



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) Linda Reid (MLA, Richmond South Centre) Teresa Wat (MLA, Richmond North Centre) John Yap (MLA, Richmond-Steveston) Jas Johal (MLA, Richmond-Queensborough) 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) Marlyn Graziano (Kwantlen Polytechnic University) Rebecca Swaim (Trinity Western University, Richmond) Alvin Chow (Richmond News) Lorraine Graves (Richmond Sentinel) Travena Lee (Fairchild Radio) Todd Ye (Fairchild TV) Andrew Lai (Sing Tao) Lesley Chang (Tourism Richmond) Tim Wilkinson (Richmond Fire) Will Ng (Richmond RCMP)</p>
Guests in Attendance	N/A
Members Absent or unable to login	<p>Alice Wong (MP, Richmond Centre) KM Lui (Ming Pao) James Ho (AM 1320 Radio)</p>
Recorder	Shaena Furlong

1. Opening Remarks from Co-Chair, Mayor Malcolm Brodie	11:00am	<p>Mayor Malcolm Brodie</p> <p>Things are moving along at a very fast pace, at the same time, very slowly. We still have people in the parks who are hopefully socially distancing. The Fire Chief and the OIC of the RCMP are also joining us today.</p> <p><i>Roll call</i></p>
2. Opening Remarks from Co-Chair, Fan Chun	11:05am	<p>Fan Chun</p> <p>Glad to see that this task force continues to gain momentum during this critical time. Thank you to Officer in Charge Will Ng from Richmond RCMP and Superintendent Tim Wilkinson from Richmond Fire Rescue for joining this call.</p>
3. Update from Vancouver Coastal Health	11:05am	<p>Dr. Meena Dawar</p> <p>Epidemiology: latest figures in the public domain are from April 4th:</p>

