

Japan Airlines Announcement
Saturday, May 12, 2012
Speech length: 3 minutes

- Hello everybody.
- Thank you for joining me here today, as we get ready to set out on this historic jobs and trade mission to Japan, Korea and the Philippines.
- I am excited to build on the success of my last trade mission and get out there and sell all of B.C.'s great attributes to those in Japan, Korea and the Philippines.
- As I saw from the work that was done on the last mission, strengthening and expanding our trading relationships abroad creates jobs here at home for B.C. families.

- Yesterday that was reinforced with news that B.C. has gained 19,700 net new jobs last month alone!
- While in Japan I plan on building on our long trading and cultural ties as I promote B.C.'s growing LNG sector.
- Japan is the world's largest importer of LNG and I intend to let them know all about our incredible LNG resource opportunity.
- The second largest importer of LNG is Korea, which happens to be my second stop on this mission.

- Korea is looking to meeting clean energy targets and I will let everyone I meet there know how B.C.'s LNG, biomass and wood pellets can help them meet those targets.
- In the Philippines, I'm proud to be the first BC premier to visit in an official capacity.
- The Philippines is currently the 45th largest economy, which is pretty good. But you know what? It is expected to jump up the 16th place by 2050. I absolutely intend to get B.C. front and centre to capitalize on that growing economy.

- Now, the goal from all these stops is to grow the economy back home here in B.C. To make those incredible jobs numbers we saw yesterday continue into the future.
- The airline I am boarding, Japan Airlines, will be upgrading the aircraft used for Tokyo to Vancouver travel, bringing an estimated 90 additional passengers per flight to B.C.
- Those 90 extra people coming and going between our countries every day means more tourists, more investors and more students are able to visit BC and Japan.

- I'm thrilled to be travelling on Japan Airlines and I want to thank them for their contributions to the economy of B.C.
- Thank you

-END-

**Virgin Atlantic Airways Inaugural Flight
Thursday, May 24, 2012**

Premier to speak 3 minutes

Event: what is it?

- Virgin Atlantic Airways is holding a welcome event and press conference at the Vancouver International Airport on Thursday May 24 to celebrate the inaugural flight of their new London-Heathrow to Vancouver service.
- Sir Richard Branson and YVR are hosting the event.

Audience: who are they?

- Sir Richard Branson, Chairman – Virgin Group
- Julie Southern, CCO Virgin Atlantic
- Larry Berg, President and CEO, Vancouver International Airport
- Virgin Atlantic are bringing other VIP guests (names TBC)

Key Messages

- **40,000 new passengers to B.C. spend money and create jobs, which is good for B.C. families.**
- **This new service will create jobs for B.C. families and contribute to our economy.**
- **Strengthen our already close ties with the U.K.**

It's an honour to be here today to celebrate the inaugural Virgin Atlantic Airways flight from Heathrow to Vancouver.

I want to welcome Virgin Atlantic to British Columbia, and tell you how happy we are to see your plane on our tarmac here at YVR. Thank you for choosing Vancouver for this new service!

We've been looking forward to this day since Virgin announced this route last November.

These 960 seats between the U.K. and Vancouver, every week from May until October, mean a lot to the B.C. economy – about \$10 million, as a matter of fact.

Up to 40,000 passengers will use this service, and that will create about 35 new jobs here at YVR. But many more jobs in the hospitality and retail sectors. More jobs means a growing economy and that's good for B.C. families.

We know, too, that one visit to B.C. is never enough! Our province has it all - from rainforests to vibrant cities to the sweeping ocean vistas and proud First Nations traditions.

You can tour wine country, ski on a glacier, surf our wild west coast or go bear-watching.

This new Virgin Atlantic route gives the people of the U.K. more choice to come and discover B.C., and gives British Columbians the opportunity to enjoy all that the U.K. has to offer, especially this exciting summer of the Queen's jubilee and the London Olympics.

The new route to Heathrow will make travel between Vancouver and the U.K. easier than ever throughout the summer.

We want you to know that you're always welcome in B.C., and we hope you will make yourselves at home.

Sir Richard, I know that you are an avid kite-surfer, and I invite you to surf Tofino on the west coast of Vancouver Island, some of the most exciting surfing in the world.

Now that you have this new route, I hope you'll take advantage of it, and visit often!

Welcome to British Columbia, Virgin Atlantic Airways!

- END -

Rick Hansen 25th Anniversary Relay Conclusion
Tuesday, May 22, 2012
Speech length: 3 minutes

Event: what is it?

- The 25th Anniversary Relay will conclude in Vancouver on Day 272 of its journey across Canada.
- After 12,000 kms, 7,000 Medal Bearers, 600 communities and 273 days travelling across the country, this will be a large-scale event celebrating the end of the 25th Anniversary Relay.
- Rick will wheel with all participants in the 25th Anniversary Relay on the final day. The Relay will conclude its nine-month journey 25 years to the date, and at the same location where Rick Hansen finished his Man In Motion World Tour.

Audience: who are they?

- Rick Hansen
- Alice Wong – Minister of State for Seniors
- Gregor Robertson – Mayor, Vancouver
- John Betts and George Cohon – McDonald's restaurants
- Amanda Magyar – Final medal bearer
- Jordan McPhee and Jamie Levchuk - MCs

Key Messages

- Rick Hansen is legendary, not only in this province, but around the world. He is a Canadian hero.
- So much has happened in spinal cord research in the last 25 years. Rick has helped raise over \$252 million.
- Congratulations to Rick – B.C.'s very own Man In Motion – and the 7,000 Difference Makers who have carried Rick Hansen's 25th Anniversary Medal across Canada.

Sometimes we throw the word hero around a bit too much, but there is no doubt that Rick Hansen is a true Canadian hero.

The 25th anniversary cross-Canada relay celebrating the original Man in Motion World Tour ends here today, at the very place the original tour ended 25 years ago.

Twenty-five years ago, the Man in Motion tour raised \$26 million for spinal cord research while showing the world what's possible when you believe in yourself.

Today, 25 years to the day after he finished his Man In Motion tour, Rick has finished a 9-month relay across Canada with 7,000 Difference Makers.

I bet all those difference makers were inspired by Rick, his passion and his work.

Rick is a very charismatic and persuasive guy! He's inspired thousands around the world to get on board for another world tour.

Only a hero could do this, not once, but twice.

So much has happened in spinal cord research in the last 25 years.

Rick used the \$26 million raised during the Man in Motion Tour to raise more than \$252 million in investments towards spinal cord research, and other projects to make life better for spinal cord injury sufferers.

And the province of British Columbia is proud to be part of that effort.

By working in partnership with the Rick Hansen School Program to make B.C. schools more accessible and more inclusive...

Providing funding support for the construction of the Blusson Spinal Cord Centre, a world class research centre at Vancouver General Hospital...

As well as funding the BC Leadership Chair in Spinal Cord Research at the Rick Hansen Institute of BC.

B.C. is proud to contribute to some of the most important discoveries in the field of spinal cord injuries, and leads the nation in research, treatment and services.

So many people have been inspired by Rick's goals to make a difference in their own communities and in the lives of others.

Congratulations to Rick – B.C.'s very own Man In Motion – and the 7,000 Difference Makers who have carried Rick Hansen's 25th Anniversary Medal across Canada.

So, after 12,000 kilometres, 7,000 medal bearers, 600 communities across this great country and 272 travelling days, I'm proud to welcome home a legend and a great British Columbian.

Welcome back, Rick!

- END -

"Free my Grapes" Rally
May 25, 2012
Speech Length: 5 Minutes

Event: what is it?

- Proactive event to be held in an Okanagan winery to support MP Dan Albas' private member's bill to break down interprovincial trade barriers for wine.

Audience: who are they?

- Public
- MLAs
- Okanagan-Coquihalla MP Dan Albas
- BC Wine Growers Association members
- Kettle Valley Winery co-owner Bob Ferguson
- Okanagan community civic representatives
- Wine expert Harry McWatters (Okanagan wine pioneer)

Audience: what do they want to hear?

KEY THEME: Job creation

KEY MESSAGES:

- It's time to change archaic laws that put our wine making industry in a stranglehold.
- Our wine producers deserve every opportunity to sell their products across the country so they can grow and create jobs.
- Our government stands behind the country's best winemakers – here in the Okanagan. Let's give Ontario a taste of what they've been missing!

Thank MC

ACKNOWLEDGE:

Dan Albas, MP for Okanagan-Coquihalla

MLAs

Okanagan Mayors

Today I am going to talk to you about two of my favourite subjects – jobs for British Columbians, and our wine industry.

Our B.C. Jobs Plan – Canada Starts Here - and our BC Agrifoods Strategy for Growth – both talk about working with our federal and provincial partners to open up new domestic markets for our wine.

As you know, B.C. produces world-renowned wines and we want to see residents of all provinces enjoy our product.

That's why my government supports the private members Bill by our federal colleague MP for Okanagan-Coquihalla Dan Albas.

Bill C-311 proposes to amend current federal laws that restrict the movement of wine across provincial borders...

... Laws, believe it or not, that were drafted way back in 1928 to stop bootlegging during the Prohibition era.

Today, they are just frustrating winemakers and wine drinkers.

It's time to change these archaic laws that put our wine-making industry in a stranglehold.

If it is passed, the proposed amendment would allow each province to decide how much wine an individual can transport from another province.

... and what methods of purchase are acceptable for an individual wishing to purchase wine directly from a producer in another province.

Bill C-311 has passed second reading and it is now going to committee and then the Senate.

This Bill will benefit B.C. wineries, which in turn will protect and create jobs for British Columbians.

Our wine producers deserve every opportunity to sell their products right across this country so they can grow and create jobs.

The growth of the wine industry in our province has been incredible.

B.C. now has over 200 grape wineries and more than 700 vineyards.

We produce enough wine every year to fill nearly 15 million bottles. Placed end to end, that would stretch from Vancouver to Toronto.

Last year, each of B.C.’s five wine regions won awards.

Bill C-311 can further increase our wine sales and help promote agritourism in British Columbia.

We are monitoring its progress with great interest and I look forward to further discussions with our federal and provincial colleagues.

I’m proud to stand behind the country’s best winemakers – right here in the Okanagan. Let’s give Ontario a taste of what they’ve been missing!

Thank you.

-END-

BC Chamber of Commerce AGM
Friday, May 25, 2012
2:30 to 3:30 p.m. - Penticton
Length: 15 minutes followed by Q&A

Event: What is it?

- The BC Chamber Commerce AGM from May 24th- 26th
- It is also the 60th anniversary of the BC Chamber.
- One of the panels on the Saturday will deal with the Canadian Chamber of Commerce's paper on The 10 Most Significant Impediments to Business Success in Canada – some are also on government's agenda (skills shortage, local governments, taxation & regulation)
- Keith Baldrey and Vaugh Palmer will host Cutting Edge from the Ledge prior to keynote
- We will be announcing a BC Chamber initiative

Audience: Who are they?

