

CLOSE DEBATE AND VOTE

It's a historic day.

I want to thank all of the members for their contributions today.

And for setting political differences aside.

We cannot undo the injustices of the past.

But by acknowledging them, hopefully we are able to move forward as a province. And we take a step towards ensuring nothing like this can ever happen again.

With that, I move Motion 19 and the apology contained therein.

****SPEAKER CALLS FOR VOTE**

ACKNOWLEDGE:

Minister Teresa Wat (introduces PCC)

- British Columbia's cultural diversity is more than an asset. It is who we are.
- For more than a century, Chinese Canadians have been among the most prominent contributors to society.
- They have achieved that distinction in the face of legal, professional, labour, and social discrimination.
- The discrimination was actually enshrined in law, passed in Ottawa by the federal government, and right here in this house, by B.C.'s government.
- The prevailing racist views of that era denied people from China the rights and privileges of other immigrants, including citizenship.
- Many were simply brought to Canada as cheap labour. More than 15,000 arrived to build dangerous and

difficult sections of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

- For every mile of track between Vancouver and Calgary, one Chinese worker died.
- In 1885, the railway was completed. Many of the labourers settled here.
- In that same year, the Canadian government attempted to discourage further immigration from China by introducing an entry fee of \$50.
- That was a huge amount of money, and it was only the beginning.
- In 1900 the head tax was raised to \$100 dollars and again in 1903 to \$500.
- This tax was only applied to people arriving from China.
- In total, approximately 82,000 Chinese immigrants paid the head tax.

- In 1923 the head-tax was replaced by the Chinese Immigration Act. This meant, with very few exceptions, there would be no further Chinese immigration.
- That ban remained in force until 1947. That's 24 years.
- These blatant acts of discrimination are a shameful chapter in the history of this country and province.
- In 2006, Prime Minister Stephen Harper rose in the House of Commons to offer a Parliamentary Apology.
- Here in B.C., last year our government began a consultation process leading to today's formal apology.
- We were determined that a formal apology be done properly. That meant working with all parties, with meaningful dialogue.
- That it be done in a respectful and collaborative manner, not rushed.

- We engaged with Chinese-Canadian community associations and citizens to agree on the wording and delivery.
- The community expressed their strong desire that the apology would be a beginning only. And we agree.
- We are working with them on legacy efforts.
- We have committed to update school curriculums and conduct public awareness activities.
- As the famous saying goes: “those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.”
- In British Columbia, we remember.
- And with today’s official apology we have taken an important first step towards ensuring it never repeats.
- Thank you.

-END-

INTRODUCTION OF MOTION

Thank you Madam Speaker.

It is my privilege to call Motion 19 standing in my name on the order paper.

The motion reads as follows:

MOTION:

Be it resolved that this House apologizes for more than a hundred laws, regulations, and policies that were imposed by past provincial governments...

...that discriminated against people of Chinese descent since 1871, when British Columbia joined Confederation, to 1947.

These laws and policies denied British Columbia's Chinese communities' basic human rights, including but not limited to:

- *the right to vote, hold public office, or own property;*
- *imposed labour, educational and employment restrictions;*
- *subjected them to health and housing segregation,*
- *and prevented them from fully participating in society.*

May 15, 2014

Apology for Historical Wrongs

House Notes CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

The House deeply regrets that these Canadians were discriminated against simply because they were of Chinese descent.

All members of this House acknowledge that we all aspire to be a fair and just society...

where people of all nations and cultures are welcomed, accepted and respected.

Be it further resolved that the House acknowledge that the Chinese Canadian Community endured untold hardships and persevered with grace and dignity.

We acknowledge that despite being subjected to discriminatory laws, policies and practices...

the Chinese community has made, and continues to make, substantial contributions to the culture, history and economic prosperity in our province.

(end of motion)

APOLOGY

Today we express our sorrow and regret for historical provincial government practices that were once considered appropriate.

While the governments which passed these laws and policies acted in a manner that were lawful at the time, today this racist discrimination is seen by British Columbians – represented by all members of the legislative assembly – as unacceptable and intolerable.

We believe this formal apology is required to ensure that closure can be reached on this dark period in our province's history.

