

## From EARNSCLIFFE

B.C. COVID-19 Update – May 14, 2020

### ***COVID-19 Impacts on ICBC report released - update from David Eby and ICBC CEO Nicolas Jimenez (10am)***

***News Release [here](#)***

- A review of ICBC's financial situation since the start of the provincial state of emergency shows both positive and negative financial impacts on ICBC's bottom line.
- With almost no capital reserves to withstand fluctuations and volatility in the markets, it is too early to determine whether the pandemic will result in benefits to pass on to drivers.
- David Eby says speaking on ICBC report, says that ICBC's investments fluctuated by \$1 billion.
- The Province has saved an estimated \$168 million due to less crashes because of pandemic, he added.
- \$283 million drop in written insurance premiums due to cancellations and reclassifications of insurance
- The Province can't determine impact of pandemic of ICBC bottom line and therefore there will not be a rebate now. Though, a rebate could be coming if there is a better financial picture down the road
- ICBC CEO Nicolas Jimenez said that 103,712 people have cancelled insurance mainly due to COVID-19 as a result of less driving
- 46% less claims this year compared to last year (although claims have started to go up recently. ICBC doesn't know how much claims will be down this year

### ***City of Vancouver Mayor, Kennedy Stewart, Live Economic Update (12:15 PM)***

***Presentation/slides available [here](#)***

- When speaking about economic impacts Kennedy Stewart said that 90,000 jobs have been lost as a result of COVID impacts
- He added that the hardest hit sectors are: Healthcare and social assistance, accommodation, Food Services + Tourism and Retail
- When speaking about the impact of COVID-19 on businesses, he said that there has been a 27 billion drop in business revenues (April) and roughly 13,400 businesses closed, 20,000 hotel and food service, 3,000 healthcare and social assistance
- He added that businesses and governments need to pay particular attention to seniors and women when thinking about economic recovery

### ***BC health update from Health Minister Dix and PHO Dr. Henry (3 PM)***

***News Release [here](#)***

General updates:

- Dr. Henry and Minister Dix are encouraging those to complete the survey regarding the impact of virus (available [here](#))
- Regarding testing for at risk populations, Dr. Henry said that the testing strategy is aligned with testing anyone in the community who has symptoms. "What we want to do right now is pick up where there are new cases"

*Reopening of business/services:*

- Minister Dix said that Ministry has been working with health authorities to ensure workers are receiving the proper financial compensation in relation to the single site plan for health-care workers. They expect funding to go through mid-June.
- Regarding the reopening of businesses transportation plans, Dr. Henry said that the government is working with transportation structures across BC. “Public transit has been running throughout the pandemic as it is an essential service for those that need to get to work”
- Regarding Phase 2 next week, Dr. Henry said that they are taking things slowly and will assess new measures accordingly. “We do the best that we can, we’re trying to learn and be thoughtful.”

#### *Domestic/international travel:*

- Dr. Henry said that this year, especially with the risk of COVID-19, we need to think about plans in a narrow frame, and look at weeks ahead, not months.
- This weekend less travel is incredibly important – by boat, by foot. There are plenty of places that we can go that can still be close to home.
- Dr. Henry said that this weekend we need to focus on fewer faces, small groups, bigger spaces: have a picnic, zoom parties, movie days
- Next week we move to Phase two and this weekend less travel is incredibly important – whether it be by boat or by foot. There are plenty of places that we can go that can still be close to home.

#### Stakeholder comments:

- Close to 100 Indigenous tourism businesses receive \$1.850 million in stimulus funds from phase one of Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada’s COVID-19 Development Stimulus Fund. (No byline, News Release: Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada: [indigenoustourism.ca](http://indigenoustourism.ca))
- COVID-19 restrictions may aid B.C.'s ongoing battle against invasive mussels (No byline, The Canadian Press: CTV News: [vancouverisland.ctvnews.ca](http://vancouverisland.ctvnews.ca))
- B.C. PNP invites 92 tech workers; announces coronavirus policies (A. Miekus, Canada Immigration Newsletter: [cicnews.com](http://cicnews.com))
- Trevor Hancock: B.C. needs a green, just and healthy recovery (T. Hancock, Times Colonist: [timescolonist.com](http://timescolonist.com))

#### Existing measures:

- BC launches province-wide survey – [COVID-19 Survey: Your story, our future](#) – to gather your feedback and experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic in BC
- “Go Forward Plan” Announced by Premier Horgan, May 6, 2020 ([release here](#))
- British Columbia COVID-19 Modeling Update, 1:30 pm PT May 4, 2020 ([release here](#))
- Minister Carole James presented the B.C. Emergency Benefit for Workers ([News Release](#))
- On April 23, 2020, Dr. Henry [issued an order](#) for industrial camps that applies to workers in the agricultural, aquacultural, forestry and resource sectors, as well as those who provide accommodation for these workers. This order sets out prevention, control and inspection protocols for workers and employers. Additional guidelines were released for silviculture operators and employees.
- Up to \$35.6M of BC’s \$5B COVID-19 Action Plan will be distributed through Community Living BC (CLBC) to ensure people with developmental disabilities remain supported during the pandemic.
- Premier Horgan and Minister Fraser announced [new collaborative framework](#) for healthcare in rural, remote Indigenous communities.
- Dr. Bonnie Henry and Minister Adrian Dix [presented](#) an update on modelling Friday, April 17.

