



<b>Committee Members in Attendance</b>	<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> and <b>Shelley Leonhardt</b> (MLA, Richmond South Centre)  <b>Teresa Wat</b> (MLA, Richmond North Centre)  <b>John Yap</b> (MLA, Richmond-Steveston)  <b>Jas Johal</b> and <b>Sam Schaap</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>Ken Hamaguchi</b> (Richmond School District)  <b>Marlyn Graziano</b> (Kwantlen Polytechnic University)  <b>Rebecca Swaim</b> (Trinity Western University, Richmond)  <b>Alvin Chow</b> and <b>Maria Rantanen</b> (Richmond News)  <b>Lorraine Graves</b> (Richmond Sentinel)  <b>Todd Ye</b> (Fairchild TV)  <b>Andrew Lai</b> (Sing Tao)  <b>James Ho</b> (AM 1320 Radio)  <b>Tim Wilkinson</b> (Richmond Fire)  <b>Will Ng</b> (Richmond RCMP)</p>
<b>Members Absent or unable to login</b>	<p>Travena Lee (Fairchild Radio)          Scott Robinson (Richmond School District)          KM Lui (Ming Pao)</p>
<b>Recorder</b>	<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></p> <p><i>Roll call</i></p> <p>Mayor Brodie expresses condolences to Supt. Wil Ng and his colleagues regarding the loss of the officer in Nova Scotia.</p> <p>The week seems to have gone by quickly. These are difficult times and we will hear more about the economic consequences from Katie Ferland.</p>
<p><b>2. Opening Remarks from Co-Chair, Fan Chun</b></p>	<p><b>11:05am</b></p>	<p><b>Fan Chun</b></p> <p>As we enter week 6 of working from home, we are glad to keep receiving positive news from the Ministry of Health and BC CDC seeing the rate of infection declining.</p> <p>On behalf of the Richmond business community, our hearts go out to the victims and people impacted in Nova Scotia.</p> <p>In these trying times, let's focus on the importance of maintaining good corporate citizenship.</p>

<p><b>3. Update from Vancouver Coastal Health</b></p>	<p><b>11:06am</b></p>	<p><b>Dr. Meena Dawar</b></p> <p>We're now in week 6 and in are important phase of the outbreak in BC. Over 60,000 tests have been performed to date and over 1,600 cases have been reported in BC. Nearly 700 cases are reported with 81 deaths in the Vancouver Coastal Health region.</p> <p>While the age range remains between 5 and 102 years, only 5 cases have been reported in children and youth less than 19 years of age. We had seen the same findings in China and wondered if that as because children were just not being tested, but the numbers bear out here, where we have full testing of children.</p> <p>Over 20% of cases have been in people over 80 years and over 80% of deaths have been in people over 80 years.</p> <p>Peak activity (in terms of new cases reported daily) was March 9-19 with a shoulder to March 25. For the last 3-4 weeks, the number of cases reported daily has been decreasing. This is due to extraordinary public health measures and the measures all of us are taking.</p> <p>Lab testing has been widely available since April 8. The rate of positive testing is now at 3% (down from 10% at its high point).</p> <p>Last week Dr. Henry presented new modelling data. That presentation is now live at the link here:  <a href="http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/modelling-projections">http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/modelling-projections</a></p> <p>This shows the rate of disease in BC compared to other jurisdictions. What does this mean going forward? The improvement has been due to public health measures. There is no significant level of population immunity and no vaccine for some time. This virus looks like it will be around for quite some time and we need to figure out what the new normal will be. How do we resume social and economic activity without letting the virus get out of control?</p> <p>For example, in the health care system, we are looking to how we resume elective surgeries which have been temporarily halted in the last few weeks. This may mean opening outdoor recreational venues first. Playgrounds, as the illness is primarily an illness for adults. (Adults will need to be careful about social distancing and handwashing.) Then, we can look at indoor venues opening.</p> <p>We are making testing widely available within Richmond and broadly. Even people with mild infection can be tested. Teams are being expanded to do more active case contact and follow-up.</p> <p>We are at an interesting time but this virus will be with us for some time. How do we navigate the next few weeks, slowly and carefully easing restrictions?</p> <p><b>Questions:</b></p> <p><b>James Ho:</b> Last week, it sounded quite optimistic. Today, from what I've been hearing, we are back to a pessimistic picture. Last week we were hearing that the curve is flattening. Today, I hear that this</p>
