

AGENDA

Economic Recovery Task Force

May 28, 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
David Galbraith, DM

9:30 AM	Opening Discussion and Updates	Premier John Horgan and Minister Carole James
9:35 AM	Discussions on Sick Pay with the Government of Canada	Premier Horgan
9:40 AM	Updates on Federal Funding Programs	Deputy Minister Lori Wanamaker
9:45 AM	Update on Sector Guidance Documents	Deputy Minister Trevor Hughes
9:50 AM	Social Sector Recovery Planning	Deputy Minister David Galbraith
9:55 AM	Roundtable Discussion	All

10:25 AM

Closing Remarks

Premier John
Horgan

Going forward, government suggests holding Economic Recovery Task Force calls on a bi-weekly schedule, with the next scheduled call being Thursday June 11. Additional calls could be scheduled if needed.

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10:25 AM	Closing Remarks	Premier John Horgan

Shortt, Amanda PREM:EX

From: Zacharuk, Christina PREM:EX
Sent: June 24, 2020 3:39 PM
To: Mulloy, Eleanor PREM:EX
Subject: FW: FOR REVIEW: Draft Agenda ERTF June 25th
Attachments: AGENDA - ERTF Conf Call - June 25 2020.docx

Importance: High

This is good to go to Heidi minus the highlighted part. Thanks! CZ

From: Zacharuk, Christina PREM:EX
Sent: June 24, 2020 2:38 PM
To: James, Carole FIN:EX <Carole.James@gov.bc.ca>; Geoff PREM:EX Meggs (Geoff.Meggs@gov.bc.ca) <Geoff.Meggs@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Wright, Don J. PREM:EX <Don.J.Wright@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FOR REVIEW: Draft Agenda ERTF June 25th
Importance: High

Minister and Geoff,

Attached for your review is the draft agenda for the Economic Recovery Task Force tomorrow – please note 3 items at the bottom of the agenda that will likely be raised as part of the roundtable.

One question – would you like Minister Bains to attend as well?

One note – Anita Huberman of the Surrey Board of Trade sends her regrets as Surrey is having an Economic Recovery Summit at the same time.

Thanks, CZ

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Roundtable items (to be removed from formal agenda):

- Brigitte Anderson – Interprovincial trade barriers
- Rick FitzZaland – amendments to Mental Health Act and impacts on economic recovery for youth
- Greg D'Avignon – government endorsed safe start 'checklist' for businesses

Shortt, Amanda PREM:EX

From: Zacharuk, Christina PREM:EX
Sent: June 24, 2020 3:36 PM
To: Wanamaker, Lori FIN:EX
Subject: FW: FOR REVIEW: Draft Agenda ERTF June 25th
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FYI – I put the update on the \$14B process because it was requested from Bridgitte Anderson, Van Board of Trade, but perhaps it's just a 30 second response as per below that there's a process underway.....

From: Zacharuk, Christina PREM:EX
Sent: June 24, 2020 3:32 PM
To: James, Carole FIN:EX <Carole.James@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Meggs, Geoff PREM:EX <Geoff.Meggs@gov.bc.ca>; Wright, Don J. PREM:EX <Don.J.Wright@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: FOR REVIEW: Draft Agenda ERTF June 25th

OK thanks Minister – it was just requested as an update – so perhaps it's just letting folks know there is a process underway and nothing to report.

From: James, Carole FIN:EX <Carole.James@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 24, 2020 3:30 PM
To: Zacharuk, Christina PREM:EX <Christina.Zacharuk@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Meggs, Geoff PREM:EX <Geoff.Meggs@gov.bc.ca>; Wright, Don J. PREM:EX <Don.J.Wright@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Re: FOR REVIEW: Draft Agenda ERTF June 25th

Looks great although I'm not sure we have any federal program updates Lori?

Sent from my iPad

On Jun 24, 2020, at 2:37 PM, Zacharuk, Christina PREM:EX <Christina.Zacharuk@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

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One question – would you like Minister Bains to attend as well?

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Importance: High

Thank you! There are some extra lines that need removing....and once we get sign off from Geoff and MCJ, we can remove the italicized items at the bottom.

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* BC Transit ridership

* HR role

* Neilane

- Protect severance rights & balance w/ flexibility

CC - Temp layoff - hiring other workers when on temp. layoff

- Recall rights enshrined in law

- more resources at ESB

PSH - next legislative session - changes to ESA on recall (S. 72)

GD - look at expediting process to address volume

FOI Commissioner

- One last shot at finding resolution to issues w/ lobbyist Act

Bridgitte A - collaboration on polling

WSBC - Agriculture industry, not just TFW

- Proactive plan (inspections)

- Oliver area (TFW)

- Transported in a 7 person van (18)

- living in 3 bd house

Gale - discussion doc. on loan access to capital for FN groups. Repayable loans through FNFA through construction period (zero interest) followed by nominal interest.

