

ACKNOWLEDGE:

Hon. Peter Fassbender

Hon. Shirley Bond

Hon. Amrik Virk

It takes a lot of work to make your dreams happen.

Consider being a CFL player.

You only see the Lions play a game a week.

But to prepare for those four quarters...
they train, study, and practice for thousands of hours.

If you're not a football player... sometimes it takes a
while to figure out what you want to do.

To plan your future when you're out of school.

The world has changed a lot since your parents were
teenagers.

As they probably tell you – over and over again – they grew up without the Internet – no Google, no texting, no email.

And just like technology, the job market has also changed since your parents started their careers.

Today, more than 78% of jobs will require some form of post-secondary education...and 43% will be in trades and technical occupations.

It means we have to look at the value we put on different careers.

Traditionally, we look up to people like doctors and lawyers...people who work in office settings.

And those are great careers.

But we need to realize that people who work with their hands...who make, build, and fix things...make it possible for the rest of us to do our jobs each day.

There are huge opportunities in the skilled trades. You could be a welder, an electrician, or a mechanic.

If you try woodworking at school, and you like it...you could be a carpenter, a cabinet or furniture maker.

If you love the outdoors...you could be a horticulturalist, an arborist, or a fishing guide.

Over the next decade, we are expecting 1 million job openings in B.C. That's about the total population of Vancouver and Surrey.

The BC Lions Skills for Life Summit and Find Your Fit allow students to get a hands-on taste of the skills you would need for those jobs.

The Find Your Fit Tour is a great place to start thinking about what comes after school.

It allows you to participate in interactive demonstrations of professions like welding, carpentry, and heavy equipment operating.

Over this fall and winter, Find Your Fit will give over 30,000 students an opportunity to learn about these opportunities as the tour travels to every region of B.C.

We want to make sure that B.C. students get a head start on the skills and learning they need to help them succeed both in school and after graduation.

So have fun today... keep an open mind...

And maybe you'll find a skill you're passionate about, that can turn into an exciting career in the years to come.

—END—

ACKNOWLEDGE:

John Winter

Thank you for inviting my cabinet and I here – to meet with you, person to person...

And the chance to keep working with you on our common goals.

And if I could, I'd like to acknowledge my team – and ask them to stand.

CABINET:

Suzanne Anton

Bill Bennett

Shirley Bond

Stephanie Cadieux

Rich Coleman

Mike de Jong

Peter Fassbender

Terry Lake

Norm Letnick

Don McRae
Coralee Oakes
Mary Polak
John Rustad
Steve Thomson
Amrik Virk
Teresa Wat
Andrew Wilkinson
Naomi Yamamoto

I'm proud to stand with each and every one of my team.

And working together, we've been accomplishing great things.

A thriving, prosperous B.C.

With a vibrant private sector, employing thousands, creating opportunity, and changing lives for the better.

Goals the BC Chamber of Commerce has been advocating from the very beginning.

When the chamber was founded in 1951, we were at war in Korea. The Catcher in the Rye was first published.

The population of Burnaby, where I was born, could fit inside BC Place.

It was something of a landmark year in BC – for the first time, that year's census counted more than a million of us.

But as much as things have changed, the basis of our prosperity has not changed:

Our wealth flows from the resource industry.

That's BC's history. It's also very much our future.

As you know, we've just wrapped up a fall session of the legislature.

It was in many ways a unique session, as we had a singular focus – the tax framework and environmental legislation for LNG.

As we've worked to bring home this opportunity...
As we've fought to balance our budgets and shrink
government spending, change the ALC, and drag liquor
laws into the 21st century...

You have to stand for principles. Your core values.
And you have to be consistent.

My job as Premier is to build confidence in B.C., in our
economy, as a place to invest.

And I know exactly how to tell whether I'm doing a good
job:

I look to you.

I look at business.

I look to Vancouver, Victoria, Kelowna and their tech
sectors.

I look at forestry exports to China.

I look to tourism in Whistler, the Okanagan, and last
week's Grey Cup Festival.

I look at startups, mining permits, employment numbers, our craft wine and beer industry – that's how you can tell whether things are going well.

BRIGHT FUTURE

It's vitally important we get things right. Since the Chamber was founded in 1951, we've more than quadrupled in population.

That growth has never stopped.

By 2022, we're looking at a million job openings in all sectors and in all parts of the province.

That's just eight years from now.

About two thirds of those openings will be created by retirements. But the remainder – well over 300,000 new jobs – will be created by economic growth.

That's going to happen for a number of reasons, but it starts with the fundamentals:

- Low taxes,
- controlling government spending,
- A commitment to reducing red tape,
- Two consecutive balanced budgets, with surpluses projected to increase over the next few years.

Those are the fundamentals. And after getting those right, we have to capitalize on opportunities.

Consider the proposed Site C dam.

It's one of the biggest infrastructure projects proposed in Canada – and one of the biggest infrastructure decisions in BC in a very long time.

There's a lot of anxiety on both sides.

So you have to make a principled decision.

It starts by doing everything you can to meet future demand, and growth, without spending money to build.

It starts with becoming continental leaders in conservation and energy efficiency.

But even after that, we know we need power because our province is growing.

Our economy is growing.

So you have to look at the choices of what can meet that demand, and carefully consider:

- one: what's most affordable,
- two: what's most reliable,
- and three: what's best for the long-term.

That's what we're considering in Cabinet.

Being ready for growth is also why we're growing the Pacific Gateway.

Recently, the Western Premiers secured \$1.5 billion from the federal government – which we will match.

It's going towards railway bridges, sidings, grade separation, Highway 1, and Highway 16.

It's how we're building this nation.

Because we started with getting the fundamentals right...
we're expanding our customer base.

Exports are what drives our economic growth. They
generate one in five jobs.

In 2013, BC exported \$33.4 billion of goods – up more
than 32 per cent in four years.

