



**BCrea**

British Columbia  
Real Estate Association

# GOVERNMENT LIAISON DAYS

March 10-12, 2024  
Hotel Grand Pacific  
Victoria, BC

## Welcome

Thank you for attending the BC Real Estate Association's Government Liaison (GL) Days!

GL Days first took place in 1988 in Victoria and is now an annual event hosted by the BC Real Estate Association (BCREA) where REALTORS® from across BC learn about pertinent government relations issues and meet with local MLAs to advocate for better provincial housing policy. GL Days is an important tool to drive forward smart policy and build strong relationships with politicians.

## Your Role

Delegates are important grassroots links between the real estate profession and all levels of government. When meeting with MLAs, it is important to remember that you are representing BCREA and BC's 26,000 REALTORS®. To that end, we ask you to:

- maintain non-partisanship,
- be knowledgeable about the issues you are advocating for,
- organize your group before meeting with MLAs,
- establish key talking points,
- identify your recommendations,
- familiarize yourself with the elected official(s) you are meeting with,
- broadcast a collaborative, unified, and proactive attitude,
- try to maintain a two-way dialogue, and
- follow up with them in writing and thank them for their time.

We remind you to double check the times of your MLA meetings to ensure you allow enough time to pass through security check. After your MLA meetings, please remember to report meeting results to BCREA and your home real estate board using the MLA Report Form in your delegate package or online here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.ca/r/6CBDZTV>.

## Territorial Acknowledgement

This year's GL Days take place on the unceded and traditional territories of the Lekwungen peoples and the Songhees, Esquimalt, and WSÁNEĆ peoples, whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

## Diversity & Inclusion

We strive to make GL Days a safe and inclusive space that celebrates diversity and welcomes everyone to learn in a respectful environment. Whatever your background, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, or ability – you're welcome here!

*Unless otherwise indicated, all sessions take place in the Vancouver Island Ballroom of the Hotel Grand Pacific.*

**1:00 pm – 5:00 pm**

**Registration / Help Desk Open**

**Hotel Grand Pacific, Foyer outside Vancouver Island Ballroom**

**4:00 pm – 5:00 pm**

**Pre-Session Briefing (optional)**



**Trevor Hargreaves**

**Senior VP of Government Relations, Marketing & Communications, BCREA**

Trevor Hargreaves has been working at BCREA since 2019. Trevor has brought a wealth of knowledge to BCREA's Government Relations and Communications departments, with wide-ranging experience in public relations, advocacy, and strategic communications. Trevor has taken a proactive approach to asserting BCREA's policy positions, getting ahead of issues affecting REALTORS® and real estate in BC. Prior to joining BCREA, Trevor was the Director of Communications, Government and Public Relations at the BC Dairy Association, where he represented dairy farmers across BC and advocated with all levels of government, media, special interest groups, and other industry associations.



**Mark Sakai**

**Advocacy Projects Manager, BCREA**

In Mark Sakai's role within the Government Relations team, he works with internal and external stakeholders to ensure BCREA effectively advocates for thoughtful, balanced, and evidence-based housing policy. Mark's past experience on the BCREA Board of Directors and as Director of Government Relations with the Homebuilders Association Vancouver (previously known as the Greater Vancouver Homebuilders' Association) has equipped him with a unique perspective and skillset to support BCREA's work on behalf of REALTORS® and the public. Mark loves golf, but the feeling is not mutual.

# Monday, March 11

*Unless otherwise indicated, all sessions take place in the Vancouver Island Ballroom of the Hotel Grand Pacific.*

**8:00 am – 4:00 pm**      **Registration / Help Desk Open**  
**Hotel Grand Pacific, Foyer outside Vancouver Island Ballroom**

**8:00 am – 9:00 am**      **Breakfast**

**8:30 am – 9:00 am**      **BC Conservative Party Perspective**



**John Rustad**  
**MLA for Nechako Lakes and BC Conservative Party Leader**

For more than 20 years, John Rustad has fought for the people of British Columbia. He was first elected as a school board trustee to SD-57 and then as the MLA of Prince George–Omineca in 2005. He was later re-elected in Nechako Lakes after riding redistribution and has served there ever since. In 2023, John was acclaimed leader of the Conservative Party of BC.

