

Business Unit	Department	Classification	Employee Count	Avg Months	Avg Severance*	Total Severance
Ministers' Offices						
		ADMIN COOR	23	s.13		
		ADMN O 18R	1			
		Band 1	24			
		Band 2	33			
		Band 3	30			
		CLK 09R	14			
		CLK 11R	9			
		CLK 15R	4			
			138			

Calculations are based on estimates only

* Severance is the cost of salary + benefits

Business Unit	Department	Classification	Employee Count	Avg Months	Avg Severance*	Total Severance
Office of the Premier	Exec Cabinet Operations					
		ADM1	1	s.13		
		Band 1	1			
		Band 2	1			
		Band 3	6			
		Band 5	3			
		CLK 11R	1			
		CLK ST 11R	1			
		EXEC ADMIN	1			
			15			

Calculations are based on estimates only

* Severance is the cost of salary + benefits

Business Unit	Department	Classification	Employee Count	Avg Months	Avg Severance	Total Severance
Office of the Premier	PO Executive Branch			s.13		
		ADMIN COOR	1			
		ADMN O 18R	2			
		Band 1	1			
		Band 2	4			
		Band 3	2			
		Band 5	5			
		Band 6	4			
		CLK 11R	1			
		CLK 15R	1			
		Executive 1	2			
		Executive 2	1			
			24			

Calculations are based on estimates only

* Severance is the cost of salary + benefits*

Business Unit	Department	Classification	Employee Count	Avg Months	Avg Severance*	Total Severance
Office of the Premier	PO Correspondence					
		Band 3	1		s.13	
		CLK 09R	2			
		COM OFF 15	5			
			8			

Calculations are based on estimates only

* Severance is the cost of salary + benefits

Business Unit	Department	Classification	Employee Count	Avg Months	Avg Severance*	Total Severance
Office of the Premier	Exec Deputy Minister's Office			s.13		
		ADM1	1			
		Band 1	3			
		Band 5	1			
		CLK 09R	1			
		DM	1			
		DM to Premier	1			
			8			

Calculations are based on estimates only

* Severance is the cost of salary + benefits

Business Unit	Department	Classification	Employee Count	Avg Months	Avg Severance*	Total Severance
Office of the Premier	IGR			s.13		
		Band 1	6			
		Band 2	1			
		Band 3	10			
		ASSOC DM	1			
		Band 4	2			
		Band 5	3			
		CLK 09R	2			
		CLK 15R	3			
		DM	1			
		SEA	1			
			30			

Calculations are based on estimates only

* Severance is the cost of salary + benefits

Business Unit	Department	Classification	Employee Count	Avg Months	Avg Severance*	Total Severance
Office of the Premier	Planning & Priorities			s.13		
		ASSOC DM	1			
		Band 1	1			
		Band 3	3			
		Band 5	4			
			9			

Calculations are based on estimates only

* Severance is the cost of salary + benefits

Business Unit	Department	Classification	Employee Count	Avg Months	Avg Severance*	Total Severance
GCPE Band 4s and Above				s.13		
		Band 4	48			
		Band 5	15			
		ADM	2			
		DM	1			
		Exec Lead	1			
			67			

Calculations are based on estimates only

* Severance is the cost of salary + benefits

Business Unit	Department	Classification	Employee Count	Avg Months	Avg Severance*	Total Severance
		Associate Deputy Minister	15	s.13		
		Deputy Minister	25			
			40			

Calculations are based on estimates only

* Severance is the cost of salary + benefits

Confidential HR: Status Report on Staffing

The present Executive Branch (Premier's office) has 28 FTE positions in political (17) or administrative roles (11) plus a Correspondence Branch (7 FTE).

Vacancies & Leaves:

There are 3 members of the present staff who will be taking a severance package. These positions are: Chief of Staff, Administrative Assistant (front of office PO) and Executive Coordinator to the Premier.

