

**Truck Loggers Association 70th Annual convention
January 18, 2013 12:30p.m.**

Speech Outline/Key Messages

1. Our plan is working and we are sticking to it.
2. You have made BC's forestry industry a sunrise industry. We are helping by making it easier for you to thrive.
3. With so many opportunities ahead in forestry, we need to fill our skilled labour shortage.
4. Look how far BC forestry has come. You continue to innovate to remain competitive.
5. We believe in responsible resource development.

THANK: Brian Mulvihill, Director of Forest Products,
Finning

ACKNOWLEDGE:

Bill Markvoort, President, TLA

Steve Thomson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural
Resource Operations, MLA Kelowna-Mission

Ben Stewart, Minister of Citizen Services and Open Government, MLA Westside-Kelowna

Margaret MacDiarmid, Minister of Health, MLA Vancouver-Fairview

John Rustad, Parliamentary Secretary for Forestry, MLA for Nechako Lakes

Mary Polak, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, MLA Langley

Don McRae, Minister of Education, MLA Comox Valley

Eric Foster, Government Whip, MLA Vernon-Monashee

Linda Reid, Deputy Speaker MLA Richmond East

Ron Cantelon MLA Parksville-Qualicum

I am happy to be here today at the 70th annual Truck Loggers Association Convention.

For 70 years you've been an example of what British Columbia can achieve – what the payoff is of hard work and a vision for the future.

The TLA has put a real face on the people who drive this sector of our economy.

It is you guys, the small business owners, and your employees who are out there getting the job done, supporting families and building communities.

And without your hard work there would be no forest industry, nothing to put through the mills.

Today across BC, there are more than 250 mills that communities right across the province depend on.

Over 40 per cent of the province's regional economies are based on forestry activities, in more than 7,000 businesses.

The TLA has helped build the province. And you are helping to grow the province today and tomorrow.

The Plan

I want to talk to you about my vision for British Columbia ... 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. I want countries around the world to look to BC as the place to invest and to do business.

Here are some results:

- 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
- Building permits at pre-downturn levels
- 2011 forest product exports – \$9.95 billion and it looks like 2012 forest product exports will exceed that

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

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

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

Forestry industry

Opening up new markets in Asia for BC wood products has helped our forestry industry gain momentum.

We knew that diversifying our markets would not only reduce the risks of relying on one customer, but it was also how we could grow and expand our industry.

The results of our efforts to develop the Chinese market are nothing short of staggering.

Between 2003 and 2011, softwood lumber exports to China grew 1500 per cent to a total of nearly \$1.1 billion. Last year, we saw the exponential growth in our exports to China level off somewhat, while our exports to the US increased over 20 per cent as their housing market recovered. We also saw lumber prices grow stronger.

This means no softwood lumber export tax and more money for BC companies to re-invest in their operations and support BC Jobs.

They said we were crazy to go to China 10 years ago, but look where we are today. Now the US is rebounding and China continues to grow.

This was not by accident. It is the result a purposeful effort, a plan that brought everyone together to work collaboratively and execute collectively on a plan. That plan worked and it is the blueprint for diversifying our markets.

Today, we want to maintain that momentum by repeating the success we had in China in India – with its booming middle class.

India's middle class is expected to grow to 583 million from just 50 million today. In 2012, BC exports to India increased by over 104 per cent compared to the same period in 2011.

Mike de Jong made some of those first trips to China and in December he was helping us do that in India. On his recent trip, he officially opened the Forestry Innovation Investment Office in Mumbai so we can seize more trade opportunities because we have the wood products they need to build their growing nation.

Opening new markets is just one thing that government can do to help grow the industry.

Announcements

The story of BC's forestry industry through this decade is one of resilience and renewal. You have been hit by unforeseeable impacts – the pine beetle, the US housing crash – but you have been resilient. BC's forestry industry is growing again.

The people in this room have truly made forestry a sunrise industry in BC. The people out there every day – taking it from stump to dump.

It's my government's job to make it easier for you to thrive.

One area is covering the tax liabilities of contractors through the BC Forestry Revitalization Trust.

There has been a lot of back and forth on this issue, but my government continues to stand by you. We've had ongoing discussions with the federal government on this. It's been a priority for us.

This past fall we approved forgiveness for any penalties and interest related to tax on the original compensation payments.

Just last month, Mike De Jong went to Ottawa to ask the federal government to do the same. Let me tell you, this was top of his agenda.

Today, I'm happy to confirm that the federal government has agreed to do the same. Funds will now start flowing to you. The 190 contractors affected will receive more than \$9 million dollars.

Another area I'm sure you'd like to hear good news about is the Forestry Service Providers Protection Act Compensation Fund.

Minister Bell made a commitment to setup this fund to compensate contractors when major licensees go bankrupt.

There has been some ongoing discussion about obtaining the necessary funds. But, we understand that is a matter of urgency for some of you here today. So we are not going to wait.

I'm happy to announce that we are moving forward. We have committed \$5 million as seed money to the fund. And effective today, the fund is operational.

There is more to do on this, some complex policy issues that need to be resolved, but it's a promise we made and a promise we are intent on keeping.

We are dedicated to seeing continued growth in our forestry industry, so that every British Columbian who lives in a logging town has the opportunity to get a great job close to home.

Skills Training

One of the things I've heard from the people in this room is the need to make sure your kids are getting the first shot at all the good jobs that our plan creates.

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

There will be around 25,000 forestry jobs in the next 10 years. The US housing market is bouncing back, trade with Asia is increasing... with so many opportunities ahead for the forest industry, it's essential that we fill our skilled labour shortage.

Our investments in skills training is proof of our confidence that BC forestry is a sunrise industry.

Our skills training plan will:

- 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.

We are doing job fairs in communities across the province. I believe they are making a real difference.

Even though our critics said that this is a waste of taxpayer dollars. I'm glad to hear where they stand because we need to be talking about our ideas. Our ideas will be different.

But you know what, I can tell you this, people are being offered jobs on the spot in their communities because of these jobs fairs.

We're also investing in skills training programs specifically created for BC's forestry industry and this is something that we are protecting:

- The Forest Industry Readiness Skills Training (FIRST) program trains people to be log or chip truck drivers and heavy equipment operators.
- Helping the First Nations Forestry Council place students in forestry technician programs at colleges and universities around the province, with funding for tuition, books and living expenses.
- Investing in forestry-related Employment Skills Access programs, to provide eligible British Columbians tuition-free training for programs like woodland harvesting in Port Alberni and new faller training at the College of the Rockies.

Look How Far Forestry Has Come

BC's forestry sector has come a long way over the past decade. Just look back to 2000:

- our forestry exports were largely in one export basket; the United States.
- there was a cumbersome forest practices code that meant for every worker in the field you had to have 5 guys in the office
- wood was restricted from flowing to its highest and best use

Over the last 12 years, we have adjusted government policy to enhance competitiveness, and keep people working in the woods and in the mills - whether a traditional lumber mill – or pellet mill – or one that produces innovative products.

That's in large part thanks to you in this room. You have told us what you need to lay the bedrock foundation of an unshakable forest industry and we have taken your advice. Thank you for that.

Because today, as a result of that, at a time when the US housing market has crashed and at a time when in US cities and towns there are unemployment lines that go

around the block, we have made our forestry industry more competitive by:

- introducing a market-based pricing system
- removing regulatory barriers that prevented timber from flowing to its highest and best use
- we now have a results-based forest practices framework that upholds high environmental standards
- introducing over 120 tax changes to help individuals and industry, including a \$24M school property tax cut resulting in \$71 million in annual savings to industry.

We did these things because you told us and we listened. It's because of some of your advice that we followed and as Steve pointed out yesterday, because of your hard

work B.C. survived the downturn better than other jurisdictions.

Years of hard work and collaboration and creative innovation has meant that even when the industry is down, even an American housing crash can't deliver a knock-out punch.

Innovation

While others are trying to rebuild and reopen, here in BC, we are ahead of the game.

Our forestry industry continues to innovate – we want to have the best mills and the best workforce in the world.

We've worked to support that innovation, by making investments like funding the Innovation Chair at the Centre for Advanced Wood Processing at UBC, which is helping keep our industry at the cutting edge.

We are leading the country in energy production from biomass, with over 800 megawatts of biomass electricity

capacity installed in the province, enough to power 640,000 households.

We are also looking at ways to maximize the use of our timber supply on the coast by being more creative.

We launched the BC Coastal Hem-Fir Initiative because we knew the future of the Coastal forest sector lied in innovation.

We knew we had to more accurately match the right forest resource to the right end-market and make better use of hemlock and balsam.

Today, through the BC Coastal Hem-Fir Initiative, about \$42 million in improved value has been realized by:

- getting the most value from logs through sawmilling best practices,
- finding more efficient ways to prepare and deliver logs to mills,

- improving pulp and paper products and exploring bio-economy opportunities,
- developing new products.

It wasn't that long ago when cutting down a tree was taboo, when using a paper bag was frowned upon.

Today, that's changed. Because of your hard work, we live in a world where British Columbians and the world knows, that we have the most sustainable logging practices on the globe. And we have been working hard to share our passion that for wood as the ultimate renewable green building material in the world.

Conclusion

Today, our forestry industry is very competitive – it's a bedrock industry for BC and we plan to keep it that way.

There is a future for your kids in this industry; if that's the path they want to follow.

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.

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 responsible natural resource development.

We believe in free enterprise.

We believe that BC forestry is a sunrise industry.

We believe in building the roads and the ports that will allow our economy to grow.

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-

Times of India Film Awards Announcement
Tuesday Jan. 22, 2013
Length of Speech: 3-5 minutes

Event: what is it?

- Announcement that Vancouver will host the 2013 “Times of India” inaugural Film Awards
- Dance performance will be provided by Shiamak Davar who owns a dance studio in North Vancouver and is the official choreographer for the TOIFA awards event.
- Multiple events will be held across the lower mainland between April 4th and 6th.

Audience: who are they?

- Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training Pat Bell
- Minister of Finance Michael de Jong
- Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development Bill Bennett
- Mr A P Parigi (Board of Directors of the Bennett Coleman Company Ltd. – AKA the Times Group)
- Karan Johar- one of the leading filmmakers of the Hindi industry
- Chitrangada Singh- a leading contemporary actress

Audience: what do they want to hear?

- We identified India as a key market in The BC Jobs Plan over a year ago, and our work to take advantage of their rapidly growing middle class is just beginning – we have a broad outreach strategy that will open new doors in India’s growing markets so we can create more jobs at home.
- Hosting the inaugural Times of India Film Awards show is one piece of that strategy – a tremendous economic opportunity for British Columbia – and one that our government is not prepared to let pass us by.
- The millions we can expect to be injected into our economy make hosting the awards well worth the investment, but it’s just a start. The Times of India Film Awards is a catalyst for building awareness of B.C. to Indian businesses, deepening relationships and kick-starting enhanced trade activities.
- Our strategy is working already: exports of goods to India have increased by 105 per cent and tourism has grown by 11 per cent. But while we’ve had success building initial, high-level relationships, we know we can do more in telling average Indian businesses and travellers what B.C. has to offer.

ACKNOWLEDGE:

Taranum Thind (MC) Entertainment Reporter, Omni TV
Mr. A.P. Parigi, Board Member, Bennett Coleman & Co,
Times Group of India Representative

Mr. Karan Johar, Director

Mrs. Chitragda Randhawa, Actress

Mr. Shiamak Davar, Performer

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

Michael de Jong, Minister of Finance and MLA for
Abbotsford West

(TBC) Bill Bennett, Minister of Community, Sport and
Cultural Development and MLA for Kootenay West

(TBC) John Yap, Minister of Advanced Education,
Innovation, Tech and Multiculturalism and MLA for
Richmond-Steveston

- When we launched our BC Jobs Plan, one of the pillars of the plan was to open new markets, to provide more opportunities for British Columbia businesses to expand.
- And India was identified as the next emerging key market.
- The middle class in India is about 50 million people today. It's projected to grow to almost 600 million people – that's about double the size of the entire population of the United States.
- Over the past year we've been working hard to capitalize on the opportunities created by their rapidly growing middle class.
- Today I am very excited to announce that India's largest media organization, the Times of India Group, has chosen Vancouver to host their inaugural Times of India Film Awards (Bollywood film awards) in April.

- Hosting these awards is just one small piece of that larger strategy, but the events surrounding the awards will inject millions into our economy, making them well worth our investment.
- The Times of India Group reaches over 90 million people a day, most of them in India. That kind of exposure can generate enormous trade and tourism benefits for B.C.
- They will also be an important catalyst for building further awareness of B.C. among Indian businesses and consumers. As the saying goes: business doesn't happen between strangers.
- That is why in 2011, I led our largest-ever trade delegation to India. It is why we have more than doubled our trade presence there, adding two new BC Trade and Investment Offices in Mumbai and Chandigarh, in addition to our already existing office in Bangalore.
- Our strategy is already working, as our exports to India have increased by 105 per cent and tourism has grown by 11 per cent.

- But while we've had success building initial, high-level relationships, we know we can do more in telling Indian businesses and travellers what B.C. has to offer.
- I want to express my sincere gratitude to the Times of India Group for choosing Vancouver as the venue for this year's awards and helping to increase trade between our two countries.

– END–

Emily Carr University Redevelopment
Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2013
Speech length: 3 minutes

Event: what is it?

- Announcing an investment of up to \$113 million in a new state-of-the-art visual, media and design facility for Emily Carr University of Art & Design that will ensure students are equipped with the skills required for future labour market needs.

KEY MESSAGES:

1. The new Emily Carr campus will provide state-of-the-art facilities that will attract domestic and international students and consolidate the university's reputation as a leader in arts, media and design.
2. The BC government remains committed to providing investments in our people and to supporting emerging sectors to ensure this forward momentum.
3. The Great Northern Way campus aims to put art and technology together. The presence of Emily Carr on the campus will significantly contribute to the campus goal. It will build on the recently opened Centre for Digital Media, attract innovative businesses and academic programs, and encourage collaborations between the four partner institutions.

ACKNOWLEDGE:

- (MC) Hon. John Yap, Minister of Advanced Education, Innovation and Technology and MLA for Richmond – Steveston

EMILY CARR:

- Dr. Ron Burnett, President and Vice-Chancellor, Emily Carr University of Art + Design
- Jake Kerr, Chancellor, Emily Carr University of Art + Design

MLAs:

- (also on podium) Hon. Bill Bennett, Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development and MLA for Kootenay East
- Hono. Margaret MacDiarmid, Minister of Health and MLA for Vancouver-Fairview
- Hon. Moira Stilwell, Minister of Social Development and MLA for Vancouver-Langara
- Hon. Ralph Sultan, Minister of State for Seniors and MLA for West Vancouver-Capilano
- Hon. Naomi Yamamoto, Minister of State for Small Business and MLA for North Vancouver-Lonsdale

- Hon. Steve Thomson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and MLA for Kelowna-Mission
- Hon. Ben Stewart, Minister of Citizens' Services and Open Government and MLA for Westside-Kelowna
- Hon. Pat Bell, Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training, and Labour and MLA for Prince George-Mackenzie
- Doug Horne, MLA Coquitlam-Burke Mountain
- Richard Lee, MLA Burnaby North
- Marc Dalton, MLA Maple Ridge-Mission
- Mary McNeil, MLA Vancouver-False Creek
- Murray Coell, MLA Saanich North and the Islands
- Kevin Krueger, MLA Kamloops-South Thompson

Whether on a remote beach on Haida Gwaii or in the midst of the hustle and bustle of New York, Emily Carr represented British Columbia at our best.

She was strong. She was independent, curious, and most of all, creative.

In today's challenging economic times, some people may argue we can't afford to invest in the arts. I could not disagree more.

On the contrary – BC's creative economy has never been more important to the future success of our province.

That's why our government will invest up to \$113 million in a new state-of-the-art visual, media and design facility for Emily Carr University of Art & Design that will ensure students are equipped with the skills required for future labour market needs.

Emily Carr produces graduates that are innovators, creative problem solvers, and entrepreneurs – qualities we need to improve B.C.'s productivity and drive our economy forward.

Last year, Emily Carr University was awarded the Red Dot Design ranking as one of the world's most innovative art and design universities.

It is because Emily Carr University has been so successful that they need this new facility. Too much success is a nice problem to have.

This new facility will help Emily Carr draw both domestic and international students to its leading arts, media and design training programs.

Investing in BC students today means that tomorrow's graduates will make key contributions to BC's economic growth, furthering our reputation as a producer of world-class creative talent.

And that creative talent, like Emily Carr herself, will go on representing British Columbia at our best.

Congratulations.

-END-

Check Against Delivery
Young Women Entrepreneurs
Wednesday, Jan 23rd
PVO
Length: 2-5 minutes

Event: what is it?

- A reception for young women entrepreneurs
- Mostly a chance to mingle and meet with these women

Audience: who are they?

- 60 women under 40 years of age
- Some are just starting out, some have established and successful businesses
- Some Mommy Bloggers

KEY MESSAGES:

- Investing in women entrepreneurs is one of the best ways to generate economic development in B.C.
- I'm happy to have this opportunity to hear about your successes and challenges.

- THANK: Pamela Martin
- ACKNOWLEDGE: Hon. Naomi Yamamoto, Minister of State for Small Business
- Thanks to Minister Yamamoto's hard work, B.C. was just awarded an "A" grade by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business because of our efforts to cut red tape.
- B.C. is the ONLY province to get an "A" rating.
- Investing in women entrepreneurs is one of the best ways to generate economic development in B.C.
- Look at the numbers. More than 37% of self-employed British Columbians are women. That's well above the national average.
- And small businesses create 90 per cent of the jobs in B.C. They are the backbone of our economy and communities.
- And it goes beyond providing employment. You are always first in line to support events and charities in your communities.
- Stay tuned. You will also be getting an invitation to a follow-up event that will encourage and celebrate women in business.
- I welcome this chance to meet you today and hear about your successes and challenges.

- Tell hemming Hamish's pants story.

-END-

Chilliwack Women's Event
Thursday Jan. 24 2013
Speech length: 3 minutes

Event: what is it?

- Speaking to a Chilliwack-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. Strength comes from strength: strong women role models help raise strong children and build strong, caring societies.
3. My government is more committed than ever to doing the right thing for families.

ACKNOWLEDGE:

- Pamela Martin (MC)
- I'm thrilled to be here today to speak with you, but mostly to listen to you.
- I've done this across the province and what I hear and learn I take with me into my work. But if you'll indulge me, I'd like to explain why I decided to get 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 walking a tightrope every day. You work hard every day to find the balance between your career and your kids.
- How do we balance? The answer is different for everyone – flexibility and mentorship, grace, creativity and courage.
- ***Tell experience about while working as Premier, and being a parent to Hamish***
- At the end of the day – we will always be a Mom. Each of us here today is a mentor to our children. Mentorship builds strong, caring communities.

- Strong families and strong female role models help build great people and great societies. Like the one we're so fortunate to have her in B.C.
- Supporting ambitions and dreams of the next generation is the best thing we can do to honour the women who supported us and helped us get to where we are today.
- Conviction we have in our own values – values handed down by our parents.
- Thank you.

-END-

Recent accomplishments for families in Chilliwack:

- Jan. 18, 2013: Provided almost \$3.4M for renovations and \$230K in annual operational funding for residential component of the Chilliwack Health and Housing Contact Centre. When complete, the facility will provide 22 supportive housing apartments for people who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness.
- Dec. 18, 2012: partnered with federal government in jointly investing \$1.56M for upgrades to Chilliwack's East Dike, providing improved flood protection to 40,000 people residing in the floodplain. Construction expected to begin next year.
- Sept. 6, 2012: Announced \$2.4M in capital funding to University of Fraser Valley's Chilliwack and Abbotsford campuses. Over \$43M to UFV's Chilliwack campus since 2001.
- May 25, 2012: Opened new \$31.6M Rosedale Traditional Community School – can accommodate up to 570 students

from K to Gr 9, and houses a Neighbourhood Learning Centre for community programs.

- Feb. 6, 2012: FrontCounter BC comes to Chilliwack – single-window service for natural resource sector clients.

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.

**AME BC Mineral Exploration Roundup Conference 2013
January 28, 2013 8:30 a.m.**

Speech Outline/Key Messages

1. We have a plan that is working and we are sticking to it.
2. You have made this industry a success. Making sure government is letting you thrive and supporting you when you need it.
3. We need to ensure that British Columbians have the skills they need to be first in line for all the jobs being created by you.
4. We are making sure the world knows BC is open for mining. We are reaching out to new markets, while ensuring we remain a safe harbor for their investment.
5. We believe in responsible resource development.

Acknowledgements:

I am happy to be here at this year's annual Mineral Round-Up and to proclaim this as Mineral Exploration Week.

Our province is built on mining. This industry is a major part of B.C.'s vibrant economy.

For more than 100 years you've been an example of what British Columbia can achieve – what the payoff is of hard work and a vision for the future.

It's you guys and your employees who are out there getting the job done, supporting families and building communities.

The Plan and mining

I want to talk to you about my vision for British Columbia ... 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.

We've put our BC Jobs Plan into action and after the first year:

- we led Canada in job growth
- Trade with China is up nearly 25%
- \$80 billion in projects currently underway
- 84% reduction in mining permit backlog

Now, last year was a record breaking year for mineral exploration. We reached a record level of \$462 million.

If you compare that to the 90's where exploration was at about \$26M/year, we've come a long way.

It's usually pretty tough to beat record breaking years.

Today, however, I'm pleased to report we've broken our record levels of mineral exploration yet again. For 2012, we expect exploration spending to reach \$680 million.

That's up 47% in one year. This is in part due to some very large projects underway, but it is a vote of confidence in by the industry in British Columbia.

We set some aggressive targets in our Jobs Plan. People said we were crazy when we said we had a goal of 17 new and expanded mines.

Today, we are more than half way there.

- Since 2011, 3 new mines are in production, 3 are under construction
- 5 major mines received approval to expand:
 - Highland Valley Copper Mine
 - Huckleberry Copper-Molybdenum Mine
 - Quinsam Coal Mine
 - Elkview Coal Mine

- Endako Molybdenum Mine

Our plan is working. We are on the right track. Our province is stable and we are growing.

I truly believe we are at a unique moment in our province.

After 12 years of hard work and working together, we've protected and secured our economy.

Our province is a safe, secure place where you can get a return on your investment.

A province where we balance budgets, where we maintain a great credit rating, where we keep taxes the lowest in North America, and where we work hard to attract, secure and help investments thrive.

We're in an enviable position where the world wants what we have.

My job is to let the rest of the world know that BC is open for business and that we are home to the best, most responsible, most innovative mining and mineral exploration sectors.

You have made the industry a success

You have been instrumental in renewing this industry over the past 12 years.

You are helping build the vital infrastructure that communities across BC need.

When I see a new mine being built or expanded, what I see is more hospitals, schools, bridges and roads.

But we know it starts with you.... British Columbia is a province blessed by resources and it's all of you who find the deposits and set us on a path to success.

And you are doing it to the highest environmental standards.

Our BC Jobs Plan is committed to keeping the standards high but we identified the backlog of Notice of Work applications, along with Land Act authorizations and Water Act authorizations, as bottlenecks in the current review process for natural resource development activities.

Over the past year, we've seen progress here too:

- Achieved our target for reducing the original backlog of Notice of Work applications.
- Reduced the backlog of Water and Land Act tenures by 53% for land and 48% for water.
- Average turnaround times for all new Notice of Work applications have been reduced from 110 days to the current 80 days.

We are now focusing on reducing that to 60 days. And to do that it's going to mean additional investments.

Today, I'm happy to announce that we are investing an additional \$7 million over the next six months to continue our focus on the backlog, and streamlining processing for Notice of Work applications, as well as Land and Water Act permits.

I'm also happy to announce that starting next month government will be shifting to electronic applications for BC's natural resource related authorizations.

These changes will ensure the most streamlined process is available and will help minimize rejections and delays.

But it is also through your hard work and collaboration that new partnerships are forming with First Nations that are creating shared understanding and effective engagement for projects possible.

We now have three Economic and Community Development Agreements in place, and further negotiations are underway.

- Nak'azdli (na-caused-lee) First Nation Agreement provides greater certainty for the Mt Milligan Mine project over the life of its operation.
- McLeod Lake Indian Band Agreement shares mineral tax royalties from the Mt. Milligan Mine.

- the Stk'emlupsemc (sta-kem-loops-um) of the Secwepemc (sek-wep-emk) Nation Agreement share mineral tax royalties from the New Afton Mine.

Skills Training

One of the things I've heard from the people in this room is the need to make sure your kids are getting the first shot at all the good jobs that our plan creates.

They should have that chance.

There will be around 15,000 mining jobs in the next decade. Trade with Asia is increasing... with so many opportunities ahead, it's essential that we fill our skilled labour shortage.

So it's not a question of not enough jobs it's a question of how to fill them. That's why our skills training plan will:

- 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.

We are doing job fairs in communities across the province. Our critics said that this is a waste of taxpayer dollars. I believe they are making a real difference.

I can tell you this, people are being offered jobs on the spot in their communities because of these jobs fairs.

