

Key Messages

Organizing for Change Teleconference

April 21, 2020

Key Messages

- **Working together is more important than ever – we must keep our lines of communication open.**
- **During this extraordinary time, we are committed to working with our stakeholders, like you, across all sectors of the economy.**
- **Our immediate priority is taking a science-based approach to protecting people's health and safety, but we're also looking to the future as we plan for B.C.'s economic recovery.**
- **I welcome this opportunity to talk about building a sustainable and resilient economy that works for people coming out of this pandemic.**
- **Our government has put B.C. on the path to a cleaner, more prosperous future with \$1.3 billion invested over four years to implement CleanBC. We have also allocated \$1.5 billion for economic stimulus in response to the COVID-19 crisis.**
- **Additionally, reconciliation remains a priority and we're working closely with First Nations partners, including those represented on our economic task force, to make sure B.C.'s economic recovery plans help advance reconciliation.**

AGENDA

Organizing for Change Stakeholder Call– COVID 19

April 21st, 2020 – Location: Premiers Office/Con Call

Purpose:

To respond to their letter from last week in which they raised concerns about the makeup of the economic Recovery task force and urge for a rebuilding of a low carbon economy.

Call will also give Premier and Minister a chance to let them know about work in the ministry that is continuing (related to species at risk, and other climate/CleanBC programs), and will allow ENGOS to share how their work is shifting given pandemic.

Attending:

Premier John Horgan

Minister Carole James

Minister George Heyman

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(Attendee list attached)

10:00 AM	Opening Remarks	Premier John Horgan
10:05 AM	Remarks	Minister Heyman
10:10 AM	Moderated Q&A for participants	Moderated by Premier Horgan
10:55 AM	Closing Remarks	Premier John Horgan

Attendee List:

- Lisa Matthaus, Organizing for Change
- Hannah Askew, Sierra Club BC
- Christianne Wilhelmson, Georgia Strait Alliance
- Kai Nagata, Dogwood
- Celine, Organizing for Change
- Karen Tam Wu, Pembina Institute
- John Bergenske, Wildsight
- Bruce Passmore, Canadian Parks & Wilderness Society
- Aaron Hill, Watershed Watch Salmon Society
- Jessica Clogg, West Coast Environmental Law
- Sonia Theroux, Leadnow

**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND
CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY
BULLETS**

April 16, 2020

File: 200-20

CLIFF/eApprovals #: 357231/4483

PREPARED FOR: Honourable John Horgan, Premier and Honourable George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy.

SUBJECT: Background and response bullets to support an April 21st, 2020 call with Organizing for Change

BACKGROUND ON ORGANIZING FOR CHANGE AND THIS CALL:

Current make-up and priorities of Organizing for Change (OFC)

- OFC is composed of the following environmental organizations:
 - Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (BC Chapter)
 - Conservation Northwest
 - Dogwood
 - Ecojustice
 - Georgia Strait Alliance
 - Pembina Institute
 - Salmon Beyond Borders
 - Sierra Club BC
 - STAND
 - Watershed Watch Salmon Society
 - West Coast Environmental Law
 - Wildsight
- OFC's mission is to build public support for environmental initiatives.
- Their 2020 Priorities include: 1) Climate Target Accountability, 2) Endangered Species Protection, 3) Forest Practices for Forest Resilience

Background to the April 21st call

- On April 15, 2020, Organizing for Change sent a letter to Premier John Horgan and Minister George Heyman. Key themes of the letter included ensuring workers are supported through stimulus, that stimulus advances reconciliation and reduces inequality, that stimulus invests in a low-carbon economy, and that stimulus promotes the health and security of communities. Further, the letter discusses the lack of environmental representation on the Economic Recovery Task Force.

