

CITY OF SURREY

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

June 19, 2023

The Hon. Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General
and Deputy Premier
Premier Eby

Email: PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca
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BRENDA LOCKE
MAYOR

MAYOR@SURREY.CA

604.591.4126

Dear Premier and Minister,

Due to recent and inflammatory press comments regarding public safety in Surrey, I felt it essential to write to both of you. I will also be releasing this letter to the public as it is vital to clarify the factual realities of policing in Surrey.

I will also call upon both of you to support the decision of Surrey Council to remain with the RCMP and ensure a cooperative relationship between this City and the Ministry. There is no public safety crisis in Surrey, and the path the City has chosen is the safest and most effective option for both Surrey and the Province.

Further to my commitment to both of you, on Thursday, June 15, 2023, I convened a meeting of the Surrey Council to again consider the issue of policing in our municipality in the wake of the Ministry report. During deliberations, Council discussed your Public Safety (Ministry) report, its recommendation, and the unilateral 'binding conditions' for whichever policing option we chose. And the Ministry report made it clear it was a choice and Council's to make. Council also reviewed a corporate report prepared by City staff. At the conclusion of the meeting, Council voted, once again, to retain the RCMP as its police force of jurisdiction.

This Surrey Council decision was the second and final time we considered this issue, and we have chosen what is clearly the best option for this City and, in our opinion, the most effective choice for the Province. This option makes the most efficient use of finite Police resources, funding and infrastructure, all of which would be significantly and negatively impacted by the option of continuing with the transition to the SPS.

I wish to be very clear that I would much rather have held the meeting in an open session; however, our ability to do so was precluded by the need to sign non-disclosure agreements to review the full version of your Ministry's



13450 – 104 AVENUE SURREY BRITISH COLUMBIA CANADA V3T 1V8

report. In like fashion, we have had to maintain confidentiality over our staff report because it builds on the provincial report. At the Minister's request, I am prepared to release our corporate report to him and to persons he designates, provided they also sign non-disclosure agreements.

It is incredibly disappointing to receive no response from either of you to my communications last week. I reached out to you both by voice and digitally after Thursday's meeting and not once did either of you have the courtesy to pick up the phone or respond. Is it because the decision did not go the way that you clearly prefer?

It seems to me you are more interested in dealing with this very important issue in the media and through headlines, rather than working with or communicating with Surrey Council.

Surrey Council and I also remain committed to providing accurate information to the citizens of Surrey and British Columbia; we have respected the review process, which is now complete, and we will ensure critical facts can enter the public discussion.

As you are aware, though media reports have inadvertently confused the subject, our corporate report does not constitute an updated transition plan. However, much of its information will be included in such a plan.

The report was prepared to meet the Minister's wish that Surrey Council consider the provincial report and the full information available before coming to a final decision on policing. In order to meet the Minister's wish, more information was needed to supplement the Ministry report.

This leads me to another issue I know you are aware of but still needs to enter the public discussion to provide important context to our concern with continuing down the uncertain path of the SPS transition.

The public-facing provincial report specifies it was "not intended to provide a comprehensive assessment of the impacts of continuing with the current police transition to the SPS." While I have concerns over why the Ministry would choose not to assess the SPS option with the same detailed approach as the RCMP plan, that was a Ministry decision for you to explain.

I have more serious concerns over why the Ministry would recommend a course of action it has not comprehensively assessed to the potentially significant and long-lasting consequences for the City of Surrey and the Province. Nevertheless, Surrey Council is confident we have made an informed and correct decision. It is only appropriate and prudent to explore the potential impacts of choosing the SPS before making such an important decision. Information relevant to costs, resourcing and other factors in the corporate report helped us do so where the Ministry report was silent on those impacts.



Details and facts from the corporate report will also be shared with the public to highlight the true costs of the SPS transition not only in terms of finances, resources and infrastructure but also in the absence of planning and the protracted state of transition that option presents. The SPS remains 600 hard vacancies short of their minimum required numbers, and their best hope remains to draw from police agencies here in the Lower Mainland, which could significantly reduce policing levels across multiple local municipalities.

After Council's vote and my press conference, I was informed of the Premier's statement, which included his concern that the "risk and the threat of the collapse of the Surrey Police Service resulting in a policing crisis in the City of Surrey is a real one. This is a very delicate situation." These are theatrical and unfortunate comments, given the reality of the situation. It is very clear that Surrey is not facing a public safety crisis, and there is absolutely no reason why one should occur.

I must also point out the reality that a collapse of the Surrey Police Service could only unfold if the SPS officers abandon their professionalism and the Province neglected their public safety responsibilities by failing to give clear direction to the Police Board.

The Surrey RCMP Detachment is fully staffed and provides more than "adequate and effective" policing. Surrey Police Service (SPS) officers, co-located with the RCMP, are honourable individuals. I have every reason to believe that they will continue to work to ensure public safety in our municipality.

The first phase of the transition to the SPS required the RCMP to halt its standard staffing efforts and integrate SPS officers into front-line policing roles. We must now reverse that process. The RCMP advises me that many members of SPS have already indicated a willingness to join the RCMP, and the RCMP has made a commitment to them.

I was gratified to hear that the Executive Director of the Surrey Police Board (Board) has publicly stated that SPS officers will remain on the job, adding that the Board takes its guidance from the Province and that she and the Board await further instructions from the Province.

This is the exact point where the Ministry can and must take a leadership role to mitigate the overly dramatic concern repeatedly referenced in the media that the SPS will vanish. The SPS takes its direction from the Province and will faithfully fulfil its obligations accordingly.

If the Province were to provide the Board with clear guidance, thereby ensuring that the Board and SPS cooperate with the City of Surrey and the RCMP, the re-staffing of the Surrey RCMP would be assured. This will alleviate the Premier's concern and remove any obstacle to an orderly transition back to the RCMP without destabilizing policing in our municipality or elsewhere in the Province.



The only mechanism by which the SPS would fail to cooperate and thereby generate public safety concerns is if their Board received contradictory direction from the Province; I am confident your government would not consider such a proposal given the potential negative impact on Surrey policing resource levels.

This cooperative effort between the SPS and RCMP is a clear and efficient path to the RCMP policing Surrey without any risk to adequate and effective policing or public safety. In fact, it is the exact same principle advocated for in the Ministry report, which recommended that the two police agencies cooperate for the transition to the SPS. However, one clear advantage to the Surrey Council decision is that the RCMP only requires about 170 members rather than the 400 plus needed by the SPS. More to follow on this topic of City and province benefits to our decision.

I also wish to address the binding conditions imposed on our City by the Minister. We are quite prepared to meet all the conditions within the City's jurisdiction. Although the Minister indicated that the conditions are non-negotiable, as I have pointed out to both the Premier and the Minister, we must work cooperatively with respect to those aspects of the conditions outside our jurisdiction.

For example, we cannot prepare "Individualized HR plans" for SPS members unless the Province directs the Board to assist us with access to the SPS members. A failure to work with us on the conditions will create unnecessary turmoil, which nobody wants. I trust the Province to provide early direction to the Board, consistent with clear support for public safety.

We urge the Province to work with the City to ensure a smooth and safe dissolution of the SPS and allow for the implementation of what is the clear choice of the people of Surrey, as represented by their Council. It would undoubtedly signal an end to the uncertainty which has been ongoing for far too long in this municipality and ensure the continued safety of our beautiful and growing City.

I am mindful of provincial policing pressures and, having made a fulsome review of the implications of the continued transition to the SPS, firmly believe this decision to retain the RCMP is the best decision for policing in the Province. I will be happy to provide details of the risks presented by the SPS transition to the Province and our citizens who have yet to be educated on them or have not been given the opportunity to assess them properly.

I will close by confirming the Surrey Council's opinion that we have exercised our legal authority to select the RCMP to serve as our police force. As per the terms of your Ministry report, the Province, City and police agencies will work together to implement the decision effectively. Both the report and the Minister were clear that we could choose either option and would have to meet the associated criteria. And we will. While



the continuing resolution of issues, HR planning, revision of planning, reporting on costs and appointing senior police leaders will be a constant undertaking, the decision is made.

As your government, the SPS Board, the SPS, the RCMP and the City work together on this decision; I am confident we will succeed. It is a relief knowing the only "risk" to public safety in Surrey, the "collapse" of the SPS, can be entirely mitigated by your government as outlined above. Neglecting to take the necessary action with the police board would call into question your expressed goal of ensuring adequate and effective policing.

There is work to be done now that we have confirmed our choice. To that end, I have identified a transition working group to represent the City and look forward to representation from the Province joining the team.

In closing, I am ready and willing to work with you on this crucial issue, as are Surrey Council and staff.

Yours very truly,



Brenda Locke,
Mayor



Untitled (9).msg

From: Smith, Matt PREM:EX <Matt.Smith@gov.bc.ca>
To: Smith, Jessica C PREM:EX <Jessica.C.Smith@gov.bc.ca>, Machell, Aileen PREM:EX <Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca>, Marriott, Sarah GCPE:EX <Sarah.Marriott@gov.bc.ca>, Brewer, Lia PREM:EX <Lia.Brewer@gov.bc.ca>, Snoddon, Michael PSSG:EX <Michael.Snoddon@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: July 11, 2023 7:56:09 AM PDT
Attachments: 03a_Strong Communities communique (July 5).docx

Here is communique with track change edits of what we have been discussing. It is a bit clunky but that fine as this just for PDE to have on hand to get conversation going. The Premier's will direct note takers on what edits they want post discussion.

If any comments let us know asap so we can get this printed soon for PDE ahead of lunch discussion.

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13 ; s.16

RE:

From: Marriott, Sarah GCPE:EX <Sarah.Marriott@gov.bc.ca>
To: Smith, Matt PREM:EX <Matt.Smith@gov.bc.ca>, Smith, Jessica C PREM:EX <Jessica.C.Smith@gov.bc.ca>, Machell, Aileen PREM:EX <Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca>, Brewer, Lia PREM:EX <Lia.Brewer@gov.bc.ca>, Snoddon, Michael PSSG:EX <Michael.Snoddon@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: July 11, 2023 8:19:35 AM PDT
Attachments: 03a_Strong Communities communique (July 5)_sm.docx
s.13; s.16

From: Smith, Matt PREM:EX <Matt.Smith@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, July 11, 2023 7:56 AM
To: Smith, Jessica C PREM:EX <Jessica.C.Smith@gov.bc.ca>; Machell, Aileen PREM:EX <Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca>; Marriott, Sarah GCPE:EX <Sarah.Marriott@gov.bc.ca>; Brewer, Lia PREM:EX <Lia.Brewer@gov.bc.ca>; Snoddon, Michael PSSG:EX <Michael.Snoddon@gov.bc.ca>
Subject:

Here is communique with track change edits of what we have been discussing. It is a bit clunky but that fine as this just for PDE to have on hand to get conversation going. The Premier's will direct note takers on what edits they want post discussion.

