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**Teo Chew Anniversary Day Dinner**  
**Saturday, Sept. 29, 2012**  
**Speech length: 3-5 minutes**

**Event: what is it?**

- On Sept. 10, 2011, the City of Vancouver proclaimed it to be Teo Chew Appreciation Day in recognition of the charity and community work of the Teo Chew people. This dinner will celebrate the anniversary of this day and will encourage interaction between Teo Chew people both overseas and in North America.

**Audience: who are they?**

- Members of the Teo Chew Society Vancouver, the Chiu Chow Benevolent Association of BC and the Canada Chaoshan Business Association.
- MPs, MLAs, city councillors,
- China consulate representative

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- B.C. and Guangdong have been sister provinces for 17 years and this is an important relationship.
- China is already BC's second largest trade partner so societies like yours that help build community in Vancouver continue to deepen that relationship.
- For more than a century, people from China have been coming to B.C. to build our province, create jobs and make our communities stronger. Today, those relationships help us do business across the Pacific.

**PRONUNCIATION: Dee-AH Jew**

*Check against delivery*

ACKNOWLEDGE: Thank MLA RICHARD LEE (Burnaby North) for introduction, MAYOR ZHENG (Shantou), Minister JOHN YAP (Advanced Ed, Innovation and Multiculturalism and MLA for Richmond-Steveston)

A year ago, the City of Vancouver proclaimed it to be Teo Chew (Dee-AH Jew) Appreciation Day in recognition of the charity and community work of the Teo Chew people in our city. And tonight we celebrate that anniversary and the continued good works you do.

Community associations, like Teo Chew Society Vancouver, are so important to who we are as a province. You help form a sense of community and have a hand in creating the cultural diversity that Vancouver is celebrated for.

For more than a century, people from China have come to B.C. to build our province, create jobs and make our communities stronger. Today, those relationships have grown and helped us do business across the Pacific.

And our connection to the Guangdong province of China is deep. We have five pairs of twinned cities, and two sister port relationships.

We have had strong economic and cultural ties that have brought us closer together.

Page 2 of 3

BC is committed to continuing to strengthen the historical, ancestral, trade and investment ties we have to Guangdong and the Teo Chew people.

I hope our mutually beneficial relationship can continue for many years to come.

-END-

**BC Business Council**  
**Wednesday October 3, 2012**  
**Speech length: keynote**

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**Event: what is it?**

- BCBC membership luncheon meeting with Premier Christy Clark

**In attendance: who are they?**

- BCBC President and CEO Greg D'Avignon
- BCBC Executive VP and CPO Jock Finlayson
- BCBC VP of Policy and Communications Tom Syer
- BCBC Chief Economist and VP Ken Peacock (TBC)
- Members of BCBC

**Audience:**

- BCBC membership (closed to public and media)

**Key Messages:**

- B.C. is a safe harbour for investment in this time of global economic turmoil and uncertainty.
- To meet employers' needs, we have to make sure that British Columbians have the right skills, in the right places, at the right times.
- With the right plan and prudent decisions, B.C. can be the economic engine of Canada.

*Check against delivery*

## **Introduction**

THANK: Sally-Mae Mitchel for introduction

ACKNOWLEDGE: Greg D'Avignon (President and CEO)

It's great to be here today speaking with you, talking to you about the story of British Columbia, one that I believe we are writing together and that is going to have a great ending.

Last September when we met at your Asia Pacific Symposium, we had just launched *Canada Starts Here: The B.C. Jobs Plan*.

We've spent the last year putting that plan into action and working towards making B.C. the economic engine that can drive Canada.

Just look at some of what we have accomplished:

- We are number one in job growth in Canada, even ahead of Alberta.
- We are up 18 per cent in new investments over one year with over \$80 billion currently underway in BC.

- We have cut the notice of work backlog for mining by 90%, helping the industry grow by 20 per cent in value, in one year, to \$8.6 billion.
- We've made a \$75-million investment in skills training so that British Columbia kids will be the first in line to get those jobs when they come open.
- We've done three trade missions to Asia that have garnered \$2 billion in new deals from those missions alone. And, our trade with Asia is up 23% over the last year

And we are partners in this progress. This wasn't a plan crafted in isolation, it was a plan built by listening, by asking questions of those who make the investments, take the risks and create the jobs.

Part of the plan was drilling down and focusing on eight key sectors of the economy and those plans are guiding the work of government across every ministry.

Now, we're starting to see the results of working together. B.C. is now in a position to lead the country in economic growth. We are on the right track.

Creating the plan took a lot of hard work, as did getting the fundamentals in place for growth. But what is essential to all of it... that we have the workers to fill the jobs.

We established regional workforce tables so we could really understand how our labour market is changing and how we can best support the workers of tomorrow.

We took what we learned from the regional workforce tables and from consultations with business of every size, with industry groups, labour, communities, post-secondary institutions and educators.

We talked to small business that represents more than 98% of all BC businesses, employ over a million people and drive 47% of BC exports.

What we heard was that access to skilled labour is your top concern.

- B.C.'s mining industry employees more than 29,000 people in mineral exploration, mining and related sectors, mostly in rural B.C. But more than 10,000 job openings are expected in this sector by 2020.
- Employment in the technology sector in 2009 was at 84,000 and we expect it to grow to at least 100,000 by 2014. This is consistent with the technology report card released by KPMG. That's another 16,000 jobs in less than two years.
- The National Shipbuilding Procurement Strategy contract is huge for B.C. Combined with other operations at Seaspan, we expect it to create an annual average of 4,000 direct and indirect jobs over the life of the contract, including 2,400 jobs at the shipyard alone.

- And our aerospace sector generates over \$1.2 billion in revenue per year and directly employs approximately 5,000 people.

The concern of who is going to fill all these jobs is not yours alone, it's not just a worry for human resource folks.

It's a worry for parents and for grandparents too - because we all want our kids to be able to go out and be a success. We want them to get a good-paying job in the place where they grew up.

We listened to you, we reviewed our existing K-12 and post-secondary systems, we analysed the most reliable labour market data and we assessed the results of our jobs plan so far.

And the result is a new skills and training plan which reflects what we heard from you.

## **Skills Training Plan**

When we were growing up, our parents had a simple goal: for us to have a better life and more opportunities than they had. And they delivered.

Now, it's our turn. For every one of the jobs being created, I want to make sure a British Columbian – especially our kids - is first in line to get it.

With our new skills and training plan, we will match the schools system with the needs of the economy. We are going to train people for jobs that actually exist.

Young people are getting more interested in trades because they see the economy is changing and they see a chance to earn a good wage doing something they like.

I like to talk about the example of Kim Feeney. Kim was the first woman ever to win the Maple Ridge Secondary School senior technology education award.

Despite that, after high school she did what lots of people do; she decided to go on and get a bachelor's degree. She did a double major in English and sociology.

When she finished her degree she had trouble finding a job. So her dad encouraged her to take the route that perhaps she was destined for anyway.

She went to BCIT, she got her Red Seal certification, and today she's following in her dad's footsteps. She's working, she's earning great money and she has a great future ahead of her.

Some sectors need skilled workers right now, and other sectors will need workers into the future.

Our plan allows trades students to enter jobs more quickly where they're needed, focusing the training at the beginning of the program and giving them hands-on experience toward the end of the program.

An effective training system isn't possible, for example, if pipefitting seats are open in Terrace when they're actually needed in Dawson Creek or if construction seats are made available in 2015 when we actually need them today.

So, we've built our skills and training plan around four key actions.

First, promoting and profiling today's trades as tomorrow's careers. Students in school need to understand the benefits of a trade and our goal is a 50% increase in the number of graduates entering a trade or technical program immediately after high school.

We are creating more chances for students to begin apprenticeships before graduation so they can earn those credits toward trades or a technical program.

The second area of action is investing \$75m to improve our training facilities and equipment and ensuring the availability of technical education teachers, particularly those with a trades education.

When I visited the College of New Caledonia to announce some of this new funding, I saw kids training on equipment that was produced when I was in grade 11. That was a long time ago.

We're changing that. Students need to be trained in the equipment that they're going to use when they get out in the workforce.

The third area is making sure we get the right mix of quality and programs and reduce the amount of time it takes to achieve certification while still maintaining those high BC standards we're known for.

So we're matching program dollars to regional needs and ensuring that the right seats are available in the right places.

And the solution does not lie in just increasing funding. It means we need to change the funding mix so that we're funding the programs that are going to really meet the needs of the economy.

Training funding will also be increased by \$5 million per year, starting in 2013, to train workers for higher skills and higher-pay work, and next year we will also begin working with stakeholders to reduce the time it takes to complete on-the-job training. Our goal is to cut that in half in priority trades.

The final area of action in our plan is making sure we are matching our economic immigration to meet B.C.'s labour market needs.

We are going to do everything we can to ensure that British Columbians are first in line for the jobs being created in our economy, but even if we're 100% successful in that, we will still face a worker shortage because of the incredible opportunities on the horizon.

So we are going to redouble our efforts to recruit workers from other parts of Canada and internationally to help fill the coming skills gap with six interprovincial and three international recruitment missions.

One of our initiatives will be a call for British Columbians to come home. Come home to our province. Find that job here. It's waiting for you. We need your skills. We need your talents.

Our skills training plan is about changing the face of our province. It's about transforming our workforce to meet the needs of tomorrow.

We spend \$5 million a day on post-secondary education and training in BC, and that's not changing. But our programming must and will.

We are going to keep doing the right things, and it is going to lead to a million new jobs in our province by 2020.

As a government, we're going to do everything to make sure British Columbians get the first crack at those jobs.

But we need your help to help fill the rest of the jobs.

Employers and investors are looking for a couple of things when they decide to come to a new location.

- they're looking for low taxes, and we have those;
- they're looking for governments that make responsible decisions about spending people's money, and we are doing that.

Then they look for a skilled workforce. They want to be in a place where they can find people to fill the jobs that they'll be creating in that jurisdiction, people that will help them build their business. And with your help, we will give them that.

### **UBCM Announcements**

Last week at UBCM, I announced the fourth in our series of labour deals. We've got teachers, resident doctors, nurses and now government employees – all done and respecting taxpayers ability to pay. It can be done.

And last week, I filled in more details of my vision for BC by announcing plans to four-lane the rest of the TransCanada and replace the George Massey Tunnel.

With the incredible opportunities ahead, with prudent management, with a careful eye on the economy of our province and a skilled workforce to realize those opportunities, we are telling the world that this is the place to be.

## **Safe Harbour**

Today the global economy is as uncertain as it was when we met a year ago. The turmoil in Europe and the US is still there.

It's not going to change, not next year, not the year after that.

We've all been reading the papers and seeing what's going on in Europe and the United States, and I think it's pretty obvious to most of us that it's not going to change dramatically any time soon.

It may very well be the new normal for all of us.

And that is why we have to stick to our plan, because while we've seen another year of economic turmoil since we launched the BC Jobs Plan, British Columbia has nonetheless charted a safe course through that, and created more than 51,700 net new jobs.

Unemployment in British Columbia is down. Investment is up. Jobs are up. We are stable and we are growing.

With all that's going on around us, more British Columbians are working today than ever in our history, and we are well on our way to becoming the economic engine of our country.

We cannot put all of this at risk.

It is not inevitable that the B.C. economy will grow, that we lead the country in economic growth, that our kids will have the pick of the jobs they want. It happens because there's a plan.

And my government has set out that plan, it's what differentiates us.

We are living in a world of economic turmoil ... yet we are stable and growing in BC because:

- we believe in saying yes to opportunity
- we believe in economic development
- we believe in responsible natural resource development
- we believe in building the infrastructure that will allow our economy to grow
- we believe in creating and funding some of the world's greatest post-secondary institutions that will make BC a world leader in high-tech innovation.
- we believe in keeping taxes low, in keeping investor confidence high and in balancing our budget.

And let me be clear, we believe in a balanced budget law because if you don't have a rule that makes deficits the exception, then deficits become the rule and balanced budgets become the lucky exception.

Our plan is making British Columbia the economic engine of Canada, but we will only be that economic engine if we continue to work together.

Despite the tough challenges, ladies and gentlemen, Canada really does start right here.

*Check against delivery*

Thank you, Pamela

It's a real pleasure to be here this morning, to talk to you about life as a politician and as a mom.

I truly believe these types of gatherings – where we can come together and share our stories – are vitally important

Being a mom is such an incredible honour – you have the responsibility of bringing someone up, of making sure they have the base so they will make a difference when they grow up.

But it also can mean taking care of someone who raised us... who taught us the lessons that we now share with our kids.

One of the most emotional moments of my life was taking care of my mom. It was a role-reversal, where daughter looks after parent... and I wouldn't change it for a moment.

Well, it is what I firmly believe – which is why I say it and push to make life better for families.

Family has many definitions... it's the mom and dad and kids, it's people who have chosen to spend their lives together without definition by others, it's that group of friends who support each other through every high and low.

That's why I got back into politics... it was a tough choice.

I had a great career on the radio, talking to folks all day, able to spend time with my son.

Now, Hamish loves sports... loves to play, practice and be with his buddies. But sometimes he gets disappointed or frustrated... so I always tell him that sometimes the things worth doing are hard.

And those were the words I heard coming back at me when I was thinking about running again.

Many of you know the exact same feeling...

Is it scary to be a mom? The first time you see that child you feel such an awesome responsibility.

Then you may decide you want to start a business? That's scary enough but you also have to think how that's going to impact your kids.

Well, Hamish is older – after-school is filled with baseball, hockey, soccer, chess.... he's growing up fast.

But there's one other change: I'm the boss.

I can set the hours, set the schedule and make sure I serve British Columbians and still have time for my son.

Being premier has allowed me to do things I think are important for families....

- Like raising the minimum wage.
- Launching a pilot project for micro-businesses – many that are being started by moms.
- And making sure our kids are first line in for jobs right here in British Columbia.

At the end of the day, though, I will always be a mom...

It's quite the ride sometimes – meeting with Richard Branson and then standing in the rain at a soccer game.

And I've been able to share it with my son. It's caused the odd awkward moment, like when one premier might have got locked in a Yukon outhouse.

Each of us here today is a mentor to our children.

Strong women role models like Leading Moms and Michelle Stilwell raise great people.

Michelle balances family life with winning multiple Paralympic games medals - Gold in wheelchair basketball in 2000, and gold and silver in the 200M and 100M in London.

She is a mentor not just to her son, but all of us.

It's that kind of mentorship that builds strong, caring communities.

The speakers here today are going to inspire us with their stories.

They balance their ambitions with being moms.

They believe in family and career, but also in the intrinsic importance of mentorship, leadership and social change.

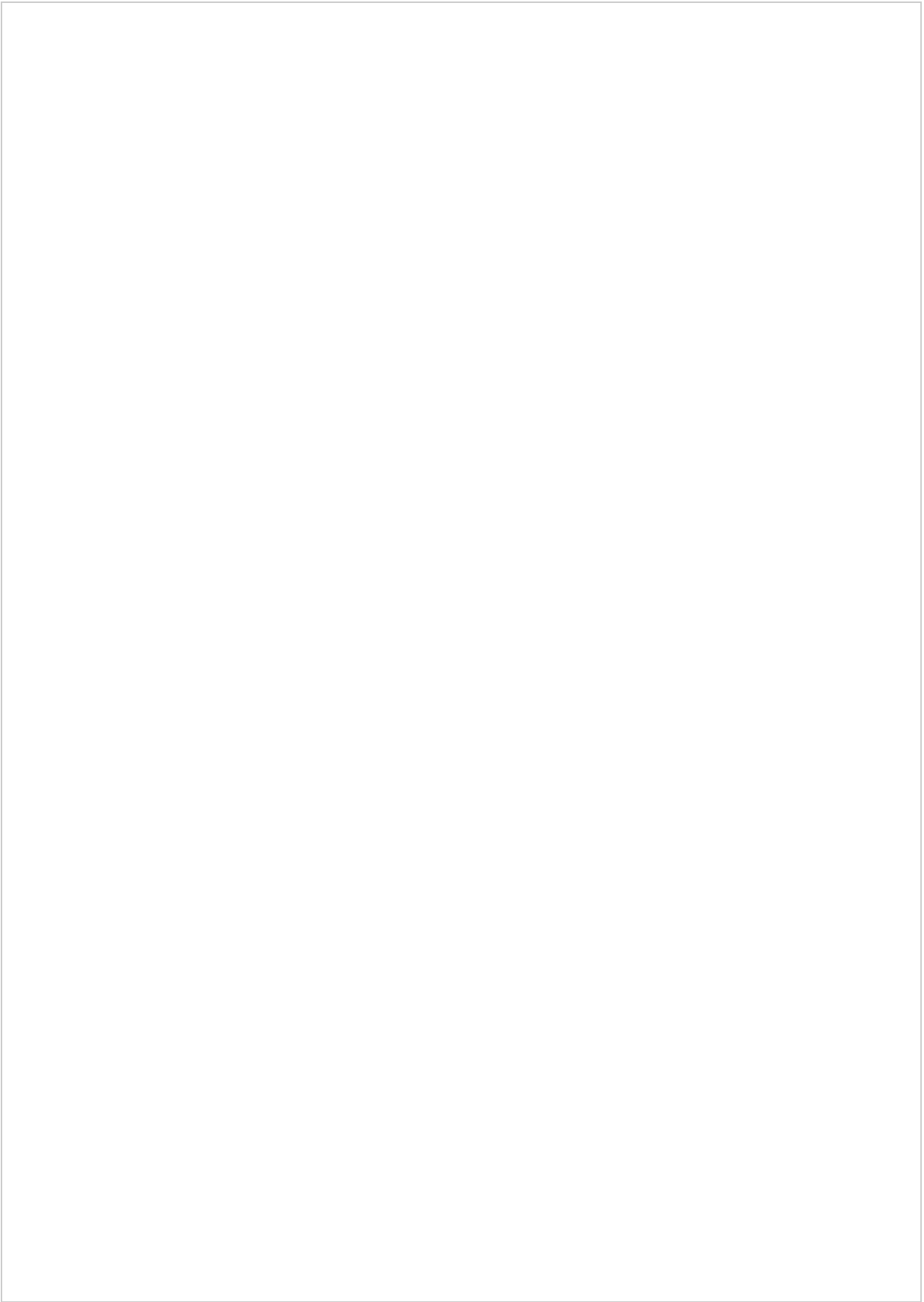
I think we all do. So, how do we balance? The answer is different for everyone.

But I think today will show that we do it with flexibility and with mentorship.

Even more than that, I think we do it with grace, creativity and courage.

And perhaps most importantly, I think we do it through the conviction we have in our own values – values handed down to us by our own parents.

Thank you.



## Prince George Chamber

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### Acknowledge:

- Bill McGill, Chamber President
- THANK FOR INTRO: Hon. Shirley Bond, Minister of Justice and Attorney General and MLA for Prince George – Valemount
- Hon. Pat Bell, Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training and Minister Responsible for Labour and MLA for Prince George – Mackenzie
- John Rustad, Parliamentary Secretary for Forestry to the Minister of Forests, Land and Natural Resource Operations and MLA for Nechako Lakes
- Shari Green, Mayor of Prince George

Thanks for having me here today during Small Business Month. I want to thank you – for everything you do.

Small business is incredibly important in BC. Small businesses make up 98% of the businesses in this province, employ over one million people in B.C. and contribute 29 per cent of our GDP.

Chambers aren't just the entrepreneurs and the business people who want to create jobs and wealth right here in Prince George...

Chambers are made up of the community. You're the folks who sponsor the minor sports and some of you probably coach. You help support cultural events and when Prince George needs to come together, you're there.

And you do it because you know how to build a community.... It is a healthy economy that gives us the chance to provide for our kids, to build strong families.

Because there are some things that government can't do. Government isn't going to be there when your child's had a bad day at school, or when your mother is sitting lonely in a hospital bed. But government shouldn't do those things – that's what strong families are for.

What government can do is build a strong economy that creates jobs, so that people can do their best taking care of the people they love.

It's that idea of strong communities that drives me, and Shirley and Pat and John and the entire team.

It's why over the last year we have been so focused on the BC Jobs Plan, putting it into action in every corner of the province and focusing on two priorities: creating jobs and making life more affordable for families.

The goal of the BC jobs plan is nothing less than making BC Canada's economic engine.

After a year, here are some results:

- As of today, we have created net new 57,400 jobs. We are number one in job growth in Canada, even ahead of Alberta.
- We are up 18 per cent in new investments over one year, with over \$80 billion worth of projects currently underway across BC.

- We're diversifying our markets. After three trade missions, in just one year, our trade is up with China nearly 25%.
- We have cut the notice of work backlog for mining by 90%, helping the industry grow by 20 per cent in value, in one year, to \$8.6 billion.
- BC ranks first in the number of small businesses per capita.

Despite the global economic uncertainty, we are creating jobs, but our plan is also working to make life a little bit more affordable for families. Here again, we've seen some results:

- 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 are making government less expensive by cutting a proposed hydro rate hike in half.

- We've made a \$75-million investment in skills training.
- And 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 in this country.

Those are all things that will help us protect the middle class, and they will help us make sure that more people have a chance to join the middle class ... the middle class that has built this country.

We are on the right track.

Just look at what's happening here in Prince George. It's a completely different place than it was 10 years ago.

For the first time ever, there are more than 51,000 people employed here in Prince George.

There is a real sense of momentum here. And our plan is designed to support that growth.

That plan is premised on a bedrock belief that everything begins with a thriving private sector, because when it's

thriving, we have the capacity to make smart investments like we have in Prince George.

Driven by champions for the North like Shirley, Pat and John, we've made significant investments in Prince George:

- Expanding the Prince George airport.
- Upgrades to College of New Caledonia.
- Expansions at the University of Northern British Columbia.
- Cancer Centre for the North.
- Simon Fraser Bridge.
- Charles Jago Sportscentre.
- Northern Development Initiatives Trust.
- Northern Medical Program at UNBC, which means doctors in the North for the North.
- Cariboo Connector 4-laning.
- At the conclusion of this 5-year period, half of the highway between Prince George and Cache Creek will be three or four lane.
- Burns Lake Sawmill is being rebuilt.

- Pine Pass has seen significant upgrades allowing Prince George businesses to tap into the oil and gas boom in the Peace.

Like I said, Prince George is a completely different place today. It's the type of place that is going to be hosting the Canada Winter Games in 2015, when you'll have a chance to show off the city to the entire country.

Now, one of the things I've heard from northern communities is the need to make sure your kids are getting the first shot at all the jobs that are coming here.

You want them to have the chance to live and work where they grew up.

And they should have that chance.

That's why our plan has a focus on Skills and Training.

We're going to:

- Promote the trades and get more students into technical programs.

- Improve and upgrade training facilities, equipment and access to teachers.
- Cut completion time for programs in half.
- Ensure we have the right mix of skills training programs for our economy, so BC students are first in line for jobs that are close to home.
- And we are going to stop training people for jobs that don't exist and start training them for jobs that do.

A lot of the projects we talk about are big projects and may seem immense, and most of you are in small business, but your success goes hand-in-hand.

When big projects get announced, it's the direct jobs that get all the media coverage.

But what REALLY drives the economy are the spin-off jobs that are created.

Every time we strengthen the resource sector, we strengthen small businesses that make up a community,

like John and Caroline Longhurst's café that gets packed with workers for lunch when there's a big project going on.

When small businesses are busy, you can do all those things that weave a community together, like how Monica Peacock puts on the Evening of Pink every year, to raise funds for the Spirit of the North Health Centre.

We want you to succeed. We want you to continue hiring workers right here. We want you to keep sponsoring minor sports.

Our plan is built on the belief that this truly is British Columbia's moment, and that northern B.C. is going to play a huge role in British Columbia becoming the economic engine of Canada.

Sherri Green will tell you that Canada starts here in Prince George because we are making it the North's hub for education and for the transportation infrastructure that connects the North to the rest of the world.

But it's going to take more hard work, more teamwork, more ideas from you – because government does not have all the answers.

These are uncertain economic times. We've all been reading the papers and seeing what's going on in Europe and the United States, and I think it's pretty obvious to most of us that it's not going to change dramatically any time soon.

In British Columbia though, we're in pretty good shape.

Unemployment is down. Investment is up. Jobs are up. We are stable, and even better, we are growing.

With all that's going on around us, more British Columbians are working today than ever in our history, and with our Jobs Plan, we are well on our way to reaching our goal of becoming the economic engine of our country.

Just look at natural gas. This really is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for all of us. Natural gas prices are way down in North America, and you know that that's carved a big hole in our provincial budget. So we need to diversify our markets.

We learned this from the work Pat Bell did, when he went to China to open up markets for forest products. What we learned is something that will be quite obvious to all of you – if you want higher prices you need more than one customer.

We need to do the same with liquefied natural gas. We need to ship it to Asia where prices are higher, where economies are transitioning to cleaner energy, and where the investment interest in BC is incredible.

If we stick to our plan, this could be a trillion-dollar opportunity for our province over 30 years. That's a lot of health care and education. It's a lot of highways, bridges, airports and ports. It's a decade of low taxes. It's a generation of economic opportunity for families.

But we have to make sure that we are being smart and are making the right choices for our future.

And making the right choices means standing up for B.C. and laying out clear principles for everyone to see.

Next week, the Joint Review Panel will be in Prince George to begin hearings into the Northern Gateway

Project... and we will be there asking some tough questions.

In July, Environment Minister Terry Lake outlined five conditions that would need to be met for us to consider the transport of heavy oil across BC.

The conditions are:

- First, successful completion of the environmental review process.
- Second, world-leading marine oil spill response, prevention and recovery systems for B.C.'s coastline and ocean.
- Third, world-leading practices for land oil-spill prevention, response and recovery.
- Fourth, legal requirements regarding Aboriginal and treaty rights are addressed, and First Nations are provided with the opportunities, information and resources necessary to participate.

- Fifth, British Columbia receives a fair share of the fiscal and economic benefits of a proposed heavy oil project that reflects the level, degree and nature of the risk borne by our province, our environment and our taxpayers.