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	<p>could be more long lasting. What has changed?</p> <p><b>Dr. Dawar:</b> The curve has flattened. The rate of new infections has gone down tremendously in the last few weeks. BC is doing so much better than other parts of the country and other global jurisdictions. We have fared better because of public health measures. If we quickly ease all of the measures, the virus could rebound. Within the limits of those provincial health orders, there are measures that have been taken that we could think of easing. The virus is not going to disappear. We have to accept that there will be ongoing low rate of transmission.</p> <p><b>Jas Johal:</b> Thank you to Dr. Dawar and all of the staff at Vancouver Coastal Health. You've raised the issue of potentially opening up outdoor facilities. Has there been a conversation about how to open up some of our businesses? Has there been a conversation around allowing younger workers to come to work, for instance?</p> <p><b>Dr. Dawar:</b> The economics department at the UBC has many faculty working on this question: which sectors of the economy can we ease back without a large public health risk? This conversation is being had. At a local level, many business leaders (even on this call) know their own businesses and can think through what they can do to re-open, with social distancing etc. There are many micro-level decisions that can be made. Of course, we are also looking at the macro-level decisions from a public health perspective.</p> <p><b>Lorraine Graves:</b> Are there any ideas why kids are not contracting this virus?</p> <p><b>Dr. Dawar:</b> At the moment, we are waiting for the serology test to be validated, which Vancouver Coastal Health is participating in. Once we have that, we will be able to do age group studies within the community. It may be that children are just getting such mild cases that they have not been flagged in other testing.</p> <p><b>Kenny Chiu:</b> Is there a plan to be more proactive in testing COVID-19? Will we be testing people who do not show symptoms or just want to be tested?</p> <p><b>Dr. Dawar:</b> The current PCR test only makes sense for people who are symptomatic. The serology test allows us to test for protection and exposure to the virus. This would allow people to see if they have ever been exposed to the virus or not. A study coming out of California with a serology level showed that exposure was about 1%</p> <p><b>Sam Schaap, with Jas Johal's office:</b> I have heard there are some reports of previously infected people being reinfected. Are we confident in immunity for those who have previously had the disease?</p> <p><b>Dr. Dawar:</b> There is the odd case report of a person being reinfected. For the most part, we believe that once people recover from the virus, they will have protection for some time.</p>
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<p><b>4. Update from the City of Richmond</b></p>	<p><b>11:20am</b></p>	<p><b>Mayor Brodie</b></p> <p>You probably read the release that Council has decided to make the tax due date Sept 2<sup>nd</sup> instead of July 2<sup>nd</sup> and reduce the tax rate by 2%. Bylaws and other factors around that are being introduced tonight. That will all be finalized this evening. That will be more information released at that point.</p> <p>Over the week, the provincial announcements had significant import to the cities. Translink has announced deep cuts to the system and finances this morning. There is a Metro Vancouver COVID task force that Mayor Brodie has participated in as well.</p> <p><b>Serena Lusk:</b> Nothing much different from previous weeks. We have launched a new section of the website called “Richmond Connects” with various online opportunities for people to participate in community programming online (i.e. fitness programs, art projects etc.)</p> <p><b>Cecilia Achiam:</b> There is steady work for the team. New ability to ticket has been given by the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General over the weekend. Now, officers can issue an additional \$2000 Provincial ticket for health order related infractions (on top of the \$1,000 ticket). We are doing work on how to implement that. More to come.</p> <p>We have been seeing more nuisance type calls and people a bit shorter on temper with each other. We will be doing some positive messaging in the communications dept to remind people to be more patient with each other.</p> <p><b>Katie Ferland:</b> Economic consequences of COVID-19 will be many, but with so much uncertainty it is a challenge for economists to provide accurate forecasts at this stage, and this is a very difficult environment for businesses who are trying to plan for their future. Right now the City’s efforts are focused on connecting businesses with programs and resources they need to survive and to adapt their operating models to adhere to health guidelines (i.e. pivoting to add delivery, introducing virtual experiences, etc.). We are also working with industry partners to monitor and assess the impacts on specific sectors and to develop recovery plans accordingly. Lastly, we are tracking and engaging with businesses that have been forced to temporarily close so we can provide them one-on-one support and help them quickly re-open when they are able.</p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ City services and initiatives</li> <li>▪ Support programs and resources developed specifically for businesses by all levels of government and other agencies</li> </ul> <p>Businesses can access the COVID-19 Business Support Centre by:</p>
