

Prince Rupert Jobs Event

Location: Container Terminal Maintenance Bay
Port of Prince Rupert
Prince Rupert, BC

Event Summary: Launch of Canada Starts Here: BC Jobs Plan

Key Message: We are investing in roads, railways and ports that connect BC and Canada to growing markets in the Asia Pacific, because the future of our country lies in the potential of BC to connect Canada to the world.

Action/Visual: Premier speaking with workers and equipment and the Port behind her.

Audience: 60 or so stakeholders, including Port Workers.

Dress: Business Casual

Date: Monday, September 19th, 2011

Start Time: 9:30am

Time	Event Itinerary
9:20am	Premier arrives for a pre-brief with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don Krusel, President and CEO, Prince Rupert Port Authority • Pat Bell, Minister Jobs Tourism and Innovation • Blair Lekstrom, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure • Alex Campbell, Hereditary Chief of the Tsimshian First Nation • Claude Mongeau, President and CEO of CN
9:30am	MC Blair Lekstrom introduces himself and the Mayors and First Nations leaders that are attending the event
9:31am	MC Blair Lekstrom invites Alex Campbell to come forward and give a welcome
9:32am	Welcome by Alex Campbell
9:34am	MC introduces the Premier Christy Clark
9:35am	Premier Christy Clark gives remarks
9:40am	MC Introduces Pat Bell
9:41am	Pat Bell gives remarks
9:43am	MC introduces Don Krusel
9:45am	Don Krusel gives remarks
9:47am	MC Introduces Claude Mongeau
9:48am	Claude Mongeau gives remarks
9:53am	MC concludes event
9:55am	Premier takes questions from the Podium, moderated by Chris Olsen
10:15am	Premier gets into a helicopter with: RCMP, Don Krusel, Howard from Global and Local Media Person
10:30am	Helicopter drops Premier off at Seal Cove NOTE: Minister Bell, Jess and Gabe are driven to Seal Cove by RCMP
11:00am	Premier departs Seal Cove for Kitimaat

MLAs in attendance:

Pat Bell, Minister of Jobs Tourism and Innovation

Blair Lekstrom, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure

EVENT COORDINATOR – Katherine Bergen

CELL:

s.17

Contact names and telephone numbers:

Ken Veldman..... s.22

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

EVENT COORDINATOR – Katherine Bergen

CELL: s.17

**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.

-End-

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 20th, 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"> Minister Pat Bell Minister Yamamoto
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		

EVENT COORDINATOR – Stacie Dley

CELL: s.17

Surrey Board of Trade

Wednesday, Sept. 21, 2011

Event: what is it?

- Keynote address to Surrey Board of Trade and Canada India Business Council.
- BC intends to provide a \$3 million increase to B.C.'s successful Small Business Venture Capital Program tax credit.
- Delivering a three year extension of the \$31 million annual BC Training Tax Credit.
- The Province will also continue its leadership in reducing the cumbersome steps and time involved in accessing government services and complying with regulatory requirements by:
 - Extending government's commitment to no net-increases in regulations to 2015.
 - Introducing legislation to ensure progress on regulatory accountability is reported annually.
 - Reducing the regulatory burden on citizens and small businesses.
 - Streamlining and simplifying government processes..

Audience: who are they?

- Small business people.
- South Asian business community.
- Media

Key Messages

- Small business is a key driver for the B.C. economy.
- Government needs to get out of the way to let them create jobs.

Surrey Board of Trade
Wednesday Sept 21

INTRODUCTION TO SURREY

It is great to be here with you this morning.

I'd like to introduce a few people here with me today.

- Finance Minister Kevin Falcon, MLA for Surrey Cloverdale,
- Labour, Citizen's Services and Open Government Minister Stephanie Cadieux, MLA for Surrey-Panorma,
- Surrey-Tynehead MLA Dave Hayer,
- Surrey-White Rock MLA Gordon Hogg,
- Jobs, Tourism and Innovation Minister Pat Bell, and
- Surrey City Councillor Linda Hepner.