The legislative assembly's apology today signifies our deepest regret for the hardship and suffering our past provincial governments imposed on Chinese Canadians.

The entire legislative assembly acknowledges the perseverance of Chinese Canadians that was demonstrated with grace and dignity throughout our history while being oppressed by unfair and discriminatory historical laws.

Moreover, we acknowledge the overwhelming contribution by Chinese Canadians to British Columbia's culture, history and economic prosperity.

May 15, 2014

Apology for Historical Wrongs

House Notes CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

On behalf of the Province of British Columbia, and on behalf of the entire legislative assembly, we sincerely apologize for the provincial government's historical wrongs.

We are sorry for the discriminatory legislation and racist policies enacted by past provincial governments. We will ensure that this never happens again.

(End of apology)

REMARKS

This is a historic day.

While we as Canadians and British Columbians have much to be proud of...

There are events in our shared history we regret.

The pervasive discrimination against Chinese immigration – and Chinese immigrants – is a stain on our history.

From the First Nations, to the first European Settlers, Canada is a nation of people who came here to build a better life. For themselves, and for their families.

Chinese immigrants continue to make enormous contributions to B.C. and Canada.

And those first immigrants who were made to pay to come here made some of the biggest contributions of all...

May 15, 2014

Apology for Historical Wrongs

House Notes CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

the railway that connected our vast country from coast to coast.

Chinese labourers were given the most dangerous jobs.

For every mile of track between Vancouver and Calgary, one Chinese worker died.

And after this incredible sacrifice...the government tried to limit Chinese immigration. First with a tax, then with a ban.

In 2006, Prime Minister Stephen Harper rose in the House of Commons to offer a Parliamentary Apology.

Here in B.C., last year our government began a consultation process leading to today's formal apology.

We were determined that a formal apology be done properly. That meant working with all parties, with meaningful dialogue.

I want to thank everyone who contributed to this process. From community associations to members of the opposition.

Thank you for setting differences aside. Thank you for coming together to make this happen.

We can't undo the past. But by acknowledging it, and apologizing for it...

Together, we can ensure future generations learn from it.

Thank you.

Event: what is it?

BC Leadership Prayer Breakfast is a City In Focus event – attended by over 1,000 people annually – that engages not only the Christian community, but the wider community for a moment of prayer across denominational, professional, racial, socio-economic and faith boundaries.

For over 25 years City in Focus has worked in Vancouver and the Lower Mainland to encourage spirituality, social service and philanthropy.

Speech: 4 minutes total, including the Psalm. City in Focus asks you not mention any individual or the organizing committee.

Audience: who are they?

- Senator Romeo Dallaire – retired lieutenant-general, Senator and renowned humanitarian – He was the Force Commander for the UN Assistance Mission for Rwanda in 1993, and since his retirement has become an outspoken advocate for human rights.
- Tom Cooper, president and founder, City in Focus (TBC)
- Approximately 1,000 people

PSALM 72: v. 1-4, 13, 14

¹ Give the gift of wise rule to the king, O God, the gift of just rule to the crown prince.

² May he judge your people rightly, be honourable to your meek and lowly.

³ Let the mountains give exuberant witness; shape the hills with the contours of right living.

⁴ Please stand up for the poor, help the children of the needy, come down hard on the cruel tyrants.

¹³ Because he rescues the poor at the first sign of need, the destitute who have run out of luck. He opens a place in his heart for the down-and-out, he restores the wretched of the earth.

¹⁴ He frees them from tyranny and torture: when they bleed, he bleeds; when they die, he dies.

With persistence, passion, and a lot of hard work, one person can make a difference.

But a group of people can make an even bigger difference.

One of City in Focus' greatest accomplishments is bringing together people of all denominations... to work collectively and make a difference.

Doing the right thing is harder than doing what's easy...but you lead by example.

Over the last 25 years and more, you've made a difference in countless lives.

You've been outspoken on the need for social justice, and you've led others to understand the need for members of all churches, non-profit organizations, and the public...
To work together.

And you have succeeded.

BC Leadership Prayer Breakfast

Friday, May 16, 2014

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

I want to personally thank the members of City in Focus for all you do for our communities.

Vancouver is a better place for your dedication. On behalf of our province, I thank you.

