

Paula Kusack

Subject: FW: Agenda? FW: REBUILDING BC

From: dblack@blackpress.ca <dblack@blackpress.ca>

Sent: March 22, 2021 9:13 AM

To: rebecca@blackpress.ca

Subject: REBUILDING BC

DEAR BC MAYORS:

I am reaching out to every mayor in British Columbia in the hope that if each of you personally contact Premier Horgan we might inspire him to agree to the following proposal which will provide an enormous boost in rebuilding tourism in our Province. With very little effort you will assist in rebuilding your municipality's businesses and, in the process, your municipal tax revenues which have been savaged by COVID. If the Premier doesn't respond to you, it will be vital to reach out to him again. If he does respond and claims he needs a six month study of the Bid business plan, you can tell him that is unimportant, as shown below, and will kill this opportunity to rebuild our tourism.

In 2019, prior to the COVID outbreak, BC generated approximately \$22 billion in revenue from tourism and from that the Provincial government received approximately \$2 billion in taxes. Needless to say, since that time, business worldwide has suffered dramatically. Owners of hotels, motels, resorts, B&B houses, restaurants, bars, transportation firms, and tourist trades like gardens, ranches, ski lifts, fishing and whale watching boats, etc., are in serious trouble. A large number of people have lost their jobs working in these businesses and are forced to rely on government subsidies to make ends meet. Every city and town in BC is suffering due to lost revenues from taxes generated by their community's businesses.

That is not to say that it will be easy to rebuild our tourist industry given that every country in the world will find itself in the same predicament and will be very competitive for the same tourist dollars. In Canada we lost 500,000 tourism related jobs according to Destination Canada, and they indicate that tourism will struggle to rebuild without assistance from government or other outside sources.

We believe that a unique way to kick-start our tourist industry is to host the Commonwealth Games in BC again, enhancing it with the inclusion of many more sports that are intriguing to everyone in the world. We are currently planning to have 35 sports and to operate 35 continuous streaming sites to broadcast BC across the world. Over the past sixteen years, the four countries that hosted the Commonwealth Games each achieved 1.5 billion Games viewers on TV. With streaming we will obtain two to three billion viewers because good video streaming is immediately copied now by hundreds of other streaming sites. Additionally, each of our streaming sites will continually show beautiful British Columbia pictures and videos that will encourage people to come to BC and Canada. We will begin the streaming in 2022, after COVID, and to build viewership quickly we will show competitions played everywhere in the world for all of the sports we will host, along with our tourism videos. You can help arrange the stunning BC videos in your area.

The Games and its festivals will also be wonderful for our athletes, artists, musicians, Indigenous people, and all our provincial citizens who enjoy watching competitions and meeting people from throughout the Commonwealth.

We are told that BC will win the Games if we bid right now, and lose them if we do not. Commonwealth Sport Canada, Commonwealth Games Federation, and Canada are all in favour. So are all the municipal mayors in Victoria and Vancouver where the competitions will occur.

The BC government's net cost for the Games before 2026 will be \$200 million. After 2026, if BC tourism revenue is up only 10% more than the pre-COVID annual \$22 billion, the BC government will receive \$200 million more tax revenue every year.

Unfortunately the BC government has not agreed yet, even though the BC Games will receive \$400 million from Canada and \$200 million from non-BC advertising. We need the Premier to agree in order to rebuild our economy and make more money for the BC government to reduce its deficit.

If each mayor in BC phones or emails the Premier's Office right now and encourages the government to allow our Games bid, we believe it will accomplish what we need.

Thank you. Call me if you have any suggestions, questions, or concerns. My cell is 250 920 6397.

David Black, 2026 Commonwealth Games Bid Committee
Black Press

The following was the latest email sent to Premier Horgan on February 22, 2021. His government is still saying it needs to spend 4 to 6 months studying the Bid business plan. That will prevent this wonderful opportunity for BC.

