion more than the old government did in 2016/17.
- We are looking forward to a respectful round of negotiations between the teachers' union and the BC Public School Employers' Association.
- Unlike the former government that ripped up contracts, we respect teachers and all they do for our kids.
- No one is looking for concessions. Both sides are looking for change – change that is good for teachers, good for students, and good for the education system.
- Bargaining belongs at the bargaining table – that is where the parties are working to achieve positive results and it's where solutions will be found.

*What do you think it means hearing the teachers' union say they're willing to bargain over the summer and that they don't intend to initiate strike action in the fall?*

- It's positive to hear that the parties are so engaged in negotiations.
- We know it's going to take some give and take - seeing their commitment is a good sign - good for parents and for the teachers.



## **Speculation Tax and Assessment Notices Sent**

### Background:

- On Friday May 17, the Ministry of Finance released information confirming that based on the returned declarations more than 99% of British Columbians will not be subject to the Speculation and Vacancy Tax.
- Additionally, 80% of respondents who will have to pay the tax are made up by foreign owners, satellite families and non BC residents.
- Those who still haven't filled out their declarations will begin to receive Notices of Assessment in the coming days and weeks.
- The notices include a reminder that owners who are exempt but haven't submitted their declarations are still able to do so and will not have to pay.
- If owners who are exempt submit a declaration even after the tax is due on July 2nd they will be exempt. However, if an owner is not exempt and fails to pay the tax by August 2nd the amount owing will begin to accrue interest (but no penalties).

### Message:

- We committed to taking action on out-of-control housing prices and that's what we've done.
- I'm pleased to see that the Speculation and Vacancy tax is doing what we said it would, by helping get speculation out of the market and returning some balance to the housing market.
- The initial data confirms that over 99% of British Columbians won't be paying this tax.
- And the vast majority of those subject to the tax are foreign owners, satellite families and Canadians who aren't residents in B.C.
- Assessment notices are beginning to go out but for people who are exempt it's not too late to fill out declarations online without any penalty.

## Illecillewaet/CBA

### Background:

- The Illecillewaet four-laning project along Highway 1 to Alberta is the first CBA contract to be awarded.
- The winning bid came in \$22 million over budget (approx 33%) as a result of increased costs in building materials and labour unrelated to the CBA.
- The project was awarded to Emil Anderson Construction and work is expected to get underway in June with completion expected in Spring 2022.
- Tom Fletcher wrote a column highlighting ICBA claims that the cost overruns were due to the CBA.

### Message:

- We're moving forward with major improvements on Highway 1 to make life better for people who travel in the region, beginning with the Illecillewaet four-laning project.
- We're building it using a Community Benefits Agreement, because when we invest in major projects we should also invest in the people of B.C.
- This will ensure good-paying jobs for local workers, women and Indigenous people and will offer apprenticeship and training opportunities.
- While the previous government ignored the labour shortage, we're using these projects to ensure that BC has the workforce we need going into the future.

### *If pressed on costs of CBA:*

- We're in a hot construction market with escalating costs of materials and a labour shortage affecting all projects across the board.
- That means all projects have experienced increased costs. Last month we were forced to defer a non-CBA project in Terrace because its costs had doubled.
- The solution to address the labour shortage, isn't to ignore it as the Liberals have, but rather to ensure we're training skilled workers and benefiting British Columbians.
- If others believe these jobs should be going to Albertans or Americans they can defend that.

## Indigenous youth reporting sexual assault to RCMP officer

### Background:

- A 2012 video shared online by APTN shows a 17-year old Indigenous youth (at the time in the care of MCFD) reporting a sexual assault to a male Kelowna RCMP officer.
- The officer interrogates her about past sexual history and why she went to the alleged assailant's house and asks "Were you turned on by this at all? Even a little bit?"
- The youth is a claimant in a lawsuit against MCFD and social workers Saunders and Stynes which alleges Saunders opened joint bank accounts with youth and siphoned their funds. The youth has added the allegation that Stynes punished her for reporting the sexual assault described in the video.
- The Federal Public Safety Minister condemned the actions in the video, calling them "abhorrent". The Federal Minister of Indigenous Relations commented: "totally inappropriate and I don't know where people get that kind of right to re-victimize somebody, it's disgusting". Minister Conroy called the video sickening and horrible.
- Since the story broke, the youth, now 24, has spoken to APTN and CBC about her experience and Grand Chief Stewart Phillip has condemned the RCMP and MCFD.
- Government is unable to publicly confirm whether an individual is or was in care.

