

Multi-Faith Roundtable
Friday, Dec. 7, 2012
Speech length: Brief opening remarks

Event: what is it?

- Opening remarks for a multi-faith roundtable event hosted at the Premier's Vancouver office.

Audience: who are they?

- Various faith-based leaders and representatives from the independent school system.

Thank you for coming here today.

BC's cultural and religious diversity is part of the fabric that makes us who we are...

So I think it's of tremendous value to find out the needs of your respective congregations and to talk about issues that matter to us all: housing and how we're combating homelessness and poverty...

I also want to hear your concerns. I want to know what issues the Independent School system is experiencing.

And I want to hear about your successes and how you make things work for your individual schools so we might apply the things that work to the whole education system.

(Ask everyone to stand and introduce themselves)

BACKGROUND

Housing in B.C.

- Nov. 27, 2012 – Women in Burnaby and New Westminster in need of safe, affordable housing now have new options at the Elspeth Alley Housing for Elder Women in Burnaby.
- This is a result of an agreement between the Anglican Diocese of New Westminster and Atira Women's Resource Society to operate a 23-apartment women's residence in the former Abbeyfield House on the grounds of St. Margaret of Scotland in Burnaby
- Nov. 9, 2012 – Single mothers and their children in need of safe, supportive housing in the Tri-Cities have increased housing options with Como Lake Gardens – a newly-built four-storey building providing 30 affordable and supportive apartments for single mothers and their children.
- May 4, 2012 – Single mothers and their children who were at risk of homelessness have moved into their new home at YWCA Alder Gardens, a new 36-unit supportive housing development in Surrey.
- May 20, 2011 – Announced beginning of construction on 30 new affordable housing units for single mothers and their children, thanks to a partnership between the province, the City of Coquitlam and the YWCA.

Combating Homelessness

- Nov. 8, 2012 – Sanford Apartments, a new \$22.3-million building providing 62 apartments of supportive housing for people at risk of homelessness in Vancouver, officially opened.

- Sept. 12, 2012 – Dunbar Apartments was the 5th new supportive housing development to officially open under a partnership between the Province and the City of Vancouver, providing 51 affordable and supportive apartments for adults living with mental health challenges who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.
- More than 1,500 new supportive housing units are being built in Vancouver over the next few years. Four developments, with 389 of the new units, are already open and the remaining projects are expected to be completed over the next two years.
- May 2011 – The Province's strategy to reduce homelessness and connect people with more housing options is having a positive impact, including a reduction in Vancouver to 145 street homeless from 815 - an 82% decline - according to results from the Metro Vancouver 2011 Homeless Count.

B.C.'s Independent Schools

- There are a total of 350 independent schools in B.C. that enrol more than 73,000 students, which is approximately 11% of B.C.'s kindergarten to Grade 12 population.
- In 2010-11, international students paid \$160 million in K-12 school fees: \$129 million went to boards of education and an estimated \$31 million went to independent schools.

-END-

City in Focus Christmas Ball
Saturday, Dec. 8, 2012
Speech length: 3 minutes

Event: what is it?

- The event's purpose is to gather all disciplines of professionals in one venue and celebrate Christmas through engagement, education and to stimulate action that reflects City in Focus' theme for each year.
- For 2013, the theme for young professionals is "Unbridled: Unleashing the passion and creativity of young professionals to be God's Change Agents."

Audience: who are they?

- 330 people: 60% young professionals and 40% business leaders.
- Also representatives of the local art community.

KEY MESSAGE:

1. Ensuring that BC's young professionals have the skills, the jobs, and the support they need to be successful.

THANK EMCEE FOR INTRODUCTION

- You've all heard you are this country's future. You've also been told to be the change you want to see in the world.
- And that creates a lot of pressure for young people.
- I can tell you they create a lot of pressure for slightly older people, too.
- I think older generations sometimes forget about the freedom of being young and what that freedom allows you to achieve.
- Young people see things differently. You are inventive. You don't want to do things the same as before just because "that's the way it's always been done".
- You want to make an impact, you want to be a catalyst for change – and in the first years of your career you should be free to push boundaries, innovate, and also, to make mistakes and learn from them.
- As you get further into your careers, we want BC to be the place you push those boundaries, make the odd mistake and have great success in working and raising your family.
- Thank you and Merry Christmas.

-END-

Kelowna Women's Group
Monday, Dec. 17, 2012
Speech length: 3 minutes

Event: what is it?

- Speaking to a Kelowna-area women's group

Audience: who are they?

- Women from the community

KEY MESSAGES:

1. The best thing we can do for the next generation of BC women is to share what we've learned and to become mentors.
2. Strong women role models help raise great people and build strong, caring societies.
3. My government is more committed than ever to doing the right thing for families.

