Employees Conduct COVID-19 Screenings at YVR
Submitted by South Coast Region Business Management Team

Ministry employees were a big part of the B.C. government’s COVID-19 screening of travellers at Vancouver International Airport (YVR), to ensure the safety of British Columbians, for more than 10 weeks.

On April 10, the provincial government launched the checkpoint for people arriving from outside Canada, who call B.C. home, or who would be staying in the province for more than two weeks.

BC Public Service employees, including many from our ministry, talked to travellers to ensure they were able to self isolate for 14 days (as required by the federal Quarantine Act), had them complete a declaration form, provided information about self-isolation dos and don’ts, answered questions, and when necessary, arranged accommodations and meals at a nearby hotel for people whose personal circumstances didn’t allow them to safely self-isolate from others.

Our ministry was the lead agency for the deployment, was the onsite operational lead and supported with incident management. Ministry employees were involved from early on, developing the procedures, checklists and training manuals for the effort.

Organizing the operation was not an easy feat. First, time was very limited to ensure that everything was well prepared. There were many moving parts, such as staffing, logistics, documentation and training, but very limited time to make sure everything came together.

Second, since the operation was unprecedented, it was difficult to fully forecast issues that might arise. Therefore, future planning was extremely tough.

Lastly, staff resourcing was challenging because screening began on the Easter long weekend. Some people who had initially volunteered had limited availability. However, with the “can-do” attitude and quick response of our ministry’s employees, the operation ultimately hurdled all obstacles.

Schedules were arranged around incoming international arrivals, and up to 900 passengers were screened daily. We had 76 ministry employees conducting screenings, including Adon Pompeo (TRAN), Debbie Fritz (TRAN), Nadia Lee (TRAN), Cindy Hogg (TRAN), Victoria Ord (PSSG), Corrin Peet (TRAN), Cedric Evangelista (TRAN), Vickie Turvey (FLNR), Wendy Koh (FLNR) and Val VanderPloeg (TRAN).

More on Page 3...
As COVID-19 is affecting people globally, we at the B.C. Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure are adapting to the changes it’s brought.

Notably, this issue of the Road Runner has three mentions of our ministry’s “can do” culture. I hadn’t seen that for a while in print, so it stood out to me. During these unprecedented times, it seems that employees are recognizing and drawing upon our ministry’s reputation and foundational value of being practical and moving ahead whatever the circumstances.

This has played out in many forms over the last few months — including at Vancouver International Airport (YVR) where five months ago, ministry employees would not have expected to be working. Our ministry developed the systems for COVID-19 screening of international travellers arriving back in B.C. Ministry and other BC Public Services employees used those systems at YVR over 10 weeks, to ensure that returning travellers could safely self-isolate, to contain the spread of the coronavirus.

This is something to be proud of — a unique contribution that demonstrates our flexibility and capabilities.

“B.C. continues to be a North American leader in the fight against COVID-19, and much credit goes to the hundreds of BC Public Service employees who raised their hands to make sure those arriving home do so safely — both for themselves and for all of us working to keep COVID-19 at bay,” said Premier John Horgan in a news release.

Employees are also meeting other novel challenges — like working from home with children who are also at home. They’re continuing to accomplish tasks, while meeting the demands of kids who need care and feeding, exercise, during the school year and the occasional intervention when there’s squabbling. (I know, the true list is endless!) No, it’s not just another normal day at the office, as Jayson Chaplin says in his humorous article, on Page 5.

With most of us working at home to limit our in-person contact with others, being apart from co-workers that we see almost daily is an adjustment for us all. We’re now drawing on technology and creativity to find ways to continue our collaborative work, stay focused on our goals and maintain our camaraderie. Choosing outdoor locations for meetings, swapping photos and team chats are some ways we’re keeping those connections strong.

Our transportation world is smaller than we think. Co-op student Andrew Silbernagel is part of a volunteer group that produces personal protective equipment, using 3D printers (Page 11). Coincidentally, the group’s founder is a commercial transport driver, who’s been a valued participant on our B.C. Transportation and Infrastructure Facebook page.

Yes, we’re all in this together — “can do” employees carrying on amid COVID-19.

Nancy McLeod
Editor
Employees Conduct COVID-19 Screenings at YVR

...Continued from Page 1

A crane company reached out to CVSE asking for some assistance in determining the legal weights of two of their cranes.

The cranes were 100 tons and 75 tons – big machines. Both were pulling dollies and weighted down with various types of rigging and counter weights.

On May 5, CVSE attended at the company's yard in Cranbrook, which was closed off to the public and in a controlled state due to COVID-19. CVSE officers Sean Chestney, Nigel Whitaker and Jacob Sommerfeldt used the Haenni portable scales to weigh the equipment in all types of configurations, to determine legal and permittable weights.

This was quite a process, as CVSE and company employees maintained physical distance throughout the procedure. Counterweights were removed and moved around, booms brought in and slid out, boom dollies were connected and disconnected.

After it was all over, there were no handshakes due to the "two metres apart requirement" for everyone. However, smiles and laughs were a plenty, as the company had learned exactly where it had to be, to be legal on the road, and when it needed to get the necessary permits.

The company was very thankful to CVSE for taking the time to be proactive with them, to help their business in transporting loads.

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CVSE Helps Out with Crane Weigh-in

Submitted by Steve Desjardin, Supervisor, East Kootenay CVSE Operations

A crane company reached out to CVSE asking for some assistance in determining the legal weights of two of their cranes.

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Scott Maxwell (TRAN), Ken Nash (TRAN), Brad Faucett (FLNR), Don Wright (Deputy Minister to the Premier) and Delta North MLA Ravi Kahlon.