There are two members of the present staff who will be moving into the Public Service. These positions are the Director, Executive Operations and Scheduling and the Press Secretary (who also directs the Manager and Correspondence Branch).

s.22

The following are positions that are vacant and unfilled:

Executive Coordinator to Chief of Staff (VCO)

Executive Director, VCO

Manager Communications & Stakeholder Outreach (3 positions split between Communications and Stakeholder relations requiring language qualifications)

Minister's Office Staffing

We have approximately 190 staff. All hiring of Political office staff and administrative support is done through the Premier's Office. This is because all staff are first and foremost accountable to the Premier. Teams are put together to support Minister's in their roles and ensure that the office remains accountable to the Mandate commitments, effective relationships between Cabinet and Caucus colleagues and that this a coordinated and focused communications approach to how we govern for people.

Each Minister's office has at least one Senior Ministerial Advisor and Ministerial Advisors based in Victoria so that they can work effectively with the Deputy Minister and DMO staff. Staffing levels are set by PO in consultation with the DMPO. Executive Assistants are in either the Constituency office (separated appropriately from Cas) or in Victoria depending on both the portfolio of the Minister and location of constituency.

Our government has held a commitment to diversity in its hiring practices. While there is always more to do, our staff's diversity is mainly reflective of the population of BC.

BIPOC	Gender (staff identifying as Women)
SMA: 33%	SMA: 52%
MA: 33 %	MA: 60%
EA: 36%	EA: 45%

Re: Staff letters HR Confidential

From: Hockin, Amber PREM:EX
To: Burrows, Meg PSA:EX <Meg.Burrows@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Wade, Debbie PREM:EX <Debbie.Wade@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: October 26, 2022 8:21:35 AM PDT

s.22

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From: Burrows, Meg PSA:EX <Meg.Burrows@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, October 25, 2022 2:03:27 PM
To: Hockin, Amber PREM:EX <Amber.Hockin@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Wade, Debbie PREM:EX <Debbie.Wade@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Staff letters HR Confidential

Thank you Amber. I will take a look at the draft wording and get a letter drafted with Debbie.

I have confirmed that new OICs will not be required for Sr Ministerial Advisors.

I will send you another email regarding a question on compensation. On that note, we can do salary increase letters for management band/MCCF employees who will be receiving a package if I get their names.

Thank you, Meg

From: Hockin, Amber PREM:EX <Amber.Hockin@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: October 25, 2022 5:23 AM
To: Burrows, Meg PSA:EX <Meg.Burrows@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Wade, Debbie PREM:EX <Debbie.Wade@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Staff letters HR Confidential

Meg, yesterday staff decisions regarding any further severances were confirmed. We would like to get staff confirmation letters drafted for signature from the new Chief of Staff to be released once we have confirmed transition and swearing in dates of the new Premier and OIC for the new Chief of Staff. In the interim, would you please draft short confirmation letters (let me run the content by new COS) and work with Debbie to get them ready. I don't believe new OICs will be necessary but please check.

Also please check on whether new OICs will be necessary for SMA as their offer letters make them accountable to COS.

Here is what I was thinking for a draft - but feel free to add/revise. We may want to add something on Code of conduct.

s.13

RE: Updates

From: Hockin, Amber PREM:EX
To: Burrows, Meg PSA:EX <Meg.Burrows@gov.bc.ca>, Wade, Debbie PREM:EX <Debbie.Wade@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: November 8, 2022 10:24:37 AM PST
Thanks Meg! s.22

From: Burrows, Meg PSA:EX <Meg.Burrows@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: November 8, 2022 9:37 AM
To: Hockin, Amber PREM:EX <Amber.Hockin@gov.bc.ca>; Wade, Debbie PREM:EX <Debbie.Wade@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Updates

Hi Amber and Debbie,

s.22

s.22

s.22

s.22

Thanks, Meg

From: Hockin, Amber PREM:EX <Amber.Hockin@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: November 8, 2022 6:09 AM
To: Burrows, Meg PSA:EX <Meg.Burrows@gov.bc.ca>; Wade, Debbie PREM:EX <Debbie.Wade@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Re: Updates

s.22

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From: Burrows, Meg PSA:EX <Meg.Burrows@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Monday, November 7, 2022 5:09:54 PM
To: Hockin, Amber PREM:EX <Amber.Hockin@gov.bc.ca>; Wade, Debbie PREM:EX <Debbie.Wade@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Updates

Hi Amber and Debbie,

I wanted to send on a few quick update. I have some other items that will be coming tomorrow – specifically confirmation of the in range.

