

AGENDA

Economic Recovery Task Force

April 2, 2020

Location: Conference Call

Dial into: s.15; s.17

Participant ID: s.15; s.17 (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

NOTES – Economic Recovery Task Force, April 2, 2020

Attending:

Premier John Horgan	Geoff Meggs	Fazil Mihar, DM
Minister Carole James	Amber Hockin	Trevor Hughes, DM
Minister Michelle Mungall	Don Wright	
(ERTF Attendee list Attached)	Christine Kennedy, ADM	
	Lori Wanamaker, DM	

9:30 AM	Opening Discussion	PJH/MCJ
	Updates from Last Week	PJH
	Essential and Critical Services	PJH
	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	PJH

NOTES:

- PJH introduction – we sent out a news release to inform the public this group is meeting. Want to ensure you all that we have a plan to tackle this. We are leading the country in terms of public health response. Number one priority is stopping the spread. We want programs in concert with the federal government. Lay out at the outset that we are doing everything we can – and we want to hear from you where there are gaps. We have been from the beginning looking at this with an eye to coming out / recovery on the other side.
- MCJ introduction – we want to reinforce we are on top of this. Everyone is responding quickly. The federal government is announcing new items every day and changing their programs constantly. We are monitoring and trying to ensure our programs complement federal programs. We are closely watching how federal criteria is being developed.
- PJH – overview of actions taken in the last week. Let's discuss how these programs are impacting you during the roundtable portion.

- Trevor Hughes – Safe worksites – We are working with the PHO and WorkSafeBC to come up with set of guidelines on a sector specific basis for safe workplaces. We want to keep the economy moving and people working. So, we are working with all partners to ensure people can work in safe workplaces.
 - Laird – Thanks to all on this. The key is confidence of workers that their workplaces are safe. The guideline document is good. We need prevention officers from WCB to deal with distancing etc on the jobsite. We need a common sense approach.
 - PJH – We are hearing a lot of rumblings on concerns with camp at Site C. It is important public confidence building for the economy that major projects such as Site C keep moving in a safe way.
- Don Wright – sectoral requests – We got a letter from a number of business orgs with a number of large requests. We have a 13-page spreadsheet with all the requests we have received so far. Trying to work through in a systematic and responsible way. Feds are announcing more programming every day. We are trying to determine how those programs unfold. We want to fill in gaps, not duplicate. We will look at issues such as regulation on a sector by sector basis. We have held off on consultations, etc for now. If there are regulatory areas where we can reduce costs, we will look into it. Example – reducing reporting requirements in areas where environmental risk is low. Defer GGRR reporting that is due in June. We will look at delaying all authorizations by one year. We will delay BC Hydro Phase 2 as you asked for. We have heard you that in this state we must minimize the regulatory burden you are under.
 - Geoff – we want to reduce the burden, but we do not want to reduce the standards.
- Lori – We have received requests for delaying/deferring property tax payments. This would likely cost at least \$500 million. We have received a number of other taxation requests. We are starting detailed analysis on all of these. We need to ensure that any actions we take are sustainable for the province. PPT deferment program would be very complex. Could take up to 6 months to develop. And the small businesses being hurt would not necessarily be the benefactors.
 - DW – we need to be deliberate and monitor the federal programs closely to close gaps.
- Roundtable
- Val – BC hydro announcement was very much appreciated by small business and the Chamber. Many businesses are starting to shutter. We are seeing this on the ground. Even missing a couple weeks business with April 1 rent is too much for many to bear. Delays in federal money is a big anxiety for small business. Let's always keep not for profits in mind. They will be so important in recovery.
- Rick – there are many vulnerable people in care communities, the staff as well as the patients. Folks are scared about going to work, and they are not making very much. The federal EI benefits could be more than people make going to work. This is a tough decision to make. These are long-standing wage disparity issues that need to be addressed. Insurance renewal forms right now are difficult to deal with and are intractable.
 - Lori Wannamaker will follow up on insurance issue.
- Anita – Will email all comments later. We need to look at human capital approach and programs coming out of this and towards economic recovery. We could have big skills shortages and/or surpluses. Issue to flag – benefits to commercial operations are not flowing through to tenants. Business park example. This is a significant impact to munis and the provincial government. But we need to take a look how to keep these businesses open.
 - PJH/DW – please send details on commercial/industrial tenants that are being evicted and/or how property tax benefit we have provided are not flowing through to tenants. Same offer to everyone.
- Laird – there is confusion from federal benefits, even with the 75% wage subsidy that we do support. Details are always changing. Differences between traditional EI and CERB – workers are unsure which works for them, which has better benefits for them, and what they are eligible for. On essential services, labour movement has no major concerns at this point. Childcare and essential workers – workers are confused how they get in the priority chain, concerns over the tiers. We are largely in favor of regulatory relief for business if it keeps them going, as long as standards are not minimized. As long as these regulatory measures are not on the backs of workers, WCB, etc. Safety is number one priority.