▲ Adelle Corrado (TRAN), Rob Oostlander (FLNR), Catherine Grisewood (TRAN), Susan Price (TRAN), Matthew Beckett (ENV), Nimmi Takkar (PSSG), Michael Braun (TRAN), Danielle Loranger (FLNR) and Katrina Estoque (TRAN).

▲ Adelle Corrado (TRAN), Adelle Corrado (TRAN), Catherine Grisewood (TRAN), Susan Price (TRAN), Matthew Beckett (ENV), Nimmi Takkar (PSSG), Michael Braun (TRAN), Danielle Loranger (FLNR) and Katrina Estoque (TRAN).

▲ Sean Chestney and Nigel Whitaker note the weights, while staying physically distanced.
The Importance of Balance and Self-Care in the Workplace

Submitted by Jenna D’Arcy, Client Relations Coordinator and EAF member, Strategic Human Resources

On Feb. 26, the BCDevExchange hosted an interactive webinar called “Balance and Self-Care in the Workplace”. This was offered to anyone interested in learning more about wellness in the workplace and what employees can do to improve their personal and professional lives. There were four panelists speaking on important topics such as working moms, anxiety, burnout and leadership. Don’t worry, if you missed the webinar, you can watch it here.

This learning opportunity was shared with our Employee Advisory Forum (EAF) members because it aligned with two of our EAF goals: to raise awareness of professional development opportunities, and to support and promote work/life balance and a healthy lifestyle.

Here are a few of my personal takeaways:

• You don’t have to be a parent to be juggling many hats.
• Self care is where we advocate for ourselves physically, emotionally, spiritually and mentally every day.
• You can’t be your optimum best, if you don’t look after yourself first.
• It’s okay to feel overwhelmed and it’s okay to say no.
• Take advantage of your health benefits. They’re available to you for a reason! Go for a massage, try acupuncture or counselling. You may not even know what you’re missing out on.
• Leaders need to provide a safe environment with clear roles and responsibilities, good boundaries, compelling vision, honesty and appreciation.
• Knowing where you provide value is important for many individuals to feel successful.
• Without mistakes we can’t be innovative or drive toward better solutions.

Last but not least, was the concept of a depleted cell phone battery.

Do you start to panic when your cell phone battery starts to get low? I bet most of us have a phone charger near our desk, at home and maybe even in our vehicle. The point is, we are equipped to charge our cell phones every day (often at the same time of day) but how often are you recharging your personal battery? It’s important to take time away to recharge whether that be through meditation, yoga, retail therapy, a vacation or mental health and wellness courses (or whatever activities refresh you physically, emotionally, spiritually and mentally).

I hope everyone has had some downtime lately to think about what brings you joy. Self-care must remain a priority, not a luxury. Consider the ways you can take time to recharge, so you can return to work with a renewed and re-energized look at the way you approach your job and your work-life balance.

What’s the BCDevExchange?

(From its website): We’re a supportive community enabling the Government in British Columbia, to deliver better digital services. Our team of teams operates in Victoria, in a creative space where multi-disciplinary teams of public servants, technologists and partners come together to experiment, learn, model new ways of working, and collectively solve problems. We partner inside and outside government to design and deliver solutions to public challenges. We’re here to improve people’s lives, address the province’s priorities and improve the public’s experience of government.

Illustration by Swarnima Telang from Instagram (www.instagram.com/itsahappyworld/?hl=en)
The Trials and Tribulations of Working from Home with Kids
Submitted by Jayson Chaplin, A/District Program Manager and EAF Member

First and foremost, let me start off with a disclaimer: this is not intended to be an educational article.

There are reasons why I haven’t won the Best Father of the Year Award in 2020. If you are looking for tips on how to manage your kids better while working from home, please stop reading and move on to the next article.

However, if you are interested in hearing the truth about what it’s like working from home with my kids, then let’s get into it.

To be honest, I really wasn’t sure how to start writing this article (I probably shouldn’t have volunteered in the first place), as I’m currently sitting in our living room listening to my kids screaming at each other upstairs. Meanwhile, my wife is also working from home and yelling at them from the kitchen table, so now I’m questioning why we built such a small house. I realize this is probably the best visual image I can provide you of what my life currently looks (or sounds) like.

A typical day consists of me losing my voice from yelling at our kids so much. I get 15 to 30 emails a day from our kids’ school that I don’t even open…I just delete them because I can’t keep up. Our kids fight non-stop. They don’t even go outside without a fight and I broke my favorite mug while breaking up one of their 100 fights in a day. Just another normal day at the office, right?

Oh, and I forgot that I have to use all the patience (which I don’t have left in a day) to teach them school lessons. You can imagine how well that goes! I keep telling myself that working from home must have its benefits. When I come across one, I’ll be sure to let you know what it is.

Regardless of what you may think by now, I do consider myself to be a very positive person, so I’ll leave you with some optimistic comments to wrap up a less-than-positive article. I can honestly tell you that I wake up Monday mornings genuinely excited to go to work. I work with an amazing group of individuals and I’m proud to be a part of an organization that provides such a valuable service to our province and communities. I’m also very thankful to have a job in such crazy times.

Our Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure family is a remarkable collection of people, and I always feel supported by my colleagues whenever I need that, so it’s my turn to give it back to you.

If you are struggling working from home with your family (because it’s ridiculously hard) and need someone to talk, vent or cry to, please reach out. I am available by text, phone or Skype message…whatever you need…

Please remember, you aren’t alone. We are in this together, and I would love to hear how you are doing.

![Jayson’s favorite mug was a casualty of working from home with kids.](image)

Oh Snap! Capturing B.C.’s Beauty with the EAF Photo Contest
Submitted by Nicole Hansen, Provincial Approving Officer and EAF Member

“Would you look at that… what a view!” “Where’s my camera?” “This lighting is perfect.”

