

From: [Kennedy, Christine JEDC:EX](#)
To: ["Greg D"Avignon"](#); ["vliitwin@bcchamber.org"](#); ["banderson@boardoftrade.com"](#); Anita Huberman;
["Rick@fcssbc.ca"](#); ["Queenie.Choo@success.bc.ca"](#); ["pgill@creativebc.com"](#); ["lcronk@bcfed.ca"](#);
["Sharleen.gale@councilfnation.ca"](#)
Subject: Call for Task Force Agenda Items
Date: April 4, 2020 4:02:25 PM

Hello everyone.

I am doing the weekly reach-out for potential agenda topics for next Thursday's task force call.
Please let me know if there are things you would like to have added to the list.

Thanks very much,

Christine Kennedy
Associate Deputy Minister | Policy and Coordination
Office of the Premier, Deputy Minister's Office
272 West Annex, Parliament Buildings | Victoria, BC | V8V 1X4

Shortt, Amanda PREM:EX

From: Aaron, Sage PREM:EX
Sent: April 2, 2020 2:52 PM
To: Kennedy, Christine JEDC:EX
Subject: Draft KMQA - Economic Recovery Task Force
Attachments: KMQA Economic Recovery Task Force.docx

Hi Christine,
Geoff has approved these provisionally but asked me to share with you for your input.
Looking to get these signed off by end of day.

Sage
778-678-0832

Economic Recovery Task Force - KMQA

Messages

- The Economic Recovery Task Force brings together representatives from the business community, labour, First Nations, and the non-profit sector to look at the economic impacts of COVID-19 and work towards a strong recovery for BC.
- The Task Force provides an opportunity for discussion and feedback on the Province's COVID-19 response measures and to share information umbrella associations can communicate to their members.
- It is important for government to hear from those impacted on the ground about how provincial and federal programs are working for their members.
- If there are gaps or issues, we want to know, so we can work together with those impacted to find solutions.
- We are working together to minimize the economic disruption caused by the pandemic and to build a plan for BC's long-term economic recovery.
- The Task Force's work will supplement the continued cross-government outreach with all those affected by the current crisis and those who wish to contribute their ideas and efforts to our shared recovery.

QA

Why did you form this Task Force?

- Government wanted to create a forum to hear from leaders from various sectors and share ideas on the economic impacts of COVID-19, gaps in government response, and how best to plan for shared success in the long term.
- It is also an opportunity to share important information on the government's response to COVID-19 - including both public health and economic measures.

How often will it meet?

- The Economic Recovery Task Force will meet by phone on a weekly basis.

Why isn't X person/company/sector on the Task Force?

- The Task Force brings together large umbrella groups that represent hundreds of other businesses and organizations.
- The goal is to have a broad reach to bring forward issues of concern from their members and share important information on government's work to respond to COVID-19.
- Ministers and Ministries continue to work closely with companies, organizations and other stakeholders within their respective areas.
- The Task Force is meant to supplement this important work.
- Ultimately it is Cabinet that will consider input from a wide range of stakeholders and make decisions to help people, businesses and other organizations through this challenging time.
- Anyone who wants raise an issue, concern, or suggestion can do so by reaching out to the appropriate Ministry or by contacting government directly.

Who determines what the Task Force will focus on?

- The work of the Task Force will be shaped by its members and their concerns.
- After each week's meeting, participants will be asked to identify items they would like to put on the next agenda.

Which sectors will be the first to re-emerge from this lockdown?

- That's difficult to tell at this time, and is another reason why the Economic Recovery Task Force is so important to identify the needs of various sectors as we prepare for a strong recovery.
- While all sectors have been impacted, several sectors continue their work even now and we need to know what pressures they are encountering in order to keep them going in a safe way.
- One of the issues the Task Force will be seized of is what's needed for a safe re-start for sectors that have been restricted by the current crisis.

How long will economic recovery take?

- Without knowing the duration of the outbreak, it is difficult to predict the impact on people and the economy and how long economic recovery will take.
- However we do know that the actions of British Columbia will be a deciding factor -- if we follow the advice of Dr. Bonnie Henry, we will be in a better situation to recover fully and quickly once we're through it.

From: [Hockin, Amber PREM:EX](#)
To: [Wright, Don J. PREM:EX](#); [Kennedy, Christine JEDC:EX](#)
Cc: [Nash, Amber PREM:EX](#)
Subject: Economic Recovery Task Force - ToR draft
Date: March 24, 2020 4:30:48 PM
Attachments: [Economic Recovery Task Force - ToR draft.docx](#)

Here is a word document (amendable) of the draft components for a terms of reference. I have advised Amber Nash of the invitees to the first meeting tomorrow. Thanks and please let me know how I can assist further. Amber

Economic Recovery Task Force: Weekly engagement with an economic leadership group including PJH, MCJ, MMM, (other cabinet Ministers as appropriate) and key business, labour, indigenous and non-profit counterparts.

- This meeting will require staff support to generate agendas, etc. DM support on the committee will be LW, TH and FM.
- The weekly meetings will be scheduled weekly.

The Economic Recovery Task Force will engage as a broad representative group of our economy to build confidence in the Province's recovery from COVID 19. They will act in an advisory capacity and will maintain a people focussed approach to our recovery, including the following:

Immediate Term:

- Suggest engagement approaches and to gather input, test ideas and develop strategies on recovery, for example online town halls, facebook gatherings to gather economic, cultural and regional based feedback on recovery efforts;
- Provide valuable feedback on the provincial government's action plan on COVID -19 response and recovery, ensuring that programs reach their intended audiences and are utilized effectively by the people and businesses they are designed to help;
- And, also provide advice on the coordination of recovery measures introduced by the federal government with provincial measures;
- Assist with engagement of business and labour for the continuation of work in key aspects of our economy, as they come back on line. Call for leadership and coordination within sectors to encourage the return to work, use of government services and agencies, particularly the Ministry of Labour, Worksafe BC and the Provincial Health Officer to

establish safe and best work practices and procedures during a Pandemic, for all sectors of the economy. Priority for this work would begin with workplaces needed to support our health care sector workers and families.

Long Term Goals:

- Provide ideas and strategies on longer and mid- term social and economic recovery efforts that:
 - Restores the standard of living and give families hope and confidence in their economic position;
 - Provide information and confidence in future security issues related to pensions and retirement incomes recovering from the economic impacts of the Pandemic;
 - Move us forward on critical programs and initiatives such as childcare, building on reconciliation, reducing GHGs, increasing mass timber projects and an ambitious capital projects plan;
 - Develop immediate strategies to support our tourism and cultural sectors to rebound and become robust again;
 - Make recommendations to protect us going forward to be more resilient, innovative and self-reliant in industries such as manufacturing and agritech
 - Stimulate, support and encourage recovery to scale up, provide good paying jobs, invest in or modernize technology and to add value to trade in British Columbia's economy.