Dear Premier Horgan,

I believe you now have all the information to make the right decision:

- 1. Commonwealth Sport Canada says we are guaranteed to win the 2026 Games if we bid right now, and we are certain to lose them if we do not. Because it is later than normal, the Commonwealth Games Federation says it will give the 2026 Games to the first city that bids.*
- 2. We are sure there is no need for you to do a lengthy study of the Bid details. The business plan is conservative and fine because it has been reviewed by the Commonwealth Games Federation and Commonwealth Sport Canada, as well as senior business executives. But it will be changed and probably improved after we win, by the Victoria Games executives and their Board of Directors. That is part of the process and it always happens. To control the final decision-making, BC can choose the Board Chairman and appoint others to the Board.*
- 3. There will be no provincial political dispute because the BC Liberals approve hosting the Games. And Canada is in favour.*
- 4. The new technology of online streaming will result in two to three billion viewers of the Games. They will see all our videos aimed at potential tourists. We will begin the streaming in 2022, after COVID, and to build viewership quickly we will show competitions played everywhere in the world for all of the sports we will host, along with our tourism videos.*
- 5. Rebuilding BC's tourism is vital. It won't be easy because every place in the world will be competitive as they all try to rebuild. The billions of Games viewers will make the difference for us. If tourism doesn't come back completely, a lot of bankruptcies will occur and all BC cities and towns will lose taxes and run deficits.*
- 6. Your government budget will improve substantially from the Games as they increase tourism and BC's tax revenue. After 2026, if tourism is up only 10%, the budget will receive \$200 million more tax revenue every year.*
- 7. Your government spent \$200 million last year to build 650 rooms at UVic. Your government's net cost for the Games prior to 2026 will be \$200 million as well (\$33 million expense for 6 years on your P&L,*

which is a minute impact.) But because BC will get \$600 million coming in from outside the province, there will be 2,000 rooms built. There will also be spent, as the Bid shows, \$270 million on sport facilities, \$330 million for BC businesses, \$130 million for BC wages, and \$200 million for a sport legacy fund or contingency financing. That is a lot for your government to get for BC, for only \$200 million.

- 8. The Games will be wonderful for our BC athletes, artists, musicians, Indigenous people, and all our citizens who enjoy watching competitions and meeting people from throughout the Commonwealth.*
- 9. All BC newspapers and other media will support you as you explain this to them. They were all keen to run our OPED and they agree with us.*
- 10. The thirteen mayors in Victoria, and the mayors in Vancouver and Richmond, support the bid.*

Call me if you like. My cell is 250 920 6397.

All the best,

David Black

Paula Kusack

Subject: FW: 2026 Commonwealth Games
Attachments: Response to BC government concerns. April 2, 2021.docx; Parksville Mayor - Commonwealth Games Support.pdf; Rebuilding BC 2026 Commonwealth Games

From: dblack@blackpress.ca <dblack@blackpress.ca>

Sent: April 5, 2021 10:52 AM

To: rebecca@blackpress.ca

Subject: FW: 2026 Commonwealth Games

Dear Mayors,

We received a note from Premier Horgan and the BC government concerning detailed worries about hosting the 2026 Commonwealth Games. The first attached note is our response to their questions.

If we host the Games, we can show three billion people in the world all the beautiful tourist sites in BC. That will rapidly increase our tourism and keep many local businesses and your municipalities from having grim financial problems. The Games and the five years of streaming videos, starting in 2022, won't cost you anything. The BC government will actually make a lot of money if we build the tourism.

The Premier needs a contact from each of you, recommending in principle that we host the Games. Our responses don't convince him. He won't agree unless official people like you push him.

When COVID vaccines allow us to get together, if you like we will try to visit your Councils and give them all the information about the Games.

You also might be interested in reading a couple of other mayors' letters that were sent to the Premier. They are attached.

If you have questions for me please give me a shout. My cell is 250 920 6397.

