



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

<p><b>1. Opening Remarks from Co-Chair, Mayor Malcolm Brodie</b></p>	<p><b>11:00am</b></p>	<p><b>Mayor Malcolm Brodie</b>  I'm sure that all of us have an interesting Easter weekend that we will never forget.  <i>Roll call</i></p>
<p><b>2. Opening Remarks from Co-Chair, Fan Chun</b></p>	<p><b>11:03am</b></p>	<p><b>Fan Chun</b>  Very glad to see everyone after a long weekend.</p>
<p><b>3. Update from Vancouver Coastal Health</b></p>	<p><b>11:04am</b></p>	<p><b>Dr. Meena Dawar</b>  The number of new cases being reported on a daily basis is declining. We can confirm that the curve has been flattened. It is still a bit too early to say if the curve is on the downturn. We have expanded testing prior to this weekend. We have thus loosened the testing criteria so that physicians can test individuals based on their clinical judgement. Testing capability in rural, remote and First Nations communities is also being improved.</p>

The next weeks will tell if the curve continues to be flat or on the downside.

About 1500 cases are confirmed in BC – 650 are within Vancouver Coastal Health. Fraser Health is catching up to that and has the greatest population in BC. Median age of patients is 57. There have been 53 deaths in VCH.

**Questions:**

**Lorraine Graves:** You mentioned that serology is due to come online very soon – how widespread will the testing be? What will be the criteria? Will there be ID issued that can't be copied, lent, or sold? Canadian Blood Services is setting up to do convalescent plasma. How do they set the criteria for that?

**Dr. Dawar:** Many people are looking at serology, both rapid point-of-care assays and regular serology. Neither serology test has been approved as a diagnostic assessment. This is more of a surveillance tool to assess which proportion of the population may have been exposed and is somewhat protected. I will let you know as soon as it is approved. We are looking forward to it. At the moment, it hasn't got very far. I do not have any information on what is being done by Canadian Blood Services.

**Linda Reid:** There seems to be equipment going to assisted care facilities and long term care facilities – this doesn't seem to be shared equally with independent living situations. How are we doing with supplying PPE to independent living communities?

**Dr. Dawar:** I have actually not received any requests from any independent living facilities. I will follow up with my colleagues at VCH.

If you are aware of any independent living facilities who have reached out and been disappointed, please reach out to me directly or have them reach me directly. PPE is clearly limited. We are accepting donations from the community for PPE. We are in the position to support long-term care facilities with PPE. We have also been supporting assisted living facilities and group homes.

**James Ho:** We've been hearing a lot of people from our audience that they cannot get the COVID 19 test at all unless they are gravely ill. Even when they have tested positive, they are not being treated – they are just asked to go home and self-isolate. This seems to be a serious issue. Can you give us insight as to why they are not being tested? And why are they being sent home? They do not seem to be part of the statistics

**Dr. Dawar:** Our testing strategy has evolved as the pandemic has evolved. At the start of the pandemic, we were very liberal with testing – including travellers and people who had been in contact with travellers. As the situation developed quickly in March, the testing capacity was overwhelmed in BC. It has taken a while for the tests to be leveraged to a number of testing authorities. We are now past the backlog. The strategy for identifying cases changed to managing areas where community spread is occurring. We are

		<p>starting to see the number of new severe illnesses fall on a daily basis. I hope that holds true for another week. As we reached this new phase in the pandemic, we are opening up the testing criteria. People with fever, cough or GI symptoms can now access testing through their physician or at hospital sites. We are also expanding testing at rural and isolated communities. Our message has always been (through family physicians) that people with mild to moderate symptoms need to be isolating at home for 10 days.</p> <p><b>Kenny Chiu:</b> Thanks to Dr. Dawar for keeping us informed. I wonder if it is possible to be more localized and wonder if you have metrics for Richmond specifically?</p> <p><b>Dr. Dawar:</b> I've certainly heard criticism for not releasing local numbers. There is a good reason for this. In most situations, we do not release numbers by municipalities. In Richmond, we made the decision to release numbers early on, because many had made the erroneous assumption that VCH numbers were mostly localized to Richmond (when in fact there were zero cases confirmed in Richmond). At this point, we have COVID cases in the Richmond Hospital, like most hospitals in the province. We have had COVID deaths in Richmond, like many municipalities. The numbers in Richmond will not be released, as the numbers do not give the full picture of active cases and can be difficult to interpret.</p>
<p><b>4. Update from the City of Richmond</b></p>	<p><b>11:18am</b></p>	<p><b>Mayor Brodie</b></p> <p>The general situations is much the same with city hall, facilities, and non-essential services closed;</p> <p>Meetings are being held remotely and have reduced in number.</p> <p>Parks remain open but people are to physically distance and we are getting good cooperation.</p> <p>Challenges this week are primarily finances. This week, many more meetings will be held and discussions between local government / Province / Federal Government</p> <p>The open question is: what tools will the cities/regions be given to cope with loss of revenues (e.g.: timing of date for payment of taxes and consequent penalties for late payment; tax rates etc.)</p> <p>Other approaches include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Outright grant to cover shortfall - Vancouver suggestion;</li> <li>- short term borrowings from reserves, Municipal Finance Authority or banks</li> </ul> <p><b>Serena Lusk:</b> We launched a public education program in the parks this week – having lifeguards in Richmond’s busiest parks providing information about physical spacing and social distancing. We will continue this program. There has been excellent feedback so far. We also launched the #RichmondHasHeart program to encourage community spirit. There has been a public call for artists to provide</p>

