

## Kamloops Jobs Event

Location: Panorama Room, International Building, Thompson Rivers University  
Kamloops, BC

**Event Summary:** Premier will outline a key piece of the BC Jobs Plan.

**Key Message:** By sharing our resources, sharing our knowledge and sharing our technology, we will help create the jobs that will build a strong future for our province.

**Action/Visual:** LCD TV with new branding/logo, class of international and Aboriginal students surrounding Premier, flags from all the countries that TRU hosts students from, panorama view of Kamloops/Thompson River

**Audience:** local jobs stakeholders, First Nations, Mayor, TRU reps, class of international and Aboriginal students at TRU

**Dress:** Business Casual

**Date:** Monday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011

**Start Time:** 12:30pm

Time	Event Itinerary
11:55am	Premier arrives at International Building on TRU campus in room IB 3007 for pre-brief with <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minister Pat Bell</li> <li>Minister Yamamoto</li> </ul>
12:10pm	Minister Bell and Minister Yamamoto make their way to the Panorama Room to greet guests as they arrive.
12:15pm	Premier meets in room IB 3007 with Kamloops Indian Band Chief Shane Gottfriedson.
12:30pm	Premier makes her way to the Panorama Room to deliver speech
12:31pm	MC Minister Yamamoto make opening remarks and introduces the Premier
12:32pm	Premier speaks
12:44pm	Minister Yamamoto thanks the Premier for her remarks and introduced Kamloops Indian Band Chief Shane Gottfriedson
12:45pm	Chief Gottfriedson speaks about the importance of this announcement to Aboriginal students and youth
12:47pm	Minister Yamamoto thanks Chief Gottfriedson and introduces Thompson Rivers University President Alan Shaver
12:48 pm	Alan Shaver speaks about the importance of the announcement to International Students, the University and the provincial economy
12:50 pm	Minister Yamamoto thanks Alan Shaver and makes closing remarks
12:51 pm	Premier takes questions from the media moderated by Chris Olsen
1:00 pm	Premier and Minister Yamamoto meet with TRU Student Union
1:15pm	Premier departs

### MLAs in attendance:

Pat Bell, Minister of Jobs Tourism and Innovation

Naomi Yamamoto, Minister of Advanced Education

EVENT COORDINATOR – Stacie Dley

CELL:

s.17

**Contact names and telephone numbers:**

Chris Seguin..... 250-574-0474

Materials	Required	Received	Additional Notes
Speaking Notes	Yes		
Q&A	Yes		
Backgrounder	Yes		

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## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
2011PREM0112-001182  
Sept. 20, 2011

Office of the Premier  
Ministry of Advanced Education  
Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Innovation

### **B.C. maps growth through global education, skills training**

KAMLOOPS – As part of ‘Canada Starts Here: The B.C. Jobs Plan’, to be released Thursday, Premier Christy Clark announced key steps to increase the number of post-secondary students from other countries studying in B.C.

She also announced how the Province will work with partners to ensure education and training are offered to British Columbians so they can work in the regions where they live and study.

“International students who study in B.C. create thousands of jobs and bring millions of dollars into local economies,” said Clark. “Our universities are job creators. We are setting clear targets to dramatically increase the number of international students coming to B.C. These students will also help build strong relationships between B.C., Canada and the rest of the world.”

Under the Jobs Plan, the Province is setting a goal of increasing the number of international students by 50 percent over four years. International students in B.C. currently generate 22,000 jobs and bring an estimated \$1.25 billion into the provincial economy. Each 10 per cent increase translates into an estimated 1,800 new jobs and a \$100-million boost to the provincial GDP.

To achieve this goal the Province will:

- Create an international education council to help build strong relationships in both existing and emerging economies, like China, India, Brazil and Saudi Arabia.
- Leverage B.C.’s trade offices to help connect international students to B.C.’s educational opportunities.
- Work with communities to prepare them to welcome students from abroad.
- Strengthen the Province’s Education Quality Assurance.
- Send more B.C. students overseas to prepare them to work in a global economy.

