

Please note that the following pages have been removed as 'Not Responsive' to the scope of FOI Request GCP-2012-00091: 59-97, 107-121, 163-196, 224-228, 253-295, 305-323.

Gaming Grants

Wednesday, January 11, 2012

Event: what is it?

- Announcement of release of Community Gaming Grant report and government's response.
- This is another great example of open government at work – responding directly to what people tell us through forums like town hall meetings and community consultation. They result in improvements like the police Independent Investigation Office and the Auditor General for Local Government.

Audience: who are they?

- Representatives of all non-profit community groups that rely on gaming grants, particularly adult arts and sports organizations, environmental groups and animal welfare agencies who have not received grants during the past three years.
- Others tbc

Key Messages

- These non-profits do tremendous work in their communities.
- We are releasing Skip Triplett's report.
- We're responding to the report by increasing gaming grants to \$135 million annually, beginning in 2011/12.
- This \$15-million boost reinstates eligibility for environmental, animal welfare and adult sports and arts groups.

Key Messages

- **These non-profits do tremendous work in their communities.**
- **We are releasing Skip Triplett's report.**
- **We're responding to the report by increasing gaming grants to \$135 million annually, beginning in 2011/12.**
- **This \$15-million boost reinstates eligibility for environmental, animal welfare and adult sports and arts groups.**

NON-PROFIT GROUPS DO TREMENDOUS WORK IN THEIR COMMUNITIES.

They connect with people in their communities in a unique and personal way that government cannot.

Last year, I appointed Skip Triplett to conduct an independent review and talk to people in their own communities about gaming grants.

More than 1,700 people took part in the process, and I'd like to thank them for their participation.

It helped us shape our decisions and has brought us here today.

This is an example of what open government is all about...listening to people.

It's working with people, rather than doing stuff to people.

British Columbians came out and Skip saw more than 300 presentations in 19 community forums and he also received more than 500 written submissions.

These people told us how the Province can improve the governance and funding formula of gaming grants...

People like Carman Smith of the North Thompson Recreation Society in Barriere...

Who told us fit and active adults are good role models for children...

And it's important for their organization to be able to offer fitness classes for adults and seniors.

And you know what? We agree with Carman.

And I want to thank people like Vi Timmerman of the Terrace Art Association...

Who said that while they are proud of what the Terrace Art Gallery brings to this northern community, they need funding for adult art programs for their public gallery too.

We heard you and we're reinstating eligibility for funding for adult-focused arts groups.

We think it's important for groups who organize arts and sport for adults and seniors to be eligible for gaming grant funding, so that's being reinstated.

And Heather Rolufs from the Kelowna SPCA told us that funding for the SPCA means that healthy, happy animals can be adopted into their forever homes and have a family to care for them.

We heard that you wanted animal welfare groups to be eligible for funding, and we're making it happen.

Today, we're making Skip's report public...

And announcing some of the ways we will make sure the system brings more certainty and sustainability to all of these groups.

First, we're increasing annual gaming grants to a total of \$135 million, starting this fiscal year. This is \$15 million more than originally budgeted for 2011/12.

That \$15-million boost in funding will reinstate eligible funding for groups focused on the environment, animal welfare, and adult arts and sports.

And it starts next week.

We're going to have a special intake of applications immediately to make sure these groups are eligible to receive grants this fiscal year.

I want to thank Skip for his work on the consultations around the province and for his report.

As a result of his work, we're also going to increase funding for organizations that have had funding reductions over the past three years...

Groups that are responsible for so many things we enjoy in our communities...

Fairs, festivals, youth arts and culture, community service, the B.C. Seniors Games and community education groups.

This funding will support important job opportunities.

We also heard through the review that groups wanted us to make the grant system work better.

So we are exploring ways to introduce multi-year funding in the near future...

For groups that have achieved earned independence through their sound fiscal practices.

We recognize the role they play in our province, and we're grateful to them.

If we streamline the process for applying, we can let these great organizations get back to doing what they do best...

Delivering essential services to B.C. families.

- END -

A Vision for the North - Canada Starts Here
9th annual BC Natural Resource Forum
Prince George Civic Centre
Length: 25 minutes

Event: what is it?

- The BC Natural Resource Forum is hosted by Minister Pat Bell, MLA for Prince George- Mackenzie and this the ninth forum.
- The two-day event covers topics such as the bio economy, international trade, growth in the Asia Pacific markets, and post secondary education.
- The theme for the conference is 2020 North: A Clear Vision for the Next Decade.
- Presenters include Stockwell Day, the Provincial Bio Economy Committee (MLAs Yap, Foster, Rustad and Simpson), Jock Finlayson of the BC Business Council, and Kevin Evans, CEO of the Industry Training Authority.
- The Premier will speak during lunch on the second day, in between morning discussions on trades training and mining and afternoon discussions on LNG and natural gas technology.

Audience: who are they?

- Business and community leaders from around northern British Columbia;
- 300 audience members expected, including media.

Audience: what do they want to hear?

- Northern BC has tremendous potential to meet the needs of the fastest growing markets on the planet in China and India. Through the BC Jobs Plan, we are making real progress to grow and connect to those markets so we can protect and create jobs here at home.
- When we talk about the BC Jobs Plan, in many ways we are talking about the north. The success of the province – our health care, our education, our ability to be a caring society - depends on the success of Northern BC.
- Success in Northern BC also allows for investments in job creation throughout BC – from skills training that helps small businesses to infrastructure that gets goods to market.
- We need to make sure that British Columbians benefit from the jobs that are created in BC.

Acknowledge:

- We are gathered here in the traditional territory of the clayt-clay den-ay (Lheidli T'enneh).
- Acknowledge Pat Bell, Shirley Bond, John Rustad and others (TBC).

I'm happy to be here today at the 9th annual Natural Resources Forum.

The work that Pat Bell has done to develop this forum is a great example of bringing people together...and it is because of initiatives like this we have a chance to see the future of the north.

It's a testament to what unity can do – it shows how when we come together and set aside the divisions of the past, we can do great things that benefit all British Columbians.

I believe in this future.

And I'm optimistic it too.

I believe we are on the cusp of a northern renaissance, thanks to the vision and hard work of people in this room and thousands more like you.

My government is working along side you and doing everything we can to see this vision realized.

Just look at what's going on in the north:

- Rio Tinto's \$3 billion investment in the Alcan smelter in Kitimat, one of the largest, single private sector investments in BC History.

[CEMENT FACT PENDING]

- We're seeing the expansion of existing mines and the development of new ones in the North, like Mount Milligan, which will create over 350 construction jobs and approximately 400 jobs during its operation.
- We're seeing billions in natural gas development and the pipeline to the Kitimat LNG plant will create 1,500 jobs during construction.
- The bio-energy sector is growing, with wood pellet companies like Pacific BioEnergy leading the way.
- Work is progressing on Site C, ensuring that B.C. can power its future.
- The clean tech sector is taking important steps forward in the Peace River region, home to two

largest wind farms in BC Bear Mountain and Dokie, and a recent addition to the Centre for Clean Technologies at Northern Lights College that will help expand opportunities for their students to create the clean tech innovations of tomorrow.

- And there is also the northwest transmission line, which is going to open up a region of the province and create good jobs for families.

Announcement

Earlier today I announced a mine expansion permit at the Huckleberry Mine, just south of Smithers.

This permit, which starts in 2012, will ensure stable jobs for the 230 employees for another nine years. And this permit will add 70 new jobs – good paying jobs that support families.

And while economies all over the world are losing jobs, this announcement – and many more like it – show that northern BC is on a roll. And I intend to do my part to keep it going.

JOBS PLAN

My first trip as Premier outside the lower mainland was here to Prince George ... and a week later my first town hall was in the north at Fort Saint John.

On September 19th we launched the BC Jobs Plan and we launched it in Prince Rupert.

The plan is called "Canada Starts Here," so I couldn't think of a better place to launch it than northern BC.

There are three pillars to the jobs plan.

The first is about 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.

For example, we are taking specific steps to eliminate one of the big problems inhibiting job growth in our province – delays in permitting approvals.

It will cost \$24 million, but this is a direct investment in jobs for BC families.

Eliminating this backlog of permits is one way government can get out of the way of job creation – government processes are there to make sure projects move forward in a sustainable fashion, and not get in the way of them.

We are making good progress on this part of the BC Jobs Plan, and, in the coming days, I will be reporting to British Columbians about exactly how these policies are working to create jobs. This work is a cornerstone of the BC Jobs Plan, which includes a commitment to see eight new mines and nine expanded mines by 2015.

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.

So we made a \$15 million investment to improve access to the road and rail utility corridor in Prince Rupert. It's why we are investing in expanding the Prince George Airport and why we helped open the Fairview Container Terminal.

That terminal is spurring the development of a CN Rail distribution yard right here in Prince George.

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

One part of that is a 'Major Investments Office' that will help businesses who want to invest in BC get the answers they need in a quick, clear way.

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

The Major Investments Office is there to move these big projects through the system as efficiently as possible, so that all of British Columbia can share the benefits.

NATURAL GAS

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.

That is why we will soon announce a comprehensive set of policies to take advantage of what the boom in the natural gas sector can do for British Columbians.

Today we are implementing a plan to build a Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) industry as part of Canada's most comprehensive natural gas strategy.

We will see one LNG facility in operation by 2015, and three plants established by 2020.

Why LNG?

Well, as Pat Bell always says, you have to fish where the fish are. Global demand for LNG has doubled in 10 years and it's projected to grow another 50% by 2020.