### Message:

- The video is heart-wrenching and appalling.
- Our government firmly believes that when people come forward to report sexual violence, especially young people and Indigenous peoples, they must feel safe and be supported. That's our expectation.
- Women, especially Indigenous women and girls, face many barriers in reporting sexual violence. We must do everything possible to reduce those barriers and protect survivors of sexual violence.
- We are having discussions in government about how best to support survivors of sexual violence because clearly, more needs to be done.

*If asked about the Police Act/government making changes*

- The Minister of Children and Family Development has asked the Provincial Director of Child Welfare to look at this matter under her authority in the Child, Family and Community Service Act.
- We are having discussions in government about how best to support survivors of sexual violence because clearly, more needs to be done.
- The discussions we are having are broad and there are no immediate plans for amendments to any act.
- As well, the Provincial Director of Child Welfare in her capacity as a statutory officer, has sent a letter to the RCMP to express her grave concerns about the media clips that were publicly posted. She is seeking follow up from the RCMP.

*If asked about the recent Executive Director of Service firing in Kelowna:*

- I'm unable to discuss personnel matters.

*If asked about letter of apology the youth's lawyer says social workers asked her to write:*

- I don't have all the details but I can say the video is deeply disturbing.

*If asked about the case regarding Saunders allegedly defrauding youth:*

- While I can't speak to matters before the court, I can tell you we're doing our due diligence to ensure those youth affected are appropriately compensated.
- We've been reaching out to young people and have referred them to legal counsel.
- As soon as we heard of Mr. Saunders' actions, we put services in place for the young people he may have affected.

## West Kelowna Transmission Line

### Background:

- In February 2015, then Premier Christy Clark announced BC Hydro would build a new transmission line in the Okanagan, specifically for power to be delivered to West Kelowna, Westside and Peachland.
- At the time of this announcement, three options for the new line were identified. The final route, timing and budget were not announced.
- In the fall of 2016, BC Hydro publicly identified Alternative 2 (connect Westbank Substation to Nicolo Substation using a primarily different route than existing line) as the preferred option, but did not make a final decision.
- BC Hydro was expected to announce the preferred alternative for the transmission line in early 2019, but cost estimates for three initial options had increased significantly since the initial estimates in 2016.
- To allow for additional time to review the cost estimates and consider all alternatives, including improving resiliency of the existing line, BC Hydro has informed all stakeholders a final decision on the line will be made in early 2020.
- The City of West Kelowna has been publicly critical of the delay, and in April, sent a letter to BC Hydro stating they do not support the the resiliency alternative.
- BC Hydro has since met with West Kelowna Council to discuss the topic, and have scheduled two open houses in June for people in West Kelowna and Peachland to learn about the status of the project.

### Message:

- Our government wants to make sure people living in the West Kelowna and Peachland have access the clean, reliable electricity.
- We've been taking a close look at the all the options, and it turns out that the preferred alternative identified by the old government had higher costs than first thought.
- That's why BC Hydro is taking the time they need to consider the costs and other details of the existing options and considering a new one.
- We want to make sure we make the best decision for people living in the region, so we've been doing our due diligence on this, working with First Nations, local government and stakeholders.
- I invite people in the region to attend BC Hydro's open houses in June to learn more about the project and options.

## **Tolko Sawmill Shift Reduction**

### Background:

- On May 10, Tolko Industries Ltd. announced the permanent closure the Quest Wood sawmill in Quesnel and a reduction from two to one shift at one of its Kelowna sawmills.
- The Opposition has criticized recent forestry changes, alleging the changes have created unnecessary bureaucracy, will force companies to leave BC and will cause job loss.
- Media could ask about the shift reduction at the Kelowna sawmill.

### Message:

- I know how hard it is for a community when these things happen.
- The forestry sector is facing serious challenges from international forces, and the decline of available timber following the pine beetle surge.
- We've been working hard to reinvigorate our forest sector.
- Earlier this month, we announced a locally driven renewal process for BC's interior forest industry to bring people together to face the challenges.
- We want to maximize the potential of the existing timber supply, maintain jobs, incorporate First Nations' interests, and address the economic, cultural, recreational and other uses of B.C.'s land base.
- We want to develop a competitive, sustainable future for forest companies, workers and communities.