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ISSUES THAT OFC MAY RAISE AND SUGGESTED RESPONSES

CleanBC and climate policy

- A shift to a low-carbon economy remains a goal for this government and is a central tenant of the CleanBC plan.
- Immediate response efforts must focus on supporting the people and communities that have been most impacted by COVID-19; but the longer-term economy recovery efforts will be informed by our other priorities, including CleanBC and our climate adaptation and resiliency goals.
- CleanBC committed to significant action to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and transition to clean energy putting B.C. on a path to achieving its 2030 target of reducing GHG emissions by 40 percent below 2007 levels.
- We have invested over \$1.3 billion in CleanBC over the last 2 budgets. We are still committed to this investment and the more than 40 CleanBC commitments involving 10+ ministries.
- To date there have been significant accomplishments across the economy:
- Transportation:
 - *Zero-Emission Vehicle Act* requires all new cars sold to be zero emission by 2040 supported by continued incentives to buy new Clean Energy Vehicles (CEVs), with sales reaching almost 9 percent in 2019.
 - Significant expansion of B.C.'s CEV charging infrastructure, and new rebates for new charging stations in homes and workplaces.
 - Launch of a new Active Transportation Strategy for the province.
 - Commitments from Translink, BC Transit and BC Ferries to transition fleets to renewable energy.
- Buildings:
 - CleanBC Better Homes Better Buildings program to expand incentives for energy efficiency retrofits for residential and commercial buildings.
 - Changes initiated to the BC Building Code to implement a retrofit code for 2024 and require all new buildings to be net zero energy ready by 2032.
- Industry:
 - CleanBC Program for Industry, which directs a portion of carbon tax to incentivize cleaner facilities and fund projects to reduce emissions. In 2019, industry received \$33.36m through the industrial incentive, and industry committed \$43 million to emission reduction projects.
 - Completed Phase 1 of the Low Carbon Industrial Strategy (LCIS) to review competitiveness and relative GHG intensity of BC's industries.

- Increasing the carbon tax with associated increases to the climate action tax credit for families.
- Amendments to the *Climate Change Accountability Act* to increase transparency and accountability of government's climate action include a requirement for annual reporting and establishment of an independent advisory council, both of which were launched in February 2020.
- The current economic emergency highlights the importance of support for workers across all sectors across B.C. and the CleanBC Job Readiness Plan, once released later in 2020, will take proactive measures to ensure workers are at the forefront of a shift to a low-carbon economy.
- Next steps on CleanBC include:
 - Continuing to implement CleanBC commitments announced in December 2018, with regular tracking/reporting on progress, and continuous improvement as needed and introducing new interim and sectoral targets.
 - Cross-government work to close the gap to the 2030 target, in partnership with the federal government, local government, First Nations, the Climate Solutions Council, and stakeholders.
 - Launching a Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy.
 - Phase 2 of the LCIS including identify marketing and export opportunities based on the B.C. low-carbon advantage.
 - Continuing to engage with British Columbians and key stakeholders.
- Reconciliation with Indigenous communities is a core priority of this government, as proved by the passing of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* in the fall of 2019. Reconciliation is a lens through which we look on all our work and the response and recovery effort will be no different.
- The Economic Recovery Task Force includes a diversity of voices from across the political and economic spectrum. Though Minister George Heyman is not officially a member of the Task Force, he is involved in the weekly conference call with Premier Horgan and other members of cabinet and the members of the Task Force enabling Minister Heyman to bring the climate lens to these conversations so that any economic recovery will result in communities that are healthier, more secure and resilient post-COVID.
- Government at the political and staff levels are also working closely with the Federal Government on how B.C. can benefit from the many aspects of the federal COVID recovery plans, including infrastructure projects that support a low-carbon economic transition.

Old growth forest management (provided by FLNRORD)

- British Columbia is moving forward on a review of old growth forest management. Minister Doug Donaldson committed to a public process for engagement and appointed a two-person independent panel to provide a recommendations report. The minister will receive the report at the end of April and will release it publicly within a six-month timeframe.

- On July 17, 2019, Minister Doug Donaldson announced that Garry Merkel and Al Gorley had been appointed as an independent panel to engage with British Columbians on old growth forests and their management. The panel is to submit their independent report at the end of April 2020.
- The independent panel has conducted engagement sessions across BC from October 2019 to January 2020. In addition, EngageBC hosted a website that provided for a survey and written comments. Engagement was significant, with over 700 participants in over 200 meetings in 36 communities. There were 18,500 online surveys and 300 written submissions.
- Old growth values are important across multiple sectors of society including economic, cultural, social and environmental values. Hearing from a large segment of British Columbians has been important for the panel to prepare recommendations that affect everyone.
- FRPA amendments include new initiatives such as landscape level forest planning. This intermediary level of planning (between land use planning and operational site planning) will help ensure conservation requirements are met and information available to the public. FRPA is not a tool to set old growth targets or policies but will take guidance from any new direction in a renewed old growth strategy.
- The provincial government has taken interim steps to protect big trees with a buffer and is developing regulations to protect the largest 1000-1500 big trees in the province.