Our government has taken a tough, principled and absolutely consistent stand; we have said that, as of now, the risks of heavy oil far outweigh the benefits that our province would see.

I was in Alberta recently and there the media has told them that there's only one condition that matters – the fair share.

They seem to think that we stand to lose big economic benefits – but that's just not the case. As of now, only 8% of the fiscal benefits would flow to BC. That's simply not good a good deal.

But those other four conditions are just as important.

We deserve our fair share of the benefits, but there is no price that we can put on our environment. There is no amount of money that can make up for an unacceptable

risk when it comes to our ocean, our coast and our land. I have never seen a seagull wash up on the coast covered in natural gas.

We are all fighting for the same thing in BC - a strong, job-creating economy that's going to sustain the families and the communities that weave us together.

We cannot put all of this at risk.

It is not inevitable that the B.C. economy will continue to grow. It is not inevitable that we will lead the country in job growth, or that our kids will have the pick of the jobs they want. These things are happening because we have the right plan and we are sticking to it.

It's a plan that is premised on our belief in economic development.

We believe in saying yes to opportunity.

We believe in responsible natural resource development.

We believe in building the infrastructure that will allow our economy to grow.

We believe in creating some of the world's greatest post-secondary institutions.

We believe in keeping taxes low, investor confidence high and balancing our budget.

And let me be clear, we believe in balanced budget law, because if you don't have a rule that makes deficits the exception, then deficits become the rule, and balanced budgets become the lucky exception.

Our plan is well on its way to achieving our goal of making British Columbia the economic engine of Canada.

Despite the tough challenges we face, ladies and gentlemen, Canada really does start right here.

-END-

Consular Corps of BC: Oct. 9, 2012

**Consular Corps of BC  
Tuesday, Oct 9, 2012**

**Event: what is it?**

- Luncheon hosted by the Consular Corps of BC
- Premier to speak for 5-7 minutes

**Audience: who are they?**

- Consuls General and reps
- Anticipated audience size: 40-50 people
- Chilliwack MLA and Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier John Les is hosting the event. (tbc)

**Key Messages**

- British Columbia is THE place in Canada to invest.
- We are continuing to build international relationships in places such as Asia and bring new business opportunities to our province.
- We are building an entirely new industry based on Liquefied Natural Gas exports to Asia.

## **Consular Corps of BC**

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*Check against delivery*

Thank you John for the introduction.

And thank you Ms. Rosa Elena Moreno, Dean of the Consular Corps and Consul General for El Salvador, for allowing me to come and speak with you today.

Each one of you in this room is a key partner with us in building positive international relationships and promoting B.C.

B.C. now have six trade and investment representatives in Asia; two in Europe; and one in the United States.

And your knowledge and your skills are going to be needed, tested and appreciated, like never before.

The global economy remains just as uncertain as it was when we met 11 months ago. It appears that for now, the turmoil in Europe and the United States is the new “normal”.

When we last met, in November, I talked to you about the new economic plan for British Columbia that we had just announced – the BC Jobs Plan.

The plan has two priorities – creating jobs and making life more affordable for families.

**TODAY, I'M PLEASED TO TELL YOU THAT THE B.C. JOBS PLAN IS WORKING.**

We have the fastest job growth in Canada. We have succeeded in creating more than fifty thousand net new jobs.

Employment is up and investment is up. In fact – investment is way up

BRITISH COLUMBIA IS THE PLACE TO INVEST.

\$80 billion in new investments are currently underway in B.C. That's an increase of 18 per cent in just one year.

Mitsubishi Corporation alone invested \$2.9 billion in Encana's natural gas development project in Montney, B.C.

(pause)

In the past year, I have conducted three trade missions to some of your home countries in Asia, to tell them about our triple-A credit rating, our abundant natural gas, our international education sector and our hi-tech companies.

To date, these missions have generated \$2 billion in new deals. Add to that the value of all the new relationships that we have forged.

More British Columbians are working than ever before. Our province is on the way to becoming the economic engine of Canada.

We are responding to a big shift that we see, particularly in emerging economies in Asia. They are looking to change their energy mix by moving towards lower emission fuels and sources of clean energy.

Japan, for example, is looking to change its energy mix in the wake of the Fukushima nuclear disaster.

We intend to help meet those needs. We are working on creating a new industry – Liquefied Natural Gas – that can pump over \$1 trillion into our economy in direct economic benefits over the next 30 years.

We have a 50 year history of safe natural gas development and we can support the industry for another 80 years or more with current discoveries.

We are continuing to work with industry proponents and First Nations to advance pipeline plans for proposed LNG facilities.

Our BC Jobs Plan committed us to three plants by 2020 and we are well on our way to achieving that goal. Proposed projects include:

- BC LNG Douglas Channel
- Kitimat LNG

## Consular Corps of BC

- Shell
- Progress Energy/PETRONAS
- Nexen, INPEX
- British Gas Group

There are additional proposals in the mix like Terra Energy and others that I can't disclose just yet.

Early indications are that we can expect nearly \$7 billion in natural gas investments for last year.

Natural gas is the opportunity of our lifetime. We can transform B.C. into an emerging energy powerhouse within Canada.

Our traditional resource sectors also have a role to play.

Forestry companies are selling wood pellet exports for biofuel. A deal was recently announced to sell 6,000 tonnes of wood pellets to a Korean company. We are developing a framework and making investments to enable a biofuel industry.

B.C. is also a leader in clean technology innovations such as hydrogen and fuel cell technology. We have 2 operational wind projects and six more in various stages of development.

All of this translates into good, high-paying, skilled jobs for people in communities across B.C.

We already have a tremendous education and training system, but we need to make sure it can evolve to meet the needs of students and the realities of our changing world.

We know that a skilled workforce is the foundation of a strong and resilient economy.

I'm committed to making sure British Columbians have the right skills to take advantage of the economic opportunities that are coming our way.

We have listened to employers. We listened to trade and industry groups. We listened to labour. We talked with large and small businesses, with communities and post-secondary institutions.

They told us that access to skilled labour is their top concern.

THAT'S WHY TWO WEEKS AGO I ANNOUNCED A NEW COMPONENT FOR OUR JOBS PLAN - a comprehensive strategy to expand and align skills training programs with current economic opportunities.

We'll promote and profile today's training for tomorrow's careers, working to highlight the tremendous opportunities that lie ahead in the trades and technical fields.

We're investing \$75 million to improve training facilities and equipment and to ensure we retain the best technical education teachers, especially those with trades certification.

We're getting the right mix and quality of trades and technical programs and reducing the time needed to achieve certification – while maintaining the high standards employers demand.

And we're matching economic immigration selection to meet B.C. labour market needs.

With the incredible opportunities ahead, with prudent management, with a careful eye on the economy of our province and a skilled workforce to realize those opportunities, we can stand up and show the world that Canada does start right here in British Columbia.

I want to thank you for the incredibly important role that each of you plays in providing a strong voice for your countries and keeping us connected.

You are the essential links that help us to make that happen.

You can help us get our message out to the world. More than ever before ... B.C. is open for business.

Thank you.

**-END-**

## **Review of Teacher Bargaining Monday October 15, 2012**

### **Event: what is it?**

- Announcement with Ministry of Education of upcoming review of teacher bargaining.

### **Audience: who are they?**

- BC families
- Teachers
- Students

### **Key Messages**

- When we reached the negotiated settlement with teachers in June, the celebration was muted by one hard fact – that the agreement came after a year of labour strife and disruption that affected all students and families in British Columbia.
- Across the B.C. public sector, we were able to reach agreements under the net-zero mandate without the same disruptions.
- I want Minister McRae's review to achieve two goals:
  - Longer-term stability for students. Imagine what a ten year deal with teachers would mean for our schools.
  - The second goal falls from the first – and that is to improve how we interact and work with the BCTF to achieve the mutual goal of negotiated collective agreements – while minimizing the stress, anxiety and disruption.

*Check against delivery*

ACKNOWLEDGE: Don McRae, Minister of Education and  
MLA for Comox Valley

Thank you all for coming today.

In classrooms across the province, students have settled  
into their new school year.

This October is different in some respects from last year,  
when labour disruption was impacting virtually every  
student, family, and teacher in the province.

When we launched the B.C. Education plan a year ago,  
we had a simple but ambitious goal – to build an education  
system that is more flexible, dynamic and adaptable, so  
that students are better prepared for success in a rapidly  
changing world.

Here are some of the results:

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- In the past year, we have introduced a new system to certify and regulate teachers, and established a new B.C. Teachers' Council.
- Our government also shepherded through the School Amendment Act which has increased choice and brought flexibility to the school calendar.
- A new *Superintendent of Reading* has been appointed who is already working with every school district in the province to improve reading skills.
- And to facilitate the transition from high school into post-secondary education, our newly released Skills and Training Plan will encourage more students to consider skilled trades as a career choice
- We are working to upgrade, replace and build a total of 60 schools throughout British Columbia over the next four years. The total investment for these projects is \$1.5 billion.

We are doing this because our kids deserve the best education possible. They deserve every possible opportunity to get ahead.

The past school year was a difficult one for B.C. families, teachers, administrators, school staff and school trustees.

When we reached the negotiated settlement with teachers in June, the celebration was muted by one hard fact – that the agreement came after a year of labour strife and disruption that affected all students and families in British Columbia.

More recently, under the cooperative gains mandate, we reached tentative agreements with the BCGEU, BC Nurses Union, medical residents, and with 2 research universities.

Our latest round of bargaining began in April 2011 and by February there had been over 75 bargaining meetings. With negotiations stalled and continuing job action by the BCTF, we enacted Bill 22.

The legislation imposed a cooling off period and suspended strike action while calling on the assistance of a mediator.

Against all odds and despite everyone's predictions, under Charles Jago's guidance the parties reached an agreement that will run until June 30, 2013.

And so with the progress of our June agreement in mind, today I am outlining two goals that will guide work I have asked Don McRae and his team to lead over the next several months.

Our first goal is long-term labour stability with teachers.

Our second goal is to improve how government interacts and works with the BC Teachers Federation.

These two goals will require compromise on all sides, including ours. It is worth thinking about what could be achieved with, for example, a ten-year deal with teachers.

Imagine. For a child starting grade 2 this year - if we are committed, focused and truly put their needs first, we

could see that student through to graduation without ever having to experience labour unrest again.

Think of the impact on these kids' education. Think of the impact on their families.

Can it be done? It is absolutely worth trying.

Today I am asking Don McRae and his team to lead government's effort to fix the process for bargaining with the teachers union.

I am prepared to put every preconception aside. I am prepared to look at everything.

For those of you who have already come to a conclusion about this, I ask you to set your conclusions aside.

For those who think the weight of history cannot be overcome, I suggest you think about this differently.

Think about the impact labour peace would have on kids, and please, work with us to keep our education system focused on them.

Don – I would say good luck but I don't think luck will come in to this.

It will be the hard work and your ability to build bridges with your knowledge, your humour, and the commitment to students and experience you share with educators across our province.

Thank you for taking this on. I look forward to seeing your results.

-End-

## Vancouver Island Economic Summit

*Check against delivery*

### Introduction

Acknowledgments: Thank Dave Willie, Chair, VIEA for introduction. Hon. Don McRae, Minister of Education and MLA for Comox Valley and Ron Cantelon, MLA for Parksville – Qualicum

### The Plan

A year ago, when I gave my first speech to this summit, I'd just set out an economic plan for our province – the BC Jobs Plan.

That's why a year ago I set out an economic plan for our province – the BC Jobs Plan.

It's a plan with the goal of making BC the economic engine of Canada.

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Our plan identifies the sectors that are key to growing BC's economy, most of which are very important to life here on the Island, like tourism, technology, mining, forestry and agrifoods.

Over the last year we've been putting that plan into action. It has two priorities – creating jobs and making life more affordable for families.

Look at the results:

- We are number one in job growth in Canada. Over the past year, we've created 57,000 net new jobs, most of them full time.
- We're diversifying our markets and our products. After three trade missions, in just one year, our trade is up with China nearly 25%.
- \$80 billion in new investments in projects currently underway across BC – that's up 18 per cent in just one year.

- In 2011, there were \$11.2 billion in sales of manufactured forest products like lumber, doors, window frames and cabinets. That's an increase of 23% from 2009.
- We have cut the notice of work backlog for mining by 90%, helping the industry grow by 20 per cent in value, in just one year, to \$8.6 billion.
- BC ranks first in the number of small businesses per capita.

Our plan is also working to make life a little bit more affordable for families. Here again, we've seen some results:

- 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 homebuyers.
- We are making government less expensive by cutting the proposed hydro rate hike in half.

- We've made a \$75-million investment in skills training.
- And 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 in this country.

Those are all things that will help us protect the middle class, and they will help us make sure that more people have a chance to join the middle class ... the middle class that has built this country.

Our plan is working. We are on the right track.

Just look at what's happening here on the island. It's a completely different place than it was 10 years ago.

The thriving technology sector is attracting international companies who are making the Island their home, like Microsoft, Atlas Elektronik and AbeBooks, a home-grown company that is now an Amazon subsidiary.

Today, the Greater Victoria tech sector employs more than 13,000 people and generates an economic impact of \$2.65 billion. It is Greater Victoria's #1 private industry.

If we stick to our plan, we can create 100,000 jobs in the tech sector over the next decade, 20% of which will be right here on Vancouver Island.

The tourism sector is strong:

- Travel and Leisure magazine ranked the Island as one of the top 10 island destinations in the world. And with good reason – you have world-class fishing in Campbell River, incredible skiing on Mt Washington and whale watching in places like Ucluelet and Port McNeil.
- Cruise ships heading to Alaska have a new port of call in Nanaimo.
- And we've opened new tourist centres in the Comox Valley and Port Alberni.

The agri-food sector has also seen significant growth:

- Just look at the Cowichan Valley, where the wine industry is taking off – giving the Okanagan a run for its money.

- The shellfish industry is also taking off. It's set to be a huge economic driver in the region and is benefitting from work being done at the Centre for Shellfish Research.
- Fanny Bay Oysters in the Comox Valley is already BC's largest shellfish producer.
- Island Scallops of Qualicum Beach is Canada's largest private marine research hatchery and the first fully-integrated shellfish producer.

That's why on both trade missions to China, I was promoting Vancouver Island's seafood to buyers, distributors, chefs, food media organizations and government officials, and I can tell you there is a lot of interest in B.C.'s seafood.

This is an industry that has massive potential to grow Vancouver Island's economy.

Today, B.C.'s forest sector is making a remarkable recovery:

- In 2011, forest product exports totaled \$9.95 billion, an increase of 30 per cent from 2009. **38%** of those were softwood lumber, and 43% were pulp and paper products, where value was added here in BC.
- People on Vancouver Island are committed to the future of the forest industry and so is my government.
- Just look at Nanaimo Forest Products, truly an Island success story. Levi Sampson and his employee/shareholders showed determination and commitment to this industry and now he's successfully producing world-class pulp and building an electrical generation plant at Harmac that will produce enough energy to light 17,000 homes.
- Western Forest Products is investing \$44 million to upgrade the Saltair Mill in Ladysmith and the APD mill in Port Alberni. This is a big vote of confidence in BC's economy.
- Nuecel in Port Alice is now a one of the world's top suppliers of specialty cellulose woodpulp.

- And the deep-sea port in Port Alberni is critical in helping us diversify our markets by exporting forest products to Japan, China and South Korea.

With the U.S. housing market crashing, diversifying our markets for forest products has never been more important.

In fact, a big part of why our forestry industry is doing well today is because we have worked hard on a plan to open up trade with Asia.

That's why forestry exports to China were up to \$3.2 billion in 2011, a 50 per cent increase in a year, with over a third of that being lumber.

We hope that trade will continue to grow, which is why I have met with business leaders interested in BC's forest products throughout my Jobs and Trade Missions.

There is a real sense of momentum and entrepreneurial spirit here. The unemployment rate on the Island overall is down to 5.1%, dropping over 2% since we introduced the Jobs Plan last September.

Right here in Nanaimo, 5,600 jobs were added since we launched our Jobs Plan, bringing the total to 51,700 jobs. Unemployment is at 4.6%, less than half of what it was last September.

Our plan is premised on a bedrock belief that everything begins with a thriving private sector, because when it's thriving, we have the capacity to make smart investments like we have here in Nanaimo and throughout the Island.

Driven by champions like Ida, Don, Murray and Ron, we've made significant investments to sustain and promote economic growth:

- Just yesterday we announced investments that will create new skills training seats at Camosun College, North Island College, Royal Roads and Vancouver Island University.
- Expanding the Nanaimo airport, which has led to a record shattering year with double digit passenger growth each month since January.
- Upgrades to the now fully accredited Vancouver Island University, where students are learning new and better ways to farm shellfish.

- The North Island hospital project is moving forward which will see new acute care facilities in Campbell River and Comox Valley, which will also create 2300 jobs. (1900 direct, 1400 indirect)
- A new expanded emergency wing opened at Nanaimo Regional Hospital as well as new renal and Pediatric wards
- The new Oceanside Health Care Centre in Parksville will be open next June
- A \$7.5 million contribution so passenger rail service can come back to the E&N line.
- Improvements to the Pat Bay High-way, Highway 4 Malahat corridor and the Port Alberni area.
- Upgrades to the John Hart Dam that will create about 400 jobs a year over the five years of construction.

Like I said, the Island has changed a lot over the last 10 years.

These changes were because we had a thriving private sector generating revenue that your government could use to invest in the things that matter to your communities.

Our plan is built on the belief that this truly is British Columbia's moment, and that Vancouver Island is going to play an important role in B.C becoming the economic engine of Canada.

But it's going to take more hard work, more teamwork, more ideas from you – because government does not have all the answers.

That's why we're starting province-wide consultations on how to solve the challenges that BC Ferries is facing. We have a world class ferry system - one of the largest in the world - and we are going to work together with BC Ferries, taxpayers and ferry users to ensure that our ferry system is sustainable.

I know that BC Ferries is incredibly important to every business here on the Island, which is why we have to ensure the long-term health of our ferry system.

Part of that means my government making further investments in BC Ferries – but it also means asking BC Ferries to find their own cost savings. We have to ensure that every investment made in BC Ferries is about serving the needs of Islanders.

Now, one of the things I've heard from island communities is the need to make sure your kids are getting the first shot at all the good jobs that our plan will ensure are created.

You want them to have the chance to live and work where they grew up.

And they should have that chance.

That's why our plan has a focus on Skills and Training.

We're going to:

- Promote the trades and get more students into technical programs.
- Improve and upgrade training facilities, equipment and access to teachers.
- Cut completion time for trades programs in half.

- Ensure we have the right mix of skills training for our economy, so BC students are first in line for jobs that are close to home.
- And we are going to stop training people for jobs that don't exist and start training them for jobs that do.

## **Safe Harbour**

Today the global economy is as uncertain as it was when we met a year ago... the turmoil in Europe and the US is still there, and it's not going to change anytime soon... not next year, not the year after that.

This may very well be the new normal.

That's why we need to stick to the plan... because while we have seen another year of economic turmoil in the world since we launched the BC Jobs Plan, in British Columbia we have nonetheless created more than 57,000 net new jobs.

Unemployment is down, investment is up, jobs are up... we are stable, and even better, we are growing.

With all that's going on around us, more British Columbians are working today than ever before. It's proof that our plan is helping us become the economic engine of Canada.

We have made BC a safe harbor for investment by sticking to a plan based on the fundamentals of a healthy economy:

- We have stable budgeting, with a plan to balance our budget this year.
- Smallest increase in government spending since 2004/05, which happens to be the last time I was in government.
- And we have a commitment to keeping our taxes low, which is why we have the lowest personal income taxes in Canada and the lowest combined corporate taxes in North America.

This is how our plan has made us number one in job growth in Canada.

If we stick to our plan, there are countless opportunities ahead of us that can help us make BC the economic engine of Canada.

## **Natural Gas**

Look at natural gas. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for all of us.

If we get it right, and stick to our plan, it's a more than a trillion dollar opportunity for BC over 30 years. That's a lot of government revenue that can be spent on health care and education. It's a decades of low taxes. It's generations of economic security for families.

So the natural gas industry is important to your future, even if its not happening right here. It's important to everyone's future in BC, because it will allow us continue to make smart, strategic investments in the things communities need, like the ones I spoke about earlier that we've made in the Island.

## **Conclusion**

We are all fighting for the same thing in BC – a strong, job-creating economy that's going to sustain the families and communities that weave us together.

We cannot put all of this at risk.

It is not inevitable that the B.C. economy will continue to grow. It is not inevitable that we will lead the country in job growth, or that our kids will have the pick of the jobs they want. These things are happening because we have the right plan and we are sticking to it.

It's a plan that is premised on our belief in economic development.

We believe in responsible natural resource development.

We believe in building the infrastructure that will allow our economy to grow.

We believe in creating some of the world's greatest post-secondary institutions.

We believe in keeping taxes low, investor confidence high and balancing our budget.

And let me be clear, we believe in balanced budget law, because if you don't have a rule that makes deficits the exception, then deficits become the rule, and balanced budgets become the lucky exception.

Our plan is well on its way to achieving our goal of making British Columbia the economic engine of Canada.

Because despite the tough challenges ahead, ladies and gentlemen, I truly believe that Canada starts here.

-END-

**Women's Forum  
Tuesday Oct. 16, 2012  
Speech length: 5-7 minutes**

**Event: what is it?**

- Speaking to a Women's Forum in Victoria.

**Audience: who are they?**

- Approximately 60 women from the community
- No media

**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

*Check against delivery*

- ACKNOWLEDGE AND THANK: Hon. Ida Chong, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation and MLA for Oak Bay – Gordon Head
- Pleasure to be here, to talk about life as politician and as mom.
- Being a mom an honour – responsibility of bringing someone up.
- Also can mean taking care of someone who raised us... who taught lessons we now share with our kids.
- Got back into politics to make a difference
- Being premier has allowed me to do things I think are important for families....
  - Like raising the minimum wage.
  - Launching a pilot project for micro-businesses – many that are being started by moms.
  - And making sure our kids are first line in for jobs right here in British Columbia.
- At the end of the day – will always be a mom.
- Each of us here today is a mentor to our children.
- Mentorship builds strong, caring communities.
- How do we balance? Answer different for everyone – flexibility and mentorship, grace, creativity and courage.

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- As we've been reminded of recently, raising kids that have the courage to stand up to injustice is more important than ever. Government and schools absolutely have a role to play, but so do families.
- Conviction we have in our own values – values handed down by our parents.
- Thank you.

-END-

### **Background**

#### **What's been done to make 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.

**Brock House 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**  
**Oct 19, 2012**  
**Length – 2-3 minutes**

**Event: what is it?**

- Premier's greetings at a 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration banquet for Brock House.
- Brock House Society, founded in 1974, serves about 2,400 Vancouver-area seniors by providing a meeting place for its members to socialize as well as a varied program of activities.
- The House was restored and renovated, then officially opened in December 1977.

**Audience: who are they?**

- Ms. Fran Holmes-Green, Past President of the society
- Descendents of the Brock and Gilman families (former owners of the house)
- Society volunteers
- Senior and middle-aged residents of Vancouver's west side

**Audience: What do they want to hear?**

**KEY THEME:**

- Families, jobs and economic development

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- Congratulations and thanks to all the volunteers for supporting the Brock Seniors' Activity Centre.
- Our plan is working and B.C.'s improving economy means sustained, strong support for health care and seniors.

*Check against delivery*

- Thank Bob Washington for introduction. Acknowledge members of the Brock and Gilman families.
- Samuel Maclure was the architectural genius who transformed these sturdy timbers of Brock House into what has become one of Vancouver's architectural jewels for more than a century.
- In the 1970s the volunteers of the Brock House Society began writing a new chapter in the story of this house.
- You restored it, renovated it and re-imagined it as an important public space where seniors could enjoy activities together.
- And now, it's a shining example of what can be done when people come together with a goal in mind.
- You are role models and ambassadors for the most active, healthy, long-lived generation of seniors in our history – nearly 600,000 strong.
- I often talk about the importance of families and how they are the foundation of strong communities. And that's what we see here tonight.
- You are a family, you are a community and you have helped to build our great province.
- For all you have done, all you're doing and all you will do – thank you on behalf of all British Columbians for setting such a great example.

Page 2 of 3

Oct 19, 2012 - Brock House 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

-END-

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**Mom bloggers Roundtable  
Tuesday Oct. 23, 2012  
Speech length: 5-7 minutes**

**Event: what is it?**

- Speaking to a mom bloggers roundtable – approx. 20 invitees to VPO.

**Audience: who are they?**

- They run the gamut from stay at home moms to entrepreneurial moms earning money from their blogs. All moms, 30-40 years old, most university educated, own homes, same type of crowd as Leading Moms event , but only about 2 women who were at Leading Moms will be at this roundtable.

**KEY MESSAGES:**

1. Strong women role models help raise great people and build strong, caring societies.
2. My government is more committed than ever to doing the right thing for families.
3. We have a plan, and it's working.

*Check against delivery*

Thank you, Pamela

- Got back into politics to make a difference for families and to be a role model for my son.
- I learned the importance of families from my mom.

<tell story of taking care of your mom>

- Being premier has allowed me to do things I think are important for families....
  - Like raising the minimum wage.
  - Launching a pilot project for micro-businesses – many that are being started by moms.
  - And making sure our kids are first line in for jobs right here in British Columbia.
- All of us here have to balance work and motherhood.

<tell story of Hamish on first day of school>

- Our most important job is to raise kids with great values.
- As we've been reminded of recently, raising kids that have the courage to stand up to injustice is more important than ever.
- Thank you.

-END-

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## **Background**

### **What's been done to make 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.

**BC Cancer Agency Centre of the North**  
**Monday, Oct. 29, 2012**  
**Speech length: 3-5 minutes**

**Event: what is it?**

- Premier Christy Clark and MLAs Shirley Bond, Pat Bell and John Rustad will officially open the BC Cancer Agency Centre for the North. The centre will open to patients Nov. 1, 2012.

