

RCMP Change of Command
Friday, March 2, 2012
Speech length: 3-5 minutes

Event: what is it?

- RCMP Change of Command ceremony

Audience: who are they?

- RCMP Commissioner Bob Paulson
- Assistant Commissioner Craig Callens, CO - "E" Division, RCMP, New Commanding Office of B.C. RCMP.
- 200 – 300 RCMP officers, veterans and auxiliary constables
- Band of the 15th Field Artillery Regiment Royal Canadian Artillery
- Gary Bass - Former Deputy Commissioner (in audience)
- Others TBC

Key Messages

- **Congratulations to the incoming commanding officer, Assistant Commissioner Craig Callens on his appointment as Commanding Officer of the B.C. RCMP.**
- **He brings a wealth of experience from many jurisdictions.**
- **B.C. has identified the important priorities that are critical to the future of the RCMP as our provincial police service, and we will work closely with Assistant Commissioner Callens to realize that vision.**

Every day, police officers put their lives on the line to protect our families.

On the worst days of our lives, YOU are the people who, quite literally, come to our rescue.

And so public trust and confidence in the RCMP is absolutely critical to the outstanding work that you do every day.

You are about to begin a new era of leadership and on behalf of British Columbians, I welcome Commanding Officer Craig Callens to his new appointment.

Assistant Commissioner Callens is well-known and respected in British Columbia.

His policing background crosses the entire province - from the Lower Mainland, to the Cariboo and Kamloops – and he's gained experience and responsibility with each move.

It would be an understatement to say that he knows this province well.

His new assignment as commanding officer of "E" Division gives him responsibility for the largest contingent of RCMP members in the country - more than 9,500 people.

That's more than one-third of the national force covering more than 99 per cent of our province.

The RCMP serves everywhere, from B.C.'s largest cities to some of its most remote communities.

Nowhere in Canada will you find places with such varied geography, cultural dynamics, demographic make-ups and policing challenges.

And I am sure Assistant Commissioner Callens will rise to the challenge.

He's starting his tenure with a solid bedrock of support.

Assistant Commissioner Callens, the government of B.C. is proud to stand beside you and your officers and civilian personnel.

We've affirmed our commitment to the fight against gangs and organized crime by funding the anti-gang police resources in B.C. in our latest budget.

The new contract with the RCMP will see a new level of transparency and accountability.

We're making great strides here and we have some important initiatives we are working on with our policing and justice partners:

The introduction of new provincial policing standards...

The upcoming public and stakeholder engagement process that will help us to prepare a new Policing Strategy for B.C.

The launch of the new Independent Investigations Office...

And of course, the Justice Review, which will look at the whole justice system and advise us how we can all work together to create the best, most efficient, effective and timely justice system for everyone.

I'd like to take a moment to thank all of those who will serve under Assistant Commissioner Callens.

The RCMP has a proud history in British Columbia, and much of the work we've been doing together is about strengthening accountability and public confidence...

Confidence in the officers and employees who serve the province in exemplary ways, under often intense and challenging circumstances.

We're proud to be working on policing and justice issues in B.C. with all of you.

Assistant Commissioner Callens, welcome to your new post.

On behalf of all British Columbians, I wish you every success.

- END -

Pacific Coast Collaborative Leaders' Forum
Tuesday, March 13, 2012
Speech length: 3-5 minutes

Event: what is it?

- Welcoming reception to GLOBE 2012.
- Reception is sponsored by the Pacific Coast Collaborative
- Premier will introduce the participating PCC leaders, welcome delegates and make brief remarks on the PCC itself. (2-3 min)
- Other head table guests and speakers are:
 - MC John Wiebe, GLOBE Foundation President and CEO
 - BC Premier Christy Clark
 - Washington State Governor Christine Gregoire
 - Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber
 - Secretary John Laird, California Natural Resources Agency
 - JTI Minister Pat Bell (TBC)
 - Environment Minister Terry Lake (TBC)

Audience: who are they?

- Approximately 1,000 GLOBE attendees - senior representatives from the public, private and NGO sectors involved in the business of sustainability, energy and the environment.
- Other government staff
- Media

Audience: what do they want to hear?

KEY THEME:

The Pacific Coast Collaboration demonstrates the power of working together.

KEY MESSAGE: The Pacific Coast Collaboration is creating momentum toward a clean energy economy.

**ACKNOWLEDGE: MC John Wiebe, GLOBE
Foundation President and CEO**

Hello everyone and a warm welcome to British Columbia.

I'm pleased to introduce to you my Pacific Coast Collaborative colleagues and proud co-sponsors of this reception:

CHRISTINE GREGOIRE, Governor of the State of Washington;

JOHN KITZHABER, Governor of the State of Oregon;

JOHN LAIRD, Secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency;

And my British Columbia colleagues:

PAT BELL, Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Innovation
(TBC);

And TERRY LAKE, Minister of Environment (TBC).

(PAUSE)

The Pacific Coast is a region united by its unique and world renowned geography.

We are the shared stewards of our ocean, its rugged coastlines and its beautiful, but vulnerable ecosystems.

We also share energy and transportation networks and similar lifestyles, shaped in large part by our environment.

I'm pleased to report that we are good, responsible neighbours ... we have learned to work together on a range of cross-border and inter-governmental challenges.

... IN 2007 BRITISH COLUMBIA MADE IT A PRIORITY TO INVITE ALL THE PACIFIC COAST GOVERNORS ...

To forge a new, formal collaborative that extends from Alaska to California.

It was clear to us that there were great advantages in working together on areas of mutual interest through intergovernmental partnerships.

It seems we struck a common chord ...

Just a year later, Alaska, British Columbia, Washington, Oregon and California signed the Pacific Coast Collaborative agreement.

Through this alliance we committed to find new, smart ways to work together toward our shared vision of a sustainable regional economy.

AND TODAY, AS YOU'RE ABOUT TO HEAR, FOUR JURISDICTIONS HAVE ENDORSED A BOLD NEW AGENDA...

AN AGENDA FOR INVESTMENT AND ACCELERATED JOB CREATION ON THE PACIFIC COAST.

To tell you more about our vision ... please give a warm welcome to our very good friend and neighbour, Washington State Governor Christine Gregoire.

- END -

**Six Month Jobs Plan Event
Tuesday, March 13, 2012
10 mins**

Event: what is it?

- Six-month update on BC Jobs Plan

Audience: who are they?

- Media

Key Messages

- Our government has a plan to protect and create jobs in B.C. and the plan is working. Our economy has added 39,900 jobs in the past year for B.C. families.
- The Plan is delivering results with investments in natural gas, ship building, mining and reducing permit backlogs. We have opened up and strengthened our trading relationships with key growing Asian economies, and have invested in key infrastructure projects to help get BC produced goods to market.

Nearly six months ago, our government launched 'Canada Starts Here: The BC Jobs Plan' to create and protect jobs in every community in this province.

Because we believe that families are the building blocks of a great province.

And the best way we can put families first is by ensuring parents have a stable job that puts dinner on the table.

Today, we are releasing our six month Jobs Plan report...

These are early days, but I think we've come a long way so far.

By making B.C.'s economy our number one priority, we are protecting and creating jobs for B.C. families.

In the past year, our economy has added 39,900 jobs to the province.

That's results. Results for 39,900 families.

There are a number of commitments we made at the beginning of the BC Jobs Plan that I am proud to say we have already made great progress on:

LNG INDUSTRY

Our government has identified the untapped potential of a new industry and investors are already moving projects forward; projects that will create long term, high paying jobs for British Columbians. A few highlights of some important milestones in this new sector:

- We're celebrating a Mitsubishi investment of almost \$3 billion in an agreement with Encana for a 40% interest in the Cutbank Ridge natural gas partnership in northeastern B.C.
- The National Energy Board has approved a 20 year export licence for the Kitimat natural gas facility – the first license of its kind in Canada.

- Land is being cleared for the first of the three natural gas export lines we've promised will be up and running by 2020.
- And Royal Dutch Shell has purchased a marine terminal in Kitimat as a possible site for an LNG export facility.

A key commitment in our jobs plan is to have at least one LNG pipeline and terminal online by 2015. I think you'd agree we are making significant headway.

SEASPAN

Working with Seaspan, we helped to secure the future of shipbuilding in B.C. with an \$8 billion federal contract.

Combined with other operations at Seaspan, this contract will create more than 4,000 jobs over eight years.

Some kind of provincial government support was a required element of the Seaspan bid.

Our government went through a very thorough process to identify what our participation would look like.

In the end, we identified sector specific apprenticeship training credits for students hoping to get into the shipbuilding industry.

We worked very hard with Seaspan – and together we made the deal happen.

PERMIT BACKLOGS

Our government is getting people back to work by reducing the backlog for notice of work permits in mining.

We promised to reduce the backlog of applications for Notices of Work in the mining sector by 80 per cent within one year.

We started with 229 notices. We cut those down to 75. We are more than three quarters of the way towards our goal.

We are also making significant progress towards our goal of eight new mines in operation by 2015 and the expansion of at least nine more. Imperial Metals Corp., Quinsam Mine, New Afton, Red Chris, Barkerville Gold Mines and Mt. Milligan – all evidence of our work to meet our commitment.

JOBS AND TRADE MISSION

I was proud to lead the largest trade mission in British Columbia's history...

...And we came back with real results.

60 business deals and partnership agreements will bolster our economy for years to come.

And our lumber exports to China have surpassed the billion dollar mark for the first time.

INVESTMENTS OFFICE/TASK FORCES

Government doesn't have all the answers. That's why we are bringing bright, diverse, experienced people together.

We have followed through on our promise to create a new Major Investments Office, dedicated to working with investors proposing large projects with the potential to create a significant number of jobs.

Our Immigration Task Force is not only up and running, but has completed a tour of the province to gather input and advice.

And we've put the BC Jobs and Investment Board in place to provide expert, objective analysis and recommendations on our progress.

ENGAGEMENT

But above all, we've listened. We know government can't do this alone. We asked for input from all areas of B.C. and British Columbians have responded, from every corner of the province, and on every sector of our economy.

People really stepped up to this call for ideas....

Let me give you an example of one idea we're acting on now.

Through the BC Jobs Plan engagement site, I heard from Kimberley on Vancouver Island, who wants to see more support for sustainable organic farming so she can supply locally-grown food to her community.

That's an idea I believe you will see reflected in the agriculture strategy Minister Don McRae will be releasing in the next few days.

CONCLUSION

Our jobs plan is being built by British Columbians using their ideas.

We've made great progress...and we're just getting started.

But there is more work to do.

Our goal is to ensure that B.C. ranks in the top two Canadian provinces in new job growth and in GDP growth by 2015.

It's an ambitious target, but I know we can do it.

It will give us a strong and sustainable economy – one that can weather economic storms and safe-guard well-paid jobs for B.C. families.

The BC Jobs Plan is called “Canada Starts Here” because this is our time to come together, reach out to the world and lead Canada.

As I said at the beginning, we’ve come a long way.

And we are committed to continuing to work with British Columbians to write the story of our province’s future.

- END -

Globe 2012 - Opening Plenary
Building a Greener Economy through Innovation
Wed. March 14th
Vancouver

Event: What is it?

- This is the official opening event for the Globe 2012 conference.
- Globe (March 14 – 16 in Vancouver) is North America's largest and longest-running international gathering of senior representatives from the public, private and NGO sectors interested in sustainability and leading edge green technology.
- More than 400 leading environmental and clean energy technology firms from Germany, Japan, Austria, France, Poland, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States, and for the first time, China will participate in the GLOBE Trade Fair.
- The event happens every two years.

Audience: Who are they?

- The event is attended by business people, strategists and policy makers.
- 10,000 people are expected to attend over the course of three days.
- Other confirmed speakers for the opening plenary are John Kitzhaber, Governor of the State of Oregon, Jim Weigand, President, DuPont Sustainable Solutions, USA and Steve Williams, President & Chief Operating Officer, Suncor Energy Inc., Canada

What do they want to hear?

- The BC's Green Economy report shows how the green economy is an integral part of our jobs plan, because it is part of all the sectors that are driving job growth.
- Clean tech has never been in more demand on a global scale, and that's an opportunity BC must capitalize on.
- Because of the policies we've implemented and the drive of innovators like you, BC is a leader on renewable energy, green building design and clean tech innovation.

- Acknowledgements (TBD)

I want to start by acknowledging John Wiebe,
President and CEO of the Globe Foundation.

John was instrumental in crafting the West Coast
Clean Economy report on behalf of the Pacific Coast
Collaborative - British Columbia, California, Oregon
and Washington.

John's captured a vision for us - how we as leaders of
our respective states and provinces can work together
and fulfill the potential of the green economy.

Growing a green economy is his vision, and with the potential 86,000 new jobs here in BC by 2020, it's also mine.

So thank you John and thank you for inviting me here today to open Globe 2012.

This fall, we announced our BC Jobs Plan. It lays out a vision that recognizes that BC's future is inextricably linked to what is happening across the Pacific.

Asian nations want to ensure that their huge economic growth is supported by environmentally sustainable practices.

That's one reason why a central part of our jobs plan is implementing policies that support the clean tech sector that gives BC such a competitive advantage.

Last year there were 202 core clean tech companies. They generated \$2.5 billion in revenue and provided 8,400 goods jobs to BC families, and we know that this sector will only continue to grow.

But these policies are also part of who we are. British Columbians value the environment, and it's not hard to figure out why – just look around this beautiful province.

That's why today I am pleased to announce the release of our report on *BC's Green Economy*.

The idea of a green economy is a hard one to pin down. This report helps clarify what those words mean to British Columbians.

It also shows how the green economy is an integral part of our jobs plan, because it is part of all the sectors that are driving job growth.

Green jobs are everywhere in BC – from high-tech jobs in the clean tech sector, to jobs in our foundational sectors where people are finding new solutions to address old problems.

To support the progress of our Jobs Plan, we will soon be releasing a *Technology and Clean Technology* sector strategy.

This will lay out our vision to foster innovation in BC and ensure that this is the best place in Canada to be researching, piloting and commercializing clean technologies.

Clean tech is at the heart of BC's green economy. But clean tech isn't just enabling our green economy – it's an export for BC too.

Clean tech has never been in more demand on a global scale, and that's an opportunity BC must capitalize on.

We hear clean tech success stories all the time.

Ostara, a BC-based company that provides an innovative wastewater management system, is currently negotiating their first deal in Europe, and have grown their workforce by 30 per cent in the last 12 months.

Our leading environmental standards have encouraged investment in clean tech businesses, and now we are capitalizing on that momentum.

Endurance Wind's wind turbine technology is a perfect example. In the last four years, they've gone from having no employees to 90, and 10 of those were added in just the last two months.

Their revenue has grown from \$3 million to \$25 million. That's what I call momentum.

As they told us, access to the 30% tax credit, a clean tech friendly market and our environmental policies, make BC the ONLY place for Endurance to do business.

But like I said, we're also using clean tech right here at home.

Awesense Wireless has just completed a pilot project with Fortis BC to develop leading-edge technology that saves energy and money for Fortis.

This has also doubled the number of employees for Awesense and has lead to a contract with Fortis to implement other technological efficiencies.

Or take the example of the incredible opportunity that liquefied natural gas represents – even beyond its status as the cleanest burning fossil fuel.

While other economies are pursuing LNG exports, none can compete with the steps BC is taking to protect our clean air and water, because our first plants will be powered by clean energy.

That means a huge increase in renewable energy production here in BC, which will create even more jobs for families.

Our government has worked to support BC's green economy. Our leadership on the carbon tax created an environment where clean tech companies can flourish, because it put a price advantage on being clean and drove investment to the sector.

And while it is currently under review, this is only to ensure that it doing the job it was designed to do – helping us protect the planet, while keeping our industries competitive.

Elsewhere, our environmental policies have encouraged green economic activity in all of our sectors.

Our Carbon Neutral Government policies mean that students and public employees around the province get to see our leadership on climate change first hand every day.

And our Environmental Assessment Office has ensured that our mining sector is leading in sustainable mining, and now the rest of the world looks to our sector for guidance.

Policies like these have driven green economic growth in every BC sector. But it is innovators like the people in this room that have truly made BC's green economy as success.

Our green economy demonstrates how sustainability can be an opportunity for business instead of a burden.

Clean tech isn't just being used to save the environment – it's being used to save money too, by helping companies cut costs and increase sales.

And that means families enjoying cleaner air and water, while BC businesses enjoy a position of leadership in the world.

We know that clean tech is a huge part of our future. BC businesses are already developing cutting-edge technologies to turn our abundant natural resources into renewable energy for domestic use and export.

Because of the policies we've implemented and the drive of innovators like you, BC is a leader on renewable energy, green building design and clean tech innovation.

When it comes to the green economy, Canada Starts Here.

-END-

Speech to Canada-India Business Council
Monday, March 12, 2012
Speech Length: 10-15 min.

Event: what is it?

- Speech to Canada-India Business Council

Audience: who are they?

- About 40 Council members (tbc)

Key Messages:

- Last year's trade mission to India was just the beginning. We strengthened our economic ties with India and will continue to deepen our already rich relationship.
- The federal government now recognizes the vital importance of India as a trading partner. BC is the gateway to growth and enhancing our economic and social ties with India is a key component to our government's jobs plan..
- With our deep family and cultural connections to India, it is with great excitement that we are bidding for the for the 2013 International India Film Awards

- Thank MC (TBC)

ACKNOWLEDGE

Key Individuals: (TBC)

LAST NOVEMBER, IT WAS MY HONOUR TO LEAD THE LARGEST TRADE DELEGATION IN B.C.'S HISTORY TO INDIA.

Approximately 350 delegates representing 150 companies, organizations and community groups travelled with me...this Council among them.

Together, we set out to promote B.C. as a safe harbour for investment in order to create jobs right here at home.

As part of "Canada Starts Here: The BC Jobs Plan" we wanted to open doors in India, strengthen existing

relationships and continue to lay the foundations of our future success.

And with your help ... we succeeded!

It produced 14 corporate signings, 9 partnership agreements and more than \$60 million dollars in deals.

Four new offices were opened ...

... And I attended events and meetings with business and political leaders in Delhi, Mumbai, Chandigarh, Amritsar and Bangalore.

And this is just the beginning of a deepening and strengthening relationship between BC and India who already share so much.

I recognize that it's important to demonstrate that companies and government are working together.

I also understand that to do business successfully in India it is critically important to develop relationships.

As the saying goes: "business doesn't happen between strangers."

The long-term stable relationships we are building in India will lead to job creation in B.C.

For example, I am proud of the agreement signed by Wavefront, the Vancouver-based National Wireless Center of Excellence, with the Cellular Operators Association of India.

It will ease and speed up the flow of wireless business between India and Canada.

It increased awareness of B.C.'s thriving wireless sector and opened the door for further growth.

That's hugely important, given that India is the second-largest wireless market in the world.

Our efforts to reach out to trade partners in India continues to pay off...

