

Committee Members in Attendance	<p>Co-Chair Malcolm Brodie (Mayor, City of Richmond) Co-Chair Fan Chun (Richmond Chamber of Commerce) Matt Pitcairn (Richmond Chamber of Commerce) Shaena Furlong (Richmond Chamber of Commerce) Serena Lusk (City of Richmond) Cecilia Achiam (City of Richmond) Kim Somerville (City of Richmond) Katie Ferland (City of Richmond) Shelley Leonhardt & Linda Reid (MLA, Richmond South Centre) Trix Chan (representing Teresa Watt MLA, Richmond North Centre) Po Wah Ng (representing John Yap MLA, Richmond-Steveston) Kenny Chiu (MP, Steveston-Richmond East) Dr. Meena Dawar (Vancouver Coastal Health) Nancy Small (Tourism Richmond) Craig Richmond (Vancouver Airport Authority) Ken Hamaguchi (Richmond School District) Scott Robinson (Richmond School District) Rebecca Swaim (Trinity Western University, Richmond) Alvin Chow (Richmond News) Lorraine Graves (Richmond Sentinel) Todd Ye (Fairchild TV), James Ho (AM 1320 Radio) Andrew Lai (Sing Tao)</p>
Guests in Attendance	N/A
Members Absent or unable to login	<p>Jas Johal (MLA, Richmond-Queensborough) Alice Wong (MP, Richmond Centre) Marlyn Graziano (Kwantlen Polytechnic University) Travena Lee (Fairchild Radio) KM Lui (Ming Pao)</p>
Recorder	Shaena Furlong

1. Opening Remarks from Co-Chairs	9:03am	<p>Mayor Malcolm Brodie & Fan Chun</p> <p><i>Roll call</i></p> <p>Introductory explanation: This idea came from the Chamber of Commerce with the impetus to have a once a week call to make sure everyone is as fully briefed as possible.</p> <p>Update to the Agenda: Craig Richmond will speak before the Richmond Chamber of Commerce.</p> <p>To be discussed at the end of the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In accordance with Dr. Dawar's scheduling conflict, we may need to change the meeting time to 8am or 11am, depending on availability. Will also need to confirm if we wish these meetings to continue on teleconference or move to video conference.
2. Update from Vancouver Coastal Health	9:05am	<p>Dr. Meena Dawar</p> <p>We now have 270 cases reported within Vancouver Coastal Health. The actual case count is likely higher than this now, but yet to be</p>

		<p>totalled.</p> <p>Public health response force has been scaled up. Currently, within VCH: 24 patients are hospitalized. 11 patients are in ICU. Last case count in Richmond was about 10.</p> <p>Caveat about interpreting numbers: Wants everyone to know that at this stage in the pandemic, testing everyone is no longer necessary. Testing is important for those who are hospitalized and in care homes, or as part of an outbreak we are examining. Health authorities are no longer recommending that mild presentations be tested.</p> <p>We can safely assume we have COVID transmission in the community.</p> <p>We are attempting to modify the curve (how quickly the outbreak builds) so that the health care system, and ICU beds are not overwhelmed.</p> <p>Measures in place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Resources directed to acute response - Incident command in place for 3 weeks - Elective procedures cancelled <p>VCH has tried to restrict essential care facility staff to a single facility, and not working across multiple, which had been the practice for many employees. Visitors to care facilities have also been restricted.</p> <p><i>Dr. Dawar gives and overview provincial orders.</i></p> <p>We are in unprecedented times with amazing measures. We are in an intense scenario at the moment. In public health, we are in the weeds every day. We are working very hard to keep up with cases and make sure we have good containment in place around them.</p> <p>If needed, health authorities will issue a public advisory about exposure in public places. Dr. Dawar urges the public not to follow rumours and to contact the public health authority if they suspect they are ill.</p>
<p>3. Update from the City of Richmond</p>	<p>9:13am</p>	<p>Mayor Brodie</p> <p>Last week, we declared an emergency in the city. City Hall is closed as of this morning. A week ago, we closed City facilities, spring break camps, and daycares, we closed playgrounds on city property over the weekend, as well as amenities. Almost all city facilities are closed down. Tonight, we are changing council meeting procedures to allow teleconferencing. We will not be accepting cash payments until the fall. We will be extending the payment due date for flat rate utility bills.</p> <p>Serena Lusk: Emergency operations centre is activated to Level 1. Coordinating with other municipalities on emergency measures, and supporting measures taken by the Province (limiting group size etc.)</p> <p>Cecilia Achiam: The RCMP and Fire Department are fully functional. Some of the non-essential services are terminated for now (volunteer programs, education sessions etc.)</p>