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<p><b>5. Update from the Chamber of Commerce</b></p>	<p><b>11:25am</b></p>	<p><b>Matt Pitcairn</b></p> <p>The Richmond Chamber continues to closely follow policy developments: As mentioned in recent weeks, rent relief continues to be a top priority</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many questions on the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) as well as access to the Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA).</li> <li>• Would like to acknowledge and thank the City for being an early mover on the Property Tax deferral and as an added bonus, a tax reduction</li> </ul> <p>Minister Fortier Townhall on Wednesday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We are pleased to be hosting a virtual town hall discussion on Wednesday at 4pm with Minister of Middle Class Prosperity and Associate Minister of Finance, Mona Fortier. This is free to all members of the business community to attend and the link to sign up will be included in the minutes from today (<a href="https://www.richmondchamber.ca/event/virtual-town-hall-with-minister-fortier/">https://www.richmondchamber.ca/event/virtual-town-hall-with-minister-fortier/</a>)</li> </ul> <p>Surveys</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Throughout this crisis, we know access to strong data is invaluable to our policy makers. As you know, we have been actively involved with the survey efforts of the BC Chamber, conducting bi-weekly "pulse checks" on the business community.</li> <li>• The Canadian Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with statistics Canada, are conducting a national survey of Canadian employers. We are actively encouraging all Richmond employers to take this survey. (<a href="http://statcan.gc.ca/CSBC">statcan.gc.ca/CSBC</a>)</li> </ul> <p>Future Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Richmond Chamber of Commerce is Richmond's largest</li> </ul>

		organizer of business-focused events, generally with over 50 a year. With Dr. Henry's weekend announcement not to expect to be able to host large events this summer, we are necessarily shifting our focus, and will be looking for alternate ways to deliver strong value to our members, as well as revenue to our organization.
<b>6. Update from YVR</b>	<b>11:32am</b>	<p><b>Craig Richmond</b></p> <p>YVR continues experience significant impact at YVR and all of Sea Island with daily passenger volumes declining by more than 90% when compared to last year's traffic. Despite this, YVR remains open during the pandemic to support essential travel and facilitate the important movement of essential goods, materials and food to help maintain the strength of Canada's supply chain.</p> <p>YVR is working closely with our airline partners and stakeholders to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome Canadians and permanent residents home, and facilitate federal and provincial screening measures to ensure that all arriving travellers have an appropriate self-isolation plan in place.</li> <li>• Support the efficient arrival and processing of temporary foreign workers arriving to work at our local farms, fish harvesters, and food production and processing businesses.</li> <li>• Implement Transport Canada's new requirement that all travellers wear a non-medical mask or face covering large enough to cover their mouth and nose during their travel through Canadian airports and in-flight. All airport employees and contractors are also required to wear a non-medical mask or face covering when going through non-passenger screening points.</li> </ul> <p><b>Questions:</b></p> <p>Lorraine Graves: What has happened to retirement plans?</p> <p>Craig Richmond: I will stick around as long as they need me</p>
<b>7. Update from Richmond School District 38</b>	<b>11:33am</b>	<p><b>Ken Hamaguchi</b></p> <p>There has been some discussion of opening up schools, but we have no firm details yet. Obviously, social distancing will be a factor in anything going forward.</p> <p>Goals for the week of April 20<sup>th</sup>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Vulnerable Learners – the Ministry of Education has stated an expectation that all school districts begin to provide face-to-face opportunities in schools for students who may be vulnerable for some reason. This may include students with significant special needs who require one on one support, students who are experiencing severe emotional difficulties at home and require counselling or other face to face support, or perhaps students who are in grade 12 and are currently</li> </ol>