- About 300 - 325 delegates representing 60 - 65 chambers from across B.C. About 2/3 are volunteers chamber board members and business people/employers, and the balance are paid Chamber staff.
- Media

Key messages:

- My goal is to make life better for families. The best way for government to do that is to create conditions for the private sector to generate jobs.
- B.C. is open for business and we are working with small and medium businesses across the province to create jobs, develop skills and seize opportunities whenever they exist – it's core to the jobs plan.

- Keeping B.C. a safe harbour for investment means maintaining a strong hold on our finances. You can count on our government to keep taxes low and control spending.

Note: On Wednesday, May 23, Minister McRae announced that we are providing B.C. apple and tree fruit growers \$2 million to help replant low-value orchards with high-demand varieties. Announcement was made in Oliver, Vernon and Kelowna with MLAs Slater, Thomson, Stewart, Letnick and Foster.

Note 2: Today we are announcing that we will be providing \$3.1 million for a BC Chamber of Commerce Micro-Business training pilot.

Acknowledgements / Announcement

- It's great to be here in Penticton. I want to start by congratulating the Veas on winning the RBC Cup.
- Acknowledge MLAs – Norm, Ben and Steve – who represent the fastest growing region of our province.
- Acknowledge Chamber CEO John Winter.
- Congratulations to you and your colleagues on 60 years of leadership.
- The Chamber is an important voice. The business people you represent are the backbone of British Columbia's economy.
- And the policies you bring forward help make sure British Columbia remains the best place in the country to do business.
- The new Auditor General for Local Government - that was an idea that you brought forward.

- I consider the Auditor General one of the signature achievements of our government over the last year and we have **YOU** to thank for that.
- When it comes to our economy that's how my government works with small business... We listen and we take action.
- We've also been listening to your concerns about the need for management training... so you can grow your businesses and hire more people. My government supports that.
- **That's why I'm pleased to announce today that we will be providing \$3.1 million for a BC Chamber of Commerce Micro-Business training pilot.**
- By working with local chambers of commerce across BC, this pilot will provide management training for up to

1,200 business owners who employ less than five people.

- It's a modest investment but one I know will have a big impact.

Small business matters

- In British Columbia, small business is big business:
 - You represent 98 per cent of all our business.
 - You keep more than a million people working.
 - You drive more than 47 per cent of B.C. exports.
- But I know you do more than that.
- You help bring families together by supporting and hosting community festivals and events.
- You help kids thrive by sponsoring the little league baseball and soccer teams.
- You create thriving communities.

- I got back into politics for one simple reason: to make life better for families across BC.
- How? To me it starts with the fundamentals. It starts with a strong, competitive economy.
- It starts with low taxes, controlled spending and a plan to balance the books.
- And it starts with listening TO and working WITH small business.
- You are a barometer for B.C.'s economy - when you are doing well, we are all doing well.
- Right here in the Okanagan there's a great story to tell. Over the past ten years this region has seen incredible growth. There is a real entrepreneurial spirit here.
- And by 2020 this region is expected to have more than 110,000 new job openings, nearly 28% of these are expected to be newly created jobs.

- It's in part being lead by UBCO, where we are now teaching students and training doctors, who want to live and raise families here.
- It's due to a revived tourism industry. The word is out that the Okanagan is the Napa Valley of the North.
- Just look at the incredible increase in the number of and quality of wineries, and the incredible demand for your fruits.
- And with our agri-foods strategy released last month, we're looking to accelerate this important sector.
- Here in the Okanagan, we're drawing visitors that return again and again. Some are even building homes here, creating jobs in communities.
- You know, 10 years ago, people were fleeing our province. Today, they want to stay.

- 10 years ago, businesses were tied up by red tape and high taxes, and they struggled to grow. Today, we have taxes and red tape under control. Investors are taking notice and businesses are growing

BC Jobs Plan - Progress

- To grow our economy, my government is relentlessly focused on implementing the BC Jobs Plan.
- And it's working:
 - Since February 2011, our economy has seen 57,900 net new jobs-- 19,700 in April alone/
 - Three weeks ago, we issued a permit for Red Chris mine, a \$444-million project that will create 250 jobs up north.

- Mitsubishi recently gave us a huge vote of confidence by investing \$2.9 Billion in Encana's natural gas operations here in BC.
- We introduced a brand new \$600B Liquid and Natural Gas industry to BC. They are already clearing land for the first Natural Gas line in the north. This new industry will create thousands of jobs- engineers, welders, constructions jobs. I was just at an LNG terminal in Japan. I saw first hand the opportunity and the potential for this new sector.
- And working with Seaspan, we helped to secure the future of shipbuilding in B.C. with an \$8 billion federal contract, creating more than 4,000 jobs over eight years.

BC Jobs Plan – Small Business

- Those are big projects, and I know most people in BC are in small business, but your success goes hand-in-hand.
- When big projects get announced, it's the direct jobs that get all the media coverage.
- But what REALLY drives the economy are the spin-off jobs your businesses create.
- Every time we strengthen a sector like tourism, we are also strengthening small businesses.
 - Let's face it... if you run a restaurant in Tumbler Ridge, you are also in the mining sector, because if the coal sector is strong, you've got diners.
 - If you run a car dealership in Prince George, you are part of the forestry sector, because when fallers are working, moms and dads are buying mini vans.

- And if you're in tourism here in the Okanagan, you are also part of the agriculture sector. Your customers aren't here to drink wine from Ontario.
- The BC Jobs Plan builds on the strength of each region to create and protect jobs by pumping new dollars into your communities and your businesses.
- My government wants to turn potential into opportunity.
- We won't break your spirit with high taxes and red tape.
- We are about clearing the hurdles, streamlining approvals and investing in skills training.
- We can provide investor certainty, expand our trading relationships and keep taxes low so we remain competitive.
- And if we do our part, cash registers ring, communities grow and we can afford the services families need, like good health care and education.

BC Jobs Plan – Skills Training

- Over the next 10 years, we expect to create over a million new job openings.
- Jobs in business, in agriculture, forestry, mining, fishing and oil and gas extraction.
- We know we face a skills shortage. So we're working with businesses, industry, municipalities, First Nations and the academic sector to develop solutions.
- We've begun by piloting regional workforce tables in the northwest and northeast, working with trainers, labour and business to look at the kind of training we need. I am committed to have these tables in every region.
- British Columbians need the **right** skills for tomorrow.

BC Jobs Plan – Trade Mission

- Our opportunities here at home are connected to our ability to attract investment from abroad.
- So we're growing markets in China, India, Japan and South Korea, to diversify our export base.
- Good businesses don't put all their eggs in one basket.
- Look at Ontario where they have almost everything riding on sales south of the border.
- We made a conscious decision that that was not in British Columbia's best interests.
- Our exports to the U.S. down to 42 per cent in 2011.
- Our future growth is in ASIA.
- The United States is our neighbour and we will always be great friends. But we want more friends.

- These new relationships will only strengthen our existing friendship with the U.S.

Economy - Staying the course

- The last 10 years has been about getting us back on a firm foundation. People around the world are taking notice of us for all the right reasons.
- I am pro-development, pro-trade, pro-business and pro-growth.
- We need to make sure the world knows BC is open for business, for innovation and for opportunity.
- We have worked hard to develop some amazing advantages. BC has one of the lowest corporate income tax structures in the world.
- We have Triple-A credit rating, because of our reputation for economic stability.
- 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.

- 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.
- Maintaining confidence in our economy is the only way we can continue to attract job-creating investments.
- With much of the world in turmoil, international investors are out there looking for places to invest. They are looking for a foothold in North America, and that's B.C.
- The B.C. economy is picking up steam. To protect our recovery, we will continue to hold the line on spending.
- We must stay on course because there is too much at risk. We simply can't go back to the days when the best chance a recent grad had to get a job was to move OUT of our beautiful BC, AWAY from their family when

opportunity meant leaving BC.

- Europe is just now learning the lessons BC went through in the 1990s. 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.
- We picked ourselves up and started rebuilding ... investing in vital infrastructure, while getting our fiscal house in order.
- Now, when many countries are looking inward and hunkering down, we are reaching out. We stand on the cusp of real economic renewal.
- We are turning the page again to a time of unprecedented opportunity for BC businesses and BC

families.

- **B.C. must remain a safe harbour for investment. So you can count on us to keep taxes low and control spending.**

Conclusion

- I know I've spent a lot of time today talking about the economy, but I'll let you in on a secret... I don't measure economic success with dollars and cents.
- I measure economic success by the hope and optimism that strong business communities create:
 - Great schools and safe neighbourhoods...
 - Active sports leagues and local charities...
 - All the things that make your town a community.
- Working together to build a strong economy is how we will make our children's dreams come true.
- This is a unique moment in history for us to do more

than our fair share for the rest of Canada, to grasp BC's opportunity to help build an even greater country.

- I am a proud Canadian and I'm even prouder because BC will be leading Canada into the next decade. We will invite our fellow Canadians to join us and we will tell the world "Canada Starts Here."
- But we can only make that vision a reality if we work together.
- Thank you.

-END-

Official Opening of New Gate Apartments, Kelowna

Friday, May 25, 2012

Speech length: 5 minutes

Event: what is it?

- Official opening of New Gate Apartments, a new supportive housing development providing 49 apartments for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.
- This project is the last Kelowna MOU site to officially open.
- After speaking, Premier presents Provincial Homelessness Initiative plaque to Shelley Cook of the John Howard Society of the Central and South Okanagan.

Audience: who are they?

- Norm Letnick – MLA for Kelowna-Lake Country
- Mayor Walter Gray, City of Kelowna
- Steve Wilson, John Howard Society of the Central and South Okanagan (TBC)
- Shelley Cook, Executive Director, John Howard Society of the Central and South Okanagan (MC)
- Tenant, New gate Apartments, John Howard Society of the Central and South Okanagan (TBC)
- About 70 people expected to attend

Key Messages

- Four years ago, our government and the City of Kelowna signed an agreement to build 128 new supportive housing units on three city-owned sites. Today the final and largest project has officially opened and is housing 49 individuals from this community who were previously homeless or at risk of homelessness.
- A special acknowledgment goes to the John Howard Society for all their efforts in bringing this project to its opening day and for all their work in the central and south Okanagan.
- We have committed to build approximately 21,000 new units of affordable housing in the last decade. This is an investment that creates safe, quality housing that changes the lives of the people who call them home.

THANK EMCEE SHELLEY COOK, Executive Director of the John Howard Society, for introduction.

