

SPEAKING NOTES
BC Building Trades
Mar. 7, 2019

Headline

Premier working with Building Trades to build a strong, sustainable economy with opportunity for working people.

Quote

“Together with the building trades, our government is going to build a Better B.C. that puts people first and builds a strong economy with jobs and opportunity for everyone.”

The story we want to tell

We are supporting growth in B.C.’s economy, while making sure people benefit from the wealth their hard work creates.

Speech Arc

Intro/Welcome

Where we are now, what we are facing

- For too long, BC's economy hasn't been working for people.
- The problems facing people today are the result of past choices
- ICBC / BC Hydro – billions in foregone opportunity

Given this, what is government doing?

- We're working hard to fix the problems
 - Housing, child care, health, education
- Government also has a responsibility to do more.
- We're helping people reach their full potential and leaving this province better than we found it.

We are Building BC

- Biggest-ever investment in capital spending, \$20 billion in 3 years
- LNG Canada, biggest private sector investment in Cdn. history
- B.C. is booming – it's an exciting time
- It's not just what we build, it's how we build it

We are building BC

- By investing in skills training
- Using Community Benefit Agreements
 - They ignored it, we're embracing it
- With CleanBC – jobs and opportunity
- With fairer and safer conditions for workers

Closing

Before I start, I'd like to acknowledge that we are on the territory of the Lekwungen speaking peoples, the Esquimalt and Songhees First Nations.

Thanks to Tom Sigurdson, Phil Venoit and the Building Trades Executive.

Great to be here with you all.

The building trades built this province from the ground up.

Your work anchors our communities.

Your labour has built so much more:

- Community
- Resilience
- Hope
- Opportunity
- A stronger province for everyone.

Together with the building trades, our government is going to build a Better B.C. that:

- puts people first
- Builds a strong economy with jobs and opportunity for everyone.

For too long, B.C.'s economy hasn't worked for people.

Rampant speculation in real estate hurt people, businesses and communities.

The affordability crisis has many people working 2 or 3 jobs.

Businesses can't find the skilled workers they need.

The problems facing people today are the result of past choices.

The old government took hundreds of millions out of ICBC, and abused BC Hydro's deferral accounts to the tune of \$5 billion dollars.

How many schools or hospitals could we have built with that money?

We'll never know, because the old government squandered the opportunity.

They were focused on the people at the top, while life got harder for everyone else.

These problems can't be ignored any longer.

Our government is working hard to fix them.

We're taking action to make housing more affordable, to build supply, curb demand, and provide more security for renters.

We're building an affordable child care program to give families relief and the chance to go back to work.

We're fixing public services like health care and education that were neglected for too long.

As important as that work is, it's not enough to fix what's been broken.

As a government, we are called upon to do more.

We have a responsibility to invest in people and help them reach their full potential.

That's why we are rolling up our sleeves and getting to work building our province.

Our government has committed an unprecedented \$20 billion to public infrastructure.

We worked with industry to create a new financial framework for LNG.

With LNG Canada, construction is underway on the biggest private sector investment in Canadian history.

It will generate billions in government revenues, and thousands of jobs for people in the North.

B.C. is booming. It's an exciting time.

But it's not just what we build...

it's how we build it.

We are building BC by investing in skills training.

B.C. has a major skills shortage.

There will be 60,000 job openings in the trades in the next 10 years.

Unions have been doing their part to train the next generation of workers.

STORY:

- *Toured painter's training facility in Surrey*
- *Toured an IBEW Training Centre in Port Coquitlam*
- *Drove a rig at an IUOE Training Centre in Maple Ridge*

What's been missing is a government that shares your commitment to skills training.

Our government eliminated tuition on Adult Basic Education to bring down barriers for training and re-training.

We're upgrading skills training facilities and equipment at post-secondary institutions throughout B.C.

We've invested \$30 million in Indigenous Skills Training.

And we're working hard to encourage more women to enter the trades.

Last year on International Womens' Day, I was proud to stand with members of the Building Trades as we announced a pilot program to encourage more women to enter the trades.

We've got a long way to go, but together we can break down barriers and get rid of bullying and harassment on the worksite.

Our government is with you every step of the way.

We are building BC through community benefit agreements.

We want people to benefit from the projects we build.

This includes good jobs for local workers and on-the-job training for apprenticeships,

with priority given to women, Indigenous Peoples and others underrepresented in the trades.

The Opposition criticizes us for using Community Benefit Agreements.