Thanks, Meg

s.22

Meg Burrows, CPHR (she/her/hers)

BC Public Service Agency

Email: Meg.Burrows@gov.bc.ca Cell: 250-882-5823

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RE: Draft Letters and Severance Information Packages for November 17

From: Hockin, Amber PREM:EX
To: Fischer, Lori PSA:EX <Lori.Fischer@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Burrows, Meg PSA:EX <Meg.Burrows@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: November 10, 2022 9:16:44 AM PST

That's wonderful news. I will ask Debbie to set up appointments with Meg and I with each of them for next Thursday.
Meg,s.22
Amber

From: Fischer, Lori PSA:EX <Lori.Fischer@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: November 10, 2022 9:15 AM
To: Hockin, Amber PREM:EX <Amber.Hockin@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Burrows, Meg PSA:EX <Meg.Burrows@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Draft Letters and Severance Information Packages for November 17
Sensitivity: Confidential

One of the services our office provides is financial consulting. We have independent consultants on contract with us, whose services are confidential, and they can assist the employee with any questions they have regarding their pension and retirement. We'd be happy to arrange that service for him.

Lori

From: Hockin, Amber PREM:EX <Amber.Hockin@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: November 10, 2022 9:12 AM
To: Fischer, Lori PSA:EX <Lori.Fischer@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Burrows, Meg PSA:EX <Meg.Burrows@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Draft Letters and Severance Information Packages for November 17
Sensitivity: Confidential

Thanks Lori, will someone be able to assist s.22 is accessing his pension information? We have had cases where information has been very difficult to get for months. Amber

From: Fischer, Lori PSA:EX <Lori.Fischer@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: November 10, 2022 9:07 AM
To: Hockin, Amber PREM:EX <Amber.Hockin@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Burrows, Meg PSA:EX <Meg.Burrows@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Draft Letters and Severance Information Packages for November 17
Sensitivity: Confidential

Good morning, Amber – attached are the draft notice letters and standard PSA without prejudice severance information packages for the following individuals:

s.22

The above have a last day of employment being November 17, 2022. If this date changes, please let me know and I will adjust the documents accordingly.

s.13

s.22

I will ensure you have all the finalized

documents for that time.

They will have until December 1, 2022 in order to decide on their severance disbursement option and to return their signed documents to our office.

s.22

This email (and its contents) should not be shared.

If you have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Thank you
Lori

Lori Fischer, Manager, Workforce Restructuring

Workforce Restructuring | Employee Relations Division | BC Public Service Agency

1st Floor, 810 Blanshard | Victoria BC | V8W 2H2 | Office 778-698-4115

MyHR Phone 250-952-6000 | Toll Free 1-877-277-0772

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Page 19 of 45 to/à Page 20 of 45

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.14 ; s.22

FW: Confidential: Severance questions

From: Machell, Aileen PREM:EX <Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca>
To: Smith, Matt PREM:EX <Matt.Smith@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: November 29, 2022 6:27:16 PM PST
Attachments: image001.png

Let me know when you can chat about this request. Thanks.

From: Della Mattia, Marie GCPE:EX <Marie.DellaMattia@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: November 29, 2022 3:13 PM
To: Machell, Aileen PREM:EX <Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Fwd: Confidential: Severance questions

Here are the details, I'm confirming with PSA that the people are aware this will be public.

Will confirm with you asap.

Thanks!
Marie

Marie Della Mattia
Deputy Minister GCPE
She/her
1 (250) 886-3455

From the land of the ləkʷəŋən people.

s.14; s.22

From: Della Mattia, Marie GCPE:EX <Marie.DellaMattia@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: November 21, 2022 6:51 PM

To: Godfrey, Debbie PSA:EX <Debbie.Godfrey@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Blasco, America GCPE:EX <America.Blasco@gov.bc.ca>; Faust, Marnie L GCPE:EX <Marnie.Faust@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Fw: severance questions

Hi Deb,

Great to meet you today!

I'm forwarding you a media inquiry from the Premier's office for details regarding severance packages for government employees related to the transition.

I assume all these details will be revealed by public accounts anyway so it would be easiest to just proactive release the details.

Happy to chat with you.

