

In dark days ... two beams of shining light

In times of crisis, like the COVID-19 pandemic that has sent us scrambling for cover, we are so fortunate in BC to have leaders who have answered the call to public service with unwavering dedication.

In this issue of Orders of the Day we celebrate two dedicated and tireless public servants: Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry (Pages 4 and 5) and

recently promoted Clerk of the Legislative Assembly Kate Ryan-Lloyd (Pages 6 and 7).

Both women find themselves in critical roles in these troubled times: Dr. Henry, the steady voice of reason, calm and compassion helping us cope with the Coronavirus, and Ryan-Lloyd delivering thoughtful management in a Legislature whose functions have been sorely handicapped by the pandemic.

Dr. Henry was the deputy provincial health officer for three years starting in August of 2014 and prior to that served as the interim provincial executive medical director of the BC Centre for Disease Control from December 2013 until August 2014.

Former BC Chief Health Officer Dr. Perry Kendall says: "Henry is both knowledgeable and battle-tested. She is an incredibly thoughtful and compassionate human being, as I think she demonstrated recently."



Ryan-Lloyd, having served the Legislature for almost three decades and having managed its affairs with a steady hand through a period of turbulence, was recently elevated from her role as Acting Clerk and appointed Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

In coming to its unanimous recommendation, the Special Committee to Appoint a Clerk was impressed by Ryan-Lloyd's performance in the competition and the knowledge and skills that she has developed over the course of her career at the Legislative Assembly that began in 1992.

In May 2010, she was appointed Acting Clerk of Committees. Kate was appointed Deputy Clerk and Clerk of Committees in September 2011. Kate has served as Acting Clerk of the Legislative Assembly since November 2018.

The position of Clerk of the Legislative Assembly is one of the oldest continuously-held public offices in the province, and predates British Columbia's admission into Confederation in 1871. The Clerk is the senior permanent officer of the Legislative Assembly and holds significant procedural and senior organizational leadership responsibilities.

Her Honour

The Honourable Janet Austin, OBC

Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia

Orders of the Day is published regularly throughout the year, and is circulated to Association members, all MLAs now serving in Legislature, other interested individuals and organizations.

Material for the newsletter is always welcome and should be sent in written form to:

P.O. Box 31009
University Heights P.O.
Victoria, B.C. V8N 6J3

Or emailed to ootd.afmlabc@gmail.com
or ootd@shaw.ca

Editor: Brian Kieran
Layout/Production/Research: Rob Lee

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The Association of Former MLAs of British Columbia is strictly non-partisan, regardless of members' past or present political affiliation. Founded in 1987, the Association was formally established by an Act of the British Columbia Legislature on February 10, 1998.

Orders of the Day was conceived, named and produced in its early stages by Bob McClelland, former MLA and cabinet minister, following his retirement from office. Hugh Curtis ably helmed this publication up through May 2014.

Thank You and Miscellany

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From the Editor's Desk

The words "Brian Kieran" and "social distancing" have never before appeared in the same sentence. Lord knows, I'm most easily found hanging with my friends at the local, yakking away over a cold one. But, these are not normal times, and I have bowed to the health imperatives that call on all of us to stay home as much as humanly possible. The constant hand washing is a bit of a challenge ... of all the Snoopy characters Pig Pen was always my go-to cartoon soulmate.

Nothing escapes a health crisis of this dimension and Orders of the Day is no exception. The Queen's Printer generously puts OOTD to press each month, but this month, in the throes of the COVID-19 crisis, it was not known until the last minute whether printing of this issue would be possible. Happily, the Queen's Printer came through. So, on behalf of every subscriber who enjoys the tactile pleasure of leafing from page to page rather than virtual scrolling through a computer-generated PDF, I want to extend our gratitude to the Queen's Printer's hard working staff for rising to the challenge.

Obviously, COVID-19 commands centre stage, and that is reflected in this issue. I've tried to sidestep the depressing and focus on the positive. Thus, a grateful nod to two amazingly talented and dedicated public servants – BC Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry who has been under intense pressure at the epicentre of this crisis and Legislature Clerk Kate Ryan Lloyd who has stepped into the breach to manage the affairs of the House so smoothly.

My thanks to Procedural Clerk Artour Sogomonian for helping us appreciate how the Legislature is coping in troubled times. And, as ever, my gratitude goes to Jim Hume who, at 96, reminds us there have been harder times in our history – very hard times many of us have never experienced – during which men and women of strength and goodwill endured and grew stronger.

Stay well my friends.

President's Report

As I write this, we are in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic here in BC and Canada. Both the federal parliament and our provincial legislature are meeting in unique circumstances ... both with minimal quorums to pass emergency measures announced by the respective governments.

This is a good thing, and a suspension of partisanship is necessary at a time like this. But for how long?

No doubt the pandemic, and its aftermath, will be with us for some time. Social distancing and remote workplaces may be the norm for several months. How does that impact the Westminster model of responsible government? At what point does a government, any government, require scrutiny and critique to ensure the best decisions are made for the public. Both nationally and provincially we have minority governments; should this not speak to more collaboration and more shared decision making?

As former MLAs, we can appreciate the enormous burdens placed on elected officials at all levels of government, but especially on those with the responsibility for decision making. Cabinet ministers and senior

bureaucrats are moving at a rapid pace to implement measures to support individuals and businesses. They require flexibility to pass legislation and implement procedures to allow the aid to flow.