Throughout his career, John has been a champion of resource development and economic reconciliation. As Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation John signed more than 400 agreements that have created economic opportunity for not only the province but also the nations involved.

Prior to being elected, John worked in the forestry industry for more than 20 years. Understanding that every person deserves the opportunity to work in whatever field they choose, he has long defended the jobs of farmers, forestry workers, cattle ranchers, and everyone in between both in and out of office.

**9:00 am – 9:15 am**      **Welcome and Opening Remarks**



**Trevor Koot**  
**Chief Executive Officer, BCREA**

As a former managing broker and REALTOR®, Trevor Koot has nearly two decades of experience in organized real estate. Before stepping in as CEO at the BC Real Estate Association, he served as CEO of both the Kamloops and District Real Estate Association and the Kootenay Association of REALTORS®, then successfully merged the two into the Association of Interior REALTORS®.

Trevor's leadership in the real estate sector began long before his CEO career. He spent five years as Chair of the Saskatchewan Real Estate Commission, where he played a key role in redrafting provincial real estate regulations. Trevor also served two years as Chair of the Governance Committee at the Association of Real Estate License Law Officials.

He holds a Master of Business Administration degree from Royal Roads University and is currently pursuing a Master of Laws degree at York University.



9:15 am – 9:45 am

## Lobbying Issues Q&A

**Trevor Hargreaves**

Senior VP of Government Relations, Marketing & Communications, BCREA

**Mark Sakai**

Advocacy Projects Manager, BCREA

9:45 am – 10:00 am

## Refreshment break

10:00 am – 11:00 am

## Provincial Housing Policy

**Honourable Ravi Kahlon**

MLA for Delta North



Ravi Kahlon was first elected as the MLA for Delta North in May 2017 and was named BC's Minister of Housing in December 2022. In that role, his focus is on delivering attainable, affordable housing options for British Columbians.

Ravi previously served as the Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation, and held two other key posts prior to that. As parliamentary secretary for Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, he championed the use of mass timber and innovation in BC's forest sector. And as parliamentary secretary for Sport and Multiculturalism, he helped restore the BC Human Rights Commission and travelled the province to build an anti-racism strategy.

Ravi's love for sports and athletic competition has also shaped his outlook on life. A two-time Olympian, Ravi played field hockey for Team Canada at the 2000 and 2008 Olympics.

11:00 am – 12:00 pm

## BC Media Perspective

**Richard Zussman**

Global BC Legislative Reporter / President of the BC Legislature Press Gallery



Richard Zussman covers the BC Legislature for *Global BC*. He is currently the president of the BC Legislature Press Gallery. Zussman co-authored the national bestselling book *A Matter of Confidence* with journalist Rob Shaw. He lives in Victoria with his wife, and fellow journalist, Liza Yuzda. They have two kids.

# Monday, March 11

11:00 am – 12:00 pm

*Continued*

**Katie DeRosa**

***Vancouver Sun and The Province Legislative Correspondent***



Katie DeRosa is the legislative correspondent for the *Vancouver Sun* and *The Province*. She was the inaugural recipient of the R. James Travers Foreign Corresponding Fellowship, and her investigative reporting on immigration detention in Australia and Thailand was recognized with the Canadian Hillman Prize. She has a Master's in International Migration and Public Policy from the London School of Economics. She lives in Victoria with her husband and two kids.

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

**Lunch**

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

**Interactive Provincial Advocacy Session**

**Trevor Hargreaves**

**Senior VP of Government Relations, Marketing & Communications, BCREA**

**Mark Sakai**

**Advocacy Projects Manager, BCREA**

2:00 pm – 2:45 pm

**Federal Conservative Housing Policy**

**Scott Aitchison**

**Member of Parliament, Parry Sound-Muskoka**



A small-town mayor at heart, Scott Aitchison is the Member of Parliament for Parry Sound-Muskoka, and serves as the Shadow Minister for Housing and Diversity and Inclusion in the Conservative Party of Canada under the leadership of Pierre Poilievre. Prior to entering federal politics, Scott was twice elected Mayor of Huntsville, Ontario, and was first elected as Huntsville Town and Muskoka District Councillor at the age of 21. Scott's passion for housing comes from a proven track record of getting the job done. He was the Chair of Planning in his community for over 15 years and helped grow Huntsville into the booming town it is today. Still a licensed REALTOR®, Scott is a strong supporter of Community Living, Habitat for Humanity, and YWCA. As Mayor and Councillor he also paved the way for much-needed social housing in Huntsville and the District of Muskoka.