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13 ; s.16

Re: COF communique and details tomorrow

From: Smith, Jessica C PREM:EX <Jessica.C.Smith@gov.bc.ca>
To: Chu, Timothy GCPE:EX <Timothy.Chu@gov.bc.ca>, Smith, Jimmy PREM:EX <Jimmy.Smith@gov.bc.ca>, Machell, Aileen PREM:EX <Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Sajan, Bhinder PREM:EX <Bhinder.Sajan@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: July 11, 2023 7:52:17 PM PDT

Hey Tim,

News conference starts at 1:30 pm CT (although agenda items today were consistently tracking 20-30 mins late.)

Communiqué is progressing and our key items - depending on where language lands - are inclusions of RCMP/contract policing, sustainable ec development, housing, infrastructure, health Human Resources.

I will send over the communique tomorrow Tim and point to more specific lines then.

Jess

From: Chu, Timothy GCPE:EX <Timothy.Chu@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, July 11, 2023 8:15 PM
To: Smith, Jessica C PREM:EX <Jessica.C.Smith@gov.bc.ca>; Smith, Jimmy PREM:EX <Jimmy.Smith@gov.bc.ca>; Machell, Aileen PREM:EX <Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Sajan, Bhinder PREM:EX <Bhinder.Sajan@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: COF communique and details tomorrow

Hey folks,

Because there will likely be BC media who asks, when is the presser tomorrow to close COF and will there be a communique that is sent out? Do we have a draft/anything we want to draw people's attention to?

Cheers,

Tim Chu
s.22

Fwd: Media Transcript - July 11 - Media avail, Premier Eby

From: Miranda, Hernani GCPE:EX <Hernani.Miranda@gov.bc.ca>
To: Devereux, Rick GCPE:EX <Rick.Devereux@gov.bc.ca>, Machell, Aileen PREM:EX <Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: July 12, 2023 8:02:15 AM PDT
Attachments: COF-July 11, 2023, 100 pm-Premier Eby-Media Avail.docx
FYI

Hernani Miranda
Events Coordinator
GCPE

Sent from my cellphone

From: Loretta O'Connor <loretta@canadaspremiers.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, July 11, 2023 9:02:59 PM
To: Paola St-Georges <paola@canadaspremiers.ca>; Miranda Dubé (miranda.dube@manitoba.ca) <miranda.dube@manitoba.ca>; Kentner, Julie <Julie.Kentner@gov.mb.ca>; Brown, Tobi <Tobi.Brown@gov.mb.ca>; George Smith - Govt of BC (george.smith@gov.bc.ca) <George.smith@gov.bc.ca>; Sam Blackett <Sam.Blackett@gov.ab.ca>; rebecca.polak@gov.ab.ca <rebecca.polak@gov.ab.ca>; julie.leggott@gov.sk.ca <julie.leggott@gov.sk.ca>; Yelich, Ivana (OPO) <ivana.yelich@ontario.ca>; ewan.sauves@mce.gouv.qc.ca <ewan.sauves@mce.gouv.qc.ca>; Carlin, Nicolle (PO/CPM) <nicolle.carlin@gnb.ca>; Stevens, Michelle L <Michelle.Stevens@novascotia.ca>; adamross@gov.pe.ca <adamross@gov.pe.ca>; meganmccabe@gov.nl.ca <meganmccabe@gov.nl.ca>; Jordan.Owens <jordan.owens@yukon.ca>; laura.seeley@yukon.ca <laura.seeley@yukon.ca>; Nicole Bonnell <nicole_bonnell@gov.nt.ca>; Miranda, Hernani IGRS:EX <Hernani.Miranda@gov.bc.ca>; Beth Brown <bbrown6@gov.nu.ca>
Subject: Media Transcript - July 11 - Media avail, Premier Eby

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

For your information, attached is the transcript of the media avail that Premier Eby gave at the COF unimic this afternoon.

Loretta O'Connor, MBA
Executive Director / directrice générale
Council of the Federation Secretariat / Secrétariat du Conseil de la fédération
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TRANSCRIPT/TRANSCRIPTION

Media availability / Point de presse

Transcript prepared for the Council of the Federation

DATE: July 11, 2023 1:00 pm (CDT) / le 11 juillet 2023, à 13h00 (HAC)

LOCATION/ENDROIT: Provencher Ballroom, Fort Garry Hotel, Winnipeg

PRINCIPALS/PRINCIPAUX: The Honourable David Eby, Premier of British Columbia

SUBJECT/SUJET: A media availability with the Premier, at the July 2023 Meeting of the Council of the Federation / Point de presse du premier ministre dans le cadre de la réunion de juillet 2023 du Conseil de la fédération

The Moderator: Good afternoon everyone. Thanks for joining us. Premier Eby will take a few questions from reporters on the phone first, and then we'll go to a few opportunities here on site.

Just a reminder to media on the phone that they may now press *1 to queue up and you can stay off mute. You are not audible until we call you to the podium.

We are going to start with Rod Shaw, CHEK News.

Hon. David Eby: Just before Rod starts, if you don't mind, I just wanted to say in British Columbia we're facing a rapidly escalating wild fire situation. Many parts of our province are in significant draught right now and we're seeing levels of draught in our province that we usually don't see until much later in the summer. We had significant lightning storms that have resulted in ignition of a number of new fires.

I just wanted to say and express my appreciation for the hard-working wildfire service in British Columbia that's out there on the front lines right now. We are receiving international assistance from other jurisdictions including Mexico and the United States fighting these fires. I want to express my appreciation to those international firefighters that are on the front lines with British Columbians fighting these fires. I'm very grateful for that.

We have contracted additional air resources to be able to fight these fires across the province and we expect further national firefighters to come on to assist us as well.

So, to British Columbians who are involved facing potential evacuation or in a state of emergency, we're bringing on these resources to support you and your communities to fight these fires and we do expect long days ahead. The federal government has noted

that we expect this to be nationally the worst fire season in 100 years and we don't expect that British Columbia will be the exception to that rule given where we are right now.

With that, I'll turn it back over to you.

The Moderator: So, Rod Shaw, CHEK News, please?

Question: Hi Premier. Just following up on that, I think it was your Transportation Minister who talked earlier about some sort of federal disaster financial relief from Ottawa on the fire season and that might be something nationally that other premiers were interested in as well. Could you talk about if you have a request there that you're going to bring up at the table, what that would do for B.C. during this season and what you would get out of it that you need?

Hon. David Eby: I think it's perhaps helpful to note for British Columbians and for Canadians that we've already spent, I think we are probably nearing \$200 million fighting fires so far this season, to give an idea of the scale of the work that's happening here to fight fires in the province. And that is in addition to obviously the expenditure of keeping our fire service on year-round so that we can be prepared as we were for the fire season starting earlier. Certainly we're always looking for a strong federal partner to support us in these escalating costs related to climate change and the impact on B.C.'s climate as we see dryer, hotter summers and the fires burning hotter and deeper into the ground, making it harder to fight them.

It's a challenging time certainly for us in British Columbia. We've seen, though, in Nova Scotia, in Alberta and Quebec, major challenges related to forest fires as well. We're all looking to the federal government to partner when we face these emergencies and we'll continue to do that.

The Moderator: Rod, did you have a follow-up?

Question: Sure. On affordability, is there a request from Ottawa you're hoping to rally other premiers around on affordability or assistance? We know that the Bank of Canada expects to hike rate again tomorrow. MNP had a report yesterday that Canadians reporting insolvency is hitting a record high. There's a jump in the number of people in B.C. \$200 or less away from being unable to pay their bills. Is there something you want from the federal government on affordability? And is there anything you are preparing provincially that's new on that file?

Hon. David Eby: Well, I think there are a lot of British Columbians that are looking at

the money that they make each month and seeing that there's less and less of it left at the end of the month, and many people wondering how they're going to pay the debts they have with rising interest rates to cover their rent, buy groceries, with rising costs. It's an issue that's were seeing across Canada. I'm certainly hearing from my colleagues that in other provinces people are struggling with the same kinds of costs.

In our conversation around the table, one of the topics we'll be talking about, we haven't gotten there yet, is housing and housing-related costs, making sure that that monthly rent bill or the cost of getting into market housing is actually attainable and affordable for people. It's one of their biggest expenses that they face.

Like other Premiers around the table, I have a real sense of the dread about the next Bank of Canada rate hike. I think that the impact on British Columbians is pretty profound. Our housing is already significantly more expensive than in other parts of the country. We've got bigger mortgages that they're trying to service. The impacts are significant. The businesses in British Columbia that were already hit by the pandemic, that borrowed money to get through the pandemic are seeing their costs increase as a result. I think that there is a strong argument to make that the rate increases are having their effect, but it seems to be having the effect on people who can least afford it. And so, certainly, this is an ongoing challenge that we're going to continue to face in British Columbia and across the country.

We are having discussions around the table. Cost of living is one of our major topics and certainly I am looking forward to, as are British Columbians, how we can work together on the issue of housing nationally, is one of those affordability issues.

The Moderator: Our next question is Richard Sussman, Global News.

Question: Premier, thanks for doing this. First Nations leadership in the province just don't have confidence right now in Minister Dean's ability to lead MCFD given that 70 percent of the children and youth in foster homes are indigenous. Will you replace her if she doesn't step down?

Hon. David Eby: I've been meeting with the First Nations' leadership Council since British Columbians learned about the horrific case involving two young kids in our province that were in foster care that were not just profoundly neglected, but were also functionally, at the end of the day, tortured. One of them died. Horrific case! Shook all of us. Shook me. I know Minister Dean was profoundly affected.

Obviously, indigenous community members across the province are profoundly affected by this. It reactivated all kinds of trauma related to our child welfare system and its history in the province. As a result, I've had now two meetings with leadership to go through and present them with the details of where the child welfare system is at right

now and particulars of this case where they were interested in going into those details. There has been a request from the First Nation particularly affected that we refrain from further media statements related to this broadly, though.

I can say that the solution to this and the answer to challenges like this is to ensure that First Nations have jurisdiction over their own kids, that they are able to, that they are supported too by the province, by the federal government, to be able to do that work for their own children, and that's where we're going. That's the work that Minister Dean and her team has been focused on from the beginning. And my hope is to work with the leadership to get to the place where we agree on a clear path forward. We're doing that work and there's more work yet to do.

The Moderator: Richard, did you have a follow-up?

Question: Thank you. There's a major LNG conference in Vancouver this week. Are you concerned at all that we will not have enough power to power LNG development in the province considering the way that we've earmarked energy generated from [inaudible]?