I suggest this is also a time when the viewpoints and experience of all elected officials need to be brought to bare. We cannot afford to hold up aid and action with unnecessary partisanship and bureaucracy, but neither can we abandon our fundamental system of governance for expediency's sake.

A balance MUST be arrived at that facilitates wise decision making. Politics as usual is off the table in 2020.



Jeff Bray,
President AFMLABC

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Dr. Henry's unwavering clarity in the grip of crisis

Dear Dr. Henry,

Can I call you Dr. Bonnie? In our house that's what we call you. My boy says it's because he knows you.

Like many British Columbians, our family would like to thank you for your tireless efforts and knowledgeable briefings. We see you working so very hard, bringing us the world's most honest truths on this COVID-19 global health emergency we find ourselves in.

It is very scary for families, as you know. You mentioned your parents being worried about you at last weekend's briefing. What some countries are politicizing, you are humanizing.

We never miss your press briefings and we listen with great interest to the facts you deliver. Because of your hard work we feel less anxious, less panicked, somehow.

We talk about the credibility you bring. You led the way when we found ourselves in the grips of SARS back in 2003. We are in awe of how you dove headlong into helping combat the Ebola outbreak in Uganda and put your expertise to work in eradicating polio in Pakistan, just to name a few.

Our family remarks on how politics don't even come into play – in sharp contrast to some other jurisdictions.

Your ability to bring such clarity to your message, with such integrity and honesty, is priceless – particularly for parents. Unwavering in your message: Wash hands, stay home if sick, use common sense and social distancing, protect yourself and others. Straightforward directives like these help. Your briefings help us focus on what we can do.

Even when faced with difficult directives, like avoiding cruise vacations, knowing it will impact the economy and the livelihoods of many, your experience and credibility are crucial. It's not personal, it's science.

Dr. Bonnie, we trust you.



In the face of a crisis, we must not be taken in by clickbait panic, but informed, either through the BC Centre for Disease Control, Health Canada, or travel advisories updated minute to minute on travel.gc.ca.

We took note from you that it's far more vital for healthcare workers to have medical supplies such as masks and hand sanitizer, as they risk so much – and we will need them.

You make us feel connected to truth. You help us explain this scary time to our kids in a way that helps them sleep at night, but also understand why it's crucial to wash their hands far more thoroughly than ever before.

It is not an understatement to say that you are why our province is an example to the world how to handle times such as these.

All the best, be well, and we will be watching each day at 3:30 pm.

Jody Vance

(Jody Vance's letter appeared at theorca.ca. She is a born and raised Vancouverite who's spent 30 years in both local and national media working in both TV and radio.)

Dr. Bonnie Henry is a preventive medicine specialist

Dr. Bonnie Henry was appointed as provincial health officer for the Province of BC effective February 1, 2018.



Dr. Henry was the deputy provincial health officer for three years starting in August of 2014 and prior to that served as the interim provincial executive medical director of the BC Centre for Disease Control from December 2013 until August 2014.

She was also the medical director of Communicable Disease Prevention and Control and Public Health Emergency Management with the British Columbia Centre for Disease Control and medical director for the provincial emerging and vector-borne diseases program as well as a provincial program for surveillance and control of healthcare associated infections; a position she started in February of 2005.

She joined Toronto Public Health in September 2001 as associate medical officer of health where she was responsible for the Emergency Services Unit and the Communicable Disease Liaison Unit. In 2003, she was the operational lead in the response to the SARS outbreak in Toronto. She was a member of the executive team of the Ontario SARS Scientific Advisory Committee.

She is a specialist in public health and preventive medicine and is board certified in preventive medicine in the U.S. She graduated from Dalhousie Medical School and completed a Masters in Public Health in San Diego, residency training in preventive medicine at University of California, San Diego and in community medicine at University of Toronto.

Dr. Henry has worked internationally including with the WHO/UNICEF polio eradication program in Pakistan and with the World Health Organization to control the Ebola outbreak in Uganda.

Dr. Henry is an associate professor at the University of British Columbia, Faculty of Medicine. She is the past chair of Immunize Canada and a member of the Canadian National Advisory Committee on Immunization and the National Infection Control Guidelines Steering Committee. She chaired the Canadian Public Health Measures Task Group and was a member of the Infection Control Expert Group and the Canadian Pandemic Coordinating Committee responding to pandemic H1N1 (2009) influenza.

She has been involved with planning, surveillance and response to mass gatherings in Canada and internationally, including with the 2010 Vancouver Olympic and Paralympic Games. She is the author of “Soap and Water and Common Sense” a guide to staying healthy in a microbe filled world.



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HELPING WHEN LIFE CHANGES



“Ideal candidate” appointed Clerk of the Legislature

Having served the Legislature for almost 30 years and having managed its affairs with a steady hand through recent turbulence as Acting Clerk, Kate Ryan-Lloyd has been appointed Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

In coming to its unanimous recommendation, the Special Committee to Appoint a Clerk stated that “Ryan-Lloyd takes great pride in being in the service of the Legislative Assembly.” The committee was also impressed by her professional contributions “that have supported the Legislative Assembly and its Members in fulfilling their constitutional and representative duties.”

“Ms. Ryan-Lloyd's procedural knowledge is unparalleled, which was evidenced in the interview and through her editorial oversight of the publication of the fifth edition of Parliamentary Practice in British Columbia in 2020. Ms. Ryan-Lloyd demonstrated an exceptional understanding of the role and mandate of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, including the challenges and opportunities that the next officeholder must address.