At the World Economic Forum in January it was announced that free trade negotiations between Canada and India will now be fast-tracked.

This is great news for job creation in B.C.

OUR JOBS PLAN COMMITS US TO DOUBLING
BRITISH COLUMBIA'S INTERNATIONAL
PRESENCE IN KEY AND EXPANDING MARKETS.

During our jobs and trade mission we announced that B.C. will work with our federal government to establish trade offices within the Canadian consulates in Mumbai and Chandigarh.

Here at home, we've created 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.

They will make sure timelines don't slip and negotiate solutions to problems.

If the answer is "yes," the Office will help us get there as quickly as possible and get the jobs created as soon as we can.

But our trade ties with India aren't just about mining and natural resources.

We also have a strong cultural bond.

As part of the trade mission, I was delighted to visit a Bollywood choreography studio and meet with industry officials – as well as movie star Anil Kapoor – at an event hosted by the IIFA.

AND WE ARE EXCITED BY THE OPPORTUNITY TO
MAKE A BID FOR THE 2013 INTERNATIONAL
INDIAN FILM ACADEMY AWARDS!

As you know this is India's biggest media event and
draws hundreds of millions in economic activity for the
host city.

But more than that, it's an event that draws millions of
viewers around the world. Viewers who would be
reminded why they should invest, study and work in
B.C.

WE HAVE SO MUCH TO OFFER TO A COUNTRY
LIKE INDIA.

Despite current global economic turmoil British
Columbia remains a safe harbour for investment.

We have the highest possible triple-A credit rating.

We have amongst the lowest corporate and income taxes.

Prince Rupert is the closest port to Asia by three days.

And we have the products that are in high demand during India's rapid growth.

We shouldn't be shy about selling our strengths as a province.

We must make our voices heard.

B.C. is Canada's Asia-Pacific Gateway -- our cities, companies and institutions are conduits to North America and the world.

And they are becoming very busy conduits because India is growing at a breathtaking rate.

By 2050 it will have the world's third-largest economy.

Its middle class is already ten times larger than the entire population of Canada.

The potential economic rewards for us are clear...

And thanks to our province's large South Asian community we have a head start.

I know that we're here to talk about business – but in the end, I believe the reason we care so much about business is because we want to care for our families.

And I believe that if you grow the economy, you support families.

Above all, we're trying to look out for the people around us. That's what I call putting families first.

Our BC Jobs Plan is about strengthening families in B.C., and in India too – because we will create opportunities for all of us to prosper together. Right now, we have an incredible opportunity to do great things with our partners in India.

I've been calling it a generational opportunity. While other economies are facing turbulent times ahead, by helping India grow, we can grow too.

The advantages B.C. offers means we can be a great partner for them, and that partnership will allow us to prosper together.

As I say: we have an incredible opportunity in front of us.

So let's work together and seize the day.

Because when it comes to building the future, Canada starts in B.C. and in India.

Thank You.

- END -

New Homebuyers Tax Credit
Thursday, March 29, 2012
Length: 5 minutes

Event: what is it?

- Event to showcase new housing HST transition rules that come into effect April 1, 2012 and to remind new home buyers of the \$10,000 First Time Homebuyers' bonus, which came into effect Feb. 21, 2012.

Audience: who are they?

- MJ Whitmarsh, Canadian Homebuilders of B.C.
- Media

Key Messages

- We know how hard it is for families, especially those just setting out in life, to get into B.C.'s real estate market.
- Together, our government's tax credit and lowered price threshold help families get a head start in buying their first home.
- The residential housing industry is a huge employer and big economic driver here in the Lower Mainland.
- These measures help the industry to stay busy and create new jobs in the process.

- Thanks to XX for coming today. We're because we know buying a house is the biggest purchase many people will ever make.
- Our government understands how hard it is for families – especially for families just setting out in life, to get into B.C.'s real estate market.
- We're helping them do that by making the cost of new homes a little bit more affordable while at the same time protecting and creating stable jobs in the home construction industry.
- As of Feb. 21, the BC First-Time New Home Buyer's Bonus has been available - a bonus up to \$10,000 for first-time home buyers who purchase an eligible new home!
- You know, builders and home buyers asked us to help them out, and so we did. So as of this Sunday, April 1, we're increasing the threshold for the B.C. New Housing Rebates.
- As of April 1st, we're also making it easier for British Columbians to buy newly built recreational homes.
- The residential housing industry is a huge employer and big economic driver here in the Lower Mainland.

- These measures that take effect on Sunday help the industry stay busy and create new jobs in the process.
- Our government is creating the right conditions for growth – steps to grow investment, protect jobs and create new ones...And we're so proud to be at the same time helping get families into their own homes.

- END -

Seniors Home Renovation Tax Credit
Wed. March 28, 2012
3 minutes

Event: what is it?

- Media event at the home of Mr. Ashok Dhaul, to showcase how the Seniors Home Renovation Tax Credit will benefit the senior and his family.

Audience: who are they?

- Seniors
- Media
- Home renovation industry stakeholders (tbc)
- Ida Chong, MLA for Gordon Head and Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development
- MLAs (tbc)

KEY MESSAGES:

This tax credit helps seniors remain independent.

It keeps seniors at home and closer to their family.

The tax credit is helping to protect and create jobs by supporting the home renovation industry.

This new tax credit will lend a helping hand to seniors and their families and spur millions of dollars in increased spending that will help to sustain jobs in the home renovation sector.

- Acknowledge Mr. Ashok Dhaul who has volunteered the use of his home for this event.
- Home is where the heart is. We know that seniors, like everyone else, are happiest in their homes.
- That's why our government introduced the BC Seniors Home Renovation Tax Credit, to help seniors stay independent, healthy and in their homes.
- Today, I am pleased to say that the tax credit will take effect as planned, on April 1, 2012 ... just a few days from now.
- It means that seniors will be able to claim a credit of up to \$1,000 a year on eligible renovations undertaken on or after this Sunday.

- The new tax credit can be claimed by seniors, whether they own their home or rent, and by families who share a home with a senior relative.
- We recognize that most active, healthy seniors would like to continue living comfortably in their own home and often that means some renovations will be required.
- They might be relatively large, such as creating a secondary suite or first-floor accommodation for senior relatives.
- Or the renovations could be as simple as adding shower handrails and grab-bars for added peace of mind.
- This tax credit will lend a helping hand to our seniors and protect and create jobs by supporting the home renovation industry.

- You know ... I came back to politics because I felt that I could make life better for BC families and for British Columbians of all ages.
- And that means listening to people, including those of us who have made the most trips around the block and learned the most about life.
- That's why today's common-sense approach gives me particular pleasure.
- It is another step in our ongoing strategy to help B.C.'s remarkable seniors maintain their quality of life and their independence.
- Thank you.

- END -

**Guide Outfitters Association of B.C.
Annual General Meeting Gala Dinner
Saturday, March 31, 2012
Length: 5-7 minutes**

Event: what is it?

GOABC's Gala Dinner as part of their AGM.

Minister Thompson is providing the keynote address and will cover the following topics:

- o Harvest Allocation Policy
- o Guide Outfitting Certificate
- o Proposed Tenure Changes

Audience: who are they?

Approx 150 members of the Guide Outfitters Association of B.C., primarily guide outfitters, hunters and partners in conservation.

- Honourable Steve Thompson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
- FLNRO Ministry staff will also be in attendance, including
 - Brian Clark, Executive Director, Resource Stewardship
 - Andrew Wilson, Director, Fish, Wildlife and Habitat Management Branch
 - Ian Hatter, Manager, Fish, Wildlife and Habitat Management Branch

Key Messages

- Government recognizes the contribution your industry makes to the province...to tourism, to the economy.
- On behalf of the government of B.C., I'm happy to tell you that we are providing the Guide Outfitters Association of B.C. with an additional one-time contribution of \$30,000.
- We're committed to our sector strategy for Tourism called, '*Gaining The Edge: A Five-Year Strategy for Tourism in British Columbia*', targeting key tourism products that motivate people to visit B.C.

- It's a pleasure to be here this evening with you.
- Acknowledge MLAs and Minister
- I love it here. Only a month ago I was up in the Okanagan, speaking to the Kelowna Chamber about Budget 2012 and checking out the action at the BC Winter Games.
- GOABC's members guide visitors to exceptional experiences in our province's wilderness every day.
- You lead people from all over the world through our remotest mountains, valleys and forests, and thanks to your expertise, visitors see parts of our province that very few have the privilege of exploring.
- They go home and tell their families and friends to come here, too...and that is crucial to building our tourism industry and to building our economy.

- I believe the future prosperity of British Columbia depends on our ability to help communities supply jobs that support families.
- And you here in this room play an important role in this process.
- As you know, our government launched Canada Starts Here: the BC Jobs Plan last fall.
- To build on our strong record of fiscal management, we are capitalising on our economic advantages – to encourage investment, open new markets, and create jobs for British Columbians.
- Under the BC Jobs Plan, we are taking the lessons we learned opening new markets in forestry and applying them to our key sectors...
-Sectors where we can and will leverage our competitive strengths.
- Tourism is key.

- Last October, we launched our sector strategy for Tourism called, '*Gaining The Edge*'
- Providing a framework for government and industry to work together to attract more visitors and create jobs for British Columbians.
- Our strategy targets key tourism products that motivate people to visit B.C.
- Because of our natural advantages here in B.C., tourism is a sector that can positively influence almost every area of province, bringing in additional dollars.
- There are excellent tourist experiences in every corner of the province just waiting to be experienced by visitors from around the world.
- Our new Tourism Strategy targets 5 per cent per year in annual growth.
- We want to see will \$18 billion by 2016.
- Tourism, like all of the Jobs Plan sectors, brings "new" dollars into B.C.'s economy – dollars that will help create jobs.

- OUR GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZES THE CONTRIBUTION YOUR INDUSTRY MAKES TO THE PROVINCE...to tourism, to the economy.
- On behalf of the government of B.C., I'm happy to tell you that we are providing the Guide Outfitters Association of B.C. with an additional one-time contribution of \$30,000.
- I know this funding will help with the costs of your AGM and your consumer EXPO, and with the development of foreign language versions of your website to support your international promotional efforts.
- As a government with a "families first" policy, we appreciate what you contribute to our province:
 - Recreation for families, through wildlife management and habitat projects.

- Food for families, through the wild meat you've donated to charities and food banks.
- And jobs for families in rural B.C.
- You're doing a great job of continuing to bring sportsmen and women to British Columbia, and giving them experiences to remember, and for that I thank you.
- I think the past few months have been quite defining for British Columbia.
- We have embarked on our bold economic strategy – The BC Jobs Plan...
- ...and I invite everyone here to visit the BC Jobs Plan website and give your feedback.
- We are seeing the power of working as a team. If all of us can work together to build on our natural advantages, it's clear to me that British Columbia will continue to be a safe harbour amongst a world of stormy economic shores.
- Thank-you.

-END-

Mineral Exploration Roundup
Wednesday, January 25, 2012
Length: 20 minutes

Event: what is it?

- Annual conference on mining – Association for Mining Exploration British Columbia (AME BC).
- 2012 marks their 100th anniversary of advocacy for the mining industry, and this is the 29th annual Roundup.
- AME BC represents 4,000 individual and 360 corporate members including companies, geoscientists, prospectors, engineers, entrepreneurs, suppliers, mineral producers and associations engaged in mineral exploration and development in B.C.
- The Premier will be speaking along with Fred McMahon, senior vice-president, Research, International, of the Fraser Institute. Mr. McMahon will be speaking about some perception challenges BC has with this industry and how changes have been made to address those issues.
- The theme of Roundup 2012 is "Celebrating our First Century of Global Discovery".

Audience: who are they?

- Sue Craig, Chair – Roundup 2012
- Victoria Yehl, Co-chair – Roundup 2012
- Gavin C. Dirom, President & CEO, AME BC
- This event is typically attended by media and more than 400 leaders from the mining & mineral exploration and investment, government and First Nation communities.

Key Messages

- **Congratulations on your 100th anniversary**
- **B.C. supports the mining industry and is working to clear permitting backlogs to ensure success.**
- **B.C. is investing in skills training to ensure that a skilled work force is available in rural B.C.**

ACKNOWLEDGE MINISTERS PAT BELL, TERRY LAKE, STEVE THOMSON, RICH COLEMAN

HAPPY 100TH ANNIVERSARY, AME BC!

Right off the top, let me say this. British Columbia is home to the best, most responsible, most innovative mining and mineral exploration sectors. No question.

You combine vision with hard work. Your passion to discover is matched by your concern for safety, environmental excellence and the communities you share your successes with.

The land isn't just where you work. It's also your inspiration.

Our province was built on mining, and your work is a great example of what can be done when people work together – from all walks of life to do great things.

These are values that we all share.

They lie at the heart the BC Jobs Plan. It's called "Canada Starts Here".

We chose this name because we know British Columbia can pull Canada forward – we know we can lead this country like never before.

The BC Jobs Plan is my government's vision to grow investment, to protect and create jobs right here in British Columbia.

I promise you this - my government is doing everything we can to see this vision realized.

Announcements:

Today I am pleased to announce that we are making real progress in implementing policies to help you create jobs in the mining sector.

- In September we committed \$24 million to cut the backlog in government permitting and approvals.
- We committed to reduce backlog of applications for Notices of Work in the mining sector by 80 per cent within one year.

- We started with 229 notices. Today, four months later, I am announcing that we've cut those 229 notices down to 85. We are more than three quarters of the way towards our goal.
- And we're just getting started.
- When we get to our goal, we will retain an average 60-day turn-around time for new applications.
- You can now track our progress on this commitment online at our BC Jobs Plan website.
- And you'll be able to hold us to account and we welcome it. These targets are an important part of the BC Jobs Plan.

Second, I am pleased to announce the Quinsam Mine, a coal mine on central Vancouver Island, has just been awarded a Mines Act amendment permit.

- This will keep more than 500 people on the job in Campbell River.
- It was only two weeks ago I announced a mine expansion permit at the Huckleberry Mine, just south of Smithers.
- This expansion will ensure stable jobs for 300 people for the next nine years— good paying jobs that support families.

Finally, I am pleased to be able to announce the Dease-Liard Strategic Land Use Planning Agreement.

- This agreement is the result of hard work and collaboration with the Kaska Dena Council.
- It provides economic stability for investors and job creation in north western B.C. It also protects the important cultural and environmental values held by First Nations in the area. This is a win-win-win agreement.

- We are also currently concluding a Strategic Engagement Agreement that will help B.C. and the Kaska Dena achieve timely turn-around objectives for reviewing resource permits, as we outlined in the BC Jobs Plan.
- We are working hard to provide certainty – land use plans now exist for 95 per cent of the northern BC.

BC Jobs Plan

There are three pillars to the BC Jobs Plan.

The first is enabling job creation with common-sense government policies that open doors, and make things simple for business by getting out of the way when we can.

With our reduction in the backlog, I think you can see we are serious, and you should know we are just getting started.

Our government is implementing policies that will see eight new mines and nine expanded mines by 2015.

But 2015 is just three years away. It's going to take hard work and we are going to have to get it done fast.

You know this summer we opened the first new major metals mine in BC ...since 1998. (Copper Mountain)

I believe that in this province, we can and will do better.

The second pillar of our Jobs Plan is focused on improving infrastructure so we can get our goods to market, whether that market is here in B.C. or whether it's overseas.

These projects are underway all over the province.

The third pillar of our jobs plan is focused on opening new markets.

That's why we are setting up a hosting program to welcome international business and investment delegations to BC.

We will provide personalized service and assistance to overseas delegations. We want to match them with the right potential business opportunities and partnerships.

These pillars are supported by two strong foundations: BC's reputation for good fiscal management and our skilled work force.

Vancouver is the centre for excellence for mineral exploration and mine development. More than half of the country's mineral exploration companies are located here.

In 2011, Canadian mineral exploration and development-stage companies raised close to \$6 billion on the **TSX Venture Exchange**.

And 60 per cent of those companies are based right here in B.C.

We need to build on this expertise and attract new people to this growing industry.

That's why we're investing in skills training, and opportunities for young First Nations workers.

We want to ensure that the people are in place, with the right skills, when your industry needs them.

That's why we are investing over a million dollars to ensure that skilled workers are there for you, and to encourage women, Aboriginal people and new Canadians to become involved.

Between BC and Alberta, we are fighting for workers.

It's ridiculous in a country where there is unemployment that we are scrambling and fighting for workers and giving each other black eyes, driving up costs.

Government has a role to play: we need to educate more workers, work together to predict the needs of the business community, and match training at our post secondary institutions with the needs of our businesses.

I want Rich to work with you to make sure BC keeps its leading edge as a hub of mining excellence.

One key part of having a vision is recognizing when game-changing opportunities are presenting themselves – and then seizing those opportunities with everything you've got.

The preliminary estimate for exploration in 2011 was \$463 million, up 35 per cent over 2010.

But more important, that's a fifteen hundred per cent increase over 2001, when exploration was a paltry \$29 million.

All of this makes a huge difference: it means companies are spending money and more people have jobs.

Now some people claim it's all because of high commodity prices.

Sure high commodity prices might be part of it but it doesn't mean much:

- Without investors...
- Without workers...
- If there are backlogs in permits...
- Or high taxes...
- If we don't have the right infrastructure to get goods to market...

When government doesn't do its part, it doesn't matter if you've given your best.

If I don't do my part, you might have to go do your best somewhere else – just like the 50,000 people that left BC looking for work in the 1990s.

Look at what happened to the mining and forestry sectors during that decade – you were doing your best, working your heart out each and every day, but the government at the time thought they knew better.

In this economy, if any part breaks down, we all pay the price. So we have to be in this together.

You need a partner in government and I am here to tell you - you have one.

Let's face it. We have what the world needs.

Steel-making coal from the Peace region goes to China and is used to make windmills to create clean energy.

Copper from Princeton is used in Japan to make cars that are better for the environment.

Zinc refined in Trail makes steel stronger, buildings safer.

And zinc does more than that – it also saves lives.

Teck's partnership with the World Health Organization, to get zinc nutrients into the diets of kids across the developing world, is making an incredible difference.

BC mining and mineral exploration companies make our world a better place. That's a story that isn't told enough and it's one that I intend to champion.

I intend to be the best salesperson for BC this province has ever had.

People need to understand what we produce in BC has a direct impact on the quality of life of people around the world.

But the world doesn't just want what we have in the ground.

They want what's in our heads: the knowledge to have a responsible mining industry with the highest health, safety and environmental standards.

You set the bar on safety standards.

The B.C. mining industry has not experienced a single mine operations fatality since September 2009.

Everyone here knows our most important resource is the people who make it all happen.

As you grow and need more engineers and scientists to work in this highly technical field, it becomes even more important that B.C. remains a world leader in mine health and safety practices.

So keep it up.

We need workers and we want them to know this is the best place to work.