Yet in 2014 when they were in government, their Working Group on LNG recommended using public infrastructure projects to train apprentices and grow our skilled workforce.

Through on-the-job training on public projects, more apprentices will certify, which means more skilled workers will be available to work on projects like LNG.

The old government chose to ignore that.

We're acting on it.

That same report recommended that B.C. harness the success and skill of private sector unions to train apprentices.

“There are lessons to be learned from the approach unions are taking, which could be applied with success to other institutions.”

Again, the old government ignored it.

We’re acting on it.

We're putting your expertise to work, and B.C. will benefit.

You're going to train the skilled workers we need to fill the skills shortage,

and deliver safe, reliable public infrastructure that lasts.

I'm excited about the progress we're making.

This spring, the first CBA on the Highway 1 four-laning project will get rolling.

Later this year, we'll start construction on the new Pattullo Bridge.

And we've just announced the Broadway Skytrain will be built with a community benefits agreement.

There will be more.

Government will be looking at how we can use CBAs for other public projects.

We are building BC through clean energy projects.

In December, we introduced our CleanBC climate action plan, developed in partnership with the BC Green Caucus.

With CleanBC we will fight climate pollution and grow a low-carbon economy with jobs and opportunity for people.

Whether it's generating clean energy,
retrofitting buildings or designing new
technologies,

Making B.C. cleaner will create good jobs
that support working people and sustain
our communities.

The building trades will help get us there.

Finally, we are building BC with better, safer and fairer working conditions.

Our government is restoring balance to BC labour laws.

We have made changes to WorkSafeBC, including:

- new leadership on the Board
- stronger enforcement
- more inspections
- and more safety training

This spring, we will bring forward legislation to update the Labour Code.

Work is underway to renew and update employment standards.

And the Ministry of Labour is finalizing its recommendations for how government can better protect people from the harms of asbestos.

The strength of our economy comes from our people.

A Better BC is possible.

We have the people, power and place to succeed.

Let's work together to make it happen.

BACKGROUNDER
BC Building Trades Convention
Victoria
March 7, 2019

About BCYT-BCTC

- The voice of the unionized construction sector since 1967.
- Priority issues: expansion of community benefits, labour code and employment standards, training and compulsory trades, underground economy.
- Member of the Community Benefits Coalition of BC, made up of labour unions, local companies and organizations who believe in British Columbians getting the most value out of public infrastructure projects.

About the Convention:

- 125 attendees (includes delegates and guests)
- The Premier will speak at lunch (10 to 15 minutes) followed by scrum
- Sean McGarvey, President of the North American Building Trades will be at the conference
- Minister Harry Bains is speaking on Wednesday, March 6.

News of Note:

- The Community Benefits Coalition recently hosted a day-long conference on CBAs with speakers from government, labour and business.

Table Officers and Executive

Name	Role	Representing
Tom Sigurdson	Executive Director	
Phil Venoit	President	IBEW
Tony Santavenere	Vice President	Teamsters
Brian Zdrilic	Secretary-Treasurer	Millwrights
Hamish Stewart		BC Regional Council of Carpenters
Chris Fellar		Cement Masons
Glen Hilton		IBEW
Ray Keen		IBEW
Jim Lofty		IBEW
Neil Munro		Insulators
Doug Parton		Ironworkers
Nav Mahotra		Labourers
Brian Cochrane		Operating Eng.
Dan Jajic		Painters & allied trades
Darrell Hawk		Piledrivers
Jim Paquette		Sheet Metal Workers
Jason Pederson		Sheet Metal Workers
Al Phillips		Plumbers/Pipefitters
Jim Noon		Plumbers/Pipefitters
Jason Amesbury		Refrigeration
Jim Pearson		Culinary



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bcbuildingtrades.org



January 11, 2019

Premier John Horgan
Office of the Premier
501 Belleville Street
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Premier Horgan,

The BC Building Trades annual convention will take place in Victoria on March 6-8, 2019.

This year we welcome the General President of North America's Building Trades Unions, Sean McGarvey, who will give a feature presentation on Wednesday, March 6. NABTU represents more than three million workers in the USA and Canada and invests over \$1 billion annually in apprenticeship and trades training. McGarvey's visit to Victoria will celebrate the progressive steps your government took with the establishment of a Community Benefits Agreement framework for major provincial infrastructure projects.

Firstly, I write to ask you for an opportunity for Sean McGarvey to meet with you on March 6 at your office at the BC Legislature. I have attached Sean McGarvey's brief biography for your reference.

