



SOUNDING BOARD



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Federal support programs and national vaccine passport

COVID-19 | Announcements come amid concerns over expiring support measures

In late October, the Federal Government announced new income and business support programs and a national vaccine passport that will be required to board domestic flights, cruises, and trips by rail beginning Nov. 30, 2021.

The Tourism and Hospitality Recovery Program and the Hardest-Hit Business Recovery Program are intended to replace the wage subsidy and rent subsidy programs that expired Oct. 21. These new programs will

initially be available through Nov. 22, 2021, but the Federal Government is also proposing to introduce legislation that will extend them until May 7, 2022.

In response to the announcement, Greater Vancouver Board of Trade President and CEO Bridgitte Anderson released a statement, saying: "It is very welcome news that some sectors still struggling, like tourism, will receive broad-based support into 2022. We are pleased to see new supports for those impacted



by the pandemic but as details emerge, there is a concern that some businesses and sectors might slip through the cracks.

New eligibility requirements for programs are quite high while other sectors still impacted, like gyms, live events productions and others who are still suffering the impacts of the program may be left out."

The federal vaccine passport will be a document that is recognized across Canada, with additional information beyond what is contained in the BC Vaccine Card. Anderson responded to the news in a press release, stating: "The federal vaccine passport is

great news. It will enable Canadians to travel with confidence and provide businesses with the ability to easily verify the vaccination status of individuals, regardless of where they are from. We look forward to a coordinated effort by governments around the world to align vaccination-certification programs and hasten a return to normalcy."

More information on the federal vaccine passport and business support programs will be released in the coming weeks. **SB**

Engaged Leadership Program launch

PROGRAMS | Inspired by the late Dr. Don Rix

The last 18 months has taught us many lessons, including that engaged citizens make stronger, healthier and more connected communities. Equipping the next generation of leaders with a vision for the future and fostering a passion for community involvement in them is key to our economic recovery and resiliency.

The Greater Vancouver Board of Trade is committed to building thriving communities. The late Dr. Don Rix, a renowned philanthropist, and Governor of the Board of Trade was dedicated to supporting the development of young people.



Engaged Leadership Program
Pilot Launch

Brought to you by **RIX CENTRE FOR LEADERSHIP**

Through his generosity, the Rix Centre for Corporate Leadership Endowment was established in 2009 and has provided programming through our Leaders of

Tomorrow mentorship program. Through the Rix Centre for Leadership, the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade will build on that vision and launch the

Engaged Leadership Program in January 2022. This unique program is targeted for managers and entrepreneurs who are looking to take the next step in their career progression.

The program will provide Resilient Leadership training, Mentorship, and Community Engagement opportunities for up to 30 selected individuals.

The engaged leadership program will help to build more resilient leaders by futureproofing emerging leaders for the workforce of today and tomorrow, developing a network of likeminded peers and industry trendsetters

and establishing business professions as community citizens through volunteerism.

The Engaged Leadership Program consists of 25-35 hours of course material, community outreach, and private roundtables with high-profile business leaders over a 6-month period from January to June 2022. This highly interactive program is delivered through a hybrid model of partially in-person and partially online.

If you or someone you know is interested in the program, applications are available through the programs page on our website until November 15, 2021. **SB**



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DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION | Lived experience drives new DLC co-chair's motivation to create change

Meet the team

The Diversity and Inclusion Leadership Council (DLC) was developed at the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade in 2020 as an evolution of the Women's Leadership Council, in recognition of the need to create a broader understanding of what constitutes a diverse and inclusive workplace. The council meets regularly to discuss ways to further this goal through training programs, advocacy and representation.

This year, Rob Chiarello, Senior Vice President of People & Culture at Pacific Blue Cross, and Kory Wilson, Executive Director of Indigenous Initiatives and Partnerships at BCIT, have taken on the role of co-chairs for the DLC Executive Committee. Their longstanding leadership in advocating for diversity and inclusion as organizational principles will inform the direction of the DLC in the coming year.

"As an Indigenous woman, I am very aware of the barriers and challenges the 'others' face in society and the systemic racism and discrimination inherent in our systems. I recognize my role and responsibility to make the world a better place," said Wilson. "The opportunity to continue to work with the inspiring people on the DLC is one I welcome. I firmly believe that when people know better, they do better and that together we are stronger."

Chiarello sees the DLC as an opportunity to invest in the participation and promotion of underrepresented groups. "The reality is, human rights have come a long way, but we still have a long way to go. Today, many of the issues facing the LGBTQ2S+ community revolve around youth and trans people, particularly with gender identity and protection from bullying, so the fight for equality for marginalized people



is still ongoing."

Both Wilson and Chiarello bring their lived experience to their new roles, acknowledging progress has been made in recent years but a tremendous amount of work remains.

"I feel fortunate that the world is moving forward—not all at the same speed, but we are moving forward. There are things that were tolerated in the workforce years ago that would not be tolerated anymore," said Chiarello. "Societies cannot reach their maximum potential with a

portion of their members being excluded in voice, presence and decision-making. To be successful we cannot rely on passive improvements. We have to be intentional, courageous and bold," added Wilson.

Diversity and inclusion are now mainstream topics of conversation at major companies like Pacific Blue Cross, where diversity, equity and inclusion courses are mandatory and San'yas Indigenous Cultural Safety Training is available to staff working both directly and indirectly with

Indigenous people. At BCIT, the Respect, Diversity, and Inclusion department reports directly to the President's office and their Anti-Racism Framework brings together individuals from the BCIT community to address racism and intolerance.

Amid growing awareness of the financial benefits of creating a work environment that allows employees to be their authentic selves, there is also widespread recognition of the fact that it is simply the right thing to do. Companies are increasingly judged on their corporate culture in addition to their products and services.

"It is vital to survival. The consumer is getting more and more savvy and they demand certain things in exchange for their money," said Wilson. "Everyone deserves to be their authentic self and to be treated with dignity and respect. Everyone deserves to feel welcomed and empowered to bring their whole selves to work," Chiarello concluded. **SB**



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TRANSPORTATION | TransLink CEO Keynote Address

Address marks first post-pandemic in-person event for Board of Trade



New TransLink CEO Kevin Quinn will make his first keynote address to our region's business leaders on the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade stage on Nov. 19 at the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver. Before joining TransLink, Quinn served as Administrator and Chief Executive Officer of the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA)

In his remarks, Quinn will share his vision for the future of our world-class transit system, including plans to reconnect, rebalance and reinvest as our region adapts to the new realities of how we move, live and work.

Like all businesses, TransLink was challenged to think, act and plan differently during the pandemic. Many of these changes will continue to shape how TransLink and its operating companies deliver vital transportation options in the future.

Join us and learn about some of the exciting initiatives TransLink will be championing moving forward, including advancing major capital projects to connect our region, leveraging new technology and data in our decision making, releasing a new Customer Experience Action Plan, finalizing our region's next 30-year transportation strategy and much more. **SB**