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## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
2016SBRT0011-000315  
March 2, 2016

Ministry of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction and  
Responsible for the Liquor Distribution Branch

### **Province cuts red tape, improves services for British Columbians**

For clarification, Backgrounder updated March 2, 2016

VICTORIA – The Province is reducing unnecessary requirements and committing to more than 60 actions that will make it easier for British Columbians to access government services, announced Minister of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction Coralee Oakes.

As part of the first ever Red Tape Reduction Day, the Province is repealing 37 outdated or unnecessary regulations to make it easier for people to understand and follow provincial requirements.

The Province also released its report on the Reducing Red Tape for British Columbians engagement held last fall. The report outlines what the Province heard during its engagement with citizens and lays out government’s action plan to reduce red tape and improve services, including:

- **Putting Citizens First** – Supporting transitioning military personnel and retired veterans as they transfer their truck driving credentials to commercial licences by removing any requirement for additional testing.
- **Making Services Accessible** – Enhancing convenience for British Columbians seeking a special occasion licence by offering liquor licensing online through a simple application process.
- **Improving Processes** – Making it easier for British Columbians to register their decisions about organ donation at ServiceBC locations that have ICBC Driver Licensing services.

To continue the conversation started through the engagement, the Province will be partnering with the Canadian Federation of Independent Business as part of its Small Business Roundtable regional consultations. In addition, British Columbians can now submit their ideas all year round through a new suggestion button on the BC Government homepage.

#### **Quotes:**

#### **Coralee Oakes, Minister of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction –**

“British Columbians gave us their ideas to reduce red tape. We listened. To celebrate Red Tape Reduction Day we are releasing our plan to take action on those ideas. Over the next year, people will see improvements to several government services – simple changes that make their lives easier.”

#### **Mike Croy, vice president of Teamsters local union #213 and supporter of Helmets to Hardhats –**

“By removing the red tape around driver credentials the Province has streamlined the process for people moving from military to civilian life and opened up employment options for our members.”

**Iain Hooey, co-founder of the Victoria Whisky Festival –**

“Moving the Special Occasion Licence program online has made it so much easier for us as a not-for-profit to get the licences we need. I’m so appreciative of the work the Province has done to implement the Liquor Policy Review recommendations that cut red tape for groups like us. For example, the Province included stakeholders to work directly on the development of the Special Event Server program and I was asked to participate. This now ensures proper training for volunteers at large events like ours.”

**Karen Philp, executive director of The Kidney Foundation of Canada – BC & Yukon Branch –**

“Making it easier for people to register their decision on organ donation by including it at ServiceBC has significantly increased the number of British Columbians who have registered. This not only helps cut red tape, it raises awareness about the organ donor registry and saves lives.”

**Laura Jones, executive vice-president of the Canadian Federation of Independent Businesses**

–

“The B.C. government is a national leader in reducing red tape. Today’s announcements show their continued commitment to repealing unnecessary or obsolete regulations and simplifying processes to better enable business owners to focus on running their businesses.”

**Quick Facts:**

- Reducing red tape involves changes to processes, forms, government websites, and legislation to make services easier to access and simpler to use.
- On Nov. 17, 2015, the Province passed legislation to create an annual day in honour of reducing red tape to be observed every year on the first Wednesday of March.
- In Fall 2015, the Province held a six-week online consultation on reducing red tape for British Columbians. More than 5,900 people visited the engagement site.
- The Province received more than 400 ideas, including 284 ideas through the public engagement and over 120 from stakeholders.
- In addition to the action items announced today, the Province is continuing to work on implementing ideas from the public engagement.
- The Province has extended its commitment to a net zero increase in regulatory requirements until 2019. A net zero increase means eliminating one existing requirement when a new requirement is needed.
- The British Columbia government is a leader in red tape reduction. For the fifth year in a row B.C. received an ‘A’ grade from the Canadian Federation of Independent Business – the only province to receive an ‘A’.