Hon. David Eby: Yes, it's a really important time for our province, because we have a huge advantage. When I'm having conversations with other Premiers from across the country, they understand that British Columbia is very well positioned with clean electricity. We have a massive hydroelectric resource in our province that supports us being able to generate electricity for all kinds of different industries and to add to it with sustainable renewable source of energy like wind and solar, because we've got the big batteries in the form of the hydro dams in our province.

I am not at all confident that our province is on track to provide the level of electricity needed to transition industry from fossil fuel usage to electricity. We did a power call with the Northwest, which included LNG plants, but also included major mines. I'm having conversations with the Premier of the Yukon that's very interested in an inter-tie with British Columbia, with the conversations with the port of Prince Rupert about their interest in electrifying, and hydro is not keeping up. It takes 8 to 9 years to fulfil a request from industry for the kind of electricity that they are looking for. It takes about the same time to go through the call for power all the way through the generation and transmission. We have to speed that up.

So that's why we have a BC Hydro task force that's working with the board right now at BC Hydro to ensure that we deliver faster, that we take advantage of the economic opportunity that we have the cleanup industry, help them get off fossil fuels, meet our climate targets, all sectors, LNG, mining, other resource industries, the port, and also provide export to support our neighbours, Alberta, the Yukon, Washington State, who want to get their emissions down as well and that we can support in doing that work.

The Moderator: Next question is Lisa Yuzda, City News.

Question: Hi there Premier. Talking about Surrey, I guess first one: should the community expect a resolution from the province about what's going to happen with the police force there?

Hon. David Eby: I think the people of Surrey are tired of the issue of policing dominating the discussion of the fastest growing city that has huge needs around housing, infrastructure, other pieces of work to do with the province. Certainly, I feel the fatigue as well and we're looking forward to the resolution of this issue with the City of Surrey.

The Minister of Public Safety and his team are reviewing the work that was produced by the City of Surrey in order to respond to the demands that they hit certain requirements in order to be able to transition back to the RCMP after transitioning to municipal force, including potential cost for the public. All that work is happening. I can say that I have reviewed those materials myself as well. I have entered into the nondisclosure agreement to be able to do that. So I can't speak about what they presented, but I can advise that the Minister for Public Safety and his team have been reviewing it and I expect them to have a decision for the City of Surrey as soon as possible, because we all want a conclusion to this matter.

The Moderator: Lisa, did you have a follow-up?

Question: I do. And with that situation, I'm just wondering what your concerns are about the increasing animosity between the mayor in particular and the Surrey police force. Should it end up being the police force that remains, how that working relationship will go when it's degraded substantially?

Hon. David Eby: Well, there's a critically important value at stake here which is that when someone in Surrey calls 911 for a police officer, that someone attends; and it doesn't matter what badge they wear, that that call is answered, it's answered professionally, the person gets the support that they need. And I think that the strains caused by the decision to go to a municipal force and then go back to the RCMP within the community within the city council between various actors, it has not been great for Surrey, to put it lightly. And so having resolution on this, being able to move forward so that those wounds can heal and we can move on is critically important for the City of Surrey, for the people of Surrey and for the provincial government, because there are many, many issues for us to deal with together.

The Moderator: Next question is... Sorry.

Question: Are you taking questions in the room?

The Moderator: I'll take questions from the room shortly. Just a moment, sorry. Dirk Meissner, Canadian Press?

Question: I'm wondering if the port strike in British Columbia has come up in your discussions with your colleagues and what possibly could you do about it?

Hon. David Eby: I've had a number of informal conversations with my colleagues from across Canada about the port strike in British Columbia. British Columbians, I know, are concerned about the impact of the port strike. First of all, it's a significant employer, so the strike itself has economic impact for the families in the province. We're as reliant as other provinces on exports from that port to the Asia-Pacific region around the world. Beyond that, in my conversations with Premiers of course they're seeing the impacts. The Premier of Saskatchewan, a major potash producer, are curtailing production because of the port strike. The premier of Alberta has expressed concern as well. All of us are unified in the goal that this get resolved as quickly as possible. It has knock-on impacts on the cost of living for people across the country, as goods get more expensive because imports are not available, and it's really the worst time for that.

We also know in British Columbia, where the port is, that port workers have seen increasing costs just like everybody else. Those workers need to be treated with respect. And what we want is a long-term deal that's going to last and that's going to prevent disruptions like this from happening in the future, and those kinds of deals are reached at the bargaining table. We are encouraging both parties, the employer and the workers, to be at the table working that out and the federal government to be involved in advancing that discussion as well.

The Moderator: Dirk, did you have a follow-up?

Question: Sure. Thanks for that, Premier. Is there any chance that the Premiers could ask for some kind of statement and say: we need a deadline on when that needs to be resolved or should be resolved?

Hon. David Eby: The common understanding and certainly my understanding is that we all want this to be resolved as quickly as possible. We want it resolved today of

course, and so the sooner this can get resolved the better.

The Moderator: Next question is Katie DeRosa, *Vancouver Sun*.

Question: Hi Premier. Regarding the housing funding, that was not in the federal budget. I know that B.C. is working on the BC Builds plan on affordable housing. Does that plan largely rely on federal money? Like, can you build the affordable housing that you promised in your leadership campaign without those federal funds? And what will the message be to the federal government regarding that funding for affordable housing?

Hon. David Eby: We have yet to have the conversation around the table upstairs about housing. But I can say certainly for British Columbia, we're not waiting for the federal government on housing and our BC Builds initiative in our housing strategy as a whole is not reliant on federal money. We would love it for federal programs to be aligned with our programs. It's been a consistent message we've delivered, because it just makes sense to British Columbians that if government using tax dollars to support attainable and affordable housing is at the table, we should be working together. We can provide more affordability if our programs are aligned and work together than we can if we have two separate programs that provide a little bit of affordability instead of a unified program that provide significantly more. There's lots of opportunities for us to work together. That's been our consistent message with the federal government and I really hope we can get there.

The Moderator: Katie, do you have a follow-up?

Question: We haven't seen Ottawa call the Bill before the session ended. Did you receive the assurance that they were going to do that when the fall sitting resumes or do you think that legislation will be allowed to peter out and not be called?

Hon. David Eby: The bail reform is one of the key items of discussion that we have yet to have, but we'll have it around the table today. For British Columbia's perspective, we are profoundly disappointed that the federal government did not call that Bill, that it didn't pass or try to communicate the urgency of it. When our prosecutors are asking, when they see someone who is a threat to the community, they say that person should be held in jail to await their trial, if they ask the judge for that, they only do that in the most serious cases where the public's confidence in the justice system is at risk, only half of the time are they getting that order that the person be held in jail under the federal bail rules. And so our prosecutors can ask for it, but the judges are applying the federal law and we need the federal law, and every single province and territory agrees on this, we need the federal

law to be reflective of the values of British Columbians and Canadians, that communities are safe and that the justice system acts in their interest. And that's just not happening right now. So I'm profoundly frustrated that didn't happen. I'm glad it'll be one of the key topics of conversation upstairs which I will go up to and enjoy very shortly.

The Moderator: So in the matter of time, because Premiers need to go back, I'll give one question for each reporter on site please. Please introduce yourself and your outlet.

Question: Ashley Burke, CBC News. When it comes to healthcare, is that new federal funding flowing? How are you implementing it in your province? Have you met the conditions? And what exactly are the next steps you are talking to Premiers about today?

Hon. David Eby: We've met all of the... I mean, for British Columbians, they want to see us working cooperatively with the federal government on the healthcare system to respond to the crisis they see. And frankly, it's not enough. Healthcare workers right now is our biggest challenge in British Columbia and that seems to be an issue faced across Canada consistently with other Premiers.

In terms of the federal funding, we've met all the requirements, we've provided the plans, the health human resources strategies, the seniors aging with dignity submissions, all these various requirements the federal government put on us, we are happy to fill out the paperwork and get it done. The key is that we have a strong federal partner at the table on the healthcare system, which is obviously still under strain. How do we use the immigration system to support the healthcare that British Columbians need? How do we use the federal government's national authority to set standards around the mobility of healthcare workers? There are lots of important pieces of work to do. We're having – we've had a good discussion around the table about that and the communique will reflect that as will our comments later, but, yes, we're moving along with the federal government on the funding piece.

Question: I have a question about where the forest fire and the affordability file converge, and that's in terms of climate policy. Your colleagues from Atlantic Canada, Premier Smith as well, are speaking out strongly against some of the federal moves, the price mechanisms put in place on the clean fuel standard, carbon taxes, long opponents of that. But if you take the market mechanisms away, you know, to incentivize the use of cleaner, greener fuels, does that really work then if the federal government is offsetting the way they're asking for all these higher costs? Where does B.C. stand on this?

Hon. David Eby: British Columbians have been supporting carbon pricing in the province for a while and it's part of our climate strategy. It's a key part of our climate

strategy that has political backing in the province from the people of B.C., because they see they're on the front line of climate change. You know, when we have the drought that we are having right now this summer and the beginning of what looks to be a particularly terrible forest fire season in B.C., they also see nationally what we've seen over the last few years in terms of smoky summers in our cities because of forest fires starting to hit and other provinces as well, I think that one of the reasons why British Columbians support these kinds of initiatives is because they are seeing the impacts directly, the pine beetle overwintering, the flooding atmospheric river events, the forest fires, the costs are very real right now in British Columbia. We will continue to play that what we see as a leadership role on climate change. We will support a price on carbon. We think that's important. Carbon pollution shouldn't be free. And so those kinds of mechanisms will encourage... Fuel switching is one of the reasons why industry is so enthusiastic in our province to switch to electricity away from fossil fuels and why we want to support them in that by building our own electrical infrastructure.

I think that concern about cost of living is one that's shared across Canada. And how we get there, how we address those issues, finding those points of common agreement are going to be critical at the table.

The Moderator: Please introduce yourself and your outlet before your question.

Question: Sure. Sébastien Desrosiers, from Radio-Canada. Hi. So Premiers from Quebec and Ontario asked the federal government yesterday to reopen the bidding for the replacement of warplanes Aurora. They want to see companies, Canadian companies such as Bombardier being able to bid on the contract, which Ottawa seems to be willing to give to Boeing. Considering you have a Boeing plant in British Columbia, what do you think about their proposal? Are you willing to talk about it? And do you think companies like Bombardier should be able to bid on such contracts?

Hon. David Eby: Well, if the federal government is looking to increase spending on defence, spending on issues of Arctic sovereignty, for example, deploying technology, in this regard, there are a number of Canadian companies that are very well suited across the country to provide those kinds of services. British Columbians are really proud of the companies that are in our province. And federal government procurement has resulted in significant employment in our province related to the defence. We had major shipbuilding contracts in North Vancouver that are employing hundreds of people and producing high quality ships that are going to benefit Canadians for generations to come. There is no reason why that work has to be limited to shipbuilding. There is a huge ability in our province and across Canada to provide these necessary services. I am fully supportive of the call of Quebec and other provinces to the federal government to use the procurement process like other countries do in relation to defence to build up Canadian companies, to build up opportunities for Canadian companies, and I think that's great news for British Columbians, it's great news for Canadians and I frankly don't see a

downside to them being quite aggressive in supporting Canadian companies to get this work done.