- Chief Sharleen – concerns from FNMPC include long-term impacts on local economies. Post-COVID era gives us opportunity to bring together FN and major projects in a creative way – benefit local economies, provide benefits to FN. When FN are doing good, so are local communities and small business. We need an open for business approach across all sectors with DRIPA as the foundation. We should not have deferrals; we need forgivable funds. We think there is a COVID case in Fort Nelson, and they are worried about lack of access to information and where this case came from / how to protect their elders and families. Want stricter control of people's movements, partying/drugs, etc. Testing for Site C workers. Local company developing tests.
 - Will pass along additional information to MCJ's office to be shared
 - DW – asks for more information on tests. Sharleen will send along
- Prem Gill – several tech companies are able to continue working from home with innovative solutions; however, many do require a few workers on site, and seek clarity on essential services. They are keeping people employed, and this is important. Ready to ramp up film production as soon as safe – need clarity on ability to travel back and forth to US when allowed. Also seeking clarity on number of people allowed to gather, how they will be able to safely ramp up productions again.
 - PJH – clarification – US film production is looking at BC's response favorably. Answer – yes, they are looking at global jurisdictions where they can come back safely and ramp up production.
- Bridgette – lots of confusion on federal programs. Is there duplication? Which programs to apply to? Timing of getting fed cash major concern. Cash flow is the number one issue for small business, as they are on the brink of permanent closure. They are looking at more relief for small business, such as on the BC EHT. They are going to need long-term recovery options. Use this moment to consider decisions that make life easier for business. Example of liquor delivery. We can do it now, so we should consider why not long term if it makes business easier.
- Queenie – we have not received funding support yet, and are dealing with critical situation in caring for seniors. Property taxes also impact not-for-profits and long-term care facilities. Newcomer services, we are helping to support online navigation for newcomers to access benefits – we are having a hard time to access Service Canada, people on hold for too long. Childcare concern, impacts everyone including those who work from home.
- Greg – government has been doing fantastic job managing this issue so far. Received health briefing from DW last week with a number of CEOs, and thinks the public could benefit from some of the information here. Really worried about mental health. Large number of deaths coming from US and elsewhere, social isolation. Also worried about people gaming the system, not paying rents when they can, taking advantage of others, etc. We need to appeal to the humanity and provide a constant voice from government and business leaders. Offers to help provide consistent message. Issue – how do we match up people with need – there is an opportunity to provide a platform to do this. Childcare is example, grocery delivery is another example. Final issue – how do we think about the path forward? This is very much like post WWII. Coming out of this is no longer the status quo. We need to prepare the public about fiscal situation and some of the policy opportunities coming out of this.
- PJH closing comments – we will be redesigning how we operate gov, business, labour etc – everything. I have optimism in the commonality of people's comments. We can build back with shared values at the core. Mentions Geoff Meggs/Amber Hockin were mistakenly not on list of participants that went out, but are key members of ERTF. The political side and public service side are moving forward together in dealing with this crisis and path forward.

AGENDA

Economic Recovery Task Force

April 9, 2020

Location: Conference Call

Dial into: ^{s.15; s.17}

Participant ID: ^{s.15; s.17} (Minister James will Moderate)

Attending:

Premier John Horgan

Geoff Meggs

Fazil Mihlar, DM

Minister Carole James

Amber Hockin

Trevor Hughes, DM

Minister Michelle Mungall

Don Wright

(ERTF Attendee list
Attached)

Christine Kennedy, ADM

Lori Wanamaker, DM

4:30 PM

Opening Discussion and Weekly Update

Premier John
Horgan and
Minister Carole
James

Measures to Ensure that COVID-19 Cases Continue to Trend Down

Deputy Minister
Don Wright

Roundtable Discussion

All

- Safe re-start guidelines for sectors where operations have been restricted by PHO orders (restaurants, personal services, certain retail sectors);
 - Alignment and communication of federal and provincial programs
 - Pressures on business:
 - *Cash flow and liquidity*
 - *Digital transformation and e-commerce*
 - *Personal protective equipment (food processing, social services)*
 - *Wage levels in social service operations,*
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5:25 PM

Closing Remarks

Premier John
Horgan

AGENDA

Economic Recovery Task Force

April 16, 2020

Location: Conference Call

Dial into: s.15; s.17

Participant ID: s.15; s.17 (Minister James will Moderate)

Attending:

Premier John Horgan

Geoff Meggs

Fazil Mihar, DM

Minister Carole James

Amber Hockin

Trevor Hughes, DM

Minister Michelle Mungall

Don Wright

(ERTF Attendee list
Attached)

Christine Kennedy, ADM

Lori Wanamaker, DM

9:45 AM

Opening Discussion and Weekly Update

Premier John
Horgan and
Minister Carole
James

Property Tax Updates

Minister Carole
James

Economic Re-start and Recovery Planning

Don Wright

- Process for Ministry engagement with sectoral organizations
- Planning for re-start of businesses impacted by PHO orders
- Responding to concerns of Indigenous and rural communities

Roundtable Discussion

All

- Input on BC Ferries / TransLink service levels
- Input on "COVID-19 Supports for Businesses in B.C."
(document distributed Tuesday)
- Federal / Provincial program alignment and gaps

10:40 AM

Closing Remarks

Premier John
Horgan

AGENDA

Economic Recovery Task Force

April 23, 2020

Location: Conference Call

Dial into: s.15; s.17

Participant ID: s.15; s.17 (Minister James will Moderate)

Attending:

Premier John Horgan	Geoff Meggs	Fazil Mihlar, DM
Minister Carole James	Amber Hockin	Trevor Hughes, DM
Minister Michelle Mungall	Don Wright	
(ERTF Attendee list Attached)	Christine Kennedy, ADM	
	Lori Wanamaker, DM	

9:30 AM	Opening Discussion and Weekly Update	Premier Horgan Minister James
	Update - Small Business Roundtable	Minister Mungall
	Update – Conversation with Information and Privacy Commissioner	Don Wright
	Update – Labour Issues	Trevor Hughes
	Update – Economic Restart Planning Process	Don Wright

Roundtable Discussion

All

- Discussion of Pulse Survey
- Timing for return to operation of small venues / events
- Addressing public confidence in returning to more-normal activities
- Industry specific health and safety protocols
- Resources to educate public and workers on new approaches to health and safety

10:25 AM

Closing Remarks

Premier Horgan

NOTES – Economic Recovery Task Force, April 23, 2020

9:45 AM	Opening Discussion	PJH/MCJ
	Small Business Roundtable	MMM
	Information and Privacy Commissioner	Don Wright
	Labour Issues	Trevor Hughes
	Economic Restart planning process	Don Wright
	Roundtable	All
	Pulse survey; Timing for return of small venues/events; Addressing public confidence in returning to more normal activities; Industry specific health and safety protocols; Resources to educate public and workers on new approaches to health and safety	
10:40 AM	Closing Remarks	PJH

NOTES:

- PJH introduction – Working on relaxing restrictions; like turning a dial not a switch. DW will have more to say. Remains frustrating with federal government, many announcements to track without much heads up. Trying to keep up to fill in the gaps and evaluate programs remains frustrating. Transit – we are keeping a close eye, watching federal response.
- MCJ – May 1 open application date for BC \$1000 tax free one-time emergency benefit. Mirrors CERB benefit eligibility. Not income tested, just CERB criteria. Commercial rent program – we are still working on federal program details; doing our best to get information and establish cost share program based on federal criteria; more details to come. Some challenges to the program. Lots of application questions we are working through with federal government. We know many are anxious about this. Update on rating agencies – BC maintains highest rating with AA high. Bit of a surprise. We are in a very strong position for economic recovery because of strong fiscal position and fiscal management. We expect shifts in ratings, but in a good position now. We know this doesn't take away from the pain people are feeling.
- MMM – small business roundtable – good news on bond rating agencies. Doing many one-on-one phone calls and roundtables with wide array of businesses. Hearing good feedback on prov and fed programs. Listening to ideas from business on ideas going forward. Innovation development discussion. Focus on cannabis industry as well, lots of opportunity to grow and a somewhat recession proof retail sector. Commercial rent is top of mind. Looking at details of federal program. Worry that landlords won't pass on savings from PPT savings. Local/regional supply chains are important opportunity. Expanded BuyBC campaign is a possibility. Restart discussions are major focus of our work right now.

- DW – privacy commissioner – not delaying lobbyist act. But, if you are interacting with government on the request of government, you do not need to report. Only if private entity is reaching out to government. While act comes into place, May to September is being viewed as transition period. Does not expect full compliance until September.
- Trevor – work is still underway on employment standards piece.
 - Geoff – recommendation is to extend temporary layoff period from 13 weeks to 16 weeks.
- DW – last week we advised on starting to work with sectors on safe restart. We broadly know based on essential services work where we established a set of guidelines. We need to remind ourselves that a lot of our economy already remains open and we are in a good position to open up broader. HLTH is looking at safe operating rules for broader society now. We are currently running at 30% of regular social action based on HLTH dynamic modelling. Think we can go to 60% and manage reasonable caseload. What are the most cost-effective ways to slowing open up? We need ability to monitor in real time. About safety but also about public confidence. Public perception will be very important. We will enhance health capacity. We will strengthen protection around vulnerable populations. We will look at aggressive PPE supply strategy and other critical supplies. We need to do some re-norming of public behavior – example, people going in to work sick. We will need a public campaign about how this is not the right thing to do. We will dial up the economy with real time indicators about if we have gone too far and need to dial back. Hoping by next week we will be able to share more detail. Retail example – you may need to wear a proper mask. Education – international students – may need to require proper quarantine.
 - Greg – lots happening in private sector as well. Lifesciences are prepared to do voluntary testing. Any way we can support work we are happy to.
 - PJH – spoke to BCRFA – they have been doing work as well about safe distancing, etc. Do not necessarily need template from government they need a green light.
- RoundTable
- Laird – have talked to table officers to work with their members to establish safe practices. Will have more information to share with government once prepared. Transit – remains top concern for worker mobility. We need clear rules about masks and safety on transit, etc. Childcare – we need to open back up and expand to ensure workers are able to get back to work.
- Queenie – on the ground experience shows that collaboration with government is working. Standardizing cleaning, disinfections, etc in healthcare and social settings to build up confidence in public when we reopen. How can we leverage the power of media to help us with this communication about safety and restart of the economy? Public confidence is top priority.
 - PJH – wanted to mention we are taking action on DTES and homelessness on Friday.
- Chief Gale – really appreciate the message on public confidence. Camps in the north are major concern. Happy to see plexiglass and cleaning protocols at businesses in the north. Childcare is a major issue as we try to get workers back to work. Can we put money towards fixing up daycares now so are ready when people go back? Can we provide tax relief for those family members who are caring for kids now? Members are having problem with large unemployment and too many people returning back to reserve causing overcrowding. We need to provide access to online education for those who don't have it. Fort Nelson remains concerned with US citizens going up to Alaska.
- Greg – Echo Queenie's comment about cultural cohesion and unacceptable attack. Worry about more stress and fear will lead to growing hate crime. This group should help build cultural cohesion. Transit – if there is anything else, we can do to support federal discussion we will. Transit is essential. We have spoken to WASH – they have done good work on protocols / baseline startup as they call it. Dial up dial now protocols. Wanted to echo MMM comment on expediting projects – prov should shorten decision making timelines in a way that doesn't cut standards but allows for faster approval timelines to get things built. Our membership has billions of dollars to deploy if able. Want to echo again the need for constant government message on the economy to take ambiguity away. PJH you asked us to be candid – we are concerned about, coming out of chicken processing example, if a worker has COVID they should not come to work, period. But...we became aware that WorkSafe board is looking at presumption that if you have any symptoms you are covered by WorkSafe. Not the right tool. Pushes the public health cost of

COVID on to employers at a time where we cannot manage any more costs. Schedule 1 is a sledgehammer when there are better more delicate tools to employ.

- PJH – WS process was initiated by WS. We had an example where 29 workers were at work with COVID, that is a problem that needs to be addressed. Spoke with WS yesterday and they are beginning consultation. I want you to participate in that consultation. We will monitor closely. MHB will address it at the right time. In terms of my availability on economy, I will wait until we have something firmer to say on reopening the economy. Too much speculation currently.
- DW – can you share what you are doing to ensure that people who are sick are not at work.
- Prem – thank you for clarity on what is to come. We are doing work on ease back. I want to discuss on larger gatherings over the summer and Dr Henry's speculation on this. Lots of concerns re: arts and culture festivals, both large and small. Reinforce comments on cultural issues and communications coming out in every language.
 - MMM – potential festival shut down, does not just impact the festivals and arts and culture, but big impact on many small businesses who rely on those for majority of income
- Anita – eligibility conditions of many programs are too narrow. People are so anxious about May 1 coming up with many unanswered questions and gaps in federal and prov programs. We emailed to Christine Kennedy some ideas about reopening economy. There needs to be some type of fed/muni/prov principles of reopening the economy. Childcare needs to be considered. Pretesting before going into a workplace. Need international collaboration and ideas about testing. Workplace reconfiguration to ensure safe protocols. Supply chains. Block chain technology. We are looking at different ways to diversify the economy in Surrey. We are worried that transit 10-year plan has been compromised.
- Rick – most issues of social services sector are being addressed at social roundtable. Childcare is top concern. Is there anything else that can be done to encourage folks to support NFPs – can we increase tax credits for charitable donations.
- Bridgette – thank you for talking about restart. We have a survey with chamber and BCBC, and the turning point for most businesses is here and now. PJH you have an opportunity to break through the noise with another public address to reduce anxiety and deliver clear message on economy. Looking longer term there will be significant changes to behavior and social structure. We need to do deep thinking about what that means for BC business. We can reduce barriers and make BC more competitive. Encourage speed over perfection to continue. We need to keep that mindset. Echo infrastructure opportunity.