proposals on works that create community connections during this time. We are also honouring first line working and health care workers.

We continue to monitor supports and amenities in the community and re-evaluating and continuing to work with VCH to activate facilities if needed.

**Cecilia Achiam:** Bylaw staff continues to be redeployed and doing very little on parking enforcement during this time. (Very few people are out and parking illegally at the moment). We continue to enforce safety related parking violations.

Some of the restricted business still being open. We had another bust of masks being sold second-hand – the vendor was issued a \$1000 ticket and has surrendered the 3,000 masks. The masks are put in a registry for use by the province. Bylaw officers have generally been well-received in the community

**Kim Somerville:** Last week the city developed a guide for individuals experiencing homelessness during the pandemic. This has information about housing, shelters, washrooms, meals and counselling. A food security map has also been distributed to all agencies. There is a handwashing station and 24/7 portable washroom at the corner of Saba and Buswell. An ad in the newspaper went out with all of the services that are available for seniors.

CHIMO is looking into services for individuals who are used to being able to use the computers at the library but do not have that resource at this time (and may need computer access to apply for support programs).

**Katie Ferland:**

The City of Richmond has launched a virtual COVID-19 Business Support Centre in order to provide a centralized source of accurate and timely information for local businesses who are being impacted by the current pandemic.

The Support Centre will provide information related to:

- City services and initiatives
- Support programs and resources developed specifically for businesses by all levels of government and other agencies

Businesses can access the COVID-19 Business Support Centre by:

- Phone: 604-276-4114
- Email: [businesshelp@richmond.ca](mailto:businesshelp@richmond.ca)
- Webpage: [www.businessinrichmond.ca/covid-19](http://www.businessinrichmond.ca/covid-19)

Richmond Food Recovery Network #FoodShare Pledge

We continue to work with our partner Food Mesh on expanding the Richmond Food Recovery Network. The web and app-based

		exchange platform creates an online network where Richmond-based food businesses and farmers with surplus food can either donate or sell it to charities, farmers or businesses that can use it. Our goal is to generate an additional 10,000 meals throughout the month of April for residents in need
<b>5. Update from the Chamber of Commerce</b>	<b>11:28am</b>	<p><b>Matt Pitcairn</b></p> <p>We are following very closely the legislation that is being passed by Ottawa, including when these supports will be in place for businesses. The two biggest needs we are hearing from businesses right now are rent relief or property tax deferrals. Revenues are down or non-existent, but these organizations still have bills that need to be paid. Unfortunately, May 1<sup>st</sup> may be the last day of business for many small businesses across Canada without support.</p> <p>We have been working with our colleagues in Tourism Richmond and the Economic Development Office and we are in the early stages of creating a new platform to streamline information and become a one-stop-shop for information within the business community. This would be outwardly focused and pool information in one portal.</p> <p>RCC has three events coming up:  -Chamber Check-In tomorrow April 15<sup>th</sup>:  <a href="https://www.richmondchamber.ca/event/virtual-chamber-check-in/">https://www.richmondchamber.ca/event/virtual-chamber-check-in/</a>  -Virtual Happy Hour April 16<sup>th</sup>:  <a href="https://www.richmondchamber.ca/event/virtual-happy-hour/">https://www.richmondchamber.ca/event/virtual-happy-hour/</a></p> <p>-Next Wednesday at 4pm we are hosting a townhall with Minister Fortier. Event details TBC ASAP</p> <p>The second pulse-check, a province wide survey was launched last week. Please take that survey and spread it.  <a href="https://www.bcmindreader.com/c/r/bc-covid-pulsecheck2-2020-chambers">https://www.bcmindreader.com/c/r/bc-covid-pulsecheck2-2020-chambers</a></p>
<b>6. Update from YVR</b>	<b>11:31am</b>	<p><b>Craig Richmond</b></p> <p>YVR continues to see declining passenger numbers given COVID-19 travel restrictions. The Airport Authority initially forecasted a 40-50% decline in annual traffic but is continuing to adapt its forecast as the crisis continues and more information becomes available.</p> <p>YVR is working closely with its airport partners to address the ongoing pandemic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• YVR helping its airline partners manage current schedules changes, while also looking ahead at how the airport can support the industry's recovery planning.</li> <li>• YVR is coordination with Emergency Management BC and federal agencies to ensure the seamless implementation of the Province's new COVID-19 screening process that requires all passengers arriving from outside of Canada to have a self-isolation plan in place.</li> </ul>