- END -

Sea to Sky Gondola Official Opening Friday, May 16, 2014

Event: what is it?

- Official opening of the new Sea to Sky Gondola in Squamish.

Audience: who are they?

- Squamish Nation representatives
- S2S Gondola general manager Trevor Dunn
- BC Parks/Stawamus Chief Provincial Park reps
- Squamish musicians Cam Salay and Matt Blackman of The Squamtones, singer Jana Lahti, and fiddler Jocelyn Pettit
- Local artist Toby Jaxon will be demo-ing “en plein air” painting

KEY MESSAGES:

1. The \$22-million project, which has been under construction for over a year, provides year-round access to hiking trails, interpretive walks, panoramic views and a 9,000 square foot Summit Lodge, where guests can enjoy self-serve dining and local Squamish fare.
2. Squamish has a bright future ahead of it. It is on the front line of the province’s LNG opportunity.

ACKNOWLEDGE:

Chief Ian Campbell, Squamish Nation

Jordan Sturdy, West Vancouver Sea-to-Sky MLA

Rob Kirkham, Mayor of Squamish

Trevor Dunn, Partner, Sea to Sky Gondola

Days like today remind you how lucky we are.

If you have the chance to travel – not just overseas, but even across provincial borders – you remember why B.C. is the envy of the world.

Why B.C. remains a dream destination for tourists the world over.

How do you describe views like this?

Where else in the world can you literally go from sea to sky – not just in the same day, but in one gondola ride?

The gondola is a significant investment in one of the most important industries in B.C. – tourism.

And that's important, because it's on the rise.

Just around the corner in Vancouver, we've seen a 29% increase in visitors from Mainland China compared to last year.

It's not hard to see why when you see the view behind us here today.

The folks here anticipate they will see 200,000 to 300,000 visitors to this attraction in this first year alone.

This \$22 million investment has also meant 110 new jobs for people here in Squamish.

That means more families here with food to put on the table.

It means more families who can stay and raise their kids here.

Squamish also sits on the front lines of another huge opportunity in British Columbia.

Woodfibre is considering a \$1.6 billion investment in LNG here in Squamish.

It's an industry that could create 100,000 jobs across the province.

It's an opportunity for investment, for jobs and for prosperity that we can't let pass us by.

Like B.C., Squamish has a bright future ahead.

I'm excited to see what comes next.

Thank you.

D-Day Veterans' Commemoration Dinner
Wednesday, May 21, 2014
Speech Length: 2-3 minutes

Event:

- June 6, 2014 marks the 70th anniversary of the D-Day invasion where allied troops landed on the beaches of Normandy.
- This event commemorates this anniversary and honours B.C. veterans who served during the Second World War
- Minister de Jong will announce provincial support for veterans travelling to Normandy, France for the commemoration.
 - \$2,000 to each travelling veteran
 - Matching federal funding
- B.C. veterans will be presented with the Ordre national de la Légion d'honneur, France's highest honour, by Consul General Fleury on behalf of the President of France.
 - The government of France is bestowing the award on 390 Canadian veterans, 66 of whom are from B.C.

Audience:

- Hon. Julian Fantino, Minister of Veterans Affairs
- Hon. Judith Guichon, Lieutenant Governor of B.C.
- Hon. Mike de Jong, Minister of Finance
- Mr. Paul van Rhijn, Deputy Consul General of Netherlands
- Ms. Anne Callaghan, Consul General of the US
- Mr. Rupert Potter, British Consul General in Vancouver
- Mr. Jean-Christophe Fleury, Consul General of France in Vancouver
- Brigadier General Robert Mackenzie, Deputy Commander 3 Canadian Division
- Mr. Angus Stanfield, President, BC & Yukon, Royal Canadian Legion
- Mr. and Mrs. Joe Segal
- Honourary Captain, Lyall Knott, Director of Ceremonies

Key Message:

- Thank veterans for their service.
- It is because of your efforts that Canada is the place it is today.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

- Hon. Julian Fantino, Minister of Veterans Affairs
- Hon. Judith Guichon, Lieutenant Governor
- Hon. Mike de Jong, Minister of Finance
- Consular Corps
- Canadian Forces
- Royal Canadian Legion
- Joe Segal

Thank you.