**Audience: who are they?**

- MLAs Shirley Bond, Pat Bell and John Rustad
- First Nations - Blessing (Lheidli T'enneh Band)
- PHSA board chair or CEO
- BCCA president
- Northern Health board chair or CEO

**KEY MESSAGES:**

1. The BC Cancer Agency Cancer Centre for the North will allow patients and families in the north to stay closer to home as they undergo cancer treatment.
2. The BC Cancer Agency Centre for the North is a key part of the Northern Cancer Control Strategy. This \$91.5-million BC Cancer Agency project will November 1, 2012 – well within schedule and on budget.
3. While the number of cancer diagnoses are on the rise – including Northern B.C. – we are fortunate in B.C. that we have the best cancer survival rates in North America. Our strategy is focused on enhancing the continuum of cancer services across the north, from prevention and screening to treatment and patient supportive care.

*Check against delivery*

- Acknowledgements: Shirley, Pat and John are strong advocates on behalf of residents in the north. Through their hard work, we are celebrating a major milestone in cancer treatment for Northern BC.
- Welcome to your new cancer centre
- This is something the community – people from across northern B.C – have said is needed... that northerners, who contribute so much to our province, shouldn't have to travel south for cancer treatments.
- Well, here it is. A brand-new, state-of-the-art facility that brings cancer services – from prevention to treatment to after-care – all together in one place.
- Now, Pat, Shirley and John – along with many of you – heard those who said it couldn't be done. But they didn't take into account the resilience of those who call northern B.C. home.
- Each time a hurdle came up, you overcame it.
- And today, we see the result.

Page 2 of 3

- But today isn't just about bricks and mortar and the latest equipment.
- It's about people. It's about making sure northern cancer patients will no longer have to be far from their friends and family to receive the treatment they need.
- I know firsthand how important it is to be there for your loved ones.
- **When my mom was sick, I used to go visit in the morning, help her shower, come back at night and brush her teeth for her. I was able to be there for her... she wasn't alone.**
- And this new Centre for the North will allow northern families to be together during what is a trying time... when you're going fighting cancer you need your family with you...
- Which is why I am so proud to be here today to open the new Cancer Centre for the North.
- We have all been touched by cancer and now you will get the best treatment possible – B.C. has the best cancer outcomes in North America – and you will get that incredible care in the north.

-END-

## **Farewell Reception – Government House**

*Check against delivery*

- His journey:
  - Chief of the Skowkale First Nation
  - Grand Chief of the Stó:lo Tribal Council,
  - Two law degrees (bachelors, honorary doctorate)
  - Former judge
  - Chief Commissioner of the British Columbia Treaty Commission
  - National Aboriginal Achievement Award.
- Upheld constitutional framework with quiet, assured dignity, always a smile. His comments in legislature, laughs with both sides of House.
- Personal sacrifices – family time. Acknowledge Her Honour Gwendolyn Point's supportive role and individual example.
- Literacy program partnering with Rotary clubs. Provide portables, books and computers to remote areas.
- Canoe (symbol of unity), totem pole, the Black Rod.
- Love of music – playing drum at Minister Yap swearing in.
- His dedication to literacy and his role inspiring and connecting British Columbians.
  - Speech at Order of BC, his humour and call for great British Columbians to inspire others.

- Private talks by fire at Government House.

**Farewell Ceremony – Outgoing Lieutenant Governor  
Hon. Steven Point  
Thursday, Nov 1, 2012**

**Event: what is it?**

- Ceremony to say farewell to the 28<sup>th</sup> Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, the Honourable Steven Point
- Premier to speak for 3 minutes

**Audience: who are they?**

Official Party:

- Col. Jamie Hammond, Private Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor
- Lieut. Governor Designate Mrs. Judith Guichon and spouse (Mr. Bruno Mailloux).
- Hon. Lance S.G. Finch, Chief Justice of British Columbia, BC Court of Appeal
- Hon. Bill Barisoff, Speaker, and Mrs. Edna Barisoff
- Mr. John Dyble, Deputy Minister to the Premier and Cabinet Secretary
- Four Honorary Aide-de-Camps (tbc)

Other Invitees:

- All provincial ministers, MLAs and BC federal MPs
- First Nations chiefs and grand chiefs
- Several mayors
- Former LGs
- Major justices, presidents of BC universities, distinguished clergy, diplomats, military officials
- RCMP deputy commissioner
- Family members.

## Farewell Ceremony for 28<sup>th</sup> Lieutenant Governor – Nov. 1, 2012

Audience: what do they want to hear?

- **KEY THEME:** Thank you to BC's departing Lieutenant Governor for serving with distinction these past five years.
- **KEY MESSAGE:** Outgoing Lieutenant Governor Steven Point has served B.C. well during his five years as the province's 28<sup>th</sup>. Lieutenant Governor.

## **Farewell Ceremony for 28<sup>th</sup> Lieutenant Governor – Nov. 1, 2012**

*Check against delivery*

Thank John Dyble for introduction.

Today we would like to express our profound gratitude to His Honour, Steven Point, for his dedication and service as Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia.

He has served with distinction.

As the 28<sup>th</sup> British Columbian to have held this important post since 1871, he quickly proved himself to be an inspired choice.

He brought dignity, humility and an ever-present, gentle sense of humour to this prestigious appointment.

He also brought a deep understanding of the importance of family, though he never complained about how much time with them he was asked to sacrifice.

Anyone who knows His Honour knows that his wife, Her Honour Ms. Gwendolyn Point, has been alongside him

both professionally and personally, while serving as a great example for British Columbians herself. So we need to thank her too for her service to the province. They truly are a team and a great example of the type of strong families we are building here in BC.

His Honour also surprised us. We didn't know about his artistic side.

Who could have guessed that he would turn the shed behind Government House into a carving studio?

And who could have foreseen that he would create a beautiful dugout canoe just like those his First Nations ancestors used for generations, which is now displayed so proudly in the legislature rotunda, serving as a symbol of His Honour's message of unity.

He also surprised us with his love of music – we learned about his ear for it during Minister Yap's swearing in ceremony, when His Honour found a drum in the room and treated us to a performance, turning the formalities into a true celebration.

So today I am happy to present him with this parting gift – a guitar that I'm sure he will put to good use.

**[Present guitar.]**

As the province's first aboriginal Lieutenant Governor he brought a new and important perspective to this prestigious position.

His hope was to be a role model to First Nations youth during his tenure at Government House.

He achieved that goal and more. Through him, we all learned more about First Nations culture and His Honour served as a role model for all British Columbians.

His Honour also became a great champion for literacy in BC. By partnering with Rotary clubs across the province, his program continues to provide remote communities with access to books, computers and other resources that help people learn.

He has shown a lifelong passion for leadership and an insatiable thirst for knowledge.

**Farewell Ceremony for 28<sup>th</sup> Lieutenant Governor – Nov. 1, 2012**

His journey to get here today has taken him from Chief of the Skowkale (skow-**kale**) First Nation, to Grand Chief of the Stó:lo Tribal Council, through two law degrees, work as a provincial judge and an appointment as Chief Commissioner of the British Columbia Treaty Commission.

He has also been the recipient of a National Aboriginal Achievement Award.

His Honour has truly shown incredible dedication to public service.

His long list of career achievements reflects a lifetime of distinguished service as a lawyer, educator and former judge.

And I know that personally I will miss our private talks by the fireplace at Government House, where His Honour offered his wisdom and guidance.

Since 2007, the Hon. Steven Point has served our province well and we thank him for his dedication.

**Farewell Ceremony for 28<sup>th</sup> Lieutenant Governor – Nov. 1, 2012**

- END -

**Lieutenant Governor Investiture Reception  
Friday, Nov. 2, 2012**

**Event: what is it?**

- Reception to mark the installation of the 29<sup>th</sup> Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, the Honourable Mrs. Judith Guichon.
- Premier to speak for 3 minutes

**Audience: who are they?**

Official Party:

- Col. Jamie Hammond, Private Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor
- Lieut. Governor Designate Mrs. Judith Guichon and spouse (Mr. Bruno Mailloux).
- Hon. Lance S.G. Finch, Chief Justice of British Columbia, BC Court of Appeal
- Hon. Bill Barisoff, Speaker, and Mrs. Edna Barisoff
- Mr. John Dyble, Deputy Minister to the Premier and Cabinet Secretary
- Mr. Jurica Capkin, Assistant Clerk of the Privy Council, Decrees
- Four Honorary Aide-de-Camps (tbc)

Other Invitees:

- All provincial ministers, MLAs and BC federal MPs
- Senator, the Hon. Larry Campbell
- First Nations chiefs and grand chiefs
- Several mayors
- Former Lieutenant-Governors
- Major justices, presidents of BC universities, distinguished clergy, diplomats, military officials

## Investiture Ceremony for 29<sup>th</sup> Lieutenant Governor – Nov. 2, 2012

- RCMP deputy commissioner
- Family members.

**Audience: what do they want to hear?**

- **KEY THEME:** Welcome BC's new Lieutenant Governor
- **KEY MESSAGE:** Judith Guichon's outstanding ranching career and long involvement in her community, industry and the province will bring a new perspective to the LG role.

*Check against delivery*

## Investiture Ceremony for 29<sup>th</sup> Lieutenant Governor – Nov. 2, 2012

*Check against delivery*

Thank John Dyble for introduction.

The office of Lieutenant Governor has a long and proud history.

Since our province was born in 1871, the office has been held by 28 exceptional British Columbians.

Today it is our pleasure to officially add the name of the Hon. Mrs. Judy Guichon to their distinguished ranks.

Judy will be the second woman to have ever held this post in British Columbia, and it just so happens that she will also be the second rancher.

Simply put, she is an outstanding choice. Not only does Judy bring great integrity and experience to this prestigious appointment ...

... she also brings a deep personal appreciation of the history and traditions of this province. And while she

always works to keep us connected to our roots, she truly has a passion for our shared future.

The Guichon family has operated their historic ranch in the southern interior region for more than 150 years, where Judy lives today with her children, passing down the traditions that have supported the Guichons for generations.

But Judy's also teaching them about new ways of doing things, to ensure that ranch is around for the generations of Guichons to come.

Judy has played a leading role in promoting environmentally sound ranching and agricultural practices in Canada, having spread her message about the importance of holistic management.

Her efforts to protect the environment through better management practices were recognized by the Canadian Cattlemen's Association in 2002 with a National Environmental Stewardship Award.

Her career achievements reflect a lifetime of distinguished service.

She has worked with community organizations such as the Fraser Basin Council of BC and the Grasslands Conservation Council of BC.

She has had a long association with the BC Cattleman's Association and served as President from 2010 until June of this year.

She was also responsible for bringing Beef Day to BC – so I know that many here are thankful to her for the BBQ we enjoy at Parliament every year.

Her accomplishments are a source of pride for ranchers and farmers across BC. She is a role model for all community-minded and environmentally conscious British Columbians, and an inspiration for the young girls and women out there who aspire to serve the public.

One of the first times I met Judy was in the Quilchena hotel near Merrit, a historic hotel in BC where they still

have a thriving cattle ranch and bullet holes in the wall from when the west was wilder.

Immediately I knew that this was a woman who could connect with people no matter the time or place.

She was leading a meeting of the Cattleman's Association, and while those guys can be a tough nut to crack, it was evident that they respected her leadership.

She has defined herself as a woman of strong character – but also one that can listen to and work with others to achieve great things.

The Hon. Judy Guichon will bring a fresh new perspective and that spirit of collaboration to the role of Lieutenant Governor.

And I am confident that she will serve British Columbians with the same distinction and commitment as her gifted predecessor, the Honourable Steven Point.

Thank You.

**Investiture Ceremony for 29<sup>th</sup> Lieutenant Governor – Nov. 2, 2012**

**- END -**

## **PDMO Announcement**

*Check against delivery*

A year ago, I set out a plan to achieve our vision of making BC the economic engine of Canada – the BC Jobs Plan.

In our Jobs Plan, we identified tourism as one of the eight key sectors for growing BC's economy.

With the global economy in turmoil, the tourism industry around the world has suffered some tough times. But despite that, we are holding our own and fighting hard to gain the edge.

Over the past year we've been implementing our plan with a tourism sector strategy that is showing results:

- In 2011, tourism generated \$13.3 billion in revenue, and created more than 126,000 good jobs.
- We promised to increase marketing efforts for BC tourism. Our ski marketing campaign attracted 6.4 million skiers to BC, up 2 percent from previous year.

- We promised to add two new flights to YVR, and we have already exceeded that with new flights from China and England. We are also negotiating new flights from Taiwan, Singapore and the United Arab Emirates.
- We promised to become more competitive and we're doing that by extending the exemption of the jet fuel tax and implementing the Beyond the Boarder Action Plan.

Our goal is to increase tourism revenue to \$18 billion by 2016. That's a \$4.7 billion increase in just the next four years.

But if we want to achieve that goal, than we have to listen to the experts in the private sector – because government does not have all the answers.

That's why today I am happy to announce the creation of Destination BC, a new crown corporation that has been established to market B.C. tourism.

When I first made this commitment, I stood beside Nancy Stibbard at the Capilano Suspension Bridge and promised that we would create an unbiased strategy to promote tourism that is not imposed by government and fair to all.

I promised that we would recognize and build on the successes that commercial operators have achieved in creating jobs and expanding the industry in British Columbia.

And I promised that we would listen to industry – because the best way to promote BC is by doing it together.

Today I am proud to say we have kept that promise with the creation of Destination BC.

It will be accountable to the people and businesses that count on the tourism industry, like hotels and tourist attractions, because its marketing strategies and performance indicators will be driven by input from people in the tourism sector in every region of our province.

It will make it possible for the people with real skin in the game to work with government to fund and develop campaigns that will show the world all the great things British Columbia has to offer.

In developing the plan, we worked closely with the Tourism Industry Association of BC's Provincial Destination Marketing Organization Task Force.

So I want to take a moment to thank them for their leadership on this project, particularly Tourism Industry Association Chair Lana Denoni and Vice Chair Dave Butler.

It was their Task Force that defined what Destination BC should look like and it is their work that our cabinet approved.

This truly is an industry-led plan.

With Asia's middle class expanding and becoming more and more interested in tourism opportunities, there has never been a more important time to be marketing BC.

Destination BC means we will work with the tourism industry so that we can compete on a global scale.

Destination BC means tourism will play an even larger role in helping us fulfill our vision of making BC the economic engine of Canada.

**- END -**

## **Hospitality Conference**

*Check against delivery*

### **Acknowledge:**

Pat Bell, Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training and  
MLA for Prince George – Mackenzie

Tourism Industry Association Chair Lana Denoni

Tourism Industry Association Vice chair Dave Butler

### **The Plan**

A year ago, I'd just set out a plan to achieve our vision of making BC the economic engine of Canada – the BC Jobs Plan.

And over the last year we've been putting that plan into action. It has two priorities – creating jobs and making life more affordable for families.

Look at the results:

- We've diversifying our markets and our products. After three trade missions, in just one year, our trade is up with China nearly 25%.
- \$80 billion in new investments in projects currently underway across BC – that's up 18 per cent in just one year.
- BC ranks first in the number of small businesses per capita.
- Since we've introduced the jobs plan, we've created more than 46,000 net new jobs, most of them full time.

- And we've made a \$75-million investment in skills training so that British Columbians will be first in line for the good jobs being created here at home.

Our plan is also working to make life a little bit more affordable for families. Here again, we've seen some results:

- We're implementing targeted tax relief for seniors, for young families and for first-time new homebuyers.
- We are making government less expensive by cutting the proposed hydro rate hike in half.
- And 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 in this country.

These are all things that will help us protect the middle class, and they will help us make sure that more people have a chance to join the middle class ... the middle class that has built this country.

Our plan is working. We are on the right track.

Just look at what's happening here in BC's tourism sector. The building we're in today is a great example of a tourism success story – 58 conventions in 2012 – its best year yet. And things are looking up for 2013, with 51 conventions booked already.

Today is also the first time that the tourism and hospitality industries in BC have come together at this conference under one roof.

That's the type of collaborative spirit that we need to hold our own and maybe even do better in a tough market.

In 2011, tourism generated \$13.3 billion in revenue, and provided over 126,000 good jobs.

Our plan is to increase that number to \$18 billion by 2016. That's a \$4.7 billion increase in just four years.

But make no mistake, when the global economy is in turmoil like it is today, B.C. tourism faces some difficult challenges.

Our job is to see through you those challenges to the big opportunities ahead of us. We have a tourism market that has been dependent on American tourists for a long time.

But across the Pacific, a huge number of people in China, India and the rest of Asia are just now joining the middle class. When they have money in their pockets to spend, they will travel. So it's our job to make sure they travel here to British Columbia.

And we're already doing that. More international visitors are coming to B.C. every day:

- Visitors from China are up 23.2 % in just one year
- Visitors from Japan are up 11.3 % in just one year
- Visitors from India are up 10.2 % in just one year – and that's a 134% increase from a decade ago.

We've been growing international interest in BC tourism by expanding our marketing campaigns in China and India, while continuing our efforts in Europe. And we've doubled our sales force on the ground in key Asian markets. We've also been working to attract more flights to YVR. In our Jobs Plan, we promised to add two new international flights per year, and we've already exceeded that.

Last year we welcomed China Southern Airlines, and in June, Sichuan Airlines launched a direct flight to Vancouver.

We also welcomed Virgin Airline's new direct flight from London— although we can't promise that Richard Branson will be there to flirt with you on every flight.

And we've begun negotiations to welcome even more international flights from Taiwan, Singapore and the United Arab Emirates.

We know that YVR needs to be competitive on a global scale – so we have extended the jet fuel tax exemption.

And our new Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transportation Rob Howard is working with the federal government on improving air service agreements and air access.

We recognize just how important YVR is – it needs to be a seamless, efficient experience for people, so that even if they're just passing through, they get interested in coming back to see more of British Columbia.

Our plan is premised on a bedrock belief that everything begins with a thriving private sector, because when it's thriving, we have the capacity to make smart investments like we have in tourism.

Last year when I spoke at this conference I announced our tourism sector strategy called "Gaining the Edge."

Driven by champions like Pat Bell and the people in this room, we've made great progress implementing this strategy. Over the last year:

- We launched a new Tourism Labour Market Strategy to recruit people from under-represented talent pools and provide industry-specific training.
- Added on-line training modules for WorldHost customer service training.
- Upgraded all our HelloBC consumer sites, so that they include reviews and ratings through Trip Advisor.
- Invested in 307 grassroots tourism projects in over 100 BC communities through our Community Tourism Foundation.

We are also supporting industry efforts to promote and take advantage of the new Family Day holiday I promised during my leadership bid.

Based on the input of 30,000 British Columbians, we will now celebrate Family Day on the second Monday of February each year.

And why is it on the second Monday instead of the third?

Because we wanted to let British Columbians choose the day that works best for them – and now, instead of having a holiday on one of busiest days of the year for tourism, we have another day in February to enjoy all the great tourism opportunities offered by all of you.

Our plan is built on the belief that this truly is British Columbia's moment, and that tourism is going to play an important role in B.C becoming the economic engine of Canada.

But it's going to take more hard work, more teamwork, more ideas from you – because government does not have all the answers.

That's why today I announced the creation of the Destination BC, a crown corporation that has been established to market B.C. tourism.

When I first made this commitment, I stood beside Nancy Stibbard at the Capilano Suspension Bridge and promised that we would create an unbiased strategy to promote tourism that is not imposed by government and is fair to all.

I promised that we would recognize and build on the successes that commercial operators have achieved in creating jobs and expanding the industry in British Columbia.

And I promised that we would listen to industry – because the best way to promote BC is by doing it together.

Nancy's vision to build and promote the suspension bridge is a perfect example of why the private sector should drive tourism marketing – as one of the most popular tourist attractions in Canada, it helps draw people from all over

the province, country and world, who spend their hard-earned dollars at BC businesses, creating spin-off jobs for families in North Vancouver.

Nancy took a big risk by investing in an idea, but she showed that BC's tourism industry can take an idea and grow it into something that's a huge benefit to people across BC.

British Columbia has become a better and stronger place because in every corner of the province you can find people like Nancy – who believe in British Columbia and are willing to put their money into creating world-class tourism opportunities.

So I am delighted to say today that we have reestablished a tourism authority that is going to include you – the experts.

And in the long-term, it will be funded based on a percentage of the sales tax on hotel rooms, to ensure that funding is stable and predictable.

Destination BC will be accountable to the people and businesses that count on the tourism industry, like hotels and tourist attractions, because its marketing strategies and performance indicators will be driven by input from people in the tourism sector from every region of our province.

It will make it possible for the people with real skin in the game to work with government to fund and develop campaigns that will show the world all the great things BC has to offer.

In developing a plan to restructure Tourism BC, we worked closely with the Tourism Industry Association of BC's Provincial Destination Marketing Organization Task Force.

So I want to take a moment to thank Tourism Industry Association Chair Lana Denoni and Vice Chair Dave Butler for their leadership.

It was their Task Force that defined what Destination BC should look like and it is their work that our cabinet approved.

This truly was an industry-led plan.

With Asia's middle class expanding and becoming more and more interested in tourism opportunities on this side of the Pacific, there has never been a more important time to be marketing B.C. tourism.

Destination BC means we are going to work with the tourism industry so that compete on a global scale.

Creating Destination BC was important to me because I believe that governments work better when they listen.

And we cannot make big decisions about how to promote BC tourism without you at the table. Destination BC is about giving you back your voice.

It will mean that B.C. tourism can play an even bigger role in helping us fulfill our vision of making British Columbia the economic engine of Canada.

It will build on the 2011-2012 ski marketing campaign, which attracted 6.4 million skiers to BC, up 2 percent from the year before, making ski tourism another area where we are gaining the edge.

It will build on the “100 BC Moments” campaign we launched in April with a giant vending machine in the heart of San Francisco’s financial district that offered San Franciscans videos showcasing BC experiences and miniature mementos to remind them about BC’s tourism opportunities.

This campaign is inspiring tourists to come to BC, connecting them with information about incredible BC tourism opportunities, and capturing their business with

tools like the “BC Perfect Moments Contest” that attracted an unprecedented 115,000 entries.

Now, one of the things I’ve heard from the tourism sector is that with all this growth, you need more skilled workers.

So a big part of our plan is about Skills and Training. That’s why we are working with the tourism industry to develop strategies to address the need for skilled workers in tourism specifically, beyond our larger skills training plan:

- Career awareness and recruitment campaigns in BC to tell young people about the great opportunities in BC tourism.
- Forging partnerships between summer and winter employers to share seasonal staff.
- Tapping into underrepresented talent pools, like Aboriginal People, new immigrants, older workers and people with disabilities.

- And providing industry-specific training in rural and remote areas.

### **Safe Harbour**

Today the global economy is as uncertain as it was when we met a year ago... the turmoil in Europe and the US is still there, and it's not going to change anytime soon... not next year, not the year after that.

This may very well be the new normal.

That's why we need to stick to the plan... because while we have seen another year of economic turmoil in the world since we launched the BC Jobs Plan, in British Columbia we have nonetheless created more than 46,000 net new jobs.

Unemployment is down, investment is up, jobs are up... we are stable, and even better, we are growing.

With all that's going on around us, more British Columbians are working today than ever before. It's proof that our plan is helping us become the economic engine of Canada.

We have made BC a safe harbor for investment by sticking to a plan based on the fundamentals of a healthy economy:

- We have stable budgeting, with a plan to balance our budget this year.
- Smallest increase in government spending since 2004/05, which happens to be the last time I was in government.
- And we have a commitment to keeping our taxes low, which is why we have the lowest personal income taxes in Canada and the lowest combined corporate taxes in North America.

If we stick to our plan, there are countless opportunities ahead of us that can help us make BC the economic engine of Canada.

## **Conclusion**

I think in this room all of us are fighting for the same thing. We all want a strong economy for our province, for our kids, for our grandkids so that we can leave them a legacy of security. But we can't put all of that at risk.

Throwing out the balanced budget law? There goes jobs.

Fiddling with the labour code and taking away a worker's democratic right to a secret ballot? There goes jobs.

Raising taxes – corporate taxes, capital taxes? There goes jobs.

We cannot put all of this at risk.

We have an obligation to our kids, to the next generation of British Columbians, to make sure we stick to our plan, because what is happening now in British Columbia's economy is not inevitable, and this hasn't happened by accident.

It's happened because we have been purposeful, because we have stuck to our plan.

It's a plan that is premised on our belief in economic development.

We believe in building the infrastructure that will allow our economy to grow.

We believe in creating some of the world's greatest post-secondary institutions.

We believe in keeping taxes low, investor confidence high and balancing our budget.

Our plan is well on its way to achieving our goal of making British Columbia the economic engine of Canada.

Because despite the tough challenges ahead, ladies and gentlemen, I truly believe that Canada starts here.

-END-

**Official Opening West 7<sup>th</sup> & Fir  
(Sandford Apartments) Development  
Tuesday, Nov. 6, 2012  
Speech length: 5-7 minutes**

**Event: what is it?**

- Official opening of the West 7<sup>th</sup> & Fir housing development, known as Sanford Apartments, which provides 62 apartments for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in Vancouver.

**Audience: who are they?**

- Minister Responsible for Housing, Rich Coleman
- Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson
- Dick Vollet, president & CEO, Streethome Foundation
- Bonnie Rice, executive director, Katherine Sanford Housing Society
- David MacIntyre, executive director, Motivation, Power & Achievement (MPA) Society
- As Sanford Apartments are named after her, Katherine Sanford and members of her family will attend, and a small dedication and presentation will be made by Vancouver Coastal Health.
- Sanford Apartment residents

## KEY MESSAGES:

1. Over the past decade, the BC Government has invested \$2.8 billion to provide affordable housing for low-income individuals, seniors and families.
2. These new supportive homes are a tangible result of our commitment to providing safe, affordable housing for vulnerable individuals in our communities.
3. When partners come together, we can change the very fabric of our community by providing not just a roof over someone's head, but a home with access to the necessary supports to ensure a brighter, healthier future.