Acknowledge:

- Norm Letnick – MLA for Kelowna-Lake Country
- MLAs Stewart and Thomson in attendance
- Mayor Walter Gray, City of Kelowna

It's wonderful to be here in Kelowna, and I'm honoured to help officially open New Gate Apartments today.

Four years ago, our government and the City of Kelowna signed an agreement to build 128 new supportive housing units on three city-owned sites.

Now the final and largest project has officially opened and is housing 49 individuals from this community who were previously homeless or at risk of homelessness.

New Gate Apartments is another important step in our collective efforts to break the cycle of homelessness...

These apartments are the direct result of a strong desire in our community to create housing to help those in need.

They are also the result of strong partnerships – between the Province, the City of Kelowna and the John Howard Society.

The new four-storey building provides longer-term supportive housing to men and women at risk of homelessness.

- There are no quick solutions to homelessness and it takes the involvement of different levels of government and community partners.
- Here at New Gate, 49 people have moved in and are benefiting from an affordable housing option paired with onsite support services, such as mental health, addictions and medical support, as well as education and training programs.
- These support services, provided by John Howard Society, are helping tenants re-establish their connections to the community and helping make sure they don't return to the streets.
- But most importantly, people are given a special opportunity to change their lives.

- Our shared success has come through a sound housing strategy and strong partnerships with local governments and community organizations.
- We have committed to build approximately 21,000 new units of affordable housing in the last decade.
- This is an investment that creates safe, quality housing that changes the lives of the people who call them home.
- Yet it's not about the building, but rather how lives are improved and communities changed.
- Whether it be a new start for someone who is battling addiction or been homeless, the stability and security of an affordable home for a family, or the positive impact of elder care when seniors have access to rent subsidies and affordable housing options.

- These joint investments add to the diversity of housing options, improve communities and benefit BC families in ways that often can't be measured by dollars or cents.
- A special acknowledgment goes to the John Howard Society for all their efforts in bringing this project to its opening day and for all their work in the central and south Okanagan.

{Premier to present Shelley Cook, Executive Director for John Howard Society, with a Provincial Homelessness Initiative plaque from the Province. (Rhonda Nguyen will assist and provide plaque)
PLEASE READ PLAQUE.}

Kelowna General Hospital Opening Friday, May 25, 2012

Event: what is it?

- Official opening of the new Centennial and Anderson (formerly East Pandosy) Buildings at Kelowna General Hospital.
- Opening event will be held prior to patients being moved in, and will be held outside, weather permitting.
- Event will include an opportunity to view main lobby of Centennial Building and potentially speak with staff.

Audience: who are they?

- MLAs Ben Stewart, Norm Letnick, Steve Thomson
- Dr. Jan McIntosh, chief of staff, retiring this year
- **Family of Dr. Walter Anderson** -- daughter Marietta and her husband Wally Lightbody – TBC. (The Anderson Building has been named for Dr. Anderson, a pioneer doctor at the hospital)
- Norm Embree - Interior Health Board Chair
- Damien Joy - Infusion Health Board Chair
- Rep - Central Okanagan Regional Hospital District
- Natalie Walden - nurse and team leader for vascular surgery
- Nancy Thomas - project coordinator - KGH surgical services
- Hospital staff and volunteers

Key Messages

- **Our government is committed to ensuring that B.C. has state of the art health care facilities to provide patient focussed care for B.C. families.**
- **These investments will ensure quality health care for interior families for years to come.**
- **By working together, MLAs Thomson, Stewart and Letnick were key to moving these projects forward.**

Many of you were here in November 2008 for the ground-breaking of these beautiful new patient-centred facilities – the Centennial and the Dr. Walter Anderson buildings.

On that day four years ago, there was a blueprint and a dream and a promise.

Today, the promise is delivered.

Our government is committed to ensuring that B.C. has state of the art health care facilities to provide patient focussed care for B.C. families.

The Centennial Building is part of the \$435-million Kelowna and Vernon Hospitals Project, and is the centrepiece of the largest investment in health care ever seen in the Okanagan.

It is on budget and ahead of schedule.

And there's a new helipad on the roof, leading edge operating suites, a bigger ER, a new renal department and a new eye care clinic.

But the story of these new buildings isn't about the number of new facilities...it's about what the expansion means to the patients and families.

The expanded emergency room is a patient focused area providing more privacy and confidentiality for patients and families. Its state of the art design should help reduce the amount of time spent in emergency.

The new helipad on the roof will shave up to half an hour off of response times.

And the new renal department has increased the number of hemodialysis stations to 16, building our capacity to treat more patients.

<pause>

But we all know that it takes more than a building to provide quality health care. It's the people who work tirelessly everyday that do the caring for the sick. Doctors like Walter Anderson, whose name is on the building that houses labs and clinical support departments.

Dr Anderson moved here in 1938 and practiced here for 42 years, delivering almost 3,500 babies.

He gave his time to the community and truly cared for the residents of Kelowna. He was a true pioneer and his legacy lives on today.

Moving existing departments into the building that bears his name will allow for the construction of the Interior Heart and Surgical Centre and I'm sure he'd proud of that.

<mention Dr Anderson's daughter Marietta and her husband Wally Lightbody – in the audience>

As a teaching hospital, these facilities will help us train our future doctors, with the UBC Southern Medical Program.

You'll soon have the fifth cardiac surgery program in B.C. so heart patients can stay closer to home and closer to their families.

The Kelowna Vernon hospitals project alone created 2,700 jobs, putting food on the table for families right here in this region, while they created excellence in health care for the people of the Okanagan.

In total, the Kelowna Vernon Hospitals project and the Interior Heart and Surgical Centre represent almost \$1 billion in health care capital investments in this region, and this will meet the demand of your growing communities...

Construction started here four years ago, and today we're standing in a vibrant, busy, state-of-the-art building that will mean so much...

The organizations who have stood beside our government on this project, and who I personally thank today are the Central Okanagan Regional Hospital District and the Kelowna General Hospital Foundation.

A hospital is just a building without the people who dedicate their lives to caring for us. I want to thank our health care providers, the people who work in our hospitals – doctors, nurses, administrators, cleaners and volunteers, who made all this a project that we are proud to deliver.

- END -

ERASE Bullying strategy launch
Friday, June 1, 2012
YMCA Surrey 10 a.m.
Speech length: 6 minutes

Event: what is it?

- This will be a high-level announcement of the 10-point strategy called ERASE Bullying , which includes: the training regime, online reporting tool for students, professional development day designated for anti-bullying training, and a safe schools coordinator for every district. ERASE = Expect Respect and a Safe Education

Audience: who are they?

- Minister George Abbott (speaking role)
- Rick Ryan, Surrey School Board Assistant Superintendent (speaking role)
- Minister Cadieux
- MLA Gordon Hogg
- MLA Linda Reid
- MLA Hayer
- Students
- Buffy Cornell - Past student tells own story (speaking role)
- Kevin Cameron, executive director of the Canadian Centre for Threat Assessment and Trauma Response
- Laurae McNally, Board Chair, Surrey School District
- Dave Teixeira, co-founder of the Pink Shirt Anti-Bullying Day Campaign

ACKNOWLEDGE: Minister Abbott, Minister Cadieux,
MLA Hogg, MLA Hayer, MLA Reid

- I have worked towards making sure students are safe at school for a decade.
 - Safe Schools Task Force (started 2002)
 - Pink Shirt Day
 - When I became Premier, I promised that addressing bullying in schools would be a high priority for my government. That's why I am so proud to announce ERASE Bullying, our ten-point strategy that will help ensure every child feels safe, accepted and respected.
- B.C. will lead the nation. This will be the first province to provide consistent training, policies and protocols across all 60 school districts, supported by strong community partnerships among social agencies, police, and schools.
- The strategy is backed by most comprehensive training program in Canada, aimed at 15,000 school district staff, teachers, police and community partners over a five-year period.

INTRODUCE next speaker

Buffy is a 24-year-old full time University student completing her degree in history. Buffy volunteers with Bluewave Foundation educating youth about mental health issues, and aims to eliminate the stigma that surrounds these conditions. Buffy personally dealt with bullying growing up, and is passionate about helping youth who have experienced similar harassment.

Details of the strategy:

ERASE Bullying (Expect Respect And a Safe Education) is a comprehensive strategy that will make British Columbia a nation-wide leader in addressing bullying and harmful behaviours. The 10 elements of the plan will begin in the 2012/13 school year and include:

- New online tools, including a Smartphone app, for kids to report bullying anonymously.
- A five-year, multi-level training program for educators and community partners to help them proactively identify and address threats.
- Dedicated safe school co-ordinators in every school district.
- Stronger codes of conduct for schools.
- Provincial guidelines for threat assessments.
- New online resources for parents.
- Formal protocols to guide and co-ordinate the work of school and community partners.
- A provincial advisory committee with representatives from police, school and social agency partners.
- Focusing one of the existing six provincial teacher professional development days to anti-bullying.
- Anti-bullying and threat assessment training for pre-service teachers.

Kitsilano Chamber of Commerce
Friday, June 1, 2012
12:00 - 1:30p.m. Shaw Business Tower – Vancouver
Speech length: 6 minutes

Event: what is it?

- Event is titled annual dialogue with the Premier
- PCC given 15 minutes to address Kitsilano Chamber members plus 15 Q&A.
- According to Kitsilano Chamber Events Chair:
 - Kitsilano leads with small retail businesses and restaurants, much more so than any other area in metro Vancouver

Audience: who are they?

- 80 - 100 guests are expected.
- Mostly small and medium sized business owners
- About 600 businesses and organizations are members of the Kitsilano Chamber of Commerce
- Minister MacDiamid
- John Winter, CEO, BC Chamber of Commerce
- Jon Garson, VP Policy Development

KEY MESSAGES

- My goal is to make life better for families. The best way for government to do that is to create conditions for the private sector to create jobs.
- B.C. is open for business and we are working with small and medium businesses across the province to create jobs, develop skills and seize opportunities whenever they exist – it's core to the jobs plan.
- Keeping B.C. a safe harbour for investment means maintaining a strong hold on our finances. You can count on our government to keep taxes low and control spending.

Acknowledgements/ Introduction

Thank you for inviting me here to speak.

ACKNOWLEDGE: Minister MacDiarmid

And let me also thank John Winter (President/CEO) and Jon Garson (VP Policy Development), who are here with us today, for their leadership on behalf of the BC Chamber of Commerce.

The Kitsilano Chamber has represented a strong voice for Vancouver's Westside businesses.

Today, that voice includes almost 600 businesses and organizations. You are one of the larger Chambers in BC. That is a real accomplishment.

But bringing people together is only the first step. Then you have to work together.

This Chamber has done just that:

- You're doing a great job highlighting local entrepreneurs and innovators, through your Westside Business Awards.

