



Briefing Note Advice to Minister

Date: November 30, 2017

Cliff #: 31862

Issue: BC School Sports Student Eligibility Policies

Background / Facts:

- The Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture (MTAC) received a complaint about BC School Sports' (BCSS) student-athlete transfer policies.
- BCSS is an independent, not-for-profit organization that is made up of 463 member schools and is governed by an independent Board of Directors.
- BCSS is not funded by MTAC, but it does receive \$200,000 annually from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing through the Community Gaming Grants program.

Transfer policies and appeal processes

- Transfer policies are established to protect the competitive balance of the league or regional competition, and are agreed to by each member school in the association.
- Student athletes are tied to a school on the first day of Grade 9. If an athlete transfers to a new school after this date they are ineligible to compete in any sports they played in the previous 12 months for a period of one year, unless the student receives an exemption.
- Exemptions can include: change of primary residence, parent-to-parent move, bonafide academic transfer, or financial hardship.
- There are two levels of BCSS appeals if its member school believes that there are extraordinary circumstances regarding the eligibility status of a student:
 - 1) an eligibility application to a BCSS Eligibility Officer; and,
 - 2) an appeal to the Eligibility Appeals Committee (Committee).
- The Committee meets nine times a year and can uphold the ruling of the Eligibility Officer, replace the ruling, or grant an exception to the rule.
- This specific situation was evaluated in both levels of BCSS's appeal process. The initial exemption request was denied by the eligibility officer, which was appealed. The Committee denied the appeal.

Analysis:

- No British Columbia Ministry has authority to intervene in decisions made by the independent BC School Sports.
- Ministry of Education staff who also reviewed this issue agree with this assessment.
- BCSS receives 1,000 to 1,200 transfer applications each year.
- BCSS did not provide the Ministry with the number of appeals the BCSS receives each year, nor the results from their appeal process as they are an independent association.

Conclusion / Next Steps:

- Jordan Abney, Executive Director, BC School Sports, is meeting with Education Minister Rob Fleming, December 4, 2017 and offered to provide general eligibility information to the Minister and staff.

Contact: Sandra Carroll, Deputy Minister, 250 952-0103
Dean Sekyer, Executive Lead, 778 698-8777



Information Note Advice to Minister

Date: November 28, 2017

Cliff #: 31320

Issue: Provincial Tourism Strategy: Next Steps

Background / Facts:

- Tourism is a key sector of the provincial economy and B.C.'s tourism industry continues to show growth in revenues, employment, wages and number of visitors.
- The Ministry of Tourism, Arts & Culture (TAC) has primary responsibility for tourism policy and provincial programs, including oversight of Destination BC (DBC).
- The Province invests more than \$100 million annually in the tourism industry to grow and market the sector.

Analysis:

- The current provincial tourism strategy, *Gaining the Edge: 2015-2018* (GTE), is set to expire in 2018. Work is underway on a new strategy that will focus on government tourism priorities and include sports, arts, culture and multiculturalism elements.
- The new proposed strategy will seek to advance the Minister's Mandate Letter accountabilities and government commitments, specifically:
 - The Minister's two tourism related Mandate Letter commitments (job creation and marketing, trade mission representation) will serve as the heart of the strategy.
 - Partner ministry commitments with tourism impacts (grizzly hunting, ride-sharing, small business tax rate, etc.) will provide government-wide scope for the strategy.
- TAC and cross-government commitments will be reflected in a variety of strategic themes such as sustainability, cross-government collaboration, marketing and visitor attraction, destination development and Indigenous tourism (s.13).
- It is proposed that the new strategy reflect government's commitment to tourism, detail achievements, and highlight new distinct elements.
- Diverse communication media (social marketing, videos, etc.) will be explored to support the strategy so that it no longer sits as a static PDF on a ministry website. The strategy will remain flexible and offer the Minister opportunities to report success in real time. If this approach had already been in place, the Minister would have been able to promote more than 30 tourism-related successes since July 2017 under the strategy.

Next Steps:

- s.13

Attachments: Appendix 1: s.13
Appendix 2:

Contact: Asha Bhat, Executive Director (250 387-0130)

Appendix One: s.13

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s.13

Appendix Two: s.13

s.13



Decision Note Advice to Minister

Date: January 3, 2018

Cliff #: 32005

Issue: Minister's Council on Tourism (MCOT) Status: Member Term Expirations

Background / Facts:

- MCOT was established in 2009 to advise the Minister responsible for tourism regarding strategic policy issues, the identification of opportunities and barriers, and to provide leadership in implementing industry initiatives related to policy goals (see Appendix 1: Council Terms of Reference).
- The Council provided feedback to the Ministry and a forum for other government agencies and private industry representatives to present issues for discussion.
- Membership is primarily from the alpine ski tourism sub sector.
- Of the eleven members presently serving, the terms of five members expired on December 31, 2017 (see Appendix 2, MCOT Membership Table with term expiry dates and abbreviated biographies attached).
- The Council last met on February 8, 2017, and appointments are by ministerial letter.

Analysis:

- While having served its purpose, the Council's shortcomings may present the Ministry with an opportunity to align a new advisory body with new Government priorities by addressing:
 - balanced membership representation from the private, public, and not-for-profit sectors;
 - balanced representation from British Columbia's regions; and
 - balanced representation from tourism industry sub-sectors.
- s.13

Recommendation / Next Steps:

s.13

Pros

s.13

Cons

s.13

Next Steps

- The Minister considers sending the attached draft letters to Council members.

(Appendix 3 and Appendix 4 correspond to letters for expiring and continuing members and have been prepared with advice from Corporate Planning and Priorities staff.)

- s.13

Other Options:

s.13

Pros

s.13

Cons

s.13

s.13

Pros

s.13

Cons

s.13

Recommendation: Approved / Not Approved



Honourable Lisa Beare

January 17, 2018

Date

Attachment(s): MCOT Terms of Reference; MCOT Membership Table and Abbreviated Bios;
Suggested Draft Ministerial Letters to MCOT members

Contact: Claire Avison, ADM, Tourism and Creative Sectors Tel, 250 217-9059



Minister's Council on Tourism (MCOT)

Terms of Reference

October 2013 (Revised from March 2010)

INTRODUCTION

The Minister's Council on Tourism (MCOT) is an industry advisory mechanism to inform the Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training and the Minister of State for Tourism and Small Business on a wide variety of strategic policy issues and tourism matters.