**Learn More:**

Read the final report on the public engagement:

<https://engage.gov.bc.ca/helpcutredtape/files/2016/03/Red-Tape-Reduction-Engagement->

[Report.pdf](#)

Check out the Reducing Red Tape for British Columbians blog:

<https://engage.gov.bc.ca/helpcutredtape/>

Have an idea to reduce red tape? Share it by clicking on the submission button on the right hand sidebar of the B.C. government's homepage: <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/>

A backgrounder follows.

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## BACKGROUND

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Ministry of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction and  
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### **Repealed requirements cut red tape for British Columbians**

On March 2, 2016, the Province announced 37 unnecessary, outdated or duplicate provincial requirements it is repealing as part of Red Tape Reduction Day.

#### **Sworn Statements – Ministry of Justice**

52 sections across 35 Acts and Regulations

The Ministry of Justice is making it easier for citizens to comply with legal requirements by replacing the need for many sworn statements, such as swearing an oath or an affidavit, with a simple signed statement where it is appropriate. This change means reduced cost, delay and inconvenience for British Columbians.

#### **Translink Security Management – Ministries of Justice and Public Safety and Solicitor General**

Prescribed Entity Regulation – Police Act

**South Coast British Columbia Transportation Authority** is no longer a Prescribed Entity so reference to it can be removed to keep the body of B.C. regulations current.

#### **Traffic Tickets – Ministries of Justice and Public Safety and Solicitor General**

Regulations 78/65, 159/66, and 179/66 – Motor Vehicle Act

The sections of the Motor Vehicle Act that provide authority for these three traffic ticket regulations have been repealed. Repealing the corresponding regulations provides clarity and removes the possible requirement to attend court.

#### **Pear Tree Disease Reporting – Ministry of Agriculture**

Trellis Rust of Pear Control Regulation – Plant Protection Act

The regulation mandating the reporting of trellis rust, a pear tree disease, is no longer required. Extensive control measures from 1975 to the mid-1990s confined the disease to the Fraser Valley and southern Vancouver Island. Federal regulations were repealed in 2014 because the disease is now easily treated.

#### **Brand Inspection – Ministry of Agriculture**

Regulation re Strikes Regulation – Livestock Identification Act

Because the brand inspection program for livestock inspectors has been managed and funded by industry since 1997 and operates under the Livestock Identification Regulation, the regulation is no longer needed.

#### **Produced Water – Ministry of Environment**

Code of Practice for the Discharge of Produced Water from Coalbed Gas Operations –  
Environmental Management Act

The only operation registered under this regulation has closed. Future authorizations to discharge produced water from coalbed operations will be done entirely by permits under the

Environmental Management Act. The Code of Practice is no longer needed.

#### **Vehicle Emission Control – Ministry of Environment**

Motor Vehicle Emission Control Warranty regulation – Environmental Management Act  
This regulation relied on the Air Care program for implementation and ceased to have effect when the Air Care program ended. Repealing this regulation will remove obsolete provisions from B.C.'s laws.

#### **Sulphur Content – Ministry of Environment**

Sulphur Content of Fuel Regulation – Environmental Management Act  
The separate regulation of sulphur content is no longer necessary because it is addressed by site specific permit requirements.

#### **Oath of Non-disclosure – Ministry of Education**

School Regulation Section 12 – School Act  
Public servants working with education data no longer have to swear a second oath of non-disclosure. Repealing Section 12 of the School Regulation streamlines business processes in the research and data analysis area.

#### **Job Action Lost Time – Ministry of Education**

Instructional Time Regulation – School Act  
The Instructional Time Regulation relates to instructional time lost to job action in the 2014-15 school year and is now outdated. Repealing this regulation keeps B.C.'s regulatory framework current.

#### **BC Teachers Council – Ministry of Education**

British Columbia Teachers' Council Regulation, section 5 (3) – Teachers Act  
This section relates to the establishment of the council in 2012. Because the requirements are no longer necessary, repealing this section keeps B.C.'s regulatory framework current.

#### **Vancouver Indy – Ministry of Finance**

Remission Regulation No. 4 – Financial Administration Act  
This regulation exempted vehicles and related parts or equipment used in the 2002 to 2004 Vancouver Indy races from the social service tax. The Vancouver Indy events are over and the social service tax was repealed in 2013. Repealing this regulation keeps the body of B.C. regulations up to date.

