

File No. 04-1000-20-2016-115

May 5, 2016

s.22(1)

Dear s.22(1) :

Re: Request for Access to Records under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (the "Act")

I am responding to your request of April 4, 2016 for:

The contract, project plans, schedules, budgets, performance measures, terms of reference and/or mandate and key deliverables (such as reports, reviews or other feedback) related to the payments totalling \$12,000 to Catherine Chan for services listed in the Mayor's Discretionary Fund for 2015.

All responsive records are attached. Some information in the records has been severed, (blacked out), under s.22(1) of the Act. You can read or download this section here: http://www.bclaws.ca/EPLibraries/bclaws_new/document/ID/freeside/96165_00

Under section 52 of the Act you may ask the Information & Privacy Commissioner to review any matter related to the City's response to your request. The Act allows you 30 business days from the date you receive this notice to request a review by writing to: Office of the Information & Privacy Commissioner, info@oipc.bc.ca or by phoning 250-387-5629.

If you request a review, please provide the Commissioner's office with: 1) the request number assigned to your request (#04-1000-20-2016-115); 2) a copy of this letter; 3) a copy of your original request for information sent to the City of Vancouver; and 4) detailed reasons or grounds on which you are seeking the review.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Freedom of Information Office at foi@vancouver.ca if you have any questions.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'B. Van Fraassen', with a stylized, flowing script.

Barbara J. Van Fraassen, BA
Director, Access to Information
City Clerk's Department, City of Vancouver
Email: Barbara.vanfraassen@vancouver.ca

Encl.

:jb

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We watch over the land and sea and in turn they watch over us.

July 28, 2015

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

Catherine Chan


s.22(1)

Dear Catherine:

Re: Consulting Agreement with Office of the Mayor, City of Vancouver

This will confirm our agreement that you will provide the services described in the schedule to this letter (the "Services") to the City of Vancouver for the period from June 15, 2015 to December 15, 2015 (the "Term") on the following terms and conditions:

- The City will pay to you the amount of \$9,000 (nine thousand dollars) exclusive of taxes. This is the maximum amount that the City is obliged to pay in respect of performance of the Services unless this letter agreement is amended in writing and signed by both you and the undersigned.
- You will provide the Services as an independent contractor and not as an employee of the City. You will not be entitled to any employment benefits of any kind, and you will be solely responsible for remittance of Canada Pension premiums, Employment Insurance premiums, income tax and any other taxes, based on the total remuneration payable to you under this letter agreement.
- You will submit your invoices monthly for Services completed. You will obtain the pre-approval of the undersigned for any disbursements to be reimbursed to you and you will provide original invoices for all disbursements claimed.
- You acknowledge by signing this letter that, in performing the Services, you may acquire information about certain matters which are confidential and that such information is the exclusive property of the City and you agree not to disclose same to any third party either during or after the Term.


Catherine Chan
(Initial Page)

- All drawings, audio-visual materials, information, plans, models, designs, specifications, reports and other documents or products produced, received or acquired by you as a result of the provision of the Services (the "Material") will be the sole property of the City and the City will have the right to use all of the Material for its benefit in any way it sees fit, subject to third party owned copyright. You will deliver the Material to the City forthwith following the expiry of the Term. Title to Material created by you is to be considered to have been transferred, and any copyright in same is to be considered to have been assigned by you to the City, on creation of such Material. You irrevocably waive, in favour of the City, your moral rights in respect of Material created by you.

To confirm your agreement to the above terms and conditions, kindly sign the duplicate copy of this letter where indicated and return same to the Mayor's Office as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Michael Magee
Chief of Staff

cc.
Catherine Chan
(Initial Page)

SERVICES REQUIRED:

Strategic Community Relations and Outreach Support, including:

- Community relations;
- Multicultural Outreach;
- Attending meetings with key stakeholders on behalf of the Mayor, as necessary;
- Event coordination;
- Assistance to the Director of Policy and Communications for overall Strategic Objectives of the Mayor's Office
- Media Monitoring;
- Translation Services;
- Digital Media Support;
- Other activities as required.

TERMS ACKNOWLEDGED AND AGREED TO THIS 28th DAY OF JULY 2015.



Catherine Chan (Signature)

Invoice

Date 1/7/2015
Invoice # 001

Catherine Chan

s.22(1)

TO Mike Magee
Chief of Staff
Office of the Mayor
City of Vancouver

Qty	Description	Unit Price	Line Total
1	Chinese Media Monitoring - 6- month- contract (from Dec 8, 2014- June 8, 2015) - \$750 per month x 6 months, for a total of \$4,500	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,500.00
Total			\$ 4,500.00

Approved
MM
Jan 13/15

File No. 04-1000-20-2016-115

May 17, 2016

s.22(1)

Dear s.22(1) :

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I am responding to your request of April 4, 2016 for:

The contract, project plans, schedules, budgets, performance measures, terms of reference and/or mandate and key deliverables (such as reports, reviews or other feedback) related to the payments totalling \$12,000 to Catherine Chan for services listed in the Mayor's Discretionary Fund for 2015.

The city has searched for further records, particularly the "Deliverables" as noted in your follow up request. The responsive records package, as attached, contains the "deliverables" for Catherine Chan's services as listed in the Mayor's Discretionary Fund for 2015. All responsive records for this request have now been provided.

Under section 52 of the Act you may ask the Information & Privacy Commissioner to review any matter related to the City's response to your request. The Act allows you 30 business days from the date you receive this notice to request a review by writing to: Office of the Information & Privacy Commissioner, info@oipc.bc.ca or by phoning 250-387-5629.

If you request a review, please provide the Commissioner's office with: 1) the request number assigned to your request (#04-1000-20-2016-115); 2) a copy of this letter; 3) a copy of your original request for information sent to the City of Vancouver; and 4) detailed reasons or grounds on which you are seeking the review.

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Barbara J. Van Fraassen, BA
Director, Access to Information
City Clerk's Department, City of Vancouver
Email: Barbara.vanfraassen@vancouver.ca

Encl.

:jb

1. 3 (Sat)

(World Journal) Costly Housing Makes Vancouver Hard to Attract Professionals

http://www.worldjournal.com/view/full_van_14/26319236/article-房價高-大溫難吸引專才?instance=bc_story1

- Some large corporations said it's hard to find worker of specific skills due to high housing costs ie. Communication Manager of iQmetrix- a Canadian on- line trading company, moved to Saskatchewan due to high housing costs; would stay in Vancouver if single, but once started a family, can't afford to stay anymore
- Government statistics has shown that the age group between 25 - 44 moving out of Vancouver in the past three years, is more than the same age group moving to Vancouver.
- Business Council of BC's Chief Economist: high housing costs is already a concern for many, and the financial challenge that the younger generation face when raising a family is getting bigger and bigger.
- Also, many local companies find it increasingly difficult to hire special skilled workers to come to Vancouver, especially high management level. They find it unimaginable to move into apartments with only two rooms if they used to live in a single home

(Ming Pao) South Cambie House Price Jumped 25% Highest in Vancouver,

<http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150101/var1h.r.htm>

- Realtor Oleg Galyuk used Greater Vancouver Realtors Board's statistics and listed out three areas with highest rate of increase in the past 12 months, South Cambie's single home ranks no. 1, with 25.4% increase, to \$230K.
- A Chinese realtor said, Vancouver is still the most popular location for the particular group of affluent Chinese investors. The low interest rate makes it even more attractive to invest in real estate. Once a house on the west side is on sale, it will be gone very quickly, even without viewing, negotiation and adding any conditions. Some new trend of buying the land as well.
- The others are Mackenzie Heights (19.8%, \$240K) and Fraser (17.3%, \$95.5K). Average rate of increase in single home is 11.2%
- South Cambie: housing price increased due to Canadian line station. In general Chinese residents don't worry about the noise and safety concern around Canadian line, but like the walking distance to the train station, and the convenience to future shopping malls close by.

1.5 (Mon)

(AM1470) Comparison on Chinese Immigrants By Vocation Categories

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=47013

- Immigrant Lawyers Info Network: Significant increase of Chinese immigrants who are at managerial level (from 2451 to 3161 compared to 2012), with specific skills and IT background (from 728 to 2196), but professional decreased (from 8374 to 3008) . Some increase in the investors category (from 541 to 1367).

1.6 (Tue)

(AM 1320) Vancouver City Cllr George Affleck Was Criticized

- TransLink's referendum will be launched in March. Van City Cllr George Affleck will have a motion at council meeting on Jan 20, to request mayor and city cllrs to vote unanimously in support of the TransLink referendum, and raise taxes to expand transportation services;
- Also asks city staff to liaison with other supporters in order to persuade voters
- Canadian Taxpayers Federation criticized Affleck for using public money to persuade voters and said it is inappropriate; worried other cities will follow and waste tenths of thousands of dollars

(AM 1470) Taxpayers Federation Encourages Public to Vote "No" At TransLink Referendum

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=47032

- Canadian Taxpayers Federation will launch a campaign to encourage public to vote "no" to show disapproval with TransLink asking for more taxes instead of finding efficiencies
- George Affleck tries to get the entire city council to vote "yes" and consolidate public support

(World Journal) December's Housing Sales Hot in Lower Mainland

http://www.worldjournal.com/view/full_van_14/26325904/xarticle-大溫12月房市-價量齊揚?instance=bc_story1&npg=1

- Single Homes in Lower Mainland increased by 8.1% on average. But Vancouver West +10.6% to \$2,435,200, Vancouver East +11.9% to \$970,500, increase is highest in the region

1.7 (Wed)

**1. (Sing Tao E-paper or mobile version) Rumour About Vancouver Mayor Robertson and Chinese Star Wanting Qu

- Since Robertson separated with his wife, many started to pay attention to his personal life. According to Globe & Mail's report, a reliable source said that the 50-year-old Robertson has been dating the 31-year-old Pop star Qu
- Qu immigrated from Mainland China when she was 10, studied shortly at SFU, started to sign contract as a pop star singer since 2009, was delegated as Vancouver's first Tourism Ambassador in 2013, and have accompanied Robertson to visit China in Nov 2013
- Mayor's office: would not respond anything about Mayor's personal life

**2. AM1320 Talk Show: Fare Evasions and TransLink Referendum

Callers:

- Instead of raising 0.5% of PST, increase it to 2% for public transit for everyone. Can also encourage more to take public transit.
Questioned by Commentator: feasible option, 2% means \$100,000 increase per year, but need to ensure enough buses and sky train capacity
- Doubt why TransLink has already delayed 3 years to install the fare gate when many countries ie. Asia have done this for more than a decade. Can hire professionals overseas and find out the problem efficiently.
- Transit police is too expensive (\$31M per year) and they are seen as too laid-back and not enforcing effectively
- Almost 100% of callers expressed that they are upset with the inefficiencies and lack of transparency, but they never change. Fare increase endlessly. Will vote "No" for sure.
- Would like to talk to TransLink or Province's Ministry of Transportation
- 0.5% PST is a tax above a tax. Already paid tax to TransLink through property tax, gas tax. Infrastructure improvement should be paid by the province, not TransLink.
- TransLink should be dissolved and replaced by a transportation board under the Province

Commentator/ Host:

- Seniors' and disability's bus pass (\$45) can be expanded to people who receive welfare, and include photo in the pass to avoid people from selling it for money. A regular monthly pass (about \$175) is not affordable for welfare recipient (\$425 per month). This may lure some of them to ticket evasions
- Even if taxpayers pay 0.5% PST more, doesn't mean that TransLink can solve the current problems
- TransLink has 6 boards, \$760,000 used in board meetings last year. Lots of inefficiencies

- Fare evasions and referendum are two separate issues. Think the referendum will still pass with strong support from businesses, unions and environmental groups.

****3. (World Journal) Fare Evasion As High As 2.76 M Times A Year in Greater Vancouver**

<http://www.worldjournal.com/view/full van 14/26330718/article-大溫公車逃票-年逾276萬次?instance=bcnews>

- The figure is only for buses, hasn't included other forms of public transit (Skytrain, West Coast Express, Sea Bus and Blue Bus).
- This may already be underestimated as many bus drivers said their supervisors don't care about this and they become less motivated to press the button
- Canadian Taxpayers' Federation: TransLink ignored the problem and causing losses for taxpayers who are honest, asking voters to vote "no" at the referendum
- The Federation obtain the statistic through Act of Freedom of Information. In 2013, bus drivers pressed the "Fare Not Paid Button" to record no. of fare evasions
- 2011- 2.5M times of fare evasions
- Fare gate is \$25M over budget and delayed 3 years
- If TransLink can't effectively manage the current system, voters shouldn't give them extra \$7.5B. TransLink's lack of ability in preventing ticket evasions, enacting compass cards and installing fare gates, all of these gave voters stronger reasons to vote "no" at referendum

4. (AM1320) Taxpayers Federation Announced 5 Routes With Most Fare Evasions

http://www.am1320.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9998%3A2015-01-07-20-11-35&catid=1%3A2010-10-18-20-52-02&Itemid=97&lang=zh

- Most fare evasions occurred at routes go through downtown Eastside. No. 20 that goes through Victoria Dr., Commercial Drive and East Hastings. Second is No. 16 that goes through Kerrisdale, downtown, Hastings and Renfrew
- TransLink: will increase patrol
- Public Transit Drivers' Union: avoid assault caused by ticket evasions.
- Coquitlam Mayor Greg Moore: TransLink's fare evasion problem isn't too serious. On average 3-8% of loss of revenue in North America

5. (AM1470) AM1470 Conduct On-line Survey Regarding TransLink Referendum Till Saturday

- Raymond Louie is glad to see George Affleck changing his mind and support the referendum

6. (AM1470) Fare Evasion Most Serious in East Vancouver

7. (World Journal) Greater Vancouver's Housing Price Would Rise 3% As Forecasted

http://www.worldjournal.com/view/full van 14/26330568/article-大溫今年房價估漲3-?instance=bc_story1

- Re/Max- Benchmark price: Greater Vancouver will rise b 3%, above national average's 2.5%. Vancouver West over \$2.3M, the highest in the region

1.7 (Wed)/ 1.8 (Thur)

(World Journal) Rumours About Robertson Falling in Love with a Chinese Singer

http://www.worldjournal.com/view/full_van/26337060/article-羅品信-傳戀上華裔女歌手?instance=bc_story2

- According to Blogger Frances Bula, confirmed by a number of reliable source in Vancouver city hall
- Through Act of Freedom and Information, an adviser of Robertson, Lara Honrado, was given political advice about asking for Wanting Qu' s help to promote his Wei Xin. In that letter, Honrado mentioned if without Qu' s promotion on tweeter, Robertson' s Wei Xin wouldn' t have caused so much attention
- Both of their mutual support already started in early 2013.

(Sing tao) Rumours About Robertson In Love with Singer Wanting Qu

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-01-08/province1420713195d5391865.html>

(Ming Pao) Rumours About Robertson In Love with Wanting Qu, 20 Years of Age Difference

http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150108/vasa_r.htm

Just for your reference, the story also appeared in a number of papers in China and Hong Kong, even Malaysia where there is a huge Chinese population.

(Oriental Daily News, Malaysia) Wanting Qu Serectly In Love With Vancouver' s Mayor

<http://www.orientaldaily.com.my/index.php/entertainment/yl57979>

(Apple Daily, Hong Kong) Wanting Qu In Love with Vancouver Mayor

<http://www.orientaldaily.com.my/index.php/entertainment/yl57979>

(China Times, China) Wanting Qu In Love with Mayor 19 Years Older, Becoming Stepmother of Four

<http://star.chinatimes.com/news/20150108004410-261101>

(Sing Tao) Raymond Louie Not Running for Federal Election

http://www.worldjournal.com/view/full_van_14/26337068/article-雷健華表態-不投入聯邦大選?instance=bc_story2

- Louie: deny Liberal and NDP persuaded him to run for federal; will focus his effort on city council as a deputy mayor
- Robertson: welcome Louie staying at city council and acknowledge his leadership

1.8 (Thur)

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- Both of their mutual support already started in early 2013.

(Sing tao) Rumours About Robertson In Love with Singer Wanting Qu

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-01-08/province1420713195d5391865.html>

(Ming Pao) Rumours About Robertson In Love with Wanting Qu, 20 Years of Age Difference

http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150108/vasa_r.htm

Just for your reference, the story also appeared in a number of papers in China and Hong Kong, even Malaysia where there is a huge Chinese population.

(Oriental Daily News, Malaysia) Wanting Qu Serectly In Love With Vancouver' s Mayor

<http://www.orientaldaily.com.my/index.php/entertainment/yl57979>

(Apple Daily, Hong Kong) Wanting Qu In Love with Vancouver Mayor

<http://www.orientaldaily.com.my/index.php/entertainment/yl57979>

(China Times, China) Wanting Qu In Love with Mayor 19 Years Older, Becoming Stepmother of Four

<http://star.chinatimes.com/news/20150108004410-261101>

(Sing Tao) Raymond Louie Not Running for Federal Election

http://www.worldjournal.com/view/full_van_14/26337068/article-雷健華表態-不投入聯邦大選?instance=bc_story2

- Louie: deny Liberal and NDP persuaded him to run for federal; will focus his effort on city council as a deputy mayor
- Robertson: welcome Louie staying at city council and acknowledge his leadership

1.7-9 (Fri)

1. (World Journal) Greater Vancouver Mansions Sale Rise 25% Each Year

http://www.worldjournal.com/view/full_van_14/26336834/article-大溫豪宅銷量一年增25-?instance=vanhot

- Sotheby's International Realty Canada: (2014) in Vancouver, 3,134 houses of value over \$1Million were sold, increased by 25% from 2013. 253 of them are over \$4M, increased by 36%
- Luxurious apartments in the \$Millions range most popular
- Calgary and other cities across the country also see an increased number of sales in mansions

2. (Omni News) Ricard Duchesne Academic Complaint

<http://www.omnitv.ca/bc/yue-can/videos/3978139524001/>

- Jang: hatred and attack against Asian immigrants. Need to make sure the report is accurate when talking about controversial issues, failed to include the contributions Asian immigrants brought
- New Brunswick Sociology Professor: Asian immigrants have already, Asian immigrants came too quickly to Vancouver; said Jang doesn't understand academic freedom, and Europeans also have to right to affirm their cultural identity
- University: already dealt with Jang's complaint
- Zoolman: disappointed with such attack. Speaks to too much change and too quickly for some, Canada is not a static model we have of British Empire

1.10 (Sat)

**1. (Westca.com) Three Hurdles to Overcome for Qu Dating Vancouver's Mayor

<http://www.westca.com/News/article/sid=378203/page=1/lang=schinese.html>

- 1. Different value system: Chinese people in general are cautious and worrisome people and don't like to be talked about by others. Also language and cultural barriers
- 2. Difference in spending habit: in Chinese culture, the guy usually pay for the girl when dating, which is different in the West
- 3. Parents' acceptance

1.11 (Sun)

****1. (AM1470) AM1470's On Line Poll Shows: Most Voters Don't Support Traffic Congestion Tax**

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=47147

- 95.72% don't agree the 0.5% Traffic Congestion Improvement Tax
- 4.28% Support

2. (World Journal) Robertson and Qu Becomes Politicians' Gossip Topic

http://www.worldjournal.com/view/full_van_14/26349164/xarticle-羅品信-曲婉婷成政客們八卦話題-?instance=bc_story2&npg=1

- NPA's George Affleck: traditionally Canadians don't pay attention to this kind of gossips, but people seem to get more interested as they are public figures.
- Not the first time that there are rumors about Robertson's private life. Last year about his affair leading to divorce, then announced separating with his wife when that rumor was "boiling hot", but emphasized not due to any affairs
- UBC Political Professor Max Cameron: public has the right to expect more from political figures on their integrity, and to be free from any conflict of interest
- Former Vancouver Mayor Mike Harcourt: always a high level of discipline is needed at public life. Mayor's private life is also a part of his public life. However, Things have changed since he entered politics. Only matters when it became serious interference with their capacity as a leader

3. (Ming Pao) Vancouver School Board Lack \$15.05M Likely Lead to Controversial Funding Cuts

http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150111/vas1h_r.htm

- School Board's internal memorandum (2014 Apr) already forecast a budget shortfall of \$2.7M
- New Expenses includes salary adjustment, teacher and administration staff's wage increase by \$1.23M, employee benefits \$1.57M, services from inflation \$71,000
- 503 less students enroll, meaning \$3.01M less income
- Allan Wong: Will be able to minimize the budget shortfall to a couple million, but must cut services. Last year some music and sports programs were almost cut, this time will face the risk again; delay repairs; teacher and class composition may be affected as well. Some students may fall behind without the help they need for learning.

4. (Sing Tao) First Trial Transgender Washroom At Vancouver East Swimming Pool

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-01-11/province1420973379d5395999.html>

- Templeton Pool, started on Jan 11, every Sunday, noon to 2pm. First swimming pool in BC provides transgender washroom
- Vancouver Park Board Commissioner Stuart Mackinnon: first step for Vancouver becoming an inclusive city
- Park Board accepted 77 recommendations earlier regarding increasing inclusiveness, include letting people of any gender to use the facilities, changing signs and renewing community activities, improve staff training

5. (Ming Pao) Templeton Swimming Pool Welcomes Transgender Every Sunday

http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150111/vas4_r.htm

- Additional: intend to extend this to all public swimming pool eventually
- Trained staff will explain to swimmers about the new policy, and provide guidance to transgender swimmers
- Signs of “Transgender Are Welcome” will be put up

6. (World Journal) Vancouver’s Templeton Swimming Pool Include Transgender Hours

http://www.worldjournal.com/view/full_van_14/26349160/article-溫市鄧普頓公園泳池-設變性人時段?instance=bc_story2

7. (AM1470) Vancouver Swimming Pool Opens Transgender Hours

8. (Westca.com) More Personal Photos of Robertson and Qu

<http://www.westca.com/News/article/sid=378424/lang=schinese.html>

1.12 (Mon)

****1. (AM1470 Phone-In Show) : Does the Universal Changing Policy At Templeton Swimming Pool Help the Transgender to Blend in, or, Emphasize the Difference?**

Host/ Commentator:

- the transgender swimming group has already been renting the pool in the past 4 years, but Park Board initiated to open this period to public with universal changing room. But is it necessary and good both for transgender and the public? Without such sign, transgender are welcome anyways.
- Purpose of the policy unclear, or simply public relations work. For transgender who completed the sex reassignment surgery, or, those who haven’t? Such policy may lead to more discomfort to transgender, and they may want more

- privacy ie. Surgery marks may be visible in a swimming suit. No reply from Park Board
- Question if this is fair to the general public as their concerns are not considered. Inclusiveness is a long term education process but should not bring in a policy
 - (2012) 5% claimed to be homosexual, bisexual or transgender. So only less than 1-2% of the population are transgender. Is such policy fair to the majority and necessary?
 - Would this be extended to schools and other public amenities eventually?

Callers:

- Purely a political tactic. Definition of transgender is not clear. If completed the surgery, transgender can already freely chose men's or women's washrooms
- Parents don't want their kids to be exposed to this prematurely; they are too young and too complicated to understand this
- Question why this is necessary. Transgender people are already using the washroom of their new gender
- Not an issue for men, but pose potential danger to women ie. sexual assault
- Most callers said not comfortable and won't use the universal washrooms

**2. (Omni News) Skytrain Expo Line Delay, Grassroot Group Advocate to Vote "Yes"

<http://www.omnitv.ca/on/en/videos/3987253504001/> (2.32)

- Better Transit and Transportation Coalition: the delay shows a lack of funding to improve public transit, a need to vote "yes" at the TransLink referendum

3. (Omni News) Templeton Pool Trial Changing Room to Welcome Transgender

<http://www.omnitv.ca/on/en/videos/3987253504001/> (3.26)

4. (Sing Tao) Robertson And Qu's Alleged Relationship Not Involved With Any Conflict of Interest

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-01-12/province1421060786d5397004.html>

**5. (World Journal) Vancouver's Housing Three Times Less Affordable

http://www.worldjournal.com/view/full_van_14/26351570/article-溫哥華購房-財力負擔重三倍?instance=bc_story2

- To afford a home in Vancouver, must have family annual income of \$147,023 as average home costs \$819,000, according to Workopolis' study and based on the 5 year fixed 2.99% interest rate. Will be worse if interest rate increase
- Only Halifax and Winnipeg have housing affordable for family annual income of lower than \$60,000

1.13 (Tue)

**1. (World Journal) Rental Housing Project Face Huge Barrier on Expensive Vancouver Land

http://www.worldjournal.com/view/full_van_14/26355450/article-土地貴-租屋樓開發阻力多?instance=bc_story1

- Although Robertson promised to increase 4,000 new rental units in the next 4 years, rental housing projects still face barriers like land use restrictions and high cost of land
- Real Estate agent Goodman: Rental home vacancy already dropped to an alarming 0.5%. If not proactive enough, serious social and economic problems will arise. New rental housing are built at an accelerated rate in Toronto and the Prairies, but Vancouver is falling behind.
- Even the past 3 years, vacancy rate is 0.9%, demand for low to middle income families have rise significantly
- Currently city of Vancouver is trying to make such rental house development projects easier ie. Exempt development tax, relax parking regulations, and allow units as small as 320 sq. ft
- City's Affordable Housing Agency will submit report to council about how to encourage such projects
- Goodman: development costs is 3 times more than Toronto, questioned City's plan. City still uses bylaws formulated 60 years ago, and don't allow knocking down old SROs, As many as 1,500 SRO buildings that are not efficiently used, which is 750 acres of land
- Also, simple development permit takes 2-3 years, lots of bureaucracy, restrictions too demanding, deter many developers
- 40% apartment buildings in Vancouver are rental housing. Vancouver West's apartment average costs \$500,000, Van East \$314,000. Will be more unaffordable for the younger generation. CIBC survey: only 50% 25-34 -years-old own a home

2. (AM1470) Vancouver Resident Received Warning Letter For Too Much Garbage

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=47214

- A Vancouver resident complained to AM1470 that he received a warning letter for having too much garbage as he didn't cover the lid of the garbage can.
- City's Solid Waste Management Dept.: Should purchase larger garbage bin or put proper labels on extra garbage

Hi all,

A lot of news in the past few days. Mainly about the Mayor becoming the new TransLink Mayor's Council, and whether that would mean a stronger voice to advocate for a yes campaign. (1.16 # 1- 5). Please note the phone in show (1.16 #1)

VSB considering selling school properties to cover budget deficit (1.14 #1, 1.16#7)

Some media outlets are still interested in the Mayor's personal life (1.16 #12, 1.17#3)

1.14 (Wed)

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- Bank of Canada recognize this bubble and already tried to pressure the housing market by increasing the mortgage threshold and down payment, but incoming foreign investment continue to push the market to grow
- Other countries overestimated include New Zealand (56%), Belgium (53%), Australia (49%)

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- Hope this will become something like the Anti-HST advocacy

Callers:

- Many expressed frustration and complained that TransLink is incapable of managing taxpayers' money effectively, just keep asking for more whenever they failed ie. Compass card and fare gate;
- Also, need to renew TransLink's structure, and should have a new board under the province to oversee and monitor TransLink

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6. (Ming Pao) Building Permit Broke the Record Increased 28% to \$280M

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- Vision Vancouver Trustees motioned to put the "close down schools" recommendation on hold for 4 years, but voted down by the joining of NPA and Green trustees, only agree to "consider" extending that option till 2018
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1.19 (Mon)

**1. (Omni News) Public Will Likely to Vote “Yes” Under the Influential Mayors’ Council Chairs

<http://www.omnitr.ca/on/en/videos/3998525766001/>

- Robertson: referendum is top priority, using property tax and tolls is not the best tool
- No TransLink Tax: use 0.5% of future income makes more sense as it let future residents pay for the cost
- Commentator: majority of mayors support referendum, more people will likely to vote “yes” regardless of the bad reputation of TransLink

**2 (AM1320 Phone-In Show) Is it fairer and safer to have an insurance system for bikers?

Commentator:

- The few “bad apples” among bikers are a safety hazard to other drivers
- Insurance protect those bikers as well
- Insurance for bikers likely be very affordable, for example, \$10-20 a year
- Bike lanes in Vancouver and Surrey, each bike lane cost about \$2- 3M in Vancouver, whereas Surrey only draws a line to separate them from the rest of the road
- Since Robertson & Hepner are heading the TransLink Mayor’s Council
- Vancouver can also be a pioneer to create such insurance system
- Robertson hasn’t put enough effort to educate public and bikers to be more responsible while expanding bike lanes rigorously

Callers:

Yes to Insurance:

- Fairer to drivers and other road users
- Provincial government, not municipalities
- A few callers said, bikers don’t have insurance, usually speed away if scratched another car. Two said they have personally experienced that
- Bikers are too aggressive, vigorously pat on their cars when they change lanes
- Easy for bikers to scratch car especially in downtown area where roads are narrow

3. (AM1320) Robertson As Newly Elected Mayor Council Chair

- Robertson: City of Vancouver doesn’t have a specific budget yet, but think each municipalities should work hard to advocate

4. (AM1320) Robertson: Shocked that Kinder Morgan Doesn’t have to Reveal their Specific Plan

- Robertson: This deot helpful in
- Will Vancouver file a lawsuit against Kinder Morgan? Robertson hasn't clearly replied.

****5. (AM1320) Violations For Bikers Without Helmets Dropped Significantly in Vancouver Last Year**

http://am1320.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=10126%3A2015-01-19-20-48-27&catid=1%3A2010-10-18-20-52-02&Itemid=97&lang=zh

- Bikers who are caught not wearing helmets dropped to 981 (2014), from 1538 (2013) and 1787 (2012), although number of bikers have significantly increased last year as more bike lanes are created
- VPD: may not directly mean more people wear helmets
- Illegally biking on pedestrians 110 (2014) from 166 (2013)
- Robertson also as Policing Committee Chair: ticketing is VPD's decision, Committee didn't release new guidelines to ask police to issue less violation tickets

6. (Fairchild TV) Province Requests Kinder Morgan to Provide Complete Emergency Plan, but Federal's National Board

- Tanker Free: province should pull out and do its own assessment to increase public confidence
- Robertson: NDB process is flawed, more evidence that shows the public should not have confidence in the Board's ruling
- NDB: have all they need. Will ask for Emergency Plan details at the final stage.
- Ministry of Environment: will ask for more info at the second stage of review
- Kinder Morgan: The emergency plan is mainly for first line workers but willing to share that info with communities where the pipelines will pass through

7. (Westca.ca) Canadians Think That Money Is More Important Than the Environment

<http://www.westca.com/News/article/sid=380439/lang=schinese.html>

- Polling commissioned by federal NDB: 46% Canadians said, although infrastructures like pipelines have impact on the environment, they are still important. 41% said the threat of these projects on the environment is too high.

8. (Westca.com) How Can Chinese Ladies Like Wanting Qu Attract Hearts of Foreign Men?

http://www.westca.com/News/article/sid=380284/lang=schinese.html?utm_source=westca&utm_medium=bottom_news&utm_campaign=forum_news

- In many well known cases, foreign men are attracted by Chinese women who are independent, tough and familiar with the Western culture, but mostly not the gentle, submissive type. The standard for beauty also varies from East to the West

9. (Westca.com) Tourism Vancouver “Happy” With Mayor’ s Relationship With Qu
<http://www.westca.com/News/article/sid=379711/lang=schinese.html>

- Tourism Vancouver: don’ t think it will damper Vancouver’ s image; rather, more people discuss about Vancouver. Qu is a star while Mayor is a famous person in China
- Want to continue working with Qu as tourism ambassador as she has successfully drawn attention on social media

1.20 (Tue)

**1. (Ming Pao) 46% “Yes” 42% “No” , Fewer Support “Traffic Congestion Tax “
http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150121/vap2_r.htm

- Although the “Yes” side is leading, but the ratio is low when compare to those who have already made up their mind to support
- Frequent drivers mostly vote “no” , whereas those public transit users, bikers and walkers have dropped significantly in a month
- Insights West: think it’ s because many still don’ t know what impact will it bring if the referendum is passed. “No” side doesn’ t trust TransLink and worry how they will utilize revenue from the new tax
-

**2. (AM1320) Polling Shows Potential TransLink “Yes” Vote Slightly Dropped
http://am1320.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=10136%3A2015-01-20-21-32-29&catid=1%3A2010-10-18-20-52-02&Itemid=97&lang=zh

- 46% will or may vote “yes” , dropped from 52% in Dec 2014; “No” 42%
- Supporters are mostly 18-34 years old
- Done by Insights West, on line polling

3. (Omni News) Van City Council Passed Motion to Support TransLink Tax Referendum
<http://www.omnity.ca/bc/yue-can/videos/4003115881001/>

- No TransLink Tax: Shouldn’ t buy votes with public money. Not democracy
- Robertson: important issue. public money need to be available

4. (Omni News) Vancouver Housing Second Most Unaffordable in the World
<http://www.omnity.ca/on/en/videos/4003103564001/>

5. (AM1320) Vancouver Becomes the World’ s Second Unaffordable City

http://am1320.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=10139%3Acapilano-2capilano-&catid=1%3A2010-10-18-20-52-02&Itemid=97&lang=zh

- Followed by Hong Kong

6. (Fairchild TV) Polling Shows “Yes” Vote More Than “No”

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=aa155ec10ec4a303cda6180852c343d1>

1.21 (Wed)

1. (World Journal) City Failed At Fight For Vancouver West Railway

http://www.worldjournal.com/view/full_van_14/26390538/article-溫西鐵道爭奪戰-市府挫敗?instance=bc_story1

- Court Ruling: City of Vancouver has no right to claim any benefits, and cannot claim any rights for others
- CP can resume its cleaning and repair any time, meaning they can restart the train
- Robertson: disappointed; city still have other means ie. File complaint to Canadian Transportation Agency

2. (AM1470) CP Rail Cleaned Up Arbutus Corridor

3. (AM1320) Open Three Extra Shelters In Downtown Vancouver

http://am1320.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=10141%3A2015-01-20-21-37-34&catid=1%3A2010-10-18-20-52-02&Itemid=97&lang=zh

- Robertson admits this year that he won't be able to solve homelessness
- Extra 120 beds in three shelters, and one more at Howe with 17 beds will be opened.
- Have opened for 10 days, but occupancy rate is never over 50%

4. (World Journal) Vancouver's Housing World's No. 2 Severely Unaffordable

http://www.worldjournal.com/view/full_van_14/26390466/article-房價難負擔-溫哥華全球第2?instance=bc_story1

- Due to the huge difference between house price and income. Once interest rate increases, housing will become even more unaffordable

**5. (World Journal) Vancouver West Mansion Subdivided For Monthly Rental \$750

http://www.worldjournal.com/view/full_van_14/26390470/article-溫西華人豪宅分租-每月租金 750 元?instance=bc_story1

- Many mansions owned by Chinese investors or developers living overseas as they are waiting to see whether they should tear down the house, resell or for other development purposes. Hard to rent out a big house to one person or family, so subdivide it and rent it to a few people
- Questionable if houses can be subdivided and rent out to a few tenants. According to Vancouver's bylaw, RS-1 single home in residential area, each can only live 5 adults who are unrelated.

****6. (Sing Tao) Analysts: Vancouver Housing Market Has Supporting Force**

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-01-21/headline1421839349d5408509.html>

- UBC Real Estate Specialist Tsur Somerville: basing the report only on housing price and family income is too simplistic. Housing in Hong Kong is predominantly high rise apartment, whereas Vancouver, single house. Area and living price index are vastly different.

7. (Sing Tao) Vancouver's High Rent For Beautiful Environment; Worth it

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-01-21/headline1421839327d5408508.html>

1.22 (Thur)

(AM1320/ AM1470) Vancouver City Councillor Recommend to Regulate Outdoor Lighting

1.23 (Fri)

****1. (Fairchild TV) Higher Renovation and Construction Costs Incurred By Vancouver's New City Bylaw**

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=3bdc5ed6ff858caa0570f4910fa1d8d7>

- Builder: the bylaw was passed last year. \$25-40,000 difference for huge renovation or building new houses, due to the new environmental building standards compared to Burnaby and rest of province i.e. wider entrance corridor, front door knob requirements, accessibility for people with disability on the ground floor
- causes delays as it takes 1-2 years for city to interpret these changes, will lead to housing more unaffordable

****2. (Ming Pao) Chinese Billionaire Purchased a \$55M Vancouver West Mansion, Greater Vancouver's Housing Market Expected to Rise with Strong RMB And Low Interest Rate**

http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150123/vaa1h_r.htm

- A developer mentioned about this purchase explains money continue to flow in from China investors. Such high price is unprecedented. Most new immigrant families from

- China purchased apartments in Vancouver, Richmond and Metrotown Burnaby, only a relatively small number can afford expensive single homes, who prefer private sale
- BC Real Estate Association: not surprised with houses priced \$55M as some already reached this price with BC housing's assessment, but the first time will selling price. it will happen sooner or later
- 30,000 immigrants will continue to move into BC in the future and support the housing market; interest rate is about 1/3 of that 20 years ago although price has increased 2-3 times

****3. (Ming Pao) Chinese Buyers Buy Homes With Their Economic Strength; Mansion Market Has Nothing to Do with Canadian Dollar Or Interest Rate**

http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150123/vaa3_r.htm

- Real Estate Agent Who specializes in luxurious mansions: two types of buyers from China, one is buying houses of over \$800,000, usually pay by cash and never consider mortgage, focus on the value preservation; type two is purchasing homes of value between \$300,000- 800,000 and require mortgage. Interest rate drop and Canadian depreciation are good news to them.
- Don't think interest rate cut will attract more Chinese buyers to Canada: main issue is no one selling, once placed in the market got sold right away and the price was pushed high
- Chinese billionaires entering the local housing market is a sensitive topic, agents don't want to reveal too much. But people in the industry know, a few of the buyers from last year were Chinese government officials who are involved in corruptions and billionaires who earned their money in illegal ways
- However, as China government has been tightening their anti-corruption measures, this trend is expected to stop in the next years. Left only the successful entrepreneurs who make a living in legitimate ways.

4. (AM1470) Fraser Institute Opposes Traffic Congestion Improvement Tax

- Fraser Institute: the tax damages business environment and weakens Greater Vancouver's competitiveness. If each municipal government cut down expenses, will be able to gather the \$2.5B required

****5. (AM1320 Phone-in Show) Vancouver Chief Police Jim Chu's Retirement**

- First Vancouver Police Chief of visible minority
- Vancouver becomes a safer city in terms of significant drop in property crime and homicide
- Commentator applauded Chu for apologizing 3 times, which is something fundamental in the Chinese culture: one for Stanley Cup riot, to Robert Pickton's family and the

assault of VPD officer on Chinese resident Mr. Ng. Unprecedented in previous police chiefs

- Most criticism about Chu: 1) slow response on Stanley Cup riot and allowed the rioters to loot and damage without taking any action when it first broke out;
- 2) police culture unchanged- don't intervene until the crime was done, stores that illegally sell marijuana proliferated from 4 to over 40 within his term, even marijuana day attendees jumped to 5-6,000. Chu also said don't enforce it because it is not VPD's high priority, which sends a message that police doesn't care
- 3) complaints against police abuse of power increased, but no police was responsible so far
- Being the Police chief and certainly one who is of visible minority would experience constraints, but Chu has 7.5 years to exert his influence
- Chu works cooperatively with Vision Vancouver and Mayor Robertson as seen in his relaxed attitude towards marijuana

6. (Fairchild TV) Vancouver Chief Police Jim Chu Announced to End His 36-Year-Long Policing Career

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=aa00165fed22acf7b3370d43ab14a4aa>

- First Chinese police chief in Vancouver, not saying if he is entering politics
- Robertson: praised Chu for his contribution in reduction of property crime and homicide, successfully targeted organized crime during Olympics 2010 and liason with communities; open search for new candidates, and make sure community wide consultation process

7. (AM1470) City of Vancouver receives \$70M from parking and other traffic violations

8. (World Journal) Vancouver City Councillor Recommend to Regulate Outdoor Lighting

http://www.worldjournal.com/view/full_van_14/26401564/article-溫市議員擬提議-管制戶外照明?instance=bc_story1

- Elizabeth Ball: Some inappropriate lighting outside buildings lead to death of migratory birds and bring health hazard to human ie. Impact sleep and excessive lighting that distract drivers. US has policies regulate that. Vancouver needs to take a balanced approach

1.24 (Sat)

** (AM1320 Phone-in Show) Transportation Improvement Tax

Commentators: Winnie Zho, David Sukuzi Foundation– generally support 0.5% Tax Increase, Charter Lau, No TransLink Tax

Zho:

- 0.5% is fair because it applies to people who can spend more and to tourists, unlike HST
- important to improve traffic congestion as at least 1M people will move into Greater Vancouver. Good opportunity for business development
- referendum is not for TransLink but for specifically assigned infrastructure projects

Lau:

- TransLink already got billions from taxpayers from 5 different sources of income ie. Property tax, parking tax, shouldn't add one more tax which may never be removed after the transportation project. Each city can easily save the same amount of money.
- TransLink has an extremely poor management record, can't entrust them with more money
- No one takes responsibility, confusing who is in charge –TransLink, Province, cities; Also TransLink lack accountability– Mayor's Council can't do anything.
- 40% of buses are only 50% full. A lot of wasteful practices and can utilize resources better before asking for new resources

http://am1320.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=10175%3A2015-01-22-21-38-32&catid=1%3A2010-10-18-20-52-02&Itemid=97&lang=zh

** (AM1470) Transportation Improvement Tax

- 70% of intending “yes” votes don't like TransLink but think they have no other choice

callers:

- TransLink seem to have a habit of asking for more when over budget but never look where they can cut the budget
- Need a time frame when the 0.5% tax increase will end. Like GST, once it is introduced, it never rolls back.
- Yes side campaign is funded by government isn't fair, but that is what the province does with HST as well

(World Journal) Vancouver West Broadway Parking Violation Hot Spot

http://www.worldjournal.com/view/full_van_14/26405480/article-溫市西百老匯街-停車罰款熱點?instance=bcnews

- Many complained in recent years that Vancouver's bylaw officers have attitude problems, and also question the dispute process for parking violations since 2011. To release the province's pressure in dispute backlog, City of Vancouver enacted its own dispute process.
- Arny Wise who has been an arbitrator for parking violation disputes have also filed a complaint against City, said City of Vancouver is acting like both a player and judge, that's penalty is granted to as high as 95% of parking violation disputes, over the BC's average of 80%.

(Ming Pao) Ten Streets Provide Good Revenue for City, Average 57 Parking Violations on West Broadway

http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150124/vap1h_r.htm

- Parking violation fines bring \$71B revenue, while Surrey only \$2.65M; and 600,000 tickets in the past 2 years, 6% from West Broadway

(World Journal) Taxpayers' Group Asked TransLink To Release More Details About the Transit Tax

http://www.worldjournal.com/view/full_van_14/26401332/article-壅塞改善□公投-納□人聯盟籲-公布細節?instance=bcnews

- Like banning campaign funding

1.25 (Sun)

(World Journal) Lawyers: Referendum Tax Makes Legal Lawsuit Unaffordable For Some

http://www.worldjournal.com/view/full_van_14/26408592/article-律師-公投加□影響民眾-恐打不起官司?instance=bc_story1

- Lawyer: people on legal assistance may not be able to afford the service with the extra 0.5% tax on top of the 0.7% PST, not sure yet if legal service will be exempted.

(AM1470) Mayor of New Westminster Worries That No Transportation Tax, Bridge Repair Will Be Affected

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=47540

- Jonathan Cote: without the new tax, only part of the bridge repairs can be done, or need to delay which will cost even more

1.26 (Mon)

(Fairchild TV) A Few Vancouver Streets Are Ticket Violation Hot Spots
<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=b1e2036affdf8ccf026919359241934>

- City Street Management: West Broadway has lot of traffic, so more violations; not to specifically target drivers in that area

1.27(Tue)

** (AM1320) Do You Agree With West Vancouver Mayor's Reasoning On Voting "NO" at Transit Referendum?

- Almost all callers said they agree with the West Vancouver Mayor, especially on the point about TransLink needs to review its structure first before asking for more money; a few said Robertson's comment about supporting the 50% bonus for transit drivers shows that he doesn't care about taxpayers' money but only does things for his personal interest ie. expansion of bike lanes.
- Commentator: Also need to take into consideration that West Vancouver won't benefit much from the new infrastructure as they have their own bus system already

(World Journal) West Vancouver Mayor Recommend To Vote No At Referendum
<http://www.worldjournal.com/view/full van 14/26414224/article-交通籌資公投-西溫市長籲投反對票?instance=bcnews2>

- Michael Smith: TransLink lacks transparency, clear operation and financial guidelines, Board chairs not elected but have to go through many layers of managing authorities, impossible to be inefficient and successful
- Yes doesn't ensure all projects will be done, many still need complimentary funding from province and federal

(AM1470) West Vancouver Mayor Oppose to Transit Improvement Tax
http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=47570

(Fairchild TV) West Vancouver Mayor: No Right to Ask For More Tax Until A Proper Business Model Is In Place
<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=07273dd0571b92c3ee6817638418f839>

- Michael Smith: Mayors and region have no control of how that money will be spent as no one has any control of TransLink

(Fairchild TV) Taxpayers' Group Asks TransLink to Cut the 50% Sunday Bonus

- Canadian Taxpayers' Association: Transit drivers have extra 25% increased to 50% on Sunday, shouldn't give out overly generous bonus when TransLink needs to raise tax
- streeters: never enough, like a black hole; not right

(World Journal) Overseas Chinese Buyers Expected To Enter the Housing Market Before And After Chinese New Year

http://www.worldjournal.com/view/full_van_14/26414840/article-春節前後-料華人湧房市?instance=bcnews

- Realtors: Many overseas Chinese choose to come to Vancouver to invest on real estate during Chinese New Year in the past years. Expected to rise with the low interest rate especially one week before and after the Chinese New year (Feb 19)
- Some consider buying vacation homes here as Canada introduced the 10 year visa policy, and the tight real estate market in China. New Immigrants also takes this opportunity to purchase home
- Some sales have over a dozen offers, house price expected to rise this year, but number of sales will be stable as supply is limited

(World Journal) Park Board Searching for the Tree Cutter at Vancouver West

http://www.worldjournal.com/view/full_van_14/26414584/article-溫西路樹遭砍-公園局追兇手?instance=bcnews

(Fairchild TV) Park Board Replanted Cut-Off Maple Trees

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=ebfe4a43d46c01d811b34c14a3356904>

1.28 (Wed)

(World Journal) Transit Improvement Tax, Retailers Oppose to Add An Extra Sales Tax

<http://www.worldjournal.com/1330093/article-壅塞改善稅-零售商反對分離課徵/>

- Retail Council of Canada: Adding an extra tax will cost \$50,000 on computer system changes
- Metro Vancouver Alliance: support Yes but hard to mobilize given the bad impression of TransLink many people have. Should be about capacity of public transit, not trusting the Authority

(World Journal) Land Swap To Build Mansions, City of Vancouver's Agreement With Developers

http://www.worldjournal.com/view/full_van_14/26419050/article-換地建豪宅-溫市府-開發商協議無效?instance=bcnews

- BC Supreme Court: City of Vancouver's agreement with Brenhill Developments to swap land is ineffective, as it's not transparent and unfair, public hearing and development permit processes were flawed and didn't include the true nature and cost
- 6 months after the agreement on the land swap, council approved developer's application to rezone 508 Helmcken so it could build high rise apartment tower

(AM 1470) BC Supreme Court Nixes City of Vancouver Land Swap Deal

(AM1470) Different Industries Have Different View Points About the Transit Tax

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=47629

- Retail Association oppose to the new business cost and complexities it brings, but Healthy Chief welcome as it helps to improve public health, public transit users have 40% more exercise

(AM1470) Vancouver Proposed Bylaw Changes to Tow Away Parking Vehicles With Multiple Violations

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=47622

- City of Vancouver: tow away vehicles if 3 or more violation tickets not paid.

(Omni News) Downtown Glass Building Development Permit Rejected

<http://www.omnitv.ca/bc/yue-can/videos/4023103402001/>

- Too close to CP building and the area is huge

1.29 (Thur)

(Omni News) Retail Council Oppose Transit Tax

<http://www.omnitv.ca/bc/yue-can/videos/4023185939001/>

- Retailers: complicated, customers will go outside Greater Vancouver to shop; troublesome to change the cashier system, consumers will be less willing to spend money
- Vancouver Board of Trade: money will go into a structure with transparency
- But Retailers Association won't join the No Campaign

(World Journal) Chief Health Officer Asks public to Vote Yes at Transit Referendum

<http://www.worldjournal.com/1391408/article-運輸公投-溫衛生局官員籲投 yes 票>

- public transit users exercise more and thus healthier

1.30 (Fri)

(Fairchild TV) Glass Building Plan Besides Waterfront Station Rejected

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=c1de211b16e6b21b794451fe54ef86f>

- building doesn't match the heritage character and it's too big

1.31 (Sat)

(World Journal) Single Home Buying Fad, Temporary Absence of Buyers From China

<http://www.worldjournal.com/1503807/article-瘋搶獨立屋-中國買家暫缺席/>

- 31 offers made at a single home in Vancouver, none are from China- realtor said this shows demand far exceeds supply. Also many other sales with no buyers from China. Mainly local buyers as seen in 2014.

(World Journal) Merchants Say No to Transit Tax, NO Exemption on Cars And Alcohol Not Fair

<http://www.worldjournal.com/1503546/article-改善壅塞-車、酒未豁免-銷售業者喊不公-財政廳/>

- Alliance of Beverage Licensees of BC: alcohol already 10% tax, won't be fair with 0.5% more.
- New Car Dealers Association of BC: consumers will go outside Greater Vancouver
- Province implies no exemption. Not fair to alcohol and vehicles. Will affect competitiveness

(Sing Tao) 0.5% Will Be Added Into PST

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-01-31/province1422702957d5423066.html>

- merchants: worried that with the 7.5% PST, consumers will go outside Greater Vancouver especially for cars and other big ticket items like Abbotsford, thus they would lost a lot of business

2.1 (Sun)

(Sing Tao) Realtors Joining WeChat Targetting Chinese Buyers During Chinese New Year

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-02-01/province1422788129d5423912.html>

- Recently, each week about 10 groups of buyers to make appointment for private showing on houses that are \$5M – 8M. 80% of Chinese buyers
- Traditionally Chinese New Year is a time when Chinese buyers actively enter the market, the depreciation of Canadian dollars makes RMB stronger would make it more appealing

2.2 (Mon)

(AM1320) Mayors' Council Chair Omit TransLink's Name At Transit Tax Campaign

- Is this omission of TransLink a strategy? Robertson didn't respond.
- No Tax Coalition: such tactic won't work
- Robertson: without the tax, delay in improving congestion in the region

(Fairchild TV) Mayors Ask the Public to Vote "Yes" in the Referendum in March

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=889a669f8711879aed110525c185ff3b>

- Robertson: only 35 cents per day for the tax increase, but without congestion will get worse with 25% of users increase in the next future
- No Tax Coalition Chinese Community Spokesperson Charter Lau: TransLink lacks of efficient allocation of resources ie. Buses idling and not well used.

(AM1470) Transit Tax Campaign of Mayor's Council Mentioned Nothing About TransLink

- Similar to above

(AM1320 Phone in) Mentioned a little bit about the Traffic Congestion Tax

Commentator:

- Increase PST by 0.5% would segregate the Greater Vancouver from the rest, which would not be fair

Callers:

- The tax would open the door for other future tax increase on essential services in education, health etc. Government would have an excuse.

(Fairchild TV) Vancouver City Councillor Motioned to Regulate Outdoor Lighting

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=c6945f4391acfd9319dcd33b120a174f>

- NPA's Elizabeth Ball: reduce and regulate outdoor lighting can avoid birds death, improve health and save energy

- Conflict of interest as Balls' family affiliated with lighting industry? Ball: their affiliation is on light design and they would have to follow the bylaws

2.3 (Tue)

(AM1470) Vancouver's Luxury Hotel Converted to Student Dormitory

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=47763

- A Chinese-Canadian Education Group plans to convert a Vancouver downtown luxurious hotel into a dormitory for overseas students, also open to local students
- Low rental house rate makes Vancouver a less attractive destination for overseas studies. May switch to US, Australia and UK if can't find affordable housing
- The Howe Street hotel will be converted into a 200 unit dormitory. Currently about 100,000 international students in Lower Mainland, tuition fees total \$2.5B – 3B. At a rate of \$800–1,000 house rental, will bring over \$11B to the industry
- Ottawa plans to double international students in next 8 years to 450,000, mostly from China, India and S. Korea

(World Journal) Grasp Business Opportunity of Student Housing , Hotel-Converted Dormitory

- As above

(World Journal) Solutions to Increase Vancouver's Housing Affordability

<http://www.worldjournal.com/1651289/article-減輕溫市住房負擔-專家開藥方/?ref=溫哥華>

- Architect/ planner/ developer Michael Geller: Through innovative design, loosen zoning restrictions to allow smaller units, spread out the density throughout neighbourhoods, stacked townhouses instead of single family homes, creative financing ie. Coop housing and shared equity plans, loosen parking restrictions ie. Car co-op instead, laneway housing for rent and not sale, more flexibility in allowing suites within a suite and basement suites.
- Original article from:

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/affordable-housing-in-vancouver-within-reach-michael-geller-1.2938757>

- UBC Business Professor Thomas Daivdoff: change tax structures to reduce the financial burden of those living in Vancouver

(World Journal) Six Mayors Support Referendum, Avoid Mentioning Greater Vancouver Transportation Board

(World Journal/ Westca.com- Column, by Guo Ding, Omni New Producer) Two Tales of A City: Toronto Really Better Than Vancouver?

<http://www.westca.com/News/article/sid=384197/lang=schinese.html>

- Latest report of Economist's Interlligence unit about most livable city in the world. Toronto and Montreal was voted the first. Vancouver was not on the list even though it was voted the third in the past
- EIU's explanation: based on democracy and living expense; Vancouver's housing cost is highest in the country, Chinese voting rate still low
- Critic: San Francisco's housing cost is also high, Toronto's housing price and rent is also going after NY
- Vancouver is obviously safer than Chicago which is #10
- Vancouver still a heaven for the wealthy, with mountain view and close to the water, close proximity to Asia, good food, can survive without knowing English
- But to skilled immigrants and professionals, Toronto is more suitable because Vancouver doesn't have enough jobs
- Montreal is best for investors immigrants because it has lower criteria on English and investment amount

2.4 (Wed)

(Ming Pao) Vancouver City Cllrs Asks For A Wage Increase

http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150204/vap2_r.htm

- Geoff Meggs: Phones calls and emails have significantly increased their workload. City Council commissioned a third party to examine whether there is a need to increase salary of city councilors and park board commissioners
- Currently Vancouver City Cllrs' annual salary: \$67,994, slightly higher than Surrey \$67,500 & Richmond \$55,000. But way lower than Toronto's \$105,000 and Calgary \$115,000. Mayor Robertson (\$154,347) is also lower than Calgary mayor (\$216,380)
- NPA's George Affleck: no need to increase wage. This is only started by 1-2 Vision Vancouver cllrs for selfish reasons, not appropriate

(World Journal) Vancouver City Councillors and Park Board Commissioners May See Wage Increase

<http://www.worldjournal.com/1706172/article-溫市議員、公園局委員-有望加薪/?ref=溫哥華>

- Same as above

(AM1470) Professor: Hard For TransLink To Change Its Negative Public Image in A Short Time

- SFU Marketing Professor Lindsay Meredith: referendum result expected to be close. But within such a short time, very hard for TransLink to change the public's negative view of them
- Meredith: TransLink will have to look at an overhaul, starting with the salaries at the top if the mayors are to gain any traction

(AM1470) City of Vancouver Intends to Revise Downtown Development Plan http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=47808

- BC Supreme Court ruled that the land swap agreement between City of Vancouver and Brenhill Development is ineffective because no public consultation was done
- Another controversy is about the definition of social housing. City Council's finance standing committee will discuss this today and also on how to respond to the ruling
- City Planning and Development Manager Brian Jackson suggests to revise the downtown development plan, include the definition of social housing, and notify more residents to public hearing. Some city councilors advise to finish the revision asap and not to delay social housing projects

(Fairchild TV) Vancouver Park Board Extend Alcohol Consumption Area in Large Public Events

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=45b9286d3c43405ceea31f47c09a2006>

- Park Board Chair John Coupar: help these large events sustainable as it helps generates sales
- Kitfest: allow Westcoast style activities.
- They made a mistake in translating the "Kitfest" into "Kidsfest".

(Omni News) Chinatown Needs to Change For Survival

<http://www.omnitv.ca/bc/yue-can/videos/4034761654001/>

- More and more non-Chinese tried their business in Chinatown due to relatively cheaper rent and proximity to Gastown
- Some non-Chinese retailers: more young people than before
- Syrus Lee- Director, Chinatown Merchants Association: New apartments mean brining in more non-Chinese customers, Chinatown need to change and adapt otherwise not sustainable. They are thinking about introducing new services and products into Chinatown

(Omni News) Mayors Said Traffic Congestion Tax will Make A Big Difference

<http://www.omnitv.ca/on/en/videos/4034761656001/> (0:40)

- Canadian Taxpayers' Federation: Spending \$7.5B to get 21,000 fewer cars off the door, which is only 1.5%, is not justifiable. Removing only 1 car out of 66 cars in congestion
- Greg Morre, Port Coq. Mayor: wrong use of data ; no money no improvement. Added congestion with more people moving in
- Federation: Surrey has backup plan for light rails, new Pattullo bridge will have tolls, only Vancouver will be affected

2.5 (Thur)

(AM1320) Pro-Referendum Coalition Have 90 Supporting Groups

- Better Transportation Option: grow from 30 supporting groups to 90, including UBC Student Group, David Suzuki Foundation

(AM1470) School Committee Will Support Referendum

- Vancouver School Board met last night to recommend the School Committee to vote unanimously next Tue to support the Transit Referendum. Board Chair believes that it will pass.

2.5 (Thur)

(AM1320 Phone in Show) Would the Coalition That Launched A Large Talk Able to Influence the “No” Side and the Undecided Voters?

Commentators:

- TransLink has never admitted that they have done poorly, no one came out to accept their responsibility ie. Fail to implement the Compass card even though a study mission to Hong Kong was made and money was spent
- Still need federal and province \$1.5B contribution each

Callers:

- Winnie Hou, David Suzuki Foundation: many may lose trust in TransLink, but people should separate the two issues of TransLink and the need of improving traffic congestion
- Other callers: a faulty structure would mean endless money pumped from the public to the system
- Carbon tax is to improve environment, but where does those revenue go?
- Congestion tax is just an excuse to get more money to increase their bonus and mis-manage public money
- Willing to pay the 35 cents per day, but if the structure is faulty, it will be an endless hole for taxpayers' money

2.6 (Fri)

(World Journal) No Back Up Plans And Would Lead to Disasters If Referendum Isn't Passed

<http://www.worldjournal.com/1808310/article-運輸公投若沒通過-無替代方案恐釀災/?ref=溫哥華 am>

- Vancouver Sun Columnist Barbara Yaffe: TransLink has no “Plan B”, and their threatening style of campaign is not acceptable. Implies that no “Yes” means darkness in the transportation system in the future
- Yaffe: CTF already provides an alternative, government should consider it. Take the example of HST, wasn't disastrous as entrepreneur groups expected when HST was eliminated. That shows British Columbians wouldn't be threatened by such campaigns
- Premier Christy Clark: worst scenario is keeping the status quo now

(AM1470) Premier Said Mayors May Use Old Ways to Improve Transportation

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=47885

- Clark: like increase property tax

- Mayors' responsibility as the plan was started by them. Province has no plans to introduce new legislations if not passed.

(World Journal) Yes Coalition Support Transit Referendum

<http://www.worldjournal.com/1808302/article-公投同意聯盟-運輸公投挺贊成/?ref=溫哥華>

- 90 groups representing entrepreneurs, labor and students.
- Iain Black, Vancouver Board of Trade: need to look at the long term perspective
- Promotion materials don't have the name "TransLink" on them? Black: Referendum and TransLink's operation is a different issue, should focus on Greater Vancouver's long term transit development

(AM1470) New Democrats: Support Traffic Congestion Tax

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=47870

- John Horgan: undeniable fact that TransLink has operation problems, but dire needs to improve transit system. First priority is to pass the referendum, then reform the system with political power. TranLink needs to remain low profile and not to remind the public about their failure.

2.7 (Sat)

(Sing Tao) "Pro" Side Suspicious of the Exaggeration of Transit Tax Burden

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-02-07/province1423306827d5431293.html>

- Mayor's Council: CTF's estimation of \$258 is misleading and unscientific, half families only have to pay less than \$100
- CTF: no. of cars will only increase by less than 1.5% fifteen years later

(World Journal) New Rules to Prevent Tearing Down Heritage Building, Assessment Required For Old Houses Built Before 1940

<http://www.worldjournal.com/1860896/article-溫新建築法規-阻濫拆老屋-「傳統古蹟行動計畫」/?ref=溫哥華>

- Heritage Action Plan: if owners insist to tear down a historical building, need to recycle 90% of its materials. Will increase cost and delay the process. Cost for deconstruction will be 25% more costly than demolition. Public will see the benefit of this policy, as it helps to preserve Vancouver's heritage character
- One house demolished every day in Vancouver, 40% are built before 1940, mostly with spacious lot and located in Van West

****(World Journal- commentator Ronald Leung) Referendum On Voters' Choices of Raising PST Or Not**

<http://www.worldjournal.com/1859798/article-調升省銷售口-民意表決/?ref=溫哥華>

- City shouldn't have the power to increase tax like province and federal does, especially when city only manages the part of transportation system assigned by the province
- Mayor Robertson said, millions of people will be moving into Greater Vancouver. But the question should be where does money come from? Citizens in Greater Vancouver are already paying the highest price in public transportation
- Unfair referendum as both sides have vastly different financial pockets

(Sing Tao) MLA Advocates to Build Affordable Housing on the 21 Acres of Land in Vancouver West

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-02-07/province1423306764d5431291.html>

- That piece of land is located at Point Grey, between W4th and W8th ave., belongs to the federal government
- NDP MLA David Eby recommended the
- Vancouver City Councilor Kerry Jang said, would be delighted to see developers help build affordable housing there, but so far haven't heard about such plan yet

2.10 (Tue)

(Ming Pao) City of Vancouver's Bilingual On Line Survey For immigrant Settlement Services With Cooperation of Over 100 Agencies

http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150210/vas1h_r.htm

- Purpose is to understand more of the old and new immigrants' experience, including the kind of settlement series and city services they receive, job search and community participation, so that they can help improve the support services for new immigrants

(Sing Tao) City of Vancouver On Line Survey Invites Immigrants to Participate

<http://www.westca.com/News/article/sid=385841/lang=schinese.html>

- Same as above

(World Journal) Vancouver City Hall Through On-Line Survey to Understand Immigrants' Life More

<http://www.worldjournal.com/2015612/article-溫 n 市府推網上調口-了解移民生活/?ref=溫哥華>

- Same as above

(Sing Tao) BC Day Became A Campaign For Traffic Congestion Tax

<http://www.westca.com/News/article/sid=385843/lang=schinese.html>

- Gregor Robertson: urges voters to support the tax because it will eventually help families to save money, have more family time, and faster to destination, also healthier and sustainable environment
- Mayors' Council estimated: if funding is passed, by 2030, each family can save \$360 on average, by 2045, save \$1,100. If family can then give up a car, they can save \$1000 each year
- Expect in the next 30 years, Greater Vancouver will have 500,000 cars and 1M people move in
- Public transit will be more accessible for people of disability as well

(Fairchild TV) "Yes" And "No" Campaigns Asks Voters to Join Their Side

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=a88a2c9bca07bad961fle3264e3fe61c>

- All streeters oppose to the tax. Not affordable.
- Points covered as above

(Omni News) Vancouver City Council Studies On the Possibility Of Regulating Marijuana Stores

<http://www.omnitv.ca/bc/yue-can/videos/4043428162001/>

- Kerry Jang: study to see the possibility of regulating medical marijuana stores as currently there are grey areas in the law and hard for city to manage

**** (AM1320 Phone-in Show) Would regulating marijuana help control marijuana supply, thus reduce crimes?**

Commentator:

- Vancouver City Council should mind their own municipal business; marijuana is a federal issue
- VPD refuses to enforce and said its not a priority
- Suspected complaint rate is so low. Police takes a tolerant stand, and only pays attention when the store sells marijuana to youth.
- Should abide to federal law, no marijuana store anywhere as it is illegal.
- Kerry Jang claims: grey area in federal policy, but Conservative government's stand is clear on opposing to legalization of marijuana. Only because he doesn't agree with the federal policy

Callers:

- Should restrict the sales of marijuana in a confined area. Currently some stores are too close to schools, which would increase youth's access to the drug.
- RCMP enforces laws targeting marijuana, but VPD doesn't treat this as a priority, in a way encourages marijuana stores to spread out. Chief Cst. Jim Chu needs to be responsible for this.

(World Journal) Vancouver City Hall's Wage Increase Expected To Raise Controversies

<http://www.worldjournal.com/2015607/article-溫市民代收入高-加薪恐惹議/?ref=溫哥華>

- Compare Mayors and City Councilors in Greater Vancouver, Vancouver is already the second highest after Surrey when calculated on a citizen representation ratio. Lowest is White Rock.
- Another controversy is Park Board as other cities, park and recreation are taken care by city councilors

(World Journal) Family Expense Increases By \$258 If Transit Referendum is Passed

<http://www.worldjournal.com/2015630/article-運輸公投若過關-家庭負擔年增 258 元/?ref=溫哥華>

- No TransLink Tax: \$258 is equivalent to about 60% Back-to-School shopping budget, or 4 times of family's dine out budget. "Yes" Campaign deliberately underestimate the financial impact the tax will have on family as they haven't include the expense embedded on commodities

2.11 (Wed)

(Omni News) Vancouver Attempts To Change Marijuana Bylaw Like Selling Drugs and Cigarettes

<http://www.omnitv.ca/bc/yue-can/videos/4049018484001/>

- Kerry Jang: can study the location of the dispensing pharmacy to be distant from schools, easier to regulate
- John McKay: no plan to legalize marijuana, negative impact to young people

2.12 (Thur)

(AM1470 Phone-in Show) Would replacing CEO lead to more support for TransLink referendum?

Commentator:

- Dilemma for voters- yes implies ignoring TransLink's current structural problem, but no implies no new infrastructures to solve transportation problems
- 9 board members too mysterious
- 400 staff have salary over 6 digits

Callers:

- was undecided, but determined to vote "no" after TransLink putting on a political show of changing its CEO. No sincerity to reform the structure but just trying to put up an artificial public image
- voting a "yes" is a no-way return of giving TransLink another chance to potentially "no"
-

(AM1470) 80% of Small Independent Businesses Association Members Will Vote "No"

- money already there
- can foresee the extend of the tax impact based on past experience of HST

(Ming Pao) TransLink Suddenly Change CEO Paying Two High Salary; Risky Move Before Referendum Criticized As Wasting Money

<http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150212/vaa1h r.htm>

- TransLink Board Chair Marcella Szel: change chair to recover public confidence in TransLink. Firing Jarvis means more expensive. Given the short time before time frame, already the choice with less impact to public
- No Tax Coalition: paying two CEO's salary in the next 1.5 years is disregarding taxpayers' money. More will vote "no".