- ~~breaking~~ report Moody's report

Greg D - interprovincial offset trading

- regional PNP programs (feds raised) → Bobby

- Centre of Excellence for Economics for Indigenous Peoples

NOTES – Economic Recovery Task Force, May 28, 2020

9:30 AM	Opening Discussion	PJH/MCJ
	Sick Pay	PJH
	Federal funding programs	Lori Wannamaker
	Update on Sector Guidance Documents	Trevor Hughes
	Social Sector Recovery Planning	David Galbraith
	Roundtable Discussion	All
10:30 AM	Closing Remarks	PJH

NOTES:

- PJH introduction
 - Return of legislature on June 22
 - Positive health results continue over the last week
 - Re-opening of K-12 system June 1; testing our capacity for full restart in Sept
 - Let us know if anything you've requested needs to be followed up on
 - MCJ – we are starting planning on recovery; \$1.5B not spent and will be broad and inclusive process. We appreciate the ideas being sent in and will evaluate.
- PJH – sick pay
 - We feel very positive about our successes with FPT relations; we pushed hard on border controls and filled the gap with the feds; we are pushing for transit operating funding; Doug Ford is pushing hard on transit funding for municipalities as well
 - Sick pay – Yukon put in a provincial program right away and demonstrated they could do it on their own; we started planning; but other provinces started pushing with feds as well and I have been calling for federal unity on this. Speaking with other premiers to build coalition. Pushing for feds to pay but final plan unclear; having a call today where more information will be shared.
- Lori Wannamaker
 - Canada emergency rent program for small business
 - Application deadline is end of August
 - Commercial property owners must be involved; they cannot receive any other rent program assistance; they must enter into a rent reduction agreement with tenant as well as moratorium on evictions; landlord must also agree to many other criteria
 - Administered by CMHC

- Cost shared program with the province
 - As a companion, we are looking at measures province can use to reduce commercial evictions; announcement coming in days ahead.
 - Question: we sent Christine Kennedy detailed overview of comments we are receiving on rent program and its complications for tenants. If you could consider comments and reduce red tape for tenants that would be helpful
- Trevor Hughes – sector guideline documents
 - Gyms; fitness centers; meat producers; childcare all have new guidelines in the last week
 - Hotels; resorts; entertainment guideline documents coming in the next week
- David Galbraith – social service recovery planning
 - Putting together a collective approach via the social sector roundtable
 - We have a draft plan coming from conversations with sector
- Roundtable
- Anita
 - Thank you for healthcare investment in Surrey
 - Childcare; hearing lots of concerns from employers about access and safety; with emergency being extended, folks are curious
 - BC Budget consultations starting soon; will there be a fiscal update?
 - Government's plan on transit 10-year plan?
 - Lobbyists registry remains a large concern
 - MCJ – yes, fiscal update will come with public accounts in early Fall
 - PJH – we continue to support mayor's 10-year plan, but there are governance challenges.
- Prem
 - Testing by private sector; coming up on a daily basis; lots of eagerness from film producers to move forward to enable operations to proceed quickly
 - Trevor – we can connect offline; there is work being done with Health re work camps and private testing and we can tie film sector into those discussions
 - PJH – complicated situation; we will continue to rely on guidance from PHO
- Greg
 - Want to focus on confidence; there are high levels of anxiety wrt consumer confidence. Our rules are inconsistent and impacting confidence in people to get back to places of business. We need a Bonnie Henry/Adrian Dix approach and champion of economic confidence with regular updates and message to the public.
 - There is over \$6B of private capital that can move forward if govt prioritize and pushes regulatory and permit requirements quickly; have discussed with Don and Christine and developed a list
 - MCJ – agree we need to build confidence and we are working on comms plan and announcement on recovery
- Rick
 - Satisfied with social service roundtable discussions
- Bridgette
 - Transit – we have survey results with members that shows over a third are planning to increase car travel; nervousness about safety of transit; will have impacts on congestion and productivity in Lower Mainland; we send survey forward to PO and MOTI.
 - Clarity on events; if 100 people can gather in Costco why not in conference or event setting? Big gap between 50 and 250 people rules
 - Confidence remains the biggest concern
 - PJH – confidence is front and center in our mind. We need to find a way to get common voice from business and govt on confidence; you are all important in helping with this; myself and MCJ will promote recovery and business confidence, but we need your voices
 - Greg – part of problem is media wants to report bad news; unemployment numbers, etc