VISION

MCOT will provide the Ministers with a forum to seek advice on strategic tourism policy issues and to consult on emerging industry issues and opportunities with well respected, industry experts. Advice will be provided in a manner that reflects the views of the tourism industry and is in support of the province's tourism strategy "*Gaining the Edge*", and the government's goal to increase British Columbia's tourism industry revenues to \$18 billion by 2016.

OBJECTIVES

MCOT is an advisory committee to the Minister and Minister of State. It is a discussion forum. The specific objectives of MCOT are:

- To provide authoritative, timely, focused, reliable information and strategic advice to the Minister and Minister of State on a full range of issues of interest to the tourism industry, with a focus on the sector's policy priorities and needs (and not on issues like marketing).
- To identify strengths and weaknesses in the industry, including emerging tourism issues and industry opportunities.
- To assist in increasing the understanding of the value of tourism, including the relationship to other industry sectors and their impact on tourism within British Columbia.
- To provide leadership in implementing industry-led components of policy goals.

FUNDING

The Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training will cover the MCOT administration, travel and meeting costs.

COUNCIL STRUCTURE AND OPERATION

Structure

MCOT is not a formally constituted entity of and unto itself but, rather, a tourism advisory body to the Minister.

Legislative Authority

The Minister has the right to appoint or remove members at his/her discretion if circumstances require such action.

While the MCOT may provide recommendations to senior government staff through the Minister, it does not have authority to direct the activities of government ministries, agencies or their employees.

Membership

The MCOT will be comprised of up to fifteen (15) members representing private sector tourism interests. Candidates for appointment will be considered based on their:

- Current and historical contributions to the success of the tourism industry;
- Willingness to commit time and energy to the MCOT;
- Willingness and ability to set aside personal or special interests in organizations/associations in favour of the MCOT's vision and objectives.

Members appointed to the MCOT by the Minister may include individuals representative of industry and/or industry Associations, with a preference for individuals in private sector tourism businesses;

The Minister will appoint one non-government member of the MCOT to serve as the independent Chair. A vice chair will be appointed, to serve as chair in the event that the chair is unable to fulfill his/her responsibilities.

Appointment Process

The Ministers will make all decisions about individuals to be invited and appointed to the MCOT.

Term of Appointment

The term of appointment for MCOT Members will normally be two years, although shorter or longer terms may be established so that membership changes are staggered. All re-appointments will be made at the discretion of the Minister.

Members failing to attend two meetings of the MCOT in any twelve month period without prior notification to and agreement of the Chair will be deemed to have resigned their positions. Members failing to participate in meetings or who partially attend meetings may be asked to resign by the Chair.

Responsibilities of the Chair

The MCOT Chair will be appointed by the Ministers and will be responsible for:

- Providing leadership to MCOT in undertaking its functions.
- Convening MCOT meetings, including helping to set agendas, reviewing meeting papers, chairing meetings and reviewing draft minutes.
- Reporting (as needed) on MCOT progress and outcomes to the Ministers.
- Undertaking communications activities to support and enhance MCOT functions, including engaging and obtaining commitments from industry stakeholders where appropriate.
- Liaising with Council members on matters relating to MCOT business.

The scope of these functions will be determined in discussions between the Chair and the Ministers.

Responsibilities of Members

The responsibilities of MCOT members include:

- Attending all possible meetings of the Council (alternates are not permitted).
- Preparing for meetings by reading materials, giving consideration to the implications of the matters to be discussed, and actively engaging in discussions.
- Engaging in collaborative, consensus building discussions and being able to set aside personal or special interests in organizations/associations in favour of MCOT's vision and objectives.

Minister's Council on Tourism Secretariat

The JTSTL Tourism Branch will provide secretariat services in support of MCOT. These services will include hosting meetings, assisting the Chair in the development of the meeting agendas, and the preparation and dissemination of meeting papers/materials.

The Ministry will be the usual point of contact for MCOT matters and will also have responsibility for all communications with the media. The contact details for the secretariat are:

Minister's Council on Tourism Secretariat
c/o Tourism Branch
Attention: Jennifer Davis, Executive Director
Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training (and Labour)
3 - 1803 Douglas Street
PO Box 9830 STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC V8T 5C3

Meetings

MCOT meetings will typically be scheduled for a half-day duration (2 – 4 hours) and be held at least quarterly (four per year). These meetings will normally be held in Victoria or Vancouver.

The meeting agenda will be developed by the MCOT Secretariat, following direction from the Minister and Minister of State on items warranting discussion, and also using advice from the MCOT Chair on items that MCOT members request to be tabled.

Members will be provided with meeting papers as prepared by the MCOT Secretariat. Other papers from members will be encouraged, to be contributed through the Chair and the Secretariat. Late papers may be discussed at meetings at the discretion of the Chair.

EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT INFORMATION

Membership on the Council will be undertaken on a voluntary basis, but all appropriate expenses will be reimbursed. In recognition of the time commitment required of the Chair, an annual fee/honorarium will be provided, in accordance with current provincial government policy.

Actual and reasonable travel expenses for members who attend meetings or undertake MCOT business approved by the Chair will be reimbursed by JTSTL in accordance with government policy and upon submission of receipts to the Secretariat. As the meetings will normally be held in Victoria or Vancouver during business hours, expenses will typically be limited to economy airfares, taxi fares and accommodation for regional members. Should meetings be held outside Victoria or Vancouver, other arrangements based on actual and reasonable expenses will be established.

