



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

<p>1. Opening Remarks from Co-Chair, Mayor Malcolm Brodie</p>	<p>11:00am</p>	<p>Mayor Malcolm Brodie Welcome to the call. This is the eighth meeting of the Richmond COVID-19 Community Task Force. <i>Roll call.</i></p>
<p>2. Opening Remarks from Co-Chair, Fan Chun</p>	<p>11:05am</p>	<p>Fan Chun Good morning everyone. I welcome you all to the second meeting of the month of May, or our 8th meeting of the series. After two months, we are all optimistic and encouraged to see how we have been able to successfully contain the virus with a community effort and decisive leadership. However, we are also concerned how the public has quickly reacted to the relaxation of some of the social distancing practices over the weekend. It felt like there were 3 times as much traffic on the road and we saw the gather of many small clusters of people at our local beaches and</p>

		parks. I am sure this topic will be discussed throughout today's updates and we will continue to monitor this change of behaviour cautiously.
3. Update from Vancouver Coastal Health	11:06am	<p>Dr. Meena Dawar</p> <p>As of May 9, 2330 cases have been reported in BC with 871 reported in VCH. Approximately 10% of VCH cases are in Richmond. Case numbers are decreasing, and greater proportion are associated with clusters and outbreaks.</p> <p>Province of BC has released the Restart BC Plan which is an excellent source of guidance and a highly recommended read:</p> <p>https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support/bc-restart-plan</p> <p>Guidance for easing restrictions and safe reopening is being developed by the Ministry, WorkSafe BC and local health authorities.</p> <p>Speaking to two guidance letters were sent out in the last couple weeks:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To operators of outdoor recreation facilities that we can look at reopening playgrounds etc. 2. To business owners and operators of arts, culture facilities that we can start to look at reopening them. Guidance about physical distancing and barriers. (including advising people to stay home when sick and emphasis on enhanced cleaning) <p>Questions:</p> <p>Matt Pitcairn: Question from a member of the Chamber – how and when will antibody testing be available and implemented in Richmond?</p> <p>Dr. Dawar: The test is being validated. (There are a number out there) We want to make sure the test actually detects and does its purpose. We are validating by testing antibody levels of people who are known to have had it. It takes time to do good science. In the next few weeks, I should be able to give you more information on that.</p> <p>Nancy Small: Expectation management: as we move to the next phases over the next several months, is there an expectation that the number of cases will increase, and what will be an acceptable level? In other jurisdictions, we've seen more outbreaks after reopening. It's important to prepare for what to expect.</p> <p>Dr. Dawar: We do not have precise guidance. What we want to do is keep transmission at manageable levels. We can expect a low level of daily cases reported throughout the summer. We can expect a second wave perhaps in the fall. We want to titrate our restrictions to the transmission of the virus. If we see a jump in transmissions, we may need to pull back on some restrictions as well. When the next wave comes, we will probably come back into some of the same</p>

