

RE: severance questions

From: Machell, Aileen PREM:EX <Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca>
To: XT:Shaw, Rob GCPE:IN <rshaw@cheknews.ca>, Smith, Jimmy PREM:EX <Jimmy.Smith@gov.bc.ca>, McKinnon, Michael PREM:EX <Michael.McKinnon@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: November 21, 2022 4:17:39 PM PST
Hi Rob,
I'll get back to you on this.

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 Zadavec'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
e: rshaw@cheknews.ca twi@robshaw_bc

Tw Fa Ins Yo 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

Get Outlook for iOS

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.

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

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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

[Tw](#) [Fa](#) [In](#) [Y](#) www.cheknews.ca

RE: MEDIA REQUEST: Wannamaker appointment - Rob Shaw-CHEK

From: Scott, Mora <Mora.Scott@bchydro.com>
To: Smith, George PREM:EX <George.Smith@gov.bc.ca>, Leslie, Lisa GCPE:EX <Lisa.Leslie@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Venn, Tania GCPE:EX <Tania.Venn@gov.bc.ca>, Pierson, Nova GCPE:EX <Nova.Pierson@gov.bc.ca>, Kropp, Roxanne GCPE:EX <Roxanne.Kropp@gov.bc.ca>, Harris, Megan PSSG:EX <Megan.Harris@gov.bc.ca>, Howlett, Tim GCPE:EX <Tim.Howlett@gov.bc.ca>, Brenchley, Charlie MUNI:EX <Charlie.Brenchley@gov.bc.ca>, Marriott, Sarah GCPE:EX <Sarah.Marriott@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: February 22, 2023 3:21:36 PM PST

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

No concerns from my end. Thanks!

From: Smith, George PREM:EX <George.Smith@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: 2023, February 22 3:18 PM
To: Leslie, Lisa GCPE:EX <Lisa.Leslie@gov.bc.ca>; Scott, Mora <Mora.Scott@bchydro.com>
Cc: Venn, Tania GCPE:EX <Tania.Venn@gov.bc.ca>; Pierson, Nova GCPE:EX <Nova.Pierson@gov.bc.ca>; Kropp, Roxanne GCPE:EX <Roxanne.Kropp@gov.bc.ca>; Harris, Megan GCPE:EX <Megan.Harris@gov.bc.ca>; Howlett, Tim GCPE:EX <Tim.Howlett@gov.bc.ca>; Brenchley, Charlie GCPE:EX <Charlie.Brenchley@gov.bc.ca>; Marriott, Sarah GCPE:EX <Sarah.Marriott@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: [External] RE: MEDIA REQUEST: Wannamaker appointment - Rob Shaw-CHEK

Security Risk Assessment: Use Caution

The email is from <George.Smith@gov.bc.ca> with a friendly name of "Smith, George PREM:EX" <George.Smith@gov.bc.ca>

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No concerns with this going out.

From: Leslie, Lisa GCPE:EX <Lisa.Leslie@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: February 22, 2023 3:16 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>; Kropp, Roxanne GCPE:EX <Roxanne.Kropp@gov.bc.ca>; Harris, Megan GCPE:EX <Megan.Harris@gov.bc.ca>; Howlett, Tim GCPE:EX <Tim.Howlett@gov.bc.ca>; Brenchley, Charlie GCPE:EX <Charlie.Brenchley@gov.bc.ca>; Marriott, Sarah GCPE:EX <Sarah.Marriott@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: MEDIA REQUEST: Wannamaker appointment - Rob Shaw-CHEK

Hello.

Please see below for your approval and direction.^{s.13}
s.13

Thank you.
Lisa
250 213-7724

Reporter

Rob Shaw, Reporter
CHEK TV - Victoria
rshaw@cheknews.ca
250-893-0841
Deadline ASAP

Request

Hey Lisa,

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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).

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- 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?

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RE: MEDIA REQUEST: Wannamaker appointment - Rob Shaw-CHEK

From: Marriott, Sarah GCPE:EX <Sarah.Marriott@gov.bc.ca>
To: XT:Scott, Mora GCPE:IN <Mora.Scott@bchydro.com>, Smith, George PREM:EX <George.Smith@gov.bc.ca>, Leslie, Lisa GCPE:EX <Lisa.Leslie@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Venn, Tania GCPE:EX <Tania.Venn@gov.bc.ca>, Pierson, Nova GCPE:EX <Nova.Pierson@gov.bc.ca>, Kropp, Roxanne GCPE:EX <Roxanne.Kropp@gov.bc.ca>, Harris, Megan PSSG:EX <Megan.Harris@gov.bc.ca>, Howlett, Tim GCPE:EX <Tim.Howlett@gov.bc.ca>, Brenchley, Charlie MUNI:EX <Charlie.Brenchley@gov.bc.ca>, Pillon, Lawrence <Lawrence.Pillon@bchydro.com>
Sent: February 22, 2023 3:50:12 PM PST
Thanks Mora.

No concerns from issues re your proposed draft response Lisa.

From: Scott, Mora <Mora.Scott@bchydro.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2023 3:43 PM
To: Smith, George PREM:EX <George.Smith@gov.bc.ca>; Leslie, Lisa GCPE:EX <Lisa.Leslie@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Venn, Tania GCPE:EX <Tania.Venn@gov.bc.ca>; Pierson, Nova GCPE:EX <Nova.Pierson@gov.bc.ca>; Kropp, Roxanne GCPE:EX <Roxanne.Kropp@gov.bc.ca>; Harris, Megan GCPE:EX <Megan.Harris@gov.bc.ca>; Howlett, Tim GCPE:EX <Tim.Howlett@gov.bc.ca>; Brenchley, Charlie GCPE:EX <Charlie.Brenchley@gov.bc.ca>; Marriott, Sarah GCPE:EX <Sarah.Marriott@gov.bc.ca>; Pillon, Lawrence <Lawrence.Pillon@bchydro.com>
Subject: RE: MEDIA REQUEST: Wannamaker appointment - Rob Shaw-CHEK

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Rob also reached out to me separately, and asked how the compensation works. Please find our response below.

Response

Hi Rob – The chair is paid \$30,000 annually and receives \$750 for each meeting they attend up to 60 meetings. If the meetings are less than 4 hours, the chair is paid \$375 for each meeting.

The chair may also sit in on other meetings as part of their role. For example, they may attend Site C Project Assurance Board meetings or Powerex Board meetings as required in their capacity and would be paid for each meeting they attend.

Hope that helps.

Thanks,
Mora

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Sent: 2023, February 22 3:18 PM
To: Leslie, Lisa GCPE:EX <Lisa.Leslie@gov.bc.ca>; Scott, Mora <Mora.Scott@bchydro.com>
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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.

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.

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- Outreach workers are on the ground, connecting people to shelter and housing options as they come available.

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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.

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.

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

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- 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.

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.

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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.

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.

s.13

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

From: Today's News Online GCPE:EX <tno@gov.bc.ca>
To: Undisclosed recipients:
Sent: February 24, 2023 9:45:30 AM PST
BiV
Rob Shaw
24-Feb-2023 09:36

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TNO...

<http://biv.com/article/2023/02/rob-shaw-gold-plated-public-sector-severance-deals-need-critical-review>

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