

Multi-Faith Roundtable

Friday, Dec. 7, 2012

Speech length: Brief opening remarks

Event: what is it?

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

Audience: who are they?

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

Remarks:

- Thank you for coming here today.

[Remarks about personal religious background]

- Whichever faith we adhere to, our religious leaders play an invaluable role in communities all across this province. They understand that to lead is also to listen. They know what's going on within their congregations – their successes, and their occasions for celebration, such as marriages and welcoming new life.
- But leaders also understand their communities' needs. They understand the concerns of the people in their spiritual care. So I think it's of tremendous value to get together and talk about issues that matter to us all: housing and how we're combating homelessness and poverty.
- I want to hear about your successes. But I also want to hear about those concerns, so that we can learn from them.

[Ask everyone introduce themselves]

-END-

BACKGROUND

Housing in B.C.

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

and their children, thanks to a partnership between the province, the City of Coquitlam and the YWCA.

Combating Homelessness

- Nov. 8, 2012 – Sanford Apartments, a new \$22.3-million building providing 62 apartments of supportive housing for people at risk of homelessness in Vancouver, officially opened.
- Sept. 12, 2012 – Dunbar Apartments was the 5th new supportive housing development to officially open under a partnership between the Province and the City of Vancouver, providing 51 affordable and supportive apartments for adults living with mental health challenges who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.
- More than 1,500 new supportive housing units are being built in Vancouver over the next few years. Four developments, with 389 of the new units, are already open and the remaining projects are expected to be completed over the next two years.
- May 2011 – The Province's strategy to reduce homelessness and connect people with more housing options is having a positive impact, including a reduction in Vancouver to 145 street homeless from

815 - an 82% decline - according to results from the Metro Vancouver 2011 Homeless Count.

B.C.'s Independent Schools

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

Child Poverty

- June 2012 - Families now receive \$100 for every child aged 5 to 11, and \$175 for every child 12 and over, after we increased the school startup supplement
- June 2012 - Parents can take their children in for regular dental checkups, after we provided access to dental services for children of families on hardship.
- June 2012 - Individuals and families on income assistance will be able to keep their full income tax refund after we exempted their income tax refunds.

- Raised the minimum wage to \$10.25 per hour, making it among the highest in Canada. This could mean over \$4,000 more each year for a full-time employee earning minimum wage.
- Close to 21,000 new affordable housing units; 18,000 completed with the remainder under construction.
- Helping more than 29,000 B.C. families through provincial subsidized housing and rent supplements that keep the cost of private market rentals affordable.
- The best route out of poverty is a job that's why we launched the BC Jobs Plan last year to help create and protect jobs in British Columbia.

Developmental Disabilities

- Individuals receiving disability assistance will be able to earn up to \$800 per month and still receive their full benefits.
- Providing the flexibility to calculate earnings on an annual basis, rather than monthly, so individuals with disabilities can maximize their earning during times when they are feeling healthy and able to work to an annual total yearly exemption of \$9,600.

Family Affordability

- The new two-stage Repayment Assistance Plan for students is a key part of the Family Affordability Pillar and took effect July 1.
- Since 2001, B.C. has reduced provincial personal income taxes for most taxpayers by 37 per cent or more, and an additional 325,000 people no longer pay any provincial income tax. In total, more than one million British Columbians pay no provincial income tax, from a total of more than three million British Columbians who file tax returns.
- Our government has implemented measures so that individuals can earn at least \$19,000 before paying any provincial personal income tax.
- B.C. currently has the lowest provincial personal income taxes in Canada for individuals earning up to \$120,000 a year.
- When all taxes are considered, British Columbians have among the lowest tax burdens in the country.
- We're offering post-secondary students free online textbooks that could save them \$900 - \$1,00 per year.

- Nearly one million British Columbians receive MSP subsidies, which includes more than 800,000 individuals who pay no MSP premiums at all
- As part of a \$23 million province wide initiative, the Nurse-Family Partnership will offer more intensive care to low-income, young, first-time mothers

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

Event: what is it?