	<p>we have over 1,200 cases of lab-confirmed COVID in BC. (This is truly an under-estimate as testing guidelines changed a few weeks ago.) We have 38 deaths in BC. Almost half of the cases are within VCH. Nearly 48,000 tests have been completed (1,200 of which are positive.) The median age of cases is 56 years. On the good news side, we are tracking the curve of hospitalized cases and it does show some flattening. They are doubling every 5-7 days now, as opposed to 3 days at the start of the outbreak. These are early days and we will see within the next couple of weeks if this trend continues.</p> <p>Questions from the public:</p> <p>Masks continue to be a hot topic. Masks are only indicated for people who are ill. For those who have any symptoms of a respiratory illness, masks should be used, but not otherwise. While VCH does not yet have a deficit of masks, they are being depleted at a rapid rate. We are accepting donations of masks and PPE for our health care workers.</p> <p>Community social distancing measures including stay-at-home message: this has become more prominent in the past few days, including from Dr. Teresa Tam and is gaining momentum in BC. This epidemic is going to last several weeks to months. We need to be out and about to maintain our physical and mental wellbeing. It is important to get fresh air and exercise but not to congregate in groups. Maintain social distance in public spaces and watch distance from others. It is important to get fresh air and exercise. We support the City of Richmond message “Be Smart, Keep Apart”.</p> <p>Questions:</p> <p>Lorraine Graves: We’ve read an interesting paper that suggests that PCR testing can give inaccurate results based on timing, and the paper strongly suggested serology testing as well. How soon will serology start here and who will be targeted?</p> <p>Dr. Dawar: At the moment serology is not available in BC but there are active conversations to make that happen. The PCR test indeed has a false negative rate early on and is not 100% accurate later either. This is why we are very cautious around clinical cases as well. We want to make sure we take them as COVID cases, even if they may not be tested or test positive. We are hoping to be able to leverage serology testing in the next few weeks.</p> <p>There are 41 vaccines currently under development with 5 in clinical trials.</p> <p>Lorraine Graves: What about using convalescent plasma? Some parts of Canada are looking at it. Is it a good way to go and are blood services in BC looking at it?</p> <p>Dr. Dawar: I have no information on this. I know it’s being tried elsewhere in the world and will look into this for you.</p> <p>Teresa Wat: In line with Canada’s health officer, it is not required or particularly helpful to wear a mask. One supermarket in my riding</p>
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		<p>requires people to wear a mask when they enter. They charge customers to buy a mask. Is that appropriate? Is there any public policy on this?</p> <p>Dr. Dawar: My understanding is that as a private business, they can put these conditions in place for entry. It is well within their scope of control. I will take this question back to our health protection office to see if we have tools to prevent such actions if desired.</p>
<p>4. Update from the City of Richmond</p>	<p>11:18am</p>	<p>Mayor Brodie</p> <p>City Council - all standing committee meetings are cancelled after Tuesday's Planning Committee except General Purposes and Finance Committees - urgent items will have priority on future agendas. All meetings are being held online.</p> <p>Items for city council to consider tonight include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Credit card payment fee reduction to 1% to encourage credit card use; - District Energy utility charges - discretion to extend payment dates; - Start to consider overall financial implications resulting from COVID. <p>Asking the Province to consider revenue implications including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Allow extension of date for payment of taxes; - Tax deferral programs for hardship cases; - Approaches to potential Provincial programs. <p>City workforce - many adjustments have been or will be made;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All temporary and auxiliary workers have been temporarily displaced with the closure of facilities; - Regular Employees are allowed to take unpaid leaves with protection of jobs and seniority with full benefits; - Future workforce requirements - not certain but possibility of increased needs to deliver essential functions and services if delegated by Province. <p>City team is looking at the possibility of rapid conversion of facilities for temporary uses if needed - e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Housing the homeless; - COVID testing facilities or quarantine; - Temporary hospital. <p>Other recent measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Garry Point Park - one-way pedestrian access; - Using the barn at Terra Nova park for meals for School District and other agencies; - Much general communication on the situation circulated by the City, including a one-pager in the Richmond News <p>Serena Lusk: We are launching a community spirit program</p> <p>Cecilia Achiam: From Community Bylaws:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Staff are continuing enforcement to support the provincial

		<p>health orders.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most calls received relate to physical distancing inquiries/complaints, restaurant dine-in, resale of critical supplies and restricted business that remain open <p>Kim Somerville: Staff are working with VCH to create a Food Security Map and anticipate it will be ready later this week. Richmond Cares Richmond Gives has been given funding for the 211 phone line, this is to provide non-medical support to seniors.</p> <p>Katie Ferland:</p> <p>Richmond Food Recovery Network: The City has a partnership with FoodMesh, a company that uses technology to redistribute surplus food from food businesses to social groups and meal programs. The initial program was designed to create 300,000 meals for Richmond residents in a one-year period. Because of COVID our food manufacturers are ramping up, and there's also increased need for meal programs - there's an opportunity to scale up the program to help address this need. The #FoodShare Pledge challenge is running throughout the month of April to onboard as many new food companies and charities as possible, with the goal of creating an additional 10,000 meals for Richmond residents this month. https://www.businessinrichmond.ca/richmond-food-recovery-network-take-the-foodshare-pledge/</p> <p>Suppliers & Manufacturers: We continue to work with local companies to get them connected to federal and provincial procurement channels include the new BC COVID Supply Hub. We are seeing lots of innovation come out of Richmond. Companies that are quickly scaling up to supply more medical equipment and suppliers, or pivoting entirely to create things like face shields, custom packaging, and various PPE. Wherever we can we're also helping individual companies access the support they need to respond to these calls so that they can remain operational and continue employing Richmond residents. https://www.businessinrichmond.ca/call-for-richmond-manufacturers-and-suppliers-help-with-canadas-covid-19-response/</p> <p>Support Local Business Campaign: City has launched a Support Local Business campaign on social media. This is in collaboration with partners including Tourism Richmond that has a dedicated web page set up profiling restaurants that are offering takeout and delivery. We are very open to working with additional partners to expand the campaign. https://www.businessinrichmond.ca/support-local-business/</p>
5. Update from the Chamber of Commerce	11:24am	<p>Fan Chun</p> <p>Richmond businesses continue to struggle through this pandemic. Last week, we had a few pieces of good news:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Firstly, I'd like to thank Richmond City Council for extending the Flat Rate Utility payment to June 30th. We were also grateful to have more information from the