(Ming Pao) Mayor Robertson Glad to See Change Of Leader, Expect New CEO Bring “Brightness” to TransLink

http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150212/vab1h_r.htm

- Robertson: he has been recommending TransLink to change leaders all along, and believe that TransLink’s response to criticism will increase public confidence. New CEO will be bale to reform TransLink to run in an even more responsible way. He and Board member Linda Hepner will try to monitor TransLink
- When asked whether he has advocated behind the step down of Jarvis, Robertson didn’t respond, but said, he hopes to see a new leader as a mayor

(Ming Pao) TransLink Chair’s Salary Exceed Stephen Harper

http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150212/vab2_r.htm

- Jarvis’ annual salary \$382,000, (2011) Harper \$318,000, Obama \$400,000
- With pension and other benefits, Jarvis will take home \$438,000
- 4 TransLink upper senior managers of administration also has high pay and got a raise in 2012

(Ming Pao) Political Analyst: TransLink Risky Move Attempting to Break Through, but “No” Votes May Increase

http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150212/vab3_r.htm

- Norman Ruff: public only sees TransLink spending money on two CEO, equivalent to giving the No side another topic to elaborate on
- He would support the 0.5% tax increase if he lives in Greater Vancouver.

(Sing Tao) TransLink Suddenly Change CEO Attempt to Stop the “Roaring Wave”

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-02-12/headline1423739841d5438339.html>

- Szel: Regardless of referendum result, time for TransLink to change leadership. New CEO will review Compass Card, customer service and Skytrain problems

(Sing Tao) Taxpayers Coalition Criticizes that the Change is Not Enough

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-02-12/headline1423739780d5438336.html>

- Coalitiion: the change shows that TransLink finally acknowledge they lack public confidence, is a progress, but the real problem is they don’t hold accountable to the public. Real solution is to dismantle the entire structure and rebuilt it again

(Sing Tao) Analyst: “New Skin, Old Wine”, “Throwing Rocks But Missing the Target”

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-02-12/headline1423739753d5438335.html>

- Commentator Guo Ding (omni news producer)– TransLink is treating voters as the ignorant. Public generally knows the need to improve transportation but

- doubt managing ability of TransLink. This move doesn't resolve the worries people have; most on line opinions oppose to such move, so more will vote "no"
- Commentator Ping Choi: impossible to please taxpayers as they only attempt to improve the image on a superficial level, but do nothing about its transparency and financial release

(Sing Tao) New CEO Participated in Building of Canada Line

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-02-12/headline1423739718d5438332.html>

(World Journal) TransLink Chair Reassigned to Become Advisor

<http://www.worldjournal.com/2092775/article-大溫交通局總裁-轉任顧問/?ref=溫哥華>

(World Journal) TransLink's Haste Move to Get "Healed" Without Aim, Main Problem Wasn't Changed

- Commentator/ Reporter Robert Chu: Jarvis should have already stepped down in 2014 when most skytrain problems arose, not till now. Also no apology and nothing about freezing his salary. Basically nothing changed.
- Many said they determined to vote a definitely no after the news because TransLink doesn't have the determination to reform but overspend all the time

(AM1470) TransLink's New CEO Will Focus On Accountability and Budget

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=48016

(AM1470) More Response on New CEO

- Robertson doesn't respond how the severance of Jarvis will be paid, but said will need to increase transparency of T
- Canadian Taxpayers' Coalition: replacing CEO won't change public opinion. Public has to pay for two CEO's salary, but don't have access to such in through Act of Freedom of Information
- Streeters: T should include public representation. Public transit is adequately funded but inefficiently managed.
- School Board support referendum as it will improve students and teachers commuting to school

(AM1470) Polling: Local Chinese Rely Even More on Electronic Media

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=48015

- Polling done by Social West and Insights West. Average time Chinese Canadians spend on electronic media is higher than average.
- TV 7.4 hrs per week, radio 4.6 hrs, lower than average of 11.4 and 6 hrs.

- On line news and magazines over 2 hrs
- Social media like facebook, twitter and instagram lower by 6–20%. But We Chat is 40% higher
- Chinese Canadians accustomed to the way they use fragments of time to get information as they were in Asia, and they relatively more popular use of smart phones and i-pad

(Fairchild TV) TransLink Announced Immediate Change of CEO

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=895df6a24c45297cb239065bcafa1fa4>

Szel: can't wait anymore as referendum is fast approaching and need new leadership

(Omni News) TransLink Announced immediate Change of CEO to Increase Public Confidence, Taxpayers' Coalition Said This Is A Good Reason to Vote No

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=895df6a24c45297cb239065bcafa1fa4>

(Omni News) TransLink Shakeup May Not Be Able to Garner More Support

<http://www.omnitv.ca/bc/yue-can/videos/4052428141001/>

- Commentator: no optimistic. Not a problem of just CEO but the entire structure. Salaries for two CEOs is hard to take.
- Streeters: give one more chance/ not happy to pay for two CEOs

2.13 (Fri)

(AM1320 Phone-in Show) Would Replacing TransLink CEO Change the Referendum Result?

Commentator:

- TransLink only acknowledges there is systematic problem but don't investigate and find out the exact issues. Forcing the referendum would only infuriate more and bring out more negative emotions
- Current TransLink problem is its structure, not whether we have the money or not
- TransLink already receive a large amount of revenue through various channels, why still don't have enough \$. Possible to ask public for more again in the future when "not enough \$" based on the same reasoning that "transportation is important". So our past experience of TransLink told us that increasing tax won't work
- "Yes" side ignore whether TransL. is capable of implementing the plan. Should deal with TransLink's core problem first. Otherwise, money will be mismanaged again

- severance and overlapping of pay in Ian Jarvis and Doug Allen expose the entrenched problems of TransLink. Ian not even doing a good job
- Jarvis' leaving is a sign of government's needs to find out the problem and review, and give the public a proposal to see if \$ is really needed. Having referendum now is premature and irresponsible

Callers:

- During the past 20 years, T never changed. Can't stand to have T for another decade. Giving them more power would mean keeping such system for even longer
- No one oversees T, even new CEO won't be hold accountable to voters
- T's incapability is not comprehensible ie. Some train system with 8 lines in Yang Shi city of China is able to start within a short time
- Public should not be silent anymore. May need to protest to tell T the problem

(AM 1470) Vancouver Property Tax May Raise by 2.4%

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=48055

- NPA City Councillors think the rate is too high

(World Journal) CFIB: Small Business Don't Support Traffic Congestion Tax

<http://www.worldjournal.com/2125784/article-cfib:小型商□不支持壅塞改善□/?ref=溫哥華&npg=2>

(Fairchild TV) Vancouver City Hall Proposed to Raise Property Tax By 2.4%

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=62baf7629ffcc5b9f5a2aaa74da584e4>

2.14 (Sat)

(AM1320 Phone-in Show) Interviewing TransLink Interim CEO

TransLink Interim CEO, Doug Allen:

- TransLink's accuracy is 80- 90%, but some cities in US is as high as 95%
Will improve reliability, accuracy and cleanliness
- Can you resolve the compass card issue during your half a year term? – hard to say, only few days started his role
- Complaint against the necessity of TransLink police – played an important role during Stanley Cup riots and for incidents that involve serious interventions.
Complaints against not available- need to be cost-effective

No Tax Coalition, Charter Lau:

- Only chance to express citizens' view, make TransLink truly listen and push for accountability is to vote "no". Don't be afraid of the threats

- Province has the responsibility to fund infrastructure, vote “no” and let them decide how to solve the problems themselves

Callers:

- Most thorough way is to give TransLink back to Province’s Transportation Board. Doesn’t make sense when the TransLink board members are not hold accountable because they are not elected by voters.

(Ming Pao) Vancouver City Council Propose to Raise Property Tax By 2.4%

http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150214/vas1h_r.htm

- City Hall: given the operating cost increase by 3.7% (\$43M) , the proposed property tax rate is not higher than other cities
- Budget Dialogue meeting next Wed night

(World Journal) Interim TransLink CEO: Concerned With Accountability & Budget

<http://www.worldjournal.com/2125788/article-大溫交通局新任 ceo:關注問責及預算/?ref=溫哥華>

(World Journal) Lost \$500,000 For Selling Winter Olympic Village Unit

<http://www.worldjournal.com/2154575/article-冬奧選手村-原始買家賠 50 萬/?ref=溫哥華>

- Realtor: severe loss for buyers entered earlier. A buyer bought the unit at \$1.56M in 2010 with addition of HST and PTT, and total to \$1.75M. But sold \$1.22M a few days ago.

(World Journal) High Housing Cost Makes Retirement Difficult

<http://www.worldjournal.com/2154584/article-住房成本高-溫市民退休難/?ref=溫哥華>

- A VancCity study shows that even when a Vancouverite start saving for RSSP at 25, he will still have difficulty saving enough for pension when reach 65. Toronto will reach their goal 3-4 years earlier than people in Vancouver, Winnipeg 6-7 years earlier

(Fairchild TV) TransLink CEO’s pay is Higher Than Major North America Cities

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=b698439e156812f1a33acc20a44772b2>

- Taxpayers Coalition: Higher than Toronto \$150,000, NY \$100,000, but only 10th the size of NY
- Doug Allen is not accountable as he is only there for 6 months

(Fairchild TV) Vancouver City Hall Proposed to Raise Property Tax by 2.4%

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=62baf7629fcc5b9f5a2aaa74da584e4>

- Raymond Louie: To cover costs like affordable housing
- George Afflick: higher than inflation rate is not fair. Affordable housing budget increased by 3.1% but still haven't solved the problem

2.15 (Sun)

No related news

2.16 (Mon)

(AM1320) Analyst: TransLink Better Delay Referendum

- Lindsay Meredith: public is infuriated with TransLink management level's high salary and inefficiency. Pushing the referendum now may not guarantee a "yes" outcome

(AM1320 Phone-in Show) Is Province's Current System of Not Able to Recall TransLink Board Members and Mayor's Council Members a fair one? Should referendum be delayed?

Commentators:

- Only till they resigned themselves, their terms are full.
- Municipal government wouldn't want to take the burden, but not true that TransLink doesn't have money to put aside for new projects.
- Over 1 M of referendum ballots are not printed yet. Waste the \$5M referendum costs. Will be more fair to delay the referendum for voters and the interim CEO. Current signs show that "no" side have been rising steadily recently
- Survey from Yes side: By 2045, 300,000 more people will move in, Lower Mainland will lose \$2B each year due to traffic congestion because increase of labor cost and air pollution, otherwise lower 33%
- The result of the report doesn't make sense. Even without new infrastructure, TransLink still needs to improve congestion problems. Air pollution problem has been improving as low emission

Callers:

- Questions if there was transfer of benefits. Not possible to have such a policy whether no one is able to recall any Board members when they do not perform.
- Implies property tax increase if PST not raised. Referendum is only a political show. Taxpayers have to pay either way. Not fair
- Disapproves of Yes side's tactics of making it sound like the End of the World. TransLink has a basic responsibility of improving transportation whether the referendum got passed or not.
- Don't think Robertson will bring useful experience to Mayor's Council. Over expansion of bike lanes make some areas even more congested than before. Ie. 49th & Cambie
- Waste of money ie. Spent \$90,000 on a decorating bronze dog on Main Street

- Private public partnership for transportation.

(Ming Pao) TransLink Most Popular Transportation Authority in North America. 64,000 People Commented On Twitter

http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150216/vas1h_r.htm

- Study done by University of Southern California. TransLink is voted most popular by passengers, Portland the 2nd, Toronto 3rd. Boston, Philadelphia and Chicago most unpopular
- Based on 64,000 positive and negative comments left on twitter
- Most negative comments surrounds service and other passengers
- Survey also shows, using twitter to communicate with public and deal with complaints will lead to more positive feedbacks. TransLink have on average 90 tweets each day. Survey ended before the CEO replacement news took place.

(World Journal) Traffic Congestion Costs Greater Vancouver \$1B

<http://www.worldjournal.com/2204309/article-大溫交通堵塞損失-年逾 10 億/?ref=溫哥華>

- Due to operation costs, air pollution and lower productivity in next 30 years

(AM1470) Traffic Congestion Will Cost Greater Vancouver \$1B, And Will Further Increase

- Same as above

(World Journal) Jarvis Replaced But Still Receiving High Salary; TransLink Mismanaged

<http://www.worldjournal.com/2204295/article-賈維斯調職仍領高薪-交局管理不當/?ref=溫哥華>

(World Journal) Vancouver Luxurious Mansions' Sales Is Expected to Rise

<http://www.worldjournal.com/2202724/article-溫市豪華公寓-銷售看漲/?ref=溫哥華>

- 20% of the 156 Private Residences at Hotel Georgia are Chinese buyers
- Supply is below demand, especially luxurious apartments in downtown is very limited and unlikely to have more developments under the current city policy.
So there is a lot of room for further growth in terms of investments

(Fairchild TV) New Westminster Mayor And Community Groups Advocate to Vote "Yes" in Referendum

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=3d20badc2e5a7bf74ce0fc12cabfbd92>

- Highschool Student: referendum result will affect youth in the future who don't have the right to vote this time
<http://www.worldjournal.com/2226783/article-運輸公投 yes-新西敏市長催票/?ref=溫哥華>

(AM1320) City of New Westminster Asks Public to Support Referendum, Student Asks Adults to Put Aside TransLink's Internal Problems For The Sake of Their Future

- As above

2.17 (Tue)

(AM1470) Vancouver's Green Party: Conditional Support for Traffic Congestion Tax
http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=48130

- Restructure TransLink Board of Directors to a voting system, and ensure the Board is transparent and responsible
- Mayor's Council find ways to compensate citizens for the increased tax expenses
- Public consultation on how to improve transportation and spend the money

(Ming Pao) New Westminster Campaign For Yes Votes
http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150217/vasa_r.htm

- As above

(Sing Tao) New Westminster Mayor Support Traffic Referendum
<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-02-17/province1424168293d5444353.html>

(World Journal) New Westminster Mayor Advocates to Vote Yes at Transit Referendum
<http://www.worldjournal.com/2226783/article-運輸公投 yes-新西敏市長催票/?ref=溫哥華>

(Fairchild) New TransLink CEO Talks About Challenges Of His New Position
<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=a56ff1a378b80c51b65395011b05bd87>

- Doug Allen: regular transit user, will find ways to cut costs and not to eliminate staff or hire additional staff, his job is challenging and worth that significant amount of pay

2.18 (Wed)

no related news

2.19 (Thur)

(Omni News) YWCA Becomes the 100th Group Supporting the Transit Referendum

<http://www.omnitv.ca/bc/yue-can/videos/4072805579001/> (2:20)

- not the perfect solution but best one

(Fairchild TV) YWCA Becomes the 100th Group Joining the Yes Campaign

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=6e7222ccc5a07f592132ef871b58e08d>

(Fairchild TV) Premier Said TransLink's Final Decision Belongs to Mayors

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=c182dc5c90dc87dfee9cd309c33f19b3>

2.20 (Fri)

(AM1470 Talk Show)

- Referendum likely to be “no” with the current trend. Anything relates to TransLink or money leads to negative emotions about the referendum now
- Transportation is the Province's responsibility, deferring it to cities is unreasonable

(AM1470) TransLink Sublet Former Richmond Business As Bus Driver Washroom

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=48248

- \$3600 rent per month for the 2,000 sq. feet store as washroom for No. 410 bus drivers that meet BC Workers' Compensation Board's requirements

(AM1470) Poll: Opposition to Traffic Congestion Tax Increased by 11%

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=48249

- compared to last month. Yes side dropped by 8%

(AM1320 Phone-in Show) Poll Shows “No” Side Increased Over a Month

Commentators:

- Support for referendum dropped over a month, reflects people's trust level of TransLink further dropped, most likely due to replacement of CEO
- polling is not completely accurate as always
- Province hasn't used taxpayers' money properly

Callers:

- first time heard a caller said changing the CEO is a good thing.
- Most said the poll reflects the reality. One caller said the poll is only a reference and can't be taken too seriously
- TransLink is chaotic and can't entrust them for more

(AM1320) Poll: More Opposition Against PST Increase

http://am1320.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=10366%3A2015-02-20-22-32-27&catid=1%3A2010-10-18-20-52-02&Itemid=97&lang=zh

(World Journal) YWCA of Greater Vancouver Joins In To Support Transit Referendum Coalition

http://www.worldjournal.com/2301246/article-大溫_ywca-加入贊成運輸公投聯盟/?ref=溫哥華

- Good for people of relatively lower income, and lots of benefits in public transit

(Fairchild TV) Over 50% Voters Plan to Vote "No" At Referendum

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=30053752ef1262ce2cc6cea7d4f6e41a>

- Analyst: TransLink firing but keeping CEO, and TransLink's advertising campaign of emphasizing no money for transportation create a negative impact

2.21 (Sat)

(World Journal) Another Controversy: TransLink Rent A Washroom For \$3,600 Per Month

<http://www.worldjournal.com/2323908/article-月口3600元租廁所-translink又惹爭議/?ref=溫哥華>

(World Journal) Poll: "Scissors Cross Over" At Transit Plebiscite

<http://www.worldjournal.com/2323089/article-民調:運輸公投出現「剪刀交叉」/?ref=溫哥華>

- On Insight West survey result reported in other media outlets previously

2.22 (Sun)

(World Journal) US Transportation Specialist: TransLink's Service Best in North America

<http://www.worldjournal.com/2345511/article-美專家:大溫交通局服務北美最佳/?ref=溫哥華>

- US transportation planning specialist Jeffrey Tumlin: Greater Vancouver residents are demanding a nearly perfect transportation board, and immediately want to publish it through voting no in the plebiscite. At the end, they would be harmed by their own action. Should be more practical and provide more money if they want the board to do a better job
- Tumlin has assisted TransLink on regional cycling strategy, and a consultant company

(AM1470/ westca.com) Anglican Church Urges Their Congregation to Vote Yes at Plebiscite

<http://www.westca.com/News/article/sid=388634/lang=schinese.html>

- "Environmental Justice Group" under the Vancouver Anglican community

2.23 (Mon)

(AM1470) Surrey Business Leaders Support the New Transit Tax

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=48317

(AM1470) Former VSB Chair: Province's Demand Dampers VSB's Financial Situation

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=48323

- increasing budget by 2% to pay for teacher's salary increase, but saved a total of \$54M expenses

(AM1320) 84% Small Businesses Doesn't Have Good Impression Of TransLink

http://am1320.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=10370%3A84&catid=1%3A2010-10-18-20-52-02&Itemid=97&lang=zh

- on-linesurvey of Canadian Independent Business Coalition. 91% said don't trust that TransLink can effectively use the new funding
- TransLink hasn't done much in rebuilding small businesses' confidence since introducing the parking tax in 2006. They have to pay \$368 more taxes for each employee

2.24 (Tue)

(AM1470) Vancouver Ruling Party: Deficit After Municipal Election

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=48340

- Only Vision has deficit. NPA and Green are within their election campaign budgets

(AM1320 Phone-in Show) Vision Vancouver spent over \$3.4M in the election last Nov., but only received \$2.9M funds, creating a \$500,000 deficit. 11 out of the 15 major contributors are developers. Should city council set a maximum on election spending and contributions?

Host/ Commentators:

- Will be cautious and doubtful whether City will have any leanings in future development projects
- Hard to predict budget in an election, so ; doesn't have to be balanced budget
- Election expenses not reflected in Vision Vancouver's getting more votes. Mayor got less votes and a lot less candidates got elected
- Banning union and corporations' contributions can minimize the difference money plays in an election, thus encourage more people running for election.

Callers:

- Most said, hard to stay clean, or at least the public has such perception that city council can hardly be fair in dealing with development projects and rewarding their political supporters. So they welcome revising the policy on political contributions

2.24 (Tue)– More

(Fairchild TV) Vancouver City Councilor Worried that Cuts in Fire Department and Library

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=d479d9a70cc8ef8d85152c28a1619b69>

- Adrienne Carr: will have impact if leave space vacant
- Lower debt accumulated from Winter Olympics
- Firefighter Union.: worry about cut in fire dept. Not enough staff to cover West side

(Fairchild TV) Vision Vancouver's Election Campaign Last Year Reached the Highest Budget Ever in Vancouver

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=458ca694c137a9a2ec0243d645e2b5fc>

(Fairchild TV) Housing in Vancouver Still Attractive to Foreign Investors Due to Low Canadian Dollar and Interest Rate

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=cadc87ddebe5c65eba0316c443a289d7>

2.25 (Wed)

(AM1470) Robertson: Passing the Plebiscite Helps Create New Jobs And Stimulate Economic Growth

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=48386

- Robertson: besides help to relief the system with 1M people moving in, job increase from construction and infrastructure, including 7000 jobs by 2030, 12,000 jobs by 2045

(AM1470) TransLink Report: Plans Can Reap \$450M Economic Benefits

- May increase to \$1.6B a year by 2045
- Malcolm Brodie responds to Premier's statement about TransLink belongs to the mayors: TransLink doesn't belong to mayors.
- Mayors of Greater Vancouver said a number of times that there is inadequacy in the TransLink structure and asked for improvements

(AM1470) Taxpayers Coalition Say Mayors' Council's Released Figures Are Misleading

- Some plans announced today were never mentioned before, and unfunded 20 years down the road which is misleading
- Report commissioned by a company which is employed by the Yes- supporting Port of Vancouver

(AM1470) Christy Clark Maintains Yes Turnout At Plebiscite A Changing Moment

- Clark: many don't understand the new tax. Those who are discontented with the congestion and pollution problems, and want improvements for the next generation should vote yes

(AM1320) Need More Transit Police Even If Plebiscite Passed

http://am1320.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=10405%3A2015-02-25-20-33-52&catid=1%3A2010-10-18-20-52-02&Itemid=97&lang=zh

- Transit Police: currently 167 transit police won't be able to support the expanding system, not able to estimate the cost now.

(AM1320 Phone-in Show) If Plebiscite is passed and after Evergreen Line starts operation, more transit police will be needed. Also, Mayor's Council said, huge economic benefits will result from traffic improvement funded by raising PST by 0.5%. Do voters agree with these two suggestions?

Commentators:

- Structural problems ie. CEO and transit police have way higher than average pay, and over time hourly rate. How did TransLink set the standard and who is responsible? Why are they entitled to bonus? No answers from TransLink yet. Doubtful how the public can support such expensive system in the long run.
- Witnessed four transit police talking to each other and not checking tickets (around 7pm)
- Even if they check transit tickets, but it's too costly a price to pay. Their main job duties are checking tickets and reporting to police for any emergencies, which doesn't justify their annual pay of over \$75,000
- \$1M for over time pay for Transit police (2010), almost the same for VDP. \$158,000 (2009), VDP only \$2,000 less. But the level of responsibilities is varsely different
- No means \$2B less, Yes mean \$2.6B more. Question if it will be so different.
- People are unlikely to switch from No to Yes because the essence is a lack of trust. So no matter what
- Productivity increases due to congestion resolved is only a hypothesis based on predispositions, not a guarantee. Likewise for construction work from infrastructure.
- No only if accountability is addressed

- Avoiding the name “TransLink” shows not dealing with the structural problem, their only concern is still passing the plebiscite, but lack of sincerity in dealing with the .

Callers:

- A few said “Yes” implies many more hidden costs and taxpayers will have to swallow them. Transit police is only a tip of the ice berg.
- “No”
- Very confusing. Province and municipalities are passing the ball, and no one is hold accountable. This may trigger people to vote no, or don’t vote at all.
- Waste of money to allow transit police to use cars. They should take public transit.
- Unreasonable that the salary of the TransLink CEO doubles that of the Head of New York’s Transit authority, plus \$80,000 bonus (2013), but NY has a much bigger transit system
- Will vote “Yes” only if TransLink is willing to change

(Sing Tao) Gregor Robertson’s Re-elected Costs The Party \$3.4M

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-02-24/province1424776560d5452629.html>

(AM1470 Phone-in Show) Should Province legislate to ban political contributions from unions and corporations, as well as capping election budget?

Guest: George Chow:

- Agree such change is needed

Guest: Former NPA City Councilor BC Lee

- Not saying whether city or developers are impacted currently without such policies, but agree to have this in place to avoid suspicions
- Severe competitions lead to increased election budget ie. More advertising especially during crisis. Also developers will fight for competitions to “buy” their potential influence to the city
- Vancouver and Richmond dominated by one or a few major parties, not a good trend. ie. Richmond: 8 political parties – too divided.

(Omni News) Mayors’ Council Said Huge Economic Spin-off According to Analysis, But Canadian Chinese Consumers Association said the Claim Is Hardly Substantiated

<http://www.omnitv.ca/bc/yue-can/videos/4082411360001/>

- Canadian Chinese Consumers Association: how economic spin-off is made is not clearly substantiated ie. Jobs created may be only short-term

(Fairchild) Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson: Passing the Plebiscite Will Bring \$4.5B Economic Spin off

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=b3133a87202471a4cb08fed2f088ef1f>

- Robertson: people are cynical because they don't have all the information
- Union: no fantasy if give out nothing

2.26 (Thur)

(Sing Tao) Mayor No Show At Vancouver's Chinatown Parade, Robertson Supported Wanting Qu At New York Concert

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-02-26/community1424946614d5455396.html>

- An English media translated Sing Tao's article:
<http://www.getinews.com/news-9492744-United-States-to-join-in-singing-Chinese-girlfriend-Year-Parade-in-Vancouver-mayor-absent.html>

(Ming Pao) Vancouver & Richmond Mayors Play the Prosperity Card, 10 Year Economic Spin-off Will Reach \$4.5B And 1.2M Jobs

http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150226/vap1h_r.htm

- Robertson & Brodie: plebiscite on transportation plans, not on TransLink's management

(Ming Pao) Robertson: Balanced Approach to Revitalization And Preservation Of Chinatown Is Possible; Led Elected Officials For A Chinese New Year Visit At Chinatown

(World Journal) Mayors' Council: Plebiscite Helps Economic Growth

<http://www.worldjournal.com/2440166/article-大溫市長議會:公投通過有助經濟增長/?ref=溫哥華>

(World Journal) GVRD Chair, Port Coquitlam Mayor Greg Moore: No Plan B Besides Traffic Congestion Tax

<http://www.worldjournal.com/2440160/article-穆爾:徵壅塞口-沒 b 計畫/?ref=溫哥華&npg=2>

2.27 (Fri)

(World Journal) Plebiscite Supporter Blogger: Canadian Taxpayers Federation Mislead the Public

- Blogger is Surrey Resident and studies public transit systems. CTF made a lot of unfair and misleading comparisons to anger the public ie. compares

TransLink CEO salary with Toronto's Transit Authority, but didn't mention Toronto has 9 CEO

- <http://www.vancouversun.com/business/Pete+McMartin+side+skips+TransLink+context/10842847/story.html>

(Ming Pao) City of Vancouver's Revenue From Parking Meters Expected to Rise. Pay By Phone Jumped By 1/3

http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150227/vasa_r.htm

(World Journal) Parking Fees Expected to Rise At Vancouver Parks And Community Centres

<http://www.worldjournal.com/2464762/article-溫公園、社區中心停車費-擬調漲/?ref=溫哥華>

(World Journal) Standard & Poor's Increases Vancouver's Credit Rating

<http://www.worldjournal.com/2464401/article-史坦普調升溫市債信評等/?ref=溫哥華>

(Sing Tao) Land Swap Plan Halted. Vancouver City Council Restart Public Consultation

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-02-27/community1425036086d5457538.html>

- Quoted from Vancouver Sun's article:

<http://www.vancouversun.com/City+Vancouver+embarks+extensive+public+consultation+plan/10843060/story.html>

(Fairchild TV) Vancouver Park Board Increase Parking Rate By As Much As 1/3

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=a6bb9d920e681155ccf97853f5e46b3a>

(AM1470) Standard & Poor's Increases Vancouver's Credit Rating

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=48460

2.27 (Fri)– More

(World Journal) Greater Vancouver Home Builders' Association Supports Tax Increase

<http://www.worldjournal.com/2464768/article-大溫房屋建築商協會-支持增□/?ref=溫哥華>

- If transportation to downtown Vancouver is improved, housing demand at Langley, for instance, will increase as well. So it's fair for everyone to share the cost.

2.28 (Sat)

(AM1470) TransLink: Lack of Police Force Leads to Serious Ticket Evasion Problems http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=48471

- Interim CEO Doug Allen: even when Compass Card and Faregates are in place, ticket evasions won't be entirely eliminated. Will seriously target this problem, at the same time, pay attention to passengers who have real difficulty affording transportation cost. Public's focus on plebiscite should be future development of Greater Vancouver as the area is developing rapidly
- Last year 28,000 ticket evasions, equivalent to \$6.5M, but only got \$1.8M back

3.1 (Sun)

(AM1470) Scholars Said Traffic Congestion Tax Benefits Greater Vancouver Families in the Long Run http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=48497

- Study shows that each family will save \$360 each year on gas and vehicles by 2030, \$1,100 by 2045.
- Transportation time will cut by 10 min. from downtown Vancouver to Lonsdale Quay, 15 min. from Surrey Centre to Downtown Vancouver etc.

(AM1470) Former VSB Chair Urges Current Chair To Speak Up http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=48484

- Patti Bacchus: Christopher Richardson hasn't responded appropriately and clearly towards further funding cuts by the province, and should prove that the province is wrong
- Richardson: has already discussed with Education Minister and agreed to further study to improve public education.

3.2 (Mon)

(Omni News) Mayors Campaign At Stations While 70% Small Businesses Worried the Tax Will Damage Their Businesses

<http://www.omnitv.ca/bc/yue-can/videos/4091235290001/>

(Ming Pao) Transit Tax Pros & Cons Explain Their Grounds

<http://www.mingpaocanada.com/realtimenews/van/content CANADA NEW.cfm?aid=161158>

(AM1470) Business Confederation: 90% Of Members Worried the New Tax Will Continue to Rise

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=48524

(Fairchild TV) Small Businesses Worried New Tax Will Continue to Rise if Passed, While Mayors Campaigning on Streets

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=99632f8a814e38a9f2e8d2f37dab6d9e>

- Port Coquitlam Mayor Greg Moore: 0.5% delivers everything they need to deliver the projects in the region. PST is decided by legislature, not by Mayors' Council or TransLink. Less congestion would mean better businesses
- Canadian Independent Businesses Confederation: TransLink has a record of increasing parking tax once introduced

(World Journal) Transit Tax Will Save Money for Greater Vancouver Families?

<http://www.worldjournal.com/2538373/article-徵壅塞改善□-大溫家庭省錢?/?ref=溫哥華>

- Yes side: save \$300 a year, over thousands in 30 years
- No side: Mayors' Council ignore the cost of living will increase by the new PST rate and increase burden of small businesses. Even Mayor's Council admits only decrease 23,000 cars, not the projected 1.5M

3.3 (Tue)

(Fairchild TV) Chinatown Residents Asks City Council to Halt Chinatown Development Plans

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=860e6390db45d650def1b4fa0c7dd667>

- Seniors: many low income seniors like them may have to leave Chinatown eventually with the high rent
- Carneige Centre Action Plan: Ask for more consultation and put the process on halt

- Robertson: rejected their request, and said he supports the Ten year Chinatown Plan

(AM1470) Robertson Maintains Chinatown Heritage Will Be Respected

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=48544

- Robertson: Won't halt development at Chinatown. All permit applications are assessed on the basis of Chinatown Community Plans and respect its traditions
- City staff will have workshop regarding Chinatown development tomorrow, hope residents can actively involve and express their views to Planning department
- Carnegie Centre Action Plan collected over 1,400 signatures asking city to halt a number of Chinatown projects: high rise buildings replace heritage character, rent will increase and become unaffordable, jeopardize small businesses and residents' livelihood. Ask city to increase affordable social housing there.
- Seniors: minimum wage makes it hard for seniors there to afford housing there

(AM1470) Vancouver City Budget Passed With a Majority's Support, Property Tax Increase By 2.4%

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=48539

- George Affleck: property tax rate doubles inflation, too high
- Other Vision City Councillors: mild increase as the budget tries to reach a good balance

(AM1320) Vancouver City Council Voted On Budget Today

http://am1320.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=10444%3A2015-03-03-21-38-37&catid=1%3A2010-10-18-20-52-02&Itemid=97&lang=zh

(World Journal) CTF's Jordan Bateman Performs Well At the Battle Against Transit Tax Hike

<http://www.worldjournal.com/2561877/article-反運輸公投-貝特曼表現出色/?ref=溫哥華>

- Based on the Sun article:
<http://www.vancouversun.com/mobile/opinion/editorial/Barbara+Yaffe+Leadin+g+battle+against+transit+hike/10855524/story.html>

(World Journal) 90% Small Businesses Worried Traffic Tax Will Increase Further

<http://www.worldjournal.com/2561865/article-九成小型企業主-憂壅塞口率調漲/?ref=溫哥華>

- Atira Women's Resource Society plans to use recycled containers to build 7 levels, 26 social housing units

- Strathcona Residents Association: lack retail space, not meeting community's needs

(World Journal) Mayors Campaign At Front Line to Support Plebiscite

<http://www.worldjournal.com/2561871/article-挺運輸公投-市長將上火線拉票/?ref=溫哥華>

(World Journal) Container Homes in Vancouver East Not Meeting Demands

<http://www.worldjournal.com/2559874/article-溫東貨櫃屋-被批不符需求/?ref=溫哥華>

(Fairchild) Neighbours Are Concerned With the Container Design of A Social Housing Plan

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=860e6390db45d650def1b4fa0c7dd667>

- 420 Hawks Ave., Vancouver
- Neighbours: design doesn't fit the neighborhood, worried more social housing would bring crime

(AM1470) Canadian Centre For Alternative Policies Support New Traffic Tax

- more benefits than costs to lower and middle income families

(Ming Pao) Mayors Campaigning At Stations To Support Traffic Tax

http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150303/vasa_r.htm

(Sing Tao) Yes Side's Proactive Campaign at UBC And Downtown

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-03-03/community1425381183d5462985.html>

- Electoral Area A Chair asked students and professors to vote yes. Some passengers said insufficient buses to UBC. Although disappointed with TransLink replacing CEO, and is worried that TransLink would waste taxpayers money, will vote yes anyways as there is a dire need to improve Greater Vancouver's transportation system

3.4 (Wed)

(Fairchild TV) TransLink Awarded For Their Waste of Public Money,
According to Taxpayers' Coalition

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=2afdb805c17991d2cdeb3b51b1d77857>

- Taxpayers's Coalition: TransLink has done poorly over the years but this year breakthrough due to "double paying" two CEOs
- TransLink: written response: Compared to UK and US, TransLink has done a much more efficient job in a lower cost

(AM1320) TransLink Awarded "Lifetime Achievement Award" For Waste

(Fairchild TV) Telephone Inquiry Not Open For Media Reporting Raises
Questions of Transparency

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=460295ce15c9440d9be6fb474387a285>

(AM1320) Daily Segments Informing the Public About the Transportation
Plebiscite

- First 4 episodes: history and structure of TransLink, usually about 5 min. each
- today and the next few episodes: reasoning for Yes and No sides
- Yes Side: (sound bites of Mayor Robertson)
 - if fail and don't act now, not just families will suffer, air pollution will worsen, and transportation system will be overloaded when population booms next decade
- Mayors' Council and the Province will monitor TransLink's use of the money to ensure accountability
- Besides TransLink, City of Vancouver and Surrey also fund their own campaign to support Yes votes

3.5 (Thur)

(Fairchild TV) Mayors' Council Appoint Jim Pattison To Monitor Transportation Development Fund

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=6da34b3a75a27bbe3b81721aa110647b>

- Mayor Robertson: committee will review spending ahead and provide report on past year for audit
- Jordan Bateman of No Campaign: Only a figure head is not enough to make changes

(AM1470) Mayor's Council Formed Committee Monitoring Use of Money

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=48610

- Robertson: Jim Pattison made the initiation, will ensure project priorities and reasonable use of money

(AM1470) No Side: Appoint Billionaire Doesn't Help Much

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=48615

- Businesses only look at their cost analysis; to the general public, Pattison can't change the structure, or fix the problems. The Committee is just another body that Mayor's Council and TransLink can pass their responsibility onto

(Ming Pao) Former Canadian Ambassador: Alert For "Dark" Funds From China's Corrupt Officials. Suggets To Ban Foreigners From Purchasing Second Hard Homes Or Extra Tax

http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150304/vab1h_r.htm

- Based on Vancouver Sun's story:
<http://www.vancouversun.com/touch/story.html?id=10856158>

(Ming Pao) Vancouver's 30% Real Estate Purchases Attributed To China's "Hot" Money. Realtor Executive Admits They Don't Want to Interfere

http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150304/vab4_r.htm

- Based on the Province's interview

<http://www.theprovince.com/business/Real+estate+exec+Chinese+money+There+huge+stake+local+people+keeping+this+thing+going/10858619/story.html>

- The executive said that people in his business generally don't want the public to understand the magnitude of offshore investment, and certainly don't want city hall to do anything about it.
- Community activist Randy Helten said city hall is actually making Vancouver more attractive to offshore investment by failing to act while other cities around the world take steps to regulate money flowing from China and other countries.

(Sing Tao) 1/3 of Vancouver Properties May Be Attributed to Wealth from China

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-03-05/province1425552340d5465395.html>

- Additional point not covered by Ming Pao: Former NPA City Councillor Peter Ladner: It is not buyers from one country or another — the issue is people who buy real estate for investment and squeeze out people who want to buy real estate to live in.
- BC Real Estate Association Chief Economist Caameron Muir in an interview with Sing Tao said, 29% of Vancouver's population are Chinese, so if 30% of housing sales is related to China according to Census 2011, it is nothing surprising
- Census 2011 also discovers, only 0.8% of Greater Vancouver's property is owned by foreigners or temporary residents; however, London UK has as high as 30% of properties owned by foreigners, so there is no need to tighten our policy
- UBC Real Estate Specialist Tsur Somerville: relax development restriction and increase population are measures better than restricting foreign money, as it can increase number of affordable housing units. No measures will be able to cool down the local demand ie. Single homes will be rare

(Sing Tao) Local Chinese Younger Generation Live Thriftily, Work Two Jobs to Achieve the \$42K Minimum To Purchase Home Without Parents' Help

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-03-05/province1425552357d5465396.html>

- Ms. Chan is 33 years old, finished Master Degree 8 years ago, have been working two jobs in a number of years. Able to save \$280,000. Won't be able to afford the monthly mortgage of \$1,700 without two jobs
- UBC Real Estate Specialist Tsur Somerville: according to Canadian Association of Accredited Mortgage Professionals' 2014 statistics, 17% of buyer's down payment come from their parents
- Realtor: over 80% of young buyers have parents' subsidy or being their sponsors. This becomes normal for Chinese parents now

(World Journal) TransLink Received "Lifetime Achievement Award" For 10 Years Of Wasting Public Money

<http://www.worldjournal.com/2608498/article-10年浪費公帑-交通局獲「金豬獎」終身成就/?ref=溫哥華>

(World Journal) Traffic Tax Forum. Transparency Is Questioned

<http://www.worldjournal.com/2608506/article-壅塞口討論會場-透明性遭質疑/?ref=溫哥華>

- NPA's George Affleck: Worried that the place where the Tax forum will be held lack transparency, hope to discuss opening it further for media
- Westminster Mayor Jonathan Cote: welcome media and prepared to answer their questions, not intend to keep media away

(World Journal) BC Supreme Court: Concord Pacific Can Continue to Use the False Creek Area

<http://www.worldjournal.com/2608510/article-協平世博福溪建案-卑詩高院:可續商用/?ref=溫哥華>

(World Journal) Average House Costs Over a Million Dollar, Young Buyers Rely On Their Parents

<http://www.worldjournal.com/2608614/article-平均房價破百萬-青年買房得靠父母/?ref=溫哥華&npg=>

- Many parents support their children to purchase houses now as they don't want them and their grandchildren to move too far away from them, and to find an area with good catchment school for their grandchildren
- (2014) income is 68% of total family income in BC

3.6 (Fri)

(AM1470) Canadian Independent Business Association: Appoint Pattison Can't Remove Negative Image of TransLink

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=48641

(AM1470) Election BC Hopes Plebiscite Result Be Ready by Early July

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=48640

(AM1320) Robertson Urges Premier Consider Increasing Minimum Wage to \$15

http://am1320.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=10477%3A15&catid=1%3A2010-10-18-20-52-02&Itemid=97&lang=zh

3.6 (Fri) More

(Omni News) Public Unaware of Transit Plebiscite

<http://www.omnitv.ca/bc/yue-can/videos/4101244954001/>

- 10 streeters in Richmond said haven't heard of the plebiscite. Some had neither read the news nor noticed ad on public transit. Only one out of 12 streeters oppose, and one said no particular stand on the vote
- Commentator (Talk show host of AM1470) Wallace Chan: Jim Pattison as a successful businessman may be able to persuade some

(Omni News) Seismic Upgrade of Vancouver Schools Delayed

<http://www.omnitv.ca/on/en/videos/4101258678001/>

- Over 40 schools in Vancouver's seismic upgrade will be delayed to 2030. Funding never an issue, but inability for VSB to provide guidelines
- NDP critic Rob Fleming: excuse for Province
- VSB: Province didn't provide moving fees as promised

3.7 (Sat)

(Sing Tao) False Creek Park Open Day Unknown. Residents Protest With Green Light

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-03-07/province1425726409d5469970.html>

- residents turn on a green light to protest as City Hall allows developers to use the land for commercial use, and continuously delay the promise of constructing a new park.
- Court said city has right to use the land according to zoning bylaw, but False Creek Residents Association doesn't rule out dispute

(Sing Tao) Two Viaducts Are Key to New Park Construction

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-03-07/province1425726388d5469969.html>

- Georgia ad Dunsmuir viaduct report will be released around Sept.
The viaducts may be torn down for future development such as parks and high density residential area

(Fairchild TV) Seismic Upgrade of Vancouver Schools May Need 10 Years to Complete

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php>

(World Journal) Independent Businesses: Oppose to Tax, Not Oppose to Traffic Improvement

<http://www.worldjournal.com/2640787/article-獨立商□聯盟:反壅塞□非反交通改善/?ref=溫哥華>

- TransLink already taxed a lot, but low efficiency with adequate facilities and staff, should reasonably spend the fund
- TransLink's annual spending is \$1.4B, after adjustment with inflation rate, the spending increased by 50% in the last 8 years. Population growth only 13%, but TransLink wants to increase spending to \$2.2B, which is 57% increase

3.8 (Sun)

(World Journal) Columnist: Politicians Flip-Flop, Hard to Push Through T.C. Tax

<http://www.worldjournal.com/2662641/article-專欄作家:政客態度反覆-壅塞改善□難推/?ref=溫哥華>

- (article from Vancouver Sun Columnist, Daphne Bramham)
Politicians and business groups have always claim and urge low tax in order to increase competitiveness, but now they push for tax increase, which is hard for the general public to accept.

(World Journal) TransLink Examines Discount Fares For Homeless

<http://www.worldjournal.com/2662635/article-遊民搭車享折扣-大溫交通局研議/?ref=溫哥華>

- To reduce fare evasion, allow more homeless to take public transit, thereby supporting organizations can better track other services such as body check, job search and finding a home
- Considering extending the current BC Bus Pass program from 760,000 seniors and people with disability, to low income and homeless. \$45 for unlimited rides a year

3.9 (Mon)

(Ming Pao) Percentage of T.C. Tax No-Voters Highest Ever

[http://www.mingpaocanada.com/realtimenews/van/content CANADA NE W.cfm?aid=161896](http://www.mingpaocanada.com/realtimenews/van/content_CANADA_NE_W.cfm?aid=161896)

- 55% No, 33% Yes, 11% Undecided
- Insights West: although the name TransLink won't appear on the ballot, everyone is reminded of TransLink as they think about this plebiscite

(Ming Pao) Think Tank: Congestion Potentially Costs Greater Vancouver \$0.5–1.2B

http://www.mingpaocanada.com/realtimenews/van/content_canada_new.cfm?aid=161897&m=0

- Reports from C.D. Howe & Clean Energy Canada suggest, the cost is higher than what the Mayor's Council has estimated
- Improving transportation network can increase people going out, and strengthening social network, thus increase their income. But congestion forces more to stay home, not spending on restaurants and tournaments.

(AM1470) No to T.C. Tax 22% Higher Than Supporters

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=48694

(Fairchild TV) No to T.C. Tax Leading While Organizations Expect Potential Loss To Traffic Congestion Higher Than Estimated

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=5e3873608c09c533cf44270bae01c6fe>

- Result is done before the appointment of Jim Pattison, but analyst said mayors' announcement of increasing accountability won't help for the determined voters

(Omni News) Mayors Campaign Actively At Transit Spots. Study Shows Costs Higher Than Expected If Plebiscite Doesn't Pass

<http://www.omnitv.ca/bc/yue-can/videos/4103495685001/>

3.10 (Tue)

(AM1470 Phone-in Show) Examining the Plebiscite From a Public Health Perspective

Dr. "Luke":

- the link between public transportation and the access to health services and obesity
- Regular public transit users: twice more likely to have 30 minutes of walk each day
- Increase sense of community when time to travel decreases as it allows you more time to participate in the community
- Translink's structural problem takes a long time to fix. Will be too big a price to pay for the congestion problems if wait till TransLink's structural issues is fixed

Callers:

- Question that public transportation is a direct factor for obesity.
- Not fair, education is cut by \$58M but TransLink is not.
- Charter Lau, No Campaign- Health and transit plebiscite are not related, and not a choice or lifestyle everyone makes/ can make. ie. Parents who drop off their kids at schools before going to work themselves, many drivers do exercise regularly. Mayors' Council's figures not consistent. Population will increase by 50%, but service will only increase by 25%, which doesn't catch up with the population growth

- Should pressure the premier to take back up their responsibility.
Say “no” is a way to force the governments to address the problems of TransLink

(AM1320 Plebiscite Segment) Both Sides

(World Journal) Support For Yes Votes Continues to Drop

<http://www.worldjournal.com/2710730/article-挺「壅塞口」陣營-支持率續降/?ref=溫哥華>

(World Journal) Analyst: Appoint Pattison Without Real Power. The “Richest’s Card” Failed

<http://www.worldjournal.com/2710740/article-評論:派特森無實權-首富牌失靈/?ref=溫哥華>

(World Journal) Yes-supporting Think Tank : Economy Will Be Damaged If Plebiscite Not Passed

<http://www.worldjournal.com/2710746/article-支持方智庫:公投不過-損經濟健康/?ref=溫哥華>

3.8 (Wed)

3.9 (Thur)

3.10 (Fri)

3.11(Wed)

(Fairchild TV) Youth Push For Support At Transit Plebiscite Through Social Media

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=69fff0089c76f15d19e8fc6d11532d25>

- Upload a promotional video through social media
- Analyst: most in Yes campaign are politicians, need representation of ordinary people from daily life
- SFU Professor: College students likely to vote Yes, but need to register with Election BC which can be a challenge if they aren't registered yet.

(Fairchild TV) TransLink Bought Back A Factory With High Price, That Was Sold At Low Price

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=c4c98da153c360c232e1494b9cdd8cea>

- TransLink lost \$9.2M for selling and buying a bus repairing factory
- The deal is cost effectively as it helps to refurbish 114 cars as there is no current space
- TransLink used to rent that space which has accumulate to over \$2M now

3.12 (Thur)

(AM1470) VSB Chair Surprised At Education Minister's Appointment of Independent Auditor

(World Journal) Three City Police Urges to Support the New Tax To Improve Transportation

<http://www.worldjournal.com/2763415/article-改善交通-3市警消籲支持開徵新□/?ref=溫哥華>

- Police of Vancouver, New Westminster and Surrey
- Jim Chu: police reaction has increased by 1 minute in the past year. If congestion problem not improved, it will be lengthened further

- No Campaign's Jordan Bateman: police and fire halls work for mayors and show support only because they don't want their services to be cut

3.13 (Fri)

(Ming Pao) Gregor Robertson Stand Softened, Wiling to Negotiate on "Arbutus Corridor:"

http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150313/vap2_r.htm

- Robertson is willing to negotiate but CP Rail must have a reasonable price matching to the current market value, changed from his strong stand from before.

(Ming Pao) VSB Deficit Expected to Reach \$18M Next Year, Province Audits

http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150313/var2_r.htm

- Patti Bacchus: Ministry of Education already did an audit five years ago and nothing was found. Disappointed with their plan

(Sing Tao) College Students Support Transit Plebiscite On Street

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-03-13/headline1426241854d5480740.html>

- "Make It Pass" Campaign: Students from Douglas College, Emily Carr University of Art and Design, VCC. Hope 22,500 college students from Great Vancouver who rely on public transit to commute to school can help push the plebiscite
- Increasing public transit facility will maximize the effect of U-Pass
- No side: has 1,200 volunteers and will remind friends and neighbors to vote No, also considering having open gathering to voice out their concerns

(World Journal) BC Ministry of Education Audit VSB's Financial Record

<http://www.worldjournal.com/2778271/article-卑省教育廳-稽口溫學校局財務/?ref=溫哥華>

- Audit VSB's financial record for the past 10 years, aiming to put their finance back on track

- VSB Chair, Christopher Richardson: redundant with their PwC audit arranged by VSB themselves, but will try to work with Province

(Fairchild TV) Mayors' Council Consider Tolling Roads in the Future

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=51b51df8a311f3a0cde084b46acf1b6>

- Coquitlam Mayor Greg Moore: London and Singapore have similar tolling system on specific roads. About 6 years from now so there will be enough time for public discussion
- Jordan Bateman: TransLink will continue to add new costs even plebiscite is passed

(AM1320 Special Plebiscite Segment) Interview At least Two Dozens of Streeters about their stand, include Chinese and other ethnic groups

- Almost everyone say they will vote No, except a very few. Even among those who will vote No, they are not confident whether TransLink will effectively use the money, but they think that there is a dire need to improve the transportation system
- College students are softer, but they are also more indifferent. Won't vote as they haven't spent the time understanding the issue
- Ie. Should be paid by users/ TransLink services not reliable/ TransLink administrations got high salary and bonus when they make a profit, but ask for taxpayers' money when they fail to manage it properly/ not fair as it may not benefit people living in certain area

AM1470 & Sing Tao: Transit Tax Public Forum At Aberdeen Centre

- The panel was given about 15 minutes of opening speech and a quick ending statement, about 10 people line up to ask questions. Out of the 10, 2 are on the Yes side, including Winnie Hwo, Chinese spokesperson from David Suzuki Foundation (who was Fairchild TV's former news director)
- Panel include Yes side's Coquitlam Mayor Greg Moore, and SFU Business Professor Allan Zhu, No side's Jordan Bateman and AM1470's commentator Dr. KK Wan

- The forum was 1.5 hour long. The recording will be aired again tomorrow morning at AM1470 at 11am.
- Questions from Yes side:
- Winnie Hwo: what would be the consequence of a Yes or No outcome?

Bateman: revolutionize all levels of government and force them to realize residents are over taxed

Greg: reform still can happen with Y vote result and can invest in infrastructure right away

- UBC Student: Bateman is spikeful to TransLink. Consider what would happen to UBC students 10 years from now
Bateman: subway from Arbutus can't solve the congestion problem. The region's tax base isn't that large to support

- Some questions from No side audience:

The tax increase is unbearable

Need to reform TransLink instead of introducing a new tax now

Why not use carbon tax

Too many bike lanes that no one is using, and they cause congestion

Funding transportation is government's responsibility. Do we have to pay 0.5% more PST for things such as crowded classrooms?

- Some points I think worth mentioning (from Yes side panel):

Greg Moore: TransLink has surplus the last few years, don't just listen to the twisted figures given by the No side;

increasing property tax isn't a good option because it gives municipalities too much pressure especially when population continues to rise. Hard to cut policing and fire services;

TransLink "changed the apple" already, doesn't happen overnight but the reform has already started

Zhu: Hong Kong's MTR system is one of the most efficient one in the world

3.14 (Sat)

(AM1320 Talk Show) Interview Mayor Robertson and Canadian Taxpayers' Association On Transit Plebiscite

Mayor Robertson:

- Voting Yes is a good investment. Each person can save \$360 a year in the long run. This is a fair and affordable way to finance the projects.
- No Plan B if plebiscite is voted down
- Expect results will be close as many still don't know about the plebiscite until they receive the ballot, and not decided
- Acknowledge that TransLink has problems on accountability and structure. But some improvements have already been made ie. Jim Pattison, will monitor with Surrey Mayor Hepner.
- Mayors' Council can only hold TransLink accountable, but reforming TransLink is the Province's responsibility

Jordan Bateman:

- TransLink and the accountability committee should be elected by the public, not by appointment
- How to spend the \$7M campaign is not disclosed

Commentators:

- Most voters plan to vote Yes, but since TransLink's problems are exposed, many shift to No
- TransLink has a budget of \$14B already but still want \$2B more through the plebiscite, without any authoritative body monitoring it

(Fairchild TV) Greater Vancouver Transit Tax Forum Held at Richmond Aberdeen Centre

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=693ba0757b77ceb996e90c00431d9ebc>

- Over a hundred people spoke and most of them oppose to the tax. Some asks for changing the management of TransLink

- Allan Zhu of the panel representing the Yes side: only 35 cents a day, but the cost will be high if not invest now
- Jordan Bateman of the panel: too much burden for taxpayers, TransLink has already lost public trust, only a No outcome can force TransLink to reform

(AM1470) Province Tries to Stay Away From Transit Plebiscite

According to Analyst

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=48838

- Political commentator Kim Emerson: BC Liberal Government tried to persuade British Columbians to keep HST but failed, so they don't want to repeat the same mistakes again and stay away from it. Besides paying for the cost required for the plebiscite and hoping it will pass, the province doesn't participate in any campaigns or show a clear stand

3.15 (Sun)

(World Journal) Anti-Tax Group Urges Yes Side To Release Funding

Details

<http://www.worldjournal.com/2824011/article-反徵口組織-籲 yes 陣營公布募款明細/?ref=溫哥華>

- “No TransLink Tax” urges the Yes side to release how much of taxpayers’ money are used to promote and assist the plebiscite
- “No TransLink Tax” raised \$27,259, mostly from Canadian Taxpayers Federation (\$14,750)
- they said taxpayers have the right to know where their money was spent. “Better Transit and Transportation Coalition” refused to release details, estimated that to be about \$7M

(World Journal) Vancouver and Toronto House Price Spike In February Topping the Country

<http://www.worldjournal.com/2803090/article-溫、多 2 月房價續勁升-冠全國/?ref=溫哥華>

- CREA shows in Feb., Vancouver's housing price increased by 6.4% compared to Feb. 2014.
- Economic analyst said, only Vancouver and Toronto continues to have a large amount of buyers competing for real estate and push the price further up, especially for single homes. Hard to say now if bubbles will result. Usually high housing price would deter first time home buyers, but not the case in Vancouver and Toronto. They are worried that they would be able to purchase their own property if not "get on the train now" and want to take advantage of the low interest rate

3.16 (Mon)

(AM1470 Phone-in Show) Polling Shows 61% Interviewees Oppose to the Transit Tax, 50% Said they will return the ballot right away. Will you be one of them?

Callers:

- Almost all callers said they will mail back ballots right away and vote No
- giving tax too easily and it will become a normal practice for government
- ballots include things such as 25% more bus services and enhance bike lanes. Not convincing that these measure will vigorously improve congestion problems
- Powell St. buses often come in 4-5 buses at a time and need to wait for a long time, not reliable; Delta buses come only once every two hours.
- Voters are not egg-laying goose and many families only rely on only one income
- Even Robertson as the Mayor's Council Chair failed to monitor TransLink, how can the public have trust
- If population really does increase so much as TransLink estimated, then TransLink will be able raise a lot more money as the new people would also bring in new revenue for TransLink. So the new tax isn't necessary
- One caller said she has filed a complaint to TransLink twenty years ago. Mayor's council and TransLink management doesn't understand the general public who uses public transit regularly

- Lack long-term planning ie. Canada Line- Cambie Street will have severe congestion problems in the future as it
- Need to give TransLink a lesson and a clear message that they have to thoroughly reform, otherwise won't move forward
- TransLink won't collapse if plebiscite is rejected. Next time they would increase tax without holding a plebiscite.

(AM1320 Phone-in Show) Plebiscite started today and Mayors' Council continue to campaign while opposition also keeps rising.

Host

- The ballot originally designed by Mayors' Council includes "audit every year", but after Ministry of Transportation reviewed it, that was deleted

Winnie Hwo, Yes Side

- Vote only on improving traffic congestion
- Unfair to compare transportation board in Toronto as they have 9 heads
- Not a TransLink plan, but from Mayors' Council.
- Although the line "audit every year" was deleted, Mayors' Council did promise to do so, and it shouldn't have any impact

Charter Lau, No Side

- People's discontentment against TransLink has accumulated over the years,
- Silicon Valley has also introduced a traffic tax. Plebiscite must have a threshold of over 60% of support, has an end date, and has a group formed by citizens. But TransLink hasn't done the same
- Yes Side only gives a rosy picture but never address voters' complaint. It shows they never listen to voters

Callers:

- TransLink spent \$6M on promoting plebiscite while the No side is a lot less.
- Education and health is more important than transportation. Even if more tax is needed, these two have higher priorities
- Congestion is caused by a lack of city planning ie. Bike lanes taking away car lanes
- Will vote Yes this time, but worried if the tax will continue to increase down the road

(AM1470) Transit Plebiscite Started, Polling: Opposition Leading

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=48875

- Angus Reid: “No” doubles “Yes” voters. Half of voters said they would mail back the ballots right away

(AM1470) Mayor’ s Council Still Optimistic With Opposition Being the Majority According to Poll

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=48872

- Gregor Robertson: doesn’ t believe in polling, believes that as long as they continue to release accurate information, voters will vote Yes. Mayors of Greater Vancouver don’ t have the right to reform TransLink’ s corporate structure, so they appointed Jim Pattison to lead an accountability committee to monitor how TransLink will use the tax

(AM1320) College Students Joined by Mayors to Campaign For Yes Votes

- Douglas College students organize a media event today
- Robertson: voters misunderstood that the plebiscite is about TransLink’ s structural reform, but in fact it has nothing to do with TransLink. Mayor’ s Council doesn't have the responsibility to monitor TransLink. Should voice out to Province

(AM1320) No Side: Voters Must Mail Out Their Own Ballots To Get Their Voice Heard

- Jordan Bateman: No side won’ t change campaign strategy, but continue to give out flyers and explain to voters

- Total campaign cost will be under \$30,000, will update the public from time to time. But with at least \$7M budget, Yes side will use

(Fairchild TV) Mayors' Campaign Joined By College Students As Plebiscite Kicks Start, But No Side Claims Focus Should Be Reforming TransLink

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=5d08eaa434f851f9997ba29bbac590df>

- Coquitlam mayor Greg Moore: No side does nothing and let congestion problem worsens and take over
- Robertson: benefits shared by everyone in the region and it is an affordable plan
- Jordan Bateman: focus should be revise management of money instead of introducing a new tax. Transportation plans will go ahead as each city intends whether the plebiscite passed or not

(Fairchild TV) 61% Said Will Vote No At Plebiscite

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=82454fe25499989ff1d8dc03bcfed1a6>

- Angus Reid: 61% lacking trust on TransLink, 43% doesn't want to pay an extra tax

3.17 (Tue)

(Omni News) BC's Ten Year Transportation Plan Is Vague, According to NDP Critic

<http://www.omnitv.ca/bc/yue-can/videos/4119858068001/>

- Regarding No Side leading, Stone: hard to say how it will lead as plebiscite just started

(Fairchild TV) BC's Transportation Minister Announced Ten Year Transportation Plan

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php>

- Transportation Minister Todd Stone: The Ten Year Plan is based on public consultation including survey from 13,000 British Columbians. Province will invest 1/3 for Greater Vancouver, will urge the federal to give another 1/3. The rest will have to rely on plebiscite
- No plans to reform TransLink yet. This issue is a red herring to distract public

(Fairchild TV) Delay of Compass Card System May Affect Public's Inclination Towards the Plebiscite

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=543f040479c7e7c41bbabd257c13ef2d>

- NDP Transportation Critic, Gerge Heyman: Delayed over a year but still unknown when it will be in place. \$100M to \$200M. Reminded of TransLink's problems every time when they see the fare gates sitting there
- Robertson: still confident with the system
- Greg Moore: Montreal also have the same challenge

(AM1470) Richmond City Council Split on Support for Plebiscite

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=48915

- Richmond Mayor Malcom Brodie and 4 City Councilors support the tax, but 4 others oppose. Reasons include: TransLink hasn't set an end date to the tax and explain how the audit will work; doubtful with TransLink's efficiency in operation and management even though they support expansion of transit system. City Councilor Harold Steves also campaign on Twitter for No votes.
- Richmond News' survey shows, 68% of readers oppose to the traffic tax.
- AM1470's own survey, opposition reaches 80% of audience.

3.18 (Wed)

(Fairchild TV) Some Voters Annoyed By Robocall Recorded By A Mayor

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=3f3267d02dea7f94781bd5a437733db3>

- Senior voters: sign of desperation
- Langley Mayor Jack Froese apologized

(Sing Tao) If Plebiscite Is Voted Down, Finance Responsibility May Lie On Three Different Channels

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-03-18/headline1426674220d5488290.html>

- Analysts: If plebiscite doesn't pass, may increase funds through road and bridge tolls, vehicle levy, and increase gas tax. Premier Clark has said it may lead to increase of property tax in each municipality, but many mayors have said they don't prefer this method.

(Sing Tao) Transportation Minister Passes the Ball While Supporting TransLink: Let Mayors' Council Decide

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-03-18/headline1426674243d5488291.html>

- When asked how would the province get enough funding if plebiscite is voted down, Stone said, it will be Mayors' Council's decision.
- Regarding TransLink's structure, he said someone wants to distract public attention or mislead others, so that it will benefit the No Side

(Sing Tao) BC's Ten Year Transportation Plan. Province Invests \$2.5B

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-03-18/headline1426674293d5488292.html>

(Ming Pao) BC's Ten Year Transportation Plan, \$2.5B Expansion of Traffic Network

http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150318/var3_r.htm

(World Journal) Stone Fully Support Transit Tax

<http://www.worldjournal.com/2893780/article-徵收運輸稅-斯頓全力支持/?ref=溫哥華>

(Ming Pao) Langley Mayor: Yes Side Has \$6M Campaign Budget

http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150318/var5_r.htm

(Ming Pao) Psychologist: Voting Yes Equals to Happiness

http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150318/var4_r.htm

(Sing Tao) Vancouver Ranks The 5th Most Livable City in the World

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-03-18/province1426666578d5487514.html>

(AM1470) NDP Criticizes Ten Year Transportation Plan Pretty But Vague

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=48914

(Sing Tao/ Westca.com) Vancouver's Million \$ Single Homes Multiplied In 5 Years

<http://www.westca.com/News/article/sid=394272/lang=schinese.html>

- Latest survey conducted by Bing Thom Architects shows, 66% of single homes in Vancouver is over \$1M, which has doubled in 5 years. The “division” has moved eastward to Fraser Street.
- City Planner of that survey is surprised with the finding, and said city development must be keep residential building heights and population density in balance. Take the example of Chinatown, building height is best between 6- 8 stories considering the historical buildings around. High level apartments close to skytrain stations are understandable, but in some quieter communities it is not necessary.
- \$5M Single Homes has tripled in five years, from 373 to 1,282
- Single homes under \$500,000 has disappeared

3.18 (Wed)– More

(World Journal) Demand For Apartment Highest In Vancouver, Price Tops the Country

<http://www.worldjournal.com/2891898/article-溫哥華公寓樓需求大-售價全國最高/?ref=溫哥華&npg=2>

- Low vacancy rate, low interest rate, depreciation of Canadian dollars, and stable political environment are all contributing factors
- Vancouver– rent highest in Canada, vacancy rate lowest, huge demand for apartment. Average apartment reaches \$230,000, whereas Calgary \$170,000, and Toronto \$160,000
- Vancouver’s vacancy rate: 1%, Toronto 1.6%

3.19 (Thur)

(Sing Tao) Mayor Robertson Name Vancouver Fashion Week

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-03-19/community1426758678d5489579.html>

(World Journal) TransLink Was Criticized For Contracting Out Telephone Campaign To Ontario

<http://www.worldjournal.com/2914610/article-運輸公投電話拉票外包安省-遭批/?ref=溫哥華>

- Yes Side was criticized for inappropriate campaigns. Besides robo calls, Mayor Robertson wore a huge “Vote Yes” button on a public event last night
- Coquitlam Mayor Greg Moore: didn’t know about the robo calls that was contracted to an Ontario company, but later admitted the arrangement was made due to a lack of call centers in Greater Vancouver
- Vancouver Sun Columnist Pete McMartin: he supports the tax, but sending money out of province would cause negative impact, and give the No side another “proof” for wasting taxpayers’ money

3.20 (Fri)

(AM1320) Gregor Robertson Motioned to Examine Provincial Tenancy Act

http://am1320.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=10630%3A2015-03-20-19-26-51&catid=1%3A2010-10-18-20-52-02&Itemid=97&lang=zh

- Mayor Robertson: conflicts between landlord and tenants have increased in the past 10 years, including illegal evasions without any penalty. Motion next week to ask city's Tenancy Consultation Committee that was formed last December report and make recommendations in June

3.21 (Sat)

(AM1320 Phone in Show) Security Measures of Plebiscite Commentators:

- No way to find out if plebiscite ballots are lost or stolen in the mail, and someone may vote on their behalf without their consent
- Hard to investigate if it's a fraud vote as everyone receives the ballot at a different time, thus also vote at a different time
- TransLink pays another province to make robo calls, and people on the street who give out flyers for Yes campaign are also hired with taxpayers' money
- 8 weeks of campaign time is too long and not fair, a waste of taxpayers' money and insult to taxpayers' intelligence
- Donations for Yes campaign should be released and be transparent. Taxpayers have the right to know as money is from taxpayers

(AM1470) Election BC Not Worried About Fraud

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=49022

- Regarding some apartments' plebiscite ballots was disposed in garbage bin
- Election BC has stringent and comprehensive protocol, people who commit fraud during election will be penalized. Voters must sign and indicate birthday on the ballot, but can't release more details for security reasons

(World Journal) Scholars: Increase Property Tax Helpful For Transit Improvement

<http://www.worldjournal.com/2964045/article-改善交通-學者:增物業□較有效/?ref=溫哥華>

- UBC Economics Professor Joshua Gottlieb: raising property tax is more effective because it won't affect people's willingness to spend money
- Seattle Mayor Ed Murray recently also raised property tax in order to raise funds for their \$900M 9-year-transportation plan, but property tax may double if the motion is passed
- Mayors' Council spokesperson Greg Moore: property tax will increase the financial burden of home owners, but if it's through PST, tourists outside Greater Vancouver will share the load

(Sing Tao) 1/5 Of Regular Transit Users Are Working Class

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-03-21/headline1426932161d5493703.html>

- Survey done by Bing Thom Architects- support transit tax: Compare to other North American cities, more (20%) working class people use public transit in Greater Vancouver, and their income distribution (\$5,000- \$100,000) is more even
- The figure is a lot lower than New York (40%), but higher than Calgary (16%) and San Francisco (15%)
- Other cities in Canada West, transit users are mostly population of low income

(World Journal) Transit Tax For New Cars Will Base On Place Of Registration

<http://www.worldjournal.com/2964054/article-新車繳壅塞□-依註冊地判定/?ref=溫哥華>

- Mayors' Council: province agreed that the vehicle registration which is registered through ICBC according to home address, will be the determining factor for whether one has to pay for new transit tax when purchasing a new car
- New Car Dealers Association of BC Blair Qualey: shows that the province listens to public concerns. Although the association hasn't expressed their views directly on what they think about the transit tax, Qualey said he supports wise investment on transit infrastructure

(World Journal) Ministry of Education: Re-audit Vancouver Board of Education's Finance

<http://www.worldjournal.com/2964432/article-教育廳:再審溫學校局財務/?ref=溫哥華>

- Peter Fassbender: Vancouver School Board cries out for budget shortfall each year, it shows that they are incapable of financial management. Time to change this with new Board and new chair.

