

Thank you.

I'd like to talk to you today about some of the things we're working on in British Columbia.

If you've never been to my home, Canada's westernmost is cradled between the Rockies and the Pacific Ocean, we can boast everything from glaciers to desert to rainforest.

On that land, we have built our wealth out of wilderness...and our abundant natural resources.

And the funny thing is – we could have easily become Americans

That's what most people wanted....

Ironically, it was a Californian who came to BC in search of making his fortune that became a leading voice for joining Canada.

He became BC's second Premier. And his name was Amor de Cosmos – lover of the universe.

It doesn't get much more west coast than that.

He was a passionate British Columbian, a barroom brawler, and a notorious drunk.

But that was 140 years ago. What are we doing in BC today?

THE PLAN

Our plan has three parts to it, and it's driven by this motivation: to grow the size of the economy, not the size of government.

First, fiscal responsibility. We start with strong management to control spending and balance the budget – by the way, we will do that for the third straight year this February.

That's how we work to earn our triple-A credit rating, and keep taxes affordable. To be competitive on the global stage.

Second: we cut red tape at home, and aggressively pursue trade abroad – especially with Asia, to open new markets for our goods and services.

We are a small jurisdiction. International trade is in our blood.

The third point of the plan is quite simply this: being disciplined today and growing the economy is the right way to ensure we have the ability to provide the services that families and citizens depend on – now and in the future.

That's the context for our next step.

We have a 150-year supply of natural gas in the northwest of our province.

We have experience in safely extracting it for 50 years.

Our ports in the northwest are some of the closest to Asia on this continent.

We can supply the energy-thirsty economies of Asia – and help them reduce their dependence on dirtier fuels.

LNG

Today, there are 18 proponents at various stages of development in BC. And while no one expects all of them to cross the finish line, the front-runners have already invested \$8 billion in our province.

9 export licenses have already been issued. 3 gas pipelines and 1 facility have received other environmental assessment certificates.

Two weeks ago, we reached another important milestone. We concluded our negotiations with Petronas. That company still needs greater cost certainty from contractors before it make a positive Final Investment Decision...but they have confirmed they have all the certainty they need from the Government of BC.

They are satisfied BC is globally competitive on all matters within government's purview.

Here's why Petronas feels that way...and I believe their competitors would agree.

We promised to consult industry, and bring in a fair and competitive tax regime by the fall. Last month, we did exactly that.

We promised to bring in legislation to ensure BC's LNG plants would be the cleanest in the world. We did exactly that last month...passing legislation that gives industry incentives to achieve lower emissions.

Until the day Final Investment Decisions come in, there will be debate, even skepticism about whether BC will be among Asia's LNG suppliers.

I don't have a problem with debate or skepticism from the onlookers. Because the only ones who will make the decision are on the corporate boards involved.

I just say this: on those corporate boards, and among all the prospective customers, there can be no question about the fact that BC can be trusted.

You can count on our words.

Most places would have just legislated the government-imposed costs those consulted proposed.

We didn't just consult. We listened.

We looked at our competitors in the global marketplace. We studied the business models. We changed the tax framework. We lowered it by half. We have relief for the early years of intensive capital investments. We provided incentives to help achieve emissions reductions and mitigations.

Now I should also tell you we also have other advantages beyond honour and our vast supply of natural gas:

- Short transportation times to Asia, saving costs.
- Lower operating costs. Because it's cold in northern BC...liquefaction is 33% more efficient than in Australia.
- We have the vital support from First Nations...
- And finally, we have a 10-year labour force training plan to provide the skilled workers necessary to build and to keep labour costs down.

Just seven months ago, we introduced the 10-year Skills for Jobs Blueprint. Our plan to re-engineer B.C.'s education system – from Kindergarten, to post-secondary, and beyond.

Just seven months later, we've created more than 1,400 trades training seats, and that's just a start.

We'll need more than every available British Columbian for the task. That's why we are working with other governments and labour unions to bring in skilled tradespeople from across Canada and the US.

And we're working to make sure our doors will stay open for international workers – to make sure we don't repeat what happened in Australia, to make sure we have the workforce LNG requires.

CONCLUSION

If you haven't been to British Columbia, to check on the progress on LNG – you should come.

The amount of work going on is incredible.

About \$8 billion has already been spent on the ground.

They are moving dirt and putting down roots. Much like in the time of Amor de Cosmos...

Though unlike Amor, they're flying in on Business Class, and showing up for our meetings...quite sober.

What's sobering for me is going the other way.

The growth of the middle class, especially in China and India, tells us the global demand for energy is about to double in our lifetime.

On some days, it's hard to see through the smog in some of the bigger cities.

But what you can see from the smog is that they are sincere in their interest in LNG.

It's clear in what leaders tell us. They can't continue to burn the same fossil fuels. And they won't stop growing.

Our future comes down to three things that some would call competing interests on the world stage.

Energy. Climate change. Prosperity.

We have something to say about that in British Columbia. With our vast supply of nothing less than an answer that addresses all three.

Thank you.