- And your Westside Unplugged event brought together communities and businesses to help protect our environment.

Taken together, these examples show exactly why Chambers like yours are so important to BC: by supporting small businesses, you help those owners come together and improve their communities in real, tangible ways.

Listening

Our government needs Chambers like yours, so that we can hear exactly what small businesses in this province need to thrive.

We are listening. We listened to the small business community's concerns about management training.

That's why we're working with the BC Chamber of Commerce to develop a micro-business training pilot project.

By working with local chambers of commerce across BC, this pilot will provide management training for up to 1,200 business owners who employ less than five people.

This will help ensure that they're trained with the skills they need to be able to do the best they can and create more economic activity.

Think about it from this perspective: a micro-business could be a mommy blogger, who's taken a year or two off to raise her children.

She's skilled in some field, but she's operating a small Internet business on the side while she raises her kids.

She might be doing well -- but those kinds of women tell me they could do a lot better if they had some training in some areas for which they don't have previous experience.

There is huge economic potential in those very small businesses across the province.

The Kitislano Chamber has inspiring local success stories like Lululemon and Plum clothing.

Ed des Roches (DE-ROSH) and his wife had an idea to start a women's boutique clothing store. 25 years ago they got their feet wet and opened their first Plum store on 4th and Dunbar. Over the years Plum has grown into multiple stores in many cities across the province.

These businesses are all examples of local innovation and creativity that have inspired and succeeded provincially, nationally and internationally.

I look around the room, and I'm betting that many of you will have started out in some of those micro-businesses -- maybe employing only one person -- and now maybe employing well over a hundred. That's how it begins.

Today, over half of Kitsilano's 4th Ave is made up of microbusinesses – with some of the best local independent restaurants, I would add.

As government, those are businesses that we need to listen to, and businesses that we need to help expand.

We want to do everything that we can to make sure that those seeds of entrepreneurial ideas are watered and fertilized, so they have every chance to grow into something much bigger.

Small business matters

In British Columbia, small business is big business.

- You represent 98 per cent of all our business.
- You keep more than a million people working.
- You drive more than 47 per cent of B.C. exports.

But you do more than that:

- You pay taxes to government.
- You make sure that families are putting food on the table.

- And you make a huge contribution to your local communities, by sponsoring the local baseball team, putting your name on the jersey for the local hockey team, making sure that those events, those community festivals, have that small amount of support that they need.

You knit communities together and help them thrive.

That's why it's so important to support small business -- which means supporting a thriving private-sector economy in every region of the province.

When we are supporting a thriving private sector, small business -- the imagination, the creativity, and all of the entrepreneurship and the tenacity that small business brings to the table -- has a chance to blossom.

I want you to know my government is on your side.

Jobs Plan/Families

I got back into politics for one simple reason: I wanted to make life better for BC families.

How? To me it starts with the fundamentals. It starts with a strong, competitive economy.

It starts with low taxes, controlled spending and a plan to balance the books.

And it starts with listening TO and working WITH small business.

The incentives we've created for small businesses are a great example of the thinking behind our Jobs Plan – modest government spending designed to maximize job creation, by focusing on encouraging businesses to hire.

We are helping small businesses get the capital they need to start up and hire more employees.

We are aligning regional training programs to local needs, so that British Columbians can get jobs that will let them stay close to home.

And we are reviewing our tax system to ensure that it is doing all that it can to support business competitiveness and economic growth, with a that panel brings together members of the small business community, tax experts and people from the government to develop recommendations to make sure BC's tax regime is attractive to global investors, and that it encourages innovation.

These incentives are all about encouraging small businesses to hire – because the jobs those small businesses create will be the engine of BC's success in the future.

Conclusion

So let me finish with this, because I want you to be clear where I stand.

I am pro-development. I am pro-balanced budgets. I am pro-fiscal conservatism. I am in favour of economic growth. I am in favour of more investment in our province. I am in favour of businesses, large and small.

That is what British Columbia was founded on -- an entrepreneurial spirit and imagination, from people who were willing and ready to take big risks.

Over the next decade, that is what is going to allow us to really take our place in this country and punch above our weight in Confederation, so that we can say with confidence, "Canada Starts here."

Thank you.

- END -

Pista ng Byan Philippine Celebration Sunday, June 3, 2012

Event: what is it?

"Together As One" celebration - many Filipino-Canadian organizations in Metro Vancouver are teaming up for the first time with the Philippine Consul General to stage three events to mark the 114th anniversary of Philippine independence this year, which occurs on June 12.

The events are: Flag-Raising at the Filipino Plaza (June 2); Pista ng Bayan at Slocan Park (June 3); and Historama, to be staged at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre (June 9).

NOTE: *Pista ng Byan means "feast of the nation". It will prominently feature Parada ng Lechon, which means "parade of pigs". There will be a parade of roasted pigs, some dressed up, which are traditional at village celebrations.*

Audience: who are they?

Consul General Jose Ampeso
MP Alice Wong
MLA Mabel Elmore
MLA Adrian Dix

Key Messages

- I was proud to be the first B.C. Premier to lead a trade mission to your beautiful country, and I had great discussions about labour mobility
- I am so grateful that you have chosen to make B.C. your home / great contributors to BC's growth and prosperity
- Congratulations on your community celebration prior to the Philippines Independence Day celebration.

ACKNOWLEDGE: Consul General Jose Ampeso

- I was proud to be the first B.C. Premier to lead a trade mission to your beautiful country, and I had great discussions there about labour mobility.
- Thank you for the warm welcome, much like I received last month.
- I'm so grateful that you have chosen to make B.C. your home and I thank you for your great contribution to the growth of our province and its prosperity.
- I'm really delighted to celebrate your "Together As One" event with you today, leading up to the 114th Philippine Independence Day celebration.
- I feel a particular affinity for the Philippines since I visited there, and I met with the Secretary of Labour and Employment, Rosalinda Baldoz and Foreign Minister Albert del Rosario.
- We talked about the ways labour mobility helps both our countries and our strong cultural ties.
- We're stronger together
- I wish you all the best as you celebrate 114 years of independence for the Philippines!

Groundbreaking - Ronald McDonald House in Vancouver
Thursday, June 7, 2012
Speech Length: 2-3 minutes

Event: what is it?

- Groundbreaking event for the new Ronald McDonald House on the campus of the BC Children's Hospital and BC Women's hospitals in Vancouver.

Audience: who are they?

- Approximately 100 guests expected, including:
 - Richard Pass, Ronald McDonald House BC CEO (speaking role)
 - Peter Snell, Board of Directors President (speaking role)
 - Gary Segal, Board of Directors (speaking role)
 - Barbara Mohan (speaker) and her son Jasper. (both staying at the House)
 - Families and volunteers involved with Ronald McDonald House
 - BC Children's Hospital Staff
 - Major Donors and Funders, Construction Partners
 - Media

Key Messages

- Our government knows that during such difficult times, its important families are able to be together, and that's why Ronald McDonald House facilities are so invaluable as they provide a place of refuge, warmth and love.
- Our government is a proud supporter of the new Ronald McDonald House as it helps B.C. families during a time of need, easing the emotional and financial strain for parents so they can focus on supporting and caring for their child.
- More than 2,100 families will be able to stay over one year, while the older Ronald McDonald House could only accommodate 400 families per year.

*you are also foreshadowing the upcoming Families First Agenda rollout

Ronald McDonald House Groundbreaking

Acknowledge:

- Richard Pass (thank him for his introduction)
- Mary McNeil, Minister of Children and Family Development and MLA for Vancouver-False Creek
- Margaret MacDiarmid, Minister of Labour, Citizen's Services and Open Government and MLA for Vancouver-Fraserview
- Colin Hansen, MLA for Vancouver-Quilchena+
- Patients, families and volunteers

Ronald McDonald House Groundbreaking

- It's an honour to be here.
- This house truly is a 'home away from home' for families all over BC who have to bring their kids to B.C. Children's Hospital for treatment.
- Our government is a proud supporter of Ronald McDonald House facilities, as they are invaluable places of refuge, warmth and love.
- Ronald McDonald House allows families to stay together during some of the most difficult circumstances and eases the emotional and financial strain so parents can focus on caring for their child.
- Once complete, over 70 families will be able to stay at one time. That means more than 2,100 families will be able to stay per year (old House only 400 families a year)
- Over the coming weeks we will announce more ideas and actions to support our commitment to B.C. families, including our Families First Agenda – our plan to strengthen our families and communities and prioritize government actions to improve the lives of all B.C. families.
- INTRODUCE: Jasper and Barb Mohan

Ronald McDonald House Groundbreaking

It is a great honour now to introduce 2 very special guests from Ronald McDonald House BC who are here to help us mark this important day. The young man you saw helping us place our logos of support on the House that love built is Jasper Mohan. He and his mom, Barb, have been staying at the House since December and haven't seen their home in Powell River for months. You can imagine for yourself what a strain it is on a family to have such separation from your home surroundings, friends and family, especially in a time of distress. Jasper Mohan is a very special young man – and I hear he's a bit of a celebrity back home for his intellectual capabilities that earned him a trip to Tennessee. Jasper and his mom would like to tell you in their own words what it means to stay at Ronald McDonald House, so now I give you Jasper Mohan and his mom, Barb Mohan.

Construction Labour Relations AGM
Friday, June 8, 2012
11:00 a.m. – Quilchena Golf Course, Richmond
Length: 15 minutes

Event: What is it?

- Construction Labour Relations Association AGM
- PCC will address crowd of 60 people in theatre style seating area with podium.
- Following the address she will join 120 golfers in the dining room.
- Opportunity to highlight our government's solid record and our actions to support the construction industry (trades training, housing starts, vacation homes, transportation strategy)

Audience: Who are they?

- PCC will speak to the CLR council in a meeting room at the golf club
- 60 people are expected and include private sector union workers; construction works, owners and operators.
- Jim Bromley - regional manager for Harris Rebar will introduce PCC
- Brian Savage – COO of Western Industrial Contractors will thank PCC

Key messages:

- Our government knows that the construction industry relies on a thriving economy. That's why we are focused on growth, jobs and keeping taxes and spending down.
- B.C. is open for business and we are working to create jobs, develop skills and seize opportunities whenever they exist – it's core to the jobs plan.
- Keeping B.C. a safe harbour for investment means maintaining a strong hold on our finances. You can count on our government to keep taxes low and control spending.