	<p>restrictions we've experienced this spring. We are in a better state now, with better knowledge of the virus and how to contain the spread.</p> <p>Nancy Small: To follow-up, why do we think there will be another wave in the fall?</p> <p>Dr. Dawar: We can expect another wave unless the vaccine arrives before that. Before this virus became a pandemic, we were all hoping this virus would disappear (as many have). We have seen with the level of transmission of this virus throughout the world, we can expect it will probably come back. As to when that wave might occur, we really don't know. What we're trying to do is create a vaccine. With any luck, the vaccine will appear before the next wave. We expect another wave based on experience with similar viruses in the past.</p> <p>Fan Chun: It's been a month since our last long weekend. Is there anything the public should learn from the last long weekend or precautions we should take?</p> <p>Dr. Dawar: We are in the better place than we were in the last long weekend. Things have calmed down a bit. We can go visit our family in controlled numbers. We can enjoy parks in our family groups. As Premier and Dr. Henry have said, we are in a good place where we can ease our restrictions a bit. We need to keep washing our hands, not go out if we are sick, and keep physical distance as we do ease these restrictions.</p> <p>MLA John Yap: Can you confirm that with the opening up (which starts next Monday) and then Phase 3, we are still looking at social distancing of 2 meters and a max group size of 50 people (while socially distancing)?</p> <p>Dr. Dawar: Yes, we absolutely are. The group size of 50 will likely not change in the summer. Physical distancing guidelines still stay.</p> <p>MLA John Yap: This has implications for the business community's opening up plans, as well as going to the park and our amateur sports leagues.</p> <p>Dr. Dawar: Going to the parks is an interesting issue. It's quite possible that in outdoor spaces, you can have groups of more than 50 people, as long as there is physical distancing between family groups. In businesses, this is certainly a challenge. For the most part, people have been doing really well. When it comes to retail outlets and other business, whether they can get enough business, while observing physical distancing, is something only they can answer.</p> <p>Lorraine Graves: We have all gone to work sick. How sick is sick? We know the early symptoms of COVID-19 can be very subtle.</p> <p>Dr. Dawar: This is a really important question. As we ease restrictions and allow employees to return to the workplace and children to school, this is going to be critical. 80% of individuals with COVID-19 will only feel a cold. It is no longer okay to go to work with a cold. Get a test and leave work as soon as you are able. To get a</p>
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<p>4. Update from the City of Richmond</p>	<p>11:20am</p>	<p>Mayor Brodie</p> <p>From the City of Richmond, we are starting to look to the easing of restrictions. I am hoping to be able to share a lot more very quickly.</p> <p>Serena Lusk: Staff are continuing to review the guidance letter from VCH and the provincial Restart Plan and working with stakeholders toward reopening plans, analyzing operations and opportunities. Looking at lowest risk facilities for the reopen earliest. We are working with colleagues in region on these reopen plans.</p> <p>It was a very busy weekend in parks and streets. Overall response was good. We had a busy staff contingent encouraging physical distance while enjoying the outdoors.</p> <p>Cecelia Achiam: The Ambassador Program, Out and About will be in operation 7 days a week from 12pm – 9pm. Bylaw officers will back up should enforcement action be required. We've had good response.</p> <p>Emergency operation centre will be in operation until at least June 1 to coincide with emergency declaration extension of the Province. We are also watching for the freshet and wildfire updates, in preparation for those normal seasons.</p> <p>Parking enforcement will be starting immediately. We will be starting to process monthly parking permits shortly.</p> <p>Katie Ferland: With the announcement of BC's Restart Plan last week, our focus now is on helping Richmond businesses as they develop plans to safely re-open. Some guidelines have already been developed i.e. for manufacturing and grocery stores, and others are now in development by WorkSafeBC in collaboration with industry associations. We are making all operating guidelines easily accessible through the City's Business Support Center (website: www.businessinrichmond.ca/covid-19; email: businesshelp@richmond.ca; and phone: 604-276-4114). If a business needs to make physical modifications that require permits, we've assembled a team to help expedite that process.</p>

		<p>We are also developing a Richmond Business Resiliency Program that will provide local businesses with free training on how to develop continuity plans, and how to adjust their business plans and business models for the 'new normal'. We are targeting a June launch for this program.</p> <p>Kim Somerville: Staff continue to liaise and support social service agencies working with vulnerable populations. Many of the services have gone online so staff continue to work with them and partners to ensure that information is coordinated.</p>
<p>5. Update from the Chamber of Commerce</p>	<p>11:31am</p>	<p>Matt Pitcairn</p> <p><u>Federal Focus</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CEWS extension was announced last week – we are glad to see this as it is sorely needed • CECRA issues persist – this is a program that the landlord needs to apply for. It continues to struggle to make the positive impact that is needed for local small and medium businesses. <p><u>Provincially Focus on BC restart Plan</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · RCC is pivoting to the issue of: how we can help our members that are able to re-open, actually re-open. · Still a lot of unanswered questions – there is a lot that needs to be done to get any business open for business · Working with members to ensure they have the access to necessary PPE supply, as well as potential funding supports · Long term, we must plan for the fall when the second wave is expected, and a vaccine will still not be available. We want to work with members and health authorities to see how we deal with this when it comes back in the fall. <p><u>Local Focus</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · To this end, the Chamber is starting to put our mind to renewal strategies. I say renewal instead of recovery as we will not be going back to the way it was, but rather must evolve to come back stronger and more prepared. • Locally, impacts to the aviation section and specifically YVR in our own backyard are going to have major impacts here in our community. The majority of our businesses in Richmond are linked directly or indirectly to the movement of people and goods. With aviation and the cruise industry crippled at the moment, this is going to have major impacts. · This is a time that we need to step up as a community and find new ways to stimulate the economy · Beyond ordering take-out, this could be a time to take radical large-scale steps to incentivize new ventures · The new normal applies not just to daily life for consumers, but to business and government and we all need to find the new ways to work together and prosper. <p>The Third provincial pulse check survey went live this morning. A Link will be included in the minutes. Please take this survey and spread it to your contacts</p>

