

REPORT

Office of the Mayor

To: Mayor Johnstone and Members of Council
Date: August 28, 2023

From: Denise A Tambellini Intergovernmental and Community Relations Manager
File:

Item #: 2023-545

Subject: **Changes Announced to the Current Government of Canada Cabinet July 23, 2023 Update and Meeting Requests**

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive the information on the Federal Cabinet shuffle for information;

That Council authorize letters of congratulations be forwarded requesting follow up meetings to the following Ministers:

- Sean Fraser Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities
- Jonathan Wilkinson (BC) Minister Energy and Natural Resources
- Steven Guilbeault Minister of Environment and Climate Change
- Harji Sajjan (BC) President of the King's Privy Council, Minister of Emergency Preparedness, and Minister responsible for the Pacific Economic Development Agency of Canada
- Dominic Leblanc Minister of Public Safety, Democratic Institutions and Intergovernmental Affairs; and

That Council approve copies of the above letters be sent to the local Member of Parliament for New Westminister.

PURPOSE

This report outlines the changes to the current Government of Canada's Cabinet on Wednesday, July 26, 2023, recommends letters of congratulations and meeting requests with several federal ministries for follow up.

SUMMARY

In July 2023, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced a change in his cabinet which resulted in the movement in position of nearly three-quarters of his cabinet, overhauling his team at a time of heightened tensions overseas, increased cost of living and various challenges across the country. The new cabinet is intended to create a renewed focus on economic priorities, such as housing and climate adaptation. The shuffle promotes seven new Members of Parliament (MPs) into cabinet and movement of more than a dozen ministers to new roles, including a new minister of housing and infrastructure, defence and public safety. This report outlines the changes and potential opportunities for follow up to advance the city of New Westminster's short and long term objectives.

BACKGROUND

On July 26, 2023, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau unveiled a new cabinet team to have a renewed focus on economic priorities, climate adaptation and housing. The shuffle promotes seven new faces and moves more than a dozen ministers to new roles.

"This is a difficult time right now for millions of people in Canada and around the world, and making sure that we have the best possible team aligned to respond to Canadians' challenges with the supports necessary, but also show that optimism, that ambition for getting us through these consequential times and building a brighter future for everyone—that's what we're focused on," Trudeau said.

Amid global challenges, Toronto-area MP Bill Blair takes over the defence portfolio from Anita Anand, who becomes president of the Treasury Board.

Blair, a former police chief who was most recently the minister of emergency preparedness, becomes the country's point person at NATO and will be responsible for Canada's response to the war in Ukraine. Blair is responsible for overseeing the military's attempt to change its culture.

New Brunswick's Dominic LeBlanc will now lead public safety, an often-challenging portfolio that includes the Canadian Security Intelligence Service and the RCMP. He also takes on the democratic institutions file and will continue to serve as intergovernmental affairs minister. LeBlanc will play a key role in determining how the government responds to allegations that China interfered in the past two federal elections, and to the damning report on the Mounties' handling of the 2020 mass

shooting in Nova Scotia. He will be responsible for negotiations with the provinces about the future of RCMP contract policing.

Along with the new names heading up security and intelligence-related portfolios, the Prime Minister's Office announced it will follow the example of its Five Eye allies and set up a cabinet committee on national security and intelligence. The lack of one has been cited by the national security community as an oversight in light of recent controversies. A PMO spokesperson called the new National Security Council a "forum for ministers to deliberate on and address issues of pressing concern to Canada's domestic and international security."

The following charts outline changes to the new federal cabinets based on promotions of MPs, changes to portfolios of current cabinet members and ministries with no changes to current portfolios:

A. New Members of Parliament who receive a promotion to cabinet:

| | Name | Riding | Ministry |
|----|--------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. | Terry Beech (BC) | Burnaby North—Seymour | Minister of citizens' services |
| 2. | Arif Virani | Toronto MP Parkdale—High Park | Minister of justice and attorney general of Canada |
| 3. | Soraya Martinez Ferrada, | Quebec Hochelaga | Minister of tourism and minister responsible for the Economic Development Agency of Canada for Quebec Regions |
| 4. | Gary Anandasangaree, | Scarborough—Rouge Park | Minister of Crown-Indigenous relations |
| 5. | Ya'ara Saks | Toronto York Centre | Minister of mental health and addictions and associate minister of health |
| 6. | Jenna Sudds | Ottawa Kanata—Carleton | Minister of families, children and social development |
| 7. | Rechie Valdez | Mississauga—Streetsville | Minister of small business |