Additionally, I am writing to invite you to give the conference keynote speech on Thursday, March 7 at the Grand Pacific Hotel. This is an exciting and busy time for BC's construction industry. Your government has taken bold steps to maximize investments in public infrastructure by targeting hiring of apprentices, youth, Indigenous workers, women and people with disabilities, and to ensure local contractors can fairly bid on tenders.

On behalf of the 25 affiliate unions and the 40,000 Building Trades workers in the province, I want to thank you in advance for your continuing support.

I look forward to hearing back from you soon.

Sincerely,

TOM SIGURDSON
Executive Director

TS/jl MoveUP

Enclosure: Sean McGarvey's bio



President Sean McGarvey

Sean McGarvey, President of the NABTU, started his career with the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades (IUPAT) in 1981 in Philadelphia, and subsequently worked his way up through various leadership positions within the IUPAT.

In 2005, he was elected secretary-treasurer of NABTU. In 2012, McGarvey was unanimously elected to the office of president.

McGarvey currently serves in various capacities for the following organizations:

- Co-Chair; Oil and Natural Gas Industry Labor-Management Committee – a unique partnership between NABTU and the American Petroleum Institute (API)
- Member; U.S. Council on Competitiveness
- Secretary-Treasurer; Union Labor Life Insurance Company (Ullico)
- Treasurer; National Alliance for Fair Contracting, Inc.
- Chairman of Board of Directors; National Coordinating Committee for Multiemployer Plans (NCCMP)
- Chairman of the Board; CPWR, The Center for Construction Research and Training
- Labor Co-Chair; Center for Military Recruitment, Assessment and Veterans Employment (CMRAVE), which operates the Helmets to Hardhats program
- Board of Directors; Diabetes Research Institute (DRI)

McGarvey also serves on several other union construction industry labor-management committees.

McGarvey holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the National Labor College and is a graduate of the Harvard University Trade Union Program.

MINISTRY OF LABOUR

MEETING NOTE

Cliff #: 57232

Date: February 27, 2019

PREPARED FOR: Honourable John Horgan, Premier

DATE AND TIME OF MEETING: March 7, 2019; Time TBD.

ATTENDEES: Tom Sigurdson, Executive Director, British Columbia and Yukon Territory Building and Construction Trades Council (BC Building Trades (BCBT)), Sean McGarvey, President, North America's Building Trades Union (NABTU), others TBD.

ISSUE(S): Mr. Sigurdson has requested a meeting with Premier Horgan to introduce Mr. McGarvey and discuss topics of interest including the Community Benefits Agreement.

BACKGROUND:

The BCBT was established in 1967 and is organized into regional councils. The regional councils initiate and oversee the BCBT's activity within their geographical boundaries. There are five regional councils in BC. The BCBT is an umbrella organization for construction unions in BC. Currently there are 17 unions in the province who are affiliated to the BCBT. Together, these unions represent 35,000 members and skilled craft workers throughout BC and the Yukon Territory.

The NABTU was founded by the American Federation of Labor (AFL) in 1907 and is organized in state, provincial and local councils. The NABTU's purpose includes organization and formation of local councils, apprenticeship training, health and safety practices, negotiations of wage and working conditions and legislative activity.

In April 2016, NABTU called on the AFL-CIO to cut its ties with environmentalist Tom Steyer, who founded NextGen America Climate Action, a super PAC to "prevent climate disaster and transition to clean energies", opposing fossil fuel pipelines. In April 2017, President McGarvey applauded President Trump's plans for the Keystone Pipeline and other infrastructure projects, when President Trump spoke at NABTU's 2017 legislative convention.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Sigurdson's letter to Premier Horgan indicates that Mr. McGarvey's visit to BC will focus on the Community Benefits Agreement. The Community Benefits Agreement

(CBA) has been developed to create employment, training and apprenticeships, and more trades opportunities for Indigenous peoples, women and youth around the province. Major projects under the CBA will include the new Pattullo Bridge and projects within the Trans-Canada four-laning program. Community benefits will also provide predictable and aligned compensation, provide labour stability and certainty, and provide safe working conditions free of discrimination and harassment.

The B.C. Infrastructure Benefits Inc. (BCIB) was established in July 2018, and on January 2, 2019, the BCIB board of directors was announced. BCIB is the Crown corporation responsible for executing the Province's Community Benefits Agreement.