2:45 pm – 3:00 pm

**Refreshment break**

**3:00 pm – 4:00 pm**



## **Discussion with the Official Opposition**

**Kevin Falcon**

**MLA for Vancouver-Quilchena and BC United Party Leader**

Kevin Falcon was elected as the MLA for Surrey-Cloverdale in 2001, and held the position until 2013. In his 12 years at the cabinet table, Falcon held a number of substantial roles including Deputy Premier, Minister of Finance, Minister of Transportation, Minister of Health and Minister of Deregulation. As Transportation Minister, he oversaw the completion of many major projects including the Canada Line, Sea to Sky Highway upgrades, Kicking Horse Canyon Bridge, and the new Port Mann Bridge. During his time as Health Minister, BC was recognized as a leader in wait time reduction and saw a 35 per cent decrease in prescription drug costs.

After leaving politics, Falcon became Executive Vice President for Anthem Capital and served on the boards of several non-profits including Canuck Place, Lions Gate Hospital Foundation, and the Streetohome Foundation, an organization working to house the homeless on the Downtown Eastside.

**4:00 pm – 4:30 pm**

## **Group photo, Legislature Buildings or Hotel Grand Pacific**

(location weather dependent)

**6:00 pm – 9:00 pm**

## **Provincial Advocacy Awards Delegate Reception**

**Steamship Grill & Bar, 470 Belleville Street**

All delegates are invited to celebrate with us as we recognize the outstanding achievements of REALTORS<sup>®</sup>, real estate board Government Relations Committees, and real estate board Government Relations staff who have shown exceptional dedication to the real estate sector.

Connect with colleagues and friends while enjoying snacks and beverages during this evening of celebration.

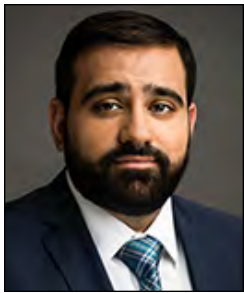
# Tuesday, March 12

Unless otherwise indicated, all sessions take place in the Vancouver Island Ballroom of the Hotel Grand Pacific.

**8:00 am – 3:30 pm**    **Registration / Help Desk Open**  
**Hotel Grand Pacific, Foyer outside Vancouver Island Ballroom**

**8:00 am – 9:00 am**    **Breakfast**

**9:00 am – 10:00 am**    **Federal Advocacy Update**



**Dil Puar**  
**Government Relations Director, Canadian Real Estate Association (CREA)**

Before joining CREA's legal department in 2014, Dil Puar worked in politics and on Parliament Hill for several years. His passion for politics and policy led him to make a shift within the organization and join the Government Relations team in 2017. Given his legal, political, and business background, Dil brings a unique perspective to federal advocacy. In his spare time, you will most likely find him on a volleyball court or by a lake.

**10:00 am – 10:15 am**    **Refreshment break**

**10:15 am – 11:00 am**    **BC Economic Outlook**



**Brendon Ogmundson**  
**Chief Economist, BCREA**

Brendon Ogmundson holds a Master of Arts in Economics from Simon Fraser University and is a Chartered Financial Analyst charterholder. Brendon specializes in housing market analysis and macroeconomic forecasting and is a member of the BC Ministry of Finance's Economic Forecast Council as well as a contributor to the Philadelphia Federal Reserve's Survey of Professional Forecasters. Brendon has been named one of the most influential economists in BC by *Business in Vancouver*.