Today we join together to commemorate the 70th anniversary of D-Day and the Battle of Normandy.

It's an opportunity to thank you – our veterans – for serving our country so bravely.

For representing Canada at our finest.

For your unbelievable courage under fire. Courage in the face of evil.

It's an opportunity to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice to protect the freedoms we hold dear to this day.

I recently had the opportunity to talk about my own grandfather, who served in the First World War.

It's impossible for me to understand what he went through. And even harder to explain to my 10-year old son.

But even if we can't comprehend what you endured – we will never forget your service.

We will never forget what you sacrificed for us.

We will never forget the legacy you have left behind.

Thank you for all you have done to make our province, our country and our world a better place.

-END-

INTRODUCTION

Welcome everyone to the International LNG Conference.

I particularly want to welcome those here from abroad and overseas – welcome to our great city, our great province, and our great country.

LNG is more than a generational opportunity to build British Columbia.

For us, this is about nation building....creating jobs, working with our sleeves rolled up to deliver a prosperous future.

And it is about more than just Canada.

Because we have the opportunity now to make our biggest contribution in the global fight against climate change... by powering the growing economies of Asia with our clean natural gas.

I want to talk to you about that.

And about what we are doing here in BC to seize that opportunity...

To be the most competitive jurisdiction of our kind for LNG...

To be the place with the greatest certainty for investment decisions...

And to achieve that without needless delay...with absolute focus and purpose.

But first, let me give you a bit of a progress report since last year's conference.

The momentum that's building right here for LNG.

And a sense of who we are, and how we do business.

In BC, we've built a strong economy based on natural resources and international trade...

Built every day by a diverse population that's highly-educated and skilled.

We've protected our strong economy with fiscal responsibility...

balanced budgets, a low and declining debt to GDP ratio...and triple-A credit ratings.

Stability and reliability is paramount for those making investment decisions.

That's what senior executives have told me over and over again.

Companies may want to build a diverse portfolio of LNG suppliers...but BC can help stabilize their entire portfolio – whether we're talking about the cost of borrowing, or the security of supply.

As I always say, you can have many suppliers. But you need at least one honourable partner.

That's who we are in BC. And here's what we have:

An ocean of energy underneath northeast BC – enough natural gas to last 150 years.

Think about how long that is.

150 years ago, Vancouver was a small outpost of a distant colony. The first sawmill began operating on the North Shore.

Canada had three more years to go before Confederation.

150 years ago, when the US was wracked by civil war, John D Rockefeller created Standard Oil to sell kerosene for lamps.

Back then, there was no use for Petroleum. So it was just thrown away as a waste product.

A lot can change in a century and a half.

LNG will kickstart new inventions and technologies to improve peoples' lives...in ways we can't even imagine today.

What we can do today, in government is to look at every decision through the lens of LNG.

Building an LNG industry is the central pre-occupation of my government.

I've put together a special LNG cabinet, which I chair.
There's a corresponding Deputy Ministers' LNG cabinet,
which my deputy chairs.

LNG is what I ran on. It's what we were elected on.

It's a promise made, a promise we will keep.

PROGRESS

In the year since we last welcomed you to Vancouver for this LNG Conference, we've made a lot of progress to bring this opportunity home.

Confidence in BC is high, with the number of project proposals more than doubling in a year.

But more importantly, look at the quality of those proposals, of the companies coming to the table... global leaders in LNG, with strong backing from all the major players in Asia: China, Japan, Korea, Malaysia and India.

On the regulatory front, one proposal already has an Environmental Assessment Certificate, Kitimat LNG.

Pacific Northwest LNG is now undergoing an environmental review, and another 3 facilities are in the preliminary stages of review.

Aurora LNG became the ninth proposal to receive an export license from the National Energy Board.

At last year's conference, 3 export licenses had been approved.

Momentum is high...and we're picking up speed.

Today, we got news of the launching of a BC LNG Developers Alliance...with four major projects uniting to work together on community relations and labour strategies. To move their projects forward.

Hitachi announced they will open a North American office in Vancouver to access the emerging LNG market.

Just yesterday LNG Canada announced the selection of its main contractor for its project.