(Fairchild TV) Education Minister Order A Finance Audit, But VSB Insists to Hire Their Own Audit Company They Have Hired

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=572df10598320f1d4b3b5944e22bebe7>

- Fassbender: VSB has budget shortfall in the past 3 years, but end up in \$5M and wasted 9,000 space
- VSB Chair, Christopher Richardson: shortfall not deficit because Vancouver is a huge school district, and population distribution has changed

(Westca.com) Ten Reasons To Vote Yes At Transit Plebiscite

<http://www.westca.com/News/article/sid=395113/lang=schinese.html>

- Although each family will have to pay \$200 extra a year, the new tax will bring lots of benefits
- Safer than driving, lower car accident rate.

- Lower traffic congestion. Can save \$950 a year for commuters according to C.D Howe's study
- Reduce the need for building more parking stalls: at grade parking stall costs about \$5,000 each, underground \$50,000. The cost will be transferred to parking fees, and property tax
- 20-40% more people will start commute by public transit
- Reduce hidden costs for driving seniors and children
- Encourage active lifestyle and improves health
- Enhance economic development
- Reduce 20-60% fuel consumption and air pollution
- Increase livability of a city as it enhances transit efficiency
- People of disability or with unstable income will have a better choice than driving
- As many as 24 people left comments, if include "likes" would be 270-which is exceptionally high. All of the comments are No-ers.
Comments are about the same, like lack of trust, not affordable.

3.22 (Sun)

(Ming Pao) Election BC: Ensure Plebiscite Legality

<http://www.mingpaocanada.com/realtimenews/van/content CANADA NEW.cfm?aid=163088>

- West End residents spotted unused plebiscite ballots disposed into the garbage can, not sure if they are dumped by someone intentionally or because the recipients have moved

(Global Chinese/ Westca.com) Future Of Transit System Laid In Your Hands

<http://gcpnews.ca/大温公投-命运在手/>

http://www.westca.com/News/article/sid=395306/lang=schinese.html?utm_source=westca&utm_medium=topic_hot&utm_campaign=news_extend

- A very neutral article summarizes the purpose of the tax, cost of the plan, reasons for both sides, what happen if plebiscite doesn't pass, and contact info.

- Interviewed Councilor Raymond Louie for the Yes side: if outcome is No, will likely increase property tax, and that would mean more money. It's easier to save money if it's through PST. Some seniors own a property but has very low income. So he personally prefers not to raise property tax. He also wants to tell Chinese residents especially, that Vancouver may follow Beijing's path to traffic congestion and smog if not increase investment in infrastructure.
- Include comments taken from some Chinese forums, mostly are going to vote No, but one said it is more fair to vote Yes, because if No, you still have to pay more property tax and gas tax

[http://www.mingpaocanada.com/realtime/news/van/content_CANADA_NE
W.cfm?aid=163088](http://www.mingpaocanada.com/realtime/news/van/content_CANADA_NE
W.cfm?aid=163088)

3.23 (Mon)

(Omni News) Robertson Motion Vancouver Residents Advisory

Committee To Report On Tightening Policy To Penalize Eviction

<http://www.omnitv.ca/bc/yue-can/videos/4131891167001/>

(4:37)

- Vancouver: 45% are renters. Many

(Sing Tao) TransLink Spent \$16M To Replace Station Escalators

[http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-03-](http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-03-23/province1427105577d5495675.html)

[23/province1427105577d5495675.html](http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-03-23/province1427105577d5495675.html)

- Need to replace 26 Expo Line escalators in next 5–8 years; already in use for 30 years, passed their lifetime of 20 years

3.24 (Tue)

(Fairchild TV) TransLink Front Line Employees Urge To Vote

Yes

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=c41db02f5faeba46ecec7af7e687c0e>

- Drivers: unable to arrange more buses after 10pm, need expansion especially when 1M more people moving into the region
- If unhappy with TransLink, should discuss in provincial election, not to penalize mayors
- No Side: Bus union never voted on the tax but only assume they do.

(Fairchild TV) Survey Conducted By City of Vancouver To

Increase Understanding of Local Residents' Habits

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=9eb8eff225298ae9cdc871bff8b16b7d>

(AM1320) No Side Complained Their Campaign Signs Were Vandalized

http://am1320.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=10664%3A2015-03-24-20-47-12&catid=1%3A2010-10-18-20-52-02&Itemid=97&lang=zh

- Most serious in Surrey. Signs along a number of major roads got taken away
- Spent \$30,000 on promotion, include \$4,000 to print 700 small “No” signs
- Jordan Bateman: think Surrey is most serious because residents there will be affected the most by the plebiscite. Signs not blocking the traffic, hope the removal isn’t done by city staff, and request Surrey Mayor Linda Hepner to step in, and Election BC to clarify rules of sign placements
- Regarding CBC’s report on plebiscite ballots got disposed by others, CBC reporters visited 5 apartments in Vancouver Westside, 4 of them had the same problem. Election BC: ballots required signature and date of birth, chance of fraudulence is low.

(Ming Pao) No Side Worried Removal of Campaign Signs

http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150324/vas2_r.htm

- Jordan Bateman: worried that mayors of each city ordered staff to remove their signs, asking all majors to act in a spirit of fairness. Mayors are already on advantage, and are using city resources and money to support the Yes side, hope they won’t use city resources again to target opposition.

(Fairchild TV) Survey Shows Age Groups Differ In Reliance On Public Transit

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=d749d0b67ad63cd0b51b761a33e94d1e>

- (31%) Most transit users are the U-Pass generation (15– 30 years old, the Millennium generation) as vehicles are expensive;
- 20% regular transit users are 30– 45 years old, 10% are 45– 65 years old, 14% 65 years and up

(World Journal) Robertson Broke His Promise On Homelessness

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=d749d0b67ad63cd0b51b761a33e94d1e>

- Robertson not only failed to fulfil his 2008's election promise of eliminating homelessness by March 2015, homeless problems have even gotten worse
- Homeless numbers has risen: 811 (2008), 154 (2011), 538 (2014)– the 538 people hasn't include 1260 people who are willing to live in shelters, so it's 1,800 in total.
- BC's Housing Ministry has opened up 475 new affordable units, and another 300 this year; however still lot of homeless on the street in Vancouver, question where they come from
- City Manager Penny Ballen: Vancouver's warm weather and high rent. But former city planner doesn't agree: high rent and a lack of federal-supported social housing are the main cause. In the 90's, tax reduction in building rental housing,

but now the benefits are used to build new condos. That's why no increase in rental housing

(Fairchild TV) Robertson Admitted Failure To Meet Target Of Eliminating Homelessness This Year

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=3641a12ac876f978794065b0fde96404>

- Robertson: didn't regret for making the promise 7 years ago as it succeeded in getting a lot of people off the street, still one of the most prioritized work Vancouver focus on, require support from all levels of government as supply has flat lined and not keeping up with demand
- 536 (2014), 273 (2013), half has addiction issues, ¼ rely on income assistance

(Ming Pao) Zero Promise On Homelessness, Robertson Admitted Hard to Achieve

<http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150324/vas3r.htm>

- Councillor Kerry Jang: Homeless problem is complicated; trend of homeless getting younger, real estate have developed rapidly and high rent.

(AM1320) Gregor Robertson Checked Out Homeless Condition on Street

http://am1320.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=10663%3A2015-03-24-20-46-07&catid=1%3A2010-10-18-20-52-02&Itemid=97&lang=zh

(AM1470) Robertson Acknowledged Difficult To Solve Homeless Problems But Won't Give Up

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=49080

3.25 (Wed)

(AM1470 Talk Show– include various topics)

Homelessness in Vancouver

- Robertson didn't just failed to meet his target of eliminating homelessness, but homeless number even increase because he failed to identify the main reasons causing the problems, and put too much emphasis on building more affordable housing while it can never keep up with the increase of homeless population. In press conference yesterday, he repeatedly blamed it on Vancouver's warm weather. High rent may be a contributing factor. Half of the 500 homeless people have mental illness, which is likely caused by drug. City should develop a more effective drug policy with collaboration with two levels of governments.

Mailed Plebiscite Ballot Issues

- Design of the plebiscite ballots lack consideration, have security measures against fraud but too big to fit into many regular mailboxes, which may have led to the recent problems in the Westend condo. People may not intend to throw away the ballots.
- Extremely unfair plebiscite– Quebec requires both sides to have equal budget.

(Sing Tao) Robertson: Homelessness Already Improved in Vancouver

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-03-25/community1427272886d5498524.html>

- Already hasn't met the target, it already improved significantly
as many found a permanent home with the help of city

(Ming Pao) Robertson: Zero Homelessness Challenging to Achieve, Hope Province And Federal Governments Step In
http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150325/vasb_r.htm

- Harder to achieve than anticipated, but won't give up, will set another ten year plan to solve the problems
- Homelessness caused by a combination of high rent, eviction, tight housing supply and mental illness, and also warm weather

(World Journal) Robertson Find Excuse For Failing to Solve Homelessness
<http://www.worldjournal.com/3046926/article-解決遊民問題無果-羅品信找藉口/?ref=溫哥華&npg=2>

- Regarding his election promise made in 2008, Robertson: hope to help homeless people find homes with the help of two levels of governments ie. Provide more subsidized housing for \$375 per month
- Also need medical intervention and open more shelters.

3.25 (Wed)– more

(World Journal) The Millennium Generation Prefer Living in Cities

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3046934/article-調□:千禧世代愛住城市/?ref=溫哥華>

- 38% Millennium generation chose cities, X-generation 36%, compared to an overall of 33%, and 31% prefer suburban area
- high living expense and congestion make many giving up lives in cities

(Fairchild TV) Grassroot Online Petition Urging City to Ban Bottled Water Under 1 Litre

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=74345122a5974e52cb46804362658ed6>

- 3M water bottles ended in landside each year. San Francisco has banned this

3.26 (Thur)

(AM1320 Phone-in Show) Do you think population in Greater Vancouver has saturated?

Commentators:

- Governments can't intervene on population growth, the only thing that they can do is through limiting development ie. less high density condos. But at the same time due to soaring housing cost, some people especially the younger generation demand more affordable condo units even if they are very small (ie. the "controversial" 200 sq. feet units at Woodward's). They can work in close proximity, save time and transportation costs. But this would densify the area.

Callers:

- Many said they don't want more people to move into Greater Vancouver; one said there is still space to be utilized but need a more balanced city planning– focus too much on residential development but ignore commercial and industrial development. Then people are forced to move out of the "core" and commute to work, which then put more pressure on transportation / to ease congestion
- Municipal government should have reaped more property tax in the past as population has been increasing rapidly, but we never see any reduction in property tax, which is not fair to taxpayers.
- Parking in Vancouver is tight. Hard to find parking stalls, not to mention free parking
- Concerned whether emergency preparedness with
- City/ government receives a lot from property transfer tax– but where does the money go?
- Living density is too high

(Sing Tao) Greater Vancouver Has Money For New Infrastructure. Study: Transit Tax Not Needed. Fraser Institute: TransLink Need to Cut Down Extravagant Spending

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-03-26/community1427361995d5500623.html>

- Fraser Institute: if TransLink (103%) and Metro Vancouver (73%) could increase spending significantly in the past 10 years, they should be able to launch new transit infrastructure with current resources. Need to find ways to cut spending before asking for more taxes
- Higher than Province (43%) and Federal (46%)
- Half of TransLink's operation budget is spent on salary and pension. Should start looking for savings in this area first

(Fairchild TV) Fraser Institute: Salary in TransLink & Municipal Staff Significantly Higher than Growth in Population And Price Index

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=9a88fb44cf294c54ad19af25bce161ac>

- Paid too generously- able to save \$250M each year (which is 5% of reduction of their collective budget), growth in operation cost not proportional to population growth
- Mayors' Council: bound by labour agreements, need to cut service and lay off staff

(Sing Tao) Affordability For Single Homes. Only Surrey Meets Target By 2030

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-03-26/headline1427362899d5500642.html>

- By Vancity Credit Union: Single homes in Vancouver will rise to average \$2.1M, average family would not be able to afford at all. Already 126% more compared to a decade ago.
- Housing cost should not exceed 31% of family income, but it is 42% now and will multiple times to 108%

(Ming Pao) Single Homes in Vancouver Will Hit \$2.1M. Only Surrey Affordable 15 Years Later

(Ming Pao) \$2M House 80% Mortgage, Don't Bother If Annual Salary Lower Than \$324,000

http://www.mingpaocanada.com/Van/htm/News/20150326/vaa2_r.htm

- People who want to own a home under \$1M should go to Maple Ridge or Langley, but they would have to spend more time to commute

(Fairchild TV) City of Surrey Removed No Signs. Political Tactic to Attack the No Side

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=fd278a8f5571d3db556bd83198beb09a>

- Streeters: way more Yes signs
- Surrey's Mayor's office: No signs are removed due to safety reasons, not about the content
- No campaign: abuse of power, some realtors' signs remained at the same place

(Ming Pao) Survey: High End Trend in DTE Housing

<http://www.mingpaocanada.com/Van/htm/News/20150326/vasb r.htm>

- Gentrification displaces adequate affordable housing in DTE, should transfer operation of SROs from private sector to non-profit organizations

(World Journal) DTE SROs Loss, Homeless People Increase

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3070028/article-溫市中心東端廉租房流失-遊民變多/?ref=溫哥華>

(Fairchild TV) Vancouver Park Board Launched Campaigns To Strengthen Public Awareness on Transgender

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=74345122a5974e52cb46804362658ed6>

(AM1470) "Welcome Use For Transgender" Added In Community Center Washrooms in Vancouver

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=49145

- Vancouver Park Board Chair John Coupar: to help transgender people feel more accepted, together with a series of anti-discrimination against transgender for a safer and more harmonious society

(Sing Tao) 90% of Vancouver Residents Against More People Moving In

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-03-26/headline1427362871d5500641.html>

- CACS study: 93% of Greater Vancouver residents: population is just right or too many, and don't want more. Calgary 91.4%, Greater Toronto 94.3%
- 9/10 immigrants chose to settle in a metropolitan city

- as housing price increase in Greater Vancouver, more people will lose their qualification of receiving their \$600 annual property tax benefits

(Ming Pao) 35% Residents: Greater Vancouver Population “Exploded”

<http://www.mingpaocanada.com/Van/htm/News/20150326/vancouver.htm>

(World Journal) 90% Greater Vancouver Residents Don't Want More Population Growth

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3093293/article-民調:9成大溫居民不希望新增人口/?ref=溫哥華>

(World Journal) Vancouver East Grow Op Property Sold For Close to A Million

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3070046/article-溫東大麻屋-喊價近百萬元/?ref=溫哥華>

- 3015 East 14th Ave., Vancouver Special
- Vancity report: house market growth still hasn't peaked yet

3.27 (Fri)

(AM1320 Phone-in Show) Is the universal washroom policy a good direction, and can be accepted by Chinese traditional values?

Commentator:

- More quiet compared to huge opposition when such policy is proposed at School Board. More relaxed because adults are present, unlike school setting
- People have no way to tell whether one is man or woman, regardless of the sign on the washroom
- Survey has shown people should use washroom of the gender they were born with.

Callers:

- Over-politicalize the transgender issue
- Sad to see people become so confused with who they are as men or women
- No way to tell if that person is by definition should use men's or women's washrooms as it is so subjective. Will jeopardize women's safety as it gives home for predators to enter women's washrooms

(Ming Pao) Vancouver Park Board Promote Transgender, Set up “Universal Washrooms”

http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150327/vas2_r.htm

(World Journal) Vancouver Community Centres’ Washrooms Suitable For Transgender’s Use

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3092552/article-溫社區中心廁所-適合變性人使用/?ref=溫哥華>

(AM1470) Single Home in Vancouver East Costs \$1,000 per Sq. Feet. Record Breaking

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=49183

- 2,100 sq feet. Sold at over \$2.16M

(AM1470) Vancouver’s Credit Rating Continues to Rise in Two Months

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=49166

(AM1470) Vancouver School Board Pass “Yes” Flyers to Students. No Side Demands Apology

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=49182

(AM1320) 1.5M Plebiscite Package Mailed Out By Election BC

http://am1320.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=10717%3A150&catid=1%3A2010-10-18-20-52-02&Itemid=97&lang=zh

3.28 (Sat)

(Sing Tao) Vancouver East House Sold By \$560,000 More

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-03-28/headline1427535122d5504420.html>

- House located at Main & E26th Ave., 2,154 sq. ft and one year old. Was Sold within 11 days with \$2.16M

3.29 (Sun)

(World Journal) New Trend in Greater Vancouver: Combined Residential and Commercial Use Buildings Over Rapid Transit Or Shopping Malls

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3142288/article-住商大樓鄰捷運、商場-大溫新趨勢/?ref=溫哥華&npg=2>

- Living density around skytrain stations and shopping malls will drastically increased in the next 25 years, and high rise apartments will be the trend
- Like Oakridge Mall- thirteen towers of buildings from 17-45 stories, Coquitlam Town Centre and Brentwood Mall

3.31 (Tue)

(AM1470) GPS Company: Vancouver is the Most Congested City Across Canada

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=49264

- Tom Tom's report: Average time spent on congestion in Vancouver a year is 84 hours, only after L.A. and Mexico in North America
- No Campaign: Robertson called the Tom Tom study strategy flawed; bottleneck on bridges due to lack of willingness to work together between cities

(Omni News) Gridlock Report in Canada

<http://www.omnitv.ca/bc/yue-can/videos/4145470962001/>

(AM1470) Vancouver City Hall Launched "VIP" Program To Help New Immigrants Integrate Into Community

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=49263

- City Cllr. Andrea Reimer: Vancouver is one of the most multicultural city in the world, hope this program will help new immigrants solve problems and provide opportunities to integrate

(AM1470) Vancouver City Mayor and City Councillor Sued For Conflict of Interest
http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=49250

(Ming Pao) Gregor Robertson Accused Of Conflict of Interest Case In Court
http://www.mingpaocanada.com/realtimenews/van/content_CANADA_NEW.cfm?aid=164116

- 5 includes Randy Helton who has ran in the Vancouver's civic election as a mayoral candidate

(Sing Tao) 4 Steps To Return Plebiscite Ballot
<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-03-31/province1427796747d5508707.html>

(Sing Tao) Chinese Investors Absorb Commercial Properties Along Cambie Corridor
<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-03-31/community1427796115d5507954.html>

- Colliers International's report: many Chinese investors have their eyes to foreign countries such as Canada, as China's economy has slowed down and the real estate market is "overheated". Canada is seen as a safe and stable place to invest especially when Canadian dollars dropped recently
- most active sales happened on commercial properties west of Cambie Corridor
- 1/3 of their sales is related to a Chinese buyer

(World Journal) David Mulroney's New Book Warns Chinese Buyers Dragging Up Real Estate Price
<http://www.worldjournal.com/3153454/article-馬大維新書示警-中國買家拉高房價/?ref=溫哥華>

- Canadian Ambassador in China, David Mulroney's new book, "Middle Power, Middle Kingdom"- hard to know no. of foreign investors and their impact on local real estate market, but Chinese investors has heated up real estate markets from Sydney, N.Y., and London, Vancouver can't be exempted. Canadian government should find a strategy to keep the market open while protect its own citizens

(World Journal) Young Families Living in Apartments Becomes the Norm
<http://www.worldjournal.com/3153476/article-年輕家庭-住公寓成常態/?ref=溫哥華&npg=2>

- Developer Mosaic Homes: adjusting design for young families, including 25% with 3 bedrooms

- Studies show that the price between single homes and apartment is enlarging almost each month. In the past year, single home in Vancouver West has increased by 12%, but apartment only 5%
- City planning is affected accordingly. Demand for daycare and parks has increased.

4.1 (Wed)

(World Journal) David Mulroney: Should Not Let The Rich “Buy Their Identity”

[http://www.worldjournal.com/3161601/article-馬大維:不該讓富人「用錢買身分」
/?ref=溫哥華](http://www.worldjournal.com/3161601/article-馬大維:不該讓富人「用錢買身分」/?ref=溫哥華)

- Canada's Former Ambassador to China, David Mulroney, in his new book event, “Middle Power, Middle Kingdom: What Canadians Need to Know About China in the 21st Century”: focus of immigration should be people and not a commodity.
- China's “hot money” has crashed the affordability of real estate market of Vancouver and Toronto, Canadian government should do something to regulate the housing market.

(AM1320) Former Canada's Ambassador to China, David Mulroney Urges to Pay Attention to Real Estate Price

http://am1320.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=10741%3A2015-03-30-20-15-18&catid=1%3A2010-10-18-20-52-02&Itemid=97&lang=zh

4.2 (Thur)

(Sing Tao) Only 4% Plebiscite Ballots Returned So Far

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-04-02/province1427967215d5511175.html>

- Among 1.5M voters in Greater Vancouver, only 63,000 have mailed back the ballots
- Most returned ballots are from Vancouver & Surrey. Seems like citizens from other cities are not interested.
- Yes supporters: low turn out will reflect people are still thinking, which is beneficial to the Yes side

4.3 (Fri)

(wcweekly) Voters Made Up Their Mind Long Ago. Washing Down \$6M Campaign Expense

<http://www.wcweekly.com/archives/14894>

- West Canada Weekly: most media are pro Yes in general. For example, Sun and Province has 7 articles in the last week of March that leans on Yes, but only 4 on No.
- Yes side is like “Heavy rain in a bucket”, loud but without strong reasoning to back themselves up.
- No side pin points to the essence of TransLink's problems. Many voters are upset that TransLink “shamelessly begs” for more money as they do nothing with their bureaucracy and low efficiency.

- How to better persuade college students groups has become the Yes side's prioritized work, although the improvement won't be able to benefit these students before they graduate. Students don't seem to mind about this as students in the future can still reap the benefits. UBC's largest student group, Alma Mater Society has 50,000 members. The Plebiscite topic is heating up on university campuses. Most students who plan to vote No to express their frustration about TransLink's bureaucracy and low efficiency
- Chinese community's "heart is dead as the ash". Oppose to the tax because of the accumulated grudges against TransLink, just like most locals and students who vote NO. Compare to the English media, Chinese media has been more quiet lately because most Chinese voters have already made up with their mind, so media's coverage and promotion is not likely to change anything. These kind of anti-TransLink emotion can hardly be changed through campaign
- A Chinese voter said she will vote No for TransLink's dead management model and bureaucracy
- TransLink's poor public image and credibility can't possibly be washed anew through campaign within a short time, and won't help with one or two "good incidents". Surely TransLink's definite failure won't come as a surprise

(AM1470 Talk Show)

Any Other Source of Income For Translink?

- Perhaps may not necessarily to increase PST. Can consider tolling. Singapore's model is tolling only during peak hours.
- But not all bridges belong to TransLink, so may need a GPS system to track when the vehicle use the bridge

Why 80 more marijuana stores opened in Vancouver last year?

- City Cllrs. Kerry Jang: federal's new regulation change last year: can't grow marijuana if you don't have a license. So before the regulation is fully enacted, demand for medical marijuana has increased. Some take advantage of this transition period and open these stores
- City bylaw: pharmacy that provides 美沙同 needs to be located away from schools
- These grow op stores don't have insurance and can be safe hazard for tenants living upstairs. Police only attend when there is problem or youth inside

(AM1470) TransLink CEO Admits Problems With Compass Card Sytem

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=49326

- Doug Allen: TransLink shouldn't have announced so early about launching Compass card in 2013. No countries can successfully implement it within 3 years. TransLink wants to ensure everything goes well before implementation. Currently still a trial stage.

(AM1320) Election BC Release Plebiscite Participation Rate

- 54,000 out of 410,000 voters in Vancouver already voted, in Surrey, 9,200 out of 290,000 voters

(Ming Pao) 50th Anniversary With Sister City Yokohama, Vancouver City Hall Grow New “Cherry Blossom of Friendship”

<http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150403/vasb r.htm>

(World Journal) 15.6% Rent Their “Snail Homes” in Vancouver

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3172180/article-溫哥華 15-6-租屋族-擠蝸居/?ref=溫哥華>

- National Household Survey (2011): close to 20% of Toronto families who live in rental housing has home that are way too small, Vancouver is 15.6%, national average is 10%
- CMHC’s definition of overcrowding: each family member should live in one bedroom, with the exception of spouse, children of the same gender who are under 18, or children of different gender who are under 5)
- BC Non-Profit Housing Association: the figure doesn’t necessarily reflect the extend of the overcrowding issues. People chose to share the same bedroom due to various reasons ie. Students, families with multi-generations who live together
- University of Toronto: in new immigrant families, more common to have parents sharing a room with children. Overcrowding problem can be resolved through increasing more affordable housing for low to middle income families, provide living subsidy, or improve employment

(World Journal) Canadian Housing Market Starts Soft Landing Besides Vancouver & Toronto

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3172175/article-溫、多 2 地外-加國房市開始軟著陸/?ref=溫哥華>

- Bank of Montreal: data shows in Feb, national housing price has increased 6.3% on average to \$431,812. But Vancouver & Toronto’s growth is below this. Among 26 major cities, 75% has growth rate of 4%.
- More high rise apartment are under construction and supply will be kept in a sufficient state, price of apartment is expected to slow down and even plateau gradually, but single home will continue to rise unless population growth slows down.

4.4 (Sat)

no particular related news

4.5 (Sun)

(World Journal) Greater Vancouver Mayors Proposed To Charge Tolls

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3178233/article-大溫市長-擬收買路錢/?ref=溫哥華>

- This proposal came before the result of plebiscite, may be implemented in 5-7 years after the new transit tax.
- Mayors admit if the transit tax was rejected, this proposal may be rejected as well
- Want to establish a long-term financing system, and replace current ones ie. Gas tax by tolls. Gas-efficient vehicles have drastically decreased TransLink's income
- Closely monitoring a trial system in Oregon US. Drivers are taxed \$0.15 for every mile they drive, but tax credit is also available to reduce gas tax they need to pay at gas station

4.6 (Mon)

no particular related news

4.7 (Tue)

(Westca.com) Vancouver's 129th Birthday. Survey: Beautiful & Expensive

<http://www.westca.com/News/article/sid=398897/溫哥129生日民美+昂/lang=schinese.html>

(World Journal)

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3180417/article-溫哥華印象美-貴-綠/?ref>

(Fairchild TV) Vancouver 129th Anniversary. City Released Survey

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=f0d78b7cc5bda890fe64cdbe4fe573d7>

- Survey findings include strong opinions against bike lanes, have experienced congestion on a bridge
- City Cllr. Kerry Jang: city policies allow people of different ethnicity to feel at home and preserve their own uniqueness

(Sing Tao) Encourage Growing Your Own Tree. City of Vancouver Grows 4,000 Trees This Year

http://www.westca.com/News/article/sid=398850/鼓励自家植□_溫市今年种 4 千棵/lang=schinese.html

(World Journal) More US Buyers Emerge At Greater Vancouver's Heated Real Estate Market

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3180431/article-大溫房價續漲-美國買家漸增/?ref=溫哥華>

- New York Financial Times: 60% of real estate buyers in greater Vancouver are from Asia, but in 2014, drastic increase in US buyers. Although real estate price continues to soar, buyers' interest level is not affected. Buyers from Europe and Middle East have also show interest.
- Reasons: strong US \$, which attract US and buyers from overseas. Also Greater Vancouver is beautiful, safe and good place for the next generation. Buying property doesn't require citizenship or even residency. Vancouver West and West Vancouver still the no. 1 choice.

4.8 (Wed)

(AM1470) Elections BC: 125,000 Voters Emailed Back Plebiscite Ballots

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=49452

- 8% from overall population. 70% of them from Vancouver.

(AM1470) Baby Bloomers: Manson Market's Major Supporters

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=49448

- Realtor company, Sotheby's analysis: baby bloomers (born between 1946–1965), 9.6M, 30% of Canadian population, currently 50 –60 years old, annual income may reach \$300,000–500,000: change for a bigger house, pay the down payment for their children.
- Baby bloomers who live in Vancouver & Toronto have “even deeper pockets”. In Vancouver, average price of the property they owned: \$2.5M. Shaughnessy in Vancouver West is their first choice
- X generation (36–50 years old): school district is their first priority. Y generation (under 35 years old): prefer high end apartments in downtown

(Sing Tao) Greater Vancouver's Real Estate May Have Become Money Laundering Haven For Corrupted Chinese Officials

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-04-08/community1428487270d5521061.html>

- Anti-money laundering specialist, lawyer Christine Duhaime: buyers who came to Vancouver suitcases full of money. Although it is not illegal to do so, but as realtors should report it to FINTRAC (Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada). But many didn't do that.

(Sing Tao) Survey: About 30% First Time Home Buyers Rely on Family Support

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-04-08/community1428487135d5521055.html>

- Mortgage insurance company Genworth's survey: 1/3 of first time home buyers (25- 40 years of age) need to rely on their family for first payment. This ratio in Vancouver is even higher (40%). Toronto (35%)
- 90% of them have completed post-secondary education, about 1/4 have annual salary of at least \$100,000, 3/4 of them purchased their first property before 35, about 80% are born in Canada
- Average price of property they purchased: \$293,000 with \$34,000 down payment (12%)

(World Journal) Vancouver's Real Estate Market "On Fire". Entire Block On Sale.

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3182466/article-溫房市火熱-整條街掛牌/?ref=溫哥華>

- Business In Vancouver's report :<http://www.biv.com/must-read/>
- Houses on 6100 block East of Granville are all on sale, all by the same realtor, also 8100 block of Oak. Developers buying entire blocks as land deals double property value

(World Journal) Single Home Price Expected to Reach \$4.4M In 15 Years

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3182458/article-15年後溫市獨立屋-均價料衝440萬/?ref=溫哥華>

- Vancity's report: if government doesn't intervene, housing in Vancouver will become increasingly unaffordable. Young people will be forced to purchase small housing units. Even apartments have reached \$465,000 last month.

4.9 (Thur)

(World Journal) 120,000 Transit Plebiscite Ballots Returned

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3183936/article-大溫運輸公投選票-已回收約 12 萬張/?ref=溫哥華>

- Only 8% of ballots are received

(Omni News) Vancouver Park Board Ban Bottled Water To Reduce Waste

<http://www.omnitv.ca/bc/yue-can/videos/4165649599001/>

- Park Board Commissioner, Michael Wiebe: shouldn't ban bottled water but increase water foundation instead
- Park Board Chair, John Coupar: Board would lose revenue from banning the sale of bottled water. Only offer sugar drinks which is not good for public health. Similar motion was rejected in 2009.

4.10 (Fri)

(AM1470 Phone-in show) English Bay Oil Spill Accident

Host/ Commentator: Although City Hall blasted the federal's coast guard for delayed action and cleaning up the oil is not city's responsibility, City hall should also do something to help instead of just pointing fingers. For instance, have enough communication with the public so that people will stay away from the polluted area. Lots of people were seen enjoying their leisure time close by and unaware of the spill. Some callers said they agree that City Hall should still try to do something.

(Fairchild TV) Premier and Robertson Rebuked the Federal Coast Guard For Delayed Action

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=5cfcc1972d5e8972ace3c90e609f0f58>

(AM1470) Robertson Rebuked Two Senior Levels of Governments For Lacking Leadership In the Oil Spill

http://am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=49505

- Robertson: disappointed and helpless with the slow reporting system, two senior levels of governments are indecisive when some residents reported that they want to help with the clean up.

(Ming Pao) Yes or No to Plebiscite Forum Tomorrow, Organized by Ming Pao With 2 Other Media Outlets. Open Floor For Questions

- 2-4pm tomorrow at Crystal Mall, Burnaby

- Yes– Winnie Hwo from David Suzuki Foundation, community leader/ former NPA City Councillor Tung Chan
No– Charter Lau from No Tax Coalition, Mr. Wai
- Another panel consists of 4 commentators that ask questions to both Yes and No sides

(Sing Tao) Transit Tax Enacted In Two US Cities, Boston and Miami, Didn't Ease Congestion

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-04-09/province1428572499d5522706.html>

from original source: <http://cpi.probeinternational.org/2015/04/08/transit-tax-wont-ease-congestion/>

- Consumer Policy Institute: eg. Boston– transit agency received 20% of all Massachusetts sales taxes, but because they pushed to expand their system at all costs and left it unable to maintain its system to a high standard and resulted in \$2.2 B debt. Maintenance backlog may be as high as \$6B.
- Congestion problems have gotten worse from 33 hours (1990) to 53 hours a year.
- Eg. Miami– promises of expansion of traffic system was not fulfilled. Bus fleet is smaller than a decade ago
- Transit tax was supposed to give the agency a firm, reliable source of revenue but deficit increased.
- Vancouver should think twice given these two examples

(Sing Tao) Less Than 1% Mailed Back Plebiscite Ballots. Surrey 8%. Vancouver 8%

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-04-09/province1428572440d5522705.html>

(World Journal) Developing Permit Value in February Increased in Vancouver Alone Nationwide

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3185564/article-2月建築許可總口-溫逆勢上漲/?ref=溫哥華>

- Total national building permit value in Feb is about \$61B, dropped 0.9% from Jan, continuous drop in the second month, dropped by 5% compared to Feb 2014. Mostly affected by Ontario, Alberta and Quebec which is 75% of the nation.
- But BC has increased by 15.9% (Feb 2014– 2015), and 17.45 (Jan 2015– Feb 2015)
- Greater Vancouver– \$6.1B, 51% (Jan 2015– Feb 2015), 16.6% (Feb 2014 – Feb 2015)

(World Journal) Vancouver's House Price Stabilized in Feb

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3185569/article-2月房價指數-溫哥華持平/?ref=溫哥華>

4.11 (Sat)

(Sing Tao) Transit Plebiscite Expected Hard to Pass. TransLink's Financing Would Be Political Controversy

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-04-11/headline1428746802d5526807.html>

- Yes supporter & SFU Transportation specialist Gordon Price: don't think plebiscite would pass. Plebiscite is not necessary, only to fulfill Christy Clark's election promise. Can be a discussion between TransLink and the Province, then let the province make the final decision
- Yes supporter/ Former Vancouver City Councilor Peter Ladner: opposition and supporters is about 2:1 ratio. Optimistic but very hard to pass
- Yes supporter/ UBC Transportation specialist Robin Lindsey: concerned with TransLink's financing. According to current legislation, property tax increase can't exceed 3%, bus fares capped at 2% per year. TransLink's request for auto tax was rejected by the province twice before.
- Surrey: public private partnership for light rail, toll on Pattullo bridge
- No supporter/ UBC Anthropology professor Charles Menzies: raising 0.5% PST is not fair to the middle class. Should increase corporate tax and tax of high income earners.
- Canadian Taxpayers Federation, Jordan Bateman: transit project won't be affected. Only failing the plebiscite can give government pressure to reform TransLink

(Sing Tao) Worried Most Transit Projects Would "Die Prematurely"

- Steeters: Proposed projects such as Broadway Rapid Transit and most transit infrastructure projects

(Sing Tao) Oil Spill Response By Coast Guard Blasted by Vancouver Mayor and BC Premier. Federal: World Class Response

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-04-11/headline1428746619d5526800.html>

- Robertson: both federal and province lack leadership. The slow response is unacceptable, and caused by federal government's funding cut on coast guard's response team.

4.12 (Sun)

(Ming Pao) Sparkles At Transit Plebiscite Forum Ming Pao Co-hosted with AM1320 And Omni

http://www.mingpaocanada.com/Van/htm/News/20150412/vas1h_r.htm

- Forum “Transit Plebiscite Yes or No” at Burabny Crystal Mall
- (Yes side) Former Vancouver City Cllor & SUCCESS former CEO Tung Chan: TransLink was given credit rating of AA, so it isn’ t as bad as portrayed
- (Yes) David Suzuki Foundation & Former Fairchild TV news director, Winnie Hwo: only 35 cents a day, but can help improve people’ s lives especially the low and middle income people who need to rely on public transit to commute
- No Tax Coalition, Charter Lau: TransLink is like a leaking bucket. Only two ways to keep the water: fixing the leak first, or keep overflowing it with water
- (No) Commentator Mr. Wai: governance body must know how to self-regulate and can’ t just increase tax when they don’ t have enough money, just like a doctor adding more and more anit-bodies to his patients every time when they are sick.

4.13 (Mon) –4.14 (Tue)

AM1470 Transit Plebiscite Forum (From Saturday’s event)

Questions:

- Charter Lau: more people more tax, just as it was in the past. The influx of 1M people moving in the future will also bring in new revenue. Not having enough money shows TransLink’s inability to manage taxpayer’s money. ie. 3/2 of new buses were sitting at the parking lot for a period of time.

Q &A

- (Yes) A lot of people who say No is based on emotions. If politicians are stating that they are willing to take responsibility, most people will say yes for sure.
- (Yes) No side is not opposing to expanding infrastructure but increasing tax. So what would you say to the region’s future when we don’t have the proper infrastructure in place?
- (No) Any responsible government should set aside money that they have already collected for expanding infrastructure. They should tell us how to spend the budget now and in the future, but currently they are not held accountable for this.
- (Yes) Studies show that TransLink’s performance isn’t as inefficient as portrayed. Budget has already set aside
- (No) Yes side seems to be saying other ways of financing has been exhausted. Can you prove that?

- (Yes) Can do so through property tax and gas tax, but increasing PST is the fairest way that keeps impact to the least. Current funding has already been used to improve current system
- (Yes) The new tax is not to support TransLink but to better the liveability of the region. Many immigrants come here for a better life style
- (Yes) How does the No side know, the amount of money can be saved to expand future infrastructure? If you don't have proof of this, how can you oppose to the transit tax?
- (No) Yes side can't guarantee problems would be resolved. Even though the No side hasn't reached consensus, it's not the government's responsibility to find solution
- (Yes) TransLink and mayors haven't got thorough discussion on how much money can be saved further.

Yes/ No Side Cross Examination

- (No) Have you considered how would the 0.5% tax affect the local economy?
(Yes) The question is irrelevant to economic activity; it is to pay for public services including transit infrastructure. GST was reduced back to 7% (2004). So it's possible that a tax is adjusted according to changes.
- (Yes) 0.5% only for Metro Vancouver, people who use the transportation, also shared by tourists. Property value would also increase if transit system in that area has improved.
(No) Don't want to give more taxes because TransLink waste taxpayers' money
- (Yes) People in Richmond and Burnaby are already benefiting from the skytrain system. But what would No side say to people who are late to work, schools and various appointments when they are stuck in congestion in the future?
(Yes) It's not a Chinese problem or a particular city's problem. It's the government's responsibility. Residents already paid their share.
- (Yes) A large percent of working class people and who are Asian used public transit.

4.13 (Mon)

(AM1470) Elections BC Set up 9 Transit Plebiscite Offices

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=49564

(AM1320) Elections BC Announced 9 Transit Plebiscite Offices

http://am1320.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=10891%3A2015-04-13-20-32-57&catid=1%3A2010-10-18-20-52-02&Itemid=97&lang=zh

(AM1320) Survey Shows Most in the Region Supports Combining 24 Municipalities

http://am1320.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=10888%3A24&catid=1%3A2010-10-18-20-52-02&Itemid=97&lang=zh

- Angus Reid: 14% people support combining, but no consensus on how many should that be collaborated into
- 33%– Divided into 3–5 larger cities, 13% 6 – 15 cities, 15% 16–23 cities. 25% unchanged

(Ming Pao) Greater Vancouver Residents Look For Change In Governance

<http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150413/vas3r.htm>

(Sing Tao) 74% Greater Vancouver Residents Want Municipalities Combined

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-04-13/province1428919810d5528772.html>

- 77%: transportation should be managed by the region as a whole, 64% economy, 57% on social housing.
- 73% think library services should remain managed by municipalities, 71% parks, 68% fire safety
- analyst of Urban Futures: regional governance can increase efficiency in financing and helps in economy

(Sing Tao) Greater Toronto Couldn't Save Expenses After Collaboration??

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-04-13/province1428919757d5528771.html>

4.15 (Wed)

(Sing Tao) VSB Forum First Time Discuss Impact of Pot

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-04-15/community1429092867d5532085.html>

- youth addiction on pot is 17%, twice of adults; the early youth start, the higher their addiction rate
- forum “Teens & Cannabis: Vancouver’s Changing Landscape Has An Impact”
- many parents contact schools of their children as they worry that they will participate in the upcoming 420 open pot event at downtown. They are also concerned that youth will have more access to pot as medical marijuana stores have increased to 50 in Vancouver

(Fairchild TV) Vancouver City Hall Paid Off All Debt From Olympic Village

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=1fb425070298bc615c24b69845387662>

- \$600M debt on Olympic Village was paid off after selling the last 91 units, and brought \$650M revenue at the end.
- operation budget surplus has increased by 18% to \$214.9M. Although more revenue from property tax resulted from rising real estate price, city hall has to pay for higher sewage and water fees to the region, and more city employees' salary
- Mayor Robertson: great work done by city staff and partners, very careful to manage debt
- City Cllor George Affleck: Debt has increased from \$700 - \$1,200 under Vision's council. Too much reliance on debt.

(Fairchild TV) City Staff Reports 6Km of Vancouver Coast Affected By English Bay Oil Spill

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=de24e1cb8921280596f82fe71298847e>

- City Manager Penny Ballem: expect more oil being washed ashore, need to discuss with federal government in the future regarding the response system
- City Cllors Adrienne Carr & Geoff Meggs: should be able to notify public earlier if informed earlier

(Fairchild TV) Second Vancouver Bird Week Kicked Off

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=544c335154f6eaf79e2dff463a852e78>

(Sing Tao) Chinese Immigrants Catalysts In Real Estate Market Of Vancouver & Toronto

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-04-15/headline1429090005d5531270.html>

- Teranet- National Bank: Vancouver's real estate has increased 5.3% since March 2014.
Besides low interest rate, depreciation of Canadian dollars relative to RMB, no restriction for foreigners to purchase local properties, also Canada's 10 Year Visa Program for China makes investing in Canada more attractive.

(World Journal) Vancouver's Real Estate Market Price Reached Another New Height in March

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3193772/article-3月房價指數-溫哥華衝新高/?ref=溫哥華>

**(World Journal) Vancouver Art Gallery's New Site Design Violated City Bylaw;
Banned By City Hall**

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3187964/article-溫美術館設計違規-市府不允/?ref=溫哥華&npg=2>

- Mayor Robertson: support the Art Gallery's move, but must fulfill the criteria agreed upon including adjusting management structure, and consult city hall on new site's design

4.16 (Thur)

(AM1470) Six School Districts Face Budget Deficit

- Vancouver School District face most severe budget deficit which reaches \$8.52M, province requests VSB to save \$2.68M of administration costs
- Through increasing more foreign students to Vancouver to increase revenue, will cut music programs and adult education, and sell off school furniture

(AM1320) Vancouver Highest Participation Rate At Transit Plebiscite

http://am1320.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=10925%3A2015-04-15-23-16-37&catid=1%3A2010-10-18-20-52-02&Itemid=97&lang=zh

- 15.1% of voters in Greater Vancouver have mailed back ballots, 23.4% (97,208) are from Vancouver. White Rock 15.9%, Surrey and Coquitlam each 14.1%, Burnaby 13.4%, Richmond 12.4%

(Sing Tao) Cambie Corridor Density Increased; Torn Down Single Homes For Townhouses

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-04-16/headline1429177979d5533266.html>

- Vancouver City Council's three stage plan set at 2009. Just passed the 3rd stage development last Wednesday about developing the area 10 minutes away from Canada Line along Cambie corridor. From Oak St. to Ontario St., W16th Ave. to Fraser River.
- City Cllr. Raymond Louie: at least 5 huge developing projects underway, including townhouses, row houses and apartments with at least two rooms. Social housing will be built accordingly

(Fairchild TV) Vancouver City Staff Propose 3rd Stage Development Projects

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=197728ce327b582d7ccd6adb5f2d4f7a>

- Goal is to allow residents of the new area have access to Canada Line within 10 minutes of walking distance
- City Cllr. Adrienne Carr: concerned about congestion if plebiscite not passed
- Streeters: worried about congestion, some are happy with new shopping centres

(World Journal) Cambie Corridor 3rd Stage Development Focus On Townhouses

- <http://www.worldjournal.com/3195575/article-甘比走廊第3期工程-城市屋為主/?ref=溫哥華>

(Sing Tao) Worried Population Growth Would "Explode" the Canada Line

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-04-16/headline1429177876d5533264.html>

- Chinese environmental group Green Club, Joseph Lin: currently Canada Line is already at its capacity, and some even have to take the train southbound in Richmond in order to get on to trains to Vancouver.
- Besides the Cambie corridor development projects, over a thousand new housing units are expected to complete around Marine Drive station, even if Canada Line changes from frequency of 3 minutes to 2 minutes, and increase cars from 2 to 3, it's still not sufficient. Congestion along Oak and Cambie will be worse
- Housing development should move eastbound. Ie. All federal and provincial departments should move to Surrey or Langley. That's the way to resolve housing affordability
- Isn't logical to have Vancouver Convention Centre at downtown as it's busy enough itself

(Sing Tao) NHL Vancouver vs. Calgary; Two Mayors

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-04-16/community1429178594d5534080.html>

(Ming Pao) Vancouver Single Homes Average \$1.26M Jumped 10%

http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150416/vaslh_r.htm

- Royal LePage House Price Survey. Two Levels single homes average sold over \$1.27M since same time last year. Apartment increased by 4.9% to \$506,600, some even 40% due to huge demand and shortage
- City's census in 2011: 34% of residents along Cambie corridor are Chinese, higher than the city's average of 23%. 29% have children under age of 19, also higher than the average 22%. Total population 42,500. Tenants and homeowners' ratio is 43% to 57%. 54% are single homes

(Ming Pao) Vancouver Bird of the City; 4 Nomination Announced

http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150416/vasa_r.htm

4.17 (Fri)

(AM1470) BC Students Coalition Worried Post-Secondary Students Unable To Register As Voters For Transit Plebiscite

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=49698

- BC Students Coalition: many students may not be able to get ballots in time as this is a time to move residency and take exams

- Although Yes side is falling behind according to polls, 85% still haven't mail back ballots, thus many may still be decided.

(World Journal) Lions Gate Bridge May Ban Vehicles

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3197307/article-獅門橋 2030 年或禁車輛/?ref=溫哥華&npg=2>

(AM1320) Lions Gate Bridge May Ban Vehicles According To A Secret Agreement

(Ming Pao) Robertson: No Intention To Ban Private Vehicles Using Lions Gate Bridge

<http://www.mingpaocanada.com/realtimenews/van/content CANADA NEW.cfm?aid=165690>

- Mayor and Park Board chair oppose to closing Lions Gate Bridge for private vehicles from 2030 in exchange for cutting over 40 trees to expand a major roadway to Stanley Park, according to a secret deal between Vancouver City Hall and Park Board that was revealed.

(AM1320 Phone-in Show) BC Supreme Court Dismiss Conflict of Interest Case of Vancouver Mayor and City Cllr.

Commentators:

- No conditions or promise attached; pro-business politicians often make promises in open business meetings such as not to increase tax if elected. Reiterating their policy is very normal.
- Judge only looks at it from the law's point of view, but from a logical point of view, it is not acceptable.
- Political parties in Vancouver's civic election receive huge amounts of contributions.
- Not clear cut on conflict of interest or election promises. Vision isn't the only one that receives huge amount of contributions from union or developers. Need changes in policy to set limit to avoid influence from these contributors

Callers:

- Politicians are exempted from conflict of interest
- Making promises by words is still a "contract"
- Low voting rate because politicians don't keep their promises
- Respect the court's ruling

(World Journal) TD Housing Analysis Expect Vancouver Real Estate Price Still 4% Growth

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3197302/article-tid今年房市展望-溫房價仍有4-漲幅/?ref=溫哥華>

- TD Direct Investing: new policies have capped mortgage of \$1M property and second properties. Real estate price has dropped 10% from 2011 to 2012. Vancouver remains attractive despite of the hike and expected to rise another 4% in 2015

4.18 (Sat)

no particular related news

4.19 (Sun)

no particular related news

4.20 (Mon)

(AM1320 Phone-in Show) 420 Marijuana Day & Increase in Marijuana Stores in Vancouver

(AM1470 Phone-in Show) Decriminalization Or Even Legalization of Marijuana The Downward Trend?

(AM1470) Medical Marijuana Store Increased 13 Times in Vancouver

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=49774

- From 6 to 80 stores
- City Cllr. Kerry Jang blamed the hike on federal government. Last city councillor passed a motion to request federal government to tax marijuana and treat it as things like alcohol.
- Confusing as federal government allows some legal exemption while
- Only thing that city council can do is to regulate the medical marijuana store with city bylaw.

(AM1470) Statistics Canada: Vancouver Most Unhappy City

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=49771

(AM1320) Vancouver people most Unhappy in Canada

http://am1320.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=10979%3A2015-04-20-22-50-07&catid=1%3A2010-10-18-20-52-02&Itemid=97&lang=zh

- According to survey and a census on health
- No cities in BC rank the top 10, highest is Kelowna, #12 out of 33 cities
- Vancouver: bottom on the living standard category

(AM1470) Some Said Time to Change Laws On Marijuana

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=49777

(Sing Tao) SUCCESS Holds Transit Plebiscite Forum; Help Voters Make Wise Choices

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-04-19/province1429435572d5538935.html>

SUCCESS will hold a forum on transit Plebsicite this Sat 2- 3:30pm at their Chinatown office. There will be two panels of pros and cons representatives, and the goal of the forum is to inform voters about how to vote. Forum will be in English with simultaneous interpretation in both Cantonese and Mandarin.

(World Journal) Gregor Robertson & Wanting Qu Hot on Weibo. Have you followed?

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3201560/article-羅品信曲婉婷微博爆紅-你關注了嗎?/?ref=溫哥華>

- Mayor Robertson is one of the most popular people on Weibo, and second, Wanting Qu. His popularity increased after they announced their courtship. Christy Clark and many other politicians have also become active on weibo.

(World Journal) Ban Of Public Access To Vancouver Beaches Taken Off

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3200594/article-溫市海灘-下水禁令解除/?ref=溫哥華>

(World Journal) Vancouver Aquarium: Federal Cuts On Scientific Studies. Province Lacks Biological Dat

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3200585/article-溫哥華水族館:聯邦砍科研經費-卑省缺海洋生態數/?ref=溫哥華>

4.21 (Tue)

(AM1470) Vancouver City Council Is Concerned About the Number of Marijuana Stores

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=49832

- Since the first marijuana store opened in Vancouver a decade ago, there are 80 stores opened in the city, 20 of them just opened rapidly in the past few months. Only 35 stores in the rest of the province. Other provinces only 20, mostly in Ontario & Quebec.
- A biotech company on West Hastings, BioCanana ADM, plans to install two more marijuana vending machines. Haven't released details about the locations, but one already installed in Vancouver East last year. The automated machine can identify and sell only to registered users with prescription note.

(World Journal) Vancouver Residents Pay For Expense Incurred At Marijuana Day

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3204566/article-大麻日開銷-溫市民埋單/?ref=推薦□讀>

- 420 Marijuana Day wasn't a legal assembly as they didn't apply to City yet taxpayers have to pay for the expenses. Questionable for City's stand on this issue.
- Marijuana lovers leave without having anyone responsible for the policing, road blocks and cleaning fees. The cost is unknown yet, but can be as much as a couple ten-thousand dollars in the past.

4.22 (Wed)

(AM1470) Businesses Welcome City's Move to Regulate Marijuana Stores

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=49842

- Downtown BIA welcomes the move, but is concerned whether it will be enough. Currently the spread of marijuana stores makes city chaotic and they don't fit in with nearby businesses, even affect the business environment there
- BIA chair Charles Gauthier welcomes the suggestion of requiring a \$30,000 license fees and keep a distance from residential and Granville entertainment district

4.23 (Thur)

(AM1320) City of Vancouver Studies Controlling Medical Marijuana Stores

http://am1320.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=11008%3A2015-04-23-00-01-56&catid=1%3A2010-10-18-20-52-02&Itemid=97&lang=zh

- All the stores that are in operation recently don't have licence; have increased from 60 to 80 in the past few months. City doesn't have the authority to stop them from selling marijuana, but can regulate their location and operation ie. Can't be located 300 meters within schools and community centres

(AM1470) Vancouver City Hall Plan to Regulate Medical Marijuana Stores

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=49848

- City Manager Penny Ballem: federal lacks clarity and transparency in regulating medical use of marijuana. City staff will submit report next week. City hall needs to maintain a balance between public safety and medical needs of people

(AM1470) Vancouver City Hall Plan to Amend Bylaws to Regulate the Rapidly Increase of Marijuana Stores. \$30,000 License Fees. 300 Meters Away From Schools

<http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150423/vap1hr.htm>

- BC Public Safety Minister Suzanna Anton hasn't responded to this yet, but said will analyse whether Vancouver's new bylaw is within city's authority. But whether to legalize marijuana or not, it's federal's authority.

- City Cllr. Kerry Jang: federal's law on marijuana isn't effective, so city is forced to amend bylaws accordingly. No problems or complaints in the past. But since federal suddenly require people to order their medical dosage of marijuana through mail, and can only take it through smoking but not orally, a vacuum on "medical marijuana" is created, and so many stores opened.

(Sing Tao) Vancouver City Hall Plans to Tighten Regulations For Marijuana Stores

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-04-23/community1429776629d5544190.html>

(World Journal) Vancouver Plans to Regulate Marijuana Stores. First Time in Canada

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3206649/article-溫市擬列管大麻店-加國首例/?ref=溫哥華>

(World Journal) Two More Marijuana Vending Machines By the End of the Month

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3204559/article-溫市大麻販賣機-月底增 2 台/?ref=推薦口讀>

(AM1320) 30% Voters Have Returned Traffic Plebiscite

http://am1320.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=11011%3A30&catid=1%3A2010-10-18-20-52-02&Itemid=97&lang=zh

- Just passed half time of the Plebiscite. Highest voting rate is Langley, 28.4%. But in terms of numbers, Vancouver is the highest (104,557), about 25.1%. Next is Burnaby (23.2%), Surrey (21.6%) and Richmond(20.8%)

(Sing Tao) 1/3 Voters Returned Ballots Accounted For 20% As Plebiscite Voting Time Passed By Half

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-04-23/province1429780570d5544221.html>

(Sing Tao) Plebiscite Result Doesn't Affect Federal's Support For BC Infrastructure

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-04-23/province1429780545d5544220.html>

- Federal Industrial Minister James Moore: regardless of plebiscite result, Federal will give a reasonable amount of new funding for BC's public

transportation and infrastructure, \$53B for each province. But funding won't be available till 2017/18

- BC Business Congress: hope federal government can give out the transportation funding right away and don't mind not balancing the budget. Federal will only delay the balanced budget by one year.

(Sing Tao) Wanting Qu Posed "Patience" on Weibo In Response

http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/realtimenews/20150423/article_2884113.html

(Apple Daily from Hong Kong) Singer Wanting Qu's Mother Arrested For Greed

<http://hk.apple.nextmedia.com/realtime/china/20150423/53664120>

4.21 (Tue) – More

(Fairchild TV) Fraser Institute: Mayor's Council hasn't considered non-traditional transportation modes

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=45c279002a2f09dafffe35f3ca26f309>

- Robertson: the only way to meet the demand of growing population is to invest more in infrastructure
- Fraser Institute: haven't consider new modes of transportation arising in the next 30 years such as Uber and Car-to-Go, which would be a lot cheaper and effective than investing in public transit.

(Omni News) Chinatown Restaurant On Fire As Roof Caught Fire During Chimney Restoration

<http://www.omnitv.ca/bc/yue-can/videos/4189397267001/>

- A popular restaurant with long history in Chinatown, frequented by locals and visitors

4.22 (Wed)– More

(Fairchild TV) Last 5 Weeks Left for Transit Plebiscite. Mayor Said Federal Government Unlikely to Give More Transit Funding

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=f9551cee2739490aff3eaf3a36d7cd1>

- Mayor Council said feds' \$ should be in place as soon as result for plebiscite is out, Derek Corrigan: Fed's budget also include amount for each province's transportation infrastructure, doubt if feds would pay for the other portion of TransLink's expansion plan

(Omni News) Vancouver City Council Plans to Change Bylaws To Regulate Marijuana

<http://www.omnitv.ca/bc/yue-can/videos/4191960043001/>

(Omni News) Chinatown Restaurant Burnt And Torn Down, Community Urges City to Help Rebuild Speedily

<http://www.omnitv.ca/bc/yue-can/videos/4192039866001/>

- A fire broke out at a Chinatown restaurant renowned for its wonton noodle and barbeque pork on E Pender (right next to Newtown bakery) during a chimney renovation. Was torn down as the damage was too severe. Community hopes that city can provide assistance so the restaurant that has a long history in Chinatown can stay and re-open
- Kerry Jang: city cares about revitalizing Chinatown and will help to keep Chinatown's heritage character

4.23 (Thur) – More

(Fairchild TV) Vancouver City Council Plans to Introduce New Bylaw to Regulate Marijuana Dispensary

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=45c279002a2f09dafffe35f3ca26f309>

- A marijuana dispensary owner: bylaw can help them moving out of the grey area; city plans to ban them from opening 300 meters from school shows that people still have a stigma towards them. Many dispensaries are located within that distance so they would be affected.
- Kerry Jang: city wouldn't benefit from charging marijuana dispensary license fees because city needs those expense to regulate and enforce by police
- Federal Health Minister Rona Ambrose sent a letter to Mayor Robertson: federal's law doesn't have any grey area on marijuana, and their operation is illegal

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4.23 (Thur)– More

(AM1320) Federal Government Disapproves of Vancouver Changing Bylaws to Regulate Marijuana Stores

http://am1320.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=11022%3A2015-04-23-23-02-52&catid=1%3A2010-10-18-20-52-02&Itemid=97&lang=zh

(AM1320) Chinatown Association : Three Levels Of Governments Pushing the Ball on Marijuana

- Chinese Benevolent Association's Chi Lung Chu: Chinatown's current problems are mainly contributed by safe injection site and use of marijuana. Only small number of people use marijuana for medical reasons, but are addicts

(AM1320 Phone-in Show) Is Vancouver's proposed regulation on marijuana effective? Commentators:

- If federal government's law is clear, then city police should be able to enforce it. If not, here is a gap in the political system. Question is why the feds is so firm on their policy on marijuana, but not making it enforceable?
- If the 90 marijuana stores are shut down, would current users go to the licensed stores? Where would users go before they are open?
- City of Vancouver's move is like legalizing marijuana. When marijuana becomes so widely available, more people will take it and take more.
- Perhaps having a large law-abiding dispensary can deter the smaller store from selling marijuana to underage and people without prescription, and getting their source from an illegal one

Callers:

- Not an election issue. City Council shouldn't decide on this by themselves
- Doubtful why so many people get prescriptions to buy medical marijuana. Most people can still buy it without prescription, especially at the smaller stores
- City Council violate federal laws openly
- Abuse of medical marijuana. People take advantage of City's open policy and sell "addictive", "non-medical" marijuana
- Robertson and Kerry Jang have to bear most responsibilities of the spread of marijuana stores. City intends to let these stores open until they get uncontrollable. Likely to benefit from stakeholders behind the scene. Marijuana is a huge money making machine in BC.
- Marijuana isn't only attracted to some risk-taking youth, but also hippies in the 60-70's. Opening the door for more marijuana would attract votes from this group of people

- Last city council passed a motion of asking fed. to legalize marijuana. City Hall places their own will on their policy by allowing the marijuana stores to open one after the other
- Useless to just vent in the phone-in show. Request to invite Kerry Jang to the show. (Program host said the news team will try to contact Kerry for the show this Sat)

(World Journal) Vancouver Most Recommended For Foreign Real Estate According to A Website in China

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3206798/article-中國海外置業網站-力推溫哥華/?ref=溫哥華>

(Omni News) Robertson's Girlfriend Wanting Qu's Mother Arrested

<http://www.omnitv.ca/bc/yue-can/videos/4194586699001/>

- Commentator: no proof to show that Qu's mother's case is associated with Robertson. So any comments or speculations to that wouldn't be fair to Robertson and Qu.

(Omni News) Marijuana Dispensary Owner Said Overtaxing No Fair

<http://www.omnitv.ca/bc/yue-can/videos/4194534594001/>

- Marijuana dispensary: overtaxing won't be fair and will lead to more turning to underground economy and losing their jobs
- VPD: not priority. Priority on violent crimes

4.24 (Fri)

(AM1470 Phone-in Show) City of Vancouver plans to regulate marijuana dispensary but opposed by Federal. What do you think?

Commentators:

- Ambrose doesn't comment whether federal would file a lawsuit if Vancouver goes ahead to regulate operation of marijuana dispensary. Perhaps no consensus within the conservative party, and federal doesn't want to open another Pandora's box
- No proof about any politicians are involved with any hidden deals with the marijuana business' stakeholders
- \$30,000 license fees is a bit expensive, compared to PNE event (only \$16,000). Definitely a new good stream of income for City hall. If dispensaries are up for it, it shows the revenue from marijuana business is very enticing
- If there is a grey area in federal's marijuana policy, why the proliferation of marijuana only happens in Vancouver but not other cities.
- The problem arise from the term "medical use".

- Why not do anything when the marijuana dispensaries are spread to only a few, but wait till now and appear to be helpless and point fingers at the federal laws?
- Why do you sell inside decide where the store can be located. City's logic of regulating marijuana dispensary doesn't work.

Callers:

- All callers oppose to city's plan to regulate marijuana
- Federal government takes action based on public opinions. More people and especially parents should come out to protest
- Robertson is the one to be blamed the most. He admits that he takes marijuana regularly, and he purposely allows the marijuana dispensaries to spread out to this stage, then push the ball to federal. That doesn't make sense.
- Hypocritical of City of Vancouver as they don't do anything with the illegal open market of marijuana at 420, and yet they said they want to regulate the marijuana market
- Track record of not consulting the public on Robertson (bike lanes) and Kerry Jang (ban on shark fin soup). Should vote them down at next election.
- Sad that the short-sighted governments seek revenue from gambling, and now marijuana (drugs). When would sex trade be one?
- City's style of "civic disobedience" against the federal. Lies on smoking worse than marijuana spread in many mainstream English media. Over 60 people were sent to emergency after smoking marijuana.

(AM1470) Health Minister Appeals to Close Down Marijuana Dispensaries Instead of Regulations

- Ambrose: normalize the marijuana dispensaries is a justification, and it's not safe. No clinical studies show that marijuana can heal

(AM1470) Robertson: Proliferation of Marijuana Dispensaries Caused By Feds

- Robertson: Vancouver has to step in when feds doesn't do anything
- Kerry Jang: federal law contradicting. Illegal to use but create a legal program of medical use of marijuana
- Adrienne Clark: Ambrose too naïve. Dispensaries move into the grey zone
- George Affleck: no comments yet. Depend on public consultation. But most dispensaries that are close to schools and community centres need to be closed down

(AM1470) Ambrose: Safe Injection Site Must be Shut Down

- These controlled substance is dangerous
- New safe community regulation makes it hard

(Sing Tao) Federal: City of Vancouver No Authority To Allow Legal Sale of Marijuana
<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-04-24/>

- Health minister Rona Ambrose: fed' s law on marijuana no grey zone. More people will be addicted if legalizing it
- Kerry Jang: City is forced to do so by federal' s “ban” . Penny Ballem: City can still utilize land use bylaws and business permit to regulate
- BC Pain Society welcomes city' s move. Some small dispensaries operate 24 hours a day and affect public safety
- Chinese Benevolent Association: Chinatown' s increased crime rate has a close relationship with safe injection site. Most marijuana users are for addiction, not medical use.

(Sing Tao) 104 or 7% Vancouver Police Are Chinese
<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-04-24/headline1429868247d5545926.html>

(Ming Pao) 24% Asians in Greater Vancouver. Highest Ratio in Taking Public Transit to Work. Affected by Daily Habits And Income Level
http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150424/var1h_r.htm

- City planner of Bing Thom Architects- use microdata on Vancouver' s working class from Statistics Canada 2011
- Among 24% of people who were born in Asia (live in Greater Vancouver) take public transit and their ratio is higher than people who are born in Canada (18%), US (23%) and Europe (21%).
- People who were born in Asia can be Southeast Asian, Korean, Filipino, even Caucasians
- Related to daily habits and income level (60% have annual income lower than \$40,0000)

(Ming Pao) Vancouver Apartment' s Foodscrap Collection On Hault. Unbearable Smell. Infestation Of Rats and Flies
http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150424/vasa_r.htm

(Fairchild TV) Multilevel Apartment Put Foodscrap Collection on Hault Due to Hygenic Issues
<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=d33becd29da7580ea1e80650579e467b>

(World Journal) Federal Has A Say To Vancouver' s Marijuana Regulation Plan

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3208254/article-溫市擬規管大麻店-聯邦有意見/?ref=溫哥華>

(Fairchild TV) Celebrate 30th Anniversary of Twinning Between Vancouver And Guangzhou Cantonese Opera Performance

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=5d0710c088e6556e16b7da2430dd9b1d>

4.25 (Sat)

(World Journal) Gregor Robertson Said Bribery Case Involves Qu' s Mother "Mysterious"

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3210456/article-曲母涉貪-羅品信稱案件「神秘」/?ref=溫哥華>

(Sing Tao) Robertson: No Further Information Regarding Arrest Of Qu' s Mother

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-04-25/headline1429956241d5548766.html>

(World Journal) Vancouver Marijuana Dispensary Should Be Shut Down, According to Health Minister

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3210451/article-溫大麻店鋪-衛生部長：應強制關閉/?ref=溫哥華>

(Ming Pao) Vancouver Guangzhou Twinning 30 Years. Cantonese Opera Performance in Vancouver in June

http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150425/vas1h_r.htm

- Vancouver Mayor will lead a group of 200 representatives from Chinese opera, soccer, martial art, ballet and choir as well as the business community to visit Canton City in early Nov for cultural and trading exchange

(Sing Tao) Cantonese Opera Performers Visit Vancouver to Celebrate the 30 Years of Sister Cities Anniversary

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-04-25/province1429954883d5547962.html>

4.26 (Sun)

(Sing Tao) Chilled Response At SUCCESS' Transit Tax Forum

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-04-26/headline1430039852d5549822.html>

- Although there was a heated debate on the panel with representatives from Yes and No sides, only 6-7 people spoke at the open mic.
- Yes side: David Suzuki Foundation's media spokesperson Winnie Hwo, Fraser Health Authority's Lisa Mu. No side: Canadian Taxpayers Federation Chinese spokesperson Charter Lau, commentator Dr. KK Wan

4.27 (Mon)

(Sing Tao) "Land Assembly Sales" Rush in Vancouver. Win-win for Owners, Developers

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-04-27/province1430128651d5550225.html>

- Better price for home owners; larger lot, higher density development, thus higher ROI for developer
- Old age single home can be sold over \$3M at land assembly sale, while sold individually \$1.7- 2.5M

(Sing Tao) Mayor Said Federal Transportation Funding Too Little Too Late

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-04-27/province1430128436d5550221.html>

- Mayor Robertson: not enough to meet each city's real needs

(Sing Tao) Digital Technology Workers Emerge At Vancouver Downtown And Brings Vibrancy

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-04-27/province1430128415d5550220.html>

- Sony Pictures Imageworks will open their office at downtown Vancouver, employing over 700 people, mostly between the age of 20-30, according to report of The Province

4.28 (Tue)

(AM1320 Phone-in Show) Does City of Vancouver Have Enough Reasons to Back Up Their New Bylaw On Regulating Marijuana Dispensaries? Are the Limits Set Enough?