Sound familiar? If you’ve ever stopped the car to take a photo of some of our gorgeous scenery in British Columbia, you’ve likely uttered the same thoughts.

Thankfully, the EAF Photo Contest was launched to give ministry employees a chance to share some of their incredible shots from around the province. Amateur and professional photographers alike were invited to capture the beauty of the work we do and what it has to offer, and wow did you deliver!

For a chance to have their photographs displayed throughout ministry offices, employees snapped a whopping 60 images! There were a few photo requirements including formatting, size and a connection to our ministry’s work – roads, bridges, infrastructure, passenger transportation, wildlife or avalanche, to name a few!

EAF team members narrowed the 60 photo submissions down to the top 10 finalists (actually, 11 because we just loved so many) and asked ministry employees to vote for their favourite. We received more than 330 votes and the winner, David Retzer, earned bragging rights with a more than 70-vote landslide victory over second place!

David’s spectacular drone-captured aerial view of Dry Gulch on Highway 5 (Coquihalla) near Merritt is stunning. David submitted the following explanation when he entered his photo into the contest: “Driving along the road you would never know what a giant crevasse is underneath. The bridge underwent a significant rehabilitation beginning in 2017. This project took a considerable amount of planning and coordination as there was an adjacent project (Box Canyon) being constructed.

More on Page 6…
Oh Snap! Capturing B.C.’s Beauty with the EAF Photo Contest… Continued from Page 5

simultaneously. This a high-speed 120 km/h corridor with significant volumes and truck traffic. A number of business units were involved from structural engineering, traffic engineering, district staff and project management, to field services.”

Now David can say he was framed by the EAF!

Kudos to the EAF Photo Contest project team for not losing focus and delivering this fun opportunity. The project was managed by EAF Vice-Chair Warren Lemky and supported by EAF members Jenna D’Arcy, Nicole Hansen, Kari MacKichan and Chad Dalpre. Northern Region Director Scott Maxwell was our Executive Sponsor who showed great enthusiasm to showcase the work we do. We look forward to seeing David’s winning photo displayed in TRAN offices around the province.

A big thank you to everyone who participated. Photos collected as part of this contest will be shared in the 2020 EAF Calendar – be on the lookout! As always, thank you for your participation and continued support of EAF initiatives.

We came, we saw, we captured! ✨

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EAF Project Supports Peer-to-Peer Recognition

Submitted by Jenna D’Arcy, Client Relations Coordinator and EAF Member

There’s something special about receiving recognition from your peers that can have a powerful impact.

The Peer-to-Peer Recognition Project was created by the Employee Advisory Forum (EAF) in response to an EAF Temperature Check focused on recognition. Eighty-two per cent of ministry employees said that informal peer-to-peer recognition is meaningful, but that it isn’t common at our ministry. EAF members came up with the project to enable employees to acknowledge one another for their outstanding contributions. This supports one of the EAF’s main goals – to improve the quality of recognition and raise the awareness of current employee benefits.

How does it work?

The EAF came up with six different reasons for you to nominate a colleague. Check out the submission form for more information. Once completed, email the form to MoT.EAF@gov.bc.ca. The best part is, your colleague can also receive a small token of appreciation chosen by you.

Given the current situation with COVID-19, distribution of recognition items has been paused until further notice, but nominations are still welcomed, and we will provide an update on the Peer-to-Peer Recognition website as soon as items can be shipped safely. Recognition items will be sent along with a thank you card, to the nominator, who writes a personal message and presents the item to the recipient. Alternative arrangements can be made for nominators who work in a different office than the recipient. Please note that the recognition items are subject to availability.

It is no small task getting all these tokens of appreciation shipped to deserving colleagues. We would like to thank EAF member Alik Tataryn for volunteering to package and ship the recognition items to our nominees.

If you know someone who deserves to be acknowledged for a job well done, consider expressing your gratitude with a surprise from the Peer-to-Peer Recognition project. A small gesture of thanks can go a long way! ✨

Reasons to nominate a colleague:

- Exemplary demonstration of corporate values
- Recognition of significant milestones and/or goal attainment by an individual
- Exemplary demonstration and/or contributions to corporate functions or initiatives
- Active contributions to improve morale within our workplace
- Exemplary leadership in a supervisory or management role
- Supporting respectful work environments where everyone feels included and able to produce excellent results

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▲ Drumroll please… David Retzer’s winning photo of Dry Gulch Bridge on the Coquihalla Highway.

▲ Delicious chocolates from Rogers are a sweet gesture to let a co-worker know they’re appreciated.

▲ Thank someone with socks that recognize all the steps they take to be a great colleague (and their love of Sasquatch)!
Mobile Command Unit Ready to Hit the Highway
Submitted by Kari MacKichan, Carrier Safety Inspector

Our new state-of-the-art vehicle is ready to serve Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement (CVSE) and the ministry for an assortment of assignments.

The 2019 Ford F650 is a self-levelling unit that boasts a beautiful and highly functional interior, complete with a mini six-person boardroom with lockable clear sliding doors and a 36-inch monitor, kitchen, washroom and air conditioning.

CVSE plans to use the unit at road checks, trade shows and community events to educate the public and advertise and promote their work. They’ll also put it to use anywhere else that makes sense — after all, the vehicle is equipped with red/blue emergency lights as well as amber lights.

As for ministry employees, all the great amenities, including a camera mast, will help an emergency management team take on any disaster in comfort and with all the needed technology. The ministry may also use the vehicle for Field Services training, as a public information centres at construction sites, or field projects.

Users might not want to leave this office on wheels! Check out the photos on this page.