*Check against delivery*

- In this time of global financial recovery, we need to do our best to help those who need it. We need to cover the basics: a good job, healthy food, access to medical care and a roof over your head.
- We all know there is a challenge with homelessness in our province. We also know that one of the best ways to help families is to provide a safe, secure and affordable place to call home.
- Over the past decade, the BC Government has invested \$2.8 billion to provide affordable housing for low-income individuals, seniors and families.
- These new supportive homes are a tangible result of our commitment to providing safe, affordable housing for vulnerable individuals in our communities.

- Our provincial housing strategy is the most progressive in this country's history and Sanford Apartments is another important piece of the strategy
- It's the 7<sup>th</sup> project to officially open out of 14 new supportive housing sites in Vancouver – bringing us to the halfway point.
- These 14 sites are part of the partnership between the Province and the City of Vancouver to construct more than 1,500 new apartments of supportive housing on city-owned land.
- It's also the first development to open under an agreement with the Streethome Foundation – who will provide \$20 million to 8 of the 14 supportive housing sites.
- Sanford Apartments is the result of a collective vision to help vulnerable individuals in our community
- Thanks to a strong partnership between the Province, the City of Vancouver, Streethome Foundation,

Vancouver Coastal Health and Katherine Sanford  
Housing Society and MPA Society...

- This new housing will help break the cycle of homelessness in Vancouver.
- When partners come together, we can change the very fabric of our community by providing not just a roof over someone's head, but a home with access to the necessary supports to ensure a brighter, healthier future.
- There are no quick solutions to homelessness and it isn't something that only one group can fix on their own.
- It takes the involvement of different levels of government, community partners, and the whole community must work together that we can see real solutions.
- Thanks to all of our partners for their hard work and commitment to this development and I hope the new

residents of the Sanford Apartments will enjoy their new homes.

-END-

Page 6 of 6

**BC Chamber Luncheon with Premier and Cabinet**  
**Wednesday, Nov. 7, 2012**  
**Speech length: 25 minutes**

**Event: what is it?**

- Annual Chamber of Commerce Luncheon with Premier and Cabinet

**Audience: who are they?**

- Cabinet and several MLAs (names listed at beginning of speech)
- John Walker, President & CEO Fortis - Sponsor
- Doug Bloom, President Spectra Energy Transmission West - Sponsor
- Cindy Choi Chair, Certified General Accountants of BC - Sponsor
- Jim Belsheim, Vice Chair, BC Chamber of Commerce (President Neptune Bulk Terminals (Ca). Ltd.
- George Cadman, Q.C. Boughton Law Corporation
- John Winter, President & CEO, BC Chamber of Commerce
- Premier Clark
- Maureen Kirkbride, Chair BC Chamber (Director Government Relations Telus)

.

## BC Chamber of Commerce

*Check against delivery*

### Introduction

- THANK: Cindy Choi for introduction; thank today's sponsors
- ACKNOWLEDGE: John Winter, Pres and CEO of BC Chamber of Commerce
- INTRODUCE MINISTERS AND CAUCUS:  
Hon Ida Chong, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation  
Hon John Yap, Minister of Advanced Education  
Hon Norm Letnick, Minister of Agriculture  
Hon Stephanie Cadieux, Minister of Children and Family Development  
Hon Bill Bennett, Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

Hon Don McRae, Minister of Education  
Hon Rich Coleman, Minister of Energy, Mines and  
Minister Responsible for Housing  
Hon Dr. Terry Lake, Minister of Environment  
Hon Mike de Jong, Minister of Finance  
Hon Steve Thomson, Minister of Forests, Lands and  
Natural Resource Operations  
Hon Margaret MacDiarmid, Minister of Health  
Hon Pat Bell, Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Innovation  
Hon Shirley Bond, Minister of Justice and Attorney  
General  
Hon Naomi Yamamoto, Minister of State for Small  
Business  
Hon Ralph Sultan, Minister of State for Seniors  
Hon Maira Stilwell, Minister of Social Development  
Hon Mary Polak, Minister of Transportation and  
Infrastructure  
Doug Horne, Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier  
Richard Lee, Parliamentary Secretary for Asia-Pacific to  
the Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training

John Rustad, Parliamentary Secretary for Forestry to the Minister of Forests, Land and Natural Resources

Marc Dalton, Parliamentary Secretary for Independent Schools to the Minister of Education

Jane Thornthwaite, Parliamentary Secretary for Student Support and Parent Engagement to the Minister of Education

Ron Cantelon, Parliamentary Secretary for Innovation and Technology to the Minister of Advanced Education, Innovation and Technology

## **The Plan**

- Plan to achieve our vision of making BC the economic engine of Canada. Two priorities – jobs and families.
- It's working:
  - 46,000 net new jobs
  - Trade is up with China nearly 25%

- \$80 billion in new investments in projects
- Value of mines up 20% - \$1.8 billion
- First in the number of small businesses per capita.
- LNG investment – aggressively into the market
- Building permits at 2007 levels
- Balancing our budget
- Lowest spending gov't since 2004 / 2005
- O/Os with unions
- Family affordability:
  - Targeted tax relief for seniors, young families and first-time new homebuyers.
  - Making government less expensive by cutting the proposed hydro rate hike in half.
  - Lowest personal income taxes.
- Our plan is working. We are on the right track.

- Big business draws first new dollar that supports small business.
- Small business:
  - 98% BC businesses, 1 million jobs, 56% of private sector jobs
  - After 2008 financial crisis, big business reduced employment by 8%, small business by 0.5%
  - Donate time and resources to local charities, community events, little league teams
- We can do even more to help small business.
- Appointed Naomi Yamamoto to be our Minister of State for Small Business:

- Former Chair of BC Chamber of Commerce
- Owner and President of the Tora Design Group for 21 years
- President and General Manager of the North Vancouver Chamber of Commerce
- Understands struggles and triumphs of small business owners
- Believes we have to listen to the experts to learn how to help small business

### **AGLG Announcement**

- AGLG idea came from Chambers.
- Ensure BC taxpayers and businesses are getting the most bang for their buck.

- Local governments accountable for spending.
- After a thorough search, appointing Basia **[BA-shah]** Ruta **[ROO-tah]** to be BC's first Auditor General for Local Government.
- Basia **[BA-shah]** is the right woman for the job:
  - 30 years of experience in public and private sectors
  - Chartered accountant
  - Worked in Federal Office of the Auditor General, Canada Customs and Revenue Agency, and as Environment Canada's Chief Financial Officer
  - Performed audits of local government, hospitals, and community organizations

- Her job is to create the most welcoming climate possible for business.
- AGLG will perform performance audits and make reports public.
- Help local governments save money and make operations more efficient.
- Creating the conditions for small businesses to thrive.

### **Growing Small Business**

- And small business and the chamber have a lot of champions around the cabinet table.
- People like Naomi Yamamoto, Steve Thompson, both of whom are former Chairs of the BC Chamber

- But also people like, Bill Bennett, Rich Coleman, Terry Lake, Ida Chong, Norm Letnick, John Yap and others.
- It is because of these strong voices, who are advocating for you every day, that we've made significant investments and implemented policies for BC small businesses:
  - Committed in law to no net new regulations
  - OpportunitiesBC, an online tool helping connect great business ideas with foreign investment
  - BizPal, online business permitting and licensing service
  - New West Partnership
  - BC Jobs Fairs

- BC's Most Small Business-Friendly Community Awards, recognizing and learning from local measures to help small business:
  - Kamloops
  - Nanaimo
  - Nelson
  - North Vancouver District
  - Prince George
  - Smithers
- New MicroBiz training program. 290 businesses from 41 communities have already been accepted to receive training.
- Look at ways to make it more successful
- Other ideas we've heard that we should talk about:
  - Successorship rights
  - Small business micro loans
  - Expanding Mobile business licence

- And Naomi is going to have more to say on mobile business licences tomorrow
- Naomi, John Winter and the Chamber are developing the BC Small Business Accord.
- Guidance to government to ensure that the proper tools, support and regulations are developed to make BC one of the most business-friendly jurisdictions in the country.
- Consultations have begun. Twitter townhall reached 175,000 accounts.
- Naomi heard that we need to do more to tell people about the tools we have created for small business.
- Committed to working with BC Chamber to get word out.

### **Skills and Training**

- Plan has a focus on Skills and Training:
  - John Winter has been a strong advocate
  - Promote the trades and get more students into technical programs
  - Improve and upgrade training facilities, equipment and access to teachers
  - Cut completion time for trades programs in half.
  - Ensure we have the right mix of skills training for our economy.
  - Stop training people for jobs that don't exist and start training them for jobs that do.
- Making great progress:

- \$75 million investment
- Record-breaking number of skilled tradespersons qualified as journeypersons over last year.
  - 20% increase over the year before.
    - 8,760 certificates of qualification awarded
- \$5% increase female apprentices over last year
- Aboriginal participation in apprenticeships training at post-secondary institutions increased 103% over last five years
- Funding for skills communities need:
  - Welding and agriculture in Fraser Valley
  - Mining, masons, heavy equipment operators in Kamloops

- Carpentry on North Island
- New improvements to trades facilities in Kelowna and Victoria.
- On top of new and upgraded infrastructure recent years:
  - Expanded trades and technology training centres in Prince George and Quesnel
  - Renovated trades facility at Vancouver Island University's Powell River campus
- Connecting with citizens through "Skills for BC" Thursday evenings and Friday mornings in November on Global TV.
- Raising awareness and listening to ideas.
- Call to action for people in room to participate.

- If we stick to jobs plan – 1,000,000 job openings by 2020, 43% required skilled workers.
- Skills training will help big and small business.

### **Safe Harbour**

- Global economy is uncertain. May be the new normal.
- With the BC Jobs Plan unemployment is down, investment is up, jobs are up.
- BC is stable and growing.
- Made BC a safe harbor:
  - Balance budget
  - AAA credit rating

- Lowest personal income taxes in Canada
- Lowest combined corporate taxes in North America

### **Natural Gas**

- LNG, creating a new industry in this province.
- Province building of the kind W.A.C. Bennett did with Hydro.
- Another generational opportunity to create jobs and make sure families are prospering for the next 50 years.
- Revenue for schools and hospitals.

### **Conclusion**

- We all want a strong economy so that we can leave a legacy of security. But we can't put all of that at risk.

- Throwing out the balanced budget law? There goes jobs.
- Fiddling with the labour code and taking away a worker's democratic right to a secret ballot? There goes jobs.
- Raising taxes – corporate taxes, capital taxes? There goes jobs.
- What is happening now in BC's economy is not inevitable – it's because we stuck to our plan.
- We believe in:
  - Responsible natural resource development
  - Building infrastructure
  - Post-secondary institutions
  - Keeping taxes low and investor confidence high

- Balancing our budget
- Our plan is achieving our goal of making BC the economic engine of Canada.
- I truly believe that Canada starts here.

- END -

**Barriere and Clearwater Chambers of Commerce  
Clearwater  
Friday, Nov. 9, 2012  
Speech length: 25 minutes**

**Event: what is it?**

- Address to the Barriere and Clearwater Chambers of Commerce

**Audience: who are they?**

- Jeff Lamond, Clearwater & District Chamber President
- Scott Kershaw, Barriere & District Chamber President
- Hon. Terry Lake, Minister of Environment and MLA for Kamloops – North Thompson
- Hon. Norm Letnick, Minister of Agriculture and MLA for Kelowna – Lake Country
- Mayor Bill Humphreys, District of Barriere
- Mayor John Harwood, District of Clearwater
- Willow MacDonald, Thompson Nicola Regional District Area B
- Tim Pennell, Thompson Nicola Regional District Area A
- Chief Rita Matthew
- Media

## **Barriere / Clearwater Chambers of Commerce**

### **Introduction**

*Check against delivery*

- **THANK:**
  - Hon. Terry Lake, Minister of Environment and MLA for Kamloops – North Thompson
- **ACKNOWLEDGE:**
  - Hon. Norm Letnick, Minister of Agriculture and MLA for Kelowna – Lake Country
  - Jeff Lamond, Clearwater and District Chamber President
  - Scott Kershaw, Barriere and District Chamber President
  - Mayor Bill Humphreys, District of Barriere
  - Mayor John Harwood, District of Clearwater

## The Plan

- Plan to achieve our vision of making BC the economic engine of Canada. Two priorities – jobs and families.
- It's working:
  - 46,000 net new jobs
  - Trade is up with China nearly 25%
  - \$80 billion in new investments in projects
  - Value of mines up 20%, grown by almost \$1.8 billion
  - First in the number of small businesses per capita
  - LNG investment – aggressively into the market
  - Building permits at 2007 levels
  - Balancing our budget
  - Lowest spending gov't since 2004 / 2005
  - 0/0s with unions

- Helping families:
  - Barriere Community Recreation Program.  
Government covers 80% of costs for recreation infrastructure (trails, bike pathways, playgrounds, indoor/outdoor recreation centres, etc.).
  - Barriere Elementary playground repair and improvement, in addition to 227 other schools.
  - Clearwater North Thompson Sportsplex Dressing Room Expansion - \$400,000
  - Age-Friendly BC Grant provided to Clearwater.  
Partnership with UBCM to encourage healthy and active seniors through investments in transportation, sidewalk widening, access to information about programs, etc.
  - Targeted tax relief for seniors, young families and first-time new homebuyers.

- Making government less expensive by cutting the proposed hydro rate hike in half.
- Lowest personal income taxes.
- Our plan is working. We are on the right track.
- Just look at what's happening in this region.
- Barriere to McBride corridor selected for Regional Economic Investment Pilot last spring, aimed at attracting investment, identifying opportunities, economic diversification and job creation.
- Driven by champions like Pat Bell, Steve Thomson and Terry Lake, we have worked to open up new markets for BC's forest products in Asia, which helped the forest sector through one of the worst economic downturns:

- 2011 forest manufacturing sales were \$11.2 billion, up nearly 25% from 2009.
- 2011 forest product exports totaled \$9.95 billion. 30% increase from 2009. 30% of total exports.
- Forestry exports to China were up to \$3.2 billion in 2011, a 50 per cent increase in a year, with over a third of that being lumber.
- Canfor's Vanvenby closed in 2009. Because of Terry and Pat's determination to increase lumber sales to China, Canfor invested \$24 million to upgrade sawmill. It re-opened September 6, 2011. 161 employees back to work.
- Derek Stamer of Stamer Logging in Barriere has been in operation for 48 years has experienced the upturns and downturns of logging industry. It's survived and offers steady, full time work for 50 employees

- A new partnership for small wood lot licensees between McBride and Barriere will help them work together to identify new markets and create jobs in the areas that were hit the worst by the mountain pine beetle.
- Tourism sector is strong:
  - Just announced DestinationBC to give a say back to the experts on tourism marketing.
  - Here in Barriere, Wells Grey Provincial Park is a majestic tourism destination.
  - Doug Trotter runs Interior Whitewater Expeditions – one of the top things to do in Barriere.
  - Doug and his employees are able to showcase the beauty and splendor of this amazing part of the province to people from BC, Canada and from all over the world.

- And I don't have to tell you that many of those visitors spend their money in local businesses including restaurants and hotels.
- Touring the backcountry is easier and safer.
- Improved roads and safety upgrades to Clearwater River Road, Trophy Mountain Road – a priority identified in Regional Economic Investment Pilot, and a new roundabout at junction of Highway 5 and Clearwater Valley Road.
- Invested \$53 million in park facilities over past five years. For each dollar invested, generates \$8.42 in local economic spending.
- Seizing opportunities in mining:
  - Set a goal for 17 new and expanded mines by 2015 and we're already half way there in just one year.

- Around here, Yellowhead Mining Inc.'s Harper Creek Mine is another opportunity with good potential.
  - Copper/Gold/Silver mine northwest of Vavenby, if approved, it would be Canada's 2<sup>nd</sup> largest open-pit copper mine.
- It is making its way through Environmental Assessment Process
  - Regional Economic Investment Pilot and Robson Valley Economic Opportunities Plan identified adequate power source as a roadblock to investment in the area in for projects like Harper Creek Mine.
  - We are addressing this issue:

- BC Hydro committed \$50 million in funding upgrades to Valemont Substation required for a transmission line to McBride.
- Ministry of Energy, Mines and Natural Gas putting together cross-ministry team to work with Yellowhead Mining on providing power transmission to Harper Creek Mine.

### **Growing Small Business**

- Big business draws first new dollar that supports small business.
- Small business:
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  - After 2008 financial crisis, big business reduced employment by 8%, small business by 0.5%

- Donate time and resources to local charities, community events, little league teams
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- BC Jobs Fairs
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- AGLG will perform performance audits and make reports public.

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- Revenue for schools and hospitals.

### **Conclusion**

- We all want a strong economy so that we can leave a legacy of security. But we can't put all of that at risk.

- We have to remember that what is happening now in BC's economy is not inevitable – it's because we stuck to our plan.
- That's why I'm not for throwing out the balanced budget law.
- That's why I'm not for fiddling with the labour code and taking away a worker's democratic right to a secret ballot.
- That's not why I'm not for raising taxes – corporate taxes, capital taxes.
- John Winter, the President and CEO of the BC Chamber, has been handing out buttons that said "what are we for?"
- This is what I'm for:
  - Responsible natural resource development

- Freeing up small business
  - Smaller government
  - Labour law that reflect our modern economy
  - Building infrastructure
  - Post-secondary institutions
  - Choices in education
  - Keeping taxes low and investor confidence high
  - Balancing our budget
- I'm for these things because I want BC to be a better place for our kids.
  - Let's remember what we are for and let's fight hard for it
  - I truly believe that Canada starts here.

- END -

**Chinese women's group  
Tuesday Nov. 13, 2012  
Speech length: 5-7 minutes**

**Event: what is it?**

- Speaking to women of the Chinese community of the Lower Mainland.
- They've asked PCC to tell personal life stories:
  1. How she worked at CKNW, went to see her mom at hospital, back to work etc.
  2. Combining her life roles as a single mom and as Premier.
  3. How she connects with women in general.

**Audience: who are they?**

- Invitees: about 175 women.

**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.

*Check against delivery*

Acknowledge emcee (TBD)

I'm thrilled to be here today to speak with you.

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 trapeze artist. Work hard every day to find the balance between your two passions – your career and your kids.

\*\*\*Tell experience about while working as Premier, and being a parent to Hamish.\*\*\*

Each mother is a mentor to her children. We try to be the person who will show them how to make their way in the world.

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.

Thank you.

Page 2 of 4



## Background:

### **Progress:**

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

### **Small business matters**

- In British Columbia, small business is big business:
  - 98 per cent of all our business in BC is small business
  - Small business employs more than a million people and drives more than 47 per cent of B.C. exports.
  - In 2011, more than 37 per cent of all business owners in BC were women - higher than the national average.

### **Anti-bullying and safe communities**

- The ERASE bullying program has made your child's safety at school a priority.
- Our impaired driving laws are addressing the court's concerns while continuing to have Canada's toughest drinking and driving laws.
- Our Guns and Gangs Strategy is getting both off the streets.
- Today I took our message to the ERASE anti-bullying summit.

### **Families first agenda**

- This summer we launched our families agenda. A key component of it is to reach out to public and to your ideas about how we make life better for families.
- We've identified some issues like how can we make child care even more available and affordable for families, and how can we make our early childhood development program better and how do we get more people access to StrongStart BC.
- And because you lead our greatest resource, I want to hear from you.
- I invite all of you here today to get involved and provide feedback on these issues at [www.familiesfirstbc.ca](http://www.familiesfirstbc.ca) because together we can make BC stronger for our families.

**ERASE Bullying Summit  
Tuesday Nov 13, 2012  
Morris J. Wosk Centre  
Speech length: 2-3 minutes**

**Event: what is it?**

- This is an event to be held at the Morris J. Wosk Centre in conjunction with an ERASE-bullying summit hosted by the B.C. government.

**Audience: who are they?**

- Education Minister Don McRae (speaking role)
- Students
- Parents
- Educators
- Community representatives
- Cyber-bullying experts

**Audience: What do they want to hear?**

**KEY THEME:**

- New and better methods of dealing with bullying and its impact on children and young people.

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- We must continue our search for new and better ways to address bullying—especially bullying that threatens the well-being of our children.
- We are very grateful to have such strong support from community partnerships among social agencies, police, and schools.

ACKNOWLEDGE:

*Check against delivery*

TBD

When I became Premier, I promised that addressing bullying in schools would be a high priority for my government.

Our government is very proud to sponsor this summit – a summit dedicated to finding new and better ways to deal with bullying and its impact on children and young people.

The tragic recent death of Amanda Todd is a shocking reminder of what can happen when young people are bullied.

Summit participants will hear (have heard?) **personal** stories from students about the devastating impact bullying has had on their lives.

**Comment [gc1]:** Is Premier speaking at the start, or end, of the summit?

This past June, B.C.'s government launched ERASE Bullying, our ten-point anti-bullying strategy to help ensure that every child feels safe, accepted and respected.

I am pleased to tell you that the program is making good progress. Training for 15,000 educators and community partners to proactively identify and address threats is

underway.

In fact, ERASE bullying has made us the first province to provide consistent training, policies and protocols across all 60 school districts

New online tools, including a Smartphone reporting tool for kids to report bullying anonymously and a new website for parents are now active.

Safe School Coordinators are now in place in all 60 school districts. A provincial advisory committee with representatives from police, school and social agency partners is being formed.

At the federal level, a national working group has agreed to look into cyberbullying and consider whether criminal code revisions should be made to address online bullying.

We are so grateful to have such strong support. Without community partnerships among social agencies, police, and schools the strategy would simply not succeed.

Our anti-bullying programs are making progress, but we must continue to search for a better understanding of this problem and we must continue to look for better solutions. Our young people in particular, deserve no less.

Thank you.

**Fort St. John Women's Group  
Tuesday, November 20, 2012  
Speech length: 3 minutes**

**Event: what is it?**

- Speaking to a Fort St. John-area women's group

**Audience: who are they?**

- Women from the community

**KEY MESSAGES:**

1. Got back into politics to make life better for BC families.
2. Each mother is a mentor to her children. We try to be the person who will show them how to make their way in the world.
3. Strong families and strong female role models help build great people and great societies.

*Check against delivery*

THANK: Pat Pimm, Parliamentary Secretary for the Northeast and MLA for Peace River North

I'm thrilled to be here today to speak with you.

Got back into politics to make life better for BC families.

\*\*\*Tell secret wedding story.\*\*\*

Being a modern mom like being a trapeze artist. Work hard every day to find the balance between your two passions – your career and your kids.

\*\*\*Tell hemming pants on day of shuffle story.\*\*\*

Each mother is a mentor to her children. We try to be the person who will show them how to make their way in the world.

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.

Page 2 of 4

-END-

**Recent accomplishments for families in Fort St. John:**

- July 12, 2012: the Fort St. John Hospital and Peace Villa officially opened. This facility provides families and seniors expanded hospital and residential-care services inside a new \$301.8-million facility.
- August 27, 2012: Seniors in Fort St. John now have increased access to affordable housing at Heritage Manor III, a new building providing eight units of affordable seniors' housing funded by the governments of Canada and British Columbia along with community partners. The B.C. government invested \$947,617.
- May 24, 2012: The Province and The Salvation Army announced today the purchase and redevelopment of the Cedar Lodge Motor Inn to provide shelter and transitional beds for people who are homeless in Fort St. John. The Province will invest approximately \$3.2 million to purchase and redevelop the building
- May 4, 2012: Families will benefit from a provincial investment of \$24 million in highways and roads in Peace River North this year, creating local jobs and improving the condition and safety of roads in the region. This year, more than 63 km of roads in Peace River North will be resurfaced or paved.
- February 7, 2012: The Province announced \$10 million in July 2011 to provide financial assistance of up to \$200,000 a year for rural, fee-for-service physicians who commit to ensure

Page 3 of 4

reliable public access to emergency services is maintained at their local hospital. Fort St. John was one of these communities.

### **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.

**Announcement of Funding for Skills Training Equipment  
at Northern Lights College in Fort St. John  
Nov 20, 2012**

**Event: what is it?**

- Announcement of funding to upgrade skills training equipment at Northern Lights College in Fort St. John. The announcement takes place at the Simulated Well Site Training Facility.

**Audience: who are they?**

- Laurie Rancourt, President Northern Lights College
- Pat Pimm, MLA Peace River North (MC of this event)
- Industry representatives (tbc)
- Local/regional government representative (tbc)
- Regional government representative (mayor, city council)
- Regional industry representatives, associations, employers
- Student/Instructor (tbc)
- Media
- Post-secondary institution(s)
- Students

**Audience: what do they want to hear?**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- We're investing in equipment and programs at Northern Lights College to make sure students are getting the very best skills training, on the very latest equipment.
- Under our Skills and Training Plan, we're taking action to expand and align skills training programs with economic opportunities to ensure British Columbians have the right skills in the right places at the right times.
- Northern Lights College will play a leadership role in oil and gas training by sharing expertise and co-ordinating training so we're able to meet BC's changing labour force needs.

*Check against delivery*

**Thank:** MC Pat Pimm, MLA Peace River North – announce his appointment to Treasury Board

**Acknowledge:** Laurie Rancourt, President of NLC.

Last year we launched the BC Jobs plan with the goal of making British Columbia the economic engine of Canada.

And the north – in particular here in the northeast – will be a key part in making that a reality.

We are already seeing results across the region - Fort St. John, Taylor, Dawson Creek, Tumbler Ridge and Fort Nelson are driving B.C. forward.

We're jobs in the oil industry, alternative energy, mining, construction and trucking.

And, starting here in the Peace, we are literally creating a new trillion dollar, value added industry in this province with Liquefied Natural Gas.

We are championing at least 3 liquefied natural gas projects by 2020 and it all begins here.

This is a generational chance will create jobs for B.C. families the next 50 years.

We know many of these jobs will require trained workers who have the right skills.

Part of our plan is to make sure we are training people for jobs that will exist and that students are being trained on the equipment they're going to use in the field.

Today, I am very pleased to announce more than \$794,000 in funding to upgrade trades training equipment here at Northern Lights College.