“Our educational institutions are renowned for their quality, which is what drives nearly 94,000 students a year to B.C. to further their education,” said Advanced Education Minister Naomi Yamamoto. “We are currently engaging with institutions and communities on a more targeted, co-ordinated and strategic approach that takes advantage of the growth opportunities and maximizes the economic, social and cultural benefits for B.C. communities to remain successful in what is a hugely competitive environment.”

"As a university with nearly two decades' experience, and a student population that reaches every corner of the globe, we know how important having solid international relationships are to building a culturally diverse and stimulating educational experience for all our students," said Alan Shaver, president of Thompson Rivers University. "It's encouraging the Province is taking a leadership role on international education – a strong partnership going forward that works towards top-quality education and good international relationships will position B.C.'s universities and colleges well in an increasingly competitive world."

"TRU and the community of Kamloops have worked together to build a Canadian success story in International Education," said Environment Minister and Kamloops-North Thompson MLA, Terry Lake. "As mayor, I travelled to China on a number of occasions on behalf of TRU and they have been extremely successful, developing relationships with many institutions in close to 100 countries."

"The lessons learned from TRU's success will be valuable as the Province seeks to grow our international education programs," said Kamloops-South Thompson MLA Kevin Krueger. "We've all seen the benefits of international education here in Kamloops and this co-ordinated strategy will help us meet the labour demands ahead and help grow our economy."

A full International Education Strategy will be released later this year.

Under the B.C. Jobs Plan, the Province is also taking a multi-pronged approach to ensure funds are spent so that British Columbians get the education and skills training they need to allow them to work and prosper in their home communities. Currently, post-secondary education funding amounts to nearly \$2 billion annually and skills development/ job training receives over \$500 million annually.

"Under the B.C. Jobs Plan, the Province will ensure funds being spent annually on labour market and training programs are better targeted to meeting regional and industry needs," said Clark. "This is part of our commitment to ensure British Columbians are able to train and work in the communities where they live."

The Province will:

- Create Regional Workforce Tables as a new platform for educators, industry, employers, local chambers of commerce, labour and others to come together to plan how best to align training programs to meet regional needs. Their input will inform how the Province delivers regionally based skills development programs, including \$15 million to further support regional post-secondary institutions in addressing local labour needs.
- Work in partnership with industry to ensure job demands in key sectors are met – in areas such as forestry, mining, tourism, technology, transportation, agri-foods, services and others. Up to \$6 million will help sectors identify their skills and workforce needs.
- Hold a major conference in the coming months to bring together a wide range of stakeholders to explore ways to meet industry apprenticeship needs.

B.C. is poised to attract new investment into our economy, creating and protecting jobs for families in every region. This is at the heart of 'Canada Starts Here: The B.C. Jobs Plan'. The plan has three pillars to help us deal with today's economic uncertainty and emerge from it stronger than ever:

- Expanding markets for B.C. products and services, particularly in Asia.
- Strengthening our infrastructure to get our goods to market.
- Working with employers and communities to enable job creation across B.C.

To accelerate growth, the B.C. Jobs Plan also leverages the strengths of our most competitive sectors – resource, knowledge and infrastructure – to bring new dollars into our economy from our most important trading partners.

Clark will announce the full B.C. Jobs Plan on Thursday.

A backgrounder follows.

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# BACKGROUNDER 1

For Immediate Release  
2011PREM0112-001182  
Sept. 20, 2011

Office of the Premier  
Ministry of Advanced Education  
Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Innovation

## **International education brings benefits to B.C.**

### **Strategic focus to international education:**

The Province's International Education Strategy will provide social and economic benefits by leveraging decades of experience and best practices to:

- Build on existing long-term relationships with key countries, like China, Japan and Korea, and target emerging economies, like India, Brazil and Saudi Arabia, to ensure a diversity of students choose British Columbia as their preferred place to study.
- Develop strategies to more effectively target international students to study in specific in-demand fields in B.C., such as the trades, research-graduates and health care.
- Work with institutions, and their home communities, to ensure they are welcoming and have the tools necessary to support the needs of international students.
- Take a leadership role amongst provinces, and work collaboratively with the federal government, to encourage a national approach to international education and to remove hurdles allowing more international students to come to B.C. and stay and work here once they graduate.
- Expand and strengthen our focus on Education Quality Assurance, a designation which helps both international and domestic students determine which schools meet or exceed established quality assurance standards.
- Develop an international education council and, through use of B.C.'s international trade offices and an online gateway offering a no-wrong-door approach to key information, prospective B.C. students will be able to connect with B.C. education opportunities and further advance the strategy.
- More effectively encourage students who attend and receive Dogwood diplomas in international schools, and in B.C. classrooms, to choose B.C. post secondary institutions to continue their education.
- Encourage study abroad opportunities, including exchanges, for B.C. students and promote international partnerships, to ensure our students are graduating with international competencies demanded by the global economy.

Government is currently engaging with institutions and local governments on the strategy, which is expected to be finalized this winter.

### **B.C. as an international education destination:**

British Columbia has become one of the world's most popular destinations for international students, with 94,000 people choosing to study in B.C. annually. The Province now hosts about 30 per cent of all international students living in Canada.

- The top five countries sending students to B.C. to take post-secondary classes are: China (12,500), Japan (2,700), Saudi Arabia (2,600), Korea (2,600) and the U.S. (2,300).
- The top five countries sending students to study at private language schools in B.C. are: Korea (9,200), Japan (7,600), Brazil (4,700), Saudi Arabia (4,000) and Mexico (3,900).
- The top five countries whose students are enrolled in B.C.'s elementary and secondary schools are: Korea (6,100), China (1,900), Japan (800), Taiwan (700) and Germany (700).
- The top five countries with students attending all school types, from K-12 to post secondary and language schools: Korea (17,900), China (15,400), Japan (11,100), Saudi Arabia (6,600) and Brazil (5,500)

### **International education as an economic driver:**

International education is helping to drive B.C.'s economy, creating an estimated 22,000 jobs and \$1.25 billion in GDP. These benefits are felt regionally, for example, the total direct economic impact of all types of international students in:

- Mainland/Southwest – more than \$950 million in GDP and over 17,000 jobs.
- Vancouver Island/Coast – more than \$125 million in GDP and approximately 2,000 jobs.
- Southern Interior – more than \$136 million in GDP and over 2,000 jobs.
- Northern B.C. – more than \$16.5 million in GDP and about 250 jobs.

On a local level:

- Thompson Rivers University, in the Interior, had 1,460 international students last year, contributing \$88 million to Kamloops' economy each year.
- College of the Rockies, in the Kootenays, had 227 international students last year and their presence generated over \$3.2 million for the local economy.

By the numbers:

- \$1.8 billion – the amount international students spent in B.C. in 2010.
- \$1.25 billion – the amount international education contributed to B.C.'s GDP in 2010.
- \$70 million – the estimated revenue to government in 2010 from international education.
- 22,000 – the number of jobs generated as a result of international education in B.C.
- 160 – the number of countries with students taking post-secondary courses in B.C.

- 70 per cent - the number of international students in B.C. who come from the Asia-Pacific.
- 3.3 million – the current number of internationally mobile students worldwide.
- 7.2 million – the number of international students expected globally by 2025.

Projected benefits by the numbers:

- 1,800 – the number of new jobs estimated to be created in B.C., if international student enrolment were to increase by ten per cent alone.
- \$100 million – the projected incremental increase in B.C.'s GDP, should international student enrolment increase by ten per cent.
- \$6 million – the amount in additional government revenue that could be generated from a ten per cent increase in international students.

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## BACKGROUND 2

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Office of the Premier  
Ministry of Advanced Education  
Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Innovation

### **Skills training programs have strong regional jobs focus**

Over the coming decade, British Columbia is projected to have over one million job openings. A new wave of economic growth stimulated by the B.C. Jobs Plan will further increase the number of jobs. The B.C. Jobs Plan will ensure the nearly \$2 billion spent on post-secondary education every year, and the over \$500 million provided annually for labour market and training programs are targeted to meeting regional and industry labour market needs. In addition to provincial investments for skills development and job training programs, funding comes from the federal-provincial agreements and other partnerships.