The Moderator: And our last question please?

Question: Yes. Thomas Laberge for CP. Just a follow-up from the question from my colleague. So, do you think you will be able to get a consensus from all the Premiers about this topic of Bombardier?

Hon. David Eby: We haven't yet addressed this issue at the table today, so I'll refrain from commenting on it till we've a chance to discuss it at the table about what the table's position is, because I don't know what it is yet.

The Moderator: And That's all we have time for today. Thanks everyone.

Hon. David Eby: Thank you.

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Fwd: Media Transcript - July 12 - Closing News Conference

From: Miranda, Hernani GCPE:EX <Hernani.Miranda@gov.bc.ca>
To: Machell, Aileen PREM:EX <Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca>, Smith, Jessica C PREM:EX <Jessica.C.Smith@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: July 12, 2023 8:45:10 PM PDT
Attachments: COF-July 12, 2023-Closing News Conference.docx
FYI

Hernani Miranda
Events Coordinator
GCPE

Sent from my cellphone

From: Loretta O'Connor <loretta@canadaspremiers.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, July 12, 2023 8:43:23 PM
To: Paola St-Georges <paola@canadaspremiers.ca>; Miranda Dubé (miranda.dube@manitoba.ca) <miranda.dube@manitoba.ca>; Kentner, Julie <Julie.Kentner@gov.mb.ca>; Brown, Tobi <Tobi.Brown@gov.mb.ca>; George Smith - Govt of BC (george.smith@gov.bc.ca) <George.smith@gov.bc.ca>; Sam Blackett <Sam.Blackett@gov.ab.ca>; rebecca.polak@gov.ab.ca <rebecca.polak@gov.ab.ca>; julie.leggott@gov.sk.ca <julie.leggott@gov.sk.ca>; Yelich, Ivana (OPO) <ivana.yelich@ontario.ca>; ewan.sauves@mce.gouv.qc.ca <ewan.sauves@mce.gouv.qc.ca>; Carlin, Nicolle (PO/CPM) <nicolle.carlin@gnb.ca>; Stevens, Michelle L <Michelle.Stevens@novascotia.ca>; adamross@gov.pe.ca <adamross@gov.pe.ca>; meganmccabe@gov.nl.ca <meganmccabe@gov.nl.ca>; Jordan.Owens <jordan.owens@yukon.ca>; laura.seeley@yukon.ca <laura.seeley@yukon.ca>; Nicole Bonnell <nicole_bonnell@gov.nt.ca>; Miranda, Hernani IGRS:EX <Hernani.Miranda@gov.bc.ca>; Beth Brown <bbrown6@gov.nu.ca>
Subject: Media Transcript - July 12 - Closing News Conference

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

For your information, attached is the transcript from the closing news conference of the 2023 COF Summer Meeting.

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TRANSCRIPT/TRANSCRIPTION

News Conference / Conférence de presse

Transcript prepared for the Council of the Federation

DATE: July 12, 2023 1:05 pm (CDT) / le 12 juillet 2023, à 13h05 (HAC)

LOCATION/ENDROIT: Provencher Ballroom, Fort Garry Hotel, Winnipeg

PRINCIPALS/PRINCIPAUX: The Honourable Heather Stefanson, Premier of Manitoba, the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, l'honorable François Legault, premier ministre du Québec, the Honourable Tim Houston, Premier of Nova Scotia, the Honourable Blaine Higgs, Premier of New Brunswick, the Honourable David Eby, Premier of British Columbia, the Honourable Dennis King, Premier of Prince Edward Island, the Honourable Scott Moe, Premier of Saskatchewan, the Honourable Danielle Smith, Premier of Alberta, the Honourable Andrew Furey, Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador, the Honourable Caroline Cochrane, Premier of the Northwest Territories, the Honourable Ranj Pillai, Premier of Yukon, the Honourable P.J. Akeeagok, Premier of Nunavut

SUBJECT/SUJET: A News Conference with Premiers, at the 2023 Summer Meeting of the Council of the Federation / Conférence de presse avec les premiers ministres des provinces et territoires dans le cadre de la rencontre estivale 2023 du Conseil de la fédération

The Moderator: Good afternoon everyone. Bonjour tout le monde. Thank you for joining today's News Conference. Bienvenue à cette conférence de presse.

We will start out today with remarks from the Chair of the Council of the Federation, Manitoba Premier, Heather Stefanson, followed by remarks in French by the Premier of Quebec, François Legault. We will then take questions from media.

It is my pleasure to introduce the Premier of Manitoba, Heather Stefanson.

Hon. Heather Stefanson: Thank you very much and good afternoon everyone. It's just an honour for me to be here today as the Chair of the Council of the Federation with all of my colleagues right across the country from coast to coast to coast. We've had a great couple of days here in sunny beautiful Winnipeg, Manitoba. And of course, I've welcomed all of my colleagues back once again later on for some more fun to have, but it's been great having them here today.

Twenty years ago, the Council of the Federation was created to bring together Canada's Premiers to work collaboratively on the issues that matter to most Canadians and to build

a stronger Federation.

Our meetings this week continued that work on a wide range of shared priorities from coast to coast to coast. Those issues involve services delivered by provinces and territories, resource development and economic growth, jobs and opportunities led by provinces and territories.

Today's discussion was focused on economic growth and opportunities on driving key foundations to trade, economic development, jobs and prosperity for Canadians right across the country.

Premiers are strongly united on our continuing work to advance vital relationships and foundations on competitiveness and strategic infrastructure consisting of community, economic and competitive infrastructure, and on economic trade corridors, the transportation networks and hubs required to get our products to market and to support our critical supply chains.

To support competitiveness and strategic infrastructure, Premiers are calling on the Prime Minister for a dedicated First Ministers meeting on these critical infrastructure priorities. True federal partnerships are needed to ensure progress for respect for provincial and territorial jurisdiction and responsibilities, to recognize all of our unique circumstances and needs.

I now would like to ask Premier Legault to bring opening comments *en français*. Premier Legault?

L'hon. François Legault : Bonjour tout le monde. Merci Heather. Merci encore pour l'accueil chaleureux.

On a donc poursuivi aujourd'hui nos discussions surtout sur l'économie. On a parlé beaucoup, entre autres, des infrastructures et donc on demande à avoir une rencontre avec le premier ministre du Canada pour discuter ensemble avec les provinces et territoires du financement des infrastructures. La demande est grande, que ce soit dans le secteur de la santé, de l'éducation, le transport, le logement. C'est plus important que jamais qu'on se donne ensemble des moyens pour mettre à jour nos infrastructures dans les provinces et territoires.

On a aussi parlé de sécurité énergétique, de minéraux stratégiques, de développement durable, de lutte aux changements climatiques. L'important, encore là, c'est de travailler ensemble, être compétitifs. On sait que les États-Unis ont mis en place des programmes très importants comme l'IRA – en anglais, l'*Inflation Reduction Act* – qui vient aider toute l'économie verte. Donc, c'est important qu'au Canada on ait une offre d'aide qui est comparable à celle des États-Unis.

On a discuté de tous ces sujets et je pense que l'important, prochainement, c'est d'avoir

une rencontre avec le premier ministre du Canada, surtout pour parler d'infrastructure.

Merci.

The Moderator: Thank you Premier. Et merci, Monsieur le Premier ministre.

We will now move to media questions, starting with media who are present, followed by questions for those attending virtually.

For those attending virtually, as a reminder, you may press *1 at any time to join the queue to ask your question. You will be limited to one question only.

I would also ask that you please make sure that your phone is not on mute. You will not be audible until your name is called.

For those in the room, please come to the microphone to ask your questions. Please state your name, your outlet and direct your question to one Premier. You will be limited to one question only.

Go ahead, first question.

Question: Good afternoon. Ashley Burke, CBC News. Premier Legault, Ford and anyone else who wants to comment, the federal government has said that new infrastructure spending, infrastructure money is going to be coming, it's going to be focused on addressing the housing crisis. If that comes with strings and conditions attached, will you accept that?

Hon. François Legault: Of course, we have to respect jurisdictions of provinces and territories. It's important that we share the financing of infrastructures. There's a lot of money to invest. I'll give you the example in Québec. Four years ago, we had a program over 10 years of \$100 billion. We now have a program of \$150 billion. It's an increase of 50 percent and we still need more. So, we still need the help of the federal government, but we think that it should respect our jurisdictions.

Hon. Doug Ford: When it comes to housing, I always look for cooperation and collaboration with all three levels of government, municipal, provincial and federal. And any help the federal government can give us, I'm all open to any ideas that they have.

I just want to remind everyone, 504,000 people Landed in Ontario, the fastest growing jurisdiction in all of North America, bar none, and what comes with the housing is infrastructure. We have to focus on infrastructure right across this country, no matter if it's the roads or the bridges, infrastructure in Ontario, the 413, the Bradford Bypass and

many other highways that we're building.

So, we look forward to partnering with all three levels of government.

Hon. Scott Moe: I would just add to that as well to explain a little bit of the discussion around the table that we had over the last day or two and including today. As it pertains to infrastructure and why we landed with calling for a First Ministers meeting dedicated to infrastructure, there's really three areas where infrastructure is vital. The first is community infrastructure, so how are we going to move forward with the ICIP Program, the Gas Tax Program, ensuring that there is enough flexibility for municipalities to address the needs that they have, wherever they may be in the nation, and those needs may be different from coast to coast to coast.

The second focus of infrastructure would be economic infrastructure, our ports, our corridors that are coming into those ports. The last 50 or 100 miles to the Port of Vancouver, for instance, does require investment and I think that's a broader conversation that we need to have with the federal government and all of those that are impacted by our various ports across the nation.

Last and certainly not least would be the competitiveness that we need to retain in this nation. We are in Canada now competing against the *Inflation Reduction Act*, for example, and we saw some announcements here just in the past couple weeks. In Ontario, there's investments in the critical minerals, the rare earth elements, the rare earth space as well across the country, and we need to ensure that we are investing in keeping our nation competitive with whatever that environment may be – and that environment has proven to change rather rapidly over the course of the last three years.

So, I think there needs to be flexibility in each those areas and to have a conversation at the First Ministers table on how are we going to fund those community infrastructure needs, those economic infrastructure needs that we have as well as ultimately keeping our economy competitive and keeping Canada competitive with whatever the situation is that we face.