“Committee members also noted her leadership and commitment to building a better workplace for Legislative Assembly employees while in senior executive positions at the Assembly over a number of years, particularly during her tenure as Acting Clerk of the Legislative Assembly since November 2018, and how she has demonstrated exceptional initiative to lead the Legislative Assembly's administrative support structure through a turbulent period of change.

“The Committee was confident that Ms. Ryan-Lloyd's leadership style and administrative management capabilities, her ability to effectively build relationships and communicate with elected officials, staff and stakeholders, and her personal values make her an ideal candidate for appointment. These qualities were evident throughout the committee's recruitment process, which committee members believe make her exceptionally qualified to lead the Legislative Assembly's administrative operations through innovative transformation that will meet Members' and public expectations of excellence in parliamentary governance.

“Kate Ryan-Lloyd has served the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia since 1992, when she accepted a position with the Legislative Library, serving Members and Assembly officials for seven years. In 1999, Kate was appointed Committee Clerk and worked closely with Members assigned to parliamentary committees. In 2002, she was appointed as a permanent officer, undertaking Chamber responsibilities serving the Assembly as Clerk Assistant.



“Kate is an active member of many professional associations in the parliamentary community, and previously served as President of the Association of Clerks-at-the-Table in Canada. Kate also holds positions as Executive Director of the Canadian Council of Public Accounts Committees, and serves on the Advisory Board of the Canadian Audit and Accountability Foundation. She is a member of the Editorial Board of the Canadian Parliamentary Review. Articles written by Kate have been published in the Canadian Parliamentary Review, The Parliamentarian, and the Canadian Law Libraries Journal. Kate served as Editor of the fifth edition of Parliamentary Practice in British Columbia, which will soon be released.

“After completing an undergraduate degree in Political Science at the University of Victoria, Kate obtained a Master of Library and Information Science degree from the University of British Columbia and a Graduate Certificate in Public Sector Leadership from Royal Roads University. She is currently working towards a Master of Laws degree from Osgoode Hall Law School.

“Kate is an avid runner and completed the 2016, 2018 and 2019 Boston Marathons, requalifying for the 2020 Boston Marathon. Kate is married to Ken and they have two daughters (Megan and Molly) and one son (Seamus).”

(Source: The report of the Special Committee to Appoint a Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.)

The Clerk of the Assembly pre-dates BC joining Canada

The position of Clerk of the Legislative Assembly is one of the oldest continuously-held public offices in British Columbia, and predates British Columbia's admission into Confederation in 1871.

The Clerk is the senior permanent officer of the Legislative Assembly, and holds significant procedural and senior organizational leadership responsibilities. The Clerk oversees the development and delivery of Assembly services and supports to Members of the Legislative Assembly, recognized caucuses, constituency offices, and parliamentary committees.

The Clerk leads a highly skilled and diverse professional team of approximately 330 permanent and auxiliary employees within 14 administrative departments. The primary procedural role of the Clerk is to contribute to the fulfilment of the Legislative Assembly's constitutional and representative functions by ensuring the Speaker, other Presiding Officers, and all Members of the Legislative Assembly are provided with non-partisan authoritative procedural advice and guidance on the interpretation and application of the Standing Orders, parliamentary practice, and parliamentary privilege.

The Clerk is also responsible for the management of all official papers and records of the Assembly and its committees, as set out in statute and in the Standing Orders. The position also serves as Clerk to the Legislative Assembly Management Committee, providing support in coordinating its work. Pursuant to the provincial Constitution Act, an individual is appointed to the position of Clerk by resolution of the Legislative Assembly.

As a permanent officer, the Clerk serves at the pleasure of the House, regardless of prorogation or dissolution of the Legislative Assembly. Reporting to the Legislative Assembly through the Speaker, the Clerk's procedural and Chamber responsibilities are central to all legislative functions and operations. To perform the role effectively, the Clerk must have the confidence and support of all Members. As such, the Clerk must be non-partisan and unconnected to any political party, must demonstrate sound judgment, integrity, and diplomacy, and must act with impartiality and discretion.

Like a chief executive officer, the Clerk also holds primary responsibility for major organizational decisions, managing the overall provision of professional and operational services, and reporting on administrative and financial matters to the Legislative Assembly Management Committee, as well as its advisory subcommittee, the Finance and Audit Committee.



The Clerk leads the development of the Legislative Assembly administration's short- and long-term strategic goals in support of the organization's vision and mission, contributing to the evaluation and assessment of Assembly programs. The incumbent must also offer strategic leadership in planning for the continuity of government and the Assembly's core functions, and with any other organizational priorities that may be identified by the Speaker or the Legislative Assembly Management Committee.

The Clerk is responsible for the overall financial management of a budget of \$83 million. The budget provides for the operation of the Legislative Assembly and its committees, including the provision of indemnities, allowances and salaries for Members of the Legislative Assembly, officials and staff, and for support services and other related costs. Annually, the Clerk signs the financial statements of the Legislative Assembly, attesting to their accuracy and integrity.

The Clerk is also responsible for contributing to the implementation and maintenance of a system of internal controls providing reasonable assurance that assets are safeguarded, that transactions are properly authorized and recorded in compliance with statutory requirements, and that reliable financial information is available on a timely basis for preparation of the financial statements.

The Clerk leads an organization that is committed to value-focused service delivery and must ensure that the Legislative Assembly sustains a healthy workplace and is able to attract, retain, develop, and inspire talented employees to support strong organizational performance.