The goal is to ensure British Columbians can fill job opportunities in regions where they live and study.

### **Aligning skills training to where the jobs are and to the needs of the local workforce**

- Regional Workforce Tables will be created in partnership with employers, industries, communities, local chambers of commerce, labour and post-secondary education institutions. The Table members will identify unique skills training needs in each region. Their input will inform how the Province delivers regionally based skills development programs, including \$15 million being provided to further support regional post-secondary institutions to meet local labour needs.

### **Ensuring training and skills development will match the needs of sectors that are creating jobs**

- The Province will provide up to \$6 million annually to industry sector partnerships to help them identify their skill and workforce needs, and will then provide additional funding for upgrading skills to allow workers to take advantage of these opportunities. Areas will include: forestry, mining, tourism, transportation, wine-making, service and other sectors.
- A trades training conference to be held this year will bring all partners together to identify ways to enhance the province's trades training programs. Over 10 per cent of job openings will be in trades – and many are in the resource sectors. The conference will allow all partners to work together on a plan so that trades training programs are even more responsive to needs of industry and local communities.

### **Attract British Columbians to job opportunities**

- The B.C. Jobs plan will invest in new online tools to better inform British Columbians about the job opportunities in the areas where they live. A key focus will be informing young people about career opportunities to guide education choices.

- New Employment Service Centres located in 98 communities across the province will provide a single point of entry to employment services. Opening in April 2012, the employment centres will provide job preparation support, skill assessments, and referrals to local training to help British Columbians prepare for and find jobs.

#### **Match new British Columbians to regional job opportunities**

- Skilled newcomers to B.C. are important to ensure the province is able to fill future job demands. B.C. is part of a global competition to attract the best-skilled workers in key sectors.
- International students support local economies and invest in training that directly supports B.C.'s Jobs Plan. The Province will work to connect international students to British Columbia's regional job opportunities and assist them to be successful so that they choose to remain in British Columbia.

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**International Education Strategy  
Thompson Rivers University  
Tuesday, Sept. 20, 2011  
EMCEE NOTES FOR NAOMI YAMAMOTO, MINISTER OF  
ADVANCED EDUCATION**

Good afternoon.

Over the past months our government has focussed strongly on putting families first in BC.

Under the leadership of Premier Christy Clark, my Cabinet colleagues and I have travelled the province over the summer, listening to what British Columbians have to say on how we can best do that...

And you've told us that one of the most important things we can help with is to defend and create jobs...

British Columbians want good jobs that support healthy communities and create opportunities for their families.

So we know that we need to defend and help create jobs in the north...jobs on the coast...jobs on Vancouver Island... and jobs right here in Kamloops and throughout the Thompson-Okanagan region.

Nobody is working harder on your behalf to help create those jobs than Premier Clark...

And it gives me great pleasure to introduce her here today to share her message on how we can work together to create a great future for British Columbia.

Ladies and gentlemen, Premier Christy Clark.

*[Premier Clark speaks]*

Thank you Premier Clark.

As Minister of Advanced Education, I'm very excited about the opportunities the International Education Strategy will provide for international students coming to B.C.

This strategy will bring opportunities for our students, universities and colleges to build on their already stirring international reputation.

PREMIER CLARK TALKED ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF SKILLS TRAINING FOR ONE OF THE FASTEST-GROWING ELEMENTS OF THE LABOUR FORCE – FIRST NATIONS.

And with us today to say a few words about that is Chief Shane Gottfriedson of the Tk'emlups [Tay-come-loops] Indian Band.

Chief Shayne.

*[Chief speaks]*

Thank you for those words, Chief.

By sharing our resources, sharing our knowledge and sharing our technology, we will help create the jobs that will build a strong future for our province.

As we build on our relationships and help other institutions and students from countries around the world, we are indeed helping ourselves and each other.

Nobody knows this better than the President of Thompson Rivers University, Dr. Alan Shaver.

At this time, I'd like to invite Dr. Shaver to say a few words. Dr. Shaver.