Stakeholders (leadership Reps only):

BCBC :

Greg D'Avignon ,President & CEO BCBC

s.13; s.22

VBOT:

Bridgitte Anderson, CEO

SBOT:

Anita Huberman, CEO

BC Federation of labour:

Laird Cronk, President

Indigenous Relations: Indigenous Business and Investment Council (3 suggestions, 1 spot)

s.13; s.22

Chief Sharleen Gale: Chair of the First Nations Major Projects Coalition:
Sharleen Gale has been an elected Councillor of the Fort Nelson First Nation since 2009. She served as Chief from 2012 to 2014 and from Oct 2016 to August 2017, and again in 2019. Sharleen was appointed to the Board of Directors of the First Nations Major Projects Coalition in June 2017 and appointed as Chair of the Coalition on November 02, 2017. In 2019, Sharleen was made a Senior Fellow with the MacDonald Laurier Institute. Sharleen has worked in the energy sector for over 18 years.

s.13; s.22

Non- Profit Organizations: (4 suggestions, 1 spot)

Rick FitzZaland: CEO, Federation of Community Social Services. The Federation represents over 140 agencies who provide support to individuals and communities in BC including those which provide services to people living with physical and mental challenges, vulnerable children, youth and seniors, new immigrants, people living with addictions or mental health issues and those living in poverty.

Queenie Choo: CEO, SUCCESS. SUCCESS is a charitable organization that promotes the well-being of Canadians and newcomers. It is a multi-service, multicultural agency that serves more than 61,000 clients annually.

Prem Gill: CEO Creative BC. Creative BC brings a strategic and integrated approach to the growth and development of the province's creative industries. They provide professional expertise and business support to strengthen BC's motion picture, interactive digital, music and publishing sectors. Their programs, services and investments act as a catalyst to help the sectors realize the economic and creative potential and to contribute to the future prosperity of our province.

From: Reid, Heidi FIN:EX
To: "sharleen.gale@council.fnnation.ca"; "Rick@fcssbc.ca"; "queenie.choo@success.bc.ca"; "pgill@creativebc.com"; "banderson@boardoftrade.com"; "Val Litwin"; "Anita Huberman"; "greg.davignon@bcbc.com"; Michell, Jennifer FIN:EX; Mihar, Fazil EMPR:EX; Hughes, Trevor LBR:EX; "lcronk@bcfed.ca"; Kennedy, Christine JEDC:EX; Pivnick, Evan V LASS:EX
Cc: "Nikki Roussanidis"; "Vicki Champ"; Lawson, Liam FIN:EX; Wensink, Alison PREM:EX; Garvey, Samantha JEDC:EX; O'Connor, Lara FIN:EX; "Marisha Zuckerman"; Sienna Wong; Corinne Kornelson; Wade, Debbie PREM:EX; Nash, Amber PREM:EX; Hagglund, Jarrett PREM:EX; Michell, Jennifer FIN:EX; Miller, Amy PREM:EX
Subject: Economic Recovery Task Force weekly conference call - Thursday, April 2nd @ 9:30 am
Date: April 1, 2020 2:59:01 PM
Attachments: [AGENDA - WEEKLY CALL - APRIL 2, 2020.docx](#)
[Process for Safe Workplaces - 59264 - Prepared by TH - Apr 1 2020.pdf](#)
Importance: High

Hello everyone,

Attached you will find the agenda along with the document Process for Safe Workplaces, for tomorrow's call with the Economic Recovery Task Force at 9:30 am.

Please note that we will not be using Zoom for this call.

We will continue using a conference call line for now. Dial in details are below.

s.15; s.17

The Minister's office will moderate the call.

Thanks and if you have any questions please let me know.

Heidi

Heidi Reid

Administrative Coordinator to the

Honourable Carole James

Minister of Finance and Deputy Premier

Phone: 778-974-5988

E-mail: Heidi.Reid@gov.bc.ca

AGENDA

Economic Recovery Task Force

April 2, 2020

Location: Conference Call

Dial into: ^{s.13}

Participant ID: ^{s.13} (Minister James will Moderate)

Attending:

Premier John Horgan

Geoff Meggs

Fazil Mihar, DM

Minister Carole James

Amber Hockin

Trevor Hughes, DM

Minister Michelle Mungall
(ERTF Attendee list sent
previously)

Don Wright

Christine Kennedy, ADM

Lori Wanamaker, DM

9:30 AM	Opening Discussion	Premier John Horgan and Minister Carole James
	Updates from Last Week	Premier John Horgan
	Essential and Critical Services https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support/essential-services-covid-19	Premier John Horgan
	Safe Worksite Guidance Process and Current Guidance Documents Letter Attached	Deputy Minister Trevor Hughes
	Addressing Sector Requests Regulatory Cost Relief Financial Support	Deputy Minister Don Wright

Roundtable Discussion		All
10:25 AM	Closing Remarks	Premier John Horgan



April 1, 2020

Ref: 59264

Coronavirus COVID-19

Process for determining safe workplaces by industry/sector

Government is working across Ministries and agencies to support the work of the Provincial Health Officer (PHO) who is the lead in managing the approach to combat the current public health crisis associated with the Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic. In the current provincial state of emergency, the PHO can make orders as needed with which compliance is required. At the same time, there are other agencies that have responsibility for and jurisdiction over a number of related issues. For the purposes of this memo, that includes WorkSafeBC which has responsibility for the application and enforcement of the *Workers Compensation Act* (WCA) and the *Occupational Health and Safety Regulation*.

Government has identified that it is a priority to establish a process to be able to provide guidelines to help employers determine safe workplaces on an industry or sector-wide basis. The Ministry of Labour has worked with the Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Competitiveness, the PHO and WorkSafeBC to develop the process. This work is evolving and the process is iterative as the pandemic evolves, but also as the guidelines are developed, distributed and implemented.

The following principles guide the work on the process:

- There is a balance between ensuring worker, employer and public safety with the need to ensure where it is safe, employers can make the decision to continue to operate. In some contexts, the decision to operate is because the business is essential, but in others it is because it is important to keep the economy going (and workers earning wages) as much as possible.
- Workers have a right to refuse unsafe work under the WCA.
- The *Emergency Program Act* powers of March 26, 2020 expressly give municipal bylaw officers the ability to enforce the orders and directives of the PHO (http://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/mo/mo/2020_m082).
- Employers ultimately are responsible under the WCA for the health and safety of their workplace such that the onus resides with them, with input and advice from WorkSafeBC and the PHO on their respective mandates. As a result, they have a role in identifying the challenges and issues with health and safety in the context of COVID-19. There is also a role for workers and unions in part because they are the ones on the front line, but also because they have expertise and knowledge about health and safety.

Where are we now?