Question : Bonjour. Thomas Laberge pour la *Presse canadienne*. Monsieur Legault, je reviens avec la question de Bombardier qui a dû être discutée aujourd'hui. Il y a eu un communiqué qui a été émis avec M. Ford. Est-ce qu'on comprend donc que le consensus que vous cherchiez lundi, vous n'avez pas réussi à l'obtenir?

L'hon. François Legault : D'abord, c'est important pour nous au Québec qu'on permette à Bombardier de déposer une offre. On ne demande pas de donner le contrat à Bombardier. On dit, avant de signer un contrat gré à gré avec Boeing, une compagnie américaine, on devrait laisser la chance à Bombardier de déposer une offre pour remplacer les avions chasseurs. Il y a des répercussions importantes au Canada. On

parle de 22 000 emplois dont 6 000 au Québec. Donc, de notre côté, on est très clair. Maintenant, je vais laisser les collègues répondre à vos questions.

Question : Sur la rencontre pour les infrastructures, vous demandez combien au gouvernement fédéral?

L'hon. François Legault : On n'est pas encore à l'étape de chiffrer nos demandes, mais je donnais l'exemple du Québec. Quand je suis arrivé, en 2018, on avait ce qu'on appelle un PQI, un Plan québécois des infrastructures sur 10 ans de 100 milliards \$. On l'a même maintenant fait passer à 150 milliards \$, donc une augmentation de 50 p. 100. Évidemment, ces montants viennent augmenter la dette du Québec. Donc, c'est important que le gouvernement fédéral participe davantage au financement des infrastructures, que ce soit en éducation, en santé, dans le transport, incluant le transport en commun et dans le logement. Ce qu'on voudrait, c'est d'avoir une rencontre, un peu comme on a eu sur la santé, avec le premier ministre du Canada pour qu'on puisse discuter ensemble de comment on répond à ces besoins qui sont vraiment énormes.

Question: Good afternoon, Premiers. What concrete solutions did you come up with in these meetings to deal with Canada's housing crisis?

Hon. Heather Stefanson: I will start off and I'll pass it off to some of my colleagues who I know will want to respond to this.

Certainly, we had a great discussion on all infrastructure needs today. We did have a discussion yesterday about housing specifically, but today was really focused on strategic and competitive infrastructure, things that will go towards growing our economy. But I can tell you, and what we need to do is have a First Ministers meeting to have those discussions with the Prime Minister and we'll continue to move in that direction.

I can tell you that those were the focus of today's meeting. Again, yesterday we did address housing as well, which is very, very important to all of us across the country. Of course, we have our own unique needs based on whatever jurisdiction that we come from, and so that's very important to all of us as well.

I don't know if anyone else wants to jump in. Go ahead David.

Hon. David Eby: Thanks Heather. One of the really important pieces about our infrastructure conversation today was when we talked about strategic infrastructure, we included community infrastructure. And that community infrastructure in British Columbia means that we are able to build more housing. And one of the big constraints we have economically in British Columbia is insufficient housing for the jobs that we have

available in the province.

Having a national strategy around infrastructure that includes things like community infrastructure as well as those pieces that we traditionally think of, the highways, the ports, the railways is so important.

The solution we really came to at the table is we need to have an integrated national approach to this essential infrastructure that's going to support pieces like housing. You can't hold one piece out without having conversations about all this infrastructure. And the provinces, we can get so far on our own without the federal partner at the table. We can put the strategies in place that work for our provinces, but we need that federal partner at the table as well, and that's what led to the call. It's related to housing, it's related to economic growth, it's related to energy security, infrastructure links, all these things and makes them possible. And that's why I'm really enthusiastic about this call to the First Ministers meeting that I certainly expect the Prime Minister will be receptive to, because it's in the national interest and it's certainly in our provincial interest.

The Moderator: Just a reminder to media, please state your name and the outlet.

Question: Hi. It's Kris Rushowy from the *Toronto Star*. My question is for Premier Ford. Toronto mayor Olivia Chow was sworn in today. She's already said that she's willing to take the province to court over Ontario Place. She's called the province and the federal government reluctant partners in funding for the City and I'm just wondering what you think of these comments and what you expect your working relationship with her to be like.

Hon. Doug Ford: The comments are disappointing. You know, already, her first comments are : we're going to court. Anyways, I work with anyone. I've proved I'll work with anyone. I have a great relationship with Andrea Horwath, the former NDP leader. I have a great relationship with Steven Del Duca. They both ran against me. And I just believe in working collaboratively together.

We need housing in Toronto, in the GTA and right across Ontario. We'll build the 1.5 million homes. That's what we should be focusing on; not necessarily Ontario Place, because on a level of 1 to 100, for people around our entire province, I'll tell you, they won't be talking about Ontario Place. They'll talk about affordability, how they can pay the bills, pay their mortgages. That's what's important to people, not only in Toronto, but across Ontario, and we have a very aggressive plan. We're building the largest transit project in North America, in Toronto, in the GTA, over \$30 billion, four lines. Let's just take the Ontario Line, which is one line alone, it will take 10 million 200,000 cars off the road throughout 365 days a year. So, that's what we're going to be focusing on, and hopefully she'll be open-minded and work collaboratively with us.

Question : Bonjour. Sébastien Desrosiers de Radio-Canada. Ma question est pour vous, Monsieur Legault. D'abord rapidement sur Bombardier, je comprends la demande que vous formulez, M. Ford et vous, mais qu'est-ce que vos collègues vous ont dit? Je comprends qu'ils ne sont pas nécessairement d'accord vous, ou en tout cas pas assez pour inclure cette question dans le communiqué final. Et justement, on a l'impression parfois que vos discussions se résument à une liste de demandes à Ottawa.

Donc, j'ai le goût de vous demander à quoi sert, selon vous, le Conseil de la fédération? Est-ce que c'est ça : toujours demander plus au gouvernement fédéral?

L'hon. François Legault : Je pense que sur beaucoup, beaucoup de sujets on s'entend sur les priorités. Comme aujourd'hui on dit, bien, la priorité, c'est vraiment les infrastructures, donc il y a un consensus.

Évidemment le dossier, pour certains et certaines – et je les laisserai répondre – est assez je dirais délicat, parce qu'il y a des emplois de Boeing dans certaines provinces, des emplois de Bombardier dans d'autres provinces. Mais je pense que notre demande est rationnelle. C'est de dire, bien, laissons toutes les entreprises, incluant Bombardier, déposer une proposition, et ce sera au gouvernement fédéral de regarder qui a le meilleur prix, qui a la meilleure qualité de produit, puis, regarder les rebombées dans les différentes provinces. Mais je peux comprendre, et je pense que tout le monde peut comprendre, que ceux qui ont des usines de Bombardier dans leur province, bien, ils ont peut-être un souhait différent de ceux ou celles qui ont une usine de Boeing dans leur province.

Question: Hi there. Jack Hauen from *The Trillium*. This is for Premier Ford. With the First Nations' led lawsuit over the Ring of Fire, and with Minister Wilkinson saying yesterday that there are much better areas to focus on for these types of projects, has your government overhyped what it can deliver on the Ring of Fire? And can you trust that the feds actually want this to happen?

Hon. Doug Ford: Minister Wilkinson sent us a letter committing to \$40 million to putting a committee together. So, I'm not too sure of his message the other day or yesterday, but once you get a letter and say you're going to put \$40 million into it, we'll have to have our folks talk to the PMO's office.

But, you know, the world is watching and we need to perform. Global investment is watching and we need to move forward with the Ring of Fire in cooperation with First Nations community. Again, the two First Nations community, Webequie and Marten Falls are doing the environmental assessment. This will bring prosperity and growth to communities right across the North and helping First Nations community, no matter if it's the road that we've committed over a billion dollars, to bring proper healthcare to these

communities, to bring proper energy to these communities. It's going to make their lives better. But I always believe in sitting down with all nine First Nations communities to discuss opportunities and profit-sharing that they will see directly into their community.

Question: Janyce McGregor from CBC. The Atlantic Premiers came into this meeting and writing with a demand for some kind of an offset from the federal government for the additional cost of clean fuel regulations and some of the other climate policies that have imposed a lot on consumers. I know other Premiers up and down the table from different regions had also expressed some support for that idea for various reasons, but I don't see in this communique a unified call for that offset from the federal government. It says you discussed it and you expressed some concerns, but there isn't sort of a specific ask to the federal government on that.

I'm wondering if I'm correct in interpreting that there wasn't unanimity then at the table on this point; and if not, why not, or if anyone can help make sure I understand the discussion correctly as it pertained to that?

Hon. Andrew Furey: I can speak to it quickly and then I'm sure the other Atlantic Premiers will want to weigh.

There are energy issues across all jurisdictions. When we speak as a unified voice, we would like to raise the conversation so that it is a Canadian approach and not necessarily just a regional approach. But there was a robust conversation amongst the Atlantic Premiers voicing our concerns with respect to the energy issues that we face on clean fuels. And if we can just dissect that for a second, you have the Carbon Tax, which is one issue, and the federal government is committed to giving that back to families and those in need. The clean fuels is a separate issue for Atlantic Canadians and there is no offsetting or mitigating strategies being proposed by the federal government to date. We made sure that that was recognized across the table. Everyone agreed that that had a significant impact on Atlantic Canada, a differential impact on Atlantic Canada, and my province three times as much as many of the other people who are sitting across the table today. But each of us had our own energy issues as we move through this time of transition. This one particular is specific to the region of Atlantic Canada, because of fuel security with respect to monopoly or duopoly, with respect to supply, which is why we have a regulated environment. And, as you've heard me say before, I think the policy, while conceptually perhaps sound in wanting to burn cleaner fuel was not nuanced enough to ensure that it didn't have punitive impacts to people in Atlantic Canada. And that, I think, that message was heard across all provinces, but we also, as a region, heard the other energy issues that are being faced with respect to electricity and greening of the grids across the...

So, we didn't want to pull that out as a specific provincial or regional issue, but it is embedded in there more broadly as an energy issue.

Hon. Dennis King: I guess I would follow up on that just to say that we will be meeting with the Federal Atlantic Canadian Ministers as the Council of the Atlantic Premiers in Moncton next week. This will certainly be on top of that agenda. We are trying to have a meeting with the Deputy Prime Minister. We're trying to negotiate the time when we can have that meeting. But I think this particular issue for Atlantic Canada is reflective of other issues that take place in other jurisdictions across the country, whether it's Alberta with their challenges around resources where we feel there's a disconnect in the conversations that we're having at the federal level.

