

From: [Oshea.Jephson](#)
To: [Matthew.Cameron](#); [Patricia.Living](#)
Cc: [Carleen.Kerr](#)
Subject: RE: Press conference this morning
Date: Wednesday, August 4, 2021 2:18:55 PM
Attachments: [image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

CC'ing Carlee too.

From: Oshea.Jephson
Sent: August 4, 2021 2:19 PM
To: Matthew.Cameron <Matthew.Cameron@yukon.ca>; Patricia.Living <Patricia.Living@yukon.ca>
Subject: Press conference this morning

Hi both,

This seems to be gaining some momentum. I do know Jackie and I think there is an opportunity to put this to rest today if we reach out and offer her an opportunity to speak to the Minister. Even if she says exactly what she told Haley this morning. Right now, it's being framed as a government keeping secrets message. I don't think it would be too much to explain that it wasn't our intention to silence her, we're sorry that it appeared that way, but that it was a COVID-19 event and we're happy to answer questions.

Pat's wearing the brunt of it which is unfair because it was a COVID briefing but it's still an opportunity for reporters to ask questions.

Just some thoughts. Let me know if there is anyway we can help!

Thanks,



Oshea Jephson

A/Manager, Citizen Communications
 Executive Council Office | Strategic Corporate Services
 T 867-332-3135 | A8 | Yukon.ca

I respectfully acknowledge that I work within the Traditional Territories of the Kwanlin Dün First Nation and the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council.

From: Oshea.Jephson
Sent: August 4, 2021 2:13 PM
To: Carleen.Kerr <Carleen.Kerr@yukon.ca>
Subject: FYI

I think if we were to reach out to her and offer an interview? It turns into a press freedom thing if we don't address it.

♥ Jackie Hong and 2 others liked



Canadian Association of Journalists

@caj

...

We're concerned about the muting and removal of a reporter from a [@yukongov](#) press conference this morning.

Journalists have the right to ask questions of elected officials, and the public has the right to hear both questions and answers.



Jackie Hong ✓ @xjackiehong · 2h

Just got cut off and hung up on at a Yukon government press conference while asking a valid question to a minister.

Parents at Hidden Valley are concerned, angry and scared. The government claims they cannot even acknowledge those concerns because it's "before the courts."

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1:34 PM · Aug 4, 2021 · Twitter Web App

Yukon



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Executive Council Office | Strategic Corporate Services
T 867-332-3135 | A8 | Yukon.ca

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From: [Patricia.Living](#)
To: [Oshea.Jephson](#); [Matthew.Cameron](#)
Cc: [Carleen.Kerr](#)
Subject: RE: Press conference this morning
Date: Wednesday, August 4, 2021 2:33:20 PM
Attachments: [image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

To be clear, she asked her first question and was advised that the question had already been asked and answered. She was also offered the opportunity to ask a COVID related question and again went back to the question that had already been asked and answered.

It is up to Matthew if he wants to reach out.

From: Oshea.Jephson <Oshea.Jephson@yukon.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, August 4, 2021 2:19 PM
To: Matthew.Cameron <Matthew.Cameron@yukon.ca>; Patricia.Living <Patricia.Living@yukon.ca>
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From: [Patricia.Living](#)
To: [Matthew.Cameron](#); [Patricia.Living](#)
Subject: Re: CBC concerns about today's press briefing - for comments
Date: Wednesday, August 4, 2021 6:58:51 PM

Thanks now go home. We can talk in am.

Patricia Living
 335-1531

From: Matthew.Cameron <Matthew.Cameron@yukon.ca>

Sent: Wednesday, August 4, 2021 6:19:18 PM

To: Patricia.Living <Patricia.Living@yukon.ca>

Subject: RE: CBC concerns about today's press briefing - for comments

I've highlighted some revisions. Running out of steam, but happy to discuss further in the morning.

Garrett, thanks for reaching out. Today's media briefing was specific to the COVID-19 update and the changes parents could expect to see around the coming school year, as well as the lifting of some of the restrictions after many months. Reporters were advised of that in advance in the media advisory. These are intended as opportunities for reporters to ask questions about the public health crisis that we are currently in and for the most part, reporters have been very respectful that these are intended as COVID updates, including one of the CBC reporters that was on the line. In the past 16 months that I have been moderating these, I have **very rarely** had any reporter attempt to abuse the availability of ministers.