And this comes right on the heels of another major milestone that formally established LNG Canada...a Joint Venture Agreement between its partners: Shell, PetroChina, KOGAS and Mitsubishi

In the last month, BG signed an MOU with CNOOC to partner in the Prince Rupert LNG project.

Sinopec joined up with Petronas and its partners in Pacific Northwest LNG.

And we began the year with Chevron/Apache awarding JGC/Fluor with a contract to lead all engineering, procurement and construction services for their proposed Kitimat LNG plant.

It was in the context of all this activity that I led my fifth international trade mission to Malaysia, Singapore and Hong Kong two weeks ago.

On the trip, we reached a major milestone with two companies:

Petronas and Woodfibre.

Petronas is scheduled to be the first major project to reach Final Investment Decision.

Woodfibre is expected to be the first LNG plant in operation in BC.

With both companies, we agreed to finalize a Project Development Agreement by no later than November 30th this year.

A last step before Final Investment Decision. And here's what that means:

BC will sit down with both companies and grind down on the numbers to establish absolute certainty on all costs... Under government control... specific to LNG.

That includes certainty on all taxes, and the costs of any regulatory requirements.

So back to what I talked about at the beginning: Certainty and competitiveness. Focus and speed.

And most of all, an open way of doing business...eye to eye...and with everything on the table.

WHAT SETS BC APART

That's the way we do business. We do what we say.

That adds to our built-in advantages: our cold climate means less energy is required to liquefy natural gas.

Our proximity to Asia means quicker shipping times.

So what are the other things, I can do, as Premier, to clear the path to Final Investments.

This Spring, I led an unprecedented LNG delegation to our national capital.

I wanted to make sure our federal government fully appreciates the scope of the opportunity.

To make sure our two levels of government work together in every way –with no exceptions.

We returned with an agreement with our federal government to ensure funding and coordination...

but even more than that...both levels emerged from those meetings with stakeholders charged with the work we have in front of us...

Work we will do together to bring this opportunity home to BC and Canada.

Beyond the federal government, we are reaching out and working with communities, BC's First Nations, Labour Unions and industry to achieve things our competitors have failed to do.

We've spent the last year developing a 10-year skills plan, to re-engineer education and training to make sure British Columbians are trained and ready to do the jobs the industry needs...

Because the alternative is to do nothing and risk labour shortages and wage inflation.

We call it the BC Skills to Jobs Blueprint. It's a plan informed by a workforce strategy we've developed with industry, labour and First Nations...

...we worked together to map out what type of skills are needed, how many workers and by when.

And then we worked our way back to identify the training we need today to meet industries' needs...

...one year down the road, five years down the road... and beyond.

It gives industry and investors confidence.

And it gives me what I want: the certainty that British Columbians are first in line for job opportunities to fully benefit from LNG.

LEGACY

Because that's the best legacy this industry will create. It's one thing to say "100,000 jobs." But it's a huge number – almost incomprehensible.

Think about the lives it will transform. One opportunity realized today – one really good job – creates more and better opportunities.

For that person, for their family, and for their kids and grandkids.

And if you want to put a face to that story, just look around. You may have noticed some high school kids here at the conference.

They're taking part in an interactive career experience, getting hands-on experience with heavy equipment and welding simulators.

They're learning about career paths that will open up for them when they graduate. And we're making sure they have the skills to be ready for them.

If you look around you'll also see this convention is open to BC businesses whether small, medium or large.

LNG companies setting down roots here need everything from lawyers and tech services to catering and construction.

So we have a program called LNG Buy BC – to help connect LNG companies to BC businesses in every region.

Let me give you an example from the community I represent, Kelowna.

There's a company here at the conference called Big Steel Box– they build modular homes.

They just announced they're expanding service in northern BC to help service LNG.

The guys at Big Steel Box can see what's coming. And they wanted to be ahead of the curve.

There are going to be thousands of opportunities for companies across the province. And through the LNG-Buy BC program, we're helping them make the connections.

In April, we started the first contractor-supplier boot camps and RFP seminars for businesses big and small.

More are coming in the next few weeks and months. And you'll see a lot more success stories like Big Steel Box.

LNG will also leave a legacy with our First Nations.

Our First Nations are largely supportive and welcome LNG.

But for far too long, too many First Nations communities have been left behind in economic development.

LNG is an opportunity to help bridge that gap.