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

Audience: who are they?

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

KEY MESSAGE:

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

THANK EMCEE FOR INTRODUCTION

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

-END-

Canada-Korea Natural Gas Forum

Acknowledgements:

- Vice Minister Sang-Jick YOON, Ministry of Knowledge Economy, Republic of Korea
- Consul General Yeon-Hoi CHOI, Korean Consulate Vancouver
- Hon. Pat Bell, Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training and MLA for Prince George – Mackenzie
- Hon. Rich Coleman, Minister of Energy, Mines and Natural Gas and MLA for Fort Langley – Aldergrove

Welcome to the Canada-Korea Natural Gas Forum.

I'm excited about the conversations we're going to have today, but let me first give you some background.

Last May when I visited Korea, I met with Vice Minister Cho of the Ministry of Knowledge Economy and extended an invitation to come to B.C. and discuss what natural gas could mean for the future of BC and Korea.

Vice Minister Cho accepted that invitation, and in August, the BC Government signed a Memorandum of Understanding on natural gas cooperation that committed to an annual forum to discuss that potential.

Today, I'm pleased to welcome Vice Minister Yoon to BC to start that discussion.

That's what we are really doing today. We are focusing on energy products, yes. But through discussion, we are really talking about solidifying a bond that will benefit both of our nations for the generations to come.

The bond between our nations grows stronger every day – that's why our Prime Minister has declared 2013 the Year of Korea.

Korea has served as a fine example for countries and regions trying to build competitive economies. From the ruin of occupation and war, to becoming one of the world's leading nations in just 50 years, Korea's example is impressive – and inspiring.

We here in B.C. have directly benefitted from one of your greatest exports in Lee Young-Pyo (Y.P. Lee). If all Korean soccer players are as good as Mr. Lee, I can tell you this: we will find room on our team.

As the second largest importer of LNG in the world, Korea has become one of BC's most important trade partners.

This relationship benefits us both. For example, KOGAS' share in the LNG Canada Project is helping drive a natural gas boom here in BC.

That investment will help us export a million tons of LNG from BC every year by 2017.

And I know that the other companies represented here today, like KNOC (Korea National Oil Corporation), are also investing in BC's natural gas, so that they too can have secure, safe and easy access to this economically and environmentally important resource.

I thank you for your investment in BC – for the faith you put in us and for your commitment to working together so that we can both grow.

That faith is well founded. For Korea, Canada's natural gas can be a secure source of energy that will help your economy grow, while protecting your clean air and water.

It's an energy source that is not threatened by war or an unstable political climate – and you can feel confident knowing it was produced with world leading environmental and safety standards.

In BC, we have a 50-year history of safe natural gas development. With new discoveries still taking place today, we can support the industry for another 80 years or more.

Our reserves are vast and growing – and that's great news for Korea. We want to share this important resource with Korea and other Asian markets looking to make better use of the cleanest burning conventional fuel in the world.

Asian markets are seeking a long-lasting and safe source of energy to help fuel their progress. B.C.'s natural gas is the answer.

We are well on our way of reaching our goal of having three export facilities in operation by 2020.

We are maintaining fiscal discipline, so that BC is a safe harbour for your investment.

We are streamlining regulatory requirements and providing incentives to make it easier for you to invest in BC.

And we are securing your investment by facilitating agreements with First Nations and making our own investments in skills training, so that we have the skilled workforce necessary to realize these opportunities.

For British Columbians, natural gas is the opportunity of a lifetime.

It could mean a trillion dollars of economic activity over the next 30 years – and that means more revenue that we can spend to improve our schools, our hospitals, our roads.

For Korea, British Columbia's natural gas is also the opportunity of a lifetime.

By working together as partners, we can develop the natural gas projects that will fuel both of our growing economies. And we can strengthen the increasingly important relationship between our nations.

And as the Premier of this province, I am here to tell you today, when it comes to natural gas, Canada starts right here in BC.