Features include a Wi-Fi hotspot, multiple highways radios to operate different channels and built-in inverters. All windows have magnetic whiteboards that pull down and create privacy, if needed, and the washroom has an incinerator, making waste disposal simple. The vehicle’s fuel powers the generator, and as a safety mechanism, the generator automatically shuts off when fuel is at a quarter tank.

Keep your eyes peeled for our newest office on wheels, in a community near you.

Two dropdown outdoor work stations provide extra space for employees in the field.

Markings on the vehicle display its two purposes – CVSE activities and Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure emergency management.

The interior workstations and whiteboards.

The retractable awning is illuminated with LED lighting.
Skeena's Customer Service Champions
Share Kudos
Submitted by Dan Baker, Skeena District Manager

The Skeena District is proud to be the 2019 Customer Satisfaction Award winner.
As most of you know, we are a small district with a big heart that takes pride in providing exemplary public service to clients and stakeholders. Many of our staff are long-term residents in this area and know the clients or their families that we serve. This combined with our ministry’s “can do” culture helped us achieve the award.

It is truly amazing to work with so many great people and we want to take this opportunity to thank all the ministry staff that contribute to making this high level of service possible. Without the professionalism shared from other districts, we would not be able to serve our clients to the level this survey shows.

In addition to encouraging survey completion via emails, social media and overhead message signs, Skeena District employees went the extra mile to conduct in-person surveys, reaching as many respondents as possible. District staff, including our summer student, attended a barbeque at the local tourist information centre where they reached out to the community, handing out ministry swag and conducting surveys. This strategy was highly successful, resulting in around 30 surveys completed face-to-face.

Another valuable opportunity to conduct in-person interviews, was the Q&A session for the new Highway 16 and 37 roundabout project, held during Terrace Riverboat Days Concerts in the Park. All this, coupled with our ongoing daily efforts to provide positive customer service interactions while delivering key ministry services, gave us the edge we needed to come out on top!

Thank you for sharing in our success this year. ♦

Doug McDonald and Mike Dolman offered the public our annual Customer Satisfaction Survey and information about the new roundabout coming to northwest B.C.

Summer student Michelle Roseboom offers the Customer Satisfaction Survey and some enticing ministry swag at a barbecue held in Terrace.

Share your story in the September RoadRunner
Send articles and photos to RoadRunner@gov.bc.ca
Delivering Cargo Securement Session During COVID-19

Submitted by Doreen, McAllister, Commercial Transport Enforcement Supervisor

Over the years, I have delivered many presentations to our industry partners in the Peace District. Some have been offered to carriers, or sponsored by a group, with others invited. The topics typically include one or all of the following:

- hours of service
- dangerous goods
- trip inspections
- cargo security

Usually, a carrier or industry group contacts me and we decide how much time we’ll allot to the presentation, and which of the above topics we can cover in that time. I provide this service free of charge, with the client being responsible for the space and refreshments. Our vision, mission and goals in the ministry, CVSE and the B.C. government direct us to help industry to be globally competitive and aware of the regulations they are required to follow, so educating others makes sense to me.

In January, Lucie Janosek from Energy Safety Canada, contacted me to do a presentation. The services of Energy Safety Canada are used extensively by the oil and gas sector in B.C., Alberta and beyond. The company offers training, resources and advice to help companies and their employees work safely. This education empowers commercial transport carriers, oil and gas operators and other industry partners to work more safely and save money due to reduced incidents.

Over the years, my staff and I have done several presentations to Energy Safety Canada and many other companies and carriers. This time, the request was for a cargo securement presentation, to be held in spring. In early March, we chose May 21 for the session, and the company started taking registrations.

And then the world shut down due to COVID-19. I contacted Lucie right away. Even though May 21 was a long way off from March 17, we talked about having to cancel or postpone the event. About a week or so later, Lucie asked if I would still be willing to conduct the presentation, only via Zoom instead of in-person. She said she would record the session and post it to Energy Safety Canada’s website. I checked with my manager and our Northern Region IT people, and was given the green light.

At that time, we were not allowed to install Zoom on our government computers. Lucie assured me I could use her company’s guest computer that would be properly sanitized, and we would be able to keep our physical distance to stay in compliance with directions from Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry.

May 21 arrived and I conducted my one-hour cargo securement presentation via Zoom, with more than 50 people logged in. Normally, this topic would be two hours to two days, not one hour. So with only 60 minutes, it was a very high-level presentation.

B.C.’s cargo securement regulations have adopted National Safety Code Standard 10, for vehicles that are heavier than 5,000 kilograms, with a common-sense approach used for lighter vehicles. Commercial drivers need to ensure that cargo is secured in accordance with these standards to avoid penalties and protect the safety of all road users.

Anyone interested in viewing and sharing the webinar will find it at [Energy Safety Canada’s website](https://www.energysafety.ca/). (Scroll down to “CARGO SECUREMENT” and you’ll see other interesting workplace safety webinars listed along the way.) The feedback from those that participated was incredibly positive, and the presentation overall, was very well received.

This was not only a great way to work with industry, but also a fantastic use of technology that followed our COVID-19 safety protocols, to keep business moving along.

What’s in a Gender-Neutral Name?

Submitted by Morgan Hurn, Executive Administrative Assistant

Growing up with the name Morgan, I learned early on that I had a gender-neutral name.

Throughout my life, I would go on to meet mostly male “Morgans,” so I got used to being mistaken for a boy or man. It would never offend me when a telemarketer called, for example, and asked for “him, sir, or Mr.” In fact, it was a great way to get rid of telemarketers! “Sorry, there is no Mr. Morgan Hurn at this residence.”

Fast forward to my time working as a phlebotomist, drawing blood samples for medical testing, where I was required to wear a name tag. It was a great conversation starter with older patients who were curious to see a woman with the name Morgan. I was often asked the same question... “How did my parents choose that name?” “Was I Welsh?”

