

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