Taiwan Chamber of Commerce B.C. Retro Xmas Party

Key Message:

Thanking individuals who make our communities great

Acknowledgements:

Former TCCBC President Mr. Jack Lee (MC)

Current TCCBC President Mrs. Lillian Du

Thank you so much for inviting me here today.

I want to congratulate the Taiwan Chamber of Commerce in BC. For over 20 years, you have helped build bridges across the Pacific, connecting British Columbia with Asia.

These are vital bridges, because in many ways, and despite vast distances, we share the same future. This is a wonderful Christmas celebration – a retro Christmas celebration – but if you'll indulge me for just a moment, I'd like to look to the future.

Asian nations are the world's fastest-growing markets.

And while BC is fortunate to have resources and products that are attractive for growing Asian markets, we in BC are in a great position because of people like you.

People who literally stand astride the Pacific, with one foot in either continent. Ladies and gentlemen, I thank you.

Because of organizations like yours, British Columbia is open for business.

Thank you again for inviting me. I wish each of you a Merry Christmas.

Chips and Shannon Wilson School of Design

Friday, Dec. 7, 2012

Speech length: 3 minutes

Event: what is it?

- The event's purpose is to announce a new \$36 million School of Design at Kwantlen Polytechnic University's Richmond Campus, including up to \$12 million provincial funding.
- The new School of Design provides B.C. with the opportunity to create a centre of design excellence that will attract domestic and international students and help position the province as a global hub for expertise in technical design.

KEY MESSAGES:

- The new Chip and Shannon Wilson School of Design will create a centre of design excellence that will attract domestic and international students and help position B.C. as a global hub for expertise in technical design.
- As well as housing the current design programs, the new facility will allow Kwantlen to offer two new programs and increase the number of overall design student spaces by 57 per cent.
- B.C.'s Skills and Training Plan is expanding and aligning skills training programs with economic opportunities to ensure British Columbians have the right skills, in the right places, at the right times.

Thank: Hon. John Yap, Minister of Advanced Education, Innovation, Tech and Multiculturalism, and MLA for Richmond-Steveston.

Acknowledgements:

Rob Howard, MLA for Richmond Centre

Alan Davis, President of Kwantlen Polytechnic University

Deanne Schweitzer, Senior Vice President, Creation, Lululemon Athletica

Chip Wilson, Donor, Chairman of the Board, Lululemon

Today is about made-in-BC success stories. Let me tell you about two of them.

Kwantlen University has become one of B.C.'s great institutions of learning, and has earned its reputation as a real leader in design expertise.

Kwantlen's bachelor of fashion and technology program is the only program of its kind in Western Canada. Students training here are graduating ready to jump into their dream careers.

Shannon and Chip Wilson and the company they founded, Lululemon are another made-in-BC success story. Lululemon has become a global brand, and a leader in the technical apparel industry.

British Columbia gave them the opportunity to pursue their dreams and find success. Today they are giving back to a grateful province.

Shannon and Chip are responsible for us standing here today. In many ways they are responsible for the industry that flourishes here – flourishing so much that it has created a need to ensure young people have the opportunity to make a career here, like they are.

That's why I'm pleased to announce our government's contribution of \$12 million for the future home of the Chip and Shannon Wilson Design School.

Today is about a basic truth you probably heard from your parents: success breeds success. That's exactly what's happening here.

British Columbia gave Shannon and Chip the opportunity to pursue their dreams and find success. Today they are giving BC students that same opportunity.

And make no mistake – this new school represents an amazing opportunity. As this industry continues to grow, the demand for technical designers is only going to increase. In fact, industry is expecting a 35 per cent increase in workers in the next two years alone.

Success really does breed success – especially when people like Shannon and Chip decide to invest back in their industry and province that gave them so much.

Road Builders Annual General Meeting

Speech Structure / Key Messages:

1. We have a plan that is working.
2. Investing in transportation infrastructure.
3. Reviewing P3's and procurement process.
4. BC is a safe harbour.
5. Threats and the importance of a balanced budget.
6. What we believe in.