And prices in Asia are four times higher than they are in North America.

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

We will expand the use of this “value-added” resource, while adding jobs in transportation, infrastructure and clean technology.

It is a true pan-northern strategy – and the results will pay off for BC and for Canada.

BC JOBS FOR BC FAMILIES

Since taking office, I have spent a lot of time up north listening to people, sharing my vision and outlining our plans.

And at each of these events, I have shared with you why I think job creation is so important.

The reason is at the centre of each of our lives – our families.

Think about what the three hundred jobs at Huckleberry Mine really means. They mean families can stay here in the north, or come to the north.

These are good jobs – jobs families can rely on ... the kind of jobs that build strong, stable, thriving communities.

Jobs that will help families buy a new truck when they need one.

Jobs that will allow people to renovate their homes.

And for some families, they will 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.

When we invest in the north, we are investing in families.

I want to see a northern BC where families can work here and stay together. But more than that, I want a northern BC where people come here to build their lives and their families.

That is why our government will continue to do its part to strengthen the quality of life in northern BC, because we value the north and the work that people do here.

That means continuing our investments in skills training and education. Things like the new trades centre at the College of New Caledonia or the bio energy innovations at UNBC do more than help individual students ... they strengthen communities, they help northern BC make our whole province stronger and they help us lead Canada.

We're making investments in initiatives like our Regional Workforce Tables so we can match our post-secondary programs to the needs of our regional economies – and we're learning what northern communities and First Nations need by listening to them.

By supporting economic renewal in the north, we are also supporting the other things that northern communities need, like innovations in health care and education.

It's about giving the people that live here in the north the tools that they need to strengthen their communities, improve their quality of life, and invite other people to come build their lives here too.

SAFE HARBOUR

We're just getting started.

We can do these things because people here in the north 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, 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 the North ... policies that shut down opportunities in communities across northern BC.

Nowhere in BC felt this more than the north. As families left looking for work, rural communities suffered.

In the 1990's, when you talked about economic development in the north, it really meant bailouts for pulp mills, like the unsuccessful attempt to save the Skeena Cellulose paper mill.

But 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.

Today, the north is leading the charge on BC's economy. For some communities it has been a long haul, but now they can seize this opportunity.

This is northern BC's moment – and we need to seize it together.

CANADA STARTS HERE

The northern renaissance we are building here really will be felt across our province.

The tax revenue generated here will fund innovations in health care, improvements in education and new infrastructure that creates jobs and gets our good to markets.

Canada really does start here.

It starts in Tumbler Ridge, where BC 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 right here in Prince George, the north's hub for education, and the transportation infrastructure that connects the north to the rest of BC.

This is a generational chance for communities and First Nations in the north.

When it comes to building the future, Canada really does start here.

-END-

HUCKLEBERRY MINE EXPANSION PERMIT ANNOUNCEMENT

Thursday Jan. 12, 2012

Speech length: 2 minutes

Event: what is it?

- Announcement of a permit for expansion of the Huckleberry Mine near Smithers.

Key Messages

- The permit to expand Huckleberry Mine brings us one step closer to achieving our mining industry goals under the BC Jobs Plan.
- As part of the BC jobs plan, we expect to see eight new mines and another nine mining operations expanded by 2015.

Today I am happy to officially announce a mine expansion permit at the Huckleberry Mine near Smithers.

This permit, which starts in 2012, will ensure stable jobs for the 230 employees for another nine years, and will create about 70 new jobs going forward.

Over the mine life, Huckleberry Mines Ltd. will spend about \$254.4 million on wages and benefits, \$119 million on new acquisitions and \$82 million on dam construction.

It's also supported by a partnership which benefits the Cheslatta Carrier Nation.

Getting the doors open on this expansion – and helping provide good jobs that will support 300 families - is part of implementing our plan to invest \$24 million dollars across the natural resource ministries over two years, to eliminate the backlog in key authorizations that is preventing projects from proceeding.

As part of the BC jobs plan, we expect to see eight new mines and another nine mining operations expanded by 2015.

The BC Jobs Plan, Canada Starts Here, means we take the best of Canada and we make it better ... right here in BC.

And that is what we are doing every single day – working with British Columbians to implement this plan.

It's a vision for our entire province, it is THE priority for the entire government and it is my central mission as your premier.

When we talk about implementing the plan, we are in many ways talking about the north – the people, the sectors and the entrepreneurial spirit that has taken such a firm hold here.

And this plan doesn't just affect the fortunes of a community or a region, this is about building the future of our province and our country.

- END -

Pathways to a Sustainable Industry:
The Truck Loggers Association
69th Annual Trade Show and Convention
Friday, Jan. 20, 2012
Victoria BC

Event: what is it?

- The 69th annual Truck Loggers Association and Convention is a three-day event in Victoria.
- The theme for this year's trade show is Pathways to a Sustainable Industry. It includes discussions on safety, the global market, supply chains, and BC government forest policies.
- Speakers of note include Dr. Patrick Moore, author of Confessions of a Greenpeace Drop-Out; Pat Bell, Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Innovation; Steve Thompson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resources.

Audience: who are they?

- The TLA represents 525 independent forest contractors located throughout BC's coastal region. Its mission is to promote a sustainable forest industry and to foster communication and education within communities and governments.
- Logging contractors and forest licensees including major forestry companies; TLA board members, industrial board members, trade show exhibitors, service and supply companies.

Audience: what do they want to hear?

- We are pleased to partner with the Truck Loggers Association to develop a Coastal Workforce Strategy.
- We are making progress on tax relief for contractors through the BC Forestry Revitalization Trust.
- We have seen some rebound in the market and through the BC Jobs Plan, we are working together to move forward.

ACKNOWLEDGE:

GRAHAM LASURE, (La-Sur) President, TLA

BILL MARKVOORT, first vice president and incoming president, TLA <<VERIFY FRIDAY MORNING>>>

STEVE THOMSON, Minister of Forest, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

PAT BELL, Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Innovation

I am happy to be here today at the 69th annual Truck Loggers Association Convention.

The work of organizing this forum - led by Graham Lasure (La-Sur), Bill Markvoort and the board of directors - is a great example of bringing people together.

It is because of organizations like the TLA that we have a chance to talk about the future of the BC forest industry.

And events like this put a real face on the people who drive this sector of our economy.

It is you guys, the small business owners, and your employees who are out there doing the hard work.

You're in the bush, you are staying in camps, as you say, "taking it from stump to dump."

You get up in the morning, you go out there in the dark, it's cold and it's dirty. But your companies and employees make a difference in your communities.

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

Contractors make up an enormous part of the forestry workforce. My government is working alongside you and doing everything we can to make sure we're building a sustainable future.

Last fall, we launched the BC Jobs Plan. It's called Canada Starts Here. It is based on the success of the forest industry opening new overseas markets.

Since 2003, when we began to partner with industry to open new markets in China and Hong Kong, exports have grown from \$69 million to \$687 million a year.

We've got a long way to go and we will only get to the end game of more jobs by getting there together.

We call the plan “Canada Starts Here” because when you’re in China and you look back across the Pacific, you see British Columbia first.

I know you’ve had a few hard years. 2009 was a real low point, and while the sector has been recovering over 2010 and 2011, we still face lots more economic uncertainty ahead.

We have preliminary coastal harvest numbers for 2011 – and it’s estimated that over 19 million cubic metres of wood from public and private land was harvested.

That’s a 70 per cent increase from the historic low of 11 million cubic metres in 2009 and it’s because of the growth in the Chinese market.

In today's global economy, recovery comes slowly...
sometimes painfully slowly.

You need partners to get through to the other side of a
downturn, and I am here to tell you that you have one.

Announcements

I have two announcements to make today.

First, I am pleased to announce the province is partnering
with the TLA to develop a Coastal Workforce Strategy. It's
a \$400,000 commitment that's part of the BC Jobs Plan.

I know that you have challenges...

- Ensuring there are enough trained fallers;
- Making sure aboriginal forest companies have access
to enough workers;

- And attracting enough young people coming to forestry to replace the folks who are retiring.

As part of the BC Jobs Plan, we are going to make sure where there are jobs, people are trained to work them.

Second, I am pleased to announce significant progress on our efforts to cover the tax liabilities of contractors who were compensated through the BC Forestry Revitalization Trust.

In 2011, working with the Trust we set aside \$21 million for contractors who were taxed on the compensation they received under Bill 28.

Federal and provincial staff are working with the Trust. And 263 contractors have already been contacted by the Trustee regarding tax relief.

That's money that will stay in your pockets, where it belongs.

I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge the hard work of Monty Hussy (Huh-ssie), Jim Girvan (Grr-van), Eric Van Soeren (Sorr-en) and Steve Thomson and Pat Bell, in getting the federal government to adopt this solution.

BC Jobs Plan

The BC Jobs Plan is all about protecting and creating jobs that support families in communities like Port McNeill, Campbell River, Chilliwack, Squamish, Sechelt and Terrace.

There are three pillars to the jobs plan. The first is about 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.

For example, Minister Thomson is currently undertaking a review of our log export policy. I know he has talked with many of you about it.

And I can assure you, we are taking a common sense approach. Yes we would all like to get more value out of BC wood. But we aren't going to get there by supporting Adrian Dix's latest position: banning log exports. Why does Adrian Dix seem so intent to through you all out of work?

The opposition attacks me all the time in the house just across the street. When they are attacking me, I want you to remember it's because I am standing up and defending your jobs.