*[Dr. Shaver speaks]*

Thank you Dr. Shaver.

The International Education Strategy is one pillar of B.C.s jobs plan.

I look forward to the growth and opportunity the Strategy will bring to TRU, to Kamloops, the Thompson Okanagan region and other regions around the province.

As Premier Clark says, Canada does truly start here.

Thank you all for taking the time to come out today.

**International Education Strategy  
Thompson Rivers University  
Tuesday, Sept. 20, 2011**

**Event: What is it?**

- Held at Thompson Rivers University, this is an event to announce key elements of BC's International Education Strategy and a skills training plan.
- The goals of the international education strategy will be to increase international students by 10 per cent a year for four years, enhancing long term relationships in both existing and emerging economies like China, India and Brazil.
- We will also be targeting our training/skills programs to regional needs and focussing in sectors where we most need workers.
- To do this we are creating Regional Workforce Tables to bring together communities and stakeholders to make sure supply meets demand in regional labour markets.

**The Audience:**

- Staff and students from Thompson Rivers University
- Community and business leaders
- Media

**Key Messages:**

- These announcements today – part of "Canada Starts Here: the BC Jobs Plan" - will grow BC's skilled workforce, protect and defend jobs, and increase our social connections to growing markets overseas.
- The International Education Strategy will create jobs and build on the success of universities like Thompson Rivers by targeting specific countries to find prospective students who can best fill our future job needs and increase our connections in the global economy.
- We are also adjusting our skills training to focus on regional needs, making sure labour supply meets demand and we have the most people with good jobs as possible.

Thank you for joining me today.

We are here in the traditional territory of the Shuswap Nation, and the Kamloops Indian Band.

I'd like acknowledge a few people here with me today:

- Pat Bell, Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Innovation;
- Naomi Yamamoto, Minister of Advanced Education;
- Terry Lake, Minister of Environment and MLA for Kamloops-North Thompson;
- Kevin Krueger, MLA for Kamloops-South Thompson.
- Kamloops Chief Shane Gottfriedson
- Kamloops Mayor Peter Milobar (TBC)
- And, Alan Shaver TRU President.

Let me start by congratulating Ron Olynyk, former chair of the board of governors, on the honorary degree he will receive in October for his tremendous contributions to Thompson Rivers University.

It is well deserved.

Thompson Rivers University is an amazing success story.

And Ron, you played a big role in that.

But there's a larger story here that's worth telling.

This is an education success story, but it is also a success story when it comes to growing our economy and creating jobs.

And you know, people don't usually think of events at educational institutions like this as a jobs event. Or see universities as job creators – so let's change that!

Let's see universities for what they are and can be in BC – major BC job creators.

And so... jobs are what I am here to talk about today... defending and creating jobs... that is my government's primary mission - job creation.

Kamloops is an example of what communities coming together can accomplish.

Back in 2003/2004, the Friends of UCC University Society led the charge to get full university status.

You got thousands of people together. You put your shoulders to the wheel for Thompson Rivers University.

And you made it happen.

Kamloops is an example of what thinking big and embracing the global economy can accomplish.

Since then, the number of international students studying here at TRU has almost doubled.

Through the TRU World program, this institution drew about 1,500 international students here last year.

And they pumped \$88 million into the Kamloops economy.

The contribution of TRU to your community creates jobs.

It's part of what makes this a great place to live and raise a family.

On Thursday I'll be announcing the full details of our BC Jobs Plan, but I wanted to come here to Kamloops today to announce **2** big pieces.

The Plan is called Canada Starts Here.

We chose this name because we know BC can pull Canada into the next century – we know we can lead this country like never before.

Canada starts here because we are at the Pacific edge of the nation, and we are literally facing the future of the world in Asia.

But if we want to be successful, every region of BC will have to work together, just like you have.

So, the two parts of the jobs plan I'd like to talk about today are: our international education strategy and our skills training plan.

Chief Gottfriedson, I know that skills training is very close to your heart.

These two announcements are about growing our economy and defending and creating jobs in the short term.