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. But with all that's going on around us, more British Columbians are working today than ever before.

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

The growth and success of the mining industry was not by accident. It is the result a purposeful effort, a plan that brought everyone together to work collaboratively and execute collectively on a plan.

Conclusion

Our province was built on mining, and your hard work is a great example of what can be done when we work together.

Today, our mining industry is very competitive – it's a bedrock industry for BC and we plan to keep it that way.

There is a future for your kids in this industry; if that's the path they want to follow.

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.

We have an obligation to our kids and grandkids, to make sure we stick to our plan, because what is happening now in British Columbia's economy is not inevitable.

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 responsible natural resource development.

We believe in a thriving private sector.

We believe in building the schools, roads and hospitals that will allow our economy to grow.

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-

Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal Presentation
Thursday, Jan. 31, 2013

Key Message:

- Thanking individuals who make our communities great

ACKNOWLEDGE:

MC Douglas Horne, MLA for Coquitlam-Burke Mountain

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

Marc Dalton, MLA for Maple Ridge-Mission

Richard T. Lee, MLA for Burnaby North

Harry Bloy, MLA for Burnaby-Lougheed

Jane Thornthwaite, MLA for North Vancouver-Seymour

Dave Hayer, MLA for Surrey-Tynehead

Thank everyone for being here. We don't get enough opportunities to acknowledge the people who give back to their communities.

We talk sometimes about pillars. Pillars of society, pillars of the community. And sometimes when a term gets used a lot, it can become a cliché.

And that's unfortunate. Because the people in this room are pillars of their community.

To mark the occasion of her Diamond Jubilee, celebrating 60 years of service, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth decided it would be only appropriate to ask her representatives to honour those who give.

It may have been their money, or their time, and in some cases, they have risked giving their life. But each and every one of you has given of yourselves.

And you did it for the very best of reasons: to make a difference.

Those are powerful words: “make a difference.” It’s not always an easy thing to do – on the contrary, sometimes it’s very hard.

But you’ve all made a substantial difference in your communities. By giving your own talent and resources – you have made people’s lives better.

And having the opportunity to thank and acknowledge you is, frankly, humbling.

So on behalf of the people of British Columbia, thank you.

Thank you for making a difference.
I hope you will accept and appreciate this recognition of our esteem.

- 30 -

Canada's Top 100 Most Powerful Women Summit
Thursday Jan. 31
Four Seasons Vancouver
Length: 2 minutes

Event: what is it?

- Women's Executive Network (WXN) is sponsoring a Top 100 Summit in Vancouver

Audience: who are they?

- Lois Nahirney – Exec. VP, Corporate Resources, Teekay Corporation (contact)
- Panelists and speakers include:
 - Debra Hewson, President, CEO, Odlum Brown Ltd.
 - Dr. Wendy Lisogar-Cocchia, CEO Century Plaza Hotel and Absolute Spa Group
 - Shelley Brown, Partner, Deloitte & Touche LLP
 - Gail Edwards, President, JH Investments
 - Dr. Amiee chan, President and CEO, Norsat International Inc.
 - Sue Paish, CEO, Lifelabs
 - Lisa Lisson, President & CEO, FedEx Express Canada

KEY MESSAGES:

- It's great to see so many successful and powerful women gathered together in one place.
- I'm happy to have this opportunity to welcome you to Vancouver today.

- **THANK:**
Pamela Martin (TBC)
- **ACKNOWLEDGE:**
Lois Nahirney – Exec. VP, Corporate Resources, Teekay Corporation, for inviting to the event

It's an honour to be here with so many successful and powerful women.

Two summers ago I chaired a meeting of Premiers from across Canada. It was the first time in history that there were three women premiers among us.

Today there are five, and soon there will be six when Kathleen Wynne becomes Ontario's premier.

Now, I think we all recognize that our daughters can be anything they want when they grow up.

But, when they see that women can achieve the highest offices in the land, it makes it more believable for them.

I re-entered politics two years ago for one reason – I wanted to make life better for BC families.

And as Premier, I am committed to putting families first.

Everything we do is about making that commitment a reality, because when we create an environment where businesses invest and create jobs, we are investing in families.

I think everyone here in this room can relate to that, because the importance of families is not an abstract concept to you – it's real.

I know when I look out into an audience of such accomplished and distinguished women, that like me, you face conflicting demands every day.

That's why I think events like this summit are so important.

They provide opportunities for you to come together, meet and share the challenges you face and the solutions you've found.

I'm grateful for this chance to welcome you to Vancouver today and hear about your challenges and successes.

-END-

CCSA Event
Sunday, February 3, 2013
Speech length: 4 minutes

Event: what is it?

- Canadian Community Service Association 11th annual Chinese Spring Festival Celebration

Audience: who are they?

- Approx 1000 guests from non profit organizations and Chinese associations and new Chinese immigrants.

Key Messages:

- Kung Hei Fat Choi! Welcoming in the Year of the Snake.
- Chinese New Year celebrations are a time for all British Columbians to reflect on the rich cultural diversity of our province.
- In British Columbia, the strong relationships we have with the Chinese community throughout the province have brought our province good fortune.

Head table:

- Mr. Xiaoping LI, Executive President, CCSA
- Mr. Xiang PU, President, CCSA
- Ms. Fei LIU, Chinese Consul General
- Hon. Alice Wong, Minister of State for Seniors
- Mr. Zhengjiang JIANG, Vice President, CCSA
- Mr. Yongmao MA, Vice President, CCSA

ACKNOWLEDGE:

MC Lisa NG

Mr. Xiaoping LI, Executive President, CCSA

Mr. Xiang PU, President, CCSA

Ms. Fei LIU, Chinese Consul General

Hon. Alice Wong, Minister of State for Seniors

Hon. John Yap, Minister of Advanced Education,
Innovation and Multiculturalism *to arrive at 8pm*

Kung Hei Fat Choi! Happy New Year.

As we say goodbye to the Year of the Dragon and enter the Year of the Snake, I wish health and happiness for you and your families this year.

The Year of the Black Water Snake is an auspicious year that traditionally brings steady progress and attention to detail.

And those born under the Year of the Snake – like I am – can look forward to good fortune in both personal and professional relationships.

Chinese New Year celebrations are a time for all British Columbians to reflect on the rich cultural diversity of our province.

I had the pleasure of reflecting on this during my recent trip to China.

There, I had the opportunity meet many incredible people and families and saw first hand the value that the Chinese community places on families.

I hope that next week's Family Day Holiday will be an opportunity for families and communities to gather together yet again.

In British Columbia, the strong relationships we have with the Chinese community throughout the province have already brought us good fortune.

For example, in 2012, after two trade missions to China in 11 months, our exports to China were more than \$2.8 billion, an increase of almost 25% from 2011.

That's just one of the reasons why continuing to open up trade with China is a major focus of the BC Jobs Plan

Our softwood exports to China were up 3.5% as of last summer, building on a 60% increase in 2011.

And we are building a new industry aimed at exporting natural gas, so we can support the energy needs of growing economies like China – we are well on our way to reaching our goal of having three export facilities in operation by 2020.

It is a privilege to work side by side with you as B.C. continues to strengthen our partnerships and trade across the Asia-Pacific region.

As we celebrate Chinese New Year, we can see a future of even greater opportunity and increased well-being for our families and friends, and for our communities.

-END-

**City in Focus Young Executives
Faith and Politics
Tuesday Feb. 5, 2013
Speech length: 5 minutes**

Event: what is it?

- 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?

- Tara Zwaan and Jonathan Chan
- Approx. 120 members of City in Focus Young Professionals Network

KEY MESSAGES:

1. The most important structure in any society is family – that’s why my government is focused like a laser on making life more affordable and easier for BC families.
2. Faith helps me make the tough decisions needed from the Premier of British Columbia and the courage to do the right thing.

ACKNOWLEDGE:

MCs David Savage and Jesse Maxson

- Thank you for inviting me here.
- One of the best parts of my job is getting to meet people like you. You're ambitious, energetic, and creative – and like most young people, you've got an eye towards your future.
- 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.
- But you should also find and build the foundations for later success.
- It's a good time to be thinking about the future, and foundations for success. Because as you know, BC is at a crossroads.

- One path leads forward – a growing economy, and an environment where your careers and businesses thrive.
- The other path goes backward. Big government. High taxes. A place that drives business away, rather than giving it every chance to succeed.
- Rather than giving you every chance to succeed.
- You've all heard you are the future. And that's enough pressure, without hearing that future may force you to relocate to Alberta, or the United States.
- Those are the foundations for provincial success. But what about personal success? Let me tell you, one of the foundations that helped me in my life and my career is my faith.

- It gives me the courage to do the right thing, even when people disagree, because I think it's the right thing for the families that make up our province.
- One of the ways faith helps is perspective. It can seem easy to make a short-term decision that appears to make your life a little easier right now. But to make a long-term decision because it's the right thing to do – that may be tough in the short run.
- That's one of the reasons my government is focused on making life better and more affordable for families in BC.
- Because I believe that the most important structure in any society is the family.
- As a mom, I know first-hand the challenges of balancing the needs of my family with the demands of the job.

- The hardest work in the world is the work parents do in raising kids with character, with morals, with the guidance they're going to need in becoming great citizens.
- That's a really tough job, so government has to find ways to value and support the work they do.
- One of the most important things we can do to help families is to free them from financial worry by making sure that there are enough family-supporting jobs out there.
- So everyone can afford to go to work and not have to worry about taking care of their kids or their aging parents – the people that they love.
- That's my perspective. I'm looking forward to hearing yours.

-END-

**British Columbia Maritime Employers Association
Saturday, Feb. 6, 2013
Speech length: 2 minutes**

Event: what is it?

- Luncheon with brief address, followed by a roundtable

Audience: who are they?

- Private Event – 12 members of BCMEA
 - Andy Smith- President BCMEA
 - Greg Vurdela-VP BCMEA
 - Terry Bertram-Gov Relations BCMEA
 - Ellie Marynuik-VP BCMEA
 - Terry Duggan-VP BCMEA
 - Dave Bedwell-President COSCO Shipping
 - Eric Waltz- President of Global Container Terminals
 - Mike Leonard-VP BCMEA
 - Bob Wilds- BC Wharf Operators Assoc
 - Richard Chappell-Westwood Shipping
 - Steven Sapinsky-Labour Relations BCMEA
 - John Beckett-VP BCMEA

KEY MESSAGES:

1. B.C.'s access to the fast-growing economies of the Pacific Rim is a significant advantage.
2. Our relentless focus is on preparing B.C. for the economy and jobs of tomorrow – which means more trade through our ports.

ACKNOWLEDGE:

Andy Smith, President BCMEA

Greg Vurdela, Vice-President, Marketing, Customer & Government Relations, BCMEA

Terry Bertram, Manager, Customer & Government Relations

Thanks for having me here.

I know Mary Polak spoke at length with you last week. I'm sure she told you – and I'm sure you're aware – our budget will be released in two weeks.

I can't tell you what's in it just yet. But I can tell you I'm excited about it.

Our focus remains the same. We're focused on jobs. We're focused on diversifying B.C.'s markets and expanding trade opportunities abroad.

We went on trade missions to India and the Pacific Rim, home to the world's fastest-growing economies, and signed agreements worth \$1.4 billion.

That's where you come in. You are literally the fulcrum of all this expanded trade.

You're going to play a vital role.

-END-

**Women's Event
Friday February 8, 2013
Speech length: 3 minutes**

Event: what is it?

- Speaking to a group of women from the riding

Audience: who are they?

- Women from the community from a wide range of professions – notary, non-profit, business improvement, real estate, people who work with special needs people, lawyers.
- Not open to the media.

KEY MESSAGES:

1. My focus is on doing the right thing for families.
2. One of the best ways to help families is by helping women and continuing to build the economy so they can thrive.

ACKNOWLEDGE:
MC Pamela Martin

- I'm honoured to be here today to speak with you.
- ***Tell experience about taking care of mum, while working as broadcaster, and being a parent to Hamish.***
- Being a modern mom like being a tightrope walker – we have to work hard every day to find the balance between your career and your kids.
- How do we balance? I think the answer is different for everyone – but let me tell you, it's hard to do without flexibility, grace, creativity, and courage
- ***Tell experience about while working as Premier, and being a parent to Hamish***
- And while everyone's situation is unique, at the end of the day – I will always be a mom.
- Whether or not you've chosen to have children, strong families and strong female role models raise great kids.
- Supporting the ambitions and dreams of our sons and daughters 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.

- That's why we're doing what we can to support women.
 - Women in Trades Training Program helps women find a good career fit, including paid apprenticeships.
 - Micro Business Training Program provides up to \$1,500 for business management skills training.
 - For access to capital, there are Community Business Loans and Venture Acceleration Programs.
 - Women's Mentorship Program provides one-one-one peer mentoring.
- There is help available. I'd encourage you to contact my constituency office for more information about these and other programs.
- Helping one another is what women do. And this isn't revolutionary – it's what our parents did for us. Helping fellow women and our daughters get started isn't just good for the economy. It's the right thing to do.
- Thank you.

-END-

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're 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.

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 because together we can make BC stronger for our families.

**Chinese New Year Countdown
Saturday February 9, 2013
Speech length: 3 minutes**

Event: what is it?

- Countdown event for Chinese New Year

Audience: who are they?

- Local Chinese-Canadians ringing in the new year. The countdown is broadcast live on Fairchild TV.

KEY MESSAGE:

- BC is poised to flourish in the Year of the Snake

ACKNOWLEDGE:

MCs Mary Lo (Fairchild Radio Host), Delon Lew (Fairchild Radio)

Hon. John Yap, Minister of Advanced Education, Innovation and Technology and MLA for Richmond – Steveston

Rob Howard, MLA for Richmond Centre

Linda Reid, MLA for Richmond East,

Richard Lee, MLA for Burnaby North

Hon. Alice Wong, MP for Richmond (Conservative

Bill McNaulty, Richmond Councillor (Dressed as God of Fortune)

- Thank you for inviting me here to share in the New Year's celebration.
- I'm excited about the Year of the Snake – it's the year I was born.
- The Year of the Snake is meant for steady progress and attention to detail, which is good advice for families and for government.
- British Columbia is poised to flourish in the Year of the Snake, and beyond. We're building relationships with our Asian partners abroad.
- We also recognize the immense contributions Asian-Canadians continue to make to our communities, our economy, and our province. They have made British Columbia a more diverse and vibrant place.
- I'm also excited about the great team of MLAs and candidates here tonight. We have a great team.
- I hope you'll join us as we ring out the Year of the Dragon and welcome the Year of the Snake.

-END-

Firefighters Statue Unveiling
Wednesday, Feb. 13, 2013
Speech length: 3 minutes

Event: what is it?

- A statue unveiling to commemorate six fallen firefighters followed by a memorial service that features bell and flag presentations to the families.

Audience: who are they?

- BCPFFA president Mike Hurley
- Provincial representatives
- Federal and local government representatives
- Chaplain Jeff Young
- Families of six fallen firefighters
- Firefighters (500), firefighters' pipeband and veteran (retired) firefighters
- General public
- MEDIA HAVE BEEN INVITED

KEY MESSAGES:

- This government is proud to support B.C. firefighters and very pleased to have this new statue to commemorate fallen heroes here at the Legislature.
- We commend all firefighters for their courage and for the example they set for all of us.
- B.C.'s firefighters can be confident that they are supported by all British Columbians – we are all grateful for the important role they serve.

ACKNOWLEDGE:

Jeff Young, Chaplain (introduces PCC)

Mike Hurley BCPFFA president

BC Firefighters present

Bill Barisoff, Speaker

IN PARTICULAR:

I particularly want to mention Harry Bloy, who has been working tirelessly towards this moment for at least three years. Your dedication and hard work for BC's firefighters is much appreciated.

I am honoured and humbled to be here with such an inspiring group of people – heroes in every sense of the word.

Heroes that keep our families and communities safe.

Heroes that risk their own lives to protect ours.

Heroes that make British Columbians proud.

Today is about recognition and remembrance. Those we have lost, and those who continue to put themselves in harm's way every day.

Today we recognize the sacrifice of these six firefighters and their families.

Bruce Holland, Ron Carlisle, Eric Geddes, Terry MacDonald, John Miharija and Sid Bristown – these heroes fought every day to save people's lives, their homes, and their livelihoods.

We can never repay them, or their families, for their pain and sacrifice. We can only pledge to honour their memory.

And this government is proud to support B.C. firefighters and to have this new statue to commemorate our fallen heroes here at the Legislature.

This statue will be a constant reminder of your commitment, your courage and your dedication.

Thank you.

-END-

Victoria Businesswomens' Round Table
Wednesday, February 13, 2013
Speech length: 3 minutes

Event: what is it?

- Speaking to Victoria businesswomen.

Audience: who are they?

Shellie Gudgeon, Victoria City Council

Mandy Farmer, Accent Inns

Heather Ferguson, Principal, Whale Communications Ltd.

Lesley Brown

Lynne Henderson

Karen Jawl, Jawl Properties

Lindalee Brougham, LL Brougham Inc., Chartered Accountants

Maria Dominelli, Mortgage Broker, INVIS, Canada's Mortgage Experts

Leslie Campbell, President, Campbell Communications Inc

Roberta Ferguson, Morguard Investments Limited

Kathryn Laurin, President, Camosun College

KEY MESSAGES:

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

- Acknowledge emcee (TBD). I'm honoured to be here today to speak with you.
- I got back into politics to make life better for BC families. And the best way to do that is low taxes and controlled spending to keep our economy and our businesses competitive. They create jobs and sustain the social programs that families rely on.
- ***Tell experience about taking care of mum, while working as broadcaster, and being a parent to Hamish.***
- Being a modern mom is like walking a tightrope. 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.***
- I think this is important because strong families and strong female role models help build great people and great societies.
- Our parents worked hard to leave us a legacy, not a bill to pay. We owe our kids the same dedication.
- Thank you.

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're 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.

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 because together we can make BC stronger for our families.

Introduction of Tla'amin Nation Treaty Legislation

Wednesday, February 14, 2013

Speech Length: 3 minutes

Event: what is it?

- Premier's introductory remarks will launch this event at the legislature reception hall to celebrate B.C.'s introduction of legislation to ratify the Tla'amin Nation treaty.

Audience: who are they?

- Chief Clint Williams, Tla'amin Nation
- MC Ida Chong, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation
- Sophie Pierre, BC Treaty Commission (tbc)
- Shelby George, youth member Tla'amin Nation
- Ryan Pielie, youth member, Tla'amin Nation
- Adult and youth members of the Tla'amin Nation
- MLAs (tbc)
- Representatives of the Regional District of Power River (tbc)
- Media

Audience: what do they want to hear?

- Congratulatory remarks re the introduction of the settlement legislation

KEY MESSAGES

1. Crafting a treaty is about making history and we are determined to get it right. The history of the Tla'amin people goes back beyond the settlement of this part of the world by Europeans and others.
2. This treaty will help to reconcile a long, difficult narrative and will establish the foundation for a bright future. The time it has taken to get us this far together is a tribute to the significance of what we are trying to achieve.
3. Treaties bring certainty and economic benefits, not only to First Nation members, but also to the surrounding region. In the same way negotiated treaties legally define ownership, use of lands and resources that result in predictability for First Nations, continued development and economic growth is fostered throughout the province.

THANK MINISTER IDA CHONG FOR INTRODUCTION

ACKNOWLEDGE:

Tla'amin (Kla-amen) Chief Clint Williams and member of the Tla'amin (Kla-amen) Nation

Sophie Powell of the Treaty Commission

MLAs in attendance

Powell River district representatives.

- Today we celebrate history in the making - the end of a long and difficult journey and the dawn of a bright new future for the Tla'amin (Kla-amen) Nation.
- You will be able tell your grandchildren "I was there" when the Tla'amin (Kla-amen) Final Agreement Act legislation was introduced in the house. This Act and the signing of the final Agreement are B.C.'s last steps in the completion of the Tla'amin (Kla-amen) treaty.
- Then it travels to Ottawa, where Canada's government will introduce ratification legislation. Once it passes, the Tla'amin (Kla-amen) Nation will no longer be constrained by the federal Indian Act.
- Instead you will have self-government - legally defined ownership and the freedom to once again manage your own lands and resources.
- Treaties like this one create stability and predictability.

They open the door to continued development and economic growth not only for First Nations, but for the entire surrounding region.

- That's why it's so encouraging to see the momentum continuing to build. The Tla'amin (Kla-amen) Nation is the eighth First Nation to witness the introduction of their treaty legislation under the B.C. Treaty Process.
- The time it has taken to get us this far together reflects the significance of what we are trying to achieve.
- The history of the Tla'amin (Kla-amen) Nation began a very long time ago, well before the arrival of Europeans and others in this part of the world.
- We all knew we were carving a historic new milestone with this treaty and we had to get it right.
- Congratulations to all of you who have worked so hard to get us here. Thank you for inspiring us.
- Thank you for showing all British Columbians what can be achieved with spirit, good will and determination.

- END-

**University Hill Secondary School opening
Thursday Feb. 14, 2013
Speech length: 3 minutes**

Event: what is it?

- University Hill Secondary Official Opening – U Hill is a new secondary school built for up to 1,000 students in grades 9-12, replacing the original school on Acadia Rd., built in 1954.
- Event will include a “townhall”-style forum with students

Audience: who are they?

- Education Minister Don McRae
- Patti Bacchus, Vancouver School Board chair
- Steve Cardwell, SD 39 Superintendent
- University Hill Secondary School Principal Alex Grant
- University Hill Secondary staff, students, parents

KEY MESSAGES:

1. Our government is focussed on building modern schools for modern learning so the students of today can become the leaders of tomorrow.
2. The new University Hill Secondary creates a seamless learning experience for West Point Grey and UBC families.
3. The new and replacement schools we are building throughout B.C. support BC’s Education Plan, and are designed to encourage collaboration, the exchange of ideas, as well as shared learning and teaching.

ACKNOWLEDGE:

Edward Chang, Student Council President (Introduces PCC)

Don McRae, Education Minister

Patti Bacchus, Vancouver School Board chair

Chief Wayne Sparrow, Musqueam First Nation

Alex Grant, University Hill principal

- It's an honour to be with you today at the official opening of the new University Hill Secondary school.
- To the students here today – how many times have you heard you are the future?
- That's a lot of pressure. And I know that, right now, you're probably much more focused on your present.
- But I think your principal and teachers would agree with me when I say your future creates a lot of pressure for we slightly older people, too.
- We are very concerned with making sure you're prepared for your future. And that means giving you all the help we can in the present.
- That brings us to this incredible new school. It's state of the art, not just in design, but the learning environment.
- That's important, because 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”.

- That’s the central reason that your government is focused on building modern schools like the new University Hill Secondary: to provide you, the students, with a seamless and cutting-edge educational experience to help you shape your future and become the leaders of tomorrow.
- I’m excited for you. I wish my high school had looked like this.
- Thank you.

-END-

Agricultural Roundtable in Oliver
Friday Feb 15, 2013
Speech length: 3-5 minutes

Audience: who are they?

- Executives from:
 - BC Fruit Growers Association
 - Okanagan Kootenay Cherry Growers' Association
 - Okanagan Tree Fruit Cooperative

KEY MESSAGES:

1. Your government is more committed than ever to doing the right thing for the agriculture sector.
2. The Okanagan tree fruit industry is a vital part of our food system, and a part of B.C.'s heritage that all British Columbians are proud of.
3. Our government has supported the industry by investing millions of dollars to improve competitiveness and profitability.

ACKNOWLEDGE:

MC Norm Letnick, Minister of Agriculture and MLA for Kelowna-Lake Country

- I'm honoured to be here today to speak and hear from you.
- The local food movement in BC has never been stronger than now.
- And that's why in November your government announced a \$2 million investment in "buy local" programs, offering applicants matching funds from \$5,000 to \$100,000 to launch or expand local food marketing campaigns.
- The buy local funding is custom-made to meet your needs.
- It's an opportunity for BC growers to access government dollars to tell your story and let consumers know the importance and value of choosing BC fruits.
- I encourage you to be a part of it and get your message out.
- Our role as government is to create an environment where you, the producers, succeed.

- That's why we introduced the BC Agrifoods Strategy as part of the BC Jobs Plan.
- This Strategy builds on the growing relationship B.C. has established with existing partners, and expanding those with emerging markets.
- We have ambitious goals for this Strategy – to grow your industry \$10.5 billion to \$14 billion-a-year by 2017. That's \$3.5 billion new dollars for B.C.'s food producers.
- Thank you.

-END-

- By building on the growing trade relationship BC has established with existing partners, as well as expanding those with emerging markets, we aim to grow agriculture in BC to a \$14-billion industry by 2017.
- And we're always interested in hearing new ideas and thoughts about agriculture and farming.
- That's why it's a real pleasure to be here today and hear from you directly.

Stoneboat Vineyards in Oliver
Friday Feb 15, 2013
Speech length: 3 minutes

Event: what is it?

- MP Dan Albas (Okanagan - Coquihalla) is announcing an investment of up to \$125,018 to Stoneboat Vineyards under the Agricultural Innovation Program.
- Stoneboat Vineyards will be the first vineyard in BC to use the Charmat (shar-MAY) carbonation process.