These equipment upgrades will mean that students are getting the very best skills training, on the very latest equipment so that they are job ready when they graduate.

Today's funding will help position Northern Lights College- a BC Centre of Training Excellence in Oil and Gas a leader in skills training.

Northern Lights College will play a leadership role in oil and gas training by sharing expertise and co-ordinating training.

By working together we will meet B.C.'s changing labour force needs. B.C. kids will be trained and first in line for the jobs that are being created right here.

Thank you.

**-END-**

**Royal Inland Hospital – Phase One  
Wednesday, July 11, 2012**

**Event: what is it?**

- Event to announce that Phase One of the Royal Inland Hospital redevelopment is going ahead, which is proceeding to the business plan.

**Audience: who are they?**

- Health Minister Michael de Jong
- MLA Kevin Krueger
- MLA Terry Lake
- Norman Embree - Interior Health CEO
- Peter Milobar -Thompson Regional Hospital District chair
- Doctor / nurse / health professional - SPEAKER

**Key Messages**

- **We are investing an estimated \$80 million for the first phase in the redevelopment of Royal Inland Hospital which includes a clinical services building and additional parking.**
- **The cost will be shared with the Thompson Regional Hospital District and construction will begin in late 2013.**
- **The future of this hospital is important to families in the growing and changing Kamloops region, and we want to ensure that the medical services are growing with you.**

*Check against delivery*

## **INTRODUCTION**

Acknowledge:

- Terry Lake, MLA for Kamloops-North Thompson
- Kevin Krueger, MLA for Kamloops-South Thompson
- Mayor of Kamloops Peter Milobar and Chair of the Thompson Regional Hospital District
- Interior Health Board Member David Gillespie

I'm really pleased to be here today, and before we begin, I'd like to thank all of the people of Kamloops and the surrounding areas for the way you coped with the recent flooding.

You pulled together as a community and cared for each other, and I know it's been a real challenge for you. You've proved once again that your spirit is indomitable.

In 1885, the first hospital in Kamloops opened at the corner of Lorne Street and Third Avenue.

Page 2 of 6

100 years ago, the Royal Inland hospital opened on this site. The Governor General was at the official opening of the 128-bed hospital that has been renovated and added to many times in the last century.

### **ANNOUNCEMENT**

The future of this hospital is important to families in the growing and changing Kamloops region, and we want to ensure that the medical services are growing with you.

Today, I'm proud to announce that my government is moving ahead with the first phase of the redevelopment of Royal Inland Hospital.

We estimate that phase one will cost \$80 million, which will be shared between our government and the Thompson Regional Hospital District.

We expect to have shovels in the ground and construction to begin by late 2013.

Phase One includes a proposed clinic space for cardiology, neurology, renal dialysis and respiratory programs...

As well as teaching space for the UBC medical school program.

We want to ensure that young people who are studying to be our doctors have the chance to learn close to home.

We also know there's a need for more onsite parking and improved vehicle and pedestrian access to the hospital, and we're going to deal with that.

This redevelopment will provide construction jobs for families in this region and ongoing jobs at the hospital.

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This multiphase redevelopment project ensures that:

- the facility is designed appropriately;
- is tendered and constructed for the least cost possible;
- and most importantly, is scheduled properly to ensure that people are still getting the quality of care at the existing hospital during the construction period.

## **CONCLUSION**

Over the past ten years we've invested more than \$7 billion in capital projects and delivered state-of-the-art hospitals, care homes and other health facilities across BC.

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We will do the same here at Royal Inland Hospital.

Quality health care is a priority for our government and when this project is complete, it will provide even greater care for patients in the Kamloops region ...close to their home and close to their families.

I look forward to coming back here to open the redeveloped Royal Inland hospital.

**Kamloops Chamber Executive  
Wednesday, July 11, 2012**

**Event: what is it?**

- Meeting with Executive members of the Kamloops Chamber of Commerce.

**Audience: who are they?**

- President – Maurice Hindle
- 1st Vice President – Bob Dieno
- 2nd Vice President – Aleece Laird
- Treasurer – Brent Ashby
- Secretary – Steve Earl
- Immediate Past President – Peter Aylen

**Key Messages**

- My goal is to make life better for families. The best way for government to do that is by creating an environment where the private sector can prosper and create jobs.
- B.C. is open for investment and we are working with small and medium businesses across the province to create jobs, develop skills and keep taxes low.
- Congratulations on representing so many thriving businesses from the Kamloops region. You are providing a strong voice for this business community.

*Check against delivery*

- You are a strong voice for businesses throughout this region.
- Congratulations on having the federal government accept your position to allow people over 60 to keep working and collect CPP at the same time.
- 20% of all the resolutions at this year's provincial Chamber meeting came from you.
- Our government needs Chambers like yours, so that we can hear exactly what small businesses in this province need to thrive.
- I'm here to tell you that we are listening.
- The micro-business training pilot project that will provide management training for up to 1,200 business owners who employ less than five people.
- Chambers asked for an Auditor General for Local Government and we're delivering.
- To make life better for BC families, we need to start with a strong, competitive economy, controlled spending and a plan to balance the books.

- And we have to listen to and work with small business and local chambers, to act on good ideas that will improve life for families in their communities and across B.C.
- By working with local Chambers we can build on the success of the BC Jobs Plan and continue to create jobs – like the 1500 created just last month in the Kamloops region.

**-END-**

**Fort St. John Hospital Grand Opening**  
**Thursday, July 12, 2012**  
**Speech length: 3 minutes**

**Event: what is it?**

- Ribbon cutting event to celebrate the grand opening of the 55-bed Fort St. John Hospital and 124-bed Peace Villa residential care facility.

**Audience: who are they?**

- MLA Pat Pimm – MC
- Peace River Regional Hospital District Chair Karen Goodings
- Parents of newborn – Tina Peters w/ son Eli Peters. Tina was the first mother to give birth at the new hospital; she had an emergency C-Section so she was also the first to use the OR.
- Members of the Peace River Regional Hospital District
- Representatives from Northern Health, ISL Health, the City of Fort St. John
- Doctors, nurses, patients, families
- Construction crews and media

**KEY MESSAGES:**

1. Across B.C. we are investing millions of dollars in building patient care, including the new \$302-million Fort St. John Hospital and Peace Villa.
2. These new facilities, which will more than double the size of the existing Fort St. John hospital, will benefit the growing number of families and seniors in the north for years to come with a new 55-bed hospital linked to a 124-bed residential care facility, to ensure they get high quality care where they need it.
3. In Northern B.C. we are making a record level of investment in health care including Fort St. John Hospital and Peace Villa, the BC Cancer Agency Centre for the North in Prince George, as well as new hospitals in Burns Lake and Haida Gwaii.

*Check against delivery*

- Acknowledge: MLA Blair Lekstrom (Peace River South), MLA Linda Reid (Richmond East), Karen Goodings (Chair, Peace River Hospital Board) and Tina and Eli Peters (first patients of the hospital)
- It is a good day for families and communities in the north when it comes to providing quality health care where it is needed.
- I'm delighted to be here to celebrate the grand opening of the new Fort St. John Hospital and Peace Villa. These projects represent a \$302-million investment in the health of patients and families in the North.
- It's the first full hospital replacement of this size in the North and it was completed on-time and on budget.
- This new hospital and residential care facility will ensure that northern British Columbians continue to receive exceptional care, will address the demands of a growing population, and will improve the quality of health care in the northeast.
- This project has not only provided women, children, families and seniors with a new state-of-the-art hospital and residential care facility closer to home, but it has also created good-paying jobs in this community.
- More than 1,900 jobs were created throughout the life of the project and approximately 20 local construction companies helped build the new facilities.

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- It will also serve future generations as a “teaching hospital,” providing modern academic space to support the University of Northern BC Northern Medical Program
- This project demonstrates our government’s steadfast commitment to making smart investments to improve health care outcomes for patients, families and seniors across British Columbia.

-END-

### BACKGROUND FACTS

- This project was completed on time and on budget.
- The projected increase in population of north eastern B.C. is nearly 18% in the next 15 years.
- Fort St. John’s new hospital and residential care facility will address population growth demands and improve the quality of health care in the northeast.
- The FSJHRC project will provide a new 55-bed hospital linked to a 124-bed residential care facility, with an integrated services centre for centralized food and laundry services. The residential care facility will share services with the hospital to increase operational efficiency.
- The total project capital cost is \$301.8 million, which includes \$95.7 million from the Peace River Regional District.
- The new buildings are energy-efficient and built to achieve Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold certification.
- The co-location of facilities reduces travelling time for users and staff, and is in close proximity to the airport.

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**Dawson Creek Seniors Roundtable**  
**Friday July 13, 2012**  
**Speech length: 3-5 minutes**

**Event: what is it?**

- Premier to give opening remarks at Dawson Creek Seniors Roundtable forum

**Audience: who are they?**

- Dawson Creek seniors (details TBD)

**Key Theme: Seniors' Action Plan**

**Key Messages**

- Earlier this year our government released an action plan called "improving the care of BC seniors". It's about your quality of life and your right to have a say in how your services are delivered.
- We are establishing a Seniors' advocate – someone to listen to the concerns of seniors, your families and your caregivers – and act on your behalf. We invite B.C.'s seniors to give us their ideas about the role of the Seniors' Advocate.
- Our government is providing \$15 million to the United Way to expand non-medical home support services in as many as 65 communities over three years, created a home renovation tax credit to allow seniors to stay independent and safe in their homes, and PharmaCare helps British Columbians with the cost of eligible prescription drugs and designated medical supplies, and provides reasonable access to drug therapy through seven drug plans.

*Check against delivery*

I re-entered politics for one reason: because I want to make life better for BC families. Seniors are an important part of every family, because you provide wisdom, care and support to future generations.

I'm honoured to have an opportunity to talk to you. You are after all, the people who built our great province.

Most seniors are active, healthy and living independently in their own homes. They stay close to their families and we'd like to give them every opportunity to ensure that trend continues.

We recognize the challenges and opportunities of our aging population, and that as we age; high quality health care becomes increasingly important.

That's why earlier this year our government released an action plan called "improving the care of BC seniors".

A key goal of this plan is to support healthy aging, so that seniors can remain independent for as long as possible.

It's about your quality of life and your right to have a say in how your services are delivered.

And we are making progress:

- In February, age-friendly grants were announced for 52 communities across B.C. and we launched a toll-free health care support line for seniors and families.

- Our government is providing \$15 million to the United Way to expand non-medical home support services in as many as 65 communities over three years.
- We are also supporting prevention and education activities aimed at ending abuse and neglect of older adults in B.C. with a \$1.4 million investment.
- We established the Seniors' Home Renovation Tax Credit to assist seniors with the cost of home renovations that help seniors stay independent and safe in their own homes.
- We are establishing a Seniors' advocate – someone to listen to the concerns of seniors, your families and your caregivers – and act on your behalf.
- We recently concluded a provincewide consultation on the role and function of the seniors' advocate, but you can still have your say on that until July 31 by email or in writing.
- Our government also announced the \$68 million Healthy Families BC initiative to support the health of B.C. seniors by providing supports that to help them manage their own health and reduce chronic disease. This initiative represents a \$68 million investment in the health of BC families.
- And we launched Age-friendly BC, a grant and recognition program to help local governments create an environment where seniors can enjoy good health and active lives.

Supporting seniors is an important priority for our government. It's an ongoing process and it's an ongoing dialogue. If we work together, I know we can improve the quality of life for seniors in every corner of British Columbia.

**-END-**

**Spectra Processing Plant, Dawson Creek  
July 13, 2012**

**Event: what is it?**

- Ribbon-cutting to celebrate the official opening of Phase 1 of the plant. This is a natural gas processing plant in Bessborough, 20 km northwest of Dawson Creek. The plant is being built by Spectra Energy Transmission Corp. The photo op will take place on the front steps of the new plant.

**Audience: who are they?**

- Minister Blair Lekstrom (speaker)
- Rich Coleman, Minister of Energy and Mines and MLA for Fort Langley – Aldergrove,
- Doug Bloom, President, Spectra Energy Transmission West (speaker)
- Wayne Hiebert, Director, Electoral Area D, Peace River District (speaker)
- Bob Zimmer, Conservative MP for Prince George—Peace River
- Karen Goodings, Chair / Director, Peace River Regional District
- SET West (Spectra Energy Transmission West) Executive
- Doig River First Nations
- Local contractors and representatives of Spectra
- Media

**Audience: what do they want to hear?**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- Spectra's Dawson Processing Plant supports growth and diversification in our province's natural gas sector, creating jobs and economic activity.
- The Spectra Dawson Processing Plant has created local jobs and contract opportunities across northeast B.C.
- Natural gas is the opportunity of our lifetime. It is a way to create long-term economic growth and to support families in every corner of the province with good jobs.

## Spectra Processing Plant in Dawson Creek, July 13, 2012

*Check against delivery*

### ACKNOWLEDGE:

- Hon. Blair Lekstrom, Minister for Transportation and Infrastructure and MLA for Peace River South
- Hon. Rich Coleman, Minister of Energy and Mines and MLA for Fort Langley – Aldergrove
- Doug Bloom, President, Spectra Energy Transmission West
- Bob Zimmer, Conservative MP for Prince George—Peace River
- Wayne Hiebert, Director, Electoral Area D, Peace River District
- Karen Goodings, Chair / Director, Peace River Regional District

Spectra Processing Plant in Dawson Creek, July 13, 2012

It's a privilege to be back in the North. This is a great day for Dawson Creek and it's a great day for this entire region.

Spectra Energy has built an innovative facility to support local employment and business development in the Dawson Creek area.

Not only is the Spectra Dawson Processing Plant creating local jobs – it's also creating contract opportunities across northeast B.C.

With the opening of this plant you are sending a clear and important message to investors: even as the world economy slows, private industry is continuing to invest in B.C.

Spectra Processing Plant in Dawson Creek, July 13, 2012

Natural gas is THE opportunity of our lifetime. It's a way to create long-term economic growth and support families in every corner of the province with good jobs.

Our natural gas industry can create a trillion dollars of economic activity in B.C. over the next 30 years. Not only does that mean creating thousands of direct jobs for BC families, it means thousands more spin off jobs in clean technology innovation, the trades and other related fields around the province.

As part of the BC Jobs Plan my government has set an aggressive target to bring at least one LNG pipeline and terminal online by 2015.

Our goal is to have three terminals up and running by 2020.

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Spectra Processing Plant in Dawson Creek, July 13, 2012

We are investing in the infrastructure for a natural gas economy because we see that China and Japan are both pursuing new suppliers.

Focusing on opening up these new markets is important for BC's future, because they are willing to pay far more for natural gas exports.

China needs to fuel its modernization and become greener, while Japan needs to replace nuclear capacity.

By using natural gas to help displace other carbon intensive fuels like coal or diesel, B.C. will also contribute to the global reduction of green house gas emissions.

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Spectra Processing Plant in Dawson Creek, July 13, 2012

I believe we are on the cusp of a northern renaissance in this province – a real economic renewal. We are turning the page again to a time of unprecedented opportunity.

And today, it's the north that is leading the charge for B.C.'s economy, thanks to the vision and hard work of people in this room and thousands more like you.

You are helping us build a British Columbia where strong families have more opportunities than ever; no matter what part of B.C. they call home.

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Spectra Processing Plant in Dawson Creek, July 13, 2012

This plant opening today is another example of the long-term economic activity natural gas can create with the right support from industry investments and the BC Jobs Plan.

This is northern British Columbia's time to shine.

-END-

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**S.U.C.C.E.S.S. Walk with the Dragon  
Sunday, July 15, 2012**

**Event: what is it?**

- 27th annual Walk with the Dragon in Stanley Park.
- Major fundraising event for S.U.C.C.E.S.S. (United Chinese Community Enrichment Services Society) which supports community services and programs, particularly for children and youth.

The Premier speaks for 2 minutes and participates in eye-dotting ceremony and ribbon-cutting ceremony.

**Audience: who are they?**

- Maggie Ip, Chair, S.U.C.C.E.S.S. Foundation
- Dennis Chan, Chair, S.U.C.C.E.S.S.
- Premier Christy Clark, Province of British Columbia
- Wai Young, MP, Vancouver South
- Deputy Mayor, Elizabeth Ball, City of Vancouver
- Jane Peverett, Vice Chair, United Way of the Lower Mainland
- Sing Lim Yeo, Co-Chair, S.U.C.C.E.S.S. Walk with the Dragon 2012
- Julie Liu, Co-Chair, S.U.C.C.E.S.S. Walk with the Dragon 2012

**Key Messages:**

- **Congratulations on the 27<sup>th</sup> anniversary of your walk.**
- **The work you do is so important to keep programs running, and for offering hope, friendship and a sense of belonging to people in our community.**

*Check against delivery*

*Check against delivery*

- **Hon. Ida Chong**, Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development and MLA for Oak Bay – Gordon Head;
- **Hon. Margaret MacDiarmid**, Minister of Labour, Citizens' Services & Open Government and MLA for Vancouver – Fairview;
- **Hon. John Yap**, MoS for Multiculturalism & MLA for Richmond – Steveston;
- **Harry Bloy**, MLA for Burnaby – Lougheed;
- **Moira Stilwell**, MLA for Vancouver – Langara ;
- **Richard Lee**, MLA for Burnaby North;
- **Dave Hayer**, MLA for Surrey – Tynehead;
- **Colin Hansen**, MLA for Vancouver – Quilchena;
- **Douglas Horne**, MLA for Coquitlam – Burke Mountain;
- **Rob Howard**, MLA for Richmond Centre;
- **Maggie Ip**, Chair, S.U.C.C.E.S.S. Foundation
- **Dennis Chan**, Chair, S.U.C.C.E.S.S.
- **Wai Young**, MP, Vancouver South
- Deputy Mayor, **Elizabeth Ball**, City of Vancouver
- **Jane Peverett**, Vice Chair, United Way of the Lower Mainland
- **Sing Lim Yeo**, Co-Chair, S.U.C.C.E.S.S. Walk with the Dragon 2012

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- Julie Liu, Co-Chair, S.U.C.C.E.S.S. Walk with the Dragon 2012
- Great to be here to celebrate S.U.C.C.E.S.S. and the 27th annual Walk with the Dragon.
- Today we are also celebrating the diversity of British Columbia. I believe this is one of our province's unique strengths.
- I'm inspired by your bravery because many of you left your family, your support networks and jobs to come to a foreign place and build new roots, new friends and new support networks.
- We are blessed to have so many people who have chosen BC as home. You are helping us build our future and build a great multicultural society that draws on the best of every culture. Our diversity also helps us reach out to markets around the globe, to create opportunities for every BC family.
- We are lucky to have organizations like SUCCESS. The work you do offers hope, friendship, a sense of belonging, and helps keep important programs running. You help people from all over the world find their way and build great lives here in BC.
- Many thanks to all of the people at SUCCESS who do so much hard work; you are helping build a better and more inclusive British Columbia.
- I'm happy that my government has contributed to SUCCESS.

My best wishes on having a great walk today.

**-END-**

**FACTS:**

- About 80% of S.U.C.C.E.S.S.'s annual operating funds come from the government. The remaining amounts are raised from the community.
- S.U.C.C.E.S.S. Foundation holds three major annual fundraising events: Bridge to S.U.C.C.E.S.S. Gala, the Walk with the Dragon and the Charity Golf Tournament.
- Money is raised through pledges and this year, S.U.C.C.E.S.S. also sold plush toys in malls around Metro Vancouver to raise funds for the Walk.
- SUCCESS is receiving funding from government for up to \$2.1 million that is running from June 2012 to March 2014. It is for a demonstration project which will develop, implement and test supports for business and entrepreneurial immigrants to successfully integrate and invest in BC's economy and communities.

## **Valid Manufacturing Visit Monday, July 30, 2012**

### **Event: what is it?**

- Visit to Valid Manufacturing Ltd in Salmon Arm
- Valid develops and manufactures cost-effective solutions for industrial, commercial and recreational vehicle applications. They also supply specialized, industrial and commercial, electrical control products.

### **Audience: who are they?**

- Employees
- Others TBC

### **Key Messages**

- **The industry is part of the economic strength of B.C.**
- **You define the character of B.C. business – you started your business here and you manufacture, export and run a successful industry here.**
- **We're really proud of businesses like Valid, providing jobs for British Columbians.**

### **Facts on Valid Manufacturing**

- Valid Manufacturing Ltd. employs approximately 75 staff throughout 3 facilities - totalling 70,000 sq. ft. Their broad range of products includes custom vehicle work and specialized electronic control systems.
- The business has been operating since 1991, and is an integral part of the community, providing good jobs for British Columbians. This is an innovative business that concentrates on quality and customer service.
- Valid's focus is to work with our industry partners to develop unique and innovative solutions to meet their needs, and they are involved in most sectors of the economy – agriculture, environmental, food processing, health care, marine, mining, laboratories, oil and gas and more.
- Their work has been seen by 3 billion people around the world, as they were the company chosen to manufacture the Olympic rings for the Vancouver 2010 Winter Games.
  - *Check against delivery*

## Visit to Valid Manufacturing – Salmon Arm

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*Check against delivery*

- In British Columbia, small business is big business:
  - You represent 98 per cent of all our business.
  - You keep more than a million people working.
  - You drive more than 47 per cent of B.C. exports.
- But I know you do more than that.
- You help bring families together by supporting and hosting community festivals and events. You help kids thrive by sponsoring the little league baseball and soccer teams. You create thriving communities.
- I got back into politics for one simple reason: to make life better for families across BC. It starts with a strong, competitive economy. It starts with low taxes, controlled spending and a plan to balance the books. And it starts with listening TO and working WITH small business.
- You are a barometer for B.C.'s economy - when you are doing well, we are all doing well.
- Businesses like yours are the heart of the BC economy, and your industry is part of the economic strength of our province.
- You define the character of B.C. business – you grew up here and started your business here and you manufacture and run a successful business here.

### **Visit to Valid Manufacturing – Salmon Arm**

- We're really proud of businesses like Valid Manufacturing, providing jobs for British Columbians.

**Twin Anchors Visit - Sicamous  
Monday, July 30, 2012**

**Event: what is it?**

- Visit to Twin Anchors Houseboats in Sicamous.
- Twin Anchors designs and builds houseboats and operates marinas in Sicamous and Salmon Arm with a combined fleet of more than 100 houseboats.

**Audience: who are they?**

- Employees of Twin Anchors

**Key Messages**

- **The industry is part of the economic strength of B.C.**
- **You define the character of B.C. business – you grew up here and started your business here and you manufacture, export and run a successful and diversified business here.**
- **We're really proud of businesses like Twin Anchors, providing jobs in tourism and manufacturing.**

**Facts on Twin Anchors**

- Twin Anchors were pioneers in the houseboat industry - the first commercial houseboat operator in Western Canada in 1964.
- All houseboats in the fleet are designed and manufactured from the hull up at the Sicamous manufacturing plant.
- The economic downturn has seen the sale of houseboats plummet from \$8M (20 units) in 2008 to zero in fiscal 2012. They are now seeing signs of a resurgence in the houseboat market in the US.
- They diversified their manufacturing operations in 2005 to include the production of worker accommodation units for oil and gas camps (not just in BC.) They have seen sales of this division grow from \$135K in 2005 to \$13.5M in the current year. **\*WORKER ACCOMMODTION UNITS ARE WHAT YOU WILL SEE ON THE TOUR**

*Check against delivery*

**ACKNOWLEDGE:** Minister George Abbott, Darrell Trouton, Mayor of Sicamous, Greg Kylo, President of Twin Anchors

- I know your business was affected by the recent storms and flooding in the area.
- And I know you care about your neighbours and care for them. That's what it's about – caring for each other and the community.
- I also know that you've got community spirit and that you raised \$1000 for the local food bank.
- You define the character of B.C. business – you grew up here and started your business here and you manufacture, export and run a successful tourism industry business here.
- You also faced a challenging economic reality, diversified your products and now provide safe places for remote oil and gas sector employees to live and work.
- In British Columbia, small business is big business:
  - You represent 98 per cent of all our business.
  - You keep more than a million people working.
  - You drive more than 47 per cent of B.C. exports.
- I got back into politics for one simple reason: to make life better for families across BC. It starts with listening TO and working WITH small business. It starts with a strong, competitive economy, with low taxes and a plan to balance the books.

- You are a barometer for B.C.'s economy - when you are doing well, we are all doing well.
- Businesses like yours are the heart of the BC economy, and your industry is part of the economic strength of our province.
- We're really proud of businesses like Twin Anchors, providing jobs in tourism and manufacturing, and as the Olympic Rings you produced as testament, you are truly ambassadors for BC.
- INTRODUCE: Minister George Abbott, Minister of Education and MLA for Shuswap

**Salmon Arm Women's Group  
Monday July 30, 2012  
Speech length: 5-7 minutes**

**Event: what is it?**

- Speaking to a Salmon Arm women's group

**Audience: who are they?**

- Approximately 40 local women, with a slight focus on women in business
- Minister George Abbott, Minister of Education and MLA for Shuswap

**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

*Check against delivery*

- Acknowledge: Minister George Abbott, Minister of Education and MLA for Shuswap
- Delighted to be in Salmon Arm. Honoured to speak with you.
- Got back into politics to make life better for BC families.
- I have had strong female mentors that taught me to stick to my guns and stand up for what's right. Common sense, plain talk – and you don't have to accept the status quo.
- Recently in Korea on second Jobs and Trade mission – heard a story highlighting importance of women.
- The man pictured on their 5,000 WON bill is a Korean hero and known by all.
- His mom, on the other hand, who nurtured and created her prodigy son, is on the 50,000 WON bill.
- 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.

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- That's why our government is focused on strengthening families in BC.