SUGGESTED RESPONSE/KEY MESSAGING:

- Government is very pleased that the Community Benefits Agreement has been developed to create employment, training and apprenticeships, and more trades opportunities for Indigenous peoples, women and youth around the province.
- Major projects under the Community Benefits Agreement will include the new Pattullo Bridge and projects within the Trans-Canada four-laning program.
- Government is confident that the Community Benefits Agreement will benefit British Columbians by providing predictable and aligned compensation, labour stability and certainty, and safe working conditions free of discrimination and harassment.

ATTACHMENTS:

Contact: Trevor Hughes, Deputy Minister, 778-974-2189

Prepared by: Peter Rogers, Senior Policy Advisor, Policy and Legislation Branch

From: [Aaron, Sage PREM:EX](#)
To: [Meggs, Geoff PREM:EX](#); [Hockin, Amber PREM:EX](#); [Van Meer-Mass, Kate PREM:EX](#)
Subject: Fwd: Premier's meeting with Sean McGarvey - cancelled
Date: March 7, 2019 9:14:37 AM
Attachments: [image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)

Sage
778-678-0832
Sent from my mobile device

Begin forwarded message:

From: "McGregor, Cara GCPE:EX" <Cara.McGregor@gov.bc.ca>
Date: March 7, 2019 at 8:25:45 AM PST
To: "Aaron, Sage PREM:EX" <Sage.Aaron@gov.bc.ca>, "McConnell, Sheena PREM:EX" <Sheena.McConnell@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: Premier's meeting with Sean McGarvey - cancelled

FYI – Sean McGarvey, President of the North American Building Trades will not be able to make it to Victoria today.

We need to remove the line recognizing him out of the speech. We can just cross it out in the Premier's working version.

Cara

From: Joe Barrett <joe@bcbuildingtrades.org>
Sent: March 7, 2019 8:24 AM
To: McLaren, Chris PREM:EX <Chris.McLaren@gov.bc.ca>; Nash, Amber PREM:EX <Amber.Nash@gov.bc.ca>; McGregor, Cara GCPE:EX <Cara.McGregor@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Premier's meeting with Sean McGarvey - cancelled

Hi Cara, Chris, Amber,

Tom Sigurdson just received a note from Sean McGarvey.

Unfortunately, Mr. McGarvey can't make it out to our convention ... he was delayed in Washington and unable to make his flight.

The meeting at 4:30 that had been scheduled with the Premier will no longer be required.

Thanks for all your help in arranging that meeting.

We look forward to welcoming Premier Horgan at his presentation to convention at noon today.

Joe



Joe Barrett, Research and Campaigns
BC Building Trades Council
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joe@bcbuildingtrades.org



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From: [Nash, Amber PREM:EX](#)
To: [Hockin, Amber PREM:EX](#); [Van Meer-Mass, Kate PREM:EX](#)
Cc: [Wade, Debbie PREM:EX](#); [Brown, Evan PREM:EX](#)
Subject: Fwd: Premier's meeting with Sean McGarvey - cancelled
Date: March 7, 2019 9:14:30 AM

Sean McGarvey was unable to make it into Victoria due to travel delays. The meeting scheduled with the Premier today is now cancelled.

Amber

Begin forwarded message:

From: Joe Barrett <joe@bcbuildingtrades.org>
Date: March 7, 2019 at 8:23:46 AM PST
To: "McLaren, Chris PREM:EX" <Chris.McLaren@gov.bc.ca>, "Nash, Amber PREM:EX" <Amber.Nash@gov.bc.ca>, "Cara.McGregor@gov.bc.ca" <Cara.McGregor@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Premier's meeting with Sean McGarvey - cancelled

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Joe

Joe Barrett, Research and Campaigns
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joe@bcbuildingtrades.org

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intended recipient, please destroy the e-mail message and any attachments or copies.

From: [Wade, Debbie PREM:EX](#)
To: [Meggs, Geoff PREM:EX](#); [Hockin, Amber PREM:EX](#)
Subject: Meeting with Sean McGarvey @ 4:15pm today - CANCELLED
Date: March 7, 2019 9:46:54 AM

The meeting with Sean McGarvey, Tom Sigurdson and all, has been cancelled as he was unable to make his flight. I have removed this from both your calendars.

Thanks!

Debbie Wade

Executive Coordinator to Geoff Meggs - Chief of Staff

and Amber Hockin - Deputy Chief of Staff

Office of the Premier

778-974-6075

From: [Hockin, Amber PREM:EX](#)
To: [PREM CAL PREM:EX](#)
Cc: [Meggs, Geoff PREM:EX](#)
Subject: Re: Meeting: General President of North America Building Trades, Sean McGarvey
Date: March 6, 2019 2:14:04 PM

We are good. Thanks.