Commentators:

- City Council regulates "how" and not "what"

Callers:

- Almost all callers oppose to city's new bylaw

- Very angry with city council especially Kerry Jang for neglecting marijuana's lingering impact to the next generation.
- Storeowner next to a marijuana dispensary witnessed many youth of different ethnic background frequent the dispensary
- City is doing something illegal. Doesn't make sense. Ie. a government won't allow people to speed within a certain area when speeding gets out of control. They would be sending out a message that it's ok to speed if they do.
- City purposely allow marijuana dispensaries to get out of control. Questionable if they can benefits from stakeholders behind the scene

(AM1320) Criticism Said Vancouver's New Bylaw Would Legalize the Illegal Sale of Marijuana

http://am1320.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=11071%3A2015-04-29-04-44-45&catid=1%3A2010-10-18-20-52-02&Itemid=97&lang=zh

- Licensed marijuana production company said, no grey zone in federal policy, question other dispensaries may get their marijuana from illegal sources and some may have pesticide, city shouldn't regulate it
- A marijuana dispensary owner said they received their supply from a licensed family grower and only sell those that are up to the standard

(AM1320) Vancouver City Council Will Hold Public Hearing On Regulation of Marijuana Dispensaries

http://am1320.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=11070%3A2015-04-29-04-44-14&catid=1%3A2010-10-18-20-52-02&Itemid=97&lang=zh

- NPA's Elizabeth Ball the only councilor who voted no
- City manager Penny Ballem: marijuana dispensaries have increased since federal recognize the medical use of marijuana in 2011. City doesn't have the right to ban the sale of marijuana but can regulate the hour and location of operation
- Kerry Jang requests more info ie. Explain how to set the \$30,000 license fee and whether to allow non-profit organizations to open more than one dispensary. Why sensitive areas such as daycare and shelters are not prohibited from the operation of dispensaries.
- City will evaluate current stores and have a score system in place. New dispensaries will need to pass 3 stages of evaluation and it will take 3-4 months

(AM1470) Vancouver City Staff Suggests to Have A Point System For Marijuana Dispensaries

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=49998

- Facing criticism on the high license fee, Ballem said, the fee can be changed later, but having a monitoring system in place is most important now

(Sing Tao) Vancouver City Council Discuss Marijuana Bylaws. Chinese Community Blast That As A Way of Legalization. Businesses Support Regulating Dispensaries
<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-04-28/headline1430213003d5551771.html>

- A Chinese Parent Concern Group: City openly violates federal law
- Commentator/ parent Edward Liu: Kerry Jang changed his mind. Said won't change bylaws two months ago.
- Kerry Jang explained: VPD requests city to change bylaw so that they can more effectively manage the m. dispensaries, also supported by BC's Chief Health Officer and Vancouver Coastal Health. Not reaping financial benefits from the license fee, it's for administration and police's monitoring

(Sing Tao) VPD: Some Marijuana Source From Gangsters
<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-04-28/headline1430212922d5551770.html>

- VPD: many from illegal grow op, using this as a window to sell marijuana

(Sing Tao) Ottawa Urges City Hall Shut Down Not Regulate
<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-04-28/headline1430212909d5551769.html>

- Robertson: city won't replace the marijuana dispensaries. The proliferation is due to the lack of clarity in federal law. City's new bylaw is to keep youth away from marijuana

(AM1470) City of Vancouver Wants to Launch a Website For Public to Report Vacant Properties
http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=50012

- Adrienne Carr: can cause privacy and safety problems when such info made public such as robbery and damage. Refuse to comment whether the vacant properties problem are mainly caused by overseas Chinese investors as there is no data to support that

(Ming Pao) City of Vancouver Plans To Launch A Vacant Property Reporting Website
http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150428/vas2_r.htm

(Sing Tao) City of Vancouver Plans to Launch A New Website To Report Vacant Properties
<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-04-28/headline1430212883d5551768.html>

(Fairchild TV) City of Vancouver Plans to Provide A New Website To Report Vacant Properties
<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=4d362d4b9ed9416a8b02b790dea8a0f9>

(Ming Pao) Mount Pleasant Skate Park Won't Be Closed Down. Zipline At QE Park
http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150428/vas3_r.htm

(Fairchild TV) Vancouver Residents Oppose to Closing Down A Skate Park
<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=2804d14b1b70880c48b4cd4882e23ee0>

(Ming Pao) Vancouver City Council Vote On Public WiFi Contract Tomorrow. 43 Public Area Free WiFi Service
http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150428/vas1h_r.htm

- Andrea Reimer: free wifi includes 27 community centres, city facilities such as swimming pool, VanDusen Garden and golf course

(Fairchild TV) Transit Plebiscite Forum At Chinatown
<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=ea14b04d59d604daf500d9a35bdd01be>

4. 28 (Tue)– More

(World Journal) Real Estate Companies Monitoring Plebiscite Result

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3214380/article-運輸公投-地口業者關注/?ref=溫哥華>

- Assess potential development site along transit lines
- Some question why voters have to pay while developers can benefit from it
- Real Estate analyst: TransLink can first sell land along skytrain to developers, and use that money to improve transit system

4.29 (Wed)

(Omni News) Wanted Chinese Fugitive In Vancouver

<http://www.omnitv.ca/bc/yue-can/videos/4206913413001/>

- Richmond City Councillor Chak Au: Ching has invested in Richmond's International Trade Centre project, but City of Richmond is only responsible for assessing the project proposal and have no authority to check the company's source of principle

(World Journal) "Mini-narrow House" Sold At \$1.35M

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3215487/article-溫西「袖珍窄屋」-135萬元成交/?ref=溫哥華>

- W15th Ave. at Point Grey area, 945sq. feet, 60 similar mini-houses in Vancouver

4.30 (Thur)

(Sing Tao) Michael Ching's Background Checked. Refugee Application Rejected By Canada

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-04-30/headline1430389946d5556239.html>

- Wanted person on China's Interpol "Muyang Cheng" is suspected to be the same person as a real estate agent in Greater Vancouver "Michael Mo Yeung Ching", who is active in local political and business communities, and donated money to a number of political parties across three levels of governments
- Hired David Matas, the same lawyer as Lai Cheng Xing as refugee application was rejected
- As picture shown on the website, picture of "Cheng" and "Ching" are very alike, and both have a mole near the right eye
- Another photo shown taken with former Liberal MP Raymond Chan, and current MP John McCallum

- Federal Judiciary didn't deny whether Ching was associated in any cases involving Canada and China, and whether the Chinese government has requested a "judicial partnership"
- Ching has become Canada's Permanent Resident in 1996, applied citizenship in 2001 and 2004, and withdrew his application in 2009. Interpol released arrest notice in 2001
- Sing Tao reporters checked Mo Yeung International Enterprise Ltd. located at #4030- 8171 Ackroyd Road. Office was vacant since about a month ago.

(Sing Tao) Michael China "Business Octopus" (Lots of Connection), Good Relationship with Many Politicians

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-04-30/headline1430389799d5556237.html>

- Former vice chair of Canada Asia Pacific Business Association
- Mo Yeung International Enterprise Ltd. have invested in housing projects of Richmond's International Trade Centre, and Mount Pleasant
- CEO and Board of directors of AuZin Resource Ltd. (mining company). Stock used to 22 cents in 2010, but dropped to 3 cents. License removed in March 2013.

(Sing Tao) Michael Ching's Wife Own \$3.39M Mansion In Vancouver South

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-04-30/headline1430389799d5556237.html>

- South Granville area. Installed a few CCTV and fenced.

(Ming Pao) Ching's Father Rank Removed After Major Violation

http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150430/vaa4_r.htm

- According to a newspaper in China, He Fei Evening Post, Ching has relied on his father to expand his business including real estate company. He has 10 companies in He Bei city, and his wealth is over hundreds of millions by 2000.

(Ming Pao) Ching's Real Estate Business Across US And Canada

http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150430/vaa2_r.htm

- His investment includes development project "Collection 45" at Vancouver Mount Pleasant community

(Ming Pao) Mo Yeung Ching Filed Lawsuit For Citizenship

http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150430/vaa3_r.htm

(Omni News) Federal Liberal Party May Have Close Relationship With Chinese Fugitive

<http://www.omnitv.ca/bc/yue-can/videos/4207375577001/>

- Federal Liberal MPs said don't know about Ching

- Federal Immigration Minister refused to respond to omni's inquiry

(Fairchild TV) Chinatown Business: License For Marijuana Dispensary Not Helpful For Revitalization

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=0608bbe8fc09e0880e7d866d513c7c53>

- Chinatown Merchants Association- a dispensary opened in Chinatown about 4 years ago. They have enough of it. City not doing anything till now. Wrong to reap benefits from the license. These are not ordinary customers. Regulating them does not work to revitalize Chinatown

(Omni News) Chinese Fugitive Ching Mo Yeung's Lawyer Said Interpol Info Not Reliable

<http://www.omnitv.ca/bc/yue-can/videos/4209224412001/>

- Lawyer David Matas who represented Lai Cheong Xing: China's Red notice is not reliable as it's released by the Party, and Interpol won't verify the info.

(Ming Pao) Police Arrested Staff At Vancouver West's Marijuana Dispensary

http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150430/var2_r.htm

- Police received complaint about the dispensary selling marijuana to minors who were sent to hospital after taking their product
- 2916 W 4th Ave.- Weeds Glass and Gifts

(Sing Tao) Arrest Made At Dispensary Allegedly Supply Marijuana to Youth

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3217469/article-疑供貨青少年-溫西大麻店被抄/?ref=溫哥華>

(AM1470) Vacant Properties in Vancouver May Become Affordable Housing

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=50080

- City of Vancouver's chief housing official is seeking appropriate consultant companies to study different options. 6.2% vacancy consistent with other cities but need to understand more about what caused the vacancy. Data collected will be confidential, but may engage with owners whose properties are sitting empty for long, and discuss about the possibility of turning them into affordable housing

(AM1470) Gregor Robertson: Will Campaign For Plebiscite Till the Last Minute

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=50064

- Robertson promises won't increase the 0.5% proposed tax within the next 10 years, but city won't have any say in it if province adjust it
- Biggest obstacle is public lacking trust in TransLink. Mayors find it difficult when municipalities have no power to control TransLink's annual budget

(AM1470) Report: Low Risk of Market Adjustment In Vancouver's Real Estate

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=50062

- Due to population growth and increase in income

(Sing Tao) 35% Ballots Returned As Final Month Of Plebiscite Remain

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-04-30/province1430388483d5556231.html>

(Sing Tao) Robertson Wears Flames Jersey As Promised

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-04-30/community1430381382d5555367.html>

- 23% of foodbank donation from BC, spearheaded by Robertson

5.1 (Fri)

(AM1320) Marijuana Dispensary Admitted Source Is Illegal

http://www.am1320.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=11099%3A2015-04-30-22-51-19&catid=1%3A2010-10-18-20-52-02&Itemid=97&lang=zh

- marijuana from personal growers, and it's illegal for them to supply marijuana to businesses

(AM1470) Chinese Consulate Fei Liu: Fugitives Such As Ching Mo Yeung Will Be Deported And Have Trials Like Lai Cheong Xing

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=50110

- Canadian Chinese Consulate Fei Liu: if Lai Cheong Xing was successfully deported back to China, other fugitives such as Ching Mo Yeung will be treated the same way

(Ming Pao) Chinese Foreign Affairs Affirms That Ching Mo Yeung Would For Sure Face Consequence

<http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150501/vaa1h r.htm>

- When Beijing's Foreign Affairs spokesperson asked if the Ching Mo Yeung identified in Vancouver the same listed by Interpol, and whether Chinese government has requested a deportation order, he said, fugitives like Ching Mo Yeung Would for sure face consequences they deserve no matter where they go

(Sing Tao) Another Chinese Fugitive Li Wenge May Be Hiding In Richmond

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-05-01/headline1430474560d5557422.html>

- Li Wenge: Quan Ming's National Tax Department staff. Resigned Jan 2014, and moved to Richmond working temporarily at a Chinese supermarket
- A woman in China sued Li for not paying back the \$2.4M Li borrowed to purchase a property in Barnard Dr., Richmond.

(Ming Pao) Another Fugitives From China Li Wenge Sued For A Richmond Property
<http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150501/vab1h r.htm>

(Sing Tao) Vancouver West Mansion Sold At \$2M More Than Listed Price
<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-05-01/headline1430475189d5558238.html>

- Priced at \$6M and sold at \$8M within 12 days, in Shaughnessy
- Due to smaller stock of single homes

(Sing Tao) CMHC Report: Low Risk In Vancouver's Real Estate Market Adjustment
<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-05-01/headline1430475161d5558236.html>

(World Journal) Lowest Age Limit At Medical Marijuana
<http://www.worldjournal.com/3219314/article-藥用大麻處方-擬限最低年齡/?ref=溫哥華>

- Currently legal age for medical marijuana is 25 and up, but College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC said the limit is too strict, should allow young cancer patients etc. to use marijuana when needed

5.2 (Sat)

no particular related news

5.3 (Sun)

(AM1470) Vancouver's Hookah Owner Starve Strike

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=50150

- A Hookah owner who has operated on Davie St. for 17 years continued starve strike to protest against city of Vancouver as City plans to close his store down due to violation of anti-smoking bylaw. He questions if he has to sell marijuana instead

(Sing Tao) Federal Document Shows That Michael Ching Is MoYeung Ching

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-05-03/headline1430647695d5561343.html>

- IRB document about rejecting Ching's refugee application last Nov shows that they are the same person. Judge said Ching may have committed serious crime that are not politically related, white collar crime.
- Ching has to face at least two judicial reviews in the coming future, June this year and early 2016

(Sing Tao) Media Exposure Ching's Declaration: Accusation of Corruption, Conspiracy Of Father's Political Enemy

http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/realtimenews/20150503/article_2884447.html

- Ching's lawyer: Ching never hides or attempts to conceal anything, so he wasn't and isn't a fugitive. Accusations from media and Chinese government don't have any grounds. The corruption accusation is a conspiracy from his father's political rivals.

(Ming Pao) Mo Yeung Ching's Lawsuit Against Immigration Ministry Early Next Year. Lose Citizenship Violate Human Right. Ask For \$1.75M Compensation

http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150503/vap1h_r.htm

- Asked for \$1.75M compensation because the way federal officials dealt with his case violated his legal right, and endangered his personal safety, including having jury on his case.
- Federal officials representing Immigration and Refugee Board in a statement: never conspired against Ching. The amount Ching asked for is exaggerated and excessive.
- Case about Ching's appeal to Immigration and Refugee Board will be in court in early 2016.

(World Journal) Developers Gamble To Buy Single Homes In “Bulk”

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3222617/article-獨立屋打包出售-恐淪豪賭/?ref=溫哥華>

- Rows of Single homes along a few blocks in Vancouver are sold “in bulk”, even though city hasn’t had plans to redevelop those streets into high density multi level units. Rezoning won’t be passed and developers are gambling
- Single homes are often sold 2-3 times more under this situation, but if city doesn’t have plans to redevelop the area into high density one yet, developers not possible to pay such price for a land not possible for rezoning
- City Cllr. Raymond Louie: only application of projects that fulfill city’s transitional rezoning policy will be accepted. They must be sold at least 20% lower than market price
- Block of Granville 6100, which was purchased by realtor Michelle Yu- banned for rezoning

5.4 (Mon)

(Fairchild TV) Greater Vancouver’s Housing Demand Over Supply

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php>

- Causing real estate price continues to increase

(Ming Pao) Residents Raised Money To Launch Helicopter Ad Against Transit Tax

<http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150504/vas3 r.htm>

- Last week hovering over TransLink’s headquarter, launch the ad for 6 hours with \$2,000 donation. Have received \$40,000 donation in total. Will do another flying ad next week

(World Journal) Anti-Transit Tax Succeed To Raise Fund To Fly An Ad

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3223935/article-反運輸口方成功募款-標語飛天/?ref=溫哥華>

(World Journal- picture & caption only) Qu Was Seen Publicly Along With Gregor Robertson

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3223513/article-曲婉婷露面-羅品信同行/?ref=溫哥華>

- Wanting Qu hasn’t been seen publicly since the news about her mother’s arrested in under the media’s surveillance. Someone said on Weibo that he saw Qu at YVR and asked her signature. Believe she was with Robertson who were in close physical contact with her, and they were waiting at check in counter for a flight flying to Amsterdam.

5.5 (Tue)

(AM1320) Over 70% Marijuana Dispensaries Violated City's New Bylaws

http://am1320.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=11124%3A2015-05-05-01-18-46&catid=1%3A2010-10-18-20-52-02&Itemid=97&lang=zh

- 61 out of 84 dispensaries located within 300meters from schools, community centres

(World Journal) Greater Vancouver Real Estate Entering Seller's Market

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3224933/article-大溫房市-進入賣方市場/?ref=溫哥華>

(omni news) Vancouver City Cllrs And Realtors Don't Support Restrict Foreign Home Buyers

<http://www.omnitv.ca/bc/yue-can/videos/4220869555001/>

- total assets owned in Canada. Increased from US\$100,000 to US \$39B
- Vancouver Real Estate Board: market driven mostly by owners at their home
- City Cllr. Geoff Meggs: housing price is already high. Real solution is to build more affordable housing

5.6 (Wed)

(Fairchild TV) Rent Or Own A Home In Communities Accessible to Public Transit Can Reduce Overall Living Expense

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=d30710eda505b38e92b01617a4702d80>

- GVRD Senior housing planner: living expense is about the same across different cities
- Canadian Taxpayers association: government can make housing cheaper by cutting regulations

(AM1470) About 10,000 Voters Not Sending Back Plebiscite Ballots Yet

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=50255

- 3 weeks before the end of plebiscite but voting rate hasn't improved much. Overall voting rate 35.3%

(AM1470) Elections BC Received 600,000 Plebiscite Ballots

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=50266

- Only 38% voted; on target to release voting result by June to July

(AM1470) BC Medical Association Targets Dr. Only Prescribes Marijuana

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=50258

- Must be family dr. and over 25 years of age, can't charge fees for the prescription.
- Will be 2nd province to have such amendment after Ontario

(AM1320) BC Internal and External Medical Association Amend Guidelines For Marijuana Prescription

http://am1320.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=11132%3Abc&catid=1%3A2010-10-18-20-52-02&Itemid=97&lang=zh

- Sensible BC that pushes for marijuana decriminalization: medical association's move is overly cautious. Too much restrictions compared to other drugs that can bring more harm

(AM1470) Victoria City Council Consider Whether To Regulate Marijuana Dispensary

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=50261

- 20 marijuana dispensaries in Victoria operated over 20 years. Whether to follow Vancouver

(Ming Pao) A Richmond's Fitness Club Staff Called Michael Mo Yeung Ching "Boss"

http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150506/vab2_r.htm

- record shows Spa Versante located at Lansdowne and Cooney, was once owned by a person called Mo Yeung Ching, but this Feb was changed to someone with last name Cheng. However a staff still called the boss "Michael"

(Ming Pao) Malcolm Brodie Acknowledges Good Relationship With Ching, While All Other Politicians Distance Themselves From Ching

http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150506/vab1h_r.htm

- Malcolm Brodie: have chances to see Ching once or twice a year in the past few years. "mo Yeung Ching denies all the accusations; Canada is a place that upholds presumption of innocence."

(World Journal) Michael Ching Donation. Political Parties Quickly Distance From Ching

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3227510/article-michael-ching-捐款-政黨忙切割/?ref=溫哥華>

(World Journal) Gregor Robertson Sold His Vancouver West Residency At \$1.8M

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3226811/article-羅品信售溫西住宅-開價 180 萬/?ref=溫哥華>

- Robertson listed his Kitsilano home on May 4 for \$1.8M, expected to earn \$200,000

5.7 (Thur)

(AM1320 Phone-in Show) Is BC Medical Association's new guideline on doctors who prescribes marijuana effective?

Commentator:

- Good move but only solve part of the problem. The proliferation of marijuana dispensaries must be resolved through enforcement
- Although if closing down the dispensaries, marijuana will still be available in illegal market, it sends an important message to youth not to touch the drug. Right now it is sending a message to youth that marijuana is safe and OK to try
- Take the example of Tylenol 3 and other prescribed painkillers, pharmacy needs to record the exact number dispensed to patients and a "drug supervisor" would go to each pharmacy and count one by one. However, marijuana doesn't have such record tracking system in place. No way to find out which dr. prescribed and where the marijuana come from

Callers:

- Many callers think it's good but having the enforcement on dr. is not enough. Should focus on enforcement and educating the next generation about the harm of marijuana
- Naturalpathic dr. can prescribe marijuana for only a fee of \$25 at some dispensaries, some can even give out prescription through Skype. Not to mention many don't even need the prescription to get marijuana

(Fairchild TV) BC External And Internal Medicine Association Have New Guidelines For Doctors Prescribe Marijuana

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php>

(Fairchild TV) TransLink Refuses To Release Senior Management's Salary Till After Plebiscite

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=99fb7da17723eaf0421a7bbb9fada352>

- Canadian Taxpayers Association: TransLink doesn't want to remind people of their poor track record, and previously violate their promise and raised employee's staff
- Port Coquitlam Mayor Greg Moore: Pay structure is available on TransLink website already. It won't affect people's voting decision

(Sing Tao) 550,000 Ballots Received As Plebiscite Deadline Approaches. Over Number Voted In Last Year's Municipal Election

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-05-07/province1430992245d5566978.html>

- 37% ballots received. Over number of people voted in 2014's municipal election (532,000)

(Omni news) High Real Estate Price In Vancouver Downtown Caused By Market Segmentation

<http://www.omnityv.ca/bc/yue-can/videos/4223362506001/>

- CMHC: first time collected data from foreign investors. 3.4% of downtown properties owned by foreign investors, thus unable to make huge impact on prices. Wealthy buyers focus on downtown area, and others on other areas.

(Omni news) Petition Against Relocating Hasting's Flea Market

<http://www.omnityv.ca/bc/yue-can/videos/4223362506001/> (3:18)

- mid June. Relocated Pigeon park Hasting's night time flea market to an empty lot at Powell St., renamed as Eastside Outdoor Flea Market
- businesses: good growth in businesses but this decision doesn't improve the area. The new market will also affect their flow of customers

5.8 (Fri)

(Ming Pao) On-line Petition Limit Foreigners Buying BC Real Estate

http://www.mingpaocanada.com/realtimenews/tor/content_CANADA_NEW.cfm?aid=167606

- Change.org- ask BC Premier and Mayors in Greater Vancouver closely monitor real estate market and limit foreigner's participation.
- So far 218 signatures are collected. They aim to collect 500 signatures

(World Journal) City of Vancouver Plans to Redevelop Sinclair Centre

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3230244/article-溫市府-擬再開發辛克萊中心/?ref=溫哥華>

- Redevelop into 30 stories high building, but Sinclair centre belongs to the federal government, also need to consider its heritage preservation

(World Journal) Omni News Sudden Reduction

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3230848/article-omni 電視新聞-羅渣士突喊卡/?ref=溫哥華>

- Rogers Media Inc. announced to reduce 110 staff, end the daily news of Cantonese, Mandarin and Punjabi news, and replaced by news commentaries. The number of staff in the Chinese news cast remain unchanged. Punjabi's news team is reduced from 9 to 4. Chinese commentaries will be aired at the same time, 9:30-10pm Monday to Friday. Punjabi's will be reduced from 1 hours to half an hour.

(Ming Pao) Omni's News Segment Will Change Its Format

- NO more daily news for Cantonese, Mandarin and Punjabi across the country. Starting next Monday, it will be replaced by news commentaries

(Fairchild TV) Province Amends Regulations To Allow Growing Medicinal Marijuana On Agricultural Land Reserve

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=386bb25138d5c75aaf86b0a6d4d8f772>

- Agricultural Minister Norm Letnick: Have already talked to municipalities since last year. Allow municipalities to make bylaw amendments accordingly in this fall, and should not prohibit. Make more sense to have large farm growing marijuana than small individual ones in the cities. Such farms will be away from schools and rivers
- Richmond City Councillor Bill McNulty: lack public consultation, theft and crime.

5.9 (Sat)

(World Journal) Michael Ching's Investment In Greater Vancouver Exposed

http://www.worldjournal.com/3232396/article-michael-ching_大溫投資曝光/?ref=溫哥華

- Article based on a media in China, "Global Times"
Expose Mo Yeung Ching Attempted To Create A "Vancouver Central Business District" With His "Commercial Kingdom" in Canada

<http://news.sina.com.cn/c/2015-05-08/105131808690.shtml>

- Accordingly to some Vancouver local Chinese's comment of Ching, he is "personally low profile, but high profile in terms of doing business", a successful businessman doing legal businesses in Canada. Brought \$2M from Hong Kong, and now it has grown to several hundred millions. Ching's generous donation to federal liberal and conservative parties have led to Ching receiving the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2013.
- Ching has involved in a number of huge investment and real estate projects in Greater Vancouver, including Richmond' River Park Place and International Trade Centre, Collection 45 in Mount Pleasant Vancouver
- Has relationship with Zendai Group in Shanghai, and a Vancouver based investment company called AuXin Resources
- Collection 45, Vancouver : construction was done in the end of 2013, and all the units were sold. Units range from \$330,000- \$780,000
- River Park Place, Richmond: next to Richmond Oval, construction is expected to finish in Summer 2016. Pre-sale has been on-going but closed now. Over \$97,000,000
- International Trade Centre, construction is expected to finish in 2017, pre-sale in the first stage already sold out, just started second stage. At least \$900M

(World Journal) Heated Debate On Broadway Subway

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3231925/article-溫市百老匯建地鐵-掀舌戰/?ref=溫哥華>

- Aland use Adam Fitch said in his column, advised to vote Yes at plebiscite but oppose to Broadway subway, because subway is an outdated mode of transportation and too expensive. Removing this item from plebiscite may change the outcome of the plebiscite. Light rail is more feasible.
- Transit specialist Jarrett Walker doesn't agree. Light rail is not practical given the lack of space along broadway corridor

5.10 (Sun)

n/a

5.11 (Mon)

(AM1470 Phone in Show) Must Be Over 25 To Get Prescribed Medicinal Marijuana

Commentator:

- City should regulate the amount of TCH available in marijuana, which determines whether it is for medical use. Otherwise, it is not effectively addressing the problem, and city is simply reaping the benefits of charging a high license fee
- Likely to see license fee increase as these dispensaries make more money. City takes advantage of this

Callers:

- Many callers said, BC Medical association missed the point when they focus on the age. Marijuana is widely available to youth regardless of having the prescription or not
- City of Vancouver should not regulate them but shut them down. This gives a false signal to youth that it's legal to take marijuana

(AM1470) Marijuana Advocates Criticizes Medical Association's Guidelines Too Strict

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=50400

- Larson: oppose to medical association's guideline of only allowing doctors prescribe medicinal marijuana to age 25 besides cancer patient and those in palliative care. Many dr. are biased against cannabis, and patients may have to seek the third or fourth dr. in order to get the prescription
- Marijuana should be sold as non-prescription medication
- Ban the smoking type of marijuana for youth age 25, but all other forms should still be available

(AM1470) General Practitioner: Marijuana Advocate's Statement Not Reflect The Real Situation

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=50401

- Dr. Ming Kin Sze: youth age under 25 easily addicted, have depression or become suicidal, affect cognitive ability, increased car accident
- Medicinal marijuana is used only when traditional treatment or other painkillers are not working, or for AIDS patients who are in palliative care to increase their appetite.
- Demand for medicinal marijuana is not that big as advocates claimed. Only 7% dr. prescribes medicinal marijuana in BC

(AM1320) City of Victoria May Follow Vancouver Regulating Marijuana Dispensaries
http://am1320.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=11177%3A2015-05-08-23-50-09&catid=1%3A2010-10-18-20-52-02&Itemid=97&lang=zh

- Victoria: marijuana dispensaries increased from 4 to 18 since last year. Only 7 have license for selling the apparatus, all others don't have any license

(AM1320) Bird of 2016 Chosen Representing Vancouver
http://am1320.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=11193%3A2016&catid=1%3A2010-10-18-20-52-02&Itemid=97&lang=zh

- 43% votes (115,000), more than number of votes that elected Mayor Robertson by 31,000 votes

(Ming Pao) City of Vancouver \$920,000 To Repair Chinatown Buildings. Over Ten Chinatown Groups Apply, Maximum \$100,000 Subsidy
<http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150511/vas1hr.htm>

- City council will discuss this report on Wed. This is part of the Chinatown Revitalization Plan. City Council passed the 3 -year-long "Chinese Society Buildings Matching Grant" in July 2014.
- Last Dec, 17 chinatown benevolent society or associations already received the first round of subsidy, with a total of \$1.16M. The remaining \$940,000 in the budget is open for application again this time
- 4 out of the 8 organizations that first applied for grant provide affordable housing with a total of 31 units, rent \$100 – \$500 per month. 4 other groups that applied for grant the second time also provide affordable housing with 166 units, rent \$270– 670

(Sing Tao) Vancouver Tree Planting To Commemorate Loved Ones
<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-05-11/community1431335140d5572599.html>

- Vancouver Park Board Commissioner Catherine Evans: will motion about letting residents to commemorate their loved ones through placing a small plaque besides a tree. Currently already benches (10 years for \$4,000), permanent \$25,000. Cost for a tree is \$500 and the plaque is about \$1,200
- The initiative won't help too much with Park Board's financial problem, but will be able to help tree planting meet their target

(World Journal) Both Side of Plebiscite Said They Are Leading
<http://www.worldjournal.com/3234430/article-運輸公投-雙方都贏/?ref=溫哥華>

- No Side: through social media and personal network, continue to spread the message. Even more positive after Alberta's election as it proves that polling is accurate.
- Coquitlam mayor Greg Moore: pressure from population is showing now, don't have to wait for a decade. Lose-lose if No side wins. Believes people would vote yes if they understand.
- Currently about 40% voted

(Fairchild TV) On-Line Petition Urging Governments To Reserve Half of Units for Locals

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=96bc82d11851fad841c56bac26d777a6>

- Vancouver City Cllr Raymond Louie: foreign ownership isn't the only reason that drives the housing price to go up. City is rather concerned about the use of these properties. City doesn't have the authority to constrain foreign buyers
- Realtor: reduce property transfer tax for people who buy property to live

5.12 (Tue)

(AM1320 Phone-in Show) Lower Mainland And Local Government Association vote to support assuming the authority of regulating marijuana dispensaries by themselves, after City of Vancouver. Is this form of legalizing marijuana an unavoidable trend in Lower Mainland?

Commentators:

- Only if proven there is a bottleneck for supply of medicinal marijuana or a huge demand; however, these are
- Federal: need to comply to ruling of federal court, but the current measure is problematic ie. Powder form doesn't meet some patients' needs, 25 licenses producers not able to meet the real demand. Need a review process for current policy which the federal isn't doing now.
- Natural Path doctors are not qualified to operate a medicinal marijuana stores

Callers:

- Double standard. City of Vancouver only enforces selectively. Put in a lot of resources on parking violations but not marijuana dispensaries where they reap so much money from license fees
- Medicinal marijuana is a pill or certain form, but advocates want the addictive type. No ground for having dispensaries to be widely available like convenience stores

(AM1470 Phone-in Show) Discuss About Use of Marijuana And Drug Use With An Organization Visiting From Hong Kong That Has High Success Rate In Detox (DAWN Operation, opdawn.org.hk)

Guests/ Commentators:

- Harder to implement detox in Vancouver as government has a lot more resources that allow drug addicts to go through treatment by themselves, but they may lack the will power and discipline to do so
- Detox always go hand-in-hand with life skills and employment prep such as language/ communication training, counselling services to help them redefine their self worth so that they won't fall back into previous lifestyle of living on the street
- Visit schools regularly to educate youth that taking marijuana and other drugs is not a hipe thing.
- Personal testimony is most touching and powerful. Popular and appealing to youth about why and how we turned away from the "hype life style of drugs" to "positive, contributing individuals"
- Even marijuana which is less impact still has a lingering effect, not killing one right away, from eroding a person by making one feels dim and hopeless over time

Callers:

- Many friends who take marijuana don't want to see legalization as they want to be private with their habit

(AM1320) Lower Mainland And Local Government Association Support Rules For Medical Marijuana Dispensaries

- Represent 33 municipalities, will send report to Union of BC Municipalities and then Federation of Canadian Municipalities to seek support on a federal level. If council approves the regulations, Vancouver will be the first city in Canada with a legal framework for pot shops
- 14 out of the 90 marijuana dispensaries already got license

5.13 (Wed)

(World Journal) Commute By Bike Increased By 20% in Vancouver

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3237698/article-溫市民通勤騎單車次數-增20/?ref=溫哥華>

- Report from City of Vancouver shows that although most residents still rely on vehicles to commute, the number has been declining gradually, from 980,000 (2013) down to 918,000 (2014).
- Use of Bike increased by 20%, 100,000 (2014), doubled from 50,000 (2008)

- Accidents involved bikers and pedestrians didn't increase because safety measure on bike lanes were enhanced
- Possible to attain Greenest City Plan by 2040: replace driving by 20%
- Mayor: without new investment, hard to advance transportation infrastructure. Urges residents to vote Yes at plebiscite

5.13 (Wed)

(AM1320 Phone-in Shows) Should government implement restrictions or make investing in real estate more difficult for foreign investors?

Commentator:

- Housing should not be treated only as an economic index
- Governments should investigate into what the root causes of the high real estate price. Open market doesn't mean no regulations
- Should not single out one issue and let everyone attack it. Foreign investors is not the only or main causes
- Sustaining and improving living quality is government's (province & municipal) mandate.

Callers:

- Open market, can't close it to prevent competition or stop people from moving to Greater Vancouver. Extra tax on foreign investors would be unfair
- Matter of supply and demand, but province should use other measures to influence real estate price, but suppressing market price but can attract people to move to certain areas
- Developers purposely push up real estate price by releasing small number of units one at a time, thus lowering the supply

(AM1470 Phone-in Shows) Why only 40% people have voted two weeks before the transit plebiscite end?

Commentators:

- Only about 40% voted- generally feeling that many out there didn't vote because somehow a lot of Y/N supporters think that their side is winning as many on their side have voted already, so their own votes don't make much difference

Callers:

- Some may have the impression that the procedure is hard to follow, but indeed they are very easy
- Voted No- plebiscite is not really about the Ten Years' Transportation Plan but more bike lanes in the region and more buses. But bike lanes are not helping with traffic congestion problem and see too many buses running empty.

(Fairchild TV) Vancouver City Council Passed Motion To Help Repair Chinatown Buildings And Sinclair Centre

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=5e640b4ed00c3f1ecfae9c8bc239613b>

- Adriane Carr– worried the 59 stories would affect historical value of Sinclair Centre
- Raymond Louie– can reduce lack of commercial space problem in downtown
- 13 Chinatown organizations received funding to repair roof, windows etc. Total \$920,000 funding. A group that received funding said, it can last 10 –20 years after the repair.
- Redevelop old postal office into mix of residential and commercial building

5.14(Th)

(AM1320 Phone-in Show) Compass card trial started for Coquitlam residents. Would that affect plebiscite voting

Commentators:

- Public polls result is crystal clear. However with the low voting turn out so far, Yes side may win and sets a bad record of those in governance can ignore and override public opinion.
- Many may feel their votes don't make much difference, or, they feel even if they oppose to the tax, and even if the plebiscite doesn't pass, municipalities may raise property tax anyways. So voting or not still resulting in more tax.

Callers:

- Should cancel the 90 minute expiry limit. Currently fee system of buses is based on time, whereas skytrains by zone.
- Should eliminate the zone system as it's unfair. Can be programmed to charge by number of stations. Many train system in the world works, shouldn't be a problem
- Bad choice with the Chicago company with bad record. Lots of good choices ie. Hong Kong's MTR compass card system. Suspicious that there are other hidden reasons.
- Trial system doesn't make sense. Some post-secondary students were on a trial before.
Redundant and confusing.
- Trial system is under the same condition. Not necessary.

(AM1320) City of Victoria Follows Vancouver Regulating Marijuana Dispensaries

http://am1320.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=11269%3A2015-05-15-21-58-45&catid=1%3A2010-10-18-20-52-02&Itemid=97&lang=zh

(AM1320) TransLink Announced Compass Cards Will be Used At Westcoast Express

http://am1320.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=11269%3A2015-05-15-21-58-45&catid=1%3A2010-10-18-20-52-02&Itemid=97&lang=zh

5.15 (Fri)

(Sing Tao) Robertson: No News About Qu's Mother

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-05-15/province1431683869d5580098.html>

- Robertson: Qu hasn't heard anything about Wanting Qu's mother for 8 months now. As both Qu and himself are public figures, they can only respond to a certain extent. He is frustrated that he was personally attacked during last election. His personal life should not have anything to do with being a good mayor.

5.16 (Sat)

(AM1470) Chinese Consulate: Chinese Short-term Speculate On Real Estate? Stories Made Up By Media.

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=50547

- Housing price skyrocketed in Greater Vancouver. Some critics said Chinese buyers speculate on real estate here, and government should do something against foreign investors. Chinese Consulate General Fei Liu doesn't respond directly but said this is just a story made up by media to draw attention.

(Ming Pao) Virtual Mock Oil Spill Shows Severe Pollution Results In Burrard Inlet And Surrounding Coasts

<http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150516/vasb r.htm>

- Collaborated study of Vancouver, Burnaby and First Nations shows (commissioned by US company Genwest Systems) oil spill occurred in Burrard Inlet may result in 50- 90% of pollution to surrounding coastlines within a few hours, and seriously affect health of human, wild life and the environment.
- Vancouver City Cllr. Andrea Reimer: Kinder Morgan hasn't done a proper assessment for a potential severe oil spill.
- Vancouver City Hall's release: according to Kinder Morgan's proposal submitted to National Energy Board, oil tankers entering Burrard Inlet may increase from 5 to 34 per month

(Sing Tao) First Quarter Incremental Growth In Real Estate. Vancouver Still Most Unaffordable

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-05-16/headline1431770687d5582768.html>

- Only 9.3% people in Vancouver can afford to own a home, next unaffordable is Richmond, Burnaby, Delta, New Westminster, Port Moody, Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam, West Van and North Van.
- More affordable: Surrey, Langley, Pitt Meadows, Maple Ridge
- Affordable index is based on ability to pay 10% down payment, monthly mortgage and family income etc.
- Median price of Vancouver is \$1.6M

(Sing Tao) City of Vancouver: Solar Panel Installation Requires City Permit

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-05-16/headline1431770312d5581991.html>

- BC Hydro: must stop using panels if deemed unsafe.
- SFU Mechatronic Systems Engineering professor: installation of solar panels are complicated and may involve fire and housing structure issues, may take 4-5 months. The permit application process may take too long and not helpful for Vancouver's Green City initiative

(World Journal) Michael Ching May Have Left Vancouver

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3243667/article-michael-ching-或已離溫哥華/?ref=溫哥華>

- According to source from Chinese government agency, though hasn't been confirmed by Chinese and Canadian officials, Ching's whereabouts is unknown, may have left Vancouver already, but still in Canada
- Ching holds Hong Kong Identity card, and his daughter Linda Ching was born in Hong Kong. As Ching hasn't received the Canadian Permanent Resident's status, if he leaves Canada, Hong Kong's Special Administrative Region only allow him enter 152 countries or regions without visas. So if he leaves Vancouver, he is most likely staying within Canada
- Ching likely left Vancouver for judicial review for the rejection of his refugee application, which will be held at Winnipeg in June 23

5.16 (Sat) – More

(AM1470 Phone-in Show) How would Vancouver School Board deal with Student Loss, and other issues?

Guest: VSB Chair Christopher Richardson:

- School Board has to do some studies and estimation on how demographics changes affect student population in different areas. ie. Champlain Height experience student population drop recently as the young generation move out after they grow up, but areas such as International Village, along the river district etc. there is a huge demand for more school space
- Still 63 schools in Vancouver needs seismic upgrade, can hardly finish by deadline 2020. Perhaps done by 2030. Why takes so long? Don't think the province withhold funding, but lots of paperwork that takes long time to proceed

Callers' questions:

- Lack of reliability and teacher strikes? monitoring and hoping to improve relationship with teachers but school board is neutral.
- Would school board consider closing schools when student population falls below 95%?
School Board hasn't discussed about this and prefers to keep students at neighbourhood school as the board's mandate is to have students walking to school. School closure would also mean loss of playground in the neighbourhood.

(Fairchild TV) Computerized Program Predicts Severe Environmental Damage When Oil Spills At Burrard Inlet

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=f6484dfb6a1c9ba74634f35bddc7d7da>

5.17 (Sun)

(World Journal) 13 Days Left For Plebiscite

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3244509/article-運輸公投-投票剩 13 天/?ref=溫哥華>

- Some estimated that voting rate will be between 50-55%. HST referendum was 52.66%

(Ming Pao) No Biking On Sidewalk. Vancouver Police Ticketed 733 People In Four Years

<http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150517/vas4 r.htm>

- Some city councillors including Tim Stevenson, Adriane Carr and George Affleck have said VPD hasn't proactively targeted bikers who bike on sidewalks
- (2011) 202 tickets, (2012) 132 tickets, (2013) 230, (2014) 169. Fine per ticket \$129
- Bikers without helmet dropped by 990 since last year from 1,541 tickets
- Mayor Robertson: City council budgeted \$500K to support pedestrians and bikers

(Sing Tao) Abandoned House At Strathcona Selling At \$1.4M

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-05-17/province1431856070d5583840.html>

- The house on sale has been vacant over about 10 years, requires renovation to become livable condition. Located at 320 Union Street, City's Character home. Close to downtown, many people live to move to that area, according to the realtor

(Westca.com) Letting Mo Yeung Ching Stayed In Canada Is A Shame

<http://www.westca.com/News/article/sid=408665/中国人看来 容留程慕阳是加国耻辱/lang=schinese.html>

- Although a number of media outlets have done lots of fact check on Ching for more than 2 weeks, Canadian government remains silent. To many in mainland China, it's a shame that Canada keeps Ching: the authoritative from China's Interpol shows the severity; some in political and business circles in Canada don't distant themselves from Ching; don't use Ching as a bargaining power and make Canada a haven for China's corrupted fugitives.
- Ching is only a tip of an ice-berg. 3 alleged fugitives are living in Canada.

5.18 (Mon)

(Ming Pao) 9.3M Tourists To Vancouver Reached New Height. Tourism Vancouver: Local Tourism Entering Harvest Time

<http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150518/vasb r.htm>

- \$6B economic spin-offs. Expected number of tourists will increase by 3.5% in 2015
- China has surpassed Britain and become the largest origin of tourists to Vancouver since 2013
- Close connections to countries of various culture has helped Vancouver become on the most important travel destinations, toppled by investments and policies of three levels of governments that improve infrastructures and facilities

(Sing Tao) Huge Response On Red Interpol , Its Credibility Controversial

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-05-18/headline1431939196d5584184.html>

- Generally people in Mainland China applaud for the Red Interpol list, but many Chinese overseas think it's controversial as many on the list are not corrupted government officials.
- 16 out of the 100 are government senior officials, some entrepreneurs are only involved in civic dispute but "made the list" due to political rivalry. However, media in China purposely create a sentiment that these wanted people will face their consequence eventually
- In response to particularly US media's suspicion, scholar in China said it's non-sense talk trying to demonize China. Up to 60% of 48 people on the Interpol list allegedly involved in corruption, and many are senior leading party members. They must be tried for violating both the law and party's doctrines.
- The "Red wanted list" list is acknowledged by Interpol, not just from China alone
- These attacks against China shows that some don't want to see China moving forward

5.19 (Tue)

(Ming Pao) Report: Tankers Oil Spill Would Kill 100,000 Birds

<http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150519/vas2 r.htm>

- A commissioned studies from City of Vancouver, First Nations Tsleil-Waututh and Living Ocean Society, investigating on ecological impact from Kinder Morgan's Trans Mountain Expansion Project
- Especially at Burrard Inlet and Fraser River which is one of the most important area in North America where marine lives dwell

(Sing Tao) 100,000 Birds Would Die If Oil Spill At Vancouver Shorelines

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-05-19/province1432025150d5585664.html>

(Westca.com) Mo Yeung Ching Lives Luxuriously In Vancouver; Build Private Airport On His Own Island

http://www.westca.com/News/article/sid=409115/程慕阳温哥华奢靡生活_建机
[/lang=schinese.html](http://www.westca.com/News/article/sid=409115/程慕阳温哥华奢靡生活_建机)

- According to South China Morning Post in Hong Kong, Ching purchased a 65-hectares island and build private airport
<http://www.scmp.com/news/world/article/1786367/politics-all-family-corruption-fugitive-michael-ching-mo-yeung>

5.20 (Wed)

(Fairchild TV) TransLink Overall Service Ranked As "A" Grade Nationally

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=39e947eb63c8bac0a911b23ac881c9bb>

- Direct operating cost does less well, passenger trip intensity does well
- No campaign: report is another campaign to promote voting yes

(AM1470) Gardening Specialist Said Vancouver Neglect Care For Grass

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=50681

- Vancouver Park Board is willing to spend \$50,000 on public art but neglect trimming and removing weed

(AM1470) Election BC Received 650,000 Transit Plebiscite Ballots

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=50666

- 42%

(Ming Pao) Farewell Police Chief Jim Chu, Chinese Community Thanks For His Contribution.

First Important Thing To Do Is Vacation With His Wife

<http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150520/vas1h r.htm>

(Ming Pao) Force Omni Recover Ethnic News; Many Organizations Petition to CRTC To Interfere And Call For Public Hearing

<http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150520/vap1h r.htm>

- urges CRTC to hold public hearing and verify if there is interest from another company to operate omni. Fill in the gap of providing detailed coverage about labour, healthcare and immigration that the mainstream media neglected, thus help strengthened the connection between the immigrant and local communities. CRTC should remove Roger's license and give it to someone else if they fail to keep the promise of serving the ethnic communities

(World Journal) FCM Urges Ottawa Improve On Affordable Housing Shortage

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3249002/article-可負擔租屋短缺-fcm 籲渥京改善/?ref=溫哥華>

- Federation of Canadian Municipalities: include encourage building more rental housing, develop a national strategy targeting on homelessness and proving federal tax benefits for developing affordable housing
- 1/5 of people who live in rental housing spend over 50% of income on rent. This will worsen if government doesn't address the issue

(World Journal) Vancouver Community Wants Red Light District

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3243049/article-溫社區請願-促設紅燈區/?ref=溫哥華>

- Kensington-cedar Cottage community urges creating a red light district, to keep sex trade workers in a specific area. Got 237 petition signature so far

5.21 (Thur)

(Sing Tao/ westca.com) Robertson Earned At Least \$220K From Selling Old House

http://www.westca.com/News/article/sid=409612/lang=schinese.html?utm_source=westca&utm_medium=link&utm_campaign=news_extend

- Robertson and his ex-wife Amy bought their Kisilano home for \$1.6M in 2013, and it was sold for over \$1.8M and they gained over \$220K

5.22 (Fri)

(Fairchild TV) One Week Left For Transit Plebsicite

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=ed0eebbaa23beae2d9fcb2fd70cd6feb>

- NDP's George Heyman: voting no doesn't help. TransLink ran out money and running on reserve
- Canadian Taxpayer's Coalition: TransLink needs to reform their way of operation first

(AM1470) "King Of Apartments" Breaks The Dream Of Owning A Single Home In Vancouver

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=50754

- To improve affordability in Vancouver, must increase housing density. Only 47,000 single homes remain in Vancouver, reduce by 900 in the past two years. 50,000 people will move into the city, so the only way is to build more apartment
- Australia had a policy of charging foreign investors speculation tax but it wasn't effective
- Many speculative investors are local Asians, not necessarily foreigners ie. 61% local Asians would help their children purchase homes, way higher than non-Asians as this is their culture
- Government and developers should provide tax incentives for first time home buyers and be innovative in housing styles

(AM1470) Gregor Robertson Urges Province To Set Up "Property Speculation Tax"

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=50750

- Robertson: high property price is obviously related to speculation, province should help provide a fair environment so that low income and young people can afford to live locally

(AM1470) Oil Spill May Cost Vancouver \$1.2B

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=50731

- According to BC Fisheries Study Group's report, if Kinder Morgan project leads to serious oil spills

(AM1320) Studies Show High Income Of The Younger Generation Unable To Afford A Single Home

http://am1320.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=11312%3A2015-05-22-19-40-27&catid=1%3A2010-10-18-20-52-02&Itemid=97&lang=zh

- Younger generation even with high salary won't be able to own a home in 2025.
- To afford mortgage, household income would need to increase from \$123,000 to \$198,000 by 2025

(Ming Pao) VSB Parkade Charge Fees In October

<http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150522/vap3 r.htm>

- Starting in Oct 1, all school staff and visitors would have to pay for parking of monthly pass \$15- \$35, plus 21% parking tax and GST
- This is to relieve financial burden of the district

(Fairchild TV) Report Shows Housing Cost Increase

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=0d9f790e48d1c2850cc47db8af965495>

- Only senior managerial levels can afford to live in Greater Vancouver by 2025, and force people to move out of the region, will have negative impact on labour market
- Housing Price increased by 63% since 2011- 2014), but income only 36.2% , expect house price will increase 4.87% but income only 0.6-3.6%. Would require household income of \$125,000 to afford a home

(Sing Tao) Greater Vancouver Housing Hardly Affordable. May Lead To Labour Shortage

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-05-22/province1432290098d5591671.html>

- By 2025, people of only 3 out of 88 vocations can afford to live in Greater Vancouver. The Millennials will move out of the region for more affordable housing. Negatively affect economy

(World Journal) Unaffordable Housing In Greater Vancouver Push Labour Away

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3252563/article-大溫房價漲翻天-勞工恐出走/?ref=溫哥華>

(Sing Tao) Lack Of Rental Housing, Vancouver City Council Seeks Strategies

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-05-22/province1432289994d5591668.html>

- Staff report to Vancouver City Council said, pressing demand for rental housing. Vacancy rate dropped to 0.5% from 1% since 2013

(World Journal) TransLink Spent \$47M To Build Traffic Network

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3252487/article-建設交通-大溫交局 4700 萬/?ref=溫哥華>

- TransLink announced to spend \$47M on bike lanes and road repair

5.23 (Sat)

(AM1320 Phone-in Show) Why voter turn-out for Plebiscite is so low thus far?

Yes Side representative:

- Shut down shows the infrastructure is already over its life span and require new investment, should vote Yes

Charter Lau, No Campaign:

- Free service to compensate for the shut down, but result in loss of revenue. Money loss and compensation come from taxpayers. Shows the mentality
- Taxpayers already paid \$1.4B but has no ability to improve services.
- Poor city planning when city builds more high density housing but wait for as to expand Transportation
- Services are A grade in some areas but can't justify if they are done inefficiently with a high cost

Commentator:

- Many riders have monthly pass anyways.
- Population growth and more expensive housing don't just mean higher demand for transportation infrastructure, but also better city planning ie. More industrial development for employment
- Salary of TransLink management staff is Province's responsibility, not up to voters
- Services are good overall

Callers:

- TransLink needs improvement in management etc. but its service is good overall

- More people move in means more revenue from property tax, an extra tax isn't reasonable

(Ming Pao) Taxpayers Coalition: Fare Refund Should be By Rules, Not to Please Voters

<http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150523/vaa3 r.htm>

- Taxpayers Coalition: TransLink hasn't properly maintain the transit system. Some riders couldn't refund their tickets after the shutdown

(World Journal) Gregor Robertson Urges Province Implement Speculation Tax

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3254411/article-羅品信促省府-徵「投機口」打房/?ref=溫哥華>

- Mayor's office: more and more people want to see BC follow the example of Hong Kong and Australia to implement such tax in order to suppress speculation from foreign investors
- Robertson: we need to reduce speculation through a tax mechanism. Obviously speculation is one of the main causes for the high housing cost. We need to help create a fair market to realize housing affordability

(World Journal) Skytrain Shutdown Again; Complaints After Complaints

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3253987/article-捷運又癱瘓-乘客怨聲載道/?ref=溫哥華>

(World Journal) 80% Vancouver Toronto Condos Own To Live

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3254414/article-溫、多共管公寓業主-8成自住/?ref=溫哥華>

- CMHC survey: 80% own to live, not to rent or for speculation.
- The portion of people who are categorized by CMHC as investors, 23.7% own the condo over 10 years; over 45% own the condo to live for over 10 years. Plan to own the condo for at least 5 years, dropped from 53% to 51%

(Sing Tao) Condo King Support Speculation Tax And Increase Supply

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-05-23/province1432374910d5592768.html>

- Bob Rennie: support implement speculation tax to people who resell properties within a short period of time, not to foreign investors. We know this points to Chinese, not foreigners
- The tax can be put into a fund to help young first time home buyers, but they must show proof that they don't have affluent parents to help them

5.23 (Sat)– more

(AM1470) Vancouver May Designate Cambie Corridor As Affordable Housing Area For Young Families

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=50772

- Build townhouses with 2–3 bedroom within 10 minutes walking distance from Cambie Corridor
- City planner and Development Manager Brian Jackson: developing Marpole will help setting a price for Cambie, will start with public consultation

5.24 (Sun)

(Fairchild TV) Petition Organized By A Chinese Lady Urging Three Levels Of Governments To Deal With Soaring Housing Price

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=e3f2b325739bbe549d3875450b27a3a1>

- Over 100 people at the petition “Don’t Have A Million”
- Some joined the petition point the problem to foreign investors, and said wages hasn’t caught up with the increase in housing cost

(AM1470) Petition Against Soaring Housing Price

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=50781

(AM1470) Yes Side Still Has Hope Wining Plebiscite

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=50776

(Sing Tao) Cambie Corridor Stage 3 Development, Public Consultation

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-05-24/province1432461465d5594300.html>

- Build townhouse or row house units with 2–3 bedrooms suitable for families, expect to review the entire project in winter 2017. Will help set a base price for Cambie Corridor

(World Journal) Through Developing Cambie Corridor, City Of Vancouver Hopes To Increase Affordable Housing Supply

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3255347/article-開發甘比走廊-溫市府盼增可負擔住屋/?ref=溫哥華>

- Affordable housing with 2–3 bedrooms

(World Journal) Overstatement: Labours Kicked Out By Soaring Housing Price

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3255335/article-高房價逼勞工出走-學者:言之過重/?ref=溫哥華>

- UBC Housing and economic studies, Tsur Somerville: salary would adjust accordingly if a large number of people moved out from Vancouver and result in significant labour loss

(World Journal) No Tangible Proof On Speculation Causing Soaring Housing Price

[http://www.worldjournal.com/3255337/article-炒房推高房價?-\[無實證\]/?ref=溫哥華](http://www.worldjournal.com/3255337/article-炒房推高房價?-[無實證]/?ref=溫哥華)

- Robertson: speculation is obviously the main cause but UBC's scholar Tsue Somerville said currently no proof on certain individuals pushing the housing price
- Speculation happened in 2006 when a large number of people lined up to purchase and release within 30 days, but rare now
- Speculation tax may face opposition by some homeowners as it happened in San Francisco.

5.25 (Mon)

(Fairchild TV) More Restaurants In Vancouver Can Extend Patio Hours Till 1AM

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=2ad3359808b5f313661461e2ed10cc06>

- Vancouver DT BIA: attract young people
- Need good track record, can't have any noise complaints in the past year
- Mayor Robertson: More business opportunities for communities, make sure deal with complaints
- VPD: will allocate staff for potential problems caused by alcohol consumption

5.26 (Tue)

(Fairchild TV) Huge Sculpture At Hastings Park Tracks Decision Delayed

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=dc88b6a16db5ef98acdee40975d9af0f>

- Park Board Commissioner Michael Wiebe: public concerns about safety and its cost, need more time to review

(AM1470) Park Public Art Decision Delayed

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=50823

- Michale Wiebe: most are concerned whether it is worthwhile to spend \$450,000 to display the public art

(AM1470) Should Hand In Plebiscite Ballots In Person If Not Mailed Out By Today

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=50843

(AM1320) Transit Plebiscite Ballot Must Be Mailed Today

http://am1320.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=11375%3A2015-05-26-23-02-41&catid=1%3A2010-10-18-20-52-02&Itemid=97&lang=zh

(Sing Tao) Transit Plebiscite Deadline On Friday, Mail Latest By Tonight

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-05-26/headline1432634169d5596725.html>

(World Journal) Transit Plebiscite Ballots Mail Out Latest By Today

(AM1470) Suppressing Foreign Investors Not Effective In The Long Run, According To Scholars

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=50819

- BC School of Commerce Thomas Davidoff: 50% of buyers are foreigners in some region and may have effect in the short run. But once they exit the market, local wealthy investors can still enter the market. Real winners are owners of multi-level housing units as the depreciation rate is lower

(Ming Pao) Robertson Urges Federal And Province Help Build Affordable Housing, But Himself Got Criticized On Line For Not Suppressing Housing Prices

http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150526/vaa5_r.htm

- Robertson's response to "Don't have a million" petition on facebook that it raised awareness of the negative impact of the soaring housing prices have on young people, City has heard a lot of concerns around that and is studying how to make housing more affordable. But Province and federal should step in.
- But some comments left backfired about Mayor lying and encouraging such housing market, and not fighting himself so the other two levels of government won't either

(World Journal) Huge Tax Revenue Prevents Governments From Suppressing Housing Price

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3258311/article-□收豐-政府無意壓房價？/?ref=溫哥華>

- Article From Vancouver Courier: Province received \$757M from property transfer tax last year, this year expected reaching \$1B.

- Vancouver City Hall gained \$1.9B, revenue from building permit alone \$1.8B, increased by 77% since 2008. As Mayor have stressed over lack of revenue in the past, no reason to reject such good stream of income.
- Property owners like to see housing price continue to soar and suppressing that can have political consequence like the NPA when housing price depreciated between 1999–2002
- Even if feds is willing, with 4,000 municipalities across the country, hard to effectively implement. Eg. Australia– despite restrictions on foreign investors, local buyers still push up the housing price
- But government should still build more affordable housing

(World Journal) A Few Hundred Of People Petition For Inability To Afford Housing

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3256808/article-住不起溫哥華-數百人抗議/?ref=溫哥華>

5.25 (Mon) –More

(Ming Pao) Should Not Blame Chinese For Soaring Housing Price

<http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150525/vap1h r.htm>

- Organizer of the “Don’t Have A Million”– problem is foreign investors as those invest in Vancouver come all over the world, not fair to point figure to people from certain countries; three levels of governments need to suppress housing price

(Ming Pao) Foreign Investment Accounts For Only 2% of Transactions

<http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150525/vap2 r.htm>

- Urban Development Institute: according to data in Rennie Marketing Systems, only 2% of capital comes from foreign buyers, and most of them purchase real estate in Vancouver for their families here, not letting houses sitting vacant as many have thought
- Speculation tax don’t regulate housing price right away and the impact is minimal. There are always people who own more than one single home, increasing supply is the way

5.27 (Wed)

(Fairchild TV) Vancouver Submit Report to National Energy Board Regarding Trans Mountain Pipeline Project

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=95729d35a507b967329beec22743ec26>

- Mayor Robertson: don’t have faith in National Energy Board, if spill occurs it would damage Vancouver’s reputation and costly to clean up
- Kinder Morgan: will study the report such as what kind of worst scenario City of Vancouver assumes

5.28 (Thur)

(AM1470) Vancouver City Hall Hopes To Strengthen Communication With Residents Through New Software

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=50895

- “VanConnect” won’t replace current 311 service, provide info on garbage pick up and city news etc., can also communicate with City staff

(Fairchild TV) Vancouver City Hall Release Mobil App To Strengthen Communication With Residents

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=5122eee5a7e2768194775f68037e2ebc>

(Sing Tao) Vancouver Criticized As Boring. Premier Responds: In Good Operation

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-05-28/province1432806738d5600447.html>

- The Economist criticized that most livable cities such as Vancouver is getting more boring.
- Premier defended: City of Vancouver is operating well, don't have to mind the Economist who are the "boring specialists"

(Sing Tao) Purchasing A Home In Vancouver Not Too Difficult. Decision Should Based On Our Ability To Pay

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-05-28/community1432804545d5600413.html>

- Organizer of "Don't Have A Million" urges Mayor Robertson to build more 3 bedrooms housing units, and hope increasing housing supply would lower housing price
- Easier for working class Singles, but for young families who need a larger home is a lot more difficult and often have to move to suburb cities

(Ming Pao) Transit Plebiscite 45% Voted So Far

<http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150528/vad2.htm?m=0>

(World Journal) Transit Plebiscite Deadline Tomorrow Night

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3261297/article-大溫運輸公投-明晚截止/?ref=溫哥華>

- No Side announced spent \$9687.95 in total in campaigning, while Yes side spent over \$7M and still not willing release a more detailed figure

(Sing Tao) Transit Plebiscite Deadline Friday Night. Voting Rate About 45%

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-05-28/province1432806427d5600440.html>

(Ming Pao) Through Tax Incentives Vancouver Encourages Building 3 Bedroom Units

<http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150528/vas3.htm?m=0>

- 3 bedroom housing units less than 1% and experiencing severely shortage. Developers can get certain fees reduced when build 3 bedrooms units under 1,044 square feet
- Under City of Vancouver's "Rental 100" Project, so far created 4,000 rental units

(World Journal) City of Vancouver Plan To Build More 3 Bedrooms Housing Units

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3261384/article-溫市擬增建3房住屋/?ref=溫哥華>

(Fairchild TV) Vancouver City Council Passed Motion To Create More 3 Bedroom Rental Units

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=d54be4ff5a9dad8e016206a562bb7915>

- BCNPHA (BC Non-Profit Housing Association) – good to have more rental housing supply, but this only serves the segmented market who are able to afford \$2,400 monthly rent. City should work with two levels of governments

5.29 (Fri)

(AM1470) Transit Plebiscite Ending At 8PM Tonight

(Sing Tao) Pacific Gateway To Asia Advantage Helps Attracting International Investment

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-05-29/headline1432894639d5603677.html>

- Investor advisor Norman Sung: BC's investment environment attract many international investors' interest in real estate market, thus bringing vibrant development in construction and other service industries. Immigrants' connections to their country of origin also boost more business opportunities between Canada and these countries

(Sing Tao) BC Economy Tops the Country. Vancouver Real Estate Continues To Rise

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-05-29/headline1432894674d5603678.html>

- Continuous demand for housing and housing price increase provides a positive domino effect on finance, insurance and related industries

(Sing Tao) City of Vancouver's Mobile App Make Inquiry And Report At Ease

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-05-29/community1432890830d5602825.html>

(world journal) Vancouver False Creek Flat Converted To Green Industrial Area

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3263171/article-溫市福溪平地-打造綠色工業區/?ref=溫哥華>

- 450 hectares of False Creek Flat converted to area that includes St. Paul's Hospital, Fire department, UBC etc. post-secondary education campuses

(World Journal) Transit Plebiscite Ballots Sent Out Latest Today

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3257772/article-運輸公投選票-最遲今天寄出/?ref=溫哥華>

5.29 (Fri)– more

(AM1320 Talk Show) Deadline of Transit Plebiscite

Commentators (one Yes and one No):

- Many don't vote because even if you voted it down, the tax will likely to come back in the form of property tax
- Compare to HST, No side of Transit Tax is a lot weaker. So even if No side failed, it's still an "honorable battle".
- Robertson said he is cautiously optimistic, meaning that he is confident that Yes side will win.
He may have figures and the Yes side is more organized. Can count one business and student groups' votes more than the No side

Callers:

- People should vote even if they feel that the tax will come in other forms when voted down. A strong statement to those in power

5.30 (Sat)

(Fairchild TV) TransLink Takes One Week To Finish Counting Ballots

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=7b763dcb78dd4c378a4170623a213821>

- Insights West: Plebiscite lacks clarity

(World Journal) Soaring Housing Price Caused By Immigrants of Investor Category?

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3266357/article-房價狂飆-投資移民惹的禍?/?ref=溫哥華>

- Reporter of South China Morning Post Ian Young in Vancouver: soaring house price in Vancouver is caused by exponential growth of affluent Chinese immigrants in the past decade, as China's economy blooms. Between 2005–2012, 45,000 wealthy immigrants from China come to Vancouver when the former investor category and Quebec immigration investor program were canceled. At the same period, US only received 9,450 immigration application by investor category. That figure in Vancouver is highest among all cities in the world
- In the past year China's economy wasn't as good as it was previously, more money come to Vancouver
- Question the effectiveness of limiting foreign investors in purchasing real estate: Canada never has any statistics on that
- Vancouver's housing market driven by foreign investors is only a myth. Most so-called "foreign investors" have double citizenship or permanent residency of

Canada, some bought properties through legal representatives such as their spouse or children who live here

- Ratio of housing to income, Vancouver 10.6 (compared to 5.3 a decade ago), New York (6.1), Singapore (5.0)

(World Journal) Public Forum: No Side May Have A Bigger Chance To Win

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3264742/article-民意論壇：反對陣營或贏面較大/?ref=溫哥華>

- Public forum Place Speak: No side has 10% advantage. Higher voting rate in Vancouver with Yes side more favorable 6:4. New Westminster and Langley gradually switch from No to Yes
- Cities such as Richmond, Surrey, Delta and Burnaby tend to vote No
- Yes side put in huge investment in promotion and have greater impact, so more voter turn out as a result of that. But the overall impact is not proportional to their efforts and investment

(World Journal) Transit Plebiscite Result Released In Early Summer

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3264747/article-運輸公投截止-結果夏天出爐/?ref=溫哥華>

5.31 (Sun)

(World Journal) China "Adds Oil" To The Already Burning House Market In Greater Vancouver

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3266361/article-大溫瘋狂房市-中國火上加油/?ref=溫哥華>

- According to the Wall Street Journal
<http://www.wsj.com/articles/china-to-ease-limits-on-overseas-investments-1432841526>
- quoting sources in China, China will loosen up the limit for personal and corporate foreign investment. The goal is to push the international acceptance of RMB to a new threshold. This would allow direct purchase of foreign real estate. If it's confirmed, Vancouver's real estate which has always been eyed by Chinese investors will get to an even crazier level.
- New policy will first be applied to individuals and corporates in certain free trade zones (ie. Shanghai, Sheng Zhen, minimum requirement: owing \$1M RMB or \$162,000 CDN), but will be expanded gradually, which is a typical strategy of Chinese government
- Chinese government wants to avoid economy

6.1 (Mon)

(AM1320 Phone-in Show) \$30M Burrard Bridge Projects To Expand Bike Lane

Commentators:

- Too well-planned. Shows city has pre-determined everything ie. Consultation only about a month, bike lane construction done next summer
- Bikers' group is highly organized and will take up a large number of spots to speak at public consultation
- Why use public \$ to subsidize bikers who don't bring any economic benefits while parking space is so limited? Not fair to drivers.
- Timing to announce the report is strategic. If before plebiscite, many may vote No.
- Low number of tickets issued to bikers don't necessarily mean low violations, but police not seeing it as a low priority
- Bikers should have to pay insurance

Callers:

- Report is biased. A large number of bikers violate bylaws such as biking on pedestrians in high speed, and not wearing helmet. City staff's report is likely to please the mayor who is pro bike lanes
- City has a ear deaf to voters, bikers are only a very small percentage.
- Short sighted. Affect pedestrians, parking space. Not beneficial overall.
- Special favor to special interest groups
- Not fair to pedestrians and drivers as bikers cause a lot of safety hazard yet they don't have to pay any license fees. In a way drivers are covering bikers' insurance
- Mayor too selfish to push an economically unsound policy due to personal hobby, and congestion problem is bound to get worse
- Can go to the park to exercise. That's personal preference. Not a strong reason to expand bike lanes to this extent.