To help their leaders achieve their vision of prosperous, safe, thriving communities.

To realize the opportunity, all sides have to work together. Our government is focused on strengthening that relationship. And I am here, ready to work partner to partner, leader to leader wherever necessary.

CONCLUSION

Two years ago, we told British Columbians about the opportunity posed by LNG.

About our plan to grow the economy and create opportunities for our children and grandchildren.

The world is in a period of profound change.

The global demand for energy is expected to double over the next 20 years.

In China alone, almost 1 billion people will live in cities by the end of 2030.

That's 350 million more than today. The equivalent of ten Canadas.

If even a portion of that power can be supplied by natural gas, the kids and grandkids we're working so hard to leave a legacy for...

Will inherit a much cleaner, greener planet.

This isn't theory. We've seen what can be accomplished with natural gas in the United States and China.

We've seen that it's possible to generate more energy while reducing Greenhouse Gas emissions.

We have the resources, the infrastructure and the drive to make sure the growing energy demands are met with safe, clean natural gas.

We have the opportunity to turn that need into a debt-free future for our children.

We have the opportunity to make a better world.

We can do that together.

We can be the ones who shape a prosperous and responsible future for our children and grandchildren.

Together.

Thank you.

- END -

Welcome to Vancouver.

And welcome to a glimpse into the future.

Everyone here today understands the scope of the opportunity we have here in B.C.

It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity – a chance to leave a legacy for our province, our country, and the world.

100,000 new jobs...

Opportunities for local business in every region of BC...

It's nothing less than a generational opportunity to build BC, a way to grow our economy and continue to lead Confederation.

Because LNG is an incredible opportunity for Canada, too.

Because this is nation building. As the economic heart of Canada moves west, B.C. has a chance to contribute to confederation like never before.

And we're getting there without delay, with certainty and by being competitive. Working with industry in a way no other jurisdiction has.

And while we're nation building, we're also making the biggest contribution BC can make in the global fight against climate change.

Powering the growing economies of Asia with natural gas.

It's the cleanest non-renewable resource. And in B.C., you have a stable, reliable trading partner.

We have a great opportunity.

And together we're going to do great things for the country...and the world.

-END-

St. Paul's AIDS ward
Tuesday, May 27, 2014
CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

St. Paul's AIDS ward
Tuesday, May 27, 2014

Event:

- Official closing of the AIDS ward at St. Paul's Hospital and officially declaring Vancouver to be the first city in the world to refocus its AIDS ward to provide services that support those with hepatitis and those struggling with addiction.

Audience:

- UN under-secretary and UNAIDS executive director, Michel Sidibé (pronounced sed-E-bay) and
- Director of the BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS, Dr. Julio Montaner
- Administration and staff of St. Paul's Hospital (TBD)

KEY THEME: Vancouver is the first city in the world to refocus its AIDS ward, and this is another example of British Columbia's continued leadership in the fight against HIV and AIDS.

KEY MESSAGES:

- Since 1996, HIV/AIDS-related deaths have decreased by a remarkable 80%.
- This ward at St. Paul's Hospital once served to care for those dying from AIDS. Today, its new function is to expand treatment for those living with HIV, helping them live longer, healthier lives.
- Thanks to the dedication of countless individuals and innovative programs here at St. Paul's and across the province, we are moving towards a future free of HIV and AIDS.

ACKNOWLEDGE:

Michel Sidibé, UN under-secretary and executive director
for UNAIDS

Dr. Julio Montaner, Director of the BC Centre for
Excellence in HIV/AIDS

Thank you.

This story begins back in 1979. A Montreal man was retrospectively diagnosed with HIV – the first in Canada.

At that time, health officials were puzzled what disease could be targeting healthy young men.

Just four years later, there were 7 reported cases of AIDS in Vancouver, and 64 in Canada.

Unfortunately, that was just the beginning.

Within two years, the number of Vancouver cases had increased eight-fold. The number in Canada had grown nine times over.

HIV/AIDS was a global crisis.

In 1985, the B.C. Centre for Disease Control offered the first HIV tests.

St. Paul's was one of the first hospitals in Canada to treat HIV/AIDS patients.

Since then, it has been one of the world's leading clinical and research centres, providing care to over 65% of HIV-positive people in B.C.