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4. Update from YVR	9:18am	<p>Craig Richmond</p> <p>There are significant drops in intercontinental and trans-border flights. There are layoffs at the terminal (will have a number by the end of the week).</p> <p>Enhanced screening is in effect. Urging to the public to please minimize the number of people who must come to the airport (for pick-ups, saying goodbye) and maintain the two-meter distance in lines at the airport.</p> <p>Questions:</p> <p>Kenny Chiu: Vancouver has been one of the designated ports for receiving international flights. Is there anything the federal government could do better in helping to enforce quarantine?</p> <p>Craig Richmond: We will follow all of the procedures recommended by the experts in our public health authorities.</p> <p>Kenny Chiu: How many international flights are here now?</p> <p>CR: In range of 50% drop right now, we expect it to drop more in coming days.</p>
5. Update from the Chamber of Commerce	9:21am	<p>Fan Chun</p> <p>These are unprecedented times. I know we are all facing innumerable challenges every day. I'm reminded of a Winston Churchill quote, "if you're going through hell, keep going." I know we will all <i>keep going</i>.</p> <p>At the Richmond Chamber of Commerce, we represent member employers from every sector - from non-profits supporting the most vulnerable in our community, to the hospitality sector welcoming visitors to Richmond, to exporters sending goods from Canada all over the world.</p> <p>This past week, Richmond Chamber staff have been busy connecting with as many members as they can.</p> <p>A common thread has emerged: Employers are seriously struggling. They are worried that they have to lay off valued members of their team. They see a property tax bill coming due in the summer and wonder if they'll have the cash on hand to pay it. They see an EHT bill due at the end of the month - only a handful of days away - and are wondering how they'll pay it. The Federal Government has announced the first stage of its fiscal strategy to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on the economy. There are good measures in there: allowing businesses to defer federal taxes, the 10% wage subsidy, and the \$10 billion Business Credit Availability Program.</p>

		<p>But businesses need a clear path to access these relief measures. At the Richmond Chamber of Commerce, we are doing what we can to ensure all our local employers have access to the information they need.</p> <p>The economy as a whole needs support to survive this pandemic. The chamber network will continue to work with all levels of government and with other partners to maintain the vital connection between employers and employees and mitigate the economic impact of the pandemic</p> <p>Canadians should know that all sectors of society are working hard to minimize the impacts of the virus. We're all in this together, and when business, government and workers act as one, we are at our best.</p> <p>Matt Pitcairn:</p> <p>We are in full-on advocacy mode. We are on daily calls, looking to get more information to our businesses.</p> <p>For example, the 10% wage subsidy program is just not enough. Looking at what is being done in Europe, this is more in line with what employers need.</p> <p>We have already spoken to Katie at the EDO to collaborate on recovery efforts once things normalize.</p>
<p>6. Update from Richmond School District 38</p>	<p>9:26am</p>	<p>Scott Robinson</p> <p>We have established emergency operations structure as well.</p> <p>For communications, we are looking at the best ways to reach out to the community internally and externally. We have been focused on work force engagement this week (while schools are closed, a number of staff still work).</p> <p>We have closed the school board office to the public. For the foreseeable future, online registration for school will be the only way to register a student.</p> <p>On March 17, the minister announced that all in-class instruction was to be suspended until further notice. The announcement indicated that districts will be responsible to develop plans to maintain a level of service, especially for children whose parents are employed in essential services. We also have the expectation to provide service for youth-at-risk, including meal programs.</p> <p>We anticipate schools will not be open for face to face instruction following spring break.</p> <p>School playgrounds and fields are closed with signage to be posted today.</p> <p>We are to ensure that children of essential service workers are cared for. Working closely with all service providers to see where the gaps are and see if we can fill in those gaps.</p> <p>Ken Hamaguchi</p>