Several industry/sector specific guidelines have been issued. The first one was issued on March 22, 2020 for construction, which established a template. WorkSafeBC was then able to customize it to add a construction specific OHSR reference to deal with an issue raised by organized labour (hand-washing facilities). WorkSafeBC has established a new website for construction workers and employers to refer to with additional detail related to the sector. The PHO has, on their own initiative, or based on industry requests established more guidelines with further guidelines in progress. As they are issued, WorkSafeBC follows the same process as for construction to link in the applicable OHSR along with any industry Health & Safety Association. There is also an opportunity for review and input by the BC Federation of Labour and its affiliate unions to provide input on guidelines going forward.

Completed PHO guidance documents exist for the following industries and are available at the following website: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/current-health-topics/covid-19-novel-coronavirus>

- Construction;
- Mining and smelting;
- Assisted living facilities;
- Manufacturing; and
- Retail food and grocery.

In process PHO guidance documents are underway for: aerospace, marine, community-based care settings (Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction; and Ministry of Children and Families), and forestry. The forestry item is being reviewed with industry based on an earlier submission from them.

WorkSafeBC has guidance documents for the following industries and are available at the following website: <https://www.worksafebc.com/en/about-us/covid-19-updates/covid-19-industry-information>

- Construction;
- Health care;
- Transportation;
- Manufacturing; and
- Retail.

WorkSafeBC has advised they are next working on forestry, agriculture and hospitality. Note, the mining guidance from the PHO is not on WorkSafeBC's website as they do not regulate mining (rather that is the jurisdiction of the Chief Inspector of Mines).

Challenges:

1. On enforcement and interpretation, some industries and officials are seeking WorkSafeBC direction on the application of PHO orders. As noted above, this is a jurisdictional challenge. WorkSafeBC has been able to work with Health Authority inspectors to actually do inspections in tandem in some locations (most notably LNG Canada). Further, now that municipal bylaw inspectors have authority to enforce PHO orders, there are now more resources for employers to get answers to questions about those orders instead of going to the PHO or WorkSafeBC.

2. An issue that has been raised by unions and workers is the status of the right to refuse unsafe work where the worker has a reasonable belief the work is unsafe. That is a right that exists under the WCA that then triggers a process by which the employer, then the joint OHS committee, then WorkSafeBC can get involved to address a concern. In the usual course, this relates to something under the OHSR that WorkSafeBC can address. In the current context, however, some refusals are being triggered by concerns about PHO orders (e.g., social distancing). The challenge is then how does WorkSafeBC determine if the worker's right to refuse was reasonable when they do not have jurisdiction over enforcement of PHO orders? This has been addressed in part by joint inspections with public health enforcement officers and in future with municipal bylaw officers. However, that can not work in every case. Much of what WorkSafeBC is doing around enforcement and promotion of worker health is premised on and aligned with PHO orders. They are adopting and using PHO orders and other information as essential pieces of their compliance efforts. In some circumstances, an employer that has workers working in a way that contravenes the PHO orders and guidance will be creating an undue hazard. For example, positioning workers within the physical distancing limits will be creating an undue hazard and could result in a WorkSafeBC order if the employer was not complying. In others, it might not be practicable to ensure physical distancing (e.g., corrections and health care). In those cases, WorkSafeBC would expect an Exposure Control Plan as required by the OHSR that accounts for the potential exposure to COVID-19, with appropriate safeguards put in place (e.g., personal protective equipment). If the controls are appropriate, then there would be no undue hazard, even though the physical distancing direction cannot be followed.

Trevor Hughes
Deputy Minister

From: [Wensink, Alison PREM:EX](#)
To: [Kennedy, Christine JEDC:EX](#)
Subject: FW: Economic Recovery Task Force Materials
Date: April 1, 2020 9:59:58 AM

Hi Christine,

Jarrett has asked me to confirm if the materials for the Economic Recovery Task Force meeting will be coming from you and when he can expect them?

Thanks,

Alison

From: Hagglund, Jarrett PREM:EX
Sent: March 31, 2020 3:49 PM
To: Wensink, Alison PREM:EX
Subject: Economic Recovery Task Force Materials

Hey Alison,

I may be wrong but I hear that Christine is holding the pen for the materials and agenda for this group on Thursday. I am hoping to send an update to participants tomorrow around 12:00pm. Are you able to check with Christine and see if things will be ready to send by then.

Just want to get a sense of when to expect them.

Thanks so much!

Jarrett

Jarrett Hagglund | Executive Coordinator to the Premier
Office of the Premier
Office: 236-478-1561 | Cell: 604-817-1458
Jarrett.Hagglund@gov.bc.ca

From: [Wright, Don J. PREM:EX](#)
To: [Meggs, Geoff PREM:EX](#)
Cc: [Kennedy, Christine JEDC:EX](#); [Hockin, Amber PREM:EX](#)
Subject: Re: Agenda items for Economic Recovery Task Force
Date: March 31, 2020 1:29:43 PM

Thanks Geoff. I have a conference call with relevant DMs this afternoon to make sure we have adequate response ready for Thursday's call.

Don

From: Geoff Meggs

Date: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 at 1:01 PM

To: "Wright, Don J. PREM:EX"

Cc: Christine Kennedy , Amber Hockin

Subject: Agenda items for Economic Recovery Task Force

Don, based on the feedback I got there are three items likely to be useful for the ERTA discussion on Thursday. I'd appreciate support to prepare an agenda and circulate any relevant material ahead of time:

- Status of "safe operating" procedures. Confirm for participants how process works, how we are prioritizing sectors for guidance and impose on them the responsibility of sharing widely in business and non-profit community;
- Provide high level acknowledgement of concerns about commercial rent payments, deferral option from Nova Scotia and property taxes. Not sure what we can say on this front, but this was top-of-mind for the people who responded to my query; and
- Concern about continued reviews of regulatory processes, etc. There may be a blanket deadline extension that could be offered while government examines the issue more closely, but I leave that to you.

Thanks for your assistance

Geoff

GEOFF MEGGS

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

From: [Val Litwin](#)
To: [Meggs, Geoff PREM:EX](#)
Cc: [Kennedy, Christine JEDC:EX](#); [Robinson, Jon PREM:EX](#)
Subject: RE: How to connect with Premier's Office regarding COVID-19 Economic Recovery calls
Date: March 27, 2020 7:40:04 AM

Thanks for this follow up, Geoff – this is an essential initiative.

A consideration....

The province, our communities and the overall economy could be well served if we pull **the British Columbia Economic Development Association** into the TF at some point.

Here's why:

- The BCEDA Economic Disaster Recovery Program (EDRP) has assisted communities in BC impacted by wildfires and floods in 2017 and 2018 – and Alberta (11 Recovery Plans following 2013 flooding)
- Their EDRP maintains a list of volunteers that are ready to assist in communities
- BCEDA has developed materials to help communities prepare, cope and recover

More details here: https://www.bceda.ca/disaster_preparation_and_recov.php

Best, Val

From: Meggs, Geoff PREM:EX <Geoff.Meggs@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: March-25-20 3:58 PM
To: Meggs, Geoff PREM:EX <Geoff.Meggs@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Kennedy, Christine PREM:EX <Christine.Kennedy@gov.bc.ca>; Robinson, Jon PREM:EX <Jon.Robinson@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: How to connect with Premier's Office regarding COVID-19 Economic Recovery calls

Dear friends,

Thanks on behalf of Premier Horgan for your participation in today's inaugural call of our economic recovery task force.