All the best,
David Black
Victoria

From: David Black <dblack@blackpress.ca>

Sent: Friday, February 26, 2021 7:19 AM

Subject:

Dear Mayors,

Jon Victor published a Canadian Press article today. He quoted Destination Canada and said half a million employees of Canadian tourist firms have lost their jobs. Hotels in Vancouver, Toronto and Montreal lost 79% of their revenue, which was \$2.3 billion. Imagine what all the hotels, motels, inns, etc. throughout BC and Canada have lost. Destination Canada says it will be a long recovery. We need to work hard to rebuild tourism. It won't be easy.

I hope that you and your friends have you been able to email the Premier and ask him to let BC host the 2026 Commonwealth Games. That will get two to three billion people to watch beautiful and exciting videos that encourage them to visit BC and Canada.

We have heard nothing from the BC Government. They wouldn't even take the call from Brock Smith who did the UVic analysis showing the BC government and the municipalities will make a profit as we expand BC tourism. Please take a moment and push the government. It will work. John Wilson did a similar great job and got the government to help rebuild BC bus transportation.

Thank you,
David

Dear Mayors,

The following note to Premier Horgan was sent on February 22nd. There has been no reply. Perhaps you should all get together on a Zoom call to him and ask why he is not pursuing the opportunity immediately. Surely, rebuilding BC's province-wide tourism economy, which produces \$22 billion of annual revenue for the businesses involved, is essential. It is especially lovely here because BC's capital, Victoria, will get \$1.5 billion of spending, and the BC government will make money as we grow the tourism.

Cheers, David

Dear Premier Horgan,

I believe you now have all the information to make the right decision:

1. Commonwealth Sport Canada says we are guaranteed to win the 2026 Games if we bid right now, and we are certain to lose them if we do not.
2. We are sure there is no need for you to do a lengthy study of the Bid details. The business plan is fine because it has been reviewed by the Commonwealth Games Federation and Commonwealth Sport Canada, as well as senior business executives. But it will be changed after we win, by the Victoria Games executives and their Board of Directors. That is part of the process and it always happens. To control the final decision-making, BC can choose the Board Chairman and appoint others to the Board.
3. There will be no provincial political dispute because the BC Liberals approve hosting the Games. And Canada is in favour.
4. The new technology of online streaming will result in two to three billion viewers of the Games. They will see all our videos aimed at potential tourists. We will begin the streaming in 2022, after COVID, and to build viewership quickly we will show competitions played everywhere in the world for all of the sports we will host, along with our tourism videos.
5. Rebuilding BC's tourism is vital. It won't be easy because every place in the world will be competitive as they all try to rebuild. The billions of Games viewers will make the difference for us. If tourism doesn't come back completely, a lot of bankruptcies will occur and all BC cities and towns will lose taxes and run deficits.

6. Your government budget will improve substantially from the Games as they increase tourism and BC's tax revenue. After 2026, if tourism is up only 10%, the budget will receive \$200 million more tax revenue every year.
7. Your government spent \$200 million last year to build 650 rooms at UVic. Your government's net cost for the Games prior to 2026 will be \$200 million as well (\$33 million expense for 6 years on your P&L, which is a minute impact.) But because BC will get \$600 million coming in from outside the province, there will be 2,000 rooms built. There will also be spent, as the Bid shows, \$270 million on sport facilities, \$330 million for local businesses, \$130 million for wages, and \$200 million for a sport legacy fund or contingency financing. That is a lot for your government to get for only \$200 million.
8. The Games will be wonderful for our athletes, artists, musicians, Indigenous people, and all our citizens who enjoy watching competitions and meeting people from throughout the Commonwealth.
9. All BC newspapers and other media will support you as you explain this to them. We will help you if you like. They were all keen to run our OPEd and they agree with us.
10. The thirteen mayors in Victoria, and the mayors in Vancouver and Richmond, support the bid.

Call me if you like. My cell is 250 920 6397.