I wanted to come here today because when I think about the things that are going right in this province, I think of Surrey.

You have shown what can be accomplished when a community sets aside divisions and pulls together to do great things.

The business community here in Surrey, along with Mayor Dianne Watts and your city council, were way ahead of the curve in creating the Economic Summit.

In its third year, the Summit brought business leaders here from China...from India...from Singapore...all to tell us how important trade with the Asia-Pacific region was going to be for our future.

You got that right, and that's why I will be leading a trade mission to India and China in November.

Because as everyone here knows, our economic opportunity lies there ... that's where our future lies.

That's why Surrey's bioLytical Laboratories just secured an 8 hospital commitment for its rapid HIV testing unit.

And why Surrey-based Jhaji lumber has just recently started shipping its first ever containers of wood to Port Kandla, India.

Almost a thousand people are moving to Surrey every month.

Soon, your population will top Vancouver's.

That immigration is part of what makes Surrey so successful, and it is also one of the key advantages that BC has to offer – strong family and business connections to India and other Asian countries.

That's why we're working with our federal counterparts to increase the number of applicants we can accept through our provincial nominee program.

The South Asian community – which makes up 28 percent of the population here – has been essential for driving small business growth at home and for opening up trade for all of us across the Pacific.

And as Surrey grows, your diversity will grow ... it will make your community richer and your small businesses stronger.

CANADA STARTS HERE

Tomorrow I will be announcing the full details of our plan, but today I want to talk about the important role small business has to play.

Our plan is called Canada Starts Here.

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

It means we can take the best of Canada and we can make it better ... right here in BC.

Executing on this plan is my central mission as your Premier.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today, I am announcing three tax initiatives that will help BC small businesses defend and create jobs, while they drive innovation across our economy.

First, we will be enhancing the Small Business Venture Capital Tax Credit by investing an additional \$3 million dollars into it.

This plan already helps small businesses deal with one of their key challenges – getting the capital they need to start up or expand – and that's what we need to create jobs for BC families.

The program will be expanded so that more angel investors can get a 30 percent refundable tax credit for investing in eligible small businesses – and that means these job creators can get a leg up on capital, on hiring and on receiving strategic advice from experienced investors.

This program is already helping companies like Surrey's own Endurance Wind Power, one of the world's safest and most efficient wind turbines for producing clean energy.

Glenn Johnson, Endurance Wind Power's CEO, has said that along with a strong business plan and a great team, the Venture Capital Tax Credit has been a key ingredient to Endurance's success.

The second announcement I am making today is an extension of the apprenticeship tax credit that has been helpful to so many small businesses here in Surrey.

BC is expected to have more than one million job openings in the coming decade.

So British Columbia needs a highly skilled workforce.

And this government is committed to helping employers and workers get the skills they need.

That's why we're extending our \$31 million dollar a year Apprenticeship Training Tax Credit for another three years.

Extending this funding will give employers and apprentices the certainty they need to plan their business and their education.

Apprenticeships are a great way for young people to get their careers off on the right foot and to set themselves on a course for a lifetime of good jobs.

And the third announcement I am making today is that the Minister of Finance will be appointing a panel to review BC taxes to see how they can support business competitiveness and economic growth to enable job creation.

This panel will bring together members of the small business community, tax experts and people from the government to develop recommendations to make sure BC's tax regime is attractive to global investors and that it encourages innovation.

I am focused on small businesses as part of this plan because of the transformative power they can have on job creation.

Just recently we saw Vikram Vij open a 28,000 square foot facility in Surrey to cook and package his new line of frozen food.

As many of you know, Vikram is the owner of Vij's in Vancouver.

It's not just one of the best restaurants in BC – it's one of the best in the world.

One of the best Indian restaurants in the world – and it's not in India – it's right here in British Columbia.

And that's something we should all be proud of.

That's the power of small business in BC.

JOBS PLAN PREVIEW

These initiatives are all key parts of our BC Jobs Plan – as I said, it's called "Canada Starts Here."