-END-

#### **Accomplishments for families in Salmon Arm:**

- July 2012 marked the first phase of the redevelopment of Royal Inland Hospital, serving the Thompson-Okanagan region, and includes a new clinical services building, medical teaching space and more onsite parking.
- July 2012 the Literacy Alliance of the Shuswap Society (LASS) was the recipient of the 2012 Council of Federation Literacy Award for its success fostering a high level of community collaboration in support of literacy.
- June 2012 \$15,000 in gaming grants were given toward the Salmon Arm Fall Fair, which celebrates community culture and unique regional identity in British Columbia. Large exhibitions profile important economic opportunities.
- Jan 2012 saw the signing of a second Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement for the North Okanagan-Shuswap (SD 83) school district. Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreements are a commitment by school districts, local Aboriginal communities and the Ministry of Education to work together to support Aboriginal students. North

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Okanagan-Shuswap's first agreement was signed in 2005.

**Revelstoke Women's Group  
Tuesday, July 31, 2012  
Speech length: 5-7 minutes**

**Event: what is it?**

- Speaking to a Revelstoke women's group - breakfast

**Audience: who are they?**

- Approximately 50 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

*Check against delivery*

- Acknowledge: Judy Goodman, Executive Director of the Revelstoke Chamber of Commerce
- Delighted to be in Revelstoke. Honoured to speak with you.
- Got back into politics to make life better for BC families.
- I have had strong female mentors that taught me to stick to my guns and stand up for what's right. Common sense, plain talk – and you don't have to accept the status quo.
- Recently in Korea on second Jobs and Trade mission – heard a story highlighting importance of women.
- The man pictured on their 5000 WON bill is a Korean hero and known by all.
- His mom, on the other hand, who nurtured and created her prodigy son, is on the 50,000 WON bill.
- 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.

Page 2 of 4

- That's why our government is focused on strengthening families in BC.

-END-

### **Accomplishments for families in Revelstoke:**

- Since 2001, the BC government has committed \$55.3 million for capital projects in the Revelstoke school district, including the consolidation and replacement of two elementary schools and the new Revelstoke Secondary school.
- June 2012 saw the opening of the new 275-seat, state-of-the-art theatre built as part of the new \$39.9-million Revelstoke Secondary school.
- May 2012: Resurfacing work will be done this year on Highway 1 and Highway 23 in the Revelstoke area, to improve the safety and ride along these important highway corridors.
- July 2011: Work begins to replace the Clanwilliam Bridge over the Canadian Pacific mainline west of Revelstoke. The new bridge and widening of the adjacent highway will improve the safety of the Trans-Canada Highway through the area.
- Revelstoke is one of 14 communities participating in the BC government's Resort Municipality Initiative, which

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provides development, business promotion and financing tools to enhance the resort sector in B.C.

**Invermere Women's Group  
Tuesday, July 31, 2012  
Speech length: 5-7 minutes**

**Event: what is it?**

- Speaking to an Invermere women's group – afternoon tea.

**Audience: who are they?**

- Approximately 50 women from the community
- co-hosted by the Columbia Valley Chamber of Commerce Women in Business Committee

**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

*Check against delivery*

- ACKNOWLEDGE AND THANK: Rose-Marie Regitnig, Chamber President
- Delighted to be in Invermere. Honoured to speak with you.
- Got back into politics to make life better for BC families.
- I have had strong female mentors that taught me to stick to my guns and stand up for what's right. Common sense, plain talk – and you don't have to accept the status quo.
- Recently in Korea on second Jobs and Trade mission – heard a story highlighting importance of women.
- The man pictured on their 5000 WON bill is a Korean hero, known by all.
- His mom, on the other hand, who nurtured and created her prodigy son, is on the 50,000 WON bill.
- 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.

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- That's why our government is focused on strengthening families in BC.

-END-

### **Accomplishments for families in Invermere:**

- July 2012: Marked the first phase of the redevelopment of Royal Inland Hospital, serving communities in the Thompson-Okanagan region, and includes a new clinical services building, medical teaching space and more onsite parking.
- June 2012: Invermere was one of more than 100 communities throughout British Columbia to receive funding to help support and promote local tourism initiatives as a result of provincial funding. Total funding for Kootenay Rockies communities: \$134,300
- March 2012: After one of the most extensive review and consultation processes in BC's history, the government approved the Jumbo Glacier Resort Master Development Agreement, which allows the resort, located 57 km west of Invermere, to proceed.
- Invermere is one of 14 communities participating in this government's Resort Municipality Initiative, which provides development, business promotion and financing tools to enhance the resort sector in B.C.

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- July 2011 announced \$10 million to provide financial assistance of up to \$200,000 a year for rural, fee-for-service physicians, including those at Invermere & District Hospital, who ensure reliable public access to emergency services are maintained at their local hospital.

**Parksville Women's Group  
Wednesday Aug. 22, 2012  
Speech length: 5-7 minutes**

**Event: what is it?**

- Speaking to a Parksville-area women's group

*Check against delivery*

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- **I am from the middle class and I am for the middle class**
- **We are living within our means, just like you all are living within your family's means. And next year we WILL have a balanced budget**

**Recent accomplishments for families in Parksville & mid-Island:**

- Opening in June 2013 – \$15.79M Oceanside Health Centre, which will prove a much-needed expansion of existing primary health services and create –for the first time in this community – urgent care services for patients who need medical care immediately.
- March 2012 – almost \$580K for 3 recreational projects in Nanaimo Regional District: Cedar skateboard and bike park, Henry Morgan Community Park in Bowser, Meadowood Drive Community park, Little Qualicum.
- Feb. 2012 - \$1.8M renovations to Nanaimo Regional General Hospital's cancer clinic completed.
- Since 2001, more than \$100 million has been invested in building patient care the mid-Island region, including a \$9.4-million renal dialysis centre and a new, state-of the art \$36.9-million emergency department at Nanaimo Regional General Hospital, set to open this fall.
- June 2012: Playground funding for Winchelsea Elementary - \$ 50,000, and for Parksville Elementary - \$ 25,000, supporting a health schools approach for young learners.

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- May 2012: \$600K for improvements and upgrades to Rathtrevor Beach Provincial Park.
- I got back into politics to make life better for BC families - however you define them.
- But government can't raise your family.

## **AFFORDABILITY**

- I am from the middle class and I am for the middle class
- Measures:
  - New Home Buyers Tax Credit, Seniors Renovation Tax Credit, Children Arts and Sports Tax Credit
  - Ordering a review on BC Hydro, ICBC & Translink.
  - Holding the line on rate increases at BC Hydro
  - Increasing the minimum wage
- We are living within our means, just like you all are living within your family's means. And next year we WILL have a balanced budget.
- Dix hockey story

## **JOBS PLAN**

- The most important thing -- good-paying jobs.
- The BC Jobs Plan leverages all of the advantages BC has (LNG, Asia, highly skilled workforce, infrastructure, abundant

natural resources, AAA credit rating sounds fiscal management).

- It is working – over 60, 000 new jobs

### **WOMEN IN YOUR GOVERNMENT**

- 8 out of 18 portfolios are run by women.
- And since I took office, over 40% of new government board appointments are females.
- I went out looking for the best people and I found a lot of smart, capable people who happened to be women.

### **EDUCATION**

- Glad for negotiated settlement - stability is important
- Need to change the discussion to make kids the priority
- Need to celebrate good teachers

### **ENBRIDGE**

- Since I've become Premier, I've taken a few punches, even from Alberta.
- The way I look at is, my job is to stand up for BC: 5 conditions
  - Passing the environmental
  - Increased marine and terrestrial safety
  - Respecting First Nations

Page 3 of 4

- Economic benefit for BC

**-END-**

**Nanaimo Women's Group  
Wednesday Aug. 22, 2012  
Speech length: 5-7 minutes**

**Event: what is it?**

- Speaking to a Nanaimo women's group

**Audience: who are they?**

- Women from the community

*Check against delivery*

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- I am from the middle class and I am for the middle class
- We are living within our means, just like you all are living within your family's means. And next year we WILL have a balanced budget

**Accomplishments for families in Nanaimo:**

- May 2012 – opening of new safe house for vulnerable teens in Nanaimo (\$750K project - \$375K from MCFD)
- March 2012 – almost \$580K for three recreational projects in Nanaimo Regional District: Cedar skateboard and bike park, Henry Morgan Community Park in Bowser, Meadowood Drive Community park, Little Qualicum.
- Feb. 2012 - \$1.8M renovations to Nanaimo Regional General Hospital's cancer clinic completed.
- Since 2001, more than \$100 million has been invested in building patient care the Nanaimo region, including a \$9.4-million renal dialysis centre and a new, state-of the art \$36.9-million emergency department that is set to open this fall.

Page 1 of 4

- I got back into politics to make life better for BC families - however you define them.
- But government can't raise your family.

## **AFFORDABILITY**

- I am from the middle class and I am for the middle class
- Measures:
  - New Home Buyers Tax Credit, Seniors Renovation Tax Credit, Children Arts and Sports Tax Credit
  - Ordering a review on BC Hydro, ICBC & Translink.
  - Holding the line on rate increases at BC Hydro
  - Increasing the minimum wage
- We are living within our means, just like you all are living within your family's means. And next year we WILL have a balanced budget.
- Dix hockey story

## **JOBS PLAN**

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- I went out looking for the best people and I found a lot of smart, capable people who happened to be women.

### **EDUCATION**

- Glad for negotiated settlement - stability is important
- Need to change the discussion to make kids the priority
- Need to celebrate good teachers

### **ENBRIDGE**

- Since I've become Premier, I've taken a few punches, even from Alberta.
- The way I look at is, my job is to stand up for BC: 5 conditions
  - Passing the environmental
  - Increased marine and terrestrial safety
  - Respecting First Nations
  - Economic benefit for BC

**-END-**

**Page 4 of 4**

**Comox Women's Group  
Wednesday Aug. 22, 2012  
Speech length: 5-7 minutes**

**Event: what is it?**

- Speaking to a Comox Valley women's group

**Audience: who are they?**

- Women from the community

*Check against delivery*

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- I am from the middle class and I am for the middle class
- We are living within our means, just like you all are living within your family's means. And next year we WILL have a balanced budget

**Recent accomplishments for families in Comox Valley – N. Island**

- April 2012: Up to \$600M for N. Island Hospitals Project – new hospitals in Comox and Campbell River, estimated for completion in 2017.
- June 2012: Playground funding for Hornby Island Elementary - \$50,000, supporting a health schools approach for young learners.
- June 2012: \$40K in gaming grants to Comox Valley Exhibition.
- Oct. 2011: \$25-million, K-12 francophone school, École au Cœur-de-l'île, was officially opened in Comox.
- June 2011: \$2.25-million project to expand the outpatient Cumberland Community Dialysis Facility completed.
- Feb. 2011: A new \$8.2-million Trades Training Centre at North Island College (NIC) opened.

Page 1 of 3

- I got back into politics to make life better for BC families - however you define them.
- But government can't raise your family.

## **AFFORDABILITY**

- I am from the middle class and I am for the middle class
- Measures:
  - New Home Buyers Tax Credit, Seniors Renovation Tax Credit, Children Arts and Sports Tax Credit
  - Ordering a review on BC Hydro, ICBC & Translink.
  - Holding the line on rate increases at BC Hydro
  - Increasing the minimum wage
- We are living within our means, just like you all are living within your family's means. And next year we WILL have a balanced budget.
- Dix hockey story

## **JOBS PLAN**

- The most important thing -- good-paying jobs.
- The BC Jobs Plan leverages all of the advantages BC has (LNG, Asia, highly skilled workforce, infrastructure, abundant natural resources, AAA credit rating sounds fiscal management).

- It is working – over 60, 000 new jobs

### **WOMEN IN YOUR GOVERNMENT**

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- And since I took office, over 40% of new government board appointments are females.
- I went out looking for the best people and I found a lot of smart, capable people who happened to be women.

### **EDUCATION**

- Glad for negotiated settlement - stability is important
- Need to change the discussion to make kids the priority
- Need to celebrate good teachers

### **ENBRIDGE**

- Since I've become Premier, I've taken a few punches, even from Alberta.
- The way I look at is, my job is to stand up for BC: 5 conditions
  - Passing the environmental
  - Increased marine and terrestrial safety
  - Respecting First Nations
  - Economic benefit for BC

**-END-**

**Maple Ridge Business Roundtable  
Tuesday Aug. 28, 2012**

**Event: what is it?**

- Roundtable meeting with Maple Ridge business group

**Audience: who are they?**

- Small business owners from Maple Ridge and surrounding community

**Key Messages**

- My goal is to make life better for families. The best way for government to do that is by creating an environment where the private sector can prosper and create jobs.
- B.C. is open for investment and we are working with small and medium businesses across the province to create jobs, develop skills and keep taxes low.
- Congratulations on representing so many thriving businesses from Maple Ridge. You are providing a strong voice for this business community.

*Check against delivery*

- Acknowledgements: Maple Ridge-Mission MLA Marc Dalton & Abbotsford-Mission MLA Randy Hawes (TBC)
- It's great to be here in Maple Ridge again to talk with you.
- Acknowledge Maple Ridge-Mission MLA Marc Dalton (TBC).
- You are a strong voice for businesses throughout this region – you represent the backbone of B.C.'s economy – and I want to thank you for your contributions and for your valuable input.
- I got back into politics to make life better for B.C. families – the best way for government to do that is to create conditions for the private sector to prosper and create jobs.
- B.C. is open for business. We want to work with you and with other small and medium businesses across the province to create jobs, develop skills and seize opportunities wherever they exist – it's core of the Jobs Plan.
- In B.C. small business is big business:
  - You represent 98% of all our business.

Page 2 of 4

- You keep more than a million people working.
  - You drive more than 47% of B.C. exports.
- But I know you do more than that.
- You help bring families together by supporting and hosting community festivals and events.
- You help kids thrive by sponsoring the little league baseball, soccer and hockey teams.
- You create thriving communities – and you are a barometer for BC's economy. When you are doing well, we are all doing well.
- To me, it starts with the fundamentals. It starts with a strong, competitive economy.
- It starts with low taxes, controlled spending and a plan to balance the books.
- And it starts with listening TO and working WITH small businesses.
- To grow our economy, my government is relentlessly focused on implementing the BC Jobs Plan.
- The Jobs Plan builds on the strength of each region to create and protect jobs by pumping new

Page 3 of 4

dollars into your communities and your businesses.

- My government wants to turn potential into opportunity.
- We won't break your spirit with high taxes and red tape.
- We are about clearing the hurdles, streamlining approvals and investing in skills training.
- We can provide investor certainty, expand our trade relationships and keep taxes low so we remain competitive.
- And if we all work together, cash registers ring, communities grow and government can afford the services families need, like good health care and education.
- Working together to build a strong economy is how we will make our children's dreams come true.
- Together, we can tell the world, Canada starts here.
- Thank you.

**-END-**

Page 4 of 4

**Maple Ridge Women's Group  
Tuesday Aug. 28, 2012  
Speech length: 5-7 minutes**

**Event: what is it?**

- Speaking to a Maple Ridge-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

*Check against delivery*

- Acknowledgements: Maple Ridge-Mission MLA Marc Dalton
- I got back into politics to make life better for BC families - however you define them.
- But government can't raise your family.

## **AFFORDABILITY**

- I am from the middle class and I am for the middle class
- Measures:
  - New Home Buyers Tax Credit, Seniors Renovation Tax Credit, Children Arts and Sports Tax Credit
  - Ordering a review on BC Hydro, ICBC & Translink.
  - Holding the line on rate increases at BC Hydro
  - Increasing the minimum wage
- We are living within our means, just like you all are living within your family's means. And next year we WILL have a balanced budget.
- Dix hockey story

## **JOBS PLAN**

- The most important thing -- good-paying jobs.

Page 2 of 4

- The BC Jobs Plan leverages all of the advantages BC has (LNG, Asia, highly skilled workforce, infrastructure, abundant natural resources, AAA credit rating sounds fiscal management).

- It is working – over 60, 000 new jobs

### **WOMEN IN YOUR GOVERNMENT**

- 8 out of 18 portfolios are run by women.
- And since I took office, over 40% of new government board appointments are females.
- I went out looking for the best people and I found a lot of smart, capable people who happened to be women.

### **EDUCATION**

- Glad for negotiated settlement - stability is important
- Need to change the discussion to make kids the priority
- Need to celebrate good teachers

### **ENBRIDGE**

- Since I've become Premier, I've taken a few punches, even from Alberta.
- The way I look at is, my job is to stand up for BC: 5 conditions
  - Passing the environmental
  - Increased marine and terrestrial safety
  - Respecting First Nations

- Economic benefit for BC
- END-**

### **Recent accomplishments for families in Maple Ridge**

- June 21, 2012 – \$75K for school playgrounds in Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows School District: \$25K to Alexander Robinson Elementary; \$50K to Eric Langton Elementary.
- In 2010/11 the Province invested over \$4.7 million to provide subsidized housing and rent supplements for 1,011 Maple Ridge households.

**Order of B.C. Investiture Ceremony**  
**Thursday, September 6, 2012**  
**Government House, Victoria**  
**3-5 minutes**

**Event: what is it?**

- The 2012 Order of BC Investiture Ceremony recognizes 14 new members of the Order.
- Since the Order was first introduced in 1989, 331 people have received the honour.

**Audience: who are they?**

- The 2012 Advisory Committee consists of:
  - The Honourable Lance S. G. Finch (Chair), Chief Justice of British Columbia;
  - The Honourable Bill Barisoff, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and MLA for Penticton;
  - Dr. Ralph Nilson, President and Vice-Chancellor, Vancouver Island University;
  - Director Heath Slee, President, Union of British Columbia Municipalities;
  - Pierrette Maranda, Associate Deputy Minister, Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat;
  - Yuri Fulmer, O.B.C. (2011 recipient of the Order)
  - Baljit Sethi, O.B.C. (2011 recipient of the Order)
- Guests of recipients
- MLA's TBC

**Audience: what do they want to hear?**

- **Key Theme: Congratulations to the 2012 Order of B.C. recipients**
- **Key Message: The contributions made by this year's recipients are great examples of how talent and skill, when directed by passion, make B.C. a better place for us all.**

## Morning Investiture

*Check against delivery*

- ACKNOWLEDGE: Lieutenant-Governor, advisory council members, recipients, friends and families
- It is a privilege to honour our recipients today.
- You are leaders in your fields, and your achievements are an inspiration.
- Even more inspiring is your dedication to service and excellence.
- Each of you has harnessed your abilities and talents and has passionately directed your energies toward serving entire communities and improving the lives of British Columbians.
- You have served as mentors and educators and you have served by creating jobs, and by championing the rights of the less fortunate.
- You have served with the greatest distinction through arts, sports, science, and business.
- Thank you for the vision that allowed you to see not only issues in our society, but also opportunities and solutions.
- Thank you for the tenacity, courage and dedication that have brought you here today.
- On behalf of all British Columbians, and especially of the people you have served, thank you.

- Today, you are presented with the province's highest award for excellence. Congratulations!

### **Dinner Speaking Points**

- ACKNOWLEDGE: Lieutenant-Governor, advisory council members, recipients, friends and families.
- You are exemplary representatives of what British Columbia and Canada has to offer the world.
- We are all fortunate to have tonight's inductees in our province, and in our lives.
- Your creativity, selflessness and excellence represent the best in all of us.
- Your service is an inspiration.
- I must thank the friends, family and supporters of tonight's recipients...
- Your support and understanding is immeasurable.
- Please join me in welcoming the new members of the Order of BC...
- We're proud to have you join the esteemed ranks of the 317 previous Order of BC inductees.
- It is now my pleasure to call upon Dr. Norman Keevil to speak on behalf of this year's recipients.

END

**Hong Kong  
Friends of BC Reception  
Monday, Sept. 10, 2012  
Speech Length: 7-10 minutes**

**Event: what is it?**

- The Friends of BC corporate lunch is the flagship occasion of the Premier's mission to address the Hong Kong corporate community on the economic directions of the Province and the commitment to proactively work with Hong Kong business partners to significantly expand trade and investment relations.

**Audience: who are they?**

- Attendees will be familiar with BC and be BC-friendly after having participated in BC-focused missions and programs and/or having worked closely with BC companies.

**KEY MESSAGES:**

1. B.C.'s natural advantages, combined with our Asia Pacific Gateway, make our province the ideal partner for economic growth, through either direct investment or through the purchase of our export goods and services.
2. BC and Hong Kong have strong historical and cultural connections, built through business people who have chosen our province as a destination for investment, trade, education, or vacation.
3. Trade with Asian markets continues to grow. In the past year, the government has doubled B.C.'s international trade presence, adding six trade and investment representatives in Asia.

*Check against delivery*

- CHO Sun (Good morning)
- I'm so pleased to be back in China and visiting Hong Kong for my first time as Premier.
- If you've travelled, done business or studied outside your country, you know how important it is to feel safe and welcomed.
- You also know how it feels to come home again, filled with new knowledge and new ideas about the world and how we can make that world better for our families and our communities ...
- Many of you have experienced British Columbia and understand the deep historical, cultural and business ties that we share with Hong Kong.

- You have family in B.C. You have studied in B.C. You have worked in B.C. You have become part of B.C.
- Many of you have parents and grandparents who helped build British Columbia. They made B.C. their home and have formed an essential part of the fabric of our province.
- Some of you have kids studying, working and living in B.C. who are sharing in those experiences, forming life-long friendships and connections and building the bond that unites us.
- It's hard to image two places on earth, though separated by a massive body of water, as close as BC and Hong Kong.
- There is one Canadian citizen in every 13 households in Hong Kong.

- We span that oceanic divide. Our borders may define our boundaries – not our perspective, our mutual admiration and shared values.
- For generations we have been there for each other, and we will be for generations to come.
- We have built a bond that is made up of hundreds of thousands of experiences.
- Each of you has contributed to that. Each of you is making important contributions as BC's ambassadors to Hong Kong.
- You are also supporting the atmosphere of understanding and good will that exists between BC and Hong Kong.

- **Macy Lau**, for example, is an SFU Alumni who moved to Hong Kong after graduating and started her own business called Jam Solutions which specializes in customized home theatres
- **Stephen Wortley**, a partner of the Canadian law firm of McMillan LLP, is also the Chair of its China Practice Group and Chair of its Hong Kong office.
- **David McMaster** is the Head of School at the Canadian International School of Hong Kong, now a leading international school in the region.
- **Tom Lau** is a UVic alumni, who also moved back to Hong Kong and opened the Roundhouse here in Hong Kong and serves beer made in B.C.
- These are just a few examples of everyone in this room.

- You are helping to connect entrepreneurs here in Hong Kong with businesses in BC.
- By maintaining your connections with business contacts, family members and friends in B.C., you help strengthen that bond.

### **Trade and Investment Office announcement**

- And today we make an incredibly strong bond even stronger. We take another step in one of the closest and most durable global relationships imaginable.
- In recognition of the important economic and cultural relationship between BC and Hong Kong, I am pleased to announce that BC will open a Trade and Investment Office here in Hong Kong by the end of this year.
- The office will be focused on working with all of you, your business associates, and Hong Kong businesses more closely than ever to advance commercial opportunities that will benefit both BC and Hong Kong.

- The staff in these offices will help connect both BC and Hong Kong businesses and organizations and will help us continue to expand and open new markets.
- This office will help your local companies navigate BC's investment processes and help complete the necessary steps as quickly as we can. {PAUSE}
- It's in part because of our strong ties that for the first time ever, B.C. now exports more to the Asia Pacific than it does to the United States.
- Our exports to China and Hong Kong this year alone are more than \$2.8 billion, up almost 25% from last year, and they are continuing to grow very rapidly.
- Our natural resources sectors like forestry, mining and natural gas can be an essential part of your urban development, but we can also benefit from sharing our intellectual resources.

- While other economies struggle, British Columbia and Hong Kong are in a position to help each other grow.
- Hong Kong is a long-standing investor in BC's economy, ranging from real estate, transportation, pulp and paper, coal and other mining operations to investment in the hotel/tourism sector.
- Our ports are closer to Asia anywhere in North America by two days, and our transportation infrastructure gets goods to market fast and efficiently.
- BC also has one of the most competitive low tax environments in North America that is great for business, with the stable economy to back it up. That's why we have a triple-A credit rating.

### **LNG – the opportunity**

- BC is on the cusp of huge economic development.
- We have a once in a lifetime opportunity to help shape the future of energy use around the globe by expanding our natural gas industry.
- We are building a new industry aimed at exporting natural gas. We are well on our way to reaching our goal of having three export facilities in operation by 2020.
- We have a 50-year history of natural gas development and we can support the industry for another 80 years or more with new discoveries still taking place today.

- Recognize value in this new industry and are moving mountains to make it happen. If we reach our goal of five big plants, we expect to:
  - Add \$1 trillion by 2046 to our GDP
  - Create 100,000 person years in construction jobs
  - 2,700 full-time jobs once in operation.
- Beyond natural gas' status as the cleanest burning conventional fuel, we are also primarily producing it with clean energy, helping protect clean air and water.
- BC is here to support endeavours to change energy use and improve quality of life in Asia.
- And every one of you can contribute.

### Conclusion

- British Columbians are very proud our long-standing cultural connection with Hong Kong.
- These connections provide an avenue through which our government can promote greater investments in the province and build an even stronger relationship with Hong Kong.
- It is the strength of our partnership and our commitment to a better future that will make B.C. and Hong Kong even more successful.
- So when you look across the Pacific and think about opportunities think of British Columbia.
- It is where Canada begins.

