

**iMessage exchange between Zita Astravas (Chief of Staff to Minister Blair) and
Serge Arpin (Chief of Staff to Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson)**

8:48

5G



Zita >

iMessage
Mon, Feb 7, 11:04 AM

Hi serge it's Zita minister Blair's chief of staff. I was wondering if we could chat about a potential meeting

Mon, Feb 7, 4:14 PM

Is calling you in a minute Ok? We are right in the middle of a Special Council meeting on the truck convoy occupation.

I'm avAilble !

I have watched

It's a tough time for the Nation's capital.



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8:49

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Zita >

Living in it I agree

Just trying to help

Call anytime

We can do 5 pm but the Council meeting will continue... we will make it work.

So in terms of agenda

Who will you have on the line

City manager. Mayor. Myself and two political staffers. We could have the chief but it's tight.

Thoughts on his addition?

Awesome



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8:50

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Zita >

WebEx Meeting – Hosted
by the Privy Council
Office

Please click on the
following link to access
the WebEx meeting:

[https://
canada.webex.com/
canada/j.php?
MTID=m3769affa7bbe7
5c91a7bbdb74662b3dc](https://canada.webex.com/canada/j.php?MTID=m3769affa7bbe75c91a7bbdb74662b3dc)

Meeting number: [2348
332 6679](#)

Password: [YeadKDC32](#)



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Zita >



Password: XsgdKDC3?
49

Good to go?

Ontario is still MIAN

We are logged in

The mayor is walking
away from the chair as
we speak

Mon, Feb 7, 9:49 PM

Thoughts?

The emergency situation
in Ottawa remains
serious and fluid and
requires close and
continued collaboration
between all levels of
government. This
afternoon @MarcoMendi



iMessage



8:51

5G



Zita >

The emergency situation in Ottawa remains serious and fluid and requires close and continued collaboration between all levels of government. This afternoon, @MarcoMendicino and I met with Mayor Watson, Chief Soly and City of Ottawa officials to discuss the situation on the ground and how...1/2 ...the federal government can strengthen the city's response. We all have a role to play to keep Canadians safe and through the creation of this Table, we can ensure lines of communication remain open, so we can respond to the ongoing



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8:52

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ZA



Zita >

lines of communication remain open, so we can respond to the ongoing occupation, face any new threats and meet evolving needs. 2/2

Chief Soly did not participate. City Manager Steve Kanellakos did.

Tue, Feb 8, 7:24 AM

Good am - are we getting any indications of Province's willingness to join the tri-partite table?

Tue, Feb 8, 9:49 AM

Morning! Not yet

Tue, Feb 8, 1:44 PM



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Zita >

Tue, Feb 8, 1:44 PM

Hi serge- we are hoping to meet at 415

We are on. Any news from Province yet! Will this send anyone?

Tue, Feb 8, 3:02 PM

My boss is asking me if Province will participate...

Today

No word

From officials

Zero nada kaput !!?

Jones is hard no

Zero response from



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ZA



Zita >

Zero response from officials

Blair and mendicino and our officials are good to go

Perhaps we should talk strategy on how to get them at the table

We do want to proceed in any event

We do too

We are partners in this

And we are grateful for your proactive engagement

We just need the province!



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Zita >

And I heard the PM call was good?

Yes it went well. I think the Province doesn't know Ottawa is in Ontario. Might have to FedEx a map.

I know there's no live lost between Feds and Province but we could collab for residents

Love

No love lost

Totally!

We just want to have all three levels together. This isn't political. It's the city and we are all residents of it



iMessage



8:54

5G



ZA



Zita >

This isn't political. It's the city and we are all residents of it

I'm with you 1000%

Is sloly confirmed?

Yes

They tend to respond sloly

Wed, Feb 9, 12:41 PM

Hearing provincial posture is changing

That would be encouraging 'cause last time I checked Ottawa's in Ontario, non?

Wed, Feb 9, 1:48 PM



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8:55

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Zita >

Wed, Feb 9, 1:48 PM

Oh I agree with your
serge

So looking at today or
tmr just working with
mendicino office on
some options

I could find a map and
sent it to the Province.

Wed, Feb 9, 3:26 PM

We are not aware of
Ontario joining a call
today but Minister
apparently tweeting
« happy Ontario will join
tri-partite call today ».

Which minister



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8:55

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Zita >

Minister Blair. Maybe it's an old tweet when you were hoping Ontario would join earlier...

Emergency Preparedness Minister Bill Blair says that no one from the Ontario Government has participated in the first two meetings with the Federal Government and City of Ottawa on the convoy.

Blair says Ontario plans to participate in today's meetings #cdnpoli #ottnews



Mackenzie Gray

twitter.com



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Zita >

Wed, Feb 9, 5:20 PM

Ah. There's a back and forth with the mayor

Sorry premiers

I heard minister Jones and mayor are speaking?

It did not go well. She told him she has no interest in being part of a political round-table. We should speak but I can't until after 6... what's your avail?

Fri, Feb 11, 2:11 PM

Can you get me on a three way call with you and Min Mendecito's COs? Or just you... if a 3



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8:56

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Zita >



Fri, Feb 11, 2:11 PM

Can you get me on a three way call with you and Min Mendecito's COs? Or just you... if a 3 way call cannot be arranged.

Sure thing

We are both in a meeting at the moment

What time works for you

When does the meeting end?

Can you please ask that the Chief of Police, if this has not been provided to him, be given line of sight on the additional bodies



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Zita >

Can you please ask that the Chief of Police, if this has not been provided to him, be given line of sight on the additional bodies he will get today (number), the additional bodies we will get tomorrow (number) and the same line of sight for Sunday (number). Let me know when we can debrief.

When can I call you?

As soon as this is done we will call you

Any hope before 3:00 pm when Ottawa Police Board meets?



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Zita >

You got the info?

Mike sent yes?

Yes he has. Thanks very much. I'm double checking but it appears there is no movement of additional bodies beyond the original 250.

Tue, Feb 15, 1:12 PM

Can you please let me know who will be the RCMP commander on the ground here in Ottawa? We know the OPP command now.

I know the mayor raised it to Blair and Blair raised it to mendicino



iMessage



8:58

5G



Zita >



I know the mayor raised it to Blair and Blair raised it to mendicino

I understand the mayor has a call with mendicino today?

I don't understand - are you not going to make this public today - is the person not already assigned on the ground?

Serge- mike Jones would have the details. I'm trying to be as helpful as I can be

I understand that the mayor and minister mendicino are speaking at 345



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Zita >

I'm so sorry, that was my mistake. We had just gotten off a very successful call between the Mayor and Chief Soly. We are grateful for the change in tone since yesterday, BtW.

Sun, Feb 20, 7:21 PM

Finally our combined forces have worked together to end the occupation - although threats remain. We should probably compare notes this week if at all possible as our people need thanks for their amazing work together - OPP, OPS, RCMP.



iMessage



8:58

5G



Zita >

Occupation - although threats remain. We should probably compare notes this week if at all possible as our people need thanks for their amazing work together - OPP, OPS, RCMP.

Sun, Feb 20, 8:48 PM

Happy to chat! Seems like we both work around the clock!

Pretty close!

I have never worked such long hours for such an extended period of time that I can remember in my entire life/career...

Read 2022-02-20



iMessage