While others will hunker down and try to weather the storm of global economic turmoil, we will go out there and find new markets and new investment, to create jobs right here at home.

The BC Jobs Plan is built around the focused pursuit of that first new dollar. This means bringing new investment here so each new dollar can grow, and multiply and circulate – circulate from the initial investment, to our value added sectors, to our small businesses and, finally, to dinner tables, rec rooms and ice rinks from one end of BC to the other.

There are three pillars to our jobs plan.

The first pillar is enabling job creation with a commonsense government that opens doors instead of closing them, that makes things simple for business by getting out of the way when we can.

Does that mean stripping back environmental and other social protections?

Absolutely not. But it does mean taking a businesslike approach focused on the end game – defending and creating jobs for BC families.

Your Mayor's Red Tape Reduction Advisory Committee is a great example of this.

Our second pillar is continuing to build smart infrastructure – roads, bridges and ports – so businesses can get their goods, ideas and products to markets faster.

This also means strengthening the human relationships that help us succeed.

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.

I am going to personally lead this effort as the chief salesperson for our province.

The three pillars of our plan are built on two foundations.

The first is creating a strong, skilled BC workforce, training for the jobs our economy needs today and in the future.

And that means promoting education that matches the needs of our economy, so that people who live in all parts of BC can find jobs that will allow them to stay close to home ... keeping families together, while building a stronger economy.

And 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 finances.

We all feel a special pride in being Canadians. We are well thought of around the world and respected for our diversity and our tolerance – but Canada also has a well-deserved reputation for fiscal responsibility.

Canada's debt to GDP ratio is 36% - if you look south, it's 72%.

I am proud to say that BC's ratio is only 15%.

Here in BC we take Canada's fiscal prudence one-step further through our commitment to low taxes and balanced budgets.

The best of Canada combined with the best of BC allows us to be a safe harbor, with a triple AAA credit rating and a stable banking system.

And I want to take a second to say thank you to my friend Kevin Falcon, one of Surrey's MLAs and British Columbia's Finance Minister. Every day Kevin keeps a firm hand on the budget and I can't tell you how much all British Columbians should appreciate that.

You will notice our BC Jobs Plan is not about figuring out how many tax dollars we can spend ... in fact the spending commitments are really quite modest.

Darn right they are.

I'm quite proud of that – we are being smart and strategic, because I think taxpayers deserve to be treated with respect.

We're not just going to recirculate your money – we're going to go out and get new investments from new markets.

FAMILIES FIRST

I've told you what we plan to do – now I'd like to talk about why we are doing it.

Everything I do is about putting families first, and that's something I think I have in common with the people of Surrey.

Good citizens come from families that instill character ... and they become the foundation for strong, stable and safe communities. That's what builds a great province and a great country.

And what do families need to be strong and stable?

You need a good job.

THREATS

You will notice our plan is about defending the jobs we have as well as working to create new ones. And that's very important.

Our province is a place of relative economic calm and stability, but we are surrounded by a world of economic turmoil ... the Eurozone still 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 don't have to sugar-coat it for you, the world is facing stormy seas ahead.

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

Our plan says the best defense is a good offence.

OPPORTUNITIES

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

Our proximity to the biggest markets

Our diverse population

Our world class infrastructure

Our sound fiscal fundamentals

And a wealth of natural and intellectual resources

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

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

We have so many advantages to attract that first new dollar to BC – and when we do, it will circulate through our entire economy and help every British Columbian.

But first we have to put aside the divisions of the past and pull together as one BC team, with one focus – good stable jobs for BC families.

CONCLUSION

The BC Jobs Plan gives us a path to follow that will help us weather the storm and ensure our success as a province. It means we will have to give it our all and lead Canada like never before.

We know what we need to do and where we need to focus our efforts so we can defend and create BC jobs.

It means we need to listen – listen to you, listen to our small businesses, to our employees, and to our employers – to all British Columbians.

I am optimistic about the future. I know our province can lead this country if we are at our best – if we are united, if we are optimistic and if we are confident.

