



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) Katie Ferland (City of Richmond) Shelley Leonhardt & Linda Reid (MLA, Richmond South Centre) Trix Chan & Teresa Wat (MLA, Richmond North Centre) Po Wah Ng & John Yap (MLA, Richmond-Steveston) Jas Johal (MLA, Richmond-Queensborough) Kenny Chiu (MP, Steveston-Richmond East) Sacha Peter (representing MP, Alice Wong) 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>Kim Somerville (City of Richmond) KM Lui (Ming Pao) Travena Lee (Fairchild Radio) KM Lui (Ming Pao) Marlyn Graziano (Kwantlen Polytechnic University)</p>
Recorder	Shaena Furlong

1. Opening Remarks from Co-Chair, Mayor Malcolm Brodie	11:00am	<p>Mayor Malcolm Brodie</p> <p><i>Roll call</i></p> <p>This is week 2 and the situation escalates. I think everyone in the community is pulling their weight. Of course, we have the sense that before things can get better, they will get worse.</p>
2. Opening Remarks from Co-Chair, Fan Chun	11:05am	<p>Fan Chun</p> <p>As we move deeper in the weeks of social distancing, many businesses are working from home already. We are fully aware of stress levels of local businesses are on the rise. At times like this, we appreciate this weekly task force meeting all the more, as an opportunity to share concerns and to collaborate. Thanks to all on the call for their organizations' hard works in the past few weeks.</p> <p>Please frame questions to facilitate the active exchange of information. Like many organizations, the Chamber staff are fully working from home and working to connect businesses with key stakeholders and to stay on top of the most recent government</p>

		policies on COVID-19.
3. Update from Vancouver Coastal Health	11:07am	<p>Dr. Meena Dawar</p> <p>Reflecting back on Mayor Brodie’s comments that “things will get worse before they get better”, this is a fair statement. As with all epidemic curves, we are still on the side of the number of cases going up on a daily basis. We have a good number of community and institutional measures in place. It’s going to be difficult. We need to continue practicing the basic personal hygiene as well as social distancing measures that have been communicated by Dr. Bonnie Henry.</p> <p>Directing task force members to the BCCDC website: the BCCDC is now updating on a daily basis, including demographic breakdown (as was brought up in the call last week). http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19</p> <p>In addition to case counts updated on a daily basis, there are guides for a number of different scenarios, including government agencies, event planning, faith groups etc.</p> <p>There is also important modelling at the base of the page.</p> <p>We are nearly at 900 cases as of yesterday. The greatest proportion of cases is within Vancouver Coastal Health. 17 deaths were reported as of yesterday in BC. A small proportion have been children and youth under 19.</p> <p>The volume of testing that is being analyzed by all of the labs in BC. Testing has been restricted to vulnerable individuals. The backlog has been dealt with but there are other testing and reagent issues.</p> <p>Per capita, BC is leading the country in per capita testing. Be assured that we have a good handle on the</p> <p>Proportion of respiratory illness specimens being tested who are positive for COVID: approx. 5% of those tested are positive for COVID. This provides some context to how prevalent this virus may be.</p> <p>Questions:</p> <p>Lorraine Graves: Are “suspected” but not confirmed cases included within the numbers?</p> <p>Dr. Dawar: We are not asking for reports of suspected cases but that may change in the coming days and weeks.</p> <p>Lorraine Graves: Now that the US FDA has approved an antibody test, will there be anything done here in terms of antibody testing to show who has already had it, knowing who has some immunity?</p> <p>Dr. Dawar: This is fresh news. I have not yet heard plans in that regard but will forward along and may have an answer next week if not sooner.</p> <p>Nancy Small: When we say things are going to get worse before they get better, are we anticipating a big spike in cases? Is that within the next week or two weeks?</p> <p>Dr. Dawar: I don’t think anyone can assign a timeline to this outbreak. I think we will continue to see an increase for a long time</p>