**11:00 am – 12:00 pm**    **A Conversation with the Premier**



**Honourable David Eby**  
**MLA for Vancouver-Point Grey and BC NDP Leader**

Premier David Eby got into public service to tackle big challenges and deliver results. As BC's Attorney General, David got big money out of politics, cracked down on money laundering, took on opioid manufacturers, and reduced car insurance rates. Under his leadership as Housing Minister, thousands of homes are being built and hundreds of people experiencing homelessness are now in more secure housing.

Prior to politics, David was an award-winning lawyer and legal scholar. He started his career on Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, defending the homes of low-income people from developers and speculators. From 2009 to 2013, David ran the BC Civil Liberties Association as executive director. As BC's 37th Premier, David is working hard to build a better, stronger future for everyone.



12:00 pm – 1:00 pm **Lunch**

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

## **BC Green Party Perspective**

**Sonia Furstenau**

**MLA for Cowichan Valley and BC Green Party Leader**



Sonia Furstenau studied at the University of Victoria, where she completed her BA and MA in History, and her Bachelor of Education degree. She has worked as a small business operator, a bookkeeper, a high school teacher in Victoria and Shawnigan Lake, and the National Administrator for Results Canada. Sonia's advocacy in protecting her community's drinking watershed led to her election in 2014 as Area Director for Area B of the Cowichan Valley Regional District. In 2017, Sonia was elected as the first BC Green MLA for Cowichan Valley. Upon re-election in 2020, she was elected as the new leader of the BC Green Party.

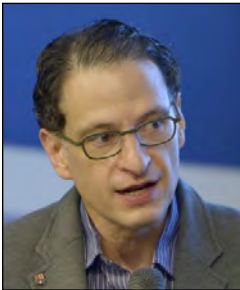
2:00 pm – 2:15 pm **Refreshment Break**

2:15 pm – 3:15 pm

## **Public Opinion and Housing**

**Mario Canseco**

**President, Research Co.**



Mario Canseco is President of Research Co. He has analyzed and conducted public opinion research since 2003, designing and managing research projects for clients across private and public sectors. Mario is a sought-after commentator on political and sociological issues, and writes a column for *Glacier Media*. His articles have also appeared in the *Vancouver Sun*, the *Globe and Mail*, and the *National Observer*.

Starting in 2007, Mario's work as an electoral forecaster in four different companies has resulted in 127 correct predictions of democratic processes in Canada and the United States, including five Canadian federal elections, 24 Canadian provincial elections, and three US presidential elections. Throughout his career, Mario has also worked as a researcher for the Peter C. Newman books *The Secret Mulroney Tapes* and *Here Be Dragons*, and at the Liu Institute for Global Issues at UBC.

3:15 pm – 3:30 pm **Closing Remarks**

**Trevor Hargreaves**

## Legislative Tours and Parliamentary Gift Shop (Optional)

The Parliament Buildings are open throughout the day for free guided tours and self-guided tours on weekdays from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. The tour schedule for the following week will be posted on Friday afternoon. Please check back [here](#) closer to your visit for the most up-to-date schedule.

Visitors are welcome to take their own self-guided tour whenever the Parliament Buildings are open. Self-guided tour books are available in a variety of languages at the Tour Desk inside the Main Entrance or can be downloaded on [this page](#). Please contact the Tour Desk at 250.387.3046 for more information.

Located next to the exit on the first floor, the [Parliamentary Gift Shop](#) offers a variety of gifts that are custom-made for the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia. The Parliamentary Gift Shop is open from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday.

## Observing Debates and Question Period (Optional)











Visitors are welcome to observe proceedings throughout the day from the public galleries when the Legislative Assembly is sitting, subject to space availability. The public galleries open 30 minutes before the beginning of each sitting, and seats are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. Please check the [Parliamentary Calendar](#) to see if the Legislative Assembly will be sitting on the day of your visit.

Question Period is held each day that the Legislative Assembly is sitting. As it is the most popular time of day to observe proceedings, visitors are encouraged to arrive early in order to secure a seat. Question Period lasts 30 minutes and takes place at the following times:

- Monday and Wednesday, shortly after the start of the afternoon sitting at 1:30 pm.
- Tuesday and Thursday, shortly after the start of the morning sitting at 10 am.