BC is at a crossroads and Surrey is right in the middle of it. We are facing a generational opportunity, and we are going to lead Canada into next century.

This is our time.

This is our chance to lead.

This is our moment.

When it comes to building the future, *Canada Starts Here*.

-End-

Premier Christy Clark introduces *Canada Starts Here: The BC Jobs Plan* to the Vancouver Board of Trade
Thursday, September 22, 2011

Check against delivery

Thanks, Dave, for the introduction.

I'd like to acknowledge my caucus members in attendance, as they stand up - please give them a warm round of applause.

Iain Black is here today as well.

And most importantly I want to acknowledge all the job creators in the room and that's you.

You know, my grandfather was a member of the trade delegation that went to Japan with this Board of Trade in 1954. I found this wallet of his from the trip when I was cleaning out some boxes in my garage a couple months ago. He worked for a B.C. small business, Nelson Brothers Fisheries. He was the production manager and he went on this trade mission that flew through Anchorage, Alaska and then on to Japan. The whole point was to reach out to open new markets and create new jobs in British Columbia.

I am really proud he did that, and that the Board of Trade had the foresight to lead that mission in the 1950s. Fifty-seven years later, I am standing here before the same organization to talk about the same thing – new markets, new opportunities and good jobs for families.

Back then, it was no small task, but he went anyway. Just think about it. Nine years after the end of World War Two, imagine how unknown Japan was to people in our part of the world. You couldn't get live streaming news from Tokyo over the Internet. And you definitely couldn't watch Iron Chef on TV.

But way more importantly, in 1954, it would have been impossible for British Columbians to provide the kind of help we are providing as Japan recovers from the recent natural disasters. Back then, Japan must have felt like another planet. Yet today, they are B.C.'s third-largest trading partner.

This shows how far a determined effort and a clear vision can take our economy and our province.

And it's time to do it again.

Our plan is called Canada Starts Here.

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

It means we can take the best of Canada and we can make it better – right here in B.C.

Executing on this plan is my central mission as your Premier.

Our plan is centered on bringing what we call the “first new dollar” to British Columbia.

This means bringing new investment here so each new dollar can grow, and multiply and circulate – circulate from the initial investment, to our value added sectors, to our small businesses and, finally, to dinner tables, rec rooms and ice rinks from one end of B.C. to the other.

Our BC Jobs Plan is built on three pillars and today I'd like to tell you about some of the key initiatives we'll be implementing as part of this plan:

The first pillar is enabling job creation with a commonsense government that opens doors instead of closing them, and makes things simple for business by getting out of the way when we can.

Does that mean stripping back environmental and other social protections?

Absolutely not. But it does mean taking a businesslike approach focused on the end game – defending and creating jobs for BC families.

Our jobs plan recognizes that sometimes government must lead the way. But sometimes the best thing government can do is get out of the way.

I am announcing today that we will establish a “Major Investments Office” that will help businesses who want to invest in B.C. get the answers they need in a quick, clear way.

This office will facilitate answers, make sure timelines don't slip and negotiate solutions to problems. If the answer is “yes,” let's get there as quickly as possible and get the jobs created as soon as we can.

I am also announcing today that we will move aggressively to eliminate one of the big problems inhibiting job growth in our province – the endless delays in permitting approvals.

We will invest \$24 million across natural resource ministries over two years, in order to eliminate the backlog in key authorizations that is preventing projects from proceeding.

Let me stress, we are not changing environmental protections.

And we are also adding more resources to make sure we continue to meet our legal obligations to First Nations – and continue to involve them in the benefits of economic development.

We are going to take the time we need to protect our clean air and water, but we are not going to leave investors hanging because the government that makes the laws can't process the permits.

I am also announcing today that the new BC Jobs and Investment Board will be up and running in 60 days. It will include citizens from across B.C. to promote economic development by holding government's feet to the fire to make sure we are doing everything possible to make B.C. competitive – and not standing in the way of good jobs.

B.C. will only win if we win together, so this board will bring together business leaders and labour leaders, community leaders and government to fight for jobs like never before.