Just a couple of follow-up points:

- I would appreciate each of you responding with your current contact information so we have a complete list; and
- I would also like to invite you to contact me or Christine Kennedy

(Christine.kennedy@gov.bc.ca) with agenda items, questions or suggestions best made offline so we can make our calls as productive as possible. Christine's team will be providing administrative and policy support.

Thanks again for your assistance.

Geoff

GEOFF MEGGS

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

Wensink, Alison PREM:EX

From: Nash, Amber PREM:EX
Sent: April 1, 2020 12:00 PM
To: Robinson, Jon PREM:EX
Subject: FW: Draft Agenda, Planning Process and Planning Documents for Weekly Calls
Attachments: DRAFT AGENDA - WEEKLY CALL - APRIL 2. 2020.docx; Process for Safe Workplaces - 59264 - Prepared by TH - Mar 31 2020.pdf

Importance: High

FYI

From: Kennedy, Christine PREM:EX
Sent: April 1, 2020 11:33 AM
To: Hagglund, Jarrett PREM:EX ; Reid, Heidi FIN:EX ; Nash, Amber PREM:EX ; Wensink, Alison PREM:EX
Subject: FW: Draft Agenda, Planning Process and Planning Documents for Weekly Calls
Importance: High

FYI I have sent a draft agenda to Premier, Minister James, Don and Geoff for review. Once I get that back I will send the final, plus the memo above and a few additional items for circulation to participants for tomorrow's call.

From: Kennedy, Christine PREM:EX
Sent: April 1, 2020 11:29 AM
To: s.17 James, Carole FIN:EX <Carole.James@gov.bc.ca>; Wright, Don J. PREM:EX <Don.J.Wright@gov.bc.ca>; Meggs, Geoff PREM:EX <Geoff.Meggs@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Lawson, Liam FIN:EX <Liam.Lawson@gov.bc.ca>; Robinson, Jon PREM:EX <Jon.Robinson@gov.bc.ca>; Hockin, Amber PREM:EX <Amber.Hockin@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Draft Agenda, Planning Process and Planning Documents for Weekly Calls
Importance: High

Premier and Minister James,

Don had asked that I send an email with the draft agenda for tomorrow's call with the business / labour / non-profit / First Nations group and an outline of how we are proposing to manage the process for these calls. Our proposed process includes:

1. After each week's call I will send out a note to the participants asking them to identify items they would like to put on the next agenda.
2. We are using the simple agenda planning tool (attached) to plan for the weekly calls, and will add to this as time goes on. I have also included a tracking document that lists some of the measures government has taken on a week-by-week basis.^{s.13}
s.13
3. Based on the feedback received from participants, yourselves and Geoff / Don, we will prepare an agenda that would be distributed on Wednesday of each week with any appropriate attachments. Our office would prepare (or work with Ministries to prepare) any distribution items for the meetings and ensure that the Ministers and Deputy Ministers identified in the agenda are set up for each week's call.

For this week, Labour has developed a a memo explaining the process being used by the Provincial Health Officer, Labour, WorkSafeBC and economic sectors (both employers and unions) to develop safe worksite guidance. This memo and the current safe worksite guidance documents would be distributed to participants with the call agenda.

s.13

A few comments on the proposed agenda for this week:

s.13

We would be glad to discuss any of this, and of course if you have comments on the draft agenda we would be pleased to make any changes.

Don and Geoff, if you could sign off on the proposed agenda I will get it (and the other distribution material) to Jarrett Hagglund and Heidi Reid for circulation.

Christine Kennedy
Associate Deputy Minister | Policy and Coordination
Office of the Premier, Deputy Minister's Office
272 West Annex, Parliament Buildings | Victoria, BC | V8V 1X4

AGENDA

Economic Recovery Task Force

April 2, 2020

Location: Conference Call

Dial into: s.15; s.17

Participant ID: s.15; s.17

Attending:

Premier John Horgan
Minister Carole James
Minister Michelle Mungall
(ERTF Attendee list
Attached)

Geoff Meggs
Amber Hockin
Don Wright
Christine Kennedy, ADM
Lori Wanamaker, DM

Fazil Mihar, DM
Trevor Hughes, DM

9:30 AM	Opening Discussion	Premier John Horgan and Minister Carole James
	Updates from Last Week	Premier John Horgan
	Essential and Critical Services	Premier John Horgan
	Safe Worksite Guidance Process and Current Guidance Documents	Deputy Minister Trevor Hughes
	Addressing Sector Requests Regulatory Cost Relief Financial Support	Deputy Minister Don Wright
	Roundtable Discussion	All

10:25 AM

Closing Remarks

Premier John
Horgan

Attachments:

- Critical and Essential Services List
- Safe Work Guidelines
 - Ministry of Labour
 - Guidelines Issued to Date
 - List of Guidelines in Process

DRAFT



March 31, 2020

Ref: 59264

Coronavirus COVID-19

Process for determining safe workplaces by industry/sector

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- Manufacturing; and
- Retail.

At the request of Minister Bains, they are working on one for transportation (bus, taxi, trucking, ride hailing). Note, the mining guidance from the PHO is not on WorkSafeBC's website as they do not regulate mining (rather that is the jurisdiction of the Chief Inspector of Mines).

Challenges:

1. On enforcement and interpretation, some industries and officials are seeking WorkSafeBC direction on the application of PHO orders. As noted above, this is a jurisdictional challenge. WorkSafeBC has been able to work with Health Authority inspectors to actually do inspections in tandem in some locations (most notably LNG Canada). Further, now that municipal bylaw inspectors have authority to enforce PHO orders, there are now more resources for employers to get answers to questions about those orders instead of going to the PHO or WorkSafeBC.
2. An issue that has been raised by unions and workers is the status of the right to refuse unsafe work where the worker has a reasonable belief the work is unsafe. That is a right

that exists under the WCA that then triggers a process by which the employer, then the joint OHS committee, then WorkSafeBC can get involved to address a concern. In the usual course, this relates to something under the OHSR that WorkSafeBC can address. In the current context, however, some refusals are being triggered by concerns about PHO orders (e.g., social distancing). The challenge is then how does WorkSafeBC determine if the worker's right to refuse was reasonable when they do not have jurisdiction over enforcement of PHO orders? This has been addressed in part by joint inspections with public health enforcement officers and in future with municipal bylaw officers. However, that can not work in every case. Much of what WorkSafeBC is doing around enforcement and promotion of worker health is premised on and aligned with PHO orders. They are adopting and using PHO orders and other information as essential pieces of their compliance efforts. In some circumstances, an employer that has workers working in a way that contravenes the PHO orders and guidance will be creating an undue hazard. For example, positioning workers within the physical distancing limits will be creating an undue hazard and could result in a WorkSafeBC order if the employer was not complying. In others, it might not be practicable to ensure physical distancing (e.g., corrections and health care). In those cases, WorkSafeBC would expect an Exposure Control Plan as required by the OHSR that accounts for the potential exposure to COVID-19, with appropriate safeguards put in place (e.g., personal protective equipment). If the controls are appropriate, then there would be no undue hazard, even though the physical distancing direction cannot be followed.