The topic that Ms. Hong raised, was raised **twice** earlier, **and** Minister McLean responded that she could not respond because the matter **is** before the courts. I reminded reporters that the event was a COVID update only. I did advise Ms. Hong that the question had been asked and answered and asked if she had a COVID-related question. There was no intent to mute her but given no further questions about COVID, we moved to end the event. I am also aware that Ms. Hong had appropriately requested an interview through the Department of Education.

I take your point that during a public health crisis, we need each other and CBC has been exceptionally helpful throughout this pandemic.

I also appreciate your position that this is not about picking a fight. However the actions of your local reporters would indicate otherwise and their personal social media attacks on myself suggest a very different approach to yours.

The people who are listening in to the live stream, both on CBC and on **the Yukon Government Facebook page** have tuned in to find out info about COVID and the current case count and about what it means to go back to school this year. **As you say, we rely on each other to disseminate important information to the public during a public health emergency. Ms. Hong's questions were not about the public health crisis and Ms. Hong had other avenues to ask her questions.**

I respect that reporters have a job to do and it is a very important job that they do. What happened today should not happen again if we can remember to respect each other and why we are there.

Matthew Cameron

Cabinet Communications
 867-332-0615

From: Patricia.Living <Patricia.Living@yukon.ca>

Sent: August 4, 2021 5:24 PM

To: Matthew.Cameron <Matthew.Cameron@yukon.ca>

Subject: RE: CBC concerns about today's press briefing - for comments

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From: Garrett Hinchey <garrett.hinchey@cbc.ca>

Sent: Wednesday, August 4, 2021 4:13 PM

To: Patricia.Living <Patricia.Living@yukon.ca>

Subject: CBC concerns about today's press briefing

*** External email: Do not click on links or attachments except from trusted senders. ***

Hi there Patricia,

Hope you're doing well. Garrett Hinchey here - I'm the managing editor for CBC North.

I'm getting in touch in regards to an incident that took place at today's COVID-19 press briefing in which our reporter Jackie Hong was muted while attempting to ask a question of Minister McLean.

Though I am sympathetic to the department's position that a question related to the same topic was already asked at the briefing, and of course accept that the department and minister have every right to decline comment or not answer a question, I am extremely concerned about the steps taken to actively censor our reporter by muting her before she could ask her question.

This was, in my opinion, a significant overstep. It should not be within the purview of territorial staff to determine which questions are in the public interest, and it is standard practice within the industry to ask questions not directly related to the topic of discussion at a news conference when an elected minister is offering her availability to press.

Our relationship with the territorial government, in particular during a public health emergency, needs to be a symbiotic one - we rely on each other to disseminate important information to the public. Disregarding the topic of the question itself, interactions like this set a dangerous precedent of censorship.

They also serve to foment antagonism between our staff and officials - and, ultimately, the people who really lose out are residents.

We are not looking to pick fights here - we are simply trying to do our jobs, in this case seeking information about an important topic that impacts Yukoners.

It would have been easy to allow the question to be asked, and allow the minister to offer a no comment. It was not appropriate to decide unilaterally that the question was not worth asking and place our reporter on mute.

I would like an acknowledgement that this response during the press conference was inappropriate and a guarantee that this will not happen again.

If your department has issues with how our reporters interact at press conferences, I am also more than happy to discuss those with you as well and bring them to my staff.

Happy to speak tomorrow at your convenience.

Thank you,

Garrett Hinchey

Managing Editor, CBC North

--

Garrett Hinchey

Managing Editor

CBC North, Yellowknife, NT

O: (867) 920-5431

C: (867) 445-8956

He/him

From: [Patricia.Living](#)
To: [Matthew.Cameron](#)
Subject: RE: CBC concerns about today's press briefing - for comments
Date: Thursday, August 5, 2021 9:52:55 AM

I am wondering if I should add in that technically, only one speaker at a time, as as I needed to speak, my mike was turned on and her's off or is that too petty? I have added in one line at the end in highlighted green. Otherwise, I am pretty much ready to send this.

From: Matthew.Cameron <Matthew.Cameron@yukon.ca>

Sent: Wednesday, August 4, 2021 6:19 PM

To: Patricia.Living <Patricia.Living@yukon.ca>

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I respect that reporters have a job to do and it is a very important job that they do. What happened today should not happen again if we can remember to respect each other and why we are there. **Please advise any Whitehorse CBC reporters that I will continue to respond to request respectfully where and as I can**

Matthew Cameron
 Cabinet Communications
 867-332-0615

From: Patricia.Living <[Patricia.Living@yukon.ca](#)>

Sent: August 4, 2021 5:24 PM

To: Matthew.Cameron <[Matthew.Cameron@yukon.ca](#)>

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Hong that the question had been asked and answered and asked if she had a COVID-related question. There was no intent to mute her but given no further questions about COVID, we moved to end the event. I am also aware that Ms. Hong had appropriately requested an interview through the Department of Education.