BC Jobs for BC families

The creation of jobs is not about statistics or balance sheets – the reason everyone in this room focuses on job creation is at the centre of each of our lives – our families.

Take Copper Mountain in Princeton.

270 people in Princeton now have a good job because of the mine at Copper Mountain.

That's 1 out of every 10 people in that community directly employed at Copper Mountain.

Princeton has been revived by that project.

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.

These are good jobs – jobs families can rely on ... jobs that will support people in many of the sectors outside of mining.

When families have jobs, maybe they'll buy a new truck when they need one.

Maybe they'll renovate their kitchen.

And for some families, it might mean the difference between having to worry or not about making sure their children can get a healthy breakfast before they head off to school.

I want people to see what economic growth really means because it's not an abstract concept.

Real jobs bring real hope. And our province is a better place when every community in our province is buoyed by hope for the future of their children and their families.

SAFE HARBOUR

We can do these things because people here know how to combine vision with hard work and perseverance.

Success is also about being disciplined – something that is more important than ever in the stormy seas of today's global economy.

That is why I am so determined to protect our reputation for fiscal prudence.

We are competing with countries from all over the globe and one of our big assets is our stability – our commitment to stable budgeting, common sense regulation, reasonable taxation and policies that encourage businesses and invite investment.

Look around the world to see why this is so important -- countries that pursued the reckless and risky policies of runaway spending and debt and who are now paying the price today.

They are paying the same price BC paid for the same policies in the 1990s – lost confidence, lost jobs and families that are afraid for their future.

Ten years ago BC turned the page on the policies that are creating economic chaos in much of the world today – and we can never go back.

Greece and Italy are only learning that lesson now – we learned it ten years ago.

In some ways, we're lucky that we've already been through the kind of stormy seas that the rest of the world now faces.

It gave us the opportunity to learn from mistakes.

Today, we are a safe harbour in a world of economic turmoil. But we can't go backwards. We have to keep moving forward together, as leaders in Canada.

Conclusion

The work we are doing together through the BC Jobs Plan is being felt across our province.

It's about economic growth that creates revenues – revenues that fund innovations in health care, improvements in education and new infrastructure that creates jobs and gets our goods to markets.

In my government, ministers run their files. You have two great champions in Rich Coleman and Steve Thomson. And I know you work closely with Mary, Terry and Pat.

And boy are they lucky, they get to work with you – the best professional mining and mineral exploration sectors in the world.

You are setting the gold standard for safety, driving environmental innovation and making our world a much better place.

While economies all over the world are losing jobs, B.C. is on a roll.

I am proud to be the Premier of the province that is a global leader in responsible mining.

It may be your 100th anniversary, but I think you're just getting started ... because, when it comes to building the future, Canada Starts Here.

- END -

BCBC

- I often talk about families and jobs, because too me they are intertwined.
- The economy is not an abstract concept... it's about jobs that support families and communities.
- It's about making sure parents have the resources to build strong citizens.
- And you are key partners in making that happen, in creating jobs across the province – jobs that support families.
- In September, we launched Canada Starts Here: The BC Jobs Plan – a comprehensive, government-wide approach to economic development.
- This past fall, the largest B.C. trade delegation went to China and Asia – we were there to open doors for you.
- And we are developing sectoral strategies, with your input. We released the tourism strategy in the fall and soon we will be unveiling the natural gas strategy.

- And we're seeing some positive signs:
- The shipbuilding contract for Seaspan;
- Rio Tinto's \$3 billion investment in a new smelter;
- The new LNG line to Kitimat;
- The Evergreen Line, which will create 8,000 jobs
- And just yesterday YVR announced a \$1.8 billion investment in infrastructure, which will create another 1,600 jobs.
- Success is also about being disciplined – something that is more important than ever in the stormy seas of today's global economy.
- That is why I am so determined to protect our reputation for fiscal prudence.

- We are competing with countries from all over the globe and one of our big assets is our stability – our commitment to stable budgeting, common sense regulation, low taxes and policies that encourage businesses and invite investment.
- We don't attract investment today by spending money we don't have, or by piling up mountains of debt for our children to pay off.
- Ten years ago BC turned the page on high tax policies that discouraged investment, that drove away jobs, that squeezed BC families and shuttered businesses on main streets all across BC.
- British Columbia has spent the last ten years rebuilding... investing in vital infrastructure, while also getting our fiscal house in order.

- Now we are on the cusp of real economic renewal in the north. We are turning the page again to a time of unprecedented opportunity.
- And we need to do it together.
- Far too often, it seems government does this too people, instead of doing things with and for people.
- I want you to know, in my government you have a partner in making things happen – a common sense government that open doors and make things simple for business by getting out of the way when we can.

The Power of Connected Leadership
BC Top 100 Women of Influence Awards
Women's Executive Network Lunch
12:15 to 1:30 - Vancouver
Length: 20-25 minute

Event: What is it?

- The Women's Executive Network is hosting out Top 100 Women of Influence Awards on Feb 1st in Vancouver - celebrating the country's most influential women - and this event show cases the winners from BC
- The theme of the event is "The Power of Connected Leadership."
- The Premier will speak after the awards are presented.

Audience: Who are they?

- 250 future leaders, female executives and speakers from the will morning summit will attend the luncheon
- Media

What do they want to hear?

Thank you etc.

I give a lot of speeches – at least a couple every week. But I don't usually get to look out into an audience chock full of successful women. It is an honour to be among you.

Last summer I chaired the meeting of Premiers from across the country. We all gathered in Vancouver, and it was the first time in history there were three women premiers among us. There are now four of course, even better. But last summer Alison Redford wasn't yet Premier of Alberta.

At that time, the three of us came from the three coasts – Kathy Dunderdale from Newfoundland, Eva Aariak from Nunavut and myself. And I joked to the other ten premiers that we might be only three, but we had them surrounded.

Now, there has been some speculation about whether this changing gender balance is or could change the course we are setting for our provinces and, together, for Canada.

Some of you might have seen that I joined two of my fellow women premiers for a television interview a few weeks ago when Premiers met again in Victoria to discuss health care.

Of course, I was asked about the cleavage controversy. But thankfully most of us are focused on a lot more serious public policy issues.

I found that interview with my colleagues very meaningful, very substantive, and quite illuminating in terms of my own assessment of how Canada is changing and how British Columbia is changing.

Now, I don't actually think that having four women premiers in Canada is going to fundamentally change our course. That is because I believe that, when supplied with all the facts and given an opportunity for reflection; most folks will usually draw the same conclusions.

But that is precisely where I am different. I want citizens to be involved in decision-making.

I want people to have the facts, and I want them to reflect, along with me, on some of the difficult public policy decisions we have before us.

Some people say our problems these days are “wicked” problems – because the global economic reality makes many of our decisions stark. We are either going to spend more money and burden future generations with debt, or we are going to make some tough calls.

Well, I’ve been making the tough calls because, like you, I care about our kids, and their kids, and I want them to have the same choices that we have all enjoyed.

That’s why I have been focused like a laser beam on job creation and economic activity in British Columbia.

There are some interesting economic indicators that are tied to behaviours that make me think that women and men might be affected by economic trends in very different ways.

Think of Leonard Lauder's lipstick indicator – lipstick sales go up during times of economic contraction.

The theory is that women are looking for smaller, simpler pleasure during these times, little ways to perk themselves up; hence an increase in lipstick sales.

On the flip side, you have Alan Greenspan's underwear index. At the same time lipstick sales are going up, men's underwear sales drop quite noticeably... on paper.

Just think about that...

I think that women respond in measurable ways to what we hear about the economy and the future.

Many of you are well versed in global economic trends, and how they affect British Columbia's economy. And I think we are similar because these are not abstract concepts to you. They are real concepts that can have a big impact on your family and those you love.

Your interest means you know a lot about what we are doing here in British Columbia to keep a safe harbour during these turbulent times.

In British Columbia we are the second-lowest tax jurisdiction in Canada. We are surrounded by countries, even provinces here in Canada, that have not exercised discipline on their spending.

But we have stayed focused on a balanced budget and worked through tough decisions.

In British Columbia we have a steady hand at the wheel. With my Minister of Finance, we are charting a path through a haze of global uncertainty so that we can remain a desirable place to invest, so that we can protect all that we have worked so hard to build.

Some of our recent public policy work really underlines the approach my government is taking.

We were faced with criticism for several months by folks who felt we were short-changing individuals with developmental disabilities.

I am sure you heard about this issue. It was tough for me to face, personally, because so much of why I was drawn back into politics was about making life better in our province. It was one of the more difficult issues I have worked through.

Now, our critics took a pretty clear position on this issue. They wanted us to spend more money.

But in government we knew there was more at play than money. There are generational changes happening among individuals with developmental disabilities and frankly, our institutions simply weren't keeping up with expectations.

Many of the younger people using our services went to school and the friends they made there have graduated and gone on to work, to post-secondary school, to independent lives.

They watch their friends' transition into independence, and they want the same things.

We have to support those ambitions with programs and funding that make sense for individual needs. And that is what we are doing.

We took the time to talk to the people and families who use the program, to analyze the criticism, and understand the concerns.

Yes, we needed to invest more funding in this area.

But more importantly, we need to change our culture and change our approach.

I believe government is the expression of our collective will to look after one another. British Columbians need to start to see government not as an organization that does something to them. We need citizens to see government as an organization where we are doing something for each other.

I started by saying I am focused on job creation. Providing meaningful programs to support the ambitions of people with developmental disabilities is just one of the things that motivate me in my work to promote the economy.

Without a strong economy, we cannot afford these social programs.

Without a strong economy, we cannot have a diversified economy that will offer jobs to British Columbians.

The money we invest in individuals with developmental disabilities is insufficient, according to our critics. It would be easy to just buckle to these demands. When you face constant criticism, believe me, it is sometimes enticing to say, okay, just do what they're asking.

I face opposition every day who have a simple two-step procedure for every problem we are facing.

1. Spend more money.
2. Maintain the status quo.

But throwing money at problems and hoping they go away is not why I came back to politics. And most of the time, it actually doesn't solve the problems we face.

Like you, I know that the world around us is changing.

I am going to keep British Columbia on a solid fiscal footing. That is what is going to preserve our triple-A credit rating. That is how we are going to balance our budget. Those are all things that I care about because that is going to make our families and our society strong. And that is what I am committed to.

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

You are leaders in business and you have your eye on the bottom line.

You are helping to make sure your kids or the young people in your lives will be well positioned for the opportunities that lie ahead of them. You are trying to make sure they don't make decisions today that will limit their opportunities in years to come.

I am working hard to make sure your hard work and efforts are supported by government.

When I work on economic development and job creation, I am thinking about what British Columbia families need to be strong.

I think about how my decisions affect you.

I think about the connection between the economy of British Columbia and your wallets. Your purses.

If we throw away that discipline, we will lose at home and in British Columbia.

It will affect our household income.

It will affect the future prospects of our children.

And we will not support the services that make us the caring, generous society we all want to be.

I am still relatively new to the office but I am not new to politics. It's a pretty rough and tumble world.

Politics is a bit like steering a supertanker.

You can sink it in five minutes, but it takes a lot of hard work to turn it around.

I keep my focus on fiscal health because I know it is the only way we can make sure we have resources as a government to support the vulnerable.

I am not tempted by the path of least resistance -- I know that that is not where the biggest reward is and I don't want my son to learn the wrong example.

Women are taking on more and more leadership opportunities in our society, both in business and in government.

I have a cabinet of nearly 50 per cent women and we have increased our number of women appointed to boards and agencies.

I came back to politics because I felt that I could make life better for BC families - families as diverse as the Province itself.

Families are what unite us.

Every single person in this province has a family that they care about – whether those people are older than you, or younger than you, whether they are biological families or people you have chosen to have in your life.

As Premier, I spend every day making that commitment a reality. I keep pushing government, asking are we making a difference and are we doing enough?

I believe we can all contribute in many ways and I hope we can inspire each other to lead in our communities and mentor each other.

My government has worked hard to make BC a safe harbour for investment so we can create and protect jobs here at home.

A safe harbour for investment is also a safe harbour for families -- it means steady jobs and predictable incomes

It means a wealthy society that provides for and protects it's most vulnerable.

It means a shared sense amongst citizens that those services, those jobs and those incomes can be relied upon, not just today or even next year but for the many years to come.

That is what motivates me, and I've talked too many of you. We are all so similar. These are basic aspirations but they are profound.

And when we see stories from Greece - stories about mothers who cannot get insulin for their diabetic child because the health care system is crumbling - our hearts break for those children. And we worry about our own.

I will not make decisions that put BC in danger of imperilling our society.

It means tough decisions. It means taking the time to get things right.

And it means you're going to read some pretty harsh criticism about me from time to time.

But like you, I am committed to making sacrifices when it's the right thing to do.

-END-

Natural Gas – The BC Advantage

Friday, Feb 3

BCIT

Event: What is it?

- Announcement of the Natural Gas and Liquefied Natural Gas Strategies.

Audience: Who are they?

- Media
- Students from BCIT
- Name of Instructor TBC
- Possibly stakeholders

Key Messages:

- Our Natural Gas and Liquefied Natural Gas Strategies will help us open new markets in Asia and seize the opportunity to create a whole new industry.
- We are working hard with industry, educators and communities to support jobs for BC families in the clean tech and natural gas sectors.
- We are working with our partners to ensure the natural gas export terminals are powered as much as possible by clean energy so BC can remain a leader in the fight against climate change.
- And we will keep BC Hydro rates reasonable for families.

Introduction

Thank you for joining me here at BCIT.

And thank you for opening your classroom to us today.

The students we met with today are the real face of the natural gas industry. And my announcement today is about their future and the future of all British Columbians.

Announcement

As part of the BC Jobs Plan, we committed to bring at least one natural gas export terminal online by 2015, with three in operation by 2020.

Today I am pleased to present our natural gas strategy and our liquefied natural gas strategy.

This is an opportunity to create an entirely new industry in British Columbia, one that will benefit the entire province.

These strategies are the product of hard work by business, communities, First Nations and government.

The Kitimat LNG project - the first one that will go ahead - is the product of 21 months of community engagement and stringent environmental review.

The result is strategies that protect the environment while strengthening the economy.

We have a vision for the future of BC's natural gas industry:

- We will find new customers so more British Columbians are working and benefitting from our natural gas resources. And we will do it using BC's clean and renewable energy.

There are four policy pieces to this strategy.

First is finding new customers in Asia to get the most value for our natural gas.

This is about seizing the opportunity to create a whole new industry from a BC resource.

There is a lot of competition out there and this opportunity won't be in front of us forever. We have to act now.

Second, we are working with communities, industry and educators to support jobs for BC families in the clean tech and natural gas sectors and make sure our skills training programs match the needs of the sector.

Third, we are reaffirming our commitment to clean energy and climate change leadership.

- To do this, we are working with our partners to ensure the natural gas export terminals are powered by clean energy as much as possible.
- The first two natural gas export terminals – Kitimat and BC Douglas Channel – will be the **FIRST** in the world to use clean energy.

And fourth, we will redefine the province's self-sufficiency policy to ensure B.C. is well-positioned for power expansion and that hydro rates are affordable for families.

Together these policies will:

- Create an additional 1,000 to 2,000 new job openings;
- Support thousands of permanent spin off jobs across the province;
- Create 9,000 construction jobs over the next eight years;
- Involve \$20 billion in direct, new investment;
- And generate between \$1.4 and \$2 billion a year in additional government revenues to use on things like health, education and skills training.

Our strategies will take an abundant B.C. resource from the northeast and move it to the northwest to turn it into a value-added export before we ship it overseas.

Together, these plans are a powerful policy magnet for new investment in many parts of the economy – I know we will see that investment in the weeks and months to come.

Asia Pacific Advantage

One key part of having a vision is recognizing when game-changing opportunities present themselves – and then seizing those opportunities with everything you've got. That's what we are doing with our natural gas strategy.

LNG is one of the fastest growing sources of energy in the world. In the last 10 years demand has doubled, in the next eight it will increase by 50 per cent again.

Like all commodities, natural gas prices go up and down – but one thing is clear, this product is worth more in Asia than it is in North America – today it is worth almost six times as much there.

On Thursday, the spot price was \$2.51 US in North America.... in Asia, \$14.60. That's why it is so important we serve the demand and seize this opportunity.

China and Japan are both pursuing new supply, China to fuel its modernization and become greener and Japan to replace nuclear capacity.

Climate change is a global issue. By using natural gas to help displace other carbon intensive fuels - like coal or diesel - BC will contribute to the global reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

As I mentioned, clean energy will power the LNG plants in Kitimat – something that represents a significant commitment to expanding the independent, green energy sector in BC.

And British Columbia is home to world-leading natural gas vehicle industries, including engine and refueling technology.

Vancouver's Westport Innovations is a great example of how this works – the company develops new technology to convert diesel trucks to natural gas...

...and converting just one heavy duty truck has the same effect as taking 325 cars off the road.

But we can do more.

We can explore using natural gas in new technologies for clean diesel and jet fuel, for use in fertilizers, plywood and permanent press textiles.

There is a whole new industry we can build around natural gas and LNG exports.

This resource belongs to the people of BC. We need to maximize every part of this opportunity from technology and shipping, to propulsion, energy and new heating products.

You know, for a long time, British Columbia has been known as a place where it is difficult to do business.

The world is watching closely.

This is about government and communities working together to make something happen and sending a signal to the world - even when the economy is contracting, you can do business and make billions of dollars of investment in BC.

Training plan

Jobs are a priority for this government and a priority in our natural gas and LNG strategies.

We have a group of industry and training experts looking at the kind of jobs we can expect and coming up with an action plan to fill them.

Here at BCIT, the pipe fitters who come out of this program have a great chance at getting a good paying job.

Our post secondary institutions across northern BC – from Northern Lights College in the east to Northwest Community College in the west – are working with industry to make sure people can find training for jobs that exist.

Through the regional workforce tables, we have started to bring our bright minds together to make sure British Columbians are trained for these opportunities.

This is part of our ongoing efforts to make sure British Columbians benefit from our natural resources.

BC Jobs for BC Families

Let me be clear, today's announcements are not just about the north. Innovations will be happening in urban centers and university cities across British Columbia.

This brand new industry will improve life for every British Columbian. It's about more jobs.

It's about innovation and growing our engineering, professional services and technology businesses here in the Lower Mainland.

And with the potential for two billion a year in benefits, the impact will be felt in homes and communities as we build new roads, improve hospitals, and invest in colleges and universities.

This strategy will position BC as a true global leader in this industry.

-END-

Okanagan Correctional Centre Announcement

Monday, February 6, 2012

Event: what is it?

- Announcement of site selection for new Okanagan Correctional Centre
- Osoyoos Indian Band's proposed site has been selected
- The 360-cell maximum security site will create up to 500 direct and 500 indirect jobs. Once completed, the centre will provide the equivalent of 240 new, full-time positions
- The new Centre will more than double corrections capacity in B.C.'s Interior.