That's why we doubled our international presence to 11
trade offices.

And that's why I have led six international trade missions.

LNG

The biggest part of our plan to drive economic growth, of
course, is LNG.

This month, we introduced legislation to attract LNG
investment. It gives certainty to business, with a
competitive tax structure.

It makes sure BC is a great place to invest.

It ensures British Columbians get a fair share of the benefits from a resource that belongs to them.

Ministers Rich Coleman and Mike De Jong have made incredible progress with Petronas.

We are now at a point where BC and Petronas can look at each other and say:

We are satisfied and agreed that BC is a competitive and attractive place to build their LNG facility.

There's more to do.

Petronas has some further work to be cost-competitive in their ongoing discussions with contractors and on the pipeline side, as well as on-going matters to resolve with Ottawa.

They may move their Final Investment Date into the New Year to accommodate that work, but the bottom line for us is: they have certainty about BC.

That's thanks to the work of the ministers, and because we've supported their efforts with First Nations and delivered our LNG tax and Cleanest LNG in the last month...

On time...

Exactly as we promised we would.

GREENHOUSE GAS LEGISLATION

We said from the beginning, we were trying to build the cleanest LNG industry in the world.

And that's exactly what Mary Polak's legislation does.

It establishes a greenhouse gas emissions intensity benchmark that is lower than any other LNG facility in the world.

Companies will have flexible options to reach it, including purchasing offsets and contributing to a technology fund.

It's a more difficult path to greenhouse gas reduction, because we're going to reduce emissions while growing our economy, which will include a thriving LNG industry – with opportunities for businesses across the province.

LNG BUY BC

Last month, we launched the LNG Buy BC tool.

It's about connecting you with proponents – they'll see for themselves that you are a good investment for the billions they'll be spending.

So far, 300 companies have pre-registered. I hope some of you are among them. If not, it's easy to do at LNGBuyBC-dot-ca.

Because it's just getting started.

This platform will evolve...

Eventually serving multiple sectors and supporting B.C businesses, large and small, as they enter and compete in the global supply chains coming here.

SKILLS TRAINING

And if we make that happen – all of us – we're going to need good people.

A lot of them.

That's why connecting young people with skills and training has never been more important.

Of the one million new jobs by 2022, 44 per cent will be in trades and technical professions. That's more than the population of Surrey.

That's why we launched the Skills for Jobs Blueprint in April.

We are just seven months into a 10-year plan – but we've made significant progress in a short time:

- With an investment of \$6.8 million, we created more than 1,400 new seats for trades training. Wait times have been reduced by an average of eight months.
- The BC Access Grant for Labour Market Priorities will provide up to \$16,400 per student for help to study in-demand trades.
- Construction is underway at two new trades training facilities – at Okanagan College in Kelowna, and Camosun College in Victoria.
- We've increased the number of Apprenticeship Advisors to connect employers with people who want real work

experience.

We're re-allocating money within secondary institution, shifting the focus of secondary schools, and re-engineering the system.

We must make it easier for British Columbians to get trained for careers in high-demand industries.

Because for the proponents looking to invest billions – they're going to be uneasy if we don't have people trained and ready to fill those jobs.

CONCLUSION

We have to be competitive. Our place in the sun depends on it.

Because the world has changed. In 1951, Canada was about to enter a period of sustained economic expansion.

Europe and Asia were still ravaged from war. Prosperous, victorious, and relatively untouched, North America was ascendant.

More than 60 years later, things have changed.

The economic centre of gravity has moved east.

In India alone, there's going to be a million people joining the workforce every month for the next 15 years.

That's adding another B.C. every four and a half months. Another Canada every three years.

The world is going to change, whether we're a part of it or not.

And if we embrace this opportunity, and not turn away from it...

We're in a position to be a part of this unique moment in history.

But we have to be ready. We have to instill confidence.

Maintain our credit rating.

Keep taxes low.

Minimized red tape.

Create a workforce ready to build.

When the Chamber was formed in 1951, the mission was to advocate for BC business and create prosperity in a changing world.

The world did change. But your mission is the same – and you've never wavered.

We need to continue.

To keep building.

To stick to our principles.

Getting the fundamentals right.

Creating more opportunity.

For all British Columbians.

Thank you.

ACKNOWLEDGE:

Thank you.

I'm here to talk about our country. About Ontario's place in it. And ours in British Columbia. About working together to get to yes on economic development, responsibly. Because together, with all the provinces and territories we have an opportunity, a generational responsibility, and a common cause in our nation-building work.

In that context, I'll also share with you our plan for BC. It's a plan we're sticking to with purposeful determination...and simply put, it's got three parts to it.

First: fiscal responsibility. Strong management to control spending, balance the budget, and keep our triple A credit rating.

That's what allows us to keep taxes affordable.

Second: Building on that foundation to attract investment, create jobs, and strengthen our economy.

We cut red-tape at home, and aggressively pursue trade abroad--especially with Asia, to open new markets for our goods and services. And a very important new export will be energy: in the form of Liquefied Natural Gas.

BC's LNG will power the growth of Asian economies with clean energy.

And create jobs and wealth for decades to come...not just for British Columbia but for Canada.

The third point of the plan is this: growing the economy today secures tomorrow. It gives us the ability to provide the services that families and citizens depend on.

A strong economy also allows us to contribute more to Confederation. As proud Canadians.

STORY

I'm a proud British Columbian, and I often say the heartbeat of Canada's economy is moving west...

But all of us in the West should remember it's Ontario that blazed this trail...of nation-building...

Since the beginning of Confederation.

Let me tell you a story.

Back in the 1860's BC was a British colony. It had a bright future, but it was in rough shape. It was neglected, and unwanted and just too far away from London.

You know, even today, when I'm sitting at my desk on the other side of the Rockies, Ottawa can feel a bit distant.

But they do return our calls.

I need to say that to make sure they keep returning our calls.