## OOP FOI PREM:EX

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**From:** Holmwood, Jen PREM:EX  
**Sent:** May 14, 2019 2:07 PM  
**To:** Holmwood, Jen PREM:EX

<https://www.leg.bc.ca/content-committees/AccountabilityDocuments/mlas/2018-19/Q3/Ind-Current-MLA/Constituency-Office-Expenses-Receipts/Sims-Constituency-Office-Expenses-Receipts-Q3-FY2018-19.pdf>

Jen Holmwood  
Deputy Communications Director  
Office of the Premier | Government of BC  
250-818-4881

## OOP FOI PREM:EX

---

**From:** Holmwood, Jen PREM:EX  
**Sent:** May 14, 2019 4:53 PM  
**To:** rshaw@vancouver.sun.com  
**Subject:** RE: background

It was a mistake by a staff person. When the minister found out, she spoke with them about it.

---

**From:** Shaw, Rob <rshaw@postmedia.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 14, 2019 3:53 PM  
**To:** Holmwood, Jen PREM:EX <Jen.Holmwood@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** Re: background

That's an awful lot of blame for a minister to put on staff.

So unnamed staff put her ministerial credentials in the letter?  
And then unnamed staff signed her e-signature to these letters without her approval?  
And then unnamed sent them off without her knowing or seeing them?

I guess if we're going to go down this route then I'll have to ask:  
What staff? What are their names? Have they been disciplined for these mistakes? Terminated?

Kind of also runs counter to the idea of ministerial responsibility...

**ROB SHAW**  
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**The Province**

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---

**From:** Jen Holmwood <[Jen.Holmwood@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jen.Holmwood@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 14, 2019 at 2:34 PM  
**To:** Postmedia Inc <[rshaw@postmedia.com](mailto:rshaw@postmedia.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: background

Actually, on the second point re the letter – I just learned Sims hadn't even seen the letter before her e-signature was applied (without approval) and it was sent.



---

**From:** Holmwood, Jen PREM:EX  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 14, 2019 2:17 PM  
**To:** [rshaw@vancouver.sun.com](mailto:rshaw@vancouver.sun.com)  
**Subject:** background

Following up with more detail on some of your scrum Qs. Give me a call if you want to discuss further.

On supposed promises of donations...

- These allegations are completely false, as the minister pointed out.

On letter re 10 people from Pakistan...

- Sims knew a few of the people who were looking to come and wrote a letter. As a former MP she frequently helped people with immigration issues.
- A staff member in the office mistakenly added a reference in the letter to the fact that MLA Sims is employed as a Minister.
- Through contact with the local MP, was informed that some of the other individuals in the group were on a US security watchlist.
- Upon learning this, MLA Sims told staff not to pursue the matter.

On an individual who had problems with City of Surrey re basement permits...

- The suggestion of any donation is untrue.
- Sims says she just refers people making such requests to the appropriate person at the city of Surrey.

On Mindy Bansal contract for \$6,000 for what Kate claims is working on the website when Kate alleges she didn't have the password...

- This allegation is also false. She wasn't working on the website.
- Ms. Bansal was contracted temporarily for outreach and social media by MLA Sims prior to her employment for government as an Executive Assistant. The contract for this is posted online here (p.48)  
<https://www.leg.bc.ca/content-committees/AccountabilityDocuments/mlas/2018-19/Q3/Ind-Current-MLA/Constituency-Office-Expenses-Receipts/Sims-Constituency-Office-Expenses-Receipts-Q3-FY2018-19.pdf>
- Ms. Bansal is a small business owner and entrepreneur who has been recognized with awards.
  - Won a SEEDS Women Entrepreneur Awards 2014
  - Nominated for Surrey Business Excellence Award 2014
- Multilingual in Hindi and Punjabi with a diploma in Criminology & Human Resources.
- Worked as a mortgage and office manager for Manulife Financial for 8 years.

On meetings with Moe Sihota...

- There were no meetings with Moe Sihota during Kate's employment.
- Kate scheduled a meeting with Moe Sihota without permission. This meeting was cancelled when the Minister's Office found out.
- The Minister did later hold a meeting with Mr Sihota and an organization (Back in Motion) along with Ministry staff (ADM) that wanted to better understand government's procurement strategy.
- There was no discussion of specific contracts.

On the 'Jinny Sims Scholarships'...

- Scholarships are paid for by MLA Sims personally. They are two \$500 scholarships for the two high schools in her constituency.

### **On the expenses that were repaid**

For the web hosting...

- Kate changed the website hosting company without permission and put it on her personal credit card.
- When Sims contacted the hosting company and explained that it was unauthorized, they reversed the charges.

On the pantyhose and toiletries...

- Kate purchased pantyhose and toiletries on her own initiative – without being asked to.
- When Sims found out she reimbursed the staffer personally and underlined that she had not asked for these purchases to be made and that they needed to stop.