Audience: who are they?

- Shirley Bond, Solicitor General and Attorney General
- Chief Clarence Louie, Chief Executive Officer, Osoyoos Indian Band
- John Slater, MLA, Boundary-Similkameen
- Others TBC

Key Messages

- **The Osoyoos Indian Band's proposed site has been selected for the new Okanagan correctional centre.**
- **The project will create 500 direct and 500 indirect jobs, and provide the equivalent of 240 new, full-time jobs when it's complete.**
- **The 360-cell facility will more than double Corrections' capacity in the Interior, reducing over-crowding and enhancing staff and inmate safety.**

It's a pleasure to be here today on the traditional territory of the Osoyoos Indian Band.

Making life better for families is the key focus of my government.

And when it comes to families, safety comes first.

And today, I'm pleased to announce a big step forward for public safety in this community.

After a thorough evaluation of multiple sites, we have chosen the Osoyoos Indian Band's Senkulmen Enterprise Park as the location for the new Okanagan Correctional Centre.

Once it's built, this state-of-the-art facility will double corrections capacity in B.C.'s Interior...

Providing the equivalent of 240 new, full-time jobs for families in the Okanagan.

During construction, it will create up to 500 direct and 500 indirect jobs.

Those are well-paid jobs that will provide work for British Columbians and support families.

This Centre will be B.C. Corrections' first such partnership with a First Nation...

And I believe the Osoyoos Indian Band is a great partner for B.C. on this project.

They are such an economic driver in this region – in fact they own the most businesses per capita of any First Nation in Canada.

Their proposal covered key decision areas for the province – things like zoning and environmental impacts, accessibility to major routes, and of course the construction dates and costs.

This site is serviced and ready for construction of a brand new 360-cell Centre.

It's also the first "green" industrial park in Western Canada.

It integrates natural landscaping, water conservation and energy conservation into the industrial park.

We've already invested \$185-million to expand facilities around B.C. as part of the corrections capital plan, making our centres safer for staff and inmates.

I look forward to our next step - completing a Business Plan with the Osoyoos Indian Band.

We can now begin to move forward with this exciting new project which will not only protect and keep families safe, but create stable jobs for families in the Okanagan as well.

- END -

Budget 2012 – Opportunities for BC
Burnaby Board of Trade
Thursday, Feb. 23 - 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.
Delta Burnaby Hotel and Conference Centre
Length: 15 minutes

Event: What are they?

- The Burnaby Board of Trade is hosting a breakfast with the Premier to hear about government's priorities for the coming year and how the new budget will impact Burnaby residents, their businesses and their bottom-line.
- The event is sold out.

Audience: Who are they?

- About 300 members of the Burnaby business community
- Media
- Harry Bloy, MLA for Burnaby-Lougheed and Minister of State for Multiculturalism
- Richard Lee, MLA for Burnaby North and Parliamentary Secretary for Asia Pacific

What do they want to hear?

- We are taking a common sense approach. In these very tough fiscal times, most British Columbians understand it is important to be prudent.
- The investments we are making are modest, targeted at the areas that will make the most difference for British Columbians.
- People want a government that manages spending and lives within its means without dumping debt on taxpayers.

Introduction

Thank you all for joining me today.

It's great to be back in my home town. I grew up here in Burnaby. My dad was a teacher here. I went to school at Burnaby South and Simon Fraser University. It's always great to see how much things have changed, how the community has grown.

I was elected Premier a year ago and we've been making a lot of changes in government since I arrived. I think for me the most important thing we have done is open up government, and that means travelling around and spending time with folks, really listening to them about what matters.

I'm pleased to be joined today by Harry Bloy, MLA for Burnaby-Lougheed and Minister of State for Multiculturalism. Harry's known me since I was a teenager... and he still supports me.

And of course, I am joined by Richard Lee, MLA for Burnaby North and our Parliamentary Secretary for Asia Pacific.

BC Jobs Plan

We introduced our BC Jobs plan in September. This plan is about reaching out to grow new markets in order to create and protect jobs here at home. *(hand gestures)*

It's about growing our economy so people can put food on the table for their kids.

Harry and Richard have both been tremendous champions of the Jobs Plan, particularly our strategy to attract more international students to BCIT and SFU.

People may not realize this... but when it comes to reaching out to open new markets outside of North America, BC is leading the country.

By working with the people in this room and thousands more like you across the province, we are making solid, substantial progress on implementing the BC Jobs Plan.

Next month we will be releasing a report that will outline in black and white where we are succeeding and where we have more work to do. Here are some of the things you'll see:

- We are encouraging businesses to grow and hire by adding money to the small business venture capital program and extending the training tax credit.

- We are cutting the backlog in government permitting and approvals by adding an extra \$24 million. We committed to cut the notices of work for mines by 80 per cent in one year. We are three quarters of the way to our goal.
- And our natural gas strategy is showing results. They are already clearing land for the first Liquefied Natural Gas line in the north.
- **And Mitsubishi has given us a huge vote of confidence - last week they invested \$2.9 Billion in Encana's natural gas operations here in BC.**

If there's one thing I took away from my travels through Asia during our Jobs and Trade Mission, it was just how important BC's economic stability is – I can't count how many times I was told that it is a "unique" asset in North America.

Our jobs plan has three pillars built on two foundations. Today I'm going to focus in on our foundation of fiscal discipline, which is so essential for driving job growth in BC.

It's that hard-earned reputation for fiscal prudence that has allowed us to remain a safe harbour during these times of global economic chaos.

It is a reputation we need to continue to earn each and every day so we can protect the jobs we have and create the new jobs our families need.

Maintaining confidence in our economy is the only way we can continue to attract job-creating investments to our province.

With much of the world in turmoil, international investors are out there looking for places to invest. They are looking for a foothold in North America, and that's BC.

A decade of prudent fiscal management and our Triple-A credit rating is paying off.

Budget 2012 is the cornerstone of the BC Jobs Plan.

Budget 2012:

Today's global economy is as competitive as it is chaotic. This means we have to work harder and smarter than ever before – and we have to do this work together.

All of you in this room are working so hard to be innovative and put people to work.

Government can do one of two things: we can get in your way ... or we can get out of your way by maintaining BC's reputation for stable budgeting and steady economics.

This three-year budget puts us on the right path to eliminate the deficit, protect public services, and build a more competitive economy.

It is based on modest growth projections over the next three years.

Prior to 2008, government spending was ballooning on average by six per cent – two billion dollars - each year.

After the global economic downturn, it was down to three per cent.

Coupled with prudent spending increases held at two per cent per year, we are on track to eliminate the deficit next year.

The B.C. economy is slowly picking up steam. To protect our recovery, we will continue to hold the line on spending and live within our means.

Low taxes/reasonable regulation

To support a strong economy, Budget 2012 includes targeted investments to spur job creation.

First we have tax incentives that support families and seniors. We are also helping small businesses innovate, grow and, most importantly, hire.

For families, we've introduced the Children's Fitness and Arts Credit.

This is a big one for me. Back in 2005, I brought this forward as a private members bill. I've been pushing for this since my son was a toddler.

I am so proud to be able to include this in my first budget as Premier.

Families will be able to claim up to \$500 in eligible expenses – per child, per credit, per year – for any eligible sports or arts program. It complements existing credits offered by the federal government

We've also introduced the BC Seniors Home Renovation Tax Credit.

It will help cover the cost of renovations like adding hand rails, walk-in bathtubs and ramps – things that allow our seniors to stay independent for longer.

Up to \$1,000 a year in tax credits will be available to seniors or family members sharing a home, whether they own or rent.

You know if there is one thing seniors want, it is to stay in their homes in their final years. I know that's what my mother wanted.

This is dual purpose - it will help seniors and it will create up to \$300 million worth of economic activity.

We are also making the cost of new homes a little more affordable for young families just getting started, while at the same time supporting the home construction industry.

The first time new home buyers' bonus is worth up to \$10,000. It is a temporary, refundable income tax credit for first time buyers who purchase newly built homes effective until March 31, 2013.

It builds on the announcements we made last week, including raising the threshold for the existing HST rebate on new homes to \$850,000.

The residential housing industry is a huge employer and big economic driver here in the Lower Mainland.

In order for families and the economy to prosper, government must do its part.

So we are eliminating the provincial jet fuel tax for international flights.

Just this year China Southern Airlines started flying passengers and cargo from Guangzhou to YVR.

Each daily international flight service added to our airports creates 150 to 200 jobs.

China Southern is bringing 31,000 additional visitors to BC annually, and adding \$3.5 million to BC's economy every year.

That's just one airline.

With confirmation of this tax change, YVR has secured commitments from 22 airlines to expand their service immediately.

We are also extending property tax relief to help make our ports more competitive and spur new investments that will generate jobs.

The last time we extended it was temporary – and it created more than \$1 billion in terminal expansions and generated hundreds of new jobs. Now we are making the rate cap permanent.

All these initiatives have one thing in common: lowering taxes.

Let me be clear, when we have a choice between lowering taxes and increasing spending, we will be lowering taxes.

You can also see this in my approach to labour.

I will not raise taxes on families to fund pay hikes for public sector unions.

I appreciate the work our civil servants do, but I cannot justify an additional tax burden on families to increase their salaries in this economic environment.

The reason the Occupy movement captured so much attention is because they were talking about growing the middle class and shrinking the income gap. I agree with that objective – in fact, that's the most important part of my job.

You grow the middle class by making sure people can get a job, and you do that by growing the economy and attracting investment.

Then you make sure that once people have those jobs, you don't take half their money away through taxation.

We can't go back to the divisive policies that shuttered businesses across BC and pulled families apart as they fled the province looking for work.

If you look at the countries that are suffering today you will see they are countries that have pursued policies of high spending, high taxes and high debt – these are the same reckless and risky policies BC pursued in the 1990s.

The results are no different today as they were then – economic chaos that does the most damage to those who can least afford it.

We can never go back.

Families First

These new initiatives in the budget are modest investments directly tied to improving the quality of life of British Columbians.

They are designed to make the biggest difference possible, while still showing respect to taxpayers by maximizing the value of their dollars.

It's always easier to say 'yes' than it is to say 'no.' But if we are serious about protecting and creating jobs we need to keep taxes and spending under control.

You cannot believe the pressure every BC Liberal MLA is under to spend money.

I know everyone has projects and priorities dear to their hearts but right now, the one thing we all have in common is a desire to protect and create jobs for people and that means controlling spending.

The global economy is under threat – like never before.

So that means BC, as an open economy, is threatened too.

And the biggest danger for us right now is to cave to temptation – to think we can spend our way through the economic turbulence.

This won't protect us. This will expose us.

I will do everything in my power to keep our safe harbour:

- the one we've worked so hard to create (low taxes, controlled spending, sensible regulations)
- the one that attracts investment dollars that creates jobs
- the one that makes us stand out in the world.

We will destroy our enviable foundation if we bury our children in debt.

Now, more than ever, with the global economy in the balance, we cannot lose our nerve.

Because if we do, we could lose A LOT more.

That's why my government will not throw money at problems in the hope that they solve themselves. So we have to be innovative and open – but above all, we have to be fiscally prudent. We have to control our spending.

Our critics often take the position that we need to spend more money. They don't take the time to listen to people or analyze the problems.

Spending more is their answer to EVERYTHING.

But with an aging population and a weak global economy, we have a greater responsibility.

We need to look at how we spend your money and make sure every dollar counts.

Let me give you an example of this:

We were faced with criticism for several months by folks who felt we were short-changing individuals with developmental disabilities.

I am sure you heard about this issue. It was tough for me because so much of why I was drawn back into politics was to make life better for families.

But we knew there was more at play than money. There are generational changes happening among individuals with developmental disabilities and frankly, our institutions simply weren't keeping up with these changes.

We took the time to talk to the people and families who use the program, to analyze the criticism, and understand their concerns.

Yes, we needed to invest more funding in this area. And we have added \$40 million.

But more importantly, we needed to change our culture and change our approach so the money would be well spent.

Our critics would have started with a dollar figure and spent the money without a careful examination of the problem.

We started out by talking to people to figure out how to fix the problem and then targeted your tax dollars wisely.

The same opportunities exist in health care and education, to talk to the people using the system, to innovate and seek out efficiencies.

I believe government is the expression of our collective will to look after one another. British Columbians need to start to see government not as an organization that does something to them.

We need citizens to see government as an organization where we are doing something FOR each other.

For me, these decisions boil down to supporting a strong economy. Without it, we cannot afford the social programs that families rely on.

People often ask me what I mean when I say “families first.” What it all comes down to is implementing policies that strengthen families.

Primarily, that means protecting and creating jobs.

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 you know what makes families strong and stable? A good job.

That's why a thriving private sector is so important. You create wealth, and in doing so, you create jobs.

Conclusion

In today's chaotic global economy, BC offers a unique combination of strengths to attract investment and create jobs.

Just look around, Rio Tinto Alcan is making the biggest private sector investment ever made in BC up in Kitimat.

Mining expansions are being announced, including at the Huckleberry mine, near Smithers.

Western Forest Products is investing \$200 million to modernize their Vancouver Island operations.

And WE have ended the squabbling and broken the logjam on the Evergreen line, creating 8,000 jobs and connecting the Tri-Cities, including Port Moody and Coquitlam, into the rapid transit system.

BC's people are our biggest advantage – our population is educated and our diversity provides direct links to the world's fastest growing markets, an opportunity that is reinforced by our geography.

We back this up with controlled spending, reasonable taxes, and modern infrastructure.

I have been your Premier for almost a year now – you have probably figured out I am an optimist.

I am more optimistic than ever and it's because of people like you and the work we are doing together.

We know if we stick together and stay united, keep working hard and keep working together, we can do great things.

We can win together.

Thank you.

-END-

BC Winter Games Opening Ceremonies

Thursday, Feb. 23, 2012

Speech length: 3-5 minutes

Event: what is it?

- *The B.C. Winter Games will take place in Vernon from Feb. 23 – 26, 2012. It will be the 26th B.C. Winter Games event.*
- Purpose: the development of athletes, coaches, officials, and communities.

Audience: who are they?

- Participants: Approximately 1,874 participants (athletes, coaches and officials) will participate in the Games that will feature 17 sport events in 15 different sporting areas:
- Athletes, coaches and officials
- Akbal Mund, President, Greater Vernon 2012 Winter Games
- Jim McEwen, Vice President
- Board of Directors
- BC Games Society Corporate partners: Black Press, Jazz Air and Global BC

KEY MESSAGES:

- This event is about supporting our burgeoning athletes and helping them on their way to even bigger dreams.
- The BC Winter Games promote our key values: volunteerism, sport and fair play.
- The Games are an opportunity for B.C. communities to come together in the spirit of competition and cooperation.

Over the past 33 years, the BC Winter Games is where our province's budding sports heroes have come to shine.

And as we watch them chase their dreams, the rest of us all come together as communities in a way only sports can manage.

Since its inception in 1978, 38 communities across the province have hosted the Games, some of them more than once – such as Greater Vernon.

In that time, more than 150,000 athletes have competed...

And more than 200,000 people have volunteered.

And it's the volunteers in each host city that make the games possible.

I want to personally thank the almost 2,000 volunteers from Vernon and surrounding areas that have made these BC Winter Games happen for the over 1,500 athletes and 300 coaches.

This is a great example of this region's wonderful community spirit.

Greater Vernon hosted these games 20 years ago – let's be sure that these games are even better than '92!

Your city's support and the support from across the province are critical to the continued success of the BC Games.

The BC Games are a stepping stone for many athletes as they go on to compete in bigger events in across Canada and around the world

Able-bodied athletes from 9- to 17-years-old, and athletes with a disability from 13- to 40-years-old will be breaking old records, achieving new personal bests and reaching their goals over the coming days.

The athletes we see here today we may be cheering on at the 2014 Sochi Olympics, the 2015 Canada Winter Games or at the PyeongChang Olympics in 2018.

Two years ago, we in B.C. had front row seats as Canada hosted the 2010 Vancouver Olympic Winter Games...

We watched Team Canada succeed and celebrate their achievements in front of the "home team" crowd.

We showed our Canadian athletes just how much we love and support them and I'm sure it's a moment the young athletes here today will never forget.

But what we can't forget is that the athletes here today need a tremendous amount of support...

Support from their families, from coaches, from sport organizations and from others to get them to the BC Games and beyond...

So thanks to all of you who support and participate in organized sport in your community.

Perhaps this weekend, Vernon and the rest of B.C. will be cheering on the next Maëlle Ricker or Denny Morrison – both former BC Winter Games participants.

And to the athletes:

Each of you are positive role models for not just your peers...

You are showing us how determination, dedication and discipline can help you succeed in your goals.

And you are showing us what teamwork and fair play looks like.

For three decades, the BC Winter Games has been an event where young athletes and coaches can prove they know how to rise to the occasion...

An event where they can surpass their own expectations...

An event that helps instil the values that'll serve them well in both sport and life...

Commitment...

Respect...

Cooperation...

To all the young athletes here today thank you for inspiring all of us to reach our goals....

And good luck. Our whole province will cheer you on as you chase your dreams.

-END-

Natural Gas Corporate Announcement
Friday, Feb 17
Richmond

Event: What is it?

- Announcement of investment in BC's natural gas sector

Audience: Who are they?

- Randy Eresman, president and CEO of Encana Corporation
- Others TBC
- Rich Coleman, Minister of Energy and Mines
- Hon. James Moore, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages and MP for Port Moody – Westwood - Port Coquitlam
TBC
- Media

Key Messages:

- This investment shows the confidence international investors have in BC's economy.
- It's about government, business communities working together to make something happen and sending a signal to the world - even when the economy is contracting, you can do business and invest billions of dollars right here in British Columbia.
- The vision of our jobs plan is to support people by creating jobs in each and every BC community.

It's great to be here today.

This investment shows the confidence international investors have in BC's economy.

It's about government, business and communities working together to make something happen and sending a signal to the world - even when the economy is contracting, you can do business and invest billions of dollars right here in British Columbia.

So thank you, thank you XX Of Encana and XX of XX for this.

We appreciate your confidence in our province and our people.

Two weeks ago we announced our natural gas strategy and our liquefied natural gas strategy.

These strategies are part of the BC Jobs Plan and they are the product of hard work by business, communities, First Nations and government.

Together, these plans are a powerful policy magnet for new investment in many parts of the economy. Our policies support the kind of investments we are seeing today.

The numbers we are talking about - XX are staggering.

But I don't measure success by dollar amounts.

I measure success by the number of jobs we create, by the hospitals and schools it will help us support, in the number of hip replacements and heart surgeries we can provide.

If we grow our natural gas industry, we could see up to two billion a year in new benefits to the people of this province.

We could see up to 11,000 new jobs over the next eight years.

The impact of new investments will be felt in homes and communities as we build new roads, improve hospitals, and invest in colleges and universities.