As I was saying, back in the 1860's BC had to do something to change its circumstance, but a lot of British Columbians wanted to become Americans, instead of Canadians.

One reason why we became Canadians is that there were leaders inside and outside BC who fought an uphill battle to make it happen. We joined Canada in 1871 because Sir John A MacDonald literally moved mountains to make it happen. And because he had a friend in BC, the Governor, Anthony Musgrave.

Do you know the myth about BC? That we'd only join Confederation if Sir John A built a railroad...It's not true.

Musgrave sent a delegation to Ottawa to negotiate the terms. They actually asked for a wagon road to BC...not a railroad. And Sir John A gave us more than we asked for...

I guess that's one time we got more out of Ottawa than we had to send back.

It was John A MacDonald who stuck with it.

To build a railroad.

To build a nation.

And while westerners have sometimes been heard to complain about our place in confederation, WAC Bennett went so far as to erase the name of the Trans Canada Highway and rename it the BC Highway. When he thought we weren't getting our fair share.

I take a somewhat different view. I see this as a nation, not of insiders and outsiders, or winners and losers, but a nation that reaches out to those on the outside looking in, and opens the door.

BC is a better place today because an Ontarian said yes.

THE FUNDAMENTALS

In BC we start with getting the fundamentals right. After 2008 they were headed in the wrong direction because the global downturn hit us hard as well.

It created a \$2 billion hole in our budget. Like everyone else, BC borrowed to pay for services.

Five years later, we have dug ourselves out and have delivered two consecutive balanced budgets. Last month, our finance minister just delivered the Q2 update – we're on track to increase our modest surplus to \$444m. And the first priority for that surplus is to pay down the debt.

In two short months, we'll table our third consecutive balanced budget.

Balancing budgets puts us in a pretty exclusive club.

There's no secret to it. It's hard to do. You just have to roll up your sleeves and control spending.

It comes down to this basic value. We want to grow the size of the economy, not the size of government.

We are not blessed with a vast resource of oil or potash, although LNG certainly holds this promise for us.

So when revenues fell short of forecast last year, we didn't borrow. We just didn't spend it. We didn't have it so we shrunk government by \$500 million dollars.

That money doesn't belong to politicians it belongs to citizens.

PUBLIC SECTOR SPENDING

The biggest single expenditure of any government is public service wages. And we've worked from the principle: we must be fair to workers and taxpayers. That means we will not borrow or raise taxes to pay for wage increases. And we will not cut services in one part of government to pay increases in another.

For the first two years I was Premier, we kept increases to zero by working with labour, with our employees to find savings within existing budgets to pay for any wage increases. And now as our fiscal situation improves, we're trying something innovative.

Under the new mandate, our workers receive bigger increases if BC's economic growth exceeds our annual forecasts. In effect, we're making public servants shareholders of British Columbia Incorporated. They have a stake in growing the economy.

Even when negotiations broke down, as it did with our teachers' federation, and resulted in a long and bitter strike...

We didn't bend to pressure. We worked through it to find a way to work with the Teachers' Federation to get to a negotiated settlement. And together, we achieved a six-year agreement...the longest in BC history.

Most importantly by sticking to our guns, the agreement is affordable. No new borrowing, no new taxes to pay for it.

This year, we've reached agreements with almost 70 per cent of public sector workers.

Just last week, we settled with our doctors.

Which brings us to healthcare.

Before the economic downturn BC's health-care spending was growing by about 7 per cent a year...just like every other province.

But we've worked to manage down increases to just over 2 and a half per cent a year.

It's about being smarter and better for patients...like working with doctors so they'll do 3 tests on one patient visit instead of each over 3 visits, or combining the buying power of health authorities.

That is why we have the best patient outcomes in Canada and the lowest cost on per capita spending.

ECONOMY

Controlling spending is one part of the equation, but we also have to grow revenues. The only way to do that is to get to yes on economic development.

We focus domestically on supporting small businesses so that they can get bigger. We support our resource industries so that they and the communities they operate in can thrive.

It means reducing barriers, and getting government out of their way wherever we can -- safely and responsibly.

And it means opening new markets for export.

I've led 6 trade missions to Asia because we are Canada's gateway to Asia.

Here's a fact. In 2001, almost 70 per cent of BC's exports went to the US. Today it's about 45 per cent. That's because of our increasing trade with Asia.

China is now our second biggest trading partner after the US...and trade has grown about 24 per cent a year since 2002. Trade with India has grown 130 per cent in 3 years.

Behind those numbers are the entrepreneurs, the thousands of British Columbians who work in forestry and mining and all our key sectors -- but here's the next big step.

In BC, we have 150 year supply of natural gas. We've been extracting it safely for 50 years.

And across the Pacific, there is a thirst for clean energy, to replace the fossil fuels they're burning, to power their economic growth with Liquefied Natural Gas, to build their future in a more responsible way.

The projects being proposed for BC are enormous. There are 18 proponents. And while not all of them will cross the finish line, collectively they've already invested \$8 Billion in our province. Just two weeks ago, we completed our negotiations with Petronas -- They hope to invest \$36 Billion dollars in BC.

It's true, the commercial circumstances have to be right for Petronas and everyone else to reach Final Investment Decisions...

But Petronas agrees with us that we have done our part to make sure BC is competitive on the global stage, offers certainty to investors, and to make sure British Columbians benefit from the export of a resource they own.

We met our commitment to pass legislation for a competitive tax framework, to make sure BC's LNG plants are the cleanest in the world, and we've done our part to reach agreements with First Nations.

FIVE CONDITIONS

Beyond negotiation, beyond legislation, beyond regulation...

Leadership demands something more.

Whether it's in BC, Ontario or anywhere else, regardless of how much support there is for economic development, there will always be opposition.

Leadership demands that you stand up for your values, deal with the concerns honestly and directly, and define the terms to get to yes in a responsible way.