Claims may be made to:

Minister's Council on Tourism Secretariat
c/o Tourism Branch
Attention: Jennifer Davis, Executive Director
Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training (and Labour)
3 - 1803 Douglas Street
PO Box 9830 STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC V8T 5C3

DN 32005 APPENDIX 2

Minister's Council on Tourism: Members, Appointment Terms and Abbreviated Bios*

Member Name	Title and Organization	Appointment Term End Date
Darcy Alexander	Vice-President and GM, Sun Peaks Resort, Kamloops	Dec. 31, 2017
<i>Bio</i>	<i>Background in ski and golf resorts management and varied ski and golf association and tourism board memberships.</i>	
Stuart McLaughlin	President, Grouse Mountain Resorts, Vancouver	Dec. 31, 2017
<i>Bio</i>	<i>Background in ski resort executive positions and board memberships in Tourism Vancouver, Tourism BC, PavCo and various industry associations.</i>	
Anne Murray	Vice-President, Marketing, Vancouver Airport Authority	Dec. 31, 2017
<i>Bio</i>	<i>Background includes extensive academic, community and government relations work.</i>	
John O'Neill	President and CEO, O'Neill Hotels and Resorts, Vancouver	Dec. 31, 2017
<i>Bio</i>	<i>Ownership in resorts and hotel management company. Board appointments with private investment firms, Tourism Whistler and the UBC Sauder School.</i>	
Bruno Wall	President, Wall Financial Corporation	Dec. 31, 2017
<i>Bio</i>	<i>Executive and ownership of real estate investment company.</i>	
Barrett Fisher	President & CEO, Tourism Whistler	Mar. 31, 2018
<i>Bio</i>	<i>Served in numerous boards and committees related to the 2010 Olympics, Chambers of Commerce and tourism industry associations.</i>	
Keith Henry	President and CEO, Aboriginal Tourism Association of Canada	Mar. 31, 2018
<i>Bio</i>	<i>Focus on Aboriginal Tourism Cultural Blueprint Strategy with extensive participation in Metis / Indigenous communities.</i>	
Nancy Arsenault	Managing Partner, The Tourism Café	Dec. 31, 2018
<i>Bio</i>	<i>Academic background with collaboration in projects involving Parks Canada, sustainable tourism and the Canadian Tourism Commission.</i>	
Steve Paccagnan	President, Kicking Horse Mountain Resort, Revelstoke	Dec. 31, 2018
<i>Bio</i>	<i>Background includes board memberships with airports, ski associations and post-secondary institutions.</i>	
Steve Smith	CEO, Crest Hotel, Prince Rupert	Dec. 31, 2018
<i>Bio</i>	<i>Background includes board membership with BC Hotel Association and President of the Chambers of Commerce</i>	
Mark Werner	President, Guide Outfitters Association of BC	Dec. 31, 2018
<i>Bio</i>	<i>Background includes ownership of Backcountry Guide Outfitters</i>	

*Additional biographical information available upon request

DN 32005 Appendix 3

Draft Content for Minister Letter to MCOT Members

Re: Those members continuing on the Council with 2018 end of term dates

Dear _____

I write to express my appreciation for your past service to the Council and Province and I look forward to working with you.

I understand that the Council has served as an extremely useful and important venue to provide strategic advice on policy priorities and to identify emerging issues and opportunities for the tourism sector.

I would appreciate having you continue to serve on the Council while we implement commitments and plan for longer-term policy and tourism advisory functions. If you are still able to continue to serve, you can expect further follow up in the coming months. If circumstances have changed for you, please let my office know by _____(date).

B.C.'s tourism sector is facing exciting opportunities and challenges and your commitment is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Honourable Lisa Beare, Minister

Note: required cc's

DN 32005 Appendix 4

Draft Text Content for Minister Letter to MCOT Members

Re: Those members with December 31, 2017 member term expiry dates

Dear _____

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your service on the Minister's Council on Tourism (MCOT). As a member serving since _____ (insert member's specific term), you have contributed greatly to the success of the tourism industry in British Columbia and your contributions to all the citizens impacted by this work are deeply appreciated.

I know the Council has served as an extremely useful and important venue to provide strategic advice on policy priorities and to identify emerging issues and opportunities for the tourism sector.

We are currently reviewing options for obtaining a broad range of input into tourism policy and programs. I hope that you will be open to the possibility of making similar contributions in future.

Thank you very much for your dedicated service and ongoing contribution to the tourism sector in British Columbia.

Sincerely,

Honourable Lisa Beare, Minister

Note: required cc's



Decision Note Advice to Minister

Date: December 18, 2017

Cliff #: 32031

Issue: Funding Support for the 2018 Athlete of the Year Awards and the Presidents' Awards to be held March 28, 2018.

Background / Facts:

- The Athlete of the Year Awards is an annual event organized by Sport BC that recognizes athletes, coaches, officials and contributors from the past year. The Awards were created by Sport BC in 1966 and it is Canada's longest running sport recognition event.
- The 52nd edition of the Athlete of the Year Awards will be held Wednesday, March 28, 2018 in Vancouver. Awards will be presented in 18 categories (see Attachment 1 for description of categories and examples of past award winners).
- New for 2018 is the inclusion of the *In Her Footsteps (IHF)* Awards, presented by ProMotion Plus during the Athlete of the Year Awards. The IHF Awards honour two women who have made significant contributions to physical activity, sport and recreation in BC. ProMotion Plus partnered with Sport BC to enhance the public profile of their awards.
- The event will be preceded by a reception for the 24th Annual Sport BC Presidents' Awards. These awards allow provincial and disability sport organizations to recognize a volunteer who has made a significant contribution to the development of their sport. Last year, 44 volunteers from 25 different communities received an award and were honoured guests at the Athlete of the Year Awards.

Analysis:

- The Presidents' Awards and the Athlete of the Year Awards are high profile events that provide opportunities for the Minister to engage directly with the sector and community volunteers.
- The 2018 Awards will receive additional profile since they will take place shortly after the 2018 Olympic (February 9-25) and Paralympic (March 8-18) Winter Games in South Korea.
- Historically, the Ministry provided \$20k annually to support both events – first directly, and then through viaSport.
- Due to fiscal challenges, viaSport stopped funding for the event in 2014/15. In response, Sport BC has been submitting ad hoc funding request to the Ministry each year. Funding of \$6k and \$5k was provided in 2014/15 and 2015/16 – though the quality of the event was impacted. In 2016/17, the Ministry had fiscal capacity to provide \$20k.
- For 2017/18, the Sport Division would have fiscal capacity to again provide \$20k if the awards were deemed a priority. Sponsorship would include an opportunity for the Minister to present the prestigious Best of BC Award at the Athlete of the Year Awards and to participate in presenting the Presidents' Awards to provincial sport organization community volunteers.
- Although Ministry staff recommends providing funding support in 2017/18, a longer term approach to funding recognition events is required to provide clarity for Sport BC.
- One component of the sport strategy consultation could include a review of all sport recognition programs (e.g. BC Sports Hall of Fame and Museum, Athlete of the Year Awards, In Her Footsteps, Premier's Awards for Aboriginal Youth Excellence in Sport, PacificSport regional awards) to identify ways to enhance diversity and inclusion or to coordinate recognition across the province.