On expenses related to witnessing a will...

- MLA Sims was asked for assistance from a member of the public (and former constituent) in witnessing a will.
- The individual was very ill at the time and MLA Sims asked her CA if they could help.
- Jinny Sims personally reimbursed all of the expenses incurred by the staff person.

**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:** Marriott, Sarah GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** May 15, 2019 10:06 AM  
**To:** Holmwood, Jen PREM:EX; Smith, George PREM:EX  
**Subject:** FW: CKNW: Zussman - accusations against Sims 📎

FYI

**From:** tno@gov.bc.ca <tno@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** May 14, 2019 7:52 PM  
**Subject:** CKNW: Zussman - accusations against Sims 📎

CKNW (Vancouver)  
CKNW Simi Sara  
14-May-2019 11:35

Copyright

Page 090 of 111 to/à Page 091 of 111

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

Copyright

TNO...

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## OOP FOI PREM:EX

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**From:** Marriott, Sarah GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** May 14, 2019 1:24 PM  
**To:** Smith, George PREM:EX; Holmwood, Jen PREM:EX; Howlett, Tim GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Invoice  
**Attachments:** Sims-Constituency-Office-Expenses-Receipts-Q3-FY2018-19.pdf

Redacted invoice is attached

Full package is online here (p. 48):

<https://www.leg.bc.ca/content-committees/AccountabilityDocuments/mlas/2018-19/Q3/Ind-Current-MLA/Constituency-Office-Expenses-Receipts/Sims-Constituency-Office-Expenses-Receipts-Q3-FY2018-19.pdf>

Sarah Marriott  
Issues Manager  
250.361.8416



Entrepreneur | Influencer | Global Educator  
Business Development, Marketing & Creative Director

Client Name: Jinny Sims, MLA

September 15, 2018

Contact #: 778.593.2262

Invoice #444

Email Address: [Jinny.sims.mla@leg.bc.ca](mailto:Jinny.sims.mla@leg.bc.ca)

CONTRACT   SERVICE DESCRIPTION	Amount
Providing outreach, social media marketing and development	
June 1 - September 15, 2018	\$ 6,000.00
	\$ -
	\$ -
	\$ -
	\$ -
	\$ -
	\$ -
	\$ -
	\$ -
	\$ -
	\$ -
Notes:	\$ 6,000.00
Total	\$ 6,000.00

*Thank you for your business.*

[Redacted]  
[Redacted], Surrey, B.C. [Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]@gmail.com

## OOP FOI PREM:EX

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**From:** Hooper, Tyler GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** May 14, 2019 11:10 AM  
**To:** Harbord, Chris GCPE:EX; Parmar, Ravi CITZ:EX; Zadavec, Don GCPE:EX; Byers, Lindsay GCPE:EX; Smith, George PREM:EX; Holmwood, Jen PREM:EX; GCPE Strategic Issues Team; Howlett, Tim GCPE:EX; Russell, Shannon CITZ:EX  
**Subject:** Sims - employee letter  
**Attachments:** Sims - employee letter.m4a; ATT00001.txt



## OOP FOI PREM:EX

---

**From:** Howlett, Tim GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** May 14, 2019 7:12 PM  
**To:** Aaron, Sage PREM:EX; Smith, George PREM:EX; Holmwood, Jen PREM:EX; McConnell, Sheena PREM:EX  
**Subject:** FW: Issue note  
**Attachments:** 2019.05.15 Issues Scan - Victoria.docx

Updated version with one small tweak

## **Issues Scan**

May 15, 2019

### Contents

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Hydraulic Fracturing - Comments from Governor Inslee and NDP Leader Singh.....	5
Minister Sims – Claims by Former Employee .....	6

## Old Growth Logging on Vancouver Island

### Background:

- On May 13, the BC Green Caucus called for an immediate moratorium on logging old growth forests on Vancouver Island and called for a transition to logging second-growth.
- They suggest the province focus on value-added manufacturing and mill retrofits.
- Their press conference was attended by by Metchosin Councillor Andy MacKinnon, the Ecoforestry Institute Society and the Ancient Forest Alliance. Mayor Lisa Helps and Mayor Josie Osborne provided quotes in their release.
- In April 2019, BC Timber Sales advertised a timber sale licence with cut blocks in the Parkinson Creek area near Port Renfrew and close to Juan de Fuca Park.
- ENGOs and area residents raised concerns about impacts on legacy trees and on eco-tourism operations.
- BCTS did not discover any legacy trees in their initial review but is reaching out to the Ancient Forest Alliance about legacy trees they reported finding.
- The BCTS has now indefinitely delayed the auction, as they inadvertently missed a stakeholder during their consultations.