I know there are concerns about heavy oil pipeline proposals in Ontario. BC certainly understands.

When I stood up for BC's Five Conditions, I was pretty much alone on the national stage.

Today, our Five Conditions are supported and accepted by pipeline proponents and the Government of Alberta because they agree...

BC's Five Conditions sets out a path to yes:

- Pass environmental review
- Develop world-leading spill response for both land and marine safety
- Ensure First Nations participation and a fair share for BC.

It's an articulation of how to achieve responsible development...of how to make the project the best that it can be...one that people can get behind.

CONCLUSION

Canada can be a divisive place. Insiders and outsiders. Winners and losers. It sometimes has been that way. But we can't lose our nerve.

Throughout our history a strong Ontario has always been at the centre of a Canada that pulls together. Not just as the engine of our economy, but as the voice of reason, the broad shoulders that helps lift our country above regional differences for common aspirations, and common cause.

When BC joined Confederation in 1871, it was because of resilient leadership. And also ordinary people in this province, in this city who...despite all the skepticism...saw potential in the prairies and a place called BC.

People who believed nation-building is worth it.

I'm sure someone must've said this before my time, but thanks for the railroad. You gave us more than we asked for.

And in return...I'm confident...we'll deliver a lot more for this country than anyone bargained for.

That's the kind of competition I'm looking for. Partners who dare each other to do better...

As we work together, to build a nation of winners.

Thank you

Thank you.

I'd like to talk to you today about some of the things we're working on in British Columbia.

If you've never been to my home, Canada's westernmost is cradled between the Rockies and the Pacific Ocean, we can boast everything from glaciers to desert to rainforest.

On that land, we have built our wealth out of wilderness...and our abundant natural resources.

And the funny thing is – we could have easily become Americans

That's what most people wanted....

Ironically, it was a Californian who came to BC in search of making his fortune that became a leading voice for joining Canada.

He became BC's second Premier. And his name was Amor de Cosmos – lover of the universe.

It doesn't get much more west coast than that.

He was a passionate British Columbian, a barroom brawler, and a notorious drunk.

But that was 140 years ago. What are we doing in BC today?

THE PLAN

Our plan has three parts to it, and it's driven by this motivation: to grow the size of the economy, not the size of government.

First, fiscal responsibility. We start with strong management to control spending and balance the budget – by the way, we will do that for the third straight year this February.

That's how we work to earn our triple-A credit rating, and keep taxes affordable. To be competitive on the global stage.

Second: we cut red tape at home, and aggressively pursue trade abroad – especially with Asia, to open new markets for our goods and services.

We are a small jurisdiction. International trade is in our blood.

The third point of the plan is quite simply this: being disciplined today and growing the economy is the right way to ensure we have the ability to provide the services that families and citizens depend on – now and in the future.

That's the context for our next step.

We have a 150-year supply of natural gas in the northwest of our province.

We have experience in safely extracting it for 50 years.

Our ports in the northwest are some of the closest to Asia on this continent.

We can supply the energy-thirsty economies of Asia – and help them reduce their dependence on dirtier fuels.

LNG

Today, there are 18 proponents at various stages of development in BC. And while no one expects all of them to cross the finish line, the front-runners have already invested \$8 billion in our province.

9 export licenses have already been issued. 3 gas pipelines and 1 facility have received other environmental assessment certificates.

Two weeks ago, we reached another important milestone. We concluded our negotiations with Petronas. That company still needs greater cost certainty from contractors before it make a positive Final Investment Decision...but they have confirmed they have all the certainty they need from the Government of BC.

They are satisfied BC is globally competitive on all matters within government's purview.

Here's why Petronas feels that way...and I believe their competitors would agree.

We promised to consult industry, and bring in a fair and competitive tax regime by the fall. Last month, we did exactly that.

We promised to bring in legislation to ensure BC's LNG plants would be the cleanest in the world. We did exactly that last month...passing legislation that gives industry incentives to achieve lower emissions.

Until the day Final Investment Decisions come in, there will be debate, even skepticism about whether BC will be among Asia's LNG suppliers.

I don't have a problem with debate or skepticism from the onlookers. Because the only ones who will make the decision are on the corporate boards involved.

I just say this: on those corporate boards, and among all the prospective customers, there can be no question about the fact that BC can be trusted.

You can count on our words.

Most places would have just legislated the government-imposed costs those consulted proposed.

We didn't just consult. We listened.

We looked at our competitors in the global marketplace. We studied the business models. We changed the tax framework. We lowered it by half. We have relief for the early years of intensive capital investments. We provided incentives to help achieve emissions reductions and mitigations.

Now I should also tell you we also have other advantages beyond honour and our vast supply of natural gas:

- Short transportation times to Asia, saving costs.
- Lower operating costs. Because it's cold in northern BC...liquefaction is 33% more efficient than in Australia.
- We have the vital support from First Nations...
- And finally, we have a 10-year labour force training plan to provide the skilled workers necessary to build and to keep labour costs down.

Just seven months ago, we introduced the 10-year Skills for Jobs Blueprint. Our plan to re-engineer B.C.'s education system – from Kindergarten, to post-secondary, and beyond.

Just seven months later, we've created more than 1,400 trades training seats, and that's just a start.

We'll need more than every available British Columbian for the task. That's why we are working with other governments and labour unions to bring in skilled tradespeople from across Canada and the US.

And we're working to make sure our doors will stay open for international workers – to make sure we don't repeat what happened in Australia, to make sure we have the workforce LNG requires.

CONCLUSION

If you haven't been to British Columbia, to check on the progress on LNG – you should come.

The amount of work going on is incredible.

About \$8 billion has already been spent on the ground.

They are moving dirt and putting down roots. Much like in the time of Amor de Cosmos...

Though unlike Amor, they're flying in on Business Class, and showing up for our meetings...quite sober.