ACKNOWLEDGE:

- Thank **Jim Bromley** for introduction.
- **Hon. George Abbott**, Minister of Education and MLA for Shuswap
- **Hon. Pat Bell**, Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Innovation and MLA for Prince George – Mackenzie
- **Harry Bloy**, MLA for Burnaby - Lougheed
- **Hon. Stephanie Cadieux**, Minister of Social Development and MLA for Surrey – Panorama
- **Ron Cantelon**, MLA for Parksville – Qualicum
- **Murray Coell**, MLA for North Saanich and the Islands
- **Marc Dalton**, MLA for Maple Ridge – Mission
- **Hon. Mike de Jong**, Minister of Health and MLA for Abbotsford West
- **Eric Foster**, MLA for Vernon – Monashee
- **Randy Hawes**, MLA for Abbotsford – Mission
- **Dave Hayer**, MLA for Surrey – Tynehead
- **Kash Heed**, MLA for Vancouver – Fraserview
- **Gordon Hogg**, MLA for Surrey – White Rock
- **Rob Howard**, MLA for Richmond Centre
- **John Les**, MLA for Chilliwack
- **Hon. Dr. Margaret MacDiarmid**, Minister of Labour, Citizens' Services and Open Government and MLA for Vancouver – Fairview
- **Joan McIntyre**, MLA for West Vancouver – Sea to Sky

- **Hon. Don McRae**, Minister of Agriculture and MLA for Comox Valley
- **Linda Reid**, MLA for Richmond East
- **John Rustad**, MLA for Nechako Lakes
- **Hon. Steve Thomson**, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and MLA for Kelowna – Mission
- **Jane Thornthwaite**, MLA for North Vancouver – Seymour
- **Hon. Naomi Yamamoto**, Minister of Advanced Education and MLA for North Vancouver – Lonsdale
- **Hon. John Yap**, Minister of State for Multiculturalism and MLA for Richmond – Steveston

Introduction

Our government recently completed an effective legislative session... we are moving our vision of the province forward with legislation that protects taxpayers, helps businesses create jobs and keeps BC on course for sustained economic progress.

That's what I want to talk you about today.

Construction Association matters

But first, I want to start by acknowledging each of you in this room for the role you play in building our province.

The construction industry is one of the largest and most important sectors in BC, employing about 200,000 people.

You represent 7% of the province's workforce and you contribute 15% of the gross provincial product.

You play a major role in the growth and strength of British Columbia.

My government is committed to working with the construction industry to open up B.C.'s economy and generate new opportunities for growth.

We are moving ahead with infrastructure projects that will help ensure our talented construction trades people are working in every region of the province.

- The Evergreen Line...it'll improve transit times, so families in the Lower Mainland can spend more time together. This project will create 8000 construction jobs that will help support families.
- The Cariboo connector...a key part of the Pacific Gateway Transportation Strategy. The connector will increase capacity on key provincial highways and create 1000 jobs.
- The Port Mann/Highway 1 Project is on budget and on schedule and will create 8000 construction jobs.

To help support housing industry, we announced relief measures like the first-time home buyer's bonus and we increased the housing rebate threshold.

Our government knows that the construction industry relies on a thriving economy. We are focused on growth, jobs and keeping taxes and spending down.

BC Jobs Plan - Progress

Economic growth is the bedrock of healthy safe communities. That's why we are relentlessly focused on implementing the BC Jobs Plan, to grow our economy.

We're looking to see how government can get out of the way of job creators.

And it's working:

- Since February 2011, B.C. has gained 57,900 jobs to the economy – 19,700 alone in April.
- A few weeks ago, we issued a permit for Red Chris mine, a \$444-million project that will create 250 jobs up north.

- Mitsubishi recently gave us a huge vote of confidence by investing \$2.9 Billion in Encana's natural gas operations here in BC.
- We introduced a brand new \$600B Liquid and Natural Gas industry to BC. They are already clearing land for the first Natural Gas line.
- Rio Tinto Alcan is investing \$3 billion to modernize its Kitimat smelter.
- And working with Seaspan, we helped to secure the future of shipbuilding in B.C. with an \$8 billion federal contract, creating more than 4,000 jobs over eight years.

We're opening the door for thousands of new jobs.

BC Jobs Plan – Skills Training

Over the next 10 years, we expect to create over a million new job openings.

We know we face a skills shortage. So we're working with businesses, industry, municipalities, First Nations and the academic sector to develop solutions.

We've begun by piloting regional workforce tables in the northwest and northeast, working with trainers, labour and business to look at the kind of training we need.

We are prioritizing labour market program investments for the construction sector to align with local economic needs.

For example, we provided over \$2.3 million in Labour Market Agreement funding to the BC Construction Association so that that they can deliver their Skills Trades Employment Programs to connect more people with new careers in construction trades.

We also recognize that to enable jobs in the construction industry we need a strong and vibrant apprenticeship system. That's why we are extending the BC Training Tax Credit and we are investing in the Industry Training Authority.

British Columbians need the right skills for tomorrow.

BC Jobs Plan – Trade mission

British Columbia is a small export trading jurisdiction and we need to be aggressive in reaching out to new markets and reassuring existing partners how important they are to British Columbia.

That's why I've made two trips to help expand our markets – mostly recently to Japan, Korea and the Philippines.

If there's one other 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 – especially our Triple A credit rating.

Economy- staying the course

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.

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

That's why we introduced a budget that lays a firm foundation for the future - putting British Columbia on path to eliminating the deficit, protecting public services and building a more competitive economy that attracts jobs and investment.

Confidence also comes from making living in BC a little more affordable. That's why we introduced targeted tax credits to help seniors needing to make renovations so they can stay in their homes and for parents who children in sports and arts program.

Ten years ago, BC turned the page on the policies that are creating economic chaos in much of the world today – and our budget ensures our province has a bright future.

We picked ourselves up and dug ourselves out of the hole and started rebuilding ... investing in vital infrastructure, while getting our fiscal house in order.

Now, when many countries are looking inward and hunkering down, we are reaching out. We stand on the cusp of real economic renewal.

We are turning the page again to a time of unprecedented opportunity.

B.C. must remain a safe harbour for investment. So you can count on us to keep taxes low and control spending.

Conclusion

So let me finish with this, because I want to be quite clear about where I stand.

I am pro-development. I am pro-balanced budgets. I am pro-fiscal conservatism. I am in favour of economic growth. I am in favour of more investment in our province. I am in favour of businesses, large and small.

That is what British Columbia was founded on -- on an entrepreneurial spirit and imagination, from people who were willing and ready to take big risks.

Over the next decade, that is what is going to allow us to really take our place in this country and punch above our weight in Confederation, so that we can say with confidence, "Canada Starts here."

Thank you.

-END-

Cranbrook Women's Group Breakfast
Saturday June 9, 2012
Speech length: 5-7 minutes

Event: what is it?

- Cranbrook Women's Group Breakfast meeting

Audience: who are they?

- 60- 90 women from the area

KEY MESSAGES:

- I got back into politics to help families in BC, and I am committed to doing what's right for families.
- Strong women role models help raise great people and build strong, caring societies.
- I want to hear from you about what is important to you and your family. And I want to hear your ideas about how we can prioritize government actions to improve the lives of all B.C. families.

- Delighted to be in Cranbrook. Honoured to speak with you.
- I got back into politics to help families in BC, and I am committed to doing what's right for families.
- Recently in Korea on second Jobs and Trade mission – heard a story highlighting importance of women.
- The man pictured on their 5000 WON bill is Yi Yulgok, who was a prominent 16th century Korean Confucian scholar and also a revered politician and reformer.
- His mom, on the other hand, who nurtured and created her prodigy son, is on the 50,000 WON bill.
- With family and strong female role models great people and societies are built.
- That's why our government is putting families first in BC.
- Over the coming weeks we will announce more ideas and actions to support our commitment to B.C. families, including our Families First Agenda – our plan to strengthen our families and communities.

Accomplishments for families in Cranbrook/Kootenays:

- In Aug. 2011, Baker Gardens opened – a 36-unit modular housing development for seniors and people with disabilities. Our government contributed \$2.2M.
- Also in Aug. 2011, 26 practical nursing spaces were funded at the College of the Rockies, to create more opportunities for students in health care.
- In June 2011, contributed \$300K to expand Internet service in rural areas of the Kootenays. This is crucial for the future of our young people and their education, for the health of families and to help local businesses stay competitive in a connected world.
- Our government contributed \$5.8M to Haven Gardens, a supportive housing development for women and children fleeing abusive relationships.
- Last month, Cranbrook was identified as one of seven communities to participate in a pilot project where poverty-reduction strategies will target the unique needs of families struggling to get out of poverty – addressing the needs specific to your community and your region.

- I want to hear from you about what is important to you and your family. And I want to hear your ideas about how we can prioritize government actions to improve the lives of all B.C. families. FEEDBACK FORM.
- Thank you

-END-

Kootenay Child Development Centre
Saturday June 9, 2012
Speech length: 2 minutes

Event: what is it?

- Government is providing a \$50,000 community gaming grant to the Kootenay Child Development Centre to enable it to expand its programs and services

Audience: who are they?

- Kootenay East MLA Bill Bennett
- Gwen Noble, Community Connections
- Kootenay Child Development Centre reps
- Families

KEY MESSAGES:

- This centre is exactly what Kootenay-based families need and we are proud to support the completion of this important community facility.
- The KCDC centralizes a number of health and development services for children, reducing travel time for parents and allowing them to access comprehensive supports in one building.
- Every parent knows how difficult it is to juggle life's many demands, and every moment that can be spared is valuable. But what is most important is that children receive the care they need in a timely way, with the least amount of stress on parents.

- Delighted to be in Cranbrook. Honoured to speak with you.
- Thank Kootenay East MLA Bill Bennett and Gwen Noble for their unwavering support of the fundraising efforts for the new Centre.
- Announce: our government is providing a \$50,000 community gaming grant to the Kootenay Child Development Centre to help you expand the programs and services you provide to families throughout the Kootenays.
- And a special congratulations to the organizers and community members who raised an impressive \$1 Million on your own from non-government sources! Great initiative for families in this region.
- The health and development services that kids in the Kootenays need will now be centralized, reducing travel time and stress for parents.
- This centre is exactly what Kootenay-based families need, and we are proud to support the completion of this important community facility.
- That's just one reason my government is putting families first in B.C.
- Wish I could be here for your grand opening on celebration this coming Friday – it's going to be a great event.

Irving Barber Celebration of Life
Monday June 11, 2012
Speech length: 2-3 minutes

Event: what is it?

- Memorial Service for Irving K. Barber

Audience: who are they?