### Message:

- Our government is committed to protecting the important biodiversity of old growth.
- We're also committed to ensuring a continued vibrant and innovative forest sector.
- Ministers Heyman and Donaldson met with environmental stakeholders earlier this year. This was the first of ongoing talks that will help inform our old growth strategy.
- In the very near future, we will be launching a public engagement process for this.

### *What's going on with the BC Timber Sale near Port Renfrew/Juan de Fuca Park?*

- For the time being, the proposed auction has been delayed.
- We're taking the time needed to make sure stakeholders are properly consulted and that the concerns raised by environmental organizations are looked into.

## **'Taxing the Air' - SVT & School Taxes applying to potential use assessments**

### Background:

- On May 14, the Vancouver Sun raised questions raised in media regarding the potential application of the Speculation and Vacancy Tax and additional school tax on homes over \$3 million to split assessment properties.
- As a result of properties being assessed at their highest and best use, some owners have obtained a split assessment where, for example a business on the existing ground floor is assessed at the commercial rate, but the full potential use of the airspace above their building is assessed at the lower residential rate.
- The article speculated that the Speculation Tax could apply in those cases as it would be deemed to be vacant residential property. The additional school tax could also apply.
- Businesses with triple-net leases (where the renters pay rent, maintenance fees and property taxes to the landlords) are particularly concerned.

### Message:

- Years of an out-of-control real estate market have left small businesses struggling.
- Businesses with triple-net leases are particularly impacted as they bear these costs when they aren't the ones who will profit from the increase in the value of the property.
- We have heard them and Minister Robinson is looking at how the property assessment system works during rapidly-rising real estate markets or significant changes to community plans and zoning.
- When it comes to the Speculation and Vacancy Tax, we already have an exemption in place for this year.
- Minister James is meeting with municipalities this summer to review how the tax is working and they will be discussing these type of questions.
- We recognize the importance of small businesses and the value they provide to our communities – we will continue to address the housing market while protecting vital small businesses.

## **Globe & Mail reporting NEB can adjust product in pipeline**

### Background:

- Justine Hunter has confirmed with the NEB that either the Provincial or Federal government are able to make an appeal to the regulator to seek a change in the mix of product within the existing Trans Mountain pipeline.
- Hunter is also reporting that neither the Provincial nor Federal governments have yet to make such an appeal.
- In an interview, Minister Ralston emphasized that the Premier spoke with the Prime Minister and that the Prime Minister had agreed to ask officials to look into what could be done.

### Message:

- This is exactly why I raised the issue with the Prime Minister when I spoke with him last week.
- The Prime Minister assured me that he would have his officials look into the matter.
- I look forward to hearing back from Ottawa on this question.
- In the meantime, we're also working with the BC Utilities Commission to determine what's behind these massive price increases at the pump and how we can tackle this gouging.

### *If asked whether BC will make a direct appeal to the NEB*

- We're going to have to see what the Prime Minister's officials confirm is the best approach in influencing the mix of product in the existing pipeline.
- As I've said before, I believe that given the Federal government oversees the NEB and owns the pipeline, there is a positive way we can bring more refined gasoline into the lower mainland and bring prices back down to earth.

## **Hydraulic Fracturing - Comments from Governor Inslee and NDP Leader Singh**

### Background:

- On May 8, Washington State Governor Jay Inslee signed a bill banning hydraulic fracking for oil and natural gas within the state.
- That same day, he announced his opposition to two proposed fossil fuel projects - a Liquefied Natural Gas plant in Tacoma and a methanol production facility in Kalama.
- Governor Inslee said the state should focus on clean, renewable sources rather than fossil fuels when it comes to future investments in energy infrastructure.
- There has been no oil and gas production in the state of Washington for several decades. About 600 exploratory gas and oil wells have been drilled in Washington, but large-scale commercial production has never occurred.
- On May 13, federal NDP leader Jagmeet Singh said that the future of Canada should not include hydraulic fracturing or the use of fossil fuels.
- He also said that he has three conditions for LNG: protecting climate, respecting all First Nations rights, and creating jobs for Canadians and that the LNG Canada project hasn't met those conditions. He has previously noted that the company has done good consultations but has further work to do on resolving First Nations concerns.