In 1918, Victoria's health officer was an unsung hero

By Daniel Marshall
Writing for "theorca.ca"

Over 100 years ago, the medical health officer in the City of Victoria became one of the great unsung heroes in British Columbia history.



To combat the rising tide of the Spanish influenza epidemic of 1918, Dr. Arthur G. Price asserted immediate prevention programs and closure of all public venues in the Capital Regional District.

He had good reason. Some 500 million worldwide had apparently contracted the disease, resulting in the deaths of at least 50 million people – vastly more than the total attributed to the First World War.

Masked by symptoms most often associated with a common cold bug (chills, fever, headaches, sore throat, respiratory infection and so forth), the misdiagnosed fever quickly swept the continents into a full-fledged pandemic – and physicians and pathologists in British Columbia were caught in a state of unpreparedness.

From 1918 to 1920, three successive waves of this virulent influenza raged, seemingly originating in China. The Canadian military historian Mark Humphries says that “newly unearthed records confirm that one of the side stories of the war – the mobilization of 96,000 Chinese laborers to work behind the British and French lines on the First World War's Western Front – may have been the source of the pandemic.”

There is a connection to Vancouver. Humphries' research “found medical records indicating that more than 3,000 of the 25,000 Chinese Labour Corps workers who were transported across Canada (and) ended up in medical quarantine, many with flu-like symptoms.”

Rather than transport them around Africa, “British officials shipped the labourers to Vancouver and sent them by train to Halifax, from where they could be sent to Europe.”

At the time, Canada had no centralized government health authority to launch a national defense plan. As a consequence, emergency programs fell to provincial and local municipal authorities who enacted differing responses to the threat.

By early October 1918 increasing reports from Canadian cities detailed the death toll of those who had succumbed to the virulent disease; this was the likely impetus for Dr. Price to institute immediate prevention programs in Victoria.

A little over 100 years later, official health advisements on curbing the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19) are fundamentally the same as in 1918: Avoid crowds; if you feel ill, self-isolate and get immediate bedrest.

Nevertheless, human nature being what it is, mandatory measures soon followed – not unlike what is occurring in other parts of the world right now. In a Victoria Daily Times article, October 8, 1918, entitled “Prohibitions of Meetings to Check Spread of Germs,” the BC Provincial Board of Health issued new regulations to support local community efforts to halt the spread of the contagious disease with “the closing of all places of assembly as a preventative measure against the spread of Spanish influenza.”

The Honourable J. D. MacLean, BC's Minister of Health (and later premier) used the Public Health Act to empower a city's medical health officer to close public spaces at will, enforced by the police.

Apparently, Dr. Price had strongly urged a closure ban in Victoria, while Vancouver remained wide open. Upwards of 100 cases of the influenza had already been reported in Victoria, and so Dr. Price was quick to implement the closure power he had sought over all public and private gathering places. Shortly thereafter, schools, churches, libraries, theatres, colleges, and dance halls were shuttered for a total of 33 days, and community gatherings in general were banned.

(Continued on Page 9)



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“Wake up! Realize that there is a war on”

Continued from Page 8)

In addition to closures and a ban on public gatherings, Price repeatedly issued ongoing advice to maintain good health (diet and exercise), and to steer clear of potential carriers of the disease that might be found coughing and sneezing. Furthermore, if one was exhibiting any of the symptoms themselves, they should immediately go to bed and call a doctor; the first 24 hours were deemed critical to ward off severe pneumonia and potentially encourage an early recovery.

Along with these measures came an extensive regime of disinfection plans for public institutions. In 1918, Dr. Price catalogued a total of 166 Victoria-wide fumigations of “dwellings, hospitals, schools, churches, hotels, stores, offices, and salesrooms.”

In Victoria, private businesses took measures to reassure a doubting public, in some cases publicizing that regular disinfections were being undertaken every 24 hours.

As the contagion spread, Victoria's hospitals were soon stretched to the limit. Other facilities were quickly prepared where patients could be isolated, including two fire halls. Closing public spaces and banning of community events also impacted the revenues of both the municipal government and commercial enterprises – but apparently the shortfall was in part covered by an increase in liquor sales!

And so just like today, the sheer necessity of getting people back to work, of buying and selling goods and services – in short, of maintaining a healthy economy – placed increasing pressure on medical authorities like Dr. Price to lift the restrictions placed upon Victoria's business community and public alike. By mid-October, discontent was already rising, when Price refused the local clergy's request to hold open-air services.

By month's end, faced with overwhelming public pressure to assemble in large gatherings with the imminent end of the war– Price issued his strongest warning yet:

“Wake up! Realize that there is a war on, a war in our very midst, an epidemic of influenza. Do not sneer at the enemy. Do not belittle it by calling it 'flu.' Give it its full name, be serious and realize that the undertakers are busy.”

While Price was adamant the ban on public assembly remain in place, mounting pressure from both the religious and business communities continued to increase. Ultimately, some days after armistice was declared on November 11, 1918, the month-long ban was rescinded. Fortunately, infections decreased during the remainder of 1918 – but then in January 1919, a third wave of infection rose alarmingly for a brief time. And yet, no comparable closures to Price's original war on influenza were enacted beyond local schools.

What can be made of all this? Perhaps this one telling statistic: In the influenza epidemic of 1918, Victoria fared much better than Vancouver, where similar closures had been delayed for the greater part of the critical month of October. So much so, that while Victoria experienced a mortality rate of 3.6 per cent, in Vancouver it was an astounding 10 per cent.