St. Paul's has also been home to the BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS – not just Canada's largest HIV/AIDS research and treatment facility, but a recognized world leader.

The results have been amazing.

Since 1995 there has been a 90% drop in AIDS cases in B.C...

And between 1996 and 2012, B.C. saw an 80% decrease in HIV-related mortality.

These achievements are thanks in part to successful made-in-BC programs like STOP HIV/AIDS and Treatment as Prevention.

These successes are the reason we're here to announce that Ward 10C at St. Paul's Hospital will no longer be used as a dedicated AIDS ward.

Not so long ago, a diagnosis of HIV/AIDS was a death sentence. Today, people living with HIV can come to St. Paul's to get support and treatment.

And they can live long, healthy lives.

This is a huge milestone. I can think of no better reason to close a hospital ward than lack of demand.

I'm joined here by Mr. Sidibé and Dr. Montaner to tell you how we are breaking ground in Canada and across the world.

Earlier this month, BC became the first jurisdiction in Canada to direct health providers to encourage testing for all adults...

And today, Vancouver becomes the first city in the world to refocus its AIDS ward.

We will continue to be a leader in the fight against HIV and AIDS by focusing on HIV support services for people suffering from hepatitis and addiction issues.

Thank you to everyone at St. Paul's and the BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS for your innovation, dedication, and hard work. You have saved countless lives.

—END—

100 years ago, the Komagata Maru arrived in Vancouver.

There were 376 people on board. After weeks at sea, they came to our province with the dream of a better life for their families.

You can imagine the hope they felt when they finally saw land. When they arrived at Burrard Inlet.

And you can only imagine how they felt when they were turned away.

They weren't even allowed to dock.

And why were they denied entry to Canada and British Columbia?

Because of their ethnicity. The colour of their skin.

We have spent the last 100 years trying to wash away this stain.

Thankfully, attitudes have changed. South Asian immigrants and their children have become pillars of their communities.

But I can't help but wonder what opportunities we missed. What contributions the Komagata Maru passengers would have made.

What their descendants would have accomplished here.

In 2008, the B.C. government joined with the opposition to pass a motion of deep regret. And I want to thank them for putting politics aside, and standing with us again today.

These events transcend politics. And they serve as an important reminder to us, and to future generations:

We must value, respect and welcome all immigrants who seek to build their lives here. They enrich our communities and culture, and strengthen our economy.

They make our province better.

Over the last 100 years, we have learned a lot. And we owe it to the next generation to make sure they never repeat these mistakes.

Thank you.

Thank you.

It's a pleasure to be here today. And it's a privilege.

We were elected by British Columbians to represent them.
Their interests and their values.

- Pay your bills.
- Make sure we have the ability to take care of those who need it.
- Create more opportunity for the next generations.
- And leave this province as beautiful as we found it.

The foundation of everything this or any other government is able to accomplish is their budget.

For us, and for British Columbians, this is a central principle:

We will not go ask the taxpayer for more money. We will not borrow or steal from something else.

We will not put off today's hard work for tomorrow.

This session, we introduced our second consecutive balanced budget, with a three-year fiscal plan projecting surpluses totaling \$841 million.

That's what gives B.C. a triple-A credit rating. That's what keeps our debt servicing costs low. That's why our debt-to-GDP ratio is among the lowest in North America – and falling.

We're keeping taxes among the lowest in the country.

And we're leading the country in cutting red tape.

We've been attracting investment into our province, and we intend to keep growing it.

We're committed to opening new markets for industries like forestry, mining, high tech, agriculture, and natural gas.

That's why I've led provincial delegations on five international trade missions.

That's why we introduced a 10-years skills training plan, to make sure British Columbians are ready for the jobs that will come.

Because the only way to stay true to our common values is economic development.

It's the only way to create good-paying jobs that support families. Jobs that lift families and entire communities out of poverty.

It's also the only way to pay for the services that define us as British Columbians and Canadians.

In Canada, a lot of these services were established in the '60s. And to be blunt, Western governments established these because they could afford them.

So we have a choice: manage decline, or find new ways to grow the economy.

British Columbians spoke clearly. And we're working every day to live up to this privilege.

To leave a legacy that lasts for generations.