All the best,

David Black

From: David Black <dblack@blackpress.ca>

Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 2:41 PM

To: 'Rob Martin' <mayor@colwood.ca>; 'Mayor Ryan Windsor' <Ryan.Windsor@csaanich.ca>; 'barb.desjardins@esquimalt.ca' <barb.desjardins@esquimalt.ca>; 'kwilliams@highlands.ca' <kwilliams@highlands.ca>; 'stewyoung7@icloud.com' <stewyoung7@icloud.com>; 'jranns@metchosin.ca' <jranns@metchosin.ca>; 'Geoff Orr' <GOrr@northsaanich.ca>; 'kevin@kevinmurdoch.ca' <kevin@kevinmurdoch.ca>; 'Fred Haynes' <fred.haynes@me.com>; 'mayor @sidney.ca' <mayor@sidney.ca>; 'mtait@sooke.ca' <mtait@sooke.ca>; 'lisa@lisahelpsvictoria.ca' <lisa@lisahelpsvictoria.ca>; 'mayorscreech@viewroyal.ca' <mayorscreech@viewroyal.ca>

Subject:

Dear Mayors,

Attached is the 2026 Commonwealth Games business plan that we sent to the Premier's office yesterday.

If the BC government comes on board it will make a lot of money for their finances, and for each of your municipalities, as we rebuild tourism.

We have promised each of the municipalities \$1 million cash, and we would also be building and improving facilities in most of the municipalities. They won't cost you anything and your citizens would love it.

Another benefit for you is the \$180 million taxes you will obtain, according to the Gustafson School of Business, as we spend \$1.5 billion for Games operating and capital costs prior to 2026.

Do you think you could all work together and call Premier Horgan to encourage him to sign on? The net cost for the BC government from the beginning to the end of the Games, after the \$200 million taxes that they receive from the construction and operations, will be \$400 million - \$200 million = \$200 million. But after 2026 we are sure the two billion people who watch the Games will increase our tourism and make the government at least \$200 million more taxes every year thereafter.

The mayors in Vancouver and Richmond are keen on getting three of the sport competitions over there in 2026. They will also get \$1 million each and have huge numbers of people watching their tourism videos too, just as you will.

The presidents of UVic, Royal Roads, and Camosun would probably join you in the call if you like. They are keen on getting the Games too.

All the best,
David

April 21, 2021

Dear Premier Horgan,

Thank you for your letter of March 22, 2021. It clearly shows that we are both focused on how to best position British Columbia for a successful recovery in a post COVID-19 world.

Your government's priorities for funding projects such as education, road construction, wastewater treatment, affordable housing, and health care are very important, but they, and all the rest of needed projects, will require a massive injection of cash at a time when the economy is struggling to survive.

Without strong businesses generating revenue to pay for these projects the BC government may end up with more debt than can be safely managed. Rebuilding the economy as quickly as possible is absolutely vital.

The major business problem in BC is the tourism industry. The 2026 Commonwealth Games, with its sport streaming that will pull in tourists, will solve it. Your announcement of funding \$100 million to help recover BC's tourism will be welcomed but much more will be needed to assist the industry to recover. We had annual tourism revenue in the order of \$22 billion dollars before the COVID pandemic, and most of it has disappeared. Similarly, most of your government's \$2 billion of tourism tax revenue has disappeared.

The difficulty in rebuilding BC's tourism is that every country in the world will compete and spend money to help recover their visitations. Therefore, it will not be easy for us to regrow our tourism via normal advertising expenditures. It is for that reason that we are so keen on getting up to three billion people in the world to continually watch beautiful tourism-oriented videos of BC, which will be provided if we host the 2026 Commonwealth Games. An additional key point is that the Games will not cost the BC government money, they will make money for the province.

You asked relevant specific questions about our bid for the Games. We have provided answers beneath your bold-faced questions below. The answers are solid, so we hope you will agree with us.

Sincerely,
David Black

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:

Turning to the proposal to host the 2026 Commonwealth Games (2026 Games), we see that too many details remain unknown to fully understand the costs and risks with hosting such a large" scale event, including:

Commitments from the federal government - while the proposal assumes a \$400 million contribution from Canada, the proposal lacks any commitment of Canada.