		<p>Federal government about the 75% wage subsidy. Money will be available in approximately 6 weeks, with the portal opening soon. We eagerly await that opening of applications as businesses are suffering now.</p> <p>Moving forward, The Richmond Chamber and our network is advocating for these additional measures, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rent Relief: Paying the rent is the most top of mind concern for many businesses right now. We ask that government consider a similar model for commercial tenants, like the Rental Assistance support put in place for individuals. • We are asking that government allow for Deferred Municipal Property Tax Payment and Look at covering a Portion • We ask that the province consider Freezing the Scheduled Minimum Wage increase for 6 months. While the planned minimum wage increase should go forward, this summer is a time that businesses will (hopefully) be beginning the process of recovery. They'll be hiring back workers and trying to recoup some losses. This is an added cost that business simply can't handle at this point in time. • We are asking for an EHT Payment Holiday, not just a deferment, for the first 6 Months which would be tremendously helpful to business. • We ask that the Province provide funding to assist businesses setting up Remote Working or Online Commerce which is vital at this time. We believe this ask also a future-oriented opportunity as after the crisis, these businesses will likely continue remote work options that can reduce congestion and help achieve our GHG reduction targets. • Lastly, revise the Government Account Payables Policy to require all crown corps and other provincial agencies to have a revised Account Payables policy that is net 10 days down from the usually 60 days. <p>Matt Pitcairn</p> <p>It goes without saying that businesses are really hurting in Richmond and throughout the province. We received some Richmond specific data on Friday on our most-recent pulse-check survey:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 79% reported decline in sales • Over 40% have already made layoffs, reduced staff hours, or temporarily closed • Top government reliefs supported by respondents: Immediate tax relief, direct payments to impacted businesses, further wage subsidies, further tax remittance, rent relief • Lastly, and showing a growing lack of optimism, 54% expect a slow economic rebound, mainly due to insufficient global economic activity, and inability for customers to make purchasers
6. Update from YVR	11:30am	Craig Richmond

		<p>We're now dropping to about 3,000 passengers a day. A normal is 78,000 a day. Almost all capital projects are stopped. The Terminal is now largely consolidated in terminal C and adjacent gates. A little less than half the terminal is operating today with further consolidation to come.</p>
<p>7. Update from Richmond School District 38</p>	<p>11:32am</p>	<p>Ken Hamaguchi</p> <p>We are moving the Public Board meeting from April the 8th to April 22nd. We've been told that the BCPC voting will conclude at the end of the month on Friday. Teachers are sorting out their voting as well. Hopefully both will go well</p> <p>Scott Robinson</p> <p>Three areas of focus:</p> <p>1. Provision of Childcare for Essential Services Workers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start by thanking Dr. Dawar for the support she's been providing our district. Her council has been invaluable as we've moved very quickly to set up our onsite child care centres • Provision of child care for essential services workers continues to be a high priority for government • District's priority currently is to offer placements for those who are considered Tier One ESW's such as health care workers, first responders, and specific social services workers • Had approximately 200 applications initially from families who have identified themselves as Essential Services Workers • A number ended up declining because they had other childcare options and are wanting to leave spaces open for those with fewer options • Approximately half of the remaining applications are Tier One and our goal is to get as many of those children into a placement as soon as possible • Opened a site last week at Brighthouse Elementary and two more sites opened today at Gilmore and McNeely • Will do our best to expand further to other sites in order to accommodate essential services workers who don't qualify as tier one – this is dependent on our ability to staff the existing centres <p>2. 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 • This past week – school staff reached out to families of students who have been receiving regular meals at schools to identify which families would like to continue to receive support • Approximately 250 students have been identified