Old growth forest carbon

- Conserving old growth forests is one strategy within a portfolio of climate change mitigation options for forests since a hectare of old growth forest typically stores a larger amount of carbon than a hectare of younger, managed forest.
- However, the carbon benefits of old growth versus younger forests depend on a number of factors including growth rates (younger growing trees sequester more additional carbon from the atmosphere per year), the forest's resilience to future disturbances, what the harvested timber is used for (e.g. long lived wood products or paper/fuels), the percentage of residual fibre and whether that residual is burnt in slash piles.
- Broader effects on other areas must also be considered, as reducing the supply of timber from old growth may lead to an increase in harvesting somewhere else to compensate for market demand, thus reducing the overall benefit to the atmosphere.
- Where harvesting cannot be shifted to another area, there could be a decrease in the production of wood products, leading to greater use of more emissions-intensive materials in place of wood (e.g. cement).
- Reducing logging in old growth forests in the timber harvesting land base would also reduce stumpage revenue and rural jobs and may require compensation for tenure holders.

- FLNRORD and other partners are undertaking research projects on old growth forests and carbon to improve our understanding of their GHG balance from a lifecycle perspective, including wood products, risks of future disturbances and synergies and trade-offs between multiple values.

Species at Risk

- B.C. will continue to provide leadership in species management by focusing on specific policy areas and working with the Federal government in their evaluation of the existing *Species at Risk* Act. The two policy areas selected for effort:
 - 1) renewal of the B.C. approach to listing of species at risk; and
 - 2) consistent implementation of mitigation and offsetting for new development activities in B.C.
- BC continues to work with Indigenous Nations, communities, industry and the federal government to address species at risk issues in a manner that finds positive outcomes for species while minimizing social and economic impacts to rural communities.

Water

- ENV continues to support FLNRORD in improving the administration of groundwater license applications.
- Ongoing water stewardship and governance pilots with Splatshin and Five Nicola First Nations are demonstrating government's commitment to reconciliation and shared decision making.

Trans Mountain Expansion Project (TMEP)

- In July 2017, ENV's Mandate Letter included employing *"every tool available to defend B.C.'s interests in the face of the expansion of the Kinder Morgan pipeline, and the threat of a seven-fold increase in tanker traffic on our coast"* as one of its major priorities.
- Since 2017 to date, ENV has been integrally involved in assisting the B.C. Ministry of Attorney General (AG) with its court applications advancing provincial interests of limiting unacceptable risks to B.C.'s environment, coast, and economy associated with the expansion of the federal Trans Mountain Pipeline (TMP).
- BC continues to work with the federal government on ensuring the project is constructed and operated safely and minimizes potential impacts to iconic BC values including Southern Resident Killer Whales.
- The B.C. Environmental Assessment Office is currently reviewing the conditions attached to the TMP's provincial environmental certificate, and it is anticipated the public, First Nations, and associations will have an opportunity to contribute to this review.

Protected areas and conservation lands

- BC has Canada's highest percentage of protected areas (over 20%) relative to other provinces and territories.
- A further 30% of BC's land base is managed in some way for conservation values.
- Since 2017 BC has been actively adding to BC's conservation lands portfolio with the following additions:
 - BC Parks recently expanded Klin-Se-Za Park from 2,689 hectares to a total of 30,876 hectares to meet commitments made in the Caribou Partnership Agreement
 - The Province entered into a partnership with the Nature Conservancy of Canada to purchase the last inholding in the Darkwoods conservation property in the Kootenays. In 2018, the province contributed \$7,425,000 to enable the NCC to complete the acquisition of 7,900 hectares there.
 - In 2019, the Province provided the Skagit Environmental Endowment Commission with \$2.4M to support their efforts to acquire mineral tenures in the Skagit "donut hole". Discussions with the mineral tenure holder are ongoing. Since then, FLNRORD has made commitments that no further timber harvesting will be permitted in that area.
 - The Province has worked with the Government of Canada, the Ktunaxa Nation and the Nature Conservancy of Canada to ensure the protection of the Qat'muk area including Jumbo Glacier.

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- In 2019, the federal government through the Canada Challenge Funds funded five projects in BC (Caribou Partnership Agreement 'B3' area, Tahltan land use planning, Kaska land use planning, Ktunaxa purchase of Qat'muk/Jumbo, Ahousaht planning and potential future purchase of tenures held by MaMook Natural Resources Limited). Government endorsed these projects.
- BC Parks is actively engaging and collaborating with Indigenous nations on a number of initiatives include joint training and patrols with Guardian Watchmen programs, incorporating Traditional Ecological Knowledge into ecosystem mapping, Indigenous signage and interpretation projects and collaborative management planning.
- Several provincial parks and protected areas have been renamed to Indigenous names in the past three years. For example, John Dean Park is now changed to ŁÁU, WELNEW/John Dean Park (pronounced "tlay-will-nook") and Roderick-Haig-Brown Park is now Tsútswecw Park (pronounced "choo-chwek").