What's sobering for me is going the other way.

The growth of the middle class, especially in China and India, tells us the global demand for energy is about to double in our lifetime.

On some days, it's hard to see through the smog in some of the bigger cities.

But what you can see from the smog is that they are sincere in their interest in LNG.

It's clear in what leaders tell us. They can't continue to burn the same fossil fuels. And they won't stop growing.

Our future comes down to three things that some would call competing interests on the world stage.

Energy. Climate change. Prosperity.

We have something to say about that in British Columbia. With our vast supply of nothing less than an answer that addresses all three.

Thank you.

New York Energy Forum
December 9, 2014
CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Thank you.

I'd like to talk to you today about some of the things we're working on in British Columbia.

As the expats here will happily tell you: Cradled between the Rockies and the Pacific Ocean, Washington State and Alaska Canada's westernmost province is hard is a bold and beautiful place.

A place where successive generations have built our wealth on the natural resources from the land and sea, and from the resourcefulness of the people willing to do the hard work to deliver.

It inspires passion.

And the funny thing is – we could have easily become Americans

That's what most people wanted...even in the late 1860s, when the United States was torn apart.

Ironically, it was a California gold miner who came to BC in search of making his fortune that became a leading voice for joining Canada.

He was BC's second Premier. And his name was Amor de Cosmos.

It doesn't get much more west coast than that.

He was born with the name Bill Smith. But he went to the California Legislature to legally change it.

As he explained to the jeering legislators...he wanted his name to reflect his values: lover of the universe.

And his universe was British Columbia. He had a passion for it.

A passion for building our future with our abundant natural resources. Something that is true today of the people my province.

But Amor was also a man of his times...the gold rush. He had a passion for alcohol, and apparently, for bar-room brawling.

So we didn't learn about fiscal discipline from Amor. No, we learned that the hard way as a resource economy. The boom times don't last forever. You have to be responsible. Use the good times to diversify the economy. So that you can brush yourself off and pick yourself up when times aren't good.

Which brings me to our plan in BC.

It's a plan we're sticking to with purposeful determination...and simply put, it's got three parts to it.

First: fiscal responsibility. Strong management to control spending, balance the budget, and keep our triple A credit rating.

That's what allows us to keep taxes affordable.

I will be speaking primarily about that today.

Second: Building on that foundation to attract investment, create jobs, and strengthen our economy.

We cut red-tape at home, and aggressively pursue trade abroad--especially with Asia, to open new markets for our goods and services. And the natural next step for us is a very important new export: Liquefied Natural Gas.

BC's LNG will power the growth of Asian economies with clean energy. Cleaner than what they burn today.

And that will diversify our natural gas export market. Something we've been doing successfully and safely for 50 years...to protect and create jobs and wealth for the citizens of British Columbia and Canada.

The third point of the plan is this: growing the economy today secures tomorrow. It gives us the ability to provide the services that families and citizens depend on.

THE FUNDAMENTALS

It starts with balancing the budget.

Even in hard times.

Especially in hard times.

In 2009, the economic downturn hit BC like everywhere else.

It's true – we escaped the worst effects. But it still created a \$2 billion gap in our revenues.

Five years later, we have delivered two consecutive balanced budgets. In February, we will table our third consecutive balanced budget.

Last month, our finance minister just delivered the Q2 update – we're on track to increase our modest surplus.

Our first priority for that \$444 Million is to pay down the debt.

Of Canada's 14 national, provincial, and territorial jurisdictions, we're one of just two with a balanced budget.

We have among the lowest interest bite among Canadian jurisdictions to service our debt...at 3.9 per cent it is the numeric opposite of 9.3 per cent...the interest bite of our biggest province.

It's a bit of a personal commitment for me.

Something I learned as the youngest child of a teacher and a stay-at-home mom. My parents weren't wealthy, but we had we needed and they didn't leave us with a penny of debt.

It wouldn't be right to fall short of that standard with my son.

I follow one principle in office above all. That we will grow the size of our economy, not the size of government.

We have systems in place to make sure we don't spend more than we take in.

And when the unforeseen happens, we take additional measures.

Last year, when revenues dipped below forecast, we found an additional 600 million dollars in savings. I

We will not ask the taxpayer for more. We will not ask their children for a loan against their future.

On debt management, we have met or exceeded every target in our 3 year fiscal plan.

As a result, our taxpayer-supported debt for 2014-15 is projected to be more than a \$ 1 Billion lower than forecast.

The taxpayer-supported debt-to-GDP ratio is forecast at 17.7 per cent...down from 18.1 per cent forecasted last Spring.

PUBLIC SECTOR SPENDING

The biggest part of controlling spending is public sector wages. And by far, the biggest cost is health-care. It's about 50 per cent of provincial budgets in Canada.

Provinces across Canada are facing a cost-curve that's unsustainable...in the range of 7 per cent a year.

In BC, we bent down the cost curve. Our increases are just over two and a half per cent a year.

We're at the bottom of the list on per capita spending on health-care. And we're at the top of the list on health outcomes.

We've been smart, putting patient convenience and care at the centre. And finding savings in administration.

We've worked with our health-care professionals every step of the way...and in fact we just achieved a tentative agreement with B.C.'s 10,000 physicians.

Beyond health-care, we've worked with our public service unions to make sure we don't pay for wage increases by raising taxes, borrowing, or cutting services in one part of government to give increases in another.

Now as our economy grows, as the global economy recovers, we're trying something innovative.

Public servants can make more if our economic growth exceeds our forecast.

It gives them a personal stake in helping to grow the economy. And we've reached multi year agreements with almost 70 per cent of all public servants this year.

GROWING THE ECONOMY

Fiscal discipline gives us the room to deal with unforeseen challenges...

It allows us to be competitive on taxes.

It sets us free to pursue trade, diversification.

And it allows us to get the terms of business right...to give investors and trading partners certainty.