Aileen has replied to Rob Shaw's inquiry to let him know that we're on it and that details of severance are still being worked out.

Let me know if you'd like to chat about it or you can set up a time with Marnie Faust in my office.

Your advice is appreciated!

Thanks so much,

Marie

From: Machell, Aileen PREM:EX

Sent: Monday, November 21, 2022 4:17 PM

To: Della Mattia, Marie GCPE:EX

Subject: FW: severance questions

FYI on this request.

From: Rob Shaw <rshaw@cheknews.ca>

Sent: November 21, 2022 4:15 PM

To: Machell, Aileen PREM:EX <Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca>; Smith, Jimmy PREM:EX

<Jimmy.Smith@gov.bc.ca>; McKinnon, Michael PREM:EX <Michael.McKinnon@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: severance questions

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Hello all,

I'm hoping you could provide the severance amounts for anyone who was severed as part of the transition to the new premier.

I do not have a full list, but at the very least it should include Geoff Meggs from the PO. Amber Hockin indicated she was resigning, but did she also get paid severance and if so what is the amount? Was there anyone else in the PO? If so, please include.

I would also like to know Don Zadravec's severance as well, realizing he is in GCPE. And Lori Wannamaker. And any other DMs severed out.

Thanks,

CHEK logo

Rob Shaw (he/him)
Political Correspondent | CHEK News

m: [250-893-0841](tel:250-893-0841)
e: rshaw@cheknews.ca twi@robshaw_bc

Tw Fa Ins Yo www.cheknews.ca

TNO: Transition to Eby cost \$1.3 million in severance - Katie Derosa - Vancouver Sun

From: tno@gov.bc.ca
To: Undisclosed recipients:
Sent: December 20, 2022 5:48:24 AM PST

Transition to Eby cost \$1.3 million in severance

Vancouver Sun

20-Dec-2022

Page A01

By Katie Derosa

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RE: wanamaker severance

From: Leslie, Lisa GCPE:EX <Lisa.Leslie@gov.bc.ca>
To: XT:Shaw, Rob GCPE:IN <rshaw@cheknews.ca>
Cc: Smith, George PREM:EX <George.Smith@gov.bc.ca>, XT:Scott, Mora GCPE:IN <Mora.Scott@bchydro.com>
Sent: February 22, 2023 12:44:46 PM PST
Attachments: image001.jpg
Got it and on it.

From: Rob Shaw <rshaw@cheknews.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2023 11:46 AM
To: Leslie, Lisa GCPE:EX <Lisa.Leslie@gov.bc.ca>; Smith, George PREM:EX <George.Smith@gov.bc.ca>; XT:Scott, Mora GCPE:IN <Mora.Scott@bchydro.com>
Subject: wanamaker severance

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Hey Lisa,

I see the OIC that Lori Wanamaker has been appointed chair of BC Hydro.
The last chair's remuneration was \$93,375 in the fiscal year ending March 2020 (that's the most recent disclosure I see on Hydro's website).

I'd like to ask a couple of things of finance because of its PSA responsibilities :

- Is she repaying/foregoing any of the \$591,089 public service severance she received because of this appointment and its compensation?
- Are there not provisions in the severance regulations that require repayment or foregoing of severance if a person obtains re-employment within a certain period of being terminated, and if so, why does that not apply here?
- Who decided to appoint her to the board of Hydro, and then chair, and how?

Thanks,
Rob

Rob Shaw (he/him)
Political Correspondent | CHEK News

m: [250-893-0841](tel:250-893-0841)

e: rshaw@cheknews.ca | [robshaw_bc](mailto:robshaw_bc@robshaw_bc.com)

www.cheknews.ca

Re: wanamaker severance

From: Brenchley, Charlie GCPE:EX <Charlie.Brenchley@gov.bc.ca>
To: Smith, George PREM:EX <George.Smith@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: February 22, 2023 1:47:42 PM PST
George,

This was messaging I worked up with Tim quick in the event MJO was scrummed. Shaw was gonna scrum her after caucus but no showed.

s.13

Response:

-I know that Lori Wannamaker has extensive experience in government and in working with BC Hydro.

-I am confident that she will help to ensure BC Hydro is run in the public interest and that we continue to deliver low rates for people.

Hope this helps!