### Message:

s.13

- I'm proud to say that our government is leading the country in fighting climate change through our plan, CleanBC.
- CleanBC puts us on the path to a cleaner, better future – with a low-carbon economy that creates opportunities for all while protecting our clean air, land and water.
- We did the hard work to make sure that LNG Canada would fit within our plan and our climate targets.
- We are committed to meeting our climate targets. We put them in legislation and CleanBC includes a robust accountability framework to ensure we stay on track.

s.13

## **Minister Sims – Claims by Former Employee**

### Background:

- Media has reported that a former employee of Minister Sims has raised allegations around Minister Sim's records management and constituency office practices.
- Kate Gillie worked as a constituency assistant for for Minister Sims for six weeks in January and February of this year. All of the allegations raised are untrue.
- The May 12th letter from a lawyer on behalf of Ms. Gillie claims that Minister Sims uses personal email and Whatsapp for government business, instructed staff to avoid government communications channels and only uses government channels for 'routine' matters so she has records to provide on request.
- It was sent to the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner who is looking into the matter. None of the matters are within the purview of the Attorney General's office who was cc'd on the letter.
- The Opposition also released a March 4th email from Ms. Gillie that went to the Premier's Office.
- It contains a variety of untrue claims, including that Minister Sims accepted \$10,000 donations in exchange for constituency casework, including a support letter accepting responsibility for a number of visa applicants, three of whom allegedly then turned out to be on a US security watch list.

### Message:

s.13

### *Why did your office receive these allegations in March and do nothing?*

- My Chief of Staff met with the Executive Director of Caucus as the individual did not work for government and her claims relate to her employment as a CA.
- The allegations were reviewed and deemed to be untrue.
- As an HR matter we can't go into any further details.

*Did Minister Sims accept large donations in exchange for casework?*

- No. That is completely untrue. Minister Sims helps her constituents because it's her job as a representative. She does not take money for it.
- Our government banned big money.



## OOP FOI PREM:EX

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**From:** Howlett, Tim GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** May 15, 2019 5:46 PM  
**To:** Aaron, Sage PREM:EX; Holmwood, Jen PREM:EX; McConnell, Sheena PREM:EX; Smith, George PREM:EX; Brown, Evan PREM:EX  
**Subject:** FW: Issues Scan  
**Attachments:** 2019.05.16 Issues Scan - Victoria Call Ins.docx

---

**From:** Howlett, Tim GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 15, 2019 5:46 PM  
**To:** Hagglund, Jarrett PREM:EX <Jarrett.Hagglund@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: Issues Scan

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**From:** Hagglund, Jarrett PREM:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 15, 2019 5:15 PM  
**To:** Howlett, Tim GCPE:EX <[Tim.Howlett@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Tim.Howlett@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: Issues Scan

Need to hand it to him around 5:45pm

---

**From:** Howlett, Tim GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** May 15, 2019 5:14 PM  
**To:** Hagglund, Jarrett PREM:EX <[Jarrett.Hagglund@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jarrett.Hagglund@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: Issues Scan

Shoot- when is PJH leaving?

---

**From:** Hagglund, Jarrett PREM:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 15, 2019 5:13 PM  
**To:** Howlett, Tim GCPE:EX <[Tim.Howlett@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Tim.Howlett@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Issues Scan

Hey Tim,

Wanted to check in and see if we can get that issues scan pretty shortly here.

Thank you!

Jarrett

Jarrett Hagglund | Executive Coordinator  
Office of the Premier  
604-817-1458 | [Jarrett.Hagglund@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jarrett.Hagglund@gov.bc.ca)

## **Issues Scan**

May 16, 2019

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Indigenous youth reporting sexual assault to RCMP officer .....	7

## **'Taxing the Air' - SVT & School Taxes applying to potential use assessments**

### Background:

- On May 14, the Vancouver Sun raised questions raised in media regarding the potential application of the Speculation and Vacancy Tax and additional school tax on homes over \$3 million to split assessment properties.
- As a result of properties being assessed at their highest and best use, some owners have obtained a split assessment where, for example a business on the existing ground floor is assessed at the commercial rate, but the full potential use of the airspace above their building is assessed at the lower residential rate.
- The article speculated that the Speculation Tax could apply in those cases as it would be deemed to be vacant residential property. The additional school tax could also apply.
- Businesses with triple-net leases (where the renters pay rent, maintenance fees and property taxes to the landlords) are particularly concerned.