- Acknowledge emcee (TBD)
- I'm thrilled to be here today to speak with you. I got back into politics to make life better for BC families.
- ***Tell experience about taking care of mum, while working as broadcaster, and being a parent to Hamish***
- Being a modern mom like being a tightrope walker – we have to work hard every day to find the balance between your career and your kids.
- How do we balance? Answer different for everyone – flexibility and mentorship, grace, creativity and courage.
- ***Tell experience about while working as Premier, and being a parent to Hamish***
- At the end of the day – we will always be a mom. Each of us here today is a mentor to our children. Mentorship builds strong, caring communities.
- Strong families and strong female role models help build great people and great societies.
- Supporting ambitions and dreams of the next generation is the best thing we can do to honour the memory of the women who supported us and helped us get to where we are today.

- Conviction we have in our own values – values handed down by our parents.
- Thank you.

-END-

Recent accomplishments for families in Kelowna:

- Sept. 28, 2012 – Residents of the Okanagan Valley will soon have an additional 2.83 hectares of parkland to enjoy - the result of a land grant from the B.C. government's Sponsored Crown Grant program.
- Sept. 14, 2012 – We've invested more than \$28.5 million for the new Mar Jok Elementary in West Kelowna and the expansion of Okanagan Mission Secondary in Kelowna.
- June 28, 2012 – Cancer patients living in the Southern Interior of B.C. will have access to a new integrative cancer care service that combines the broader concepts of health with standard therapies. The InspireHealth Southern Interior centre in Kelowna helps to improve cancer care and helps patients learn how to support their own health and recovery.
- May 25, 2012 – Opening of New Gate Apartments, a 49-unit supportive housing development for those at risk of homelessness in Kelowna.
- Oct 2011 – Official opening of Apple Valley, a new 72-unit housing development for seniors and persons with disabilities in Kelowna.

- July 2011 – Official opening of Tutt Street Place, a new \$10.1-million supportive housing development in Kelowna. The new building has 39 apartments with integrated support services to help women and women with children who are homeless, at risk of homelessness or who have proven financial need

Making life more affordable for families:

- We raised the minimum wage to put \$4,000 extra per year into people's pockets.
- We're implementing targeted tax relief for seniors, for young families and for first-time new home buyers.
- We're working to make government less expensive by cutting the proposed hydro rate increase in half.
- And most importantly, we are leaving more money in people's pockets by holding the line on provincial taxes so that we still have the lowest personal income taxes of any jurisdiction in this country.

**Vernon Women's Group
Monday, Dec. 17, 2012
Speech length: 3 minutes**

Event: what is it?

- Speaking to a Vernon-area women's group

Audience: who are they?

- Women from the community

KEY MESSAGES:

1. The best thing we can do for the next generation of BC women is to share what we've learned and to become mentors.
2. Strong women role models help raise great people and build strong, caring societies.
3. My government is more committed than ever to doing the right thing for families.

- Acknowledge emcee (TBD)
- I'm thrilled to be here today to speak with you. I got back into politics to make life better for BC families.
- ***Tell experience about taking care of mum, while working as broadcaster, and being a parent to Hamish.***
- Being a modern mom like being a tightrope walker – we have to work hard every day to find the balance between your career and your kids.
- How do we balance? Answer different for everyone – flexibility and mentorship, grace, creativity and courage.
- ***Tell experience about while working as Premier, and being a parent to Hamish***
- At the end of the day – we will always be a mom. Each of us here today is a mentor to our children. Mentorship builds strong, caring communities.
- Strong families and strong female role models help build great people and great societies.
- Supporting ambitions and dreams of the next generation is the best thing we can do to honour the memory of the women who supported us and helped us get to where we are today.

- Conviction we have in our own values – values handed down by our parents.
- Thank you.

-END-

Recent accomplishments for families in Vernon:

- May 25, 2012 – Opened the new Centennial Building and Dr. Walter Anderson Building at Kelowna General Hospital (KGH) that will provide modern care for thousands more patients and families from the Interior for years to come. The \$218-million Centennial Building was funded through the Kelowna and Vernon Hospitals Projects (approximately \$435 million).
- Summer 2012 – Work began on a major upgrade to Highway 6 in Coldstream, and resurfacing of Highway 97A near Armstrong. These improvements will increase the safety of these important North Okanagan corridors.
- Dec 2011 – A new transit operations and maintenance centre opened in Vernon, responding to the growing demands for public transportation in the city.
- Oct. 2011 – Officially opened the Polson Tower at Vernon Jubilee Hospital, a \$180-million project that added 16,815 square metres (181,000 square feet) of space to the VJH site. More space has allowed for the expansion of operating rooms and the emergency department.

Making life more affordable for families:

- We raised the minimum wage to put \$4,000 extra per year into people's pockets.
- We're implementing targeted tax relief for seniors, for young families and for first-time new home buyers.
- We're working to make government less expensive by cutting the proposed hydro rate increase in half.
- And most importantly, we are leaving more money in people's pockets by holding the line on provincial taxes so that we still have the lowest personal income taxes of any jurisdiction in this country.