C

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From: Smith, George PREM:EX <George.Smith@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2023 1:40:21 PM
To: Leslie, Lisa GCPE:EX <Lisa.Leslie@gov.bc.ca>; XT:Scott, Mora GCPE:IN <Mora.Scott@bchydro.com>
Cc: Venn, Tania GCPE:EX <Tania.Venn@gov.bc.ca>; Pierson, Nova GCPE:EX <Nova.Pierson@gov.bc.ca>; Harris, Megan GCPE:EX <Megan.Harris@gov.bc.ca>; Kropp, Roxanne GCPE:EX <Roxanne.Kropp@gov.bc.ca>; Howlett, Tim GCPE:EX <Tim.Howlett@gov.bc.ca>; Brenchley, Charlie GCPE:EX <Charlie.Brenchley@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: wanamaker severance

Yes – please send me all the background on the below questions.

From: Leslie, Lisa GCPE:EX <Lisa.Leslie@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: February 22, 2023 12:48 PM
To: Smith, George PREM:EX <George.Smith@gov.bc.ca>; XT:Scott, Mora GCPE:IN <Mora.Scott@bchydro.com>
Cc: Venn, Tania GCPE:EX <Tania.Venn@gov.bc.ca>; Pierson, Nova GCPE:EX <Nova.Pierson@gov.bc.ca>; Harris, Megan GCPE:EX <Megan.Harris@gov.bc.ca>; Kropp, Roxanne GCPE:EX <Roxanne.Kropp@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: wanamaker severance

Safe to assume I should get info on the rules and then you two will coordinate on the messaging you want?

From: Rob Shaw <rshaw@cheknews.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2023 11:46 AM
To: Leslie, Lisa GCPE:EX <Lisa.Leslie@gov.bc.ca>; Smith, George PREM:EX <George.Smith@gov.bc.ca>; XT:Scott, Mora GCPE:IN <Mora.Scott@bchydro.com>
Subject: wanamaker severance

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

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- Who decided to appoint her to the board of Hydro, and then chair, and how?

Thanks,
Rob

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Rob Shaw (he/him)
Political Correspondent | CHEK News

m: [250-893-0841](tel:250-893-0841)

e: rshaw@cheknews.ca twi@robshaw_bc

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Issues Scan

From: Howlett, Tim GCPE:EX <Tim.Howlett@gov.bc.ca>
To: Smith, George PREM:EX <George.Smith@gov.bc.ca>, Machell, Aileen PREM:EX <Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca>, Sundhu, Sachin PREM:EX <Sachin.Sundhu@gov.bc.ca>, Smith, Jimmy PREM:EX <Jimmy.Smith@gov.bc.ca>, Transition, LP039 PREM:EX <LP039.Transition@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: February 23, 2023 6:30:38 PM PST

Attachments: 2023.02.24 - Issues Scan - BC Cancer Plan.docx

I will send an electronic copy to PDE tonight. Is someone able to print for him in the morning?

Tim Howlett (he/him)
Executive Director, Issues Management

250-893-5329

Issues Scan

February 24, 2023
BC Cancer Plan

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Budget 2023

Background:

- Stakeholders are in media highlighting their asks for Budget 2023.
- Small business stakeholders and Chambers are calling for small business tax relief and changes to the Employer Health Tax threshold - citing cost pressures from things like the 5 days of paid sick leave and new stat holiday.
- Business Improvement Associations are calling for a fund that businesses can draw on to respond to vandalism.
- Advocates are calling for government to raise income and disability rates.
- The BC Nurses Union would like to see a comprehensive plan to recruit and retain nurses who are burning out.
- The BC Psychological Association is calling on government to make counselling covered by MSP.

Message:

- B.C. is a great place to live but people are facing real challenges.
- Some say B.C. should respond to global challenges by pulling back on our supports for people – and making people pay out of pocket for the services they rely on. That's the wrong approach – at the wrong time.
- Minister Conroy will have all of the details on budget day, but you'll see us continuing to make smart investments in the things that matter the most to help build a stronger, more secure B.C. for everyone:
 - Strengthening public health care
 - Tackling the housing crisis
 - Supporting safer and healthy communities
 - Helping people with costs
- This is how we'll build a sustainable economy for everyone.