When I began my new career with the BC Public Service, I was no longer asked much about my name, as I mostly interacted with people face to face – that is, until I started my job as Executive Administrative Assistant six months ago. Now, I regularly communicate by email or phone, with people from other ministries and governments, plus stakeholders, many of whom I have never met in person.

Recently, I received an interesting email from a colleague. I had connected with the person on several occasions via email, but we had never actually seen each other or talked on the phone. We sometimes connected to set up meetings, and enjoyed the odd “TGIF!” or “Happy Monday!” banter, but had not had the opportunity to meet face to face. In the email, they said that perhaps “Morgan” could be a male name. They offered humble apologies, if they had been referring to me using the incorrect gender. I informed them...
that I was indeed a woman, and that no offense was taken.

This interaction prompted me to add my “preferred gender pronouns” to my government email signature: she/her/hers.

A few weeks later, I was engaging with another colleague from a different ministry to organize a meeting. Having read my revised email signature, they also confessed that they had imagined me as a man. In fact, they had mistakenly told the person just mentioned above that I was male. It was only when they saw my new email signature with the preferred pronouns that they realized I was, in fact, a woman. They felt badly, but I assured them that I was in no way put out, and that of course, the name “Morgan” can be for any gender!

While our ongoing miscommunication made us all laugh quite a bit, it was also a good reminder that this kind of situation can be a significant issue for people who may struggle to be recognized as their preferred gender. It is important to be mindful of peoples’ preferences, and when in doubt, just ask them about how they would like to be addressed. For me, this experience has helped me to think more deeply about some of the Gender-Based Analysis Plus initiatives that are taking place in our work, and how we can better support people to feel more comfortable and accepted in their identity.

Personally, I was quite touched by both situations. While it may have been a little awkward for my work colleagues to admit they had made an assumption, I appreciate that they reached out to me directly.

I really am thankful that we are building a more inclusive workplace, and that we have lots of opportunities to get to know each other better!

What’s in a Gender-Neutral Name?

… Continued from Page 9

How to Have a Non-Virtual Brain-Storming Meeting Amid COVID-19

Submitted by Reg Faubert, Programs and Air Policy Manager

Step 1: Order up sunny 22°C weather.

Step 2: Find a large sparsely used parking lot, such as those at the University of Victoria.

Step 3: Have a volunteer with a white van, who’s willing to use that van as a mobile whiteboard.

Recently, seven folks from the Transit Branch and the Programs and Corporate Relations Branch gathered for a non-virtual, physically distant brain-storming session in a non-descript little corner of a parking lot. Those pictured here, along with photographer Reg Faubert, spent a pleasant late-afternoon exploring the finer points of provincially supported ground transportation, on May 27.


One of the things the National Safety Code team has done to stay connected while many of us work from home, is keep a group Skype chat window open all day.

Since we need to ensure we don’t all take breaks at the same time, we use the window as a shared area to let each other know when we’ve gone for a break and when we’ve returned. The window keeps us feeling like we’re working together as a team, and that we’re not missing out on the camaraderie of our usual interactions in the office.

(Microsoft Teams also offers this ability in Chats.)
COVID-19 Personal Protective Gear for CVSE Inspectors
Submitted by Mike Zakus, Area Vehicle Inspector

The protective gear shown in this photo is the new norm for Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement (CVSE) inspectors, prior to entering the cab of a commercial truck that has been involved in a serious collision.

Inspector Mike Zakus got a quick check over by his supervisor, Jim MacMillan, before stepping into the cab of a tractor-trailer unit that was involved in hitting a pedestrian, in Langley, on May 12.

Prior to COVID-19 becoming an issue, this equipment protocol had been developed in conjunction with WorkSafeBC, for doing accident investigations that might involve human matter or toxic fumes. We received our new protective gear a few weeks before COVID-19 was declared a pandemic. The gloves, face shield and N95 professional respirator fit well with COVID-19 precautions. ♦

As the impact of COVID-19 grew worldwide this spring, the demand for personal protective equipment (PPE) grew as well.

Many countries, businesses, and services were caught off-guard as safety supplies became harder to find. As part of a proactive community response here in B.C., I’ve been working with B.C. Covid-19 3D Printing Group (BCC3D) to supply front-line workers with PPE.

BCC3D is a group of volunteers across the province putting their 3D printers, design skills, vehicles and more toward improving PPE designs, producing/printing the equipment and organizing distribution.

We produce face shields which consist of a frame and visor that fit together, and can be sterilized and re-used. We’re also printing ear savers to help those who wear face masks for long periods. Extended wearing of surgical or exam masks with elastic earloops can cause discomfort to the wearer’s ears. The ear saver straps comfortably hold the elastics in place. Check out this cool time lapse video of ear savers being made by a member of the B.C. Covid-19 3D Printing Group.

My contributions have been on Vancouver Island, where along with about 100 volunteers, we’ve supplied more than 4,000 emergency PPE items to over 50 front-line facilities, including Island Health Community Care, the Royal Jubilee Hospital and the Victoria Police Department. Another delivery was to St John’s Ambulance which is providing medical care to vulnerable people among Victoria’s homeless population, who would not otherwise have access to face shields.

Province-wide, we have produced and donated more than 10,000 face shields and 50,000 ear savers. Through these efforts, and those of other volunteer and not-for-profit groups, we managed to meet the demand for emergency supplies on Vancouver Island and have slowed down local production.

If you have been a part of this journey, I thank you. If you want to help, many communities in B.C. still need PPE and the print files we use are available to all. ♦

Ear saver straps in use at B.C. Children’s Hospital, on April 7, in the early days of COVID-19. Photo from B.C. Covid-19 3D Printing Group Facebook page.