Friends and family of Irving Barber

Program:

Mike Apsey, Former Deputy Minister, BC Ministry of Forests and Range, Master of Ceremonies
John Chenoweth, Dean of Community Education and Applied Programs, NVIT Aboriginal Prayer
Stephen J. Toope, President and Vice-Chancellor, The University of British Columbia
Rory Fulber, Recipient, Irving K. Barber British Columbia Transfer Scholarship
Hon. Christy Clark, Premier of British Columbia, MLA, Vancouver-Point Grey
Don Clutterham and Terry Upgaard, Slocan Forest Products Ltd. Colleagues and Friends
Lower Mainland Doukhobor Choir and Friends
Martha Piper Former President and Vice-Chancellor, The University of British Columbia
James I. Barber Tribute
Video presentation

Key messages

- Irving "Ike" Barber was a great Canadian and a true British Columbian icon.
- He personified one of life's greatest principles by giving back to his community and his province.
- His legacy will live on in educational facilities like the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre at UBC and the Irving K. Barber School of Arts and Sciences at UBC's Kelowna campus.

- Today we celebrate the life of a great Canadian and a true British Columbian icon, Irving “Ike” Barber.
- For most of his life Irving worked in our province’s forest industry, founding Slocan Forest Products at age 55.
- During his 24 years at the company’s helm, it became a leader in our forest sector, but more important than that, Irving Barber personified one of life’s greatest principles – he gave back. He gave back to his community and to his province.
- He gave back generously and selflessly, contributing tens of millions of dollars to support research and education throughout B.C.
- His legacy will live on in UBC’s Irving K. Barber Learning Centre, to which he donated \$20 million dollars in 2006, the largest single donation to a project in the university’s history...
- And in the Irving K. Barber School of Arts and Sciences at UBC’s Kelowna campus, to which he donated \$10 million dollars in 2004.
- On behalf of British Columbians everywhere, I offer our sympathy and condolences to his wife Jean, his three children and his extended family of grandchildren and great-grandchildren.
- The likes of Irving K. Barber come along all too rarely, and he will truly be missed throughout British Columbia.

Pillar One Families Agenda Monday, June 11, 2012

Event: what is it?

- Introduction of first pillar of Families First Agenda BC – protecting vulnerable families at Neil Squire Society training centre.

Audience: who are they?

- Minister Cadieux (speaking role)
- Janet Austin, CEO -YWCA Metro Vancouver (operates Vancouver Westside WorkBC Employment Services Centre& involvement in women without status policy (speaking role)
- Dr Birch, Executive Director at Neil Squire Society (speaking role)
- Employment program clients (non speaking roles)

Key Messages

- A good paying, stable and secure job is one of the most important contributions to a healthy, happy and strong family.
- A key pillar of our government's Family First Agenda is to support vulnerable families.
- These balanced changes will remove barriers to employment and provide adequate support for those in need. We want to make sure British Columbians can fully participate in our growing economy. We know that the best social assistance program is a good paying job that provides people with dignity, respect and opportunity.

Acknowledge:

Minister of Social Development, Hon. Stephanie
Cadieux

Harry Bloy, MLA for Burnaby Lougheed

Richard Lee, MLA for Burnaby North

Janet Austin, CEO of YWCA Metro Vancouver

Dr. Birch, Executive Director of Neil Society

Introduction

I got back into politics to make life better for British Columbian families – to put families first.

And my government has made significant progress in doing so.

We raised the minimum wage.

We created Family Day.

We invest more than \$1 billion across B.C. on early learning and childhood development every year.

We've increased child-care spaces since 2004 to over 99,000.

We've invested \$30 million for the community recreation program for 98 projects throughout the province so that every family has an opportunity to raise healthy kids and have an active lifestyle.

We launched seven pilot projects that target the unique needs of families struggling to get out of poverty because we recognize that every community and every family has distinct needs and resources.

And we will do more, because we believe strong, healthy families are the foundation for strong, stable and safe communities.

Over the coming weeks we will be announcing more ideas and actions to support our commitment to families in B.C., including announcing our Families First Agenda for British Columbia.

It will support every B.C. family, and it will lay out the path our government is taking to strengthen families and the communities they live in.

It will prioritize actions across government that will continue to improve the lives of all B.C. families.

Today, I'm really proud to announce the first of three pillars of the Families First Agenda. This pillar is 'Protecting Vulnerable Families'.

We have a duty to protect and care for B.C.'s most vulnerable citizens and our government takes that duty very seriously.

We know that every family deserves the opportunity to grow, prosper and live in a safe community, so our government is acting to help families succeed.

That's why the policies laid out in this plan are designed to help families in B.C. continue to progress and thrive and become more self sufficient.

We are working to reduce poverty across B.C. in many ways - like providing low-income families with enhanced supports to help them get by.

We have helped families weather the recent recession by increasing opportunities to improve their economic well-being.

This year, more than 95,000 households in this province will benefit from provincial social housing programs and services.

Our government believes that a good-paying, stable and secure job is one of the most important contributions to a healthy, happy and strong family.

Because for some families, that job means the difference between having to worry or not about making sure their child can get a healthy breakfast before they head off to school.

57,700 net new jobs have been created since February 2011, helping families all across B.C.

But there are still too many British Columbians who are not sharing in the prosperity and who need our help.

Improving financial outcomes

We want to strengthen these families and will continue to work hard to find new ways to fight poverty and help the most vulnerable.

Although we believe our income assistance system is one of the best in Canada, we also understand that there is always room for improvement.

We have listened to concerns from clients, families and advocates and agree that many of those concerns are valid.

We are making changes to some of our income and disability assistance policies to help build a stronger foundation for B.C. families.

For instance, we all know that the beginning of the school year means additional expense for families on income assistance, so we are increasing their school start up supplement to \$100 for every child aged 5 to 11, and \$175 for every child 12 and over.

A person on income assistance who can work can now earn up to \$200 a month and not be penalized.

Millions of dollars in federal tax benefits go unclaimed because people don't file taxes.

To make sure families are receiving all tax benefits available to them, our government is introducing mandatory tax filing for income assistance recipients, and we'll relieve clawbacks on income tax benefits and support. We'll also provide help for first-time filers to file their taxes

And we're going to better harmonize our policies for families on income assistance with other Canadian provinces.

Assisting individuals with disabilities

We are also looking our disability assistance program. Although we believe it too is one of the best in Canada we know there is always room for more improvement.

We're increasing trust account limits to help people with disabilities lead more independent lives.

We are increasing the value of assets people on disability assistance can retain. For instance couples and families will be able to retain up to \$10,000 in assets, up from \$5,000.

Earning exemptions for people with disabilities will also increase to \$800 a month for a single person or \$1600 a month for a couple.

Cycle of Income assistance dependency

To help families avoid the cycle of income assistance dependency, we are expanding the intensity of work search requirements.

For new income assistance applicants, this means extending the work search from three to five weeks to strengthen their efforts to find employment.

We are also reinstating earning exemptions for those able to work so they will have a better opportunity to get jobs and skills experience.

This government believes people who can work want to be self-sufficient and contribute to their communities.

We want to make sure British Columbians can fully participate in our growing economy.

These balanced changes will remove barriers to employment and provide adequate support for those in need.

They will help people get back into the workforce, and improve financial situations for vulnerable people and families.

Conclusion

The Families First Agenda is the next step in our work to support families.

It highlights what we have accomplished with the BC Jobs Plan by introducing focused measures to strengthen families.

We'll keep our commitment to being a small government that controls spending – especially during tough economic times, just like any family would. And, we'll build on these actions as we move forward.

There will be a lot of opportunity for public engagement on the Families First Agenda in the coming months, and I invite every British Columbian to share their ideas with us.

Jobs, Families and Open Government are our government's three priorities.

This Families First Agenda, built on the foundation of our Jobs Plan and with opportunities for British Columbians to provide input, reflects all three of those priorities.

Join us in implementing and expanding this agenda, so we can create a better British Columbia for all families.

- END -

**Roots of Empathy
Vancouver Baby Celebration
Tuesday, June 12, 2012
Speech length: 3-5 minutes**

Event: what is it?

- The event will bring together program participants and representatives with some of B.C.'s tiniest teachers: babies who accompany their parents to elementary classrooms around the province throughout the year to help students understand empathy and reduce bullying and aggression.

Audience: who are they?

- Mary McNeil, Minister of Children and Family Development
- Roots of Empathy trained mothers and babies – up to 70 babies (including Christina Price, Parent of Timothy)
- Mary Gordon, Roots of Empathy founder
- Lyle Vireck, Director, Roots of Empathy Board of Directors
- Chief Ian Campbell
- Children who participated in ROE program

KEY MESSAGES:

1. Government recognizes the value of the Roots of Empathy program – as it helps address the very serious issues of bullying and violence in schools.
2. Bullying has no place in our schools and parents deserve to know their children are safe in school. This issue is a priority for me.
3. The Roots of Empathy Program offers an enlightened way of opening children's eyes to the world around them, and teaching young children about empathy, trust, and encouraging kindness with one another.

ACKNOWLEDGE:

- Hon. Mary McNeil, Minister of Children and Family Development and MLA for Vancouver – False Creek
- Linda Reid, MLA for Richmond East
- Mary Campbell, founder and President of Roots of Empathy
- Lyle Vireck, Director, Roots of Empathy
- Chief Campbell for the blessing
- Babies and mothers who volunteered their time to this worthwhile program

- We now know just how important it is to have babies visit the classroom to encourage children's empathy for others who may be different than they are.
- I was extremely proud to see the re-instatement of this powerful and impactful program into BC classrooms at the end of the 2011 school year.
- Bullying has no place in our schools and parents deserve to know their children are safe in school.
- So as part of our anti-bullying strategy, my government has committed to provide ongoing funding to expand the Roots of Empathy (ROE) and Seeds of Empathy (SOE) programs.
- I want to thank all the parents who brought their babies into BC schools and the thousands of B.C. teachers who opened their classroom in hopes of helping their students develop social and emotional literacy.
- I also want to thank Minister Children and Family Development Mary McNeil and Education Minister George Abbott, whose ministries committed \$400,000 each beginning this year for 5 years.
- This funding will ensure that teachers have the support and training they need to implement these programs in their classrooms.

-END-

Story for possible inclusion:

- A story about the program that has stuck with me is one told to me about the current assistant superintendent of School District 54 (Smithers), Mike McDiarmid.
- When his oldest son was in kindergarten, the class participated in the Roots of Empathy program
- Mike and his wife had just had a new baby. The boy told his parents that since they had a mom and dad in their family, and him, they didn't need this new baby – so they could send it back.
- But as the year went on the little kindergarten student gradually became an expert on babies, coming home with parenting tips for them.
- Eventually, this little boy came to adore his tiny baby brother, and his father says that Roots of Empathy absolutely improved his home life.

Additional Facts on Roots of Empathy:

- B.C. was the 2nd province in Canada to offer the Roots of Empathy program. In 2000, it began in just 10 classrooms in Vancouver.
- To date, Roots of Empathy has reached more than 100,000 B.C. children and has included nearly 4,000 babies, many of whom are now students themselves.

Barkerville Visit
Wednesday, June 13, 2012

Event: what is it?