The vision of our jobs plan is to support families by creating jobs in each and every BC community.

It's about strengthening BC's economy, because it is our economy that generates the revenue for the services that matter to all of us, like health care and education.

Investments like this one today have a ripple effect.

They maximize opportunity across our economy: from technology and shipping, to propulsion, energy and new heating products.

They grow our engineering, professional services and technology businesses here in the Lower Mainland.

Economic success means more than just dollars and cents – it creates the hope and optimism that we need as a province if we want to lead Canada together.

But before any investments can be made and any jobs can be created, you need to have a government that puts policies in place that attract the kind of investment we see here today.

That's what my government is committed to.

Your confidence to make this investment is concrete evidence we are on the right path.

Thank you.

-END-

Forum for Women Entrepreneurs
Monday, Feb 20, 2012
6 pm - Vancouver

Event: What is it?

- The Forum for Women Entrepreneurs is celebrating its 10th anniversary with a fundraising event called "Sparkle – Celebrating Entrepreneurs Who Shine."
- FWE is a non profit organization that provides tools, energy, education and support to all women, encouraging them to become wildly successful entrepreneurs.

Audience: Who are they?

- 450 women entrepreneurs and leaders in the business community.
- Eira Thomas, "*Queen of Diamonds*", Founder of Stornoway Diamonds, a TSX listed company on track to becoming Quebec's first diamond mine
- Media

What do they want to hear?

- Today's global economy is as competitive as it is chaotic. This means we have to work harder and smarter than ever before – and we have to do this work together.
- My part is to support your best efforts, and that means maintaining BC's reputation for sound fiscal practices, stable budgeting and steady economics.
- Jobs, families and open government are at the heart of the work my government is doing.

Thank you.

Recognize:

- Christina Anthony, founder and chair of FWE, and vice president at Odium Brown Limited
- Jill Earthy, CEO of FWE
- A very engaged and active board of directors
- Members and volunteers with the Forum for Women Entrepreneurs

It is an honour to be here as you celebrate 10 successful years.

As I look around this room, I see a forum full of people who understand that building a successful business and a successful life go hand in hand.

Whenever I talk to women, one of the things they **really get** is how a strong economy is important for families.

Women take a wide view of the world. They really see the connections between their families, jobs and communities.

Families First

I re-entered politics for one reason: because I thought I could make life better for B.C. families. And as Premier, I am committed to putting families first.

Because really, what does everyone in this province have in common? A family we care about, and who cares for us.

And what makes families strong and stable?

A good job.

Economic activity is not an abstract concept. It makes a real difference in people's lives.

The BC Jobs Plan

The BC Jobs Plan is my government's vision, and implementing it is my mission as your Premier.

It builds on our unique strengths so we can reach out and grow new markets that create and protect jobs here at home.

Safe Harbour

But, let's be clear – today's global economy is as competitive as it is chaotic. This means we have to work harder and smarter than ever before – and we have to do this work together.

My part is to support your best efforts, and that means maintaining B.C.'s reputation for sound fiscal practices, stable budgeting and steady economics.

Conclusion

You are leaders in business and you have your eye on the bottom line.

You are helping to make sure your kids or the young people in your lives are ready for the opportunities that lie ahead.

Leadership, whether it's at home, or in the boardroom, isn't about taking the easy road, it's about taking the time to work through a problem and find the right solution, the long term solution.

And that's what all of us do every day. We work hard to do the best we can for the people we care about.

We balance conflicting demands. And we try to do the right thing.

Not just for today but for the generation ahead.

Thank you.

-END-

Transportation Sector Strategy Launch
Monday, April 2, 2012
Neptune Terminals
Length: 2 - 4 minutes

Event: What is it?

- Premier Clark and Transportation Minister Blair Lekstrom will outline the new Pacific Gateway Transportation strategy at Neptune Terminals, while standing in front of a train carrying potash from Saskatchewan.
- The strategy is a key component of "Canada Starts Here: the BC Jobs Plan."
- It provides a blueprint for \$25 billion in infrastructure improvements to BC's transportation network by the private and public sector in order to meet the growing demand in Asia Pacific countries.

Audience: Who are they?

- 30-50 people including:
 - Workers at Neptune Terminals
 - Members of the Pacific Gateway Alliance (industry and port representatives) who are funding the infrastructure laid out in the strategy.
 - MLAs
 - Media

Key Messages:

- BC is the Asia Pacific Gateway. We have an unparalleled opportunity to access the fastest growing economies in the world.
- Our government is acting to make sure BC businesses can benefit from our strategic advantage and be first in line to sell their goods and services to booming Asian markets, growing our economy and creating and protecting jobs here at home.
- We are investing in our ports, railways, airports and roads so BC goods can get to market faster, more efficiently and more competitively.

- Acknowledgements:
 - Our host Neptune Terminals and workers;
 - Minister of Transportation Blair Lekstrom;
 - MLAs Naomi Yamamoto, North Vancouver-Lonsdale and Jane Thornthwaite North-Vancouver Seymour;
 - And the members of the Pacific Gateway Alliance, who have all worked so hard on this Pacific Gateway Transportation strategy we are releasing today.
- This new strategy we are realizing today is the result of hard work by many people, from many different sectors of the economy.
- It is a big piece of my government's relentless focus on jobs and building a strong economy for BC families.
- This Transportation Strategy is also the result of teamwork by other provinces, the Government of Canada and the private sector.

- No other jurisdiction has achieved the level of cooperation and teamwork you see among the partners here today.
- That's important because transportation packs a big punch when it comes to creating and protecting jobs in our economy.
- Last fall, we launched "Canada Starts Here: the BC Jobs Plan." And it didn't matter what sector we talked to, transportation was one of three pillars needed to create and protect jobs.
- Transportation doesn't just employ people directly, it is essential for every business that needs to get their goods to market.
- Look at that train behind me.

- Transportation makes sure people can work mining potash in Saskatchewan.
- It makes sure engineers keep driving those trains.
- And it makes sure people - right here at Neptune Terminals - keep loading those ships.
- We called our BC Jobs Plan Canada Starts Here.
- When you have your feet on the ground in China or India and you look across the Pacific, British Columbia's ports and railways, our roads and airports... this is where Canada begins.
- The strategy we are releasing today identifies \$25 billion worth of investments needed by government and the private sector to keep British Columbians working.
- It builds on the \$22 billion worth of investment already completed or underway since 2005.

- We have a once in a generation opportunity to take advantage of the fastest growing economies in history.
- Asia is right at our doorstep – our ports are closer than anywhere else in North America.
- Our government is taking action to make sure BC businesses can benefit from our strategic advantage ... so they can be first in line to sell their goods and services to booming Asian markets, growing our economy and creating and protecting jobs here at home.
- In these times of economic turmoil, international investors are looking for a foothold in North America and that's BC.

- But they are only interested if we keep our reputation as a safe harbor for investment, if we continue with our sound fiscal management, and if we make the strategic investments that allow them to access these important markets.
- The strategy we are releasing today does all three.
- With growth in the Asia Pacific, we stand at the crossroads of opportunity.
- And teamwork allows us to fulfill our true potential.
- British Columbia will be the Pacific Gateway of choice and Canada... Canada Starts Here.

-END-

Building BC's Future: Budget 2012
Urban Development Institute
Lunch Keynote – Mon. April 2
Length: 15 minutes

Event: What is it?

- The Premier's first address to the Urban Development Institute – Pacific region.
- The Urban Development Institute is a national non-profit association of the development industry. With over 600 corporate members, UDI Pacific represents thousands of individuals involved in all facets of land development and planning, including: developers, property managers, financial lenders, lawyers, engineers, planners, architects, appraisers, real estate professionals, local governments and government agencies.

Audience: Who are they?

- Maureen Enser, Executive Director, Urban Development Institute (is retiring after 30 years)
- About 700 members of the Urban Development Institute - Pacific region.
- Media TBC

Key Messages:

- With \$30 billion in investment each year and a quarter of a million jobs created by this sector alone, B.C.'s developers are doing their part. Government must do the same.
- That's why we're relentlessly focused on maintaining our province's strong economic standing – our triple-A credit rating and low tax regime – in order to attract investment.
- And we are continuing to invest in projects that will drive our economy forward and make life easier for families – take our transportation strategy for example. The new Port Mann Bridge will make it easier for people living south of the Fraser to drive to work – giving families an extra 30 minutes a day together – and opening up new markets for development.

Introduction

Thank you all for joining me today.

Recognize Maureen Enser, Executive Director, Urban Development Institute (is retiring after 30 years)

The people in this room don't just build developments. You build cities, you build our province's economy and most importantly, you create jobs for B.C. families.

With \$30 billion in investment each year and a quarter of a million jobs created by this sector alone, B.C.'s developers are doing their part. Government must do the same.

Last fall we introduced the BC Jobs Plan, a common-sense strategy to create and protect jobs for B.C. families.

In a way, our plan is more about creating the conditions in which the private sector can create jobs, rather than creating them ourselves.

With much of the world in turmoil, international investors are out there looking for places to invest. They are looking for a foothold in North America, and that's B.C.

It's our hard-earned reputation for fiscal prudence that has allowed us to remain a safe harbour during these times of global economic chaos.

It is a reputation we need to continue to earn each and every day so we can protect the jobs we have and create the new jobs our families need.

B.C. has a once in a generation opportunity to become the North American gateway to Asia – where the middle class is growing at a historic rate – and where they are hungry for our goods.

It's an opportunity we can't afford to miss. And taking advantage of it will depend largely on government's ability to create those conditions, on keeping B.C. as a safe harbor for investment, so the private sector can thrive.

Budget 2012

Today's global economy is as competitive as it is chaotic. This means we have to work harder and smarter than ever before – and we have to do this work together.

All of you in this room are working so hard to be innovative and put people to work.

Government can do one of two things: we can get in your way ... or we can get out of your way by maintaining BC's reputation for stable budgeting and steady economics.

Earlier this year, we introduced a budget that has been called the most conservative budget in Canada. I'm proud of that.

Budget 2012 puts us on the right path to eliminate the deficit, protect public services, and build a more competitive economy.

It is based on modest growth projections over the next three years.

Prior to 2008, when the global economy was booming, government spending was growing on average by six per cent – two billion dollars - each year.

After the global economic downturn, we held it down to three per cent.

Today, coupled with prudent spending increases held at two per cent per year, we are on track to eliminate the deficit next year.

The B.C. economy is slowly picking up steam. To protect our recovery, we will continue to hold the line on spending and live within our means.

That's why we're relentlessly focused on maintaining our province's strong economic standing – our triple-A credit rating and low tax regime – in order to attract investment.

Since I became Premier, our government has been proud to stand by these disciplined principles.

We're sticking to our net-zero mandate with public sector unions and have introduced an Auditor General for Local Government so taxpayers have accountability at every level.

Let me be clear, when we have a choice between lowering taxes and increasing spending, we will be lowering taxes.

You can also see this in my approach to labour.

I will not raise taxes on families to fund pay hikes for public sector unions.

I appreciate the work our civil servants do, but I cannot justify an additional tax burden on families to increase their salaries in this economic environment.

The reason the Occupy movement captured so much attention is because they were talking about growing the middle class and shrinking the income gap.

I agree with that objective – in fact, I consider helping the middle class get ahead to be the most important part of my job.

But you don't grow the middle class by sitting in a tent in front of the art gallery.

You grow the middle class by making sure people can get a job, and you do that by growing the economy and attracting investment.

Then you make sure that once people have those jobs, you don't take half their money away through taxation.

Low taxes/reasonable regulation

To support a strong economy, Budget 2012 includes modest, targeted investments to spur job creation.

First, there's a tax credit to help young families get into the housing market.

Buying a house is the biggest purchase many people will ever make, and we know how hard it is for families – especially for families just setting out in life, to get into B.C.'s real estate market.

We want to help young families get ahead.

As of Feb. 21, the BC First-Time New Home Buyer's Bonus has been available - a bonus up to \$10,000 for first-time home buyers!

For instance, a couple with a combined family income of \$90,000 who buy their first house for \$350,000 will get a \$10,000 cheque from the B.C. government in the mail.

And as of yesterday, April 1, anyone buying a new home will benefit from the increased threshold for the BC New Housing Rebate.

If you buy a newly built house to live in, you can now get more than 70% of B.C.'s portion of the HST back.

In real terms, that means if you buy a new house for \$900,000, you can be eligible for the enhanced B.C. new housing rebate of \$42,500.

That will go a long way to helping families settle into a new home!

We've also introduced the BC Seniors Home Renovation Tax Credit.

It will help cover the cost of renovations like adding hand rails, walk-in bathtubs and ramps – things that allow our seniors to stay independent for longer.

Up to \$1,000 a year in tax credits will be available to seniors or family members sharing a home, whether they own or rent.

You know if there is one thing seniors want, it is to stay in their homes in their final years. I know that's what my mother wanted.

This is dual purpose - it will help seniors and it will create up to \$300 million worth of economic activity.

You know, builders and home buyers asked us to help them out, and so we did.

The residential housing industry is a huge employer and big economic driver here in the Lower Mainland.

And these measures help the industry to stay busy and create new jobs in the process.

Transportation investments

In the meantime, we are continuing to invest in projects that will drive our economy forward and make life easier for families.

For example, a project I know many of you are watching carefully: the new Port Mann Bridge.

Once completed, the new and improved bridge will make it easier for people living south of the Fraser to drive to work – giving families an extra 30 minutes a day together – and opening up new markets for development.

As part of the BC Jobs Plan, earlier today we released our Pacific Gateway Transportation Strategy for 2012 through 2020. As part of the strategy, we're investing \$25 billion beyond the \$22 billion previously committed for transportation infrastructure.

The Roberts Bank Rail Corridor, North Shore Trade Area and South Shore Trade Area improvements will expand rail capacity and alleviate rail/road conflicts.

And we have a partnership between the Province, Translink and the federal government for a regional traffic management centre here in the Lower Mainland that will allow for more effective traffic management on a day-to-day basis and during emergencies.

I know the numbers in this strategy sound big - \$25 Billion of investment - but this isn't about throwing money around.

It's about careful market analysis, partnerships and thoughtful investment that will keep B.C.'s reputation as a safe harbour and the preferred North American Gateway to Asia.

British Columbia is at the crossroads of opportunity between markets in the Asia Pacific and the fragile economic recovery underway in the United States.

Through the Pacific Gateway Alliance, we are working hand-in-hand with our ports, airport, railways and shippers.

No other jurisdiction has achieved this level of cooperation.

No other province in Canada has been able to reach out and diversify its export markets like British Columbia has.

Overall, B.C. has enjoyed phenomenal success in Asia. Exports to the key markets identified in 'The BC Jobs Plan' - China, Japan, India and South Korea - rose 23.3 per cent in 2011 over the previous year.

Even greater potential exists for further growth in these markets... and further job creation for BC families, but only if we keep our reputation for sound fiscal management.

Conclusion

In today's chaotic global economy, BC offers a unique combination of strengths to attract investment and create jobs.

Just look around, Rio Tinto Alcan is making the biggest private sector investment ever made in BC up in Kitimat.

Mining expansions are being announced, including at the Huckleberry mine, near Smithers.

Western Forest Products is investing \$200 million to modernize their Vancouver Island operations.

And WE have ended the squabbling and broken the logjam on the Evergreen line, creating 8,000 jobs and connecting the Tri-Cities, including Port Moody and Coquitlam, into the rapid transit system.

B.C.'s people are our biggest advantage – our population is educated and our diversity provides direct links to the world's fastest growing markets, an opportunity that is reinforced by our geography.

We back this up with controlled spending, reasonable taxes, and modern infrastructure.

I have been your Premier for just over a year now – you have probably figured out I am an optimist.

I am more optimistic than ever and it's because of people like you and the work we are doing together.

We know if we stick together and stay united, keep working hard and keep working together, we can do great things.

We can win together.

Thank you.

-END-

**International Auto Show
Tuesday, April 3, 2012
Speech length: 3-5 minutes**

Event: what is it?

- The Vancouver International Auto Show is Canada's third largest auto shows and one of Western North America's premier automotive exhibition events.

Audience: who are they?

- New Car Dealers Association members
- Blair Qualey, president and CEO, New Car Dealers Association
- auto show visitors
- media

KEY MESSAGES:

1. Our government is committed to supporting the industry and helping it evolve. That's why we introduced the Clean Energy Vehicle Point of Sale Program, so that families looking for a car have the option of choosing a low emission vehicle and getting a \$5,000 rebate.
2. In a natural resource based economy, it can be easy to overlook the B.C. automotive sector's economic impact. But we should not forget that this sector provides \$10 billion to our economy and 34,000 jobs for B.C. families.

- Welcome to the third-largest auto show in Canada! It's amazing that this is the 92nd year of this auto show and it is a testament to just how important this industry is in British Columbia.
- Thanks to Blair Qualey and the New Car Dealers Association for making it such a huge success.
- In 2008 when the global economic crisis hit, many North American automakers had to make some tough decisions and ask some harder questions
- And your industry listened to what your customers wanted
- You downsized cars, you pushed the boundaries of fuel economy, you developed new hybrids and electric vehicles...
- And that willingness to embrace innovation may have saved the North American automaking industry.

- In a natural resource-based economy, it can be easy to overlook the B.C. automotive sector's economic impact.
- But your members generate \$10 billion in economic activity and provide 34,000 jobs for B.C. families.
- Whether you're a small business owner who needs a car or a parent getting their kid to soccer practice, cars are an essential part of our lives.
- Our government is proud to support the industry, and help families who need a car, through tax rebates and incentives.
- One of those is the Clean Energy Vehicle Point of Sale Program. It gives families looking for a car the option of choosing a low emission vehicle and getting a \$5,000 rebate.

- The environmental choices and innovation we see here at the auto show will help your businesses grow.
- It's not only new car technology that will help transform the future of the automotive industry
- It's also your support of the next generation of British Columbians by offering training and apprenticeships for our youth.
- Programs such as:
 - Sales Training Program
 - Automotive Trades Apprenticeship Programs
 - Automotive Trades Pre-Apprentice Programs
 - Automotive Training Centre – Sales, Management, Trades Programs
 - Dealer Administration and Management Programs

- This government wants to partner with the auto industry to help ensure your success
- That's why we're making sure the taxes are low, incentives are attractive and the infrastructure is in place so those cars can travel our roads safely and efficiently.
- Together we will continue to drive BC's economy forward toward the future.

-END-

**Transportation Sector Strategy -
South Fraser Perimeter Road
Tuesday, April 3, 2012
Length: Four minutes**

Event: what is it?

- Premier Clark and Transportation Minister Blair Leckstrom will announce the completion of Phase 1 of the South Fraser Perimeter Road transportation strategy at a location (tbc) on the South Perimeter Road.
- This is a key component of the Pacific Gateway Transportation Strategy announced April 2.

Audience: who are they?