Printed face shield frame on 3D printer bed, and ear saver strap on table.

An Island Health employee shows his appreciation for the face shield and ear saver. Photo from B.C. Covid-19 3D Printing Group Facebook page.
Coffee Breaks, Pics Connect Co-workers in COVID Times
Submitted by Henry Lew, Traffic Operations Engineer

Working from home during these unprecedented times, our usual in-person interaction with our co-workers has not been practical or possible.

Effectively managing in a geographically dispersed group like the Traffic and Highway Safety Engineering team has become more challenging. Since working remotely was implemented in mid-March, our province-wide group has experimented with a variety of creative ways to bring our team closer together, foster good teamwork and keep connected.

We’ve had daily virtual coffee breaks led by Director Kenedee Ludwar. The 15-minute sessions have provided a much-needed opportunity for us to interact and socialize with our colleagues. The breaks have been fun, filled with humour and laughter, and provided a great chance to get to know each other better.

One of our most popular activities during our coffee breaks has been a weekly photo sharing contest which has allowed team members insight into each other’s personal lives including memorable places previously visited, unique hobbies and favourite activities.

For now, we are keeping a safe distance and working from home because it is needed to keep our co-workers, friends and family safe. But we miss grabbing a cup of coffee with a co-worker and getting together with friends for happy hour. We also miss the excitement of having dinner for the first time at a new restaurant and the local stroll to our favorite neighbourhood eatery for a quick bite to eat. Some of us also have had to postpone a wedding, cancel a family reunion or defer competing in a bucket list sporting event. All of us are missing the everyday things and simple pleasures that we may have taken for granted, or are eager to have back, once normalcy returns.

For our team, the virtual coffee breaks have helped promote communication and strengthen our relationships while working from home. As a result, our team is feeling happier, more engaged and connected at a time when COVID-19 has affected everyone’s lives.

More photos on Page 13...
My Not-So-Professional COVID-19 Headshot
Submitted by Andrea Mercer, Executive Director, Transit Branch

While on a Skype call during week six of working from home during the COVID-19 pandemic, I caught a glimpse of my “Pre-COVID” Skype profile photo. (You know, the photo of you that meeting participants see during a Skype call, if you don’t have video turned on).

It struck me that after six weeks of working from home, I looked nothing like I did in my profile picture. My business attire had quickly been swapped out for lounge wear and I have to admit the COVID hair struggle is real.

So, I decided to upload a more current, realistic profile pic for a Transportation Policy and Programs Department meeting, to provide a more accurate portrayal. My “plan” was to temporarily upload the non-professional photo, and let my ministry colleagues have a bit of a laugh when they saw my “true colours”.

I had every intention of replacing the photo with my regular professional headshot, before another call that afternoon, with the senior leadership team at B.C. Transit and several Assistant Deputy Ministers from other ministries (a few of whom I had never met). I’ll cut to the chase…

Yep, I forgot to replace my not-so-professional photo for that meeting!

Oh well, one can’t change the past. However, I will always wonder if the meeting participants were at all distracted by my rugged/raw/ridiculous/big hair-don’t care “COVID-19 work from home” look.

For anyone wondering, the hair product is Electric London’s C-4 Shaping Paste. From the company’s website: “…define your look with confidence using this endlessly versatile paste...keeps hold while allowing your hair to move freely”.

Maybe they will ask me to be a hair model?

Coffee Breaks, Pics Connect Co-workers in COVID Times… Continued from Page 12

▲ Trevor Demerse enjoys a cliff-side swing while hiking the Juan De Fuca Trail.

▲ Karmajeet Deogan’s well-groomed urban garden.
What do Crash Cushions, Clear Zones and Rumble Strips Have to do
With Mental Health?

Submitted by Amy Baskin, Mental Health and Wellness Training Specialist

Highway design has changed significantly over the years.

With our current standards, we build clear zones, and generally more forgiving roadsides. Modern highways are designed and built to ensure people have a safe place to pull off when they’re in trouble. These engineering innovations play an important part in preventing roadside injuries and minimizing the severity when collisions do happen.

But how does this apply to our workplaces? Can we leverage our skill at creating safety on British Columbia’s highways, to building psychologically healthy and safe workplaces? I believe we can.

“Psychological Health and Safety in the Workplace” is a voluntary standard created in 2013 by the Canadian Standards Association as an initiative led by the Mental Health Commission of Canada. The hope was to create a road map that any employer could follow, to improve mental health and safety in their workplace, by designing policies, procedures and practices to support current positive practices and address areas where opportunity exists for improvement.

After two members of Thompson Nicola District management took a locally offered Mental Health First Aid Course, the team became curious about how to improve psychological health and safety in the district, and do more to support the health and safety of the team. As a ministry known for its “can do” attitude, they made the decision to implement the voluntary national standard as a pilot program.

Finding themselves lacking the expertise needed to proceed, I’ve been hired as an auxiliary to support the district in two ways:

- The design of a Thompson Nicola District Psychological Health and Safety Plan (complete with clear zones and crash cushions), and
- Support the team with mental health and wellness training, as we navigate a challenging time where we might be more prone to “going off the road.”

I’ve valued the opportunity to dive deep into the world of the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure. I’ve discovered that there are several transportation topics analogous to psychological health and safety: clear zones, CVSE safety inspections, avalanche forecasting, highway closure plans, and my favourite…crash cushions!

What are your rumble strips? If you’re like me, there will be things that let you know you are veering off-road. For me, it’s crying more than usual; for you, it might be taking a comment personally or feeling foggy or short tempered. Regardless, these indicators offer an opportunity to re-adjust how we are going along, just like a rumble strip helps us to adjust our driving.