#### **2011-12 Fiscal Year Multiculturalism – Ministry of Finance**

Minister of State for Multiculturalism Expected Results for the 2011-12 Fiscal Year Regulation  
This regulation only applies to the 2011-12 fiscal year for the Minister of State for Multiculturalism and is no longer needed. Repealing this regulation keeps the body of B.C. regulations current.

#### **2012-13 Fiscal Year Multiculturalism – Ministry of Finance**

Minister of State for Multiculturalism Expected Results for the 2012-13 Fiscal Year Regulation  
This regulation only applies to the 2012-13 fiscal year for the Minister of State for Multiculturalism and is no longer needed. Repealing this regulation keeps the body of B.C. regulations current.

#### **2012-13 Fiscal Year Seniors and Tourism and Small Business – Ministry of Finance**

Minister of State for Seniors and Minister of State for Tourism and Small Business Expected Results for the 2012-13 Fiscal Year Regulation

This regulation only applies to the 2012-13 fiscal year for the Minister of State for Seniors and the Minister of State for Tourism and Small Business and is no longer needed. Repealing this regulation keeps the body of B.C. regulations current.

#### **2013-14 Fiscal Year Seniors and Tourism and Small Business – Ministry of Finance**

Minister of State for Seniors and Minister of State for Tourism and Small Business Expected Results for the 2013-14 Fiscal Year Regulation

This regulation only applies to the 2013-14 fiscal year for the Minister of State for Seniors and the Minister of State for Tourism and Small Business and is no longer needed. Repealing this regulation keeps the body of B.C. regulations current.

#### **Transitional Sections – Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations**

Transition Regulation – Forest and Range Practices Act

The Transition Regulation provided substituted dates for seven sections of the Forest and Range Practices Act from 2006 through 2008. The substituted dates were required to ensure the smooth transition to the Forest and Range Practices Act from the former Forest Practices Code of B.C. Act. As all of these dates have passed, the regulation is unnecessary and can be repealed to keep the body of B.C. laws current.

#### **Workers' Compensation Appeal Tribunal – Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training and Responsible for Labour**

Medical Review Panel Transitional Regulation – Workers Compensation Amendment Act (No. 2), 2002

The transitional regulation is no longer required because all of the appeals inherited by the Workers' Compensation Appeal Tribunal from its predecessor, the Medical Review Panel, have been addressed. Repealing this regulation keeps the body of B.C. regulations current.

#### **Reservists Leave During Olympics – Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training and Responsible for Labour**

Reservists' Leave Regulation – Employment Standards Act

The Reservists' Leave Regulation clarified employment conditions during the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. The Olympic events are complete so this regulation is no longer needed.

#### **Emission Standards – Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure**

Air Pollution Controls on Motor Vehicles (sections 29) – Motor Vehicle Act Regulation  
Repeals the Motor Vehicle Act pollution control measures that are out of date since B.C. adopted federal emission standards for new manufactured vehicles in 1996.

#### **Parental Consent – Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure**

Section 3(2) Motor Vehicle Act

Canadian Armed Forces members under 19 years of age will no longer need parental consent to apply for a BCID card. This change will align BCID parental consent requirements with B.C. driver licensing rules.

#### **Depreciation of Oil and Gas sites – Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**

Depreciation of Industrial Improvements Regulations – Assessment Act

This regulation deals with the depreciation of many large industrial plants and oil and gas sites.

The types of industrial plants include lumber and pulp mills, mines, smelters, large manufacturers of specified products, ship building and loading terminals for seagoing ships. This regulation is repealed and its provisions will be incorporated in a new depreciation regulation.

#### **Depreciation of Power Generating Facilities – Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**

Depreciation of Dams, Power Plants and Substations Regulations – Assessment Act

This regulation deals with depreciation of properties related to electrical power generating facilities (e.g., dams, power plants, etc.). This regulation is repealed and its provisions will be incorporated in a new Depreciation Regulation.