Recommendation / Next Steps:

- Approve Sport BC's request for \$20k in support for the 2018 Athlete of the Year Awards on a one-time basis.
- Defer decision on future year support pending a broader sector consultation on recognition.

Pros:

s.13

Cons:

s.13

Other Options:

Option 2: s.13

Pros:

s.13

Cons:

s.13

Other Options:

Option 2: s.13

Pros:

s.13

Cons:

s.13

Recommendation: Approved / Not Approved



Honourable Lisa Beare, Minister

January 29, 2018

Date

Attachment: Attachment 1: Athlete of the Year Award Categories

Contact: Sandra Carroll, Deputy Minister, 250 952-0103
Dean Sekyer, Executive Lead, 778 698-8777

Attachment 1

Sport BC – Athlete of the Year Award Categories and Past Award Recipients (2014-2017)

BEST OF BC -The recipient of the prestigious annual Best of BC award is the individual or team thought to have best represented BC, nationally or internationally, in either a professional or amateur sport.

2017 – Christine Sinclair, Soccer
2016 – Carey Price, Hockey
2015 – Men’s Canadian Olympic Team, Ice Hockey
2014 – Jon Cornish, Football

ATHLETE WITH A DISABILITY - Recognizes an athlete with a disability who has demonstrated extraordinary athletic performance in regional, national or international competitions in a team or individual sport.

2017 – Tristan Chernove, Para-Cycling
2016 – Trevor Hirschfield, Wheelchair Rugby
2015 – Josh Dueck , Para-Alpine
2014 – Michelle Stilwell, Wheelchair Athletics

FEMALE COACH Recognizes a female coach who has been responsible for coaching amateur team(s) and/or individuals at any level of athletic competition.

2017 – Carolyn Murray, Triathlon
2016 – Carolyn Murray, Triathlon
2015 – Joanne McLeod, Figure Skating
2014 – Jen Ross, Rugby

MALE COACH Recognizes a male coach who has been responsible for coaching amateur team(s) and/or individuals at any level of athletic competition.

2017 – Gerry Dragomir, Athletics
2016 – Randy Bennett, Swimming
2015 – Paul Eberhardt, Basketball
2014 – Graham Thomas, Hockey

KIDSPORT COMMUNITY CHAMPION Recognizes an athlete who has made extraordinary contributions both on and off the field and has inspired others to get involved in sport and do the same.

2017 – Michelle Stilwell, Wheelchair Athletics
2016 – Perry Solkowski
2015 – Kelsey Serwa, Ski-Cross
2014 – Tommy Europe, Football

DARYL THOMPSON AWARD - This award is named in honour of the late Daryl Thompson, former chair of Sport BC, whose contributions to sport as an athlete, coach and executive officer were exemplary. This

award recognizes an individual who has contributed their time in an extraordinary way to sport over a long period of time and/or has made a major contribution on amateur sport in British Columbia.

2017 – Loreen Barnett, Triathlon

2016 – Hugh Wong, Volleyball

2015 – Brian McCaLder, Athletics

2014 – Beverly Boys, Diving

HARRY JEROME COMEBACK AWARD RECIPIENTS -An athlete who competed in a sport, individual or team, after having suffered an unusual setback (i.e. illness, injury, etc.)

2017 – Keith Switzer, Curl

2016 – Tory Nyhaug, BMX Cycling

2015 – Kimberly Joines, Para-Alpine Ski

2014 – Sarah Hunter, Wheelchair Tennis

HIGH SCHOOL FEMALE ATHLETE - Recognizes a female athlete who was enrolled in a secondary school in the province of BC and who competed in a sport or sports, team or individual, representing her school.

2017 – Zion Corrales-Nelson, St. Thomas Moore Collegiate, Athletics

2016 – Emma Johnson, Kelowna, Basketball/Soccer/Volleyball

2015 – Payten Smith, Maple Ridge, Wrestling

2014 – Asianna Covington, Little Flower Academy, Athletics

HIGH SCHOOL MALE ATHLETE - Recognizes a male athlete who was enrolled in a secondary school in the province of BC and who competed in a sport or sports, team or individual, representing his school.

2017 – Parker Simson, Kelowna Secondary, Football/Basketball

2016 – Graeme Hyde-Lay, St. Michael's University School, Soccer/Basketball/Rugby

2015 – Jordan Lu, Prince of Wales, Golf

2014 – Marcus Davis, Mount Douglas, Football

JUNIOR FEMALE ATHLETE - Recognizes extraordinary athletic performance by a female athlete who is competing on a team or in an individual sport in BC.

2017 – Maggie Coles-Lyster, Cycling

2016 – Emily Overholt, Swimming

2015 – Naomi Ko, Golf

2014- Georgia Ellenwood, Track & Field

JUNIOR MALE ATHLETE -Recognizes extraordinary athletic performance by a male athlete who is competing on a team or in an individual sport in BC.

2017 – Finn Iles, Cycling

2016 – Markus Thormeyer, Swimming

2015 – Samson Reinhart, Ice Hockey

2014 – Kevin Kwon, Golf

MASTER ATHLETE - Recognizes an athlete competing in a Masters division as defined by his or her sport, taking part on a team or individual sport in the province of BC.

2017 – Ken Dahl, Tennis

2016 – Siew Har Hong, Badminton

2015 – Brian Ellis, Orienteering

2014 – Christa Bortignon, Athletics

OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR - Recognizes an official who has been responsible for officiating sport events at any level of athletic competition.

2017 – Louise Kennedy, Synchronized Swimming

2016 – Michelle Pye, Soccer

2015 – John Carroll, Gymnastics

2014 – Dale Jackson, Golf

SENIOR FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR -Recognizes extraordinary athletic performance by a female athlete who is competing on a team or in an individual sport in BC.

2017 – Hilary Caldwell, Swim

2016 – Christabel Nettey, Athletics

2015 – Marielle Thompson, Ski-Cross

2014 – Stacie Anaka, Wrestling

SENIOR MALE ATHLETE - Recognizes extraordinary athletic performance by a male athlete who is competing on a team or in an individual sport in BC.