Audience: who are they?

- Executives from:
 - BC Fruit Growers Association
 - Okanagan Kootenay Cherry Growers' Association
 - Okanagan Tree Fruit Cooperative

KEY MESSAGES:

1. We are encouraging other provinces to follow B.C.'s lead and allow direct shipping.
2. Wine lovers across Canada deserve the chance to try great B.C. wine from vineyards like Stoneboat.

ACKNOWLEDGE:

MC Tim Martiniuk, General Manager, Stoneboat Vineyards

Dan Albas, MP for Okanagan-Coquihalla (Conservative)

Julie Martiniuk, Proprietor, Stoneboat Vineyards

Lanny Martiniuk, Proprietor, Stoneboat Vineyards

- Congratulations to Stoneboat for earning this funding, and my thanks to MP Albas and the federal government for rewarding BC innovation.
- It's fascinating to be here, on the cutting edge of innovation in the wine industry. Which, naturally, is right here in BC.
- I know BC wine lovers are excited to sample the first Charmat (shar-MAY) style wine made in the province.
- But wine lovers don't care about provincial borders. They just want to sample the best.
- That's why we allowed vineyards from across Canada to ship directly to British Columbians. To give BC wine lovers choice.
- I hope that my fellow Premiers consider following our lead, and allow their citizens the chance to sample some of B.C.'s best – like Stoneboat.

-END-

**Forum of Women Entrepreneurs Gala
“La Dolce Vita”
Monday, February 18, 2013
Speech length: 5 minutes**

Event: what is it?

- Gala event “La Dolce Vita”, hosted by the Forum of Women Entrepreneurs.
- FWE’s programs are designed to support and mentor women venturing into new business opportunities.

Audience: who are they?

- Judy Brooks, Interim CEO, FWE (TBC)
- Lisa Niernetscheck, Manager of FWE Experience (TBC)
- Angel Lo, Communications Manager, FWE (TBC)
- Members and guests of the Forum of Women Entrepreneurs.

KEY MESSAGES:

1. Investing in women entrepreneurs is one of the best ways to generate economic development in B.C.
2. We want to leave our kids – the employers and business leaders of tomorrow – a legacy.

ACKNOWLEDGE:

Debi Hewson, CEO of Odium Brown (introduces PCC)
MC Monika Deol

- I'm honoured to be here today to speak with you.
- I believe one of the most courageous moves anyone can make in life is to set out on their own, building a business.
- I may not own my own business - but let me tell you, I am familiar with having my name and reputation on the line. It can be exciting – it can be rewarding – and at the same time it can be daunting and lonely.
- That's why the work the Forum of Women Entrepreneurs does is so important.
- Your programs provide much needed support and mentoring for women setting out into new business opportunities...
- Because you know that having someone in your corner can make the critical difference between success and failure in business.
- And make no mistake – we need more successful women entrepreneurs here. Because in B.C., small business is big business.

- Investing in women entrepreneurs is one of the best ways to generate economic development in B.C.
- Look at the numbers. More than 37 per cent of self-employed British Columbians are women. That's well above the national average.
- And small businesses create 56 per cent of the private sector jobs in B.C. About a third our provincial GDP. They are the backbone of our economy and communities.
- And it goes beyond providing employment. You are always first in line to support events and charities in your communities.
- Since I became Premier, my focus has been to make life better for BC families. And the best way to do that is fostering an environment where there are jobs. Where they can find success.
- We don't accomplish that by growing the size of government, but growing the size of the economy. With low taxes. With controlled spending. By keeping our economy and our businesses competitive.
- This approach works. Last month, B.C. was awarded an "A" grade by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business because of our efforts to cut red tape.

- B.C. was the ONLY province to get an “A” rating.
- We’ve all worked hard, together, to get to where we are today. Let’s not put it at risk.
- Because we here in B.C. are at a crossroads. We can slide backwards to bigger government, more taxes and more debt – and more entrepreneurs and jobs moving out of B.C.
- Or we can move forward. To a bigger economy with more jobs, where business can thrive, creating more opportunities for families.
- That’s what our British Columbia Prosperity Fund is all about. By safely exporting clean energy to Asia, more than a hundred billion dollars will flow into our Prosperity Fund over thirty years.
- We’ll use the Prosperity Fund to eliminate our provincial debt. By the time my 11 year old son Hamish is 26, he could start a career in a British Columbia that is debt-free.
- I don’t need to explain to a room full of entrepreneurs the importance of having no debt. But I will say this: it stands to reason that when you owe less, you have more money.

- That's the legacy we want to leave for our kids – the employers and business leaders of tomorrow.
- That's why I think the work you do here is invaluable. You're also looking to leave a legacy, and build a community of businesswomen.
- That support is invaluable. Most of you probably had parents who worked hard to leave you a legacy – it's great to see women making time to help the next generation of leaders.
- Thank you.

-END-

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're 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.

Families first agenda

- Last 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 because together we can make BC stronger for our families.

Launch of Early Years Strategy
Wednesday, Feb. 20, 2013
Speech length: 3-5 minutes

Event: what is it?

- Announcement of the British Columbia Early Years Strategy, which includes a new tax benefit, more child-care spaces and a provincial Early Years co-ordination office as part of a long-term plan to offer B.C. families with young children more affordable, accessible, high quality early childhood services.

Audience: who are they?

- Hon. Stephanie Cadieux, Minister of Children and Family Development
- TBC Michael McKnight, president & CEO of the Lower Mainland United Way, part of the ECD Provincial Partnership that is responsible for Success by Six programming.
- TBC Sandra Menzer, member of the Provincial Child Care Council
- Day care providers, parents, early years organizations

KEY MESSAGES:

1. We're committed to making life easier for B.C. families and supporting our children to reach their full potential.
2. Our British Columbia Early Years Strategy is a long-term plan to help parents balance work and family and ensure young British Columbians have the best possible start in life.
3. We know the affordability and accessibility of quality child care is of vital importance to B.C. families and we've worked to develop meaningful, evidence-based steps that will help families with child care and better support early childhood development.

ACKNOWLEDGE:

Hon. Stephanie Cadieux, Minister of Social Development and
MLA for Surrey-Panorama

Michael McKnight, president & CEO of the Lower Mainland
United Way

Sandra Menzer, member of the Provincial Child Care Council

To have a healthy economy means getting the fundamentals right. And one of the key fundamentals is making sure families are properly supported.

This isn't revolutionary thinking but sometimes we need to be reminded.

As I meet with parents around the province, the demands of a busy family life always come up. And I've heard – and Stephanie has heard – a lot of ideas on how to improve services.

That's why I'm happy to announce our British Columbia Early Years Strategy – an 8-year government commitment to support early childhood development and help families with child care.

We are increasing our spending on early years services by \$76 million in the first 3 years of the strategy.

This includes:

- \$32 million over the next three years to create up to 2,000 new licensed child care spaces, with the goal of opening 13,000 additional spaces over the next eight years.
- An amendment to the School Act to ensure school boards promote the use of their facilities so childcare can be supported in a seamless day of school and care.
- \$37 million in support of improving the overall quality of early years services, including child care.
- \$7 million to strengthen the coordination of early childhood development programs and child care services.

In addition, effective April 1, 2015, a new BC Early Childhood Tax Benefit will provide \$146 million to approximately 180,000 families with children under the age of 6.

We don't believe British Columbian families need more band-aids or quick-fix solutions.

What families need is a long-term plan – backed by a strong funding commitment – to support working families and help ensure young British Columbians have the best possible start in life.

Our British Columbia Early Years Strategy will provide choice and support for parents, while making these early-years programs and services more accessible and affordable.

Investing in their future and leaving them a legacy is the right thing to do. It's what our parents did for us.

This strategy is an investment in the future of our province, an investment in our most precious resource – our children.

-END-

Vancouver Board of Trade February 20, 2013

Acknowledgments

[Slide 1- title page]

I want to take a moment to acknowledge each of you here.

This province was built by working hard, dreaming big, and sometimes making tough decisions.

Together, we've built a province that is recognized on the world stage as a safe harbour for investment ... a province with an economy that has been resilient to the instability that surrounds us... a province that stands apart with a triple A credit rating.

As British Columbians and as Canadians we share the same values. We are motivated like generations before to make a better life for our kids.

We all want to make sure they have opportunities we never had. We want make sure the difficult decisions in their life aren't about putting food on the table or how to pay the mortgage.

And it's your hard work that helps create a strong economy for our province. You raise your families here, you work here. You make smart decisions that create jobs in communities across BC. So, on behalf of British Columbians, thank you for all that you do.

Introduction

Like you, BC is not standing here by accident. We are standing tall because we made tough decisions. You have too.

Ever since I became Premier two years ago, I've been working to make life better for B.C. families.

And I believe creating jobs is the best thing we can do for families. We've all worked hard, together, to get to where we are today. I will not, and we cannot put that at risk.

In B.C. we are at a crossroads. We can slide backwards to bigger government, more taxes and more debt or we can move forward to a stronger economy with more jobs and more opportunities for families.

But you don't get opportunities in the future, if you don't get it right today. We are getting it right. That's why I'm able to propose the BC Prosperity Fund. I'll tell you more about that initiative in a moment.

Importance of balancing

Someone asked me what keeps me awake at night, after my son has gone to sleep and I've finished reading my last briefing note:

It's the risk of what's happening in the world around us; the economic downturn that threatens everyone, even us in British Columbia.

That's what I want to talk to you today about a core value for my government – balancing our budget.

A commitment to you that we will not spend more than we receive.

In today's world, balancing is a mark of success.

Balancing the budget allows us to create the economic conditions that will stimulate job creation and help our province grow.

It means managing taxpayer's money with respect so that we can provide the services families need, year after year.

We can't help families break through if we break the bank.

Just like with your business or family, spending more than we save only puts us behind.

Burnaby story

Like many of you, I grew up in a middle class family ...in Burnaby. My dad was a teacher and my mom stayed home to look after all four of us. Four kids, a modest three

bedroom home and a used car. Every day, my parents made difficult decisions.

They were determined to make the right decisions that would leave us better off.

When my father passed away, he left us with no mortgage on our home; no debts and he even pre-paid his funeral expenses.

That's what motivates me, that's what they taught me.

I need to tell you something.

This is an election year – you know that. But this is not a goody-bag budget.

Strong leadership means making tough decisions, not just buying votes with promises ...

Promises that saddle our children with debt.

Balancing the budget is simply the right thing to do.

It's what I said I would do.

And today, there are only two provinces in this country that can say that. Us and Saskatchewan.

Budget 2013

Budget 2013 delivers a balanced budget with a modest and growing surplus not just for this year, but for all three years of our fiscal plan.

[Slide 2 – balanced chart]

It's a budget that signals to international investors that our fiscal house is in order and that we are a stable foothold in North America.

On how we get to balance, I want to tell you about the three principles that have guided my thinking and our decisions..

One: we're in this together, all of us, so we work together to achieve balance.

Two: it starts with me, and government. Before we ask you for a single penny, we find it by controlling spending.

And Three: in everything we do, we protect families, and protect the services families depend on.

After all, balancing the budget now means being able to provide more programs and services to British Columbians. It stands to reason, when you owe less, you have more.

And it means our children will be able make their own choices when it's their time to lead rather than struggling to wrestle down the debt we left them because we lacked the courage.

Measures to balance

Mike de Jong worked for months to find the right balance of measures to support our economy and still maintain support for the services British Columbians rely on every day.

Finding that balance meant looking within government first to find as many savings possible to reduce the deficit – difficult choices were necessary.

[Slide 3 – net economic growth]

The good news is our economy grew and that meant more revenue for government and that's proof our plan is working.

We held the line on spending because we believe in a bigger economy and smaller government and that has helped reduce our deficit.

The only way to hold the line on spending is to ensure that the economy is growing faster than government spending.

[Slide 4 - expenditure growth management]

We worked with public sector employers and employees to find savings within existing budgets. They deserve thanks for putting the interests of British Columbians ahead of their own.

Because if we failed to reach these agreements.

If the people sitting across from public sector unions said: 'you know what, we'll give you a modest 2 per cent increase over two years'. That would add 450 million dollars to our debt.

That's not acceptable. That's not the leadership the taxpayers of British Columbia can depend on.

If we didn't take all these steps including others I'm about to tell you, we would leave 3 billion dollars more in debt to our kids over three years. That's the choice. That's the tough decisions it takes to protect our children's future.

Health care costs as you know, are roughly half our budget. And you know rising costs in health is not sustainable. So we're managing the cost curve. We're making sure the increases are affordable.

But make no mistake, we are investing more in health. \$2.4 Billion more. To make sure our system is there when we or our loved ones need it.

We've also frozen salaries for all senior managers. We introduced a hiring freeze within the public service and we're aggressively reviewing Crowns. And that is helping reduce our deficit.

And we went further than that.

[Slide 5 – strategic assets]

We are selling non-strategic surplus government assets and the revenue generated is going to our bottom line. This gets us closer to balance. With these measures in place we made significant progress. However, these alone were not enough.

Despite tough economic times, our economy is stable and growing. That's good, and we should be proud. But to achieve our balance budget targets, we've had to make some targeted tax changes.

[Slide 6 – targeted tax measures]

Budget measures for growing business

We signalled in Budget 2012 that if the fiscal situation did not improve we would increase the General Corporate Tax Rate by one percentage point. This will take effect April 1, 2013.

Even with this increase, corporate taxes will still be 33% lower than in 2001 and BC will continue to have among the lowest corporate income tax rates in Canada.

There's no change to the Small Business Tax and there's no capital tax on credit unions and banks.

Ever since the capital tax on credit unions and banks has been removed, hundreds of millions of dollars in new investment have flowed into our economy, creating jobs and opportunities in countless sectors.

Taxing credit unions and banks may be an easy target, but if you want to grow the economy it completely misses the mark.

Budget measures for individuals

We are also asking those who earn a little more to do a little more.

Our province has the lowest income tax rate for those earning up to \$122,000 a year. This remains unchanged. For those of us can afford it and earn more than \$150,000, we will temporarily increase the personal income tax by 2.1 percentage points in 2014 and 2015 only.

There are 60 000 British Columbians this applies to, myself included. We are all making an effort together. This is our part. It's our fair share.

This is a temporary measure for two years to make sure we are on the course to tackling our debt, so that our kids inherit the kind of province they deserve.

Revenue projections

The tax measure is temporary because we expect stable economic growth over the next three years. We brought in Tim O'Neill, former chief economist of BMO, to review the numbers and make sure they are correct.

Working with him, we are confident that revenues will grow. Markets for key exports in lumber, natural gas and electricity will help drive that growth.

[Slide 7 – balance and surplus]

And these revenues will help us get to a surplus for the next three years so we can support families.

Making life more affordable for families

We have made tough choices to get here, but we've made them because we are thinking about the future for BC families. They are making tough choices. So have we.

But we also recognize that we must strike a balance and do what we can to make life more affordable for BC families.

Last year we introduced tax-saving measures to help parents keep their children active in sport and the arts and to help seniors make renovations to remain in their homes.

Balanced Budget 2013 puts additional measures in place that ease the burden on families throughout our province.

As the economy strengthens and our fiscal situation improves, we are introducing three new initiatives that will help families invest in and plan for the future of their kids.

[Slide 8 – PCC photo]

One thing I've heard from parents all across the province – including you in this room – is the need for better access to quality early-learning and child-care supports.

[Slide 9 – new measures for families]

This has been a priority for you because you recognize what a tremendous contribution it makes to our economy to ensure young people get the best start possible.

Balanced Budget 2013 introduces a three year plan to create new-child care spaces, improve the quality of child-care and early year services and better coordination of early childhood development programs.

Starting April 2015 we are introducing the BC Early Childhood Tax benefit which will provide families up to \$660 a year per child under the age of six.

Combined with federal benefits for children, this means up to \$4,728 a year for a couple with two kids under the age six whose family income is \$90,000.

Contrast that with \$10 a day daycare. That would cost us \$1.4 billion dollars a year. It is simply something we cannot afford today.

Our plan is realistic. It starts today and it grows with the economy.

You know how important it is and you know how productive parents can be when they know their kids are well looked after.

For many parents, being their best means going to work every day, earning a living and contributing to half the household income.

For some, it means staying at home and there are sacrifices associated with that too.

It's up to parent's to decide how best to raise their kids. Government's role to provide the support families need so that they can make that decision themselves. That's what the BC Early Childhood Tax does.

That's why we brought in all day kindergarten as well. You know something, kids aren't in daycare forever, and we all know they grow up in a blink of an eye.

We ought to do everything we can right now to make sure the post secondary education is affordable, available and within reach.

That's why we are introducing the BC Training and Education Grant for every child under seven.

[Slide 10 – BC TES Grant]

Starting today, every child turning six in this province will be eligible to receive a \$1200 one-time grant from

government that will be deposited into their Registered Education Savings Plan.

[Slide 11 – BC TES Grant]

That money will earn interest. And if a family contributes \$50 a month from the time the child turns six, their child will have their first two years of their post-secondary tuition paid for the time they graduate high school.

In a country where people have high levels of personal debt, that's the power of saving. That's the benefit of saving.

That is a core value of our budget, of this government and I believe of all Canadians.

[Slide 12 – title page]

Jobs plan and building the economy

That's why balancing the budget is at the core of our Jobs Plan. It's the foundation of fiscal discipline that will allow us to continue on our path of job growth and stability.

That's why we have not turned our backs on the discipline that's helped us through this downturn.

The plan is working. It's not about weathering a storm. It's about standing up stronger.

Here's a sign of our resilience. In California, they've recovered less than half of the jobs they lost during the global recession...40%. The entire United States...just over 50%.

Right here in BC, we've recovered 152% of those jobs. We're more than making up.

That's why we're forging new partnerships with the rapidly-growing economies of the Pacific Rim and India.

[Slide 13 – Asia trade]

Take a look at this graph and what has happened to our trade relations in the last ten years. Trade to Asia went from under 20% to over 45%.

This was something we set out to do. And now we can do more.

That's why we're taking full advantage of the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity afforded by natural gas.

Seizing more opportunities LNG opportunity

Our surplus supply of this clean energy is going to transform our economy and put tens of thousands of people to work.

Think about Alberta. How oil transformed their economy. How their Heritage Fund was launched four decades ago and what it has done for them.

We can bring home an opportunity just as big right here to B.C. And our energy source is cleaner.

Critics and pessimist say this may never happen. But let me tell how real this is. Just yesterday, the Petronas proposal to build a \$9 billion plant moved another step forward in the federal review process.

That's just one project, there are multiple companies and \$7 billion dollars of investment in play.

We can create tens of thousands of jobs here at home, by safely recovering our abundant natural gas – as we have done for 50 years. And by exporting our surplus to Asia, we can make 5 times more than we can in North America.

Because the Asian middle class is growing in leaps and bounds and they need energy – cleaner energy than what they're burning today.

I mentioned the BC Prosperity Fund earlier, and that's what we are proposing.

By supplying our clean energy resource to Asia, more than a hundred billion dollars will flow into our Prosperity Fund over thirty years.

We'll use the Prosperity Fund to eliminate our provincial debt. It's what our parents wanted for us. And it's something we can do for our children.

BC was debt free until 1976. We finally have our chance to decide whether we are going to get out of debt or go further into debt. I choose getting out of debt.

The Prosperity Fund and all the revenues from exporting natural gas to Asia also means we can further enrich the services that families depend on. Make our great health care system even stronger. Take our education system to new heights of achievement. And we can make life more affordable for families by reducing taxes.

And bringing this opportunity home to B.C. takes work and people who know what they're doing. We've landed deals in Asia, we're opening new markets for our goods in China, India, Japan and Korea, and we're increasing trade.

There are those who say that this opportunity is 4-7 years away. But to bring that home 4-7 years from now, to make it happen, we don't have time to waste, we must act today.

Remember, we didn't win the right to host the Olympics in 2010. We won it in 2003. Australia and other competitors are working now to win the Asian market for natural gas.

You don't win that opportunity with roadblocks, needless delays, duplication, and multiple reviews.

Conclusion

We all want the money to invest in the services we need. But the question is: How do you get it? You get it by growing the economy and not growing government.

Our approach is to highlight B.C. resources and the resourcefulness of our people.

Major companies are investing here because of the hard work we have accomplished together.

Our balanced budget, low taxes and an environment that's open for business. That's how we attract investment in B.C. and create new jobs.

Our hard working families who have a dynamic and enterprising spirit that built this west coast success story. That's how we attract investment in B.C. and create new jobs.

Our world leading standards on protecting the environment, consistently and effectively applied. That's how we attract investment in B.C. and create new jobs.

You don't have to look too far around the world to find places where they have squandered good fortune. And you have to be so careful, because while it takes generations to build a province like BC, it takes just one to squander it.

We've seen many governments around the world take the easy route – to roll out big spending programs today that leave a bigger debt tomorrow.

We've seen it happen here before and B.C. - so rich with resources - became a have-not province. And that should never happen again.

Let me tell you something, it's not good enough to tell people that you might balance the budget in four or five years. Check back with me later. If you do that, I can tell you, you can kiss your triple A credit rating goodbye.

So let me tell you a few things that I stand for.

I believe in responsible resource development.

I believe in a thriving private sector. It's a thriving private sector that makes it possible for us to create the kind of province and the kind of country that we want.

I believe in freeing up small business from the regulatory burden that makes it impossible to grow.

I believe in favour of smaller government rather than bigger government.

I believe in labour laws that are flexible enough that they reflect our modern-day economy.

I believe that when government gets out of the way, the private sector will be able to do its job better than if we get in the way.

I believe in balancing the budget because I know that's what attracts investment to our province.

This is where I stand. That's what my government stands for. Let me be clear, people may disagree but they will know where I stand.

Together working with you, we can secure the promise of new opportunity and we can bring it home. Together.

Burnaby Chamber of Commerce February 21, 2013

Acknowledgments

[Slide 1- title page]

I want to take a moment to acknowledge each of you here.

This province was built by working hard, dreaming big, and sometimes making tough decisions.

It's your hard work that helps create a strong economy for our province. So, on behalf of British Columbians, thank you for all that you do.

Introduction

Like you, BC is not standing here by accident. We are standing tall because we made tough decisions. That has strengthened our economy.

That's why we can invest to strengthen communities like Burnaby:

- Building the Evergreen line
- Opening of the Burnaby Central Secondary
- Investing in SFU

Ever since I became Premier two years ago, I've been working to make life better for B.C. families.

And I believe creating jobs is the best thing we can do for families. We've all worked hard, together, to get to where we are today. I will not, and we cannot put that at risk.

We are at a crossroads. We can slide backwards to bigger government, more taxes and more debt or we can build the future.

Building that future starts now. That's why I'm proposing the BC Prosperity Fund. I'll tell you more about that initiative in a moment.

Importance of balancing

Someone asked me what keeps me awake at night, after my son has gone to sleep and I've finished reading my last briefing note:

The risk of what's happening in the world around us; the economic downturn that threatens everyone, even us in British Columbia.

To protect our province it's about sticking to this value. We will not spend more than you send us.

In today's world, balancing the budget is a mark of success.

That's why we're recognized as a safe harbor for investment. That's why we have a Triple A credit rating.

Balancing creates the economic conditions that create jobs.

That means managing taxpayer's money with respect because we can't help families break through if we break the bank.

Burnaby story

Like many of you, I grew up in a middle class family ...in Burnaby. My dad was a teacher and my mom stayed home to look after all of us. Four kids, a modest three bedroom home and a used car (blue rambler station wagon).

Every day, my parents made difficult decisions. They were determined to make the right decisions that would leave us better off.

When my father passed away, he left us with no mortgage on our home; no debts and he even pre-paid his funeral expenses.

I bet you had parents like that. It taught me a lot. The decisions we make today can't be selfish ones because our children deserve better.

This is an election year – you know that. But this is not a goody-bag budget. There is no money falling off the back of a truck.

Strong leadership means making tough decisions, not buying votes with promises ...

Promises that saddle our children with debt and higher taxes.

Balancing the budget is simply the right thing to do. It's what I said I would do.

And today, there are only two provinces in this country with the ability and courage to do it. Us and Saskatchewan.

Budget 2013

Budget 2013 delivers a balanced budget with a modest and growing surplus not just for this year, but for all three years of our fiscal plan.

[Slide 2 – balanced chart]

Here are three principles that guided my thinking and our decisions..

One: we're in this together, all of us, so we work together to achieve balance.

Two: it starts with me, and government. Before we ask you for a single penny, we find it by controlling spending. And Three: in everything we do, we protect families, and protect the services they depend on.

Measures to balance

Mike de Jong worked for months to find the right balance.

[Slide 3 – net economic growth]

First, the good news is the economy grew and that's proof our plan is working.

We also controlled spending to maximize the revenues from economic growth.

We worked with public sector employers and employees to find savings within existing budgets. They deserve thanks for putting the interests of British Columbians ahead of their own.

Because if we failed to reach these agreements. If the workers demanded a modest 2 per cent increase over two years'. That would have added half a billion dollars to our debt.