- Chief Gale
 - Major industry event in Prince George that was successful
 - Electricity and revolving loan fund; we submitted a discussion paper to PO and EMPR.
 - First Nations equity sharing program on major projects; ensures economic stimulus money from COVID impacts benefits FNs
- Val
 - Worried that ERTF meetings are reducing and what that means for recovery confidence
 - Will speak with Geoff about sick pay coordination with ON chambers
 - Cannabis sector could expand right now but hitting red tape; jobs await
- Queenie
 - Thank you for work on anti-racism
 - Long-term care – important to ensure our system remains sustainable and is properly resourced. We are positive example compared to ON and QB, but we need to remain quality of services
 - Lobbyist registry – continues to be difficult for non-profit sector; exemption for NFP when focused on advocacy
- Laird
 - Thank you for funding to sexual assault survivors
 - Overall, things are going well for labour and we are happy with communication with govt
 - Access to programs for those on EI remains a gap and problem that is not addressed
 - Sick pay – we support EI as the primary option; will continue to push with feds and prov govt
 - MCJ – we will have a solution for EI access coming soon

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- PJH introduction
 - Report on FPT conversations and federal program funding.
- MCJ
 - Would like to hear from members about how you think restart is going
 - Recovery public engagement – next week will be announcing public engagement process for recovery. Expanded sector engagement. Values focus. Engagement will continue over the summer.
 - Val – what is the timeline? We need immediate action for recovery
 - MCJ – some pieces will go quickly; others long term
- Lori
 - Federal program updates – rental assistance program. 1700 applications from BC; over 500 tenants; approx. \$20M; BC accounts for 20% of applications. Province also announced ban on commercial evictions that are eligible for program.
 - No updates on extensions at this time
- Trevor
 - Worksafe update – new guidelines coming out in the next week for various sectors, including move theatres; new restaurant updates
 - Province is not certifying plans; but we are looking at employer and Worksafe poster that business can use to show their commitment to safe operations. Idea is that employer and service provider is making a commitment to follow Worksafe and PHO guidelines
- RoundTable
- Queenie
 - Proceeding with caution and following Worksafe guidelines.

- Letter coming from sector on lobbyist registration
- Bridgette
 - Things are busier; but many businesses are operating at a loss. Major concerns when federal funding ends and worry about a second wave of business closure
 - Major concerns around social upheaval and racial tension as well
 - Encourage the province to be bold in response
- Greg
 - The collaboration on these calls is very encouraging, but the biggest challenges are still before us. Worst recession in 100 years. GDP to shrink by up to 8%. Potential of second wave could make things even worse. Bounce back won't happen until 2022. Global protectionism will increase and will have big impact on BC.
 - Businesses are not profitable under current circumstances.
 - All of these economic problems are spiking racial tensions as well
 - Global capital is not available; BC projects are all on the chopping table
 - We cannot afford additional regulations, uncertainty, or added costs on business
 - Other jurisdictions are sending signals they are looking for capital investment and opening up regulatory environments to attract capital
 - PJH and MCJ – thank you for your comments; these concerns will drive our public engagement; please keep sending in your ideas.
- Rick
 - Importance of childcare to recovery; we need to make sure we are being flexible with childcare operators about how they reopen and funding streams. We cannot afford for operators to shut down.
- Val
 - Temporary layoff provisions. Moving from 13 to 16 weeks was very helpful. Now that 16 week is approaching and we worry about more business failures. We want workers to move off CERB and businesses to be successful. 16 week deadline will punish unfairly employers that could not open due to PHO orders, like concert venues. Business and labour want to keep previous jobs. But many need more time. Moment calls for collaboration between business and labour and government. We have a solution at our fingertips and Ontario has made changes. We have sent in a letter to your office.
 - We now need an aggressive and bold recovery plan, moving from restart to recovery. We need to greenlight shovel ready projects. CBAs are holding back projects.
 - Minister Bains has letter; we are reviewing.
- Chief Gale
 - Orphan well reclamation program
 - Disappointed with lack of First Nations engagement and involvement.
 - Indigenous revolving loan fund – paper coming next week
 - Northern and rural connectivity and service
- Anita
 - Echo comments of Greg and Val and Bridgette wrt on the ground impacts
 - Need for a comprehensive economic recovery plan and Budget 2021 should be the economic wellbeing budget
- Laird
 - Sick pay and CERB discussions with federal government

- Concern with no new regulations and no new costs narrative; we cannot put recovery on the backs of workers either. We cannot sacrifice standards for workers.
 - 16 week issues – bring workers along. Can already apply for extension with 50%+1 of workers in agreement.
 - CBAs – for two decades we had abysmal rates of women and indigenous workers on projects; CBAs address this and should be expanded. All employers can participate in best bid, the policy is not exclusionary.
- Prem
 - Lots of interest in film restart
 - Thank you to PJH for editorial on racism. We need a comprehensive plan from government and business and labour leaders on anti-racism.