AGENDA

Economic Recovery Task Force

April 30, 2020

Location: Conference Call

Dial into: s.15; s.17

Participant ID: s.15; s.17 (Minister James will Moderate)

Attending:

Premier John Horgan

Geoff Meggs

Fazil Mihlar, DM

Minister Carole James

Amber Hockin

Trevor Hughes, DM

Minister Michelle Mungall

Don Wright

(ERTF Attendee list

Christine Kennedy, ADM

Attached)

Lori Wanamaker, DM

9:30 AM	Opening Discussion and Weekly Update	Premier Horgan Minister James
9:40 AM	Approach to Restarting the Economy	Don Wright
9:50 AM	Roundtable Discussion <i>For this meeting, discussion will focus primarily on questions and answers related to the restart planning process.</i>	All
10:25 AM	Closing Remarks	Premier Horgan

NOTES – Economic Recovery Task Force, April 30, 2020

9:30 AM	Opening Discussion	PJH/MCJ
	Approach to Restarting the Economy	Don Wright
	Roundtable Discussion	All
	Focus on Q&A related to restart planning process	
10:25 AM	Closing Remarks	PJH

NOTES:

- PJH introduction – Will let Stephen Brown and Don Wright go through details of public health modelling and restart process. Our focus is on safety. We are not out of the woods yet.
- Stephen Brown – In the process of finalizing plan. Good news is that transmission rates are down. There are some pocket areas – like poultry processing facility – but overall daily rates are way down. Modelling shows us we are down to 30% of regular social movement since COVID. Modelling shows us what level of movement we can go without significantly increasing transmission. We will be putting out guidelines through the PHO about continued reasonable distancing measures and guidelines for workplaces where physically distancing is more difficult – plexiglass, non-medical masks, restrictions on numbers of people, etc. We will come up with a basic tool that will give businesses a checklist. Three areas of focus – 1) personal care - hand hygiene, do not go to work if you are sick, etc; 2) social interaction – principles will be provided on social contact; 3) workplaces – zero tolerance policy; workers who are sick must stay home. This will become a challenge by the Fall when flu and cold symptoms are regular. Over the summer will be significantly increase our testing ability. This will mean that after three days of illness in the fall, people will be able to get test results on COVID. Changing attitudes on staying home if sick will be a challenge for everyone.
- Don Wright – over past couple weeks we have asked you to talk to memberships on safe operations. Only employers and employees really know what safe operations look like in their sectors. We have asked each ministry to interact with sectors, worksafeBC, and PHO. We need to know what makes sense in each area. Appointed a steering committee to oversee government interaction with sectors – Trevor Hughes, Christine Kennedy, (missed third name, Fazil?). We need employers and labour to help us build public confidence that it is safe to go to work. If we restart and then need to pull back again, we will really undermine public confidence. We are not expecting everything to go back to “normal” on May 19 – businesses will look different for the foreseeable future. Large gatherings probably won’t happen for quite some time. International travel. Things will be different. Elective surgery, other health practices will be coming back – there must be proper PPE and health protocols that we will put in place. Important to note we never shut down retail. We had orders on reduced density, and many made a determination, but we did not order retail shutdown. Restaurants will be very different for the foreseeable future.
- Questions:
- Val – Terrific update, thank you. Are we thinking a one size fits all approach across the province or different pathways for different cities and regions with different density. Could we accelerate restart in small communities that do not have large populations.

- SB – PHO has been considering this. We know largest outbreaks are in the lower mainland. But, at a very basic level, COVID is present in all regions in BC. Transmission occurs in local and personal space. Fundamental principles need to apply everywhere. But, PHO is looking at what might be possible here.
 - PJH – one of the biggest concerns I have is about “people from away” in BC regions. Growth of this narrative is getting large. We are an open economy and many areas rely on “from away” but don’t want people coming to their regions. We need to ensure that xenophobia doesn’t take root in post-COVID.
- Laird – happy to help navigate labour context. What are implications of lifting health orders – how does this change operations for the sectors that were not ordered to shut down. How long will state of emergency be in place?
 - DW – don’t think there will be drastic changes. Hopefully we can retain ‘normal’ level of operations in some areas. Don’t anticipate major changes for those areas
 - SB – health emergency will likely remain in place over the fall and winter, not necessarily the provincial state of emergency.
- Anita – 1) what if a vaccine is not found? Is there a long-term strategy? 2) what is definition of large gathering? What about childcare and areas where distancing is not possible? 3) What is our role in communicating this out? 4) PPE equipment
 - SB – Vaccine – likelihood is that we will find a vaccine. World-wide effort. Over a dozen currently in Phase 2 testing in humans. Phase 3 is testing for efficacy. It would be astounding if we don’t find one. 12-18 months is about normal timeline; it could be sooner. There is a high degree of optimism. Question is how effective it will be. Also working going on anti-viral treatment.
 - SB - Gatherings – guideline is 50. There is no magic to this number. It is about intensity of contact. And the ability to contact trace if there is an outbreak. Dental conference example. We will see a conservative approach going forward for the coming months. Childcare – we will have specific guidelines for this. With children, there is a high degree of anxiety. But all evidence shows this virus is not impacting children greatly.
 - SB - PPE – we need to keep in mind where requirement is actually needed. For most sectors, hygiene and distance is key. Non-medical masks can come into play. Clinical level PPE is not required for most areas.
 - PJH – comms – government has a plan for widescale communications on this, including language requirements. PPE – we will see an increase of non-medical masks. We need to get our heads around this.
- Bridgette – testing – what could the role of the private sector in providing testing. Is province willing to engage these conversations. What about evidence that people can get COVID a second time.
 - SB – testing – we have expanded out to Lifelabs for testing. Could large businesses do testing in their places of work? That is a discussion. They would need to be validated that they can do it properly. We are open to the discussion in Health. Key is accuracy and validation. Idea of early testing is not there. Need to be on day 3 of symptoms for testing to be effective.
 - Science shows that you are not necessarily getting it twice. The disease is bouncing back within them, as we see with many illnesses. Not overly concerned with this narrative.
- Greg – many businesses have multiple interactions with other businesses. Will guidelines be sharable in an easy way? There is a pent-up demand for business to get going. If they could easily post guidelines in workplaces it would give people confidence. Could business help support supply of masks? Litigation – there is nervousness around liability. What if place of business do everything they can based on PHO guidelines and outbreak still happens? We need clarity on 50 people limit. Mines, etc. not practical. Business could also provide tech support for restaurants to avoid lines, etc. Very worried about xenophobia coming out of this. We need to tamp this down as business leaders. Very important to communicate this
 - PJH - Liability – MDE is looking at this. We will be taking steps with legislation on this.
 - PJH – 50 people – most major projects never shut down in the beginning, Site C etc