10-15 people, including:

- Media
- MLAs (tbc)
- Transportation Managers
- Road Construction Workers
- Municipal Officials
- Pacific Gateway Alliance Partners (tbc)
 - Larry Berg, President and CEO, Vancouver Airport Authority
 - Fred Green, President and CEO, Canadian Pacific
 - Claude Mongeau, President and CEO, CN
 - Robin Silvester, President and CEO, Port Metro Vancouver
 - Don Krusel, President and CEO, Prince Rupert Port Authority

Theme: Jobs and the economy

KEY MESSAGES:

- The first phase of the South Fraser Perimeter Road, which will save time and generate economic growth by improving the movement of goods for trade to the Asia Pacific is now 50 per cent complete.
- BC is the Asia Pacific Gateway. We have an unparalleled opportunity to access the fastest growing economies in the world.
- Our government is acting to make sure BC Businesses can leverage our advantages and be first in line to sell their goods and services to booming Asian markets, growing our economy and creating jobs here at home.
- We are investing in our ports, railways, roads and airports so BC goods can get to market faster, more efficiently and therefore more competitively.

Thank MC Blair Lekstrom

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

- MLAs
 - Transportation Managers and workers
 - Municipal Officials
 - And the members of the Pacific Gateway Alliance who have worked so hard on our Pacific Gateway Transportation Strategy
-
- As Canada's Pacific Gateway to Asia, British Columbians have an unparalleled opportunity to take advantage of the fastest growing economies in the world.
 - We have abundant resources – the lifeblood of those economies and Asia is right at our doorstep – our ports are closer than anywhere else in North America.

- These are huge strategic advantages, but to take full advantage of them we also need world-class infrastructure.
- That's why we are investing in our ports, railways, roads and airports - so BC goods can get to market faster, more efficiently and more competitively.
- Since 2005 the public and private partners in the Pacific Gateway Alliance have completed \$12.3 billion of work to expand our ports, roads, airports and runways.
- Another \$9.4 billion of work is currently underway, including this road – the South Fraser Perimeter Road.

- Today I am pleased to announce that the first phase of the South Fraser Perimeter Road is now 50 per cent complete.
- When fully completed at the end of next year this will be a four-lane expressway that will run for about 40 kilometres along the south side of the Fraser River.
- It will connect with major tunnel and bridges crossings along the Fraser River, from Deltaport way in Southwest Delta, to 176th street in Surrey.
- The South Fraser Perimeter Road is expected to create 4,000 construction jobs and support the creation of 7,000 long-term jobs in Surrey and Delta.

- Not only will it improve the movement of goods for trade to the Asia Pacific.
- It will also save time for commuters, the trucking industry and visitors by connecting primary Pacific Gateway facilities with access to US borders, the Tsawwassen ferry terminal and the BC Interior.
- But looking at the demand in forestry products, minerals, agrifoods and energy, we know our current investments won't be enough.
- Yesterday, we announced the Pacific Gateway Transportation Strategy 2012-2020 – “Moving Goods and People”.
- Part of the BC Jobs Plan, the Transportation Strategy is a big piece of government's relentless focus on jobs and building a strong economy for BC families.

- There's \$3.1 Billion we know we need to keep people and products moving and working along our major highways and roads. We cannot let traffic congestion and poor planning destroy jobs.
- There's \$18 billion to unlock the potential of our northern and First Nations communities. By opening a trade corridor to natural gas overseas, we are growing a whole new value added export industry and strengthening our economy.
- Finally, there's \$3.8 billion to make sure that when ships drop anchor at B.C. ports, we have the facilities for our trucks and trains and we can handle the demand.
- And these new investments will create at least 17,000 additional jobs by 2020.

- I want to be clear, these aren't all government investments. This is a team effort to make sure B.C. is the preferred gateway to the Asia Pacific.
- It's a plan built around a common sense approach – planning for the future, working as a team.
- Here in British Columbia and Canada we have what the world wants and needs. Our government is acting to make sure BC businesses can leverage our advantages.
- We want them to be first in line to sell their goods and services to booming Asian markets, growing our economy and creating jobs here at home.
- Thank you.

- END -

Trade Mission Announcement
Thursday, April 5, 2012
Length – 5-7 minutes

Event: what is it?

- Announcement of Trade Mission to Japan, Korea and Philippines

Audience: who are they?

FibreCo President Grant Watkins
FibreCo employees
media

Key Messages

- Since we released the BC Jobs Plan six months ago, B.C. has seen increased exports the Pacific Rim. We need to keep this momentum going.
- We plan to be front and centre in Asia – promoting our exports and telling the story of BC as a safe harbour for investment.
- Japan and Korea are two of our longest and strongest trading partners and I look forward to meeting with government officials and business representatives to discuss exports and investment.

- I'm here at FibreCo today, a company that has been so successful shipping wood products to Asia..
- We know that strengthening our trading relationships abroad means jobs here at home.
- And that's my number one priority. To keep our economy strong, with good paying jobs.
- British Columbia continues to perform well during challenging economic times with over 38,000 net new jobs in our economy since February 2011.
- And we're just getting started. Our government remains focused on jobs and economic growth.
- And while my focus is on BC, and BC jobs, I need to turn my attention to Asia, to the world's economic engine
- We have Asia at our doorstep. And our BC businesses have the goods and services that Asia wants.

- That's why I'm here today. I am proud to announce that we are launching a second jobs and trade mission to Asia.
- We are taking the BC advantage to Japan, Korea and the Philippines on May 12th.

Japan

- Our friends in Japan are currently undertaking a massive effort to rebuild following the earthquake and tsunami in March 2011.
- British Columbians mourned Japan's loss and now we can help them in their recovery and rebuilding.
- Japan is interested in diversifying its energy mix, with one focus being bio-energy and another natural gas.

- Our trade mission will focus on opportunities in natural gas, mining, clean technology, forestry, food products and transportation.
- Our ties with Japan are strong - they are already our third largest export partner.
- Japanese companies are invested in eight major mines in BC...
- Encana has entered into an agreement that will see Mitsubishi invest almost \$3 billion for a 40-per-cent interest in the Cutbank Ridge natural gas partnership in northeastern B.C.
- FibreCo has been shipping wood products to Europe and Japan for over 20 years...wood chips and wood pellets...
- Their success in diversifying their markets has had a profound impact on jobs here at home.

- In just the past year alone, FibreCo has doubled the number of longshoremen working on their dock...
- They've more than doubled their number of Foremen – from four to eleven.
- And they've doubled their number of Assistant Terminal Managers from two to four.
- One of those new Managers is Dan Williamson...here with us today.
- Thanks to growing trade with Asia, Dan and his family can count on a stable, well-paying job for years to come.
- And I believe there are more jobs to come here at FibreCo...because they're now exploring the next big market for their pellets: Korea.

Korea

- People here at FibreCo recognize the opportunity to build new business partnerships in Korea and so does our government.
- Korea's national green growth strategy will enable B.C. to supply part of their huge demand for biomass products.
- And there is also a huge interest in our expertise and products in the clean technology, education, transportation, forestry, natural gas and mining sectors.

Philippines

- In the Philippines, we'll be meeting with government officials to discuss labour mobility for skilled workers.
- We have a large Filipino community here in B.C. and by strengthening our relationship, there are opportunities to fill our emerging labour shortages.

Conclusion

- We plan to be front and centre in Asia – promoting our exports and telling the story of BC as a safe harbour for investment.
- I'm proud that we are leading Canada in diversifying our markets. It ensures continued export growth and keeps creating jobs here in B.C.
- Japan and Korea are two of our longest and strongest trading partners and I look forward to meeting with government officials and business representatives to discuss exports and investment.
- It's an ambitious schedule, but the opportunities are real and it matters to a lot of British Columbians, just like the ones who have joined me here today.

- END -

VGH Mental Health Centre Funding Announcement
Tuesday, April 10, 2012
Vancouver General Hospital
Length: 2 - 4 minutes

Event: What is it?

- Premier Clark and Health Minister Michael de Jong will be joined by representatives from Vancouver Coastal health, VGH and UBC Hospital Foundation, including donors, to announce funding for a new Mental Health Centre at VGH.
- Cost of the project is expected to be approximately \$73M, subject to change once the business plan and tendering process are complete.
- The centre will improve health outcomes for British Columbians and help reduce indirect costs of mental illness in Vancouver.

Audience: Who are they?

- 30-50 people including:
 - Health Minister Michael de Jong
 - VGH and UBC Hospital Foundation President Ron Dumouchelle
 - Joe and Rosalie Segal, philanthropists
 - MLAs
 - Local health professionals
 - Members of Vancouver Coastal Health
 - Representatives from the VGH and UBC Hospital Foundation
 - Lower Mainland media

Key Messages:

- **Mental illness is a difficult diagnosis that can have profound impacts not just for the patient, but for their families, friends and community.**
- **Mental illness affects people of all ages and from all walks of life. The new mental health centre will provide a respectful environment for those with mental illness, designed to help them get better.**
- **And it will make better use of our health care dollars by bringing together the UBC Hospital and VGH mental health services.**

- Acknowledgements:
 - Health Minister Michael de Jong
 - UBC and Vancouver General Hospital Foundation President Ron Dumouchelle
 - Joe Segal, builder and philanthropist, who with his wife Rosalie: a special thank you for coming today. Without your support we wouldn't be here.
- Mental illness takes a terrible toll...
- Not just on the patient, but on their entire family as well.
- When someone you love is suffering from mental illness, hope and understanding are often the only things that get you through the day.

And to be sure, the support and help that B.C. mental health practitioners provide patients and families is immeasurable.

Often times, too often in fact, mental illness goes undiagnosed, or those who suffer don't seek the help they deserve because they may be ashamed.

But things are changing. There is progress, more people are talking about mental health and sharing their struggles and victories too...

And our government is doing our part as well...

Today I am pleased to announce that we will be investing in a new mental health centre here at VGH.

- The new facility will allow BC's outstanding team of mental health care professionals to provide better care for patients and their families.
- It will provide a respectful environment for those with mental illness, an environment designed to help them get better.
- And it will make better use of our health care dollars by consolidating inpatient and outpatient services from Vancouver General Hospital and the University of British Columbia Hospital.

- Right now, it's very early in the planning stages, but I can say that this year a project business plan will be completed...
- And we can expect the facility to take about three years to design and build once the business plan is approved.
- By working with our partners and stakeholders we can achieve things together that we never could alone...
- So I want to thank the VGH and UBC Hospital Foundation and its corporate and private donors for their commitment of \$25 million toward the new Mental Health Centre.

- And I want to call to your attention once again Mr. Joe Segal and his wife Rosalie.
- Here are two outstanding British Columbians who recognized the need to help those suffering from mental illness and made the single largest personal donation towards mental health in Canadian history -- some \$12 million.
- I am sure you know that your generosity and charity will help countless patients and their families during very difficult times.
- It is this act of compassion that will be a Segal legacy for generations. The government thanks you as do British Columbians.
- This new centre will add to our understanding and acceptance of people suffering mental illness.
- It will be a centre of hope to patients and their families.
- Thank you.

-END-

**Gaming Grant Funding – \$150K for
West Coast Kings Field Hockey Society
Thursday, April 12, 2012
Speech length: 2-4 minutes**

Event: what is it?

- Premier and Minister Ida Chong will announce \$150K Gaming Grant for the West Coast Kings Field Hockey Society, for partial funding of its planned field house at Tamanawis Park.
- The announcement will take place at the Tamanawis Field Hockey Stadium in Surrey.

Audience: who are they?

Eighty persons expected, including:

- City of Surrey representative (tbc)
- MLA Dave Hayer, Surrey-Tynehead
- Representatives of the field hockey community, especially Tamanawis.
- Media

Audience: what do they want to hear?

KEY MESSAGES:

Our government cares deeply about supporting positive, healthy activities for families.

This new facility provides a safe venue where families can watch international tournaments while at the same time encouraging them get out there and play themselves.

Thank MC

ACKNOWLEDGE:

Hon. Ida Chong, Minister of Community, Sport and
Cultural Development

Dave Hayer, MLA Surrey-Tynehead

- Last July, on these grounds you allowed me the honour of hitting out a ceremonial ball to open the final game of the Canada Cup.
- I had a great time on the field, and I recall talking to some of you afterward about an issue of great importance to all of us.
- At that time, I had just requested an independent review of our Community Gaming Grant system and I expressed my hope that it would result in funding for your society.

- Well, that hope has become reality. As a result of the review we were able to restore funding for community arts and sports groups.
- And today I am especially proud to tell you that our government is providing a gaming grant of \$150,000 to help build the Tamanawis field house...here at the home of the West Coast Kings Field Hockey Club.
- Our government cares deeply about supporting positive, healthy activities for families.
- This new facility will provide a safe venue where families can watch international tournaments while at the same time encouraging them get out there and play themselves.
- There's an added benefit...

- A field house with change rooms, public washrooms, plus meeting space means that the community can seek out high-profile sport tournaments, as well as offer better amenities for local athletes.
- Surrey has built a strong field hockey culture and it is doing an excellent job of teaching field hockey to both adults and youth.
- Most Canadians would be astonished to know that world-wide, field hockey has the third-highest number of participants, behind soccer and cricket.
- We saw that reflected when your community hosted 15,000 spectators at last year's international field hockey tournament.

- Sporting events of that magnitude are an important boost to local businesses and contribute to host-city economies.
- This is why our government has focused on developing the sport hosting capabilities of our communities and helping them to build recreation infrastructure.
- High-quality facilities encourage BC families to be active and involved in sport. And that in turn helps us to develop leadership, fairness, discipline, team play and strategy.
- These are the qualities of a good citizen and our entire society benefits when we invest in their development.
- For all of those reasons, I want to wish you all another very successful season and many more to come ... GO West Coast Kings!
- Thank you

- END -

Cariboo Connector

Friday, April 13, 2012

Event: what is it?

- Premier to announce \$200 million over 5 years to begin Phase 2 of the Cariboo Connector

Audience: who are they?

- Blair Lekstrom, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure
- Shirley Bond, Minister of Justice and Attorney General
- Dick Harris – MP, Cariboo-Prince George
- Mayor Shari Green - Prince George
- Jack Davidson, BC Roadbuilders and Heavy Construction Association
- Others TBC

Key Messages

Expanding our transportation network is key to sustaining economic growth and protecting and creating jobs across our province.

This further investment in the Cariboo Connector will make sure our goods are getting to market faster while stimulating the local economy and providing local jobs.

- Recognize Minister Blair Lekstrom and Minister Shirley Bond.
- IF YOU WERE TO PICTURE BRITISH COLUMBIA AS LIVING PERSON...FAMILIES WOULD BE THE HEART...OUR ECONOMY, THE LUNGS...AND HIGHWAYS WOULD BE THE ARTERIES.
- Without an efficient highway network, we can't get our lifeblood – our goods and our people – to where they need to go.
- Our government is committed to investing in our highways, because we know how important they are to the livelihoods of families living all across the province.
- We also know that right now we have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to become the preferred North American gateway to history's fastest growing market in Asia.
- I am determined not to let that opportunity pass us by.

- And so I'm very proud to announce that our government is investing \$200 million in Phase 2 of the Cariboo Connector program.
- Between here and Cache Creek, we'll have 30 more kilometres of new 4-laning so that we can more safely and efficiently get people to work and the goods they produce to market.
- This investment will also provide over 1,000 direct jobs to people in this area for the duration of the project.
- Expanding our transportation network is key to sustaining economic growth and protecting and creating jobs across our province.
- This further investment in the Cariboo Connector will make sure our goods are getting to market faster while stimulating the local economy and providing local jobs.

- We know how important this work is for families along the Highway 97 corridor through the Cariboo, and for those in the region who rely on Highway 97 for their livelihoods and mobility.
- Since 2005, we have worked with our federal partners to expand key sections of Highway 97 through the Cariboo. The last Phase 1 project is wrapping up this year.
- That work couldn't have happened without our ready and willing partners in the federal government. Thank you for that support and investment.
- This work has added 40 km of four-lane highway to the corridor.
- It has made travel faster and safer and has literally changed the landscape.
- This work has more than doubled the amount of four-lane highway that existed in 2005.

- Today's announcement of an additional \$200 million for the Cariboo Connector builds on that great work.
- Phase 2 of the Cariboo Connector consists of nine projects, at the end of which nearly 50% of the corridor will be either three or four lanes.
- We anticipate that construction will start on two of the nine projects this year.
 - The four-laning of Highway 97 from Old Cariboo Highway to Sintich Road, just south of the city here.
 - And 4 km of four-laning, approximately 1 km north of the community of 70 Mile House.
- We are also improving safety at a number of intersections along the corridor and raising and widening a rail overpass to support more efficient movement of goods.
- That means more guaranteed passing areas, greater safety and more efficient goods movement on an increasingly busy corridor.

- This \$200 million investment to initiate Phase 2 of the Cariboo Connector is an important part of our plan to protect and create jobs here in Prince George, and across the province.
- The growth in our north is important to the prosperity of all of British Columbia. I have had the privilege to visit companies all over the province whose growth and future prospects are directly linked to the prosperity of the north.
- It happens that we are in Prince George in the same week of news that housing starts are up, and of a new, \$40 million condo/hotel development downtown.
- By building on our world-class transportation network, we can support the kind of economic growth that generates new opportunities and creates good jobs that help families put dinner on the table.
- Thank you.

- END -

Waheguru Ji Ka Khalsa, Waheguru Ji Ki Fateh

I want to wish you all a very Happy Vaisakhi. It is great to see so many families come out and celebrate.

This is a time to reflect on the teachings of the Guru Gobind Singh...

And a time to remember to always treat each other with respect and equality.

British Columbia embodies Vaisakhi's spirit of acceptance and inclusion.

I'm proud to take part in the one of the largest Vaisakhi celebrations in North America.

Thousands of families will honour their traditions, their faith and their community by dedicating the day to giving.

It's these family ties and relationships that are going to be the positive foundation our children need to thrive.

Vaisakhi is not just important to the Sikh faith - it has become a significant day for all British Columbia communities.

It's a time to for families to come together from all different backgrounds and walks of life.

On behalf of all British Columbians, let me say:

Congratulations on the birth of the Khalsa and Vaisakhi
Dee-yahn Lakh Lakh Va-da-yee-aahn

I wish you all a prosperous and healthy year ahead.

-End-

Re-opening of SFU's Shrum Science Centre
Monday April 16, 2012
Speech length: 7 minutes

Event: what is it?

- Premier Christy Clark will officially re-open the state-of-the-art Chemistry Wing of the Shrum Science Centre at Simon Fraser University's Burnaby campus.

Audience: who are they?

- Honourable James Moore, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages
- SFU president Andrew Petter, board of governors, students, local dignitaries
- Media

Key Messages:

- Investments in science and technology research not only provide jobs today but also ensure we are on the cutting edge of breakthrough ideas that will sustain our future growth and prosperity in British Columbia.
- Here at the Shrum Science Centre, we are creating the tools, programs and services to make sure our young scientists do more than dream; they can make the discoveries of tomorrow to keep our economy strong, dynamic and vital for generations.