We aren't going to play political games with people's lives. If there is a market for BC logs, people should be working.

I can tell you we are also working on a forestry sector strategy to be released in the next few weeks that will look at ways to grow the value we get out of BC wood... without putting people out of work.

The second pillar of our jobs plan is focused on improving our infrastructure so we can get out goods to market, whether that market is here in BC or whether it is overseas.

We made a \$15 million investment to improve access to the road and rail utility corridor in Prince Rupert. And we plan to invest \$152 million over three years to rehabilitate interior and rural side roads.

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

As I said, the success of the BC forest sector in opening new markets in Asia has helped keep the industry on its feet during the U.S. housing crisis.

We are going to continue to build on those overseas relationships.

On my trip to Beijing in November, I had the pleasure of visiting with representatives of Coast Tsimshian Resources, owned by the Lax Kw'alaams First Nation.

That company started its business with log exports to Asia and talking about moving into value added, with plans for a new mill in Terrace.

Opening new markets can also mean tilling the soil close to home. We are working with communities to determine how they can attract investment and create new jobs.

Campbell River is home to one of four regional economic investment pilots. At the end of this month, Minister Bell will be leading a forum with local business and community leaders to share ideas on investment opportunities and overcoming barriers.

We will develop an action plan to work together and help Campbell River capitalize on its strengths and opportunities.

Underlying the pillars of the Jobs Plan are two strong foundations – our financial reputation as a province and a skilled workforce.

Maintaining our skilled workforce is why we are partnering with the TLA on the Coastal Workforce Strategy.

Fifty per cent of the forestry workforce is going to reach retirement age by 2016. We need to make sure young people know this is a safe industry with great opportunities to build your families.

We're also making investments in regional workforce tables so we can match our training programs to the needs of our regional economies – we are learning what truck loggers need by listening to them and the communities where you work.

Families First

Since taking office I have spent a lot of time travelling BC, listening to people, sharing my vision and outlining our plans.

At each of these events, I have shared with you why I think job creation is so important.

The reason is at the centre of our lives – our families.

Think about the jobs provided by Frank Beban Logging (Beh-ban) out of Parksville-Qualicum and Jacqui Beban, Frank's great granddaughter and TLA board member.

This business has been running for the past 100 years, and for 100 years those jobs have meant families can stay here on the Island.

These are good jobs - jobs families can rely on.

Jobs that help families buy a new truck when they need one. Jobs that allow people to renovate their homes.

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

We are committed to continuing to work with the Truck Loggers Association to ensure we have a healthy forest sector because that supports healthy families.

And we are continuing to work on the Forestry Service Providers Protection Act. We are going to make this happen.

A fund will be put in place for contractors in the event of non-payment due to insolvencies.

It's no secret this has been a really tough year for government to put together a budget. But I promise you this... you will not be required to pay into the fund.

We will work with contractors and licensees to ensure we design the fund in a way that all parties behave responsibly, it reflects best practices and does not encourage unreasonable risk taking.

And we will also work with you to explore ways to strengthen the existing lien provisions.

I'm expecting to hear a progress report from Minister Thomson in 90 days.

Of course, we continue to work on the transition back from the HST to the PST.

Minister of Finance Kevin Falcon recently announced the members of the Expert Panel on Tax that will make recommendations to the Province on business tax competitiveness.

I know they will be interested in submissions on how we can be more competitive and create jobs.

SAFE HARBOUR

Having a strong forest sector means we can strengthen our communities, improve our quality of life, and invite other people to come build their lives here too.

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.

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

In the 1990s, when you talked about economic development, it really meant bailouts for pulp mills, like the unsuccessful attempt to save the Skeena Cellulose paper mill.

But British Columbia has spent the last ten years rebuilding... investing in vital infrastructure, while also getting our fiscal house in order.

Now, thanks to growing connections with the world's largest markets, we are on the cusp of real economic renewal.

SAFETY

I'd like to close my remarks by personally thanking you for your efforts to reduce fatalities and serious injuries in the forestry sector.

Safety is families first.

Since this issue was on front pages in 2005, you have reduced the fatality, lost time and serious injury rates significantly.

It has made you more competitive as an industry and more attractive to new workers.

And it means more kids can be sure mom and dad will come home safe every night.

We have come a long way but I still believe we can do better. I am calling on you to finish the job.

Become a provincial and world leader by taking the next step and make us even more competitive on the world stage.

We aren't done until everyone gets home at night safe and sound.

Canada Starts Here

It has taken a lot of work over the past 10 years to grow our overseas markets and together we have overcome significant obstacles.

We have built a strong relationship.

As I said at the beginning of my remarks, we are living in times of economic uncertainty.

But you have proven that BC and Canada have an advantage compared to much of the world.

Now is the time to come together as one team and work together to find the best ways to go forward.

We have the best professional forestry workers in the world. You are setting the gold standard in innovation and safety.

I have complete confidence in the future of your industry. You have a great minister in Steve Thomson. He has my full confidence and I know he will work really hard and continue to build good relationship with you.

And we are lucky to have Pat Bell as a champion as well. The former forest Minister is still out there fighting for you, building new markets, putting your sector and your story at the heart of BC Jobs Plan.

Thank you for inviting me.

When it comes to forestry, Canada Starts Here.

-END-

Dim Sum lunch with Chinese Seniors in Tri-Cities
Thursday Feb. 2, 2012
Speech length: 2-3 minutes

Event: what is it?

- A dim sum luncheon with Chinese seniors and stay-at-home women

Audience: who are they?

- About 100 people

Key Messages

- Thank you for the contribution you make to B.C.
- Asia is our future, so we must and will continue to build our trade and cultural relationships with China.

Key Messages

- **Thank you for the contribution you make to B.C.**
- **Asia is our future, so we must and will continue to build our trade and cultural relationships with China.**

Thank you for inviting me to share this dim sum luncheon with you – and I trust it's not too late to say Kung Hay Fat Choy! Happy New Year.

As we enter the Year of the Dragon, I wish health, wealth and happiness for you and your families.

The Chinese community is a special part of our province.

We are a culturally diverse province and our diversity is more than a mere asset. It is who we are.

And 'who we are' matters – it grows trust. It grows networks. It grows jobs. It grows B.C.

Over the last 100 years and more, the Chinese community has contributed to building a better B.C.

You have created a sense of home and family not only for Chinese people moving here, but for the entire community.

We know that we must continue to grow our province. Last fall, we launched the BC Jobs Plan. It's called Canada Starts Here.

The BC Jobs Plan is all about protecting and creating jobs that support families in communities all over B.C.

As part of the Jobs Plan, we had an extremely successful jobs and trade mission to China and India last fall.

More than 100 members representing over 20 groups from BC's Chinese-Canadian community joined me on this trip.

And I can't thank them enough.

To achieve our full potential we must continue to build the relationship between B.C. and China...

Because people don't want to do business with strangers.

During the mission, more than 60 business deals and partnership agreements were signed or announced with business and political leaders in China and India.

It shows the power we have in this province when we come together to work as one team.

I know Asia will play a critical role in creating the future that we want for our children.

ASIA IS OUR FUTURE

We need to continue to take advantage of new markets for our products and resources like lumber, like clean energy technologies, like advances in medical technology.

By strengthening our relationships, we strengthen our economy and create and protect jobs here at home.

Making sure families have jobs is the single biggest thing we can do to help each other.

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.

I am focused on making sure BC is a safe harbour for investment and that we have jobs for families so the parents and caregivers can focus on what is important - raising smart and generous children who will grow up to build a great province and a great country.

If BC doesn't have good fiscal management and we go the way of Greece and Italy... if we go backwards to the 1990s...

If we can't attract investment and we don't work together as one team...

We won't have jobs. And we won't be able to focus on what really matters.

I know the value of families is one that we share.

Your smart work has carved out a proud place, generation by generation, here in the Tri Cities, and for that, I thank you.

I thank you for being such a vital part of B.C., for your continued contribution, and for the honour of being here today.

On behalf of all British Columbians, I hope that the Year of the Dragon brings you good fortune, happiness and harmony.

- END -

**Filipino Community Leaders
Friday, February 3, 2012**

Event: what is it?

- Premier to receive plaque thanking her for \$25,000 donation to Philippines relief from typhoon damage.
- Premier speaks 2 - 3 minutes

Audience: who are they?

- Rey Fortaleza, Chairman - Reyfort Media Group
- Cely (Sell-y) Fortaleza
- About 70 members of the Filipino community

Key Messages

- It's important that we all support each other when disaster strikes.
- Thank you for the contribution you have made to B.C. through your culture and hard work.

Filipino Community Leaders

Key Messages

- It's important that we all support each other when disaster strikes.
- Thank you for the contribution you have made to B.C. through your culture and hard work.

WHEN DISASTER STRIKES, IT'S GOOD TO KNOW THAT PEOPLE CARE AND ARE THERE TO HELP.

Around the world, acts of nature take a terrible toll in earthquakes, storms and typhoons.

Typhoon Washi, which struck the Philippines in December was a destructive force that caused damage and heartbreak for thousands of people.

Comment [PC1]: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-16336706>

So many people were lost over those three days.

The world mourns with you, and here in B.C. we want you to know that we support you.

The \$25,000 donation that the Province made to typhoon relief will help the people of the Philippines rebuild their lives.

I understand that your Damayan concert and telethon raised more than \$42,000 and I applaud you.