Trevor Hughes
Deputy Minister

Wensink, Alison PREM:EX

From: Nash, Amber PREM:EX
Sent: March 31, 2020 5:02 PM
To: Reid, Heidi FIN:EX
Cc: Sanford, Donna L GCPE:EX; Hagglund, Jarrett PREM:EX
Subject: Economic Recovery Task Force - Evan Pivnik

Importance: High

Hi Heidi,

Can you please forward the information you sent out to participants of the Econ task force committee to Evan Pivnik as soon as possible? He is on the task force as an observer and will attend all meetings going forward.

A

Amber Nash

*Director of Executive Operations & Scheduling
Office of the Premier | Government of British Columbia
501 Belleville St, Victoria, BC V8V 2L8
Direct: 778-974-6068 | Cell: 778-584-3330*

Wensink, Alison PREM:EX

From: Nash, Amber PREM:EX
Sent: March 27, 2020 1:50 PM
To: Hockin, Amber PREM:EX
Subject: Re: Economic Recovery Taskforce weekly conference call every Thursday at 11:00 am

Yes they did.

Amber

On Mar 27, 2020, at 12:56 PM, Hockin, Amber PREM:EX wrote:

Did participants get the terms of reference?

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

On Mar 27, 2020, at 9:19 AM, Nash, Amber PREM:EX wrote:

Prem Gill asking if the terms of reference can be shared with stakeholders and what/if external communications plan may be in the works.

From: Prem Gill <pgill@creativebc.com>
Sent: March 27, 2020 8:48 AM
To: Reid, Heidi FIN:EX <Heidi.Reid@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Economic Recovery Taskforce weekly conference call every Thursday at 11:00 am

Thank you Heidi.

Are we permitted to share the terms of reference with our stakeholders and will there be any official external comm regarding the formation of this task force?

From: Reid, Heidi FIN:EX <Heidi.Reid@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2020 7:38 PM
To: 'sharleen.gale@council.fnnation.ca' <sharleen.gale@council.fnnation.ca>; 'Rick@fcssbc.ca' <Rick@fcssbc.ca>; 'queenie.choo@success.bc.ca' <queenie.choo@success.bc.ca>; Prem Gill <pgill@creativebc.com>; 'banderson@boardoftrade.com' <banderson@boardoftrade.com>; 'Val Litwin' <vlitwin@bcchamber.org>; 'Marisha Zuckerman' <mzuckerman@bcfed.ca>; 'Anita Huberman' <anita@businessinsurrey.ca>; 'greg.davignon@bcbc.com' <greg.davignon@bcbc.com>; Kennedy, Christine PREM:EX <Christine.Kennedy@gov.bc.ca>; Michell, Jennifer FIN:EX <Jennifer.Michell@gov.bc.ca>; Mihlar, Fazil JEDC:EX <Fazil.Mihlar@gov.bc.ca>; Hughes, Trevor LBR:EX <Trevor.Hughes@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: 'Nikki Roussanidis' <nikki.roussanidis@bccbc.com>; 'Vicki Champ' <vicki.champ@bccbc.com>; Wade, Debbie PREM:EX <Debbie.Wade@gov.bc.ca>; Nash, Amber PREM:EX <Amber.Nash@gov.bc.ca>; Hagglund, Jarrett PREM:EX <Jarrett.Hagglund@gov.bc.ca>; Lawson, Liam FIN:EX <Liam.Lawson@gov.bc.ca>; Wensink, Alison PREM:EX <Alison.Wensink@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Economic Recovery Taskforce weekly conference call every Thursday at 11:00 am

Good evening everyone,

Thank you for your participation in the inaugural meeting of the Economic Recovery Task Force. This email is to confirm the weekly meetings will take place every Thursday from 9:30 – 10:30am, with the next meeting scheduled for Thursday April 2nd. Please find the terms of reference and participants list attached.

Noting the desire for the next meeting to occur via video conferencing , our office will send out a link and instructions on how to join the meeting via Zoom video conferencing, along with the agenda and any supporting materials.

Call in details are:

s.15; s.17

The Minister's office will moderate the call.

Thanks and if you have any questions please let us know.

Heidi

Heidi Reid

Administrative Coordinator to the

Honourable Carole James

Minister of Finance and Deputy Premier

Phone: 778-974-5988

E-mail: Heidi.Reid@gov.bc.ca

Wensink, Alison PREM:EX

From: Nash, Amber PREM:EX
Sent: March 26, 2020 4:00 PM
To: Reid, Heidi FIN:EX
Subject: RE: Economic Recovery Task Force weekly conference calls

Hooray!

From: Reid, Heidi FIN:EX
Sent: March 26, 2020 3:59 PM
To: Nash, Amber PREM:EX
Cc: Hagglund, Jarrett PREM:EX
Subject: RE: Economic Recovery Task Force weekly conference calls

Looks good to moi!

From: Nash, Amber PREM:EX <Amber.Nash@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: March 26, 2020 3:10 PM
To: Reid, Heidi FIN:EX <Heidi.Reid@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Hagglund, Jarrett PREM:EX <Jarrett.Hagglund@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Economic Recovery Task Force weekly conference calls

revision: let me know if that wording sounds right?

Good afternoon everyone,

Thank you for your participation in the inaugural meeting of the Economic Recovery Task Force. This email is to confirm the weekly meetings will take place every Thursday from 9:30 – 10:30am, with the next meeting scheduled for Thursday April 2nd. Please find the terms of reference and participants list attached.

Noting the desire for the next meeting to occur via video conferencing , our office will send out a link and instructions on how to join the meeting via *Zoom video conferencing*, along with the agenda and any supporting materials.

Thanks and if you have any questions please let us know.

From: Reid, Heidi FIN:EX <Heidi.Reid@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: March 26, 2020 2:21 PM
To: Nash, Amber PREM:EX <Amber.Nash@gov.bc.ca>; Hagglund, Jarrett PREM:EX <Jarrett.Hagglund@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Economic Recovery Task Force weekly conference calls

Okay...let me know when it's a go...just heading onto a conference call.