Acknowledgements:

- James Moore
 - SFU president Andrew Petter, board of governors, students, local dignitaries
-
- IN 1965, SCIENCE RESEARCH IN BC TOOK A HUGE LEAP FORWARD WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY.
-
- Today, SFU is consistently recognized as one of the best places in Canada to do research and earn a degree.
-
- In fact, the Faculty of Science is one of the most productive for its size in Canada!

- Some of the research being done here has the potential to save lives:
- David Vocadlo, an SFU chemistry professor, is part of a team working on ways to slow or prevent Alzheimers by ensuring a brain protein's sugar level is maintained.
- Another SFU researcher – associate professor Robert Holt, was one of among three SFU scientists recently celebrated in Time Magazine for a discovery that could lead to new treatments for colorectal cancer.
- And some of SFU's research will help B.C.'s economy stay strong – protecting and creating jobs for families:
- SFU biology professor Steven Jones has developed a quicker way to sequence genomes so we can better understand the Mountain Pine Beetle and stop its destructive path through our forests.

- British Columbia is at the forefront of science, technology and innovation but we'll only stay there if we invest in research.
- This new building has been upgraded so our young scientists can get a state of the art education and be a part of life-changing breakthroughs.
- Labs have been brought up-to-date with modern design standards, with more natural light, and state-of-the-art equipment.
- It was all done because we know that one of the best investments we can make for the future of British Columbia is in our post-secondary institutions.

- Investments in science and technology research not only provide jobs today but also ensure we are on the cutting edge of breakthrough ideas that will sustain our future growth and prosperity in British Columbia.
- Here at SFU's Shrum Science Centre, we are creating the tools, programs and services to make sure our young scientists do more than dream; they can make the discoveries of tomorrow to keep our economy strong, dynamic and vital for generations.
- And as the world advances, we know we have to be at the leading edge in providing educational opportunities for our best and brightest young people.

- Here at SFU, you have the potential to lead the province in your contribution to research and development in health and life sciences, environmental studies, and information and communication technologies.
- B.C. aims to be a worldwide leader in all those fields – and that means jobs here at home.
- Part of leading Canada means making sure today's learners get the skills they need.
- That's why we partnered with the federal government and B.C.'s public post-secondary institutions on knowledge and infrastructure projects.

- We've invested \$25M in this project at Simon Fraser University, one of 39 at BC's public post-secondary institutions.
- And these projects have the added benefit of creating construction jobs – the Shrum Centre project provided almost 500 jobs over the course of its renovation and refurbishment...
- Now that it's open, it's helping to train researchers for well-paying jobs in science and technology.
- It will enhance research capacity, attract new students and provide a better educational experience.

- We want to be sure that the kid who sets up his “mad scientist” lab in his parents’ garage has the opportunity to make that dream happen at one of the best universities in Canada.
- Innovation, creativity and opportunity. These are the key ingredients in this new building.
- They’re also the key ingredients in our government’s plan to build B.C.’s future.
- I always say our greatest strength is our people...
- In this new facility, I have no doubt that British Columbia’s young scientists will make us all proud.

-END-

Amber Alert
Friday, April 20, 2012
Speech Length: 3-5 minutes

Event: what is it?

- Announcement that the government of B.C. is expanding Amber Alert by routing all Amber Alert messages to more than 30,000 civil servants' workplace email.
- Information will be distributed faster, more widely than before, helping police return children to their families as quickly and safely as possible.
- Premier and minister will also be challenging private sector organizations to distribute Amber alerts through their own systems.

Audience: who are they?

- Shirley Bond, Minister of Justice and Attorney General
- Jon Shubert, President and CEO, ICBC
- Ted Olynyk, BC Hydro
- Brian Gueldenstern, Power Lineman, BC Hydro
- Clint Mahlman, London Drugs Chief Operating Officer
- Nick Curalli, London Drugs General Manager, Information Technology
- TBC – Crystal Dunahee
- Minister Margaret MacDiarmid and MLA for Vancouver-Fairview
- Minister Mary McNeil and MLA for Vancouver-False Creek
- RCMP officers
- media

Key Messages

There is nothing to compare with the terror a parent feels when their child goes missing.

The AMBER Alert expansion will mean 30,000 extra sets of eyes all over B.C. looking for a child – helping them get back to their families faster, and making this tool more effective so that police can do their job.

This is part of our government's commitment to supporting strong families and safe communities

There is nothing to compare with the terror a parent feels when their child goes missing.

As parents, we know that even when we lose sight of our toddler in a department store or in a crowd of people for a moment, your heart sinks and your adrenalin surges.

I can't even imagine the nightmare of your own precious child being abducted.

When we hear stories of children who are missing, we all want to help.

And now we can.

As part of our commitment to strong, healthy families and safe communities, our government is immediately expanding the Amber Alert program so that every civil servant in the province - that's over 30,000 people - receives Amber Alerts on their workplace computer.

That will mean 30,000 extra sets of eyes all over B.C. looking for a missing child – helping them get back to their families faster.

It's amazing where these great ideas come from.

Brian Gueldenstern is a power lineman for BC Hydro working in Nanaimo. He's here with us today.

Last year, he came up with an idea – to send out Amber Alerts to every lineman...and to anyone else at BC Hydro who works out in the field.

Imagine the impact – Hydro is everywhere, in every community across the province - whether it's Nanaimo, Port Hardy, or Vanderhoof.

We heard about this, and thought – what a great idea!

Why not have the provincial government send Amber Alerts to civil servants? And why not challenge Crown corporations and private sector to join in?

The seed for this idea started in Nanaimo with one person, and now it's going to have potentially life-saving impacts across the province.

And I'm challenging all the Crown corporations and the private sector to join us in making these alerts available on their employees' computers.

This challenge is already meeting with a strong response.

I'm really proud to say that Jon Shubert, the President and CEO of ICBC got on board as soon as we called to ask him about it.

And London Drugs employees will also be getting AMBER alerts right to their desktops - I want to thank CEO Wynn Powell and his team – Clint Mahlman and Nick Curalli are here today - for their leadership on this.

We know this is a system that works and it works right here in B.C.

Amber Alert has been operating in British Columbia since 2004. In the past eight years, 12 Amber Alerts have been activated in B.C. involving 15 children.

All 15 of those children were returned home safely.

This is the value of having eyes in the community.

This is how we can help children get back to their families, and how we can help parents who face the nightmare of child abduction.

We can all be part of this.

Cell phone providers already allow people to sign up to receive Amber Alert messages on their phones.

Now we can deliver them right to our employees' desks too.

By making people all over B.C. aware that a child is missing, we can make a difference.

{Introduce Crystal Dunahee for a few remarks}

- END -

**Armenian Church Service
Sunday, April 22, 2012**

Event: what is it?

- Church service reflecting on anniversary of Armenian massacre

Audience: who are they?

Armenian community members

Key Messages

- We must continue to care for families here and around the world.
- This was a dark time, and we must shine the light of education so that circumstances never allow anything like this to happen again.

Thank you for inviting me here to share this day with you.

It has been 97 years since the tragic events in 1915...

Over a million people – gone - under terrible circumstances...

Whole generations of families were lost.

It was a dark time in Armenian history, and the story was brought into the light, and the world learned of it.

And today we take time to remember the victims and their families...because every one of them has a story.

By bringing their stories out of the darkness, we can ensure that the light of education shines and that these terrible events can never occur again.

Here in B.C., we're proud of our diversity. It identifies us as a province – it's who we are.

You have helped build our province and you have shared your rich culture and heritage with all of us, and for that I thank you.

You have contributed so much – your tradition, your hard work, and your support to the growth of B.C.

You have helped build our multi-cultural diversity, by carving out a place of pride, generation by generation, here in B.C.

With your spirit, we will continue to care for families here at home, and around the world.

Today we remember over a million victims..men, women and children who were victims of intolerance.

Today, we honour them, and their survivors, and pledge with them, that we will shine the light of education, and always remember them.

- END -

Good evening and chag sameach (CHUG SUM-AY-ACH)

Acknowledge:

- Stephen Gaerber (GER-BER) for intro
- Moira Stilwell, Parliamentary Secretary for Health
- Partnering organizations and sponsors

Thank you for having me here to celebrate Israel's 64th birthday.

64 years as a democratic, independent state is a remarkable achievement...

One that many would never have imagined to be possible in years prior.

Israel and Jewish people were relentless in your survival and in determining your own future.

Your determination did not end in 1948, it only became stronger.

These have not been an easy 64 years. Every step of the way, Israel's courage - your courage - has been tested.

But Israel's tenacity through those tough times has spurred unparalleled innovation.

Israel is home to some of the top universities and technical institutes in the world.

It's a country with leading edge research and innovation in health sciences, biotech, chemistry, clean technology and the environment.

A country with more start ups per capita than anywhere else in the world.

And to me, that's the story of Israel.

I still remember my first experience in Israel...

<Story from Premier's time in Israel>

As you know, my government's primary mission is to make lives better for families.

And to do that we are focused on creating and protecting jobs by strengthening our economy.

That means ensuring that our universities offer the best training, education and research.

It means getting government out of the way of the private sector and eliminating red tape that restricts business growth.

And it means opening doors and working with other innovative, forward-thinking nations.

As part of that initiative, I am pleased to announce today that MLA Moira Stilwell will be leading a BC delegation on a mission to Israel next month.

She will be joined by several other MLAs as well as key biotech and health leaders.

The purpose of this mission is find ways to work together to commercialize medical technology, something Israeli entrepreneurs have been doing for years.

We want to establish long-lasting business relationships between Israel and British Columbia.

And we want to spur even more innovation so we can create jobs that put food on dinner tables in both British Columbia and in Israel.

Support for Israel abroad makes a difference. That's why you are here today. Every friend counts.

I'm proud that British Columbia can be counted as a friend of Israel's.

I wish you all a happy Yom Ha'atsmaut (YOM HA-UTZ-MAH-OOT). Chag Sameach (CHUG SUM-AY-ACH)

Thank you.

-END-

**BC Wildlife Federation
Annual General Meeting
Thursday April 26, 2012
Length: 5-7 minutes**

Event: what is it?

BCWF's annual general meeting

Minister Thompson is providing the keynote address on Friday and will cover the following topics:

- o Hunter recruitment & youth/initiation licenses
- o Harvest allocation and inventory policies
- o Resource Road Act

Minister McRae will be speaking on Saturday and will cover the following topics:

- o Outdoor Passport program, improving relationships between BCWF and farmers/ranchers
- o Update on stakeholder discussions on marine fisheries and seafood

Audience: who are they?

- Up to 150 members of the BC Wildlife Federation, primarily sports hunters and fishers
- Rodney Wiebe, BCWF President
- Al Martin, BCWF Executive Director

Key Messages

- Government recognizes the contribution you make to the province as stewards of the land.
- We support sports and recreational hunting – getting food locally is how many people support their families.
- Thank you for sharing your ideas and contributions – working closely with our government to leave a lasting legacy of conservation and sustainability.

- IT'S A TRUE PLEASURE TO BE HERE WITH YOU TODAY IN THE COMOX VALLEY.
- Acknowledge BCWF President Rodney Wiebe and Executive Director Al Martin.
- I first got to know many of you when I was Environment Critic in the 90s, and I see familiar faces in the room today.
- We've come a long way since then, and I know you're working on many issues with our government – issues that may not yet be fully resolved, but issues that can and will be worked through with the support of Forests Minister Steve Thomson and Agriculture Minister Don McRae.

- I also know that you have a champion in your corner in Bill Bennett, our MLA for Kootenay East, who's put in hundreds of hours supporting the cause of sustainable recreational and sports hunting and fishing.
- And you know what? I support hunting too, both people who make a living at it and people for whom it's a hobby.
- I support hunting not only because it's a great way to get outside and enjoy a wilderness experience – but also because it's about food security, knowing where your food is coming from and that it's grown locally...
- Because getting food locally is how many people support their families.

- Sustainability and conservation are key elements of B.C.'s hunting policies...
- And you here in this room play a very important role in this process.
- You have been a great advocate for conservation and wildlife protection for many years, and you have developed terrific programs that provide something for everyone – from Artist of the Year to Fishing Forever to Wilderness Watch, and beyond.
- You are truly stewards of the land.
- And today as B.C.'s largest and oldest conservation organization with 38,000 members, our government strongly values your input on protecting our wildlife....
- And we appreciate you sharing your wisdom regarding the use of our environment.

- For example, through Wilderness Watch, hunters like you are the ones who tell us whenever poaching or other criminal activity in the backwoods happens so we can take quick action.
- Our children and grandchildren will owe a great debt to you for all that you have accomplished over the years.
- The thousands of volunteer hours you have all contributed to make the BC Wildlife Federation the success it is today will be a legacy for our province in the decades – and centuries – to come.
- You achieve amazing results, and I can't thank you enough for your interest, your community spirit, and your passion for our environment.
- Please enjoy the rest of your conference, and once again, on behalf of all British Columbians, thank you for all that you do.

-END-

**New Comox Hospital
Thursday, April 26, 2012
Length 3-5 mins**

Event: what is it?

- Announcement the BC Government is moving forward with a new hospital for Comox.
- As part of Budget 2012, announcing new hospitals for the North Island.
- The project will go to procurement in 2012.

Audience: who are they?

- Don McRae, MLA Comox Valley
- Claire Moglove, Chair – Comox-Strathcona Regional Hospital District
- Howard Waldner, CEO & President – Vancouver Island Health Authority
- North Island College representative

Key Messages

- Our government is proud to invest in these two new hospitals to ensure North Vancouver Island families have the best medical care when they need it and where they need it, in their communities.
- These projects will also create construction jobs in the region and will provide long term opportunities for health care professionals and their families.

When I got back into politics, I promised a government that would listen to the needs of people in their communities.

And over the past year, we've been listening to you here in Courtenay-Comox.

You've told us you need a new hospital here.

You told us you don't want to travel to other areas of the Island for medical care.

And you told us that you wanted to stay close to home and family for medical care.

And so today I am delighted to announce that here in Courtenay – Comox, we are moving forward with plans for a new hospital with 153 acute-care beds that will ready by 2017.

Our government is proud to invest in this new hospital to ensure Courtenay-Comox families have the best medical care when they need it and where they need it.

We know that nothing helps you recuperate better than to have friends and family nearby.

This new hospital means acute health care services close at hand for Courtenay-Comox.

And that means peace of mind for families who know help will be close by when their loved one needs it most.

Plus, these projects will create construction jobs in the region and will provide long term opportunities for health care professionals and their families.

And we're getting started right away.

The project will go to procurement this year with plans to start building next year.

I know that the residents of the Comox Valley, the doctors, hospital board members and VIHA have been advocating for these hospitals, and it's my pleasure to deliver this good news to you today.

This is a hospital for the future. This area is expected to grow by a third by 2030, and the number of seniors over 75 is expected to double in that time.

Whether you're a senior going to the hospital for a cataract surgery, or an expecting mother, it's good to know that there will be a brand new hospital here, and you won't have to go far from home.

I know that VIHA will continue to talk to the community and to health care providers as the projects progress and keep the lines of communications open to address any concerns.

I'm proud to be here today, and I am really looking forward to being here next year to put the shovel in the earth for the ground-breaking.

- END -

Campbell River Hospital Announcement
Thursday, April 26, 2012
Length: 5-7 minutes

Event: what is it?

- The Premier will announce two new hospitals for the North Island: As a part of Budget 2012, the Province is announcing a new hospital for Campbell River. The project will go to procurement in 2012.

Audience: who are they?

- Comox-Strathcona Regional Hospital District chair, Claire Moglove
- Vancouver Island Health Authority board chair Don Hubbard.
- Nurses/physicians at both Campbell River and Comox Valley.

KEY MESSAGES:

- Our government is proud to invest in these two new hospitals to ensure North Vancouver Island families have the best medical care when they need it and where they need it, in their communities.
- These projects will also create construction jobs in the region and will provide long term opportunities for health care professionals and their families.

- Campbell River is a growing community.
- More and more people want to live, work and play in this amazing community. They also want to retire here.
- And who wouldn't want to live in the Salmon Capital of the World? A city that is an adventure and eco-tourism hub...
- But it's clear that your popularity is taking a toll on North Vancouver Island health facilities.
- We realize that the Comox-Strathcona region was in need of two new hospitals to properly serve your growing communities.
- Earlier today I was in Courtenay-Comox to announce a new hospital there.

- And now, I'm delighted to announce our government is also moving ahead with plans for a new hospital right here in Campbell River.
- Our government is proud to invest in these two new hospitals to ensure North Vancouver Island families have the best medical care when they need it and where they need it, in their communities.
- Many of us know how stressful it is to have a loved one who is sick or injured...especially when you have travel great distances out of area to visit and support that person in hospital.
- These two new hospitals mean acute health care services close at hand for both North Island communities.
- And that means peace of mind for families who know help will be close by when their loved one needs it most.

- These projects will also create construction jobs in the region and will provide long term opportunities for health care professionals and their families.
- The new Campbell River and District General Hospital will provide the most advanced health care with the latest techonology for North Island Families.
- And we plan to get started on it right away.
- The facility should to go to procurement this spring, with construction planned to begin in 2013 and completion estimated for 2017.

- Our government is working to make life better for families all across the province and part of that is making sure British Columbians have access to high-quality health care...
- We firmly believe that delivering an efficient, safe, and world-class health system is one of our most important jobs as we work to create a better life for B.C. families.

-END-

**25th anniversary of Man in Motion World Tour - Celebration of
Difference Makers
Tuesday, May 1, 2012
Length: 4 minutes**

Event: what is it?

- The event is part of the 25th anniversary celebrations of the completion of Rick Hansen's Man In Motion World Tour. Note: this is not part of the relay itself, just part of the campaign.
- In March 1985, Hansen set off from Vancouver to wheel 40,000 kilometres through 34 countries on the Man In Motion World Tour to prove the potential of people with disabilities.
- After the Tour, he established the Rick Hansen Foundation to find a cure for spinal cord injuries and create more accessible communities.
- Since 1988, the Foundation has leveraged the \$26 million raised during the Tour into \$252 million in investments towards spinal cord research, accessibility projects and quality of life initiatives.

Audience: who are they?

Rick Hansen, president and CEO of the Rick Hansen Foundation.
Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development Ida Chong, Emcee
MLAs and legislature staff TBD

Key Messages

As a shining example of the power of the human spirit, Rick Hansen has touched the lives of millions across Canada and around the world.

His Man In Motion tour showed us that anything is possible.

With the support of the Rick Hansen Foundation and other valued partners, B.C. has become the best place in the country for people with disabilities to lead healthy, active lives.