		before we see a decrease basing on other jurisdictions' experience. .
4. Update from the City of Richmond	11:18	<p>Mayor Brodie</p> <p>We continue to work very hard at City Hall, with it being closed down. Staff are still very hard at work, mostly from home. There is a Special Council meeting this afternoon. One of the items is the potential delay of flat rate utilities payments until June 30th. Another key item is washrooms for vulnerable people.</p> <p>With the provincial regulations and declarations, they are going to cancel the declaration of emergency for all the cities.</p> <p>For the most part, all city facilities are closed. The recycling depot remains open with some restrictions. They have had to stop taking white Styrofoam as that market has changed. Garbage pick up remains unchanged.</p> <p>Bylaw officers can issue license suspensions if restaurants etc. are in contravention of the rules.</p> <p>Expecting to hear more from the Province, who have been keeping close touch to the City. Of great interest to both parties are revenue issues (tax deferrals, use of capital reserves etc.).</p> <p>A note for anyone presenting remarks: please send your notes to Shaena – shaenaf@richmondchamber.ca</p> <p>Serena Lusk: Provinces are asking municipalities to look at resources to see which facilities would be available to help. Looking at services for vulnerable people within the community. Working with stakeholders and non-profits to make sure everyone is taken care of.</p> <p>Cecilia Achiam:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police and Fire are continuing to provide all emergency response services. Supply chains were established to ensure that they are well supplied to carry on their work. • The province has directed municipal bylaw enforcement officers to provide warning, information and advice to business and members of the public in respect to public health orders. The City has extended hours of enforcement. • While the majority of the businesses have been cooperative in complying with public health orders, some are not. Staff have been directed by Council to enforce the City's Business Licence Bylaw to its fullest including suspending or even cancelling of business licences of any business found to be in non-compliance with a provincial order. • Please be aware of potential scams. City Bylaw Officers will <u>NEVER</u> be asking the public or businesses for cash payment for fines/penalties. • Patrol of business districts and public spaces are carried out regularly to ensure public safety. <p>Questions:</p> <p>MLA Linda Reid: To follow up on handwashing stations and</p>

		<p>washrooms for those without their own: suggestion that we keep those facilities open 24/7, as some close at 10pm and don't open again until morning</p> <p>Mayor Brodie: The cost is a factor here. Vandalism is very prevalent or safety issues. They need to be monitored throughout the night. There are a couple of sites that could be monitored and kept open overnight. There will be a 24/7 washroom and handwashing station around the works yard on Linus Lane</p> <p>Matt Pitcairn: We've had more and more concerns raised about safety in the community, with so many businesses shutting down. We are hearing reports of fire and police having issues with COVID-19. What is specifically being done for public and property safety?</p> <p>Cecilia Achiam: Police are doing patrols. Bylaw officers are out until 9pm each night, working as eyes and ears. The fire department is seeing a rise in small fires with more people at home. We haven't seen any more destruction of property specifically.</p> <p>Kenny Chiu: How do we get the information out to the homeless community that these washrooms and facilities are available?</p> <p>Serena Lusk: We have a map and a list with information that will be going out to all service providers who work with this population. This is going out in paper and electronically. Parks crews will also have it available. Will send to newspapers tomorrow.</p> <p>Katie Ferland: We are still hearing from local businesses, mostly food manufacturers and other companies related to essential services and the supply chain, that they need workers to meet a temporary surge in demand. We have a listing of jobs on our website, as well as links to employment support measures available for individuals and businesses. https://www.businessinrichmond.ca/connecting-displaced-workers-with-jobs-in-need/</p>
<p>5. Update from the Chamber of Commerce</p>	<p>11:28am</p>	<p>Fan Chun</p> <p>The Chamber network is collaborating on bi-weekly brief surveys to take the pulse of the business community during this time. Members of the task force are encouraged to share the link: https://www.bcmindreader.com/c/al/6ohp5NAi47uLGZ7uaYfrQ/5hGLaJhKLFn6YIVIObtifu</p> <p>Local Data from BC MindReader Survey:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We received Richmond specific data from a province-wide survey of employers that concluded Mar 18th. The numbers are very concerning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 95% reported a negative impact on business related to COVID-19 with 74% of that significantly negative • 90% of Richmond respondents expect to see decreased revenue • 48% expect to need to lay off staff due to economic uncertainty or unstable revenues