(AM1470) Poll: 70% Support Vacant Property Tax

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=50985

- 70%: foreign buyers jet up housing price, 86%: buyers who don't purchase to own doesn't belong to the community
- whether the current discussion is discriminatory to certain ethnic groups? 20%: yes, East Asians: 35%
- still lack data to support the impact of vacant properties and foreign buyers on local housing price

(AM1470) City of Vancouver studies building safe bike parking space

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=50967

- motioned by City Cllr. George Affleck: 1,000 safe bike parking spots to resolve the severe bike thefts around downtown area. Number of bikers has increased drastically

(AM1470) Transit Plebiscite Result Takes Time

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=50964

- fastest the end of June

(AM1470) Vancouver the 46th move livable city in Canada

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=50990

- MoneySense: ranking for 206 cities, Vancouver dropped from 39 to 46. But suburban cities improved. North Van 9th, West Van 11th, Delta 13th. Port Moody 32nd, Port Coquitlam 35th

(AM1470) Reduce One Lane At Burrard Bridge For Less Accidents

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=50972

(AM1320) Two Transit Cops Guilty In Multiple Counts, Convicted

http://am1320.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=11412%3A2015-06-01-19-19-10&catid=1%3A2010-10-18-20-52-02&Itemid=97&lang=zh

- Charged assault, public mischief, breach of trust and fabricating evidence

(World Journal) Bulgars Crashed Into Two Pot Dispensaries With A Van

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3267352/article-飛車破窗-溫市 2 大麻店遭劫/?ref=溫哥華&npg=2>

- Bulgars crashed into the store at East Van 41st Street with their van at 4:20am, and stole marijuana and apparatus with a total value of \$6,000, then targeted another dispensary at W. Hasting 2347
- 4 marijuana dispensaries in Vancouver are broken into within 2 weeks

(Fairchild TV) Repairs At Burrard Bridge And Intersections

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=c3c7377014553b7643f4f43a6f679360>

- City Cllrs. George Affleck: hard to believe if no congestion results, but will keep impact to minimal and consult public opinions
- businesses: concerned of losing parking space, thus business due to construction

6.2 (Tue)

(Fairchild TV) Report: Commuters Using Public Transit, Walk Or Bike Are Healthier

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=d268221f68f96be176c05c7de5ad9501>

- overall 27% healthier, 69% have 100 minutes more exercise, 40% healthy index 10+

(AM1320) Over 70% British Columbians Support Vacant Property Tax

http://am1320.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=11434%3A70&catid=1%3A2010-10-18-20-52-02&Itemid=97&lang=zh

- Insights West: Greater Vancouver 77% support, 18-34 years old 76% support, 70% think house price is jettied up by foreign buyers, 21% said the discussion blaming foreign buyers is discriminatory

(Ming Pao) Burrard Bridge North Bound Lanes 3 Reduced To 2, Vancouver's Only Solution To "Resolve Traffic Congestion". Consultation Limited To One Month

<http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150602/vap1h.htm?m=0>

(Sing Tao) Vancouver \$30M Reduce Another Bridge Lane

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-06-02/province1433240440d5609549.html>

(Sing Tao) Chinese Consulate Confirmed 4 Corrupted Officials Hiding In Greater Vancouver

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-06-02/province1433240568d5609553.html>

- Consulate General Fei Liu: Encourage people who know the whereabouts of them report to China's monitoring department: www.ccdi.gov.cn
- Welcome these corrupted officials to talk to consulate and would persuade them to return to China and give back the money. Chinese government would deal with them lawfully. If they cooperate, it won't affect them reuniting with their families in the future
- Not willing to release their names

(World Journal) Burrard Bridge Cut One Northbound Lane For Bike Lane

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-06-02/community1433238751d5608754.html>

- Question the press conference, no one elected officials from Vision Vancouver was present to respond to media or public
- NPA City Cllrs. George Affleck: necessary to fix Burrard bridge, but public consultation is too short, question if Mayor Robertson wants to force more to bike by making congestion problem worsens

(World Journal) Chinese Consulate General Fei Liu: Welcome the Corrupted Officials To Call Them

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-06-02/community1433238751d5608754.html>

- Former chinese consulate general has promised that innocent family members of the corrupted officials won't be harmed in any ways, and they can pursue to claim their legal assets

(World Journal) Vancouver 9th Most Livable City in the World

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3269413/article-全國最宜居-溫市排第九/?ref=溫哥華>

6.3 (Wed)

(Fairchild TV) Vancouver Park Board Cover 500 Trees' Roots During the Hot Summer

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=7b5f37cf6529d139d0735e31fa4baae4>

- Ask public to help fill up the bags once every one to two weeks

6.4 (Thur)

(Westca) Vancouver Mayor Strategize To Instigate A Harsh Speculation Tax

http://www.westca.com/News/article/sid=412996/lang=schinese.html?utm_source=westca&utm_medium=topic_hot&utm_campaign=news_extend

- Mayor Robertson skilfully pushed the ball to Premier after profiting from selling his luxurious home.
- Clearly, speculation tax isn't his main point, but what is it really? Perhaps property transfer tax on the most expensive properties, amendments to Vancouver Charter and Community Charter to strengthen the ability of municipalities to track property ownership and ensure timely occupancy of vacant units. (the article hasn't answered this clearly though)

(Ming Pao) Wealthy Of Affluent Families Increased By 80%, Poor Families 38%

<http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150604/vad1h.htm?m=0>

- Survey of Financial Security from Statistics Canada (1999, 2005, 2015)– top 20% highest income earners, have 47% of wealth of Canada, 2% higher than 1999. Average wealth increased to \$1.2M including their property
- 20% lowest income earners, total portion of wealth in Canada dropped from 5% to 4%, average \$109,300.
- 3.5% Canadian families are low income, no accumulated wealth, mostly single, immigrants under age of 34
- Canadian families' growth in wealth: half from property appreciation (wealthy families experience 44% growth in this, low income 73%), half from investment such as pension

(World Journal) Gregor Robertson Advocated For Luxury Home Tax

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3271979/article-打房-羅品信籲增豪宅交易□/?ref=溫哥華>

- Use luxury home tax to help subsidize affordable housing projects, and introduce speculation tax

(Westca.com) Four Fugitives Hiding In Canada Confirmed

<http://www.westca.com/News/article/sid=412973/page=2/lang=schinese.html>

- Pictures of them included in the article, including Mo Yeung CHING “Jian HE” (賀儉) (49-years-old), fled to Canada in 2010, originally a developing company’s manager, hiding in Nanaimo
- “Wen Ge LI” (46-years-old), Union Chair of A National Tax Board, fled to Canada in 2013, alleged of contract fraud, may be hiding in Richmond
- “Qi Wei Wang” (43-years-old), accountant of a trading company, fled to Vancouver in 2005, alleged of credit card fraud, whereabouts is unknown now

(Fairchild TV) Report Shows Municipalities Employee Salary 10-20% Higher Than Private Sectors

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=4fa80ca6c4f95fb2017aec18547ffae2>

- Fraser Institute: municipal employee’s salary and benefits is exceedingly high with good job security, wasted \$3.4B each year. asking federal government to close such gap by reviewing pension policies
- Independent Business Association: Not fair to private sectors, small businesses have to pay 3-4 higher municipal taxes to support their services. Government policy has gaps in union workers’ contract negotiation
- CUPE: the gap was enlarged by certain professions like police and firemen, compared to women, Aboriginal and immigrants
- Richmond Mayor Brodie: determined by collective agreement and also the capabilities and what the market would bear, report not reflective of overall picture

6.5 (Fri)

(AM1320 Phone-in Show) What do you think about the wrestle between Vancouver Mayor and Premier on house price policies?

<http://www.am1320.com>

Commentators:

- Eg. 800 sq. feet, \$580 per sq. feet apartment, admin. Fees include \$70,000 CBC fees, development fees, LEED (environmental) fees (oppose to Burnaby and Surrey almost half of it). Permit application takes significantly longer.
- Many appointments for permit application cancelled because developers
- City hall once said last year that they didn’t keep his promise of increasing more resources to speed up permit application

- Understandable 73% support vacant property tax regardless of ethnic background as a large number of people are not able to rent. But city is unable to verify by neighbor's report.
- Hypocritical: many local Canadians like purchasing vacation homes in US and different provinces
- Premier said no to Robertson, but no solution is offered. But from the government's side, it's hard to have any measures that interfere with the market price in an appropriate way

Callers:

- Mayor Robertson should improve land use such as releasing agricultural land to develop
- Introducing a new tax of course benefit all levels of governments, but they each should have responsibility and can contribute from their revenue to improve housing stock: City: development fees, Province: property transfer tax, federal: GST.
- Hypocritical of Robertson as he just reaped \$40,000 benefits from selling his home. New Westminster's advocating 3 bedroom condo is a good move. Vancouver is mostly 2 bedrooms and even 3 bedroom condos are on the high end, not helping with affordability
- Vancouver's high development fee is the cause, and city is relying too much on this revenue. Worried if real estate market fall, it will have detrimental impact on the city, and city may experience financial crisis

(Sing Tao) Premier: Speculation Tax May Cause Negative Debts To Property Owners

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-06-05/headline1433499909d5616896.html>

- Data shows that most properties are purchased by local investors and their active level is 3-4 times more than foreign investors; need to protect current homeowners while helping first-time-home buyers
- These suggested new taxes may make the real estate market price drop by 10%, may have impact on home owners who are currently on mortgage debt
- Vancouver should have better land use to increase housing supply

(Sing Tao) Vancouver Water Conservation Bags For New Trees, Asks Public to Help Water During Hot Summer

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-06-05/community1433498818d5616890.html>

(Ming Pao) Robertson Urges Province To Reduce Speculation Through New Tax

http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150605/vas2_r.htm

(Ming Pao) Premier: Taxing Not A Good Measure

http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150605/vas3_r.htm

(World Journal) Report: Municipality Staff Wages Too High

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3273617/article-cfib> 報告：地方政府雇員薪資過高/?ref=溫哥華

(Fairchild TV) More Choose To Live Outside Vancouver But Still Not Affordable As One Thinks With High Transportation Cost

http://www.westca.com/News/article/sid=412996/lang=schinese.html?utm_source=westca&utm_medium=topic_hot&utm_campaign=news_extend

- Cheaper to live at suburb but that only subsidizes the expensive transportation cost
- Fraser Valley Real Estate Board- depends on where you work, but transportation infrastructure will make a difference

6.7 (Sun)

(World Journal) City of Vancouver Should Revise Housing Tax System

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3275712/article-ctf:溫市應檢視房屋口收制度/?ref=溫哥華>

- Canadian Taxpayers Association: City of Vancouver should simplify building permit process and reduce the cost. It bounds to pass to taxpayers
- Real Estate Board: speculation tax not feasible, not data show this can solve affordable housing problem. The current property transfer tax is originally a wealth tax targeting on the top 5% most expensive properties, now it applies to 95% houses, which makes housing less affordable
- Not true that average price of Greater Vancouver housing exceeds \$1M, should be under \$800,000 according to MLS

(World Journal) Renovate Old Condos, Rent Increase Multiple Times

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3276886/article-老舊公寓翻新-出租價格倍增/?ref=溫哥華>

- About half of Vancouverites live in rental housing, among that half live in old Condos or large single homes that are subdivided into multiple units. As house price is soaring, people start to show interest in investing in these kinds of housing, torn them down, renovate and rent them out with rent doubled.
- Many said hard to comprehend what City of Vancouver is doing. Ie. Gardens on Cambie (70 townhomes) not affordable. Mayor Robertson didn't mention anything about protecting rental housing
- BC Non-Profit Housing Association: rental home will be even more expensive, now vacancy is close to zero, most severe across the country. City should increase stock of rental housing with other two levels of governments stepping in
- McGill University professor: government only takes an observer approach, developers and builders reap benefits in this, nobody really cares about solving affordable problem

(World Journal) Concerned Groups Asks To Put Vancouver Waterfront Plan On Hault

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3276879/article-溫市濱海開發計畫-關注組促暫停/?ref=溫哥華>

- Concerned about the design doesn't fit into the area

6.8 (Mon)

(AM1320 Phone-in Show) Vancouver City Council will discuss Pot dispensaries Wednesday night. Some groups advocate opposing side to boycott the meeting as it's a show put up by the council. Would the meeting be hijacked by the pro side?

Commentator:

- Unless affected severely personally, in general Chinese voters are not likely to attend public consultation
- Public hearing is often a political show for groups and individuals who have the resources to motivate more to come and get attention from the media
- Questions to city council: how can city ensure the source of pot is legal? Only sold to people with legitimate prescriptions? Not causing safety or health hazard (ie. Smell) to surrounding neighbourhood?
- Unless City has sufficient resources, not possible to deal with the above issues. But that would mean significant amount of staff and money– would taxpayers agree to do so?
- When the number of pot dispensaries is higher than coffee shop, it sends a wrong message to young people that taking pot is very casual

Callers:

- Another show put up by the council. Started bike lane construction right on the day when public hearing was processing
- There is a need for medical use of pot, but not necessary to open so many dispensaries
- Public consultation is not a fair process and useless. Council can stop any time and explained that the speakers' list is full

(Sing Tao) Chinese Businessman Island Purchase Hype; Good Deal For \$50K

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-06-08/province1433756936d5620116.html>

(World Journal) Cost \$500K To Build A Vancouver Apartment

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3277965/article-溫市公寓-1 □成本逾 50 萬/?ref=溫哥華>

- For a 800 square feet apartment, average \$562 per sq. feet, \$449K per unit, compared to \$280 outside Vancouver.
- CACs \$48,000 plus other developing fees \$11,700

(World Journal) VPD Double Standard, Ignoring Bikers' Violation

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3278455/article-無視單車族違規-警遭嗆兩套標準/?ref=溫哥華>

- Strict on drivers but loose on bikers

- VPD deputy chief Ken Eng: automobile drivers easier to be ticketed as they are strengthening policy to target speeding, distracted driving, while focus more on education for pedestrians and bikers

(World Journal) False Creek Pollution Worsened. Park Board

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3278462/article-福溪汙染升高-公園局擬示警/?ref=溫哥華>

(Fairchild TV) False Creek Contained Excessive Count of E. coli

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=ebe4361baf7318a92facaec817c6d0d9>

- 932 units, over 20 times

6.9 (Tue)

(World Journal) Earned \$2M. Robertson “Speculator”?

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3280040/article-大賺 200 萬-羅品信炒房 ?/?ref=溫哥華>

- According to Vancouver Sun’s Jeff Lee, Robertson is a typical speculator and double standard when he advocates for speculation tax and vacant properties
<http://blogs.vancouversun.com/2015/06/05/is-vancouver-mayor-gregor-robertson-a-real-estate-speculator/>
- Sold his W23rd home at \$1.95M (2013) when he bought it at \$450,000 (2005), earned \$1.5M
- Bought a Kits Point Grey property at \$1.57M and sold within two years at \$1.79M, easily earned \$400,000
- Jeff Lee has asked deputy mayor Raymond Louie whether Robertson is a speculator, but he didn’t answer

(AM1470 Phone-in Show) Does Speculation Tax Work?

Commentators (include BC Lee, former NPA City Cllr):

- No data proves foreign investors cause house price soaring, just like Canadians used to blame US investors for that
- Municipal government shouldn’t be responsible for all this as it also affected by the overall economy. 3 levels of governments now argue and point fingers instead of discussing the real issue

Callers:

- Robertson not pointing to the real problem, shouldn’t emphasize so much on foreign investors
- “block sale” by local realtors also boost housing price of that block, which may eventually increase those in the neighborhood
- Governments should set a policy to preserve a certain number of housing units only to locals who own to live

6.10 (Wed)

(Fairchild TV) Taxpayers Group Said Mayor Robertson Advocating For Speculation Tax Is To Shift His Responsibility

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=7887abe55f6ee52d1aaa2e847ef3cb76>

- Jordan Bateman: almost $\frac{1}{4}$ of house price goes to tax. Robertson tries to find a scapegoat when pointing fingers to province. Should go by shortening the permit process time
- Robertson: disagreed. City needs to rely those revenue and reinvest them into parks, community centres and affordable housing. Problem is the market getting so hot, not building cost

Visit Of Mayor of Guang Zhou

6.15 (Mon)

(AM1470) Mayor of Guang Zhou Visits Vancouver To Celebrate 30 Years Anniversary Being Sister Cities

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=51353

- Planted a tree with mayor Robertson to symbolize the growth and long lasting friendship of the two cities. Mr. Gin Hua Chan, Mayor of Guang Zhou, gave a sculpture of 木棉花 flower (symbol for city of Guang Zhou) as a gift to Vancouver
- Mayor Chan complimented that Vancouver is an example for an advanced city, and they have lots of room for future cooperation. Robertson: hope that both cities can work together more in areas such as culture, innovative technology and environment protection
- 10 Fai Lung Gong practitioners protested during the ceremony today to ask Chinese government to stop persecution

(Sing Tao- community news) Guang Zhou and Vancouver 30 Years Anniversary As Sister Cities. Photo Exhibition At Chinatown

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-06-15/province1434361865d5633094.html>

(include photo of two mayors shaking hands)

- Mayor of Guang Zhou: “The development Guang Zhou enjoys today cannot be separated from the support and care Chinese- Vancouverites have on us. Enormous changes in Guang Zhou City and the entire Guang Dong Province in the last thirty years. I encourage Chinese in Vancouver come to Guang Zhou to take a look.”
- Two cities have signed a number of MOUs. When Vancouver Mayor visit Guang Zhou in November, there will be a “Vancouver Week” event.
- Chinese Consulate General Fei Liu: thank early Chinese settlers for helping to build the CPR and contributed in the WW2

(World Journal) Vancouver, Guang Zhou 30 Years As Sister Cities

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3289338/article-溫哥華廣州市-姐妹 30 載/?ref=溫哥華&npg=2>

(photo of ribbon cutting ceremony of the photo exhibition)

- Mayor of Guang Zhou and the 88 delegates arrived at Vancouver. “ Guang Zhou Week” from June 13- 20
- Mayor Robertson and a delegation of over 200 representatives will visit Guang Zhou on Nov 8

(AM1320 Phone-in Show) Public Consultation On Pot Dispensaries

Commentator/ Callers:

- Worried that it would need to legalization of pot and also other things ie. Prostitution
- Most Chinese support the current values that the Feds upheld in terms of drug policy
- Plebiscite is fairer than public consultation. City council has already made up their mind on pot dispensaries. Public consultation is only a show to put on
- Applaud the Fed's strong stand against marijuana foods ie. Marijuana cookies can be dangerous to children as labelling may not be clear

(Global Chinese Press, free newspaper– caption photo on front page) Vancouver & Guang Zhou, 30 Years of Friendship
(main story on A3) 30 Years' Anniversary As Sister Cities. Guang Zhou Reps Visit Vancouver

*please see attachment

- Mayor Robertson: Vancouver is facing rapid population growth, garbage recycling program and traffic congestion problems, think Guang Zhou as a city over hundreds of millions of people, can study from Vancouver about the issues mentioned. Hope to strengthen cooperation with each other
- Mayor of Guang Zhou, Gin Hua Chan: special feelings about Vancouver as a North American city with highest concentration of Chinese, and a rich history and contribution of Chinese here
- 1,000 people representing over 70 Chinese organizations attended the anniversary dinner. Both mayors signed a friendship declaration

6.17 (Tue)

(Fairchild TV, Headline News) TransLink Saved \$100M Through Budget Management Last Year

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=4efa2dce0e842cbc488548530dd8bf01>

- TransLink: freeze employee salary etc. saved \$100M
- Taxpayers Association: overall operation increased about \$20M, misleading

(AM1320) City of Vancouver Completed Second Day Of Open House On Reducing Car Lanes On Burrard Bridge

http://am1320.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=11581%3Aburrard&catid=1%3A2010-10-18-20-52-02&Itemid=97&lang=zh

- Resident at the Burrard bridge area: addition of bike lane was a safety hazard, worry that it will get worse with one more bike lane. Business: worry losing even more business during construction
- Car drivers: city policy favours pedestrians. Closing one car lane will make congestion worse
- City: the plan is to improve road safety and will expand other road measures accordingly

6.18 (Wed)

(AM1470) 20% Vancouver Single Homes Are Categorized As “Short-term Speculation”

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=51453

- Most located at Dunbar

(AM1470) Survey: 80% Greater Vancouverites Want to Move Out

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=51448

- Angus Reid: worrisome that a large number of young families plan to move out of the region due to unaffordable housing. Province and municipal governments should do something about it

(AM1320) Survey: 80% of Greater Vancouverites Consider Moving Out of the Region

- http://am1320.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=11605%3A2015-06-18-23-04-34&catid=1%3A2010-10-18-20-52-02&Itemid=97&lang=zh

(AM1470) Vancouver Residents Said Process Time For Developing Permit Too Long

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=51431

- Specifically refers to the high density housing projects along Cambie Street. 18-24 months is too long
- Resident: saw more thefts at vacant houses and even homeless people moving in without consent
- City Cllr. Adriane Carr: city is dealing with this already. City bylaw requires homeowner to keep their home clean and tidy, and meet the standard of the neighbourhood

(AM1470) Mayor Robertson: Broadway Rapid Transit

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=51430

- Robertson: decision by the end of this month, Broadway Subway will be built whenever the transit plebiscite passed or not, the matter is when.

Unacceptable with lack of funding while large number of people keep moving into the region

- Already increased affordable housing by 20%, but province and federal's inaction make the waiting list get longer
- Rezoning certain areas into multi-room units to let more young families to live in Vancouver

(AM1320) Vancouver Restaurants May Extend Patio Hours Starting This Weekend

http://am1320.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=11610%3A2015-06-18-23-08-03&catid=1%3A2010-10-18-20-52-02&Itemid=97&lang=zh

(Sing Tao) City of Vancouver Push New Policy To Address Housing Affordability problem

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-06-18/province1434618663d5638934.html>

- Mayor Robertson: a number of new measures including Family Housing Rezoning Policy to make sure new condos around neighbourhood parks and schools, trial program for first time home buyers; rezone and allow 35% family housing

(Sing Tao) 20% Vancouver House Sale Are Speculation. Dunbar Most Active. Gained \$400,000 Within 217 Days of Possession And Selling

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-06-18/province1434618678d5638935.html>

- According to "Business in Vancouver", commissioned a survey company: 328 house sales are speculation between Jan 2014 and May 2015

(Sing Tao) US Investors Eye On Vancouver Apartment. First Choice Downtown And Surrey

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-06-18/province1434618741d5638936.html>

- Asian Real Estate Association of America: US investors: Different from Chinese investors, they like apartments especially those in Vancouver downtown, budget is about \$600,000. Surrey also popular as it's close to the States.
- Whistler and Kelowna also getting popular
- Real estate bloom bring more profit to media through ad

(Fairchild TV) Survey: Soaring House Price Already Has Negative Impact To the Society

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=84b077a6d1ec15291624d4ccdfd9dd77>

- Angus Reid: 85% plan to move out of the region to elsewhere, 64%: foreign investors negatively impact our local real estate market, 70%: government

should intervene, 65%: government should help first time home buyers instead of protecting current homeowners' house price

6.17 (Wed)– More

(World Journal) Province And City Kick The Ball For Soaring House Price In Vancouver

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3292515/article-溫房價飆-省、市府互踢皮球/?ref=溫哥華>

- City of Vancouver commissioned Coriolis Consulting: Vancouver has become part of the global housing market, shows that no proof shows that the Community Amenity Contribution pushed up housing price

(World Journal) Columnist: Governments Don't Intervene Housing Market Possibly Due To Benefits They Reaped From This

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3292513/article-政府不干預房市-專欄作家:恐被利益左右/?ref=溫哥華&npg=2>

original article from Vancouver Sun:

<http://www.vancouver.sun.com/business/Barbara+Yaffe+real+incentive+politicians+housing+affordability/11138340/story.html>

- All levels of governments benefit from the revenue increase from ie. tax when housing price soars, and they don't want to upset their supporters/ property owners who like to see their property values appreciate. In this context, governments may likely go around the issue on the surface but don't actually do anything to intervene

6.19 (Fri)

(AM1470) Vancouver's Soaring House Price Co-relates to Wealthy Chinese Immigrants, According to Scholars

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=51473

- Organization called "Friends of HK" held a panel discussion on housing in Vancouver today. Panellists include UBC professor, media commentators
- UBC Geography professor David Ley: 25– 55 years old Vancouverites who hold PhD degree, average income is 10th across the country, with Toronto the highest; however, Vancouver's house price is out of proportion
- Vancouver real estate market soared after early 2000's when a large number of affluent immigrants arrive
- City needs to resolve the affordability issue "top down" ie. Helping young professionals and working class to afford a home first, then people with lower income and even homeless

(AM1470) Education Minister: VSB Chair Resign

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=51474

(AM1320) Public Consultation On Pot Regulation Continues Next Week

http://am1320.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=11622%3A2015-06-19-23-09-04&catid=1%3A2010-10-18-20-52-02&Itemid=97&lang=zh

- Still a couple dozen people signed up but haven't spoken. City Hall: no deadline for consultation and will listen to all who signed up to speak

(Fairchild TV- headline) A Number of Vacant Single Homes Become Targets For Robbery And Causing Safety And Environment Hazard

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=239909278040faedb612cb3404ecc0e1>

- City Cllr. Adrienne Carr: A whole row of 10 vacant homes triggered the problem, will discuss that in council meeting

(Fairchild TV) Vancouver Park Board Provide Pump-Out Service for Yachts At Two Docks

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=239909278040faedb612cb3404ecc0e1>

6.20 (Sat)

n/a

6.21 (Sun)

(World Journal) Office Vacancy Continues To Rise In Vancouver

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3298899/article-溫市辦公室空置率-續升/?ref=溫哥華>

- Colliers International: 6.2% (first quarter) to 7.2% as more new commercial buildings will be built in this year
- Graded as AAA: Telus Garden, Thurlow 745, Manulife Building at Howe 980
-

(World Journal) Columnist: Learn From Australia To End Speculation In Housing Market

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3298905/article-遏止炒房-專欄作家籲向澳洲取經/?ref=溫哥華>

original article: Vancouver Sun

<http://www.vancouversun.com/business/Pete+McMartin+Australia+real+estate+data+about+offshore+investment/11151872/story.html>

- Should learn from Australia who has real estate data about offshore investment

6.22 (Mon)

(Fairchild TV) Student Population Decreased. Vancouver Elementary School Temporarily Closed

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=56640a2494792805eaac82c499e97324>

(World Journal) Vancouver Kills School To Improve Financial Situation

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3300188/article-改善財政-溫市殺校/?ref=溫哥華>

(World Journal) 80% Greater Vancouverites Support Having A Housing Data Base

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3300223/article-大溫八成民眾-挺房屋數據庫/?ref=溫哥華>

6.23 (Tue)

(AM1470) Vancouver & Yokohama 50th Anniversary As Sister Cities

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=51561 (two photos included)

- Robertson: hope two cities will have more exchange in education, environment protection

(AM1470) Vancouver City Council Will Decide Whether To Regulate Pot Dispensaries

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=51573

- 30 more pot dispensaries are opened in Vancouver since Jan 2015, but about 50 need to relocate
- BC Civic Liberty Society: urges City to allow the sale of marijuana foods

(AM1320) VSB Starts Closing Schools

http://am1320.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=11632%3Ac2&catid=1%3A2010-10-18-20-52-02&Itemid=97&lang=zh

- Proposed to close 19 schools due to severe shortage of students.
- Maquinna Elementary at E 4th Ave & Renfrew: students dropped from 109 to 29.

(Ming Pao) Vancouver East School Closure Due To Budget Cut

http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150623/vasd_r.htm

(Sing Tao) Vancouver East School Closed With Student Population Dropped To 22

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-06-23/province1435052577d5646315.html>

(Ming Pao) Vancouver House Price Make Mortgage Even Less Affordable, While All Major Cities Are More Affordable In The First Quarter

<http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150623/vas1hr.htm>

- Except Vancouver & Toronto, housing across the nation is getting more affordable on average.
- To buy a single home in Vancouver would need 86.5% of a household income, whereas Calgary 33%. First quarter, highest number of house sales in the last 5 years

(Sing Tao) 85% Income Before Tax To Purchase Single Home in Vancouver

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-06-23/headline1435053735d5646332.html>

(AM1320) Federal's C2 Drug Monitoring Act Enacted

http://am1320.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=11632%3Ac2&catid=1%3A2010-10-18-20-52-02&Itemid=97&lang=zh

- Need public consultation before opening a new Insite

(AM1320 Phone-in Show) Federal's Respect For Communities Act: impact on insites and medicinal marijuana in Vancouver

Commentators:

- Montreal will open 4 Insites blatantly, ignored federal's policy. Some other cities are keeping an eye on Vancouver's next move
- Illegal if failed to meet the 26 criteria
- Federal should enact a law that is enforceable. Municipalities
- Data said number of overdose dropped after Insite is opened

Callers:

- 26 criteria not too many, some said even more are needed
- Insite not harm reduction but induce more harm to the surrounding communities. Letting addicts take drugs in a safe way, rather than helping them to quit, would only lengthen their longevity by a few years.
- Montreal is simply learning Vancouver Mayor Robertson's way with City police's support.
- Constable Chief Jim Chu need to be responsible for the wide spread of addiction problems
- Drugs harmful to youth and general citizens. Not federal government's intention and fault but advocates who push for this. Insite not solving the root problem

- Vancouver has the capacity to open 1,600 pot dispensaries to the fullest according to the new proposed regulations

(World Journal) Mu Yang Cheng May Be Deported To Hong Kong

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3301919/article-程慕陽可能遣返香港/?ref=溫哥華>

- Landed at Canada in 2000 with Hong Kong's permanent resident's card
- As there is no deportation treaty between China and Canada, most likely will be dealt in a way similar to Lai Cheng Xing's case.
- Different from Lai Cheng Xing, Mu Yang Cheng's permanent residency in Hong Kong doesn't involve any fraudulent documents, he is likely to be deported to Hong Kong rather than China.

(World Journal) Michael Ching Appealed Against Deportation

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3301917/article-michael-ching 上訴-力抗遣返/?ref=溫哥華>

- Judicial review of rejection of Ching's refugee application proceeded in Winnipeg. As Ching's case has already been widely reported in the media, judge said there is no need for confidentiality. So public would know where Ching is the same person in the China's Red Pol list as his lawyer David Matis has denied.

(world Journal) Luxurious Penthouse Only Available For Local Buyers

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3301707/article-溫市中心奢華閣樓-只售本地買主/?ref=溫哥華>

- Only sell the penthouse to someone who have lived in Greater Vancouver for at least 5 years and most of the time during a year must live in Vancouver as their home.
- Realtors: unrealistic as most who can afford a penthouse like this (\$18M) are international entrepreneurs who only stay in Vancouver half a year. Less buyers like this compared to a few years ago.

6.24 (Wed)

(Fairchild TV-headline story) Vancouver City Council Passed Licensed System To Regulate Pot Dispensaries

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=f62fc2d463b533cc7e121a3d5479b9b0>

- Mayor Robertson: huge gap in current federal law and ensure kids are protected
- NPA's Melissa DeGenova: worried that taxpayers may have to bear huge legal consequence. City should wait and not build current regulation on shaky ground (federal)
- Rona Ambrose in written response: deeply disappointed but didn't say the next step
- City think 2/3 of current pot dispensaries will have to move their store as they don't fit the new bylaw

(AM1320) Vancouver City Council Passed the Pot Regulation Motion With 8:3 Votes

- 3 NPA City cllrs voted against
- Mayor Robertson: need to see federal government making changes
- Kerry Jang: non-profit need annual meeting, only one pot dispensary 300 metres from school.

(AM1320) Pot Advocates Welcome The Regulation

- David Lawson: disappointed that one of his dispensaries that has been operating for 17 years have to move because it is too close to community centre. It has long history and good standing. May consider taking legal action. Worried it will affect
- Most concerned about
- Jody Emery: too strict but will push

(AM1320) Federal Health Minister Extremely Disappointed With Vancouver's Move

- Richmond MP Alice Wong: never allow dispensaries, City police should enforce

(AM1470) Lawyer: Judicial Review Of Rejection Of Mu Yang Cheng's Refugee Application

- Cannot compare Mu Yang Cheng with Lai Cheng Xing as Cheng is a Canadian citizen and has made a lot of contribution in Canada

(AM1320 Phone-in Show) Vancouver City Council Passed Motion To Regulate Medical Marijuana

Commentator:

- Should still look for ways from federal government to penalize the municipal government that violated the federal law ie. MP candidates in the upcoming federal election to see how they view this issue and give them pressure
- City Cllr. Kerry Jang: illegal is Yes and No. He only explained the part that it is illegal
- City has the authority and tools to close down pot dispensaries that are causing problems, or, limit the number of dispensaries
- Questionable
- Motion is passed but the issue hasn't ended yet. Citizens should still keep an eye on it and exercise their vote

Callers:

- Need to vote for city cllrs who are dedicated to eliminate drugs and gang problems
- Public consultation is only a show. City Council already made up their mind.
- Medicated Marijuana
- Economy in Vancouver is not good. Pot dispensaries if located nearby restaurants, it would further dampen the business and economy
- Very angry for politicians who help to push for the proliferation of pot dispensaries. Would continue to petition and go onto the street to show opposition to this
- City cllrs
- Lived in Vancouver 35 years witnessed Vancouver City Hall give ways to illegal dealings one after another. Serve a special interest group rather than the wellbeing of overall citizens

(AM1470 Phone-in Show) Vancouver City Council Passed Motion To Regulate Medical Marijuana

Commentators:

- Federal government lacks power since the beginning. Only a lot of talking and no action to intervene. Have to be responsible for letting the issue proliferate as well.
- Worried that municipal government will continue to go ahead with their own agenda and ignore federal law. Perhaps there are some political consideration at this pre-election time

Callers:

- City Cllr. Kerry Jang's explanation is twisted. Voters should reply how they have voted and should vote against Liberal party and any candidates who support pot in the federal election
- Many said worried and opposed to the regulation

- Saw many youth people frequented pot dispensaries who look too healthy for pot

(Ming Pao) Vancouver City Council Decide On Regulating Pot Dispensaries Today
<http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150624/vas2 r.htm>

(World Journal) Medical Marijuana Regulation Decision Be Made Earliest By Today
<http://www.worldjournal.com/3303131/article-藥用大麻規管-最快今天決定/?ref=溫哥華&npg=2>

- Mayor Robertson: real challenges will come as federal maintains that pot is illegal, while advocates think the regulation is too stringent

(Ming Pao) Mu Yeung Cheng Said Persecuted Due To His Father. Judge: Reason Overly Indirect
<http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150624/vaa1h r.htm>

(Sing Tao) IRB Document Proved That Michael Ching Is Muyang Cheng
<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-06-24/headline1435141145d5648648.html>

(Sing Tao) Lawyer: Court Case May Last For Years
<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-06-24/headline1435141183d5648649.html>

(Sing Tao) Canadian Customs: Plan to Deport Mu Yeung Cheng 7 Years Ago
<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-06-24/headline1435141242d5648650.html>

(World Journal) Mo Yang Cheng Alleged Of Making Gains In Billions of RMB
<http://www.worldjournal.com/3303756/article-程慕陽被指空手套白狼-狠撈數十億人幣/?ref=溫哥華>

- Current Hu Bei Province Committee Secretary Wei Gao Cheng's only son (three other daughters). Taking advantage of his father's high rank and influence in the province, MY Cheng opened 32 companies local and offshore within ten years, making gains of a few billions of RMB. That includes taking advantage of commercial fees and failed to disclose tax of over \$200M though frauds and manipulation etc.

- Back in April 2001, Shi Xia Zhuang policing board has already sent out an arrest warrant on MY Cheng, for transferring and hiding criminals.

(World Journal) Too Early To Say Michael Ching Leave Or Stay

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3303760/article-判決前-談 michael-ching 去留為時尚早/?ref=溫哥華>

(Sing Tao) Political-business Round Table Suggests Showing Tax Record When Purchase Property

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-06-24/province1435141449d5648656.html>

(World Journal) Liu Fei: Soaring Housing Price Has Nothing To Do With Chinese Millionaires

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3305164/article-房價飆-劉菲:無關中國富豪/?ref=溫哥華>

- Should be government's responsibility. If speculations happened in China, Chinese government would introduce measures to suppress it. Suggests local government to use that as a reference to resolve the affordability problem ie. extra fees for offshore buyers. Three levels of government need coordination to control and guide the developer, at the same time, balance the market.

(Sing Tao) Chinese Consulate General Liu Fei: Not Agree Chinese Buyers Push Up Housing Price

6.25 (Thur)

(Ming Pao) Grassroot Groups: VPD Lack Enforcement. VPD: Pot Dispensaries Not First Priority.

<http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150626/vas1h.htm?m=0>

- “Smart Approaches to Marijuana Canada” filed a complaint against VPD, and has taken legal action. More complaints to follow. Police committee will discuss about the complaint on Sept 17.
- VPD: other drugs such as cocaine and organized crime have a higher priority

(AM1470) NPA City Cllr: Shouldn't blame VPD For Lacking Enforcement On Pot Dispensaries

- Melissa DeGenova: VPD works under the guidance of municipal government. They are not to be blamed but the government

(Sing Tao) Vancouver Regulate Pot Dispensaries Leading the Nation

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-06-25/headline1435226807d5649880.html>

- City Cllr. George Affleck: worried many lawsuits against city will follow
- Kerry Jang: 2/3 of dispensaries will have to relocate
- Mayor Robertson: city has the support of VPD and health authorities. Federal Supreme Court's recent ruling gives green light for medical marijuana. Good timing for City to intervene.

(Sing Tao) Pot Operators Welcome New Bylaw

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-06-25/headline1435226716d5649877.html>

- BC Compassion Club Society: "historical move", allow dispensaries to care for patients who rely on pot, at the same time, doesn't completely ban leisure use of pot
- BCCCS: will have to move as it's within 300 metres from an Elementary School. Hopes City Permit department would pass their case to city council directly, then they can escape "the fate of relocation".

(Sing Tao) Vancouver Housing Market Will Not Collapse

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-06-25/headline1435224169d5649853.html>

- Chief Economist of BC Real Estate Association, Cameron Muir: conclusion made by Wall Street investors are based on blogs and articles that don't have solid data. Money laundering and offshore investment are not proven. Offshore investment is only a small portion in the local real estate market. No bubbles. Market mostly supported by people who live here.

6.26 (Fri)

(Sing Tao) Pot Dispensary Owner: Discriminated By City Policy. City: Regulation Reasonable

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-06-26/province1435313768d5652387.html>

- Pot dispensaries: license fees too high plus extra fees according to size of dispensary, thus discriminatory. 60 days not enough to relocate

(AM1470) Robertson: Transit Plebiscite Result Announced Next Week

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=51674

- Mayor Robertson: too much burden for taxpayers to increase property tax, should seek funding from province such as carbon tax, mobility pricing if plebiscite failed. Otherwise, service cut would be unavoidable

(Fairchild TV-headline story) Adjust In TransLink Services If Plebiscite Failed

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=1b285431b6d97f0b3d25c629171a4448>

- TransLink interim CEO, Doug Allen: if failed, need to divert low capacity services to areas that have greater demand to optimize services, but wouldn't affect progress of Compass Card

(Fairchild TV) Mayor Robertson Urges Province Again To Suppress Housing Price Increase

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=2415eab31fdbdb7ad80f314d33ba11d>

- Robertson: need to increase density and provide more housing options but it would change character of the neighbourhood
- Need more tools ie. Vacant property owners would have to pay extra fees, and assist first time home buyers

6.27 (Sat)

(World Journal) Robertson: High Housing Price Unsustainable

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3308672/article-羅品信:高房價難持續/?ref=溫哥華>

- Bubble in Vancouver's housing market? Robertson: Vancouver is still one of the world's best cities to live in. housing price is already high; the heat won't stay too long.
- Building more affordable housing is more urgent. Agree with establishing a housing data base in order to find out how many are offshore buyers and implement speculation tax accordingly.
- Can study Australia, HK and Singapore and modify it to fit Vancouver's situation

(AM1470 Phone-in Show) City of Vancouver Passed Motion To Regulate Pot Dispensary

- Thorough summary of reasoning from almost every side

Callers:

- Doubt if there will be less pot dispensaries. According to the restriction of less than 300 meters from schools and community centres, Vancouver has a capacity of having 900 dispensaries
- A few said Robertson and Kerry Jang are to be blamed. Federal government is very clear that pot is illegal but they disrespect the authority and go ahead with their own agenda

(AM1470 Phone-in Show) Soaring Housing Price: Discussion about suggestions made by round table meeting with province, real estate agents, businesses and lawyers

Commentator:

- Not enough data to show that offshore buyers caused the soaring house price. Federal and province should collect data on that before making any assumptions
- Whether a speculation tax is appropriate? Need to consider not just the real estate market but the economy as a whole. Restricting the flow of money would affect our free economy. Also, it is legal for people to buy properties for their family
- Showing proof of income tax when purchasing a property. Reflects whether the buyer purchase the property to live or not, at least, whether they are
- Can't implement speculation tax without enough evidence proving offshore buyers causing the problem. Will give Vancouver a bad image in the international market

- Developers are not willing to build rental housing because it is not profitable
- Australia restricts offshore buyers only purchase new properties, Hong Kong and Singapore charges a tax on offshore buyers. Why can't Canada do that? Canada actually does the right thing considering the free economy. Currently most complaints come from first time home buyers, and families who are expanding in size.
- Governments need to intervene through policies ie. increase rental housing

Callers:

- Need affordable housing, not coop housing

6.28 (Sun)

n/a

6.29 (Mon)

(AM1320) Vancouver Motions To Raise Staff Salary According To Index of Living

http://am1320.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=11701%3A2015-06-29-19-27-54&catid=1%3A2010-10-18-20-52-02&Itemid=97&lang=zh

- Robertson: housing, transportation and living expense has continuously increased in Vancouver, but salary hasn't keep up to its pace; parents need to have hourly rate of \$20.68 in order to raise a family of four.

(Fairchild TV) Mayor Robertson Motions to Raise Salary of Minimum Wage City Workers To A livable Standard

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(AM1320) City of Vancouver Urges Marijuana Group To Apply For Permit

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- City of Vancouver: spent \$92,500 on the 420 event, include \$52,000 policing cost. Marijuana group refused to compensate City, criticized by other groups that hold large events in Vancouver

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- Mentioned that city of Vancouver has been supporting 7.1 event but all of a sudden changed its attitude this year

(Sing Tao) Transit Plebiscite Result Ready in 2 Weeks

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- If passed: Mayor's Council will start studying the details and strategies and even start some construction work.
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6.30 (Tue)

(AM1470) Vancouver City Cllr: Necessary To Bring The Gap Closer For City Worker's Salary

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- City Cllr. Adrienne Carr: agree. Don't think it will have a ripple effect leading to high level or city workers' asking for salary raise
- Hasn't caused strong concerns in the public. Some said it's good as index of living has gotten higher, and hope more industries will follow and benefit the working class.
- A resident who is also a business owner said not unfair. Will increase operation costs. Raise should be based on performance. The percentage of increase is also too high

(Ming Pao) Vancouver Mayor Motions Basic Living Wage. Hourly Wage Reaches \$20.68 For City to Be A Good Boss

http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150630/var1h_r.htm

- Robertson: living wage matches with City's mandate of "healthy city strategy", aiming to reduce poverty by 75% by 2025.
- Mayor's office: Basic living wage is different from province's minimum wage, hope people won't mix up.

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- Mayor: city takes the lead, and hope other industries will follow
- Vancity, City of New Westminster, SAP and United Way already have living wage policy

(AM1470) Plebiscite Result Release This Thursday

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=51766

(Ming Pao) VSB Passed \$497M Budget, Balanced By Closing Schools And Cutting Services

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- Balance budget to cover the anticipated \$8M budget deficit. Cut services such as some elementary music programs and adult education. Teachers' parking reimbursement remained.
- A Controversial recommendation of the report: to close 19 schools which can save \$37M operation fees and employment expense
- A group of protesters

(World Journal) City of Vancouver: Cautiously Monitoring Safety Of Color Run

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- To response to the explosion at an amusement park at Taiwan when colored powder got ignited and turned into flames that caused the injuries of more than 200 people, City's spokesperson Patricia MacNeil said, city staff already has taken note of the tragedy happened in Taiwan.
- No accidents at PNE's color run event on June 13, but will have a review system in place when there is a similar event in Vancouver

6.27 (Sat)

(World Journal) Robertson: High Housing Price Unsustainable

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3308672/article-羅品信:高房價難持續/?ref=溫哥華>

- Bubble in Vancouver's housing market? Robertson: Vancouver is still one of the world's best cities to live in. housing price is already high; the heat won't stay too long.
- Building more affordable housing is more urgent. Agree with establishing a housing data base in order to find out how many are offshore buyers and implement speculation tax accordingly.
- Can study Australia, HK and Singapore and modify it to fit Vancouver's situation

(AM1470 Phone-in Show) City of Vancouver Passed Motion To Regulate Pot Dispensary

- Thorough summary of reasoning from almost every side

Callers:

- Doubt if there will be less pot dispensaries. According to the restriction of less than 300 meters from schools and community centres, Vancouver has a capacity of having 900 dispensaries
- A few said Robertson and Kerry Jang are to be blamed. Federal government is very clear that pot is illegal but they disrespect the authority and go ahead with their own agenda

(AM1470 Phone-in Show) Soaring Housing Price: Discussion about suggestions made by round table meeting with province, real estate agents, businesses and lawyers

Commentator:

- Not enough data to show that offshore buyers caused the soaring house price. Federal and province should collect data on that before making any assumptions
- Whether a speculation tax is appropriate? Need to consider not just the real estate market but the economy as a whole. Restricting the flow of money would affect our free economy. Also, it is legal for people to buy properties for their family
- Showing proof of income tax when purchasing a property. Reflects whether the buyer purchase the property to live or not, at least, whether they are
- Can't implement speculation tax without enough evidence proving offshore buyers causing the problem. Will give Vancouver a bad image in the international market

- Developers are not willing to build rental housing because it is not profitable
- Australia restricts offshore buyers only purchase new properties, Hong Kong and Singapore charges a tax on offshore buyers. Why can't Canada do that? Canada actually does the right thing considering the free economy. Currently most complaints come from first time home buyers, and families who are expanding in size.
- Governments need to intervene through policies ie. increase rental housing

Callers:

- Need affordable housing, not coop housing

6.28 (Sun)

n/a

6.29 (Mon)

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6.30 (Tue)– More

(AM1470 Phone-in Show) Living Wage

- Living wage is for non-union and contract workers who have lower income (ie. Security, cleaning, road work, recreation)
- Compassionate approach is good but number of city employees has been increasing. Worried if it will increase the operation cost of city significantly, and taxpayers will have to bare the consequence
- Worried that City is trying to set a standard that is not realistic and sustainable for other businesses to follow. And even if it is, feel reserved if such policy will push up prices for everything else.

(Fairchild TV) VSB Passed Budget For Next Year

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=0a8d0a30ada365aee33dbf72fda7574e>

7.1 (Wed)

(AM1470) City of Vancouver May Sue CP Again

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=51801

- CP sent out letters informing people live in the neighbourhood along Arbutus Corridor, that they would stop trains at the track there.
- City manager Penny Ballem: CP's decision is worrisome. City may take legal action again to prevent them from doing so. Also, a safety concern as it hasn't ran for 15 years.

(AM1470) Confrontation At Marijuana Protest Calmed Down

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=51809

- Confrontation between protesters and police extended from Art Gallery to Howe Street as they blocked Howe Street. Later moved to Robson. Protestors announced with a speaker about the benefits of taking marijuana. At least 3 protesters were arrested.
- City of Vancouver mentioned earlier that they worried protesters would block the streets but have no plans to intervene

(AM1470) Police Stand By For Pot Protest

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=51805

- A large number of police stand by. Protesters moved from north of Art Gallery to the south as city staff had put up fence in that area for construction later

on. Protesters said city staff allowed their assembly at the south side of gallery, but asked them to leave and clean up today.

(Ming Pao) Transit Plebiscite Result Release Tomorrow. Close Race For Yes And No. Voting Rate 44%.

http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150701/var1h_r.htm

- No side: will accept the result no matter what it is
- Mayors Council: close race but believe Yes side will win
- Campaign for Yes side is close to \$6M of public money

(Sing Tao) Transit Plebiscite Result Release Tomorrow

http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150701/var1h_r.htm

- Result will be announced at 10am Thursday.
- SFU transportation specialist Gordon Price: No side will win and arguments on transit development will continue. Mayors of each city should re-adjust their focus and find another transportation plan. Taxpayers support improving the transit system, but don't like funding it with extra tax.
- Canadian Taxpayers Federation: if Yes side lose, it shows that voters lose confidence in TransLink
- Mayors Council: close race, Yes side will win

(AM1470) Transit Plebiscite Result Release Tomorrow

(AM1320) Transit Plebiscite Result Release Tomorrow

http://am1320.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=11723%3Aabc&catid=1%3A2010-10-18-20-52-02&Itemid=97&lang=zh

(Sing Tao) Vancouver's Soaring House Price Still Attracts Young People Settling There

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-07-01/province1435744690d5658533.html>

- According to Business in Vancouver– BMO report: since 2012, 16,000 people ranging from 30–40 years old have moved to Vancouver, even though in the 90's negative increase. The trend started to reverse in 2004, even a bigger growth in the past 3 years.
- Believe that is due to drop in crude oil price that affects economy in Alberta, and more overseas immigrants settling in Vancouver

(Fairchild TV) CP Rail Will Restore Operation On Vancouver's Arbutus Corridor

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=9c300b9f50804a3f7d559bf20f64a1c8>

(Fairchild TV) VSB Opens A New Elementary School At Downtown's International Village

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=92a05f3584af93d17968cc842716fd4c>

- School Trustee Janet Fraser: Funding identified. Expect ready to use in 2017

7.2 (Thur)

(Fairchild TV) Over 60% Voted No At Transit Plebiscite

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=042b0f3dc6ef1da5755f972bcce7c1cc>

- Robertson: need investment in transportation, the tools are in the hands of province. Currently no plan B, increasing fare or tolls in the short-term is not feasible
- Linda Hepner: May seek private sectors to help fund Surrey's transit plan
- Taxpayers' Federation: mayors should reprioritize plans
- UBC professor: campaign obscuring from the real issue and ineffective

(Fairchild TV) Transportation Minister Will Discuss With Mayors Other Funding Options

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=188e30ebbc769aeda748b09cec89f0bb>

- Todd Stone: mayors will discuss how to fund that 1/3 for Patullo Bridge repair
- New Democrat: blame Christie Clark for failing to lead people to vote Yes
- Doug Allen: TransLink won't be able to expand services, but will wisely use resources and increase efficiency under financial difficulties

(Sing Tao) Confrontation At Vancouver's Annual Pot Protest in Vancouver. Two Arrested

http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/realtimenews/rtnews_details.xml.php?id=22023.15&NodeID=1

- About 100 gathered. One protester publicly sold pot to an underage person and persisted even after police's warning. A group of protesters followed and confronted police when the arrest was made
- Protests in the past 20 years were peaceful. First time experience confrontation with police
- City of Vancouver already sent organizer Jodie Emery a warning letter in June not to protest

(World Journal) "Pot Day" Protest Lost Control. 4 Arrested.

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3316096/article-「大麻日」集會失控-4 人被捕/?ref=溫哥華>

- Marc Emery: fencing around north side of Art Gallery a technical interference to their protest. Never had to ask for permission as it is a protest. Vancouver City hall going backward. Criticized Vision Vancouver and Police took action against protesters who didn't cause danger to public
- City of Vancouver or Mayor: hasn't respond to the incident yet (but responded the day after)
- VPD: whether it is 71 or 420, a few dozen of participants were sent to hospital. So police paid close attention to the development. One man ignored police's warning and claimed to sell pot to anyone.
- Pepper spray was used to control the situation. One man may face drug deal charge, and others interference of public duty.

(Ming Pao) VPD Pepper Sprayed, 4 Arrested. Drugs Sold To Youth. Protesters Enclosed Police With Fierce Confrontation

<http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150702/vaalhr.htm>

(AM1470 Phone-in Show) Transit Plebiscite Result

Commentator:

- Typical problem of a government agency to ask for more tax when they run inefficiently. The restructure of TransLink done in 2007 makes it even more difficult for Mayor's Council to control

No side- Charter Lau:

- Premier and transportation minister should restructure the TransLink management to ensure they are accountable for taxpayers. Shouldn't allow them to pass the buck again
- Will it be difficult for TransLink to finance its projects in the future? Yes, concept of extra tax is not acceptable
- Still battles ahead as still other problems to resolve

Callers:

- No side won because TransLink hasn't reflected and faced the problems honestly, but rather took an "ostrich approach", even though voters have expressed clearly why they are upset with TransLink
- Extra tax not necessarily as municipality will get more money naturally as more moved into their city

(AM1320 Phone-in Show) Transit Plebiscite Result

Commentators:

- Next step should be to order an audit on the salary of TransLink senior staff
- \$7B too much, puzzled why the need to expand bike lanes to the proposed extent
- plebiscite on increasing tax is never welcome (from HST to Transit tax)

Callers:

- not necessary to increase 400 buses. Many in the current fleet are not well used
- money spend on plebiscite is wasteful and not necessary
- carbon tax is not utilized even though that is the purpose of creating this tax
- Has the impression that TransLink still hasn't listened and changed yet
- Worried that TransLink will follow Calgary if compass card failed

(AM1320) Transit Plebiscite Result: No

(AM1320) Taxpayers Federation: Pleased With the Result

- Continue to oppose to any tax increase

(AM1320) David Suzuki Foundation: Result Not Surprising

- Increase a tax is never a welcoming policy. Failure is partly due to the No side "muddy the water".

(AM1320) TransLink Disappointed With Result

- Will continue to seek ways to improve public transit system

(AM1320) Robertson: 10-year-Transportation Continues

- Robertson: will continue to launch the 10-years-old transportation plan but won't increase property tax

(AM1470) New Democrats: Christy Clark Needs To Take Responsibility of The Failure

- Question is asked wrongly. Shouldn't be about increasing tax, but how do voters want to support transportation plan

(AM1470) Marijuana Protesters: City of Vancouver Contradict With its Bylaw

- City manager Penny Ballem: won't tolerate selling pot to minor

(Sing Tao) Renowned Cantonese Opera Musician To Wong Passed Away. Community Organizing a Memorial Service (2 pictures)

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-07-02/community1435831511d5660744.html>

- Highly respected Cantonese Opera Musician/ Singer To Wong who is over 100 years old, passed away on June 30 subsequently after contracted pneumonia.

He is regarded as “the Cantonese Opera Walking Dictionary” and had shared his knowledge and skills extremely generously to his students and audience. An irreplaceable treasure.

- Day of the memorial service to be announced

7.3 (Fri)

(Ming Pao-A1) Transit Tax Plebiscite Rejected By 61%. Province, Municipality Pass the Buck For Financial Responsibility

- * Anti-Tax Leaders: TransLink Should Simplify Structure, Stop “Over Feed” Their Executives
- * Political Parties Disappointed. Urges To Find Solutions
- * Businesses Worried Infrastructure Delay. Small Businesses Point Fingers At TransLink

(Sing Tao-A1) Greater Vancouver Over 60% Voted Against Transit Tax

- * Mayors’ Council Disappointed. Urges To Find New Ways To Finance And Reform TransLink A.S.A.P.
- * Province Willing To Strengthen Accountability of TransLink
- * TransLink CEO: Rejected Doesn’ t Mean Upset With TransLink

(World Journal- A1) Transit Plebiscite Not Passing the Threshold. 62% Opposed. Greater Vancouver Transportation Board: Services Affected.
No Side: Province Should Reform

(B1) Transit Plebiscite Failed Mayors Council Disappointed. Gregor Robertson: Respect Voters Choice. Asks To Reform TransLink

- * Province: Financing Urgently Needed
- * Problems One Follows Another. TransLink Lost Public Trust
 - Commentators: Omni Producer Guo Ding: rejected because tax increase is not welcome under the economic situation, and TransLink lost public trust after Compass card, executive’ s high salary etc. Problem is not how to finance, but whether the money can be effectively used. Without good performance and data as background, launching the plebiscite with \$6M campaign fees doesn’ t help. Should reform TransLink structure before talking about money, and stop blurring the focus and passing the buck.
 - Another commentator, former NPA City Cllr. BC Lee: only telling voters about the vision but without tangible steps and solutions and a trusting body, is just an empty talk to voters. The reasoning that politician used about “regret if not doing it now” won’ t move voters.

(World Journal) Some Realtors in Greater Vancouver May Create Phantom Bids For A Higher Selling Price

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3318066/article-大溫房市熱-疑有幽靈搶標抬價/?ref=超人氣>

<http://www.vancouversun.com/business/Pete+McMartin+Australia+bubble+bursts+Vancouver+behind/11180738/story.html>

- To prevent phantom bids, Ontario enacted on July 1 that before a transaction is made, realtors can't tell buyers whether there are other buyers
- Canadian Real Estate Association: hasn't received complaints on this from BC, but believes this exists
- Most experienced buyers won't be affected, but first time homebuyers may get tricked. Also, media's extensive coverage and realtors themselves trying to make a high profile with their high amount sales, may also contribute to the soaring housing price

(World Journal) Australia Housing Market May Collapse. Greater Vancouver Should Be Alert
<http://www.worldjournal.com/3318060/article-澳洲房市恐崩盤-大溫民眾應警惕/?ref=溫哥華>

original article:

<http://www.vancouversun.com/business/Pete+McMartin+Australia+bubble+bursts+Vancouver+behind/11180738/story.html>

- Debt rate is the 3rd highest in Australia, after Switzerland and Denmark. Bubble may appear as early as 2017. Bubble has a correlation to debt.
- If people are not able to pay mortgage debt, housing market in Vancouver would collapse

7.4 (Sat)

(Sing Tao- polling) Question 1: Since Transit Plebiscite Was Voted Down, what do you think TransLink should do to resolve funding shortfall?

<http://www.singtao.ca/events/vote/view.php?id=133>

(Sing Tao-polling) Q2: Are you worried that TransLink will cut services?

100% so far said not worried

(World Journal) City of Vancouver's Tricky New Policy to Protect Rental Units

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3319771/article-溫市府擬出辣招-確保廉租房數量/?ref=溫哥華>

- Low Cost Hotels will be penalized if not providing same amount of units as promised

7.5 (Sun)

(World Journal) “The Independent” Pre-sale Hot in Vancouver

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3320598/article-「the-independent」建案熱銷/?ref=溫哥華>

- 95% of the total of 258 pre-sale units sold, 90% of the buyers have local background

7.6 (Mon)

(Sing Tao) Metro Vancouver Discuss Strengthening The Monitor of TransLink’s Operation

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-07-05/community1436089408d5664432.html>

- Pitt Meadows Mayor John Becker: motion to study TransLink’s monitoring system. Metro Vancouver Board will discuss next month. The Board may have more control on operation and expenses of TransLink if passed. However, any changes on monitoring of TransLink must first be permitted by the Province.

(World Journal) Vancouver Park Board Voting On “Love Locks” Venue

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3320595/article-掛愛情鎖-溫公園局票決景點/?ref=溫哥華>

- There had been “love locks” hanging at Burrard Bridge and Plaza of Nations but removed by city staff. Learn from Toronto, Seol and Moscow to find an artistic location for these locks.
- The Independent- Rize Alliance in Vancouver. 60% of them live within 10 blocks

(AM1470) Vancouver Park Board Plan For A “Love Lock” Destination

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=51969

(AM1320) Vancouver Park Board Choosing A Location For the Artistic “Love Locks”

http://am1320.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=11781%3A2015-07-06-23-30-16&catid=1%3A2010-10-18-20-52-02&Itemid=97&lang=zh

(westca.com) Vancouver The World’s Greenest City By 2020

<http://www.westca.com/News/article/sid=420406/lang=schinese.html>

- Taiwan Trade Office in Canada invited a Taiwan media delegation to visit Vancouver, meet with Mayor Robertson, architect and visited Olympic village
- The bike that Mayor Robertson rode to the Mayor’s office is made in Taiwan
- Robertson: greenest city includes architecture, food, fresh water and air, as well as transit system. Everyone supports building more transit infrastructure, but when they

have to pay more taxes, people become reluctant. Traffic congestion is a common problem, believes Taipei also faces it.

7.7 (Tue)

(AM1320) Gregor Robertson Attended Global Mayors' Climate Change Conference

http://am1320.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=11789%3A2015-07-07-20-39-04&catid=1%3A2010-10-18-20-52-02&Itemid=97&lang=zh

- Mayors from 30 cities in the world attended the conference upon the Pope's invitation. Robertson is the only one from Canada attending
- Robertson: the Pope acknowledged the important role mayors play on targeting climate change as they are at the front line dealing with social issues

(AM1320) Park Board: More Discussion On “Love Locks” Location Later

http://am1320.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=11784%3A2015-07-07-20-35-21&catid=1%3A2010-10-18-20-52-02&Itemid=97&lang=zh

- English Bay, Q.E. Park and Kitsilano Beach are banned

(World Journal) Compass Card May Fail In Vancouver

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3323859/article-compass> 卡-或失敗收場/?ref=溫哥華

(AM1320 Phone-in Show) A number of former TransLink IT managers expected, without major improvements, Compass card will eventually fail. TransLink hasn't responded to this yet. What would happen if this \$200B system doesn't work as a whole, and Greater Vancouver has to cancel it just as Calgary did?

Host/ Commentator:

- Compass card has both technical (cost by zones) and design problems. May cause bottleneck for passenger traffic. Problematic design with passengers going in and out through the same gate. But how much would it cost to improve?
- Should Compass card be first priority now?
- Lack of transparency. TransLink not telling the public what is not working even though the issues are apparent
- Calgary' s example. Already given a second chance but still not working. Greater Vancouver' s different. Doesn' t entail it will fail here.

Callers:

- About half a dozen callers support removing time limit (90 minute transfer time) will make Compass card less complicated and less rush for travellers. Also, charge one price for all zones. Can encourage more people to take public transit and reduce congestion problems.
- Some said charge cheaper fares

- Cancel Compass Card. Not likely to work and too many fares invasions and don't be able to compensate. Expensive labor cost for repairs and maintenance; Compass card would be a higher cost that takes even longer to recover.

7.8 (Wed)

(AM1470) Vancouver City Council Passed Motion To Set Up Basic Living Wage For City Workers

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=52015

- All 8 people spoke at council support the motion, including union, private sector, and labour rights organizations. City Council hopes that other sectors would follow and help to reduce the disparity between the rich and the poor.

(World Journal) Robertson Meet the Pope To Find Solutions To Global Warming And Poverty

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3325237/article-羅品信將晤教宗-談對抗暖化貧困/?ref=溫哥華>

(World Journal) Vancouver's Strategy For Homeless Not Working Well

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3325244/article-溫市減遊民-成效不佳/?ref=溫哥華>

- Homeless in Vancouver dropped only slightly from 536 to 488, but 1,700 people without fixed address, waiting list for social housing 4,000. Half of homeless appeared in Vancouver within the last year.
- City's recommendation: improve SRO condition and prevent residents there becoming homeless ie. Incentives or financing benefits to build SROs.

(Ming Pao) Vancouver Consultation on "Pont des Arts". Divided On Location

<http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150708/vas1h r.htm>

7.9 (Thur)

(AM1320 Talk Show/ Phone-in Show) Living Wage

Commentators:

- Salary should be based on productivity and market needs under a free market economy. This would put Vancouver into a potential danger of slipping into a Greek-style economy- spend first and worry about it later
- Many non-union workers already got paid at that range. The motion is only a political gesture paving the way for NDP to push the minimum wage to around \$15

- Minimum wage doesn't necessarily help the poor. Fresh graduates may rather prefer more opportunities for entry level jobs instead of higher pay but fewer opportunities
- Why not reducing property tax or other taxes to help the poor, which would benefit more people? The living wage policy only benefits a small number of people. Also, if City raises the wage by reducing inefficiencies, it will make more sense. But now, the wage increase still comes from property tax increase from taxpayers

Callers:

- Not practical. Being generous with taxpayers' money
- Doesn't make sense when the City is the one who contributed partly to the expensive housing by charging high permit fees, and now paying higher wages to some to compensate for it.
- Many callers think this is overly generous ie. based on the assumption of a four member family living in a 3 bedroom home. Impossible for private sectors to follow. Even if they do, it would result in less jobs in the market, and may even increase the inflation rate further
- Two callers support the policy: One said, it will help people stay and live in Vancouver; the other said the City gained so much from soaring housing price, and they simply return that to taxpayers. Also, a good move for Robertson if he is setting his foot to provincial or federal politics.

(Ming Pao) Survey: 2/3 British Columbians Support Pot Legalization

<http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150709/vas2 r.htm>

- Same percentage (67%) agree with Vancouver's new bylaw to regulate pot dispensaries; 89% support banning pot dispensaries from opening within 300 metres from schools and community centres, 64% support charging pot dispensaries \$30,000 license fees

(Ming Pao) Vancouver City Council Passed Living Wage Motion

<http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150709/vas4 r.htm>

(Sing Tao) Vancouver City Workers Hourly Rate Jump From \$20.68

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-07-09/province1436435785d5669306.html>

(Sing Tao) Hong Kong Investors-Owned Company Idling A \$8.4M Golden Lot For 30 Years

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-07-09/community1436435625d5669302.html>

- 17,000 sq. feet land, at 1401 Robson Street.
- City of Vancouver: can't force landlord to develop a vacant land

(World Journal) Vancouver Should Leave Behind Old School Thinking On Land Re-zoning

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3326570/article-溫市土地重畫-應跳□舊思維/?ref=溫哥華>

- First West Capital: very limited areas designed for multi-unit residential areas such as Kitsilano, Mt. Pleasant, and Strathcona. Should be more relaxed.