Fight the Flu!

How to Avoid the Spanish Influenza and How to Do Your Bit to Check the Prevailing Epidemic. Do You Value Your Own and Neighbor's Life?

CAUSE Spanish Influenza is caused by the entrance into the system of two germs or Micro-Organisms, which produce poison in the blood: 1. Pneumococci, the germ of ordinary influenza or gripple. 2. Streptococci, a very violent and poisonous germ which causes the severe fever, weakness and the disastrous results. Both these germs are invisible to the naked eye, but are none the less viciously dangerous.

CONTAGION The disease spreads largely by direct contact. Germs pass from mouth or nose of sick person to mouth or nose of well person, being carried in breathing on the stream of moisture; or in sneezing or coughing. Also through any article which has touched patient's mouth or nose, as cups, spoons, handkerchiefs, towels, etc. Therefore if you would be safe, keep the germs out of your mouth and nose. And if you are infected, do not pass them on. They are poison. Better safe than sorry. Better safe than cause sorrow.

This is no common gripple. It is a violent epidemic and in some forms a deadly plague. Let Doctors, Nurses, Ministers and Undertakers tell you how dangerous.

Prevention.

- 1. Avoid the Other Fellow's Breath**
If he is infected his breath may poison you. Especially avoid the man who coughs or sneezes.
- 2. Be Unsocial for a Change**
Allow no visitors. Keep children in their own yard. Stay away from home where influenza is.
- 3. Spray Mouth and Nose Several Times a Day**
Use Listerine 1 part to 4 parts of water.
- 4. When Near an Infected Person, Wear a Mask**
The mask is made of 4 folds of cheese cloth about 4 in. by 5 in. to cover mouth and nose. Use elastic or tape to top and bottom of each side and keep over ear or tie behind head.
- 5. Moisten the Mask Occasionally**
Use either Listerine 1 to 4 parts of water, or Carbolic Acid. 1 teaspoonful to 1 pint water or Lichamide of Mercury 1 tablet to 1 quart of water. Do not wear same mask more than 2 hours. Boil used masks 30 minutes and dry thoroughly. Wear same side out.
- 6. Nurses or Neighbors Going into Infected Homes**
Must wear masks, wash hands thoroughly and spray mouth and nose before returning home. Also lay off outside garment and leave in air for an hour. Antiseptic hand wash is 1 teaspoonful of Bichloride of Mercury liquid (see 5) to small basin of water.
- 7. Isolate the Patient**
Let none but party nursing enter room. Boil all patients' dishes. Disinfect or burn the clothes into which patient coughs or expectorates.
- 8. Patients are Germ Carriers for Several Days**
After fever is over. Well people in infected houses should protect themselves and the public by isolation when at home and by disinfecting themselves.
- 9. Use Disinfectants Freely**
Wash hands freely. Do not use towel others use.
- 10. Funerals Must be Strictly Private**
Mourners should forgive the last look on their loved ones' face, because of possible contagion.

Treatment of Sick.

- 1. If feeling Grippy With Headache**
Use usual remedies, muscular pains and fever. GO TO BED AT ONCE. Get up perspiration with hot drinks and use Aspirin or Acetophen. 5 grain tablet every 4 hours. Take medicine to open bowels freely.
- 2. Take Liquid Foods Only**
Milk, milk and eggs, broth, soup about every 4 hours. Have plenty of fresh air without a draught.
- 3. Get a Physician as Soon as Possible**
- 4. Be Slow to Get Up** Exposure is dangerous.

THE COURAGEOUS, CHEERFUL MIND IS A SPLENDID MEDICINE

Danger Signals!

If Patient spits blood, especially if bright red, if shows blueness on lips or tips of ears, darkness of face or a sort of gurgling when breathing, CALL DOCTOR AT ONCE.

This Bulletin is prepared by the Nanaimo Board of Health. Free Copies can be obtained by calling or phoning City Clerk, Nanaimo, B.C.

KEEP THIS - - POST IT UP - - IT MAY SAVE A LIFE

As the Vancouver Coastal Health authority noted in 2018, “An estimated 4,000 people died in BC from the 1918-1919 influenza pandemic – about a quarter of those in Vancouver. In today's numbers that would be about 37,000 deaths for BC and 5,000 for Vancouver.”

In 2020, we're seeing the same debate over the need to self-isolate, close public gatherings, and possibly even quarantine – yet always balanced alongside the competing need to maintain trade, travel, and the health of local, provincial and national economies. Not much has changed, really.

Are we prepared to change our day-to-day patterns of social engagement? Only time will tell, but while we wait perhaps we might take a moment to give serious consideration to the example set by Dr. Arthur Price over 100 years ago.

As for myself, I think it's time to wash my hands of all this.

(A fifth-generation British Columbian, Daniel Marshall is an author, professor, curator, documentarian, and researcher focusing on British Columbia's relatively untold but rich history.)

Doing the public's business in troubled times

By Artour Sogomonian
Procedural Clerk
Legislative Assembly

The rapidly evolving situation with the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in many governments around the world taking unprecedented measures to respond to their citizens' needs in unprecedented times. British Columbia has been no different.

Many parliamentary jurisdictions have spent the past few weeks analyzing how the important work of parliament can continue while respecting the guidance of public health officials to slow the transmission of the virus. Here are some reflections on how BC's Legislative Assembly has been adapting.