I am also announcing the establishment of an Aboriginal Business and Investment Council to help connect First Nations to capital and expertise, so deals can get done, jobs can get created and progress can be made.

And by 2015 the B.C. government will sign at least 10 new non-treaty economic development agreements with First Nations to further improve economic certainty.

But this plan won't just help Aboriginal people – it will help every British Columbian by increasing investment in our province.

Small business is a key driver of job growth and the cornerstone of many communities. The potential of clean technology and the creative economy, of digital media and the arts, to bolster our economy and enrich our lives is one of the reasons that I announced in Surrey yesterday three tax initiatives to help small businesses in these areas and others.

These include a competitiveness review of business taxation to ensure the film industry and others benefit from streamlined administration.

We will also make the most of B.C.'s natural gas advantage. I will be our top salesperson as we work to grow new natural gas markets in Asia for B.C. – I will market this resource with a single-minded focus and promote the use of natural gas as a transportation fuel.

We will take action to realize the potential of Liquefied Natural Gas. As I announced in Prince Rupert on Monday, we will clear the way and secure the investment required to establish up to three LNG plants by 2020.

We have enough electricity available to launch the first two phases of the project.

And I need to be clear here today – we will not allow a lack of power supply to stand in the way of further important steps in this project.

Earlier this week I met with leaders of the Haisla First Nation to talk about LNG and they have a real problem on their hands – it's going to create more jobs than their community can fill. I think that's a problem a lot of communities would like to have.

The second pillar of our jobs plan is about continuing to build smart infrastructure, and I don't just mean bricks and mortar ... I mean people, too. We need to support the human relationships that help us succeed, the unity we must foster and the education we must strengthen.

That's why earlier this week in Kamloops I announced that the province is setting an aggressive target to grow the international student population in B.C. by 50 per cent in just the next four years.

And our physical infrastructure is the start of a web that also ties our country together in a very real way.

Our ports are not just British Columbia's ... they are Saskatchewan's ports too. The workers building the Port Mann bridge know they aren't just building it for the Lower Mainland – they are building it for families in places like Woodstock, Ontario so they can get auto parts delivered from Asia.

This coast is Canada's coast – and that is why I am announcing today that we will invest \$50 million to improve the B.C.-owned rail corridor that connects Deltaport to Canada's transportation network.

With this contribution, the Port of Metro Vancouver can now move forward on a \$200-million expansion to increase container capacity, enabling the creation of over 600 jobs at port operations and ensuring goods move efficiently. This follows my announcement on Monday that B.C. is committing \$15 million towards the Road Rail Utility Corridor on Ridley Island.

We will also be thinning our border with the United States to help trade and people move more efficiently.

We will be consulting broadly and announcing further infrastructure investments in the coming weeks, many of them with our good partners the federal government – and all of them made with an eye to defending existing jobs and creating new ones.

The third pillar of our jobs plan is about opening up markets for B.C. goods.

It's about doing what my Grandfather did in 1954, but doing it today on a much larger scale and harnessing all of the strengths our B.C. team has to offer.

We will focus especially on China and India, where economies are growing and the middle class is coming to the fore. The middle class in India alone is expected to be more than 10 times the size of Canada's entire population in less than 20 years.

We need to be great at expanding and understanding those markets, and producing goods to feed their demands.

Opening up new markets for B.C. is key to our success, and I intend to lead this effort personally. I intend to be the chief salesperson for our province as we take our place leading this great country.

By selling B.C. wood all over the world, we have created a renaissance in the forest sector – 27 mills have opened in the last two years, including one in Kitwanga. A sizeable chunk of that mill's sales will be going to China, Japan and Korea. I was there when they opened the mill in Kitwanga and I've seen what a positive effect it's had on that community. There are 481 people living there and that mill – which started with that first new dollar – employs 45 of them. And about three quarters of those employees are First Nations people.

Those are real jobs, for real families right here in British Columbia – and it shows the impact of focusing on trade with Asia – and the power that trade can have all over our province, in communities large and small.