You know, there always will be disagreements. There will always be things that we will be disappointed in when decisions are finally made. In this particular case, we don't feel it's been an unfair ask to delay the implementation of this until we understand the full impacts. And what we have, when it comes to clean fuels, is an interpretation of the rules and regulations that have been put in place by the federal government are now resulting in an increase at the pumps in Atlantic Canada where we're already paying some of the highest prices certainly in the country, but in our history. We have said to the federal Minister time and again this is what everyone is saying is going to happen, including the Parliamentary Budget Officer, the independent officer of Parliament who said this was going to happen, and some bureaucrats or some bureaucratic approach in Ottawa is interpreting it in different way saying this shouldn't happen, and now it's happened. And this, I think, is a frustration that all Premiers, over various levels, at different times, have felt with our challenge with trying to deal with the federal government on these issues.

These are important issues, pocketbook issues that are hurting Prince Edward Islanders, they're hurting Atlantic Canadians and we don't need to go down this road, because we have been willing partners in trying to come up with a cleaner, greener environment for all Canadians and all Atlantic Canadians. So, that's our frustration.

Question: Is anyone else up and down...

Hon. Blaine Higgs: Yes, thank you. I think that, you know, we've seen sort of the increases that we're having and inflation, we're seeing the impact that it's having across the country. And, as expressed by my colleagues, we're seeing certainly a greater impact in areas of Atlantic Canada and certainly in rural areas, and there doesn't seem to be any recognition of that, and it just came to be a pile-on of additional costs. And I'm wondering, well, why are we seeing inflation? Why are we seeing, you know, bank rates now continuing to climb to try to control that? Why are we seeing such a mitigating or an ongoing escalation of prices in every commodity? And so with kind of an ideology of moving towards a cleaner and greener environment, it's the practicality of living every day with those changes.

So, while it's exacerbated in Atlantic Canada, and that's the voice of myself and my

colleagues, it's a case of let's get some recognition for the impact this is having on everyday lives. We're all experiencing, as we've talked earlier, about housing increases. We're seeing demands in that regard that we haven't seen before in Atlantic Canada. It's a unique time, but it's a time to recognize the reality, and our voice is consistent in that reality in Atlantic Canada. It's real and we need the federal government to hear it.

Question: Anyone else?

Hon. Scott Moe: I would add in, just shortly as well, with respect to the fact of whether it's federal government or any of the folks, the provincial leaders, territorial leaders that are here today, Canadians in general, we have the same goal in mind. You know, whatever it is that we do produce, doing our daily lives, we're all looking to have a lower impact on the environment, in particular when it comes to the emissions that we are involved with in producing the products that we do and living our lives as we will. However, when you layer on policy after policy after policy, there's costs to those policies and they need to be realized and they're real and they're being felt by Canadians now. And we should most certainly have a broader discussion as to what those costs are, what is achievable ultimately and how we're going to get there in different areas of the nation. Because we're at different places, we have different needs in order for us to make the adjustments that we need to make over the course of the next while.

You know, the clean electricity regulations, for example, are another layer of costs that's coming. We've identified in Saskatchewan that that cost, which we can achieve, a net zero by 2035, but the cost to attempt to achieve it would be about an additional \$8 billion just in straining assets. And so, that's a cost that will show up to rate payers, largely to those that maybe are using electric heat, which are largely in our northern and indigenous communities.

So, there needs to be, I think, a broader consultation, a broader conversation with the federal government, not only on infrastructure, but the eventually on the layering of these policies, the effectiveness of these policies and maybe some back-and-forth on some provincial plans that are being put forward and ultimately how effective can they be. There's room for conversation around all of this, but there's also costs that we need to be discussing as well. The cost of what the largest energy, oil-producing province in this nation is facing as they look at carbon capture and storage on many of their projects is in the tens of billions. That cost is going to arrive either in a lack of competitiveness to one of the largest economic engine industries in this nation or it's going to land at the fuel pumps for each of us when we are going to fill up our own vehicles, or, and likely, is going to also land with continued inflationary pressures that we see for items, for example, at the grocery store.

Hon. Danielle Smith: The problem with the federal approach is it's all stick and no carrot. In the United States, it's the reverse. They want the investment in green

technology and they want to encourage businesses to do that, to create jobs and to grow. And I think that's what the statement says out of the Premiers here, is that, yes, we can meet green energy standards, we can meet emissions targets, but we have to have growing economies. The federal government has to step up and do its jobs, as opposed to keep on interfering in our jurisdictions to tell us how to do our job. Their job is to build economic corridors. Their job is to build ports. Their job is to give us new access through rail lines, through roadways and to build transmission lines and to build a pipeline so that we can get our products to market. Because if each one of us is able to get our products to market or our economy, then we have the means to be able to invest in the technologies that will allow us to reduce emissions. But if they continue piling on top of our consumers and piling on top of our businesses additional costs creating an affordability crisis and interfering with our ability to do those kinds of expansions and those kinds of expansions, we just end up with a downward spiral in the wrong direction.

So I think, what I was pleased to see out of this communique today is that everyone committed to things like Article 6. That's the Paris Accord section that Catherine McKenna negotiated when she was at the table to allow for us to use our technology to reduce emissions globally and our energy to reduce emissions globally and get credit back here. That's one of the ways in which we can reduce emissions, but still do it in a way that helps enhance our competitiveness and enhance our exports.

We're just trying to encourage the federal government to think a little bit more creatively about how we can have both. Norway has managed to figure out how to have both. The Americans have managed to figure out how to have both. We are just asking for them to understand that they have put us in a position of creating an enormous affordability crisis, because they keep on loading up cost after cost after cost and they're not doing the work that needs to be done to make sure that we've got access to markets.

Hon. Tim Houston: You're on an important topic because, as Atlantic Premiers, we've been trying to work with the federal government for quite sometime, saying that this would be harmful and it would be immediately harmful – and it was and is immediately harmful and it's hurting families.

So, you know, we shared the impact with our fellow Premiers. They're as broad as you can see from the response, they understand and have similar concerns. So, I would say that there was unanimous unanimity around the impact that it would have and how it's harmful. So, as Atlantic Premiers, you know, we want the federal government to also understand and we're not done trying. We'll try again next week with the Atlantic members of Parliaments and have a direct conversation with them in Moncton, because they should also see it from their own constituents. The question will be whether they have the courage to speak up about what they see and I hope they do.

Hon. Andrew Furey: I just want to make sure that it's not interpreted as some are trying to project it into a false dichotomy, either we subscribe to this or we don't believe in climate

change. That's not what we're saying as Atlantic Premiers. Certainly, we all want to do our part. For me, in a federation, this is a question of fairness and all of us doing our equal part. And so I don't want the argument to evolve into a simplistic one of this false dichotomy, which I think has been projected unfairly at times.

Hon. Caroline Cochrane: I think I would like to add to that and it kind of addresses back to the question that was asked earlier about what is the purpose of the Council of the Federation. You'll find in communiques that a lot of the provinces and territories will agree on items and then they'll have different examples of what their experience is in their own jurisdictions.

When we come to the Council of the Federation, it's finding the areas that we can all agree 100 percent on and speaking as one voice, bringing it to the federal government. Again, you know, for example, Carbon Tax in the South might be okay. It might be an initiative to get people off of diesel, dirty, moving to clean energy, but in the North it's a punishment for us because we have no options. There is nothing else except diesel. So, of course, what I'm saying is that you have to find common ground and to be able to speak as one voice.

The other reason for a Council of Federation is not only to look to attack the federal government. We're small jurisdictions in the North and so it's important for us that we work with other jurisdictions so that we can learn things from them, we can share some of their supports that they have, we can share our experiences.

I remember a few years back, all of the Premiers across the table, we worked on mental health and we were looking at best practices across the country. So, the purpose is because we are one as Canada and no jurisdiction should be isolated if we think of us as all Canadians.

I rely heavily on the Council of the Federation to be able to support my population.

Question: Good afternoon. Rosanna Hempel with Global Winnipeg, with a question for Premier Stefanson. Others are welcome to weigh in. The federal government is promising to review contract policing and the RCMP contract expiring in nine years. Are the provinces clear or concerned about what Ottawa intends to do when it comes to the role of the RCMP, especially when it comes to community policing?

Hon. Heather Stefanson: Yes, thank you for the question, because we did have a very good discussion about this, and I know some of my colleagues will want to weigh in on this.

We're very concerned, because there is no indication what the federal government's plan is moving forward with respect to the RCMP. And I can tell you, in some of our

jurisdictions, including here in Manitoba, the RCMP, we rely on the RCMP for delivering those services outside of Winnipeg. And so, it is concerning about what the future is.

The federal government is responsible for negotiating the contracts. We don't have a say in that, but the costs are escalating as well. And one of the other challenges that we identified is the vacancy rate which is significant certainly in Manitoba and other jurisdictions across the country. And so we want to make sure that they have, they're very clear about what their plan is moving forward with respect to policing. And they need to come forward sooner rather than later when it comes to that.

I don't know if any of my colleagues want to jump in there as well.

Hon. Danielle Smith: They do seem to send a mixed message about what they are committed to maintaining contract policing. And so it's left some provinces like ours where we are expanding on our sheriffs in anticipation that they may not want to continue expanding the service. And so, we're hopeful that they'll be a little bit more clear, because when you see all of the vacancies that we have – I was surprised to hear how significant they are in some of the other provinces – that almost looks as if the forces is being wound down just through attrition. And if that's not the intention, then they should be fairly clear about what it is. Because if it is their intention, then the provinces who do rely on RCMP have to develop other services, have to do more training, have to do more recruitment, and that takes time to do all of that.

So, I would just encourage the federal government to be quite clear about what it is that they have in mind. It was in Marco Mendicino's letter, but we haven't really had those open discussions, so we don't really know what the intentions of the federal government are.

Hon. David Eby: For British Columbia, you know, it was remarkable for me to hear from colleagues across the country, the level of vacancies that they are seeing in their RCMP forces as well and how it's impacting public safety, just like it is in British Columbia. We have officers that have to work extended shifts that are increasingly strained and stressed and then going off on leave making the problem worse. We don't see a clear path from the federal government about filling those vacancies. We have the largest RCMP contract force in Canada. There's a clear direction from the Prime Minister to his Public Safety Minister to start the conversation with Premiers. The contract as a whole is up in the early 2030s and we need to know which direction the federal government is going with contract policing, because the current situation is not sustainable for British Columbia. And one of the benefits of being around this table is I get to hear from other provinces and territories as well, and similar concerns coming from colleagues, and that's why it's in the communique as we need that clarity from the federal government.

Hon. Blaine Higgs: And I guess if I just add one other point to that, this is all happening

at a time where we're seeing an increase in crime rates across the country. So, it becomes even more critical to get clarity on not only the future of the RCMP, but on options that we collectively could have in each province. So, the timing is important to get a decision.

Question: Lindsay Gueï, Radio-Canada. My question is for the Premier of Manitoba. What's your plan to improve the competitiveness and to fight against inflation here in Manitoba and also in Saskatchewan?