Comment [PC2]: <http://www.philippineasianewstoday.com/news/local/6154-damayan-nets-25000-aid-from-bc-premier-christy-clark.html>

Filipino Community Leaders

It's so important that we help deliver emergency aid to those who need food and shelter, health care and clean water.

Families are counting on us, and families are important.

And the Filipino community in British Columbia is an important part of B.C.

We take pride in being a multi-cultural province, with many nationalities woven through the fabric of B.C.

Our diversity identifies us – it's who we are.

You have helped build our province and you have shared your rich culture and heritage with all of us.

You have contributed so much – your tradition, your hard work, and your support to the growth of B.C.

We know that we have to continue to grow our province.

Last fall, we launched the BC Jobs Plan, so that families can have great jobs, food on the table for their children and a safe home.

We know that B.C. and Canada have an advantage compared to many other places around the world.

Filipino Community Leaders

Now we will come together as one team and work together to find the best ways to go forward.

We have to ensure that we maintain our strong economy.

It means so much to families in B.C. and it enables us to do things like helping families in the Philippines when disaster strikes.

You know that success is earned through hard work and I hope you will join me and work with me on this jobs plan...

To benefit our province and our economy, and so that we can continue to reach out to others.

You have helped build the foundation of our province, and our multi-cultural diversity, by carving out a place of pride, generation by generation, here in B.C.

Now you're helping rebuild the Philippines, and we're proud to stand beside you as reach out.

- END -

**Jobs Roundtable
Structurlam Management & Employees
Tuesday, February 7, 2012
Speech length: 2-3 minutes**

Event: what is it?

- Government roundtable with Structurlam, a wood products company specializing in laminated beam products.

Audience: who are they?

- Structurlam management and employees.

Key Messages

- **Asia is our future, and Structurlam is a pioneer in opening up Asian markets, especially Japan.**
- **Government is protecting and creating jobs through Canada Starts Here: The BC Jobs Plan.**
- **The Province can help companies like Structurlam thrive in today's economy, and sometimes help by getting out of the way.**

Key Messages

- **Asia is our future, and Structurlam is a pioneer in opening up Asian markets, especially Japan.**
- **Government is protecting and creating jobs through Canada Starts Here: The BC Jobs Plan.**
- **The Province can help companies like Structurlam thrive in today's economy, and sometimes help by getting out of the way.**

Welcome everyone and thank you so much for coming out today.

I'd like to thank your local MLA Bill Barisoff for joining me. He is a true voice for the people of Penticton and the Okanagan, representing you to Victoria. [TBC]

And most importantly, thanks to all of you for welcoming me to this jobs roundtable.

I am here because I want to hear from you.

This is your chance to talk directly with myself and with your government about the issues that are important to you and your family...

About creating jobs...

About putting a families-first lens on government decisions...

About opening up government.

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.

I am focused on making sure BC is a safe harbour for investment and that we have jobs for families so the parents and caregivers can focus on what is important - raising smart and generous children who will grow up to build a great province and a great country.

If BC doesn't have good fiscal management and we go the way of Greece and Italy... if we go backwards to the 1990s...

If we can't attract investment and we don't work together as one team...

We won't have jobs. And we won't be able to focus on what really matters.

I know the value of families is one that we share.

So as we get started, I want to say: This isn't my jobs roundtable – it's yours.

I'm here to listen to you...

You are the experts.

This is your community and your province.

So let's start the dialogue about how we can work together to make your goals a reality.

- END -

Gold Plate Dinner
Wednesday, February 8, 2012
Length: 3-5 minutes

Event: what is it?

- The Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Community of Surrey and Fraser Valley Gold Plate Dinner
- The community is fundraising for a renovation of their church

Audience: who are they?

- Bill Dritsas, Committee Chair, and Premier's host
- Steve Darling, MC
- About 100 people, many business owners

Key Messages

- Thank you for the contribution you make to B.C.
- Celebrating Greek culture as part of B.C.'s multicultural mosaic

Key Messages

- Thank you for the contribution you make to B.C.
- Celebrating Greek culture as part of B.C.'s multicultural mosaic

Kalispera (Kulli-spāră) (good evening)

Thank you for inviting me to share the Gold Plate Dinner with you!

I know you're working hard to renovate the new church you moved into 18 months ago, and you have a long list of projects you're working on...

I wish you well with all of them. I know your volunteers and donors will succeed with your fundraising goals, and the community will have a new gathering place.

The Greek community in Surrey and the Fraser Valley is a special part of our province.

We are a culturally diverse province and our diversity is more than a mere asset. It is who we are.

And 'who we are' matters – it grows trust. It grows networks. It grows economic partnerships. It grows B.C.

Over the last 100 years, the Greek community has contributed to building a better B.C.

And you've been an important part of our history.

Today the Greek-Canadian community in greater Vancouver is more than 20,000 strong.

You have created a sense of home and family not only for Greek people moving here, but for the entire community.

The events that you put on – the dances, the festivals - help us all understand the 2,500 years of Greek culture and heritage.

You encourage everyone in the community to share the fantastic food and kefi (**ke**-fee) - the Greek spirit.

The food, dance, history and culture of the Greek community feed our souls. The programs and services that you offer year-round benefit everyone, and I thank you for your generosity of spirit...

You have contributed so much – your tradition, your hard work, and your support to the growth of B.C.

We know that we have to continue to grow our province. Last fall, we launched the BC Jobs Plan. It's called Canada Starts Here.

The BC Jobs Plan is all about protecting and creating jobs that support families in communities all over B.C.

There are three pillars to the jobs plan, and I know you know about pillars!

The first pillar is about 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.

The second pillar of our jobs plan is focused on improving our infrastructure so we can get our goods to market.

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

We are going to continue to build on those overseas relationships.

We went to Asia in November, and we are going again this year.

In those markets, having government support is critical to building successful business relationships.

We have two strong foundations under the pillars of the Jobs Plan – our financial reputation as a province and a skilled workforce.

We're also making investments in regional workforce tables so we can match our training programs to the needs of our regional economies

The members of the Expert Panel on Tax will make recommendations to the Province on business tax competitiveness.

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.

B.C. and Canada have an advantage compared to many other places around the world.

Now is the time to come together as one team and work together to find the best ways to go forward.

We have to ensure that we maintain our strong economy. It means so much to families in B.C.

You know that success is earned through hard work and I hope you will join me and work with me on this jobs plan, so that all families can have great jobs, food on the table for their children and a safe home.

I came back to politics because I wanted to make life better for BC families.

I know that your community shares this value.

At the end of the day, supporting and caring for the people we love is really what drives us.

You have helped build the foundation of our province, with its proud multi-cultural diversity, by carving out a proud place, generation by generation, here in Surrey and the Fraser Valley, and for that, I thank you.

I thank you for being such a vital part of B.C., for your continued contribution, and for the honour of being here today.

Eff-hār-ee-stō. (*thank you*)

- END -

Justice Reform Initiative
Wed. Jan 8, 2012
Length: 5 minutes

Event: What is it?

- News conference at PVO to announce a review of the BC justice system to be led by Geoffrey Cowper, QC.
- The Justice Reform Initiative will identify actions government, the judiciary, legal profession and others can take to give British Columbians access to timely justice.
- The announcement will also signal a public engagement on a provincial policing strategy.

Audience: Who are they?

- Media and ethnic media
- Attorney General/Solicitor General Shirley Bond
- Geoffrey Cowper, QC TBC

Audience: What do they want to hear?

- It's clear something is wrong with the way the justice system is operating right now.
- The Justice Reform Initiative will come up with actions to address the challenges facing our justice system.
- This is not a knee jerk reaction. We need to get a good close look at this problem and come up with long term solutions.

I'd like to start by thanking Justice Minister and Solicitor General Shirley Bond for joining me.

There are many different parts to the BC justice system.

The police who go after criminals, the courts that administer justice, and the corrections and parole officers who guide the convicted back to society...

Together they keep families safe, they make sure there are real consequences for crimes, and they offer a hand to victims who are dealing with the sometimes tragic consequences.

We spend \$1.4 billion every year on the justice system in British Columbia. The rate of crime is down, and there have been no increases in caseload.

And yet there are ongoing concerns about delays and backlogs in the system. The cost and the amount of time people are waiting for trial keeps increasing.

Cases are stayed and delayed.

It's not right.

That's why today we are announcing a Justice Reform Initiative.

Shirley Bond has been leading an extensive set of administrative reforms within her two ministries. These reforms are designed to bring efficiencies into the system, to reduce pressure on the courts, and to make the system more transparent and responsive to citizens.

As the Minister continues this work, she will be joined by Geoffrey Cowper, QC, who will lead an examination of elements that are independent of government.

As I said, there are many parts to our justice system.

Cowper will work with each part of the system to identify issues which are impeding timely justice.

And more than that, he will look at how the different pieces work together.

He will also look at why the reforms we have already made aren't having the desired effect.

We have laid out a reform agenda in a Green Paper that the Attorney is releasing today. The Green Paper details the work we have done over the past several months to

identify improvements, as well as evidence that suggests more must and should be done.

The paper we are releasing today sets out ideas and proposals as a basis to begin exploring how we can make our justice system work better within the context of prudent fiscal management.

It represents work undertaken since the fall of 2011 by Deputy Ministers from across government. They have worked hard to dissect these problems, to offer some solutions, and to set the framework for further discussion.

We are asking Mr. Cowper to continue the work begun in the green paper and come back to us by July with concrete recommendations for actions we can take.

We expect to move forward on those actions with plans for implementation this fall.