- Minister James and Minister Robinson [announced](#) that the school property tax rate for commercial properties will be reduced by an average of 25 per cent in the total property tax bill for most businesses. This is on top of the previously announced 50 per cent reduction to the provincial school property tax rate. Provincial school tax remittances delayed until the end of the year.
- Minister Darcy and Minister Mark announced ([Release here](#)) a \$1.5M investment per year (over three years) in *Here to Talk* – a 24/7 accessible app available to over 50,000 post-secondary students across British Columbia
- The province [announced \\$5 million to expand existing mental health programs](#) to ensure British Columbians have increased access to vital mental health supports during the pandemic, with a focus on adults and youth and front-line care workers.
- BC Health Minister Adrian Dix issued a [joint statement](#) with Alberta Health Minister Tyler Shandro discouraging border crossings between the two provinces during the long weekend.
- The order is now official to make it possible for care workers to each only be able to work at one care home. The *Single Site Transition Program*, which is still underway and is described by Minister Dix as a “significant logistical challenge,” will apply to all health care workers, including community organizations and non-profits.
- Effective April 8, international travellers (including from the United States) returning to the province are required to provide a [14-day self-isolation plan](#) before or upon arrival to B.C., regardless of their point of entry to Canada. This document can be submitted online or completed in person on arrival. BC is the first jurisdiction to legally enforce this measure.
- BC Parks [announces](#) the closure of all provincial parks until further notice.
- Addressing upcoming religious celebrations (Easter, Passover, Ramadan), Dr. Henry asks people to start thinking about ways to recognize these holidays without in-person gatherings.
- Social Development and Poverty Reduction Minister Shane Simpson announced that the province is [implementing a series of temporary supports and supplements](#) for the province’s most vulnerable.
- The province’s new [Economic Recovery Task Force](#) to support the B.C. economy during and after COVID-19 kicked off its work today.
- The BC government also released [further action to support essential service providers](#) during pandemic by ensuring they cannot be held liable for damages caused by exposure to COVID-19 while continuing to operate, so long as they are complying with orders from the provincial health officer and other authorities.
- Premier John Horgan extends BC state of emergency to April 14, 2020.
- The Province announces BC Hydro’s new, [targeted bill relief](#) in response to COVID-19.
- [COVID-19 Supply Hub](#) unveiled on April 1.
- [Compliance and Enforcement Guidance about Public Health Orders with respect to Physical Distancing](#) published.
- [COVID-19 Ethical Decision-Making Framework](#) published.
- [Guidance provided to industrial camps during COVID-19](#) published.
- All episodic vending markets (i.e. farmers markets, community markets) mandated to only sell food, prohibiting the sale of all other merchandise.
- Ministerial orders [issued March 26](#) to secure supply chain; list of essential services.

- As part of the government's \$5-billion COVID-19 Action Plan, Minister Dix and B.C. seniors advocate Isobel Mackenzie announced new funding for the United Way's Better at Home and bc211 services to further support seniors. Full release [found here](#).
- As part of the government's \$5-billion COVID-19 Action Plan, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Selina Robinson and Premier Horgan announced [support for renters and landlords](#) – now open for applications.
- [The Province closes certain parks, recreation areas](#), which is in addition to a previous suspension of services and facilities in provincial parks, including visitor centres, nature houses, washrooms and day-use areas. In alignment with Parks Canada, all campgrounds are closed until April 30, 2020.
- BC Legislature passed two new pieces of legislation: Bill 15, Supply Act (No. 2), which provides funding for ministry operations for the first nine months of the 2020-21 fiscal year, set to begin on April 1; and
- Bill 16, Employment Standards Amendment Act (No. 2), which allows workers to immediately take unpaid, job-protected leave if they are unable to work for reasons related to COVID-19.
- Minister James announces \$5-billion [BC COVID-19 Action Plan](#) to support people, essential services, businesses, and the economy
- Restaurants temporarily permitted to use unemployed servers to deliver liquor products
- BC public health order issued to close all personal service businesses
- Dine-in service prohibited at all restaurants across BC; mandating take-out and delivery only
- MSP wait times waived for those returning to BC from outside of province or outside the country who have been out longer than allowed.
- Community level initiatives in place to support women's shelters and all of our shelter systems
- The Minister of Public Services and Solicitor General declares a provincial state of emergency
- The Province declares a public health emergency under the [Emergency Health Services Act](#)
- Bars and clubs instructed to close; restaurants may remain open if they abide by crowd size rules and distancing measures
- K1-12 classes suspended until further notice
- Now available online: BC COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool (Available [here](#))
- B.C. health authorities move to outbreak response Phase 2, postponing all non-urgent surgeries/procedures, which will result in the cancellation of thousands of elected surgeries; staff who provide scheduled surgeries to be moved over to assist with critical care
- Lions Gate Hospital moves to Phase 3, only accepting emergency cases
- B.C. pharmacists permitted to refill prescriptions without requiring an additional physician's note
- Physicians to receive compensation for providing virtual care services
- Restricting visitors in long-term care facilities to essential visitors only
- Prohibition on gatherings larger than 50 people
- All casinos across B.C. remain closed; effective 11:59pm March 16
- Dedicated phone service for updated COVID-19 information 1-888-COVID19, info available in over 100 languages