The entrance to the Public Galleries is located on the third floor of the Parliament Buildings. Visitors must pass through a security scanning station before entering the Public Galleries. Bags, backpacks, cameras, notepads, cell phones, and all other electronic devices are not permitted and must be checked at the security station before entering.

# Members of the Legislative Assembly

|                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  <p>Hon. Pam Alexis<br/>Minister of Agriculture<br/>and Food<br/>Abbotsford-Mission</p> <p><b>BC NDP</b></p>    |  <p>Brittny Anderson<br/>Nelson-Creston</p> <p><b>BC NDP</b></p>                                            |  <p>Dan Ashton<br/>Penticton</p> <p><b>bcUNITED</b></p>                                                                        |  <p>Michele Babchuk<br/>North Island</p> <p><b>BC NDP</b></p>                                |  <p>Hon. Brenda Bailey<br/>Minister of Jobs, Economic<br/>Development and Innovation<br/>Vancouver-False Creek</p> <p><b>BC NDP</b></p> |
|  <p>Hon. Harry Bains<br/>Minister of Labour<br/>Surrey-Newton</p> <p><b>BC NDP</b></p>                          |  <p>Bruce Banman<br/>Abbotsford South</p> <p><b>CONSERVATIVE<br/>PARTY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA</b></p>          |  <p>Hon. Lisa Beare<br/>Minister of Post-Secondary<br/>and Future Skills<br/>Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows</p> <p><b>BC NDP</b></p> |  <p>Garry Begg<br/>Surrey-Guildford</p> <p><b>BC NDP</b></p>                                 |  <p>Mike Bernier<br/>Peace River South</p> <p><b>bcUNITED</b></p>                                                                       |
|  <p>Shirley Bond<br/>Prince George-Valemount</p> <p><b>bcUNITED</b></p>                                       |  <p>Hon. Jagrup Brar<br/>Minister of State for Trade<br/>Surrey-Fleetwood</p> <p><b>BC NDP</b></p>        |  <p>Spencer Chandra Herbert<br/>Deputy Speaker<br/>Vancouver-West End</p> <p><b>BC NDP</b></p>                               |  <p>Susie Chant<br/>North Vancouver-Seymour</p> <p><b>BC NDP</b></p>                       |  <p>Katrina Chen<br/>Burnaby-Lougheed</p> <p><b>BC NDP</b></p>                                                                        |
|  <p>Hon. Raj Chouhan<br/>Speaker of the Legislative<br/>Assembly<br/>Burnaby-Edmonds</p> <p><b>BC NDP</b></p> |  <p>Hon. George Chow<br/>Minister of Citizens' Services<br/>Vancouver-Fraserview</p> <p><b>BC NDP</b></p> |  <p>Doug Clovehok<br/>Columbia River-Revelstoke</p> <p><b>bcUNITED</b></p>                                                   |  <p>Hon. Katrine Conroy<br/>Minister of Finance<br/>Kootenay West</p> <p><b>BC NDP</b></p> |  <p>Hon. Dan Coulter<br/>Minister of State for<br/>Infrastructure and Transit<br/>Chilliwack</p> <p><b>BC NDP</b></p>                 |



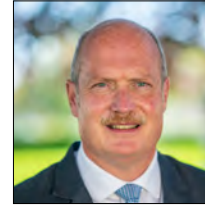
Hon. Nathan Cullen  
Minister of Water, Land and  
Resource Stewardship  
Stikine



Bob D'Eith  
Maple Ridge-Mission



Dan Davies  
Peace River North



Michael de Jong  
Abbotsford West



Hon. Mitzi Dean  
Minister of State for Child Care  
Esquimalt-Metchosin



Hon. Adrian Dix  
Minister of Health  
Vancouver-Kingsway



Lorne Doerksen  
Cariboo-Chilcotin



Fin Donnelly  
Coquitlam-Burke Mountain



Megan Dykeman  
Langley East



Hon. David Eby  
Premier  
Vancouver-Point Grey



Mable Elmore  
Vancouver-Kensington



Kevin Falcon  
Leader of the Official  
Opposition  
Vancouver-Quilchena



Hon. Mike Farnworth  
Minister of Public Safety and  
Solicitor General and Deputy  
Premier / Port Coquitlam