At the same time Mr. Cowper works with the justice system, we will also be talking the British Columbians about these issues.

Keeping gangs from invading neighborhoods, providing legal services for those in need, and making sure businesses and families have timely access to civil

services – our justice system reaches in to the lives of every British Columbian.

It's their system and we need their input.

Now I expect this announcement is going to receive criticism from political quarters.

But leadership isn't about taking the easy road.

We aren't going to close our eyes and throw money at the problem hoping it will go away.

This is about a different kind of government, a government that's prepared to act on input and respond honestly and directly to criticism.

We need to get a good close look at this problem and come up with long term solutions.

I believe if we are united and work together as a team we can find solutions to these challenges.

-end-

Monday, Feb. 13, 2012 – BC Achievement Non-Fiction Awards Luncheon

Key Messages:

A vital part of Canadian culture, non-fiction provides a forum for writers to provoke thought and explore new ways of understanding.

Thank you. I'm honoured to be here today at the BC Achievement Non-Fiction awards.

Where fiction allows us to escape reality – non-fiction forces us to confront it.

It holds a mirror up to humanity and allows us to see the best and worst of what it means to be human.

That is the power of non-fiction.

The four books selected for today's award present a snapshot of Canadian culture for the year 2011.

The authors have captured a moment in our collective history as a country...

They say to future generations:

"These were our concerns."

"Here are the topics we were thinking about."

As in fiction, non-fiction writers leave us spellbound with their amazing stories...

But unlike fiction, non-fiction authors must do this using only the truth: there is no making up a happy ending or manufacturing dramatic tension.

It's either there or it isn't. The skill of the non-fiction writer is to choose their subject carefully and write it beautifully.

And it's those very skills that we are honouring here today.

I believe it's significant that at the core of each of these books are human relationships...

The relationship between husband and wife that is dysfunctional and loving all at once...

The relationship between an artificially created tribe and the natural environment that both surrounds and isolates them...

The relationship between humans and one of our closest relatives, the chimpanzee, who is familiar, yet foreign.

The relationship between father and son – a son who sometimes seems like a stranger.

IT IS IN TIMES OF UNCERTAINTY THAT WE SEEK
REFUGE IN ART.

WE NEED TO SUPPORT OUR ARTISTS, OUR
STORYTELLERS, OUR HISTORIANS

Which is why, here in BC, we have the largest non-fiction prize in Canada – \$40,000

Allowing authors to continue to share their stories with us.

I would like to thank KEITH MITCHELL, chair of the BC Achievement Foundation...

And jury members, PAUL WHITNEY, PATRICIA GRAHAM AND SHARI GRAYDON who read 134 books in the pursuit of a longlist of 10 and then a shortlist of four.

I'm sure this was a very hard decision to make with such an amazing pool of talented writers.

I would like to congratulate the four finalists:
BRIAN FAWCETT of Toronto;
CHARLOTTE GILL of Powell River;
ANDREW WESTOLL of Toronto;
and JOEL YANOFISKY of Montreal

By highlighting your books here today, I hope they become the topic of conversation around Canadian dinner tables, water coolers, and all over social media.

I BELIEVE THAT 2012 IS THE YEAR FOR NON-FICTION

Two of the top 10 best-selling books on Amazon in the past year were non-fiction: Walter Isaacson's biography Steve Jobs and Tina Fey's Bossypants.

Comment [s1]: http://www.amazon.com/gp/feature.html/ref=s9_at_bw_feat?ie=UTF8&docId=1000755951&pf_rd_m=ATVP-DKIKX0DER&pf_rd_s=center-4&pf_rd_r=115P1D12A5DE88BV7NXX&pf_rd_t=101&pf_rd_p=1339620582&pf_rd_i=3321372011

For the first time ever, the CBC's Canada Reads competition has chosen non-fiction titles – a clear indication that Canadians are buying and borrowing non-fiction books more than ever.

Monday, Feb. 13, 2012 – BC Achievement Non-Fiction Awards Luncheon

So go out, buy a book, lend a book, or borrow a book. Talk about it with your friends and family, start or join a book club.

Canada boasts amazing writing talent and we want to be sure to share that talent with world.

Good luck to our four finalists!

-END-

Over the past 11 months as Premier, we have been making a lot of changes in government. One of the most important things we are doing is opening it up.

I have travelled around the province and listened to British Columbians. I have hosted townhall meetings in places like Cranbrook, Fort St. John, Comox, and with the Chinese community in Richmond.

I have held roundtables on public safety in the Okanagan, on local issues in Maple Ridge, and talked with students and faculty on campuses like UBC, TRU and Trinity Western.

Perhaps the most inspiring place I have been is Burns Lake - where a community is demonstrating spirit and resilience in the face of personal tragedy and economic setback.

Everywhere I go, I learn a lot about the opportunities before us, but also the challenges we face.

You just have to turn on the news to see that we all live in a time of global economic turmoil.

The United States is having a tough time.

Europe is a mess.

Other provinces in Canada face high unemployment and huge deficits.

My government is fighting for the economic future of BC families, to ensure that all of us in BC can look forward to a future with stability and a good livelihood.

BC is a safe harbour in this time of turmoil because we are managing our finances responsibly; we're controlling spending; we're keeping taxes low; we're attracting investment and jobs, and avoiding chronic deficits.

Managing our finances responsibly means sometimes you have to say 'no' and not make promises you can't pay for.

Balancing the budget in these times will be tough but we will chart a balanced course for economic stability for BC families. This is how we are going to protect and create jobs.

We simply cannot afford to go back to the 1990s, to reckless and risky policies that shovelled your money off the back of a truck.

Over the last year, we have sent in review teams to BC Hydro, Community Living BC, and the Justice ministry.

These reviews have led to lower costs at BC Hydro, will lead to better service for CLBC clients and their families, and an open and honest look at our justice system.

There's only one taxpayer and this month we will create an Auditor General for Local Government to help local governments keep property taxes under control.

On this stable foundation of sound fiscal management, my government is delivering on the BC JOBS PLAN.

The Jobs plan is about

- Getting government out of the way of job creation,
- improving our infrastructure to get goods and services to markets, and
- finding new opportunities in the world's fastest growing markets.

You can learn more about our plan and job opportunities for you at bcjobsplan.ca.

We are making progress on our Jobs Plan and our Natural Gas strategy is a very important example of that.

Our plan is to take B.C.'s huge supply of natural gas in Northeast BC, compress it into Liquefied Natural Gas in Northwest BC, then ship it to Asia where we can sell our gas at a higher price and diversify our markets.

And we are maintaining BC's position in leadership on the environment by using clean energy to help power this plan, making it the greenest LNG industry in the world.

This plan will create up to 11,000 new jobs over the next eight years, and is an opportunity to grow an industry that will benefit every corner of the province.

My government's actions have been paying off in new job opportunities:

- We implemented a skills training credit that helped BC win the largest shipbuilding contract in BC history, creating 4,000 new jobs.
- Rio Tinto Alcan is making the largest private sector investment in BC history, in Kitimat.
- Mining expansions are being announced creating family supporting jobs like the Huckleberry Mine expansion near Smithers which will create 70 new jobs and protect another 230 jobs for the long term.

- Western Forest Products has invested \$200 million to modernize their Vancouver Island operations.
- And after years of acrimony between local politicians, we took action to break the log jam and build the Evergreen Line, creating 8000 construction jobs.

There had been enough talk and it was time for action. The Evergreen Line will relieve congestion, benefiting residents in Port Moody and Coquitlam, and improving air quality in the Fraser Valley.

This spring, our government will introduce and work on job creation plans in tourism, transportation, technology and clean tech, mining, agriculture and foods, forestry, and international education.

Growing our economy will help us provide the revenues we need to support services for BC families.

This spring,

- We will invest \$165 million in BC schools to hire more teaching assistants so that kids get more attention in the classroom.

- We will reduce court backlogs. We are putting the interests of children first in divorce proceedings, and moving more families from legal fights to less costly mediation.
- We will protect our tough drunk driving laws, balancing strict penalties with due process.
- We will introduce a comprehensive anti-bullying strategy for our schools.
- We will implement a Seniors Agenda that will improve support and services for the fastest growing part of our population.
- And we will continue to help families get ahead by connecting people to jobs and improved skills training options.

Finally, a few words on our work to get new labour agreements with the unions that represent government workers.

We are not able to provide pay increases unless we can find savings within government to pay for them. I'm just not interested in raising taxes to pay for public sector wage increases.

On education, our priority is to focus the resources on students in the classroom, not on the 15% wage hike the teachers' union is asking for.

We appointed a fact-finder to report back on this dispute.

But I must say that I am not terribly optimistic.

There have been 73 negotiating sessions with the Teachers' union since their contract expired last year with little movement.

Later this spring, other collective agreements expire.

We are committed to trying to find ways of getting agreements but we are not going to ask taxpayers to pay more to fund them.

Our economy is fragile. Once we make the economy stronger, we will all have more choices that we can afford.

That's why we are fighting for the economic future of BC families.

THANK YOU.

February 14, 2012 – Premier's Remarks re the Time Capsule

**Remarks By the Premier About the Time Capsule, to
Commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee**

**Tuesday, February 14, 2011
Speech Length 1 minute**

Event: what is it?

- **Media Event in the Lower Rotunda at the Legislature to introduce the Black Rod time capsule – a specially created version of the rod, which includes a time capsule compartment. The Rod is a gift from England, to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee anniversary.**

Audience: who are they?