- DW – Supply of masks – We have been doing internal work. We do need to sit down with private sector to discuss security of supply chains. We should probably be a little more self-reliant.
 - DW – liability – WorkSafeBC – basic contract of the historic compromise should protect against this obligation. Has worked for many years. But, there is still an obligation of employers to meet safety standards. To be clear, a worksite with more than 50 people is not a “large gathering”. A large gathering is about people interacting outside of normal activity.
- Queenie – looking forward to guidelines. What about people currently working from home who will gradually return to worksite, will there be process for them to follow? Will there be a clear policy established for social services? Standardized process and guideline for disinfection in service sectors – very important. Domestic flights – when will these return?
 - SB – some specifics will come out for office work, but we will also encourage a level of working from home to remain where that is viable. In Ministry of health for instance, we are looking at staggering shifts, physical barriers, distancing close work spaces, etc
 - SB – cleaning – very good point – we will need to provide some specifics on “deep cleaning”
- Prem – what can we expect for businesses that rely on some crossing of the border. – film
 - DW – currently, our rule for TFWs is a mandatory 14 day self-isolation. We realize this will be difficult for film, but will be a difficult sell in the short-term with the way things are south of the border. Ultimately it will be up to Ottawa.
 - PJG – domestic flights – discussions ongoing about intra-provincial travel. Hopefully we will be able to nuance 14-day isolation for film – sell it as a positive.
- Chief Gale – thank you for action on tree planting issue. Comments on opening parks.... We have developed a policy paper on role of First Nations in economic recovery. We have shared this with PO. Wanted to flag blackwater transmission project as important FN project in recovery.
- Rick – different sector table – will social services roundtable be the table going forward with social services for restart plans? Asks for someone to check in on lobbyists act
 - DW – yes, I believe so, check in with Allison and David
 - MCJ – someone will follow up on lobbyist
- PJH – closing remarks – will be asking staff to reach out to each of you for opportunity to speak privately with each of you. Thoughts for each sector going forward.

AGENDA

Economic Recovery Task Force

May 7, 2020

Location: Conference Call

Dial into: s.15; s.17

Participant ID: s.15; s.17 (Minister James will Moderate)

Attending:

Premier John Horgan

Geoff Meggs

Fazil Mihlar, DM

Minister Carole James

Amber Hockin

Trevor Hughes, DM

Minister Michelle Mungall

Don Wright

(ERTF Attendee list

Christine Kennedy, ADM

Attached)

Lori Wanamaker, DM

1:30 PM	Opening Discussion and Weekly Update	Premier Horgan Minister James
1:40 PM	Roundtable Discussion on Economic Restart, Sector Planning Process and Anticipated Phases of the Economic Restart Process	All
2:20 PM	Closing Remarks	Premier Horgan

NOTES – Economic Recovery Task Force, May 7, 2020

9:30 AM	Opening Discussion	PJH/MCJ
	Roundtable Discussion on Economic Restart	All
10:25 AM	Closing Remarks	PJH

NOTES:

- PJH introduction – we announced our BC Restart program yesterday. Opportunity for feedback
- Bridgette – yesterday was very welcome briefing. Questions re: costs for businesses. Would appreciate update on sick pay – added costs to business at a time they are strapped for cash. Eligibility requirements around federal programs – lots of concerns SMEs are not eligible. Measures for office spaces re-opening – would like more information on guidelines. Large events – any further guidance or clarity would be appreciated by many in business sector. Cost to business – lobbying changes. Hearing increasing concerns from members that this will be incredible administrative burden. Pandemic has disproportionate impacted women and immigrants.
 - Sick pay – PJH believes this is a national challenge. Having call with PMJT today and will raise it. Understand we cannot put on the backs of businesses at this time. But incredibly important for health concerns. We may need to re-group to discuss shared costs. Not our goal to put this on business at this time.
 - Large gatherings – rule of 50 remains for now. We understand how important this is for many sectors. We are aware but taking direction from PHO and HLTH.
 - Women – thank you for raising. We have PSMD focusing in on this.
 - MCJ – if specifics on federal program gaps please let us know and send in more information
- Rick – hearing feedback that message around 'not flick of the switch' needs to continue. Not heard by many on the ground who think normal activity can now return. Staffing issues are increasing for the social services sector – we are down staffing from before COVID but need for services is increasing. ODs rising. At risk youth needs rising. We are expecting significant increase in demand on the system with reduced staffing and resource capacity. Reinforce that sick pay is a huge issue – we need people to stay home, but many cannot afford reduced wages. Need to find a solution. Reinforce lobbying administrative headache.
- Greg – reasonable and measured plan yesterday. Re-opening clarity – travel within province and within Canada needs to be clarified. Business travel. Sectors are wondering if they need to go buy a bunch of testing kits to restart operations. PPE as well – folks are stocking up, so we need to clarify expectations to ensure supply and prices are not impacted. Cleaning and disinfection advertising; worry about marketers taken advantage of fears. We need to provide clear standards on cleaning. Cost of business – modified workplace standards have significant increased cost on businesses. Need to be aware. Same with sick pay – we will support conversations with the federal government. Lobbying requirements are not practical. Restart – creating inventory of small projects across the province; spoke with Christine. How could we advance those projects and expedite decision making?
 - PJH – we are certainly keeping track of costs on businesses. Ask for added push with federal government. Reformat letter you sent me to PMJT.
 - Scammers – will be a challenge. We will see what we can do.