That's not acceptable. That's not the leadership the taxpayers of British Columbia can depend on.

If we didn't take all these steps including others I'm about to tell you, we would leave 3 billion dollars more in debt to our kids over three years. That's the choice. That's the tough decisions it takes to protect our children's future.

[Slide 4 - expenditure growth management]

Second, we've also frozen salaries for all senior managers. We introduced a hiring freeze within the public service and we're aggressively reviewing Crowns.

Health care costs as you know, are roughly half our budget. We're managing the rising costs of health care to make sure the increases are affordable.

But make no mistake, we are investing more in health. \$2.4 Billion more. To make sure our system is there for you and your loved ones.

[Slide 5 – strategic assets]

Third, we are selling non-strategic surplus government assets. This is gets us closer to balance.

But close isn't good enough.

Fourth, to achieve our balance budget targets, we've had to make some targeted tax changes.

[Slide 6 – targeted tax measures]

Budget measures for growing business

We signalled in Budget 2012 that if the fiscal situation did not improve we would increase the General Corporate Tax Rate by one percentage point.

Even with this increase, corporate taxes will still be 33% lower than in 2001 and BC will continue to have the second lowest rate in Canada and the third lowest among all provinces.

There's no change to the Small Business Tax and there's no capital tax on credit unions and banks.

Ever since the capital tax on credit unions and banks was removed, hundreds of millions of dollars in new investment have flowed into our economy, creating thousands of jobs.

Make no mistake; those who want to tax credit unions again will bring down a capital tax on you too.

Budget measures for individuals

We are also asking those who earn a little more to do a little more.

Our province has the lowest income tax rate in Canada for those earning up to \$122,000 a year – that's 97% of British Columbians.

For those of us who earn more than \$150,000, we are temporarily increasing the personal income tax by 2.1 percentage points in 2014 and 2015 only.

There are 60 000 British Columbians this applies to, including me. I believe we can afford to pay \$ 200 more for every \$10,000 we make over \$150,000. It's our part. Our fair share.

We're sun-setting this tax measure after two years. So any future government would have to pass legislation to keep it or raise it.

[Slide 7 – balance and surplus]

Revenue projections

We will lower the tax rate in two years, because we expect stable economic growth over the next three years. We brought in Tim O'Neill, former chief economist of BMO, to review the numbers...

And he is confident our numbers are correct.

Markets for key exports in lumber, natural gas and electricity will help drive that growth.

Making life more affordable for families

As the economy strengthens and our fiscal situation improves, we must strike a balance and do what we can to make life more affordable for families.

Last year we introduced tax-saving measures to help parents keep their children active in sport and the arts and to help seniors make renovations to remain in their homes.

This year, we are introducing three new initiatives that will help families invest in and plan for the future of their kids.

[Slide 8 – new measures for families]

I've heard from parents all across the province – including you – we need better access to quality early-learning and child-care supports.

It's a priority because giving children the best start possible makes a tremendous difference to our economy.

Balanced Budget 2013 introduces a three year plan to create new-child care spaces, improve the quality of child-care and early year services and better coordination of early childhood development programs.

Starting April 2015 we are introducing the BC Early Childhood Tax benefit which will provide families up to \$660 a year per child under the age of six.

Combined with federal benefits for children, this means up to \$4,728 a year for a couple with two kids under the age six whose family income is \$90,000.

Contrast that with \$10 a day daycare. That would cost us \$1.4 billion dollars a year. It is simply something we cannot afford today.

Our plan is realistic. It starts today and it grows with the economy.

And it gives parents choice.

For many parents, being their best means going to work every day, earning a living and contributing to half the household income.

Others choose to stay at home and there are sacrifices associated with that too.

It's not for government to decide how best to raise your kids. It's up to parents.

The BC Early Childhood Tax Benefit respects their choice.

You know something, kids aren't in daycare forever, and we all know they grow up in a blink of an eye.

To support families we brought in all day kindergarten as well.

That's why we want ten years of labour peace in our schools, to make K-12 the best it can be for a child.

And we need to make sure that post secondary education is affordable, available and within reach.

That's why we are introducing the BC Training and Education Grant for every child under seven.

[Slide 10 – BC TES Grant]

Starting today, every child turning six in this province will be eligible to receive a \$1200 one-time grant from government that will be deposited into their Registered Education Savings Plan.

[Slide 11 – BC TES Grant]

That money will earn interest. And if a family contributes \$10 a month from the time the child turns six, their child will have over \$4000 when they graduate grade 12. And a \$50 monthly contribution means over \$12,000.

In a country where people have high levels of personal debt, that's the power of saving.

That is a core value of our budget, of this government and I believe of all Canadians.

[Slide 12 – title page]

Jobs plan and building the economy

That's why balancing the budget is the foundation of our Jobs Plan.

Discipline has helped us build B.C. even through this downturn.

Our plan is working.

Look at California, they've recovered less than half of the jobs they lost during the global recession...40%. The entire United States...just over 50%.

Right here in BC, we've recovered 152% of those jobs. We're more than making up.

That's why we're forging new partnerships with the rapidly-growing economies of the Pacific Rim and India.

[Slide 13 – Asia trade]

Take a look at this graph and what has happened to our trade relations in the last ten years. Trade to Asia went from under 20% to over 40%.

We're less dependent on the U.S. than any other province. That's what we set out to do. Now we can do more.

That's why we're taking full advantage of the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity afforded by natural gas.

Seizing more opportunities LNG opportunity

Our surplus supply of this clean energy is going to transform our economy and put tens of thousands of people to work, all over B.C.

Think about Alberta. How oil transformed their economy. How their Heritage Fund was launched four decades ago and what it has done for them.

We can bring home an opportunity just as big right here to B.C. And our energy source is cleaner.

Critics and pessimist say this may never happen. But let me tell how real this is. On Tuesday, the Petronas proposal to build a \$9 billion plant moved another step forward in the federal review process.

That's just one project, there are multiple companies and \$7 billion dollars of investment in play.

Look at our history. We have been safely recovering our abundant natural gas – as we have done for 50 years. And

by exporting our surplus to Asia, we can make 5 times more than we can in North America.

Because the Asian middle class is growing in leaps and bounds and they need energy – cleaner energy than what they're burning today.

I mentioned the BC Prosperity Fund earlier, and that's what we are proposing.

More than a **hundred billion dollars** will flow into our Prosperity Fund over thirty years if we win the opportunity today.

That's more than enough money to eliminate our provincial debt. It's what our parents wanted for us. And it's something we can do for our children.

B.C. was debt free until I was 11. My son is 11 now. When he's 26, B.C. could be debt free again.

The Fund and all the other revenues can further enrich the services that families depend on. Like health, education,

and making life more affordable for families by reducing taxes.

Bringing this opportunity home to B.C. takes work and people with a proven record. We've landed deals in Asia, we're opening new markets, and we're increasing trade.

The pessimists say this is 4-7 years away. But to bring that home 4-7 years from now, we must act today. We don't have time to waste.

Remember, we didn't win the right to host the Olympics in 2010. We won it in 2003. Australia and other competitors are working now to win the Asian market for natural gas. You don't win that opportunity with roadblocks, needless delays, duplication, and multiple reviews.

Conclusion

We all want the money to invest in the services we need. But the question is: How do you get it? You get it by growing the economy and not growing government.

You don't have to look too far around the world to find places where they have squandered good fortune. And you have to be so careful, because while it takes generations to build a province like BC, it takes just one to squander it.

We've seen many governments around the world take the easy route – to roll out big spending programs today that leave a bigger debt tomorrow.

We've seen it happen here before and B.C. - so rich with resources - became a have-not province. And that should never happen again.

Let me tell you something, it's not good enough to tell people that you might balance the budget in four or five years. Check back with me later. If you do that, I can tell you, you can kiss your triple A credit rating goodbye.

So let me tell you a few things that I stand for.

I believe in responsible resource development.

I believe in a thriving private sector.

I believe in freeing up small business from the regulatory burden that makes it impossible to grow.

I believe in labour laws that are flexible and reflect our modern-day economy.

I believe in smaller government and a bigger economy because I believe in you.

That's where I stand. Let me be clear, people may disagree but they will know where I stand...

With you. Working together. To secure the promise of new opportunity. We can bring it home, for us today, and for our children tomorrow.

Surrey Chamber of Commerce February 21, 2013

Acknowledgments

[Slide 1- title page]

I want to take a moment to acknowledge each of you here.

This province was built by working hard, dreaming big, and sometimes making tough decisions.

It's your hard work that helps create a strong economy for our province. So, on behalf of British Columbians, thank you for all that you do.

Introduction

Like you, BC is not standing here by accident. We are standing tall because we made tough decisions. That has strengthened our economy.

That's why we can invest to strengthen communities like Surrey:

- The new Port Mann Bridge
- Expanding Surrey Memorial Hospital
- And building two new elementary school and two new secondary schools

Ever since I became Premier two years ago, I've been working to make life better for B.C. families.

And I believe creating jobs is the best thing we can do for families. We've all worked hard, together, to get to where we are today. I will not, and we cannot put that at risk.

We are at a crossroads. We can slide backwards to bigger government, more taxes and more debt or we can build the future.

Building that future starts now. That's why I'm proposing the BC Prosperity Fund. I'll tell you more about that initiative in a moment.

Importance of balancing

Someone asked me what keeps me awake at night, after my son has gone to sleep and I've finished reading my last briefing note:

The risk of what's happening in the world around us; the economic downturn that threatens everyone, even us in British Columbia.

To protect our province it's about sticking to this value. We will not spend more than you send us.

In today's world, balancing the budget is a mark of success.

That's why we're recognized as a safe harbor for investment. That's why we have a Triple A credit rating.

Balancing creates the economic conditions that create jobs.

That means managing taxpayer's money with respect because we can't help families break through if we break the bank.

Burnaby story

Like many of you, I grew up in a middle class family ...in Burnaby. My dad was a teacher and my mom stayed home to look after all of us. Four kids, a modest three bedroom home and a used car (blue rambler station wagon).

Every day, my parents made difficult decisions. They were determined to make the right decisions that would leave us better off.

When my father passed away, he left us with no mortgage on our home; no debts and he even pre-paid his funeral expenses.

I bet you had parents like that. It taught me a lot. The decisions we make today can't be selfish ones because our children deserve better.

This is an election year – you know that. But this is not a goody-bag budget. There is no money falling off the back of a truck.

Strong leadership means making tough decisions, not buying votes with promises ...

Promises that saddle our children with debt and higher taxes.

Balancing the budget is simply the right thing to do. It's what I said I would do.

And today, there are only two provinces in this country with the ability and courage to do it. Us and Saskatchewan.

Budget 2013

Budget 2013 delivers a balanced budget with a modest and growing surplus not just for this year, but for all three years of our fiscal plan.

[Slide 2 – balanced chart]

Here are three principles that guided my thinking and our decisions..

One: we're in this together, all of us, so we work together to achieve balance.

Two: it starts with me, and government. Before we ask you for a single penny, we find it by controlling spending. And Three: in everything we do, we protect families, and protect the services they depend on.

Measures to balance

Mike de Jong worked for months to find the right balance.

[Slide 3 – net economic growth]

First, the good news is the economy grew and that's proof our plan is working.

We also controlled spending to maximize the revenues from economic growth.

We worked with public sector employers and employees to find savings within existing budgets. They deserve thanks for putting the interests of British Columbians ahead of their own.

Because if we failed to reach these agreements. If the workers demanded a modest 2 per cent increase over two years'. That would have added half a billion dollars to our debt.

That's not acceptable. That's not the leadership the taxpayers of British Columbia can depend on.

If we didn't take all these steps including others I'm about to tell you, we would leave 3 billion dollars more in debt to our kids over three years. That's the choice. That's the tough decisions it takes to protect our children's future.

[Slide 4 - expenditure growth management]

Second, we've also frozen salaries for all senior managers. We introduced a hiring freeze within the public service and we're aggressively reviewing Crowns.

Health care costs as you know, are roughly half our budget. We're managing the rising costs of health care to make sure the increases are affordable.

But make no mistake, we are investing more in health. \$2.4 Billion more. To make sure our system is there for you and your loved ones.

[Slide 5 – strategic assets]

Third, we are selling non-strategic surplus government assets. This is gets us closer to balance.

But close isn't good enough.

Fourth, to achieve our balance budget targets, we've had to make some targeted tax changes.

[Slide 6 – targeted tax measures]

Budget measures for growing business

We signalled in Budget 2012 that if the fiscal situation did not improve we would increase the General Corporate Tax Rate by one percentage point.

Even with this increase, corporate taxes will still be 33% lower than in 2001 and BC will continue to have the second lowest rate in Canada and the third lowest among all provinces.

There's no change to the Small Business Tax and there's no capital tax on credit unions and banks.

Ever since the capital tax on credit unions and banks was removed, hundreds of millions of dollars in new investment have flowed into our economy, creating thousands of jobs.

Make no mistake; those who want to tax credit unions again will bring down a capital tax on you too.

Budget measures for individuals

We are also asking those who earn a little more to do a little more.

Our province has the lowest income tax rate in Canada for those earning up to \$122,000 a year – that's 97% of British Columbians.

For those of us who earn more than \$150,000, we are temporarily increasing the personal income tax by 2.1 percentage points in 2014 and 2015 only.

There are 60 000 British Columbians this applies to, including me. I believe we can afford to pay \$ 200 more for every \$10,000 we make over \$150,000. It's our part. Our fair share.

We're sun-setting this tax measure after two years. So any future government would have to pass legislation to keep it or raise it.

[Slide 7 – balance and surplus]

Revenue projections

We will lower the tax rate in two years, because we expect stable economic growth over the next three years. We brought in Tim O'Neill, former chief economist of BMO, to review the numbers...

And he is confident our numbers are correct.

Markets for key exports in lumber, natural gas and electricity will help drive that growth.

Making life more affordable for families

As the economy strengthens and our fiscal situation improves, we must strike a balance and do what we can to make life more affordable for families.

Last year we introduced tax-saving measures to help parents keep their children active in sport and the arts and to help seniors make renovations to remain in their homes.

This year, we are introducing three new initiatives that will help families invest in and plan for the future of their kids.

[Slide 8 – new measures for families]

I've heard from parents all across the province – including you – we need better access to quality early-learning and child-care supports.

It's a priority because giving children the best start possible makes a tremendous difference to our economy.

Balanced Budget 2013 introduces a three year plan to create new-child care spaces, improve the quality of child-care and early year services and better coordination of early childhood development programs.

Starting April 2015 we are introducing the BC Early Childhood Tax benefit which will provide families up to \$660 a year per child under the age of six.

Combined with federal benefits for children, this means up to \$4,728 a year for a couple with two kids under the age six whose family income is \$90,000.

Contrast that with \$10 a day daycare. That would cost us \$1.4 billion dollars a year. It is simply something we cannot afford today.

Our plan is realistic. It starts today and it grows with the economy.

And it gives parents choice.

For many parents, being their best means going to work every day, earning a living and contributing to half the household income.

Others choose to stay at home and there are sacrifices associated with that too.

It's not for government to decide how best to raise your kids. It's up to parents.

The BC Early Childhood Tax Benefit respects their choice.

You know something, kids aren't in daycare forever, and we all know they grow up in a blink of an eye.

To support families we brought in all day kindergarten as well.

That's why we want ten years of labour peace in our schools, to make K-12 the best it can be for a child.

And we need to make sure that post secondary education is affordable, available and within reach.

That's why we are introducing the BC Training and Education Grant for every child under seven.

[Slide 10 – BC TES Grant]

Starting today, every child turning six in this province will be eligible to receive a \$1200 one-time grant from government that will be deposited into their Registered Education Savings Plan.

[Slide 11 – BC TES Grant]

That money will earn interest. And if a family contributes \$10 a month from the time the child turns six, their child will have over \$4000 when they graduate grade 12. And a \$50 monthly contribution means over \$12,000.

In a country where people have high levels of personal debt, that's the power of saving.

That is a core value of our budget, of this government and I believe of all Canadians.

[Slide 12 – title page]

Jobs plan and building the economy

That's why balancing the budget is the foundation of our Jobs Plan.

Discipline has helped us build B.C. even through this downturn.

Our plan is working.

Look at California, they've recovered less than half of the jobs they lost during the global recession...40%. The entire United States...just over 50%.

Right here in BC, we've recovered 152% of those jobs. We're more than making up.

That's why we're forging new partnerships with the rapidly-growing economies of the Pacific Rim and India.

[Slide 13 – Asia trade]

Take a look at this graph and what has happened to our trade relations in the last ten years. Trade to Asia went from under 20% to over 40%.

We're less dependent on the U.S. than any other province. That's what we set out to do. Now we can do more.

That's why we're taking full advantage of the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity afforded by natural gas.

Seizing more opportunities LNG opportunity

Our surplus supply of this clean energy is going to transform our economy and put tens of thousands of people to work, all over B.C.

Think about Alberta. How oil transformed their economy. How their Heritage Fund was launched four decades ago and what it has done for them.

We can bring home an opportunity just as big right here to B.C. And our energy source is cleaner.

Critics and pessimist say this may never happen. But let me tell how real this is. On Tuesday, the Petronas proposal to build a \$9 billion plant moved another step forward in the federal review process.

That's just one project, there are multiple companies and \$7 billion dollars of investment in play.

Look at our history. We have been safely recovering our abundant natural gas – as we have done for 50 years. And

by exporting our surplus to Asia, we can make 5 times more than we can in North America.

Because the Asian middle class is growing in leaps and bounds and they need energy – cleaner energy than what they're burning today.

I mentioned the BC Prosperity Fund earlier, and that's what we are proposing.

More than a **hundred billion dollars** will flow into our Prosperity Fund over thirty years if we win the opportunity today.

That's more than enough money to eliminate our provincial debt. It's what our parents wanted for us. And it's something we can do for our children.

B.C. was debt free until I was 11. My son is 11 now. When he's 26, B.C. could be debt free again.

The Fund and all the other revenues can further enrich the services that families depend on. Like health, education,

and making life more affordable for families by reducing taxes.

Bringing this opportunity home to B.C. takes work and people with a proven record. We've landed deals in Asia, we're opening new markets, and we're increasing trade.

The pessimists say this is 4-7 years away. But to bring that home 4-7 years from now, we must act today. We don't have time to waste.

Remember, we didn't win the right to host the Olympics in 2010. We won it in 2003. Australia and other competitors are working now to win the Asian market for natural gas. You don't win that opportunity with roadblocks, needless delays, duplication, and multiple reviews.

Conclusion

We all want the money to invest in the services we need. But the question is: How do you get it? You get it by growing the economy and not growing government.

You don't have to look too far around the world to find places where they have squandered good fortune. And you have to be so careful, because while it takes generations to build a province like BC, it takes just one to squander it.

We've seen many governments around the world take the easy route – to roll out big spending programs today that leave a bigger debt tomorrow.

We've seen it happen here before and B.C. - so rich with resources - became a have-not province. And that should never happen again.

Let me tell you something, it's not good enough to tell people that you might balance the budget in four or five years. Check back with me later. If you do that, I can tell you, you can kiss your triple A credit rating goodbye.

So let me tell you a few things that I stand for.

I believe in responsible resource development.

I believe in a thriving private sector.

I believe in freeing up small business from the regulatory burden that makes it impossible to grow.

I believe in labour laws that are flexible and reflect our modern-day economy.

I believe in smaller government and a bigger economy because I believe in you.

That's where I stand. Let me be clear, people may disagree but they will know where I stand...

With you. Working together. To secure the promise of new opportunity. We can bring it home, for us today, and for our children tomorrow.

Comox Chamber of Commerce February 22, 2013

Acknowledgments

[Slide 1- title page]

I want to take a moment to acknowledge each of you here.

This province was built by working hard, dreaming big, and sometimes making tough decisions.

It's your hard work that helps create a strong economy for our province. So, on behalf of British Columbians, thank you for all that you do.

Introduction

Like you, BC is not standing here by accident. We are standing tall because we made tough decisions. That has strengthened our economy.

That's why we can invest to strengthen communities like Comox and Courtenay:

- Building the new Comox Valley Hospital and Campbell River hospital
- Opening of a new Trades Training Centre at North Island College
- Opening the new K-12 francophone school (École au Cœur-de-l'île)

Ever since I became Premier two years ago, I've been working to make life better for B.C. families.

And I believe creating jobs is the best thing we can do for families. We've all worked hard, together, to get to where we are today. I will not, and we cannot put that at risk.

We are at a crossroads. We can slide backwards to bigger government, more taxes and more debt or we can build the future.

Building that future starts now. That's why I'm proposing the BC Prosperity Fund. I'll tell you more about that initiative in a moment.

Importance of balancing

Someone asked me what keeps me awake at night, after my son has gone to sleep and I've finished reading my last briefing note:

The risk of what's happening in the world around us; the economic downturn that threatens everyone, even us in British Columbia.

To protect our province it's about sticking to this value. We will not spend more than you send us.

In today's world, balancing the budget is a mark of success.

That's why we're recognized as a safe harbor for investment. That's why we have a Triple A credit rating.

Balancing creates the economic conditions that create jobs.

That means managing taxpayer's money with respect because we can't help families break through if we break the bank.

Burnaby story

Like many of you, I grew up in a middle class family ...in Burnaby. My dad was a teacher and my mom stayed home to look after all of us. Four kids, a modest three bedroom home and a used car (blue rambler station wagon).

Every day, my parents made difficult decisions. They were determined to make the right decisions that would leave us better off.

When my father passed away, he left us with no mortgage on our home; no debts and he even pre-paid his funeral expenses.

I bet you had parents like that. It taught me a lot. The decisions we make today can't be selfish ones because our children deserve better.

This is an election year – you know that. But this is not a goody-bag budget. There is no money falling off the back of a truck.

Strong leadership means making tough decisions, not buying votes with promises ...

Promises that saddle our children with debt and higher taxes.

Balancing the budget is simply the right thing to do. It's what I said I would do.

And today, there are only two provinces in this country with the ability and courage to do it. Us and Saskatchewan.

Budget 2013

Budget 2013 delivers a balanced budget with a modest and growing surplus not just for this year, but for all three years of our fiscal plan.

[Slide 2 – balanced chart]

Here are three principles that guided my thinking and our decisions..

One: we're in this together, all of us, so we work together to achieve balance.

Two: it starts with me, and government. Before we ask you for a single penny, we find it by controlling spending.

And Three: in everything we do, we protect families, and protect the services they depend on.

Measures to balance

Mike de Jong worked for months to find the right balance.

[Slide 3 – net economic growth]

First, the good news is the economy grew and that's proof our plan is working.

We also controlled spending to maximize the revenues from economic growth.

We worked with public sector employers and employees to find savings within existing budgets. They deserve thanks for putting the interests of British Columbians ahead of their own.

Because if we failed to reach these agreements. If the workers demanded a modest 2 per cent increase over two years'. That would have added half a billion dollars to our debt.

That's not acceptable. That's not the leadership the taxpayers of British Columbia can depend on.

If we didn't take all these steps including others I'm about to tell you, we would leave 3 billion dollars more in debt to

our kids over three years. That's the choice. That's the tough decisions it takes to protect our children's future.

[Slide 4 - expenditure growth management]

Second, we've also frozen salaries for all senior managers. We introduced a hiring freeze within the public service and we're aggressively reviewing Crowns.

Health care costs as you know, are roughly half our budget. We're managing the rising costs of health care to make sure the increases are affordable.

But make no mistake, we are investing more in health. \$2.4 Billion more. To make sure our system is there for you and your loved ones.

[Slide 5 – strategic assets]

Third, we are selling non-strategic surplus government assets. This is gets us closer to balance.

But close isn't good enough.

Fourth, to achieve our balance budget targets, we've had to make some targeted tax changes.

[Slide 6 – targeted tax measures]

Budget measures for growing business

We signalled in Budget 2012 that if the fiscal situation did not improve we would increase the General Corporate Tax Rate by one percentage point.

Even with this increase, corporate taxes will still be 33% lower than in 2001 and BC will continue to have the second lowest rate in Canada and the third lowest among all provinces.

There's no change to the Small Business Tax and there's no capital tax on credit unions and banks.

Ever since the capital tax on credit unions and banks was removed, hundreds of millions of dollars in new investment have flowed into our economy, creating thousands of jobs.

Make no mistake; those who want to tax credit unions again will bring down a capital tax on you too.

Budget measures for individuals

We are also asking those who earn a little more to do a little more.

Our province has the lowest income tax rate in Canada for those earning up to \$122,000 a year – that's 97% of British Columbians.

For those of us who earn more than \$150,000, we are temporarily increasing the personal income tax by 2.1 percentage points in 2014 and 2015 only.

There are 60 000 British Columbians this applies to, including me. I believe we can afford to pay \$ 200 more for every \$10,000 we make over \$150,000. It's our part. Our fair share.

We're sun-setting this tax measure after two years. So any future government would have to pass legislation to keep it or raise it.

[Slide 7 – balance and surplus]

Revenue projections

We will lower the tax rate in two years, because we expect stable economic growth over the next three years. We brought in Tim O'Neill, former chief economist of BMO, to review the numbers...

And he is confident our numbers are correct.