- Members of the Legislative Assembly
- Media
- General public (invited to view the event on screens in the 1st Floor reception hall)

Audience: what do they want to hear?

KEY THEME:

The time capsule, the future of BC and the significance of opening it in 60 years.

KEY MESSAGES:

The black rod symbolically links our past, present and future.

Sixty years from now our descendants will look back proudly at this critical time in British Columbia's history – a time when it was laying the foundations of its future greatness.

Key Messages

- The black rod symbolically links our past, present and future.
- Sixty years from now our descendants will look back proudly at this critical time in British Columbia's history – a time when it was laying the foundations of its future greatness.

Thank the Clerk of the House (Director of Ceremonies)

In the central shaft of this Black Rod is a hollow copper capsule containing messages from the Lieutenant Governor, myself and the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.

This rod symbolically links our past, our present and our future.

Sixty years from now our descendents will open the time capsule and read the messages it contains.

I firmly believe they will look back in awe to this critical time in the history of our province.

A time when we began to look beyond North America and recognize our role as an important trading partner with our Pacific Rim neighbours.

A time when we were still laying the foundations of this province's future greatness.

Let them see this road as a torch that we are passing ... a reminder of the democratic, parliamentary traditions we value.

Let it remind them of not just our history, but also our human values and our aspirations for the future.

And let it remind them of what they too can achieve on our long, shared journey toward an ever brighter future.

-END-

Britco
Thursday, February 16, 2012
Speech length: 5 minutes

Event: what is it?

- Premier is visiting Britco HQ in Langley.
- Britco is one of the largest manufacturers of modular buildings in N. America, with branches in Nanaimo, Kelowna, Edmonton and Calgary – and Waco, TX.
- Britco built accommodations that were used in the Athletes Village in Whistler during the 2010 Olympic Winter Games. They've won the 2006 BC Export Award for projects in Indonesia and Russia, and the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year award for best manufacturing company in Western Canada.

Audience: who are they?

- Britco management and employees (TBC)

Key Messages

- **Government is protecting and creating jobs through Canada Starts Here: The BC Jobs Plan.**
- **The Province can help companies like Britco thrive in today's economy, and sometimes help by getting out of the way.**

Key Messages

- **Government is protecting and creating jobs through Canada Starts Here: The BC Jobs Plan.**
- **The Province can help companies like Britco thrive in today's economy, and sometimes help by getting out of the way.**

Welcome everyone and thank you so much for coming out.

And most importantly, thanks to all of you for welcoming me.

I want to talk with you today about the issues that are important to you and your family...

About creating jobs...

About putting a families-first lens on government decisions...

About opening up government.

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.

I am focused on making sure BC is a safe harbour for investment and that we have jobs for families so the

parents and caregivers can focus on what is important
- raising smart and generous children who will grow up to build a great province and a great country.

If BC doesn't have good fiscal management and we go the way of Greece and Italy... if we go backwards to the 1990s...

If we can't attract investment and we don't work together as one team...

We won't have jobs. And we won't be able to focus on what really matters.

I know the value of families is one that we share.

And I know as well that we're really lucky to be living and working here in British Columbia.

I recently traveled with some cabinet members to the US to meet with our counterparts in Washington State, and it made me realize that we aren't experiencing the same economic turmoil that is taking place across our border.

They are dealing with huge issues, and we are all aware of the crisis that is taking place in Europe right now.

Here in B.C., our economy, though fragile, is still seen as a safe harbour by the rest of the world.

This is a situation that we need to work hard to preserve. And we are working hard to make sure that families can look forward to a stable future, making sure they can look forward to a good livelihood to put food on the table for their kids.

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 also means we have to say no sometimes, which can be very difficult.

To ensure stable fiscal management for B.C., we are delivering on the Jobs Plan that we set out in September.

The 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've made the Jobs Plan available on the Web, and we're continuing to add to it, and asking for British Columbians' input on it. It's a made-in-B.C. Jobs Plan

and we want the people of B.C. to participate in shaping it.

Our future jobs in B.C. will require people with special skills, so we continue to look across the spectrum and make sure that we're looking after skills training so that people have the education they need to be able to get those jobs.

This is going to be a busy spring. We are going to introduce and work on job creation plans in so many sectors that will have direct positive effect on our businesses...

Tourism, transportation, technology and clean-tech, mining, agriculture and foods, forestry and international education.

These strategic plans are going to make sure that we are building the economy we need to support the services that people depend on - health care and education.

We welcome your ideas and input. In fact, open government is a priority for us. We know our decisions benefit from engagement with citizens.

We have a jobs agenda. We're determined to create jobs, to grow our economy, to maintain our Triple A credit rating.

Our agenda is about putting people to work, because we know that's what makes the economy go around.

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 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 -

Agassiz Seniors

**Cheam Village Care Centre, Agassiz
Thursday, February 16, 2012
Speech length: 3-5 minutes**

Event: what is it?

- Lunch meeting with residents of Cheam Village Care Centre

Audience: who are they?

- Residents and staff, Cheam Village Care Centre

Key Theme: Seniors' Action Plan

Key Messages

- **We invite B.C.'s seniors to give us their ideas about how to implement our action plan for seniors.**
- **We are investing \$15M to expand non-medical home support services in up to 65 communities across B.C.**
- **As part of the plan we will establish for the first time a Seniors' advocate.**

Key Messages

- **We invite B.C.'s seniors to give us their ideas about how to implement our action plan for seniors.**
- **We are investing \$15M to expand non-medical home support services in up to 65 communities across B.C.**
- **As part of the plan we will establish for the first time a Seniors' advocate.**

Thank MC

Thank you for coming out today.

I am always honoured to have an opportunity to talk to B.C.'s seniors.

You are after all, the people who built this province.

When called upon, you marched off to war and fought for the freedoms we all enjoy today.

You have sacrificed, survived hard times, carved out careers and raised families.

In short, you have done a lot of living and your knowledge and ideas are a resource that this province cannot afford to overlook .

YESTERDAY, B.C.'S GOVERNMENT RELEASED A COMPREHENSIVE ACTION PLAN CALLED "IMPROVING THE CARE OF BC SENIORS."

A key goal of this plan is to support healthy aging, So that Seniors can remain independent for as long as possible.

The Province will provide \$15 million to the United Way of the Lower Mainland to expand non-medical home support services in as many as 65 communities over the next three years.

Another \$1.4 million will be provided to the BC Association of Community Response Networks to support prevention and education activities aimed at ending abuse and neglect of older adults in B.C.

THIS PLAN ALSO PROVIDES THE MEANS FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES TO TELL US HOW YOU THINK WE CAN BEST ACHIEVE ITS OBJECTIVES.

For the first time ever, we are going to establish a Seniors' advocate – someone to listen to the concerns of seniors, their families and their caregivers – and act on their behalf.

There will also be a separate 1-800 number where seniors and their families can get answers to their concerns and questions.

It's about your quality of life and your right to have a say in how your services are delivered.

Most seniors are active, healthy and living independently in their own communities and we'd like to ensure that continues to be the case.

I CAME BACK TO POLITICS BECAUSE I FELT THAT I COULD MAKE LIFE BETTER FOR B.C. FAMILIES.

And within a few months of my return last year I introduced the Families First agenda for change.

One of the key pillars of the plan is better citizen engagement ... that's what the seniors plan is about.

It builds upon a strong foundation of earlier initiatives.

In May, 2011 BC's government announced the \$68 million Healthy Families BC initiative to support the health of B.C. seniors by providing supports that to help them manage their own health and reduce chronic disease.

In September, 2011 B.C. launched Age-friendly BC, a grant and recognition program to help local governments create environments where seniors can enjoy good health and active lives.

Just days ago, age-friendly grants were announced for 52 communities across B.C.

It's an ongoing process and it's an ongoing dialogue, so I look forward to your participation.

-END-

Budget 2012 – Opportunities for BC
Kelowna Chamber of Commerce
Thursday, Feb. 23 - 11:45 am to 1:30 pm
Delta Grand Okanagan Resort & Conference Centre
Length: 15 minutes

Events: What is it?

- For the first time, the Premier will speak to members of the Kelowna Chamber of Commerce.
- It's an opportunity to discuss Budget 2012 and how the province's unique economic advantages provide an opportunity for British Columbia to continue to be a safe harbour for investment, even as the world experiences stormy seas.
- The audience would also like to hear about the successes so far of the BC Jobs Plan and why the Premier believes a good job is a vital building block for every family.

Audience: Who are they?

- 350 members of the Central Okanagan business community
- Norm Letnick, MLA Kelowna-Lake Country
- Media

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 for joining me today.

It's great to be back in the sunny Okanagan.

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 listening to folks in places like Osoyoos, Penticton, and right here in Kelowna.

To be honest with you... even if I didn't spend time a lot of time here, you're never far from my thoughts.

You have three amazing MLAs – Norm, Ben and Steve – who represent the fastest growing region of our province.

They make sure I always know about what's going on and what your priorities are.

Norm is here with us and I want to recognize him for all his hard work on the HST transition rules for homebuilders. And I know Ben and Steve are down in Victoria today working hard on your behalf.

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.

Your MLAs, and Steve in his role as the Minister of Forests, have been tremendous champions of the BC Jobs Plan, particularly our strategy to grow new markets in China and India for our food and forest products.

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.

We have a first time new home buyers' bonus 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:
raising the threshold for the existing HST rebate on new homes to \$850,000 and making a similar grant available for new secondary homes in places like the Okanagan.

