

Deputy Ministers & Industry Infrastructure Forum

COMMUNICATION BULLETIN

Meeting Date: October 26, 2021

ATTENDANCE:

Members:

Heather Wood (Forum Co-Chair)	Deputy Minister, Finance
Roger Yager (Forum Co-Chair)	Vice President, Knappett Projects Inc.
Shannon Baskerville	Deputy Minister, Advanced Education, Skills & Training
Terry Brown	President, STBR Consulting Ltd.
Clark Campbell	Chief Estimator/Sr. Project Manager, Smith Bros. & Wilson (BC) Ltd.
Angela Cooke	Associate Deputy Minister, Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Housing
Maura Gatensby	Practice Advisor, Architectural Institute of BC
Kaye Krishna	Deputy Minister, Transportation and Infrastructure
Tiffany Ma	Assistant Deputy Minister, Treasury Board Staff, Finance
Scott MacDonald	Deputy Minister, Education
Tom Plumb	President and CEO, Kinetic Construction Ltd.
Gurjit Sangha	Vice-President, Water and Wastewater, Western Canada, WSP

Special Advisors:

Caroline Andrewes	President, ACEC BC
Chris Atchison	President, BC Construction Association
Linda Beardsell	Director, Infrastructure Projects Procurement, BC Hydro
Deborah Cahill	President, Electrical Contractors Association of BC
Amanda Farrell	CEO, Transportation Investment Corporation
Kelly Scott	President, BC Road Builders and Heavy Construction Association

Ministry of Finance Support:

Shannon Griffin	Director, Capital Policy, Treasury Board Staff
Shannon Haszard	Analyst, Capital Policy, Treasury Board Staff
Rob Livingstone	Director, Capital, Treasury Board Staff

Regrets:

Kim Barbero	CEO, Mechanical Contractors Association of BC
Shauna Brouwer	Deputy Minister, Citizens' Services
Chris Gardner	President, Independent Contractors & Business Association of BC
Mark Liedemann	President and CEO, Infrastructure BC
Peter Pokorny	Associate Deputy Minister, Health
Tim Stanley	Ex Officio Director, ACEC BC; and President, Stratice Consulting Inc.

Guests and Alternates:

Leila Ball	Executive Director, Procurement Transformation, Citizens' Services
Matt Binning	Senior Associate, Infrastructure BC
Jessica Brooks	Executive Director, Local Government Division, Municipal Affairs
Emily Cronin	Executive Director, Workforce Development and Skills Training, Advanced Education and Skills Training
Tara Faganello	Assistant Deputy Minister, Local Government Division, Municipal Affairs
Jeff Good	Vice President, Health Care and Social Infrastructure, Infrastructure BC (for Mark Liedemann)
Trevor Hughes	Deputy Minister, Labour
Bindi Sawchuk	Assistant Deputy Minister, Workforce Development and Skills Training, Advanced Education and Skills Training
Teri Spaven	Assistant Deputy Minister, Procurement and Supply Division, Citizens' Services

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SUMMARY:

- At our twenty-third meeting, we received an update from the Ministry of Labour about the Province's Paid Sick Leave initiative. Permanent paid sick leave will come into effect on January 1, 2022, and within the next three to four weeks the Province will announce the specific details about the program based on the public consultation options.
- Two complementary presentations about Municipal Permitting were provided. The first, from the Association of Consulting Engineering Companies – BC, outlined the ways in which challenges with municipal permitting impact vertical infrastructure programs. This presentation also offered some suggested actions that local governments and the Province could take to improve the situation. The second presentation, from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, summarized the Ministry's Development Approvals Process Review. The purpose of this review is, "To support local governments to eliminate barriers to affordable housing and to accelerate construction of new homes in their community through making the approval process more effective and efficient." Challenges identified during 2018-2019 stakeholder consultations were described, as were the initiatives and next steps the Ministry is embarking upon to address these challenges.
- Infrastructure BC (IBC) provided a presentation outlining the organization's approach to implement a Community Benefits Performance Plan into the procurement and contract terms for the New Surrey Hospital and Cancer Centre. The three areas of focus are: increasing representation of Indigenous peoples and underrepresented groups in construction and design, increasing the number of credentialed tradespeople in construction, and promoting Indigenous culture and business opportunities. IBC will reach out to affected stakeholders to explain the approach in more detail once the RFQ is released.
- The Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training provided an update of the Skilled Trades Certification Initiative, the intent of which is to make sure the standards for tradespeople are consistent across BC and that they align with all other provinces. Next steps include publishing a "What We Heard" report from the engagement process and determining appropriate journeyperson to apprentice ratios.
- The Ministry of Citizens' Services provided a presentation about the BC Bid Replacement Project. Benefits for vendors will include creating more opportunities and making it easier for all sizes of suppliers to do business. A date for go-live will be set after application development is finished testing and in production. Prior to launch, there will be further supplier outreach with industry associations, chambers of commerce and Indigenous organizations.
- The BC Construction Association provided a presentation update about the work of the DMIIF Steering Committee, which was formed at the last DMIIF meeting to support the implementation of action items, provide oversight to the Sub-Committees and identify emerging issues. Updates on the progress of the Standard Consultant Agreements and Building Information Modelling (BIM) Sub-Committees were also provided.
- We received an update about the Capital Asset Management Framework (CAMF) project from the Ministry of Finance. DMIIF endorsed the Public Communications chapter as presented. Revisions to the Procurement and Reporting Chapters are underway.
- The next meeting will be scheduled for March 2022.