Will you be raising the income and disability assistance rates?

- Minister Conroy will have all of those details on budget day.
- We know global inflation has been hardest on those who were already struggling.

How much of the surplus is left?

- Minister Conroy will provide an update on budget day, but you've already seen some of the important investments we've made with it.

Will the budget be in deficit?

- I'll let Minister Conroy speak to the details on budget day, but that's certainly what was in the last public forecasts. (Q1 - September)
- We know that we are facing a time of economic uncertainty and challenges.
- Now is not the time to cut services for people.

Downtown Eastside - Pivot Legal Press Conference

Background:

- On Feb. 23, Pivot Legal held a press conference with community advocates, decrying the City's removals of people's belongings on Hasting Street, after what media are calling a "standoff" on Feb. 22 when city staff came in to remove some belongings.
- The City maintains that there has been no change to their approach, and that people are offered SRO rooms - recognizing that shelter is not housing and some SRO rooms are seen as far from ideal.
- Advocates also stated that they feel BC Housing has complicated application processes for units, and that units are lacking basic amenities and proper food services.
- Outreach workers are on the ground, connecting people to shelter and housing options as they come available.

Message:

- I'll let the City speak to the details of what's happening on the ground, but I know partners are working hard to support people living outside on the Downtown Eastside.
- Our focus is on continuing to open more housing options for people.
- We've got nearly 90 supportive homes opening this spring for people living in the Downtown Eastside. That will help open up spaces in shelters for others.
- We're also continuing to meet with partners as we work together to develop a plan for a healthier Downtown Eastside.

Royal BC Museum - Collections Building Budget

Background:

- The Collections and Research Building project's budget was originally \$177M in 2020, increased to \$224.4M in 2021, and has now increased again to \$270M.
- On Thursday, the newest budget was made public in a news release announcing the successful contract for the project.
- Last week, the BC Liberals spent most of a Question Period on RBCM's Old Town, and the budget for the new Collections and Research Building.
- They subsequently put out a press release calling on government to cancel the "unnecessary" Collections and Research Building project due to its rising budget and because the project has not yet broken ground.
- Minister Popham has offered to take the press gallery on a private tour of the third floor, the details and timing of the tour are still being finalized.

Message:

- As the CEO has said, one of the things the Museum is looking at is the possibility that Old Town could re-open, in a new iteration.
- The possibility of reopening Old Town is a decision that will be made by the museum board of directors.
- As they've said, there would be a lot of work needed to bring it up to date – but I know they are aware of the public's interest in Old Town.
- The Royal BC Museum is also working on bringing new exciting feature exhibitions to the third floor, including *SUE: the T. Rex Experience*, coming this spring.

Why is the CRB so over budget?

- We are committed to protecting our collective history and B.C.'s historic and priceless artifacts - the Collections and Research Building plays an important role.
- We all know that global inflation has resulted in cost increases across all sectors here and around the world.
- It has been two and a half years since the first budget estimate and the updated cost reflects the hot construction market, along with global inflation.
- The contract for this project is now in place, and we expect construction to begin this summer.

Surrey Policing - Property Tax Increase

Background:

- On the weekend, Surrey announced that most residents could face a 17.5% property tax increase due to police transition costs on top of inflation.
- To pay for policing costs, the budget proposes a 9.5% general property tax increase for the next three years. This would amount to an extra \$219 next year for an average single-family household.
- The Ministry has received responses to follow up information requests and is in the process of reviewing them.
- Surrey Police Service has called for an independent audit of the transition costs.
- Surrey Police Service has already hired 350 people, including more than 150 officers. They have said publicly they are confident the transition will continue.

Message:

- I understand that everyone – including families and businesses in Surrey – want certainty in public safety.
- If they call 9-1-1 they want to know a police officer will be there.
- As the Solicitor General, it's Minister Farnworth's responsibility to ensure effective policing is maintained to help keep people safe in Surrey and across the province.
- Ministry staff are reviewing information received from the City, the RCMP, and SPS, and conducting the appropriate analysis on this matter.
- This is a complex situation that requires careful and in-depth analysis.
- The safety of everyone in British Columbia is our priority.