B. Change in current cabinet positions or additions to portfolios:

| | Name | Ministry |
|-----|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| 8. | Pablo Rodriguez | Transport Minister |
| 9. | Pascale St-Onge | Minister of Canadian Heritage |
| 10. | Mark Holland | Minister of health |
| 11. | Sean Fraser | Minister of housing, infrastructure and communities |
| 12. | Lawrence MacAulay | Minister of agriculture |

| | Name | Ministry |
|-----|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 13. | Jean-Yves Duclos | Minister of public services and procurement |
| 14. | Marie-Claude Bibeau | Minister of national revenue |
| 15. | Gudie Hutchings | Minister of rural economic development but now takes on responsibility for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency |
| 16. | Diane Lebouthillier | Minister of fisheries, oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard |
| 17. | Harji Sajjan (BC) | President of the King's Privy Council and minister of emergency preparedness, and keeps his role as minister responsible for the Pacific Economic Development Agency of Canada |
| 18. | Carla Qualtrough (BC) | Minister of sport and physical activity |
| 19. | Ahmed Hussen | Minister of international development |
| 20. | Seamus O'Regan Jr. | Minister of labour and adds the seniors portfolio |
| 21. | Ginette Petitpas Taylor | Minister of veterans affairs |
| 22. | Mary Ng | remains minister of export promotion, international trade and economic development but drops small business from her files |
| 23. | Jonathan Wilkinson (BC) | Stays in his portfolio but is being renamed "energy and natural resources" |
| 24. | Marc Miller | Minister of immigration, refugees and citizenship |
| 25. | Randy Boissonnault | Minister of employment workforce development and official languages |
| 26. | Kamal Khera | Minister of diversity, inclusion and persons with disabilities |
| 27. | Karina Gould | Government House leader |
| 28. | Dominic LeBlanc | Minster of Public Safety, Democratic Institutions and Intergovernmental Affairs |
| 29. | Bill Blair | Minister of National Defence |
| 30. | Anita Anand | President of the Treasure Board |

C. No changes to ministers in current portfolios:

| | Name | Portfolio |
|------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 31. | Mélanie Joly | Foreign Affairs Minister |
| 32. | Chrystia Freeland | Finance Minister |
| 33. | Steven Guilbeault | Environment and Climate Change Minister |
| 34. | François-Philippe Champagne | Innovation, Science and Industry Minister |
| 35. | Patty Hajdu | Indigenous Services Minister, also minister responsible for the Federal Economic Development Agency for Northern Ontario |
| 36. | Filomena Tassi | Minister responsible for the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario |
| 37. | Dan Vandal | Northern Affairs Minister, also minister responsible for Prairies Economic Development Canada and the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency |
| 38. | Marci Ien | Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Youth |

The cabinet retains a total of 38 ministers, in addition to the Prime Minister and is now made up of 19 women and 20 men, including the prime minister.

ANALYSIS

With the shift in the federal cabinet, there is an opportunity for the City to continue to build relationships and advocate for current capital and/or operational projects. The City has received approximately \$23 million from various Federal ministries for programs over the last few years. Examples of project areas and recent funding received from the federal government is included for information (attachment 1).

Ongoing advocacy for projects is important for the city to ensure support for sustainable infrastructure needed to meet the needs of growth. Based on Council priorities, staff recommend follow up with the ministries indicated below including a letter of congratulations and a meeting request:

1. Sean Fraser, Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities
2. Jonathan Wilkinson, (BC) Minister Energy and Natural Resources
3. Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Environment and Climate Change
4. Harji Sajjan, (BC) President of the King's Privy Council, Minister of Emergency Preparedness, and Minister responsible for the Pacific Economic Development Agency of Canada

5. Dominic Leblanc Minister of Public Safety, Democratic Institutions and Intergovernmental Affairs

In order to improve communication, staff recommend that copies of the above letters be sent to the local Member of Parliament for New Westminster. While there are many other federal ministries that align with the work of the city, this list will provide an opportunity to begin conversations on priority projects.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications for this report. The City has received approximately \$23 million from the federal government for various projects over the last few years. This report outlines the need to continue advocacy to ensure the city can meet the infrastructure needs of a rapidly growing city.

OPTIONS

1. That Council send letters of congratulations to federal minister requesting a follow up meeting to the following Ministers:
 - Sean Fraser, Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities
 - Jonathan Wilkinson, (BC) Minister Energy and Natural Resources
 - Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Environment and Climate Change
 - Harji Sajjan, (BC) President of the King's Privy Council, Minister of Emergency Preparedness, and Minister responsible for the Pacific Economic Development Agency of Canada; and
 - Dominic Leblanc Minister of Public Safety, Democratic Institutions and Intergovernmental Affairs
2. That Council approve copies of the above letters be sent to the local Member of Parliament for New Westminster.
3. Council provide other direction.

CONCLUSION

In July 2023, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced a change in his cabinet which resulted in the movement in position of nearly three-quarters of his cabinet, overhauling his team at a time of heightened tensions overseas, increased cost of living and various challenges across the country. The new cabinet is intended to create a renewed focus on economic priorities, such as housing and climate adaptation. The shuffle promotes seven new MPs into cabinet and movement of more than a dozen ministers to new roles, including a new minister housing and infrastructure, defence and public safety. This report outlines the changes and potential opportunities for follow up to advance the city of New Westminster's short and long term objectives.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Recent Federal Government Funding Received

This report was prepared by:

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This report was approved by:

Lisa Spitale, Chief Administrative Officer