The Assembly adjourned on Thursday, March 5, 2020 for a scheduled two-week constituency break. It was due to resume sitting on Monday, March 23rd at 10 a.m., but a few days before the scheduled return, the Government House Leader announced that an agreement had been reached amongst the three caucuses represented in the Legislative Assembly on how things would proceed. One of the things agreed to was that a small number of Members – just above the constitutionally-required quorum of 10 – would be present to consider public business at the sitting.

Behind the scenes, the newly appointed Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Kate Ryan-Lloyd, and her team were making several procedural and logistical accommodations to facilitate the Assembly's business that day. This included everything from the cessation of regular water service, to the seating of Members in the Chamber to promote physical distancing between those present. During the sitting, the Government House Leader moved a series of motions to accommodate the unique nature of the day's proceedings. This included a suspension of the Standing Orders that required Members to speak and vote from their assigned place; the rescindment of the adjournment motion of March 5th and to retroactively fix the time of adjournment to 1:30 p.m. on March 23rd; and the limitation of Routine Business to Oral Question Period and Presenting Reports by Committees.

The mood in the Parliament Buildings that day was very somber, as any of those present would attest. All Members present were cognizant that the proceedings being undertaken were unprecedented in our province's history, and that British Columbians were counting on them for support through trying times.



Photo source: Chad Hipolito of the Canadian Press

Once the Assembly concluded the day's business, which included passage of a Supply Act (approving the Supplementary Estimates considered earlier that day in the Committee of Supply) and amendments to the Employment Standards Act, Lieutenant Governor Janet Austin attended the Chamber to grant Royal Assent to those two pieces of legislation. Prior to retiring from the Chamber, Her Honour remarked: "I have to tell you honestly that I've heard from friends and colleagues across the country who are so impressed with BC's leadership and BC's collaboration and the teamwork that we see happening here."

The Legislative Assembly then adjourned until further notice. The consideration of the government's legislative agenda and of the main estimates for each ministry will have to continue at a later time. But the essential work of the Legislative Assembly will continue, primarily through work undertaken by parliamentary committees.

Legislative Assembly staff have been very busy exploring technologies that would support the work of parliamentary committees in a way that would continue to enable British Columbians to have access to their proceedings through the normal channels of livestreaming, audio recordings and Hansard transcripts. Videoconferencing software is being tested and has so far proven to be a suitable alternative to in-person meetings, which cannot take place in current circumstances. And with these technological innovations, the Assembly's core functions can continue to be fulfilled in these unique times.

Are we political lightweights?

Political participation beyond the ballot box

Volunteering and donating to charitable causes are considered important parts of being Canadian, rightfully celebrated and encouraged as a means to improve this country. However, when it comes to strengthening our country through political life, the Samara Institute finds that many Canadians are opting out. This stands in stark contrast to the power of politics: After all, it is through politics that we allocate vast amounts of public dollars, and ultimately decide how Canadians live together.

To take one high-profile example, 50 years ago nearly 80 per cent of Canadians voted in federal elections. Today voter turnout is at about 60 per cent, and provincial and municipal turnouts are often far lower. The most dramatic declines have occurred within the last 25 years.

While turnout is well researched, what's less regularly examined is how Canadians participate in politics beyond the ballot box, and what this might signal about the vitality of political life in Canada.

This past year, Samara commissioned public opinion research that measured different ways Canadians participate politically between elections. Samara identified 20 activities across five broad categories of engagement where Canadians are "being political:" Online Discussion, Off-line Discussion, Activism, Civic Engagement and Formal Engagement.

The results show that while Canadians give time and money to making communities better places to live, we're far less likely to apply those same energies to politics. Consider this:

- While 55 per cent of us volunteer our time, only 10 per cent volunteer in an election.
- While 84 per cent donate money to a charity or non-profit, only 10 per cent donate to political candidates or parties.
- While 58 per cent are active in a group or association, only 10 per cent are members of political parties.

In selecting which political activities to include, Samara chose actions that connect citizens with each other or allow them to express an opinion in public, rather than more solitary activities, such as following political news. Some activities require very little time or energy, such as tweeting a political story or discussing politics. Others, like volunteering in a community organization, are often considered civic activities rather than political ones, but they are an important part of Canadians' political life, allowing citizens to express concerns about policy as part of a group, and deserve attention.



Canadians, on average, are involved in only five out of the possible 20 activities, and a full 10 per cent of us don't do even one political activity. Canadians reported the lowest overall activity in the Formal Engagement category, which measures their direct interaction with formal politics. On the other hand, about half of us participate in activities such as petitioning, boycotting and joining a group.

This report also examined the 18–34 age group and found that this younger cohort is participating at higher levels than the older cohort in nearly every area, except when it comes to formal politics.

Those who do participate in formal politics are the real heavy lifters when it comes to our political life. They report completing at least half the activities, and their engagement goes well beyond partisan interests, crossing all categories.

Overall, these data underscore what Canadians suspect implicitly, and what falling voter turnout has signalled for decades: If a healthy democracy requires active participation, then Canada is on pretty shaky ground. This is most pronounced when it comes to formal politics, which appears to have lost – or failed to build – cachet with most Canadians, and most critically our young people.

(Political Participation Beyond the Ballot Box” is Samara's effort to provoke a discussion on engagement and gather suggestions on how to draw attention to the issues of lagging political participation. The full report: samaracanada.com/research#activecitizenship.)

Her Honor thanks those on the COVID-19 battleline

Dear friends,

Consistent with advice from provincial and federal health authorities, we have cancelled or postponed all major events at Government House ... and, are advising employees and volunteers to closely adhere to guidance from public health officials with respect to travel, social distancing and hygiene.