We reached out to Commonwealth Sport Canada to ask the Federal government last week if they will fund their \$400 million portion. Rick Powers, their CEO, said the federal answer is that they will consider doing so if they have a firm indication of support from BC and from the municipal mayors. That is what they said prior to the 1994 Games as well! We need a note from you saying that BC will fund if they will.

Commitments of local governments - there is no evidence of firm support and commitment through a broader referendum or letters from the various councils, and I did not see this matter raised as a priority by local governments in meetings of the Union of BC Municipalities. Local governments will have a role to play in sharing the benefits, costs and risks of staging and hosting the 2026 Games.

You asked us to confirm that the 15 mayors in Victoria and Vancouver, whose municipalities will provide the required locations for the Games events, agree in principle to host the Games. They have agreed and we will ask them for letters of support which we will send to you upon receipt. We have yet to meet with all their councillors because of COVID, but we will do so as soon as possible.

We need BC to agree quickly, in order to win the Games over other potential bidding cities. Afterward, if the local councils are not in favor of our hosting the Games, the BC government will be at liberty to withdraw its support if it so chooses. However, that is unlikely to happen as we are not asking local governments to cover costs for the Games. It will obviously be a source of profit for them, as it will be for the province.

Commitments of venue owners - there are no express commitments of the owners of the various proposed venues, nor details of the feasibility of using such facilities.

Infrastructure costs - we could not find a detailed plan for financing the \$770 million of new infrastructure that is required.

We have had thorough discussions with the municipal mayors and the universities in Victoria and in Vancouver. They agree with us in principle and unless the province

wants to take ownership of some of the facilities, they will all be given to these groups as was done by the 1994 Commonwealth Games. As always, the final contracts with them will be developed by the executives and the Board of Directors who run the project after we win the bid.

The general nature of the sport facilities we hope to build (size, seating, location, etc.) have already been approved by the Commonwealth Games Federation and Commonwealth Sport Canada, who are experts about this. The cost of building the facilities, including the 2,000 affordable apartments, have been discussed with top local contractors.

We have set aside \$200 million as a contingency to ensure there will be no shortfall, however we expect almost all those funds will be invested in a sport legacy fund after the Games, just as was done after the 1994 Games. The legacy fund will be used to help future generations of BC athletes.

Corporate sponsorship and own-source revenues - we could not find a detailed plan for realizing the approximately \$200 million assumed, representing about 20% of the proposed budget.

The budget detail we sent to you shows that the Commonwealth Games at The Gold Coast in 2018 made \$185 million from sponsorship and advertising. They also show Glasgow in 2014 made \$169 million for sponsorship and advertising. Because we will move from TV to video streaming and run the streaming for five years instead of the usual two weeks of Games TV, we expect to at least double the number of viewers. Therefore, we believe our Games will bring significantly more in advertising than \$200 million. We quoted only \$200 million as we are trying to be as conservative as possible with our budget.

Security - we could not find a plan that ensures that athletes, hosts, volunteers, sporting officials, dignitaries and the viewing public will be safe and secure within the 2026 Games operating areas.

Safety and security are vital, and it has been a topic that involved much discussion with our committee. We do not see a likelihood of security issues as there have never been any instances of security problems at any of the Commonwealth Games since they began in 1930. Nevertheless, it is essential to ensure to the greatest extent possible that we will be prepared for any such eventuality. Fortunately, the federal government will look after the security, as well as the cost for the same. It will be professionally dealt with and will be included in their contract with us. We also have a huge local advantage as we have a 25-

mile moat around us. In addition, we will ensure that Commonwealth royalty members will only be near anyone in the Beginning and Ending Ceremonies. They will be held in a stadium which will have entry screening similar to the equipment in airports. Furthermore, we expect to locate the senior Commonwealth officials and representatives in the Delta Hotel on Bear Mountain, which can be easily guarded and protected from any incoming people if necessary.

Other supports - we could not find a plan to address emergency response, as well as any added activities and costs to B.C. taxpayers, like transit, transportation infrastructure and health services that would likely come with the influx of athletes, coaches, dignitaries and visitors.