INTRODUCTION

Acknowledgements.

And I want to let you all know the tremendous job that Jack Davidson does in representing your interests and in building, nurturing and keeping up excellent relationships with the ministry of transportation and infrastructure.

I also want to thank the people here in this room and the businesses you represent ... you have helped us pave the paths that are growing our economy.

You help create jobs for families all over B.C. by purchasing supplies like concrete and asphalt, and by employing professional services.

And you have been key to our success in delivering projects on time and budget and providing great value to the B.C. tax payer

THE PLAN

Today, I want to talk to you about my vision for British Columbia: I want BC to be the economic engine of Canada.

Our plan is working:

- After the first year of the BC Jobs Plan, we led Canada in job growth and I am working to make sure we do it again
- Trade with China is up nearly 25%
- \$80 billion in projects currently underway
- Moving to get LNG aggressively into the Asian market
- Building permits at pre-downturn levels

When we create an environment of economic growth, we create the capacity to do the things that are important:

- Investing in infrastructure.
- Skills training and education.
- Keep taxes low and make life more affordable for families.

Our plan is premised on the bedrock belief that when the private sector is thriving, people are working.

And when they are working, we have room to invest in BC's most important resource – people.

Our plan will help us protect the middle class... and help more BC families join the middle class.

Investing in Transportation Infrastructure

This is BC's moment... a unique time when the best we have to offer is exactly what the world needs.

That's why making smart investments in infrastructure is a fundamental part of our plan.

We're getting the goods out of the ground and we're opening up new markets. But we need to improve infrastructure to get them out to the world.

In other places in the world, you'll find crumbling roads and crowded ports – but not in BC.

In the past 11 years, our government has invested more than \$53 billion in our province's infrastructure – building roads and hospitals, recreation facilities that keep our families healthy, and the schools and post secondary institutions that help our children get good jobs.

And we all know, good transportation infrastructure is essential to attracting private sector investment.

That's one of the reasons why we are accelerating more than 20 transportation projects around the province.

A new truck-climbing lane in Langley...resurfacing Big White road in Kelowna and Highway 93/95 in the Kootenays ... and the new Dog Creek passing lane on Highway 27 near Fort. St James.

The transportation projects we are accelerating will support the growth of our economy. They are key pieces of our transportation network that connect our natural resources with the rest of the world.

We've also completed the first phase of the South Fraser Perimeter Road, and after years of talking, we're building the Evergreen Line.

We are investing in the roads, ports and railways that will make it possible for us to keep selling BC-made resources around the world.

That's why we announced our plan to four-lane the Trans-Canada Highway from Kamloops to the Alberta border and to replace the George Massey tunnel.

Our opposition says George Massey shouldn't be a priority. I say: tell that to the 80,000 people trying to get through it every day.

It drives people crazy and business out of our province.

Our opposition's answers are never about building infrastructure. They're about putting more people on buses, tolling every bridge, or bringing in a congestion tax.

They'd rather slow people down than improve a road.

Look at the new Port Mann. We built the widest bridge in the world. For the first time in 20 years, buses will be able to get across it.

Our government knows you can improve public transportation AND infrastructure.

And with my government, you'll never see a scenario like the Island highway, where you're told who you have to hire.

We have to keep building up BC if we want to capitalize on all the great opportunities ahead of us – and I know that you will be there for those projects too.

SAFE HARBOUR

Today the global economy is as uncertain as it was 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. This may very well be the new normal.

That's why we need to stick to the plan... because in the first year of implementing the BC Jobs Plan, we led the country in job growth.

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.

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

- Maintaining a triple-A credit rating and a low debt-to-GDP ratio that helps protect families from higher taxes.

- We have stable budgeting, with a plan to balance our budget this year.
- And we have a commitment to keep 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.