-END-

EVENT:	World Economic Forum
DATE:	Tuesday, September 11
TIME:	Preparatory discussion: 11:40 - 12:00 Panel discussion: 12:00 - 13:00
LOCATION:	Meijiang Convention and Exhibition Center, Davos (seats 400) Tianjin
PANELISTS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moderator: <b>Dr. David G Victor</b>, University of California.</li> <li>• <b>Yorihiko Kojima</b>, Chairman Board of Mistubishi.</li> <li>• <b>Christina Lampe-Onnerud</b>, Founder and International Charman, Boston Power.</li> <li>• <b>Lin Boqiang</b>, Director China Center for Energy Economics Research</li> <li>• <b>Daniel Yergin</b>, Chairman HIS, CERA, USA.</li> <li>• Rapporteur: <b>Simon Zadek</b>, Senior Visiting Fellow, Global Green Growth Institute</li> </ul>
PANEL:	<p><u>Strategic Shifts: The Future of Energy Topic Description:</u></p> <p>What major trends, new models and emerging technologies are transforming the energy industry landscape?</p> <p>Dimensions to be addressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implications of resource discoveries and new technologies</li> <li>• Energy independence and interdependence after Fukushima</li> <li>• Impact of economic slowdown and market dynamics</li> <li>• New models for energy access</li> </ul>

## **Questions and Key Messages**

1. What role can government play in developing new energy resources?
  - BC is a safe harbour for investment that has focused on getting in and out of the way when necessary to grow the natural gas industry.
2. How can BC help emerging economies meet their energy needs?
  - BC has an over 50-year history of producing natural gas. We are making investments to create a natural gas export industry that rivals the scale of the oil sands.
3. How do you see the world's energy mix changing and what can BC contribute to that shift?
  - Growing economies want to use more green energy while protecting their economy. BC's natural gas can provide a transition fuel, our wood pellets be used for biofuel, and we can share our clean tech innovations

## **WEF Opening Remarks**

*Check against delivery*

- The energy industry landscape is changing as new models, resource discoveries and technologies come into play.
- One of the biggest shifts we are seeing is nations, particularly emerging economies in Asia, looking to change their energy mix by moving towards lower emission fuels and sources of clean energy.
- Here in China, the largest urbanization in human history is ongoing. Japan is also looking to change it's energy mix in the wake of the Fukushima nuclear disaster.
- In BC we are building a new industry aimed at exporting natural gas, so that we can support the energy needs of these shifting economies.

- We continue to work with industry proponents and First Nations to advance pipeline plans for proposed LNG facilities.
- We are well on our way of reaching our goal of having three export facilities in operation by 2020.
- Early indications show we can expect nearly \$7 billion in natural gas investment for last year.
- A big part of that is our commitment to fiscal discipline, as evidenced by our triple-A credit rating, and other changes we have made to increase investor confidence.
- But it is also about the deep cultural connections we share with Asian markets.
- If you want a living example of confidence in my government, he is sitting right over there. Mitsubishi has recently committed to investing \$2.9 billion in Encana's natural gas development project in Montney, BC.

- We value the price differential in exporting to Asia, so we have made significant investments in infrastructure to make our province the gateway to Asia.
- Our ports are two days closer to Asia than anywhere else in North America and we have invested \$5.5 billion in road and rail infrastructure since 2005, so that we move goods to market quickly and efficiently.
- Beyond natural gas' status as the cleanest burning conventional fuel, we are also primarily producing it with clean energy, helping protect clean air and water.
- We have a 50-year history of safe natural gas development and we can support the industry for another 80 years or more with new discoveries still taking place today.

- BC is here to support endeavours to change energy use. By sharing our resources with the world, we improve the quality of life for all, while creating good jobs and generating government revenue at home.

Question 1: What role can government play in developing new energy resources?

- Government can do things to get in and out of the way.
- Being a safe harbour for investment. In BC:
  - Stable budgeting
  - Common sense regulation
  - Low taxes
  - Policies that encourage business and invite investment, like predictable tax policy
  - Our debt to GDP ratio is only 16.4%
  - AAA credit rating

- Skills training:
  - Matching skills to jobs and jobs to skills
  - Regional workforce tables
  - Foreshadow skills training plan
- Streamlining regulatory requirements:
  - Amended Clean Energy Act to eliminate the Corporation's insurance requirement.
- Finding new markets:
  - Trade offices – opened one in Hong Kong yesterday.

- Providing incentives for investment:
  - Some of Canada's most competitive royalty policies
  - Infrastructure Royalty Credit Program
    - deductions for opening up areas for new production
  - Summer Royalty Credit Program
    - for spurring activity in summer
  - Deep Royalty Credit Program
    - for drilling in deep wells in West BC
  - Marginal Royalty Credit Program
    - reduced royalty for low productivity resources
  - Ultra Marginal Royalty Credit Program
    - reduced royalty for low productivity and tight gas development
  - Net Profit Royalty Program
    - Low royalty rates for in first development phase for complex, unconventional, remote natural gas projects

- Securing investments (First Nations relations, etc.)
  - Haisla first Nations on board.
  - Sharing information and opportunities.
- Investing in Infrastructure
  - Since 2005, the province and its Pacific Gateway Alliance partners have committed \$22 billion to expand port, rail, road and airport facilities in British Columbia to meet rising demand in Asia.
  - The BC's share of the \$22 billion is about \$5.5 billion.

Question 2: How can BC help emerging economies meet their energy needs?

**Most important messages:**

- 50-year history of natural gas development and we can support the industry for another 80 years or more with new discoveries still taking place today.
- Our BC Jobs Plan committed us to three plants by 2020. Proposed projects include:
  - BC LNG Douglas Channel;
  - Kitimat LNG;
  - Shell;
  - Progress Energy/PETRONAS;
  - Nexen/INPEX;
  - British Gas Group;
  - Additional proposals in the mix like Terra Energy and ones we cannot disclose.

- Recognize value in new industry and are moving mountains to make it happen. If the five big plants are built, we expect to:
  - Add \$1 trillion by 2046 to our GDP
  - Create 100,000 person years in construction jobs
  - 2,700 full-time jobs once in operation.
- It's forecasted to produce 2 million barrels of oil per day, roughly same as Alberta oil sands.
- Investing to ensure we have a skilled workforce ready to build and run this industry.
- BC is a stable and predictable democratic jurisdiction, proven by our Triple-A credit rating.
- Our ports are two days closer to Asia than anywhere else in North America and our world-class infrastructure moves goods to market quickly and efficiently.

**Additional Messages:**

- For BC, natural gas is the opportunity of our lifetime.
- We are building a new industry aimed at exporting natural gas.
- Investing in and supporting a liquefied natural gas industry that will make us Canada's emerging energy powerhouse.
- Five big proposals that imply up to 4 trillion cubic feet per year of Canadian natural gas exports by 2020.
- That is equivalent:
  - 118 M household's energy use, or
  - Energy generation of 250 average sized coal plants, or
  - 158 average sized nuclear reactors.

- If the first three B.C. projects came to fruition, BC could be exporting close to 25 mmtpa by 2020, putting Canada in the first five spots in the ranking.
- My government recognized this opportunity. We are moving fast and working hard to capitalize.
- We recognize that there are many solutions but ours is the most practical because we have the resource and our proximity lends convenience.
- Asian demand can make BC one of the top five liquefied natural gas exporters.
- We value the price differential in exporting to Asia, so we have invested \$5.5 billion in infrastructure since 2005.

- Chinese companies like CIC and other Asian investors interested in BC's resources are very important to us, as they have allowed us to grow jobs domestically and create the infrastructure to get our goods to international markets.
- Would create unprecedented opportunity for regional economies, First Nations and Canada.
- This sector is built on 50 years of safe operations and good corporate reputations.

Question 3: How do you see the world's energy mix changing and what can BC contribute to that shift?

- Emerging economies, especially in Asia, are undergoing massive development that means huge new demand for energy.
- China and India urbanization. Japan changing energy mix post-Fukushima.
- Need secure safe and stable sources of energy.
- Global shift in energy mix:
  - Lower emission fuels
  - Cleaner energy
  - More renewable
- BC's energy mix is currently about 95% clean/renewables, mostly hydro-electric.

- We built this clean energy mix by:
  - BC Hydro mandate to build hydro-electric.
  - 1989 premiums for wood biomass led to William's Lake facility.
  - No nuclear policy.
  - 2002 Energy Plan precluded coal-fired generation.
  - 2010 Clean Energy Act – 93% clean requirement.
- Challenge is balancing economic development during global economic turmoil with environmental responsibility.
- BC's natural gas can help change energy mix.
- Cleanest burning conventional fuel on the planet.
- In BC we are producing it with primarily clean energy.

- Natural gas also used as a low-emission back up for renewable energy systems like solar and wind.
- Our proximity to Asia also means it has to travel less.
- Natural gas is important as a transition fuel:
  - It is a solution, not the solution.
  - Most industries are still reliant on conventional fuels, and that means jobs are at risk.
  - Natural gas provides a means to lower emissions while allowing our economies to change gradually.
  - Transition can take many generations.
- BC's traditional resource sectors also have a role to play.
- Forestry selling wood pellet exports for biofuels.

- Recently announced a deal with a Korean company to purchase 6000 tonnes of wood pellets.
- Developing a framework and making investments to enable a biofuel industry.
- BC is also a leader in clean technology innovation.
- We can share knowledge/tech to help reduce emissions and add more clean energy to mix.
- One of the biggest barriers to clean tech innovation is piloting, demonstration and commercialization.
- BC's Innovative Clean Energy Fund is helping clean tech move through this process. Examples:
  - Nexterra Systems biomass gasification tech.
  - Pulse Energy optimization software for building performance.
  - ProSelect Gas Treating tech for using biomass to heat greenhouses.

- BC recognized world centre for hydrogen and fuel cell technology:
  - Home to 35 hydrogen and fuel cell companies that employ 1,200 skilled workers.
  - 77% of the world's fuel cell research and development occurs in B.C.
- BC has 2 wind projects operational, 6 additional in various stages of development.

**New West Partnership Reception – Tianjin, China**  
**Sept 11, 2012**  
**Speech Length: 4-5 minutes**

**Event: what is it?**

- Reception at the Meijiang Convention Centre in Tianjin, to promote resource-rich Western Canada to Chinese and international investors and buyers.

**Audience: who are they?**

About 100 people, including:

- Premiers Alison Redford & Brad Wall, senior government representatives
- Many are CEO/VP level, mainly Chinese, but also from the U.S., Europe etc. Mostly WEF delegates, many in the energy field.
- Media

**Audience: what do they want to hear?**

KEY THEME: Families, jobs and economic development

KEY MESSAGES:

- Western Canada has, in abundance, the energy and other resources that China needs to sustain the largest urbanization in human history.
- Our New West Partnership is strong and we have a major focus on trade. We want to improve access to markets in Asia.
- International education is also a key priority for British Columbia. We want to encourage educational exchanges and sharing of knowledge and technologies.

**Note:** In April 2012, all three rating agencies, Moody's, S&P and DBRS affirmed BC's credit rating, with a stable outlook citing our low debt burden, diversified economy, proven track solid access to capital markets and expectations for continued economic recovery.

**Note:** All three provinces have a triple A credit rating

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Sept 11, 2012 - New West Partnership Reception *Check against delivery*

*Check against delivery*

- Acknowledge: Emcee Gary Marr, Premier Alison Redford, Premier Brad Wall, Western Trade Representatives, guests representing corporations and investors, event organizers.
- History and geography have brought us all here today presenting us with a unique, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.
- While other economies are struggling, Western Canada and Asia are in a position to help each other grow.
- By sharing our resources, we can help improve the quality of life in other nations while also creating jobs for the people we serve.
- Western Canada has – in abundance – the energy and other resources that many countries need.
- Together, our three western provinces make up about 90 per cent of Canada's total oil production. Saskatchewan has uranium and potash, Alberta has oil and gas, and British Columbia has coal, softwood lumber and natural gas.

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Sept 11, 2012 - New West Partnership Reception *Check against delivery*

- In BC, we have steelmaking coal to help produce new automobiles. Our forest products help build environmentally friendly homes with a low carbon footprint. And our copper helps build telecommunication networks...
- We also have a wealth of intellectual resources we want to share, like our innovations in clean technology and renewable energy.
- Most importantly, we are building a new industry aimed at exporting natural gas, so that we can support the energy needs of these shifting economies.
- We are well on our way to reaching our goal of having three export facilities in operation by 2020.
- Beyond natural gas' status as the cleanest burning conventional fuel, we are also primarily producing it with clean energy, helping protect clean air and water.
- BC is here to support endeavours to change energy use and improve quality of life in Asia.

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Sept 11, 2012 - New West Partnership Reception *Check against delivery*

- We have a 50-year history of natural gas development and we can support the industry for another 80 years or more with new discoveries still taking place today.
- Here in China, the largest urbanization in human history is ongoing. Japan is looking to change it's energy mix in the wake of the Fukushima nuclear disaster.
- We value our trading partnerships. For the first time, our export levels to the Pacific Rim were higher than those to the United States.
- That's why we have trade and investment offices in Beijing, Shanghai, and Guangzhou and just yesterday announced one in Hong Kong -- complementing the existing nine offices in operation around the world.
- British Columbia also has deep historical, cultural and business ties to Asia.

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Sept 11, 2012 - New West Partnership Reception *Check against delivery*

- Our relationships to the Asia-Pacific region have brought new investment to BC, allowing us to protect and create jobs at home.
- We value the price differential in exporting to Asia, so we have made significant investments in infrastructure.
- Our ports are two days closer to Asia than anywhere else in North America and our transportation infrastructure moves all of our goods to market quickly and efficiently.
- Last year alone, just two of those ports – Vancouver and Prince Rupert – shipped an estimated 546,000 metric tonnes of goods from here to the port of Tianjin.
- China is already our second largest trade partner. Our exports to China this year alone are more than \$2.8 billion, up almost 25% from last year, and they continue to grow.

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Sept 11, 2012 - New West Partnership Reception *Check against delivery*

- Our softwood lumber exports to China jumped 60 per cent in 2011, surpassing the \$1 billion mark for the first time.
- Clearly, the ocean does not divide us – it brings together our people and our perspectives.
- And they continue to build on the foundation of cultural and economic ties that link us today and in the future. {PAUSE}
- In BC, we are a safe harbour for investment. We remain committed to stable budgeting, common sense regulation, low taxes and policies that encourage business and invite investment.
- Our tax-payer supported debt to GDP ratio is only 16.4%. We continue to maintain a triple AAA credit rating. We've received 7 successive upgrades and in April, Moody's, S&P and DBRS affirmed our rating.

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Sept 11, 2012 - New West Partnership Reception *Check against delivery*

- So British Columbia's message today is simple. Together, with our Western Canadian partners, we are open for business.
- Our New West Partnership is strong and we have a major focus on trade. We want to improve access to markets like China, Japan, Korea, India and the Philippines.
- The New West Partnership is the only association of Canadian provinces to have a binding trade agreement and an effective approach to economic and policy advocacy.
- Our three provinces have similar outlooks and we each have a lot to offer. We are committed to fiscal responsibility and we each maintain a triple AAA credit rating – so you can be confident that we are a safe harbour for investment.
- This is our chance to do great things together and create a prosperous future for the generations to come.
- We invite you to invest in Western Canada.
- Xie-xie (shay shay)

**- END -**

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**Skills Equipment Announcement**  
**Prince George, Tuesday, September 18, 2012**  
**Speech length: 7-9 minutes**

**Event: what is it?**

- Announcing funding to upgrade training equipment at our education and training institutions, to ensure that students are getting the best skills training, with the latest equipment.

**Audience: who are they?**

- Media
- President of CNC
- Student/Instructor
- Industry representatives
- Local/regional government representative

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- Education and skilled trades training is the foundation upon which we're building industry and employment in British Columbia through the BC Jobs Plan.
- Our government is committed to ensuring all British Columbians have the opportunity to participate and be successful in the province's labour market.
- This year alone we're providing more than \$1.9 billion for post-secondary education and training – that's an investment of \$5 million each and every day by BC taxpayers.

- *Check against delivery*
- Acknowledgements.
- Today I am happy to report that the BC Jobs Plan is working.
- In its first year, we helped:
  - Create 61,700 new jobs, putting us 1<sup>st</sup> in job growth in Canada.
  - Attract an estimated \$80 billion in investment for projects currently under construction.
- When we say “Canada Starts Here” this is what we mean – leading the country into the future.
- We know as our economy continues to grow, our labour and skills needs continue to evolve as well.

- Our Government has worked with and invested in the Industry Training Authority to identify labour market needs in sectors that are growing.
- We have delivered:
  - Since 2004 the number of apprentices in the system has doubled..
  - Aboriginal participation in apprenticeship training at post-secondary institutions between 2006 and 2011 has increased 103%!
  - Opening up the trades opportunities for women in the workforce..
- We are bringing British Columbians together to work on developing needs based plans for each and every part of BC.

- We are bringing together educators, industry, employers, local chambers of commerce, First Nations and labour with one goal: understanding where jobs are being created and how we can deliver training that meets these regional needs.
- My government has helped make this progress possible by focusing on two key priorities: jobs and families.
- That's why skills training is such an important part of our plan – it is the point where jobs and families intersect.
- Canadians have always worked hard to ensure that the next generation has even greater opportunities.

- We want our kids to have choice. We want them to be able to get jobs that allow them to stay close to home. We want to grow our middle class with a stable economy that provides opportunity for all.
- Skills training is essential to achieving those goals.
- With the BC Jobs Plan, we are transforming our economy and the face of our workforce.
- Economists will ask, “How will you find all the workers to fill these jobs?”
- I say, “How will our kids have the opportunity to take advantage of the changes in our province?”

- **That's why today I happy to announce we are providing funding to upgrade training equipment at our education and training institutions, to ensure that students are getting the best skills training, with the latest equipment.**
- **This \$17 million investment will help schools like the College of New Caledonia and other post-secondary institutions train workers for the right jobs, in the right place, at the right time.**
- These upgrades will help address gaps identified in our consultations with industry between the equipment in our educational facilities and the latest tools being used in the field.

- Education and skills training is the foundation of the BC Jobs Plan. It is how we're building up industry and employment in every corner of the province.
- This year alone we are providing more than \$1.9 billion for post-secondary education and training. That's an investment in our future of \$5 million every day by BC taxpayers.
- Throughout our province, young people are rediscovering a passion for the trades, because they see the great opportunities these professions provide.
- Our government is committed to ensuring all British Columbians have the opportunity to be successful in the province's changing labour market.
- The growth in our natural gas sector is a great example of the type of economic shift we are talking about.

- With an estimated \$48 billion in industry investment in natural gas facilities between 2013 and 2022, and a potential trillion dollars of economic activity in BC over the next thirty years, this is an industry that will create huge new demand for skilled workers.
- In the northeast, where natural gas is extracted, we will need rig operators, drivers and surveyors.
- On the coast, where natural gas export facilities will be located, we will need engineers, workers with skills in the construction trades and technicians.
- In the Kitimat and Prince Rupert regions there will be port, energy and transportation jobs.
- Between the northeast and the coast, there will be pipeline construction work.

- In the south, there will be a broad range of service and technical jobs available, including environmental and engineering consulting, as well as in legal, corporate and financial services.
- And that's just the effect of our natural gas industry on our need for skilled workers. We are also seeing upswings in large mining projects, forestry and agri-foods.
- It is projected that there will be nearly one million job openings heading in to 2020 in British Columbia – 43 per cent are technical, paraprofessional and skilled occupations.
- My government wants to ensure that British Columbians are best positioned to take advantage of the opportunities that are emerging from this economic growth – today and into the future.

- Over the coming days we will announce more ideas and actions to support our commitment to support the BC Jobs Plan, including our skills training plan.
- The investments in equipment upgrades announced today are the next step in ensuring that we have the training opportunities and skilled workforce necessary to realize the economic prosperity we see on the horizon.
- BC can lead Canada. But we need a skilled workforce to do it.
- This is our time to tell the world, Canada Starts Here.

-End-

**Skills Plan Launch**  
**Richmond, Wednesday, September 19, 2012**  
**Speech length: 10 minutes**

**Event: what is it?**

- launching the Skills Plan portion of the updated BC Jobs Plan.

**Audience: who are they?**

- Media
- Student/Instructors
- Industry representatives
- Local/regional government representative

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- With economic growth come challenges – of the one million job openings between now and 2020, 43 per cent will require technical, skills training.
- Our government wants to ensure that British Columbians have the skills needed to fill these jobs – after all, a skilled workforce is the backbone of our resilient economy.
- Our plan ensures British Columbia can supply more skilled workers, more quickly, in order to match the growth we are experiencing.
- British Columbia's economy is changing and our plan is changing with it – we have the jobs, we have the investment, and now we have a training system that will allow our children and our grandchildren to find jobs in British Columbia and tools that will help our communities thrive.

**The Skills and Training Plan**

- Our plan will promote today's training for tomorrow's careers: we will work to promote the dynamic opportunities in the trades and technical fields and improve policies to support these choices.
- Our plan will put \$75 million into improving training facilities and equipment, and ensuring the availability of technical education teachers, particularly with trades certification.
- Our plan focuses on getting the right mix and quality of trades and technical programs and reducing the time required to achieve certification while maintaining the high standards required by employers. And our plan will match economic immigration with the labour market needs of British Columbia.

*Check against delivery*

## **Introduction**

- Acknowledgements.
- Greg D'Avignon, President and CEO of the BC Business Council
- Don Wright, President of BCIT
- Pat Bell, Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training
- John Yap, Minister of Advanced Education, Innovation and Multiculturalism
- Linda Reid, MLA for Richmond East
- Rob Howard, MLA for Richmond Centre
- It's great to be here at Canada's largest Aerospace Technology Campus. BCIT is a real leader in delivering trades and technical programs – with the quality of the programs and the grads ensuring future grads are highly sought after.
- The range of technical programs offered here from aircraft maintenance engineering programs in avionics to maintenance, structures to aircraft gas turbine overhaul training programs are meeting the needs of industry.

- The aerospace space sector alone already generates \$1.2 billion a year in BC and directly employs close to 5,000 people.
- Here at BCIT, you are not just training the future generation of aerospace experts, you are helping grow the industry.

**BC JOBS plan is working**

- A year ago my government launched Canada Starts Here: The BC Jobs Plan, with the goal of creating jobs in every corner of our province.
- It is clear these are tough times in the global economy... and yet B.C. is on a roll because we have a plan, and we're delivering on it.
- Today we are NUMBER ONE for job growth in the country. We're even beating Alberta.
- 51,700 net new jobs have been created in our province in the last year and more than 61,000 net new jobs since I become Premier.

- Our unemployment rate is 6.7% -- that's the fourth lowest in Canada and below the national average.
- \$80 BILLION dollars in investment is currently underway in BC, an increase of 18 per cent in just one year.
- We are working hard to make sure that we are delivering on jobs for families because bringing home a paycheque means being able to provide for your kids and it means being able to have the best possible life you can.
- When we say "Canada starts here" that's what we really mean. We want British Columbia to lead this country on almost every measure.

### **BC Jobs Plan and Skills training**

- So today, we are here to talk about making sure that we are creating those jobs that British Columbia kids are in a position to be able to fill.
- What we are talking about today comes from listening to people, small businesses and industry in BC.

- We've brought together educators, industry, employers, small businesses, local chambers of commerce, First Nations and labour with one goal...
- Listening and understanding where jobs are being created and how we can deliver training that match the needs.
- Our goal has been to create jobs. Our plan has delivered them. And we must ensure our kids are ready to take advantage of all these new opportunities.
- All of us have to do a better job of understanding the needs of the economy in the next decade and beyond and then make sure our post-secondary system is training for those jobs. We shouldn't be training people for jobs that don't exist.
- As Canadians and as British Columbians we have always worked hard to ensure that the next generation gets the same shot at success that we had.
- We want our kids to have choice about where they work and if they choose to, to have that chance close to home. We want to grow the middle class.

- Skills training is the key to all that.
- Our success will depend on ensuring our workforce has the skills to take advantage of new jobs as British Columbia continues to attract business investments.
- And our success will depend on how we meet the skills and trades needs of small business.
- Because in British Columbia, small business is the backbone of our economy and critical to helping grow the middle class.
- Small business represents more than 98 per cent of all BC businesses, employs more than a million people and drive more than 47 per cent of B.C. exports
- We know that access to skilled labour is a top concern for businesses.
- With the BC Jobs Plan, we are acting for small business and we are working to transform our economy and the face of our workforce.

- When you look at the BC Jobs plan, you see a plan that transforms the face of our economy. To do that, we must also transform the face of our skilled workforce.
- When economists look at the plan they ask: “How will you find all the workers to fill these jobs?”
- I say, “How will our kids have the chance to take advantage of these opportunities, lead fulfilling lives, stay close to home and make sure their kids can have the same kind of chances that they had?”

### **Announcement**

- **Today I am happy to announce that as part of the BC Jobs Plan, we are releasing a Skills and Training plan that will help ensure BC is providing the educational opportunities to meet the needs of our changing economy.**
- This plan addresses the challenge faced by small businesses and industry. Its goal is to grow the number of people who choose trades in high school and provide coaching support.

- It helps address small business needs by better aligning the route to a career in trades to actual business practices and supporting on-site training.
- It also builds on commitments we've made to small businesses, like the Micro-Business Training Pilot program which helps micro-business owners get the training they need to help boost their business productivity.
- Young people are becoming more interested in the trades, because they see the great opportunities.
- Take the example of Kim Feeney. Kim was the first woman to ever win Maple Ridge Secondary School's Senior Technology Education Award. Yet after high school, she decided to pursue a double major in English and Sociology.
- When she finished her degree, she didn't like her outlook. With her father's encouragement, she enrolled at BCIT to get her Red Seal certification, and today she is following in his footsteps, enjoying a great career as an electrician.

- Some regions and sectors need skilled workers now, while others see a need in coming years. From skilled labourers to managerial positions, we're focused on creating a workforce that has the right skills, in the right place, at the right time.
- Our plan will allow trades students to enter these jobs more quickly, focusing the training at the beginning of the program and the hands-on experience at the end.
- An effective training system is not possible if pipefitting seats are open in Terrace when they are needed in Dawson Creek, or if construction seats are made available in 2015 when they are needed today.
- We will continue to work with small business and industries, to find out when they are busy and when they have down time, and how we can provide training over the Internet, so that trades students are at the job site when there is work and in the classroom when there is not.
- Our Skills and Training Plan is built on four key actions.

- The first is promoting and profiling today's trades as tomorrow's careers – students need to know the dynamic opportunities in the trades and we have to do better at supporting these choices.
- We have developed a plan that allows for different paths to graduation and career preparation, with the goal of a 50 percent increase of the number of graduates entering a trade or technical program immediately after high school.
- We will create more chances for students to begin apprenticeships before graduation so they can earn credits towards a trades or technical program.
- We are also improving school district capacity to market and promote trades and technical programs.
- Getting young people interested in the trades again is incredibly important to our future.