From: Nash, Amber PREM:EX <Amber.Nash@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: March 26, 2020 2:19 PM
To: Reid, Heidi FIN:EX <Heidi.Reid@gov.bc.ca>; Hagglund, Jarrett PREM:EX <Jarrett.Hagglund@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Economic Recovery Task Force weekly conference calls

From: Reid, Heidi FIN:EX <Heidi.Reid@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: March 26, 2020 2:08 PM
To: Nash, Amber PREM:EX <Amber.Nash@gov.bc.ca>; Hagglund, Jarrett PREM:EX <Jarrett.Hagglund@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Economic Recovery Task Force weekly conference calls

Okay...all looks good to me 😊 Thanks Nasher!

From: Nash, Amber PREM:EX <Amber.Nash@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: March 26, 2020 2:07 PM
To: Hagglund, Jarrett PREM:EX <Jarrett.Hagglund@gov.bc.ca>; Reid, Heidi FIN:EX <Heidi.Reid@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Economic Recovery Task Force weekly conference calls

I'm sending a news One! Also needs to reference they may do next meeting using zoom. Looking into this now.

From: Hagglund, Jarrett PREM:EX <Jarrett.Hagglund@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: March 26, 2020 2:02 PM
To: Nash, Amber PREM:EX <Amber.Nash@gov.bc.ca>; Reid, Heidi FIN:EX <Heidi.Reid@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Economic Recovery Task Force weekly conference calls

s.13

Thanks,

Jarrett

From: Nash, Amber PREM:EX <Amber.Nash@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: March 26, 2020 1:59 PM
To: Reid, Heidi FIN:EX <Heidi.Reid@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Hagglund, Jarrett PREM:EX <Jarrett.Hagglund@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Economic Recovery Task Force weekly conference calls

How does this look? (attached terms in pdf – including participant list)

Good afternoon everyone,

Heidi

Heidi Reid
Administrative Coordinator to the
Honourable Carole James
Minister of Finance and Deputy Premier
Phone: 778-974-5988
E-mail: Heidi.Reid@gov.bc.ca

From: Reid, Heidi FIN:EX <Heidi.Reid@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: March 26, 2020 12:24 PM
To: Nash, Amber PREM:EX <Amber.Nash@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Economic Recovery Task Force weekly conference calls

Short and to the point...Also, will you be forwarding to Geoff and Don and so on over there?

s.13

Heidi

Heidi Reid
Administrative Coordinator to the
Honourable Carole James
Minister of Finance and Deputy Premier
Phone: 778-974-5988
E-mail: Heidi.Reid@gov.bc.ca

Wensink, Alison PREM:EX

From: Nash, Amber PREM:EX
Sent: March 26, 2020 2:27 PM
To: Hockin, Amber PREM:EX
Subject: RE: Economic Recovery Task Force - materials and meeting confirmations
Attachments: Terms of Reference.docx

New terms attached. I'll ensure this is the one internal folks have. (The one going out to stakeholders does not have this last portion.)

Looking into zoom and will ask Heidi to note on the outgoing email confirming the date and time for the next meeting.

From: Hockin, Amber PREM:EX
Sent: March 26, 2020 2:01 PM
To: Nash, Amber PREM:EX
Subject: Re: Economic Recovery Task Force - materials and meeting confirmations

We also have Evan Pivnick DoC of Green Party as an observer. Should be noted on formal list.

We said the next meeting we would attempt to use Zoom. Could you get in touch with tech folks to see that up?

Can we also make sure that there is a staff list somewhere for teleconference invites which include:

Lori Wanamaker
Fazil Milhar
Trevor Hughes
Jon Robinson
Danielle Monroe
Alex MacDonald
Liam Lawson
Amber Hockin

Thanks!

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

On Mar 26, 2020, at 1:52 PM, Nash, Amber PREM:EX <Amber.Nash@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Done.

From: Hockin, Amber PREM:EX <Amber.Hockin@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: March 26, 2020 1:45 PM

To: Nash, Amber PREM:EX <Amber.Nash@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Re: Economic Recovery Task Force - materials and meeting confirmations

Please add Geoff to the list. Thanks

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

On Mar 26, 2020, at 1:35 PM, Nash, Amber PREM:EX <Amber.Nash@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hi All,

Heidi Reid in Minister James office has confirmed going forward she can distribute the agendas and any materials to all participants on the Economic Recovery Task Force. Today, she is confirming the next meeting date & time as Thursday, April 2nd from 9:30 – 10:30am (and reoccurring at this time every Thursday). Heidi will also attach the terms of reference and participant list, noting the weekly agendas and any supporting materials will be distributed prior to the meeting date.

For your reference, I have attached the terms of reference & participant list and will ensure the meeting is added to your calendars.

A

Amber Nash
Director of Executive Operations & Scheduling
Office of the Premier | Government of British Columbia
501 Belleville St, Victoria, BC V8V 2L8
Direct: 778-974-6068 | Cell: 778-584-3330

ECONOMIC RECOVERY TASK FORCE

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Premier Horgan, Minister James, Minister Mungall and other members of Cabinet will hold a weekly conference call with leadership representatives from the B.C. Federation of Labour, First Nations business organizations, the non-profit sector and business organizations including the Business Council of B.C., B.C. Chamber of Commerce, Vancouver Board of Trade and Surrey Board of Trade.

This process will remain in place during British Columbia's emergency response to COVID-19. The weekly calls will provide an opportunity for discussion of the Province's COVID-19 response programs and economic stabilization initiatives and share information that umbrella associations can communicate to their members.

The calls will also seek input on:

- ***Provincial programs developed to respond to COVID-19;***
 - Alignment and coordination between provincial and federal programs;
 - Barriers to uptake being experienced by their members or employees;
 - Whether programs are reaching their target audience;
 - Suggestions for effective communication with members or workers, such as online town halls, Facebook gatherings, virtual meetings or other opportunities.
- ***Issues and opportunities related to:***
 - Essential and critical service designations;
 - Child care and other supports for essential workforces;
 - Safe operating guidelines for sectors that can continue operating;
 - Safe re-start guidelines for sectors where operations have been restricted by orders of the Provincial Health Officer.
- ***Longer-term suggestions for economic recovery and resilience:***
 - General suggestions for recovering B.C.'s economy following COVID-19;
 - Note that sector-specific recovery work would be undertaken directly with sector trade associations and companies. Except when relevant to all participants, these efforts would not be covered on the weekly calls.

PARTICIPANTS:

Premier of BC, John Horgan

Minister of Finance, Carole James

Minister of Jobs, Economic Development & Competitiveness, Michelle Mungall

Geoff Meggs, Chief of Staff, Office of the Premier

Don Wright, Deputy Minister to the Premier, Head of the Public Service

Christine Kennedy, Associate Deputy Minister, Office of the Premier

Lori Wanamaker, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Finance

Fazil Mihar, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development & Competitiveness

Trevor Hughes, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Labour

Greg D'Avignon, President & CEO, Business Council of BC

Val Litwin, President & CEO, BC Chamber of Commerce

Bridgitte Anderson, CEO, Vancouver Board of Trade

Anita Huberman, CEO, Surrey Board of Trade

Laird Cronk, President, BC Federation of Labour

Chief Sharleen Gale, Chair, First Nations Major Project Coalition

Rick FitzZaland, CEO, Federation of Community Social Services

Queenie Choo, CEO, S.U.C.C.E.S.S.