THREATS & THE IMPORTANCE OF BALANCE

BC's future looks good right now, but we have not been immune to the effects of a slowing global economy.

Revenues from natural gas, minerals and taxes are down from what was forecast in the last budget.

Some people will say we should pay no attention to the turmoil around us, and simply spend more, tax more, and pass the bill to our kids and grandkids. But British Columbians can see that's the wrong direction.

In BC we CAN balance our budget – and we WILL.

Balancing the budget is a big part of creating the economic conditions that generate jobs. Yes that's hard. That's why governments don't like to do it.

Our opposition asks why we're talking about balancing the budget when we're talking also about investing in infrastructure.

Let's think about that for a second – it's a head scratcher.

I say it's because we're talking about balancing the budget that we can afford to make these important investments.

These investments will help us grow. Every road we pave makes it easier to get BC's products to our buyers.

It's higher taxes and higher deficits that chase jobs away.

In a highly competitive economy, the tax, spend and borrow approach is wrong. Economic slowdown starts when you dig yourself into a hole so deep that it becomes impossible to get out.

Remember: it's a lot easier to destroy a safe harbour than it is to build it. Building it takes time and strength. Losing it just takes a signature that eliminates the balanced budget law, just like before, or skews the labour code again, or raises taxes again.

Now is the time for British Columbia to stand out to investors as deficit free – as a place open for business when others are closed for repairs.

CONCLUSION

This government isn't perfect. We have made mistakes over the last 12 years... but we got the big things right. And you know what? Perfection isn't on the ballot.

We are in the fight of our lives – to preserve our private sector economy and to keep investing in infrastructure.

Throwing out the balanced budget law? There goes jobs.

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

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

What's happening in BC right now was not inevitable – we got here because we stuck to a plan we believe in.

So let me tell you what we stand for – what we believe in.

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

We believe in resource development.

We believe in growing the private sector.

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

I have a plan, I know where I'm taking the province, and I want everyone to know about it, because I'm proud of what we're doing.

Ladies and gentlemen, I hope you will join me in the fight to keep B.C. open for business, because by working together I truly believe we can tell the world – Canada starts here.

- END -

Port Mann Bridge Opening
Saturday Dec. 1, 2012
Length: 3-5 minutes

Event: what is it?

- Premier Clark and Transportation and Infrastructure Minister Minister Mary Polak will officially open 8 lanes of the new Port Mann Bridge

Audience: who are they?

Mike Proudfoot, CEO, Transportation Investment Corporation
Bill Murphy, Project Manager, Kiewit/Flatiron (TBC)
Lou Lessard, Construction Superintendant, original Port Mann Bridge
Richard Stewart, Coquitlam Mayor
Dianne Watts, Surrey Mayor
John Winter, BC Chamber of Commerce
Jack Davidson, BC Roadbuilders
Louise Yako, BC Trucking Association
Ian Black, VBOT
Bob Wilds, Greater Vancouver Gateway Council
Sarah Clark, Partnerships BC
Robin Silvester, Port Metro, Vancouver
Greg D'Avignon, Business Council of BC
First Nations reps TBD
Community Stakeholders TBD

Theme: Jobs and the economy

KEY MESSAGES:

- This is the biggest construction milestone to date in the history of the Lower Mainland, as we celebrate the opening of 8 lanes on the new Port Mann Bridge, the widest bridge in the world.
- Drivers will immediately begin to experience the time-saving benefits of the new Port Mann Bridge and the associated Highway 1 improvements.

Thank MC Mike Proudfoot, CEO of the Transportation Investment Corporation

ACKNOWLEDGE:

- Transportation and Infrastructure Minister Mary Polak
 - Project Managers and construction workers
 - Municipal Officials
 - And the members of the Pacific Gateway Alliance who have worked so hard on the Pacific Gateway Transportation Strategy.
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- In British Columbia, we like to dream big and today we see the results.
 - It's taken a lot of hard work. It's also taken, just as an example, 25,000 tonnes of asphalt, 157,000 cubic metres of concrete and 45 kilometres of cable.
 - But today we celebrate the opening of 8 lanes of the new Port Mann Bridge - the widest bridge in the world.
 - And, I'm proud to say, it's on time, and on budget.