		The biggest concern is out families and our students. We are staying on top of things and keeping communications lines open.
7. Update from Tourism Richmond	9:30am	<p>Nancy Small</p> <p>These are unprecedented times across all industries. As you can imagine, right now things are basically at a standstill. With YVR at low capacity, our hotels and restaurants are also at very low capacity. We are working to support stakeholders and businesses as best we can.</p> <p>We are playing a role at the provincial and national levels to understand the impact. Tourism Richmond is working with government at all levels to understand the support we can give and how to work together.</p> <p>When we turn the corner, we will be working very robustly on recovery.</p> <p>Questions:</p> <p>Lorraine Graves: Do you have any suggestion on how the public can support your members?</p> <p>Nancy Small: For restaurants, this is a challenging time. Some are doing take-out and gift cards, and others are choosing not to. For restaurants, government is trying to come up with creative ways to support the staff and employers. The best thing we can do is follow the health authority's advice.</p> <p>Lorraine Graves: What about using hotels as convalescent homes for non-serious cases of COVID-19? Is that already happening in Richmond? Which hotels have been designated?</p> <p>Nancy Small: those conversations haven't happened yet but will update if and when they do.</p>
8. Questions/ Comments Collaboration	9:35am	<p>Katie Ferland: The EDO is working to post opportunities and virtual job-fairs online for industries that need employees, to hire employees from industries that are suffering.</p> <p>Lorraine Graves: Questions for Dr. Dawar: antivirals being tested – are there any test sites locally or off-label use here?</p> <p>Dr. Dawar: Chloroquine is being used locally in the care homes but it is too early to see what the results are.</p> <p>Fan Chun: Question for the educators: Do you have a sense of urgency that students feel in general? Do they see this as a crisis?</p> <p>Scott Robinson: Youth are mirroring the rest of society. Some are taking this very seriously, and just like adults, other students are not taking this as seriously. When some form of instruction resumes, educators will focus on what students can do to help stop the spread.</p> <p>James Ho: Would it be better if we have a breakdown of age group</p>

	<p>demographics of cases? Young people don't seem to be as serious in social distancing.</p> <p>Dr. Dawar: In BC, less than 2% of cases are in children and youth less than 19. It begs the question, if children are not at risk of getting infected or are they experiencing such mild symptoms that they do not require testing?</p> <p>We have heard of young people who have had severe outcomes. The probability of severe outcomes goes up with age.</p> <p>The message is "when you are sick, even if it's a little bit of cough or cold, stay home and isolate yourself from others for 10 days from the onset of symptoms"</p> <p>James Ho: We have never seen real data coming out from any medical centre – are we going to be looking at that or will we continue to publish general numbers without age group breakdown?</p> <p>Dr. Dawar: No one is trying to hide the data. We are trying to keep up with the cases and caught up in the details. We haven't had the time to publish that detailed epidemiological data. Will forward these questions to the BCCDC.</p> <p>Matt Pitcairn: A big question coming up locally – a lot of businesses are seeking clarity around the definition of essential services. Will there be support if they are deemed essential?</p> <p>Linda Reid: The legislature is sitting at 1:30pm. This issue will be canvassed. Will update the committee Chairs today.</p> <p>Alvin Chow: According to the document you outlined, media partners will provide weekly updates to the public at large. As soon as information is available, we should publish immediately. What is our role?</p> <p>Matt Pitcairn: We would love your help in spreading the information from this call as soon as possible – by noon today minutes will be provided.</p> <p>Alvin Chow: We welcome every other form of communicating information to all people in this community. We can host a Facebook watch party at 7pm of the Council meeting. We are not looking at ourselves as a weekly paper.</p> <p>James Ho: For the business community, there are debts and taxes. I know deferment is being looked at currently. Beyond deferment, are we looking at reductions and other measures?</p> <p>Mayor Brodie: There are discussions with the Province and various levels of local government to delay the tax due date, so that you don't pay interest until later. I don't see the likelihood that property taxes will be lowered. Hopefully the province will be looking at supports for people to help pay their mortgages and taxes. For flat rate utility bills, we will let you extend payment until June 30th. Metered utilities are not coming out for a while, and we should have</p>
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		<p>more clarity by that time.</p> <p>Kenny Chiu: How is the information dissemination been working for the cultural and farming community? (Including exemptions for the TFW.) Can we work together to do it better? The government of Canada has asked for help in manufacturing capacity. Are you aware of local facilities that can help?</p> <p>Matt Pitcairn: Over 1,200 businesses have responded to the call for Canadian manufacturer help. As far as communication to members, we are doing daily blasts to our networks. In normal times, we struggle to connect to members in the agricultural community. Any assistance getting information out to farmers is appreciated.</p> <p>Other Business:</p> <p>Mayor Brodie: Can we begin meetings at 11am going forward?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">General agreement.</p> <p>Mayor Brodie: Can we set the calls up via Zoom?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">General agreement.</p> <p>Mayor Brodie: There are a number of media members on the call today. You are encouraged to reach out to the delegates on the call and get this information out to the public.</p>
9. Adjournment	9:59am	

Next call set for 11AM, Monday March 30th, via ZOOM. Call in details to follow.