We will continue to monitor public health direction with respect to later scheduled meetings and events.

The Government House grounds remain open to the public and local residents should feel free to enjoy their regular visits, while practicing current advice on social distancing.

I want to express my heartfelt thanks to our front-line health care workers and to federal and provincial public health officials for their competent, transparent, and evidence-based approach to managing COVID-19. Thanks also to BC's Health Minister and Health critics for their cross-partisan teamwork.

Take care everyone and wash your hands!

Sincerely,
Janet Austin
Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia

Government House to undergo upgrades

In 2020, Government House will undergo a series of upgrades and refurbishments to remain up to date with health and safety requirements and ensure security systems are in place. The Lieutenant Governor, myself and all of the staff here very much value the relationship with your association, and so I write today to provide advance notice of impacts to co-hosting events at Government House in the coming year.

The Office of the Lieutenant Governor is grateful for the support of the Ministries of Finance and Citizens Services, both for the capital investment as well as for the planning and implementation of these significant upgrades. The Office also thanks the Government House Foundation and Friends of Government House Gardens Society for their ongoing support in the stewardship of the estate.

The scope of the forthcoming project is estimated at over \$12 million. Citizen's Services, along with property management company CB Richard Ellis, will oversee and carry out the general management of this project.

For greatest efficiency, savings, and to limit impact on the Office's programs, four categories of work will run concurrently as follows: Security upgrades; fire suppression installation; installation of a new backup generator; and HVAC and electrical upgrades.

Any architectural repairs undertaken will match the current space, and therefore no aesthetic change is contemplated. The renovation project will have a significant impact on all areas of the house, including the kitchen, offices, ballroom, and the Lieutenant Governor's suite. Other buildings on the property will not be impacted.

The final event held at Government House was in January. No events will be scheduled at Government House until further notice. Currently, we hope to reopen the calendar sometime in autumn of 2020, but no end date can be confirmed until the scope of work is clearly identified and scheduled. Project details and Government House-related events will be established as we work with the Ministry of Citizens Services and CB Richard Ellis.

The Lieutenant Governor's work will continue during the renovations and we look forward to carrying out Her Honour's priority programs, organizing community visits across the province and ensuring Her Honour's constitutional and ceremonial requirements are prioritized.

We are committed to keeping the public informed on the progress of the renovation project and encourage you to visit the Lieutenant Governor's blog at https://ltgov.bc.ca/category/blog/for_updates_and_information.

Again, we are grateful for this considerable investment in Government House, the 'Ceremonial Home' of all British Columbians, and thank you for your patience during this time.

Yours sincerely,
Chantelle Krish
Director, Communications, Programs and Outreach
Office of the Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia

COVID-19 calls up dark memories of the war years

By Jim Hume, The Old Islander

It was 80-years ago that I became involuntarily engaged in a world-wide war. I was 15 years old, four months short of my 16th birthday, when I listened with my mother and father and 18-year-old sister as British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain declared war on Germany.

There have been many other wars since the Second World War and now we endure a globe-trotting viral war, a strange new virus that attacked a city in China and within months, spread with lethal force around the world. At the time of writing his report, it shows no sign of abating.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau makes daily appearances on the front steps of his Ottawa residence, where his wife, Sofie, tested positive for the COVID-19 and is in isolation, an integral part of government programs worldwide to halt spread of the virus until a cure or preventive vaccine can be found. Ignoring or defying compulsory isolation orders can result in heavy fines or prison sentences.

Personal hygiene is being emphasized as another essential step in the battle for control with an additional caution that personal contacts should never be closer than two arm lengths. It and the appeal for frequent washing of hands are two essential precautions may be most ignored by the public.

The reality that no one can estimate how long this “war” will last makes for trying times for citizens who have watched minor conflicts around the world, but have never been embroiled in front line fighting when loyalty and caring for each other can spell the difference between life and death.

Loyalty and caring for each other were all civilians could do in 1939 when leaders of democratic governments called for both, even as the world collapsed about them.

It was not always easy to respond, especially for families with a husband on far away battlefields and with wives at home caring for children and often aging grandparents. In my British home in those dark days, rationing was an enormous challenge for every woman with a family to look after.

Their weekly rations were recorded in “stamp books” which could be used at only one store selected by the customer and approved by the storekeeper.



Once rationing began, you could register, shop and walk home each week with: One egg, four ounces of bacon, eight ounces of sugar, two ounces of tea, one ounce of cheese, two ounces of butter, four ounces of margarine (uncoloured), two ounces of lard and for those with a sweet tooth “preserves,” such as marmalade, but only eight ounces a month.

And, lest we forget, the famous UK “striped mint” sweets – eight ounces to 16 ounces a month depending on supply.

Now, let's do a quick leap over the decades from then to now. The morning I started to write this, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth praised the people of the UK for again “coming together as one” to fight the present plague; United Nations Secretary General Antonio Gutierrez had similar praise; the President of the United States dreamed that tomorrow the world will have spun back to normal by Easter; and, my own PM, Trudeau, remained confident “the people” can win this fight as they won the last and understand it may take a while.

How long? To conquer the bug some experts figure 18 months to find and distribute a cure and defence.

By comparison, the burden of rationing in Britain during WW2 started in January 1940. In June 1948, bread was the last food item to be “unrationed.” Morale shaking rationing had lasted longer than “blitz.”