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food hampers will begin being delivered starting this week – will either be delivered to a school near the family or, where we have the staffing, we will try to deliver the hampers directly to people’s homes <p>3. Continuity of Instruction for all students</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers and school administrators spent this past week reaching out to parents of younger students and directly to older students to re-establish the critical connection between the school and the home • Part of that contact has included trying to determine the home situation in terms of families’ access to technology, both through access to a device and access to internet services • IT staff have been collating that information on a district level and are now in the process of preparing devices for distribution to families who need them • Once we have the information regarding access to internet, we’ll work with families to explore what options may be available. • Starting this week, instruction for most students will begin through a variety of means • Will look different depending on a number of factors such as the age level of the child, access to technology, parent’s ability to work with their children during this time, etc • based on those factors, teachers will provide learning opportunities for their students • We anticipate that it will take a while for everyone to get settled into a routine that works for them • Some families will not have the ability to spend any significant amount of time helping their children with learning activities as they are perhaps working from home, providing childcare, providing eldercare, etc • Teachers will stay in touch with their families and be prepare to adjust as we go
<p>8. Update from Tourism Richmond</p>	<p>11:36am</p>	<p>Nancy Small</p> <p>Scenario thinking: as we get through the health crisis, consumer confidence is going to be critical in rebuilding when we get there. This task force can help with that.</p> <p>As an industry, we are trying to get a handle on the impact. Data tells a story of how it’s impacting businesses and the people behind them. In Richmond tourism accounts for 20,000 jobs alone and \$2 billion in economic impact. We know there is a lot of important data that governments will want.</p> <p>There have been no further hotel closures. We don’t anticipate any further closures in the near future. As things continue to move along, we are trying to all survive</p>
<p>9. Update from Richmond MLAs</p>	<p>11:38am</p>	<p>MLA John Yap</p>

		<p>Thanks to all for being on this call. The 4 Richmond MLAs are part of a group that support the public health aspects of this crisis. We support the approach of Dr. Henry and public health. The one issue that is very topical is rent for commercial tenants. We are hopeful that the province and federal government will provide some relief. On the communications side, there should soon be more information on the 211 volunteer engagement program from Richmond Cares Richmond Gives. All MLAs will be helping to be the message out.</p>
<p>10. Update from Richmond RCMP</p>	<p>11:41am</p>	<p>Supt. Will Ng</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Ironed out SOP for decontamination and isolating procedures for any officers who have been exposed to potential COVID scenarios. · Crime and call volume are down for the Richmond RCMP; · During the response to COVID 19, our priority has been the safety of our Frontline First Responders and a safe approach to every call for service; · We are using PPE during every call for service and have established robust Standard Operating Procedures for decontamination and self-isolation; · We are making an effort to track COVID 19 positive cases in our community for Frontline officer safety; · We have noticed a trend at YVR with homeless persons from DTES arriving via Canada Line looking for shelter; · We are working with Transit Police to help find alternatives for our homeless clients; · We have noticed a slight uptick in family violence between family members; Good to encourage our community to get out for fresh air and exercise; · We have also noticed a slight uptick on Commercial break-ins; our deployment strategy is focussed on keeping our business entities safe by increasing patrols and visibility at our business parks and other commercial areas; <p>Questions/ Comments:</p> <p>Mayor Brodie: Can you elaborate on what you mean by homeless people visiting YVR?</p> <p>Supt. Ng: We have noticed that on a number of occasions homeless people have come out in groups on the Canada Line to YVR. Officers have apprehended them coming from the Canada Line. The majority are coming from the Downtown East Side. They are looking for shelter.</p> <p>Mayor Brodie (directed to Kim Somerville): Are we full-up at the city shelter?</p> <p>Kim Somerville: The shelter has reduced their numbers to 30 beds to allow for the appropriate social distancing (on the weekend they had 26 clients). They continue to accept new clients and any new clients</p>