- Announcement of \$2.4 million to support Barkerville's operations as the largest living history museum– 125 historic buildings - in western N. America.
- Declared a National Historic Site of Canada in 1923, and a Provincial Heritage Site in 1958.
- Barkerville is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year.

Audience: who are they?

- Total expected: 60 people
- Sue Morhun, Board Chair of Barkerville (speaking role)
- Judy Campbell, Executive Director of Barkerville (speaking role)
- Roughly 30 employees
- Friends of Barkerville
- Barkerville Board members

Key Messages

- I'm proud to be here at Barkerville's 150th anniversary to support the preservation of the town, a great place for B.C. families and visitors to learn more about British Columbia's history, hands-on.
- The \$2.4 million is part of \$21 million over 3 years to support B.C. heritage sites that we announced in Budget 2012 .
- Barkerville played an instrumental role in the founding of British Columbia.

ACKNOWLEDGE:

- Sue Morhun, Board Chair of Barkerville (thank for introduction)
- Honourable Steve Thomson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resources
- Honourable John Yap, Minister of State for Multiculturalism
- Marc Dalton, MLA for Maple Ridge-Mission
- Honourable Don McRae, Minister of Agriculture
- Honourable Shirley Bond, Minister of Justice and Attorney General
- Ron Cantelon, MLA for Parksville-Qualicum
- Honourable Pat Bell, Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Innovation
- Richard Lee, MLA for Burnaby North

- On Barkerville's 150th anniversary, I'm here to present a \$2.4 million grant to support the town's operations as the largest living history museum—125 historic buildings - in western N. America.
- We're proud to support the preservation of Barkerville, a great place for B.C. families and visitors to learn more about British Columbia's history, hands-on, and the great work you do here.
- More than 100,000 people came to the Cariboo between 1862 and 1870 to look for gold, making it the largest city west of Chicago and north of San Francisco. The growth and attraction of Barkerville was instrumental in the founding of B.C.
- I brought back a letter of intent last fall from the Guangdong Museum of Overseas Chinese, to host a photographic exhibit in 2013 called Who Am I? It documents the lives of Chinese migrants in Barkerville in the late 1800s and early 1900s, and it also strengthens our relationship and showcases Barkerville as a tourist destination.
- In Budget 2012, we announced \$21 million over three years to support 11 provincial heritage properties. This will provide support for operations and maintenance. It will bring more financial certainty to the sites across B.C. that attract tourists and visitors.

**St. Paul's Hospital Redevelopment
Wednesday, June 13, 2012
Speech length: 3-5 minutes**

Event: what is it?

- Announcement of the start of planning for redevelopment of St. Paul's Hospital, as a part of Budget 2012.
- The event comes a day after government announced a commitment to redevelop Royal Columbian Hospital.

Audience: who are they?

- Minister de Jong
- Dianne Doyle, Providence Health Care President and CEO
- Dr. Eric Grafstein, head of emergency procedure, St. Paul's Hospital
- Health care professionals
- Honourable Mary McNeil, Minister of Children and Family Development and MLA for Vancouver-False Creek
- Honourable Margaret MacDiarmid, Minister of Labour, Citizens' Services and Open Government and MLA for Vancouver-Fairview

Key Messages

- **Redevelopment of St. Paul's Hospital is a priority for our government and we are committed to redevelop the facility to ensure that patients and their families continue to receive the world-class health care the St. Paul's is renowned for.**
- **It's of great importance that we take the next steps in the redevelopment of St. Paul's Hospital. That's why my government is announcing the concept plan is currently being finalized for the project.**
- **Patients and health care professionals can have confidence that my government is placing great priority on addressing redevelopment and modernization of St. Paul's Hospital.**

ACKNOWLEDGE:

- Minister de Jong
- Dianne Doyle, Providence Health Care President and CEO
- Dr. Eric Grafstein, head of emergency procedure, St. Paul's Hospital
- Honourable Mary McNeil, Minister of Children and Family Development and MLA for Vancouver-False Creek
- Honourable Margaret MacDiarmid, Minister of Labour, Citizens' Services and Open Government and MLA for Vancouver-Fairview
- Health care professionals

- Very happy to be here today – a turning point in the history of St. Paul's hospital – just one day after my government announced our commitment to redevelop Royal Columbian Hospital.
- St. Paul's delivers world-class care to families in Vancouver and from across B.C., but we all know it's facing significant aging infrastructure challenges, and the facilities weren't built to meet today's acute care standards.
- So it's critically important that we take the next steps in the redevelopment of St. Paul's Hospital.
- I want both patients and health care professionals to know they can have confidence that my government is placing great priority on addressing the redevelopment and modernization of St. Paul's Hospital.
- That's why I'm excited to announce that we are moving ahead on developing a concept plan for redevelopment of St. Paul's Hospital as part of Budget 2012.
- Finalizing the concept plan is a critical milestone that will lay a strong foundation for a redeveloped hospital that will ensure that in the years to come, patients and their families will continue to receive the world-class health care the St. Paul's is renowned for.

**Prostate Cancer Foundation of BC
Safeway Father's Day walk/run
Sunday, June 17, 2012
Speech length: 3-5 minutes**

Event: what is it?

- The 14th annual Safeway Father's Day walk/run (formally the Do it for Dad). This event is a celebration of men and their families, not just a walk/run – all proceeds in support Prostate Cancer Foundation BC.

Audience: who are they?

- Health Minister Michael de Jong

Prostate cancer survivors:

- Former Attorney General and provincial judge Wally Oppal
- Don Konantz, CEO and founder of Colorworks
- Dr. Riley Senft
- Dr. Martin Gleave, executive director of the Vancouver Prostate Centre (TBC)
- Dr. Larry Goldenberg, founding director of VPC.
- Walk/run participants
- Media

Key Messages:

- Prostate cancer affects one in seven men. Even though B.C. has some of the best cancer survival rates in Canada, we can always do more.
- That's why in March our government contributed \$5 million to the Vancouver Prostate Centre to research new treatments in the disease, which is seen as a world leader in research and treatment of prostate cancer.
- This disease has taken far too many grandfathers, fathers, sons, husbands and loved ones from their families and we need to do everything we can to help find a cure. That is why we are committed to raising awareness and providing support.

ACKNOWLEDGE:

- **MC Mike Kileen**
- **Harry Bloy**, MLA for Burnaby-Lougheed
- **Moira Stilwell**, MLA for Vancouver-Langara
- **Richard Lee**, MLA for Burnaby North (needs to leave by 10:30am)
- Volunteers, runners, friends, families and supporters

- Hearing the diagnosis of cancer for any family is frightening and devastating news – my family knows this deeply.
- Prostate cancer has taken our grandfathers, fathers, husbands, brothers and sons, and is the third-leading cause of male cancer death after lung cancer and colorectal cancer.
- Too many men are still diagnosed with this terrible disease. This year alone, about 3,575 British Columbian men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer and it's the second-leading cause of male cancer deaths. About 540 men in B.C. expected to die in 2012.
- Prostate Cancer is a “silent disease” that affects one in seven men, but we know that detection and treatment in its earliest stages provides the best chance for a complete cure.
- Our investments in cancer research are paying off as British Columbia has some of the best outcomes in North America, with a cancer care system that is a model for other provinces.
- Even though B.C. has some of the best cancer survival rates in Canada, we can do more.
- This past March, we committed \$5 million to the Vancouver Prostate Centre at Vancouver General Hospital.
- Since 2001, we have invested more than \$800 million in health research, including more than \$10 million to the Prostate Centre.
- My government is committed to investing in cancer research to build on our reputation as a world-leader.

Vancouver Office Opening – Agricultural Bank of China
Monday, June 18, 2012
Speech length: 3-5 minutes

Event: what is it?

- Celebration of the opening of the Vancouver office of the Agricultural Bank of China (AgBank), their first in Canada.
- Two-hour event with Chinese cultural performances, video presentations followed by a reception.

Audience: who are they?

- Mr. Chao Gong, Senior Vice President, Agricultural Bank of China (From Beijing head office) (speaking role)
- Deputy Consul General Runlong Mao (speaking role)
- Mr. Hao Shi, Chief Representative of Agricultural Bank of China in Vancouver (speaking role)
- Mr. BC Lee, Fireglow Communications (Emcee)
- Members of the Chinese community, including Chinese Enterprise Association, Taiwan Business Association, Canadian-China Business Council, Hong Kong Business Association
- Expected audience size, approx. 250 people

Key Messages

- **Congratulations to the Agricultural Bank of China on this occasion of the opening of their Vancouver office, their first in Canada.**
- **This is a prime example of how international education initiatives can lead to business and trade opportunities.**
- **We look forward to continuing to support Agriculture Bank of China's work as they facilitate the activities of other Chinese companies, which will build the BC economy through investment and by managing transactions, particularly with Chinese and Asian firms.**

ACKNOWLEDGE:

- Mr. B.C. Lee, MC (thank for introduction)
- Mr. Chao Gong, Senior Vice President, Agricultural Bank of China (From Beijing head office)
- Deputy Consul General Runlong Mao
- Mr. Hao Shi, Chief Representative of Agricultural Bank of China in Vancouver
- Honourable Mary McNeil, Minister of Children and Family Development and MLA for Vancouver – False Creek
- Honourable Margaret MacDiarmid, Minister of Labour, Citizens' Services and Open Government and MLA for Vancouver – Fairview

- Happy to be here at the opening of the first Canadian-based office of the Agricultural Bank of China, right here in Vancouver.
- In B.C., one thing that sets us apart is that we share strong and deeply rooted historical and cultural linkages. We have built strong ties and important relationships.
- The opening of this office is a prime example of how human connection can drive economic growth. It is an example of how government's international education initiatives lead to business and trade opportunities.
- When I led our first Jobs and Trade Mission to China last year, we focused on spreading the message that Canada Starts Here in British Columbia: Safe haven for investment; Low personal and corporate taxes; Triple A credit rating; Skilled labour force; World-class infrastructure.
- We also focused on attracting international students who will become friends and unofficial ambassadors for BC.
- There's a great example of that here today in AgBank's Chief Representative in Vancouver, Mr. Shin Hao, who studied at UBC.
- The Agricultural Bank of China office will provide a critical link for Chinese companies interested in doing business in BC and Canada; and also for BC businesses looking to expand to China.
- Congratulations and welcome to AgBank. We look forward to a long and prosperous future with you here in BC.