A long haul but “people coming together” made it possible to end well as they can and will again, if they live by the rules.

Question Period

offbeat news, humour, and things that make you go "hmm..."

French athlete runs marathon on balcony

FRANCE (UPI) — A French athlete whose racing plans were foiled by the coronavirus pandemic has held his own marathon on his 23-foot-long balcony.

Elisha Nochomovitz, 32, who had been scheduled to run the March 15 Barcelona Marathon before it was cancelled due to the COVID-19 outbreak, ran 26.2 miles on his balcony in the city of Balma. It took him six hours and 48 minutes to complete the approximately 3,000 laps.

The runner, who has completed 36 official marathons, said the balcony run was more challenging than his previous runs because the short track made it impossible to build momentum or speed while running. Nochomovitz's girlfriend fed him M&Ms and Coca-Cola as he ran.



Binge on Ozark series and earn \$1,000

UNITED STATES (UPI) — An Internet service-finding website is offering a lucky, albeit isolated, U.S citizen \$1,000 to spend their coronavirus quarantine time binging through the first two seasons of Netflix original series Ozark.

InternetAdvisor.com said the chosen applicant for the 17-day dream job will be paid \$1,000 to watch 20 hours of the series, the first two seasons, in advance of the upcoming third season.

The lucky fan who lands this gig will be given 17 days to watch 20 hours of Ozark, seasons one and two.

The posting said the opportunity is open to Ozark fans and newcomers alike. "There are no restrictions whatsoever, no background checks for money laundering, and expect zero drug testing." The winner will also receive a Netflix gift card and Ozark merchandise including an "I build churches" coffee mug.



Thank you for not stealing our toilet paper

COLORADO (UPI) — Colorado Parks and Wildlife is offering an unusual message of gratitude to state park visitors: "Thank you for not stealing our toilet paper."

An electronic sign at the entrance to Boyd Lake State Park, which thus far has remained open amid the coronavirus pandemic, thanks visitors for not raiding the park's bathrooms for supplies.

"Thank you for not stealing our toilet paper!!!" the sign reads. Parks and Wildlife posted a photo of the sign to Twitter: "To those that haven't stolen toilet paper at our #ColoradoStateParks, thank you," the department tweeted.



Len Norris



"You're right ... the confounded stuff is starting to grow."

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FROM VICTORIA	✈️	🚗/🚲	SAVE
Richmond, YVR South	30m	3h, 16m	2h, 46m
Pitt Meadows Airport	35m	3h, 29m	2h, 54m
Vancouver, Coal Harbour	35m	3h, 5m	2h, 30m

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40 years ago this month

Terry Fox began his fated Marathon of Hope

On April 12, 1980, Terry Fox dipped his artificial leg in the murky waters of St John's Harbour and set off on the greatest adventure of his life.

"I loved it," Terry said, "I enjoyed myself so much and that was what other people couldn't realize. They thought I was going through hell. Maybe I was, partly, but still I was doing what I wanted and a dream was coming true and that, above everything else, made it all worthwhile to me.

"The pain was there, but the pain didn't matter. But that's all a lot of people could see; they couldn't see the good that I was getting out of it myself."

The people of Canada were latching on to Terry's dream. They wept as he ran by, fists clenched, eyes focussed on the road ahead, his awkward double-step and hop sounding down the highway, the set of his jaw, unflinching, without compromise. The look of courage. As a woman in Toronto said: "He makes you believe in the human race again."

He'd start before dawn every morning, running in shorts and a T-shirt printed with a map of Canada. He wasn't ashamed of his disability. Children were curious about his artificial leg. How did it work? What happens when it breaks?

Donations poured in. Reading of Terry's goals, Four Seasons' President Isadore Sharp pledged \$10,000 to the marathon and challenged 999 other Canadian corporations to do the same.

If \$1 million toward cancer research was within reach, why not \$1 from every Canadian; why not a goal of \$23 million? The money came in many ways. People waited for hours on the roadside to watch Terry pass. Sometimes a stranger would press a \$100 bill into his hand as he ran by.

One day in southern Ontario, they collected \$20,000 on the highway. A man in Hamilton sat in a vat of banana lemon custard and raised \$912 for the Marathon of Hope. In Gravenhurst, the heart of Ontario's cottage country, with a population of 8,000, they raised more than \$14,000. A musician, without cash, handed Terry his \$500 guitar.



Throughout his run and even in the months before, Terry neglected his medical appointments. When he'd missed his appointments for x-rays at the cancer clinic in Vancouver, he said: "Every time I went down, I was shivering and it wasn't because I was cold. I was afraid."

Doctors in Thunder Bay confirmed that cancer had spread to his lungs. He phoned his parents who caught the first plane to Thunder Bay. Terry was so weak when he tried to walk across the street to a car so they could get a bite to eat outside the hospital, he collapsed. "The day before I'd run 26 miles and now I couldn't even walk across the street," he said.

Mom Betty wept; Father Rolly's mouth was taut and hard as Terry spoke to reporters: "Well, you know, I had primary cancer in my knee three and a half years ago, and now the cancer is in my lung and I have to go home." His voice broke as he spoke. "I'll do everything I can. I'm gonna do my very best. I'll fight. I promise I won't give up."

Rolly was overheard to say: "I think it's unfair. Very unfair."

Terry died in June 1981. He had run for 143 days covering 5,373 km. To date \$780 million has been raised in his name to fight cancer.

(Source: The Terry Fox Foundation)