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NOTES

- PJH introduction
 - Recovery discussion paper launched.
 - We have moved to Phase 3
- MCJ updates
 - Tax deferral legislation
 - Deficit budget legislation
 - Economic update statement coming July 14
- PJH - temp layoff issue
 - Important for us to balance the severance rights of employees with the business concerns and needs of businesses
 - People are the economy – we are trying to find the right balance
 - Received letter with many of you as signatories
- Val
 - Sheraton example is unfortunate
 - Underscores urgency to get moving and extend the temp layoff provision
 - Extension will save business and save jobs – our members want time to scale back up.
 - Section 72 variance does not account for crisis of COVID.
 - We hope government sees necessity to extend further
- Bridgette
 - Acknowledge the collaborative approach so far. Business, govt and labour need to come together to find a solution
 - We need to make it as easy as possible for business to come back; many are operating at a loss; they need more time
 - Section 72 has a backlog and businesses do not have the time to go through process
- Laird
 - Notion that variance process is too cumbersome or there is a backlog – there has only been two variance applications from employers. Submissions go straight to supervisors and not in the queue.

- There are basic labour laws that need to be followed. There are examples of employers that do not intend to bring back workers. So, if we go further then there needs to be a law that says employees have a right to come back to their positions after layoff period.
- Greg
 - I think we still have the most challenging decisions ahead of us, not behind us
 - We need to find cooperation and solutions together.
 - Layoff issue was an example of this months ago
 - Both business and workers are facing drastic uncertainty right now
 - Current variance provision was brought in in 1996 and was about seasonal workers; this is an unprecedented situation and does not apply
 - Many businesses do not even know what Section 72 or severance rights are. We need to avoid employers being surprised and facing ruin.
 - Bad for both workers and businesses
- PJH wrap up
 - Sheraton is not going out of business; they are firing workers and not giving them severance. They remain open. We wanted to avoid this situation
 - We will extend temp layoff to August 30th
 - We will put more resources behind Employment Standards Branch to deal with backlog
 - My approach is balance. Workers have rights too. That is foundational
 - Press release coming out later today. Let me be clear that this is our position.
 - Greg – worried about volume of variance applications. We need to make the process more efficient; there could be thousands of applications
- Lori – federal restart funding
 - July 4 PMJT announced \$14B restart program; primarily healthcare and PPE; in addition, childcare funding and sick pay
 - Sick leave program – will be fully federal funded and administered program. We have been in discussion over the past few weeks and are close to funding agreement.
 - PJH - BC has been leading the charge in this discussion
- Roundtable
- Prem
 - Phase 3 great news - Warner Bros prepping 3 new shows in British Columbia
 - Working with feds on border issues
- Val
 - We don't want a repeat of Sheraton issue
 - Excellent news about extending to August 30th – thank you. We will be vocal
 - North region has shovel ready and worthy projects and are ready to get going; many indigenous communities involved.
 - Connectivity remains an issue in the north
- Rick
 - Putting a brief together on proposed amendments to mental health act. Increasing issue and going to get worse. We need a systematic approach. Have concerns with legislation and will be available offline for further comments.
- Queenie
 - Need to ensure long term care quality of care does not decline with lack of revenues. Positive changes made and need to continue
 - Would like to connect further with government on issues facing charitable organizations – perhaps a roundtable could be established.
- Bridgette

- GVBOT will be supportive of temp layoff announcement
- We are surveying members over next couple weeks and will connect offline
- Letter sent to your office on intraprovincial trade barriers – available to discuss
 - PJH – intraprovincial trade – always on agenda at COF, but some jurisdictions have protectionist measures that they want to maintain. Need to be mindful of that and approach going forward
- Laird
 - August extension – not my preferred option but appreciate collaborative approach
 - Workers need to be protected and can get their jobs back when businesses re-open – I will remain very vocal on this value
 - Flag issue on agricultural workers and not following COVID guidelines
 - Thank you to MCJ for listening and extending Emergency Benefit to EI
- Chief Gale
 - Submitted document to government yesterday on shared equity proposal for FN and major projects. Looking for economic stimulus support. Access to capital – loan guarantee program. Would like to discuss further with your team.
- Greg
 - Encourage government to look at interprovincial offset trading. Dave Nik was looking at ITMOs; encourage that work to continue.
 - Trump announcement on visa restriction – this has big impact on tech sector, academics, film, etc. We need to do more to attract high-priced talent and have open window here. Available to discuss further offline
 - Centre for Excellence on Economic Development for First Nations – available offline to discuss further