Prem Gill, CEO, Creative BC

Evan Pivnik, Chief of Staff, BC Green Caucus (Observer)

STAFF:

Amber Hockin, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Premier

Jon Robinson, Director of Policy, Office of the Premier

Danielle Monroe, Ministerial Assistant to Minister Mungall

Alex MacDonald, Ministerial Assistant to Minister Bains

Liam Lawson, Ministerial Assistant to Minister James

Wensink, Alison PREM:EX

Subject: FW: Pre-Brief: Economic Recovery Task Force
Location: PO / Phone in

Start: Thu 2020-04-30 9:00 AM
End: Thu 2020-04-30 9:30 AM
Show Time As: Tentative

Recurrence: (none)

Organizer: PREM CAL PREM:EX

Stephen,

This is the Pre-Brief. If you could call in that would be mildly helpful, but if you can't that is just fine.

As always, the times on the agenda are at best a suggestion. I am going to suggest that we shorten up the first item, and allow more for the second item. I will tell them that the plans to begin dialing up are based on the work that has done by Health, and accordingly, we thought it would be helpful if we asked Stephen to participate by giving an overview. Plan on about 10 minutes. Key points:

- ? We have been successful in flattening the curve
- ? Your modelling suggests there is room to loosen up restrictions – not going back to status quo ante – but there is room for more economic and social activity
- ? It would be helpful if you could mention that you had distilled a “checklist”
- ? Key elements for everybody
 - o Zero tolerance for people with cold/flu/covid symptoms going to work/going to school/going out into any environment where they will be in close proximity to others;
 - o Increased role for hygiene measures as a partial substitute for extreme physical distancing
 - ✍ Cleaning hands
 - ✍ Hand sanitizing stations at entrances
 - ✍ Face masks
 - o Workplace redesign and protocols
 - o Physical barriers where appropriate
 - o Appropriate PPE
 - o Etc
- ? I don't know if you are comfortable sharing your draft checklist today, or whether you want to do a slight bit more tweaking.

After you have spoken I will talk about how we had previously asked them to get all of the major sectors focused on developing their operating plans for the new normal. A number of them are already far along will along on the way. I will give an overview of our process, and how PHO staff will be available as a resource, but employers/unions have a better understand of the reality on the ground, and there also is an important role for WorkSafe.

Let me know if you wish to discuss further.

Thanks Stephen. Much appreciated.

Don

From: Calprem@gov.bc.ca
When: 9:00 AM - 9:30 AM April 30, 2020
Subject: Pre-Brief: Economic Recovery Task Force
Location: PO / Phone in

Re: prior to call with task force (scheduled until May 21)

Pre-briefing Con Call Details:

s.15; s.17

PO will moderate

s.15; s.17

With: (all calling in except for PO Staff):

Minister James
Lori Wanamaker, DM
Minister Mungall
Fazil Mihar, DM
Minister Bains
Trevor Hughes, DM
Liam Lawson, MA
Danielle Monroe, MA

PO Staff:

Geoff Meggs
Amber Hockin
Don Wright
Christine Kennedy
Jon Robinson (calling in)

Confirmed external attendees Mar 31/cm

OOP FOI PREM:EX

From: Meggs, Geoff PREM:EX
Sent: April 2, 2020 9:36 AM
To: Robinson, Jon PREM:EX
Subject: RE: Economic Recovery Task Force

Understood.

GEOFF MEGGS

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

From: Robinson, Jon PREM:EX <Jon.Robinson@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 2, 2020 9:23 AM
To: Meggs, Geoff PREM:EX <Geoff.Meggs@gov.bc.ca>; Hockin, Amber PREM:EX <Amber.Hockin@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: Economic Recovery Task Force

I just wanted to flag that I never received a response from Christine. In particular, I think it is important that staff on the political side is able to monitor information coming in from business/stakeholders with no filter. And of course, we need to play a role in setting direction on policy response/long-term recovery. I know you are on top of this, just wanted to flag.

Jon

From: Robinson, Jon PREM:EX
Sent: March 27, 2020 3:16 PM
To: Kennedy, Christine PREM:EX <Christine.Kennedy@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Meggs, Geoff PREM:EX <Geoff.Meggs@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Economic Recovery Task Force

Hello Christine,

I hope all is well with you during this stressful time and period of intense work. I hope you get some rest this weekend.

I wanted to connect on the Economic Recovery Task Force. As you know, Geoff has asked that I participate and help advise him on long-term economic recovery policy options from a strategic perspective.

I know as per the terms of reference that you and team are providing the ERTF with administrative and policy support. I am hoping you will include me in this process, and wanted to offer you my staff support. In particular, I am interested in: agenda setting; receiving the advice/information that comes in from stakeholders; and the follow up policy response.

Further, after discussion with Sage and Amber today, we decided that the ERTF requires a press release from PJH, including purpose, terms of reference, etc. An opportunity to highlight our government's focus on both immediate actions and long-term economic recovery. Any advice you or Don have on that would be appreciated. Sage and I will be drafting a NR over the weekend for folks to review. Goal of release early next week.

I am happy to discuss any of the above at your convenience.

Many thanks,
Jon

Jon Robinson, Director of Policy
Office of the Premier | Government of BC
501 Belleville St, Victoria, BC V8V 2L8 | 250-893-4538

From: Meggs, Geoff PREM:EX <Geoff.Meggs@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: March 25, 2020 3:58 PM
To: Meggs, Geoff PREM:EX <Geoff.Meggs@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Kennedy, Christine PREM:EX <Christine.Kennedy@gov.bc.ca>; Robinson, Jon PREM:EX <Jon.Robinson@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: How to connect with Premier's Office regarding COVID-19 Economic Recovery calls

Dear friends,

Thanks on behalf of Premier Horgan for your participation in today's inaugural call of our economic recovery task force.

Just a couple of follow-up points:

- I would appreciate each of you responding with your current contact information so we have a complete list; and
- I would also like to invite you to contact me or Christine Kennedy (Christine.kennedy@gov.bc.ca) with agenda items, questions or suggestions best made offline so we can make our calls as productive as possible. Christine's team will be providing administrative and policy support.

Thanks again for your assistance.

Geoff

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

OOP FOI PREM:EX

From: Robinson, Jon PREM:EX
Sent: April 27, 2020 2:46 PM
To: Meggs, Geoff PREM:EX; Hockin, Amber PREM:EX; Howlett, Tim GCPE:EX; Aaron, Sage PREM:EX; Godfrey, Sam AGRI:EX
Subject: FW: Agriculture Stakeholders on the Economic Recovery Task Force
Attachments: AgricultureEconTaskForceLetter.pdf

Letter from MLA Patton to flag.