You can count on our word.

I've led 6 trade missions to Asia because we are Canada's gateway to Asia.

Here's a fact. In 2001, almost 70 per cent of BC's exports went to the US. Today it's about 45 per cent. That's because of our increasing trade with Asia.

China is now our second biggest trading partner after the US...and trade has grown about 24 per cent a year since 2002. Trade with India has grown 130 per cent in 3 years.

Behind those numbers are the entrepreneurs, the thousands of British Columbians who work in forestry and

mining and all our key sectors -- but here's the next big step.

In BC, we have 150 year supply of natural gas. We've been extracting it safely for 50 years.

And across the Pacific, there is a thirst for clean energy, to replace the fossil fuels they're burning, to power their economic growth with Liquefied Natural Gas, to build their future in a more responsible way.

The projects being proposed for BC are enormous. There are 18 proponents. And while not all of them will cross the finish line, collectively they've already invested \$8 Billion in our province. Just two weeks ago, we completed our negotiations with Petronas -- They hope to invest \$36 Billion dollars in BC.

It's true, the commercial circumstances have to be right for Petronas and everyone else to reach Final Investment Decisions...

But we have done our part to make sure BC is competitive on the global stage, offers certainty to investors, and to make sure British Columbians benefit from the export of a resource they own.

We met our commitment to pass legislation for a competitive tax framework, to make sure BC's LNG plants are the cleanest in the world, and we've done our part to reach agreements with First Nations.

We're doing our part to be honourable partners. Everyone needs at least one of those in their portfolio.

CONCLUSION

Let me conclude by looking at BC's future.

Our economy is growing. Our economic forecast council projects that we will lead the country in 2015.

We're in the black, with increasing surpluses. We're ready for economic growth.

We will get to the future the same way we got here..with discipline. With unwavering determination to live within our means.

You should expect nothing less right now. Neither should future generations of British Columbians. We have miles to go. I see it as a contract across generations. A promise to keep.
A promise we will keep.

Thank you.

ACKNOWLEDGE:
MP Ron Cannan
Mayor Colin Basran (TBC)

For 60 years now, the Rotary Club of Kelowna has been providing a safe, welcoming place for seniors to call home here at Pleasantvale.

But as boomers age...demand will continue to grow.

The Pleasantvale Home Society knew they needed to expand – and that they could use some help.

So, in 2011, the property was transferred to BC Housing.

We partnered with the City of Kelowna, which provided more land.

It's about providing affordable housing for seniors, and families that could use a hand up.

That's why I'm proud to be here today to help break ground on this project.

The expanded Pleasantvale development will see the existing 50 units of seniors' housing replaced with modern, comfortable living space...

With 20 new, affordable rental townhomes for families with low-to-moderate incomes.

I want to thank the Pleasantvale Homes Society, the Society of Hope, the City of Kelowna and the Government of Canada for partnering with us to make this redevelopment a reality.

Last year alone, our government invested over \$10.6 million in subsidized housing and rent supplements for around 3,000 households in Kelowna.

That's in addition to more than \$5 million we invested in Kelowna last year...to support more than 560 housing units for people who were homeless or at risk of homelessness.

A growing economy means fewer people in need... but it also means we can better afford to help those who still face challenges.

It means we can invest in safe housing for seniors to live independently as long as possible...

And provide a stable, secure, and affordable home for families in need.

When government, local partners, and the community work together, we can make a real change...
For the people who need it most.

Because a roof over their head is the first step to a brighter, healthier future.

Thank you.

**Pacific Autism Family Centre
December 16, 2014
Richmond**

Event: what is it?

- Ground-breaking photo op event to officially start construction of the Pacific Autism Family Centre (PAFC).
- David Patchell and wife Silken Laumann will unveil the name of the Centre – The Goodlife Fitness Family Autism Hub.
- This is a joint announcement with the Pacific Autism Centre Society and government.

Audience: who are they?

- Families of people with autism
- Autism patients
- Pacific Autism Family Centre (PAFC) and Pacific Autism Centre Society stakeholders.
- Rich Coleman, Minister of Natural Gas Development
- City of Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson (tbc)
- Richmond Mayor Malcom Brodie
- Sergio Cocchia and Wendy Lisogar-Cocchia, co-founders of the Pacific Autism Centre Society
- David Patchell-Evans and wife Silken Lauman
- MP Dr. Kelly Leach, Minister of Labour and Minister Responsible for Status of Women
- Terry McKay, Project Director, Pacific Autism Family Centre

Audience: what do they want to hear?

- Construction of the Pacific Autism Family Centre is now officially underway.
- Confirmation of continuing government commitment to helping individuals and families affected by Autistic Spectrum Disorder.

KEY THEME: Supporting Health Care

KEY MESSAGE: Government is building the best system of support in Canada for people with disabilities

Thank emcee, Minister Rich Coleman, for introduction

Acknowledgments

- City of Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson (tbc)
- Richmond Mayor Malcom Brodie
- Terry McKay, Project Director, Pacific Autism Family Centre
- Sergio Cocchia and Wendy Lisogar-Cocchia, Co-Founders of the Pacific Autism Centre Society
- David Patchell-Evans and wife Silken Laumann.
- MP Dr. Kelly Leach, Minister of Labour and Minister Responsible for Status of Women

I have been looking forward very much to this day and I am honoured to be here with you.

In British Columbia today, 1 in every 88 newborns is affected by Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

ASD is a complex condition that affects a person's social relationships, communication, interests and behaviour.

Affected individuals and families need all the help and support we can provide.

As diagnosis, knowledge and understanding of ASD and effective services and treatments has increased, so too has B.C.'s investment in services.

The province now provides more than \$209 million annually for a wide range of autism programs and services.

We are the only province in Canada that has a no waitlist policy to provide families with access to funding as quickly as possible once an ASD diagnosis is received.

They are also able to choose the type of intervention that best meets their needs. But they made us aware of a very important missing piece.