But they are also about how we build on Canada's diversity and grow more talent in BC to meet the skills shortage on the horizon.

### **International Education**

First, international education...

People in Kamloops know that international education creates jobs, it drives growth and it spurs innovation.

We want to grow those job opportunities.

BC's International Education Strategy will help us target specific countries to connect international students with the right schools and communities.

We are known world-wide for the quality education we offer.

Today, I am announcing that the province is setting an aggressive target to grow our international student population in BC by 50 percent over the next 4 years.

Across BC, international education supports 22,000 jobs and puts more than \$1.25 Billion into our economy.

If we meet our targets, we can put 9,000 people to work and put another \$500 million dollars into our economy.

94,000 international students choose BC as a place to study each year.

That's 30 per cent of all the international students in this country.

But I believe we can do better. Canada is recruiting more and more students each year but compared to other countries, on a percentage basis, we are doing quite poorly. This is inexcusable given the tremendous opportunity and amazing feedback we receive from student who come here.

And so I am also announcing that we will create an International Education Council and we will leverage BC's trade offices to help connect students to BC's education opportunities.

We want to showcase our colleges, technical institutes and universities.

If you want to study in BC, there should be no wrong doors to knock on.

Our strategy will make sure communities are ready to welcome students from abroad...

...that we are building long term relationships with existing and emerging economies like China, India and Brazil.

...And we are sending more of our students overseas to prepare them to work in a global economy.

But BC's strategy will be about more than bricks and mortar.

It's about the human relationships that will build connections between BC, Canada and the rest of the world.

Think about it...right now, as I speak, more than 1,000 international students are heading to class at Douglas College in the Lower Mainland.

And do you know what they are learning? Richard, a computer science student from India, said he is doing more than preparing for a job... he is learning to be a Canadian.

Whether students like Richard choose to stay in BC or return to their homes, they will always have a connection here.

This is a big part of BC's plan to create jobs now and help fill jobs in future years when we know skilled workers will be in short supply and high demand.

Let's face it – once you move to BC, it's hard to leave.

Here in Kamloops, International TRU grad Usman Vahidy, is working at the Business Development Bank of Canada for a year.

Coming from the United Arab Emirates, he's bringing a global experience to fill a local demand here in the interior.

## **Skills Training**

And this leads me to the second thing I'd like to speak to you about – skills training.

You know, I was up in Fort Nelson earlier this month and there's a lot of work going on up there in the natural gas industry.

But some of those jobs are being filled by people who don't live or pay taxes in our province.

Now I've got nothing against Albertans, but it's clear in Fort Nelson that skill development hasn't kept pace with industry demand.

That situation isn't unique. We expect to have a million job openings in the next 10 years and 70 per cent of those will require post secondary education.

We won't always have a workforce primed and ready to go. Not unless we start working on this now – together.

That's why as part of the BC Jobs Plan, we are taking the following actions in the area of skills training:

1) We are setting up Regional Workforce Tables throughout BC – a new platform for educators, industry, labour, and small business.

They will work as partners with local chambers of commerce across the province and they will have real input, and real dollars, into how the province delivers skills development programs on a regional basis – including up to \$15 million annually for post-secondary institutions.

2) We will work in partnership with industry to ensure job demands in key sectors are met – in areas such as forestry, mining, tourism, technology, transportation, the wine industry, and service industries. And we will provide up to \$6 million to help sectors identify their skills and workforce needs.

3) The province will ensure that the more than a half a billion dollars spent annually on labour market and training programs is better targeted to meeting regional and industry needs. Moreover, we spend close to \$2 billion a year on post-secondary education. We will make sure we're training people for jobs that will exist when they graduate.

4) In December, we will hold a major provincial training conference to bring together a wide range of stakeholders to explore ways to meet industry apprenticeship needs.

These initiatives are all about open government.

They're about listening and they're about collaborating with the right people to ensure we get things done together.

Why does all this matter? We have to give our young people job opportunities to work WHERE they grow up.

And, in particular, we have to make sure that BC's young aboriginal people have those opportunities too...