7.10 (Fri)

(Fairchild TV) Vancouver City Council Discussed Increasing Fees For SRO-turned Market Housing Unit By Seven Folds

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=165cbe7ba268f8d7901f5edbc896084e>

- Each SRO unit turned into market housing unit is required to pay seven times more of permit fees (from about \$15,000 to \$125,000), and make sure tenants won't be displaced after renovation
- Robertson: keep pushing hard for other levels of governments to solve homelessness
- George Affleck: nothing happened at the 4 sites that the Vision Vancouver-heads city council and province has identified and committed to develop social housing since 2007

(AM1470) Downtown Eastside Group Opposed To Building A Tower

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=52071

- "No Venables Tower" collected 800 signatures petition to stop building a 12-15 stories tower, and another 5-7 stories tower. They said the towers is out of the character of their neighborhood

(Sing Tao) 700 Warnings On Water Wastage In Vancouver

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=52071

(World Journal) "Bidding War" For Single Homes in Vancouver

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3328327/article-溫獨立屋-出現搶房熱潮/?ref=溫哥華>

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3328330/article-加四大都會豪宅市場-發展不均/?ref=溫哥華&npg=2>

- According to Sotheby's Int'l Realty Canada's Top-Tier Real Estate Report, first half year of 2015, 2,465 real estate sales in Vancouver are over \$1M, increased by 48% compared to last year. Most of them are single homes over \$1M (1,921), non-single homes increased by 118%
- Definition of "Mansion/ luxury home" in Vancouver has changed: over \$3.5-4M, at least 4,000 sq. feet, 3-4 bedrooms
- Because less and less single homes are available, many buyers have to increase their bids to as high as 20% more. Many of them re-sell the property within a short time. Expect that this kind of speculation will increase even more
- Caused by low interest rate and high demand by offshore buyers

7.10 (Fri)

n/a

7.11 (Sat)

(World Journal) Vancouver's Social Housing More Expensive Than Market Condos

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3330172/article-溫市社會住宅-比私人公寓貴/?ref=溫哥華>

- One of the 14 new social housing build by Vancouver (with help of province) is significantly more expensive. Canadian Taxpayers Federation: puzzled and questioned the effectiveness of social housing projects government invested

(World Journal) Safety Concern When More Coop Housing?

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3330176/article-社會住宅入駐-社區治安亮紅燈?/?ref=溫哥華>

- City of Vancouver will increase 14 more coop housing, some at popular neighborhood in downtown and Westend. Some worried if that would create safety issues
- 61 incidents that involved police intervention in June at a new Coop Housing at 111 Princess Ave. that was build last Nov.
- VPD: these incidents usually spike in the first year, but will gradually drop. Mostly involve mental illness
- City Cllr. Kerry Jang: good sign more homeless people willing to move to houses and receive help

7.12 (Sun)

(World Journal) Neighbours Worried About Old Character Homes Torn Down

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3331368/article-溫市老屋頻遭拆-居民憂/?ref=溫哥華>

- 5,297 old single homes torn down since 2010, on average 3 per day
- since new bylaw that aim at preserving character homes enacted, house demolition permit didn't drop but even increase by 17%
- Dunbar residents saw many houses in good condition are torn down or under renovation. Think City should improve rezoning planning. Building luxury homes don't help with improving livability of the neighborhood, but will benefit more if replaced by townhouses and multi-level unit housing

7.13 (Mon)

(AM1470) Vancouver West Residents Opposed To High Rise

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=52145

- 21 stories highrise at Pendrell/ Denman. "West Side Neighbors": opposed since 2008, worried it will turn the neighbourhood into another Yaletown. Too much density added.

(Fairchild TV) City of Vancouver Reminds Public To Beware Of Causing A Fire

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=1f6325d1b1080e812e7b713ae61f4ebc>

(World Journal) China's Stock Market Fall. Affluent Switched To Real Estate Overseas

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3332921/article-中國股災-富豪海外購房避險/?ref=溫哥華&np=2>

- Many may invest their money to real estate in Canada and Australia. Housing here is affordable from the RMB's perspective. Some attempted to buy the apartments in the entire condo, which is very rare
- But also some Chinese investors cancel their offer because of the stock market crash
- 91,000 affluent Chinese immigrated overseas (average asset \$31M), mostly to US, Canada, Australia and UK, leading their housing market

7.14 (Tue)

(AM1470) Change Of Staff At TransLink After Plebiscite

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=52184

- BC Rapid Transit Company CEO Doug Kelsey and TransLink Vice-Chair Bob Paddon left effectively today. TransLink didn't release any details and whether this is a lay-off, but on their brief written announcement, it says removing the Vice-chair position to reduce expense, and be replaced internally
- Canadian Taxpayers Association: shows No result at plebiscite forces TransLink to make changes, and reform must come top to bottom. Still worried that they would receive huge amount of compensation, hope TransLink would learn their lesson

(Fairchild TV) Management Changes Two Weeks After Plebiscite Voted Down

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=022a50d5a53f9f27b285e58d37441bdd>

(Fairchild TV) Vancouver City Council listened for public input on whether to build a new rental apartment in Westend

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=572624400295bcd695e277e7a8ae8898>

- Residents: bring in too much density and 40,000 people while St. Paul Hospital was removed, take away views of English Bay
- Developer: include more rental housing and family housing

7.15 (Wed)

(Sing Tao) Mo Yang Ching Won Judicial Review; Re-evaluate Refugee Application
http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/realtimenews/rtnews_details_xml.php?id=32280.15&NodeID=1

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7.19 (Sun)

(World Journal) Ching Mo Yeung's Appeal. Same Strategy As Lai Cheong Xing

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3342548/article-程慕陽上訴-循賴昌星策略/?ref=溫哥華>

- Ching Mo Yeung use the same strategy as Lai: keep applying for refugee status and appeal if failed, and take advantage of Canadian law of not allowing to leave before lawsuits are done. Same lawyer as Lai
- Different: Ching has Permanent Resident's status, may have deeper pockets than Lai since his companies have helped developed three high-end housing and commercial projects, and made significant political donations before
- But Canada and China has an agreement of "sharing and returning owing assets"

(Fairchild TV) Permit Application For Building New Homes Most Complicated In North Shore And Vancouver

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=45b60dbddc4b267a67ced2c509beb4f2>

- Fraser Institute: Vancouver & North Shore on average have to wait over 1 years for permit application. Extra cost on rezoning is also the highest in Lower Mainland. Recommend to simplify rezoning bylaw for residential development

7.20 (Mon)

(AM1320) Vancouver City Council Will Vote On Burrard Bridge Upgrade Plan

http://am1320.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=11910%3Aburrard&catid=1%3A2010-10-18-20-52-02&Itemid=97&lang=zh

- Consultation ended, City council will vote on this next week.
- City plans to change the 5 lanes into 4 lanes, add a sidewalk at the East of the bridge.
- City staff: traffic flow will be more or less the same. Budget will increase from \$30M to 35M. Will also add rails to prevent potential suicides and install emergency phones
- According to report on city's website, also consider take down a city property at 900 Pacific Blvd. in order to expand the intersection at North side of Burrard bridge for safety reasons

(AM1470) Vancouver City Cllr. Motion To Cap Election Expense

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=52340

- Cllr. Adriane Carr: ban corporate and union contributions, and cap individual donations because it will have huge influence on city council policies when elected. Province also made such suggestion last month

(AM1320) Vancouver City Council Will Debate On A Financial Cap On Election Campaign

http://am1320.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=11940%3A2015-07-20-23-59-32&catid=1%3A2010-10-18-20-52-02&Itemid=97&lang=zh

- City Hall Watch: city hall's operation affected by campaign donors and Vancouver's is most expensive in the country

(Ming Pao) Vancouver City Council Studies on Campaign Contribution Limit. Consider Banning Corporate Contribution And Cap On Individual Donation

http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150721/vas2_r.htm

7.21 (Tue)

(AM1470) Voting Rate Close to 40% In Vancouver Municipal Election Last Year

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=52372

- Vancouver's Election Chair: report shows that voters are very satisfied with being able to vote at any voting station
- Voting rate was 43.4% last year, 9% more than 2011. Highest at Dunbar, over 57%. Renfrew-Collingwood lowest, 34%.

(AM1470) Gregor Robertson Arrived At Rome, Will Meet With the Pope

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=52356

- The Mayor arrived at Rome and will meet the Pope at the Environment Summit as the only representative from Canada
- Robertson said earlier, that he would request the Pope to pressure different national leaders to take action targeting climate change.

(Sing Tao) Marijuana Plant Found in Vancouver Public Land.

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-07-21/community1437473293d5688087.html>

- The marijuana plant was found at a busy corner of Ontario St. and 20th Ave., beside other shrubs. Resident said marijuana plants are also found in other places in the neighborhood. Suspected some have intentionally place the seeds there. VPD investigating.

(AM1470) Strong Marijuana Plant Found In Vancouver Public Land

(World Journal) UBC Professor: To Suppress Housing Price, Should Prohibit Offshore Buyers From Purchasing Old homes

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3345123/article-卑大學者:抑房價-應禁海外買家買舊屋/?ref=溫哥華>

- UBC Community & Region Planning: province should examine Australia's regulation of restricting offshore buyers from buying new homes, and collect and release data of offshore buyers.
- Consider amending property tax deferment to cover current gaps. I.e. Applicants do not have to provide proof that they can't afford property tax, so high income earners still make their way to apply. Many retired residents whose children have left home still remain in large homes. Should change regulations accordingly so they would consider moving into smaller homes, to make room for families who need more living space

(World Journal) Parents Should Think Twice When Taking Their Own Money Out To Help Finance Their Children's Homes

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3345126/article-掏錢幫兒女購屋-專家籲父母三思/?ref=溫哥華&npg=2>

- Many Asian parents are 1.5 times more willing to help their children to purchase homes, the proportion to non-Asian parents (42.5%), even if it means a second mortgage, early withdrawal of their RRSP
- Seniors who declared for bankruptcy has increased by 20.5% between 2010 – 2014, expect this number to rise
- Money Coaches Canada: old age parents should first consider whether the financing of their own retirement will be sufficient
- Angus Reid survey: 48% is worried that they may not have enough money for retirement.
- Many are forced to retire early, and the purchasing power of their money dropped

7.21 (Tue)– More

(Fairchild TV) Chinatown Group Received \$180,000 To Upgrade SROs

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=5a77f528519cd43703fd9a8401cd1c34>

(Fairchild TV) Vancouver City Staff Ask Residents And Businesses To Abide to Water Retriction Rules

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=84b3f2becbf70a03239d7fae55dcaa40>

7.22 (Wed)

(Westca.com) Mayor Gregor Robertson Signed Climate Action Declaration

<http://www.westca.com/News/article/sid=424274/lang=schinese.html>

(Today Commercial News) Robertson Signed Climate Action Declaration

<http://www.todaycommercialnews.com/epaper/showpaper.aspx?pub=BC&issue=20150724>

(Today Commercial News) City of Vancouver Decide In Fall Whether To Take Down Two Viaducts. Welcomed By Chinatown Group

<http://www.todaycommercialnews.com/epaper/showpaper.aspx?pub=BC&issue=20150724>

- Guangzhou Friendship Society William Mah: support this as a portion of the land will be used to promote Chinese culture

(Fairchild TV) Vancouver City Council Passed \$35M Funding To Repair Burrard Bridge

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=487cf32249fbaaa5a79258e26d54fe19>

- City Cllr. George Affleck: not appropriate to pass the newly added suicide prevention bars without consulting the heritage preservation specialist
- Heather Deal: reasonable. \$35M within the capital budget

(Fairchild TV) City Cllr Adriane Carr Motion To Limit Campaign Expense

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=3c35b2cafc3270e16ca434e74469b06e>

- Cllr. Carr: voters would be very worried if private or corporate donors already affecting city policies. This issue must be addressed

- Cllr. Louie: province's jurisdiction. Would be more helpful after committee discussion and present that to province

7.23 (Thur)

(AM1470) Vancouver City Council Passed Burrard Bridge Upgrade Plan

http://am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=52451

- NPA criticized city council passed the plan hastily without enough public consultation

(Ming Pao) City of Vancouver Passed Reduction of Car Lane On Burrard Bridge. City Councillor Worried Bottle Neck

<http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150723/vas4 r.htm>

- Cllr. Deal: number of pedestrians and cyclists on Burrard bridge grow rapidly, whereas cars decreasing. Reducing one car lane for expansion of sidewalk is to address this change
- Cllr. Affleck: population grow by 5,000 each year, worried it will get harder for people to get in and out of downtown and create a bottleneck
- Vancouver Coastal Health: On average one person jumped from Burrard bridge per year, lowest than Lion's Gate where there is 4 per year. Building higher fence will help to prevent suicides. Hope it won't affect the historical appearance

(World Journal) Ban On Taking Down Character Houses. Public Consultation Next Month

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3348311/article-溫西特色屋禁拆令延長-市府下月公聽/?ref=溫哥華>

(World Journal) Taking Down Of Two Viaducts. Motion In September

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3348318/article-溫市 2 高架橋-9 月提案拆除/?ref=溫哥華>

- Cllr. Meggs: residents have gradually changed from opposing view to more positive recently. City Engineering hasn't heard more protest. If the two viaducts are taken down, the land underneath it can be fully utilized ie. Build new park or affordable housing
- Seismic upgrade of the viaducts will cost \$50M to 60M. Taking them down only add a few minutes for cars to go between Vancouver East and Downtown Eastside
- The land at west side of Gore St. won't be divided by the roads going to the viaducts
- DVBA welcomes. Will bring more development opportunities

- Strathcona Residents Association: optimistic. Strathcona, Chinatown and False Creek communities will be more closely connected. City has revised the plan after hearing their concern. That means city has listened.

(World Journal) Gregor Robertson Signed Climate Change Action Declaration In Vatican

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3346683/article-羅品信赴梵蒂岡-簽氣候變遷行動宣言/?ref=溫哥華&npg=2>

(Fairchild TV) GVRD: Each Municipality Should Coordinate Water Restriction

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=715eb56d3f3b71792e230102d1da496d>

7.24 (Fri)

(Sing Tao) Robertson Meet the Pope. Reduce GHG Emission, Poverty Relief

<http://std.stheadline.com/oversea/0724ao39.html>

(Sing Tao) 60% Vancouver Bike Lanes Have Record-breaking Usage

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-07-24/province1437732663d5693687.html>

- 6 out of 10 bike lanes have record breaking usage in June, Point Grey's Seaside Greenway that was put to used since last summer has significant usage
- on Burrard Bridge, on average 6,600 bikes every weekend in June, increased by 2,000 since last year

(Sing Tao) Guang Zhou Sister City Soccer Tournament. First Game This Sunday

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-07-24/community1437729810d5692913.html>

- Guang Zhou Soccer team will play against the Vancouver team which is once again, led by the Mayor

(AM1470/ Westca.com) City of Vancouver Enforce Illegal Pot Dispensaries

<http://www.westca.com/News/article/sid=424867/溫市口法打口口反附例大麻商店/lang=schinese.html>

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=52489

- City started to enforce with the new bylaw and send out warning letters to illegal pot dispensaries ie can't smoke pot inside the dispensaries or sell food that contains pot
- Some pot dispensaries said, city's enforcement would cause much impact to their business

(AM1470) TransLink Hiring New CEO

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=52487

(AM1470) Some Wait In Tents For Tomorrow's False Creek Housing Pre-Sale

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=52486

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=52468

- A real estate brought his wife and two children to line up for the pre-sale since Monday. Will purchase 6 units, including one for his son
- Some said it will attract professionals like
- 174 units, 16 levels, close to Chinatown, about \$340,000 for a single room unit, will be completed in 2018

7.25 (Sat)

(Ming Pao) TransLink Recruits New CEO Annual Salary \$320,000 Plus Bonus

http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150725/vasa_r.htm

- TransLink new CEO: annual salary \$320,000, 30% bonus, \$15,000 transportation subsidy, \$2,500 recreation subsidy.
- Taxpayers Association: TransLink hasn't learnt from their mistakes and keep their promises. The new CEO's salary is still way higher than CEO in other parts of North America

7.26 (Sun)

N/A

7.27 (Mon)

(AM1320 Phone-in Show) Is TransLink New CEO's Salary & Benefits Reasonable?

- Must let taxpayers who pay for the CEO's salary know the reasons behind. Why over \$90,000 of bonus necessary? Already received a lot of criticism when Ian Jervis got the bonus. Why didn't listen to voters who have the right to know and should have a say in it?
- Bonus should only be available when the TransLink budget is balanced. Increased ridership isn't necessarily accomplished by TransLink's effort. More because of the change in population structure: Influx of new residents and overseas students into Greater Vancouver.
- If the Transportation Minister is truly disappointed, then he should do something about it. The experiment of having TransLink managing transportation perhaps should be over. Time for another experiment without it.
- Should have another referendum whether to dismiss TransLink and hand it back to the Province. Many callers have mentioned this before the transit plebiscite. Many evidence already shows that TransLink doesn't work.

(AM1470) Gregor Robertson: Evaluating Salary Of TransLink Management

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=52548

- But didn't mention whether he agreed with lowering the salary

(AM1470) Taxpayers Association Criticize TransLink New CEO Too Much Salary And Benefits

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=52544

- Taxpayers Association: Province has removed the bonus structure in crown corporations, so TransLink should follow

(AM1470) Transgendered Community Said Their Homicide Rate Is 15 Times Of Homosexuals

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=52540

(AM1470) TransLink Said In a Letter, They Will Discuss With Mayors About Salary & Benefits

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=52552

- The Mayor: hope to compare data with other cities. Salary shouldn't be higher than other cities, but TransLink's job has to be carried out by an exceptional person

(Ming Pao) Vancouver Guangzhou Soccer Tournament Celebrate 30 Years As Sister Cities

<http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150727/vas1hr.htm>

- Cllr. Reimer: played goalie of the Vancouver team
- Cllr. Louie: the tournament has very symbolic meaning to Vancouver and Guangzhou's friendship. A pity his foot was injured and couldn't join the game

(Sing Tao/ Westca.com) Sister City Soccer Tournament. Guangzhou Won By 6:4

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-07-27/community1437988310d5696233.html>

- Deputy Mayor Reimer succeeded in catching the ball as the goalie just 20 minutes after the game has started. She said she started playing soccer since 5, and feel that sports is the best way to connect different culture. Hopes to see more women soccer players in Vancouver in the future.

(World Journal) Waiting In Line For A Few Days To "Snatch" False Creek Condos

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3354179/article-民眾排隊數天-搶購福溪公寓/?ref=溫哥華>

(World Journal) Vancouver East Residents Plead to Improve Drug Addiction And Sex Trade Problems

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3353558/article-賣淫猖獗、毒品氾濫-溫東居民籲改善/?ref=溫哥華&npg=2>

- A Chinese resident said, since moved to that neighbourhood, already called police at least 6 times for blatant drug deals and sex trade soliciting. Syringes, condoms and underwear can be found easily around their homes. It's already out-of-control. Hope more police patrol.
- Residents had organized a petition to ask City of Vancouver to take action. 400 signatures were collected. Most are parents. However no improvement is seen as far. Many said they don't feel safe enough to let their children play outside by themselves during the day.

(Fairchild TV) TransLink Was Criticized For Hiring New CEO With Overly High Salary

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=8e09ecaeb8fc3c2f8f0b52fff9eec3ec>

(Fairchild TV) Vancouver City Hall Proclaim This Year As Pride's Week

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=793fde23ec4fb2972bfe2ee461f63645>

7.28 (Tue)

(World Journal) Gregor Robertson: Vancouver's Housing Market Is At A "Breaking Point"

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3355965/article-羅品信:溫市房價「面臨失控」/?ref=溫哥華>

Reference to:

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- Robertson: City of Vancouver has limited tools and resources. Hope a speculation tax or luxury tax will transfer some of the profit made in the housing transactions back to local residents and let me locate in Vancouver.
- Robertson: Necessary to collect data of offshore buyers because policies must be based on data. Also worried the discussion will become racial discrimination. Hope the focus will be shifted onto vacancy rate and speculation.
- UBC Community & Regional Planning: the open letter between Mayor Robertson & Premier is only a show as City of Vancouver already knows where the Province stands.
Robertson also shot at the federal government for the failed system.

(World Journal) Parking Spot In Downtown Vancouver Asking For \$45,000

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3355962/article-溫市中心車位-開價 4-5 萬/?ref=溫哥華>

- MLS system shows, this 145 sq. feet parking spot is asking for \$45,000, that is \$310 per sq feet. Located inside the building on 1200 Pacific Blvd.
- UBS School of Business: shows that demand for parking spots is getting intense. Selling or renting parking spots is very common in some major cities around the world. Believes that City isn't interested in stepping in as they want to encourage using public transit. More apartments don't provide matching parking spots anymore

(World Journal) Vancouver Tenants Expect "Rent Increase Tsunami"

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3355968/article-溫哥華租屋客-恐遇「租金海嘯」/?ref=溫哥華>

with reference to:

<http://www.vancouversun.com/business/affordability/Barbara+Yaffe+Vancouver+rent+increase+tsunami/11246784/story.html>

- Vancouver Sun Columnist Barbara Yafee: rental rates no longer reflect market values, 10-20% increase last year for new leases. Population growth plus more people are opting to rent, rental pool is becoming larger

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7.29 (Wed)

(Westca.com) Chinese Female Real Estate Agent's Unethical Practise

http://www.westca.com/News/article/sid=425681/lang=schinese.html?utm_source=westca&utm_medium=link&utm_campaign=news_extend

(AM1470) Vancouver City Council Motion To Ban Taking Down Of Westside Historical Buildings

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=52620

- Some realtors who specialized in that area are opposed to this, said this won't help to conserve heritage housing. As they would be allowed to add density, it would cause drop in house price, and create another Kitsilano

(Sing Tao) City of Vancouver Motion To Ban Taking Down First Shaughnessy Heritage Homes

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-07-29/headline1438164892d5700282.html>

(Ming Pao) Vancouver Host First International ChuiZhou Friendship Exchange Conference. Expect Over 3,000 People, 200 Social Groups From 80 Countries Will Attend

<http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150729/vas1hr.htm>

- The 18th annual conference is first time held in Vancouver. Currently about 200,000 people came from Chui Zhou region of China. Will meet with BC International Trade Ministry, City of Vancouver and hold four forums on trades, multicultural exhibitions and studies on Chui Zhou culture

(World Journal) City of Vancouver Present Evaluation Report On Viaduct Take-down Plan Today

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3357459/article-溫市高架橋拆除案-今提評估報告/?ref=溫哥華>

- Because many Vancouver East residents are worried about the impact on traffic in the surrounding area, City will announce an assessment report at a community forum.
- Strathcona residents: support taking down the viaduct, but if it caused traffic congestion especially along Prior St., they may not support it anymore
- City planning and development manager Brian Jackson: absolutely confident the new road system will have the capacity for the traffic flow

7.30 (Thur)

(World Journal) Developer Apply To Build Highest Office Tower in Vancouver

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3359567/article-開發商申請-建溫市最高辦公樓/?ref=溫哥華>

- Oxford Properties: 1133 Melville St., if passed, will be 33 floors with 287 parking stalls, and a base area of 658,657 sq. feet, completed in 3 years

7.31 (Fri)

(World Journal) TransLink Apologized For Refusing To Pick Up A Senior Lady

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3361052/article-拒載百口婦-交通局道歉/?ref=溫哥華>

- Bus driver refused to let a 100-years-old Port Moody resident on walking support board the bus, because no one was available to help, and the driver said he had no insurance covered, so couldn't come out to assist her. Driver left her
- TransLink: no such regulations, apologized and will investigate

8.1 (Sat)

(Sing tao) Report: Risk of Market Correction In Greater Vancouver's Housing Market Next Year

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-07-31/province1438338878d5704118.html>

- City with soaring housing prices like Vancouver may see a market correction. It would have to drop around 40% to match income level of average residents. Sales has increased by 50% in the past two years

(Fairchild TV) Powell Street Market Opened By Vancouver East Residents Opened

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=5c1d3094cb6ad88a8fe5a64e0bdd8b1e>

- 50 vendors, will generate \$10,000 each day, open one day a week, will help alleviate poverty. Will replace the Pigeon Park location
- A vendor said the new place is cleaner and tidier. Lot of thefts at the old location

8.2 (Sun)

(Fairchild TV) Over 600,000 People Attended 37th Vancouver's Pride Parade

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=41b7a4257befb2e8999eb01cb3b376b0>

(Ming Pao) DTE Street Market Opened Every Sat On Powell Street

<http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150802/vas1h r.htm>

- Only a few Chinese vendors. Lily is one of them. She said, mostly sells things she doesn't use anymore, sometimes items picked up at garbage after cleaning.
- City lease the land for free

(AM1470) Vancouver City Planning & Development Manager Resigned By The End Of The Year

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=52722

- Brian Jackson's term the shortest. He said, good timing as he has completed all the projects on hand. Accomplishment: suggesting to City council to make First Shaughnessy as Vancouver's first Legacy Preservation area; however, controversial as some owners can't take down their homes anymore. He said, such policy hasn't been revised since 1986

(AM1470) Groups Representing Different Sexual Orientation Voice Out On Pride Day

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=52724

- Rainbow Refugee that helps refugee who are persecuted because of AIDS or sexual orientation: some only feel safe at parade, and feel recognize the first time. A participant from Paris said, a chance to show the world his true self
- Vancouver Sister's of Perpetual Indulgence: still unfair to transgender people in some places in Africa and Russia. A participant said: need to speak on behalf of young people who are persecuted and died because they are transgender. Feels good to walk for people who don't enjoy equal rights

(World Journal) Government Regulate Housing Unit Ratio. Industry: Only A Formality

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3364360/article-政府規範房屋比例-業者:恐流於形式/?ref=溫哥華>

- Some municipalities want to help young people to stay living in their city, and set mandatory requirements for developers to build a certain ratio of 2- and 3- bedrooms units. But industry said, only setting the requirement but without further details, make it hard to enforce
- If developers want to build 2- or 3- bed room units that sell for lower price, they got very limited choices: build at lower levels, smaller area or on cheaper land
- Hard to include window in every room with the restrictions especially corner units
- Developer: city should tell them what they should do, otherwise, such restrictions is not meaningful

- Vancouver: new building projects must include at least 35% of units that have more than 2 bedrooms.

(World Journal) Rainbow Refugees Help Same Sex Partners Immigrate To Canada

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3363847/article-彩虹難民-助同志伴侶移民加國/?ref=溫哥華&npg=2>

8.3 (Mon)

(World Journal) Rainbows Fly Everywhere In Vancouver During Pride Parade

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3365102/article-同志大遊行-溫市染彩虹/?ref=溫哥華&npg=2>

(AM1320) Vancouver City Council Holds Talks On Pot Dispensary Regulations Today

- The talk is today and Sept 10 for the industry. A pot dispensary owner said, the new bylaw on banning marijuana food won't have much impact on them as it is only a very small percentage of their sales and can be replaced by other products

8.4 (Tue)

(World Journal) Greater Vancouver Real Estate: Tool For China Tourists' Money Laundering

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3366818/article-大溫房市-陸客洗錢工具/?ref=溫哥華&npg=2>

- According to Province's report, \$10M non-declared cash/ cheque were found from Chinese tourists at yvr from June 2012 to Dec 2014. Vancouver becomes a "convenient" location for such money laundering because of its proximity to China
- Accounting consultant: dealt with a case recently about a Chinese citizen who holds \$450M from corruption and invested his money in Vancouver's real estate for a few years. This is not an isolated case. Many in the real estate industry may purposely ignored this and even participated in it
- Some hired a professional "money carrier" in Hong Kong to bring money to Vancouver where they charge 20% commission ie. Through changing commercial invoice, and force 200 of their staff to send \$50,000 to his Vancouver bank account in order to avoid offshore investment restrictions in China. Then he would use that sum to invest in a \$7M mansion here

8.5 (Wed)

(AM1470) City of Vancouver Recommend Repair Options For Millennium Gate

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=52797

- Twenty bronze plates on the Millennium Gate were stolen over a year and City of Vancouver finally decided to reinstall the plaques
- Recommend plastic plates instead of metal one.

- Chinatown Millennium Society member, Kelly Ip: Hope finished by summer, otherwise latest by Chinese New Year the latest next year. Tourists couldn't understand the part of the history as the plates that inscribed with donors' names and history were gone

(AM1470) Vancouver Real Estate Continues To Climb Last Month

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=52788

- Greater Vancouver Real Estate Board: number of sales increased by 30% compared to last month, price increased by 11.2%. Average \$700,500

(Ming Pao) Restore Stolen Millennium Gate Plates With Plastic Materials To Avoid Thefts Again

http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150805/vas1h_r.htm

- Kelly Ip, Former Vice-Chair of Chinatown Millennium Society, who had put in enormous effort into building the Millennium Gate in 2002, have recently urged the City of Vancouver to repair the Gate in English media, finally City responded positively.
- Ip: ideally he would like to see the repair done by Aug 1 as that would be its 13th anniversary, but since it is still tourism season, hope it can be done within a month, and no later than Chinese New Year Parade next year as that is parade's starting point
- Tourists don't understand the historical meaning of the Gate without the plaques.

(World Journal) Monthly Rent For Vancouver's 2 Bedroom Condo Reaches \$1,300

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3368744/article-溫市2房公寓-月租逾1300元/?ref=溫哥華>

- According to RentSeeker.ca, Vancouver's 2 Bedroom Condo monthly rent is about \$1,345, a hundred dollar higher than Toronto. Burlington in Ontario is highest, over \$1,500
- Coquitlam, Burnaby and Richmond are between \$1,100- \$1,175. Lowest is Abbotsford, \$861

(World Journal) Fairview Old Condo. Increased By 3.6 Times Within 16 Years

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3368738/article-麗景老公寓-16年房價漲3-6倍/?ref=溫哥華&npg=2>

- Colliers International: average price at Fairview increased 22.8% per year, and a total of 3.65 times
- Due to high vacancy rate (dropped from 1.1% to 0.5%) and positive towards the impact of building Broadway Rapid Transit

(World Journal) Fastbender: Reform TransLink From the Root

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3368603/article-法斯本德:從根改革交通局/?ref=溫哥華>

- First priority: restore public trust and cutting cost and increasing revenue. Will first stop the recruitment of TransLink CEO; increase transparency
- Will communicate with municipalities and communities. Hope owners whose property values increased as a result of transportation infrastructure, would pay a relative tax to invest back to transit system

8.6 (Thur)

(AM1470) Public Still Have Doubts About Compass Card's Operation

http://am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=52828

(AM1470) Taxpayers Association: TransLink Made the Right Decision

http://am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=52823

- Jordan Bateman: TransLink made a right decision overall, but worried the two tiers fee system will create confusion and TransLink will lose significant amount of revenue.

(AM1470) Buses Will Have Flat Rate For All Zones Starting Oct 5

http://am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=52823

- \$2.75 for all buses, skytrain, seabus, Canada Line and Westcoast Express will keep the zone system

(AM1470) Vancouver Shelter Filled With Drug And Alcohol Problems

http://am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=52812

- Lookout Society

(Sing Tao) High Rent In Vancouver Keeps International Students Away

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-08-06/headline1438856030d5713478.html>

- International student prefer to live on campus as it is more expensive to rent outside campus, which was the other way around before

(Fairchild TV) TransLink Announced One Zone System For All Buses From Oct 5

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=2d6f251981f688b3a1310c6fe81a7487>

(Westca.com) Locals Are Angry! Foreigners Should Pay 75% When Purchase Property

http://www.westca.com/News/article/sid=427730/lang=tchinese.html?utm_source=westca&utm_medium=topic_hot&utm_campaign=news_extend

- Some comments left at social media that demands non-Canadians be charged 75% more taxes when buying properties here

(Westca.com) Vancouver Housing Market Boiling Hot With Fierce Competition

<http://www.westca.com/News/article/sid=427804/温哥华房市如火如荼 房价硝烟起/lang=schinese.html>

- According to Sotheby's International Realty Canada's report, in the first half of the year, most single homes in Vancouver were sold above the asking price. 54% are sold between \$1-2M, 18% are over \$4M

- Ie. A single home in Vancouver West's asking price was \$599M, but was sold at \$801M in May
- Many homes were sold at "no subject offer" in order to compete. Some unethical realtors made "phantom bids" to create an impression that many other buyers were trying to make an offer, thus increasing the house price further

8.7 (Fri)

(World Journal) Vancouver Single Home Became Disposal Site

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3371802/article-溫市獨立空屋-遭棄置垃圾/?ref=溫哥華>

- Old houses on Knight & 49th Avenue that are waiting to be redeveloped became disposal site o couches, TV, tires invested with mosquitoes and flies and filled with awful odour, affecting the hygiene of the neighbourhood. Same thing happened at E49th & Argyle.

(World Journal) Write Down Their License Plate Number And Report To City Hall

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3371809/article-居民可記下車牌-向市府檢舉/?ref=溫哥華>

- City of Vancouver: property owners have to be responsible for those garbage. City already informed them by posting a note at their door. If they don't clean it by deadline, city will do so and ask for reimbursement afterwards
- Anyone who spotted the illegal dumping, should write down their car license plate number and report it to city hall

(World Journal) Greater Vancouver Change To One Zone System To Welcome Compass Card

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3372336/article-迎 compass 票卡-大溫公車改一區制/?ref=溫哥華>

8.8 (Sat)

(World Journal) Ten Major Reasons For Vacant Properties

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3373717/article-分析溫市空屋現象-房屋閒置的 10 大理由/?ref=溫哥華>

- Mukhtar Latif, City of Vancouver's Housing office has made recommendations to the Mayor and city council about collecting data on vacant housing through working with BC Hydro

- Ten reasons leading to vacant properties: houses getting ready to be rebuilt, re-rent or renovate, short-term speculation, domestic or offshore investment, homeowner deceased, homeowner away for vacation for a long period of time or hospitalized.

8.9 (Sun)

(Sing Tao) Vancouver Chinatown Festival. Attracted Over 10,000 Visitors

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2015-08-09/province1439115625d5717428.html>

(Sing Tao) The Eventful Chinatown Festival Continues Today

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3374774/article-「華埠節」活動多-今續舉行/?ref=溫哥華>

- Expect to attract over 60,000 people attend

8.10 (Mon)

(Fairchild TV/ AM1470) City of Vancouver: Campaign Signs Placement Is Regulated By City Bylaw

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=d6979f4b1fc40f9d720e42d4ce13bb10>

- Removal fine \$100-300 if misplaced

8.11 (Tue)

(Sing Tao) City of Vancouver \$75,000 Funding To Help Repair Toi Shan Benevolent Association Building

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/144684/2015-08-11/post-溫市府撥 7-5 萬-助台山會館維修/?variant=zh-hk>

- Chinese Society Buildings Matching Grants, \$75,000 for the Chinatown's Toi Shan Benevolent Association's hundred-years-old building

(World Journal) Home Rental May Become The New Trend Under Soaring Housing Price

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3377470/article-房價天高-租住或成新趨勢/?ref=溫哥華&npg=2>

- More will choose to rent as putting most of your income into housing is too risky, and average wage can't afford owning a home in Greater Vancouver. Demographics of home renters will become more diverse, from baby boomers, millennials and new immigrants

(World Journal) City Permits To Take Down A Vancouver East House After Garbage Are Removed

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3378187/article-溫東垃圾屋清畢-市府准拆/?ref=溫哥華&npg=2>

- City sent staff to clean up the garbage at a vacant property at E49th Ave. that was waiting for rebuilt. The owner was angry as this is already third time he had to pay out of his own pocket to remove the garbage.
- City Engineer: complaints received on garbage clean up, as well as the total amount of illegally disposed garbage that are collected have increased year by year. City has collected 2,161 tones of such garbage in 2014, 14% more than 2013, mostly are old mattress, furniture and electronics

8.12 (Wed)

(World Journal) Vancouver's New House Construction Increased By 7.9% in July

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3379155/article-7月新屋起建量-溫哥華增7-9/?ref=溫哥華>

- From 25,360 units to 27,349 units (June to July)

8.13 (Thur)

(Fairchild TV) SUCCESS Will Open Beijing's First New Immigrant Consultation Service Centre in September

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=707e46efb6783920d5b251ef598157a6>

- First non-profit organization opened such office in Beijing

(World Journal) Vancouver's Housing Price In July Historical High

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3380902/article-溫7月綜合房價指數-創新高/?ref=溫哥華>

- Teranet-National Bank National Composite House Price Index- increased by 1.57% compared to June, 9.9% compared to July 2014

(Westca.com) Vancouver Not the First In the Latest National Composite House Price Index

<http://www.westca.com/News/article/sid=429289/加国房价最新□跌数据 溫村非第一/lang=schinese.html>

(Westca.com) Young People "Fleeing" Vancouver: Our Lives Are Good Here

<http://www.westca.com/News/article/sid=429335/逃离溫村的年□人我□□得非常好/lang=schinese.html>

- Original article: <http://www.metronews.ca/news/canada/2014/11/06/metro-votes-young-vancouverites-fleeing-to-more-affordable-pastures.html> (it was Nov. last year)
- More young people with high education move out of Vancouver to other suburban areas or even out of the province such as Ontario or Alberta for more affordable housing and better job market
- Age group between 20-30 has been declining. Decreased by 770 (2012), further drop by 1,571 (2013). Mostly University graduate with bachelor or master degree, looking for a job and ready to form a family
- Average price for single home reaches \$1.3M and condo \$548,000

(Fairchild TV) City of Vancouver Requested Transportation Board To Stop CP From Re-using Railroad along Arbutus Corridor

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=aca1de509b1d10131783122f42ee4c75>

(AM1320) City of Vancouver Requests Transportation Board To Ban CP From Resuming Railway Along Arbutus Corridor

(Fairchild TV) Vancouver Police Investigated A Pot Dispensary That Sold Products To The Under Age

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=1b96773a6c08eb3441a9827be8972ea2>

(Fairchild TV) City Of Vancouver Charges \$200 Fines For Residency Having More Than Three False Alarm

- Over 7,000
- Streeters: one said it is reasonable, while the other said not acceptable because alarm can be triggered easily by other unintentional factors

8.14 (Fri)

(Ming Pao) Chinese Policing Centre Forced To Move As City Of Vancouver Increase Rent A Few Times More

http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150814/vasa_r.htm

- Policing Centre: signed 10-year-long contract with City of Vancouver at monthly rent of \$1,500. But as the contract expired the end of last year, City requests over \$4,000, which is way over the centre's budget
- Good location, but not possible to afford the rent as a non-profit organization. Had tried to negotiate a discount but didn't reach any agreement. Will move to 268 Keefer St.
- City of Vancouver hasn't responded yet

(Ming Pao) Another Senior Management Staff Left TransLink

http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150814/vasc_r.htm

- Rail Service Vice Chair Dave Beckley will leave TransLink and no replacement at this position. Third senior management staff leaving after Bob Paddon and Doug Kelsey.

(AM1320) Another TransLink Senior Staff Left Their Position

(Sing Tao) City of Vancouver Urges TransLink To Force CP Sell Railway Land At Cheap Price

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/category/社區/?variant=zh-hk>

- While CP Rail prepared to re-open Arbutus Corridor, City of Vancouver requested Canadian Transportation Agency to stop CP from doing so due to safety reasons ie. Damage infrastructure along the railway, traffic lights at 50 intersections were outdated, residents are used to no rail in the past 15 years

- CP said the land along the rail has a potential price of \$400M and is willing to sell it at \$100M to City, but City thinks \$20M is reasonable price. Both sides hasn't reached an agreement yet

(World Journal) Arbutus Corridor Development Plan Rejected By City of Vancouver

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3382603/article-亞布特斯土地開發-cp:提案遭溫市拒□/?ref=溫哥華>

(Sing Tao) 93 Tenants Collectively Sue A DTE SRO For Its Deplorable Condition

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/150274/2015-08-14/post-指溫東端酒店環境差-93 個租客集體訴訟/?variant=zh-hk>

- West Hotel, 488 Carrall St.
- Since ownership transferred 3 years ago, condition deteriorated and worse after another management company taken over last year. Ie. Elevator not fixed for over 108 days and no hot water for over 49 days, frequent drug deals and double murder in March this year. Asking for compensation of \$70,000

(Sing Tao) Search Made In Non-Licensed Pot Dispensary In Vancouver. Allegedly Involved Organized Crime

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/150266/2015-08-14/post-溫無牌大麻店被搜-疑涉犯罪組織/?variant=zh-hk>

- Limelife Society, 4800 Rupert Street. Have a total of 4 stores including one in Nanaimo, although no arrest are made in the other three
- About 100 pot dispensaries operating in Vancouver now, and most are running in "grey area".

(World Journal) Blame Chinese Immigrants For Soaring Housing Price. Liu Fei: Not Fair

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3383001/article-高房價怪中國買家湧入-劉菲:有失公允/?ref=溫哥華>

- Chinese Consulate General Liu Fei: nothing wrong with Chinese immigrants buying properties with legal money and looking to start a good life in Canada, and local economy and job market will benefit. Monitoring and management of housing market is not the responsibility of Chinese government, so shouldn't blame a certain ethnic community. Rather need collaborative efforts of different levels of governments

(World Journal) Professor Yan: Stephen Harper Mis-interpret the 15% Vacancy Rate

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3382994/article-溫15-公寓閒置？甄瑞謙：哈珀誤引數據/?ref=溫哥華>

- Data that the prime Minister used is from UBC City Planning Professor Andy Yan's longitudinal study on Vancouver's housing price released in 2013. But Yan said, the 15% doesn't refer to condo vacancy but total housing units
- According to Census 2011, 25% of housing units in Coal Harbor are vacant. But vacancy issue only happens in certain neighborhood, and not proof to show that they are owned by offshore investors
- Since Conservative government eliminated the long-form census, they are unable to trace how many info such as offshore investors. Many major cities such as NY and London also face similar issues related to offshore buyers. Such tools is necessary

8.15 (Sat)

(World Journal) Different Response To Feds' Plan To Track Offshore Buyers' Data

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3384335/article-聯邦擬□海外買家資料-反應不一/?ref=溫哥華>

- UBC Professor: complicated. Some buyers are Canadian Residents although the money for the investment came overseas. These people may be categorized as locals
- Canadian Real Estate Association: good news. Currently very limited data. Don't even have data on how many are first time home buyers
- BC Real Estate Association: offshore buyers aren't a serious problem as many think. Data would help to give a clearer picture. Can be done through registration of the buyer. But a challenge to decide who has the authority to do so, and would need a clear definition about what constitutes an offshore buyer. Confusion now: many Canadians who work overseas invest in Vancouver's real estate, also some who are not Canadians but have legal status to stay in Canada buy homes here for their own living
- Real estate lawyer: most vacant properties are mansions, and their impact on housing price is very limited, just like Florida. Most Chinese buyers are divided into two groups: focus their investments towards luxurious mansions, whereas the others intend to buy condos to rent out

(Sing Tao) Vancouver Second Hand Single Homes Average \$1.75M. Only 7.6% Can Afford

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/151787/2015-08-15/post-溫二手獨立屋平均價175萬-能負擔家庭僅7-6/?variant=zh-hk>

- For townhomes with average \$810,000, 29.1% can afford. Owning a single home would require a household income of \$180,000

8.16 (Sun)

(World Journal) City of Vancouver's Intention Of Taking Down Georgia And Dunsmuir Viaduct Questionable

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3387250/article-拆喬治亞、登士梅橋-溫市府遭質疑/?ref=溫哥華>

- **Former City Department Manager Ian Adman**: impossible not to cause any impact when taking down these two viaducts that cost over tenth of millions and has traffic of over 60,000 each day. Although City said a better traffic system will be in place, but Adman said, it is only connecting Georgia Street diagonally to Pacific Blvd, but building a new road
- Currently traffic along E Hastings Corridor, Chinatown and Cambie Bridge is on the rise, anticipating the peak will last 6 to 8 hours. Question whether drivers would be willing to take a route longer than the current one, and may affect people's desire to go to downtown
- **Marguerite Ford, Former City Councillor during 1976-1986** (<http://www.orderofbc.gov.bc.ca/members/obc-1997/1997-marguerite-ford/>): doesn't oppose to the idea of taking down the viaducts, but City hasn't found a good solution and prepared for the potential traffic congestion problem
- Architecture Critic Trevor Boddy asked City Planner Holly Sovdi, on a discussion at SFU, whether the land created after the take-down would be another sweetheart deal with the developers.
- Sovdi: that piece of land can be used to develop parks, affordable housing and bike lanes. Don't know yet who will get the right of development
- Boddy: Without knowing details such as who will get the right to develop the land, new building density and height, shouldn't support any of the plans, unless public interest are ensured.

8.17 (Mon)

(Fairchild TV) Real Estate Market Expected To Slow Down In the End of This Year

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=af5a968312f8d1e3246a966fac1606da>

- Realtor: Greater Vancouver's real estate market affected by Chinese investors in recent years. Expect interest rate will rise after the federal election, and RMB has been depreciating. Less Chinese investments on local real estate will result.

(AM1470) Vancouver East Residents Oppose To Building A Tower

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=53088

- About 50 Grandview-Woodland residents protested against a building project of a 5 to 12 levels tower on Commercial Dr. at Venables & Adanac. They said

the project is too big and worried about parking and traffic problems it would incur

8.18 (Tue)

(Sing Tao) 9M Tourists May Visit Vancouver This Year

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/154861/2015-08-17/post-今年訪溫旅客人數料逾 900 萬/?variant=zh-hk>

(World Journal) City of Vancouver Purchased Land From CP. Preceded By VanDusen Garden.

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3387253/article-溫市府向 cp 購地-植物園有先例/?ref=溫哥華>

- City purchased VanDusen Garden in the 1970's. Province and City paid \$1M each, and the remaining \$1M by a lumber magnate

(World Journal) Chinese Investors Causing the Soaring House Price? Argument Refuted

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3388503/article-中國買家扯高房價？遭駁斥/?ref=溫哥華&npg=2>

- Since Chinese Consulate General Liu Fei said it's unfair to blame Chinese for the soaring house price, a Surrey teacher Lizanne Foster wrote an article to Huffington Post regarding
- Media should clearly define "Chinese investors" and "Millionaires who are from China". The former focused too much on ethnicity and have negative impact.
- Reasonable when a millionaire wants to purchase property in a beautiful place like Vancouver. Although some millionaires from China gained their money through illegal ways, many millionaires in Canada do the same thing. So the issue isn't an ethnic one.
- Unequal distribution of wealth is unfair, but affordability and homelessness is a problem originated from the economic system, not ethnicity. People should be alert and avoid exclusion against Chinese like in 1907 from happening again.

8.17 (Sun)

(World Journal) City of Vancouver's Intention Of Taking Down Georgia And Dunsmuir Viaduct Questionable

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3387250/article-拆喬治亞、登士梅橋-溫市府遭質疑/?ref=溫哥華>

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8.19 (Wed)

(Ming Pao) Vancouver The Third Most Livable City In the World

http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150819/var1h_r.htm

(World Journal) Vancouver Ranked The Third Livable City in the World

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3390645/article-全球最宜居城市-溫哥華第3/?ref=溫哥華>

8.20 (Thur)

(Fairchild TV) Province Announced Two New Representatives For TransLink Board Of Directors

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=8b02ed5a86a1a326b7862bbba5eb74a7>

- NDP TransLink Critic George Heyman: doesn't help with accountability. Most people want someone who is chosen by voters
- Peter Fassbender: robust process in place and the two chosen board of directors, former Vancouver Police Chief Jim Chu and former Surrey City manager Murray Dinwoodie, are known for their practical leadership
- Supported by Mayor's Council Chair Gregor Robertson

(Sing Tao) "Greater Vancouver Gardening Club" Attended Park Board's 40th Anniversary Celebration

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/162259/2015-08-20/post-大溫園藝學會參與公園局40周年會慶/?variant=zh-hk>

- Only Chinese group as an outstanding gardening club invited to attend. The gardening club was advocated and formed by BC's late Lieutenant Governor Dr. David C. Lam. Through 18 years of hard work, recognized by the mainstream gardening circle

(Fairchild TV) 18th International Chiu Zhou Benevolent Association's Annual Meeting Formally Start Today At Vancouver Convention Centre

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=0dbcc22a131326b8056b0c26d845dda3>

- Opening ceremony, trade shows and discussions, about 3,000 people attended

(Sing Tao) International Chiu Zhou Annual Meeting Formally Started In Vancouver

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/162263/2015-08-20/post-國際潮團總年會-溫哥華正式開鑼/?variant=zh-hk>

(World Journal) Noise Complaints Against Sky Train By Vancouver Residents

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3391736/article-高架列車太吵-居民有怨言/?ref=溫哥華>

- Many think noise is more an issue now. Ie. Expo Line: about one minute after Waterfront station, the db is close to 100, comparable to leaf blower which is about 103.
- TransLink responded: did a test, under 90 db, but not an unsafe level

(Fairchild TV) Plates On Chinatown Millennium Gate Replaced By Plastic Materials

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=fdbeb638e95f0bb8868a6e7c1969a713>

- City hasn't released schedule on when the replacement will be done. Chinatown community leaders would like to see the installation done by Remembrance Day

8.21 (Fri)

(Sing Tao) Leaders From Three Levels Of Governments Support International Chiu Zhou Annual Meeting

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/164771/2015-08-21/post-三級政要社區領袖齊撐國際潮團年會/?variant=zh-hk>

- Three levels of government officials have attended, including Federal National Defence minister Jason Kenney, BC Lieutenant Governor Judith Guichon, BC MLA Richard Lee, Richmond City Cllr. Chak Au, and Chinese General Consulate Liu Fei
- Vancouver Deputy Mayor Andrea Reimer declared this week as Vancouver's "Chiu Zhou Business Week" on behalf of Mayor Gregor Robertson

(AM1320 Talk Show) TransLink's Two New Board of Directors

- Commentators: Jim Chu and Murray Dinwoodie are chosen because they have positive public image, and Chu has built up a lot of connections in the city during his role as police chief. Somewhat helpful with the public image of TransLink, though not to a great extent. Intriguing though that the province has given us their two representatives in the board for so long until now

8.22 (Sat)

(Sing Tao) Landlord Change To Fixed-Term Lease. Take Advantage Of Legal Loophole, Suspected By Tenants

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/166991/2015-08-22/post-房東改固定期合約-租客質疑走法律罅/?variant=zh-hk>

original article:

<http://www.vancouversun.com/business/West+tenants+foul+over+high+rent+hikes/11305576/story.html>

- Increase rent by 20%. Landlords who uses fixed-term lease that include “move out” clauses can raise rent by whatever amount they choose once the term is up. Unlike the month-to-month rental agreement, not bounded by the annual caps of 2.5% according to the Residential Tenancy Act

(World Journal) Restrict Offshore Buyers. Lawyer: More Negative Impact

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3395197/article-限制海外買家-律師:負面影響更多/?ref=溫哥華>

- Australia: although such restriction is in place, housing price still increased by 10% last year
- Vancouver lawyer: if government’s focus on resolving housing affordability is on offshore buyers, and charging them extra fees, still not possible to stop Chinese buyers from purchasing property in beautiful Vancouver. Question locals are xenophobic, and whether the voice would be as large if the buyers are from England per say.
- Also other factors leading to housing price increase such as low interest rate and population boom. Unfortunate most people only focus on offshore buyers’s luxury home market

8.23 (Sun)

(Sing Tao) Pharmacists Want Pot Shops To Stop Using the Term “Dispensary”

<http://www.westca.com/News/article/sid=431513/溫□用大麻店 遭反□采□房名称/lang=schinese.html>

original article: <http://www.westca.com/News/article/sid=431513/溫□用大麻店 遭反□采□房名称/lang=schinese.html>

- BC Pharmacy Association wrote a letter to the Mayor about their concerns include risk to public of confusing them with licenses pharmacies
- City Cllr. Kerry Jang will pass their concerns to city staff

(Sing Tao) Chinese Realtor Plans To Build Luxury Assisted Living Apartment For Seniors

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/168277/2015-08-23/post-華裔地□商-擬溫市建豪華長者護理柏文/?variant=zh-hk>

- Element Lifestyle Retirement Inc. CEO Mr. Ho: his mother and 72years-old wife, that are affected by Parkinson, are not able to receive the long-term care they need with the current long waiting time. Many have to pursue private care homes. The proposed luxury assisted living apartment will include movie theatre, swimming pool and spa, also units with special care for Parkinson patients.
- Proposed site: W. King Edward and close to Canada Line. 4 and 6 stories high apartment
- Atus Group that analyze real estate: demand for senior apartments will increase between 2031 and 2036, each year will need 33,000 units. As baby boomers will all be over 65 years old in 15 years, many affluent seniors living in Vancouver West will be willing to pay for private care services.

(World Journal) 25,000 Vancouver Residents Filed As Low Income. Less Than They Spend On Housing

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3396475/article-溫市 2 萬 5000 □家庭申報收入-低於每年置□開支/?ref=溫哥華>

original source: <http://globalnews.ca/news/2179931/significant-number-of-vancouverites-claim-their-total-income-is-less-than-they-spend-on-housing/>

- 25,00 families or about 30% in some affluent neighborhoods claimed filed their income return as low income, which is lower than their expense spent on their homes. These include Coal harbor and Shaughnessy

8.24 (Mon)

(Fairchild TV) Building Permits Issued By City of Vancouver Record-Breaking

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=e78baa1ce9b86173c8d5f876a00e64e5>

- City planner Brian Jackson: Increased 20% since last year to \$13.4B, includes a huge array of buildings from high rise residential to laneway housing, also commercial in downtown area
- Lots of vacant units? City has no regulation to restrict, all market-driven, think the pace will slow down, will observe how global economy and China's impact

(Sing Tao) Vancouver East Group Petition To Stop Building High Rise Apartment

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/169956/2015-08-24/post-溫東團體簽名-促停建高層柏文/?variant=zh-hk>

- 2,000 signatures collected opposing a 12-15 stories apartment at Commercial Dr. and Venables Street, with 150 – 200 units, including 30 dedicated for mental health support. "The NO TOWER Coalition" said it doesn't blend in with their neighborhood.

(World Journal) Feds Target Greater Vancouver Realtors For Anti-Money Laundering

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3397538/article-聯邦反洗錢-□上大溫地□經紀/?ref=溫哥華>

original article:

<http://www.theprovince.com/business/Federal+audit+takes+money+laundrying+real+estate+transactions+Vancouver+area/11311753/story.html>

- Rumors about Vancouver's Real Estate as the best money laundering tool. Feds' Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre, Fintrac, has already shifted their target to them.
- According to Fintrac, any transactions that over cash of over \$10,000 must be reported. But between Jan 2012 and May 2015, only 2 of such transactions were reported, and 5 suspicious cases. That doesn't reflect the increasing sales over Greater Vancouver.
- BC Real Estate Association: most realtors don't deal with such transactions, and instead handled by lawyers and notary public. However, lawyers are not required to do so under Fintrac's regulation. A loophole problem.
- A realtor said, hard to verify the authenticity of clients' info

8.25 (Tue)

(Ming Pao) Vancouver's Building Permit In First Half Record Breaking

<http://www.mingpaocanada.com/Van/htm/News/20150825/vas3 r.htm>

- Mayor Robertson: the figure shows that City's economic action strategy is working, and that greenest city plan can go hand-in-hand with economic development

(Sing Tao) Vancouver's Building Permit Value Increased 20% In First Half

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/172452/2015-08-25/post-建築許可證總口-溫上半年增2成/?variant=zh-hk>

- Mayor Robertson: data shows that city's economic strategy works. City will continue to create more jobs and support investment

(World Journal) Value in Vancouver's Building Permits In First Half Breaks Record

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3399050/article-溫市上半年建築許可-總價創新高/?ref=溫哥華>

(Ming Pao) 40% House in Vancouver Sub-rented. Highest Ratio In Canada

<http://www.mingpaocanada.com/Van/htm/News/20150825/vas2 r.htm>

- Square one Insurance's survey: 25% in BC, Vancouver 43%. Prairies is lowest, 5%
- Suspect number is more than this because some may rent without proper permit ie. Basement, laneway housing
- UBC business professor: most people don't like sharing a home with others, shows a lack of affordable housing

(AM1320 Phone-in Show) Huge Demand For On-Line Continuing Studies Programs for Growing And Selling Pot

Commentator & Host:

- Ironical when Health Canada doesn't oppose but cannot use real marijuana for instruction. Teaching students how to grow and sell legal marijuana in a legal way, but that would also encourage students who have ill intentions to get into the illegal business of marijuana, especially when students can take the course on line
- Some may think potential business opportunity. People who want to pursue it in illegal way, don't have to learn it this way

Callers:

- Concerned about the moral impact- encouraging the pot business, even do so in the illegal way

- Confusing for youth and regulation is chaotic. Dispensaries are allowed and even on-line program. No difference than being legalized already. Governments should promote the negative impact of using pot.
- Health Canada's stand is inconsistent when they now passively allow this while being so strongly against Vancouver's new bylaw.

(World Journal) Tung Chan: China's Stock Market Won't Crash Down Vancouver's Real Estate Market

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3399317/article-陳志動：中國股災-不致衝擊溫房市/?ref=溫哥華>

- Former TD Bank Pacific Region Vice-CEO, and former NPA City Cllr. Tung Chan: from previous experience, investors from Asia still trust that Vancouver's real estate market is very safe. Sales may slow down slightly but won't likely to result in huge "under sale". Besides, the low Canadian dollar makes the investment attractive, and Vancouver remains a safe haven.

(AM1470) Illegal Dumping Most Serious in Vancouver East

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=53301

- Especially disposal of old mattress, couches and bed, due to a lack of disposal depot for large items
- Eg. 58th Ave. & Fraser St., and Commercial Drive
- City already dispatched staff to investigate. Anyone found dumping illegally will be charged with associated clean up fees and fine \$2,000

(AM1320) TransLink Safety & Security Affairs Senior Staff Resigned

- 4th senior staff resigned. TransLink didn't explain why George Bell resigned and how much he was compensated, only said someone will take over his job. Vice Chair David Beckley who is in charge of Compass Card and Fare gate will resign the end of the month.
- Interim CEO Doug Allen's contract will end in Oct, and his job will be handed over to CFO Cathy McLay temporarily till new person is hired.
- TransLink: this is a part of plan to streamline management. Has cut about 30 senior position in the past 4 years, and saved about \$4.4M expenses in salary

(Sing Tao) Increase Bus Service Before School Year Starts

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/172400/2015-08-25/post-新學年開課在即-巴士增班次配合/?variant=zh-hk>

(AM1320) On-Line Petition Request TransLink To Extend Hours For Bus Servies

- 2,300 signatures collected.
- TransLink explained maintenance work is done around 2-3am in the early mornings. Vancouver is different from cities like London where there is loop services.

8.25 (Tue)– more

(Fairchild TV) Various Empty Lots And BackLane Becomes Garbage Disposal Sites

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=e378079b8c0d911442d21b961f8df014>

- City of Vancouver responded in writing: homeowner has the responsibility to clean up garbage inside their property. They can set up frames around their properties to prevent illegal dumping

(Fairchild TV) Single Homes In BC Rent Out Most Secondary Suites

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=5dc4eb9f87745d9b68298f34bb21a872>

- Vancouver 43%

8.26 (Wed)

n/a

8.27 (Thur)

(AM1320) Mayor Robertson Shows Support To Trudeau's Campaign Promise

- Robertson applauds Trudeau's campaign promise of more funding on transportation infrastructure for regions, with a total of \$1.25B, as it is long overdue.

(Sing Tao) Expensive Living In Vancouver. 40% Homeowners Sub Rent Their Homes

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/176428/2015-08-27/post-溫市生活費昂-4成屋主分租房間/?variant=zh-hk>

- Square One insurance company: 43% rent out their basement, laneway housing or other rooms. Highest rate across the country. Twice of Toronto, 3 times of national's 14%

(AM1470) Fastspender Attended TransLink Board Meeting

- Former VPD Chief Jim Chu and former Surrey City manager Murray Dinwoodie first attended the meeting. Fastspender described the meeting as positive, and each party agreed with the Ten years Regional Transportation Plan proposed by Greater Vancouver mayors. The challenge now is how to finance the projects and move forward. Also, building public trust.

8.28 (Fri)

(AM1320 Phone-in Show) 130 Applications For Pot Dispensaries. Is City of Vancouver's new bylaw working?

- If city strictly enforced the 300 meters restrictions, there shouldn't be more than about 103 dispensaries. But even so, it is too much
- Cllr. Jang first said the new bylaw is for regulation, but when so many applied to open a dispensary, he said that it shows the demand is high. So that deviates from his original intention of regulation
- Worried about the long-term impact on youth as youth nowadays are becoming more rebellious

(AM1320) Over 160 Pot Dispensaries Applications

- Cllr. Jang: not surprised. Confident that it will be able to ensure the safety of communities.
- 69/ 130 are non-profit organizations. Three steps to process applications, first two about whether it's within the 300 meters, the third, commercial license. It will take half a year.

(AM1470) Vancouver Homeowners Complaint About Short-term Rental Housing Problems

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=53424

- short-term rental housing created on website such as Airbnb
- eg. 930 Cambie: a unit has been used as a party revenue frequently over the year, creating a lot of noise and damages, even have sex trade workers living there for two weeks
- Strata has filed complaint to city of Vancouver, but City replied half a year later that this issue has to be resolved by strata themselves. Then they asked the homeowner for a compensation of \$8,000. If he failed to pay, they will be file a lawsuit.

8.29 (Sat)

(Sing Tao) Vancouver Received 176 Applications For Opening Medical Pot Dispensaries

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/179600/2015-08-29/post-溫藥用大麻店牌照-接獲 176 宗申請/?variant=zh-hk>

- Cllr. Jang: only 15- 16 will succeed, which means a success rate of lower than 10%. City used a very stringent guideline for licensing, ie. not within schools, community centre, downtown and downtown eastside district. Dispensaries can't be too close to each other, and applicants cannot have any criminal record accordingly

(World Journal) City of Vancouver Received 176 Applications For Pot Dispensary License

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3405760/article-大麻店牌照-溫市收 176 申請/?ref=溫哥華>

- McDonald Briere who owned 17 pot dispensaries throughout the province said, he has applied for license for 9 of his stores. The \$30,000 license expense will eventually be transferred to users.

(World Journal) Millenia Rent Homes, First Choice On Transportation, Recreation

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3405413/article-千禧世代租屋-首重交通、休閒設施/?ref=溫哥華>

- Ie. Boutique hotel- provides a place for social network, downtown and close to work or recreation facilities

(World Journal) Canada's Wealthiest Communities: Two in Vancouver West Rank The Top Five

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3404362/article-全國最富裕社區-溫西 2 地排前 5/?ref=溫哥華>

- Canadian Business: The top 25 Richest Neighborhoods in Canada. By average household net worth, average family income and home value. Shaughnessy Heights and Kerrisdale are in the 4th and 5th, after Ontario's Sunnybrook, York Mills and Bridle Path.

8.30 (Sun)

(World Journal) Canada's 10 Ten Luxury Shopping Malls, 3 in Vancouver

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3407119/article-加10大精品商場-溫哥華占3席/?ref=溫哥華>

- Pacific Centre and Oakridge Shopping Centre, Downtown Alberni's Luxury Zone

8.31 (Mon)

(AM1470) Robertson: Storm Highlighted Strength And Weaknesses Of the City

http://am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=53499

- Mayor: proud of the emergency response center's ability. Operated continuously for 35 hours and taken over 1,800 calls. The storm brings out the issues Vancouver is facing, and the key is how to coordinate each department in a better way and with more flexibility, so tools become more accessible.

(Sing Tao) Municipalities Busy Cleaning Up Streets After the Storm

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/182485/2015-08-31/post-大風暴過後-城鎮忙清樹/?variant=zh-hk>

- Deputy City manager Sadhu Johnston: the storm is the fiercest in ten years, but city's response was quick and appropriate as City has learnt a lot from the storm in 2006, although still room for improvement. City will first clear off the tree trunks and debris on main streets, then residential streets. Areas with most traffic flow and bus routes will have the first priority.

(Sing Tao) Canada's 25 Wealthiest Neighbourhoods. 3 of Top Ten in Vancouver

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/182460/2015-08-31/post-選25富有社區-前十名溫市佔三/?variant=zh-hk>

9.1 (Tue)

(Sing Tao) Vancouver Needs To Be More Flexible In Emergency Response

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/184778/2015-09-01/post-溫應變須更靈活/?variant=zh-hk>

(AM1470) About A Hundred Shelter Residents Evacuated As City of Vancouver's Shelter Flooded

http://am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=53512

(Ming Pao) Gas Leak Causing Congestion For 3 Hours Long in Downtown Vancouver

http://www.mingpaocanada.com/Van/htm/News/20150901/vap4_r.htm

- Cause still unknown. Around 10am Monday. Natural gas leaked from the sidewalk between Hornby and Howe. Roads are blocked during the three hours of repair

(Sing Tao) Gas Leaked In Downtown Vancouver

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/184733/2015-09-01/post-溫市中心漏天然氣/?variant=zh-hk>

(World Journal) Downtown Roads Blocked As Natural Gas Leaked

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3409690/article-天然氣外洩-溫市中心封街/?ref=溫哥華>

(Ming Pao) Vancouver Housing Affordability Deteriorates To "Risky" Levels

http://www.mingpaocanada.com/Van/htm/News/20150901/vasa_r.htm

original source: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/business/toronto-vancouver-housing-affordability-deteriorates-to-risky-levels-rbc-1.3209786>

- With low interest rate, limited housing supply and demand continuously high, RBC warns house hunters in Vancouver and Toronto to expect more of the same later this year, and prices in acceleration mode.