Amber Hockin
Deputy Chief of Staff
7785840867
Amber.hockin@gov.bc.ca
Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 6, 2019, at 12:43 PM, PREM CAL PREM:EX <Calprem@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hi Amber;

Premier is meeting with North America Building Trades tomorrow, **see highlighted names (below) of those attending**. Can you please advise if we should request a Deputy or any other staff to support this meeting? (I have both you and Geoff attending)

Topic of meeting is to introduce Mr. McGarvey and discuss topics of interest including the **Community Benefits Agreement**.

Appreciate your advise.

Thanks!

Debbie Wade

**Executive Coordinator to Geoff Meggs - Chief of Staff
and Amber Hockin - Deputy Chief of Staff**

Office of the Premier

778-974-6075

-----Original Appointment-----

From: Nash, Amber PREM:EX **On Behalf Of** ^{s.17}

Sent: Friday, February 15, 2019 1:22 PM

To: ^{s.17} ; Meggs, Geoff PREM:EX; Hockin, Amber PREM:EX

Subject: Meeting: General President of North America Building Trades, Sean McGarvey

When: Thursday, March 7, 2019 4:30 PM-5:00 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada).

Where: PO

Re: Invite to meet President McGarvey.

****Don Craig will take a photo at the beginning of the meeting – confirmed**

Contact:

Julianne Losito for Tom Sigurdson, Executive Director

BC Building Trades Council

T: 778-397-2220 E: jlosito@bcbuildingtrades.org

With:

Sean McGarvey, President

Tom Sigurdson, Executive Director

Phil Venoit, (IBEW 230) President

Tony Santavenere, (Teamsters 213) Vice-President

Brian Zdrilic, (Millwrights 2736) Secretary-Treasurer

PO Support:

Geoff / Amber

Materials:

Attached in pre-brief

Sent confirmation email and to Joleen Feb 21 /cm

Office of the Minister of Finance and Deputy Premier

Reporting

- All staff report to the Minister, Chief of Staff & Deputy Chief of Staff
- Liam Lawson and Robyn Spilker are responsible for managing the daily work of the office and ensuring staff have access to supports and opportunities.
- Advisor Rob Gillezeau will provide additional support as needed in the areas of budgeting, taxation policy, fiscal planning, and economic analysis. He will report to the Liam Lawson and Robyn Spilker.

Program & Priority Files

Below is a general division of responsibilities based on program and priority file. A number of areas are shared as Liam transitions into the office and will be reassessed for further division in two months time. Similarly, we will all be fulfilling many aspects of the secondary lead until that time. One of the goals of this work plan is to also ensure that the MA, Molly Henry, has an expanded role.

Responsibility	Lead	Secondary Lead
Treasury Board process & Budget preparation*	s.13	
Real Estate Regulation and Transparency		
Debt Management*		
Taxation*		
Strategic Initiatives (LNG, ICBC, BC Hydro)*		
Anti-Money Laundering		
Gender Equity and PS Dean		
Federal-Provincial Relations & FPTs		
Municipal-Provincial Relations		
Public Service Agency		
Public Sector Employers Council (PSEC)		
Labour		
CleanBC		
Reconciliation*		
Child Care*		
Housing Plan		
Community Benefit Agreements		
Board Appointments		
PartnershipsBC		

Areas of Work Responsibility

Below is a general division of responsibilities based on areas of work responsibility.

Responsibility	Lead	Secondary Lead
Office & Staff Management	Robyn/Liam (Joint decision making)	
Media Requests	Robyn/Liam	Molly
Question Period	Molly	Liam/Robyn
House Business & Finance Committee	Liam	Brady
Deputy Minister's Office Liaison	Based on responsibilities	
Premier's Office Liaison	Based on responsibilities	
Caucus Liaison	Based on responsibilities	
Green Caucus Liaison	Based on responsibilities	
Opposition Liaison	Based on responsibilities	
Stakeholders Relations	Based on responsibilities	
Constituency Office Liaison	Brady	Molly
Events	Molly	Brady
Social Media	Molly	Brady
Records Management & FOI	Robyn	Liam
Minister's Schedule and Meeting Requests	Robyn/Liam	Molly
Correspondence	Brady	Liam/Molly
Casework	Brady	Robyn

Note: Once Brady has transitioned into his role, he will be given more areas of responsibility