<p>6. Update from YVR</p>		<p>Craig Richmond</p> <p><i>Unable to attend call but YVR has provided a written update for the email communications.</i></p>
<p>7. Update from Richmond School District 38</p>	<p>11:35am</p>	<p>Ken Hamaguchi</p> <p>Schooling in BC has been organized within a framework of stages. Stage 1 is a return to full in class instruction. Stage 5 is full suspension of in class instruction. We are in stage 4 now (in class for children of essential service workers and vulnerable students with remote and online learning for the rest). The plan is to move to Stage 3 by June 1, which is in-class learning for students Kindergarten to Grade 5 on a part time basis, and access to in-class learning as needed for grade 6 – 12 kids, and remote and online learning continuing to be available.</p> <p>Ministry of Education will provide integrated planning framework in the next couple of weeks including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Operating standards and guidelines for k-12 schools - Public health guidelines for k-12 settings - Safety standards with WorkSafeBC - Return to class instruction template. <p>What we don't know is what percentage of time that students will be attending class on June 1st, what the schedule will look like, how students will be organized while at school, how many parents will choose to send children back to school, how remote learning will continue to be offered, while providing in-class at the same time, on site care to children of essential service workers in the same way, and what September will look like.</p> <p>Scott is on a phone conference with the Ministry right now. We will have further updates next week.</p> <p>Questions:</p> <p>Matt Pitcairn: With businesses planning to reopen, one challenge for parents is going back to work while maintaining homeschooling. What will happen to daycare facilities in coming weeks to maintain childcare?</p> <p>Ken Hamaguchi: As we move back into June 1st and stage 3, some of the daycares will resume services. We are not sure what that will look like. It's a choice of the particular childcare agency.</p> <p>Kim Somerville: Currently, there are a number of discussions going on with Richmond childcare resources referral. There are some materials that will be coming from the Ministry with regards to health and safety protocols for childcare facilities. There are discussions in place. Once more details are available, they will be made public.</p>

<p>8. Update from Tourism Richmond</p>	<p>11:35am</p>	<p>Nancy Small</p> <p>The Visitor Economy as a whole is still reeling – and as reopening plans were announced last week, there was some residual confusion on timing and when we can start actively marketing our destinations to outside visitors.</p> <p>As well, the guidelines around 50-person caps to meetings and conferences comes at a time when many of us were looking at trying to preserve some business in 2020.</p> <p>In Richmond specifically, as I mentioned last week, we are grappling with what to do when – and how. Frankly when it makes sense to start investing in marketing and business development. So, we are working with our team, our board and our partners to determine the best way forward.</p> <p>Questions:</p> <p>MLA Jas Johal: Is the industry broadly consulting with government as to increased marketing budgeting in the medium to long term?</p> <p>Nancy Small: There have been a number of task forces (one of which I co-chair) and we are in daily contact with the ministries provincially and federally. We are not there yet and still in discussions about what will be needed going forward. This has been affecting the tourism industry since January. <i>Nancy and Jas will connect offline.</i></p>
<p>9. Update from Richmond MLAs</p>	<p>11:43am</p>	<p>MLA Teresa Wat</p> <p>On behalf of the four MLAs, we thank Matt and the Chamber for hosting the Virtual Town Hall last week. It went well with over 60 attendees. We heard a lot of concern and input from Chamber members, the Richmond business community. We think it will be helpful to have regular dialogue with this community.</p> <p>Andrew Wilkinson wrote a letter to the Premier the day before the reopen plan was announced. This letter called for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 60 – 90 day holiday on PST, EHT and Hotel Tax - A commercial rent relief plan that includes an eviction moratorium - An increase in destination marketing budget to attract visitors when it is safe - A moratorium on new regulations and policy that would add costs to BC businesses <p>Finally, the 4 MLAs are very concerned about the recent spike in hate crimes targeting Asian Canadians, particularly the one over the weekend in Steveston.</p>
<p>10. Update from the Richmond MPs</p>	<p>11:46am</p>	<p>MP Kenny Chiu</p> <p>On May 5th, the Government announced measures relating to agricultural stability. In general, two concerns are health protocols in</p>