- Acknowledge MC Ida Chong, Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development.
- Rick, it's hard to believe that it's been 25 years since you finished your 16-month, 40,000-kilometre Man In Motion tour.
- As a shining example of the power of the human spirit, you have touched the lives of millions across Canada and around the world.
- Your Man In Motion tour showed us that anything is possible.
- And your commitment to putting others before yourself coupled with your boundless energy has made miracles happen.

- As your legacy continues to grow, we can all take part in the journey by giving more, trying harder, reaching for our dreams, and creating the best possible British Columbia we can imagine.
- Since your return home in 1987, your continued work as a community leader, advocate and supporter of spinal cord research has fundamentally changed British Columbia, Canada and the world.
- And that change is highlighted by the Rick Hansen 25th Anniversary Relay, retracing the Canadian segment of the original Man In Motion tour...
- Travelling 12,000 kilometres through 600 communities, finishing up in Vancouver on May 22.

- This time, one man in motion will inspire many in motion, engaging 7,000 participants from across Canada who have made their own difference in the lives of others.
- You've certainly inspired us.
- With your support and hard work as a valued partner, B.C. has become the best place in the country for people with disabilities to lead healthy, active lives.
- Through the support provided by the Rick Hansen Foundation, our talented scientists and clinicians, and the strength of partnerships between government, the private sector, and agencies...
- This province is contributing to some of the most important discoveries in the field of spinal cord injuries, and leads the nation in research, treatment and services.

- The new Blusson (Bluss – son (rhymes with fuss)) Spinal Cord Centre, located at VGH in Vancouver is one of the world's largest, most advanced and most comprehensive facilities devoted to spinal cord injury research, and patient care.
- This facility houses the ICORD – spinal cord research centre, the Vancouver Coastal Health Brenda and David McLean Integrated Spine Clinic, and the Rick Hansen Institute.
- Recent initiatives that have arisen from this collaboration include a national research study to better understand the severity of injury at the time of trauma and what the range of recovery will be.
- The results of this study will help to personalize treatment for spinal cord injured patients.

- The Province also continues to provide annual funding for the BC Neuro-Trauma Fund and has contributed more than \$70 million to spinal cord-related research since 2001.
- And your foundation has leveraged the original \$26 million raised during the Man In Motion tour into an amazing \$252 million in investments towards spinal cord research, accessibility projects and quality of life initiatives.
- Today is about you Rick, and about all the difference makers who have contributed to making our province a better place for everyone.
- It's been a great 25 years, so together let's celebrate the progress that has been achieved in spinal cord injury research and accessibility.

- And let's look forward to inspiring a new generation of difference makers and creating future legacies that will build a healthier, more inclusive world.
- On behalf of all British Columbians - thank you Rick Hansen!
- And now it's my honour to invite Rick to say a few words.
- Thank you.

Pre-Jobs, Trade Mission delegate reception
Thursday May 3, 2012
Speech length: 5-7 minutes

Event – What is It?

A pre-mission reception for all delegates going on the May 14-19 Jobs and Trade Mission to Japan, Korea, the Philippines.

Audience: who are they?

Jobs and Trade mission delegates

KEY MESSAGES:

- We are at the doorstep of history's fastest growing middle class in Asia – where demand is exploding for B.C. goods like energy, building materials and food.
- We can't rest on our laurels and assume that Asian investment will land on our laps.
- With a reaffirmed triple-A credit rating, we truly are a safe harbour in global economic stormy seas.
- As business people, you all know... the only way to attract investment is by getting out there, banging on doors and drumming up the business yourself.

- Recognize Consuls General:
 - Hideki Ito (EE-toe), Consul General of Japan
 - Yeon Ho Choi (CHEY) Consul General of Korea
 - Consul Mandap (MAN-dap) of the Philippines
- Thank you for joining me here today, as we get ready to set out on this historic jobs and trade mission to Japan, Korea and the Philippines.
- In Japan we'll be visiting the cities of Sendai, Natori and Tokyo...
- And then we'll move on to Korea, where we'll visit Seoul and also Suwan in our sister province of Gyeonggi.
- And finally, we're going to visit Manila in the Philippines – and it will be the first time a Premier of this province has ever gone there in an official capacity.

- I know that all of you will be working hard to strengthen our government's message that B.C. is open for business.

<<<If appropriate, mention a couple companies or delegate who you see in the audience who are joining you>>>

- Here in B.C. we have a once-in-a-generation opportunity that we must not allow to pass us by.
- We are at the doorstep of history's fastest growing middle class in Asia – where demand is exploding for B.C. goods like energy, building materials and food.
- Prince Rupert is the closest North American port to Asia.

- And B.C. stands out with our strong economy and a reaffirmed triple-A credit rating. We truly are a safe harbour in global economic stormy seas.
- This mission is an opportunity for us to open new doors that will support the success of the BC Jobs Plan.
- We're facing a lot of competition – and this mission will help us get to the front of the line.
- We can't rest on our laurels and assume that Asian investment will land on our laps.
- As business people, you all know... the only way to attract investment is by getting out there, banging on doors and drumming up the business yourself.
- That's what we'll be doing together in Japan, Korea and the Philippines.

- And why do we do it? Why do we want to grow our businesses, create jobs and find new trading partners?
- Because we want to care for our families. Because if you have a good job, a successful business, you can build a strong family.
- While other economies are facing turbulent times ahead, by helping our partners in Asia grow, we can grow and prosper alongside them.
- This is our time. This is our moment. This is our chance to lead.
- When it comes to building the future, Canada starts in BC.

-END-

North Central Government Association 57th AGM

May 4, 2012

10:50 to 11:20 -100 mile house

Length: 20-30 minutes

Event: What is it?

- The North Central Local Government Association (NCLGA) will hold its 57th Annual General Meeting and Convention in 100 Mile House from May 2- 4, 2012.
- The theme of the conference is "Building Relationships ~ Sharing Knowledge".
- Co-hosted by the District of 100 Mile House and the Cariboo Regional District

Audience: Who are they?

- Over 250 delegates are expected to attend, representing local governments from 100 Mile House to the Yukon border and Valemount to Haida Gwaii.
- Media
- **Note:** Government of Canada to release April job numbers that morning.

Key messages:

- The quality of life that British Columbians enjoy as a result of economic prosperity rests in large part to the potential and success created right here in the north.
- We started with 229 exploration permits. Today, I can tell you we've cut those 229 down to 54. We are nine permits away from our goal and way ahead of schedule.
- As we promised we would, we worked with industry on developing these programs so that we're training students for jobs that are available in their communities, TODAY.
- Today, I have the pleasure of announcing funding for Thompson Rivers University so they can deliver programs in Kamloops and Williams Lake that will get students living here into great jobs faster.

Acknowledgements

- Thank Dawson Creek Mayor Mike Bernier for introduction.
- Acknowledge MLAs: Ida Chong, John Rustad and Donna Barnett

Recent Tragedies

- I'd like to start by taking a moment to recognize Prince George Mayor Shari Green and Burns Lake Mayor Luke Strimbold for their leadership and courage in the face of terrible tragedies.
- 48 hours after the tragedy hit Burns Lake, I flew up, and I spent time with the community up there.
- I met with residents who were mourning the loss of friends and family members and we grieved together. I listened to hundreds of people deeply concerned about the future of their community.

- Just last week, I flew up to Prince George and I met with families, workers and first responders and it was devastating again to see a community struck with such tragedy.
- <<Share emotional experience with families in either or both places>>
- I want to you all to know that the families of Prince George and Burns Lake are in our thoughts and prayers. British Columbians are grieving with you and we are going to be there to help you through this difficult time.
- Although we cannot reverse the tragic events that occurred we are doing as much as possible to prevent future incidents like this. We are taking action to keep workers safe until we fully understand what happened.

- But I want you to know that Pat, Shirley, John and Margaret are working around the clock to find ways to support the communities and to make sure we can find jobs for the people out of work. We will be there to support these communities.

Forestry

- Since the Burns Lake fire, questions have come up about mill safety and in particular, about the future of fibre supply around Burns Lake and throughout the interior.
- There are difficult and controversial issues that need to be addressed
- We need to have an open and frank conversation. Let me assure you today. You will be part of those discussions.

- But if we work together, I am confident we can find a way forward for our forest industry that is sustainable and vibrant.

Vision for the North and BC Jobs Plan

- DIVERSIFY- that's what our forestry sector did when faced with a slowing and shrinking U.S. market.
- They went out and found new, growing and hungry markets in ASIA. In the last year, for the first time, our lumber exports to China surpassed \$1 billion.
- I think we are all keenly aware of the resources we have in this province, particularly here in the North.
- But having a resource does not mean you have necessarily have wealth and prosperity.
- A resource is potential.

- But potential can become opportunity and opportunity can become prosperity.
- From my perspective, the provincial government has an important role to play in taking our potential and turning it into opportunities: we can clear the hurdles, streamline approvals, invest in skills training, provide investors certainty, identify new customers by expanding our trading relationships and keep taxes low to remain competitive.
- And we do this because we want to have healthy, happy and prosperous families with safe communities and sustainable government services. We can grow and thrive together.
- I want to see a northern B.C. where families can come here, grow here and stay here together.

- There are a lot of people who may not understand the importance of what's going on up here.
- But our government knows that the North is driving the province's economy forward.
- The quality of life that British Columbians enjoy as a result of economic prosperity rests in large part to the potential and success created right here in the north.
- That's a story I tell as often as I can.
- I believe the North can lead British Columbia and Canada.

BC Jobs Plan LNG

- Our Jobs Plan is already delivering results here in the North.

- We committed to bring at least one natural gas export terminal online by 2015, with three in operation by 2020.
- We're celebrating a Mitsubishi investment of almost \$3 billion in an agreement with Encana for a 40% interest in the Cutbank Ridge natural gas partnership in northeastern B.C.
- The National Energy Board has approved export licenses for **TWO** Kitimat liquefied natural gas facilities – the first licenses of their kind in Canada...
- And land is being cleared for the first of the three LNG lines.
- One key part of having a vision is recognizing when game-changing opportunities present themselves – and then seizing those opportunities with everything you've got.

- That's what we are doing with our natural gas strategy.

BC Jobs Plan Mining

- Since we launched our Jobs Plan last September, six mines have either begun construction, received key approvals or had their operations extended.
- That's nearly one per month!
- 300 people are working at the Huckleberry Mine, and we'll soon be seeing hundreds more boots on the ground at Mount Milligan, and Barkerville.
- When these mines expand and create new jobs, that means new families come to live in your communities.
- A growing community means more tax revenue, additional business investment and positive growth.

- Our government is investing to bring these families to you...so they can invest in the future of your municipalities.
- In September we committed \$24 million to cut the backlog in government permitting and approvals.
- We started with 229 exploration permits . Today, I can tell you we've cut those 229 down to 54. We are nine permits away from our goal and way ahead of schedule.
- To take advantage of all these future opportunities, we are investing in a transportation network to gets your goods to market quickly and efficiently.

BC Jobs Plan Transportation

- Asia is right at our doorstep – Prince Rupert is North America's closest port to Asia.

- I recently announced that our government is investing \$200 million over five years to continue to expand the Cariboo Connector.
- This major transportation investment will mean faster access and safer routes for residents and businesses in Cache Creek, in 70 Mile, Quesnel and Prince George.
- This is great for families...and fantastic for businesses.
- Businesses like Pinnacle Renewable Energy Group based in Prince George.
- Pinnacle makes pellets for bio-energy from B.C.'s pine beetle damaged wood, which are then shipped to Asia and Europe
- The Cariboo Connector is going to help them do that more efficiently and hopefully help them grow their business in the long term.

- But that's not all government can do to help the northern economy.
- Next week, I'm leading a Jobs and Trade Mission to Japan, Korea and the Philippines.
- We're going to build on the enormous success of our Mission last fall to continue to open doors and build relationships abroad so we can protect and create jobs at home.

BC Jobs Plan Training

- Between now and 2020, we expect about 10,000 natural resource jobs will be filled in every region of the North.

- That's why government is investing in northern infrastructure and skills training so British Columbians have the right skills at the right time.
- Later today, I will announce funding for Thompson Rivers University so they can deliver programs in Kamloops and Williams Lake that will get students living here into great jobs faster.
- These training programs will include behind the wheel experience for entry-level logging truck drivers, heavy equipment operation for the forest sector as well as for the mining and road building sectors.
- As we promised we would, we worked with industry on developing these programs so that we're training students for jobs that are available in their communities, TODAY.
- Why is this so important?

- We believe that the best way of supporting families is creating jobs.
- And when we create and protect jobs in the north, we are investing in northern families.

Community recreation grants

- Our government wants to give every single family the opportunity to raise healthy kids and have an active lifestyle. The community recreation program does just that.
- \$30 million is going to 98 projects throughout the province to build things like hockey rinks and bike paths that will help attract new families to your communities.

- Right here in 100 Mile House, for example, \$280,000 from our government is helping to revitalize the popular Bridge Creek Trails.
- In Fort St John, \$444,800 is helping the community to construct a safe and accessible new skate park.
- And in Fort St James, our government has contributed \$500,000 to develop a multi-use community centre.

Auditor General for Local Government

- There's a lot of work being done throughout the province to enable community growth and job creation.
- Each of you in this room today has a significant role to play.

- But the reality is – for all levels of government - there is only one taxpayer and we need to make sure that all levels of government are using tax dollars efficiently.
- The new Auditor General for Local Government is there to provide useful suggestions to get the most for every dollar, not to impose solutions.
- Believe me, I know how much pressure you are under to spend money.
- If you're anything like me...I bet you get requests every day.

BC's economy

- It's that hard-earned reputation for fiscal prudence that has allowed us to remain a safe harbour during these times of global economic chaos.

- It is a reputation we need to continue to earn each and every day so we can protect the jobs we have and create the new jobs our families need.
- With much of the world in turmoil, international investors are out there looking for places to grow their businesses and spend their money.
- They are looking for a foothold in North America, and that's B.C.
- The B.C. economy is slowly picking up steam. To protect our recovery, we will continue to hold the line on spending and live within our means.

Conclusion

- As you may have heard, our BC Jobs Plan is called "Canada Starts Here".
- And it starts here, in the North, because the northern renaissance we are building here really will be felt across our province and our country.

- Canada starts in Tumbler Ridge, where B.C. workers feed Asia's demand for steel-making coal.
- And it starts in Kitimat, where people from the Haisla First Nation and Kitimat community are planning to be a major part of tomorrow's clean energy workforce.
- Canada starts in Prince Rupert, the edge of our gateway to the world's fastest growing markets - China and India.
- And Canada starts in Prince George, the north's hub for education, and the transportation infrastructure that connects the north to the rest of B.C.
- This is a generational chance for communities and First Nations in the north. Let's do this together.
- When it comes to building the future, Canada really does start right here in B.C.'s North.

-END-

Coalition of BC Businesses
Monday, February 20, 2012
Speech length: 3-5 minutes

Event: what is it?

- The Coalition of BC Businesses was formed in 1992 to represent the voice of small and medium-sized businesses in developing B.C.'s labour and employment policies.
- It represents over 50,000 businesses active in all sectors
- Their sole focus is development of labour policies that will help foster a positive relationship between employers and employees and provide a climate for new economic growth, opportunities and jobs.

Audience: who are they?

- Mark von Schellwitz – Chair, Coalition of BC Businesses
- 20-40 reps from the restaurant and hospitality industries, homebuilders, Retail BC, New Car Dealers and BC Chamber of Commerce

Key Messages

- **We are charting a balanced course for economic stability in the province to create and protect jobs.**
- **Our agenda is job creation because that is what will grow our economy and provide the social programs we need.**
- **B.C. is a safe harbour for investment.**

We're lucky to be living and working here in British Columbia.

You go down to the U.S. - I was there twice in the last two weeks - it's a real mess down there. They are dealing with huge issues.

You go to Europe. Again, they're coping with really difficult issues.

Here in B.C., our economy, though fragile, is still seen as a safe harbour by the rest of the world.

This is an advantage that we need to work hard to preserve.

Over the past year, I've been travelling the province talking about families.

I believe families are the most important institution in society – because it's families that raise kids to become caring adults who give back to their communities.

Supporting families is how we create a great province.

And there's nothing more important to every family than a good job that puts dinner on the table.

That's why we're focused like a laser beam on protecting and creating jobs in B.C. by strengthening our economy.

We can do that by managing our finances responsibly, controlling spending, which is crucially important, keeping our taxes low and attracting investment and jobs.

We also have to make sure that we are avoiding chronic deficits, which is something that we have seen occur in other provinces.

That means that we can't make promises that we can't pay for. And it means we have to say no sometimes. That can be difficult.

Tomorrow is budget day.

Finance Minister Kevin Falcon has been working really hard on this budget and it hasn't been easy.

While you have to wait until tomorrow for details, I can tell you we are charting a course for economic stability and fiscal prudence.

Following through on those commitments is the best way government can continue to deliver on the Jobs Plan that we set out in September.

The BC Jobs Plan is about getting government out of the way of job creation, creating infrastructure to get our goods to market and making sure that we're opening those new markets.

We are making progress on it already – for example, we unveiled the natural gas strategy a few weeks ago.

Our strategy will take an abundant B.C. resource from the northeast and move it to the northwest to turn it into a value-added export before we ship it overseas.

By developing liquefied natural gas export facilities and opening markets in Asia, we can get four to five times the price for this B.C. resource.

The natural gas strategy is going to create 11,000 jobs over the next eight years. This is an opportunity to grow a whole new industry for British Columbia.

Another history making development - Rio Tinto Alcan is making the biggest private sector investment ever in B.C., up in Kitimat.

They're spending nearly \$3 billion to upgrade their smelter and protect jobs for the long-term.

Mining expansions are being announced, including at the Huckleberry mine near Smithers. This expansion will ensure stable jobs for 300 people for the next nine years— good paying jobs that support families.

Western Forest Products is investing in modernizing their Vancouver Island operations, and we have finally broken the logjam on the Evergreen line, which will create 8,000 jobs and connect the Tri-Cities, including Port Moody and Coquitlam, into the rapid transit system.

All of these investments signal an enormous vote of confidence in the future of British Columbia and send a powerful message to investors world-wide...

That at a time of global uncertainty B.C. remains a solid, safe place to invest.

We are building the economy we need to support the services that people depend on – like health care and education.

The money for those services comes from a thriving private sector economy.

A decade ago we got rid of the high-debt, high-tax policies that are causing economic chaos in other jurisdictions right now.

Now, when many countries and jurisdictions are looking inward and hunkering down, we are reaching out.

We're determined to create jobs, to grow our economy, to maintain our Triple A credit rating. As business owners and managers, you all know how important that is.

You know first-hand that the economy is not an abstract idea.

The economy exists to create jobs.

It's what brings services to people and makes B.C. a strong province, and we're going to continue with that agenda.

We'll continue to be the safe harbour for investment to ensure that in tough economic times. We'll reduce the barriers to investment and open new markets for our products.

We're fighting for the economic future of B.C.'s families and businesses, and it's a fight we're determined to win.

- END -