		<p>The Airport Authority continues to reduce expenditures and consolidate its resources to ensure YVR weathers the crisis. This includes consolidating all domestic airlines check-in to the international terminal, moving international passenger pre-board screening to the C-Pier gates, and closing additional international and domestic aircraft gates.</p> <p><b>Questions:</b></p> <p><b>Jas Johal:</b> You've done a great job in the last few years of bringing in new airlines, new routes and flights. Have you had any indication from your partners of intentions to cut down on those routes or eliminate those routes once we get back up and running?</p> <p><b>Craig Richmond:</b> Early indications that airlines want to go as fast and as far as they can once the restrictions are removed. We don't have any indication of which routes might be removed. Like us, they are just trying to get through.</p>
<p><b>7. Update from Richmond School District 38</b></p>	<p><b>11:33am</b></p>	<p><b>Scott Robinson</b></p> <p><b>We are focusing on three main priorities this week:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Childcare for Essential Services Workers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We've offered placements to all Tier One ESW's as well as the majority of Tier Two</li> <li>• By the end of today we will have offered a placement to every family that applied for assistance for children aged 5-12</li> <li>• Currently have just under 30 students attending onsite care at one of our school-sites</li> <li>• We think those numbers may double this week as we offer placements to more families so we'll likely be looking at expanding into a fourth site at Garden City</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Supporting Vulnerable Families <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuing to work in collaboration with the Richmond Food Bank, Richmond Food Security Society and Save-On Foods to prepare weekly hampers</li> <li>• This past week – we prepared and delivered approximately 250 food hampers to families around the district – will be doing that again this week</li> <li>• Hampers are prepared at Richmond Secondary, then our bus drivers deliver them to schools around the district and school-based staff then deliver them directly to families' homes.</li> <li>• Seeking financial donations to supplement the hampers – we will have a link up on our website by this Friday for anyone wanting to make a financial donation to the food program</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Continuity of Instruction for all students <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learning Opportunities at home began last week for the great majority of students: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Elementary level- range from approximately 60 minutes daily at the early primary level to around 120 minutes for the intermediate grades</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ol>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Primarily focused on literacy and numeracy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Grade 8-12 – approximately 180 minutes daily</li> </ul> </li> <li>• We anticipate that it will take a while for families to get settled into a routine that works for them – we’re encouraging parents and older students to reach out directly to teachers if they need additional help so adjustments can be made</li> <li>• We are about to start the process of lending out over 800 district owned devices such as IPADs</li> </ul>
<b>8. Update from Tourism Richmond</b>	<b>11:36am</b>	<p><b>Nancy Small</b></p> <p>Tourism Richmond has been working with Destination BC to keep up the message that this is not the time to travel. I think we saw over the weekend a lot of people making the right choice not to travel. The results were quite positive in that regard.</p> <p>We are doing weekly communications to our stakeholders to connect them with resources and help them navigate all of the information and resources.</p> <p>We have had to rethink our 2020 plan in terms of marketing and business development. Optimistically, looking to Q3 and Q4, we will hopefully be ready with plans to welcome visitors once again.</p> <p>Metro Vancouver Task Force: this is a pivotal week for this group as we will be starting to get our key messages out to the public this week. Emphasizing the need for support of the industry – both now (in the response phase) and in the future (restart and recovery phase).</p>
<b>9. Update from Richmond MLAs</b>	<b>11:39am</b>	<p><b>MLA Teresa Wat</b></p> <p>Glad to learn that the Chamber is hosting a virtual town hall meeting. This is a good platform for different sectors can share information. Our 4 MLAs are thinking of hosting a virtual town hall on the 27<sup>th</sup> (Monday). Many jurisdictions are talking about reopening their economies. We want to hear from stakeholders, business and residents on this matter.</p> <p>Vancouver Coastal Health Authority is hosting a town hall this Friday at 7:15pm, moderated by MLA John Yap and MLA Bowinn Ma. We will share more details.</p> <p>Constituency issues: property rent relief is a big issue. MLA Wat’s office has had a number of calls from businesses in her riding, regarding commercial rent relief issues. I am hoping this will not result in them closing their business. As an example, a visual arts academy negotiated with her landlord at her Vancouver location to waive rental for the month of April but is still in talks with her Richmond landlord. I’ve heard that many Richmond landlords are not working well with their tenants in this regard.</p> <p>Richmond Cares Richmond Gives has been appointed as one of the</p>