The residential housing industry is a huge employer and big economic driver here.

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

So we are planning to help the agriculture industry by conducting a comprehensive review of the impact of the carbon tax on their operations.

British Columbia is a safe, trusted supplier of high quality foods products around the world. And we want to grow that export market: cherries and blueberries to Shanghai, beef and more seafood to Guangdong.

So in the months ahead we will be working with our greenhouse sector to provide relief to offset the carbon tax.

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 the same 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.

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 Jobs and Investment Board
Friday, February 24, 2012
Length: 3-5 minutes

Event: what is it?

- Greetings to the members of the board on their first meeting
- Share vision for goals

Audience: who are they?

- Members and chair of the Jobs and Investment Board
- **Ray Castelli** – CEO, Weatherhaven
- **Kaity Arsoniadis-Stein** - President & Secretary-General, International Ship-owners Alliance of Canada Inc
- **Frenny Bawa** - Vice President Business Development, RIM
- **Kathy Butler** - Managing Director & Co-Head, CIBC World Markets' Vancouver Investment Banking Group
- **Joseph Caron** - Special Advisor, Heenan Blaikie Asia-Pacific
- **Stockwell Day**
- **Richard Dunn** -Vice-President Regulatory and Government Relations, Encana Corporation Canadian Division
- **Brian Fehr** – Leader, BID Group's strategic expansion
- **Hank Ketcham** - President, CEO and Chair, West Fraser Timber
- **V. Paul Lee** - Managing Partner, Vanedge Capital
- **Wendy Lisogar-Cocchia** - Executive Vice-President , Century Plaza Hotel and Spa
- **Gerry Martin** - Partner, Northern Drugs Ltd
- **Giles Newman** – Partner, KPMG Advisory
- **Dr. Ralph Nilson** - President and Vice-Chancellor, Vancouver Island University
- **Marcia Smith** - Senior Vice President Sustainability and External Affairs, Teck
- **-TBC**

Key Messages

- **Thank you for being here.**
- **Your combined experience can help B.C. achieve important goals under the Jobs Plan that will keep B.C.'s economy moving forward.**
- **You can help us determine what government can do better to ensure great jobs for B.C. families.**

Key Messages

- **Thank you for being here.**
- **Your combined experience can help B.C. achieve important goals under the Jobs Plan that will keep B.C.'s economy moving forward.**
- **You can help us determine what government can do better to ensure great jobs for B.C. families.**

THANK YOU ALL FOR BEING HERE TODAY, AT THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE JOBS AND INVESTMENT BOARD.

You're each here because of your unique experience in business and government.

You come from a wide cross-section of industries and sectors, and you each have valuable insights to share.

You understand the challenges in the world economy, and conversely, the tremendous opportunities that exist for the B.C. economy as we implement our Jobs Plan.

When we envisioned this board, we knew that we needed people who are not only successful in their field, but who are aware of the emerging issues affecting the province's economy.

We also wanted people who would rise to the challenge.

We know that we need to build on British Columbia's record-setting exports in 2011...

And we have to keep up the momentum of Canada Starts Here: The BC Jobs Plan.

This government is all about engaging the public, and nowhere is this more true than right here, right now, in this room.

S13

We have eight key sectors in the BC Jobs Plan we'd like you to focus on – sectors you're familiar with:

Forestry, mining, natural gas, agri-foods, technology, tourism, transportation and international education.

When we look across the country and see the challenges other governments are facing, we know we have to make sure that we're proactively planning and acting to create B.C.'s future prosperity.

I know that by engaging this group, we'll have fresh eyes and great advice, as well as the strength of your combined experience as we work to move B.C. forward.

You can help us determine what government can do better, so we can create good jobs for families now and in the future.

We understand that markets around the world are fighting for investment capital, and we have to be creative to attract that investment.

We know that you will help us identify and offer solutions to obstacles that may be limiting our development.

There are opportunities that are emerging for economic development, and we know you will point these out to us.

Your experience in your industry or sector, and the work you do here in B.C. and around the world is invaluable.

If we're doing something that you feel affects the B.C. investment climate, we need to know.

Our jobs plan goal is to be either first or second in Canada in job creation and GDP growth by 2015...

**And I know you can help us get there.
We're prepared to roll up our sleeves and work
hard and smart so that all British Columbians can
realize our goal of great jobs to take care of
families.**

**Thank you all for committing your time and talent
and rolling up your sleeves too.**

Welcome aboard.

- END -

CHBA BC Georgie Awards

The Canadian Homebuilders Association of BC – 20th Annual “Georgie” Awards Gala

Saturday, February 25, 2012

Vancouver Convention Centre West

Speech length: 7-10 minutes

Event: what is it?

- Opening Speech for Canadian Homebuilders Association, British Columbia's annual “Georgie” Awards
- Gala event, with cocktail reception, dinner, awards, entertainment
- Premier speaks, then presents one of the awards at approximately (time tbc). Premier can choose which award she presents.

Audience: who are they?

- About 700 guests, including Georgie Award finalists/winners, CHBA-BC members and guests, builders, property managers, architects, landscapers, interior designers and marketing representatives.
- Government sponsor - BC Housing.
- Premier will be seated at the head table with CHBA CEO MJ Whitemarsh and her husband Bill, along with other VIP guests.
- HON. RICH COLEMAN, Minister of Energy and Mines and Minister Responsible for Housing
- HON. NAOMI YAMAMOTO, Minister of Advanced Education (tbc)
- HON. PAT BELL, Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Innovation (tbc)
- HON. IDA CHONG, Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development (tbc)
- MURRAY COELL, MLA Saanich North & The Islands (tbc)
- DOUG WITTAL, Association President
- VICKI GERRITTS, Immediate Past-President (tbc)
- JAMES MOORE,
- ANDREW SAXTON, Conservative MP, North Vancouver
- Nominees in categories of:
 - Most affordable housing
 - Public/private partnership
 - Best builders

Audience: what do they want to hear?

- They will welcome any update re the HST/PST.
- Jobs and the Premier's jobs strategy.
- The importance of families
- The importance of small business in B.C.

KEY THEME: Building a better B.C.

KEY MESSAGE: Building families, community, the economy and altogether, a better B.C.

Key Message

**Building families, community, the economy and
altogether, a better B.C.**

**THANK “MJ” WHITEMARSH, CEO, for
introduction.**

ACKNOWLEDGE:

**Hon. NAOMI YAMAMOTO, Minister of Advanced
Education**

**Hon. IDA CHONG, Minister of Community, Sport
and Cultural Development**

**Hon. PAT BELL, Minister of Jobs, Tourism and
Innovation**

**Hon. ANDREW SAXTON Conservative MP, North
Vancouver**

JASON MOORE

**MURRAY COELL, MLA, Saanich North & the
Islands**

BC Housing as sponsor

**Nothing is more important to people than the
homes they live in.**

**AND I WANT TO SAY RIGHT OFF THE TOP THAT
YOU ARE THE MOST PROFESSIONAL,
INNOVATIVE HOME BUILDERS IN THIS
COUNTRY.**

Your commitment to excellence in the professions and trades is clearly displayed in the homes you build.

And it is evident in your certification program and Strategic Skills Plan.

Through your association leaders you have a strong voice ... and we do hear you at all levels of government.

YOURS IS A FAMILY AGENDA ... YOU DON'T JUST BUILD NICE HOMES.

You build family memories ... you provide jobs, security and a sense of community.

I came back to politics because I felt that I could make life better for B.C. families.

I want our kids, and their kids, to have the same choices that we have all enjoyed.

We know that we can't have healthy families without a healthy economy.

A successful home building sector is good news for all of us.

As families build equity in their homes, they generate other economic activity through renovations, additions and perhaps even the purchase of another property.

The better you do, the more jobs, economic growth and consumer confidence there will be.

AS OUTLINED IN THE BC JOBS PLAN WE ARE TAKING STEPS TO CREATE THE RIGHT CONDITIONS FOR JOB GROWTH ...

... Steps to grow investment, protect jobs and create new ones.

We are strengthening our infrastructure to get our goods to market.

We are expanding markets for B.C. products and services, particularly in Asia.

We are reducing government red tape ...

... and we are working to ensure our skills and training programs will meet tomorrow's job needs.

In the current fog of global economic uncertainty we are steering a course of fiscal prudence, so that B.C. remains a desirable place to invest, so that we can protect all that we have worked so hard to build.

The biggest and most immediate challenge that we face of course is undoing the HST.

AS ANNOUNCED LAST WEEK, B.C. WILL RETURN TO THE PST ON APRIL 1, 2013.

B.C.'s portion of the HST will no longer apply to newly built homes where construction begins on or after April 1, 2013.

Builders will once again pay seven per cent PST on their building materials.

For newly built homes where construction begins before April 1, 2013, but ownership and possession occur after, purchasers will not pay the seven per cent provincial portion of the HST.

Instead, purchasers will pay a temporary, transitional provincial tax of two per cent on the full house price.

WE ALSO ANNOUNCED LAST WEEK THAT THE B.C. NEW HOUSING REBATE THRESHOLD WILL BE INCREASED TO \$850,000.

That means more than 90 per cent of newly built homes will now be eligible for a provincial HST rebate of up to \$42,500.

In addition, purchasers of new secondary vacation or recreational homes outside of Greater Vancouver and the CRD priced up to \$850,000 will now be eligible to claim a provincial grant of up to \$42,500 effective April 1, 2012.

In Budget 2012 announced on Tuesday, we added further measures to support the home construction industry.