2017 – Evan Dunfee, Athletics

2016 – Denny Morrison, Speed-Skating

2015 – Denny Morrison, Speed-Skating

2014 – Kelly Olynyk, Basketball

TEAM Recognizes an amateur team competing in a Sport BC-sanctioned league in the Province of BC.

2017 – RCA Lightweight Women's Double, Rowing

2016 – UBC Men's Football

2015 – Team Pursuit, Cycling

2014 – UBC Thunderbirds, Men's Soccer

UNIVERSITY ATHLETE - Recognizes an athlete enrolled in a recognized degree-granting university in the province of BC, and who competed in a recognized Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) or National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) sport or sports, team or individual.

2017 – Hannah Haughn, Field Hockey, UBC

2016 – Maria Bernard, Cross Country, UBC

2015 – Brad Gunter, Volleyball, TRU

2014- Shanice Marcelle, Volleyball, UBC

COLLEGE ATHLETE RECIPIENTS Recognizes an individual who competed in a sport or sports, team or individual, and who is representing a college, university/college, or institute in the province of BC.

2017 – Tylar Turnbull, Vancouver Island University, Volleyball

2016 – Graydon Robb, Vancouver Island University, Badminton

2015 – Brody Greig, Langara College, Basketball

2014 – RuiLin Huang, Capilano University, Badminton

2013 – Jenna Ralston, Capilano University, Basketball



Decision Note Advice to Deputy Minister

Date: January 9, 2018

Cliff #:32047

Issue: Funding for 2018 Family Day Grants.

Background / Facts:

- British Columbia will hold its sixth annual Family Day on Monday, February 12, 2018.
- Funding for BC Family Day events was first provided in 2013/14 per direction from the Premier.
- Each fiscal year since 2013/14, funding of approximately \$250,000 has been provided to the BC Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA) for a grant program to support free community activities and events such as ice skating and live music. The BCRPA provided grants of up to \$1,000 to host a related event in BC communities.
- In several years, the Royal BC Museum (RBCM) and the Vancouver Art Gallery (VAG) also received funding to offer free admission to their respective facilities. See Attachment 1: History of Family Day Funding.
- In Fall 2017, the BCRPA submitted a proposal to the Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture (TAC) with a request for \$250,000 in funding to be used for Family Day Recreation Grants and to re-position the day as a celebration of recovery for communities affected by wildfire and flood. See Attachment 2: Proposed Funding for Family Day Recreation 2018.
- Requests from both the RBCM (\$40,000) and the VAG (\$10,000) were received in late 2017. See Attachment 3: Family Day Outcomes Report 2016 and Attachment 4: BC Family Day 2018 VAG Proposal.

Analysis:

- In the past, the BCRPA Family Day grants have provided opportunities for families to participate in diverse sports and cultural activities in communities for a relatively low investment by the Province.
- Funding to the RBCM and VAG offers limited geographic reach and focuses on urban centres.
s.13,s.16,s.17
- During the four years of consecutive funding, BCRPA has seen an increase in uptake indicating increased awareness of the funding and the expectation of continued funding.
- Applications must be collected and assessed by the BCRPA in January in order to distribute the funds in time for Family Day. Consequently, a decision regarding provincial funding for Family Day needs to be made immediately to make this option feasible.
- There is no dedicated source to fund Family Day 2018 activities.

Options / Next Steps:

Option 1: Fund Family Day through the BCRPA from the Ministry budget.

- Pros:
 - s.13,s.16,s.17

- s.13,s.16,s.17
Cons:
s.13,s.16,s.17

Option 2: s.13,s.17

- Pros:
s.13,s.17
- Cons:
s.13,s.16,s.17

Next steps: Respond to the BCRPA, RBCM and VAG regarding Family Day funding; GCPE to build communication plan or response about decision.

Approved Option: 1



Sandra Carroll, Deputy Minister

January 17, 2018

Date

Attachment(s): Attachment 1: History of Family Day Funding
Attachment 2: Proposed Funding for Family Day Recreation 2018
Attachment 3: Family Day Outcomes Report 2016
Attachment 4: BC Family Day 2018 VAG Proposal

Contact: Claire Avison, Assistant Deputy Minister, (250) 217-9059

Attachment 1: History of Family Day Funding

Fiscal Year	Funding	Total Funding and Source
2016/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$250K provided to the BCRPA for Family Day event grants. 	\$250K Funded by previous Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development
2015/16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$250K provided to the BCRPA for Family Day event grants. \$40K was provided to the Royal BC Museum (RBCM) to offer free admission to the Museum. The Vancouver Art Gallery declined participation in 2016 as they were between major exhibits and could not provide programming. 	\$290K Funded by GCPE
2014/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$250K was provided to the BCRPA for Family day event grants. \$40K was provided to RBCM to offer free admission. \$10K was provided to the Vancouver Art Gallery to offer free admission. 	\$300K Funded by GCPE
2013/14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$250K was provided to the BCRPA for Family Day event grants. \$25K was provided to RBCM to offer free admission. \$10K was provided to the Vancouver Art Gallery to offer free admission. 	\$285K Funded by GCPE



Protecting & enhancing the
BC government's investment in Recreation & Parks



Family Day Recreation 2018 Proposal

Recommendation:

TAC confirm funding the Family Day Recreation Grant by mid-November, and that the day be repositioned as a celebration of recovery for those communities affected by wildfires and floods.

Budget: \$250,000

Context:

Since 2013, CSCD has funded BCRPA annually to deliver over two hundred \$1,000 grants to local government and First Nations communities hosting free family events in their recreation and parks facilities. Events are free of charge, and for many residents it is their first experience in a community centre. For those who are familiar with the facility, it is an opportunity to participate in a new activity. For all, it is a rare opportunity to gather together as families to be active, creative, and to play in a multi-generational environment.

Communities report that Family Day contributes to social connectedness. One Ahousaht Elder wrote a heart-felt thank you for funding a community Barbeque and Carnival this year for families at the community gathering hall:

"Giving people a free meal in a fun, friendly and safe environment is a true blessing. In troubled times such as these (14 suicides since 2009), where poverty and lack of jobs and lack of health care is prevailing, this annual event goes far to boosting the community morale."

Indeed, recreation leaders praise Family Day as a hallmark community-building event.