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 46% told us there was a risk they will go out of business • 63% of respondents expect to see revenue drops of 50% or more <p>In the past week, employers have been facing necessary layoffs and employees are facing increasing job uncertainty</p> <p>Many members concerned about their essential service status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great to see the provincial list released on Thursday • Waiting to see if we will see restrictions to non-essential businesses across BC as we have seen in other provinces <p>Matt Pitcairn:</p> <p>Chamber priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on advocating for our members: lobbying senior government for supports to employers and workers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some good news announced Friday by Prime Minister Trudeau - increase to wage subsidy to 75% (we are waiting to see who qualifies for that and how they access it) • The deferral of GST, HST payments and import costs will also go a long way to helping businesses survive this crisis • Concerns regarding deferrals of payment but inability to defer lost revenues • Sharing relevant information to support local businesses. Please share the link to our COVID-19 Business Resources Page on our website. <p>Good news stories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of our members, prior to the outbreak was making sneeze/splash guards for grocery stores, store check outs, and clinics and this made up 5% of their business. Now it makes up 95% of their business, not because they saw an opportunity to make money but rather, an opportunity to address a serious need in the community. They have prioritized their business to address COVID-19. • London Drugs stepped in to help the Girl Guides of Canada distribute their cookies in stores and online. This is the largest fundraiser for the Girl Guides, which was disrupted due to the virus. London Drugs distribution helps keeps the guides and volunteers safe.
<p>6. Update from YVR</p>	<p>11:34am</p>	<p>Craig Richmond</p> <p>About 14,000 people have been or will be laid off. Really appreciated the federal and provincial help in the past week.</p> <p>Passenger volumes are down significantly. We are down to 40 – 50% of normal traffic over the year (that assuming a recovery in the third and fourth quarters).</p> <p>We are estimating 13 – 15 million passengers this year – a significant drop from 26.4 Million in 2019</p>

		<p>35 airlines are currently flying in and out of YVR, a drop from 56 airlines. We are expecting them all back once this is over.</p> <p>Many tenants (9/10) have closed their doors. Large portions of the terminal have been shut.</p> <p>YVR remains open to keep supply chains open and will be working very hard to re-open fully once it is advisable to do so.</p> <p>Almost all capital projects have been put on hold due to social distancing.</p> <p>Questions:</p> <p>Jas Johal: Regarding halted capital projects, with traffic down in Vancouver and globally, what impact do you see to capital projects in the planning phase?</p> <p>Craig Richmond: We were at the point where we were planning the next phase. We will necessarily have to take a pause and see what we have to do next. Our engineers will have to look at what the restart is – the order of restarting to match the demand. We can take a lot of traffic as fast as it can come back. We will have to look at what the traffic is like and where our priorities will lie.</p>
<p>7. Update from Richmond School District 38</p>	<p>11:37am</p>	<p>Ken Hamaguchi</p> <p>On March 26 the BC Public School Employers Association and the BCTF have reached an agreement. This is being ratified. COVID has impacted negotiations to get it done and put the focus back on the kids.</p> <p>Scott Robinson</p> <p>Four areas of focus:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Health and Safety <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ First priority – taking steps to provide a safe environment for our staff who are returning to work this week following spring break as well as the very limited number of students who may end up physically in schools at some point <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Have developed enhanced workplace cleaning measures– by mid-this week, every school in the district will have undergone ‘enhanced’ cleaning ▪ Have developed workplace protocols including physical distancing guidelines and personal hygiene expectations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● These protocols have been communicated through a variety of means across the district ○ So we believe we are prepared for our employees to be in our school buildings as this week progresses

		<p>2. Childcare</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ High priority for provincial government – childcare support for Essential Services Workers such as health care workers, first responders, etc. ○ Have been working closely with City of Richmond staff to coordinate our efforts ○ A letter from Superintendent went home to all parents on Friday – provided a link to a survey where parents who are Essential Services Workers can apply for childcare services with us ○ A large number of parents have responded. We’re sorting through the applications to prioritize to ensure ESW’s classified as top priority receive service first, then will work our way through the list ○ We are ready to go this week to provide services to those families in a limited number of sites around the district <p>3. Supporting Vulnerable Families</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Focus on providing food to children who normally receive food through schools- either breakfast or lunch ○ Have been exploring various models - challenges around maintaining food safety standards as well as distribution ○ Working closely with community partners such as Save-On Foods at Terra Nova who have very kindly agreed to provide both perishable and non-perishable food at a discount ○ Will be building food hampers weekly and distributing them ○ This week – school staff will be reaching out to families of students who have been receiving regular meals at schools who may be facing food insecurity at home ○ Once we establish that list, are aiming to begin distribution in about a week – still working out distribution details <p>4. Continuity of Instruction for all students</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ministry of Education has published a framework for Continuity of Learning that is intended to guide teachers across the province as they embark on this new way of providing instruction ○ At this time, students will <u>not</u> be attending school in-person unless they are children of Essential Services Workers requiring childcare ○ This week, all teachers have been asked to reach out to parents and older students to reconnect and try to determine needs such as access to technology at home ○ Starting next week, instruction for most students will begin through a variety of means: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Variety of online learning platforms ▪ Provision of work packages
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<p>8. Update from Tourism Richmond</p>	<p>11:46am</p>	<p>Nancy Small</p> <p>Over the last week, we have been the beneficiary of many announcements from the Province and Federal Governments for workers in the tourism and hospitality industry. These are appreciated.</p> <p>Properties are closing across the province with some redeploying for healthcare workers, or quarantining, including the Accent Inn in Richmond.</p> <p>With half of the numbers expected through YVR this year, this is obviously going to have a major impact on the Tourism Industry. In fact, it's already happening.</p> <p>Within metro Vancouver, Nancy is co-chairing a task force for Metro Vancouver tourism and hospitality businesses to look for response within this crisis time but also looking forward to recovery: next steps within the industry this year and the next couple of years. YVR is also on this task force.</p>