- Take a good look around, because this is the last time the public will be on the old Port Mann Bridge...
- The time has come to say hello to new travel time savings.
- The new bridge will eliminate the worst traffic bottleneck in British Columbia, reducing commute times by up to 50 per cent and saving drivers as much as an hour per day.
- And we now will have the first regularly scheduled transit crossing the Port Mann Bridge in more than 25 years.
- I want to thank the project partners, supporters and visionaries who have worked so hard together to make this possible.
- Thank you. And congratulations to everyone on reaching this truly significant milestone.

- END -

Following remarks:

Invite Mary and Blair to join in signing lane closure barrels "with thanks" to Kiewit / Flatiron and TI Corp.

Then, call Bill Murphy from Kiewit/Flatiron to the stage and present him with a souvenir barrel.

Then call TI Corp's Mike Proudfoot to accept barrel on behalf of public servants who worked on project.

Premier will then use radio to tell workers to light up the signs.

Premier invites "Original Port Mann Bridge Pioneers" Lou Lessard and Peter Taylor to join her for a bus ride across the bridge in the soon to be opened lane.

Aboriginal Business and Investment Council Symposium December 4, 2012

Speech Structure/Key Messages

1. We have a plan that is working.
2. Aboriginal Business and Investment Council is helping us partner with First Nations to create jobs.
3. Investing in skills training for Aboriginal peoples.
4. Natural gas is the opportunity of a lifetime.
5. What we believe in.

Introduction

Add acknowledgments.

Thank Grand Chief Shawn Atleo for his foresight and hard work.

I wish to acknowledge that we are meeting today on the traditional territory of the Coast Salish people.

The Plan

Just over a year ago, in September, we set out an economic plan – the BC Jobs Plan.

Today I want to talk to you about my vision for BC ...and our plan to work with you to make it happen.

My vision is simple: I want BC to be the economic engine of Canada and everyone here is a part of it.

Our plan is working:

- After the first year of the BC Jobs Plan, we led Canada in job growth and I am working to make sure we do it again
- Trade with China is up nearly 25%
- \$80 billion in projects currently underway
- Moving to get LNG aggressively into the Asian market
- Building permits at pre-downturn levels

We are on the right track. We are creating the economic conditions that will stimulate job creation and help our province grow in every region.

But I also want to talk about why we're doing it – what motivates us to find ways to create jobs and economic opportunity for all of our kids.

And why it is so important that we work together, in tandem towards these goals.

Let's be honest, the way we were doing things in the past didn't work. So we changed our approach.

We needed to open up our economy and land-based projects to have full First Nations participation.

We are now finding innovative ways to partner with First Nations and help to achieve our shared goals.

Over the past 10 years we've worked together and made a sea of positive change because we have a common cause.

We want to make life better for kids and grandkids.

We want them to have the opportunities we never had.

We want them to have more success than we have.

Aboriginal Business Investment Council

Now, with \$80 billion in projects underway, we need to ensure that First Nations are working alongside us and benefitting from these investments.

Because wealth lifts us up. The stats prove it; the wealthier the community, the healthier the community.

That's why, in the Jobs Plan, I committed to setting up an Aboriginal Business and Investment Council.

Under the leadership of Chief Ellis Ross, the key goal is to assist First Nations and industry to work together on innovative partnerships that will benefit us all.

That's what this symposium is about.

It's about sharing ideas, success stories and ultimately identifying more partnership opportunities for Government, First Nations and Business so we can work together to create jobs for BC families.

In the last decade, we have seen an incredible appetite from First Nations to partner with businesses and government to seize economic opportunities and create jobs.

We signed an agreement with Chief Derek Orr and the McLeod Lake Indian Band, so they can receive revenue generated by the Mt. Milligan mine project.