Markets for key exports in lumber, natural gas and electricity will help drive that growth.

Making life more affordable for families

As the economy strengthens and our fiscal situation improves, we must strike a balance and do what we can to make life more affordable for families.

Last year we introduced tax-saving measures to help parents keep their children active in sport and the arts and to help seniors make renovations to remain in their homes.

This year, we are introducing three new initiatives that will help families invest in and plan for the future of their kids.

[Slide 8 – new measures for families]

I've heard from parents all across the province – including you – we need better access to quality early-learning and child-care supports.

It's a priority because giving children the best start possible makes a tremendous difference to our economy.

Balanced Budget 2013 introduces a three year plan to create new-child care spaces, improve the quality of child-care and early year services and better coordination of early childhood development programs.

Starting April 2015 we are introducing the BC Early Childhood Tax benefit which will provide families up to \$660 a year per child under the age of six.

Combined with federal benefits for children, this means up to \$4,728 a year for a couple with two kids under the age six whose family income is \$90,000.

Contrast that with \$10 a day daycare. That would cost us \$1.4 billion dollars a year. It is simply something we cannot afford today.

Our plan is realistic. It starts today and it grows with the economy.

And it gives parents choice.

For many parents, being their best means going to work every day, earning a living and contributing to half the household income.

Others choose to stay at home and there are sacrifices associated with that too.

It's not for government to decide how best to raise your kids. It's up to parents.

The BC Early Childhood Tax Benefit respects their choice.

You know something, kids aren't in daycare forever, and we all know they grow up in a blink of an eye.

To support families we brought in all day kindergarten as well.

That's why we want ten years of labour peace in our schools, to make K-12 the best it can be for a child.

And we need to make sure that post secondary education is affordable, available and within reach.

That's why we are introducing the BC Training and Education Grant for every child under seven.

[Slide 10 – BC TES Grant]

Starting today, every child turning six in this province will be eligible to receive a \$1200 one-time grant from

government that will be deposited into their Registered Education Savings Plan.

[Slide 11 – BC TES Grant]

That money will earn interest. And if a family contributes \$50 a month from the time the child turns six, their child will have over \$12000 when they graduate grade 12.

And a \$10 monthly contribution means over \$4,000.

In a country where people have high levels of personal debt, that's the power of saving.

That is a core value of our budget, of this government and I believe of all Canadians.

[Slide 12 – title page]

Jobs plan and building the economy

That's why balancing the budget is the foundation of our Jobs Plan.

Discipline has helped us build B.C. even through this downturn.

Our plan is working.

Look at California, they've recovered less than half of the jobs they lost during the global recession...40%. The entire United States...just over 50%.

Right here in BC, we've recovered 152% of those jobs. We're more than making up.

That's why we're forging new partnerships with the rapidly-growing economies of the Pacific Rim and India.

[Slide 13 – Asia trade]

Take a look at this graph and what has happened to our trade relations in the last ten years. Trade to Asia went from under 20% to over 40%.

We're less dependent on the U.S. than any other province. That's what we set out to do. Now we can do more.

That's why we're taking full advantage of the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity afforded by natural gas.

Seizing more opportunities LNG opportunity

Our surplus supply of this clean energy is going to transform our economy and put tens of thousands of people to work, all over B.C.

Think about Alberta. How oil transformed their economy. How their Heritage Fund was launched four decades ago and what it has done for them.

We can bring home an opportunity just as big right here to B.C. And our energy source is cleaner.

Critics and pessimist say this may never happen. But let me tell how real this is. On Tuesday, the Petronas proposal to build a \$9 billion plant moved another step forward in the federal review process.

That's just one project, there are multiple companies and \$7 billion dollars of investment in play.

Look at our history. We have been safely recovering our abundant natural gas – as we have done for 50 years. And by exporting our surplus to Asia, we can make 5 times more than we can in North America.

Because the Asian middle class is growing in leaps and bounds and they need energy – cleaner energy than what they're burning today.

I mentioned the BC Prosperity Fund earlier, and that's what we are proposing.

More than a **hundred billion dollars** will flow into our Prosperity Fund over thirty years if we win the opportunity today.

That's more than enough money to eliminate our provincial debt. It's what our parents wanted for us. And it's something we can do for our children.

B.C. was debt free until I was 11. My son is 11 now. When he's 26, B.C. could be debt free again.

The Fund and all the other revenues can further enrich the services that families depend on. Like health, education, and making life more affordable for families by reducing taxes.

Bringing this opportunity home to B.C. takes work and people with a proven record. We've landed deals in Asia, we're opening new markets, and we're increasing trade.

The pessimists say this is 4-7 years away. But to bring that home 4-7 years from now, we must act today. We don't have time to waste.

Remember, we didn't win the right to host the Olympics in 2010. We won it in 2003. Australia and other competitors are working now to win the Asian market for natural gas. You don't win that opportunity with roadblocks, needless delays, duplication, and multiple reviews.

Conclusion

We all want the money to invest in the services we need. But the question is: How do you get it? You get it by growing the economy and not growing government.

You don't have to look too far around the world to find places where they have squandered good fortune. And you have to be so careful, because while it takes generations to build a province like BC, it takes just one to squander it.

We've seen many governments around the world take the easy route – to roll out big spending programs today that leave a bigger debt tomorrow.

We've seen it happen here before and B.C. - so rich with resources - became a have-not province. And that should never happen again.

Let me tell you something, it's not good enough to tell people that you might balance the budget in four or five years. Check back with me later. If you do that, I can tell you, you can kiss your triple A credit rating goodbye.

So let me tell you a few things that I stand for.

I believe in responsible resource development.

I believe in a thriving private sector.

I believe in freeing up small business from the regulatory burden that makes it impossible to grow.

I believe in labour laws that are flexible and reflect our modern-day economy.

I believe in smaller government and a bigger economy because I believe in you.

That's where I stand. Let me be clear, people may disagree but they will know where I stand...

With you. Working together. To secure the promise of new opportunity. We can bring it home, for us today, and for our children tomorrow.

Check Against Delivery
Comox Women's/Young Professionals Roundtable
Friday, Feb. 22, 2013
Speech length: 5-7 minutes

Event: what is it?

- Speaking to a group of Comox Valley businesswomen and young professionals.

KEY MESSAGES:

- We are living within our means, just like you all are living within your family's means. And this year we HAVE balanced the budget.
- Our core value is leaving a legacy for our kids – not a debt for them to pay
- The best way to help families is with jobs, and growing the size of the economy – not the size of government

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.

Check Against Delivery

ACKNOWLEDGE:

MC Don McRae, MLA for Comox Valley and Minister of Education

- We are living within our means, just like you all are living within your family's means.
- Since I became Premier, my focus has been to make life better for BC families. And the best way to do that is fostering an environment where there are jobs. Where they can find success.
- We don't accomplish that by growing the size of government, but growing the size of the economy. With low taxes. With controlled spending. By keeping our economy and our businesses competitive.
- This approach works. Last month, B.C. was awarded an "A" grade by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business because of our efforts to cut red tape.
- B.C. was the ONLY province to get an "A" rating.
- We've all worked hard, together, to get to where we are today. Let's not put it at risk.
- Because we here in B.C. are at a crossroads. We can slide backwards to bigger government, more taxes and more debt – and more entrepreneurs and jobs moving out of B.C.

- Or we can move forward. To a bigger economy with more jobs, where business can thrive, creating more opportunities for families.
- That's what our British Columbia Prosperity Fund is all about. By safely exporting clean energy to Asia, more than a hundred billion dollars will flow into our Prosperity Fund over thirty years.
- We'll use the Prosperity Fund to eliminate our provincial debt. By the time my 11 year old son Hamish is 26, he could start a career in a British Columbia that is debt-free.
- I don't need to explain to you the importance of having no debt. But I will say this: it stands to reason that when you owe less, you have more money.
- That's the legacy we want to leave for our kids – the employers and business leaders of tomorrow.
- Thank you.

-END-

Check Against Delivery

St. Joseph's Hospital Centenary Celebration
Friday, Feb. 22, 2013
Speech length: 3 minutes

Event: what is it?

- St. Joseph's Hospital in Comox is celebrating their centennial with an open house and the unveiling of two commemorative projects – a wall mural collage a commemorative video, both highlighting a century of Care with Compassion – the hospital's official mission.

Audience: who are they?

- Comox Valley MLA Don McRae
- Jim Bennett, St Joseph's Hospital board chair
- Jane Murphy, St. Joseph's Hospital president and CEO
- Paul Ives, Comox mayor
- Larry Jangula, Courtenay mayor
- Leslie Baird, Cumberland mayor (TBC)

KEY MESSAGES:

- Congratulations on 100 years of providing Care with Compassion to the Comox Valley.
- Together we look forward to the North Island Hospitals Project, which will bring a new hospital to the Comox Valley.

ACKNOWLEDGE:

MC Steve Hill, St. Joseph's Pastoral Care

Jane Murphy, President & CEO, SJGH

Jim Bennett, Chair, Hospital Board

Father Marek, representing Diocese of Victoria

Dr. Deb Wiens, Medical Staff

Hon. Don McRae, MLA for Comox Valley and Minister of Education

- I'm honoured to be here to speak with you today as you commemorate a century of providing Care with Compassion in the Comox Valley.
- In 1913 the Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto founded this hospital to further the "Healing Ministry of the Church."
- 100 years later, I'm sure they would be proud and amazed today to see their legacy firsthand. To see the advances in health care that 100 years have brought. To see the amazing level of service you provide to your community.
- Yes, today is about celebrating the past, and it's also a time to look to the future.
- Last April it was my great pleasure to announce that your government is moving ahead with plans for the \$600-million North Island Hospitals Project, which will bring new hospitals to Campbell River and the Comox Valley.

- The new \$334-million Comox Valley hospital will include 153 acute care beds, and will greatly enhance patient safety and care.
- Site preparation for the new hospital is underway, with completion slated for 2017.
- Building these new hospitals will bring almost 2,000 direct and almost 1,500 indirect jobs – jobs that will support families here in the Comox Valley.
- That's why we balanced the budget – so crucial investments can continue to be made to strengthen healthcare in a responsible way. That's why we're proposing a BC Prosperity Fund to eliminate the debt and further strengthen services like Health.
- If we look a little farther into the future, by 2030, local population is expected to grow by a third. And in that time, the number of seniors over 75 is expected to double – so this will very much be a hospital for the future.
- With this project underway, we can look forward to the next 100 years of quality health care right here in the beautiful Comox Valley.
- Thank you.

-END-

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.

CA Days in Victoria

February 26, 2013

Event: what is it?

- BC Government Constituency Assistants' conference in Victoria.
- CAs will be meeting with ministers throughout the two-day conference on a number of issues, including BC Hydro, new care cards, PST transition, supports for individuals with disabilities, Work Safe BC, supports for seniors, communications etc.
- PCC will briefly address the conference and answer some questions.
- Afterwards, CAs will have a group photo taken with on the front steps of the legislature.
- CAs will attend question period on Tuesday – PCC to introduce them.

Audience: who are they?

- 68 Constituency Assistants from MLA offices across the province.

Key Message:

- We have exceptional CAs in every corner of the province.
- Some of you have served since 1996, and some of you have just joined us recently.
- But you all have one thing in common: you work tirelessly to support your members, to support your communities - and to support your colleagues.
- I know your work isn't always easy.
- I also know that it can be especially tough in election years.
- But your work is integral to the successful re-election of your members. You are our front line.
- On behalf of all BC Liberal MLAs, I want to thank you for everything you do – we couldn't do it without you.

Check against delivery

Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal Presentation
Tuesday, Feb. 26, 2013
Speech length: 3 minutes

Event: what is it?

- Final presentation ceremony for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medals

Audience: who are they?

- Medal recipients and their guests

KEY MESSAGE:

- Thanking individuals who make our communities great

ACKNOWLEDGE:
MC Marc-Andre Ouellette

Thank you.

We don't get enough opportunities to acknowledge the people who give back to their communities.

We talk sometimes about pillars. Pillars of society, pillars of the community. And sometimes when a term gets used a lot, it can become a cliché.

And that's unfortunate. Because the people in this room are pillars of their community.

To mark the occasion of her Diamond Jubilee, celebrating 60 years of service, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth decided it would be only appropriate to ask her representatives to honour those who **give**.

It may have been their money, or their time. In some cases, they have risked giving their lives. But each and every one of you has given of yourselves.

And you did it for the very best of reasons:
to make a difference.

Those are powerful words: “make a difference.” It’s not always an easy thing to do – on the contrary, sometimes it’s very hard.

But you’ve all made a substantial difference in your communities. By giving your own talent and resources – you have made people’s lives better.

I can think of no greater accomplishment.

And having the opportunity to thank and acknowledge you is, frankly, humbling.

So on behalf of the people of British Columbia, thank you.

Thank you for making British Columbia an ever greater place.

Thank you for making a difference.

I hope you will accept and appreciate this recognition of our esteem.

- 30 -

**Pink Shirt Day
Civil Forfeiture Announcement
Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2013
Speech length: 3-5 minutes**

Event: what is it?

- Annual celebration of Pink Shirt Day – a day to wear something pink to symbolize that we as a society will not tolerate bullying anywhere.
- Announcement of recipients of \$1 million of crime proceeds to create safer communities and schools. The grants are going to community groups throughout B.C. to target anti-bullying, youth crime, human trafficking and sexual exploitation, family violence and violence against women, and community crime prevention.

Audience: who are they?

- Shirley Bond, Justice Minister and Attorney General (emcee)
- Irfan Sheikh, principal, Point Grey Secondary school
- Student leader, "Point Grey Cares" program
- Students and staff, Point Grey Secondary school
- Crime prevention leaders, law enforcement from local area
- **MEDIA HAS BEEN INVITED**

KEY MESSAGES:

1. Bullying has no place in our schools and parents deserve to know their children are safe in school. There is a strong connection between feelings of safety and belonging and student learning.
2. Student safety is a top priority for this government. Every child at school deserves to feel safe and respected.
3. This year our government is giving up to \$1 million in civil forfeiture proceeds to 81 community groups across the province to tackle bullying, youth crime, family violence, sexual exploitation and other crime prevention issues.

ACKNOWLEDGE:

MC Jack Ferris, student council president
Principal Irfan Sheikh, Point Grey Secondary
Shirley Bond, Minister of Justice and MLA for Prince
George-Valemount

- For six years, Pink Shirt Day has successfully raised awareness about bullying – in schools, homes and online – and this year is no exception.
- Today is Bullying Awareness Day in BC. It's a day we can band together, be brave together and take a stand together – to ERASE bullying for good.
- It's a day to teach our kids about how they can prevent bullying and how they can help others being bullied.
- It's a day to remind our kids not to be a bystander, but to stand up to bullies.

- Here at Point Grey Secondary, students have something to teach us in return. They committed to creating a culture of caring, so that everyone feels included no matter their gender, race, culture, religion or sexual orientation.
- And it's because of kids like these that I'm happy to announce we are taking \$1 million we collected from gangs, organized criminals and others who pursue unlawful activity...
- And we're giving it back to British Columbians so we can create safe communities and healthy, strong families.
- 16 of the 81 grants we announcing today are for school-led anti-bullying efforts across B.C. – including \$15,000 for Point Grey Secondary School for the Point Grey Cares program
- I want to thank Conor McCracken, Claire Hacker, and Kiana Thompson for their idea.

- They, and all students here at Point Grey Secondary are a shining example of how we can turn the negative impacts of crime into something positive. Into something that actually makes people's lives better.
- Today, as we recognize Pink Shirt Day, we also launched a new ERASE Bullying PSA that encourages youth to stand against all kinds of bullying – including online.
- The ERASE Bullying strategy is putting tools in the hands of educators, parents and students to help make schools safer and a more positive place to learn.
- As adults we also need to remember to be a good example. Bullying isn't a childhood issue – bullying happens within families and at the workplace.
- We all need to take a stand against bullies in any form. That's the power of Pink Shirt Day – together we are strong.

-END-

Point Grey Cares: Point Grey Secondary School will use a range of positive youth engagement approaches to help nurture a safe and positive school environment. The project will involve a group of Leader Youth outreaching to students who are at the fringe of school community in a range of innovative and creative ways.

Components of the project include student trained and led workshops for other students, as well as positive school culture events that will take place over the course of the school year.

By nurturing a culture of caring and inclusivity at Point Grey, this project will respond to, prevent, and reduce the incidence of bullying within the student population. The project is expected to receive \$15,000 (TBC- pending briefing to Minister of Justice and Attorney General on Feb. 21 and confirmation from Point Grey Secondary School).

ERASE Bullying Strategy Details:

ERASE Bullying (Expect Respect And a Safe Education) is a comprehensive strategy that will make British Columbia a nation-wide leader in addressing bullying and harmful behaviours. The 10 elements of the plan will begin in the 2012/13 school year and include:

- New online tools, including a Smartphone app, for kids to report bullying anonymously.
- A five-year, multi-level training program for educators and community partners to help them proactively identify and address threats.
- Dedicated safe school co-ordinators in every school district.
- Stronger codes of conduct for schools.
- Provincial guidelines for threat assessments.
- New online resources for parents.
- Formal protocols to guide and co-ordinate the work of school and community partners.
- A provincial advisory committee with representatives from police, school and social agency partners.
- Focusing one of the existing six provincial teacher professional development days to anti-bullying.
- Anti-bullying and threat assessment training for pre-service teachers.

Carolyn Cross Roundtable

Thursday, February 28, 2013 – 10:30am-11:30am
Cabinet Boardroom, PVO

Attendees:

Carolyn Cross, Chairman and CEO, Ondine Biomedical

Barbara Mowat, President, Impact Communications Ltd.

Michelle Pockey, Partner, Fasken Martineau

Heather Jones - Partner, Civil Litigation, Sager LLP Legal Advisors

Patra DeSilva, Nature's Botanicals

Anne Giardini, Q.C., President of Weyerhaeuser Company Limited

Miriam Kresivo, General Counsel, Law Department, Chevron Canada Limited

Sandy Garossino, President and CEO, Intellex Legal Project Management Inc.

Marla Kott, CEO, Imprint Plus

Brittany Manulak, Principal, Concept Plumbing & Gas Ltd.

Hanne Madsen, GroYourBiz Chapter Chair

Sheila Oakes - President, Sipco Industries Ltd

Cathy Press - President and Owner, Chinook Helicopters

Diane McCurdy, President, McCurdy Financial Planning Inc.

Bobbi Spark, CEO at Spark Research & Reports

Eva Sun, President, Libra National Inc.

Renee Safrata, President and Owner, eXTEAM/Reneevations Professional Dev. Inc.

Lynn Williams, Financial Architect, The Lifestyle Protector

Jessica Germaine, Co-Owner, Germaine Chiropractic Corp

Carolyn Cross Roundtable
Thursday February 28, 2013

ACKNOWLEDGE:
Pamela Martin (MC)

- I'm honoured to be here today to speak with you.
- I've been meeting with women across the province in roundtables like this.
- Let me tell you, I've heard a lot of ideas. Questions and suggestions about daycare. About our five conditions for proposed pipelines. About female representation in boardrooms, and integrated women's health centres.
- It's been a great opportunity to listen to your ideas about how we can secure a brighter future for our province.

- Balanced Budget 2013 is part of the foundation for that future.
- Balancing the budget required a lot of tough decisions, but it's a core value for my government. It's a commitment to you that we will not spend more than we receive.
- As you know it wasn't a goody-bag budget – particularly in an election year. Instead, it's a budget that delivers a modest and growing surplus not just for this year, but for all three years of our fiscal plan.
- It's a budget that protects health care and education. In fact we are investing more in health. \$2.4 Billion more.

- Balancing the budget allows us to create the economic conditions that will stimulate job creation and help our province grow.
- Another thing that I've heard from women's groups is the need for a little help when starting a business. That's why I announced a BC Chamber of Commerce Micro-Business training pilot.
- The pilot provides management training for up to 1,200 business owners who employ less than five people.
- And make no mistake – we need more successful women entrepreneurs here. Because in B.C., small business is big business.
- We have worked hard to create an environment that lets business thrive.

- We have reduced regulatory requirements by 42 per cent. Today, BC is the only province to have a regulatory reform law.
- We continue to have one of the lowest general income tax rates and corporate income tax rates in Canada.
- But there is more we can do to keep our province the most small business-friendly jurisdiction in Canada.
- Through meeting like this and meetings with small business groups across the province, small business owners have identified their priorities: access to qualified workers, greater mentorship to help business grow, and better collaboration between different levels of government.
- That's why I'm here today – to listen.

-END-

WEB Alliance of Women's Business Networks Roundtable
Thursday, Feb 28, 2013
Speech length: 5 minutes

Event: what is it?

- Roundtable discussion with women in business.

Audience: who are they?

- Members of the Alliance of Women's Business Networks, founded by the Forum of Women Entrepreneurs (TBC)

KEY MESSAGES:

1. We'd like to include you in our forthcoming Small Business Roundtable
2. Investing in women's business enterprises is one of the best ways to generate economic development in B.C.

ACKNOWLEDGE:
Pamela Martin, MC

- I'm honoured to be here today to hear from you. I'd like to tell you about what drives me as I work, every day.
- It's not easy to put yourself out there. I believe one of the most courageous moves anyone can make in life is to set out on their own, building a business.
- And make no mistake – we need more successful women entrepreneurs here. Because in B.C., small business is big business.
- Investing in women's business enterprises is one of the best ways to generate economic development in B.C.

- Look at the numbers. More than 37 per cent of self-employed British Columbians are women. That's well above the national average.
- And small businesses create 56 per cent of the private sector jobs in B.C. About a third our provincial GDP. They are the backbone of our economy and communities.
- That's why last May we provided \$3.1 million for a BC Chamber of Commerce Micro-Business training pilot.
- I believe we can help both families and business not by growing the size of government, but growing the size of the economy. With low taxes. With controlled spending. By keeping our economy and our businesses competitive.

- This approach works. Last month, B.C. was awarded an “A” grade by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business because of our efforts to cut red tape.
- B.C. was the ONLY province to get an “A” rating.
- By working with local chambers of commerce across BC, this pilot is providing management training for up to 1,200 business owners who employ less than five people.
- That’s one reason why it’s so important to hold forums and roundtables like this.
- And that’s why Minister Yamamoto and I would like to invite a representative from the WEB Alliance to sit on the Small Business Roundtable.
- Because getting together and talking with other women who’ve already done what you’re doing can make the critical difference between success and failure.
- That’s what I believe in. But I’m here to hear from you. I’m looking forward to hearing your ideas.

-END-

Background:

The Small Business Roundtable was established in 2005 to enable government to engage in a dialogue with small business owners to identify the key issues and opportunities facing small businesses in British Columbia. The Roundtable is also encouraged to develop recommendations for small business and government on strategies to enhance small business growth and success.

The Roundtable is chaired by the Minister responsible for small business. Board members are recognized as leaders in their community and represent all regions of the province.

Roundtable activities include:

- Identification of key issues facing small business in British Columbia.
- Providing feedback and advice to Government on specific proposals that impact small business.
- Providing recommendations to the small business community on strategies to ensure continued growth and success.
- Undertaking selected initiatives to improve competitiveness in the small business sector.

Balanced Budget 2013 – Families

- Balanced Budget 2013 introduces a three year plan to create new-child care spaces, improve the quality of child-care and early year services and better coordination of early childhood development programs.
- Starting April 2015 we are introducing the BC Early Childhood Tax benefit which will provide families up to \$660 a year per child under the age of six.
- Combined with federal benefits for children, this means up to \$4,728 a year for a couple with two kids under the age six whose family income is \$90,000.
- To support families we brought in all day kindergarten as well.
- That's why we want 10 years of labour peace in our schools, to make K-12 the best it can be for a child.
- And we need to make sure that post secondary education is affordable, available and within reach.
- That's why we are introducing the BC Training and Education Grant for every child under seven.
- As of now, every child turning six in this province will be eligible to receive a \$1200 one-time grant from government that will be deposited into their Registered Education Savings Plan.
- That money will earn interest. And if a family contributes \$50 a month from the time the child turns six, their child will have over \$12,000 when they graduate grade 12.
- And a \$10 monthly contribution means over \$4,000.

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're 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.

**Prince George Big Brothers/Big Sisters luncheon
Friday March 1, 2013
Speech length: 3-5 minutes**

Event: what is it?

- Luncheon with Prince George Big Brothers/Big Sisters
- This year marks the centennial celebration for BBBSC, and they are launching their Step Up to Strike Out Bullying Survey in support of this year's Bowl For Kids Sake fundraising campaign.

Audience: who are they?

- Prince George-Valemount MLA Shirley Bond
- Prince George-Mackenzie MLA Pat Bell
- Bill McGill, PG Chamber of Commerce
- Andy Beesley, emcee.

KEY MESSAGES:

1. Congratulations on your centennial celebration and on kicking off this year's Bowl For Kids Sake fundraiser.
2. Children's safety is a top priority for this government. Every child deserves to feel safe and respected.
3. Bullying has no place in our society and parents deserve to know their children are safe. We are all aware there is a strong connection between feelings of safety and belonging and learning.