- Travel – we cannot open up the floodgates for travel unless absolutely necessary. I don't want to add to the many anxieties that exist now. We are a couple weeks out from further action or comment on domestic travel. We must respect local concerns in this moment until people begin to feel more comfortable.
- Laird – labour movement was very happy with announcement yesterday. We have lots of expertise on health and safety; and offer our help and support. Must emphasize the need to develop restart plans with employers and employees together. Employees will understand day-to-day reality on the ground. Plans should be co-developed. Gap - \$1000 payment. Application process requires you to be on CERB. Folks on EI not eligible which is a major gap and doesn't make policy sense. Transit – incredibly important for economic restart to be successful and ability for workers to keep their jobs. Childcare – also essential for workers to get back to work. Sick pay – understand that employers cannot afford this; but those that can, should. We must push for a federal or provincial solution.
 - MCJ – reviewing concern around CERB eligibility now.
 - PJH – childcare – everyone is talking about this now, and we are excited about the opportunity to double down on our commitments to childcare. Essential.
 - Transit – we won't let it languish. But there is a massive drop in ridership. MSR working on governance issues and finding a path forward.
- Chief Gale – want to ensure FNMPC and rural communities are involved in stimulus and shovel ready projects – should not just focus on lower mainland. Greatly appreciate the rural and remote health care funding and announcement from the other week. Tree planting concern.
- Anita – gave comprehensive briefing document to PJH on weekend. Appreciate announcement yesterday. 1. But what rate of infection would allow us to move in to Phase 3? 2. Needs to be clarity on what you mean by 2-6 people social gatherings. 6 families or 6 people? Need clear guidelines for people to understand. 3. Guidelines on what happens if someone gets sick in your place of business? 4. Mid-May language is confusing – need clarity. 5. \$1.5 billion for recovery – how will that be allocated? 6. Pre-testing before coming in to work and access to PPE. Businesses want to know where they can access. 7. Cross border supply chains. Free trade agreements coming up in middle of COVID challenge. 8. Leverage cities around pandemic response. Use cities to help with compliance and enforcement. 9. Transportation – no boundaries for taxi in lower mainland. Rideshare – class drivers license need to be re-looked at. 10. Infrastructure projects – if it doesn't contribute to jobs it should be left behind. 11. Canada has authorized reserve military to be on call full time for response.
 - PJH – test kits – not our recommendation that business go out and procure test kits. HLTH has a plan to respond and best to leave to PHO.
 - PJH – on clarity – it was a big challenge. 2-6 people. I rejected that immediately, personally. Agree that confusing for people. We wanted to give flexibility to people. But understand people want absolutes. Some of this is based on people's judgements.
 - Will follow up on other pieces.
- Prem – need clarity on health protocols for film productions; confusion over domestic versus other productions. Sick pay for some smaller companies – insurance issues – they have challenges getting insured. Office space – need checklist for company by company businesses; many don't fall within a sector organization. Asian actors based in Vancouver have started anti-racism campaign; happy to join a central message on this.
- Val – most people have touched on many of our concerns. How do we make sure we are there for businesses in the long-term recovery? Need to consider regional differences and supply chain realities as restart guidelines are developed. Appreciate update on sick pay – big relief that you view EI or federal solution to sick pay and not put it on the backs of business.
- Queenie – apprentice comments on impacts of COVID on immigrants. We need to ensure mental health supports are there. Willing to form a coalition on action against racism with business community on this call. Issue is national now, and Vancouver examples are at the forefront. Charitable organizations – need support. Lobbyists act – agree with comments and impacts on non-profit sector as well.

AGENDA

Economic Recovery Task Force

May 14, 2020

Location: Conference Call

Dial into: s.15; s.17

Participant ID: s.15; s.17 (Minister James will Moderate)

Attending:

Premier John Horgan

Geoff Meggs

Fazil Mihlar, DM

Minister Carole James

Amber Hockin

Trevor Hughes, DM

Minister Michelle Mungall

Don Wright

Anne Naser, WSBC (Guest)

(ERTF Attendee list

Christine Kennedy, ADM

Attached)

Lori Wanamaker, DM

9:45 AM	Opening Discussion and Weekly Update	Premier Horgan Minister James
9:55 AM	WorkSafeBC Process and Questions and Answers	Anne Naser WorkSafeBC
10:10 AM	Commercial Evictions	Lori Wanamaker
10:15 AM	Roundtable Discussion <i>Member questions about sector restart process.</i>	All
10:40 AM	Closing Remarks	Premier Horgan

NOTES – Economic Recovery Task Force, May 14, 2020

9:45 AM	Opening Discussion	PJH/MCJ
	Worksafe BC Process and QA	Anne Naser, WSBC
	Commercial Evictions	Lori Wannamaker
	Roundtable Discussion	All
10:40 AM	Closing Remarks	PJH

NOTES:

- PJH introduction
 - Worksafe sector guidelines will be available starting tomorrow. Phase 2 restart. Anne Naser is here to give overview and answer your questions.
- Anne Naser, Worksafe
 - We have been actively involved since the beginning to ensure essential workplaces could remain open – Phase 1. Construction sector is excellent example of how we develop guidelines
 - Safety is a joint responsibility – employers, workers, PHO – collaborative process to guidelines
 - Phase 2 – guidelines for all sectors ready. Public release tomorrow
 - Phase 2 will include an awareness campaign. Focus – right to refuse unsafe work
 - Question: will every region have different health authority guidelines in addition to Worksafe?
 - We hope health authorities and Worksafe guidelines are the same, but at this point we need to coordinate response with Ministry of Health.
 - Question: is the building owner responsible to clean or the business owner/tenant?
 - Difficult for Worksafe to determine. We determine what standards are required but are not directing building owner versus tenant. That will depend on circumstance
 - Question: Will there be digital assets that business owners can print out and use on their premises to show guidelines and best practices? How will you balance support and compliance?
 - Yes, there will be downloadable checklists and other tools that business can use. Please be patient and in touch with needs. We are learning about what is needed as we go.
 - As a regulator, we don't hit with penalties right away; we tell you what needs to be fixed. We don't want business to be afraid of Worksafe, but to work with us. End goal is to ensure safety for business to restart; a shared goal.
 - Question: What about guidelines for the social services sector?
 - List includes medical services but not social services specifically – will need to follow up with you about what is included in social services
 - Question: What if employee refuses to come to work for safety reasons, even if all guidelines are being followed. How far does right to refuse work extend? How do we address?
 - From occupational health and safety perspective, not employee/labour relations, we have clear guidelines set out to be followed that can be checked against. We have had cases

- where prevention officers need to be sent out to determine guidelines are being met – happened with construction sector. Beyond that, out of our control as regulator.
- Question: Complexity of compliance. Multiple orders with Worksafe, PHO, health authorities, municipalities, etc. How do we ensure clarity for business?
 - Agree on coordination. Collaboration is essential. Any suggestions on how to consolidate information we will try to address. PJH – agree that need to build confidence with business owners is essential for restart to be successful and information flows need to be clear.
- Question: Proactive guidance on 'new normal' and potential long wait times in retail settings for example is important to reduce anxiety and stress. People need to understand things will be different beforehand to reduce mental health stresses that are high for employees and the public.
 - Agreed. We will look at proactive messaging on mental health as a next step.
- Lori Wannamaker, commercial evictions
 - Very tricky issue that we continue to wrestle with. Unlike residential tenancy where we regulate through legislation. Commercial tenancy are often through contracts. We are reviewing with legal counsel what power provincial government may have. We are also working with federal government to expand rental program to commercial tenants. Hopefully positive news to report in the coming days, but this is a national problem.
- RoundTable
- Anita
 - Transportation remains a big issue in Surrey; taxi and ride hail licensing.
 - Childcare, lots of concern about safety in restart. Childcare is an essential service and business concern; we need a \$10aday program
 - What are your plans for the \$1.5 billion earmarked for economic recovery?
 - MCJ – will be cabinet determinations. Focus is on growing economy. But not determined yet how that money will be spent.
 - PJH – agree with you on childcare. Issue is clearer than ever for the public. But each week fiscal situation becomes more dire.
 - PJH – paid sick leave – needs to be permanent fixture in the short term, part of federal discussion and provincial allies are building. I will not put this on backs of business.
- Queenie
 - Nonprofit sector – looking for more guidelines tomorrow about restart
 - Anti-Asian racism
 - Regulations on lobbyists act – can we make exemption for nonprofit sector, or opportunity to provide input about how it impacts work
 - PJH – we are in discussion WRT lobbyists act. More to say soon
 - PJH – working on non-partisan anti-racism program with the LG.
- Greg
 - Transit – challenges with social distancing. We are working with tech supercluster on potential tech solution to timing of work travel flows
 - EI letter – we sent letter to federal government on your suggestion; available in your office now.
 - Anti-racism – we have over 200 business leaders ready to sign on with LG campaign
 - Issue – companies want to track and test at the worksite. We need clarity about why this is not advisable and clear direction from PHO and government. People want to do the right thing and if self-private-testing is not advised they need to know.
 - Reconciliation – CGL – This project is ready to get going again and worry about business confidence and uncertainty if it gets held up again by protest.
- Prem
 - Perception issue around safe practices with industry / film coming into small communities. Film sector is prepared to restart and meet guidelines. Need to make sure communities feel safe when they return.

- PJH – confident that in the weeks ahead film will be shown to meet protocols and be supported in its return to BC. Will be happy to help promote this message
- Bridgette
 - Sick pay and transit funding are major issues with Boards of Trade across Canada.
 - Friction point between building owners and tenants. Who is responsible for cleaning? Many building owners are not stepping up and worry about these added costs to SMEs.
 - Looking for more guidance on large gatherings. Big gap between 50 and 250 people. What about small conferences and business meetings? Need clearer guidelines.
 - Anti-racism – happy to join campaign.
- Chief Gale
 - Appreciate orphan wells announcement yesterday
 - Terry Teggee has raised concerns about reconciliation and recovery
- Val
 - Looking forward to clarity on guidelines from Worksafe – number one concern of members
 - Businesses are looking for clarity on long-term supports as they try to plan for their success in reopening and longevity
 - Rental support and wage subsidy – many will not qualify, and confidence is low supports will help
 - PPE – need to make sure available to regions and businesses. Worksafe not clear on availability.
 - PJH – we have a PPE hub inside government as a collection point for health facilities. We will need to add this as an agenda item for next week to provide more information. Understand essential need for private sector to have reliable access.
- PJH
 - Appreciate support on sick pay to push this as priority with federal government
 - Unity of business and labour on this has been inspiring
- Rick
 - Worry about sector specific guidelines from Worksafe BC for social services sector. Social services often ignored as a sector, and has unique needs.
- Laird
 - Gap on access to \$1000 BC Emergency benefit with eligibility limited to CERB and not EI
 - Want to focus on importance of things government was already working on before pandemic hit on recovery work – like cleanBC, encourage you to double down. Compulsory trades. Increasing skilled trades on major infrastructure projects. These issues help us build back.