Hon. Heather Stefanson: Thanks very much. My focus and our focus, as a government, has been on making Manitoba competitive across the country. That's why I've set up an advisory group to advise us on that. But I can tell you, you know, we're already, through our clean green hydroelectric power attracting businesses to Manitoba that would never have normally looked at us before. Given the situation that's happening around the world, we are in a unique position here to be able to attract those businesses.

So, we will continue to put in place, making sure Manitoba is competitive not just across the country but around the world and also ensuring that we find a way to get our goods to market, which is why we are calling for this First Ministers meeting with the Prime Minister to ensure we can sit down and talk about what it means for a national trade corridor infrastructure strategy. And that's going to be absolutely critical moving forward, making sure that we can get our goods to market.

We've gone from being, I think, 10th in the world to no. 32 or 38 or something. It's significant and we need to make sure that we're putting that valuable infrastructure in place to get us back not just to 10, but hopefully higher than that. And so that's really our vision, our strategy in Manitoba to make sure that we're competitive with other jurisdictions.

Question: And about inflation, to fight against inflation?

Hon. Heather Stefanson: The fight against inflation, yes. Again, that's all about being competitive as well. We know that the inflationary pressures are very significant on Manitobans. It's not unique to Manitoba. Others may want to comment on this as well, but we did put various plans in place in the short term to make life more affordable for Manitobans, but we also have looked at making sure that our taxation is competitive across the country. We simply had fallen very far behind there and we want to ensure that we're making an environment in Manitoba that's conducive to growing our economy. We know if we're growing our economy, that's better for not only to provide better support in a way of healthcare, education and social services, but it also makes life more affordable for Manitobans.

Question: Jeff Keele, CTV Winnipeg. I'll start with you, Premier Stefanson, and anybody else who wants to weigh in. What's the message today to nervous homeowners with the variable rates or people trying to get into the market, now that the day of dread is here, as we heard yesterday, with the rate hike again today? What do you want to say to those owners? What can the Premiers do to provinces? What can the federal government do to help people with mortgages or trying to get into the market?

Hon. Heather Stefanson: Really important question, Jeff, and thanks for it. You know, we did have a robust conversation around this. Inflationary pressures are significant out there. And so again, it's about making life more affordable for people in all of our jurisdictions. And so I think I've sort of answered that question already, but those are the things. We need to be competitive with other jurisdictions and competitive outside of that as well. It's all about making life more affordable for Manitobans. That's why we're putting the various things in place that I mentioned earlier, and that's going to be so important to Manitobans moving forward.

I don't know if there's anyone else who want to...

Hon. Caroline Cochrane: I think this is an important topic and I think that all of us are experiencing that. I have children, I have grandchildren and I am worried about them getting into having their own home: 1) because it's important to be able to support your family to have a house over your head; 2) is because I kind of want them to leave my house eventually – but I love my children.

[laughs]

The reality is that I'm real excited about the announcement for housing money coming to the jurisdictions. And in every program, I've always thought it's important to have flexibility. If we are talking about housing money, speaking for the Northwest Territories, it's not only about building houses; it's actually about making the houses affordable.

So, we're looking internally about how we can help within our own to do first-time mortgages for lower-income families, those kinds of programs so that we can support.

I mean, people that are around my age knew that, you know, having a home is the most important thing and it was accessible, but we have people that are like in their 30s now that are struggling. So, we have an obligation, in my opinion, as jurisdictions, to make sure that we have flexible programs so that can help our youth or older people to enter into the home ownership, because my father taught me when I was young, when you have a roof over your head, you will be okay. And I'm over 60 and I still hold that dear to my heart.

Hon. Doug Ford: You know, we always look at affordability. Just to go on record, I'm not in favour of these high rates. I'm just not. I understand what they're doing, trying to knock down inflation, but what's the ramification of this when these people have to renew their mortgages and they can't afford it? This isn't good for the country.

What we're doing in Ontario, we're taking the burden of... Let's say as simple as a license registration sticker, you know, taking that off the backs of the people of Ontario; reducing the gas tax by \$0.10 – and I just wish the federal government could reduce their fair share of tax, give people some relief, taking tolls off the road in Ontario. But one of the greatest things that we've done is create economic prosperity. I always say government doesn't create jobs, we create the environment and the conditions for companies to come here and thrive and prosper and grow, and that's exactly what we've done.

You heard the job numbers that came out in June. There were 60,000 jobs created in Canada; 56,000 of them, 93 percent were created in Ontario. And I always say what's good for Ontario, there are reciprocal jobs right across the province when Ontario is doing well.

We've seen over \$25 billion of investment in the auto sector over two and a half years; in life sciences, \$3 billion. And again, this is good for all the provinces. But to just continue to raise the interest rates, people cannot afford it. I understand about bringing down inflation, but what are you missing? The burden and the cost and the pressure and the anxiety they're putting on these families, that's the problem.

But we're going to continue focusing on economic growth and prosperity in Ontario and were going to reduce as much burden of tax off the backs of people. I just wish the federal government would follow suit. Imagine if they took off \$0.10 a liter. That goes a long way. That's what reduces inflation.

A lot of inflation, yes, it's spending, but it also comes down to energy cost and fuel cost, and that's probably 30 percent of inflation. If we can get back – and people remember, it wasn't too long ago, we were at a \$1.10, \$1.20 a liter. Now, I'm here, I'm driving around, I see \$1.59, \$1.60, same in Ontario. That adds burden, that adds pressure to families.

I can assure you, in Ontario and the people of Ontario, I'm going to do everything I can to reduce the burden and the costs off the backs of the hard-working people of Ontario and create economic prosperity and growth.

Hon. David Eby: For British Columbia, it's very similar to Ontario. You know, this is devastating news for families that have debt. They borrowed money for various reasons to get through. A lot of businesses in British Columbia borrowed money to get through the pandemic. They're struggling under the weight of that debt. And you really do have to wonder when the Bank of Canada is going to take a pause and see what the impact of

this is going to be. We haven't seen the full impact yet. People have not renewed their mortgages yet. The businesses that are struggling under debt have not starting going under yet, but they will. Those jobs will be lost. And it won't just be in British Columbia, it will be across the country.

The long-term strategy to addressing inflation, in my opinion, is high quality infrastructure that gets our exports out to global market and gets our imports in with a minimum amount of friction so it's cheaper for British Columbians and all Canadians. And again, it just underlines how important it is that the federal government is focused on this. The Premiers are all focused on it. That is our call today, to sit down and get that infrastructure built so we're more prosperous as a nation, so that there's reduced friction, reduced cost added by transporting things across our country, our big country. It's very expensive to move things around; and that we're not reliant on this one tool to reduce inflation that is paid for by the most vulnerable families and the businesses that are really struggling. It's a very difficult day for all of us to hear that news, because we know how it plays out in our provinces. And frankly, I don't believe in solutions that come at the expense of the poorest people.

Question: Hi. Carol Sanders, *Winnipeg Free Press*, last but not least. My question is for Premier Stefanson, but I'm hoping that maybe some of your colleagues might be able to weigh in as well. My question is: the landfill blockade here in Winnipeg has overshadowed the COF meeting in Manitoba. I'm just wondering now, do you have any regrets about the way your government handled the decision not to support a search of the landfill for the remains of the murdered indigenous women? Do you think this will impact reconciliation going forward? And do any of your colleagues support taxpayer dollars going to such a search that may cost as much as \$184 million and may take up to three years and may not yield any results?

Hon. Heather Stefanson: Thank you, Carol. Listen, my heart goes out to the families. It's a horrific situation that they are facing right now. But, you know, I'm also the Premier and we have to make what are difficult decisions, and these are decisions that need to be made, and I continue to stand by the decision that has been made. And so, I really have nothing more to add.

As a Council of Federation, we add great meetings over the last couple of days, great deliberations on important issues for people right across our country. Things like today, I mean, growing our economy, making sure that we're making life more affordable for people in our country, these are the issues. You know, calling on the Prime Minister to call for a First Ministers meeting to discuss important issues around trade corridor infrastructures and making sure that we have a strategy across this country to get our goods to market. You know, these are the things that we have been discussing over the course of the last couple of days, the issues that are important to all Canadians as well.

The Moderator: We will now take questions from media on the phone line. When called upon, I ask that you please state your name, your outlet and direct your question to one Premier.

As a reminder, you may press *1 at any time to join the queue to ask your question. You will be limited to one question only.

I would also ask that you please make sure that your phone is not on mute. You will not be audible until your name is called.

Today's first question is from Dirk Meissner, *Canadian Press*.

Question: Hi. My question is to Premier Eby. Premier Eby, has the ongoing strike at the ports in British Columbia damaged B.C. and Canada's reputation as a reliable location to import and export goods?

Hon. David Eby: Thanks, Dirk, for the question. There was a lot of conversation about the port strike among the Premiers. You know, I was speaking with Premier Moe about the impact on potash. I was speaking with Premier Smith about the impact on Alberta and every single province see some kind of impact from the strike. And one of the lines that stuck with me was, you know, this isn't just the Port of Vancouver, it's the port of Saskatchewan, it's the port of Alberta, it's the port of Manitoba. So, it's a critically important infrastructure for Canadians, for people who go to work in industries where those goods are exported globally.

In British Columbia, we know the port workers as well, and they saw record profits from the shipping industry during the pandemic and they are seeing rising costs just like every other British Columbian is seeing. Those workers need to be treated fairly. And the issue at the Port cannot drag on, because it has a profoundly damaging impact across the country on workers that are also trying to feed their families right now. So, there's huge urgency.

I'm very glad to see the federal government being actively involved at the table to get a lasting solution between the workers and the employer. And what threatens to damage our international reputation is failure for the provinces and the federal government to be working together on a strategic infrastructure plan to get those goods to global markets that we produce here in Canada and to get imports into our country in a way that reduces cost for Canadians. And that's why that is front in mind for us, that's the no. 1 for us from today's discussion is we have to move forward on this.

Provinces are moving forward independently of the federal government on this, but it will not be as effective as it will be if we're all at the table together. The urgency is certainly illustrated by the strike at the Port. It's illustrated by the fact that the Port itself was ranked second lowest internationally for its ability to deliver. These are problematic

things, but even worse is the possibility that we're not all sitting at the table to address these very serious and ongoing issues. That's why it's our no. 1 one call, it's our main call at this table for the First Ministers meetings on this, and this is something that has an impact across the country.

Hon. Scott Moe: I would just maybe add to the impact of the Port, far beyond the borders of British Columbia or the city of Vancouver, and it is a port for all Canadians. But in Saskatchewan, about 40 percent of our product goes through the Port of Vancouver. About 20 percent of the product that goes through the Port of Vancouver comes from the province of Saskatchewan.