		<p>24 agencies in BC – any senior who wants to sign up for non-medical help can call 211 or visit 211.ca.</p> <p><b>Questions:</b></p> <p><b>James Ho:</b> I hear everybody is concerned here. As a businessman, I am negotiating with my landlord at this moment, as are most of the tenants in my area. The landlord has been very open and flexible and trying to help as much as they can. A huge issue that keeps coming back is the property tax. The deferral is no longer going to work if landlords are being asked for relief on their rent.</p> <p><b>Mayor Brodie:</b> At the local level, we are examining all the factors of property tax and revenues in the city generally. We are also in talks with the Province, closely coordinating on all factors. I expect some discussions and hopefully decisions this week.</p>
<b>10. Update from Richmond RCMP</b>	<b>11:48am</b>	<p><b>Supt. Will Ng</b></p> <p>We have stepped up and increased patrols and visibility at all commercial businesses, YVR, the City, and Sea Island. We have noticed that commercial break and enters in the City have gone down, and crime generally is down.</p> <p>Speeds have gone up on some main arteries. We are increasing visibility of officers on main arteries to help reduce speeds, and ensure we don't have injuries and fatalities.</p> <p>We are working on an investigation with Richmond Fire on some arsons in trash cans and shrubs.</p> <p>Compliance with Provincial Health directives is generally good among officers in Richmond.</p> <p>We are currently supporting Federal and Provincial health authorities with respect to new directives in and around YVR, and in the city as well.</p>
<b>11. Update from Richmond Fire Rescue</b>	<b>11:50am</b>	<p><b>Chief Tim Wilkinson</b></p> <p>For Richmond Fire, we are experiencing lower-than-normal event levels. However, we are experiencing higher impact of the events we attend. The severity of traffic accidents has gone up.</p> <p>We are only responding the most serious medical events, as directed by the medical health officers. We are experiencing higher-than-normal fire activity, which is alarming. We are looking to start inspection programs again in a safe manner, starting with the highest risk areas.</p> <p><b>Questions:</b></p> <p><b>Lorraine Graves:</b> It sounds like you're looking for an individual arsonist? Is there are</p>

		<p>reason</p> <p><b>Supt. Will Ng:</b> Currently, we are looking for one arsonist. We are in an active investigation and will continue to report as we continue the investigation.</p> <p><b>Mat Pitcairn:</b> Have Fire Rescue and RCMP personnel numbers been impacted?</p> <p><b>Chief Wilkinson:</b> We are experiencing lower-than-normal sickness at this time.</p> <p><b>Supt. Ng:</b> Originally, we did see reduced numbers due to exposure. However, ironing out SOPs regarding protective measures, we only have 2members out for isolating</p>
<p><b>12. Adjournment</b></p>	<p><b>11:54pm</b></p>	<p><b>Mayor Brodie</b></p> <p>As a reminder, please send your notes to Matt or Shaena for the minutes. It is very helpful if you can send her notes.</p> <p><b>Linda Reid:</b> suggests everyone view the new destination BC video, which Nancy has supplied: <a href="https://www.destinationbc.ca/covid-19/destination-bc-response/#video">https://www.destinationbc.ca/covid-19/destination-bc-response/#video</a></p> <p><b>Matt Pitcairn:</b> I am really encouraged by Dr. Dawar’s message earlier that in the next 1 or 2 weeks, we will know if the curve has been flattened and turning the corner. I am starting to be optimistic and look toward recovery and what that will look like.</p>

***Next call set for 11AM, Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, via ZOOM. Call in details to follow.***