One year Anniversary of Russian Invasion on Ukraine

Background:

- The Province works closely with the Federal Government and immigrant settlement organizations and Ukrainian cultural organizations to coordinate services and supports.
- We provide two weeks temporary housing support and services, mostly for families and vulnerable Ukrainians, this can be extended.
- The Federal government provides two weeks housing, mostly for single people, but these supports can not be extended.
- Most of the families that have stayed in the hotel have moved on to longer-term accommodation.

Message:

- My heart goes out to all Ukrainians that have left everything they loved to find safety here and abroad.
- From day one, we have been working with the federal government to make B.C. a safe harbour.
- We have been coordinating a cross-government response and working closely with a wide range of immigrant-serving organizations and Ukrainian cultural organizations to coordinate services and supports.
- These include short term stays, access to employment services and full MSP coverage as well as funding to community organizations for their work.
- We're doing what we can as a provincial government to support the Ukrainian people.

If asked about housing:

- We provide two-week hotel stays, intended to give newly arrived Ukrainians a chance to access services and find longer-term supports and services.
- If efforts to find a home are unsuccessful, we are flexible in offering extensions for the hotel stay.
- Most of the families that have stayed in the hotel have moved on to longer-term accommodation.

Lytton Insurance Claims:

Background:

- The Mayor of Lytton (Denise O'Connor) has been calling for help from the Province to pressure insurance companies for an extension on their insurance.
- Mayor has also blamed the Province for taking longer on debris removal and the archeological work.
- We have been in contact with Lytton regularly and have discussed the issue with the Insurance Bureau of Canada who have indicated their support to help residents.
- Some people have been granted extensions by their insurance companies, there are still complications with some insurance companies.

Message:

- I know people are eager to get back to the community and that it has been a long and difficult process.
- We are working with the Village of Lytton to ensure people can rebuild as soon as possible.
- This includes receiving funding from their insurance companies.
- Some people have been granted extensions by their insurance companies, but we know there are still complications with some insurance companies.
- We are calling on insurance providers to offer flexibility and compassion to people in these exceptional circumstances.
- We have spoken with the Insurance Bureau of Canada, and they have indicated they are ready to assist residents in navigating extensions with insurers.

Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangement (DFAA)/DFA Funding:

Background:

- On Feb 23 Federal Minister Blair was in Abbotsford and announced a second advanced payment of \$557 M to the BC through DFAA to assist with recovery costs associated with the 2021 storm.
- This payment brings the total amount of federal payments to the Province of British Columbia under the DFAA to over \$1 billion for the November 2021 floods.
- BC received a record number of DFA applications after the atmospheric river event
- 27 communities have had projects approved for reimbursement under DFA, more than \$14.2 million, more on the way. Only 8 communities have been paid out.
- After the 2021 Atmospheric event we expanded eligibility to the program so people who suffered losses received the assistance they needed.
 - Expanded eligibility based on minimum income
 - Increased the maximum annual revenue for small businesses
 - Introduced new eligibility for corporation-owned properties, and
 - Increased the maximum DFA limit for recipients from \$300,000 to \$400,000
 - We also increased the number of staff assigned to processing applications.
- Minister Blair went to Princeton on Feb. 22, the municipality has many projects not yet reimbursed, one has been paid out. The Mayor is pushing for faster payment following that meeting.

Message:

- We're thankful to the federal government for this advance payment, which will allow us to continue our work supporting communities as they rebuild.
- We knew we needed to make changes to DFA so people, small businesses, farmers and communities could get the funds they needed to recover from this event.
- We made several changes over the last year, and we know there's more to do.
- Over 99% of nearly 2,300 applications from individuals, families and small businesses have been processed, totalling more than \$32 million.
- We continue to work with each impacted community on their cost recovery plans.

Mental Health Act Changes - Secure Care

Background:

- On February 23, government enacted a change to the Mental Health Act that authorizes nurse practitioners to assess patients for involuntary admission.
- The change to the MHA was made in 2011, but was not brought into force due to lack of nurse practitioners, absence of proper policy, and the need for training to conduct the assessment.
- When police bring people in mental health crises to ERs, they often have to wait hours with the individual until they are admitted by a physician.
- Expanding this authority to nurse practitioners will help police officers spend less time in ERs and more time helping to keep communities safe.
- This change will be particularly helpful in remote and rural communities where there are fewer physicians.