Specific to the situation that is going on there right now, credit to Minister O'Regan who has been out on the ground, has made mediators available. And I was pleased to see his comments this morning that the gulf of conversation is really not wide enough to warrant a long-term shutdown of this port. So credit to Minister O'Regan for being on the ground and involved in those discussions. The best agreements obviously come at the bargaining table and we would encourage everyone to stay at the table and maybe even go back and allow the products to flow, because we're starting to see those impacts in Saskatchewan. Our potash companies are curtailing some of their production and so those impacts do spread across Canada.

You know, herein lies, you know, another conversation. Saskatchewan is the largest – I'll use potash as an example –, we're the largest potash exporter in the world. We also produce the cleanest potash that you can find on earth. It has 50 percent lower greenhouse gas emissions on a per-ton basis than our competitors, who are Russia and Belarus. And today, it might be easier for you to get a ton of Russian potash fertilizer than it is to get a ton of Saskatchewan potash fertilizer. And so the impacts are much broader than what's happening just at the port there.

Credit to Minister O'Regan for being personally involved. And again, I just encourage all involved to find a resolution to it for the betterment of not only yourselves, not only the operations that you're working with, but to the betterment of all Canadians.

And I would just close with agreeing with Premier Eby with respect to, this is why that conversation is so fundamentally important about Canadian infrastructure, for our municipalities, for our communities, to enhance our economic opportunities and ultimately to ensure that we remain competitive in the environment that we are operating in. And it is paramount for us to sit down as the subnational leaders across the nation with our national government to map out what a national infrastructure priority and investment plan is going to look like.

Hon. Danielle Smith: I will just add, pile along there, in also thanking the Minister for being on the ground with his mediation team. With any luck, it looks like it could be wrapped up in 48 hours. And I'm pleased to see that he has seen that there's now no

longer enough of a gulf between what labour and what management want to justify the extreme disruption that this is causing.

I would just point out that the Port of Montreal strike was seen to be such an enormous impact to the economies of Ontario and Quebec that they were back within a day. It's been 12 days and it's over \$700 million per day that's disrupted. It's not just the products that were just mentioned here, curtailment of potash and mining and our energy products, but also the severe harm being caused to those who are trying to export perishable goods, pork and fresh fruits and other products like that. When we see a 12-day disruption, it's going to take, I'm told, two to five times as long for us to be able to not only clear that backlog, but get those chains operating back to normal.

When you have that kind of disruption, then you can start potentially losing international customers. It's an enormous problem and I wish that it had been dealt with slightly more urgency, but I hope we all recognize that there is an urgency now and we're going to continue to hope that it does get resolved. But this is incumbent on the federal government. They are responsible for ports under the Constitution and they do have to make sure that they're understanding that these kinds of jobs are essential. We need more ports. They need to be more proactive in ensuring these kinds of disruptions don't happen again.

The Moderator: And that's all the time we have today.

C'est tout le temps dont nous disposons aujourd'hui.

Thank you for joining us.

Merci de vous adjoints à nous.

Sources say Justin Trudeau wants to transform the RCMP. Will he turn the Mounties into Canada's version of FBI agents?

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Sources say Justin Trudeau wants to transform the RCMP. Will he turn the Mounties into Canada's version of FBI agents?

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By Tonda MacCharlesOttawa Bureau Chief
Mon., July 17, 2023timer7 min. read
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Hey there,
In this Toronto Star story about the RCMP it says all provinces have submitted to Ottawa already their vision for the future of policing:

Copyright

Could I get a copy of BC's submission please?
Thanks,

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

m: 250-893-0841
e: rshaw@cheknews.ca | @robshaw_bc

www.cheknews.ca

RE: Draft Statement

From: Smith, George PREM:EX
To: Snoddon, Michael PSSG:EX <Michael.Snoddon@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: July 17, 2023 1:42:00 PM PDT
Further edit

From: Snoddon, Michael PSSG:EX <Michael.Snoddon@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2023 12:26 PM
To: Smith, George PREM:EX <George.Smith@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Snoddon, Michael PSSG:EX <Michael.Snoddon@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Draft Statement

Without having any details from the Ministry yet, here is what I have crafted up:

- On May, xx, staff from Public Safety Canada met with officials from the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General to discuss items raised in a recent federal-provincial-territorial meeting.
- This type of follow-up after these meetings is common to discuss shared priorities and to find solutions to be working together.
- BC has often raised the long-standing vacancy issue with the RCMP with our federal counterparts in these meetings.
- I recognize that Minister Mendicino has a mandate from the Prime Minister to review the future of the RCMP, but we do not believe that the above meeting constitutes a formal consultation by the federal government.
- s.13
- My office has reached out to the Federal government to convey our significant interest in participating in formal discussions and we have expressed that this should be a topic of discussion at the next federal-provincial-territorial meetings in October.

RE: rcmp q

From: Haslam, David GCPE:EX <David.Haslam@gov.bc.ca>
To: XT:Shaw, Rob GCPE:IN <rshaw@cheknews.ca>, Donnelly, Chris R GCPE:EX <Chris.R.Donnelly@gov.bc.ca>, Smith, George PREM:EX <George.Smith@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: July 17, 2023 2:11:39 PM PDT

Rob. Here's a statement from MMF. You're the first to get it:

On June 1 and 2, staff from Public Safety Canada met with officials from the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General to discuss items raised in a recent federal-provincial-territorial meeting.

These items included: the current contract held with the RCMP for contract policing, staffing challenges, federal policing limitations and the report of BC's Special Committee on the Reform of the Police Act.

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From: Rob Shaw <rshaw@cheknews.ca>

Sent: Monday, July 17, 2023 12:59 PM

To: Haslam, David GCPE:EX <David.Haslam@gov.bc.ca>; Donnelly, Chris R GCPE:EX <Chris.R.Donnelly@gov.bc.ca>; Smith, George PREM:EX <George.Smith@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: rcmp q

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CHEK logo

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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

RE: Approved Statement: Toronto Star

From: Smith, George PREM:EX
To: Haslam, David GCPE:EX <David.Haslam@gov.bc.ca>, Snoddon, Michael PSSG:EX <Michael.Snoddon@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Olson, Michael GCPE:EX <Michael.Olson@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: July 17, 2023 2:12:50 PM PDT

Great. Can we give him a bit of time with it and then send to other media interested? Like Baldrey and those who asked during the presser?

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Sent: Monday, July 17, 2023 2:12 PM
To: Snoddon, Michael PSSG:EX <Michael.Snoddon@gov.bc.ca>; Smith, George PREM:EX <George.Smith@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Olson, Michael GCPE:EX <Michael.Olson@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Approved Statement: Toronto Star

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To: Haslam, David GCPE:EX <David.Haslam@gov.bc.ca>; Smith, George PREM:EX <George.Smith@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Olson, Michael GCPE:EX <Michael.Olson@gov.bc.ca>
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Sent: July 17, 2023 2:23:13 PM PDT

Rob. Apologies. Minor edit to the name of the committee in red:

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Cc: Olson, Michael GCPE:EX <Michael.Olson@gov.bc.ca>, Donnelly, Chris R GCPE:EX <Chris.R.Donnelly@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: July 17, 2023 2:24:22 PM PDT

Fyi – PSB corrected the name of the committee in red below. I've flagged for Rob:

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From: Haslam, David GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2023 2:21 PM
To: Smith, George PREM:EX <George.Smith@gov.bc.ca>; Snoddon, Michael PSSG:EX <Michael.Snoddon@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Olson, Michael GCPE:EX <Michael.Olson@gov.bc.ca>; Donnelly, Chris R GCPE:EX <Chris.R.Donnelly@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Approved Statement: Toronto Star

Yes. He can have it until 3 pm.

From: Smith, George PREM:EX <George.Smith@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2023 2:13 PM
To: Haslam, David GCPE:EX <David.Haslam@gov.bc.ca>; Snoddon, Michael PSSG:EX <Michael.Snoddon@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Olson, Michael GCPE:EX <Michael.Olson@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Approved Statement: Toronto Star

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To: Snoddon, Michael PSSG:EX <Michael.Snoddon@gov.bc.ca>; Smith, George PREM:EX <George.Smith@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Olson, Michael GCPE:EX <Michael.Olson@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Approved Statement: Toronto Star

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Sent: Monday, July 17, 2023 2:07 PM
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Sent: July 17, 2023 4:18:39 PM PDT

k

From: Smith, George PREM:EX <George.Smith@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2023 4:01 PM
To: Haslam, David GCPE:EX <David.Haslam@gov.bc.ca>; Snoddon, Michael PSSG:EX <Michael.Snoddon@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Olson, Michael GCPE:EX <Michael.Olson@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Approved Statement: Toronto Star

Please at least send to CBC (Meera) and to CTV (Penny)

From: Haslam, David GCPE:EX <David.Haslam@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2023 3:42 PM
To: Smith, George PREM:EX <George.Smith@gov.bc.ca>; Snoddon, Michael PSSG:EX <Michael.Snoddon@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Olson, Michael GCPE:EX <Michael.Olson@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Re: Approved Statement: Toronto Star

Baldrey has it. We reviewed presser. He was the only one asking.

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To: Haslam, David GCPE:EX <David.Haslam@gov.bc.ca>; Snoddon, Michael PSSG:EX <Michael.Snoddon@gov.bc.ca>
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CONFIDENTIAL – ADVICE TO THE PREMIER

PUBLIC SAFETY

PREPARED FOR: Premier David Eby

MEETING: Council of the Federation Summer Meeting 2023

SUGGESTED MESSAGES:

s.13; s.16

RCMP Resources

- Policing is a key component of public safety. It is essential that chronic RCMP staff shortages in the Provincial Police Service (RCMP) in provincial jurisdictions, most notably in rural and northern communities and specialized units, be addressed; and that this be done in a manner that does not negatively affect other police services.

s.13; s.16

CONFIDENTIAL – ADVICE TO THE PREMIER

s.13; s.16

BACKGROUND:

s.13; s.16

CONFIDENTIAL – ADVICE TO THE PREMIER

s.13; s.16

RCMP Resources

Overall, contract partners recognize the mutual benefit of contract policing, including mutual aid/resources to respond to emergencies. However, growing concerns from contract partners regarding vacancy and recruitment challenges, oversight and governance, and the rising cost of policing are issues that must be contemplated as partners examine the future of policing in their respective jurisdictions.

Provinces and territories continue to press the federal government to work with all concerned jurisdictions and contract partners, including Indigenous communities and municipalities, to address chronic RCMP staffing shortages affecting federal, provincial, municipal and Indigenous policing across Canada.

Indigenous communities face distinct public safety challenges, and B.C. supports the call for increased federal resources towards the stabilization and expansion of the First Nations and Inuit Policing Program and other Indigenous-led community safety initiatives.

s.13; s.16

CONFIDENTIAL – ADVICE TO THE PREMIER

s.13; s.16

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s.13; s.16

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s.13; s.16