AGENDA

Economic Recovery Task Force

May 21, 2020

Location: Conference Call

Dial into: s.15; s.17

Participant ID: s.15; s.17 (Minister James will Moderate)

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 Mihlar, DM
Trevor Hughes, DM
Dr. Bonnie Henry, PHO
Lori Halls, DM

9:30 AM	Opening Discussion and Updates	Premier John Horgan and Minister Carole James
9:35 AM	Update on Discussions at the Council of the Federation Table	Premier John Horgan
9:40 AM	Update on Private Sector Testing	Dr. Bonnie Henry
9:45 AM	Personal Protective Equipment	Deputy Minister Lori Halls
9:55 AM	Sector Guidance Documents and Engagement	Deputy Minister Trevor Hughes
10:00 AM	Roundtable Discussion	All

10:25 AM

Closing Remarks

Premier John
Horgan

NOTES – Economic Recovery Task Force, May 21, 2020

9:30 AM	Opening Discussion	PJH/MCJ
	Private Sector Testing	Bonnie Henry
	PPE	Lori Halls
	Sector Guidance Documents	Trevor Hughes
	Roundtable Discussion	All
10:30 AM	Closing Remarks	PJH

NOTES:

- PJH introduction
 - Phase 2 has begun. Criticism will come over the coming weeks. We need to be prepared for that.
 - Thank you for anti-racism work and support.
- PJH/MCJ federal update
 - Discussions ongoing on paid sick leave at Council of Federation
 - Cost shared programs – working well between feds and provs
 - Transit discussion – operating costs for transit are a national problem; premiers aligning
 - Cruise ships – vessels under 100 will be allowed such as whale watching; no big international cruise ships; joint position with the federal government
 - Border controls – we believe sufficient as is to June 21 to maintain trade and supply lines. We will see what happens after then; and can discuss with you
- Bonnie Henry
 - Two types of testing – where virus is and where virus was; often confusion between the two and the issue of testing is becoming politicized elsewhere
 - We have a set approach in BC.
 - All testing needs to be done in consultation with PHO. We will support private testing as long as it is part of the overall picture and system. We need to know about negative testing as well as contact tracing. Private testing could be quite helpful in settings like mining camps. But it needs to be aligned with PHO.
 - PHO is currently meeting with industry representatives to determine a collaborative approach.
 - Serology test (antibody test) is important area where private collaboration could be helpful.
 - Question: how do we participate?
 - PHO is working on finding a test that is accurate enough. We are reaching out to industry reps now, but you can send information via this call
 - Question: immigrants, TFWs – view on testing of newcomers?
 - We are currently testing newcomers
 - Question: temperature testing of workers; worried about false sense of security

- We need to be very careful of temp testing. It is not necessarily a good screen of if it is safe to go to work or school
 - Question: rural activities; engineers, surveyors, etc
 - If they have any symptoms at all, they can call 811 to reach testing facilities. In a camp situation, we do not automatically test; needs to be based on symptoms or concern about exposure. Difficult issues; not 100% accurate.
- Lori Halls
 - We have been doing work to secure supply. But emphasize that PPE remains last line of defense. Hand washing and social distancing remain more important
 - Three-pronged approach – health care system; secure supply for SMEs restarting; public
 - Provincial supply chain coordination unit
 - Working with suppliers to narrow down and secure credible products and supply lines
 - We will have a 6-month supply secured in the coming days/weeks
 - Question: Guidance on masks given changing direction from Dr Tam yesterday. Will BC have further guidelines for business operators and the public?
 - PHO supports use of masks when people are not able to social distance.
 - Added layer of protection for short-term circumstances where distance cannot be maintained; like transit for example
 - More of a measure of politeness. Akin to covering your own cough. It does not protect from droplets from other people
 - We have no intention of making it mandatory
- Trevor Hughes
 - Lists are mostly deployed for Phase 2
 - Guidance documents will be coming on transit and childcare in the coming days
 - Employers from later phases are asking questions, for instance tourism and casinos
 - Question: narrative exists that all plans need to be approved by WorkSafe. Inaccurate reporting
 - We are working on that messaging to clarify role of WorkSafe. Will encourage clarity.
 - Question: need clarity on relationship with PHO as well
 - Question: Worksafe being front and center on this is extremely important and appreciated. Inspections way up over last year. Engagement with Worksafe way up. Enforcement is critical to maintain confidence in system.
- Queenie
 - Thank you for leadership. NFPs need more clarity on how they fit into restart
- Anita
 - Need for stable, predictable funding model for local governments
 - Need for stable, predictable job creation plan
 - This task force could be more strategic and build a roadmap and plan for recovery. Need to focus on the future in addition to the now.
- Chief Gale
 - Many members are angry with process on OW MOU, and how hereditary chiefs approached it
 - Indigenous equity partnerships – paper coming out tomorrow; will share
- Laird
 - Gaps – sick pay, transit, childcare, EI access to emergency benefit
 - Moving forward – BCFed has put together a document that lays out pathway for short-medium-long term recovery actions
 - Addendum coming – focus on disproportionate impact on women, immigrants, and low-skill workers. High incomes are barely impacted. Recovery must include this lens.
- Val
 - More information coming this afternoon on new member survey impacts
 - AGM tomorrow where PJH is keynote

- Low hanging fruit – shovel ready projects that have already passed EAs, etc; accelerating broadband in rural communities; enhance CleanBC subsidies and rollout; get money to low-carbon opportunities on the front end to get started; food security.
 - Don't just focus on \$1.5B stimulus; take action now on low hanging fruit
- Prem
 - Testing – further details requested on how to engage with PHO
- Bridgette
 - Reinforce cost on business to implement PHO measures
 - Next 3-5 months will be very difficult for business, especially after wage subsidy runs dry
 - Any opportunity to reduce burden is required
 - Need clarity on gatherings between 50 and 250 people
 - PJH – those are PHO decisions; will follow up
- Rick
 - Thanks for pandemic pay program to social services sector
 - Disappointed that there are no social sector Worksafe guidelines
- Greg
 - Ad in Chinese papers on anti-racism; please share
 - Need to ensure consistency with PHO, Worksafe, and by-law officers
 - Still many new procedures, requirements, etc coming on to business, adding new complexity and burden on business. Worried about reputation on place to invest.
 - How do we speed up inventory of shovel ready project; Christine Kennedy has list