Hon. Rob Fleming  
Minister of Transportation  
and Infrastructure  
Victoria-Swan Lake



Sonia Furstenau  
Leader of the Third Party  
Cowichan Valley



Rick Glumac  
Port Moody-Coquitlam



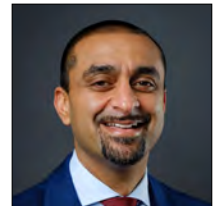
Kelly Greene  
Richmond-Steveston



Trevor Halford  
Surrey-White Rock



Hon. George Heyman  
Minister of Environment and  
Climate Change Strategy  
Vancouver-Fairview



Hon. Ravi Kahlon  
Minister of Housing  
Delta North



Hon. Anne Kang  
Minister of Municipal Affairs  
Burnaby-Deer Lake



Karin Kirkpatrick  
West Vancouver-Capilano



Greg Kylo  
Shuswap



Michael Lee  
Vancouver-Langara



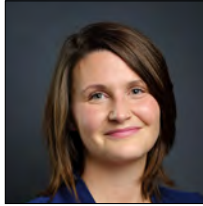
Norm Letnick  
Kelowna-Lake Country







Ronna-Rae Leonard  
Deputy Chair of the  
Committee of the Whole  
Courtenay-Comox



Hon. Grace Lore  
Minister of Children and Family  
Development  
Victoria-Beacon Hill



Hon. Bowinn Ma  
Minister of Emergency  
MGMT and Climate Readiness  
North Vancouver-Lonsdale



Hon. Sheila Malcolmson  
Minister of Social Development  
and Poverty Reduction  
Nanaimo



Hon. Andrew Mercier  
Minister of State for  
Sustainable Forestry Innovation  
Langley



Renee Merrifield  
Kelowna-Mission



Peter Milobar  
Kamloops-North Thompson



Mike Morris  
Prince George-Mackenzie



Coralee Oakes  
Cariboo North



Adam Olsen  
Saanich North and  
the Islands



Hon. Josie Osborne  
Minister of Energy, Mines,  
and Low Carbon Innovation  
Mid Island-Pacific Rim



Kelli Paddon  
Chilliwack-Kent



Ravi Parmar  
Langford-Juan De Fuca



Ian Paton  
Delta South



Joan Phillip  
Vancouver-Mount Pleasant



Hon. Lana Popham  
Minister of Tourism, Arts,  
Culture and Sport  
Saanich South



Hon. Bruce Ralston  
Minister of Forests  
Surrey-Whalley



Hon. Murray Rankin  
Minister of Indigenous  
Relations and Reconciliation  
Oak Bay-Gordon Head



Jennifer Rice  
North Coast



Selina Robinson  
Coquitlam-Maillardville



Ellis Ross  
Skeena



Janet Routledge  
Burnaby North



Doug Routley  
Nanaimo-North Cowichan



Roly Russell  
Boundary-Similkameen



John Rustad  
Nechako Lakes







Harwinder Sandhu  
Vernon-Monashee



Hon. Niki Sharma  
Attorney General  
Vancouver-Hastings



Tom Shypitka  
Kootenay East



Nicholas Simons  
Powell River-Sunshine Coast



Jinny Sims  
Surrey-Panorama



Aman Singh  
Richmond-Queensborough



Hon. Rachna Singh  
Minister of Education  
and Child Care  
Surrey-Green Timbers



Mike Starchuk  
Surrey-Cloverdale



Ben Stewart  
Kelowna West



Todd Stone  
Kamloops-South Thompson



Jordan Sturdy  
West Vancouver-Sea to Sky



Elenore Sturko  
Surrey-South



Jackie Tegart  
Fraser-Nicola



Adam Walker  
Parksville-Qualicum

Independent



Teresa Wat  
Richmond North Centre



Hon. Jennifer Whiteside  
Minister of Mental Health  
and Addictions  
New Westminster



Henry Yao  
Richmond South Centre