		<p>not passing a course required for graduation who would benefit from small group tutorials with a teacher. The district is currently working on a plan to support these students likely beginning early next week. All of this will need to be done with a continued focus on the health and safety of every student and every employee.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. There will be a public Board meeting this Wednesday at 7:00 pm. Members of the public will be able to watch and listen to the meeting via Zoom and submit questions via email during the meeting. Instructions for how to join the meeting are available on the district website.</li> <li>3. The district is currently examining its operating budget for next school year. Due to implications of COVID-19, primarily due to a drop in anticipated revenues from international students, we are anticipating a larger than expected budget shortfall. Members of the public will have the ability to provide input into the budget in May and June. Details on that process will be posted on the district website.</li> </ol>
<p><b>8. Update from Tourism Richmond</b></p>	<p><b>11:37am</b></p>	<p><b>Nancy Small</b></p> <p>At Tourism Richmond we are continuing to update our stakeholders weekly – with timely information on what is happening in the tourism ecosystem.</p> <p>We are continuing to monitor other destinations around the world for early signs of recovery – what are they doing, how are they doing it, and what are the successes/failures in this process.</p> <p>The metro Vancouver task force is very active – working with govt (fed and prov) to try to help with liquidity for businesses now – enhancing the wage subsidy, expanding the temp layoff past 13 weeks – hopefully to 26 weeks, and bridge financing.</p> <p>We are also very excited about a project that we are collaborating on with the RCC and the City of Richmond Ec Dev. It is about cohesion and supporting our businesses across the City with relevant and timely resources. It will include how locals can support local businesses; resources pages for govt programs; and generally a coming together for our different organizations.</p> <p>Our goal is to drive community spirit and support for our local businesses at this time and during recovery</p>
<p><b>9. Update from Richmond MLAs</b></p>	<p><b>11:40am</b></p>	<p><b>MLA Linda Reid</b></p> <p>Wanted to start with heartfelt condolences to RCMP and those affected by the tragedy in Nova Scotia.</p> <p>John Yap co-hosted a Vancouver Coastal Health town hall on Friday.</p>

		<p>Each health authority is hosting one with a member of the government and a member of the opposition. The government and opposition are working well together. There are good opportunities for the transference of information. The 4 MLAS have daily contact.</p> <p>Matt has been in contact for hosting a virtual townhall. We will likely go ahead with this.</p> <p>Accolades to Richmond Cares Richmond Gives and their great work with BC211.</p> <p>Low income subsidy: \$300-\$500 – these cheques have been in constituents hands for about 10 days.</p> <p>Handwashing stations: there still isn't one in City Centre. If playgrounds are going to open, we need to solve the handwashing issue at playgrounds.</p> <p><b>Mayor Brodie:</b> We announced we are opening a new washroom and handwashing station 24/7 in Lang Park.</p> <p><b>Serena Lusk:</b> It is on site and people have been using it. In response to children handwashing at playgrounds, we have 35 handwashing stations at playgrounds throughout the city (other than between 10pm and 5am).</p> <p><b>Questions:</b></p> <p>Matt Pitcairn: a member reached out to us last week regarding the Consumer Protection Licensing fee (\$750 annual fee) – this is within the provincial realm. It affects many people in the travel industry. These payments are due now. MLAs may get inquiries from constituents regarding this.</p> <p><b>Linda Reid:</b> We will continue to follow that up.</p> <p><b>Mayor Brodie:</b> On the provincial front, the province announced last week that the school property tax being paid by businesses is being reduced by an average of 25% and the date to pay is October 1<sup>st</sup>. Local governments have the ability to borrow interest-free from their own reserves. This is significant, as many of the larger cities have significant reserves. They are able to pay back within two years.</p>
<p><b>10. Update from Richmond RCMP</b></p>	<p><b>11:46am</b></p>	<p><b>Supt. Will Ng</b></p> <p>Thank you for your expression of support to our fellow members and our fallen member and their families.</p> <p>It has been quite a busy week supporting public health agency in Canada and provincial health authorities, with persons staying at local hotels in Richmond. A small percentage of clients have been non-compliant with self-isolation plans. Police have been called to provide education and more awareness. That intervention seems to have resolved each and every case.</p> <p>We are still investigating a series of arsons. Last week we put out a video release, canvassing the community for information. That is</p>