ACKNOWLEDGE:

- MC Andy Beesley
 - Hon. Shirley Bond, Minister of Justice, MLA for Prince George-Valemount
 - Hon. Pat Bell, Minister of Jobs, Tourism & Skills Training & Labour and MLA for Prince George-Mackenzie
 - Bill McGill, Prince George Chamber of Commerce
-
- Let me start by congratulating you for 100 years of the great service Big Brothers and Big Sisters provides to support kids across BC and Canada.
 - I want to thank you for the time, energy and mentorship you give to kids in Prince George. You are making a big difference in a lot of kids' lives.
 - And I also want to acknowledge kicking off this year's Bowl for Kids Sake fundraiser to help strike out bullying.

- Thank you so much for doing your part to help erase bullying.
- Wednesday was Pink Shirt Day and Bullying Awareness Day – a day to band together, be brave together, take a stand together, and tell the bullies that enough is enough.
- It's important to teach our kids they have the power to prevent bullying. They have the power to stop it in its tracks.
- They have that power if they refuse to be a bystander.
- We need to teach our kids to tell their parents or another adult they trust – like the Big Brothers and Big Sisters here today – about bullying. And we need to teach them to encourage the victim to report it too.
- As part of BC's Bullying Awareness day, we launched an ERASE Bullying Public Service Announcement that encourages youth to be helpful bystanders against all kinds of bullying – including cyberbullying.

- The ERASE Bullying strategy is putting tools in the hands of educators, parents and students to help make our schools a safer place for all our children regardless of their gender, race, culture, religion or sexual orientation.
- And we're going further. This year our government is making available up to \$1 million in civil forfeiture proceeds and we're giving it right back to 81 community groups across the province to tackle bullying, youth crime, family violence, sexual exploitation and other crime prevention issues within their communities.
- As adults we also need to remember to be a good example ourselves. Bullying isn't a childhood issue – bullying happens within families and at the workplace.
- We all need to take a stand against bullies in any form. That's the power of standing together, because – together we are stronger, and you, the Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Prince George are a great example of that.

-END-

**Official Opening of Kordyban Lodge
Friday, March 1, 2013
Speech length: 3-5 minutes**

Event: what is it?

- Premier Christy Clark and will be joined by Canadian Cancer Society representatives from B.C. and Yukon to officially open the Kordyban lodge. The lodge is a home for cancer patients and their caregivers during treatment at the B.C. Cancer Agency Center for the North. The lodge will accept its first residents Monday, March 4, 2013.

Audience: who are they?

MLAs Shirley Bond, Pat Bell and John Rustad

- Shari Green, Mayor of Prince George
- Canadian Cancer Society northern region staff and volunteers.
- Donors:
 - Mary Kordyban and daughter-in-law Liz & Bill Kordyban
 - Henry and Tony Novak, Nancy Johnson and the rest of the Novak family.
 - West Fraser CEO Ted Seraphin, Owner Hank Ketcham and Gary Townsend (former President)
 - Telus regional managers Greg Fotos and Jim Swanson
 - Canfor representatives
- Media

KEY MESSAGES:

1. **Kordyban lodge means patients and families in the north can now stay closer to home as they undergo cancer treatment at the BC Cancer Agency Centre for the North.**
2. **Congratulations to all of the partners for making this project a reality.**
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.**

ACKNOWLEDGE:

MC Lorraine Grant, Board Chair, Canadian Cancer Society, BC and Yukon.

Hon. Shirley Bond Minister of Justice and MLA for Prince George – Valemount

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

John Rustad MLA for Nechako Lakes

Cathy Adair, Vice President, Cancer Control, Canadian Cancer Society, BC & Yukon

Mary Kordyban, Mary Kordyban Foundation

Chief Dominic Frederick, Lheidli T'enneh First Nation

- There is no worse news than a cancer diagnosis.
- And unfortunately, the number of cancer diagnoses are on the rise, including here in Northern B.C.
- But there is hope. There is always hope.

- In B.C., we have the best cancer survival rates in North America. Our strategy is focused on enhancing the continuum of cancer services across all regions of the province, from prevention and screening to treatment and patient supportive care.
- Three months ago we officially opened the BC Cancer Agency Centre for the North.
- And we built it because northerners, who contribute so much to our province, shouldn't have to travel south for cancer treatment and diagnostic services.
- After a person receives the worst news they are ever likely to receive, that's when they need the support of their friends and family most.
- I'm very proud that we were able to meet that challenge, but we knew there was still another gap that had to be closed.

- Too many cancer patients still faced the added challenge of finding affordable temporary accommodation while being treated at the Centre.
- And so today I am honoured to join our partners and officially open Kordyban lodge, a bright, spacious 'home away from home' for those patients and their caregivers.
- It means that starting next Monday, northern families can now be together to face the challenges of cancer treatment.
- They will have more than 2,300 square metres of living space, including 36 beds and a wide range of amenities: full meal services, a beautiful lounge, a library, exercise facility and even wig and prosthetics rooms.

- B.C.'s government supports families and we are proud to have contributed \$2 million to help fund this new facility.
- The Kordyban lodge is an important component of the \$106 million Northern Cancer Control Strategy. Congratulations to all of the partners for demonstrating what can be achieved when friends work together to achieve a common vision.
- Thank you.

-END-

Recent accomplishments for families in Prince George region

- Dec 2012: B.C.'s government opened a new physiotherapy teaching lab at the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC) and expanded nurse education with a commitment to provide long-term funding to the Rural Nursing Certificate Program.
- Nov 2012: The BC Cancer Agency Centre for the North opened its doors to provide northern B.C. residents with increased local access to cancer treatment and diagnostic services.
- Nov 2012: People needing temporary shelter in Prince George this winter have access to an additional 30, safe, warm shelter beds through funding provided by the B.C. government.
- Oct 2012: B.C.'s government provided \$288,000 in funding for the Light Warehouse Training Program, to give students an opportunity to be a part of B.C's future.
- July 2012: Affordable housing for seniors in Prince George was increased with the opening of two new buildings that provide 66 seniors apartments funded by the governments of Canada and British Columbia, along with community partners.

**Natural Gas Industry Roundtable
Saturday March 2, 2013
Speech length: 3-5 minutes**

Event: what is it?

- Peace River South MLA Blair Lekstrom and Peace River North MLA Pat Pimm have worked in partnership with the Peace Liard Community Futures to develop a BC-Based business Criteria to help BC-based businesses compete on an equal footing for available work in BC's oil and gas industry.
- PLCF has worked to develop software for this local business platform.
- This roundtable is with invited representatives of the oil and gas industry to provide them with an update.

Audience: who are they?

- MLAs Lekstrom and Pimm
- Invited representatives of BC's oil and gas industry sector

KEY MESSAGES:

1. Our government is seizing LNG opportunities in the North, and that means opportunities for BC companies.
2. I congratulate and thank MLAs Lekstrom and Pimm, and the Peace Liard Community Futures for their work in developing a set of criteria for BC-based Businesses to compete on an equal footing for work in our province's oil and gas industry.

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

I want to congratulate MLAs Lekstrom and Pimm for their work with you and with the Peace Liard Community Futures in developing criteria for BC-based companies to be competitive in the Oil and Gas sector.

Like them, I want to secure the LNG opportunity now for BC's future. I'm here to say that BC is open for business.

We know that this is a massive opportunity, but one with global competition. That's why we are moving decisively to secure it and avoid needless delays.

Implementing our LNG plan is a top priority for my government.

It's a plan to secure jobs for British Columbians and to create a Prosperity Fund to take the revenue generated by LNG and invest it in the things that matter most to British Columbians.

But it's also a plan that ensures we are more competitive with other similar jurisdictions, including Australia when it comes to our tax and royalty regime.

Let me be clear. We want to be the most competitive jurisdiction and outcompete our other rivals on these terms.

Our plan is about attracting investment in BC's LNG today. We've come a long way in just one year. We've seen \$7 billion dollars of investment in play from multiple companies.

There are now 5 major LNG projects planned in BC, and many more possibilities on the horizon.

We have three projects with export permits granted by the National Energy Board and two of those who also have their environmental approvals. And the Petronas-Progress project is now into the federal environmental review process.

Partnerships between proponents and pipeline companies are being made to secure the routes necessary to take BC gas from the fields in the Northeast to the terminals of tomorrow in the Northwest.

We are working with BC Hydro to ensure that BC not only has the power supply to fuel the LNG industry, but also to create the cleanest LNG industry in the world.

For BC, this is the opportunity of a lifetime. It's a chance to create jobs and revenue for our families, while helping the world transition to cleaner burning energy.

And we are getting BC ready for this opportunity with a skills training plan that will ensure that BC workers are first in line for the jobs this industry will create.

Earlier this week I also announced that the BC Natural Gas Workforce Strategy Committee will release a report outlining a workforce demand forecast for the natural gas sector to 2020.

The analysis will serve as the foundation for the development of a comprehensive workforce strategy and action plan to ensure that we have the right number of workers, with the right skills, in the right places, and at the right times, to enable growth and diversification.

The pessimists say this is 4-7 years away. But to bring that home 4-7 years from now, we must act today.

Remember, we didn't win the right to host the Olympics in 2010. We won it in 2003. Australia and other competitors are working now to win the Asian market for natural gas. You don't win that opportunity with roadblocks, needless delays, duplication, and multiple reviews.

This opportunity is within our grasp and I'm looking forward to working with you to reach it.

Natural Gas Industry Roundtable
Saturday March 2, 2013
Speech length: 3-5 minutes

Event: what is it?

- Peace River South MLA Blair Lekstrom and Peace River North MLA Pat Pimm have worked in partnership with the Peace Liard Community Futures to develop a BC-Based business Criteria to help BC-based businesses compete on an equal footing for available work in BC's oil and gas industry.
- PLCF has worked to develop software for this local business platform.
- This roundtable is with invited representatives of the oil and gas industry to provide them with an update.

Audience: who are they?

- MLAs Lekstrom and Pimm
- Invited representatives of BC's oil and gas industry sector

KEY MESSAGES:

1. Our government is seizing LNG opportunities in the North, and that means opportunities for BC companies.
2. I congratulate and thank MLAs Lekstrom and Pimm, and the Peace Liard Community Futures for their work in developing a set of criteria for BC-based Businesses to compete on an equal footing for work in our province's oil and gas industry.

Earlier this week I also announced that the BC Natural Gas Workforce Strategy Committee will release a report outlining a workforce demand forecast for the natural gas sector to 2020.

The analysis will serve as the foundation for the development of a comprehensive workforce strategy and action plan to ensure that we have the right number of workers, with the right skills, in the right places, and at the right times, to enable growth and diversification.

The pessimists say this is 4-7 years away. But to bring that home 4-7 years from now, we must act today.

Remember, we didn't win the right to host the Olympics in 2010. We won it in 2003. Australia and other competitors are working now to win the Asian market for natural gas. You don't win that opportunity with roadblocks, needless delays, duplication, and multiple reviews.

This opportunity is within our grasp and I'm looking forward to working with you to reach it.

BUSINESS PROPOSAL FOR OIL REFINERY IN KITIMAT

Hon. C. Clark: If we want to strengthen health care and education and other vital public services in our province, we of course first must strengthen our economy. Yesterday the people of British Columbia were presented with a credible and a bold proposal to do just that.

B.C. businessman David Black made a major announcement with respect to his company Kitimat Clean and his proposal to build and operate a world-class petroleum refinery in Kitimat.

Now, Mr. Black needs little introduction. He's one of the most successful British Columbia entrepreneurs. He built a newspaper empire at a time when newspapers around the world were going under. Throughout his business life he has found success where others have found failure. He is not to be underestimated.

Yesterday Mr. Black announced that he had found investors willing to back his bid to invest \$25 billion in his project. He proposes to build a \$16 billion refinery, \$8 billion in pipelines and a further \$1 billion in new tankers to carry the refined petroleum products to customers in Asia.

This is a credible proposal from a credible B.C. businessman. Without question, this would be the largest single, private sector investment in the history of our great province. It would be potentially a tremendous game changer for our children and their children. Six thousand new jobs during construction; 3,000 full-time jobs created once the refinery is in operation. And importantly, Mr. Black's proposal would keep ownership of this project right here at home in British Columbia.

I have long said that British Columbians believe in the benefit of environmentally sound economic development and are fully supportive of getting higher value for B.C. and Canadian goods in markets outside of North America.

Last July our government stood up and put five conditions in place by which we would gauge support for any heavy-oil pipelines in British Columbia. Our five conditions are the way to ensure the highest standards for environmental protection and First Nation involvement possible should any heavy-oil pipeline go through British Columbia.

Mr. Black has proposed a new pipeline across northern B.C. I want to be clear that the five strict conditions that we have very clearly set out would apply to his proposal, as they would to any other. But the difference between the first pipeline proposal and Mr. Black's is that the refinery in Kitimat could form part of the economic benefits needed to satisfy our fifth condition, although I do need to be clear that although it could form a part of that, it will not go all the way.

Thousands of jobs could create a significant economic benefit that does not exist under any current proposal. As well, Mr. Black has said that he plans to use greenhouse gas-reducing technology that would cut GHG emissions from his refinery in half.

Finally, Mr. Black's proposal radically reduces the environmental risks associated with the shipping of oil off our coast to Asia. Because refined products are transported in much smaller ships, refined products are much easier to remediate in case of an incident, and these products are already very regularly moving up and down B.C.'s coast.

I'd like to tell this House that our government has been working constructively with Mr. Black in his quest to identify a suitable location on which to build a potential refinery. Our government wants to use every tool at our disposal to move the proposal forward where it can be judged on its merits by a robust, rigorous and, most importantly, independent environmental process, free from political influence.

Like our potential with liquefied natural gas, these opportunities do not come around every day — opportunities that can strengthen our economy, sustain public health care and education and put thousands of British Columbians to work at high-paying, family-supporting, long-term jobs. Our government takes the view that we should work together to address legitimate environmental and safety concerns and find a way to get to yes on projects that will grow our economy.

This project and the LNG opportunity both require leadership, and this is where my government stands. We are British Columbians. We are Canadians. We can grow our economy. We can make environmentally responsible economic development happen if we put our minds to it. If we are clear, if we are consistent, if we are strong-minded, we can make economic development happen.

We have to take a stand. We have to make sure investors have certainty, clarity and a fair process. And we have to do that not just for this generation but for future generations.

Check against delivery

**2014 Grey Cup Announcement
March 8, 2013
Speech length: 3 minutes**

Event: what is it?

- BC Lions announcing Vancouver's selection as host for the 2014 Grey Cup with the championship game to be played at BC Place.
- This will be the second time in four years that Vancouver has hosted the prestigious championship game.

Audience: who are they?

- Representatives from the CFL, BC Lions (including players, alumni, cheerleaders), PavCo, and caucus.
- Media has been invited.

KEY MESSAGES:

1. Vancouver's BC Place stadium has once again been chosen to host the Grey Cup in 2014.
2. This will be the second time in four years that Vancouver has been chosen to host the prestigious championship game.
3. The 2011 Grey Cup Game and Festival generated \$118M in revenues and \$43M in out-of-town visitor spending during the 2011 Grey Cup festivities – a return on investment of over 100 to 1.

NOTE:

BC Government provided \$2.7 million to secure the rights. (Provided to PavCo by the Province)

- BC Lions - \$1 million
- Vancouver Hotel Association - \$300,000

THANK:

- BC Lions President and CEO, Dennis Skulsky (introduces PCC)

ACKNOWLEDGE:

- Emcee George Chayka, Vice President, BC Lions
- Michael Copeland CFL Chief Operating Officer
- Senator David Braley, Owner, BC Lions
- Scott Ackles, Grey Cup Festival organizer
- Dana Hayden, PavCo President and CEO
- Russ Cowan, Vancouver Hotel Destination Association
- Rick Antonson, President & CEO, Tourism Vancouver

CAUCUS MEMBERS ATTENDING:

- Hon. Rich Coleman, Minister of Energy, Mines and Natural Gas and MLA for Fort Langley – Aldergrove
 - Richard T. Lee, MLA Burnaby North
 - Douglas Horne, MLA Coquitlam-Burke Mountain
- It's great to be back in our revitalized BC Place Stadium - home to OUR BC Lions!
 - There's so much history here. Since the doors first opened in 1983 it has hosted 8 Grey Cup Championship games - including a very memorable one two years ago.

- Who can forget that stunning turnaround season: the Lions lost their first five games – and went on to defeat Winnipeg and win the Grey Cup!
- It was a great game, and a great party. And two years from now, we'll welcome Canada back to our Grey Cup Party right here in BC Place Stadium.
- That's not just good news for sports fans – it's also good for our economy. The 2011 Grey Cup Game and Festival generated \$118M in revenues and \$43M in out-of-town visitor spending.
- That's a return on investment of more than 100 to 1.
- Football fans are a hardy bunch, of course, but it's good to know they can now have a roof over their heads if the weather doesn't co-operate.
- And to fans across the country: yes, we sometimes have cold November days in Vancouver.
- I hope we'll see the Lions win the Cup again, at home, right here in this beautifully updated BC Place stadium.
- Here's to the 2014 Grey Cup and our BC Lions.

-END-

Check against delivery

**Top 20 under 40 Business Community Achievement Awards
Saturday, March 9, 2013
Speech length: 10 minutes**

Event: what is it?

Premier is the keynote speaker at the 2nd annual "Top 20 under 40" black tie awards dinner gala presentation. These awards are an opportunity for Vancouver Island businesses to recognize their colleagues, acknowledge their contributions to the island and regional economies and celebrate their achievements.

Audience: who are they?

- About 300 members of the Vancouver Island business community, including 100 award nominees.
- Hon. Don McRae, Minister of Education and MLA for Comox Valley
- Ron Cantelon, MLA for Parksville-Qualicum, and head table guests.

KEY MESSAGES:

- 1. Importance of Small Business**
- 2. Entrepreneurial Spirit**

THANK:

Don McRae, Minister of Education and MLA for Comox Valley (introduces PCC).

ACKNOWLEDGE:

- Ron Cantelon, MLA for Parksville-Qualicum, and head table guests.
 - Roger Mckinnon, Chair of 20 Under 40, Owner of Old House Village Hotel & Spa,
 - Tom Harris, Owner, Tom Harris Auto Group and Tom Harris Cellular
 - Michael O'Connor, Senior Partner, McConnon, Bion, O'Connor & Peterson
 - Keith Dagg, CEO of Dagg Consulting
 - Ed Moyes, Owner of the Black Fin Pub
-
- I want to start by congratulating the organizers of tonight's awards – and of course the nominees.

 - The entrepreneurial spirit is alive and well on Vancouver Island. You all deserve recognition for your innovation, contributions to your community, and your leadership.

- I'd like to share with you a story about leadership.
- Recently, I was eating dinner in a restaurant when I was approached by a young man. He was taking a course on leadership, saw that I was there, and decided to approach me for my thoughts.
- Here's what I told him:
 1. You have to listen. And listen in a meaningful way, even if you don't like what you hear.
 2. If you do that, you create an environment where what people do matters. And they can make really meaningful contributions.
 3. Finally, you have to be clear on your vision. People may disagree, but everybody knows where you're taking them.
- I think that applies whether you're Premier, or in business. Because British Columbia was built by people like you.

People who worked hard for every penny.

Who wanted to leave legacy for their kids, not a bill for them to pay.

Who understood a balance sheet, and not spending a penny more than they took in – and the importance of making investments for the future.

- Entrepreneurs are community builders in every sense of the word. In this province, small business is big business. You keep more than a million people working – think of all the families who depend on those jobs. You drive more than 47 per cent of B.C. exports.
- Those are the numbers. But it goes much deeper than that.
- You help bring families together by supporting and hosting community festivals and events.
- I can tell you from personal experience, you help kids thrive – and parents stay sane! – by sponsoring baseball, soccer and hockey teams.

- So first, thank you for all that you do to support your community and our province. Because your contributions are making a difference.
- Just look at the growth that has taken place throughout the region. It's a completely different place than it was 10 years ago.
- The tourism sector is strong: Travel and Leisure magazine ranked Vancouver Island as one of the top 10 island destinations in the world. And with good reason – world-class fishing in Campbell River, incredible skiing on Mt. Washington and whale-watching in places like Ucluelet and Port McNeil.
- The thriving technology sector is attracting international companies who are making the Island their home.
- Just down the highway, the Greater Victoria tech sector employs more than 13,000 people and generates an

economic impact of \$2.65 billion. It's Victoria's #1 private industry.

- Cruise ships heading to Alaska have a new port of call in Nanaimo. We've opened new tourist centres in the Comox Valley and Port Alberni.
- The shellfish industry is taking off. It's set to be a huge economic driver here and it's benefiting from work being done at the Centre for Shellfish research.
- The forest sector is making a remarkable recovery. Western Forest Products is investing \$44 million to upgrade the Saltair Mill in Ladysmith and the APD mill in Port Alberni.
- Those are all signs of a growing economy, even in a world where "strong" is just a memory and trouble is around every corner.

- That's why my focus has been helping families succeed through our jobs plan.
- Do you know that the US has recovered 50 per cent of jobs lost in the recession. Here in BC we've recovered 152 percent.
- That's why I'm focused on seizing our future, by exporting the surplus supply of our abundant natural gas to Asia. That'll create 100,000 jobs over 30 years, and a BC Prosperity Fund.
- We'll protect that fund to do one important job for our kids. Eliminate our provincial debt. If we do that we can afford even stronger services, like Health and education.
- And we can do that, because even in these tough times around the world, we're one of only two provinces in Canada, getting the fundamentals right by controlling

spending and balancing our budget.

- This IS an exciting time for Vancouver Island and for our province. Our kids will look back at us today and say, that was a turning point. That's when they decided to keep growing the economy, not the size of government.
- Because our biggest strength, our best reason for optimism can be found right here IN THIS ROOM.
- Entrepreneurs like you will continue to play an essential role in helping us to build a bright new future for British Columbia.
- I don't believe any place in the world has more talented and capable people.
- Or people with the kind of strength and determination we have right here. I look around and see people with enormous leadership skills and imagination. I see people who know what it's like to face a challenge and turn it into success...

- If anyone can ensure a stronger, more sustainable future for the world it's you...
 - Congratulations to tonight's nominees.
- END-

BC India Global Business Forum Reception

March 11, 2013

Speech length: brief remarks

Event: what is it?

- Pre-reception for Speakers and Sponsors of the BC India Global Business Forum.

ACKNOWLEDGE:

MC Renu Bakshi

Good evening.

Welcome to the BC India Global Forum. Welcome to Vancouver, and British Columbia, to those who have come from elsewhere in Canada and the world.

BC and India share deep cultural and historical connections. We share a language, and a democracy.

Indians are an important part of the fabric of British Columbia. Our province has been built over the past 100 years by Indians who have made BC a great place to live.

It is the strength of our relationships that provides the foundation to do great things together.

The growth in India is absolutely breathtaking. It's exciting for India, and it's exciting for those of us who want to build more relationships with the world's fastest-growing democracy.

There's an ocean between us – but that ocean also binds us together. When you look at the map, you can see B.C.'s great advantage for exporting to India.

I look forward to hearing from you tomorrow, about how together we can further grow our trading relationships with India - one of the fastest-growing middle classes in the world.

Until then, on behalf of the people and the government of British Columbia, let me extend my hand to you and thank you for joining us for this forum.

Thank you.

-END-

Bridge to S.U.C.C.E.S.S. Gala
Saturday, Mar. 16, 2013
Speech length: 3-5 minutes

Event: what is it?

- S.U.C.C.E.S.S. Foundation's signature fundraising event, Bridge to S.U.C.C.E.S.S.
- Annual fund raising gala sponsored by S.U.C.C.E.S.S. a multi-service agency in British Columbia. Established in 1973, S.U.C.C.E.S.S. promotes the well-being of immigrants through social services, training and education, employment, business and economic development services, training and education services.
- Considered one of the premier charitable social events in Metro Vancouver, the festivities include a VIP reception, a silent auction, an exclusive dinner, and a concert with Anthony Wong, Janice, and Olivia Ong.

Audience: who are they?

- S.U.C.C.E.S.S. chair Maggie Ip (TBC)
- S.U.C.C.E.S.S. CEO Clarence Cheng (TBC)
- S.U.C.C.E.S.S. board members and supporters
- Individual donors

KEY MESSAGES:

1. S.U.C.C.E.S.S. has lent a helping hand to new Canadians for 40 years.
2. Your role and support of new British Columbians is valuable, and we thank you for it.
3. S.U.C.C.E.S.S. helps create a strong and engaged community

ACKNOWLEDGE:
MC TBD

Lieutenant-Governor Judith Guichon
Hon. Alice Wong, Federal Minister of State for Seniors
Senator Yonah Martin
S.U.C.C.E.S.S. Chairperson, Magee Ip and Mr. Kelly Ip
Deputy Mayor of Vancouver Clr. Geoff Meggs
Mr. Johnny Fong
Mr. Mason Loh
Consul General of France, Evelyne DeCorps
Consul General of the U.S., Anne Callaghan

Caucus Members Attending:

Hon. Naomi Yamamoto, Min. of State for Small Business
Hon. Stephanie Cadieux, Min. of Children and Family
Development
Hon. Moirra Stillwell, Min. of Social Development
Hon. Ida Chong, Min. of Aboriginal Relations and
Reconciliation
Hon. Margaret MacDiarmid, Min. of Health
Richard Lee, MLA for Burnaby North
John Yap, MLA for Richmond-Steveston
Colin Hansen, MLA for Vancouver-Quilchena
Harry Bloy, MLA for Burnaby Lougheed
Douglas Horne, MLA for Coquitlam-Burke Mountain

Each year, BC welcomes an average of 42,000 immigrants from all corners of the world.