- The Northern Opportunities project in northeastern B.C. is a great example of three school districts, the trades industry, post-secondary institutions and First Nations groups, working together to provide trades training as well as academic and vocational opportunities for students.
- In 2006-2010, approximately 75% of Aboriginal students from these school districts (in the North Opportunities project), graduated from high schools compared to the provincial average of 53.4%
- The second area of action is investing \$75 million to improving our training facilities and equipment, and ensuring the availability of technical education teachers, particularly with trades certification.
- Yesterday we announced a \$17 million investment to upgrade training equipment at our post-secondary institutions, to ensure that students are getting the best skills training, with the latest equipment.

- These upgrades will help address gaps in our educational facilities and make sure the latest tools being used in the field – students need to train on the tools they'll use when they're earning a pay cheque.
- We will also extend partnerships between post-secondary institutions and industry, and ensure the availability of teachers delivering trades and technical training, while helping school districts coordinate regional sessions to review labour needs and opportunities.
- The third area of action in our Skills and Training Plan is about getting the right mix and quality of trades and technical programs, and reducing the time required to achieve certification while maintaining the high standards required by employers.
- We must ensure that we're aligning training opportunities, particularly in the north, with the rapidly increasing demand for workers.

- So we are matching program dollars to regional needs, to ensure the right seats are available in right places.
- The solution does not lie in increasing funding, but instead being smarter about funding.
- Starting next year, we will offer student financial aid support to encourage students to pick up trades and technical skills where there is noted demand.
- Training funding will also be increased by \$5 million per year starting in 2013, to train workers for higher skill and higher pay work.
- Next year we will also begin consulting with stakeholders about reducing the length of on-the-job training required, with a goal of cutting it in half in priority trades.
- The final area of action in our Skills and Training Plan is about matching our economic immigration to meet British Columbia's labour market needs.

- We will do everything we can to ensure British Columbians are first in line for the opportunities being created in our economy. But even if we are 100 per cent successful, we will still face a worker shortage because of the incredible opportunities on our horizon.
- So our government will redouble efforts to recruit workers from other parts of Canada and internationally to help fill our coming skills gap, with six inter-provincial and three international recruitment missions.
- Education and skills training is the foundation of the BC Jobs Plan. It is how we're building up industry and employment in every corner of the province.
- The growth in our natural gas sector is a great example of the type of economic shift we are talking about.
- With an estimated \$48 billion in industry investment and a potential trillion dollars of economic activity in BC over the next thirty years, this is an industry that will create huge new demand for skilled workers.
- In the northeast, where natural gas is extracted, we will need rig operators, drivers and surveyors.

- On the coast, where natural gas export facilities will be located, we will need engineers, workers with skills in the construction trades and technicians.
- In the Kitimat and Prince Rupert regions there will be port, energy and transportation jobs.
- Between the northeast and the coast, there will be pipeline construction work.
- Here in the south, there will be service and technical jobs available, including environmental and engineering consulting, as well as in legal, corporate and financial services.
- And that's just the effect of our natural gas industry on our need for skilled workers. We are also seeing upswings in large mining projects, forestry and agri-foods.

**Conclusion**

- If we keep our eye on the ball. If we manage our economy carefully, it is projected that there will be nearly one million job openings heading in to 2020 in British Columbia – 43 per cent are technical and skilled occupations.
- My government wants to ensure that British Columbians are best positioned to get these jobs. We need to keep making the right decisions and not put at risk the growth we're seeing.
- Our Skills and Training Plan is about changing the face of our training programs within our existing and vast budget commitments. Funding is not changing, but programming must.
- And there is more to come to support the growth of small businesses as part of the BC Jobs Plan.
- BC can lead Canada. But we need a skilled workforce to do it.

- The Skills and Training Plan is an important step along the way to ensuring that we can take our place in confederation.
- Every great society is anchored by great institutions of learning.
- Over the past decade, B.C. taxpayers have helped fund an education and training system that we can all be proud of – one that is capable of making sure students of today and tomorrow can get the jobs they want.
- This is our time. This is our moment.
- With incredible opportunities ahead and a skilled workforce to realize them, we can stand up and tell the world, Canada Starts Here.

**Opening of the Reichwald Health Sciences Centre  
UBC Okanagan  
Thursday, Sept. 20  
Speech length: 3-5 mins**

**Event: what is it?**

- **Celebration to mark the official opening of the Reichwald Health Sciences Centre, a \$32.7 million project funded by the provincial government, that will be home to the Southern Medical Program.**

**Audience: who are they?**

- Local MLAs
- UBC president Stephen Toope
- UBC dean of the faculty of medicine Dr. Gavin Stuart
- University executive and board, program faculty, students, representatives from the medical community

**KEY MESSAGES:**

With the addition of the Southern Medical Program, we've more than doubled the number of 1<sup>st</sup> year spaces since 2001, for student doctors in BC and we expect to graduate up to 288 MDs every year by 2014-15 – xxx from UBCO

The new Reichwald Health Sciences Centre is part of the innovative distributed medical education program, giving students the option to study, live and work throughout southern B.C. and the Okanagan Thompson region.

The new building allows UBCO to continue to provide world-class education and training opportunities for residents of the region.

This is part of our government's ongoing commitment for expanding skills training. Just, yesterday I announced \$75 million dedicated to ensuring students have the latest skills and technical training.

*Check against delivery*

I want to start out by thanking Klaus and Lydia Reichwald and UBC Okanagan for partnering with my government in establishing the Reichwald Health Sciences Centre.

This new centre will allow students the option to study, live and work throughout southern B.C. and the Okanagan Thompson region.

Students tend to practice where they are trained, and for the first time ever, medical students can complete their entire degree right here in the Okanagan.

My government is focused on expanding post-secondary programs to educate the health-care experts, regionally, to ensure all families in B.C. have access to quality health care.

In fact, we've seen the largest post-secondary expansion in history, with \$2.1 billion in capital expansion at public institutions since 2001 – adding 32,000 new student spaces and opening 7 new university campuses.

With the addition of the Southern Medical Program at UBCO, we've more than doubled the number of first year spaces for student doctors in B.C. since 2001 and we expect to graduate 288 medical doctors in 2014-15 – 32 from UBCO.

A significant increase in the number of doctors training, results in more doctors practicing, in all of the regions of British Columbia.

-END-

## **BACKGROUND**

Government has provided more than \$1.197 billion for operating and capital funding for health related post-secondary funding since 2001. This includes:

- \$110 million for the UBC Life Sciences Centre in Vancouver to facilitate the education of doctors – 32 1<sup>st</sup> year seats
- \$12 million for the UNBC Northern Medical Project to facilitate the education of doctors in the north - 32 1<sup>st</sup> year seats
- \$11.7 million for the UVic Island Medical Project to facilitate the education of doctors on the Island - 32 1<sup>st</sup> year seats
- \$32.7 million for the UBCO Health Sciences Centre to facilitate the education of doctors in the southern interior - 32 1<sup>st</sup> year seats

### **The Building**

The Reichwald Health Sciences Centre at UBCO features a green roof and will be the primary home for Southern Medical Program learners during their first two years of study. It is a 4,266-square-metre (46,000 sq. ft.) facility with:

- high-tech classrooms and lecture theatres, small-group teaching rooms, teaching labs (approx. 1,200 sq.m.)
- research labs and lab support (approx. 400 sq.m.)
- administration and faculty offices (approx. 940 sq.m.)

### **The Reichwalds**

- Klaus and Lydia Reichwald live in Kelowna, BC where Klaus is chairman of the Western Group of Companies.
- His dedication and his deep thirst for knowledge led to success in business. At the same time, his long-term involvement in Rotary International honed his desire to help others.
- Since Klaus was involved in the construction of institutional facilities for much of his life, he was intrigued by the opportunity to support the new Health Sciences Centre. In recognition of their tremendous generosity, and friendship to UBC's Okanagan campus, the Reichwald Health Sciences Centre is named in their honour.

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**UBCM Reception  
Sept 26, 2012**

**Event: what is it?**

- Premier addressing UBCM delegates at a kick-off reception. This is an informal high-level speech to highlight regional accomplishments.

**Audience: who are they?**

- UBCM Delegates
- Mayors, MLAs
- Media

**Audience: What do they want to hear?**

**KEY THEME:**

- Families, jobs and economic development

**KEY MESSAGES**

- We are in an uncertain global economy, it's the new normal. It means a careful fiscal approach and it means balancing our budget and holding the line on spending.
- Despite tough times, BC is faring better than most other jurisdictions. Unemployment is down, investment is up, jobs are up. We are stable and secure in growth.
- The BC Jobs Plan, our economic plan is working. But now more than ever, it's about working together to create more jobs and seize opportunities to help make life more affordable for BC families.
- British Columbia can be the economic engine of Canada, and we should be, but we will only be that economic engine if we continue to work together.

## UBCM Reception – September 26, 2012

*Check against delivery*

- We are in an uncertain global economy, it's the new normal. It means a careful fiscal approach and it means balancing our budget and holding the line on spending.
- Despite tough times, BC is faring better than most other jurisdictions. Unemployment is down, investment is up, jobs are up. We are stable and secure in growth.
- In the North, Natural gas strategy will create thousands of jobs over. A whole new industry that can pump over \$1 trillion into our economy in direct economic benefits over the next 30 years
- The mining industry is a key part of our Jobs Plan and it's booming. In 2011, the B.C.'s mining industry increased its value by 20 per cent from the year before to \$8.6 billion – eight new mines and nine mine expansion by 2015.
- Lower mainland is building a world class infrastructure - the Evergreen line and the Port Mann Bridge.
- Across B.C., an estimated \$80 billion in major projects are currently underway. These are paying for better health care such as the new Interior Heart and Surgical Centre (IHSC) surgical building and the Northern Cancer Strategy.
- We have the fastest job growth in Canada. New jobs demand new skills - \$75M Skills and Training Plan.
- The BC Jobs Plan, our economic plan is working. More than ever, it's about working together to create more jobs and seize opportunities to help make life more affordable for BC families.
- British Columbia can be the economic engine of Canada, and we should be, but we will only be that economic engine if we continue to work together.

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## UBCM

*Check against delivery*

Thank you very much. I'm just delighted to be here with you today, and I do want to start with a huge thank you to all of you, many of whom I've met with over the last week since you've been here in Victoria.

I don't want to just thank you for serving in public office. I want to thank you for all that you do for your communities because all of us are called to serve because we care about our communities.

Wherever we come from on the political spectrum, whatever motivates us to decide to run for office in the first place, we do it for the right reasons. We do it because we want to make our communities better. And that is hard work.

I certainly know that for many of you who serve in local government that's the hardest kind of work because it means phones ringing at 2 a.m., it means dealing with some of the most difficult issues you'll find in a very

personal way, and I don't think that people in local government get thanked enough for that.

So on behalf of all of the people in the province, all of the ones that you represent, and all the ones that I represent, I do want to say thank you for the work that you do.

I want to say thanks to Heath. It's been a pleasure to work with you over the last year. He says a mighty weight has been lifted from his shoulders, and, of course, a mighty weight has now been put on Mary Sjostrom's shoulders. I'm very much looking forward to working with you, Mary, over this next year.

You know, the thing about Mary is she's a real fighter. My personal example of that is when I saw her on Wednesday night. We talked about the multiplex in Quesnel, which is something she's been working towards for a long time.

I told her how pleased that the Province was able to participate in that to the tune of about a \$4 million grant, and Mary said: "Yes, Christy, we are very grateful for that

\$4m, and of course, we're still waiting for the other \$2m to \$4m to come."

The woman just doesn't give up. She doesn't give up behalf of Quesnel, and she certainly won't give up on your behalf either. She is a real fighter. So, Mary, welcome. I'm very much looking forward to the next year.

And I do want to acknowledge the members of our government caucus who are here today, who understand the issues that you face in local government better than most, because ten served as mayors, 13 served as councillors, five served on local boards.

They are intimately familiar with the issues in local communities. I'd like to ask all of them to stand up for a round of applause for all of the work that they do on behalf of the people of British Columbia.

I want to give a shout out to Bill Bennett, as well, our new minister for communities. Of course, you know that he's been a very, very strong voice on behalf of the province.

He has spent 11 years as an MLA, four of them in cabinet out of those 11 years.

Bill is a guy you want on your side. He's an unflinchingly honest voice. It hasn't always made his job easy, and he certainly hasn't been afraid to say what he thinks, even though sometimes that's meant he's found himself in a new seat in the Legislature.

The reason I chose him for this job is because we do want to hear the honest truth, the unflinching truth, from local communities.

Now, since I spoke with you last year, many of the communities that you represent have seen some tough times. Of course, Luke Strimbold is with us from Burns Lake, and Luke's community has seen some tough times. So have the folks in the Kootenays and Johnson's Landing. So have other communities as well.

And I don't want to forget, either, the people of the great town of Sicamous. Darrell Trouton, who I met with recently when I was up to visit, has been dealing with some very

challenging floods in his community, and now his water supply is under threat. Darrell, I want you to know this, because Bill has asked me to make sure we set this right. I know you need that water supply fixed, and we are going to help you do it.

Last year I also talked to you a little bit about our jobs plan. It was an economic plan that we have set out for the province. Over the last year we have been putting that plan to work in every corner of our province. It has two priorities: creating jobs and making life more affordable for families.

After a year, here are the results:

- We are number one in job growth in Canada, even ahead of Alberta.
- We are up 18 per cent in new investments over one year with over \$80 billion currently underway in your communities.

- We've got the notice of work backlogs for mining by 90 per cent helping industry grow by 20 per cent in value in one year. That's up \$8.6 billion.
- We've made a \$75-million investment in skills training so that British Columbia kids will be the first in line to get those jobs when they come open.
- We've done three trade missions to Asia that have garnered \$2 billion in new deals from those missions alone.

And despite the global economic uncertainty, our plan is also working to make life a little bit more affordable for families.

And here again, we've seen some results.

- 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 by cutting the Port Mann Bridge tolls in half for the first year.
- 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.

Those are all things that will help us protect the middle class, and further, they will help us make sure that more people have a chance to join the middle class ... the middle class that has built this country.

And we are on the right track.

Our plan is built on the belief that this truly is, as I said last year, British Columbia's moment. This is a unique moment

in time where British Columbia has exactly what Canada and the rest of the world needs to build, and the plan is called 'Canada Starts Here'.

So let's look at what that really means today in your local communities.

Ellis Ross from the Haisla, Joanne Monaghan from the city will tell you that Canada certainly starts in Kitimat where we are seizing the opportunity for more than a trillion-dollar liquefied natural gas export industry.

Frank Leonard will tell you that Canada starts in Saanich where Camosun's interurban campus will be upgraded so that BC students can be first in line for those shipbuilding jobs when they come open.

Gregor Robertson will tell you it starts in Vancouver, which is now a world leader in digital media and they are set to take advantage of all those new grads that are going to come from the new centre for digital media.

Mary Giuliano will tell you that it starts in Fernie where steelmaking coal from the Elk Valley is fuelling the largest urbanization in human history that's underway right now in China.

On Tuesday I saw Pete Weeber from New Hazelton. Pete said to me: "Christy, last year you talked to me about how Canada starts here, and I need to tell you a story that happened this week. I woke up with my phone ringing, and it was people in town who were upset that they were all being kept awake by all these helicopters that were flying around. You know what it was? It was the sound of the surveyors for the natural gas line that Spectra wants to put through in the nearby area."

Pete Weeber will tell you that Canada starts in New Hazelton where the noise of helicopters is music to his ears, because the noise of helicopters is the sound of jobs.

Some communities have also struggled. Some of those communities you represent here, and one of those communities is Port Edward.

Port Edward over the years, as Dave MacDonald tells me, has seen some tough times, and we all know that that's true, particularly in the northwest. But Port Ed is on the comeback trail because people there don't give up, and neither do we. We've got a plan, and it is delivering.

Dave MacDonald and his council came to see me last year. The Port Edward Elementary School was closing, and they knew they had little hope of attracting new families to their community versus Prince Rupert if their kids didn't have a school close to home. So Dave came to me with a plan. He said they needed three new classrooms and a shared library and that they needed some help with it.

Dave, we found that half-million dollars that you needed because I believe in our plan and I knew that it would deliver results for your community. I believe in the future of Port Ed. So, since that last UBCM, Petronas has announced that they want to come to Dave's town of Port Edward. That's 4,000 construction jobs and 400 to 500 permanent jobs in the community. Our plan is delivering.

Our plan is delivering for Port Ed, and Dave delivers too. When Dave told me last year he needed this to happen, he said, "I will dance with you, if you get me the money," and I'm pleased to say that on Wednesday in my office Dave and I had a chance to dance. Dave's a good dancer.

That is exactly the kind of investment from government, and it's just like the investments of \$30 million I announced last year for the community recreational program that depend on a thriving private sector.

That is what our plan is all about, because when the private sector is thriving, people are working, and when people are working, government has the economic capacity that it needs to be able to make sure that families have what they need, and also to make sure that we're able to keep taxes down.

So today I want to make four announcements that will continue to drive our plan forward and that will keep our economy strong.

The first is this. Within our capital plan – and I want to be clear, this is within our capital plan. My government is going to be accelerating some projects in your communities. Today, I am announcing a total of \$207 million for projects that we can get started this year, new investments in schools, in roads, hospitals, housing projects and more. By using taxpayers' money wisely, we have been able to get those projects going faster, helping support thousands of direct and indirect jobs in construction over the next four years.

They'll be projects like expanding the 16th Avenue interchange in Surrey, improving K-to-12 public schools in communities of Nanaimo, Campbell River, Houston, Surrey, Richmond, Maple Ridge, Mission and West Vancouver. Over the coming days and weeks we'll be announcing these projects and more in your communities all across the province.

But let me reiterate this, these are new projects, but this is not new money. It is money that we saved because we've pinched pennies; and I am very, very proud of that.

Now we have a chance, because we were careful, because we were diligent and disciplined, to reinvest that money that we saved in the community infrastructure that is so vital to holding families together all across the province.

Speaking of pinching pennies, here is the second announcement. You know we have been in contract negotiations with our public sector unions, the people who have worked so hard to serve British Columbians for some time now. The basis for those negotiations has been our cooperative gains mandate.

Now, that mandate recognizes that we are in some very uncertain times here and that any wage increases, as I have always said, must be found through savings within existing budgets. They cannot come through an increased deficit, they cannot come through cuts to service, and they cannot come through increases to people's taxes.

Yesterday you know that the Minister of Health announced that we have reached a tentative agreement with B.C. nurses under cooperative gains, and today I am able to

announce that we have also reached two more tentative agreements. The first is with resident doctors, and then late yesterday we also reached an agreement with the BCGEU, representing 26,000 direct government employees. They will be receiving modest wage increases without increasing taxes.

It's been a very challenging mandate and negotiation, as I'm sure you can appreciate, and I do want to take a moment to acknowledge Darryl Walker, the president of the BCGEU, who I understand is with us today. Darryl and his team, along with our negotiators, worked very, very hard to make this work. I acknowledge it hasn't been easy, but Darryl and the other negotiators have shown that agreements can be done. We can treat public sector employees fairly at the same time that we are protecting the province's finances.

Now, third, as we all know, B.C. is Canada's gateway to Asia and also to the fastest-growing economies in the history of humanity. More than \$22 billion has already been dedicated to one of the biggest transportation projects in Canadian history.

But there is still more to do. There are still bottlenecks in the Pacific Gateway.

Today I am announcing two new transportation initiatives. The first will deal with a longstanding challenge many communities have faced and that many drivers continue to endure.

I have been to Golden. I have been to Salmon Arm. I have been to Revelstoke. I have travelled the highway that links them, and I have met with mayors and councillors along the way, and I have heard your concerns. So here is my commitment to you. We will accelerate our efforts to complete the four-laning of the Trans-Canada Highway between Kamloops and the Alberta border.

To make that happen, in addition to the \$141 million from our current three-year service plan, my government is allocating another \$509 million over the next 10 years for a total of \$650 million. We'll work with the federal government to find matching funds.

Let's turn that remaining 280 kilometres of two-lane highway into a complete four-lane highway for the benefit of those communities, for the benefit of all British Columbians and, frankly, for the benefit of all Canadians who want to be able to access our coast. Let's get the job done.

Now, for those of us who live in the lower mainland, there's another little problem that they call a bottleneck in the Pacific Gateway, and that's the George Massey Tunnel. The Massey Tunnel was built in 1958.

Over 80,000 people move through that tunnel every day, and it is a huge cause of traffic congestion. It drives people crazy and it drives business out of our province. So, starting today we are going to sit down with communities, with mayors and begin planning the replacement, long overdue, of the George Massey Tunnel.

It will be a major project. It'll take up to 10 years to plan and deliver, but with the population of communities served by the Massey Tunnel growing by 300,000 people over the next 20 years, we do not have a moment to lose. Starting

today we'll begin engaging Delta, Richmond and other communities to determine what a replacement will look like.

Now, I talked to you today a little bit about our uncertain economic times, and it's certainly just as uncertain as it was a year ago when we last met. We've all been reading the papers and seeing what's going on in Europe and the United States, and I think it's pretty obvious to most of us that it's not going to change dramatically any time soon. It may very well be the new normal for all of us.

And that is why we have to stick to our plan, because while we've seen another year of economic turmoil since we launched the BC jobs plan, British Columbia has nonetheless charted a safe course through that, created more than 51,700 net new jobs.

Unemployment in British Columbia is down. Investment is up. Jobs are up. We are stable and we are growing.

With all that's going on around us, more British Columbians are working today than ever in our history,

and we are well on our way to becoming the economic engine of our country.

Just look at natural gas. This really is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for all of us. Natural gas prices are way down in North America, and you know that that's carved a big hole in our provincial budget. So we need to diversify our markets.

We need to make sure that we are not dependent on just one customer and captive to just one market. We need to liquefy natural gas. We need to ship it to Asia where prices are higher, where economies are transitioning to cleaner energy and where the investment interest in British Columbia is incredible.

If we get it right and we stick to our plan, this is going to be a trillion-dollar opportunity for our province over 30 years. That's a lot of health care and education. It's a lot of highways and bridges and airports and ports. It's a decade of low taxes and it's a generation of economic opportunity for families.

Now, if you live in the northeast or if you live in the northwest, you see that plan unfolding right in front of you every single day. But what if you live in Sicamous? Well, ask Greg Kylo, because Greg owns a houseboat manufacturing company that was heavily affected by the American downturn. He had the painful job of laying off many of his employees in the aftermath of that downturn.

But then he saw an opportunity. He decided he would diversify and would start to produce worker accommodation units for oil and gas camps. He was able to hire back almost all the employees he'd laid off, and now he employs 100 production workers. He is the biggest employer in Sicamous. And when Liquefied Natural Gas really takes off and those worker camps really get going, I'm hoping that Greg is going to be employing 250 people in Sicamous.

Greg's story is an example of how natural gas activities all over the province will affect us all over the province. They may be removed by hundreds of kilometres, but it really does connect us all.

Now, last, I want to talk to you about this because there are some big environmental issues facing us here in British Columbia, many of which you've talked about over the last few days. In particular I want to talk to you about the transportation of heavy oil from Alberta to our coast.

Our government has taken a tough, principled and absolutely consistent stand; we have said that, as of now, the risks of heavy oil far outweigh the benefits that our province would see. Right now it's a bad deal for British Columbia. So we've set out five bottom lines that must be met before we will consider allowing any heavy oil pipelines to go through British Columbia. And we've been consistent in applying those five criteria, not just to the Northern Gateway pipeline but also through projects that might go to Vancouver harbour.

And I want to be clear about this because, yes, we do deserve our fair share of the benefits, but there is no price that we can put on our environment. There is no amount of money that can make up for an unacceptable risk when it comes to our ocean, our coast and our land. I have never

seen a seagull wash up on the coast covered in natural gas.

On Monday I'm headed to Calgary to talk to the people of Alberta and meet with the premier, and I'm sure it's going to be an interesting trip. I do have an RCMP detail coming along. I'm going, though, because I want to be sure that Albertans understand how much we here in British Columbia cherish our environment and that they understand exactly where we are coming from on this issue. I want them to know that if B.C.'s conditions are not addressed and met, the Enbridge pipeline will not be built, period.

So let me conclude with this, with the thanks to you, again, for all of the work that you do and for the warm welcome you've offered me this week. I really have no doubt that we are on the right track, and your hard work, our partnership through all levels of government, is a big part of that success.

We are all fighting for the same thing - a strong, job-creating economy that's going to sustain the families and

the communities that weave us all together. The path to get there is what differentiates my government.

We believe in economic development. We believe in resource development.

We believe in companies like Yellowhead Mining in the North Thompson, and that's why we're working with Hydro to connect them to the power that they need.

We believe in tourism opportunities in Nakusp, and that's why we've doubled the number of people at our trade missions in Asia, and that's why we're going to bring some of them over to Nakusp, so they can see the opportunities, so that they can sell it to investors in Asia.

We believe in opportunities up the Robson Valley for clean energy and IPPs. That's why we're working to help make it possible for those communities to realize their vision.

Yes, we are living in a world of economic turmoil, but we are stable and growing in British Columbia and that is because we believe in saying yes to opportunities.

We believe in responsible natural resource development. We believe in building the infrastructure that will allow our economy to grow. We believe in creating and funding some of the world's greatest post-secondary institutions that will make BC a world leader in high-tech innovation.

We believe in keeping taxes low, in keeping investor confidence high and in balancing our budget. And let me be clear, if you are serious about balancing your budget, you believe in a balanced budget law because if you don't have a rule that makes deficits the exception, then deficits become the rule and balanced budgets become the lucky exception.

Our plan is making British Columbia the economic engine of Canada, but we will only be that economic engine if we all continue to work together as we have. Despite the tough challenges, ladies and gentlemen, because of all of your hard work, because of all of the hard work that your citizens put in, Canada really does start right here.

I look very much forward to seeing all of you again next year and reporting again on the progress that we are making together.