Osoyoos Chief Clarence Louie has opened Canada's first native-owned winery, NK'MIP (in-ka-meep) Cellars, bringing jobs and revenue to his people. And with the number of awards they keep getting, you can bet this is going to be one popular wine.

There's the revenue sharing and other agreements achieved with Chief Shane Gottfriedson of the Tk'emlups (Tuh-KEM-lups) Indian Band and Chief Rick Deneault of the Skeetchestn (ski-CHAS-ten) Indian Band to help get the New Afton Mine up and running.

That's the power of participation. By working together, we can diversify and grow the regional economies that benefit our entire province.

So today, I'm pleased to announce that we will be providing \$517,000 in funding for the Aboriginal Entrepreneurship Skills Development Program.

The program will provide clients with skills training to start and operate their own business. And it will also include coaching to help get their business off the ground.

It's a modest investment but one that will have a big impact.

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.

Driven by champions like Ida and Pat we've made significant investments to assist Aboriginal small business development:

- We've established Business Advisory Centres in Fort St. John, Prince George and Cranbrook to provide Aboriginal businesses with a wide range of support.
- Aboriginal Business and Entrepreneurship Skills Training provides training series to aspiring Aboriginal entrepreneurs in 10 to 12 communities each year.

- And we've set up a First Citizens Fund Business Loan Program - in partnership with five Aboriginal Capital Corporations - to assist Aboriginal businesses in repaying their business loans. Since the start of the program, more than 2,500 Aboriginal small businesses have benefited from over \$80 million in business loans.

Our plan is built on the belief that this truly is British Columbia's moment and that it essential we keep building and strengthening our partnerships with First Nations.

Aboriginal Skills Training

Now, one of the things I've heard from 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 trades and get more students into technical programs.
- Cut completion time for trades programs in half.
- We are going to stop training people for jobs that don't exist and start training them for jobs that do.

And we are investing in training for specifically for Aboriginal Peoples.

We've created partnerships with:

- Seabird Island Band to deliver the Firsts Nations Utility training program.
- Sto:Lo Aboriginal Skills and Employment training to provide hands-on learning so that students will be able to access the road builder certificate program.
- North East Metis Association to provide training in the oil and gas industry.

We've also announced funding for a First Nations Forestry Technician program where graduates can become full partners in the sector.

Now, there are some in BC who try to say First Nations somehow represent a deficit. They are simply wrong.

Some First Nations communities suffer from chronic unemployment, but First Nations are also among the fastest growing youth population in our province.

I am passionate in my belief that this exploding population is not a deficit, it's an incredible asset.

With more than one million job openings on the horizon, and with First Nations as full economic partners, First Nations can help lead the charge.

If we stick to our plan, if we continue to work together, 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 decades of low taxes. It's generations of economic security for families.

We are also working closely with Chief Ellis Ross and the Haisla First Nations. We've signed an agreement that will allow the Haisla to partner with the Liquefied Natural Gas industry so they too can benefit from this opportunity of a lifetime.

That's how you partner... that's an example of how you work together.

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.

We have an obligation to our kids, to the next generation of British Columbians, to make sure we stick to our plan.

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

We believe in partnering with First Nations to create opportunities for employment and skills training.

We believe in responsible natural resource development that respects the environment.

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

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

We want you to be full participants in this renaissance. We want to create a different future for all of our kids.

Each of you here today is helping prepare the next generation. You are the leaders who help ensure they grow up in healthy homes, in wealthy communities and get a great education. But kids don't aspire without role models like the ones in this room today.

The first time I met Chief Ellis Ross - just as we launched the Jobs Plan - I heard the story about a training program, where some of kids were skipping the odd session and so Chief Ross starts going to the sessions himself - showing the youth of his community they were not alone.

It's that kind of hands-on, passionate leadership that you bring to your communities and to our province.

Despite the challenges ahead, ladies and gentlemen, if we work together, we can tell the world that Canada starts here.

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