Proposal:

Reposition Family Day 2018 as a celebration of communities' resilience in recovering from the devastation of wildfires and floods this summer. Communities that assisted in disaster support and recovery will especially also want to celebrate and reunite.

Community Centres province-wide were safe havens in the summer of 2017, as they are at any time the municipality suffers a disaster or hardship. Having lived through the most difficult summer in memory, communities are anxious to reclaim their family and recreation activities. As one Director of Recreation said of the Williams Lake evacuation:

"We weren't sure how soon to restart our programs, but the community wanted the rec centre to open just to congregate and reconnect. They wanted to celebrate with one another, here."

Focussing Family Day on recreation to acknowledge the loss and heartbreak of these communities while honouring their recovery, will demonstrate the provincial government's recognition of community resilience.



Report to
Ministry of Community,
Sport and Cultural Development

Family Day
February 8, 2016

Prepared by E. Stenson
Head of Marketing and Business Development, Royal BC Museum

Introduction

On February 8, 2016, for the third year, the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development (The Ministry) supported free admission to the Royal BC Museum to provide access to the museum on the Family Day Statutory holiday. The Ministry provided \$40,000 financial support of this day-long activation.

Working with Ministry staff, the Royal BC Museum supported a morning of activities for the Minister, the Honourable Peter Fassbender, to engage with the community and spend time in the museum on this busy day.

The Royal BC Museum included Government of BC's Family Day promotional materials on site and provided promotional and communications support in on site electronic signage, community calendars, website and social media channels.

Key Points

- Royal BC Museum provided an official request to the Ministry to request sponsorship of free admission.
- The Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development provided \$40,000 to support free admission at the Royal BC Museum on Family Day.
- This was the third Family Day celebrated in British Columbia. Visitation numbers to the Royal BC Museum on Family Day have been fairly consistent: 10,000 in 2014; 8,843 in 2015; and 10,410 in 2016.
- Royal BC Museum had 10,410 visitors on February 8, 2016.
- At a blended admission rate (average of adult/youth/senior) paid revenue for 10,410 visitors would have been \$117,945.
- 51 % of February's visitors attended on February 8.
- Servicing the needs of over 10,410 people in one-day is a significant challenge for staff and onsite partners (including IMAX, shops, and food services).
- The visitor numbers for the rest of February are consistent with the 2012/13 visitation (before there was a Family Day statutory holiday).

Sponsorship Metrics Report

Marketing
Lobby electronic screen
On-Site Swag giveaways
Community Calendars(s) info
Social Media: Twitter, Facebook
Online information/Event calendar royalbcmuseum.bc.ca
Email marketing (membership/opt in lists)
Minister's visit – Opening Pocket Gallery

Conclusion

The third annual Family Day event at the Royal BC Museum was very successful from an attendance and reputation building point of view. Visitors took advantage of the free admission and were good natured about the crowds. Line-ups extended partially up Government Street from opening until approximately 3pm. The exposure for the Province was substantial, enhancing the reputation of both the province and the Royal BC Museum as a community partner and supporter.

The net impact on the Royal BC Museum's core operations was also significant due to the more than 10,400 people who took advantage of the free admission. Additional staff, security, volunteers and cleaning are necessary to deal with the impact on the facility, and ensure the well-being, safety, and overall enjoyment by so many people. We also had an escalator failure, due to the extreme load on the escalator system, which was observed by the Minister.

The Royal BC Museum sincerely thanks the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development for the resources that have been dedicated to supporting our work, and in particular for funding this third Annual Family Day at the Royal BC Museum.

The Royal BC Museum looks forward to collaborating with the Ministry again by exploring the many ways that we can serve communities across the province through our combined efforts.



BC FAMILY DAY 2018 at the VANCOUVER ART GALLERY

ACTIVITIES + PERFORMANCES INSPIRED BY:

空/EMPTINESS:
EMILY CARR AND LUI SHOU KWAN

TAKASHI
MURAKAMI

THE OCTOPUS
EATS ITS OWN LEG

The Vancouver Art Gallery is thrilled to once again present a special all-day edition of our Weekly Family Programs during BC Family Day on Monday, February 12, 2018. These family-orientated programs engage thousands of children and their families each year through playful and educational exhibition tours and art-making activities, fostering an appreciation for art at a very early age. It is clear that participation in arts-related activities has a positive and lasting impact on children and youth and aids in the development of important intellectual, social and emotional skills. We look forward to welcoming approximately 2,000 children and families for BC Family Day at the Vancouver Art Gallery.

This year, programs offered on BC Family Day will focus on the exhibitions *空/Emptiness: Emily Carr and Lui Shou Kwan* and *Takashi Murakami: The Octopus Eats Its Own Leg*. *空/Emptiness* juxtaposes the work of the renowned Canadian modernist painter with those of the late founder of the New Ink Movement in Hong Kong. It offers two approaches to capturing the transcendence of sublime landscapes, and a shared vision of nature as a spiritual dimension. Takashi Murakami is one of the world's most influential artists, having successfully straddled the gap between high and low culture, ancient and modern modes of art making, and Eastern and Western conceptions about art. His signature bright "superflat" style, influenced by manga and traditional Japanese painting, is sure to delight and inspire viewers of all ages. Families will enjoy the following highlights:

THE MAKING PLACE

This program offers explorative, hands-on workshop activities inspired by artworks viewed in the exhibition space. Visitors of all ages are tasked with open-ended projects and are provided with a range of high quality materials.

ART AGENTS

Grown-ups and children can explore the Gallery with a team of inquisitive, funny and informed *Art Agents*, who will engage visitors in the exhibitions with new activities and conversations related to the works on display. *Art Agents* help parents to interpret the art and understand ways in which to approach and enjoy their visit with their children.

SPECIAL PERFORMANCES

Families will also enjoy special child-friendly demonstrations and musical performances related to our exhibitions. Past performers have included the UBC Chinese Ensemble; Gene Ramsbottom and the North Vancouver Wind Ensemble; the musical trio Mad Komad; and shadow puppetry by Mind of a Snail.

BUDGET

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OUR REQUEST

The Gallery asks the Province of BC to consider a donation of \$10,000 to support this special edition of Weekly Family Programs. Your partnership will enable the Gallery to offer free admission for all children age twelve and under during BC Family Day, providing access to these playful and educational programs for families.