In their hour of need, these already stressed families were finding it very challenging to navigate that maze of programs and services.

And so in March of 2012, government approved a \$20 million grant to help build a Lower Mainland autism service hub and centre of expertise.

The hub will integrate and coordinate service delivery and link with smaller locations throughout the province – a hub and spoke arrangement.

TODAY, WITH YOU OUR PARTNERS, WE ARE TAKING ANOTHER BIG STEP TOGETHER – A HUGE STEP - TOWARD MAKING THE DREAM A REALITY.

WE ARE BREAKING GROUND TO OFFICIALLY LAUNCH CONSTRUCTION OF A 58,000 SQUARE FOOT

**KNOWLEDGE CENTRE FOR LEARNING,
ASSESSMENT AND TREATMENT OF AUTISM.**

We anticipated that the doors of the 58,000 square foot centre will swing open by spring of 2016.

**TOGETHER, WE ARE BUILDING THE BEST SYSTEM
OF SUPPORT IN CANADA FOR PEOPLE WITH
DISABILITIES.**

I want to express my heartfelt thanks to all the Pacific Autism Centre Society and all of the partner organizations and individuals who continue to step forward and make a difference in the lives of so many others.

Thank You.

-END-

Thank you for coming.

In the life of our province...

There are moments when we must look far beyond the
everyday,

And make decisions to secure our future.

Today is such a day.

The Site C Clean Energy Project will not be built in a day
or even a year.

But once built, its benefits will flow for a hundred years for
all British Columbians.

That is why we have decided to go forward with Site C
Clean Energy.

Let me give you an insight into this very necessary
decision.

One we've arrived at only after careful analysis...

After taking a deep and prudent look at the merits and the drawbacks of the project....
And a great deal of discussion between us.

It was not an easy decision to come to because it shouldn't have been an easy decision to come to.

It's one that required our most diligent work, and we took the time to ensure that we gave it our attention.

It comes down to five principles:

- Don't build what we don't have to.
- We should only build it if it's affordable for the people of the province.
- The most reliable.
- The most sustainable.
- And make sure it's the best option for the long-term.

In this case, it is a very long term.

So let me go through those principles.

We are reducing future electricity demand through energy efficiency and conservation.

BC is a continental leader on that front, with one of the most ambitious plans...the most ambitious plan...anywhere in North America.

and while that reduces how much we need to build, we still need to build.

Some alternative options are as sustainable and clean. But none are as affordable for ratepayers.

None are as reliable, rain or shine, day or night, wind or no wind...

We are blessed in British Columbia with a history of building major dams like Site C, with a proven record of delivering cheap power... whenever we need it.

And we know from that experience, from that endowment from past generations, about the value of projects like Site C.

They attract industry. They create thousands of jobs. They leave more money in the pockets of ratepayers, and they generate clean and reliable power – to power a century of

needs, whether that's around the kitchen table, or in schools, or in workplaces.

Beyond those five principles, this decision really does come down to people.

I believe in the people of B.C. I believe in the future of B.C.

I believe that British Columbians will continue to succeed and that BC will grow.

Long after this announcement is over. Long after my working days in this job are over...the people of our province will continue to prosper and continue to create wealth and opportunity.

In order for our economy to grow, we need to ensure that there is power – clean, reliable, sustainable power at low cost.

An investment in our future and in our children's future.

My faith in that comes with a responsibility to make sure we have the power in the future to succeed.

To make sure the cost estimate of this project is realistic and achievable and that the people managing the budget and this project are accountable to taxpayers.

We have made sure of that in this decision.

To make sure we have the BC workers we need to build Site C and bring home the opportunity of LNG.

We have done that as well.

Previous generations have recognized in our province that there are two major investments that we need to make in order to grow, in order to ensure that our economy is not constrained.

One of them is in people, and we have done that in this province, and we're continuing to do it...

To invest in one of the best education systems you will find anywhere in the world, secondary and post-secondary...

Ensuring that British Columbians are first in line for jobs, that we have the skilled workers that we need to grow our economy.

The second is in reliable, sustainable, low-cost power. Previous generations ensured that our generation could benefit from those investments.

And today we are ensuring that future generations will also benefit from similar foresight and similar investment.

I want to thank everyone at BC Hydro, in government, everyone who worked so hard to ensure that we had all the information that we needed to make the best decision.

I thank you on behalf of the people of our province...so many of whom are here today, and so many of whom are yet to be born...but who will benefit so much from your work.

Last, not that anybody needs it. But a reminder:
The real work starts today.
And we have a lot of work ahead of us.

Thank you.

Thank you.

I want to talk to you about the future. The future we're building in BC, but also the future being created as we speak in India.

We are oceans apart, India and BC...
and yet we are two partners with strong cultural and family ties.

We have common values...and I think, common goals for the future.

Now I know what you're thinking: India has a billion people, and we are just four and a half million in BC.

India has a rich history. By their standards, we're brand new.

India gave the world mathematics. And I got a few laughs when I pointed this out in Delhi...
It was India that invented buttons.

You laugh, but where would we be in the northern hemisphere without buttons?

But India's place in human history, its sheer size and potential makes this point absolutely clear:

For British Columbia to make an impact on the world stage...we need a partner like India.

Because when a country the size of India changes, it changes the world.

I led my sixth international trade mission a few months ago, to Chandigarh, Mumbai, and Delhi...

Here's what I saw:

A dynamic population, with strong leadership ready to seize the future.

They already have the second largest middle class in the world – and by 2050, the third largest economy in the world.

The Indian tiger is waking up by doing business differently. They're cutting red tape and their political leadership is in a hurry to change the culture of the bureaucracy.

They're taking a hands-on approach to growing the economy.

Prime Minister Modi has a saying:
SUB KA SAATH, SUB KA VEE-KAS

"Everyone working together, for everyone's progress and development."