		<p>currently still under investigation and we are working with Richmond Fire Rescue to identify this individual.</p> <p>We are stepping up visibility of patrols at commercial business parks, sea island, YVR, and main roadways, with the goal to prevent commercial break and enters and also the theft of catalytic converters.</p> <p>We are working on a media strategy encouraging our community to stay vigilant and safe. And to keep an eye out for the arsonist. Positive messaging: celebrating national volunteer week this week.</p> <p><b>Questions:</b></p> <p><b>James Ho:</b> A friend at VPD told me that quite a few members are sick or in self-isolation and there is a huge shortage of officers. Is it the same situation in Richmond?</p> <p><b>Supt. Will Ng:</b> Our officers have full PPE and do a risk assessment for each call. For the majority of calls, they don PPE. In Richmond currently zero officers are self-isolating.</p> <p><b>Lorraine Graves:</b> Can you send the information sheet about what you are looking for and the information you have for the arsonist?</p> <p><b>Supt. Will Ng:</b> Yes, will share with you today.</p>
<b>11. Update from Richmond Fire Rescue</b>	<b>11:50am</b>	<p><b>Chief Tim Wilkinson</b></p> <p>Along with the OIC's report, we continue to be at a higher level for fires than normal, due to the arsonist. Also, in general, we have a number of fire issues. Getting toward spring and the good weather, we are remaindering people to be careful about being careful about disposing cigarettes. We are looking to reinvigorating business practices, including starting to do business inspections again at higher risk areas, and whether or not there is a need of assistance in the reopening schools.</p> <p>We are pushing hard on training. Our Council has supported us with additional staffing and they all require training.</p> <p><b>Mayor Brodie:</b> How many of your fire fighters are self-isolating or in quarantine due to exposure or illness?</p> <p><b>Chief Tim Wilkinson:</b> Only about five people are self-isolating. We have a very low tolerance for self-isolating. If people are even showing some symptoms, we have them isolating for 14 days. This is because we encounter vulnerable persons on a regular basis and we don't want to infect them. We want to be even more careful than other times.</p>
<b>12. Questions/ Comments/ Collaboration</b>	<b>11:53pm</b>	<p><b>Matt Pitcairn:</b> MP Kenny Chiu, can we get a quick update from you regarding the new legislation the government has proposed. What should we pay attention to in Ottawa this week?</p>

	<p><b>Kenny Chiu:</b> There is a lot of refinement the government needs to put into these various programs. In many cases, announcements were made before all info was available to other politicians and bureaucrats. Right now, the house is sitting again. The opposition is debating whether we can have one day of sitting with full social distancing or should have three. We may want to ask more questions about these programs. There is also a question about what is the new normal for democracy and our democratic system?</p> <p><b>Mayor Brodie:</b> Has there been a discussion about hosting online meetings of the House of Commons?</p> <p><b>Kenny Chiu:</b> The government is proposing one day of in-person meetings and two days of virtual meetings. There are concerns regarding living French translation, as well as security. We are asking for more face-to-face in the house debate. Working three days, rather than one, doesn't add any additional cost, as MPs are already available in Ottawa for the one day. We are discussing what kind of arrangements should be in place as we continue to conduct democracy in the House of Commons.</p> <p><b>Mayor Brodie:</b> Is there any such discussion around virtual meetings for the MLAs?</p> <p><b>John Yap:</b> Here in BC, our house leaders are having some discussions on potential ways to use technology to meet. So far, there is nothing there. There is no word on if the house will reconvene in a scheduled fashion soon. The next meeting is scheduled for Oct. The government has received the full amount of budget needed for the next few months. There is no requirement in terms of budget to meet. All we can say now, is "stay tuned"</p> <p><b>Lorraine Graves:</b> There has been an extension to the time we can hire students and an increase to the Canada Summer Jobs Program subsidy. The deadline for applications was February 28<sup>th</sup>. Is there are way the application deadline can be extended? So many students need work and so many of us can give them useful jobs that will help us and them.</p> <p><b>Kenny Chiu:</b> I will look into this and get back to you.</p>
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12:00pm Adjournment

***Next call set for 11AM, Monday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, via ZOOM. Call in details to follow.***