### Message:

- Years of an out-of-control real estate market have left small businesses struggling.
- Businesses with triple-net leases are particularly impacted as they bear these costs when they aren't the ones who will profit from the increase in the value of the property.
- We have heard them and Minister Robinson is looking at how the property assessment system works during rapidly-rising real estate markets or significant changes to community plans and zoning.
- When it comes to the Speculation and Vacancy Tax, we already have an exemption in place for this year.
- Minister James is meeting with municipalities this summer to review how the tax is working and they will be discussing these type of questions.
- We recognize the importance of small businesses and the value they provide to our communities – we will continue to address the housing market while protecting vital small businesses.

## **NEB can control product in pipeline**

### Background:

- Justine Hunter has confirmed with the NEB that either the Provincial or Federal government are able to make an appeal to the regulator to seek a change in the mix of product within the existing Trans Mountain pipeline.
- Hunter is also reporting that neither the Provincial nor Federal governments have yet to make such an appeal.
- In an interview, Minister Ralston emphasized that the Premier spoke with the Prime Minister and that the Prime Minister had agreed to ask officials to look into what could be done.

### Message:

- This is exactly why I raised the issue with the Prime Minister when I spoke with him last week.
- The Prime Minister assured me that he would have his officials look into the matter.
- I look forward to hearing back from Ottawa on this question.
- In the meantime, we're also working with the BC Utilities Commission to determine what's behind these massive price increases at the pump and how we can tackle this gouging.

### *If asked whether BC will make a direct appeal to the NEB*

- We're going to have to see what the Prime Minister's officials confirm is the best approach in influencing the mix of product in the existing pipeline.
- As I've said before, I believe that given the Federal government oversees the NEB and owns the pipeline, there is a positive way we can bring more refined gasoline into the lower mainland and bring prices back down to earth.

## **Hydraulic Fracturing - Comments from Governor Inslee and NDP Leader Singh**

### Background:

- On May 8, Washington State Governor Jay Inslee signed a bill banning hydraulic fracking for oil and natural gas within the state.
- That same day, he announced his opposition to two proposed fossil fuel projects - a Liquefied Natural Gas plant in Tacoma and a methanol production facility in Kalama.
- There has been no oil and gas production in the state of Washington for several decades. About 600 exploratory gas and oil wells have been drilled in Washington, but large-scale commercial production has never occurred.
- On May 13, federal NDP leader Jagmeet Singh said that the future of Canada should not include hydraulic fracturing or the use of fossil fuels.
- He also said that he has three conditions for LNG: protecting climate, respecting all First Nations rights, and creating jobs for Canadians and that the LNG Canada project hasn't met those conditions. He has previously noted that the company has done good consultations but has further work to do on resolving First Nations concerns.
- In a subsequent interview, Jagmeet Singh was asked repeatedly if he supported the LNG Canada project. Media is reporting he highlighted BC's climate change plan, but was evasive and wouldn't give an answer on the project.

### Message:

s.13

- I'm proud to say that our government is leading the country in fighting climate change through our plan, CleanBC.
- CleanBC puts us on the path to a cleaner, better future – with a low-carbon economy that creates opportunities for all while protecting our clean air, land and water.
- We did the hard work to make sure that LNG Canada would fit within our plan and our climate targets.
- We are committed to meeting our climate targets. We put them in legislation and CleanBC includes a robust accountability framework to ensure we stay on track.

s.13

## **Minister Sims – Claims by Former Employee**

### Background:

- Media has reported that a former employee of MLA Sims has raised allegations around Minister Sim's records management and constituency office practices.
- Kate Gillie worked as a constituency assistant for MLA Sims for six weeks in January and February 2019.
- A May 12th letter from Gillie's lawyer claims that MLA Sims uses personal email and Whatsapp for government business, instructed staff to avoid government communications channels. Minister Sims has denied the claims and said she had clarified that constituency business should be done on Legislature accounts - not government accounts.
- The lawyer's letter was also sent to the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner who is reported to be looking into the matter according to Woodford.
- The Opposition also released a March 4th email from Ms. Gillie that was sent to the Premier's Office that contains a variety of claims (without evidence) including that MLA Sims was offered \$10,000 donations in exchange for constituency casework, including a support letter for 10 visa applicants from Pakistan, three of whom allegedly turned out to be on a US security watch list.
- MLA Sims has said that the visa letter was improperly replicated for individuals whom she did not know and her e-signature applied without her seeing the final copy.
- On May 15, the Opposition raised additional allegations that a fundraiser for the Chinese community was organized by the Minister's constituency office and the riding association fundraising chair Rabina Sattar. MLA Sims denied the claims.

### Message:

- I understand this was a challenging HR matter involving a former employee and the Minister has been clear that the claims aren't true.
- With regard to the matters sent to the Premier's office, they were looked into at the time and it was determined no donations had been made and there was no other evidence found to support them.
- The matter was dealt with by Caucus as it relates to an employee of the MLA office - not of government.