Information Note Advice to Minister

Date: January 10, 2018

Cliff #: 32132

Issue: JUNOs - Ticket Distribution Plan

Background / Facts:

- March 2017, the Province committed up to \$1.2 million to secure the 2018 JUNOs. These funds cover the cost of running the primary events associated with the JUNO awards, including the Chairman's Reception, the JUNO Awards Welcome Reception, the JUNO Gala Dinner and Awards, the JUNO Red Carpet and the JUNO Awards Broadcast.
- The 47th annual JUNO Awards and JUNO Week 2018 will be hosted in Vancouver from March 19th through to the JUNO Awards Broadcast on CBC on March 25, 2018.
- The Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (CARAS) organizes all primary JUNO Awards events and is supported by a volunteer Host Committee, co-chaired by Catherine Runnals (President of Brand Live Management Group & Tourism Vancouver Board Member) and Nick Blasko (Amelia Artists/Rifflandia Festival). Additional members of the Host Committee include music industry leaders, tourism and corporate partners and local business executives.
- The Host Committee's role is to support the Host City aspect of the 2018 Juno Awards and to execute local initiatives that create excitement and engagement within the community.
- In addition to enhancing BC's thriving music scene, it is anticipated the JUNOS will create significant economic benefit to the hospitality and tourism industry.
- An opportunity is available for the Premier or Minister Beare to speak at the JUNO Gala Dinner & Awards on Saturday, March 24th.

Analysis:

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**Ministry of
Tourism, Arts and
Culture**

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Contact: Asha Bhat, Executive Director, Creative Sectors Branch (250 387-0132)

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Briefing Note Advice to Minister

Date: January 16, 2018

Cliff #: 32156

Issue: Meeting with China Consul General Tong Xiaoling

Background:

- Minister Beare will meet China Consul General Ms. Tong Xiaoling on January 17, 2018 at 4:30 p.m.
- Consul General Tong arrived on November 26, 2017, replacing Consul General Liu Fei who was retiring and leaving the Foreign Affairs Service.
- This meeting is a precursor to Minister Beare accompanying Premier Horgan, Minister Bruce Ralston and Minister of State George Chow to Guangzhou on January 21-23 and Beijing on January 23-25.
- In meetings with B.C. government officials, Consul General Tong has indicated:
 - China is looking to further deepen, facilitate, and strengthen friendly relations both at the government-to-government level and people-to-people.
 - China has an interest in tourism, culture and sport.
 - The Chinese central government wants to reach out to countries strong in winter sports to better understand their experiences.
- China is the world's fastest growing source market for international tourists. In 2016, 610,139 Chinese travellers visited Canada, including over 300,000 arriving through B.C.
- Total inbound tourism to B.C. in 2016 was 5.5 million visitors, with 312,668 from mainland China (5.6% of total overnight customs entries). This is 18.2% year-over-year growth from China compared to 2015. This has more than tripled since 2009 and China is now B.C.'s second-largest market after the U.S. (3.6 million). Recent 2017 statistics show China visitation is up 6.2% year-to-date (Jan-Oct).
- Destination BC has had representation in Beijing since 2010, co-located with Destination Canada, to market B.C. as a year-round destination.
- Vancouver has become one of the most connected cities with China in North America or Europe, with over 50 weekly flights connecting Vancouver International Airport to 11 mainland Chinese cities.

Analysis:

- In the recent 19th Chinese Party Congress, President Xi unveiled a plan to transform China into a "great modern socialist country" by mid-century. Under the plan, China will realise a moderately prosperous society by 2020 and 'socialist modernisation' by 2035. China has plans to be "prosperous, strong, democratic, culturally advanced, harmonious and beautiful" by 2050.
- At the core of BC's economic ties with China is its 23-year sister province relationship with Guangdong province in southern China. The Premier's visit will present an opportunity to advance BC-Guangdong relations.
- As part of the Premier's mission, B.C. will be negotiating Canada's first MOU with Tencent/Wechat to support ongoing collaboration and promotion of BC tourism experience to potential Chinese visitors. The mission will also highlight B.C.'s winter ski experiences.
- As China prepares to host the 2022 Winter Olympics, the Province of Hebei is interested in learning from BC's experience of hosting the 2010 Winter Olympics. As a previous host of the Winter Games, BC has a range of knowledge and experience to share in areas ranging from sustainable venues and

snow-making to online sports marketing.

Canada-China Year of Tourism

- The Canada-China Year of Tourism in 2018, first announced by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Chinese Premier Li Keqiang in Beijing in 2016, will help promote Canada as a destination of choice for Chinese travellers.
- An opening ceremony for the Canada-China Year of Tourism 2018 will be hosted by China in Toronto on March 21, 2018 and a closing ceremony will be hosted in China by Canada in the Fall. A leading member of the China State Council will attend.
- Federal, provincial and territorial tourism ministers are planning a mission to China (dates TBC).
- Canada-China Year of Tourism websites in both countries are promoting cultural exchanges and efforts are underway to help more businesses become China-ready.

Travel

- Canada is in the process of renegotiating the Canada-China Air Bilateral Agreement to support greater connectivity between Canada and China. British Columbia supports more scheduled airline connections between China and YVR and, in the future, other B.C. cities.
- Destination BC has launched a Chinese New Year's initiative to inspire and motivate Chinese visitors to travel to Vancouver during Chinese New Year (Feb 2018) by showcasing B.C. winter experiences, Chinese New Year festivals and multi-cultural events. In the coming year, Destination BC will also support Destination Canada on Canada-China Year of Tourism promotions.
- Destination BC will also be working closely with CTrip, one of the largest Chinese providers of travel services, to increase awareness of B.C. tourism products.

Conclusion:

- The Premier's mission to China is an opportunity to learn more about how British Columbia is working with the Chinese outbound tourism industry and experiences available to British Columbians in China.
- British Columbia is committed to building more long-lasting, friendly relations with China through tourism.
- The number of Chinese tourists is a testament of China's ability to create a strong middle class that can afford to travel.

Attachment(s): Attachment 1: Biography of Consul General Tong Xiaoling
Attachment 2: Key Issues on Canada-China Relations

Contact: Suzanne Ferguson, Executive Director, Tourism 250 952-0177

Attachment 1 – Biography of Consul General Tong Xiaoling



Consul General (with Ambassadorial Rank) Tong Xiaoling was born in January 1962. She graduated with a BA degree from China University of Foreign Affairs.