		<p>are required to be isolated for 14 days (2 rooms at the front of the shelter allow for this - when these rooms are being used - new clients won't be accepted). They have also changed their protocol around leaving the shelter - clients staying at the shelter are only allowed to leave 2 times/day for a maximum of 30 min each time. This will reduce individuals' movement in the community and any travel to and from Vancouver.</p> <p>Matt Pitcairn: We appreciate the focus on business and are hearing more and more concerns from businesses who have shut down. Retailers are also reporting more and more theft to us. One retailer attributed this to people's desperation.</p>
11. Update from Richmond Fire Rescue	11:47am	<p>Chief Tim Wilkinson</p> <p>We are fortunate to have been able to put in many of the same processes that the RCMP has. We are experiencing lower-than-normal sickness of FFs. We are also understanding the changes that the medical health officer has put in place in regard to medical calls.</p> <p>We work very closely with BC Ambulance Services.</p> <p>We are in a good place with PPE and able to assist at the scene on occasion where needed.</p> <p>In the last week and a half there has been an increase in fires: in residential structures and hedges, which can be quite impactful. We are working with RCMP and our fire investigators. We are continuing to do prevention services where people tend to congregate (i.e. high-rise buildings etc.)</p> <p>Questions:</p> <p>Malcolm Brodie: When your members are coming into direct contact with residents and businesses, you have the equipment and know-how to make sure your members are staying safe?</p> <p>Chief Wilkinson: We are in a good place with PPE and are giving direction to be forceful in asking people to respect their space and stay away from them. For the most part, people are understanding. Children tend to want to be closer to fire fighters, but we are managing this.</p>
12. Comments/ Questions/ Collaboration	11:52am	<p>Lorraine Graves: Who is going to be applying for the 75% wage subsidy?</p> <p>Matt Pitcairn: Our members are very happy to see this from the federal government. 10% was not enough to move the dial for business. 75% is much more helpful. Businesses are taking this very seriously and it is affecting whether or not they need to lay off employees. We are working hard to get details to our members as soon as possible, so they know whether or not they need to make</p>

		<p>these tough decisions and when that money will be available.</p> <p>Teresa Wat: Normally, we don't see newspapers ads online. I wonder if the newspapers will have any initiatives for residents to go online to get information from the two papers?</p> <p>Lorraine Graves: From the Sentinel point of view, we use active social media accounts to direct readers to our website, which is updated hourly. We have advertising options that are very reasonable too.</p> <p>Alvin Chow: We only cut distribution in some business parks. Home delivery circulation remains uninterrupted. In terms of the website, traffic has increased in four times. 890,000 users visited the Richmond News website in March. On the website, the digital edition of the News can be accessed. The Richmond News site is not only read by people who are in Richmond, but also those who are overseas at the moment. This is a great channel for stakeholders to communicate to our audience. Is there a campaign to help Richmond business to support Richmond business? What can we do as a group to help Richmond businesses support each other?</p> <p>Matt Pitcairn: I appreciate the suggestion. We are actively talking about a buy-local, support local campaign. We will be having more conversations on this front and I agree – we need a campaign as soon as possible.</p> <p>Teresa Wat: Thanks Matt and Fan for writing a letter to Minister James and requests a copy.</p> <p>Matt Pitcairn: Will ensure a copy is delivered to MLA Wat ASAP.</p>
13. Adjournment	12:00pm	<p>Mayor Brodie</p> <p>Thank you to everyone who joined the call. Please note the next call will be held on Tuesday, the 14th, to accommodate the Easter holiday.</p>

Next call set for 11AM, Tuesday April 14th, via ZOOM. Call in details to follow.