9.2 (Wed)

(Sing Tao) Office Building Vacancy Increased To 10.3% in Greater Vancouver

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/186354/2015-09-02/post-大溫寫字樓空置率漲至 10-3/?variant=zh-hk>

- Real Estate Company Avison Young: till June 20, downtown Vancouver's rental office units vacancy has increased to 10%
- Also highest in ten years. According to one realtor, as 7 more new commercial buildings will be built in downtown Vancouver (which is equivalent to an extra 2.3M sq. feet of rental space), by the end of this year, vacancy rate of rental office units is expected to rise further to 12%

(Sing Tao) Sale Of Luxurious Mansions Rise 80%. 70% Chinese Buyers

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/186353/2015-09-02/post-溫豪宅銷量勁升 8 成-華買家佔 7 成半/?variant=zh-hk>

- 23 single homes of over \$3M were sold between Jan – July 2014, increased to 40 at the same time this year, which is 74% more.
- An apartment at Coal Harbour was sold at \$7.75M, becomes the most expensive apartment sold this year so far

(World Journal) Chinese Buyers Lead In Greater Vancouver's Luxury Home Market

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3411370/article-中國買家-大溫豪宅房市主力/?ref=溫哥華>

(Fairchild TV) Vancouver Hotel Tax Raised By Half By Province

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=4b30ac9887d54b556ace5ffa8810316b>

9.3 (Thur)

(Sing Tao) Greater Vancouver Real Estate On Average Increase 30% in Past Decade

vancouver.singtao.ca/187747/2015-09-03/post-大溫地產銷售旺-超10年均量3成/?variant=zh-hk

(World Journal) Housing Sales In Greater Vancouver Continued To Rise This Summer

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3413198/article-大溫房市-今夏售價續升/?ref=溫哥華>

(Sing Tao) Expected Death Of At Least Millions If Earthquake Of Seven Magnitude Hit

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/187745/2015-09-03/post-一旦發生7級大地震-大溫估計至少死萬人/?variant=zh-hk>

- According to the Province emergency response plan, an earthquake of 7 magnitude that lasts for 10 – 20 seconds, will cause at least 140,000 people will be injured, and 100,000 homeless
- SFU Natural Disaster Studies: Densely populated areas will suffer more injuries and damages, government must have emergency response plans in place

(Sing Tao/ Westca.com) Mo Yang Ching Transferred \$Millions To Invest In US' Titanic

<http://www.westca.com/News/article/sid=433749/程慕阳女调百万元 投资铁达尼美企/lang=schinese.html>

original source: <http://www.scmp.com/news/world/article/1854626/titanic-investment-chinese-corruption-suspects-teenage-daughter-revealed>

- According to Hong Kong's South China Morning Post, Canada and US' securities filings showed that about one month before China's Red Pol warning, Ching's 18-

year-old daughter Linda Ching has transferred \$1M US to invest in US' Premier Exhibition In., which owns the right to search for Titanic' s debris.

- Document shows that Linda Ching' s investment term ends on April 2, 2016. The 12% investment return cannot be transferred to Linda or another third person.

9.4 (Fri)

(World Journal) Increase Income Helps Relief Housing Affordability Problems

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3414645/article-胡元豹:提高民眾收入-可解住房問題/?ref=溫哥華>

original source: <http://thetyee.ca/Opinion/2015/09/03/Less-Focus-on-Foreign-Buyers/>

- Stephen Harper promised that he will establish policy to collect offshore buyers' data, former Asia Pacific Foundation CEO Yuen Pau Woo said, government should put the focus on raising citizens' income rather than foreign buyers
- Vancouver's environment attracts new immigrants and thus population growth. This creates pressure on housing market. This is a well-known fact.
- Some English media emphasized too much on Chinese buying luxurious homes and ignore the positive investment Chinese investors bring here, which easily leads to racially biased discussion. Should rather focus on creating more jobs and increase income, in order to increase housing affordability
- Should focus on attracting high paying jobs ie. Vancouver compares very well to other North American cities as head office location

(World Journal) Single Home Supply Drops. Housing Price Climbs

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3414648/article-獨立屋供量減-大溫房價攀升/?ref=溫哥華>

9.5 (Sat)

(AM1320 Phone-in Show) Offshore Buyers and Local Housing Market

- City received so much revenue to support affordable housing ie. \$30,000 for an apartment. But question if the money spent justifies
- Homeowners Grant doesn't help as housing price is very high
- Survey said people need to save 10 years in order to own a home in Vancouver
- Believe that speculation isn't a huge problem. Most demand comes from the desire to live here. People buying homes for own use or vacation are good. They can bring extra
- Rather than intervening the market, governments should provide more support for first time homebuyers, and don't intervene with the market

(AM1470) Vancouver Hotel Fees Increased In First Half This Year

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=53616

- According to Hotels.com, hotel rental fees has increased in the first six months of this year by 11% compared to last year due to large scale events ie. Women's world soccer and it increased Vancouver's exposure which attract even more tourists to come. Expect fees will fall in the coming few months

(World Journal) BC's Employment Best in North Vancouver, Canada West Area Not Well

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3416680/article-卑詩就業北溫居首-加西不妙/?ref=溫哥華>

- US heading hunting company Express Employment Professionals ranked 50 top Canadian cities in terms of employment, besides Vancouver (15th) , North Vancouver (7th) and Victoria, all other cities in Canada West did worse than last year

(World Journal) Vancouver First Selected As CBRE Tech-Thirty 2015

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3416675/article-cbre-30 大科技業城市-溫哥華首度進榜/?ref=溫哥華>

original sources: http://business.financialpost.com/news/property-post/how-the-boom-in-technology-jobs-is-transforming-toronto-and-vancouvers-office-markets?_lsa=ac45-09eb

- Vancouver Commercial Real Estate- Vancouver and Toronto are chosen for the first time due to growth rate in high tech jobs and office space
- Vancouver ranks 29th in terms of grown in high tech jobs. Growth rate 2.4% compared to two years ago. 44% space in Downtown is rented to high tech companies. Employment rate of high tech jobs has also increased by 12 times.

9.6 (Sun)

(World Journal) Vancouver East Hundred-Years-Old House Sold At \$1.1M

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3417838/article-溫東百年老房-110 萬成交/?ref=溫哥華>

- Located at downtown eastside, no kitchen and requires major renovations, vacant for 10 years
- Still sold over a million because of the current imbalance of demand and supply of housing. Although Downtown Eastside wasn't a safe neighborhood in the past, but surrounding new development is affecting its property values.

9.7 (Mon)

(Sing Tao) 500 Less Students Enrollment In Richmond. School Board Cuts \$4M

Budget Cut

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/193559/2015-09-07/post-列市學生少 500 人-教育預算 削 400 萬/?variant=zh-hk>

- School Trustee Allan Wong: Vancouver also has 500 less students in the new school year. The 20+ students in Maquinna Annex will be combined with Maquinna Elementary School, but this is different from school closure. “Even if to to close a school, the entire consultation and announcement process will take 6 months. Would definitely give students and their parents enough time to understand the situation.”
- Wong: less local student enrolled doesn’t necessarily mean accepting more overseas students. Ie. Overseas students in Vancouver is only 50 more than last year to 1,600. “Although international students will bring School Board more income, the Board would also need to invest more resources for them. Some motioned to increase the admission to 75 students this year, but we decided to cap it at 50 after discussion.”

9.8 (Tue)

(Sing Tao) Gregor Robertson Advocates To Accept At Least 20,000 Refugees Each Year

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/195183/2015-09-08/post-羅品信促年收至少兩萬難民/?variant=zh-hk>

- Robertson will motion in City council to request federal government to gradually increase the number of refugees Canada receive to 20,000 each year by 2020.
- Robertson will hold public forum on Tuesday to let citizens understand more about the crisis and how communities can help
- Robertson: Vancouver has always been receptive to refugees who lost their homes. Feds can do more in this crisis and carry out their international responsibility
- Geoff Meggs: second the motion. Vancouver has been providing land and money for immigrant settlement. A refugee and immigrant support center “Vancouver Welcome House”, of which \$4.1M is funded by City of Vancouver, will be built and ready to use in 2016. Next step, City will study how they can directly sponsor refugees to Canada

(Ming Pao) Gregor Robertson Advocates To Accept More Refugees. Public Consultation Tonight

<http://www.mingpaocanada.com/Van/htm/News/20150908/vas3 r.htm>

- Additional points from above: Robertson: Vancouver welcomes refugees and have a proud history that brings hope for families in crisis. They can live safely in Canada and find new opportunities. Vancouver must put in more efforts to become a city that welcomes refugees.

(AM1470) City of Vancouver Forum Discuss How To Help Syria Refugees

<http://www.mingpaocanada.com/realtimenews/van/content CANADA NEW.cfm?aid=181065>

- Mosaic: City of Vancouver sponsors the forum tonight. The purpose is to gather groups that involve in Syria crisis, discuss what the next step is and to connect with people who need help

(Sing Tao) Labor Groups Assemble To Advocate For \$15 Minimum Wage

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/195184/2015-09-08/post-勞工團體假日集會-促最低時薪應 15 元/?variant=zh-hk>

- Robertson: encourages the private sector to adopt City's Living Wage policy. "City is studying how to implement Living Wage, improve employee's income, and increase affordability."

(World Journal) Gregor Robertson Hosts Forum. Invite Citizens To Discuss How To Help Refugees

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3420031/article-羅品信開論壇-邀市民共商救難民/?ref=溫哥華>

(AM1320 Phone-in Show) Student Enrollment in Public School Drops Significantly This Fall

- Public school's student enrollment dropped significantly while private school increased (from about 70,000 to 80,000 this year)
- Worry of union's collective agreement that caused strikes seems to be parents' major concerns of switching from public to private schooling
- For many Chinese parents, many are concerned of the overly free sexual education, which is part of family education, basic values. Parents don't have much say in this
- Public schools and teachers should listen to parents more. Parents' say on important issues are often ignored whereas private schools are significantly more receptive to parents' voice
- Private schools do better partly because the families are more well-off, more able to invest in children's education, parents have completed higher education

9.9 (Wed)

(AM1470) Celebrations For QE Park 75th Anniversary

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=53712

(AM1470) Vancouver City Council Discuss About Refugee Issues

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=53702

- Robertson told over 200 attendees, the meeting last night is only a preliminary step, but with more information, they would be able to deal with it in a better way
- Vancouver's current refugee support services include building the Welcome House at downtown eastside with 136 beds
- He motioned to urge feds to increase the number of refugees to Canada to 20,000 each year by 2020
- make Vancouver a "sanctuary city" to accept and settle more refugees from war stricken areas, partner with other refugee support groups and make sure that landed refugees can access to city services

(Sing Tao) Robertson Urges Feds To Open Doors For 20,000 Refugees

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/200705/2015-09-09/post-羅品信倡渥京年收2萬敘難民/?variant=zh-hk>

- SUCCESS youth & family services: require the cooperation of three levels of governments in order to help Syrian refugees. Just admitting them into Canada doesn't solve the problem, but the most challenging thing is to help them settle after they landed

(Sing Tao) Former Refugees From China: Relied On Government Resources For Self Improvement

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/200708/2015-09-09/post-華裔過來人：靠政府資源增口/?variant=zh-hk>

- Mr. Wang who lives at Scarborough came from Fujian, China as a refugee 15 years ago: of course empathetic with refugees, but government can't afford to admit too many. He relied on government resources, worked and studied at the same time. He thinks 5,000 refugee per year is sufficient.
- Mr. Tang who has immigrated to Toronto for over 25 years: Canada should help refugee as a humanitarian country but also worried if Canada has system that scans terrorists from entering. Taxpayers' benefits should still be weighted first.
- Mrs. Fung in Malcolm: admitting 30,000 refugees each year is too many. Government still need to consider

(AM1320 Talk Show) City of Vancouver Hosted Forum On Refugee Issues

- Refugee is not within city's jurisdiction, so it is a waste of taxpayers' money to host such forum. This is not the first time that City of Vancouver discussing about irrelevant issues. Should rather focus their energy on their mandates like city planning and road repairs

(Fairchild TV) Immigrant Services Organizations Preparing To Settle 1,000 Syrian Refugees

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=a3160ad6806f87b6e31e834e8c94ca32>

- Kerry: city has many ways to help like provide housing and connect them to medical care services
- SFU professors: Vancouver is far for Syrian refugees relative to other Canadian cities such as Toronto, and living in Vancouver isn't affordable. So not many of them may consider here. Refugee is also a federal led issue. Just an easy statement for Mayor to make

(AM1320 Phone in Show) Canada's response to the Syrian refugee crisis

- Many people's compassion is re-ignited after the photo and Canadians would like to see governments do more to help the refugees, which is a positive outcome from a tragic event
- Robertson and many citizens have good intentions to help the refugees as there was a huge crowd showed up at city hall last night. But question if City of Vancouver and the general public knows what is involved and whether the City can afford. Ie. Whether there is enough support services. On average one refugee would cost Canada \$25,000 – 30,000 annually
- Homeless problem hasn't been resolved for the past two terms yet, and Robertson is asking for more refugees coming to Vancouver. Question if Vancouver is able to handle.

(AM1470) Vancouver Park Board Expand Tree Data Base

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=53707

- expand and upgrade data base on all trees grown in public properties, and will allow residents to localize the trees they grow
- purpose is to improve the management of "city forestry", and remind every one that every tree belongs to the ecological system, and thus makes Vancouver more livable

(Ming Pao) Graffiti Found On Chinatown Historical Wall Painting And Surrounding Buildings

<http://www.mingpaocanada.com/Van/htm/News/20150909/vaa1h r.htm>

- The 3 huge wall painting is about lives of early Chinese settlers in Vancouver, and are located around Pender and Columbia Street. A Caucasian social worker said, this may be related to people blaming Chinese for the soaring house price. He is worried that Chinese elderly may become targets next.
- Artist of the Wall Painting said the above assumption is only a speculation because no racist comments are found, and buildings around also have graffiti. Over the past 5 years since the paintings were finished, there have been about 10 graffiti found. Some First Nations paintings are damaged as well.

9.10 (Thur)

(AM1470) New Refugee Settlement Building Ready To Use Next June

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=53748

- Welcome House
- Robertson suggests the feds to admit 20,000 refugees each year, and Canada absolutely has the ability to do so.

(AM1470) Refugee Center In Vancouver Ready to Use Next Year

(AM1320) Dead Rate In Rental Homes

(AM1470) QE Park 75th Anniversary Celebrations

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=53759

(Ming Pao) QE Park's Zip Line Trial Success With 20,000 Riders. Hong Kong Considering adopting Such Facility

<http://www.mingpaocanada.com/Van/htm/News/20150911/vas1h.htm?m=0>

- Park Board Chair John Coupar: will consult public to see if the zip line will be installed in QE Park again next year

9.11 (Fri)

(AM1470) Marijuana Club Society Is Targeted

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=53769

(Ming Pao) Dead Rate of Downtown Eastside Homeless 8 Times Higher Than National Average. Mental Illness, Hepatitis C And Lack Of Care

<http://www.mingpaocanada.com/Van/htm/News/20150911/vap1h r.htm>

- UBC survey: interviewed 370 downtown east homeless persons age between 23- 72. 31 died. Dead rate is even 10 times more in the 20 - 59 age group
- No. 1 reason causing dead is not overdose of drugs but mental illness, lung disease such Hepatitis B

(Fairchild TV) Studies Show DTE SRO Residents Live A Shorter Life

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=d917e680c14c6fcd74d08c935436f1b5>

- Robertson : shows a crisis and Vancouver needs more affordable housing

(World Journal) Federal Warns 13 Pot Dispensaries Violated Bylaw

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3425990/article-13 大麻店涉違法-聯邦警告/?ref=溫哥華>

(Sing Tao) World's One of Its Kind, One-Stop Refugee Centre Open In Vancouver Next April

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/205958/2015-09-11/post-溫市一站式難民中心-全球首設-明年4月落成/?variant=zh-hk>

- Mayor, ISS of BC reps. visited the center building site
- A Syrian refugee who now lived in Vancouver: City of Vancouver demonstrated support and tolerance for refugees by building this center.

(World Journal) BC's House Rental Third Highest In BC

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3425783/article-卑省房租-全國第三高/?ref=溫哥華>

(Sing Tao) QE Park Birthday. Free Open House On Sunday

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/category/社區/?variant=zh-hk>

(AM1320 Phone-in Show) Health Canada Asked RCMP To close down Pot Dispensaries in Vancouver

- VPD is irresponsible for not taking any action to close down illegally operating pot dispensaries, so RCMP has to take over things they failed to do.
- Question if RCMP would take action because that is VPD's jurisdiction.
- VPD hasn't taken up its responsibility and arrests have only been made in a very small number of pot dispensaries despite of various problems associated with their operation ie. Selling to minors, questionable source of the pot
- VPD hasn't been as responsive as it should be, and City is likewise.
- Federal government hasn't taken enough action either. Doubtful whether RCMP would actually do anything, but at least a good start to show that warnings are given to those dispensaries are operating something illegal and the feds has the will to stop them

(Sing Tao) Premier Visit China The End of October For More Business Opportunities And Celebrate BC, Guangzhou 30 Years As Sister Provinces

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/210965/2015-09-13/post-賀卑省締姊妹省20年-省長10月底赴華招商/?variant=zh-hk>

- Premier will visit Beijing, Hong Kong and Guangzhou
- Robetson will lead a delegation of 150 business representatives to Guangzhou in early November, celebrate Vancouver & Guangzhou as sister cities for 30 years

(Fairchild TV) Premier Visiting China In November

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php>

(Sing Tao) A Number of MOUs Will be Signed Between Vancouver BC And Guangzhou

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/210958/2015-09-13/post-兩地將簽多項商業備忘錄/?variant=zh-hk>

- Vancouver-Guangzhou Friendship Society Chair William Mah: Robertson and his delegation will include reps from Tourism Vancouver. Will discuss with Tourism Guangzhou about some collaborative projects. A soccer tournament will be held at Guangzhou as well.
- Guangzhou Health Authority And UBC reps. will discuss some other MOU items
- Vancouver's ballet school will perform and have cultural exchanges
- Communication Director of Mayors Office: Mayor's plan is not finalized yet, will release details in the next few weeks

9.12 (Sat)

(Sing Tao) Returnees From Hong Kong Come Back to Vancouver To Buy Homes

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/207420/2015-09-12/post-回流港人歸來買房/?variant=zh-hk>

- BC Chinese Professional Realtor Association: More immigrants who have returned to settle in Hong Kong came back this summer to buy properties. Some plan to move back two years later, and they purchase property now in case the housing market becomes even more expensive
- Reason for the hot market: some retirees sold their single home and downsize into apartments. For the money that's saved from this, they purchase one or two smaller units for their children. So the sale of one house is turned into 3 smaller apartments; that's altogether 4 transactions

9.12 (Sat- More)

(World Journal) BC Secondary & Elementary School Curriculum Teaches Early Chinese Settlers' History

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3427096/article-卑省中小學教材-授華人先僑史/?ref=溫哥華&npg=2>

(AM1320) Teresa Wat Announced School Curriculum On Early Chinese Settlers in Canada

http://am1320.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=12376%3A2015-09-11-22-32-28&catid=1%3A2010-10-18-20-52-02&Itemid=97&lang=zh

9.13 (Sun)

(World Journal) Delay Property Tax Indirectly Help Seniors With Empty Rooms AT Home

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3428738/article-利德:物業□延期政策-間接補助有空房長者/?ref=溫哥華&npg=2>

(World Journal) Lawyer: Property owners Can Ask For Compensation If First Shaughnessy becomes Historical Presevation Area

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3428748/article-律師:桑那斯社區成保留區-屋主可求償/?ref=溫哥華&npg=2>

- Urges city not to, because 317 houses will be affected and causing the property drops a few to tenths of millions of dollars. They would ask City to compensate if that happens

9.14 (Mon)

(World Journal) Housing Price In Vancouver, Toronto Continues Rising

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3431396/article-溫哥華、多倫多-房價續飆/?ref=溫哥華>

- Terant-National Bank National composite House Price Index: Vancouver's house sale in Aug increased by 9.7% compared to same period last year, monthly increase 0.9%
- Housing price polarized as cities such as Montreal, Winnipeg and Ottawa dropped

9.15 (Tue)

(AM1470) Federation Of BC Municipalities Discuss Refugees Issue

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=53860

(AM1470) Vancouver Park Board Increase Fees By 2%

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=53873

- 2% fee increase affect swimming pools, fitness centres and gyms

(AM1320) Vancouver Park Board Increase Fees

- Coupar: fee increase is acceptable. Expected to bring over \$30,0000 and help cover costs of services; otherwise, some services will be cut
- NPA Commissioners: this would add too much burden to average citizens

(Fairchild TV) Park Board Increase Fees To Cover Cost

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=c08876cb72b043bfbfd2009cb2f0ecbf5>

- Stuart Mackinnon: already adjusted in March by 2%, worried it would affect low to middle income families
- John Coupar: adjustment is usually made in Sept. The March adjustment was a delay due to civic election. Only a minimal increase

(AM1470) Over 520 TransLink Employees Have Salary Over \$100,00

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=53875

- Number of employees made over \$100,000 has increased by 21% than 2014, 1/3 than 2014 . 57 are transit police. Urges to dismiss transit police and to be replace by security guards because 2/3 of their job is about checking fee evasion.

(Ming Pao) TransLink Employeeed With \$100,000 Salary Increase to 524 People.

Criticized For Having the Capacity To Increase Salary, None To Improve

Transportation

<http://www.mingpaocanada.com/Van/htm/News/20150916/vas1hr.htm>

- More employees may be receiving this amount as the report doesn't include projects such as Canada Line and Golden Ears Bridge
- Taxpayers Association: should dismiss transit police. Too costly

(Sing Tao) TransLink 520 People With Annual Salary \$100,000

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/217834/2015-09-16/post-運聯 520 人年薪逾 10 萬/?variant=zh-hk>

9.16 (Wed)

(AM1320) No Explanation For Dismissing City Manager

- Why waste money on the half a million severance if Ballem did an exceptional job? Robertson only said a change of direction is needed
- Robertson refused to say who voted down the motion

(Ming Pao) City Manager Of Vancouver Dismissed With Severance High As \$556,000

<http://www.mingpaocanada.com/Van/htm/News/20150916/vasc r.htm>

- In order to make progress in major city policies, city council decided to face new challenges with new way and new perspective

(AM1470) Vancouver City Manager Suddenly Left. Received \$550,000 Severance

(AM1320 Talk Show) City Manager of Vancouver Dismissed

- Puzzling when Ballem's work coincides with Vision Vancouver's philosophy but still got dismissed. It is Robertson who hired Ballem yet he let her go as well. If Vision wants to bring changes, why the change of leadership happens now but not right after the election
- Didn't justified why it is necessary to dismiss Ballem when taxpayers are penalized with her half-a-million severance is not justified

(Sing Tao) Vancouver City Manager Ballem Received \$556,000 Severance For Dismissal

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/category/省市/?variant=zh-hk>

- Robertson: needs fresh approach as city faces transit plebiscite and economic growth. Didn't request Ballem to leave but end her open-ended contract which requires 20 months of notice ahead.
- Marpole Residents Coalition: believes Ballem is forced to resign. Suspect may be because Ballem is overly strict to senior staff as she is a very intelligent person. In the past city doesn't consult public enough when planning for the Marpole community, hope the new city manager will listen more
- NPA criticized Vision For mismanagement

(Sing Tao) Vision Vancouver Criticized For 4 Senior Staff Leaving Or Retiring

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/217779/2015-09-16/post-市府4高層離任退休-偉景溫哥華捱轟/?variant=zh-hk>

- Including Ballem, 4 senior staff at City are leaving or retiring.
- George Affleck: shows Vision's mismanagement, and make city staff feels rudderless

- Elizabeth Ball and Melissa De Genova: surprised of the news. Mayor is the person who is leading the city.

9.13 (Sun)– More

(Ming Pao) Chinatown Supermarket Closing As Lease Ended. Hard To Let Go For The 15 Years Friendship Developed

<http://www.mingpaocanada.com/Van/htm/News/20150913/vab1hr.htm>

- Business isn't as good as before, but can still maintain if tighten the manpower a bit. Closing mainly because the contract ended, feel tired and wanted to rest
- Customers include as far as Coquitlam and North Van, Korean and Japanese restaurant
-

9.16 (Wed)

(AM1470 Phone-in Show) Contract of Vancouver's City Manager Was Ended Suddenly

- The half a million severance is 20 years of annual salary of average citizen. It is unfair for City to give away that large sum of money without reasonable and clear explanation
- NPA failed their role as the opposition party. They claimed that they didn't know about it, and criticized Robertson for ending Ballem's contract, yet they voted yes for the motion
- A number of callers refer back to other policies that they disagreed with the Vision City council such as bike lanes, and pot dispensaries. They also criticized that the Mayor's governing style hasn't changed at all and remained secretive, even though he promised to listen more during last election

(Fairchild TV) Taxpayers Coalition: TransLink Salary Keep Expanding

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=53f13d594327d166a891ccad57c42d2d>

- Taxpayers Coalition: Can save \$15–20M a year if use local police or security instead
- TransLink: overtime is paid when storms or skytrain disruptions happen unexpectedly
- Peter Fassbender: simplistic approach to say get rid of people, what is needed is to to run more efficiently

(Sing Tao) 520 TransLink Staff Receive \$100,000 Salary

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/217834/2015-09-16/post-運聯520人年薪逾10萬/?variant=zh-hk>

- Number of staff receive \$100,000 salary has increased by 21% from 2013

(AM1320) TransLink Employees With Over \$100,000 Salary Has Grown Over 20%

http://am1320.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=12432%3A10&catid=1%3A2010-10-18-20-52-02&Itemid=97&lang=zh

9.17 (Thur)

(Ming Pao) Chinese Consulate 66th China National Day Celebration. Liu Fei: Relationship Between China And BC Deepens Continuously

<http://www.mingpaocanada.com/Van/htm/News/20150917/vas1hr.htm>

- Robertson said humorously in Mandarin, “My beloved is teaching me Chinese”, and ending his speech with “Happy 66th National Day for China, and happiness for Chinese in Vancouver.”
- He also said, Guangzhou and Vancouver have been sister city for 30 years, and both cities have hosted a number of sports exchange programs this year.

(Sing Tao) Liu Fei Advocate For China-Canada Free Trade At China National Day Celebration

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/220111/2015-09-17/post-劉菲國慶酒會籲-推動加中自由貿易/?variant=zh-hk>

(Sing Tao) Survey: The More High End The Vancouver Single Homes, The More Expensive They Get

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/220108/2015-09-17/post-調口指溫市獨立屋-10年來貴者愈貴/?variant=zh-hk>

- CIBC report: past 10 years, top 5% most expensive single homes, price doubled (200%). Cheapest 5%, increase 60-70%
- This is most obvious in Vancouver may be because Vancouver is more attractive to foreign investors

(World Journal) City Council Voted On First Shaughnessy Preservation Area On 29th

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3434702/article-桑那斯列保留區-溫市29日決議/?ref=溫哥華>

- First Shaughnessy resident: City’s intention to preserve heritage housing is good, but should extend it to entire city but not a particular neighbourhood
- Houses that are not restricted to the rule are sold within a day, while theirs have difficulties selling it out in a year.
- Residents who support the motion: BC doesn’t have similar historical preservation policy compared to other provinces and is behind now

- If the motion is passed, East of Oak St. to the West of Arbutus, South to W. King Edward, and North to W16th, about 300 heritage homes will be protected and not allowed to tear down.

(AM1470) VPD Studying Whether Dispatching Narcan For Front Line Police Officers

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=53930

- After Surrey, VPD has been considering and started studying a year ago about equipping front line police officers with naloxone injection to speedily relieve people who are overdose. However, VPD is more inclined to the spray narcan used in US, which is currently not available in Canada.

(AM1470) VPD: Should Resolve Pot Dispensary Issue Through Land Use

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=53929

- VPD responds to Smart Approaches to Marijuana Canada's complaint about not enforcing pot dispensaries: enforcing it according to Criminal law is not effective, penalty won't be much, more effective dealing with it through land use bylaw

9.18 (Fri)

(Ming Pao) VPD Welcome 13 Newbies. Chinese Youth Willing To Join Enforcement At Chinatown

http://www.mingpaocanada.com/Van/htm/News/20150918/vas1h_r.htm

- Wong, 23-years-old, brought up in a single family in Vancouver: Chinatown more challenging, but willing to accept the challenge as a Chinese.

(Sing Tao) SUCCESS Urges Community Donation To Help Syria Refugees

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/221841/2015-09-18/post-中僑籲社區踴躍捐助敘難民/?variant=zh-hk>

- SUCCESS: only admitting the refugees isn't the best solution. Canada should also help Syria to end their civil war

(Sin Tao) Greater Vancouver Commercial Property Sale Increased By 16% in 2nd Quarter

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/221871/2015-09-18/post-大溫商用物業成交-今年次季升16/?variant=zh-hk>

(World Journal) Vancouver City Development Manager: Appropriate Planning Can Suffice Population Growth

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3436669/article-溫市發展經理：合宜規畫可應付人口成長/?ref=溫哥華>

- Brian Jackson who will be retired the end of the month: puzzled that industries who openly criticized him asked him for help privately
- Responded to the exchange of land at Grandview-Woodland, with Yaletown developer Brenhill: city already apologized and re-plan after listening to residents
- Vancouver's population growth is still in control. As long as there is appropriate planning, can still admit more new immigrants. Shouldn't solve problems with a certain city plan because this would delay city's development
- Currently not enough row houses. Although the communication on this would take longer, it's necessary
- City planning should ignore the haters

(World Journal) City Planning Analyst: 60% Single Homes in Greater Vancouver Over \$1Million If Transportation Cost Included

rnal.com/3434706/article-甄瑞謙:計入交通成本-6 成大溫獨立屋破百萬/?ref=溫哥華

- 28% over \$1M, but if transportation cost added, overall housing cost would increase to 65-76%

9.18 (Fri)- More

(AM1320 Phone-in Show) Number of pot dispensaries expanded to 100 in Vancouver. Whose responsibility, City or VPD?

- City didn't take action when there were only 27 pot dispensaries, just like what Delta, Burnaby and Surrey cities did, quickly close the first one down. VPD voiced out that time but City was trying to formulate a new bylaw to regulate them.
- What VPD said is true- more effective with city bylaw than criminal law in terms of closing pot dispensaries
- Only 11 dispensaries were shut down and 23 charges were laid within the last two years. Seems too few. Enforcement is complaint- driven. No. of complaints received is not released. So residents should do so if they notice problems.
- only took 10 minutes to dismiss the report- seems too haste. With so much public concerns, should be discussed in further details at city council
- Opening a pot dispensary brings \$30,000 revenue to City. Questions how City spends this new stream of revenue. ie. City is penalized for \$500,000 for ending Ballem's contract. A glimpse of city's financial mismanagement
- Politicians deal with it for their political benefits, not considering the well being of residents. Chinese know well from the past history when the British intoxicated Chinese with opium (Hong Kong was ceded to Britain as a result). Why is Vancouver falling into this?

9.19 (Sat)

(Sing Tao) Residents Oppose To High Rise Buildings. Not Benefit Community Development
<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/223418/2015-09-19/post-市民若反建高樓-不利社區發展工作/?variant=zh-hk>

(World Journal) August Sale Of Condos In Vancouver Increased By 40% From Same Period Last Year
<http://www.worldjournal.com/3438416/article-8月溫市公寓交易-同比增4成/?ref=溫哥華>

9.20 (Sun)

n/a

9.21 (Mon)

(AM1470) NPA Apologized For Their Accusation To Vancouver Mayor And City Councillor

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=54026

- NPA's mayor candidate at last election Kirk LaPointe dismissed the lawsuit and apologized to Robertson and Meggs.
- BC Supreme Court also ruled earlier that the \$34,000 contribution made by CUPE 1004 to Robertson, Meggs and Vision doesn't have any problems
- NPA has to pay for a portion for Vision's legal fees involving the lawsuit

(AM1470) Business Association: Pay Property Tax 2.61 Times Higher Than Residential

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=54025

(HK* Apple Daily) Canadian Immigration Fraud: 1,200 Chinese Immigrants' Canadian Status May Be Repealed

<http://hk.apple.nextmedia.com/realtime/china/20150921/54228043>

- According to a newspaper in China, this court case in BC Supreme Court involves the alleged "Suen Wang" who had helped 1,200 of his clients of creating false documents so that they had successfully received Canadian citizenship. Wang has received \$2.7M as a result. However, from the income tax that Wang filed between 2008- 2013, he has less than a few thousand income.
- The court will announce the ruling in Oct

9.22 (Tue)

(AM1320) Municipalities Ask Two Levels OF Governments To Increase Funding Proportion

http://am1320.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=12476%3A2015-09-21-22-37-13&catid=1%3A2010-10-18-20-52-02&Itemid=97&lang=zh

- Mayors at BC Union of Municipalities meeting call for two levels of government to increase funding, so that municipalities can improve roads, water and sewage system
- Chair, Sav Dhaliwal: for every \$1 of tax received, municipalities only receive 10 cents- which is 60% of the costs for roads, infrastructures and city hall repairs. Also, need more work on affordable housing and response system to prevent oil leaks

(World Journal) CFIB: BC Business Property Tax. 2.61 Times More Than Residents

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3442383/article-cfib> : 卑省商家物業稅-為一般居民 2-61 倍
/?ref=溫哥華

- Canadian Federation of Independent Business: although the property tax gap has gotten smaller (from 2.9 to 2.54), but with stiffer competition, it's getting increasingly difficult for small businesses to survive especially in big cities
- 61% landlords: property tax has biggest impact on their businesses. Mayors and city councils should consider their livelihood and find to find a fairer tax system

(Ming Pao) Vancouver Doors Open. 18 Attractions Including Free Mini-train Ride And Tour Interpretation Guide

http://www.mingpaocanada.com/Van/htm/News/20150922/vas1h_r.htm

(AM1470) Elections BC Spent \$5.3M on Traffic Plebiscite

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=54053

- Sent out 1.57M ballots, received about 800,000, 51%.
- Overall 61.68% votes No, 38.32% voted Yes
- No votes: Vancouver: 50.81%, Surrey 65%, Richmond 72%
- Highest voting rate is 55-64 years old. Over 21%
- Lowest voting rate is 18 – 24 years old, 6%
- Half of the costs is on postal. \$3.44 on every voter

(AM1470) Vancouver Cultural Day. With Interpretation Guide in Chinese The First Time

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=54052

(AM1470) Another Wanted Chinese National In Richmond , Shiyuan Shen, Sue the Canadian Government

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=54037

- Shiyuan Shen, whose name appears China's Red Pol list, sue CRA and a Canadian adjudicator for not disclosing important evidence (he claimed that the Chinese government has tortured him in order to get him admit to certain things) that caused the rejection of his refugee application
- Shen is alleged for a fraud of CDN\$20M that involves a steel factory in Shanghai, and has been pursued by the Chinese government since 2002. He arrived in Canada in May 2007 and has opened a kitchenware company in Richmond. He said this is political persecution

(World Journal) Critic: Living Density And House Price Have No Direct Correlation

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3442383/article-cfib>：卑省商家物業稅-為一般居民 2-61 倍
/?ref=溫哥華

(Sorry I couldn't find the original article)

- Vancouver Sun Columnist Barbara Yaffe: Vancouver City hall: even more new rental condo are built, because many can't keep up and afford the rising rent. Also, the number of homeless has only dropped by 55 to 1,746. City should evaluate how increasing density help with housing affordability
- Vancouver has good living environment that attract people to settle in, old houses are refurbished, and the new transit infrastructures don't make the newly built housing less affordable, but even more expensive

(World Journal) Uniquely Designed Building May Appear in Downtown Vancouver

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3442379/article-溫市中心-擬開發特殊造型大樓/?ref=溫哥華&npg=2>

9.23 (Wed)

(AM1320) Gregor Robertson Chair The Major City Mayors Caucus Meeting In Toronto Tomorrow

http://am1320.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=12520%3A2015-09-23-22-45-41&catid=1%3A2010-10-18-20-52-02&Itemid=97&lang=zh

(Ming Pao) With \$22M Chinese Merchant Bought 7 Homes At the Same Block On Granville. A Few Blocks On Granville Are Sold "By Blocks"

<http://www.mingpaocanada.com/Van/htm/News/20150923/vap1hr.htm>

original article:

http://www.vancouver.sun.com/business/million+dollar+land+assemblies+speculate+zoning+changes/11380019/story.html?_lsa=8b31-99cd

- By a Yuen Nan Company from China called "Hui Xiang International Realty Developments Ltd.)
- City has no plan to rezone or redevelop. The Realty currently rent out the 7 houses, waiting to see what City of Vancouver is going to do next. But such "sale by blocks" is not encouraged in Vancouver

(World Journal) Granville Street Block Sale Drags Up Prices

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3444552/article-溫市固蘭胡街土地組合交易-衝高售價/?ref=溫哥華>

(AM1470) 10% Success Rate To Apply For Pot Dispensary License

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=54063

- City Cllr. Kerry Jang: not to cap the number of applicants but expect only a few will pass the process

(Ming Pao) China Interpol's Wanted Merchant Sue Federal For Not Revealing All Information At Refugee Application Hearing

<http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20150923/vaa2r.htm>

(Sing Tao) China Merchant Alleged Of Shanghai's Billion Dollars Fraud. File Civic Lawsuit Against Canadian Custom

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/229834/2015-09-23/post-涉滬逾億騙案華商-民事訴加國海關/?variant=zh-hk>

9.24 (Thur)

(AM1320 Phone-in Show) Transit Plebiscite Report

- TransLink spent over \$5.3M yet the turnout was No. Some said it's a waste of taxpayers' money. TransLink should do more studies and think voters are ready to accept such tax before doing so. But some said it's a worthy lesson as TransLink realized that they must change and be accountable for voters, which result in streamlining their staff etc.
- Youth and age under 34 is low, probably a lot lower than TransLink had expected, and thought they can rely on their votes. Many young people don't think it's an immediate and relevant issue affecting them; thinking that the government have made up their mind already and will push their way through, so their votes won't make a difference especially when many of them support it.
- To encourage more young people to vote, perhaps should consider using cell phone to vote
- Low voter turnout in general because of the complexity of using three envelopes. People feel tedious.
- Over 65 has highest voter turnout because that's their money and realize how government policies affect their daily lives

(AM1320) Transit Plebiscite Report: Over 38,000 ballots Are Void

http://am1320.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=12527%3A38300&catid=1%3A2010-10-18-20-52-02&Itemid=97&lang=zh

- Taxpayers federation: low voter turnout and lots of void ballots because the three envelopes method is too complicated

(AM1320) Gregor Robertson And Other Mayors In Large City Mayors Caucus Meeting: Federal Need to Step Up For Affordable Housing Funding

http://am1320.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=12522%3A17620&catid=1%3A2010-10-18-20-52-02&Itemid=97&lang=zh

- Kerry Jang: not all applications can pass the stringent evaluation process such as background check and store limitations; believe only 15-20 will pass. More dispensaries now concentrate in a certain area, they will be required to spread out when they get the license. 15-20 stores would meet the demand. Expect to issue license in December, appeal process to City is also in place
- A pot dispensary owner: not fair that his application was rejected because he had committed crimes related to pot

(Fairchild TV) Union of BC Municipalities Discuss Regulating Pot Dispensaries

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=0f31cf4c07210e8d5460b43c17e11798>

- Lawyer Tony Wilson: impressed with Kerry's opinion; don't think City has the constitutional authority to regulate illegal businesses (without the bylaw)
- City Cllr. Kerry Jang: purpose of the bylaw is to close a number of dispensaries but not legalizing marijuana.

(AM1320) City of Vancouver Expect only 20 Pot Dispensaries Application Out of the 176 Will be Accepted

(Sing Tao) Vancouver's Economy Grow 3.4%, Champion Across the Country

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/231431/2015-09-24/post-溫經濟增長 3-4 冠全國/?variant=zh-hk>

- Conference Board of Canada: 5th quarter Vancouver's economy grow by over 3%, mostly due to manufacture and the weak Canada dollar stimulates more local products to be exported to international market

(World Journal) Vancouver's Economic Growth Leads All Cities in the Country

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3446524/article-溫今年經濟成長-領先全加各城市/?ref=溫哥華>

9.25 (Fri)

(AM1470) Local Governments Passed The Vote To Regulate Medical Marijuana

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=54118

- Voted and agreed that local governments have the right to regulate medical pot dispensaries as Ottawa's law creates chaos and cause the increase of dispensaries in BC
- Maple Ridge City Cllr Corisa Bell: the rapid growth of pot dispensaries have negative impact on the economy, but can reverse that with proper regulation

(AM1470) TransLink Board Meeting Allows Public To Attend

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=54112

- Meeting at New Westminster today, first time allow public attendance.
- Taxpayers Association: the meeting is a way to monitor the board's internal problems. An open meeting is a major step for TransLink to become more open and transparent as the budget and priorities are set by the board. Trans Link CEO also has to be accountable for the board

(AM1470) Commercial Sales in Greater Vancouver Highest in 5 Years

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=54110

(Sing Tao) Chinatown's Mural Defaced With Graffiti The Second Time This Month

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/233360/2015-09-25/post-溫市華埠壁畫遭塗鴉-本月第二宗/?variant=zh-hk>

- The painting is located at E. Pender and Gore outside a three storey building with 223 square feet space. It's a \$18,000 joint project by City of Vancouver and the Lee's Benevolent Association to celebrate Vancouver Chinatown 125th anniversary.
- The bottom of the graffiti is English words, motivation unknown yet. Police has no suspect info yet but checking on surveillance camera

(World Journal) "Lao Zhi On A Cow" Mural Defaced With Graffiti

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3447914/article-華埠「老子騎牛像」遭塗鴉/?ref=溫哥華>

(World Journal) Gregor Robertson: Social Housing Should Be An Election Issue

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3447820/article-社會住宅-羅品信籲列大選議題/?ref=溫哥華>

- Robertson: serious shortage of social housing in major cities and homeless people increased, while low and middle income families face huge pressure for rental homes or buying a home.
- According to statistics, a total of 94,000 social housing units across the country, but over 93,000 are waiting to move in.

9.26 (Sat)

(Sing Tao) Vancouver's City Planning Chief: Broadway Subway Must Be Built

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/234729/2015-09-26/post-專訪溫規劃總舵手-稱百老匯須建地鐵/?variant=zh-hk>

- 150,000 more people will move into Vancouver in the next 15 years, city is able to absorb this without major changes, but will need more affordable townhouses for young families. City needs thoughtful public consultation for the choice of location ie. Along arterial roads. Dire needs for Broadway subway
- Georgia and Dunsmuir viaduct will help Main St. become a more prosperous area as affordable housing will be built in the expanded piece of land close to False Creek

(Sing Tao) Most Memorable: Controversies About Rebuilding Oakridge

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/234719/2015-09-26/post-重建渥列治-最具爭議最難忘/?variant=zh-hk>

(World Journal)

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3449779/article-海外買家炒房?cmhc=清華/?ref=溫哥華>

(AM1470)

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=54146

9.27 (Sun)

(Sing Tao)

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/237702/2015-09-27/post-溫豪宅區業主瞞口-3成歸類「低收入口」/?variant=zh-hk>

(World Journal)

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3450937/article-「老子騎牛」遭塗鴨「疑辱華」/?ref=溫哥華&npg=2>

(World Journal)

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3451182/article-派橋翻建成本破表-素里、新西敏籲建新橋/?ref=溫哥華>

(World Journal)

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3451205/article-喬治街高架橋拆除計畫-報告打臉/?ref=溫哥華>

9.28 (Mon)

(Ming Pao)

http://www.mingpaocanada.com/Van/htm/News/20150928/vas3_r.htm

(AM1470) Vancouver Mayor Urges Businesses To Face Climate Change

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=54170

(Ming Pao)

http://www.mingpaocanada.com/Van/htm/News/20150928/vas1h_r.htm

(Sing Tao)

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/239073/2015-09-28/post-老鳳祥加國首家分店設溫市/?variant=zh-hk>

(AM1320) Not Enough Fund To Seismically Upgrade Pattullo Bridge, According To TransLink

http://am1320.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=12538%3Apattullo&catid=1%3A2010-10-18-20-52-02&Itemid=97&lang=zh

(AM1320) Robertson Continues to

http://am1320.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=12553%3A2015-09-28-23-01-30&catid=1%3A2010-10-18-20-52-02&Itemid=97&lang=zh

(World Journal) New Art Gallery Expected To Raise "Controversies"

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3452013/article-新溫市美術館設計-料再「惹議」/?ref=溫哥華>

9.29 (Tue)

(World Journal) Vancouver Downtown Viaducts: To Tour Down Or Not? Decide In Oct.

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3454142/article-溫市中心高架橋-拆不拆 10 月定案/?ref=溫哥華>

- Geoff Meggs: after years of discussion and delay, now is the time to decide

(World Journal) 70% Of Household Income Spent On Mortgage In Vancouver,
According To A Study

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3454151/article-研究報告：溫居民7成收入供房/?ref=溫哥華>

- Consolidated Credit Counseling Services of Canada's study: Median family income in Vancouver is \$73,390. On average use 71% of income after tax on mortgage. Toronto: 54%
- Alarming: people won't have enough saving when emergency arise.

(World Journal)

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3454148/article-桑拿斯社區列保護區？預計今決議/?ref=溫哥華>

(AM1470) Seattle's Former Blue Jay Player Sue City of Vancouver

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=54193

- Hit by concrete hanged down suddenly when he walked out of the rink during warm up, while no warning signs are erected.

9.29 (Tue)– More

(Fairchild TV) Vancouver City Council Passed The Motion To Regulate First Shaughnessy As City's First Heritage Conservation Area

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=82bdd6d74c304d5130239833c88d2f18>

- About 300 out of 600 houses in the area were built before 1940's and will be protected from tearing down or rebuilding
- Cllr.s Meggs: heard many opposition but also many said it's a good way to preserve and recognize heritage. Only have one First Shaughnessy community, and this can be a guideline for other communities and prevent communities from all looking the same
- Cllr. Melissa De Genova: suggested an amendment to allow homeowners to rebuke their home being listed in the registry after 6 months, but the amendment was voted down by Vision city cllrs.

9.30 (Wed)– More

(Sing Tao) Vancouver's First Shaughnessy– First Heritage Conservation Area

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/242371/2015-09-30/post-溫市第一桑那斯-列為首個傳統保護區-2/?variant=zh-hk>

- Robertson: once it became Vancouver's First heritage conservation area, it will help city to take a balance approach in community development and heritage preservation

(World Journal) Greater Vancouver Mayors Evaluate TransLink Operation

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3455579/article-大溫市長-檢討交通局運作/?ref=溫哥華>

- Form Special group to evaluate TransLink's current management model, board structure and transit plans, how to improve and what's the best solution
- TransLink Board Chair Greg Moore: Some improvement has already been made ie. First open meeting since 2007

(World Journal) CTV Survey: Pot Dispensaries Violate Bylaw Common Place

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3456098/article-ctv 調□:大麻藥店-屢見違規濫售/?ref=溫哥華&npg=2>

- Some dispensaries claim the owner is natural path therapist, once customers fill up a form, they can buy marijuana. Some said, as long as customer bring back an empty prescription bottle, they can buy marijuana.
- Cllr. Jang: the purpose that City Council passed the new bylaw is to manage this chaos. Only people with prescription should get the medical marijuana

10.1 (Thur)

(AM1470) Robertson Hopes Two Levels Of Governments Support Art Gallery

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=54266

- Robertson said in an election forum: the fed. Still hasn't made any commitment to support the move of Vancouver Art Gallery, it will be a huge challenge in the next few months
- Vancouver Art Gallery: hope province can fund \$50M, and Fed. \$100M

(World Journal) Cambie Corridor Development Plan Workshops Start from Oct 7th

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3457405/article-甘比走廊發展計畫-討論會 7 日開跑/?ref=溫哥華>

- Riley Park South Cambie Community Vision Group: residents care most about traffic flow, transit, affordable housing and public space. Cambie corridor has become increasingly busy, but hasn't seen city's overall transit plan, such discussions are necessary. Although community welcomes city's plan of building more townhouses, but hope they won't be too high and more affordable. Currently the market's definition on affordability is unclear
- City wants to understand more about what residents think about these plans. The multi unit or townhouses will increase living density, and also choices of housing

10.2 (Fri)

(Ming Pao) SFU Forum Three Parties Criticize The Absent Conservative: Not Willing To Dialogue, Sacrifice Arts, Fail To Keep Promises

<http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20151002/vabb r.htm>

- Robertson: disappointed with Conservative candidate absent. Without the rep. from the ruling party, dialogue between citizens & city and political parties will be less effective

(Sing Tao) Gregor Robertson Hosts Federal Election Forum

http://am1320.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=12617%3A2015-10-02-22-44-12&catid=1%3A2010-10-18-20-52-02&Itemid=97&lang=zh

(Ming Pao) Developer Ammend Chinatown Plan Beside Early Chinese Workers' Memorium To Increase Senior Home Units, But Building Height Unchanged Controversy Continues

<http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20151002/vas1h.htm?m=0>

- Since the controversy about the development plan (105 Keefer and 544 Columbia) beside Chinatown's Early Chinese Workers Memorial Monument broke out around election last year, city has made some changes ie increase senior housing units and community amenities. However, the new design still maintain the height of about 120 feet (13 floors), which is still opposed by a number of Chinatown associations including the Chinese Benevolent Association
- Chinatown groups: many memorial activities around the monument, 13 stories right beside it isn't suitable
- Chu Chi Lun, Board chair of Chinese Benevolent Association: last year the association joined by 60 other groups signed petition to change the building height to under 90 feet. Even though there are changes made, the essence remain the same
- Dr. Sun Yat Sen Garden: affect the view of the garden as the proposed building can be seen almost anywhere inside the garden
- Although many Chinatown groups opposed to the plan, there are groups that support it.

(AM1470) Some Chinatown Organizations Still Oppose To the 13 Stories Building

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=54289

- Chinese Benevolent Association: City should honor the agreement with Chinatown leaders 20 years ago on capping building heights in Chinatown to 90 feet. Hope developer can consider and respect the heritage character of Chinatown

(AM1470) Another Barbeque Meat Store Leaving Chinatown As New Condo

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=54290

- Store leaving at Gore and Hastings as developer is building condo at the site
- Storeowner: hard to say the changes in Chinatown recent years is good or bad. Less traditional Chinese way of doing business will be present, but the new way may be good

(Ming Pao) Vancouver Open Door Continues Tomorrow

<http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20151002/vasb.htm?m=0>

(Sing Tao) Liberal Party: Donation Legal. Set Apart From Mo Yeung CHING

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/245471/2015-10-02/post-自由黨稱收捐款合法-與程慕陽撇清關係/?variant=zh-hk>

- According to South China Morning Post, Federal Conservatives asked Elections Canada to investigate Justin Trudeau's Tru-Youth United, which Mo

Yeung Ching's daughter is actively involved in. Justin Trudeau responded, Ching is not related to Federal Liberal, and all politician contributions they received are through legal ways.

(Sing Tao) Chinese Investor Purchased B Class Downtown Business Building With \$120M

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/245442/2015-10-02/post-華資斥 1-2 億元-購溫市乙級商廈/?variant=zh-hk>

- United Kingdom Building at 499 Granville St. was sold to a Chinese investor for \$122M according to sources. Largest amount on Canadian real estate market so far

(World Journal) Vancouver Commercial Building Snapped Up By Chinese Investors For Price 1.5 More

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3458983/article-溫市商辦-中資 1-5 倍價收購/?ref=溫哥華>

original article: <http://business.financialpost.com/news/property-post/chinese-investors-scoop-up-vancouver-and-toronto-office-towers-as-canadian-commercial-market-heats-up>

(Sing Tao) Seven Chinatown Long Time Businesses Moved Away Or Closed Down

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/245430/2015-10-02/post-7 華埠老字號-無奈搬遷或結業/?variant=zh-hk>

- At Gore and Hastings. Developer is going to redevelop the building. One of the biggest Chinese herbal store will be closed. No lease agreement for the past 30 years, but as developer took over, they don't have any legal protection without the lease agreement. Need to leave in 2 months.

(World Journal) Greater Vancouver Super Rich "Fighting To Snatch" Properties

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3458980/article-大溫地-超級富豪瘋搶購/?ref=溫哥華>

- Wealth-X and Sotheby's International Realty did the UHNW Luxury Real Estate Report: Vancouver's real estate market is relatively stable. Billionaires of over \$30B see it as "Opportunity Gateways". Among foreigners who hold the top luxury homes, most of them are Americans.
- The Super Rich's first choice of real estate is US, second is Canada, third is UK

(AM1470) Mayors' Council Passed To Trim New TransLink CEO's Salary Package

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=54294

(AM1320) TransLink New CEO No Bonus And Vehicle Subsidy

http://am1320.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=12621%3A2015-10-02-22-46-00&catid=1%3A2010-10-18-20-52-02&Itemid=97&lang=zh

(AM1320) Telus Will Expand Optic Fiber Network In Vancouver

http://am1320.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=12620%3Atelus&catid=1%3A2010-10-18-20-52-02&Itemid=97&lang=zh

- The investment will improve family network and stimulate economic growth

(AM1470) Telus Invest \$1B to Strengthen Vancouver's Optic Fiber Network In Next 5 Years

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=54283

(AM1470) Canadian Union of Municipalities Form Task Force To Assist Syria Crisis

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=54278

- Cllr. Raymond Louie & Halifax Mayor Mike Savage lead the group
- Raymond: must respond in generous and compassionate way. Vancouver has always been one of the first choice cities for immigrants

10.3 (Sat)

(Ming Pao) Vancouver Single Room Condo Rental \$930. Most Expensive In Canada

<http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20151003/var1h r.htm>

Hi All,

All major Chinese media outlets report on the removal of the Georgia and Dunsmuir Viaducts (10.6). The tone and points are balanced overall. AM1470 mentioned that the Chinatown Merchants Association support this plan as it will help businesses with better connections to surrounding communities, though still have concerns about traffic congestions. But some are concerned that more people thus more traffic congestion would result when more people bought to the area through new housing projects there. Cllr. Afflect mentioned in Fairchild TV that developer should bore the \$2B cost as they gain benefits from the plan, and this is answered in Ming Pao. (10.6)

The viaduct removal also attracted attention of the Apple Daily, a tabloid style on-line/ print media in Hong Kong with headline says “ Removal of Viaducts Over Budget By More Than 50%”. (10.7)

I also heard from friends living in Vancouver that their major concerns is traffic congestion to downtown as they work there. They said the plan seems to ignore car users and many don't live in areas where public transit is conveniently accessible. Also, they think that the \$2B removal cost is too much and not justified.

Mayor Robertson is the only Canadian mayor invited to speak at White House and present his climate change strategies (10.6).

Follow up on the Chines Early Workers' Memoriam, Dr. Henry Yu's voice is heard again. He opposed to the plan, and think that area should be designate for cultural use. The 25 senior units are insignificant.

10.4 (Sun)

n/a

10.5 (Mon)

(World Journal) Commercial Properties Getting Expensive in Vancouver Real Estate Market

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3463181/article-溫市房□市場-商用物業走高/?ref=溫哥華>

- Bentall Centre \$1B, Moslon Beer also planning to sell their properties when the price is good. Many property owners who hold these kinds of business properties want to sell them when the price is good, as at the same time, a large number of investors are interested in acquiring them
- Besides offshore investors, pension funds, REIT and private enterprises are interested

(AM1320) Glass Containers Recycling Starts Today in Vancouver

http://am1320.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=12628%3A2015-10-06-20-00-50&catid=1%3A2010-10-18-20-52-02&Itemid=97&lang=zh

(Fairchild TV) TransLink Buses Start One Zone Fare

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=11bf14c1513b62f30e5e8be425774d30>

10.6 (Tue)

(Fairchild tv) Vancouver City Planning Department Recommend Taking Down Georgia & Dunsmuir Viaducts, Costs \$2B And Takes 5 Years

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=3603599ee31fce12be0fa0958263356>

- City staff: requires \$65M for seismic upgrade, but replace them with new road system will be better for truck movements. 13 acres of park land will be finished earlier than planned previously. 2 blocks of land available for housing with significant portion for affordable housing
- Need \$100M extra to diverge traffic flow in Chinatown, False Creek and Strathcona
- Cllr Affleck: \$2B should be bore by developer who will get direct benefits but not mentioned in the report
- False Creek Residents Association: question whether there is a net gain in park space as originally there was 9 acres of land for park plus city-owned land

(AM1470) City of Vancouver Recommend Removing Two Viaducts

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=54373 (*video included)

- City staff: removal of the viaducts can create two blocks of land for housing and parks, but won't cause traffic congestion in downtown as only 6% cars to downtown use those two viaducts
- Chinatown Merchants Association: welcomes the removal plan. It'll help to connect Chinatown to False Creek and other communities; therefore helpful to businesses in Chinatown. Only concern is whether it will cause congestion at Keefer coming in and out of Chinatown

(World Journal) Removing Georgia & Dunsmuir Viaducts May Costs \$200M

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3464989/article-喬治亞與登士梅高架橋拆除案-估耗 2 億/?ref=溫哥華>

- City's traffic planning department: the cost to remove the viaducts has increase from \$130M two years ago to \$200M due to inflation. City's studies is unprecedented in terms of its depth and its scope
- Main reason to remove: their ability to withstand earthquake isn't as good as first expected. If an earthquake of medium magnitude takes place, it will damage skytrain that runs underneath, and seismic upgrade will cost \$60M to 65M
- Vancouver Board of Trade: the removal plan can bring in business opportunities, but questionable whether traffic will be affected
- Retired City Traffic dept. staff Ian Adam: 6-8 hours of traffic like rush hour if removed, although current staff report said traffic will increase only 1-3 minutes when the "super road network" is completed after the viaducts removal
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- Additional points- City staff: \$2B removal fees will come from different parties including developer related to the land development. Best timing now as costs will rise if delay further
- Cllr. Affleck: City still needs more funding to build affordable housing, question whether city has the ability to do so. Also, worry about the increase in travel time as time is tight for working people

(Sing Tao) Remove Georgia Street Viaduct. Chinatown Worried About Congestion Get Worse

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/253084/2015-10-07/post-拆卸佐治街高架橋-華埠憂塞車惡化/?variant=zh-hk>

- Some worried that during construction, traffic congestion will get even worse. City should consider even the problem arise during the construction. Also, currently can easily get to downtown or east side without interruption of traffic light through the viaducts. More housing in the future also mean more people, which would increase population thus traffic congestion
- Cllr. Affleck: concerned whether estimated revenue will be able to cover the construction cost

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http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=54381

- Mayors proposed to gather funds through tolls
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- Meeting with US Secretary of State John Kerry this week, only Canadian mayor invited
- Robertson: business leaders have to take action voluntarily to target climate change, to fill in the void that federal government left for their lack of leadership

(World Journal) Vancouver's New Recycle Program Implement In 3 Stages

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3464986/article-溫市回收新規-分 3 階段實施/?ref=溫哥華>

10.7 (Wed)

(Hong Kong- Apple Daily) Vancouver Proposed To Remove Two Viaducts. Costs HK \$150M, Over Budget By 50%

<http://hk.apple.nextmedia.com/international/art/20151008/19325346>

(Sing Tao) Protestors Demonstrate At Chinatown Building Consultation

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/253102/2015-10-07/post-華埠建樓辦諮詢-示威者口場抗議/?variant=zh-hk>

- At open house about building beside the Early Chinese Railway workers Memorial, 50 protesters came in to oppose the mixed use building plan, and ask to build social housing for seniors
- City hasn't rezoned the historical area to combined development yet
- Beedie Living: respect Chinatown's community culture, taken into this into consideration for the design encompassing structure height, materials and design
- Protest group called "Youth Collaborative For Chinatown", include different ethnic groups, age from young to old. Demand all housing be developed into low income senior housing, and must be cultural space open to public and serve community
- Some seniors on site disapproved of the protesters' behavior: Chinatown needs social housing but without participation of developers, where can they find the money? Chinatown need to face the reality to accept proposal from developer
- City's Rezoning Dept. staff: after public consultation, city will assess and the entire process will take 9-12months before city council vote on. Whether the rezoning is passed, the key is the building height. If not passed, the building's height and scale must be adjusted

(Sing Tao) Scholar: Change To Cultural Use

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/253101/2015-10-07/post-學者改作文化用途/?variant=zh-hk>

- UBC History professor Dr. Henry Yu oppose to the plan: that's the core of Chinatown with Dr. Sun Yat Sen Garden, Cultural Centre and Memorial, should be used for cultural purpose. Business Residential building by developer is unthinkable
- This may be the last parcel of land with such big area. Should build community centre for seniors in Chinatown and attract young people to go there. So many places for mixed used buildings in Vancouver, why there?

- UBC social survey: next 5 years, Vancouver will be short of 3,000 seniors social housing units, currently average wait time is 3 years. Dr. Yu's grandmother had applied for it a few years ago and didn't get any before she passed away. Also, the 25 senior unit is insignificant, more meaningful if 250 units
- Recommend city to buy this land back from developer, and change to cultural use to respect Chinatown's culture

10.4 (Sun)

n/a

10.5 (Mon)

(World Journal) Commercial Properties Getting Expensive in Vancouver Real Estate Market

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3463181/article-溫市房□市場-商用物業走高/?ref=溫哥華>

- Bentall Centre \$1B, Moslon Beer also planning to sell their properties when the price is good. Many property owners who hold these kinds of business properties want to sell them when the price is good, as at the same time, a large number of investors are interested in acquiring them
- Besides offshore investors, pension funds, REIT and private enterprises are interested

(AM1320) Glass Containers Recycling Starts Today in Vancouver

http://am1320.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=12628%3A2015-10-06-20-00-50&catid=1%3A2010-10-18-20-52-02&Itemid=97&lang=zh

(Fairchild TV) TransLink Buses Start One Zone Fare

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=11bf14c1513b62f30e5e8be425774d30>

10.6 (Tue)

(Fairchild tv) Vancouver City Planning Department Recommend Taking Down Georgia & Dunsmuir Viaducts, Costs \$2B And Takes 5 Years

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=3603599ee31fce12be0fa0958263356>

- City staff: requires \$65M for seismic upgrade, but replace them with new road system will be better for truck movements. 13 acres of park land will be finished earlier than planned previously. 2 blocks of land available for housing with significant portion for affordable housing
- Need \$100M extra to diverge traffic flow in Chinatown, False Creek and Strathcona
- Cllr Affleck: \$2B should be bore by developer who will get direct benefits but not mentioned in the report

- False Creek Residents Association: question whether there is a net gain in park space as originally there was 9 acres of land for park plus city-owned land

(AM1470) City of Vancouver Recommend Removing Two Viaducts

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=54373 (*video included)

- City staff: removal of the viaducts can create two blocks of land for housing and parks, but won't cause traffic congestion in downtown as only 6% cars to downtown use those two viaducts
- Chinatown Merchants Association: welcomes the removal plan. It'll help to connect Chinatown to False Creek and other communities; therefore helpful to businesses in Chinatown. Only concern is whether it will cause congestion at Keefer coming in and out of Chinatown

(World Journal) Removing Georgia & Dunsmuir Viaducts May Costs \$200M

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3464989/article-喬治亞與登士梅高架橋拆除案-估耗 2 億/?ref=溫哥華>

- City's traffic planning department: the cost to remove the viaducts has increase from \$130M two years ago to \$200M due to inflation. City's studies is unprecedented in terms of its depth and its scope
- Main reason to remove: their ability to withstand earthquake isn't as good as first expected. If an earthquake of medium magnitude takes place, it will damage skytrain that runs underneath, and seismic upgrade will cost \$60M to 65M
- Vancouver Board of Trade: the removal plan can bring in business opportunities, but questionable whether traffic will be affected
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(Westca.com) Vancouver Web Readers Are Angry With the \$2B Viaducts Removal Plan

[http://www.westca.com/News/article/sid=441407/拆□高架□\\$2 □ 溫哥□网民气炸了/lang=schinese.html](http://www.westca.com/News/article/sid=441407/拆□高架□$2 □ 溫哥□网民气炸了/lang=schinese.html)

- Westca.com has done a on-line survey whether one supports, oppose or undecided about the viaduct removal proposal. About 1,321 (70%) voted "NO", and 421 (22%) Yes, 125 votes (6.69%) undecided.
- For people who left their comments on the website, beside one who think it's a good idea, the remaining questions that the removal cost is too expensive, and Vancouverites actually need more viaducts to ease traffic congestion, not the other round

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<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/253102/2015-10-07/post-華埠建樓辦諮詢-示威者口場抗議/?variant=zh-hk>

- At open house about building beside the Early Chinese Railway workers Memorial, 50 protesters came in to oppose the mixed use building plan, and ask to build social housing for seniors
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- Recommend city to buy this land back from developer, and change to cultural use to respect Chinatown's culture

10.8 (Thur)

(Sing Tao) Highest Residential Building in Canada West Will Stand In Downtown Vancouver

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/254708/2015-10-08/post-加西最高住宅樓-將聳立溫市中心/?variant=zh-hk>

- 53 floor, 550 feet high luxury apartment “One Burrard Place” will be highest in Canada’s west coast. Will be sold \$400,000 for 450 sq. feet, \$20M for 4,500 sq. feet

(World Journal) Assessment Of Viaduct Removal For City Council To Discuss On 20th

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3468794/article-高架橋拆除評估-20 日提交議會討論/?ref=溫哥華>

- City believes new road network will provide better protection against earthquake and meet traffic demands, better planning for green space and affordable housing

10.9 (Fri)

(AM1470) Province & Two Universities Joint Study On Mine Site Of Early Chinese Settlers

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=54455

- The “Fraser Corridor Heritage Landscape Project” successfully listed over 500 historical sites and the province will assess their historical conservation values. Will produce short films for public viewing
- Started this summer, involves province’s historical conservation department, ministry of multiculturalism, UBC and SFU
- Consultation committee Dr. Henry Yu: some of the sites may be opened as tourist attractions while others are closed for historical conservation and studies

(Fairchild TV) BC Government Announced Report On Historical Study of Early Chinese Settlers’ Exploration In Mine Fields

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=ae7a1abc672c5913a8338992ec6b7e72>

- Teresa Wat: enormous contributions to the local economy were made by early Chinese settlers besides Head Tax and CPR

(Sing Tao) Vancouver’s New House Construction Overall Dropped 7% Compared To Sept Last Year

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/256324/2015-10-09/post-溫市9月新建屋量-整體同比降7%/?variant=zh-hk>

- CMHC: dropped 7% from 1,637 to 1,519 units
- Although single homes increase by 1%, not able to cover the overall drop of 10%
- BMO: new house construction got increasingly hot in the last 3 months, shows more demand than expected in the second half of the year

(World Journal) Greater Vancouver's New Homes Construction Slightly Dropped in Sept.

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3470412/article-大溫新屋起建數-9月同比略降/?ref=溫哥華>

(World Journal) Gregor Robertson Slashed Harper Government's Climate Policy During His Visit To US

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3470354/article-羅品信訪美-批哈珀政府氣候政策/?ref=溫哥華>

- Robertson at US Climate Summit: Harper government didn't do enough on climate change, hope a more constructive government will be elected in this federal election

10.10 (Sat)

(World Journal) Scholar: Increase Property Transfer Tax To Cool Down Vancouver's Housing Market

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3472010/article-學者:提高轉讓□-讓房市降溫/?ref=溫哥華>

- UBC Geography Professor specialized in Housing bubble, David Ley: increase property transfer tax for luxurious homes, while lower the tax for low price houses
- BC Finance Minister Mike de Jong: the province is considering this but need to study carefully as tax policies may have a reverse effect
- But BC Real Estate Association's Chief Economist Cameron Muir doesn't agree: population growth is the main reason, increasing the property transfer tax will further increase the housing price. Should expand housing stock

10.11 (Sun)

(World Journal) Over Half Greater Vancouver Residents Don't Have Good Impression With Three Federal Parties' Housing Platforms

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3473179/article-各黨住屋政策-大溫逾半選民無好印象/?ref=溫哥華>

- Insights West: 65% not satisfy or very unsatisfied with all the parties' discussion on housing
- Among those who have positive answers: 15% think Liberal has the better platform, 11% NDP, 8% Conservatives, 5% Green

10.12 (Mon)

n/a

10.13 (Tue)

(Fairchild TV) Mayor Gregor Robertson Declared This Week As Homeless Action Week

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=d1f6b0f22fb84f1e2ee58c9481de0e5e>

- Hold discussions with stakeholders and public to find solutions, also Award organizations
- Mayor: City need to work creatively and collaboratively to address the issue of homelessness. Concerned with youth who fall into homelessness as they pass

- the foster home care at age 18. Should not have youth homelessness at this scale, and need two levels of governments to step in
- 488 homeless people; more youth become homeless as province.