1985-1990	Staff Member of Department of Asian Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
1990-1991	Attaché, Commercial Representative Office in Singapore
1991-1994	Third Secretary, Second Secretary, Embassy of China in Singapore
1994-1998	Second Secretary, Deputy Director, Director, Department of Asian Affairs, MFA
1998-2003	Counsellor, Permanent Mission of China to the United Nations, Embassy of China in the Philippines
2003-2004	Deputy Mayor, Wenshan Prefecture, Yunnan Province
2004-2007	Counsellor, General Office, Department of Asian Affairs, MFA
2007-2009	Ambassador of China to Brunei Darussalam
2009-2010	Ambassador, MFA
2010-2012	Ambassador of China to ASEAN
2012-2014	Counsellor, Embassy of China in Fiji
2014-2017	Deputy Commissioner of the Commissioner's Office of MFA in HKSAR
2017-	Consul General of the People's Republic of China in Vancouver

Attachment 3 – Key Issues on Canada China Relations

Guangdong Sister Province Relationship

Guangdong Province is situated in the southernmost part of China's mainland, and is the most populous (104 million) and wealthy province (by GDP) in China (USD 1.2 trillion' approximately 11% of China's GDP). Canada's GDP is USD 1.5 trillion (10th in the world), and China's is USD 11.2 trillion (2nd).

There are five pairs of sister-city relationships between B.C. and Guangdong, including: Vancouver-Guangzhou; Surrey-Zhuhai; Burnaby-Zhongshan; North Vancouver-Huizhou; and New Westminster-Yunfu. In addition, there are two sister ports: Vancouver International Airport-Guangzhou International Airport and Vancouver Port-Guangzhou Port.

In 1985, then Vancouver mayor Mike Harcourt established a sister city relationship between Guangzhou and Vancouver. In September 1995, Premier Harcourt signed a Protocol that established the B.C.-Guangdong sister province relationship.

More recently, B.C. established a Trade and Investment Representative Office in Guangzhou in February 2009. The Guangdong government set up an Economic and Trade Representative Office in Vancouver in September 2014.

Tourism

Since 2010, when Canada received Approved Destination Status from China, Chinese overnight entries to British Columbia have grown from 99,000 annually to 312,000 in 2016, representing 50% of all Chinese overnight customs entries to Canada, making it B.C.'s second largest tourism market after the U.S.

In 2015, Prime Minister Trudeau and President Xi Jinping announced that 2018 will be the Canada-China Year of Tourism. Both countries are exploring measures to facilitate the flow of travellers and are collaborating on potential tourism promotion and cultural exchange activities in Canada and China.

As part of Canada's New Tourism Vision, released in May 2017, the federal government is proposing to double the number of tourists from China by 2021. Canada's Ambassador to China John McCallum has indicated that this is a major opportunity for B.C.

Canada has opened seven new visa application centres in China in so-called secondary cities (i.e. Chengdu, Wuhan, Shenyang, Jinan, Nanjing, Kunming and Hangzhou) that will support further travel opportunities to Canada.

Education

In 2016, there were 49,660 students from China studying at all levels in B.C. Over 30% of the international students from China in Canada are studying in B.C. China was the top source country, accounting for 36% of the total international student population in the province, and has been the top source country since 2010.

There are several education sector government-to-government Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) between B.C. and China, including with the National Ministry of Education, four key provincial governments (i.e. Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Heilongjiang and Guangdong), and the Beijing Municipal Education Commission.

There are over 500 partnership agreements between schools and institutions in B.C. and China. In addition, there are 34 certified B.C. Offshore Schools in China and 3 pre-certified schools, enrolling more than 10,000 students. Since 2006, students from B.C. have had the opportunity to study at a Chinese university on scholarships from China, in collaboration with the Ministries of Education and Advanced Education, Skills and Training. To date, over 120 B.C. students received a scholarship through this program.

The B.C. Ministry of Education maintains five China-focused International Education Scholarships, and over the past 2 years has supported education collaboration through over \$360,000 in scholarship opportunities for B.C. students and teachers and for Chinese students.

Fentanyl

In November 2016, the RCMP and China's Ministry of Public Security struck a formal agreement to share intelligence aimed at stopping the flow of fentanyl and other illicit synthetic opioids into Canada.

In June 2017, Canadian Premiers called on the federal government to undertake further concrete actions to improve public safety in Canada:

- Provide greater support for enhanced RCMP/Canada Border Services Agency partnership funding;
- Reinstate federal RCMP resources to intercept opioids such as fentanyl and reduce importation and trafficking of opioids.
- Increase funding for equipment and training for the RCMP Clandestine Laboratory Enforcement and Response Team and support greater networking of provincial toxicological and poison control services.
- Federal officials to work directly with U.S. public health officials to identify best practices, risks and areas of cooperation in combatting this crisis.

Housing Speculation

Foreign investment in residential real estate amounts to approximately 3 percent of the Metro Vancouver market, which matches the provincial average.

China has concerns over capital outflows and has been taking action to address this issue. Over the past year, the Chinese government has put in place additional capital controls limiting the amount of money that an individual may invest outside of China each year to \$65,000 and requiring all transactions greater than \$9,000 to be reported.

These capital controls will restrict investment in the housing market by Chinese citizens to the extent they are effectively enforced by the Chinese government.

Monitoring or controlling money coming into Canada from abroad is generally under federal jurisdiction, either through the Canada Border Services Agency control over individuals and items coming into the country – or the federal government's regulation of banks. Banks have approximately three quarters of the financial services market in B.C.

Canada-China Free Trade Agreement (FTA)

On September 22, 2016, Prime Minister Trudeau and Chinese Premier Li announced the launch of exploratory discussions to examine the prospects for a possible Canada-China FTA. Work on the

exploratory discussions has been ongoing since the fall of 2016 with four sets of face-to-face meetings held to date in 2017.

Between March 4 and June 2, 2017, the Government of Canada conducted public consultations to solicit the views of Canadians on a possible Canada-China free trade agreement.

During Prime Minister Trudeau's 3-6 December 2017 visit to China, the widely expected joint statement indicating the beginning of formal bilateral free trade negotiations was not announced during the visit.