		<p>The task force is working very closely together to try and create a singular voice for the industry.</p> <p>Questions:</p> <p>Mayor Brodie: How many hotels in Richmond are closed?</p> <p>Nancy Small: At this moment, three of our bigger hotels are closed: River Rock, the Marriott, and the Hilton. The BC Hotel Association is anticipating 2/3 of BC hotels will need to close in the coming months. (Within Richmond, almost 1,000 rooms are now closed. This is significant.)</p>
<p>9. Update from Richmond MLA</p>	<p>11:49am</p>	<p>MLA Jas Johal</p> <p>What most people here have seen is that we've tried to be very supportive of the government during this trying time. Last week, Jas was within a group of 10 other MLAs who held quorum and approved the budget for the remainder of the year (\$36B) and separate budget for COVID specific programs (\$5B).</p> <p>Carole James said the tactic of the provincial government is to fill gaps in the federal plan (i.e. including rent for residents and businesses).</p> <p>Opposition is holding meetings twice a week to discuss how to be most useful.</p> <p>Getting many calls from constituents on accessing specific programs. Were able to find money for the food bank. \$1 M province-wide was allocated. They have been desperate for funding.</p> <p>At some point, the opposition will need to return to its role as critic, but at this particular point, we are trying to constrictively engage where we do see holes.</p> <p>MLAs will likely not return to the house for Question Period until at least the end of April.</p> <p>Small business owners: every restaurateur and small business owner is feeling this. We are trying to help businesses access the government programs that are there. There is more to come.</p> <p>MLA John Yap:</p> <p>As an example of collaborative approach: a few weeks ago, John joined a working group with MLA Shirley Bond and government MLAs. It has been announced that 211 service is expanded, and funding is provided, with the goal to mobilize the network of volunteers across the province. Richmond Cares Richmond Gives will be the agency in Richmond to work with that program.</p> <p>All of us on the call know that volunteers are the heart of our communities. This volunteer program will be directed at seniors who are at home and need help with non-medical needs.</p>

		<p>Shortly we will see more communication on this.</p> <p>MLA Linda Reid:</p> <p>Infection Control Issues: \$10 M has been freed up for ozone machines, UV disinfection equipment, etc. disinfection equipment in long-term care facilities etc. This work is under way.</p> <p>MLA Teresa Wat:</p> <p>As MLAs we are all trying to be connected to our constituents. Teresa has been approached by many community groups who have been responsible, including a group who has donated masks to seniors in the Kiwanis Towers. The Federal Government is now funding the United Way to help seniors.</p> <p>Restaurants: one particular restauranteur is an owner of a Japanese restaurant. She is very worried about paying her rent. She was trying to defer her rental payment. The property manager said that unless there was direction from the province or the feds, mandating rent freezes, rent would be due at its normal time.</p> <p><i>Teresa will connect with Fan and Matt off the call to discuss commercial rent issues.</i></p>
10. Questions/ Comments/ Collaboration	11:59am	<p>Mayor Malcolm Brodie</p> <p>Reminder to all who gave comments, please get your notes to Shaena.</p> <p>We will reconvene next Monday on Zoom.</p> <p>Please share comments, concerns etc. with Mayor Brodie, Fan Chun, or Matt Pitcairn</p>
11. Adjournment	12:00pm	<i>Meeting Adjourned</i>

Next call set for 11AM, Monday April 6th, via ZOOM. Call in details to follow.