(Fairchild TV) TransLink On-line Survey To Consult Public Opinions On Bus Route And Frequency Changes

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=d6181e24bc01e4a832249fa9a2de8470>

- about increasing efficiencies including route changes
- service hours will stay the same, but reallocation of services

10.14 (Wed)

n/a

10.15 (Thur)

(AM1470) Downtown Vancouver BIA Agree To Tear Down The Two Viaducts

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=54589

(AM1470) Vancouver City Cllr. Studies The Possibility Of Increasing Cab Services

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=54586

- But won't allow Uber. Will study whether to stop issuing new taxi license temporarily but permanent license for certain districts during peak hours

(World Journal) Vancouver West Single Homes Marketed For Immigrants Of Over Millions In Pocket

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3477839/article-溫西獨立屋傳搶標-指向百萬身價移民/?ref=溫哥華>

- Dunbar 21st– an 80-years-old single home was sold at \$1.3M, way beyond its asking price of \$802,000
- Many residents are angry with the soaring housing price

10.16 (Fri)

(Ming Pao) City of Vancouver Releases Chinese Graphics On Viaduct Removal Plan To Attract Support From Chinese Community

<http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20151016/vas2 r.htm>

- The infographics aims to explain to the public the “benefits and challenges” of removing the viaducts; however, it mainly illustrates the good sides of it

- On the other hand, DVBLA also announced yesterday, their board of directors voted unanimously in support of the viaduct removal

(Ming Pao) Oppose To Over Development. Chinese Youth “Pay Last Respect” In Chinatown

<http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20151016/vas1hr.htm>

- “Youth Collaborative For Chinatown” 「青心在唐人街」: will protest at Chinatown at 2pm tomorrow (Sat) afternoon. They will proceed to 4 different locations within Chinatown, including the (1) 3-storey-high Lao Zhi mural at Gore St. & Pender St., (2) Chinese Barbeque store at Gore & Hastings, (3) Chinatown Supermarket at 239 Keefer, and (4) Early Chinese Workers Memorial Monument at Keefer & Columbia
- One of the organizers, Chow said, they will explain to participants about the history and cultural significance of these destinations, and pay symbolic last respects through presenting flowers and burning incense
- Chow: high towers are being built or proposed to be built at these locations, but no many know the historical background, including the fight to preserve heritage.
Also, they are over developed as traditional Chinese stores are pushed out of Chinatown. Even if the clan associations remain, it won't be a complete community.
- They will have Ma Jong for socializing and to reveal the lack of social space for seniors
- Chow: according to a UBC study, there will be 3,300 low income seniors, they need affordable housing that meet their cultural needs. The development project at 105 Keefer is most ideally be converted into an entire senior housing tower
- Her 96-year-old grandma has been waiting for 5 years for a Chinese senior home but still didn't have space for her. She claimed that they are not picky but only want one that meet her grandma's diet and cultural needs
- This has caught a group of youth's attention over the last two years, mostly Canadian born Chinese
- As the Keefer 105 is still at a consultation stage, expect City will consider all public opinions

(World Journal) Vancouver Hotel's Occupancy Rate Increased By 80% As Canadian Dollars Depreciated

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3479821/article-加幣貶-溫哥華酒店入住率近8成/?ref=溫哥華>

- Assessment Company: occupancy rate highest during FIFA 2015, and reaches 77% this year. Expected 76% next year. Hotel rate also increased by 7%
- Overseas tourists also increased by 10% compared to last year due to low Canadian dollar

10.10 (Sat)

(World Journal)

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3472010/article-學者:提高轉讓□-讓房市降溫/?ref=溫哥華>

(World Journal)

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3472013/article-海外買家不足 5-簡蕙芝□無關房價飆升/?ref=溫哥華&npg=2>

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10.17 (Sat)

n/a

10.18 (Sun)

(Sing Tao) Vancouver West's Hundred-Year-Old Mansion Sold At \$6.43M

[http://vancouver.singtao.ca/272052/2015-10-18/post-溫西端百年大宅-672 萬元成交/?variant=zh-hk](http://vancouver.singtao.ca/272052/2015-10-18/post-溫西端百年大宅-672萬元成交/?variant=zh-hk)

- The 17,300 sq. feet mansion will be converted into a rental apartment. As it is listed as a heritage structure, it cannot be torn down.

(World Journal) Waves Of Replace Old Houses With New Ones Enticed By Sizable Profits

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3484615/article-利潤深-溫掀拆建舊屋潮/?ref=溫哥華&npg=2>

- Some old houses in Vancouver West that are sold at \$2M, once tear down and rebuilt, are sold at over \$4M.
Dunbar-Southlands- almost 2 houses on every block are undergoing some kind of construction. Some live in the community said, all old houses build before 1940 will vanish by 2041
- 13% more permits are issued this year to tear down houses, some are still being processed; stop work orders have increased by 74% compared to the same period of time last year

10.19 (Mon)

(Fairchild TV) 8 Cities in BC Are Chosen As the Best Cities For Entrepreneurship in Canada

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=eaf441351bf076375ab3a90f8b89b696>

- Penticton and Kelowna the 2nd and 3rd best cities for entrepreneurship, but Vancouver ranks 94th, the second last city.
- Report recommends Vancouver to remove taxes, regulations, red tapes. Hope policy makers can wake up and take the advice

(Fairchild TV) Vancouver City Councillor Motion To Study The Need For Bike Licensing System

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=e3d4a2f3dbdc3913a50bdcac419fe7a9>

- Bikers: had to enforce now because no license for bikers
- Streeter: license won't help but police needs to crack down on bikers who don't abide the law
- HUB bikers network: oppose. Not effective in other jurisdiction. Education is important like many European countries where kids learn about road safety at a young age
- NPA City Cllr Melissa De Genova: 2000 bikes are stolen. Visible identification on bikes helps when problems such as confrontations happen, and can trace bikers who violated the rules

(AM1320 Phone-in Show) Does have bikers license help to improve road safety?

- Most callers support the idea as they witness or personally experienced accidents caused by irresponsible bikers. Most of them would like to see such licensing system in place to track down those bikers
- While a licencing system may be helpful, having witnesses for a collision or accident involves a bike is even more important. Damages on vehicles can strong evidence, but it is hard to verify if the damages on a bike is caused by the incidents as the impact may not be traceable as vehicles do. That's why it has been hard for police to enforce.
- Some callers said they would like to see police increasing enforcement on bikers who don't abide the law. But VPD already stated that resources would be put in other higher priorities

(Sing Tao) Vancouver City Cllr. Motion To License Bikes

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/273461/2015-10-19/post-溫市議員擬動議單車也要領牌/?variant=zh-hk>

- An expectant woman in Vancouver was hit by a bike recently when she signalled the biker about a stopping sign, and fortunately no severe injuries resulted.
- Melissa De Genova: as more people bikes on the road, conflicts between pedestrians and bikers have increased. Also, 2,000 bikes are stolen each year on average, having the licensing system would help police to trace the stolen bikes

10.20 (Tue)

(Ming Pao) City of Vancouver Studies Reforming Cab Service And Allow Uber As Report Recommended

<http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20151020/vap3.htm?m=0>

- City's license dept. had round table meeting with stakeholders. 21 recommendations resulted, includes requiring taxi drivers to re-train every 5 years, get first aid certificate every 3 years.
- From survey City did on Uber, among the 55 of the telephone calls, 17 support it and only 2 opposed. Also evidence that shows Uber reduces waiting time, lower fees and increase service satisfaction. But safety is still city's most concern including services for people with disability.

(Sing Tao) Vancouver Ranks 94th In the National Entrepreneur Cities Ranking

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/275036/2015-10-20/post-全國十大企業城-溫市排第94位/?variant=zh-hk>

- Vancouver needs to revise its current policies and be more friendly to entrepreneurs

(AM1320) Compass Card Will Be Available For Sale In Retailers Next Month

http://am1320.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=12749%3A2015-10-20-22-41-11&catid=1%3A2010-10-18-20-52-02&Itemid=97&lang=zh

(World Journal) Report: Chinese International Students Have Lowest Home-Returning Rate

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3487490/article-報告：中國留加學生-回國率最低/?ref=溫哥華&npg=2>

- Among international students who returned to China, Britain has the highest proportion, whereas Canada has the least. Britain's employment policies don't welcome international students as much as Canada does, and many international students who came to Canada with a plan to immigrate to Canada eventually
- Majority (14%) returnees work in finance
- The survey interviewed over 900 people, 56% are male, 45% women

(World Journal) Vancouver's Roadside Parking May Charge Drivers Multiple Ways

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3487476/article-溫市路邊停車-可能多重收費/?ref=溫哥華>

- Current's pay-to-go system can't return money paid if parking time is shorter than expected, whereas Calgary and Victoria's system can. The next driver who uses the same parking spot won't benefit from that amount that's been paid.

10. 21 (Wed)

(Sing Tao) Robertson Hopes For Green Light For Broadway Subway Soon

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/276490/2015-10-21/post-羅品信冀早落實-建百老匯街地鐵/?variant=zh-hk>

- Robertson: it's only a matter of time when Broadway Corridor will be built. Trudeau has come to Vancouver to show support the expansion of Millennium Line and building Broadway Subway to show support
- As plebiscite was voted down, City of Vancouver has to find ways to fund the 1/3 of construction fees for subway

(Ming Pao) Christy Clark, Gregor Robertson Hope Economy And New Infrastructures Actualized

<http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20151021/vab4 r.htm>

- Mayor Robertson congratulated 6 new Vancouver MPs, and looking forward to work with the new Liberal government on issues such as Broadway Subway, affordable housing, climate change.

(AM1320) Robertson Congratulate The New Liberal Party Winning The Election

Robertson hints: Liberal party can reference to Vancouver's license system on pot dispensaries and implement it throughout the country.

(AM1470) Pot Dispensaries Hope Liberal Government Would Exempt GST For Selling Pot

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=54771

- Pot dispensaries owner Dana Larson: hope the new gov't would ensure pot are safe and not polluted, and hope GST can be exempted so that legal pot won't be more expensive than those sold in underground market.
- Also, remove imprisonment and lower penalties
- Expect to bring \$1B taxes

(World Journal) Monthly Compass Card With Saved Credits Start Next Month

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3489425/article-康百世智能卡-下月可「月票儲」/?ref=溫哥華>

(Ming Pao) Monthly Compass Card With Saved Credits Put Into Use

<http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20151021/vas3.htm?m=0>

(Sing Tao) City of Vancouver Studies New Ways To Improve Tax Services

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/276432/2015-10-21/post-溫市府研新方案-優化的士服務/?variant=zh-hk>

- Recommendations include cab drivers must receive First Aid training, renew professional tax driver training program every 5 years, and help passengers carry luggage
- Complaints from passengers include waiting time too long, driver take the longer route purposely, driving with distractions, lack of service of disability

10.22 (Thur)

n/a

10.23 (Fri)

(AM1320 Phone-in Show) Province proposed to cap civic election campaign fund

- more important to cap donation made by individuals, corporations and unions; puzzling why the committee doesn't mention such important consideration
- lack of participation from public consultation, perhaps due to media's insufficient promotion; otherwise, recommendations made would be more thorough
- contacted the Mayor's office but no comments

(World Journal) Free Wi-Fi in Vancouver. First At 6 Selected Sites

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3493118/article-溫市免費 wi-fi-首批覆蓋 6 地點/?ref=溫哥華>

(Fairchild TV) Vancouver Park Board Passed Placing The Love Locks At QE Park

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=85e5e0842d745041f29f57f0f3c7a92c>

- appropriate location as QE Park is a destination for many wedding and couples.
- \$50,000 and will be installed next Spring
- Some residents are concerned about the safety and hope the design would take this into consideration

10.24 (Sat)

(World Journal) Improvement On Bike Lanes Along Vancouver 10th St. Corridor. Info Session Start On 29th

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3495291/article-溫市10街單車道改善-29日首場公開會/?ref=溫哥華>

- hope to improve safety of 10th Street from Victoria Dr. to Trafalgar ST. with a focus on VGH's pedestrians' and bikers' convenience and safety
- Ms. Suen how has lived in Vancouver for 5 years: good to see this plan as there are quite a lot of traffic, and she often sees pedestrians, bikers and drives budging in. Needs to improve the road safety.

(Sing Tao) 43 Locations In Vancouver Continue to Provide Free WiFi

- will be expanded to 37 more in the next few months
- collaboration between City of Vancouver and Telus started this summer
- more info on heap://Vancouver.ca/wifi

(Sing Tao) Vancouver Development Permit Backlog. Business Plan Delayed

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/280877/2015-10-24/post-溫建築審批積案多-商舖開業計劃受阻/?variant=zh-hk>

- Vancouver City Planning and Development Chair George Fujii admits, current level of staff is not sufficient to meet the demands. City's goal is to finish the process within 20 months. But process time will be shortened as City set up the Small Business Renovation Centre next spring
- But sources said, it now takes 6-8 months
- A fitness center owner: rented a unit at 43rd & Fraser, planned to open in December, but because of the backlog, it has to delay till next June. To speed up the process, she would have to pay 8 hours of overtime pay for city staff involved, and the hourly charge is \$245

(Ming Pao) Youth Started A Chinatown Conservation Link To Petition Against Development Project

<http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20151024/vas3 r.htm>

- A group of youth started a petition link called ThisIsChinatown at <http://savechinatownheritage.org> with the supervision of UBC History Professor Dr. Henry Yu
- The goal of the link is to store different info, video and studies about Chiantown, and provide background information about the Keefer 105 project
- One of the involved youth Su, from UBC: History of Chinatown, Vancouver and Canada are integral to each other, but now the conversation of Chinatown is facing immense pressure. The conservation effort for Keefer 105 is possible to "rewrite history" just as how the Chinese community resisted the highway in 1970's, and protected the Chinese barbeque store in 1975

- She hopes that through gathering support from various communities, Vancouver City Council will value more about the conservation of Chinatown
- Goal: gather 1,000 signature and hope to stop the rezoning. Keefer 105 should be planned with a community vision and to fulfill community's needs

10.25 (Sun)

n/a

10.26 (Mon)

(Sing Tao)Vancouver Chinatown Concern Group Worry New Apartments Would Force Seniors Out

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/283586/2015-10-26/post-溫市華埠關注組-憂建柏文迫遷長者/?variant=zh-hk>

- A subsidiary group of Carnegie Community Action Project, called Chinatown Concern Group held community meeting last Sunday to discuss the impact of high rise development has to Chinatown. About 40 residents attended.
- With a lack of affordable housing, they are worried that more low income seniors will be forced out. More long time stories with rich history will also move out.
- Group representative Mr. Chan: 998 units that are built or will soon be built in and around Chinatown are not affordable housing units. Only 54 are. Ratio is 18:1. Rent for affordable housing should be \$375 or lower.
- Sent 1,400 petition signatures to City in March to stop development plan but City hasn't made any promise but only said is concerned with housing issue with low income seniors.
- A senior resident who has been living in Chinatown for 20 years: new development increase housing price in the area, old stores were pushed out due to higher rent, and stores charge more for their products. Living in Chinatown become more costly. His pension won't be sustainable if he stays at Chinatown

(Fairchild TV) Hospitalization Associated With VPD During Enforcement Increased

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=eae24a2ae37a194a8564bc9bd921cc07>

- 139 (2009) to 182 (2015 so far), half are bitten by police dogs
- Pivot Legal Society: deeply concerning and police should wear police
- VPD: some cases are minor injuries, forces not all originated by police, or involved people with mental illness or attempt to commit suicide where forces are necessarily
- camera on police would involve a huge amount of data storage, and it'd be too costly. Not considering this option at this moment

(Fairchild TV) VPD Provide Bike Registration Services Throughout the City

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=f9f38a0177f16dcaa0d96bcd5b6d2440>

- 2,700 stolen cases but recovery rate of stolen bikes is less than 1% due to low reporting rate, even the bikes are found, they may not have enough evidence to prove that's their bikes
- collaboration between VPD & a software company– people living in that area will get notification of the description of that stolen bike and look out for it

(AM1470) VPD Helps Bike Owners To Register

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=54900

(AM1320) VPD New Initiative To Combat Bike Thefts

http://am1320.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=12819%3A2015-10-27-18-44-28&catid=1%3A2010-10-18-20-52-02&Itemid=97&lang=zh

(Ming Pao) City of Vancouver Considers Planting Trees That Can Stand Droughts

http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20151026/vas2_r.htm

- for the 5,000 new trees that are added each year

(AM1320) Only 11 Pot Dispensaries Out of 176 Passed City of Vancouver's Permit Application

http://am1320.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=12811%3A17611&catid=1%3A2010-10-18-20-52-02&Itemid=97&lang=zh

- 1st round for the process, which is located at least 300 meters from schools, community centers and other dispensaries
- 30 applications don't meet this requirement as they are too close to other dispensaries. City has already contacted them
- 2nd stage will be on background of applicants and whether the store meet fire regulations
- Kerry:

(AM1470) Only 11 Pot Dispensaries Fulfill All Regulations

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=54909

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=54905

(AM1470) City of Vancouver Resumes Year-end Count Down Event

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=54904

10.27 (Tue)

(World Journal)City of Vancouver Hastily Removing The Viaduct. Motivation Suspicious

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3499441/article-溫市急拆高架橋-疑「動機不純」/?ref=溫哥華>

- There is a lack of clarity in the entire plan, time line and process, which makes it suspicious. For instance, why is it the best time now to remove the viaducts. Creating new affordable housing this way is also very expensive
- Former City planning staff Adam Fitch and SFU professor Gordon Price: Agree with taking down the viaducts but not necessarily now, and need to make sure an effective remedy for traffic congestion, and enough fund to support the \$200M cost

(AM1470) Mayor Robertson Will Lead A Delegation To Guangzhou Next Month

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=54928

- Robertson: goal is to improve the long-term strategic partnership with Guangzhou, one of Canada's most important trading partner. Celebrate 30th year anniversary with Guangzhou as sister cities and lead a delegation of close to 200 business and community leaders
- Deputy Consulate General Fan Xiaodong: Vancouver is most important gateway to Asia Pacific and China.
- VEO: hope to bring sustainable and digital technology to China
- Memorandums will signed

(Fairchild TV) Vancouver Mayor Robertson Lead a Trade And Cultural Delegation To Guangzhou Next Month

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=45c11ca9cfd3c6959188a848c2c64a94>

- Robertson: representatives include digital media and clean technology, which are the strongest growing cluster in Vancouver and known globally

- Fan Xiaodong: Guangzhou is a city with GDP over \$300B

(Ming Pao) 11 Vancouver Pot Dispensaries Enter Into Second Stage of License Evaluation. 176 Applications. 30 Will Be Filtered . Remaining To Be Closed Down
http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20151027/vap1h_r.htm

(Sing Tao) Pot Dispensary Owner Said Criteria Too Stringent

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/285118/2015-10-27/post-店主責條件太苛/?variant=zh-hk>

- An applicant Darcy Delainey: with now the Liberal in power on the Federal level, Vancouver's permit rate of less than 10% shows that the requirements are too stringent. Different from Denver and Seattle, for every sq. km, Vancouver is 2.6 times more likely to have a school, so the ban on less than 300 meters from school is not fair
- Some groups still oppose to pot dispensary regulations as it's legalization in its form. Chan: Marijuana is still an illegal drug in Canada, VPD should enforce and close down the dispensaries

(Sing Tao) Vancouver Bike Registration Program To Prevent Theft While Help Locate Stolen Bikes

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/285225/2015-10-27/post-溫推單車登記計劃-阻盜竊助尋失車/?variant=zh-hk>

(Ming Pao) VDP Bike Certification Helps To Return Stolen Bikes. Free Registration For First 3 Years. Unprecedented In Canada

http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20151027/vas1h_r.htm

10.28 (Wed)

(AM1320 Phone-in Show) City Council Passed Viaducts Removal Plan

Critic:

- Original plan- Concord Pacific has to pay for the park
- Land underneath viaducts belongs to province, but now city want to take charge of what to do with it.

- True-15% less vehicles (100,000 less vehicles) entering downtown as more people bike. But for public transit going to Pender St. for instance, at capacity already, with the exception of Hastings. So TransLink has to expand services to that area.

Callers:

- It's a lie when City said not a lot of cars use the viaducts. Not what he observed. The viaducts make it very convenient to travel to the surrounding neighborhoods. Perhaps City knows ahead of time the Liberal will win the federal election and will give lots of infrastructure funding, that's why they said this is a good time to remove the viaducts.
- Not possible to build affordable housing as removing the viaducts already costs \$200M. No promise is made on whether property tax will increase as a result of this.
- Residents surrounding the viaducts and people working at downtown would suffer from pollution and traffic congestion for as long as two years during the removal.
- Main reason to remove the viaducts is a lack of good expensive land close to the water.
- Developer should bare the costs of removing the viaduct, but not increasing taxpayers' burden.
- Very disappointed with this city council's decisions from bike lane expansion to removing the viaducts. Not a comprehensive plan and put too much emphasis on forcing people to give up driving.
- Some Chinese are deceived when they blamed Chinatown's downfall to the viaducts. Business thrived and restaurants are full of customers before drug problems were swept into Chinatown from Downtown Eastside.
- Backward move- only benefits

(Fairchild TV) Vancouver City Council Passed Viaduct Removal Plan

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=c1927a57de5c455d3bb1e6cdae59fab5>

- Future community must preserve Chinatown's historical character
- Chinatown Merchants Association: build more housing close to Chinatown would
- Cllr. Affleck: Report doesn't say where the \$200M removal fee come from
- Cllr. Meggs: cost will be spread out over the next 2-10 years. Viaducts will be maintained until the new roads are in place. Congestion issue will only last a few months
- Todd Stone: not a done deal yet, City of Vancouver didn't have any significant attempt to reach out to PAVCO, also serious access concerns

(AM1320) Vancouver City Viaducts Removal Plan Passed

- With absence of Reimer and Kang, vote passed with 5:4
- Meggs: city council promised will make efforts to reduce congestion to the neighborhood.

- Affleck: worried about hidden cost to be bore by citizens as the report doesn' t say that developers will be responsible for this; also congestion
- Carr: leaning to developer, shouldn' t use "Public Ammenity Fund"
- Stone Todd: Province may have other plans with the land created. City should have reported to Province about their plan and progress
- Chinatown Merchants Association: will bring positive changes to Chinatown as it will better connect the surrounding neighbourhood

(AM1470) Vancouver City Council Passed Viaducts Removal Plan

- Completed by 2020

(Sing Tao) Vancouver City Council Passed \$2B Viaduct Removal Plan

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/286666/2015-10-28/post-溫市議會通過-2 億元拆兩橋計劃/?variant=zh-hk>

- After over 50 people spoke at the two days of public hearing, city council passed with 5:4 votes to remove Georgia and Dunsmuir viaducts, under the condition that City has gathered the \$200M removal fund required. City staff will report back in 18 months after detailed planning
- Developer will be able to use the land created to develop properties of about \$3B value and make a 13-acre park facility
- Only a short article with 4 short paragraphs. Perhaps because most info are already reported in the past
- Most points covered are background info about how the land will be used and the time line

(Ming Pao) Robertson Visit Guangzhou Next Month, Promote Business Opportunities For Vancouver

http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20151028/vas3_r.htm

- Robertson: main goal is to attract Chinese investors to Vancouver, create long-term trading and partnership strategies

(Sing Tao) Gregor Robertson Lead Delegation To Guangzhou Next Month. Promote Clean Energy And Digital Technology

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/286658/2015-10-28/post-羅品信下月率團訪穗-推介潔能數碼科技/?variant=zh-hk>

(World Journal) Sister Cities For 30 Years. Gregor Robertson Leads 200 People To Guangzhou

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3501158/article-姊妹市 30 年-羅品信將率 200 人赴廣州/?ref=溫哥華>

10.29 (Thur)

n/a

10.30 (Fri)

(Sing Tao) Georgia Viaducts Removed. Architect: Chinatown Not Isolated Anymore

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/289941/2015-10-30/post-喬治亞橋拆卸後-建築師:華埠破孤立/?variant=zh-hk>

(AM1320 Phone-in Show) Is Robertson's Trip To Guangzhou Worthwhile?

- Already 3rd time Robertson visited Chinatown within the last 5 years. Linda Hepner visited 3 countries in a year
- Question how effective it is to attract trading opportunities given meeting time will be very short, and whether it is necessary to go so frequently
- A caller raised a question whether Ms. Qu goes as well
- Should release more details and lists of who the City delegation will meet, what memorandum or agreement will be signed. The result should be reported back afterwards to ensure transparency.

(World Journal) Vancouver Viaducts Removal. Gregor Robertson Argues With the Province

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3504821/article-溫市拆高架橋-羅品信槓省府/?ref=溫哥華>

- In response to the province's accusation of lack of communication, Robertson: city and provincial staff has met PavCo at least 8 time sin the past 2 years
- UBC Metro Studies Professor, Anthony Perl: acknowledge Robertson calling this a "once a generation" city planning opportunity. If Province can step out of the ordinary, will see the benefits of the plan

(World Journal) Housing Supply Satisfies Buyer. Low Risk In Vancouver Housing Market

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3504818/article-房源滿足買家-溫房市風險低/?ref=溫哥華>

- CMHC latest report: while Toronto is regarded as high risk, Vancouver is low risk due to increasing housing stock

(World Journal) Vancouver's Goal Of Using Non-Fossil Fuel Energy By 2050

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3504824/article-溫市無石化燃油城-目標 2050 年/?ref=溫哥華>

- Currently renewable energy usage is 31% in Vancouver, But confident it can According to City's Renewable City Strategy

(Fairchild TV) Housing Listed Price Too High In Various Cities Across the Country

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=bd3e776678a01701f968d3cd4b787d39>

- CMHC: impropotional to income level and population growth especially single homes over \$1M.
Listed price too high in Vancouver- 2nd quarter this year
- may be affected by the segmented market of luxurious homes

10.31 (Sat)

(Ming Pao) Christy Clark Visits China To Strengthen Relationship. 200 People Delegation To Find New Business Opportunities

http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20151031/vas2_r.htm

- Christy Clark: mayors have their own strength to attract investments and reach out to new business opportunities, but sometimes more effective if the premier is also on site

(Sing Tao) Robertson 3rd Time Visit To China. Scholars Questions Effectiveness

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/291379/2015-10-31/post-羅品信三訪中國-學者質疑效益多大/?variant=zh-hk>

- UBC professor: question if it is worthwhile to spend the money. Robertson's visit to China in 2010 spent \$120,000. (2013) \$275,000. Hard to know what the prime minister can't do but mayors can as mayors have limitations in his status, also only one week of visit can't accomplish too many agreements
- Critics: the visit is helpful to promote trades and airlines between Vancouver and Guangzhou

(World Journal) Vancouver's Real Estate Bubble Rank No. 4 Worldwide

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3506673/article-溫哥華地口泡沫指數-全球第 4/?ref=溫哥華>

(AM1320) City of Vancouver Won Lawsuit On Violating Rezoning Bylaw

http://am1320.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=12868%3A2015-10-30-22-08-14&catid=1%3A2010-10-18-20-52-02&Itemid=97&lang=zh

- A Yaletown development project was put on hold by Court as City allegedly didn't have enough public consultation. But BC Supreme Court now ruled that City didn't violate any bylaw.
- Th3 36-storey project at Helmcken by Brenhill Developments won the lawsuit earlier this year

11.1 (Sun)

(Sing Tao) Supply Shortage For Land Of Religious Use. Lowest Asking Price \$2M in Vancouver

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/292638/2015-11-01/post-宗教用地供不應求-溫市最低叫價 200 萬/?variant=zh-hk>

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/churches-expensive-vancouver-holy-ground-real-estate-1.3296570>

(World Journal) Christy Clark: Viaduct Removal Can't Be Forced

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3507972/article-拆橋？簡蕙芝：不能霸王硬上弓/?ref=溫哥華>

- Clark: City of Vancouver hasn't consulted the Province, and they only received the info about 2 weeks before, still need time to review
- Province: the Province owns a portion of the land close to the viaduct, so very concerned about how City's plan would impact the area around Chinatown and BC Place. It is not a done deal if Province disagreed.

(World Journal) Viaduct Removal? Rectify Historical Wrong According To Former City Planner

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3507961/article-拆橋？前規畫師：修正歷史錯誤/?ref=溫哥華>

- A few old pictures of the viaducts at the 1970's are taken from City's website
- Brent Toderian, former Vancouver City Planner: removing viaducts help connecting the neighborhoods, but still concerned with the high rise's future location, the purpose of these high rise, and the overall planning direction. If not planned well, would create barrier to the communities just as the viaducts did

(World Journal) Chinatown Group: Removing Viaducts Helps Revitalize Chinatown

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3507967/article-僑團：拆橋利華埠振興/?ref=溫哥華>

- Henry Tom, board of director of Chinatown Merchants Association: rectify the barriers created against Chinatown when the viaducts were built
- Fred Mah, Chinatown Society Heritage Building Assn: has expressed support in public consultation. Will help Chinatown better interact with other communities

and better utilize the land underneath the viaducts. Hope City would consider adding Chinatown characteristics when building new structures

(Fairchild TV) GVRD Board Passed \$10M For TransLink New Buses

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=109e3ceb0fb7112c1e9e4a3b45e68212>

- Special one-time funding from federal's gas tax to purchase 62 buses

(Ming Pao) TransLink Received \$10M Funding To Replace Bus Fleet. 62 Diesel Shuttle Buses Over Emission

<http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20151101/vap3 r.htm>

(Sing Tao/ Westca.com) Traffic Plan After Viaducts Removal. Impact On Chinatown Causes Concerns

<http://www.westca.com/News/article/sid=447168/拆天□交通□□□□埠利弊引关注/lang=schinese.html>

- Dr. Yan, SFU City Program/ City Planning Professor: whether the viaduct removal has positive or negative impact on Chinatown, all depends on the traffic planning. Second, how to pay for the high removal fee
- Traffic planning: can't just rely on a 6-8 lane road, but need to divert traffic to and fro downtown, otherwise, traffic congestion will be serious
- The expensive land created will help subsidize the removal fees
- Protect the large number of seniors living in Chinatown by providing more affordable housing for senior and average families. Also retain current Chinese stores in Chinatown
- Cyrus Lee, board of director of Chinatown Merchants Association: more customers are brought to Chinatown through new high rise, Chinatown is no longer a community where Chinese live but also other ethnic minorities and local Canadians. Improved connections to surrounding neighborhood would help bring more to Chinatown as well.

(AM1470) Studies Show Vancouver West 70% Homebuyers Are From China In The Past 6 Months

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=55080

- Also among properties priced \$3.05M, 36% owners are homemakers or students
- 172 houses- 18% no mortgage, equivalent to \$100M unknown capital going into Vancouver's housing market from China. Within 6 months, total amount in real estate transactions was over \$500M

11.2 (Mon)

(AM1320 Phone-in Show) 11 Pot Dispensaries Passed License Application In Vancouver

- City's bylaw doesn't regulate the source of marijuana- whether they are legal or not as it's under the federal jurisdiction
- Province remained silent and stayed away from the controversy for fed and city
- City- on paper, claims to strictly enforce the bylaw, but indeed only make sure all pot dispensaries are far apart from each other, and from schools and community centers. Also, VPD remain passive in dealing with problems associated with the dispensaries. So don't have high hopes that this would help curb the illegal pot market.

(AM1470 Talk Show) Re: 66% Westside Homes Sold To Chinese

- Simply looking at the last names overgeneralize the whole picture, and it doesn't reveal whether the owner is local Chinese who have been living in Vancouver for many generations, new immigrants or foreign investors.

(AM1320) Gregor Robertson: Affordable Housing Is Not A Racial Issue

- Whether foreign capital is pushing up the local real estate market? Robertson" Vancouver is a city made up by immigrants. Province should put in more efforts to assess the real situation with accurate real estate data

(Sing Tao) 88% Of \$5M Vancouver West Homes Owned By Chinese

http://am1320.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=12880%3A2015-11-02-23-47-38&catid=1%3A2010-10-18-20-52-02&Itemid=97&lang=zh

English: <http://www.vancitybuzz.com/2015/11/vancouver-westside-homes-sold-to-chinese-buyers-study/>

- UBC City Planning professor Andy Yan's studies
- Suspect the high mortgage rate is due to low interest rate, so these affluent buyers can invest their money elsewhere
- MLA David Eby: many lived in that neighborhood are "astronaut families" where the mother stay in Canada with their children who is receiving schooling here, while the father works abroad. The hearsay about Chinese buying homes with cash only is a myth and overgeneralization. Governments Need to strategize cautiously for policies solving the affordable housing problem, and freely provide the real estate data for studies

(AM1320) Bridge Tolls Can Ease Traffic Congestion Problems In Greater Vancouver, According To Study

http://am1320.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=12881%3A2015-11-02-23-52-37&catid=1%3A2010-10-18-20-52-02&Itemid=97&lang=zh

(Sing Tao) Vancouver Park Board Reforms Food Stand, May Introduce More Food Varieties

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/294032/2015-11-02/post-食檔售多元化食品-溫公園局研改革/?variant=zh-hk>

11.3 (Tue)

(Sing Tao) Chinese Purchased West Side Mansions According To A Report. Gregor Robertson Concerned That It Turns Out To Be Racial Profiling

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/295732/2015-11-03/post-華裔購西區豪宅報告-羅品信憂變種族標籤/?variant=zh-hk>

(World Journal) Robertson Urges Anti-speculation Tax In Response To The Speculation Report

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3510943/article-回應炒房報告-羅品信促徵投機□/?ref=溫哥華&npg=2>

- Robertson: Not a racial issue but a public policy issue; otherwise, will cause division in Vancouver
- Speculation tax & luxury housing tax are effective mechanism. Can be used to fund affordable housing and help low income families

(Sing Tao) Hard To Verify Foreign Capital's Impact On Vancouver's Housing Market

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/295743/2015-11-03/post-憑姓名難證外資影響溫樓市/?variant=zh-hk>

- CMHC: off shore investment is only 4% of Greater Vancouver's overall housing market, hardly impact local real estate market, but help to provide rental housing. Ie. Past 5 years, units provided by rental apartments are 10times more than purely rental housing. Without these units rented by investors, there would be less rental units available.

(AM1320) Most Chinese Property Owners Purchased Their Home With Mortgage, According To Survey

http://am1320.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=12880%3A2015-11-02-23-47-38&catid=1%3A2010-10-18-20-52-02&Itemid=97&lang=zh

- From the owner of the properties priced \$1.25M to over \$900M, 88% of Chinese homeowners have mortgage, different from the impression that Chinese buyers pay with cash only

(World Journal) Vancouver Rental Home Vacancy Continues To Drop To 0.8%

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3510950/article-溫租房空置率-續降至 0-8/?ref=溫哥華>

- CMHC: further dropped from 1% same period last year

(Ming Pao) Gregor Robertson Supports Tolls

<http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20151103/vasb r.htm>

- Many cities have been studying about having tolls for year, but BC government who has the made the decision has been avoiding this. This is a way to get more funding for transit infrastructure

(Ming Pao) Vancouver Cruise Ship Industries Thrives With The Help Of Low Currency

<http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20151103/vasc r.htm>

- Over 800,000 tourists expected arrived at Vancouver by the end of this year due to low Canadian currency and popularity in cruise ship tourism globally. Next year will be even more, but won't beat the record of 1,110,000 visitors in 2002

(Sing Tao) Increase To 830,000 Cruise Ship Tourists Arrived At Vancouver Next Year

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/295696/2015-11-03/post-明年抵溫郵輪客-料增至近83 萬/?variant=zh-hk>

11.6 (Fri)

n/a

11.7 (Sat)

(Ming Pao) Vancouver's Beer Factory Molson Moved And Sold Their Land At \$190M

<http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20151107/vas4 r.htm>

(Sing Tao) Institute of Asian Art, Subsidiary of Vancouver Art Gallery. Mr. Cheng Take Up The Huge Responsibility Of Promotion

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/301912/2015-11-07/post-溫設亞洲美術館-鄭勝天負推廣重責/?variant=zh-hk>

- Cheng, who in charge of IAA that was formed Oct last year. Vancouver doesn't have an Asian Art Museum before, not representing the population of Asian population. Will focus on art and culture of China, India, Japan and Korea.

11. 8 (Sun)

n/a

11.9 (Mon)

(Sing Tao) Vancouver Can Learn From New Zealand On Viaduct Removal

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/304760/2015-11-09/post-拆高架橋-或可向新西蘭取經/?variant=zh-hk>

- After risk assessment, put in temporary steel support, take the viaduct apart piece by piece with cranes, and do so at night when traffic is slow

(Sing Tao) 12 Storey High Apartment Raises Gentrification Fears

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/304766/2015-11-09/post-華埠建 12 層柏文-被指破壞特色/?variant=zh-hk>

Source: the Province:

<http://www.theprovince.com/business/plan+storey+residential+tower+vancouver+down town+eastside+raises+gentrification+fears/11501930/story.html>

- 172 unit planned for Hastings and Gore (Oppenheimer district)

- additional to original article: Chinatown Merchants Association think it's win win situation. High storey tower would bring high quality residents to revitalize Chinatown's economy, as long as historical characteristics of Chinatown are preserved. Good to have more social housing
- Carnegie Community Action Project (CCAP)- Chinatown Concern group: too high, worried about gentrification. Rent would increase after rebuilt and push away the low income residents especially seniors. Some Chinese storeowners already moved.

(Sing Tao) Developer: Win-Win situation

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/304761/2015-11-09/post-發展商提供選擇/?variant=zh-hk>

- Wall Financial Corporation: 104 social housing will be bought to the area

(World Journal) Downtown Eastside Development Plan Raising Community Controversies

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3520577/article-溫東端建案-惹社區爭議/?ref=溫哥華>

- Same as above

(Fairchild TV) City of Vancouver Prepare For Potential Flood Threats From High Tide And Storm

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=519626a6bcb58aec01cd1cc6cdb0dbbe>

- Long term planning is to raise the road for the long term, engaging park board and neighbors

11.10 (Tue)

(AM1470) BC Privacy Commissioner Investigates Vancouver City Council

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=55303

- In the report Elizabeth Denham released on Oct 22: systematic deleting emails don't just happen in the provincial government but also with Mike Magee of Vancouver Mayor's office

(AM1470) Green Party City Cllr Motion Council To Oppose To TPP

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=55315

(Sing Tao) Measures Taken along river coast in Vancouver West To Prevent Flooding

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/306364/2015-11-10/post-防範巨潮水浸街-溫西海邊堆沙包/?variant=zh-hk>

(World Journal) Fight For Luxury Home Agents Upon Entering Vancouver Market
<http://www.worldjournal.com/3522615/article-進軍溫哥華-豪宅代理掀挖角潮/?ref=溫哥華&npg=2>

-

(Fairchild TV) Province and City of Vancouver Open New Emergency Shelter for Winter

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=446ac7480f6cd015d176f8b3d28a03b5>

- \$2.3M funding for new shelter, make total number of shelter beds to 1,300.
There are 1,700 homeless people in Vancouver according to the headcount done earlier this year

11.11 (Wed)

(World Journal) Privacy Commissioner Audit City of Vancouver On Handling of Information

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3524892/article-隱私專員-評估溫市府資訊處理/?ref=溫哥華>

- Deputy mayor Andrea Reimer: only a routine audit to ensure the operation system and process don't have any issues, will cooperate fully.

(Sing Tao) Canadian Chinese Veterans Delegation To Hong Kong For Defence Battle 75th Anniversary

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/307812/2015-11-11/post-加國華裔老兵將組團-紀念香港保衛戰 75 周年/?variant=zh-hk>

- Sing Tao mentioned about a special ceremony for Canadian soldiers at the Hong Kong battle during WW2 on Sunday. They are planning to hold a delegation to Hong Kong for the 75th anniversary next year. Complimentary to the Mayor's attendance at a Remembrance Day ceremony in HK for the same battle.

11.12(Thur)

(Ming Pao) Gregor Robertson Pay Respect To Fallen Canadian Soldiers in Hong Kong

http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20151112/vab4_r.htm

(Ming Pao) Single Homes Will Become Scarcity In Lower Mainland. Overseas Buyers Rush to Canada For The Low Supply

http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20151112/vap1h_r.htm

- Single homes stock will continue to drop, especially Vancouver, Richmond, Burnaby. Medium price will be over \$1M by 2017
- Vancouver: only 20% of newly built housing are single homes. Average price for single homes in Sept \$2.2M, Oct \$1.58M

(AM1320 Phone-in Show) Mayor Robertson suggests vacancy tax a number of times. Would it help lower housing price?

- Vacancy tax doesn't help. If Vancouver implement the vacancy tax, and the surrounding municipalities don't, it still won't work.
- Solution should be government working with developers to build more affordable housing with prices set within a certain range, and give low interest mortgage for first time home buyers.
- City of Vancouver's permit process time is too long, indirectly makes housing expensive

(Sing Tao) Vancouver Hotel Selling Fees Tops The Nation

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/309681/2015-11-12/post-溫市酒店易手價格冠全國/?variant=zh-hk>

- Average \$190,802 per room (2014), will be \$230,342 this year
- Occupancy rate 77%

11.13 (Fri)

(World Journal) Vancouver Renters' Advisory Committee: Cover The Rent Increase Loophole

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3528320/article-溫租客顧問委員會-要堵加租漏洞/?ref=溫哥華>

- ie. Landlord must give more detailed notice when asking their tenants to move, more penalty for landlords violated rules. Report will be presented at City Council next Tue

(Fairchild TV) VPD Is Requested To Reveal Whether They Use A Technology To Spy Into Cell Phone Systems

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=c3a05fe072d3d4f009eccce97c41ca71>

- Pivot Legal Society: violate personal privacy.
- VPD: according to Freedom to Information, police can deny or acknowledge the request

11.14 (Sat)

(Sing Tao/ westca) No Vancouver School Benefit From Province's School Renewal Funding

<http://www.westca.com/News/article/sid=450188/lang=schinese.html>

- \$35M for 109 public schools include roof repair, upgrade heating and water system. Province has allocated the money to the most needed schools
- VSB chair Fraser Ballantine: Vancouver's school repair cost will be higher than any other districts, include some major ones such as seismic upgrade
- VSB trustee Tracy Robertson: disappointed that none in Vancouver receive funding

(Ming Pao) Vancouver's Development Fees Hikes As Much As 30%

<http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20151114/vas2 r.htm>

original: Globe & Mail

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/british-columbia/vancouver-proposes-fee-hikes-for-developers-to-reduce-permit-backlog/article27245368/>

(World Journal) Gregor Robertson Supports Re-open Kitsilano Coast Guard

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3529853/article-重開克茨蘭奴海岸基地-羅品信支持/?ref=溫哥華>

- Robertson: good news. Have talked to Trudeau about the urgency. Shows that the Liberal federal government is serious about Vancouver's needs

(Fairchild TV) Emergency Rehearsal For Natural Disaster In Vancouver

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=8be00c69e615ab5846e629f5bb39fd95>

11.15 (Sun)

(Sing Tao) Vancouver West Landscape Changes For New Luxurious Apartments

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/313950/2015-11-15/post-溫市西端地貌變-將迎來高級柏文/?variant=zh-hk>

- Since Vancouver City Council passed the Westend 30 years plan two years ago, old style apartments have gradually been replaced by luxurious high rise apartment buildings. Ie. Jervis 1177, each unit \$1M to 4.5M

(World Journal) Former City Planning Staff: Vancouver's Character Homes Can Increase Affordability

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3531322/article-前城市規畫員:溫市特色屋-可提高負擔性/?ref=溫哥華>

- recommend to use two 2-storey high townhouses to create 7 3-storey high character units. Each unit is 1,100 sq. feet, more energy efficient and reduce parking space. Can be sold from \$27K to 82.7K

11.16 (Mon)

(AM1470) Christy Clark Explained Why Vancouver Didn't Receive Funding

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=55488

- Clark: Vancouver already has schools doing seismic upgrades now which total to \$160M, so they didn't receive part of the \$35M school improvement funding announced last week
- Analyst said, it may be because Vancouver has bad relationship with the Province

(AM1320) City of Vancouver Settles With A Man Who Was Wrongfully Jailed For 27 Years

http://am1320.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=12998%3A27&catid=1%3A2010-10-18-20-52-02&Itemid=97&lang=zh

(AM1470) City of Vancouver Settles With Ivan Henry For Wrongful Convictions

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=55478

(Fairchild TV) Vancouver City Council's Tenancy Consultation Committee Recommend Strengthening Protection of Tenants

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=51e706f8b33d4020dbe481ae37603842>

- Residential Tenancy Office recommend: restrict huge rental hike after renovation,

- Cllr. Affleck: Create bureaucracy and rules would discourage investments and deter landlords from upgrading their old houses, don't help with increasing rental housing stock

11.17 (Tue)

(Sing Tao) City of Vancouver Settles With Ivan Henry Over Wrongful Conviction Which Resulted In 27 Years In Jail

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/317001/2015-11-17/post-27年冤獄男-獲賠償與溫市和解-上訴庭推翻原判後-狀/?variant=zh-hk>

<http://www.vancouversun.com/news/Vancouver+settles+with+Ivan+Henry+over+wrongful+conviction/11520994/story.html>

(AM1470) Gregor Robertson Will Raise Questions To VPD Regarding StingRay Incident

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=55510

- Robertson will raise the questions at next policing committee meeting.
Robertson: that committee only takes care of voluntary monitoring but doesn't interfere with how police operates and collects data, but need to ask questions as the incident has caused concern to the public

(AM1470) Robertson Is Confident With The Refugee Screening Process

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=55505

- Robertson: Federal government is very clear about the importance of taking in refugees, Vancouver will cooperate accordingly. For settlement, City already works with various refugee service agencies and many citizens and organizations have expressed their willingness to help, expected to have enough measures in place. Also confident with federal's screening process

(AM1470) Vancouver City Council Discuss New Year's Eve Party Funding

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=55496

- Organizer requests \$125,000 from City to support the party on equipment and hiring security guards

(Westca) Historical Chinatown Buildings Received City Funding To Preserve Heritage

<http://www.westca.com/News/article/sid=450910/□埠□史建筑□市府□款保□□□/lang=schinese.html>

- Same as our translated press release

(Global National Mandarin-19:07-26) Vancouver City Council Approved Funding To Renovate Mah Society Building in Chinatown

<http://globalnews.ca/national/program/global-national-mandarin/>

- \$50,000 grant for the Mah Society Building which was built in 1928

11.18 (Wed)

(Ming Pao) Mah Society Building Received \$50,000 Renovation Grant

<http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20151118/vas1hr.htm>

(Sing Tao) Chinatown's Over Hundred Year Old Mah Society Building Received \$50,000 Renovation Grant

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/318510/2015-11-18/post-華埠百年馬氏宗親大樓-獲溫市府撥 5 萬元修葺/?variant=zh-hk>

(World Journal) Mah Society Building. Vancouver City Council Approved Renovation Grant

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3536079/article-馬氏宗親總會館-溫議會撥款翻新/?ref=溫哥華>

(AM1320) Approved Funding For New Year's Eve Celebration

http://am1320.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=13033%3A125000&catid=1%3A2010-10-18-20-52-02&Itemid=97&lang=zh

- Organizer has raised \$275,000 so far

(World Journal) Vancouver Rezoning Application Fees increase By 30%

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3536074/article-溫市土地重畫-申請費用增近 3 成/?ref=溫哥華>

(AM1320 Phone-in Show) Vancouver City Council Approved Increasing Rezoning And Development Fees By 2/3. Supporters Said Speeding Up the Process Time would Help Decrease Housing Price, But Opponents Claim it'll Push Up housing Price.

- Fee schedule very complicated, vary from \$00,000 up to couple \$000,000
- 2,500 permit still sitting from two years ago. Need to hire a lot of people to ease the wait. Question if that \$1.7M is enough to pay that off. City is likely to be hiding some info from the public ie. How much City earn from approving a development permit
- Robertson has promised at campaign last year that he would reduce backlog for development permit
- Question why other cities like Richmond don't have the backlog problem but Vancouver does. Should have internal review on its efficiency and why it takes so long to process the applications? Does staff purposefully slow down the process?
- City already received \$23M revenue from permit fees. They just want to reap more benefits from charging even more. City claims they lost money with development process. But who knows as the data is not disclosed.

- Most callers think shouldn't raise permit fees. Would only push up the housing price even further

(AM1470) City Cllr. Concerned With Raising Development Permit Fees

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=55553

(AM1320) Vancouver City Council Increase Rezoning And Development Permit Fees

http://am1320.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=13034%3A2015-11-19-00-44-14&catid=1%3A2010-10-18-20-52-02&Itemid=97&lang=zh

11.19 (Thur)

(Sing Tao) Vancouver Adjust Development Permit Fees For Cost Recovery

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/320089/2015-11-19/post-溫市調升建築申請費-填補虧損/?variant=zh-hk>

- \$2M loss. Raise fees to hire more staff, clear backlog and speed up process time
- most development application fees will only increase 2% while some may up to 329%. Rezoning application will be affected the most
- City deals with on average 35 rezoning applications. Comprehensive development projects will be raised from \$144,600 to \$190,100
- Building permit fee will be raised 17% max. Process time takes 25 months from 16 months due to huge influx of applications, some multi-level residential buildings even take 37 weeks or even years for rezoning

(Ming Pao) Vancouver Raise Rezoning Permit Fees From January Next Week.

Criticized For Pushing Up Housing Price

http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20151119/vap2_r.htm

(Sing Tao) Pricewaterhouse Coppers: Vancouver and Toronto Real Estate Continues To Thrive Next Year

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/320090/2015-11-19/post-羅兵咸永道展望溫哥華多倫多樓市-明年續佳/?variant=zh-hk>

- Report: Emerging Trends in Real Estate 2016: Continue to be positive besides Calgary and Edmonton, and remain attractive to foreign investors. As local's purchasing power for housing decrease, more people chose to rent or move to suburb.
- Most concerned real estate market: Vancouver is no. 1

(Sing Tao) Economist Forecast: Only Economic Downturn Would Drag Down Vancouver Real Estate Price

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/320091/2015-11-19/post-經濟師預料-僅衰退才會拖□溫樓市/?variant=zh-hk>

- Central 1 Credit Union: never any city in Canada has experienced real estate price adjustment based on one single factor (housing bubble). Only when serious economic downturn will cause housing price collapse
- Housing price in Vancouver and Toronto aren't overestimated, but their housing supply is limited, still have upward pressure. But concerned that housing price drop will be more dramatic in markets that experience huge price increase

(World Journal) Apartment Rent In Vancouver West Increased By 11.6% In 4 Years

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3538104/article-溫西端公寓租金-4年漲11-6/?ref=溫哥華>

- Colliers International- West End Rental Apartment Market Report: vacancy rate drops year after year, lowest in the past decade to 0.3%, even lower than the 0.8% conducted from Census. Shows huge demand in that area.

11.20 (Fri)

(Sing Tao) High Housing Cost Makes It Difficult To Raise Children In Vancouver

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/321695/2015-11-20/post-溫市樓價高-礙養育下一代/?variant=zh-hk>

original source: Business in Vancouver- survey done by RateSupermarket.ca

- 65% affect their decision of raising children or having more children, 9% higher than the national average

(World Journal) Report: Vancouver Housing Price Will Drop Only At Economic Downturn

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3540549/article-報告:要溫房價降溫-除非經濟大蕭條/?ref=溫哥華>

(Sing Tao- Op-ed) Visit to Guangzhou laid a firm foundation for further development of both cities - on A12

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/321620/2015-11-20/post-訪穗團奠定兩市穩固發展基礎/?variant=zh-hk>

11.21 (Sat)

(Ming Pao) 400 Signatures Petition Against Development Besides Early Chinese Workers Monument. City Public Hearing Till Early January

http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20151121/vas1h_r.htm

- “This is Chinatown” petition will run till Dec 7. Organizer said confident to collect enough signature to influence City’s decision. The land should be used to serve the public ie. Senior housing or more public cultural space
- City spokesperson Jag Sandhu: encourage people to speak at public consultation, and issues raised will be taken into consideration
- Besides preservation, organizations such as Chinese Benevolent Association said the land should not build anything over 9 storeys as the view of the monument will be destroyed, But groups like Chinatown Merchants Association support the development as it will help bring more traffic flow and business opportunities

(Ming Pao) Bulletin Board: Worried Chinatown’s Unique Characteristics Will Be Eroded

http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20151121/vas2_r.htm

- One said Chinatown lost its home feeling since 1970’s, worried the next generation won’t recognize what Chinatown is really about. One who grew up in Chinatown said, the Chinatown characteristics already disappeared after the recent wave of new developments. People shouldn’t be able to look down at the Early Chinese Workers Monument

(AM1470) City of Vancouver Call Budget Consultation Meeting For Next Year

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=55645

- For public informative

(AM1320) Design Of New Vancouver Downtown Art Gallery

http://am1320.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=13038%3A2015-11-19-23-47-58&catid=1%3A2010-10-18-20-52-02&Itemid=97&lang=zh

- For public information

11.22 (Sun)

n/a

11.23 (Mon)

(Sing Tao) Student Population In Suburban Area Drops As More Move To Downtown

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/325913/2015-11-23/post-人口遷市中心-偏遠地區生源減/?variant=zh-hk>

- More families want to move to downtown area, which leads to the drop of student population in suburb and schools in downtown is over demand.
- VSB's 5 year report: requests to open 4 new school. Expect 8,000 more children will reach school age by 2025, and most will chose to go to public school, which would bring the school admission rate to 95%

(Sing Tao) Vancouver May Amend Bylaw To Reduce Parking Stalls For New Residential Developments

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/325921/2015-11-23/post-溫市府建議改附例-部分新住宅減車位/?variant=zh-hk>

- Vision Vancouver: encourage people to give up driving through reducing parking stalls
- Multi-level residential bylaw in the area around Nanaimo skytrain station/ 29th Ave. skytrain station
- Some said that may deter people's desire to purchase property there.

11.24 (Tue)

(Ming Pao) New & Old Immigrants 30-40% Income Pay Average \$1,000 Rent. Live With Roommates To Save Costs

<http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20151124/var1h r.htm>

- BCNPHA: immigrants who have been living in Canada for over 6-10 years—situation similar to local British Columbians who rent their homes. 39% spend 30% of their income on rent. But for those live here over 10 years, 43% spend that portion on rent.
- More people live in an immigrant family's rented home compared to local Canadians, as they are more willing to share their space in order to cut living costs.
- single moms are affected the most.
- Shows that high rent is a universal problem in BC
- Government should especially provide assistance to youth who is working towards getting their own home

(World Journal) Greater Vancouver Immigrants' Rental Home Greater Vancouver

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3546500/article-大溫移民租屋-擠迫問題惡劣/?ref=溫哥華>

- 12% people who rent their homes live in “over crowded condition”, among immigrant families in Greater Vancouver, 25% live in those conditions
- recommend municipalities to develop more rental housing in areas there are close to public transit systems

11.25 (Wed)

n/a

11.26 (Thur)

(AM1470) Vancouver City Council Draft Budget For Next 5 Years

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=55808

- Property tax will increase by 2.3%. Robertson: rate of increase is lower than other cities in Lower Mainland, which reflects inflation rate and salary adjustment requested by union.

(AM1470) Archaeological Artifacts May Be Under Vancouver's Viaducts

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=55783

- City Engineering General Manager: City will consider preserving them if any major discovery. During Winter Olympics, a large amount of bricks and industrial use items were found. The Site of the viaducts is over 100 years. According to recent archaeological assessment, no important artifacts should be there.

(Fairchild TV) Vancouver Gotten Ready For Extreme Weather

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=832e5d231e3545d0900ef685cbb43baa>

(Ming Pao) City's Snow Removal Trucks Get Ready For The Extreme Weather This Weekend

http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20151126/vas2_r.htm

(World Journal) Vancouver Announced Response Plan For Extreme Weather

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3551463/article-迎寒冬-溫市府公布應急計畫/?ref=溫哥華>

(Sing Tao) Fewer And Costly Vancouver Single Homes. Larger Apartments Trending

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/330644/2015-11-26/post-溫獨立屋量少價高-大面積柏文或成潮流/?variant=zh-hk>

- Vancouver lost 900 single homes between 2006-2011, replaced by townhomes or apartments. About 47,000 single homes left and very limited land available for future development
- Ie. West End, Davie/ Jervis apartment: 58 units with 900- 1,300 sq. ft.

(World Journal) VBS: Not Consider Closing Schools To Save Funds

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3551473/article-溫校局:不考慮關校省經費/?ref=溫哥華>

- Ernst & Young's audit: close 19 schools can save \$3.7M each year. Can also increase program fees, rent and limit new schools' construction costs
- Patti Bacchus: not benefiting the communities
- NDP Education Critic, Rob Fleming: not acceptable

(World Journal) Vancouver's Business Tax System Ranks The Top Few

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3548568/article-商業□體制-溫名列前茅/?ref=溫哥華>

- C.D. Howe Institute: simplicity: B and transparency: A
- Robertson: report validates Vancouver's effort in reducing red tapes and maintaining low tax rates, and this type of work helps the growth Vancouver's innovative economy.

(Fairchild TV) Vancouver Will Share Greenest City Plan At Paris Weather Summit

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=eba4b31af98c58b7cdb9cc785adc7627>

(Fairchild TV) Vancouver East New Multi-level Buildings Will Reduce Parking Stalls

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=18c41d036d6bc0a2715563dbbc56b94a>

- Reduce parking stalls from 2 to 0.65.
- Cllr. Genova: worry it will make parking stalls more expensive
- Cllr. Meggs: bylaw outdated. Residents have easy access to skytrains.

11.27 (Fri)

(Sing Tao) Vancouver City Budget Recommended To Increase Property Tax by 2.3%

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/332246/2015-11-27/post-溫市府預算案出爐-明年擬加地稅2-3/?variant=zh-hk>

- 5 year plan and 2.3% property tax increase- for replacing old fire engines, improve Burrard Bridge and social housing projects.
- City: 2.3% coincides with the inflation rate forecasted by Conference Board of Canada

(World Journal) Draft Budget Intend To Increase Vancouver's Property Tax By 2.3%

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3552528/article-草案公布-溫市明年物業稅擬漲2-3/?ref=溫哥華>

(Ming Pao) Gregor Robertson Leading Delegation To Paris Summit. Promote Vancouver's Green Image

<http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20151127/vas5 r.htm>

- Robertson will lead 4 city reps. (include Cllr. Louie, chief of staff, climate change specialist and city's public relations rep.) to the summit, which costs \$15,000. City will attend 30 meetings and forums, and exchange ideas with other city leaders. Also promote Vancouver's green image.
- Robertson: to cut cost, city only send a delegation of 5 people to match with the theme of emission reduction
- The air pollution caused by this trip is a "necessary evil" as there is no other environmentally way to go to Paris
- City launched "Climate Change Action Pledge" to encourage citizens to change their life style

(AM1320 Phone-in Show) Vancouver proposed to increase property tax by 2.3%. Is City's spending justified? Including the Mayors' delegations overseas?

- Question whether it's necessary for the Mayor to go to so many delegations and many of which are related to issues that are beyond city's jurisdictions. Robertson is just back from GZ and is leaving for Paris. Too much money is spent on unnecessary delegations
- One commentator said city should think of ways to cut costs rather than increasing budget without any boundaries. But the other commentator said, City should have considered that, but may not have publicized it as much

(Fairchild TV) Chinese Tech Investment Group Formed China Clean Tech Innovation Centre

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=3ad933a1f8e366828cbfc88b038fa41e>

- Robertson: Vancouver is chosen as the location for the centre because of its proximity to Asia and also its dedication in making it the greenest city by 2020

11.28 (Sat)

(Sing Tao) Chinese Clean Tech Centre. Mayor Welcomes Their Formation In Vancouver

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/333574/2015-11-28/post-中資清潔科技中心-市長歡迎設在溫市/?variant=zh-hk>

- Robertson: very pleased to see the Hanhai group forming their first clean tech centre in Vancouver. It shows Vancouver's potential and qualifications for the development of such high tech industry
- \$15,000 venture capital to help new clean tech companies in BC and expand markets in Asia. Will particularly examines projects most demanded in China ie. Solar energy, waste management and ways to lower carbon footprint

Ming Pao) Chinese Enterprise Invests \$15M To Help Develop Local Clean Technology Products And Open China Market

http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20151128/vas1h_r.htm

(World Journal) Air bnb Problematic. Industry Urges Government To Regulate

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3554632/article-airbnb 問題多-業者促政府規範/?ref=溫哥華>

- Landlord BC: 0.5% vacancy rate may be caused by the thriving short term air bnb. Should have a license system to regulate
- May violate Strata Property Act if the landlord is also a tenant, also can't rent out the unit for less than a month if not hotel or B&B.
- Many buy property for investment purposes ie. Run Air bnb. May also indirectly gives upward pressure for housing rent

11.29 (Sun)

(AM1470) Robertson In Meeting With Prime Minister Trudeau At The Outset of Paris Climate Change Summit

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=55871

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=55868

- Robertson met with Trudeau and McKenna about climate change and advocates for green economy; also presented wreath to pay respect of the victims at the Paris attack
- The new federal government has bought a new dimension and promises to the climate change issue. Encouraging to cities throughout Canada
- Vancouver received the 2020 Greenest city award, and is the city with lowest emission per capita in North America. Its goal is too use completely renewable energy by 2050

(Ming Pao) Vancouver Park Board Transgender Facilities Positively Received. Swimming Pool Will Use New Signs

<http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20151129/var1hr.htm>

- Park Board: the new signs and Trans Inclusive Swim initiatives overall response positive. Proud to be on the front line in the country. More facilities will be replaced by the new welcome transgender signs. So far, one complaint from a facility user and one showed support

(World Journal) Safest To Ride Bikes In Vancouver, According To Report

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3555541/article-報告溫市騎單車最安全/?ref=溫哥華>

- Report: lowest accident rate, less than 1 out of 100,000, see result from the infrastructure invested in. Has most bike lanes in Canada, and about 100,000 people use bikes to commute each day
- Vancouver's model proves that separate bike lanes are not necessary

11.30 (Mon)

(AM1470) East Hastings Street Vendors Protest at City Hall For Banning Them From Selling On Street

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=55898

- City banned street vending along E. Hastings between Carrall and Columbia since Nov 16.
- First Nations harm reduction group: vendors lose sense of home and security when they ban to sell on the street, discriminatory. Some said they need to make a living through this, they are not criminals

(AM1470) Report Shows Insite Effectively Reduce Contraction Of HIV

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=55895

- Toronto's St. Michael Hospital: if work in collaboration with nearby hospitals, can reduce operation cost of Insite. Effectively reduce HIV and Hepatitis B cases

(AM1470) Compass Card Reading Software Not Working Due To Short Battery Life

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=55896

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=55910

- Battery only lasts for 3-5 hours, and reading takes 2 seconds. Hope to reduce it to 1 second.

(Ming Pao) Vancouver Aims To Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emission By 80%

http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20151130/vab3_r.htm

- After meeting with Prime Minister at the onset of Paris summit, Robertson: hope to see Canada will adopt Vancouver's emission targets nationwide.

(Ming Pao) Report Shows Downtown Walker's Paradise. Reduce Overweight By 30%

http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20151130/vas1h_r.htm

- Report "My Health My Community", conducted by Vancouver Coastal Health and UBC: through increasing sidewalks, improve public transit, can help citizens reduce the rate of obesity or overweight by 31%, and improve the obesity/ overweight of entire Vancouver population by 11%

12.1 (Tue)

(AM1470) Grassroot Organization Oppose To Building High Rise In Chinatown

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=55919

- “Building Community Society” urges City to refuse the rezoning application of the 13-storey-high building at Keefer 105
- Former BC Premier Mike Harcourt: this development is too huge for Chinatown. Chinatown and Gastown are unique neighbourhood in Vancouver and must respect heritage building there, can't destroy the overall ambience. Not oppose to development but he doesn't want to see Chinatown becoming another Yaletown

(Sing Tao) Former BC Premier Mike Harcourt Oppose To Building High Rise In Chinatown

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/337794/2015-12-01/post-前卑詩省長哈葛反對溫華埠建高樓/?variant=zh-hk>

Original source: CKNW

- Mike Harcourt and Building Community Society already sent a letter to Vancouver City Council, urging city to reject the developer's application

(AM1470) Vancouver Police Focus On Violent Sexual Crime And Mental Illness In the Next 5 Years

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=55927

(Ming Pao) City Council Discuss Tonight On Installing Chandeliers Under Granville Bridge, Paid By Developers

<http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20151201/vas2 r.htm>

- Beach Ave. under Granville Bridge, 18th century European style chandeliers
- Proposed by a nearby project developer, will be paid by the developer. LED light bulbs for safety, increase lighting and an artistic attraction

(Ming Pao) Laneway Apartments Trial At West End. 4 Towers, 47 Units, Cheaper Rent

<http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20151201/vap1h r.htm>

- Cllr. Jang: City needs to fully utilize remaining land, laneway housing can increase housing supply and affordability, expect rent for laneway apartments to be cheaper than laneway housing.

- Expand on the popularity of Laneway housing. Whether too crowded? Jang: use parking lots that are under utilized or temporary garbage depot
- Restrictions: max. 2-4 storey high, 6 stories if right beside a tower, each unit 350 to 1,000 sq. feet, up to 3 bedrooms

(Sing Tao) West End Residents Walk More. Obesity Rate Lower By 1/3

<http://vancouver.singtao.ca/337762/2015-12-01/post-溫市西端居民較多步行-肥胖率低三分之一/?variant=zh-hk>

12.2 (Wed)

(AM1470) Vancouver Theatre Increase Rent By 3% Next Year

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=55948

- Due to operation cost increase and to offer discounts to non-profit organizations

(AM1470) Pot Dispensaries Support Selling Pot At Drug Stores

http://www.am1470.com/news_detail.php?i=55967

- Pot dispensary owner Dana Larson: support this as it's an easy way to reach to adult, if the pot sold there are of higher quality and with higher accessibility may eventually replace pot dispensaries. Concern that this may encourage people to use both alcohol and pot together while they should be use separately.

(Ming Pao) Vancouver City Council Approved Amendment To Study TPP Impact. Vote Again After Studies

<http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20151202/vas3 r.htm>

- Cllr. Carr oppose to TPP as many details are not disclosed yet, incline to conglomerates and harm Vancouver's long-term development
- Cllr. Meggs amended the motion: after city staff study TPP's impact to Vancouver
- Deputy City Manager Sadhu Johnston: over 6,000 pages in the TPP document, hard to finish study by end of Jan when Parliament resumes, but will try to finish a simple report

(World Journal) Baby Boomers Turn To Small Rental Homes As Investments

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3560272/article-嬰兒潮世代-轉投資小型出租住宅/?ref=溫哥華&npg=2>

- Avison Young Realty: more baby boomers sell their single home and invest in renting out multi-unit residential homes. While living in one of the units themselves, they rent out the sometimes over 10 units to others. As vacancy rate is exceedingly low, rental properties have high returning potential