Life is especially challenging during COVID-19. More than 50 per cent of Canadians report worsening of their mental health. As bad as this situation is, we have been presented with an opportunity to talk openly and honestly, without stigma, about the importance of taking care of our mental health. Now is a chance for us to build our own highways of wellness, and design what is needed to keep ourselves and our workplaces on track.

These words have been a helpful reminder for me, from Mental Health Commission of Canada CEO Louise Bradley: “Put aside your previous expectations, to discard old ways of knowing and doing, and embrace the present with a compassionate and forgiving heart.”

If you are interested in learning more:

- Being a mindful employee (free online): www.ccohs.ca/products/courses/mindful_employee/&print=true
- Check out the courses available through the Mental Health Commission of Canada: www.mhfa.ca/en/course-types
- Stay tuned for news on the Thompson Nicola District’s pilot
- Visit the TRANsmissions site for a Podcast I did with BC Public Service Agency Health Program Manager Lyz Gilgunn, hosted by Web and Social Media Services Director Russel Lolacher.

▲ This route offers crash cushions and safe places (clear zones) to pull over – a model for the psychological health and safety plan under development by the Thompson Nicola District.
When you're a second-year civil engineering student from BCIT, like me, part of the course requirement is to work on an industry project.

It is the student's responsibility to find a sponsor and work on a civil engineering project with that sponsor. Through a family friend, I was introduced to Senior Engineering Manager Faisal Siddiqui, and he offered me a variety of potential projects for my assignment.

I ultimately chose the intersection redesign of Highway 1 and Highway 8, in Spences Bridge. The scope of my four-month industry project was to complete the preliminary design. The focus was to design an upgrade for the current intersection, which would improve the turning movements for vehicles, provide better sight distances and include general safety improvements, due to the increased traffic volume in the area. Ideally, the redesign would limit construction on the main roads and not alter the area around Guzyk Road, to reduce construction costs.

Faisal introduced me to an amazing team to help me complete this project, that consisted of Matthew Hawkins, John Babineau and Todd Eveland.

I began by creating the design criteria sheet for the intersection based off Highway 1, with the help of Matthew and John. After the design criteria sheet was completed, I used Civil 3D to create the model with the help and guidance of Todd. In Civil 3D, I first created the horizontal and vertical alignments of the road. I constructed these alignments to follow the current roads, to limit the construction needed for the project.

I then replicated the ministry’s cross section. After that was completed, I combined both horizontal and vertical alignments and the cross section for Highway 1 and Highway 8, to create 3D models. Once both models were created, I went through the procedure again, creating a 3D model of Highway 1’s exit lane. Once all the models were finished, I created feature lines used as targets, so the models would not overlap. I then produced profile views for both Highway 1 and Highway 8, as well as a plan view of the intersection and a typical section of Highway 8 and Highway 1.

The final design modified only the exit lanes for both highways, reducing costs. The exit was modified to stay closer to Highway 1 until turning onto Highway 8, which allowed for better sight distance for cars turning left onto Highway 8. Highway 8’s turning radii were increased to allow drivers to make a less sharp turn, when turning right.

Working with Faisal, Matthew, Todd and John was an amazing experience. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to learn alongside my mentors on a Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure project. The valuable lessons from that experience will help me when I finish my program and enter the workforce.

Fun Ferry Fact – Cable Ferries

Submitted by Callum Campbell, Marine Manager

The first cable ferry in B.C. was launched on the Pitt River, in 1923, and had to be pulled across the river by hand!

Nowadays, cable ferries are made of a steel barge powered by an engine coupled to a drive-sheave. This system winds cable in one end and feeds it out the other, as the ferry pulls itself across the river. The barge is guided by two cables running through sheaves attached to the hull.

Cable ferries can be 24 to 50 metres long and carry anywhere from 12 to 150 passengers.

The Glade II cable ferry runs across the Kootenay River, from Highway 3A to the community of Glade.
Bonding Over The Bachelor
Submitted by Jennifer Dyer, Development Technician

If you’re ever in the Peace District, you can find the Fort St. John employees hard at work assisting Northern Region staff with the Highway 29 realignment or tackling requests from the bustling oil and gas industry.

However, even during the busiest of times, the Fort St John staff always find a way to come together to discuss their favourite topic: The Bachelor. Every other Tuesday, anyone working in the Fort St John office will gather around the map table for a coffee break, to catch up with their peers. It’s our long-standing “Goodie Day” when someone in the office will bring in treats for everyone. Conversations range from favourite recipes to local events, but for a few months of the year, the talk is almost exclusively centred around The Bachelor, The Bachelorette or Bachelor in Paradise.

For those of you fortunate enough to have hobbies that don’t involve watching two hours of trashy reality television every Monday night, and don’t know what I’m talking about, The Bachelor is a “competition” series where 30 women compete for one bachelor’s heart. We follow their journey week by week, as the women become increasingly catty toward each other, while fighting to build meaningful relationships with the male lead, until the final episode where the bachelor gets down on one knee and (hopefully) leaves engaged to his chosen partner.

Now I know what you’re thinking... But before you let your eyes roll to the back of your head, hear me out: The Bachelor is a great show! More importantly, this show is arguably the glue that holds the Fort St John office together. Okay, maybe that is an exaggeration, but it is a source of constant chatter around the office and gives us something to look forward to during the bitter winter months.

Even those in the office who have never watched a single episode are able to chime in and laugh along at the silly antics of the contestants. There is never a shortage of drama to discuss, such as whose entrance on the first night was the most over-the-top obnoxious, or the surprise appearance by a contestant’s ex during a date. Unfortunately, filming of the latest season of The Bachelorette has been postponed due to COVID-19. However, I look forward to the days when we can gather at the map table again to discuss if it really is “the most dramatic season ever.”

If you ever want to chat business (I mean The Bachelor), you know who to call!