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Sent: Wednesday, August 4, 2021 4:13 PM

To: Patricia.Living <Patricia.Living@yukon.ca>

Subject: CBC concerns about today's press briefing

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Hi there Patricia,

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Managing Editor, CBC North

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Managing Editor

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O: (867) 920-5431

C: (867) 445-8956

He/him

From: [Garrett Hinchey](#)
To: [Patricia Living](#)
Subject: Re: CBC concerns about today's press briefing
Date: Thursday, August 5, 2021 2:58:33 PM

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Hi there Patricia,

Thank you for this response - it's appreciated.

I want you to know that I have spoken with my news team in Whitehorse and have advised them that personal attacks are in no way acceptable, on our end. I haven't personally seen any myself - but that doesn't mean that they don't exist. If you do see something from our news team that is a personal attack either now or in the future, please do flag it to me and I will address it with my staff.

While I can accept the fact that the muting may have been a technical issue, I do think it is important to note that regardless of the intention there, Jackie was interrupted and prevented from asking her question. While I can also accept that the purpose of yesterday's briefing was to provide an update on the pandemic, I have serious concerns about government staff making a determination of which questions are relevant to the audience, particularly when the topic is clearly one of public interest. I would have these same concerns, regardless of which newsroom asked the question.

I understand that Jackie has since been granted an interview with Minister McLean and I really appreciate that. However, my concerns about the way she was handled at the press briefing do remain.

I'll speak with my leadership team in Whitehorse and determine if further conversation is required to make sure these types of things don't happen in future - but for now, just want to say that I do really appreciate your willingness to have a dialogue about what took place, and agree that we do need to have respect for each other and the important work that we do.

Thanks and have a good weekend,

Garrett

On Thu, Aug 5, 2021 at 11:21 AM <Patricia.Living@yukon.ca> wrote:

Garrett, thanks for reaching out. The way today's media briefing ended was unfortunate.

Today's media briefing was specific to the COVID-19 update and the changes parents could expect to see around the coming school year, as well as the lifting of some of the restrictions after many long months. Reporters were advised of that in advance through a media advisory. These events are intended as opportunities for reporters to ask questions about the public health crisis that we are currently in and for the most part, reporters have been very respectful that these are intended as COVID updates, including one of the CBC reporters who was on the line. In the past 16 months that I have been moderating these, I have very rarely had any reporter attempt to abuse the availability of ministers.

The topic that Ms. Hong raised, was raised twice earlier, and Minister McLean answered she could not respond because the matter is before the courts. I reminded reporters that the event was a COVID update only. I did advise Ms. Hong that the question had been asked and answered and asked if she had a COVID-related question. Given no further questions about COVID, we moved to end the event.

I assure you that Ms. Hong was not actively or intentionally muted. We have a third-party technical support team that switches microphones to facilitate the in-person/phone line/livestream interface and there may have been some confusion as they turned my microphone on that prevented Ms. Hong from being heard on the livestream

when I was speaking.

I take your point that during a public health crisis, we need each other and CBC has been exceptionally helpful and supportive throughout this pandemic.

I also appreciate your position that this is not about picking a fight. However the actions of your local reporters would indicate otherwise and their personal social media attacks on myself suggest a very different approach to yours.

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I respect that reporters have a job to do and it is a very important job that they do. What happened today should not happen again if we can remember to respect each other and why we are there. Please advise your Whitehorse CBC reporters that I will continue to respond to requests respectfully where and as I can.

From: Garrett Hinchey <garrett.hinchey@cbc.ca>

Sent: Wednesday, August 4, 2021 4:13 PM

To: Patricia.Living <Patricia.Living@yukon.ca>

Subject: CBC concerns about today's press briefing

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Garrett Hinchey
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He/him



Matthew >

Thursday 10:00 AM

Just sent you a note. I don't think you need to apologize at this point, but I think there is value in acknowledging that it did not end well

We just hit 80 % of 12 plus!!!!

Is that dose 1 or 2nd?

2nd of all eligible over age of 12.

BTW 6 cases overnight with one more expected by noon

Monday 12:14 PM

Any update on stoplight assessment tool?

Lori working on it today with O'Shea.



Text Message