From: Rochon, Jake PREM:EX <Jake.Rochon@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 27, 2020 12:32 PM
To: Robinson, Jon PREM:EX <Jon.Robinson@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: Agriculture Stakeholders on the Economic Recovery Task Force

Hi Jon! Another FYI here for you, this is with the DMO for handling. Cheers!

From: Paton.MLA, Ian <Ian.Paton.MLA@leg.bc.ca>
Sent: April 24, 2020 10:51 AM
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX <Premier@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: info@bcac.ca; james@bcfpa.ca; info@bcfarmersmarket.org; bccattle@cattlemen.bc.ca; info@bcfga.com; cterpsma@bcdairy.ca
Subject: Agriculture Stakeholders on the Economic Recovery Task Force

Good Morning Hon. Premier,

Please see my attached correspondence regarding Agriculture Stakeholders being included on the BC COVID-19 Economic Recovery Task Force.

Sincerely,

Ian Paton, MLA
Delta South

Official Opposition Co-Critic for Agriculture



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
of BRITISH COLUMBIA

April 24, 2020

Premier John Horgan
West Annex Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

RE: Agriculture stakeholders on Economic Recovery Task Force

Dear Premier Horgan,

In these uncertain times is it more important than ever for the government to look out for British Columbians, and an important aspect of that is keeping our economy strong. This is why I fully support the creation of a task force designed to ensure the recovery of our economy following COVID-19.

However, when your government announced the Economic Recovery Task Force, I was disappointed to learn that it did not include any representatives from the primary agriculture, food processing and grocery sectors. I urge your government to reconsider this decision.

Agriculture is a vital part of this province's economy, employing more than 63,400 people and bringing in nearly \$15 billion dollars every year. In addition to being a significant economic driver, the agriculture sector feeds this province, making its continued success all the more important.

In dealing with the repercussions of COVID-19, the agriculture sector has not remained untouched. COVID-19 has affected the Temporary Foreign Worker Program, meaning that farmers, ranchers, and greenhouse operators will suffer considerable labour shortages. Farmers markets that provide a considerable source of income for small-scale farmers now pose a public health risk and are unable to operate in a normal fashion this summer season.

The effects of this pandemic are far-reaching, and if the agriculture sector is going to fully recover, it will need to be included in the Province's economic response. The best way to ensure that the sector is included in recovery is to make sure that it is included in the



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
of BRITISH COLUMBIA

discussions of this Economic Recovery Task Force.

Potential additions to the task force from the agriculture sector could include the BC Agriculture Council, the BC Food Processors Association, the BC Association of Farmers Markets, the BC Cattlemen's Association, the BC Fruit Grower's association, or the BC Dairy Association, among others.

COVID-19 has changed our province in ways that we had never expected, and we will all play a role in its recovery. But I encourage your government to make sure that the necessary groups are included in discussions about the future of British Columbia's economy. Agriculture must have a seat at the table.

Sincerely,

Ian Paton

MLA for Delta South

Opposition Co-Critic for Agriculture

cc: BC Agriculture Council

BC Food Processors Association

BC Association of Farmers Markets

BC Cattlemen's Association

BC Fruit Grower's Association

BC Dairy Association

Robinson, Jon PREM:EX

From: Hockin, Amber PREM:EX
Sent: March 26, 2020 6:46 AM
To: Howlett, Tim GCPE:EX; Robinson, Jon PREM:EX; Girn, Naveen PREM:EX; Bain, Don PREM:EX
Subject: Fwd: Economic Recovery Task Force

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

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Meggs, Geoff PREM:EX" <Geoff.Meggs@gov.bc.ca>
Date: March 25, 2020 at 6:26:22 PM PDT
To: "Ralston, Bruce EMPR:EX" <Bruce.Ralston@gov.bc.ca>, "Mungall, Michelle JEDC:EX" <Michelle.J.Mungall@gov.bc.ca>, "Donaldson, Doug FLNR:EX" <Doug.Donaldson@gov.bc.ca>, "Heyman, George ENV:EX" <George.Heyman@gov.bc.ca>, "Beare, Lisa TAC:EX" <Lisa.Beare@gov.bc.ca>, "Bains, Harry LBR:EX" <Harry.Bains@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: "James, Carole FIN:EX" <Carole.James@gov.bc.ca>, "Wright, Don J. PREM:EX" <Don.J.Wright@gov.bc.ca>, "Kennedy, Christine PREM:EX" <Christine.Kennedy@gov.bc.ca>, "Hockin, Amber PREM:EX" <Amber.Hockin@gov.bc.ca>, "Aaron, Sage PREM:EX" <Sage.Aaron@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Economic Recovery Task Force

Dear Ministers:

This note is to update you on the formation of the Economic Recovery Task Force, which had its first meeting by conference call today. The task force is intended to provide a regular and senior level of contact for leading business organizations with government during the COVID-19 response. It will not replace individual sectoral relationships between ministries and their stakeholders.

I'm happy to answer any questions, but here are the basics:

Government membership

- Permanent members are the Premier, Minister James and Minister Mungall, with Ministers Ralston, Donaldson, Heyman, Beare and Bains as required.
- Staff support from deputies for MoF, JEDC, Labour.

- Geoff Meggs and Christine Kennedy will provide staff support, with Christine's team providing administrative and policy support.

Non-government participants

- Greg D'Avignon, BCBC
- Val Litwin, BC Chamber of Commerce
- Bridgitte Anderson, Vancouver Board of Trade
- Anita Huberman, Surrey Board of Trade
- Laird Cronk, BC Federation of Labour
- Chief Sharleen Gale, First Nations Major Project Coalition
- Rick FitzZaland, Federation of Community Social Services
- Queenie Choo, SUCCESS
- Prem Gill, Creative BC

Terms of reference

- Input on provincial programs, barriers experienced by members or employees, alignment between federal and provincial programs.
- Issues and opportunities related to essential or critical sector designations, safe operating guidelines, safe work resumption for closed business.
- Longer-term suggestions for economic recovery and resilience.

Schedule

- Expected to meet weekly by telephone conference with targetted agenda.

We will forward the full terms of reference and other materials tomorrow. Thanks for your assistance.

Geoff

Robinson, Jon PREM:EX

From: Hagglund, Jarrett PREM:EX
Sent: March 25, 2020 10:41 AM
To: Lawson, Liam FIN:EX; Reid, Heidi FIN:EX; Higgins, Keira PREM:EX; Monroe, Danielle JEDC:EX; Szabo, Maria JEDC:EX; Garvey, Samantha JEDC:EX; Kwan, Shirley JEDC:EX; Wensink, Alison PREM:EX; Robinson, Jon PREM:EX
Subject: Economic Recovery Task Force call today
Attachments: Agenda - Economic Recovery Task Force.docx; Economic Recovery Task Force Participants.docx

Hi Folks,

Here I an agenda and participant list for todays 2:30 pm call.

Let me know if you have any questions

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Office of the Premier
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Jarrett.Hagglund@gov.bc.ca