

Deputy Ministers & Industry Infrastructure Forum

COMMUNICATION BULLETIN

Ad Hoc Meeting: December 9, 2021

ATTENDANCE:

Members:

Heather Wood (Forum Co-Chair)	Deputy Minister, Finance
Roger Yager (Forum Co-Chair)	Vice President, Knappett Projects Inc.
Terry Brown	President, STBR Consulting Ltd.
Maura Gatensby	Practice Advisor, Architectural Institute of BC
Tom Plumb	President and CEO, Kinetic Construction Ltd.
Gurjit Sangha	Vice-President, Water and Wastewater, Western Canada, WSP
Tim Stanley	Ex Officio Director, ACEC BC; and President, Stratice Consulting Inc.

Special Advisors:

Caroline Andrewes	President, ACEC BC
Chris Atchison	President, BC Construction Association
Kim Barbero	CEO, Mechanical Contractors Association of BC
Deborah Cahill	President, Electrical Contractors Association of BC
Amanda Farrell	CEO, Transportation Investment Corporation
Chris Gardner	President, Independent Contractors & Business Association of BC
Mark Liedemann	President and CEO, Infrastructure BC
Kelly Scott	President, BC Road Builders and Heavy Construction Association

Ministry of Finance Support:

Gabriel Botel	A/Director, Treasury Board Staff
Shannon Griffin	Director, Capital Policy, Treasury Board Staff
Shannon Haszard	Analyst, Capital Policy, Treasury Board Staff
Heather Hill	Executive Director, Capital, Treasury Board Staff

Regrets:

Shannon Baskerville	Deputy Minister, Advanced Education, Skills & Training
Linda Beardsell	Director, Infrastructure Projects Procurement, BC Hydro
Shauna Brouwer	Deputy Minister, Citizens' Services
Clark Campbell	Chief Estimator/Sr. Project Manager, Smith Bros. & Wilson (BC) Ltd.
Angela Cooke	Associate Deputy Minister, Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Housing
Kaye Krishna	Deputy Minister, Transportation and Infrastructure
Tiffany Ma	Assistant Deputy Minister, Treasury Board Staff, Finance
Scott MacDonald	Deputy Minister, Education
Peter Pokorny	Associate Deputy Minister, Health

Guests and Alternates:

Elenore Arend	Associate Deputy Minister & Chief Executive Assessment Officer, Environmental Assessment Office
Scott Bailey	Assistant Deputy Minister, Environmental Assessment Office
Kevin Brewster	Assistant Deputy Minister, Advanced Education and Skills Training
Sunny Dhaliwal (alternate for Shauna Brouwer)	Assistant Deputy Minister, Real Property Division, Citizens' Services
Rick Manwaring	Deputy Minister, Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
Cheryl May (alternate for Angela Cooke)	Assistant Deputy Minister, Office of Housing and Construction Standards, Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Housing
Chris Mealing	Unit General Manager, Canada, Mott MacDonald Canada Limited
Ian Pilkington	Chief Engineer, Highways, Transportation and Infrastructure
Tara Richards	Deputy Minister, Emergency Management BC
Brian Yates	Regional Leader, British Columbia, Stantec
Okenge Yuma Morisho	Deputy Minister, Municipal Affairs

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SUMMARY:

- A special ad hoc meeting was convened to discuss collaboration on the response to recent unprecedented damage to infrastructure in BC and how to coordinate efforts to support rebuilding critical infrastructure.
- Representatives of industry and government provided brief updates of the situation from their organizations' perspectives.
 - The Association of Consulting Engineering Companies of BC stressed the importance of this type of conversation to understand how government intends to build back better and to create space for industry to provide advice and expertise on climate resilience / technical standards and how to best coordinate as focus shifts from the immediate crisis to rebuilding.
 - The BC Road Builders and Heavy Construction Association outlined the organization's involvement since day one of the crisis, commended industry and government on progress made on damage as well as ensuring other routes stay open through winter. Assurance was provided that the capacity needed for horizontal infrastructure work exists.
 - The BC Construction Association emphasized the industry's proven reliability as 'emergency responders' during challenging events and their desire and commitment to be more proactively involved in work required to keep pace with future hazard mitigation.
 - The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (TRAN) provided a high-level update on the status of highways and acknowledged work to date wouldn't have been possible without engineers, hydrotechnical experts, roadbuilders, etc. The Ministry and partners are looking at what will be needed to make infrastructure more resilient for future weather events and are working with the University of Victoria to ensure forward-looking data are available for modeling future impacts.
 - Emergency Management BC (EMBC) outlined the work being done with many communities still in the emergency response phase. The shift to recovery mode has also begun. Building back from a resiliency perspective is still being scoped but communities will need capacity, support and opportunity to leverage partnerships and funds available to them. The Province, Federal Government and non-governmental organizations must come together to meet the needs of homeowners in affected communities.
 - The Ministry of Municipal Affairs is supporting and coordinating with EMBC and TRAN to keep local governments informed and make sure unique local needs are met. As the work shifts from response to recovery, the cost of damage is still unknown. Additionally, since rebuilding partners and communities are also the victims of this natural disaster, they will be coping with personal disasters while also responding to their community challenges. Looking ahead, there is a need for policy work to guide how government plans for land use over diverse regions.
- DMIIF members, advisors and guests engaged in discussion building on the updates provided. Key themes and issues raised include:
 - There is a need for ongoing cross-sector coordination to prioritize resources between existing ongoing contracts, immediate recovery, and longer-term planning, while being aware of the ripple effect additional recovery work will have on the entire sector. Some of the Province's work that addresses the need for a longer-term view includes a modernized emergency management framework and predictive forecasting to anticipate the future impacts of climate change. There may be lessons learned from industry professionals who have experience responding to disasters around the world.
 - Rebuilding impacts many different sectors and groups so coordinated and timely permitting will be necessary to advance work quickly. Because Indigenous consultation is involved in some permitting processes, there is a need to begin discussions with Indigenous communities quickly to ensure meaningful consultation and timely permitting.
 - A special approach to procurement intended to balance expediency with cost is being implemented for sections of select highways hardest hit. Two RFQs for this purpose went to market: one focusing on construction and one on engineering and design.