**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND
CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY
BULLETS**

April 20, 2020

File:200-20

CLIFF/eApprovals #: 357234/4493

PREPARED FOR: Honourable John Horgan, Premier and Honourable George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy.

SUBJECT: Meeting with Climate Solutions Council on including CleanBC action within COVID-19 response.

BULLET RESPONSE:

- On April 15, 2020, the Climate Solutions Council delivered a letter to Premier John Horgan and Minister George Heyman.
- The Climate Solutions Council (CSC) was newly formed in 2020, with members appointed in February. The Council's first meeting in early March.
- Membership consists of academia, environmental organizations, industry, local government, labour, First Nations, and youth.
- The CSC provides strategic advice to government on climate action and clean economic growth, including plans and actions to achieve B.C.'s GHG emission reduction targets and mitigate and manage climate change risk.^{s.13}

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The CSC is a legislated requirement under the
Climate Change Accountability Act.

- The Climate Solutions and Clean Growth Advisory Council (CSCG), the predecessor to the Climate Solutions Council, was established in the fall of 2017 with a mandate, in part, to provide advice to government on policies and actions that can contribute to carbon pollution reductions and optimize opportunities for sustainable economic development and job creation. During its two-year term, the CSCG:
 - worked closely with CAS to review and provide feedback on the components of the CleanBC plan;
 - focused on the implementation and accountability measures for CleanBC, and on providing advice on strategies to reach B.C.'s GHG emission reduction target; and
 - provided a final report to government in October 2019, providing a list of recommendations on CleanBC Implementation. These recommendations are publicly available.

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Response

- CleanBC remains a top priority for government, with funding in Budget 2019 and 2020 in excess of \$1.3 billion.
- Immediate response efforts must focus on supporting the people and communities that have been most impacted by COVID-19; but the longer-term economy recovery efforts will be informed by our other priorities, including climate action.
- The COVID crisis provides us with an opportunity to accelerate our progress to a low carbon economy, but we also need to remain focused on families and individuals that are facing significant economic uncertainty right now.
- The Economic Recovery Task Force is one of several tables that we are using to gather advice on our recovery plan. It includes a diversity of voices from across the business community.
- The Climate Solutions Council is ideally placed to provide advice to government on a clean economic recovery agenda.
- The Premier has instructed all Ministers, including Minister Heyman, to work directly with stakeholders to understand their perspectives and advice on the recovery plan. The Premier, Minister James and Minister Heyman met with a group of environmental stakeholders on April 21st.
- Government is also working closely with the Federal government on how B.C. can benefit from the many aspects of the federal COVID recovery plans, including infrastructure projects that support a low-carbon economic transition.
- CleanBC implementation to date has included progress in the following areas:
- Transportation:
 - *Zero-Emission Vehicle Act* requires all new cars sold to be zero emission by 2040 supported by continued incentives to buy new Clean Energy Vehicles (CEVs), with sales reaching almost nine percent in 2019.
 - Significant expansion of B.C.'s CEV charging infrastructure, and new rebates for new charging stations in homes and workplaces.
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- Amendments to the *Climate Change Accountability Act* to increase transparency and accountability of government's climate action include a requirement for annual reporting and establishment of an independent advisory council, both of which were launched in February 2020.

Appendix 1: Climate Solutions Council members list.

Contact:

*Jeremy Hewitt, ADM
Climate Action Secretariat
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Alternative Contact:

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Prepared by:

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Climate Action Secretariat
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Appendix 1: Climate Solutions Council membership

Merran Smith – Co-Chair	Clean Energy Canada
Colleen Giroux-Schmidt (Clean Energy) – Co-Chair	Innergex
Matt Horne	City of Vancouver
Ian Bruce (ENGO)	David Suzuki Foundation
Tom Syer (Industry)	Teck Resources
Skye McConnell (Industry)	Shell
Kurt Niquidet (Industry)	COFI
Lydia Hwitsum (FN)	First Nations Summit
Mark Jaccard (Academia)	Simon Fraser University
Nancy Olewiler	Simon Fraser University
Josie Osborne	District of Tofino
DJ Pohl	Fraser Valley labour Council
Adriana Laurent (Seibt) (Youth)	UBC Climate Hub
Khelsilem (Dustin Rivers) (FN)	Squamish Nation
Karen Tam Wu	Pembina Institute
Lee Brain (LG)	City of Prince Rupert
Jill Tipping	BC Tech Association
David Black (Labour)	MoveUp
Joie Warnock	Unifor