Yesterday, I was up in Kitimat talking with the Haisla First Nation about economic development in their region.

Young people there want to work. They want to stay and live in their home community.

They want opportunity.

The Regional Workforce Tables are part of our plan to make sure their young people can work in the Liquefied Natural Gas Industry if they choose to.

Aboriginal young people are the fastest-growing demographic in BC.

The number of First Nations' young people will grow twice as fast the rest of Canada's work force in the next decade.

We must work with First Nations leaders to meet the needs of their young people.

That's why we support agreements like the one we have with Kamloops bands to share mineral tax royalties from the New Afton Mine.

These are real opportunities for First Nations communities to become actively involved in training and development opportunities around the mine.

Right now, as we speak, young people in Kamloops are exploring opportunities at the Aboriginal Trades Forum.

We want to support the hopes and aspirations of all our young people, including those who are committed to staying and growing in their hometowns.

### **BC Jobs Plan**

On Thursday, I will be officially announcing the BC Jobs Plan. It has three key pillars.

First, we have to be good at supporting a thriving business environment.

Government has to know when to lead and when to get out of the way – and that means clearing the path for businesses to create jobs for families.

Second, we have to build the infrastructure to get their goods, ideas and products to markets faster and more efficiently.

That means bridges, roads, ports and airports.

But it also means strengthening the human connections to other countries. That's where the International Education strategy will play a part.

The third pillar of our jobs plan is about opening up markets for BC goods – it's about making sure we know what the emerging markets in Asia want and making sure they know we can provide it.

Education is part that pillar too – it is one of the areas we need to sell hard overseas.

It's also one of our most important exports, with young British Columbians studying abroad and bringing home skills and experiences that build our province in new ways.

I am going to be the best salesperson BC has ever had.

Stable pillars need a strong foundation. Our plan has two.

The first is training a skilled workforce to get the jobs that BC will need people to do tomorrow. And I've talked about that today.

The second foundation is preserving our government's reputation for fiscal discipline.

This foundation is so important – because we can't continue to be a safe harbour for investment if we aren't prudent about our economy.

You've probably heard me say before that everything I do is about putting families first.

Good citizens come from families that instil character ... they become the foundation for strong, stable and safe communities, that make a great province and a great country.

Being a parent is the most important thing I do, and I suspect the same is true for all of you.

And what do you need to be a good parent?

You need a job.

That's why we created the BC Jobs Plan.

Our province is a place of relative economic calm and stability, but we are surrounded by a world of economic turmoil... Europe struggles with a debt crisis and a crisis of confidence.

Our best friend and closest neighbor, the United States, continues to grapple with high unemployment, high debt and political gridlock.

I am not going to sugar-coat reality, the world is facing stormy seas ahead.

But we won't keep our heads above water by hunkering down.

I believe our plan says the best defence is a good offence.

BC has incredible advantages that make us truly unique in the world:

- Our proximity to the world's biggest markets
- Our diverse population
- World class infrastructure
- Sound fiscal fundamentals
- A wealth of natural and intellectual resources

We need to build on our position of strength... and never has this been more important than now, given the global economic uncertainty we are facing.

Building on our strengths is what our BC Jobs Plan will do.

## **Conclusion**

I want to thank everyone in this community who fought to make TRU what it is today.

Post-secondary institutions play an important role in driving innovation, growing connections and building local economies.

Your ability to galvanize around an opportunity is a lesson to every one of us.

The work you have done here hasn't just shaped Kamloops. It is shaping BC.

Your work will help us ensure we can lead Canada in growing our connections in international markets.

That we can defend and create jobs for families. That we can attract and train skilled workers.

That we can afford to provide the quality government services we all depend on.

Today I have started to outline parts of our BC Jobs Plan – and that is just what it has to be – a plan for all of BC.

Not a plan for government, not a plan for one party. But a plan that unites us, a plan that brings us together.

You've helped teach us how to reach out and shake hands with our global neighbours. And those bonds will build a bridge of opportunity for all of our country.

You are taking the best of Canada and making it better.

This is our time. This is our opportunity.

In Kamloops, Canada Starts Here.

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