		<p>food processing facilities, and management of supply issues caused by the shutdown of food processing plants, and labour issues for crop harvesting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - On May 7th, the Government announced it will contribute an additional \$3 billion in support for increased wages for “low income essential workers”, to be determined by the individual provinces. - Finally, today (May 11th), the Large Employer Emergency Financing Facility (LEEFF) is for medium and large businesses, with annual revenues of \$300 million or more, with the intention of allowing them to continue being active. In conjunction with this is the increase of the Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP) to mid-sized companies, and also financing through Farm Credit Canada. Details at this point are scant. - The House of Commons is being recalled on Wednesday, May 13th, to consider emergency legislation enabling some of these previous announcements. <p>Locally in the Richmond Centre riding, we continue to answer inquiries from constituents. Notable COVID-19 topics include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Individuals and businesses that are affected by the shutdown and do not qualify for the various emergency programs; - Customs-related inquiries concerns relating to the importation of various essential goods; - Foreign affairs; and - General comments on government performance during the COVID-19 pandemic.
<p>11. Update from Richmond RCMP</p>	<p>11:50am</p>	<p>Supt. Will Ng</p> <p>For the Richmond RCMP, we are continuing high visibility patrols. We have noticed a marked reduction in commercial and residential break ins.</p> <p>No new arsons have been reported for past three weeks, though the RCMP and RFR are still investigating the previous arsons.</p> <p>An alleged hate crime in Steveston occurred this past Friday, that was posted on social media. The RCMP have completed interviews with all the people involved. The RCMP put out a strong response on social media that we do not tolerate this kind of behaviour. Some of the facts posted on social media were contrary to what actually took place. This is the jurisdiction of Richmond. We are working with the complainant. Every time something like this is posted, it has implications.</p> <p>We currently have no officers who have been exposed to COVID in the past week and no officers under isolation.</p>
<p>12. Update from Richmond Fire Rescue</p>	<p>11:53am</p>	<p>Chief Tim Wilkinson</p> <p>Richmond Fire Rescue staff remain healthy. No exposures that have</p>

		<p>come from the workplace.</p> <p>RFR is reviewing reopening business plans to make sure they are in alignment with the BC Restart Plan, and that we get moving forward quickly.</p> <p>We don't believe we've had any new arsons in the past week.</p> <p>There were 11 fires over the weekend, which is higher than normal.</p> <p>RFR is preparing for the wildfire season and expecting a higher than normal wildfire season. We have a great deal of new members and are training now. Our investigations and inspections are ongoing at highest risk levels. This will be ramping up in the next week.</p>
13. Questions/ Comments/ Collaboration	11:55pm	<p>James Ho: I have a question for Supt Will Ng: from what I've read, the victim in the Steveston hate crime claims to have contacted the RCMP at first but the license plate did not show they were a resident of Richmond, and they were being asked to contact the force within that jurisdiction. Her family has been here for 30 years and are very involved with various community activities in Richmond. Can you clarify what you meant by untruthful information being posted online? And clarify the jurisdiction issue?</p> <p>Mayor Brodie: Can you answer these questions in the middle of an investigation?</p> <p>Supt. Will Ng: I can state that based on my review of the investigation, the officer did not say to seek help from another jurisdiction. This incident took place in Richmond, and every officer understands that anything that takes place in Richmond is within Richmond jurisdiction. This matter was taken seriously. Evidence was collected. Officers are trying to collect a statement from the complainant. As far as I know, this complainant has not made a statement to the police.</p>
14. Adjournment	11:57pm	<p>Mayor Malcolm Brodie</p> <p>If you made presentation, please forward your notes to Shaena Furlong, shaenaf@richmondchamber.ca.</p> <p>The next meeting will be after the long weekend on Tuesday the 19th. Because of Dr. Dawar's scheduling, it would be helpful to host these on Tuesday's going forward. Also, given that we are now going into a renewal period, we may be able to go to every two weeks.</p> <p>The next meeting will be Tuesday the 19th, and every two weeks following that, Tuesday, June 2nd and onward. Please forward any issues if you have them to either Mayor Brodie or Fan Chun.</p>

Next call set for 11AM, Monday, May 19th, via ZOOM. Call in details to follow.