We introduced a first-time new home buyers' bonus 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.

And we added the BC Seniors Home Renovation Tax Credit. 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.

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.

It means life will be a bit more comfortable for seniors and contractors will be busier.

Businesses like yours are critical to the health of our economy and I believe these transition rules will provide the clarity you need to move ahead.

Small businesses provide 57 per cent of private sector jobs and employ over a million people provincially.

I'll say it again – your know-how and professionalism are on full display in every home that you build.

And tonight, you honour your highest achievers for their exceptional contributions to the industry.

I CONGRATULATE THIS YEAR'S GEORGIE AWARD NOMINEES AND RECIPIENTS.

Each of you is an ambassador for the association and its commitment to excellence.

On behalf of all British Columbians ... I thank all of the members and your families for all that you every day.

You are building the future of this province.

- END -

SUCCESS Gala Fundraiser

**SUCCESS Gala Fundraiser
Saturday, February 25, 2012
Speech length: 3-5 minutes**

Event: what is it?

- S.U.C.C.E.S.S. Foundation's signature fundraising event, Bridge to S.U.C.C.E.S.S.
- Annual fund raising gala sponsored by S.U.C.C.E.S.S. a multi-service agency in British Columbia. Established in 1973 S.U.C.C.E.S.S. promotes the well being of immigrants through social services, training and education, employment, business and economic development services, training and education services.
- Considered one of the premier charitable social events in Metro Vancouver, the festivities include a VIP reception, silent and live auctions, banquet, and performances by The Goh Ballet, and Keeva Mak, one of Hong Kong's rising recording artists.

Audience: who are they?

- Mr. Dennis Chan – Chair, S.U.C.C.E.S.S board of directors
- Others TBC

Key Messages

- For the past 39 years, SUCCESS has lent a helping hand to new Canadians.
- The work you do is valuable, and we thank you for it.
- SUCCESS adds to the rich cultural legacy of B.C. and strengthens our economy.

SUCCESS Gala Fundraiser

Key Messages

- For the past 39 years, SUCCESS has lent a helping hand to new Canadians.
- The work you do is valuable, and we thank you for it.
- SUCCESS adds to the rich cultural legacy of B.C. and strengthens our economy.

A recent study asked people what it means to be a good citizen in this country. You know what it found?

Helping others when they are most in need: that is the definition of a good Canadian.

Comment [L1]: <http://ca.news.yahoo.com/immigrants-proudest-canadians-poll-suggests-090816401.html>

In 2010, B.C. welcomed more than 44,000 immigrants to our province from over 170 countries...

Comment [PC2]: http://www.welcomebc.ca/local/wbc/docs/communities/immigration_trends_2010.pdf

Many who were unfamiliar with our systems of support, or our language, or didn't know a single soul when they arrived.

It's so difficult to find your way when you're new to a community and everything is different from what you knew.

It's also a daunting task if you don't know where to turn for the help or advice you need.

For the past 39 years, S.U.C.C.E.S.S. has been there for new Canadians.

SUCCESS Gala Fundraiser

As the face of B.C., you greet newcomers and make them comfortable by providing a friendly welcome, and an offer of help.

You have helped so many new Canadians to settle in to their new country and find the resources they need to become part of their community, and thrive.

And as volunteers, you lead by example, continuing to define who we are and what we want to be as a country and as a province.

For that I thank you.

I was really impressed to hear that your goal tonight is to raise \$500,000 to help over 180,000 client-services provided by S.U.C.C.E.S.S.

You have done an amazing job of fundraising through the years for this fantastic service, and I was so proud to take part in the Walk With the Dragon last summer.

Your dedication is more than commendable.

In November, I had the pleasure of leading the largest trade mission in the history of this province to China and India.

And I've got to be honest... I might have felt a little lost if it weren't for the more than 100 delegates from the Chinese-Canadian community who came with me.

British Columbia's Asian community is one of our unique strengths. The connections we have to China are helping us build business relationships across the Pacific.

It is giving us a once-in-a-generation opportunity to reach out to the world and attract new business and investment.

This in turn is helping us grow our economy so we can afford social services like hospitals and schools.

You are helping British Columbia create a skilled work force, a more innovative entrepreneurial sector and a richer cultural life for our province.

You are helping families realize their potential in their new home.

And through your work, you define what it means to be Canadian.

SUCCESS Gala Fundraiser

On behalf of all British Columbians, thank you...

Thank you for extending a helping hand to all those people who want to call B.C. home.

Thank you for helping new Canadians find their way for nearly 40 years.

- END -

Pink Shirt Day Flash Mob
Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2012
Speech length: 2 – 3 minutes

Event: what is it?

- February 29, 2012 is Pink Shirt Day, a day to wear something pink to symbolize that we as a society will not tolerate bullying anywhere.
- On Tuesday, Feb. 28, 600 students from Reynolds Secondary school, Cedar Hill Middle school and Arbutus Middle school will participate in a flash mob at the Legislature.
- The Province is issuing a Proclamation that Feb. 29, 2012 shall be known as “Anti-Bullying Day” in B.C.

Audience: who are they?

- 600 middle and secondary students and their teachers
- Ministers, MLAs TBD

KEY MESSAGES:

1. Bullying has no place in our schools, our workplaces, or our society.
2. February 29, 2012 is being officially proclaimed “Anti-Bullying Day in B.C.”

KEY MESSAGES:

3. Bullying has no place in our schools, our workplaces, or our society.
4. February 29, 2012 is being officially proclaimed “Anti-Bullying Day in B.C.”

ACKNOWLEDGE:

HEATHER BENSON, teacher at Reynolds Secondary, and her Pink Shirt Committee

KATIE DROLET, dance teacher at Reynolds Secondary

KANIKA (Kan-EEK-ah) Jackson, dance student at Reynolds Secondary

Students, staff from Reynolds Secondary, Cedar Hill Middle school, Arbutus Middle school

BULLYING MAY NOT START IN SCHOOLS, BUT IT REMAINS THE PLACE WHERE A LARGE MAJORITY OF KIDS EXPERIENCE FEAR, INTOLERANCE AND EVEN HATE ON A DAILY BASIS.

64% of kids report being bullied at school.

12% of those were bullied once or more a week.

64% considered bullying a normal part of school life.

Bullying is a problem in our schools, our workplaces, our homes, and online – and it should never be thought of as “normal”

I’m extremely proud to have been a part of bringing Pink Shirt Day to British Columbia 5 years ago.

And I’m equally proud to announce that the Province has officially declared tomorrow, February 29, 2012 as “Anti-Bullying Day in B.C.

When Nova Scotia teens David Shepherd and Travis Price organized a high-school protest to wear pink in sympathy with a Grade 9 boy who was being bullied..

I’m sure they didn’t realize that their gesture would start a nation-wide movement.

Their bravery in standing up to bullies and supporting victim of bullying is an inspiration to us all.

Pink Shirt Day is about teaching our kids about confidence and self-worth, but never at the cost of someone else’s feelings.

It is about getting schools the support they need to teach kids that bullying isn’t tolerated or respected

It is about ensuring that our schools are a safe place for kids to thrive and learn.

TODAY WE ARE FIGHTING IGNORANCE AND INTIMIDATION WITH EMPATHY AND EDUCATION

And instead of only focusing on the problem, we need to be looking at solutions too...

Solutions that include the Roots of Empathy, Seeds of Empathy and mentorship programs...

Roots and Seeds of Empathy bring infants into the classroom to encourage children's empathy for others who may be different than they are.

The program has shown significant effect in decreasing rates of bullying and aggression.

The anti-bullying message needs to begin in preschool and continue into high school and beyond.

From celebrating Pink Shirt Day with this flash mob, to participating in Internet safety programs, to abiding by each school's anti-bullying code of conduct...

We have to work with teachers, principals and students...
With parents, coworkers and community leaders
Together, we can make our communities a safe and inclusive place for everyone, at any age.

Thanks to all Pink Shirt Day supporters...

Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2012 – Pink Shirt flash mob

Because of your generosity and participation in today's event, we hope to make bullying a thing of the past.

-END-

Delta Q Clean Tech
Thursday, March 15, 2012
Burnaby

Event: what is it?

- Walk-about / tour of a B.C. clean technology success story, Delta-Q Technologies.
- Delta-Q develops and supplies power conversion solutions to vehicle manufacturers enabling the shift away from internal combustion engines to environmentally friendly electric drive systems.
- Delta-Q exports its products to the U.S. and to Asia.
- Delta-Q received \$17 million through the B.C. Renaissance Capital Fund, a B.C. Crown corporation that attracts successful venture capital managers and their capital to British Columbia to develop promising, innovative technology companies in the province.

Audience: who are they?

- Employees and media

Key Messages

- A central part of our jobs plan is implementing policies that support the clean tech sector.
- Our green economy demonstrates how sustainability can be an opportunity for business instead of a burden.
- 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)

Thank for inviting me here today tour your facilities.

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.

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 yesterday we released our report on *BC's Green Economy*. This report helps clarify what the green economy is, and it shows how it is an integral part of our jobs plan. 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 that 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 it isn't just enabling our own green economy – it's an export too, and it has never been in more demand on a global scale.

We hear clean tech success stories all the time. Here at Delta Q, your power conversion solutions are helping vehicle manufacturers around the world make the switch to electric drive systems. And having recently added Yamaha to your list of customers, I am confident that your connection to important Asian markets will only continue to grow.

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 0 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. Take the example of liquefied natural gas.

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.

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.

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-