The Working from Home Scene

“...My husband’s boss wanted to see what my husband’s ‘work from home’ office looked like,” says Development Services Technician Assistant Sarah Schaefer. “So we showed them.”

“...When working alone from home, it is always good to have a second pair of eyes checking your work,” says Chief Engineer Ian Pilkington.
Passenger Transportation Crossword Contest
Submitted by Katrina LaRoy, Passenger Transportation Branch Communications Officer

We thought we’d change things up a bit and provide a fun activity for this edition of Road Runner.

We went a little easy on you too...you can find many of the crossword answers within various clues, so do some cross-referencing and you should be alright. Hint: Here’s a good place to start searching out answers: gov.bc.ca/rpt

The first three people outside of the Passenger Transportation Branch, to send me your correctly completed crosswords, will win prizes. For those within the Passenger Transportation Branch, who enter all the right answers, there will be a prize draw. Send your completed crosswords to me at Katrina.LaRoy@gov.bc.ca

The completed crossword will be published in the next edition of Road Runner.

Good luck from the Passenger Transportation Branch!

Across
2. Ride-hail drivers must have this class of driver’s licence.
4. Some municipalities used to require taxi drivers to have a chauffeur’s permit, but these have been replaced with the provincial [?].
6. The Record Check Certificate for a ride-hail driver must be available in the company’s [?].
9. To support the entry of ride-hail to the province, our Branch staff team [?] in size in less than a year.
10. The Record Check Certificate is a driver’s evidence of authority to operate. Taxi drivers must carry a [?] copy in their vehicle.
11. The new legislation brought in last fall allowing ride-hail to legally operate included a new requirement for taxis and ride hail to submit [?] to the province, like trip status.
12. Data submissions will enable the Passenger Transportation Board to make [?] -based decisions.
13. The number of operating regions the Passenger Transportation Board established for ride hail is [?].
14. Our branch also regulates [?] buses, a service with regular, scheduled routes, much like Greyhound.
15. We also regulate perimeter seating buses, more commonly known as [?].
17. The new legislation came into effect during the month of [?].
19. This legislation is focused on passenger [?] which is why driver and criminal record checks are required.

Down
1. The PT Branch is often confused with the PT [?], and although we work together, we are not the same.
3. The first approved ride-hail company in B.C. was [?].
5. “Transportation network services” is a fancy way of saying [?].
7. Our PTEOs often collaborate with CVSE, but they can be considered “specialists” in the [?] Transportation Act and Regulation.
8. All drivers of passenger-directed vehicles (taxis, ride-hail, limos) must obtain the most stringent type of police information check, called the PIC-VS. The “V” stands for [?].
11. The month the first ride-hail company was approved to operate in B.C. was [?].
16. All commercial passenger vehicle licensees must have a [?] Safety Code Certificate.
18. A Passenger Transportation Enforcement Officer is also known as a [?].
Kinnear Kids Clean Up for the West Kootenays

Greg Kinnear’s son, Austin, performed some essential work for the West Kootenay District, during his father’s work from home period due to COVID-19. Austin’s sister, Maya, also took part, getting her first “on the job” work experience as part of home schooling.

These two exceptionally casual “employees” look like they get the job done with lots of youthful enthusiasm. Thanks Greg, for sending this fun photo to Road Runner.

Team Throws Baby Shower on Teams

Submitted by David Retzer, Project Development Analyst

Darrell Gunn, regional manager of SIR Project Delivery and Planning Services, had a baby with his wife Samantha, on March 3.

With the “stay apart” restrictions of COVID-19, the video conferencing ability of Microsoft Teams was used to bring the Project Delivery and Planning Services team together to celebrate the arrival of Henry Douglas Gunn with the new parents.

The baby shower included the traditional hat adorned with ribbons from gifts, for the new dad.

Darrell Gunn in baby shower headgear, holds baby Henry, while proud mom Samantha opens cards.

Kinnear Kids contribute to the clean operation of a Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure vehicle.
When the Going Gets Tough, the Tough Get… Joking?
Submitted by Kristen Reimer, Multimedia Information Officer

To say 2020 has been a tough year would be putting it mildly. The rapid-fire pace of change which has unfolded in such a short time is astounding and many (if not most) of us are still trying to wrap our heads around what all these changes mean.

During the COVID-19 situation, like so many of us, I’ve been working from home. Part of my work has been sorting and organizing more of our archival ministry photos. It’s an amazing part of my job and one which I am continuously grateful to be able to do. Our ministry is rich in its history and our archival images prove it. In addition to the images I’ve seen which capture the amazing work we’ve accomplished over the years, I noticed another underlying thread in our archives – humour. In the driving snow, under pressing deadlines, even during mundane routines, ministry staff (both past and present) show their strength and resilience through their humour.

It’s an odd thing, isn’t it? The strange truth that during times of adversity, struggle and anxiety – the ability to joke and laugh (especially at ourselves) gives us the strength to keep going. Laughter buoys our spirits and binds us together. So, here are some of my favourite funny shots for you to enjoy. I hope they bring a smile to your face. I know we are all trying our best to stay safe out there but don’t forget to keep smiling.


Bill Hamilton takes his retirement parting shot (a large can of oats for the smiling Scotsman) with a grin, circa 1965.

All work and no play makes for a boring road skills training course in Prince George, circa 1976. Good thing these staffer children were on hand to keep it real.

Revelstoke garage staff line up to request days off, circa 1965. From left to right, Bob Beach, Bert Lenny and Jim Lines.

Allan Kennedy and Kent Sharon huddle together to keep warm while working on a new bridge near Likely, in 1977.

Glyn Briscoe asks Lloyd Burgess for an extension on his Road Runner submission, circa 1972.