Risk assessment - we could not find a thorough assessment of operating and financial risks associated with hosting an event of this magnitude, nor could we find an appropriate risk management plan to address those risks.

Other good questions. You can see in the budget that we sent you, there is \$1 million for health and safety access in the CEO Office segment. Another \$2 million is budgeted for city activities and services in the Ceremonies segment. Risk management insurance costing \$2 million is shown in the Corporate Services/Administration segment. The catering and cleaning budget in the Games Services segment shows another \$15 million. Buses and other transportation costs in the Transport segment are budgeted at \$25 million. Airfare for Commonwealth athletes and other personnel are budgeted at \$17 million. Medical services located in the Sport segment show a budget amount of \$5 million.

All these estimates were made after we studied similar costs at other Commonwealth Games and spoke to experienced Games financial managers, so they are accurate. But detailed planning of everything involved with the Games, including a risk management plan, will be done by the Games personnel and Board of Directors, over the next few years. There is no danger: we have \$200 million set aside as contingency.



March 19, 2021

The Honourable John Horgan, MLA
Premier of Province of British Columbia
PO Box 9041, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E1

City of Parksville
Office of the Mayor

Dear Premier,

Further to your conversations with Mr. David Black, I wish to offer my sincere endorsement for his proposal to host the 2026 Commonwealth Games.

As you probably know better than anyone, the tourist industry, not just on Vancouver Island, but around the world, has been decimated by the COVID-19 pandemic. We can expect a colossal push by all countries to assist in the restoration of this integral part of their economy. Hosting an important event such as the Commonwealth Games would provide an advantage to British Columbia compared to other Commonwealth countries; an opportunity to show what we already know, British Columbia is the greatest place to live, work and play.

Although I do not believe a significant bump will come from the Commonwealth Games, it will come from the peripheral areas before and after the Games, especially if Mr. Black's innovative idea of long-term streaming before and after the Games is implemented. This pioneering concept will be one of the first times the internet can be used to continually whet the appetite of potential tourists by showcasing the beauty of our Province to the world.

Mr. Premier, I recognize there are many organizations and businesses requesting assistance following the pandemic; however, this event as proposed by Mr. Black will provide the greatest boost to the economy and generate the biggest returns on investment, along with helping one of the largest segments of the population most affected by the shutdowns. There is never the perfect time to jump in; if you wish to move our hospitality industry to the forefront, this would be a way to make that happen.

Please consider giving Mr. Black's proposal due consideration and hopefully, with the assistance of the Province of British Columbia, we will see a major event on Vancouver Island. Thank you so much for your consideration. Please stay well and be safe.

Yours sincerely,

ED MAYNE
Mayor

cc: David Black, Black Press

From: [Mayor Leonard Krog](#)
To: Premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca
Cc: [Mayor&Council](#); [David Black](#)
Subject: Rebuilding BC 2026 Commonwealth Games
Date: March 24, 2021 12:57:25 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

Dear Premier,

I know you have been lobbied by David Black and others to have the Province bid to host the 2026 Commonwealth Games. As Mayor and on behalf of the City of Nanaimo I want to endorse what I think is the perfect opportunity to reboot our economy, especially tourism, show case our Province and contribute to the continuance of an important institution, the Commonwealth. As those of us who knew him and mourn his sudden passing I cannot help but think that Ian Waddell would be right behind this opportunity which appears to be ours for the asking. Let us honour his energy, enthusiasm and legacy.

I was honestly not originally a fan of Expo 86 but time has shown us that the world saw us, many for the first time and the long term economic benefit particularly for tourism has been incalculable. Moreover in keeping with the Province's commitment to reconciliation what a wonderful opportunity to let the world enjoy and experience Indigenous culture and boost Indigenous economic prospects. So Premier do not let this pass. This Province was built by bold thinkers of all political stripes and now is not the time to be timid.

Yours truly,

Mayor Leonard Krog

City of Nanaimo

455 Wallace Street

Nanaimo, BC V9S 5J6

Phone: 250-755-4400 | Email: leonard.krog@nanaimo.ca



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