That's a big job.

Stewart Beck told me a million people are joining the Indian workforce every month, for the next 15 years.

That's an entire BC, every four and a half months.

Think of the needs that represents:
the appetite for education,
energy,
natural resources,
and the arts...to name a few.

The world wants a piece of that action.

But it occurred to me that what India's leaders do not need from BC is yet another jurisdiction on a sales call to India, looking to sell them stuff.

Don't get me wrong. That's an important result of a trading relationship...but it's the relationship that helps that trade grow.

What I said throughout the mission was what do you need? We can help you with that.

It happens to be true.

People from South Asia have helped build BC's future for 100 years.

It's time to return the favour.

THE OPPORTUNITY

Trade with India has already grown 130 per cent in 3 years.

Last year alone, our trade with India jumped by 46 per cent – to \$469 million.

And we're just at the beginning.

Look at China. Where were we 10 years ago?

We were just starting to lay the foundations to strengthen our ties, to understand their needs, to expand trade and investment.

Today, after 10 years of a sustained effort and strategy, including trade missions, BC's exports to China are worth \$5.7 billion.

So we have a proven track record. And we are walking this path again, with India.

TRADE MISSIONS

In October, I had the honour of leading over 70 companies, First Nations, federal representatives and post-secondary institutions.

We met one-on-one with key investors and high level government officials in New Delhi, Mumbai, and Chandigarh.

Trade missions are about strengthening relationships over the long-term. But I want to share 8 agreements with you, just some of the immediate successes from that trip:

- Richmond's SignalChem specializes in cancer, inflammation and central nervous system disorders. They opened a R&D facility in Bangalore. They're going to convert its oncology drug discoveries into drugs for global use – and hire more people in B.C.
- Uber Diagnostics, an India-based medical device company, announced it will open an office in Surrey, and signed a MOU with Innovation Boulevard.

- GMR Group of India and IC-Impacts of BC will work together on safe and sustainable infrastructure like innovative pavement technology, construction design and water and wastewater infrastructure.
- Reliance Industries also signed on with IC-Impacts to share research, training and develop new technologies in such areas as specialized building materials for infrastructure like bridges, roads and buildings.
- India's special effects giant Double Negative is opening a new state-of-the-art facility in Vancouver.
- North Shore Studios and Vancouver Film Studios signed MOUs for co-operation with Ramoji Film City.
- We announced funding for 20 scholarshipsto support and encourage the two-way exchange of students between UFV and Sanatan Dharma College in Chandigarh.
- And Simon Fraser University and the Indian Oil Corporation, India's flagship national oil company and the country's largest corporation, signed an

agreement to further collaborate on hydrogen and fuel cell technology research.

All of these agreements are about more than trade. It's about BC as a partner in building the future India wants.

That future requires energy. A clean, safe and reliable source of energy.

LNG

Right now, more than half of India's energy comes from coal. Another third comes from oil.

India only has to look north to China to see what happens when fast-growing cities continue to rely on burning coal and oil.

In fact they already know all about it. I was in Delhi on a beautiful sunny day...clear by Delhi standards.

The air quality index in Delhi that day was 153.

Think about it. In Vancouver that same day, the air quality index was 14. And 153 is by no means the worst day in Delhi or Mumbai.

Right now, only 8 per cent of India's energy comes from the world's cleanest-burning fossil fuel – but that's about to change.

Prime Minister Modi has committed to building a network of pipelines to transport gas.

There are already 4 re-gasification plants in operation and 9 more are planned.

So when I met with government ministers and industry leaders they told me one thing:
They need suppliers they can count on.

I met with the Chairman of Indian Oil, Chairman Ashok. His company is poised to make its biggest investment in Canada to secure natural gas from BC.

As you may know, Indian Oil is a partner with Petronas in the Pacific Northwest LNG project.

I think you also know we've concluded all our work with Petronas for a Project Development Agreement.

They have agreed that BC offers a competitive tax framework, and certainty for their investment.

And while they have more work to do with suppliers and others before they reach Final Investment Decision...

Petronas agrees the Government of BC has done everything in its power to help them move their project forward.

We've delivered on our commitments, and we've delivered when we said we would.

I think keeping our word says a lot about BC.

So do the facts:

- We have a 150-year supply of natural gas.
- Short transportation times to Asia.
- Lower operating costs for liquefaction because it's cold in northern BC.

- We have a strong regulatory regime and a commitment to a streamlined and efficient environmental permitting process with defined timelines...
- We have a labour force training program to provide the skilled workers necessary to build and to keep costs down
- And we have First Nations participation and support for LNG projects.

CONCLUSION

In closing, let me just say one thing about trade:

Trade is not just about the movement of goods.
Or services.

Trade eventually did bring buttons to Europe...
but it also brought Mathematics.

Trade is about the exchange of ideas.

Ideas that can open up new opportunities.

Ideas that can transform the world.

When India reduces their greenhouse gas emissions – it transforms the world for the better.

When India lifts people out of poverty and grows its economy, it transformsthe world for the better.

SUB KA SAATH, SUB KA VEE-KAS

Everyone working together, for everyone's progress and development.

Let's make sure, in BC, that we are "one"... of the "everyone"... that Prime Minister Modi is talking about.

Because it's by working together for India's progress that we can build a stronger future for BC.

Thank you.

- Thank you for being here.
- British Columbia's Consular Corps represents relationships good will and prosperity between this province and countries of the world.
- As a province, we see ourselves in a global context. We share family connections, business connections, and cultural connections.
- That's how we're able to grow British Columbia's economy through trade and investment:
 - Helping international investors find opportunities in BC.
 - Assist BC companies in doing business overseas.
 - Getting the word out about BC's strengths as a place to invest.
- To do that, we need strong relationships between British Columbia and our international friends.
- You do important work to form those relationships, and providing new opportunities for BC and its international partners to grow, together.