It also shows the power of Pat Bell, our Jobs Minister, and it's a great example of why I gave him the job in the first place.

And all over B.C. we see examples of small businesses working in Asia too, leveraging the strength of established local community connections with those Asian markets.

Like Surrey-based Jhajj lumber, who have just recently started shipping their first ever containers of wood to India.

As many of you know, to increase our share I am going to lead a trade mission to China and India, so that I can make sure we're working with the right people, with the best ideas, to open up and expand markets for B.C.

We are launching an investor-focused international marketing campaign and I will have more to say about this tomorrow at the Business Council's Asia Pacific Forum.

These three pillars – enabling job creation, building smart infrastructure and opening new markets – will stand on two key foundations.

The first foundation is creating a strong, skilled B.C. workforce, trained for the jobs our economy needs today and in the future. And that means promoting education that will give our citizens the best chance to get the good jobs that will allow them to stay close to home, keeping families together, while building a stronger economy.

It also means having an immigration system in place to support job creation. That's why we support an increase to the number of applicants we can accept through our provincial nominee program, and we're working with the federal government on any other strategies we can identify.

And the second foundation is preserving our government's hard-earned 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 finances.

We all feel a special pride in being Canadians. We are well thought of around the world and respected for our diversity and our tolerance – but Canada also has a well-deserved reputation for fiscal responsibility. Here in B.C. we take Canada's fiscal prudence one-step further through our commitment to low taxes and balanced budgets.

Canada's debt to GDP ratio is 36 per cent – down south in the US it's a whopping 72 per cent. And I'm proud to say that here in B.C. it's only 17.5 per cent. That's one of the reasons we have a triple AAA credit rating.

This is what I mean about taking the best of Canada and making it better.

We have to stick to our fiscally prudent course – we can't honestly say we are putting families first if we are saddling future generations with more and more debt.

High debt policies won't work for tomorrow and they won't work for today either. Just ask Greece; go ask the European Union; go ask anyone who lived through the 1990s right here in British Columbia.

You will notice our BC Jobs Plan is not about figuring out how many tax dollars we can spend – in fact the spending commitments are really quite modest. I'm quite proud of that.

We are being smart and strategic, because I think taxpayers deserve to be treated with respect.

Our plan is premised on the focused pursuit of the first new dollar. To do this we have identified eight sectors with the greatest opportunity to bring that first new dollar into British Columbia.

These key sectors are:

- Forestry
- Mining
- Natural gas
- Agri-foods
- Tourism
- Transportation
- Technology, clean tech and the green economy, and
- International education.

These are sectors where our unique advantages – our creativity, our diversity, our resources, our geography – will put us on the path to success. They are sectors that will lift our entire economy by helping the businesses small and large that are the engine of job growth and create the greatest number of spin-off jobs.

They were chosen because they drive export growth. And that means everyone wins.

If you want to see how it works, take the example of the little town of Princeton. Two hundred and seventy people in Princeton now have a good job because of the mine at Copper Mountain – a job they can rely on when they need to buy a new truck – a job that will allow them to renovate their home. And maybe for the first time, they'll be able to put lunch in their children's lunch boxes each and every day.

The mine was shut down in the 1990s, and they were able to re-open Copper Mountain, based on one contract, with one company, in one Asian country.

That's how that first new dollar helps everyone. Because whether you work in manufacturing or the service industry, those dollars move around quickly.

Increased commodity prices make expanded mining a great opportunity for B.C. And the fact that our companies set the global standard for responsible mining means we can take advantage of it.

That means more revenue for health care and education.

We need to create more Princetons.

I've told you what we plan to do – now I'd like to talk about why we are doing it.

Everything I do is about putting families first – families of all shapes and sizes.

Good citizens come from families that instill character – and they become the foundation for strong, stable and safe communities. That's what builds a good province and ultimately that's what builds a great country.

And what makes families strong and stable?

You need a good job.

That's why a thriving private sector is so important. You create wealth, and in doing so, you create jobs. And you also create the revenues needed for education, for health care and for the services we all depend on.