I can only imagine how stressful it must be to arrive in a new country.

Separated from friends and family. Unfamiliar with the language. Removed from their support base – they don't know where to turn for help.

That's where S.U.C.C.E.S.S. comes in. For 40 years your organization has been helping immigrants find their way. Giving them the tools they need to make a successful life – and hopefully, help them feel British Columbia is home.

ESL education. Employment resources. Business development. Daycare, health care and seniors care. You've helped so many new British Columbians.

S.U.C.C.E.S.S. helps create a strong and engaged community – a community able to pay it forward by sharing their own immigrant experiences.

I wish you all the best for tonight's gala as you strive to reach your goal of \$500,000. That money will support programs for youth, young children and their parents, families in crisis or need, and seniors.

On behalf of all British Columbians, thank you for extending a helping hand to all those people who have chosen to call B.C. home.

-END-

Kelowna Chamber of Commerce

Event: what is it?

- Reception with the Kelowna Chamber of Commerce.

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 Kelowna region. You are providing a strong voice for this business community.

ACKNOWLEDGE:

MC Dave Bond, President of Kelowna Chamber of Commerce

Hon. Norm Letnick, Minister of Agriculture and MLA for Kelowna-Lake Country (introduces Premier)

Caroline Grover, Executive Director, Kelowna Chamber of Commerce

David Purdon, Revenue Development Officer of the Kelowna Community Food Bank

Hon. Steve Thomson, Minister of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations and MLA for Kelowna-Mission

Hon. Ben Stewart, Minister of Citizens' Services and Open Government and MLA for Westside-Kelowna

Thank you for inviting me here today.

The Chamber is an important voice. The business people you represent are the backbone of British Columbia's economy.

Your voice carries weight. You help ensure British Columbia remains the best place in the country to do business.

This is vital, because 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.

Those are the numbers. 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.

And you create thriving communities.

I believe it's important 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.

Ideas we've acted on like:

- The micro-business training pilot project which is providing management training for up to 1,200 business owners who employ less than five people.
- The new Auditor General for Local Government.

Yesterday the B.C. Chamber and our government jointly announced the Small Business Accord, our shared roadmap to make B.C. the most business-friendly jurisdiction in Canada.

The new Small Business Accord is a set of guiding principles to hold government accountable in order to create an environment that allows small businesses to grow.

It recognizes the priorities that small businesses have brought forward.

Priorities like: access to qualified workers, greater mentorship to help business grow, and better collaboration between different levels of government. Making sure small business has a level playing field for procuring provincial government contracts.

It's an accord that holds government accountable with respect to government policies and legislation so that we keep the needs of small business in mind.

Jobs plan update

Our Jobs Plan is working. In California, they've recovered less than half of the jobs they lost during the global recession...40%. The entire United States...just over 50%.

In BC, we've recovered 152% of those jobs.

But we can't risk losing that progress while the world's economy remains in serious trouble. Posing a threat to us. We are at a crossroads.

We can choose risk or we can choose opportunity. We can slip backwards to bigger government, or move forwards to build a bigger economy.

We have an opportunity in this election to make a difference for future generations like we never have before.

It starts with getting the foundation right.

Like our balanced budget.

The NDP says, 'you know, we'll balance the budget over 4 or 5 years, over the business cycle – whatever that is.

We need to ask ourselves...

If we're not prepared to balance the budget and pay down the debt right now -- when are we going to be prepared to do that?

Balancing the budget isn't easy. It requires tough choices. But we make those decisions because for us...in this room...

It's a basic core value.

I grew up in South Burnaby in a 3 bedroom house with six people in it...

A used blue Rambler station wagon...

Two blocks from the Ocala Prison.

And every time we drove by, my dad would say "don't you end up in there." I'm not sure Dad would think politics is much better.

We had a very middle class upbringing. My dad was a teacher at Burnaby Edmonds Junior Secondary for his entire career and my mom was a stay-at-home mom.

She didn't have a driver's license until I was 12.

We didn't have a lot of money, but there was one thing my parents made sure all four of us understood.

That they would have been ashamed if they left us worse off than they had been. My father would have been ashamed if he left me and my brothers and sister with a penny of debt.

When he died, he left us a house that was mortgage free, not a penny of debt on any credit card, and he even pre-paid his funeral expenses.

When I look out in this room today, I bet every one of you had parents like that.

So why is it...

If it wasn't okay for Jim and Mavis Clark to leave me and my brothers with a debt –

Why is it okay for our government to leave our kids with debt?

That's the choice we have as citizens of British Columbia today. Do we want to give our children the choices they deserve when it's their turn to run this province? Or do we want to take away those choices by saddling them with debt, by saying "we want to make our decisions for ourselves and we want our kids to pay for them."

That's not us in BC. Our way is to create greater opportunities for our kids.

And we have that opportunity today. It's the most important decision that British Columbians will make in decades.

And that's whether or not we want to bring home the opportunity of a lifetime by exporting some of our abundant natural gas to Asia.

We can create more than 100,000 jobs all over our province. Generate trillions of dollars in economic activity...

All of that, by selling our surplus supply of natural gas to Asia at five times the price we can get here in North America.

We can create a British Columbia Prosperity Fund for our children, and put away more than a hundred billion dollars over 30 years.

Because if we do that...

If we do that, we will truly be changing the future for our children.

If we do that, we could – by the time my 11 year old son is 26 – have the provincial debt paid off. Just like Mavis and Jim Clark would have wanted for me.

If we do that, we'll be able to afford to strengthen our schools and universities and ensure our hospitals are even better.

If we do that, we'll be able to debate what taxes to reduce or even eliminate altogether.

But we can't have that debate if we don't seize the opportunity today.

The world isn't waiting. There are competitors who want to do the same thing. And the companies that have already invested 7 billion dollars in B.C. want to know are we on board for this?

Some skeptics say, 'well it's 4 or 5 years away.'

You know something? We didn't win the Olympics in 2010. We won it in 2003. There's no time for needless delay.

Or there are those guys on the other side who say: 'It would be nice to sell the natural gas in Asia, but I'm not sure if we should be taking it out of the ground in B.C.'

You know what? Wishy-washy talk doesn't cut it. You can't sell natural gas in Asia if you don't take it out of the ground. And let me tell you, I am not ashamed of our world leading environmental standards. I am not embarrassed by the fact that B.C. is a pioneer when it comes to safely recovering our natural gas...

We've done it for 50 years. I am not apologetic that our cleaner energy will help Asia stop burning dirtier fossil fuels.

There is a future we can embrace for ourselves and our children. We need to bring this opportunity home to B.C.

We need to lock it up for the right purposes in the Prosperity Fund...

So that no future government can waste the money that belongs to our children.

I want to close with this story, of when I represented you and everyone in British Columbia on a trade mission to India.

Mumbai is one of the wealthiest cities in the world. And yet it's also among the poorest.

Outside the modern hotel where I was staying, just across the street, there was a row of little shacks built of corrugated steel and curtains. I thought, what a way to live.

I noticed a woman coming down a ladder in one of these shacks, in bare feet, dressed in old clothes.

And then I saw her daughter—she must have been 5 – in an immaculate white dress.

Her mother was standing below her with her hands outstretched to catch her little princess -- her eyes were gleaming with pride.

I couldn't help thinking about that mom on my flight home. About her aspirations for her daughter. Her dreams for her future.

We are blessed in our province. We have the means. And we have a chance to really do something for our kids and their hopes and dreams.

Not every generation has an opportunity like ours.

Let's make sure we make good on this opportunity.

Let's be the generation our kids can look back to and say, 'that was the year you transformed our province...

That was the year when a century of aspirations of generations gone by were realized...

Because you had the courage to make the right choices.

Let's be the ones who saw into the future, and decided to make the sacrifices necessary because we believe that we can do something better for our kids.

-END-

Penticton Hospital Planning Commitment
Wednesday, Mar. 20, 2013
Speech length: 3-5 minutes

Event: what is it?

- Announcing that the government is proceeding with business case planning for a new patient care tower at Penticton Regional Hospital.

Audience: who are they?

- Hospital board members, staff, administration, patients and community members.
-

KEY MESSAGES:

1. We are pleased to announce that business case planning is moving ahead for a new patient care tower at Penticton Regional Hospital.
2. The business case will help determine the schedule, scope and cost of the new patient care tower.
3. This is good news for patients and their families as well as the hundreds of health-care professionals who deliver care.

ACKNOWLEDGE:

MC Bill Barisoff, MLA for Penticton

Dan Ashton, Mayor of Penticton

Dr. Brad Raison, Chief of Staff, Penticton Regional Hospital (*Note: Premier met him when during February hospital tour – other two doctors out of town*)

Ken Burrows, Board Member (Penticton), Interior Health

Janice Perrino, Executive Director, South Okanagan

Similkameen Medical Foundation & Chair, Regional

Hospital District & Mayor of Summerland

- Penticton Regional Hospital has a long history of caring for families.
- Built in 1950, Penticton Regional Hospital was considered modern and state-of-the-art. But as we all know, a lot has changed in medicine and demographics since the 50s.
- The hospital was built for a population that was much smaller and younger than today's Penticton.
- One month ago, I was here in Penticton talking with physicians and other healthcare workers about the need for a new patient tower at Penticton Regional Hospital.
- I heard your community's concerns about meeting the needs of a growing and aging population in the South Okanagan.

- I committed to taking those concerns back to Minister MacDiarmid and I asked her ministry to look at how we can move along plans for the new tower.
- I promised to come back. And I'm here today to announce that we are one step closer to making this goal a reality for the families of the South Okanagan.
- That's why it's my pleasure to announce that that my government is proceeding with business case planning for a new patient care tower at Penticton Regional Hospital.
- We expect the business case to be completed in 2013-14, and it will determine the scope, cost and schedule of the project.
- We anticipate that the capital costs of the project will be shared between the Province and the Okanagan Similkameen Regional Hospital District and the South Okanagan Similkameen Medical Foundation.
- Hospital business cases are complex and take time to complete. This time is needed to get it right for the patients and staff of today and tomorrow.
- This intensive work starts now and we will work with our partners to provide affordable, high quality health care for families in the South Okanagan today –and into the future– is a priority.

- Penticton Regional Hospital has an excellent record in providing high quality patient care. We recognize that this is a journey that we are on together.
- We will need the cooperation of everyone involved to ensure this project is a success.
- I look forward to seeing the results of this planning stage of the project and I look forward to being back here to break ground.

-END-

The B.C. Small Business Accord

March 20, 2013

Speech length: 5 minutes

Event: what is it?

- Announce small business accord on Kelowna. This event echos the signing of the Accord the day before in Vancouver.

Audience: who are they?

- Small business representatives, local Media

Audience: what do they want to hear?

- Continuing support for the Accord and its goals.

KEY MESSAGES:

- The B.C. Small Business Accord is about cutting red tape, creating jobs and economic activity.
- B.C. is open for business and we are working with small and medium businesses across the province to create jobs, develop skills and seize opportunities whenever they exist.
- The Accord demonstrates that government is listening to, and successfully collaborating with, the small business community.

ANODYNE:

Anodyne Electronics Manufacturing Corp (AEM) started in the fall of 2009, when Northern Airborne Technology (NAT) elected to close manufacturing operations in Canada.

AEM is a leading designer and manufacturer of avionics, aircraft audio systems, intercoms, tactical FM radio systems, illuminated panels & display products, external PA systems, audio amplifiers, audio adapters and remote switch assemblies.

AEM is 100% employee-owned.

ACKNOWLEDGE:

MC Hon. Steve Thomson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and MLA for Kelowna-Mission

Hon. Naomi Yamamoto, Minister of State for Small Business

Dave Veitch, President, Anodyne Electronics Manufacturing

Hon. Norm Letnick, Minister of Agriculture and MLA for Kelowna – Lake Country

Hon. Ben Stewart, Minister of Citizens' Services and Open Government and MLA for Westside-Kelowna

Delighted to be back in Kelowna and wonderful to meet such dynamic and talented employees and owners here at Anodyne .

And let me tell you, you are a great example of the power of small business.

In 18 months you have increased staff by over 30% to 88 employees. You export over 95% of your products to more than 1,600 worldwide dealer networks.

You are proving that Small Business gets big results for BC's economy

And in B.C., small business is big business. It accounts for 98% of all business in B.C., employing more than a million people.

In October, we began a consultation with small businesses across the province to draft a Small Business Accord.

The goal was to create a set of guiding principles to make B.C. the most business-friendly jurisdiction in Canada.

We listened. And today I'm happy to present a small business accord that recognizes **your** priorities.

Priorities like: Access to qualified workers. Greater mentorship to help business grow. Better collaboration between different levels of government.

In the coming weeks we will implement these ideas. Our government is working on:

- Supporting a Small Business Mentoring Program
- Developing a Small Business Awareness Strategy
- Developing a Mobile Training Program for Remote Communities so they will be better able to access skills training and qualified labour
- Reducing barriers to government's procurement process by leveling the playing field to give small businesses equal opportunities to compete for government contracts

This Accord is a living document. We will continue to listen to you and as your needs evolve, we will update it.

Because small businesses continue to be a key driver of job creation and economic growth and the Small Business Accord recognizes that.

Over the last decade, B.C.'s economy has become more diversified. Our trade with Asia has increased and we are expanding to new markets like India.

Small and large businesses in BC are uniquely situated to benefit. But growing our economy isn't just about diversifying our markets.

We must create the economic conditions that attract investment and allow small business to thrive.

We are doing that by balancing our budget, controlling spending and tackling debt to make BC debt free.

We cannot move B.C. forward if we saddle of kids with debt and uncontrolled spending. That's no way to run a business, and it's no way to run a province.

Let's keep working together. Let's make sure Anodyne continues to grow.

Let's make sure other businesses, watching you succeed, have every chance to follow in your footsteps.

-END-

Check against delivery

**-18-month Jobs Plan Progress Report
Kamloops
Thursday, Mar. 21, 2013
Speech length: 5-7 mins**

Event: what is it?

- Announce 18-month update on BC Jobs Plan at NGI Distribution

Audience: who are they?

- Media
- Employees at NGI Distribution

KEY MESSAGES:

1. Our government remains focused on economic growth and jobs. We are pleased to present this 18-month update to British Columbians on our BC Jobs Plan.
2. The Jobs Plan also recognizes that government cannot singlehandedly drive economic growth in B.C., but must act in consultation and cooperation with job creators, communities, educators, and labour organizations, among many others.

NRI Distribution

NRI Distribution Inc. was established in 1997 by partners Bruce Churchill, Peter McKenna, and Sean McKenna. At inception, the company operated out of a 9,000 square foot bay with a total of 5 employees. Today, NRI employs 350 employees and operates out of seven separate facilities, comprising approximately 400,000 square feet of warehouse space.

ACKNOWLEDGE:

MC Hon. Terry Lake, Minister of Environment and MLA for Kamloops – North Thompson

Bruce Churchill, Co-Founder and Chief Financial Officer, NRI Distributors

Kevin Krueger, MLA for Kamloops-South Thompson

Delighted to be back in Kamloops and wonderful to meet such dynamic and talented employees at NRI Distribution.

Since I became Premier, I've been relentlessly focused on creating jobs and creating the conditions that allow businesses to thrive in our province.

18 months ago we introduced The BC Jobs Plan. It's our plan to strengthen B.C.'s economy – because a strong economy creates jobs.

Here at NRI, you're a prime example of what we are working towards. Over the past 18 months, you've expanded to Surrey and LA and you've increased staff in by 17%. Today you employ more than 350 people.

That's huge. That's 350 families who depend on your continued success.

Like NRI, our Jobs Plan has shown some remarkable results:

- 47,000 net new jobs since introducing the plan.
- We're graduating more skilled apprentices than ever.
- Venture capital investment grew by 71 per cent compared to the same period in 2011. That's the largest gain in the country.
- Since 2001, B.C.'s exports to China have increased by 448%.
- Over \$80 billion in new investments currently underway in communities across B.C. That's up 18% in just over one year.

Check against delivery

- And we're being conservative in those numbers because the total estimated value of projects is even more impressive ... \$156.3 billion.

Encouraging numbers to say the least. Our Jobs Plan is working. Today as we release our 18 month progress report, I'm happy to announce that we have met 11 of our 19 targets.

Since our last update we have:

- 10 new non-treaty agreements are in place with FNs Nations
- Reduced the Water and Land Act permit backlog by 50 %

And we are well on our way to meeting others.

Since release of our plan, two new mines have opened – including New Afton, which has begun production.

Three more are under construction, and six existing mines have announced expansions, including the Highland Valley Copper Mine.

We are seizing the opportunity presented by natural gas and the industry is quickly taking shape – in fact, five LNG facilities are proposed and we seen \$7 billion dollars of investment in play from multiple companies.

This is our moment. This is our opportunity of a lifetime. We intend to use it by creating the Prosperity Fund, which will help make B.C. debt free, by the time my son has begun his career.

We have gone beyond our objective of a net zero regulatory gain – in fact, we have reduced overall regulations by 9.9%

Our work to upgrade our port and border infrastructure is on target, so we can get goods to market faster.

Right here in the Interior:

- unemployment dropped has dropped by 1.7% since the same time last year.
- Thompson Rivers University opened an office in Bangalore and launched an integrated social media campaign.
- UBC Okanagan signed a student exchange with the University of York in the U.K.
- the new NorKam Secondary Trades and Technology Centre of Excellence is expected to officially open in 2014. That means students here can get the training they need to be first in line for the jobs of tomorrow.

With the results of the 18 month report, I can confidently say that we are going to meet all of the targets we set for ourselves – ahead of schedule.

We've worked hard to protect some key competitive advantages, including low taxes, a highly skilled workforce, a balanced budget, and a hard-won AAA credit rating.

That's not luck. It took hard work and some tough decisions to create and protect those. But they're absolutely crucial.

These fundamentals make our province a safe harbour in the stormy seas of today's economy. They must be protected.

We must continue to create the economic conditions that attract investment and allow business to thrive and our economy to grow. By growing the economy, we will be able to afford more and more investments in health care and education.

We cannot move B.C. forward if we saddle our kids with debt and uncontrolled spending. That's no way to run a business, and it's no way to run a province.

We are at a crossroads. We can slide backwards to bigger government, more taxes and more debt or we can build the future.

We've all worked hard, together, to get to where we are today. I will not, and we cannot put that at risk.

Let's keep working together. Let's make sure NRI Distribution continues to grow.

Let's make sure other businesses, watching you succeed, have every chance to follow in your footsteps.

-END-

Check against delivery

**-18-month Jobs Plan Progress Report
Williams Lake
Friday, Mar. 22, 2013
Speech length: 5-7 mins**

Event: what is it?

- Announce 18-month update on BC Jobs Plan at West Fraser Timber

Audience: who are they?

- Media
- Employees at West Fraser Timber

KEY MESSAGES:

1. Our government remains focused on economic growth and jobs. We are pleased to present this 18-month update to British Columbians on our BC Jobs Plan.
2. The Jobs Plan also recognizes that government cannot singlehandedly drive economic growth in B.C., but must act in consultation and cooperation with job creators, communities, educators, and labour organizations, among many others.

ACKNOWLEDGE:

MC Donna Barnett, MLA for Cariboo Chilcotin
Hon. Bill Bennett, Minister of Community, Sport and
Cultural Development and MLA for Kootenay East
Matt Ketcham, General Manager, West Fraser Williams
Lake

Delighted to be back in Williams Lake and wonderful to meet such dynamic and talented employees at West Fraser Timber.

Since I became Premier, my focus has been on jobs. And creating the conditions that allow businesses to thrive in our province.

That's what the BC Jobs Plan is all about. Launched in September 2011, the BC Jobs Plan is your government's strategy to grow our economy and create jobs.

This week, we released our 18 month progress report. We met 11 of the 19 targets we set, and well on track to meet them all ahead of schedule.

When it comes to creating jobs, there is no miracle cure or overnight success.

Instead, we have to focus on strengthening B.C.'s economy over the long term. That's what the BC Jobs Plan is all about – and that's exactly what it's doing.

Our Plan is working.

47,000 net new jobs.

The unemployment rate continues to go down.

Companies from around the world have invested or committed \$80 billion in major projects – and that's a conservative number. The estimated value for those projects is over \$156 billion.

Just look at the forestry industry. Because this industry has been resilient. It deserves credit for seizing new opportunities.

10 years ago, instead of being reliant on just one market, we diversified. We went to China. Government and

industry went together to China to tell them our story and sell our products.

They liked our story. They liked our products even more.

Between 2003 and 2011, softwood lumber export to China grew by 1,500%.

In 2012, forest product exports totalled more than \$10 billion. That's an increase of 33.6 per cent from 2009. It accounted for more than 30 per cent of B.C.'s total exports by value.

B.C. leads the country in energy production from biomass. About 1,691 megawatts of biomass electricity capacity is installed in the province, enough to power 1.2 million households.

In 2012 B.C.'s production of wood pellets increased to about 1.95 million tonnes – almost double the volume produced just two years before in 2010.

Some might not realize what opening new markets means for families throughout the province. Well, I'll tell you what

it means: more jobs and means communities can grow and thrive.

Here at West Fraser Timber, you're a prime example of example of how our Jobs Plan is working.

Over the past 18 months, you announced construction of the new planer at Williams Lake Sawmill. Today, 30% of your products are now sent overseas and you continue to explore new growth opportunities.

We've worked hard to protect some key competitive advantages, including low taxes, a highly skilled workforce, a balanced budget, and a hard-won AAA credit rating.

That's not luck. It took hard work and some tough decisions to create and protect those. But they're absolutely crucial.

We must continue to create the economic conditions that attract investment and allow business to thrive and our economy to grow. By growing the economy, we will be

able to afford more and more investments in health care and education.

We cannot move B.C. forward if we saddle our kids with debt and uncontrolled spending. That's no way to run a business, and it's no way to run a province.

We are at a crossroads. We can slide backwards to bigger government, more taxes and more debt or we can build the future.

We've all worked hard, together, to get to where we are today. I will not, and we cannot put that at risk.

Let's keep working together. Let's make sure West Fraser Timber continues to grow and continues to be part of the forestry renaissance.

Let's make sure other businesses, watching you succeed, have every chance to follow in your footsteps.

-END-

Linden Tree Place – Official Opening

Wednesday, April 3, 2013

Speech Time: 3-5 minutes

Event: what is it?

- Ribbon-cutting event to celebrate the official opening of Linden Tree Place – a new development providing 30 apartments to seniors and people with disabilities.
- Media HAS been invited.

Audience: who are they?

Approximately 60 guests, including:

- Minister Rich Coleman
- Acting Mayor Tony Tang, City of Vancouver
- Kits House Neighbourhood Association and Spinal Cord Injury BC representatives
- Architect and contractor
- Housing and Health stakeholders
- BC Housing staff

Values:

- Balanced Budget, not leaving kids with debt (Burnaby story)
- Helping families by making life more affordable
- Growing the size of the economy

Key Messages:

- Creating affordable housing is crucial for creating vibrant, healthy communities.
- Linden Tree Place is our latest success story with 30 affordable homes for seniors and people with disabilities in Vancouver.
- The Province provided \$3.7 million and land valued at \$2.2 million for Linden Tree Place, and \$5.1 million towards the 7th & Vine development. Yet it's not about the building, but how lives are improved and communities changed. Some investments benefit British Columbians in ways that can't be measured by dollars or cents.
- Projects like these are possible because we have a growing economy, and we have a plan to secure a growing economy in the future.
- We're paying for projects like this responsibly, with a balanced budget. We are not asking our children to pay later for things we want today.

ACKNOWLEDGE:

MC Hon. Rich Coleman, Minister of Energy, Mines and Natural Gas
and MLA for Fort Langley – Aldergrove

Acting Mayor Tony Tang, City of Vancouver

Chris McBride, Executive Director, Spinal Cord Injury BC

Catherine Leach, Executive Director, Kits Neighbourhood House

- Today is an example of what we can accomplish by working together and extending a helping hand to those who need one.
- We help them by making sure they have a job, access to medical care, and making sure they have a place to call home.
- But home is more than having a roof over your head. People want to live independently and remain part of the community where they feel at home.
- Today, it's a privilege to cut the ribbon and officially open our latest success story – Linden Tree Place.