#### **Railway Exclusion – Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**

Exclusion of Railway Bridges and Tunnels from the Definition of Improvements Regulation – Assessment Act

This regulation provides property tax exclusion for certain properties related to railway bridges and tunnels. This regulation is repealed and its provisions will be incorporated in a new Depreciation Regulation.

#### **Definitions of Railways – Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**

Criteria for Railway Right of Way Definition Regulation – Assessment Act

This regulation sets criteria for rights of way of railway corporation properties for assessment purposes. This regulation is repealed and its provisions will be incorporated in a new Depreciation Regulation.

#### **Right of Way – Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**

Railway Right of Way Valuation Criteria Regulation – Assessment Act

This regulation also sets criteria for rights of way of railway corporation properties for assessment purposes. This regulation is repealed and its provisions will be incorporated in a new Depreciation Regulation.

#### **Railway Valuation – Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**

Adjustment Factors Relating to the Valuation of Railway Corporation Property Regulation – Assessment Act

This regulation addresses the adjustment factors for certain railway corporation properties for valuation purposes. This regulation is repealed and its provisions will be incorporated in a new Depreciation Regulation.

#### **Access to BCA's Physical Inventory – Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**

Physical Inventory Disclosure Regulation – Assessment Act

This regulation provides certain persons with the right to access BC Assessment's physical inventory information. This regulation will be repealed and its provisions will be incorporated into the amended Assessment Act Regulation.

#### **Disclosure of Property Information – Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**

Dissemination of Information Regulation – Assessment Act

This regulation provides BC Assessment the right to disclose to any person the declared value and physical characteristics of a property. This regulation will be repealed and its provisions will be incorporated into the amended Assessment Act Regulation.

### **Fee for Assessment Notices – Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**

Fee for Copy of Information in the Current Assessment Notice Regulation – Assessment Act

This regulation allows for a fee for access to information that is related to assessment notices. This regulation will be repealed and its provisions will be incorporated into the amended Assessment Act Regulation.

### **Nisga'a Property Class – Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**

Property Class Regulation – Assessment Act

This one-line regulation establishes the property classes for which BC Assessment must provide annual estimates of the distribution of value changes that have occurred in municipalities, treaty lands or Nisga'a Lands. This regulation will be repealed and its provision will be incorporated into the amended Assessment Act Regulation.

### **Fee for Notice of Appeal – Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**

Appeal Fee Regulation – Assessment Act

This regulation requires \$30 to be paid when filing the notice of appeal with the Property Assessment Appeal Board. This regulation will be repealed and its provisions will be incorporated into the amended Assessment Act Regulation.

### **Improvements Definitions – Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**

Prescribed Capacity Regulation – Assessment Act

This regulation provides a definition of prescribed capacities for certain improvements for purposes of the act. This regulation will be repealed and its provisions will be incorporated into the amended Assessment Act Regulation.

### **Assessment Deadline – Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**

Assessed Value Estimates Extension Regulation – Assessment Act

This regulation extends the deadline by which BC Assessment must supply estimates of assessed values to municipalities under the Assessment Act. This regulation will be repealed and its provisions will be incorporated into the amended Assessment Act Regulation.

### **Deadline Extension – Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**

Property Valuation Extension Regulation – Assessment Act

This regulation extends a deadline in the Assessment Act. This regulation will be repealed and its provisions will be incorporated into the amended Assessment Act Regulation.

### **Improvement Exclusions – Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**

Assessment Act Improvements Exclusion (1991) Regulation – Assessment Act

This regulation excludes certain things from the definition of “improvements”. This regulation will be repealed and its provisions will be incorporated into the amended Assessment Act Regulation.

### **Assessment Data – Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**

Assessment Act Regulation – Assessment Act

This regulation provides definitions and clarifications for the Assessment Act, including prescribed forms for BC Assessment to collect and use information for assessment purposes. This regulation will be amended to incorporate nine other separate regulations.

**Note:** *The Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development changes will reduce the number of regulations under the Assessment Act from 32 to 19. This will result in regulations*

*that are more streamlined and user-friendly which will be a benefit for all British Columbians, in particular for the industries to which these regulations apply.*

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