You will notice our plan is about defending the jobs we have as well as working to create new ones. And that's important.

Our province is a place of relative economic calm and stability, but we are surrounded by a world of economic turmoil. Today alone we have seen a global market sell off, a significant decline in our own currency and an escalating crisis in the Eurozone.

Our best friend and closest neighbour, the United States, grapples with high unemployment and high debt. Even their own treasury secretary admits many are questioning whether their political system can deal with the economic turmoil.

I don't have to sugar-coat anything for you, the world is facing stormy seas ahead. But we will not keep our heads above water by hunkering down.

Our plan says the best defense is a good offence.

In the 1990s, North America underwent one of the biggest economic expansions in its history and, I'm sorry to say, British Columbia sat it out. The government of the day raised taxes, drove up debt, and chased away investment. And they killed jobs in every community doing it. They pitted one British Columbian against another, they divided our society and the results were tragic.

Businesses were lost ... families saw their dreams go up in smoke ... and then families were pulled apart as 50,000 people left the province looking for a better life.

They were looking for jobs.

We spent the last 10 years catching up.

B.C. turned the page in 2001 and worked to repair the damage done and end the divisive battles.

We got our fiscal house in order by giving taxpayers the respect they deserve, by using proven economic fundamentals, by cutting taxes and by balancing budgets.

A little common sense went a long way.

We saw our credit rating go up and we improved our quality of life because we could afford investments in health and education.

Now we are going to turn the page again and build on the platform of the last 10 years.

We are going to pull together as one B.C. team, with one focus – good stable jobs for BC families.

B.C. has incredible advantages that make us truly unique in the world:

- Our proximity to the biggest markets on the globe.
- Our diverse population.
- Our world class infrastructure.
- Our sound fiscal fundamentals.
- And 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.

I am a proud Canadian and I'm even prouder because B.C. will be leading Canada into the next decade. We will invite our fellow Canadians to join us and we will tell the world "Canada Starts Here."

This is a unique moment in history for us to do more than our fair share for the rest of Canada, to grasp B.C.'s opportunity to help build an even greater country.

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.

Our location and geography is an asset, but it is just one part of the B.C. story.

Diversity is at the core of who we are: it is a key strength for our society and it enriches every one of our lives.

From New Canadians to the strength of our young First Nations people, to the people of Asian and Indian descent who have been settled here for a century or more now, our diverse population is a key asset to expanding our economy and making sure that B.C. families prosper.

40 per cent of the population of Greater Vancouver identify themselves as Asian. If you want to argue there is an Asian city outside of Asia, Vancouver is it.

There has never been a place like this in the history of the world. And we have a plan to capitalize on our unique advantages.

Today I have outlined our BC Jobs Plan and that's what it has to be – a plan for the entire province, by the entire province. Not a plan for the government, not a plan for one party – but a plan that brings all of us together and moves us all forward. And that means we need to listen.

As you know, I am a big proponent of open government.

This jobs plan will be "exhibit A" of that commitment. If you visit the website <http://www.bcjobsplan.ca/> you will see that a public engagement effort is now getting underway.

We're also going to initiate regional and sectoral engagement across the province, with communities, with chambers and with everyday British Columbians.

We will also be issuing semi-annual reports to British Columbians to tell them about our progress, but also to ensure we improve the plan using what we've learned from talking to British Columbians.

I am doing this because government doesn't have all the answers and we need your help – because government doesn't create jobs, you do that.

I am optimistic as we look forward to tomorrow. I know our province can lead this country if we are at our best – if we are united, if we are optimistic and if we are confident.

As I worked with our team to prepare this plan, I took my inspiration from what this Board of Trade – and my Grandfather – did so many years ago with the mission to Japan. They were writing the story of B.C. and we are going to keep writing it – today and tomorrow.

We are facing a generational opportunity, and we are going to lead Canada into next century.

This is our time.

This is our chance to lead.

This is our moment.

When it comes to building the future, *Canada Starts Here*.