- We made a commitment to providing safe, affordable housing for seniors and people with disabilities. These new supportive apartments are part of that ongoing commitment.
- And an important part of our goal to make life a little more affordable for BC families.
- They are also the result cooperation between provincial government, the City of Vancouver, the Kits House Neighbourhood Association and Spinal Cord Injury B.C.
- It's great to have partners with the same goal: to make a real difference in people's lives.
- In Vancouver, our government helps more than 11,000 seniors and people with disabilities keep the cost of housing affordable.
- Besides opening this wonderful new facility, I'm also pleased to announce a \$5.1-million funding commitment towards the Kitsilano Neighbourhood Redevelopment project at 7th and Vine.
- It includes a residential component and a neighbourhood house that will support the whole community, including seniors at Linden Tree Place.

- More specific and technical details will be available in the coming months as we finalize plans and prepare to break ground.
- But I can tell you this: this project will make a difference. It will help tie the community together through programs and services. And for some, it will be a real home – in every sense of the word.
- Community building projects, family supporting projects like this one are possible now and in the future because we have a growing economy, and we're paying for it responsibly.
- We're building supports without spending more than we can afford. We're balancing our budget and that means we are not asking our children to pay later for things we want today.
- We have protected jobs and BC's economy during a volatile global economy, and we have a plan to secure a growing economy for the future
- I want to thank all of our partners for their hard work and commitment – and for making a real difference in so many people's lives.

-END-

Kitimat Chamber Event

Kitimat Valley Institute, April 4, 2013

Audience: Kitimat Chamber members and guests

AV: None

Media: Not invited

Acknowledgements:

- TBD

Notes:

- Kitimat Valley Institute
 - Represents partnership between business and First Nations – jointly run by Haisla Nation Council and RioTintoAlcan.
 - Serves as local employment agency – recruiting, candidate pooling, skills testing, and interviewing services.
 - Local businesses rely heavily on KVI.

Values:

- Eliminating debt is right and moral thing to do for our children
- Bigger economy not bigger government
- Our generation's turn: Leading means standing up for families

Key messages:

- This is the most important election of our lifetime. Nowhere is this more clear than Kitimat, which faces a transformative opportunity with LNG.
- The choice is clear:
 - balanced budget versus years of deficits;
 - growing the economy versus growing the size of government;
 - creating jobs versus more taxes and regulations.

My vision:

- I believe we can best help families by helping them find jobs. And the best way to do that is by growing the size of the economy, not the size of government:
 - Balancing the budget and maintaining our AAA credit rating.
 - Supporting the resource economy.
 - Significant investment in skills training, including an additional \$75 million
 - This allows us to make investments in new hospitals, schools and transportation infrastructure.

Plan:

- BC Jobs Plan:
 - 47,000 net new jobs since Plan launched.
 - unemployment rate continues to go down
- Helping Small Business – 98% of businesses in B.C.
 - The B.C. Small Business Accord recognizes small business as a key driver of job creation and economic growth in B.C.
- Liquefied Natural Gas:

Check against delivery

Kitimat Chamber Event

Kitimat Valley Institute, April 4, 2013

- Potential to create over 100,000 full-time jobs across BC and over 1 trillion dollars in additional economic activity.
- Since last year, over \$6 billion has been invested to acquire upstream natural gas assets and execute strategic corporate acquisitions.
- David Black's proposal – keeps ownership right here at home in B.C.:
 - Found investors to back his \$25 billion proposal to build a refinery.
 - 6,000 new jobs during construction, 3,000 full-time jobs once operational.
 - Largest single private sector investment in history.

Contrast points:

- **Small business:** NDP slowly strangled small business with high taxes and red tape. Until 1999, B.C. had the second highest small business tax in Canada at 9%. By 2001 there were 403,733 regulations in B.C.
- **Fiscal Responsibility:** we made tough choices to balance the budget – the NDP says in 4 years, 5 years, or within a "business cycle," whatever that is.
- **Forestry:** NDP regulated the industry to death – when stacked, the NDP's Forest Practices Code regulations stood 70 feet tall and added a billion dollars of costs to the industry.
- **Mining:** NDP added an estimated 40% to the cost of extracting commodities. Two mines closed for every mine that opened.
- **LNG:** NDP would review natural gas recovery which would put investment at risk. They would be unable to power it as they would put a moratorium on IPPs and oppose Site C.
- **Leadership:** my vision is clear, NDP's is in hiding – not leadership.

Local leaders:

- You have great local leadership in Skeena.
- Carol Leclerc:
 - 9 years on Terrace City Council
 - 3 years as Director on the Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine
 - 3 years on the executive of the Northwest Regional Hospital District
 - A director on the 2010 Terrace BC Winter Games

Inspire:

- We are blessed in our province – time to act.
- This election is crucial – the choice facing British Columbians is stark.
- We believe in growing the economy, and leaving a legacy for our kids – not a bill to pay.
- Let's be the ones who saw into the future, and had the courage to make the right choices/tough decisions to make the province better for our kids.

Call to Action:

- We need your help in Skeena.
- The people in the room: your voices carry real weight.
- John Horgan said of David Black's plan: there's a sucker born every minute. I don't see suckers here, but builders. The kind of people who built B.C.

Check against delivery

**Terrace Chamber of Commerce
Thursday April 4, 2013**

Since I became Premier two years ago, I've had a relentless focus on growing the economy and controlling spending to create jobs for B.C. families.

Creating jobs is the best thing we can do for families.

Our Jobs Plan is working. In California, they've recovered less than half of the jobs they lost during the global recession...40%. The entire United States...just over 50%.

In BC, we've recovered 152% of those jobs.

18 months ago we introduced The BC Jobs Plan. We've seen some remarkable results:

- 47,000 net new jobs. Unemployment dropping throughout the province

- Venture capital investment grew by 71 per cent compared to the same period in 2011. That's the largest gain in the country.
- Over \$80 billion in new investments currently underway in communities across B.C. That's a conservative number because the estimated value of projects is even more impressive ... \$156.3 billion.
- Last year, we saw a record number of qualified tradespersons enter B.C.'s labour market and we added 700 more spaces this year.

And the Jobs Plan is working for the region here too.

- Unemployment is down 4.1% compared to the same time last year.
- By 2020 there will be 19,890 job openings expected in the North Coast and Nechako region;

I am very proud that we are getting these results together.

Contrast that with the 90's, when the world economy was booming but British Columbia was a have not province.

British Columbia had to dig out of a \$4 billion structural deficit – out of control spending that created deficits year after year after year.

Families suffered. Jobs were lost. People fled the province in droves, and investment opportunities went elsewhere.

We paid among the highest marginal tax rates in North America.

Ladies and gentlemen, we simply cannot afford to go back to being a 'have-not' province.

Today, we are in an enviable position. While other jurisdictions are struggling to regain their footing, we can plan and prepare for opportunities ahead of us.

Up here in the North, you are going to help drive it. We are on the cusp of a northern renaissance.

And the northwest, in particular, is at the heart of this renaissance with Terrace at the hub.

Look at the proposed \$25 billion Kitimat Clean refinery.

It would be, by far, the largest private sector investment in BC history and has the potential to create thousands of jobs, in your region.

That's construction jobs. Service industry jobs. Technical jobs. Jobs for your companies. Jobs for your children.

Jobs that make it easier for people who grow up here to stay here and work here and raise a family.... here.

But for the refinery to work, it needs safe access to oil resources. The opposition has already ruled that out – so no refinery if they're elected.

We're working to get to yes. That means yes to each of our five conditions. We can have the highest environmental standards, we can have First Nations

participation, and we can make sure B.C. gets our fair share.

There's work to do, but we can get it right. The first step is to support this made-in-BC project by a BC businessman, David Black.

The opposition says the private sector has a 'terrible track record' with big projects. That 'there's a sucker born every minute.'

Well, you know what? When I think of David Black. When I look at hard working, private sector business people in this room, I don't see 'suckers'. I see builders. I see people who take risks, and create jobs for other families.

That's just one. The biggest opportunity of our lifetime for BC, and for this region especially, is liquefied natural gas and we are moving decisively to seize it.

In just one year of our Liquefied Natural Gas Strategy, we've had multi-national companies invest \$7 Billion to be a part of this transformative new industry for B.C.

Why are they doing that? Because they know by exporting just the surplus of our abundant natural gas to growing markets in Asia, they can make 5 times the price they can get in North America. That's 5 times more for us too. Because that resource belongs to us, all of us, in B.C.

Before the decade is out, we'll have plants here in the north, and thousands of jobs everywhere in the province.

I'm talking about 100,000 high-paying jobs over 30 years, a trillion dollars in economic activity, and more than \$100 Billion dollars that we will set aside and lock down in a new BC Prosperity Fund.

For us, our kids and theirs.

(BURNABY STORY...if it wasn't alright for our parents to leave us with a debt, why is it ok for government to leave your kids with debt?)

Just half of The BC Prosperity Fund will eliminate our debt. By the time my 11 year old son is 26, we could have a debt-free BC.

And by tackling our debt, we can keep more money in BC instead of sending it creditors. That's more money for healthcare and education.

The opposition wants to take a pause and review how the resource is extracted. Why?

We have been doing this for over 50 years. And we have the best environmental standards anywhere.

I've got news for those guys in the opposition. There's no time for needless delays and duplication.

You can't export our natural resource if you don't extract it.

You can't leave it in the ground and create jobs and a Prosperity Fund.

You can't eliminate our debt and have money for healthcare and education by saying 'maybe later, maybe no.'

There's no time to waste in a competitive world. We are on the cusp of taking the next big step in LNG and we just cannot afford a misstep, a delay, a lack of confidence in companies that are interested. We need leadership.

We need the courage to stick to our jobs plan, that's attracting investment and allowing business in the private sector to thrive. That's what keeps the jobs coming.

We need to make sure that our kids have the skills training they need so that they can be first in line for those jobs – kids and people right here in Terrace.

That's why I'm delighted to announce \$7 million in short term skills training across B.C. And Northwest Community College is one of the institutions that will receive \$450,000.

In fact, I stopped by the college on my way here this morning, and met with students who are going to learn

how to weld LNG pipes of the future... with some of the equipment the school purchased from the \$3 million my government was able to provide the college back in November.

The program supports short term training that aligns with the outcomes of Northwest Regional Workforce Table...

... And we'll be supporting the B.C. Centre of Training Excellence in Mining, where Northwest Community College is a leading partner.

People in the Northwest will get the training needed to fill the jobs employers have available now and in the future.

But we also recognize that there are individuals who are able to work but can't find work.

Last year we launched the JobsMatch pilot program. The goal was to match openings in the construction industry with unemployed British Columbians who live in the north.

I'd like to acknowledge Manley McLachlan, President of BC Construction Association here with us today, who's been instrumental in getting the pilot up and running and getting British Columbians working.

I'm also pleased to announce today in partnership with the BC Construction Association we are taking the next and providing \$6.8 million to extend our jobs match program.

The program has been a great success. It's helping employers find workers and it's helping British Columbians find work.

But there is more we can do.

Bill Bennett, my minister for community development, has met with leaders in this region about preparing for the opportunity ahead.

He's met with Mayor Pearnarowski and council, Kitimat Mayor Monaghan and council, Chief Councillor Ross and Haisla leadership...

We have to ensure LNG opportunities become a reality and that communities are well positioned to capitalize on the benefits of economic growth.

Let me tell you this. My government is committed to negotiating resource royalty returns.

We are doing that for the Northeast of our province – negotiating fair share agreements to meet the demands that come with opportunity.

And because that opportunity is coming here, with LNG, I'm committed that Northwest communities receive their share as well.

Growing communities need resources to build strong communities. We believe the communities of the Northwest are growing communities because of the LNG opportunity.

One of the best things about all this economic growth is what it means for small businesses right here in Terrace.

When you succeed BC succeeds.

Across our province, small businesses keep more than a million people working. You drive more than 47 per cent of B.C. exports. You represent 98 per cent of all our business.

But I know you do more than that.

You help bring families together by supporting and hosting community festivals and events. You help create thriving communities.

And my government is acting on your ideas. Just this year, our government was awarded the highest mark in Canada for cutting red tape by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business.

In the 90's, 400 new regulations were added, every year, and small business was taxed at the second highest rate in the country.

This tells you what my government is all about. We are focused on growing the size of the economy, not the size of government.

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, and our grandkids. That doesn't happen by accident.

We're achieving that today because we have been purposeful, because we have stuck to our plan.

It's a plan that is premised on our belief in responsible natural resource development.

We believe in free enterprise.

We believe in building the roads and the ports that will allow our economy to grow.

We believe in training British Columbians for jobs that exist.

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

We are at a crossroads in our history. We can move forward with our vision of province. We can keep building on the momentum we've generated or we can put all of that at risk.

In the weeks ahead, you will have a choice.

We can change the future for our children for the better. So let's seize it...together.

-END-

**April 5, 2013 – Times of India Nominations
Gala & Technical Awards**

**Vancouver Convention Centre
Length of Speech: 3-5 minutes**

Event: what is it?

- Gala event for TOIFA nominations and technical awards
- Multiple events are being held across the lower mainland between April 4th and 6th.

Audience: who are they?

- Media
- TOIFA representatives
- Indo-Canadian community representatives
- Film industry

Audience: what do they want to hear?

Indian films are an important cultural tie for British Columbia's large Indo Canadian community and hosting these awards is a significant first for our province.

S13

KEY MESSAGES:

- Welcome to overseas guests, Indian film fraternity
- These awards are a catalyst for building awareness of B.C. to Indian businesses, deepening relationships and kick-starting enhanced trade activities.
- There are deep cultural and economic ties between B.C. and India.
- We want to use TOIFA as a bridge for more trade opportunities with India, and hope you come back.

Check against delivery

April 5, 2013 – Times of India Nominations
Gala & Technical Awards

- It is my privilege and pleasure to welcome you all to Vancouver.
- We have people attending from England, Australia, and every corner of the world – I hope you all feel at home here in British Columbia.
- I hope you've had a beautiful week. Canadians are a humble people, but we're extremely proud of our city and province.
- I want to particularly welcome the film fraternity from India and their guests.
- In 2011, I led the largest trade mission in British Columbia's history to India. I was so amazed by the hospitality there – we were made to feel welcome everywhere we went in your beautiful country.
- We are here to celebrate the Indian film industry, which turns 100 years old in 2013. And it's only appropriate that the Times of India chose to celebrate Indian film in Vancouver, because 100 years ago, other Indian pioneers were starting something just as great.
- Indo-Canadians have a long history in Vancouver and indeed, across Canada. We are in their debt. They have made our province brighter, richer, and more diverse. They are not just part of British Columbia – they ARE British Columbia.
- There has been a lot of excitement since we announced the Times of India Film Awards were coming to Vancouver. And looking around tonight, it's easy to see why.
- I mentioned our trade mission to India. We're so pleased to host the awards here tonight, but we don't want it to end tonight.
- India and British Columbia have so much in common – cultural and economic ties. Let's use this wonderful celebration of

Check against delivery

April 5, 2013 – Times of India Nominations
Gala & Technical Awards

Indian film to continue to build bridges between us. More trade opportunities. More tourism. And most definitely, more of your movies filmed right here in Beautiful British Columbia.

- Thank you again for being here. Congratulations to all those nominated. And as we say in Vancouver – we'll see you later.

– END–

Check against delivery

Council of Forestry Industries annual convention Friday, April 05, 2013

Event: What is it?

- Keynote Address to the Council of Forest Industries Convention

Values:

- Balanced Budget, not leaving kids with debt (Burnaby story)
- Helping families by making life more affordable
- Growing the size of the economy

Key Messages:

- Over the past decade, our government has worked hard to build new markets for B.C. wood products, both here and abroad, because this helps drive economic growth and create jobs.
- As a result of these efforts, B.C.'s wood exports to China alone have increased by 3,500% over the past decade to \$1.4 billion in 2012.
- By investing in international market development, we can take advantage of the rapidly growing economies in the Asia Pacific – and help keep B.C. sawmills open and protect the thousands of jobs that depend on B.C.'s forest economy.
- And by investing in B.C.'s Wood First program – which promotes wood as a preferred building material – we are not only building a new market for our wood products, but advancing B.C.'s reputation as a global leader in wood innovation.

ACKNOWLEDGE:
TBD

I am happy to be here today at the annual Council of Forestry Industries Convention.

COFI and the businesses you lead have helped build the province.

Our province is better because of your hard work and determination.

The story of BC's forestry industry through this decade is one of resilience and renewal.

You have been hit by unforeseeable impacts – the pine beetle, the US housing crash – but you have been resilient and innovative. BC's forestry industry is growing again.

Without it there would be no forest industry. Instead, today across BC, there are more than 250 mills that communities right across the province depend on.

Today across BC, there are more than 250 mills that communities across BC depend on.

You have truly made forestry a sunrise industry in BC. When you put your time and your effort and your money and your dreams into your business, you have the chance to make the most of it.

The Plan

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

Pat Bell and I stood together in Prince Rupert about 18 months ago and launched our BC Jobs Plan.

We talked about our goal to do everything we could to create jobs here in BC. Because we stuck to the plan we are getting remarkable results.

- 47,000 net new jobs.

- Venture capital investment grew by 71% compared to the same period in 2011, the largest gain in the country.
- Trade with China is up nearly 25%
- \$80 billion in projects currently underway
- Building permits at pre-downturn levels
- 2012 forest product exports up from the year before
- forest manufacturing sales are up 23% from 2009
- wood pellets production increased to almost double the volume produced in 2010
- Jobs in the forest industry are growing!

Our plan is working. Steve Thompson is making sure that forestry ideas and opportunities are rooted in our jobs plan.

BC's economy is on the right track. Contrast that with the 90's, when the world economy was booming but British Columbia was a have not province.

British Columbia had to dig out of a \$4 billion structural deficit – out of control spending that created deficits year after year after year.

Families suffered. Jobs were lost. People fled the province in droves, and investment opportunities went elsewhere.

We paid among the highest marginal tax rates in North America. Ladies and gentlemen, we simply cannot afford to go back to being a 'have-not' province.

This truly is BC's moment... There's no time to waste in a competitive world. We are on the cusp of great economic growth if we stick to our plan.

Forestry, LNG, mining, technology... there is great opportunity ahead and we just cannot afford a misstep, a delay, a lack of confidence, a return to mountains of regulation, high taxes, deficits. We need leadership.

We need to keep attracting investment and allowing business to thrive. That's what keeps the jobs coming.

Our province must remain a safe, secure place where you can get a return on your investment.

A province where we balance budgets, where we maintain a hard earned AAA credit rating, where we keep taxes the lowest in North America.

Growing our economy, supporting job creators, control government spending... add them together and it gives us the potential to take the next big step for our province... paying and eliminating debt.

It's the right and moral thing to do.

(BURNABY STORY...if it wasn't alright for our parents to leave us with a debt, why is it ok for government to leave your kids with debt?)

Forestry industry

Eliminating debt... this is something we should commit ourselves to. But it depends on growing the economy... on government getting the conditions right so that you can

thrive and do your best for your employees and the communities that depend on you.

Opening up new markets in Asia for BC wood products has helped our forestry industry gain momentum.

We knew that diversifying our markets would not only reduce the risks of relying on one customer, but it was also how we could grow and expand our industry.

And deciding instead of relying on one market for the export of our wood products, this government decided 10 years ago to diversify. And we've done it.

The results of our efforts to develop the Chinese market are nothing short of staggering. Between 2003 and 2011, softwood lumber exports to China grew 1500 per cent to a total of nearly \$1.1 Billion.

Last year, we saw the exponential growth in our exports to China level off somewhat, while our exports to the US increased over 20% as their housing market recovered. We also saw lumber prices grow stronger.

This means no softwood lumber export tax and more money for BC companies to re-invest in their operations and support BC Jobs.

They said we were crazy to go to China 10 years ago, but look where we are today. Now the US is rebounding and China continues to grow.

This was not by accident. It is the result a purposeful effort, a plan that brought everyone together to work collaboratively. That plan worked and it is the blueprint for diversifying our markets.

Today, we want to maintain that momentum by repeating the success we had in China in India – with its booming middle class.

Those are people that are going to want wood. Those are people that are going to have money in their pocket to be able to spend on the products that we produce here in British Columbia.

Exactly what's happened in China is going to happen in India, and we are going to follow exactly the same plan: to get in early, to tell them our story, and to get into that market before our competitors get there first.

Mike de Jong officially opened the Forestry Innovation Investment Office in Mumbai so we can seize more trade opportunities. We have the wood products they need to build their growing nation.

Today I'm happy to announce an \$8.4 million to continue to build new markets for B.C. wood products at home and around the world, including China and India.

\$6 million will be directed to associations that currently operate market development programs in these major markets.

\$2.4 million will be directed to B.C.'s Wood First program which promotes the use of wood as a preferred building material in mid-rise and non-residential construction.

Look How Far Forestry Has Come

BC's forestry sector has come a long way over the past decade. Just look back to 2000:

- our forestry exports were largely in one export basket; the United States.
- there was a cumbersome forest practices code that meant for every worker in the field you had to have 5 guys in the office
- wood was restricted from flowing to its highest and best use

Over the last 12 years, we have adjusted government policy to enhance competitiveness, and keep people working in the woods and in the mills.

That's in large part thanks to you in this room. You have told us what you need to lay the bedrock foundation of an unshakable forest industry and we've listened.

We've made our forestry industry more competitive by:

- introducing a market-based pricing system
- removing regulatory barriers that prevented timber from flowing to its highest and best use
- we now have a results-based forest practices framework that upholds high environmental standards
- introducing over 120 tax changes to help individuals and industry, including a \$24M school property tax cut resulting in \$71 million in annual savings to industry.

Years of hard work and collaboration and innovation has meant that even when the industry is down, even an American housing crash can't deliver a knock-out punch.

Innovation

And so now, while other jurisdictions are struggling to regain their footing, we are in a position to think about how to stay on the cutting edge and stay ahead of the market.

That's the kind of work that's going on out at UBC at the Centre for Advanced Wood Processing.

That's the kind of work that's going on in all the biomass production. B.C. leads the country. About 1,691 megawatts of biomass electricity capacity is installed in the province, enough to power 1.2 million households.

That's the kind of work that's going on with cross-laminated timber products. They are been compared to the strength of concrete – except it's up to six times lighter, more versatile and stable.

And the Wood Innovation Design Centre is one step closer to construction. Once built, it will showcase BC's expertise and global reputation as a leader in wood construction and design, and engineered wood products.

Your determination has changed the worldview of what forestry is because this province have nothing less than the best environmental practices around forestry and logging.

We are proof that you can be environmentally rigorous, that the industry that works to take trees out of the forest has the best interest of communities at heart.

We are the example that you can do all that and still make a living. Around the world, attitudes are changing because your hard work proved the critics wrong.

Conclusion

There is a future for your kids in this industry; if that's the path they want to follow. 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, 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 responsible natural resource development.

We believe in free enterprise. We believe that BC forestry is a sunrise industry.

We believe in building the roads and the ports that will allow our economy to grow. We believe in keeping taxes low, investor confidence high and balancing our budget.

But we are at a crossroads in our history. We can move forward with our vision of province. We can keep building on the momentum we've generated in this sunrise industry or we can put all of that at risk.

In the weeks ahead, British Columbians will have a choice. We can change the future for our children for the better. So let's seize it...together.

-END-

**Vancouver Chinatown Lions Club
Medal of Merit Fundraising Dinner
Friday, Apr. 5, 2013
Speech length: 3 minutes**

Event: what is it?

- Annual Vancouver Chinatown Lions Club Medal of Merit Award Fundraising Gala at the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver honouring Francesco Aquilini.

Audience: who are they?

- Chinatown Lions Club president, Lawrence Tam (TBC)
- Chinatown Lions Club chairperson, Dennis Drummond
- Patti Hill, PID Edmonton Lions representative
- Lions Club members, donors
- Francesco Aquilini, Medal of Merit recipient, is the managing director of Vancouver-based Aquilini Investment Group, the parent-company of several diverse subsidiaries. The company is best known for its ownership of the Vancouver Canucks and Rogers Arena, where he sits as chairman and NHL governor.

Values:

- **Balanced Budget, not leaving kids with debt (Burnaby story)**
- **Helping families by making life more affordable**
- **Growing the size of the economy**

KEY MESSAGES:

1. Francesco Aquilini is a role model of what hard work and dedication can achieve for all British Columbians.

-END-

- Mr. Aquilini's story is a quintessential first-generation Canadian story: son of an immigrant father, Luigi, who built Aquilini Investment Group with grit and determination, so his sons could enjoy a better life.
- And what could be more Canadian than owning your own hockey team?
- So by 2006, the Aquilinis purchased Orca Bay Sports and Entertainment, becoming owners of the Vancouver Canucks and Rogers arena where Francesco sits as chairman and NHL governor.
- The Aquilini family have strong roots in this city and believe in giving back – the proof is in their work on behalf of many worthwhile community and charitable causes, such as the Canucks Autism Network.
- He is not only talking the talk, Francesco walking the walk when it comes to being accountable to future generations by protecting and preserving the environment...
- Which is why he serves as the chair and primary sponsor of the Italian Gardens at Vancouver's Hastings Park, and helped created the Aquilini Land Conservancy, a 100-hectare nature preserve in the Fraser Valley.
- Francesco Aquilini is a role model of what hard work and dedication can achieve, and on behalf of all British Columbians, congratulations on this Medal of Merit.

-END-