*On the Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> letter regarding visa applications from Pakistan:*

- MLAs get requests for all sorts of assistance from members of the public.
- Minister Sims has said she didn't see this letter before it went out but that she has taken responsibility.
- I also understand she took steps to make sure it wouldn't happen again.

*On allegations of donations*

- As elected officials we serve the people we represent because that is our job.
- There is no record of any of the alleged donations and the Minister has been clear she didn't solicit or accept money.

## **Indigenous youth reporting sexual assault to RCMP officer**

### Background:

- A 2012 video newly shared online by APTN shows a 17-year old Indigenous youth (at the time in the care of MCFD) reporting a sexual assault to a male Kelowna RCMP officer. It takes over two hours and she is alone with the RCMP the majority of the time.
- The officer interrogates her about her past sexual history and why she went to the alleged assailant's house and asks "Were you turned on by this at all? Even a little bit?"
- The youth is a claimant in a lawsuit against MCFD and social workers Robert Riley Saunders and Siobhan Stynes which alleges Saunders opened joint bank accounts with youth and siphoned their funds. The youth has added the allegation that social worker Stynes punished her for reporting the sexual assault described in the video.
- The youth's lawyer is questioning why no foster parent or social worker was with her when she was questioned alone.
- In QP on May 15 the Federal Conservative Leader asked the Public Safety Minister if he would be reviewing the incident. The Minister condemned the actions in the video, calling them "abhorrent".
- The Federal Minister of Indigenous Relations commented: "totally inappropriate and I don't know where people get that kind of right to re-victimize somebody, it's disgusting" and MP Cullen called for an investigation.
- Government is unable to publicly confirm whether an individual is or was in care.

### Message:

- I haven't seen the video but what I have been told of it is disturbing and appalling.
- Our government firmly believes when people come forward to report sexual violence, especially young people and Indigenous peoples, they must feel safe and be supported. That's our expectation.
- Women, especially Indigenous women and girls, face many barriers in reporting sexual violence. We must do everything possible to reduce those barriers and protect survivors of sexual violence.



**From:** Meggs, Geoff PREM:EX  
**To:** Wright, Don J. PREM:EX  
**Cc:** MacLennan, Alex PREM:EX; Kennedy, Christine PREM:EX; Moran, Roseanne LASS:EX  
**Subject:** RE: E-mail complaint from Kate Gillie  
**Date:** March 7, 2019 4:28:33 PM

---

Alex, I have reviewed the new e-mail and have nothing to add. Just acknowledging receipt.

Geoff

**GEOFF MEGGS**

Chief of Staff, Premier's Office  
West Annex, Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC, V8V 1K7  
250 387-1715

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**From:** Meggs, Geoff PREM:EX  
**Sent:** March 7, 2019 2:14 PM  
**To:** Wright, Don J. PREM:EX  
**Cc:** MacLennan, Alex PREM:EX ; Kennedy, Christine PREM:EX ; Moran, Roseanne LASS:EX  
**Subject:** E-mail complaint from Kate Gillie

Dear Don,

I am writing with regard to the e-mail sent to Alex MacLennan on March 4 by Kate Gillie. After reviewing the e-mail, I have followed up with Roseanne Moran, executive director of the NDP caucus, and Jinny Sims, Minister of Citizens' Services.

s.22

Sincerely,

Geoff

**GEOFF MEGGS**

Chief of Staff, Premier's Office  
West Annex, Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC, V8V 1K7  
250 387-1715



Date: March 8, 2019

Re: **Memorandum of Receipt/Actions for Email Correspondence**

On Thursday, March 7, 2019 I received another email correspondence from Kate Gillie, a member of the public. This email was a follow up to the one referenced in the memo dated March 7, 2019. The email was not relevant to BC Public Service staff. It was printed and delivered to the Office of the Deputy Premier on Thursday March 7, 2019. After delivery, the email was deleted from my inbox and not further distributed or shared.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A MacLennan", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Alex MacLennan  
Deputy Cabinet Secretary



Date: March 7, 2019

Re: **Memorandum of Receipt/Actions for Email Correspondence**

On Monday, March 4, 2019 I received email correspondence from Kate Gillie, a member of the public. The email was not relevant to BC Public Service staff. It was printed and delivered to the Office of the Deputy Premier on Tuesday March 5, 2019. After delivery, the email was deleted from my inbox and not further distributed or shared.

Alex MacLennan  
Deputy Cabinet Secretary