Message:

- Nothing is more important than keeping people safe and ensuring people are treated with dignity and respect.
- When a person is in a mental health crisis, they must be met with timely, compassionate and appropriate care.
- B.C. is bringing into force changes to the Mental Health Act that expands the authority of nurse practitioners to assess patients for voluntary and involuntary admission under the Mental Health Act.
- These changes will reduce the pressure on emergency department physicians and make sure that people in distress are able to get help faster.
- This is an important tool in our toolbox as we continue to build an integrated system of care that works for everyone.

BC Hydro Transmission Line

Background:

- On Feb. 15, BC Hydro began inviting non-binding expressions of interest from prospective industrial power users in the Northeast.
- This includes LNG Canada, mining companies and the Port of Prince Rupert.

Message:

- Electrification is an extremely important part of our CleanBC plan.
- British Columbians know this as we see people switching to electric vehicles and heat pumps in record numbers.
- We have been clear and BC Hydro understands the need to accelerate the planning for further electrification across all of BC throughout all sectors.
- With regard to expanding transmission capacity in the northwest, BC Hydro is advancing an expression of interest to identify a range of potential customers as well as their needs.
- This includes potential mining operations that could help provide the metals we need for a clean transition, and LNG Canada has also expressed interest pending an investment decision on their project.
- We've told BC Hydro to look at ways to accelerate planning for electrification of the entire Province. It is critical to meeting our climate goals.

If pressed on LNG:

- We have been clear all along that LNG project need to fit within our conditions, including our climate commitments.
- BC Hydro launched its Expression of Interest last week, to gather information about overall demand for electricity in the Northwest.
- This is to ensure that all industrial customers that need it, can use clean electricity to power their operations.

BC Hydro Board Chair Appointment

Background:

- Lori Wanamaker was initially appointed last December as a director and has recently been appointed as Chair to replace Mr. Allen as he retires from the Board.
- Media has been asking about severance packages of former senior public servants.
- Public service severance packages do contain re-employment and repayment provisions.
- However, a board appointee is not considered an employee for the purposes of repayment as an employee is under the control and direction of the organization while a board member is not. For the purposes of severance in this case, membership on a board would not be considered employment and not subject to the re-employment and repayment provisions.
- Appointments for BC Hydro's Board are recommended by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation. Ms. Wanamaker was initially appointed last December as a director and has recently been appointed as Chair to replace Mr. Allen as he retires from the Board.

Message:

- I know that Lori Wannamaker has extensive experience in government including leading the public service.
- She has worked on BC Hydro issues both as Deputy Minister for Finance and as Deputy Minister to the Premier.
- I am confident that she will help us to ensure BC Hydro is run in the public interest and that we continue to deliver low rates for people.
- Unlike the other side that repeatedly raised rates on people.

If pushed on severance

- I am confident that all appropriate public service policies are being followed.

LNG First Nations Alliance Open Letter to Premier

Background:

- On February 22, the First Nations LNG Alliance published an open letter to Premier Eby stating they have rising concerns about the future of LNG in B.C.
- The letter states that they are concerned some members of the government caucus and some environmental groups are pressing for a halt to all LNG projects.
- Recently, LNG Canada and FortisBC have joined the alliance.

Message:

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Animal Abuse Allegations-Meadow Valley Meats

Background:

- CTV is covering a story regarding allegations of animal cruelty at the Meadow Valley Meats slaughterhouse.
- Animal activists from the group Animal Justice planted hidden cameras inside the facility and sent the footage to media and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food.
- Staff from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food received a letter along with hours of surveillance video Wednesday morning. They are conducting a review.

Message:

- Ensuring animals are treated ethically and with care is a priority for our government.
- It is troubling anytime we hear allegations of animal abuse.
- I can assure you that Ministry of Agriculture staff are looking into this situation.
- It is also my understanding that the BC SPCA is launching an investigation into the allegations.
- Our government is committed to ensuring our animal welfare framework is robust, which is why we initiated a review last summer, which is still underway, to look for areas where it can be strengthened.

BiV: Gold-plated public sector severance deals need a critical review

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To: Undisclosed recipients:
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