Agricultural Bank of China Facts

- Established in 1951 as the Agricultural Cooperative Bank.
- On Jan. 15, 2009 AgBank was restructured into a joint stock liability company and has been listed on the Shanghai Stock Exchange and the Hong Kong Stock Exchange since July 2010.
- A prime focus for the bank is catering to the needs of rural development in China, while expanding into the international market as a first-class commercial bank.
- In 2011, the bank ranked #127 in Fortune's Global 500, and #7 in The Bankers "Top 1,000 World Banks" list in terms of profit for 2010.
- As of 2011, it ranked 8th among the top 100 world banks
- 23,461 domestic branch outlets in China, including Head Office in Beijing.
- Overseas outlets consisted of 3 branches and 4 representative offices – the representative office in Vancouver will be the 5th.
- ABC has 320 million retail customers, 2.7 million corporate clients, and nearly 24,000 branches. It is China's third largest lender by assets.

Pillar Two - Families First Agenda
Wednesday, June 19, 2012
Speech Length: 7- 9 minutes

Event: what is it?

- Introduction of the second pillar of the Families First Agenda BC – Safe Communities, Strong Families.

Audience: who are they?

- TBC

Audience: what do they want to hear?

KEY MESSAGES:

- The second pillar of the Families First Agenda – Safe Communities, Strong Families - reinforces our work to ensure families are protected and feel safe in their communities. It details our work in the fight against gun and gang violence, furthers justice reform and our efforts to ensure the needs of children are always at the forefront.
- We are investing a further \$66 million over the next three years in anti-gang police teams to sustain 168 positions, and developing a strategic plan for policing that includes looking at ways to strengthen the Organized Crime and Gang Unit.
- We have accelerated implementation of our new Family Law Act to ensure that the interests of children are first and that alternatives to court are provided. We are expanding child protection mediation for vulnerable families who need it.

Pillar Two – Families First Agenda – June 19, 2012

Introduction

- When I became Premier my key objective was to put families first.
- That means doing everything necessary to make sure that our government's actions put families right at the centre of our work.
- Ensuring that families are protected and that they feel safe is a key part of putting families first in BC.
- When families face violence, they lose the sense of community that helps people thrive together.

Accomplishments

- Our government has been aggressive in helping make our communities safer and more secure and we will continue to do that.

Pillar Two – Families First Agenda – June 19, 2012

- For example - our 'bait car' program - the largest program of its type in the world - has reduced auto theft by 71% over the past eight years. Not only has it cut crime, it has kept potentially dangerous drivers off the road.
- We have taught first responders to identify trafficked persons and to provide them with protection and support.
- Our 10-year old partnership with the federal government to establish the Drug Treatment Court of Vancouver has reduced drug-related re-offending rates for its graduates by more than half.
- And, British Columbia is the first province in Canada to require criminal record checks of individuals working with vulnerable adults.

Pillar Two – Families First Agenda – June 19, 2012

- These initiatives have been very effective and our crime rate is falling. But we must do more to provide protection to families and vulnerable British Columbians.
- Today, we are announcing the second pillar of our Families First Agenda: Safe Communities, Strong Families which reinforces our work to ensure families are protected and feel safe in their communities.
- It details our work in the fight against gun and gang violence, furthers justice reform and our efforts to ensure the needs of children are always at the forefront.

Safer and more secure communities

- In 2009, our government invested \$53.3 million to establish the building blocks for the Gangs and Guns Strategy.

Pillar Two – Families First Agenda – June 19, 2012

- We put additional officers on the streets and have reduced and solved gang killings, interrupted murder conspiracies, put hundreds of gangsters and associates behind bars, and seized hundreds of illegal weapons.
- We believe in this strategy, and we've committed to an additional \$66 million over 3 years to pay for 168 policing positions.
- We are developing a strategic plan for policing that includes looking at ways to strengthen the Organized Crime and Gang Unit so their presence is felt in all communities targeted by organized crime.
- A new administrative process is also being developed to streamline traffic ticket disputes and free up court resources for more urgent matters.

Pillar Two – Families First Agenda – June 19, 2012

- And to better protect consumers, we intend to propose legislative changes that will regulate businesses that provide debt consolidation services and regulate advance fees paid.
- We are committed to expanding Justice Access Centres to British Columbia communities, because they have proven to be a great success in Vancouver and Nanaimo.
- The centres offer justice information, and services like dispute resolution. Pro bono lawyers provide legal advice to help solve family and civil justice problems faster and more effectively.
- We are making B.C. safer because we believe that every family deserves the opportunity to grow, prosper and live in a safe community.

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Pillar Two – Families First Agenda – June 19, 2012

Access to justice and resolving family disputes

- This pillar furthers justice reform in ways that support families in crisis, puts children first and provides more options for out-of-court resolutions.
- We know many families need support to ensure the safety and health of their children, particularly in times of transition or family breakdown – so I am also pleased today to announce that the groundbreaking Family Law Act will come into effect on March 18, 2013.
- It was developed after consulting with more than 500 stakeholder groups and the public and will change the way families resolve disputes.
- Most importantly, this new Law makes it clear that children's well-being comes first in BC - the well-being of the child must be the only consideration in making decisions involving the child.

Pillar Two – Families First Agenda – June 19, 2012

- The law encourages parents to work together to keep family disputes out of the courtroom.
- It will also address family violence and parenting arrangements, to improve safety and security.
- We now have 35 new child protection mediators to work with families in rural, remote and Aboriginal communities. That means there are more than 80 child protection mediators in every region of B.C.
- When families break up, these mediators will help resolve issues, and ensure that the interests of the children come first.
- We also provide support to families through the Family Maintenance Enforcement Program, which enforces family support orders.

Pillar Two – Families First Agenda – June 19, 2012

- Since 1988, when the program began, this office has helped ensure that over \$2.6 billion in child and spousal support payments went directly to the children and families who needed it.
- And last year, they have been more successful than ever. The program processed over half a million individual payments. That's more than 2,000 a day.

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And they collected a record \$190 million in family support which made a significant difference to 45,000 B.C. families.

- These important initiatives represent just some of what we do to ensure children's interests are put first.

Conclusion

- Our Families First Agenda supports families. It highlights what we have accomplished and introduces focused measures to strengthen families.

Pillar Two – Families First Agenda – June 19, 2012

- But it is also a beginning.
- There will be a lot of opportunity to for public engagement on the Families First Agenda in the coming months, and I invite every British Columbian to share their ideas with us.
- That is open government. We are here to listen and take action.
- Our families First Agenda will grow and adjust, just as the needs of British Columbians change and evolve.
- This Families First Agenda, built on the foundation of our Jobs Plan and with opportunities for British Columbians to provide input, reflects my government's priorities of putting families first, creating jobs and opening up government.

- END -

BC Business Council Energy Conference
Vancouver Convention Centre West
Thursday, June 21 – 11:30am
Length: 20 minutes

Event: What is it?

- Invitation to provide remarks at the BC Business Council Energy conference and participate in a Premier's Panel discussion to close the Conference.
- The Premier would provide introductory remarks to the panel followed by a moderated Q&A session.

Audience: Who are they?

- Approx 250 people: Business, government and energy sector leaders from across Western Canada
- Peter Tertzakian, Chief Energy Economist and Managing Director at ARC Financial Corporation (Keynote speaker)
- Jim Prentice, Senior Executive Vice President and Vice Chairman, CIBC (Guest Speaker)
- Reps from Mitsubishi, Encana and BC Hydro will be present
- Local government reps
- Ellis Ross, Haisla First Nation
- Media invited

Key messages:

Our government understands that B.C.'s energy future will drive our economic future. That's why we're focused on creating a brand new

industry in B.C. in Liquid Natural Gas, reducing the backlog of mining permit applications and opening new doors to trade with Asia.

Introduction

I am pleased to be here today to address people who are of such vital importance to families across British Columbia.

Among you are the leaders who will make the new Liquefied Natural Gas industry a reality for our province.

You are the experts in this industry.

You understand the highly competitive nature of our race to succeed.

You understand what I mean when I say Canada starts here.

And you are part of a partnership, with us in government, with First Nations, and with those who care deeply about the environment.

Each of us is doing all we can to see this new industry realized, and by working together we will help BC thrive.

I have been reflecting on a debate that has been raging here for the past several months.

It is a debate about pipelines.

It is a debate about resource extraction.

And it is a debate about exports.

Ultimately, it is a debate about our future – the future of British Columbia, the future of Canada, and our future place in the world.

I have been an aggressive promoter of LNG development, and my government is working to ensure we clear the way for your investment. But it's not just about getting out of your way. It's also about supporting you, by creating the right policies and physical infrastructure, so that your investment can be put to work.

My government's record on LNG development is the proof in the pudding.

Back in September, I launched our BC Jobs Plan with the goal of accelerating growth by capitalizing on our natural advantages.

Our mining, forestry and transportation sectors represent some of BC's incredible strengths.

These industries are the historic backbone of our province. They are our inheritance. They've sustained us for over a hundred years and they will sustain us for a hundred more.

And now we can add Natural Gas and Liquefied Natural Gas to that list. Two singular advantages we have here in BC.

We have set an ambitious target for Liquefied Natural Gas plants in British Columbia.

And you know what I promised. At least three new plants.

We are a government in a rush – we know that the window for this opportunity won't necessarily be open for long.

Our Jobs Plan committed the government to working with natural gas export proponents to bring at least one LNG pipeline and terminal online by 2015, and to have three in operation by 2020, assuming all have passed their environmental reviews.

In February, our government released strategies for Natural Gas and for Liquefied Natural Gas development in B.C.

For LNG, the strategy is guided by three basic principles:

- Keeping B.C. competitive in the global natural gas market.
- Maintaining B.C.'s leadership on climate change and clean energy.
- And keeping energy rates affordable for families, communities and industry.

These principles require a delicate balance.

Since February, we have been negotiating electricity rates and infrastructure contributions with LNG proponents.

We have created a group that works across government ministries and crowns. They are working together on labour, permitting, regulatory matters and First Nations engagement, developing workplans for each project.

Very importantly, we are working with First Nations partners, and I am delighted to see that Ellis Ross participated in a panel here this morning on national Aboriginal day.

All of this collaboration is about working together to develop an incredible new industry for BC.

Natural gas is nothing less than the opportunity of our lifetime.

It's an opportunity that can generate \$600 billion dollars of economic activity over the next 30 years. And that's just the downstream benefits.

The upstream benefits could be another \$500 billion.

Add it together. A trillion dollars worth of direct economic impacts.

It's an industry that can spur job creation in every corner of the province, force us to think about how to better train skilled workers to meet the needs of our economy, and it will promote innovation in technology – specifically clean technology.

When I released our Jobs Plan, I was criticized. I'm not afraid to tell you that.

We committed to 17 new and expanded mines. Some people said it was too ambitious, that it wasn't possible.

Others said we shouldn't really be doing any more mining.

Well I'm happy to say that based on the progress we've made so far, our goal is starting to sound modest!

We made a commitment to eliminate mining permitting backlogs, and within 6 months we had reduced the original backlog by 83%.

In the last year alone, we have permitted five new mines:

- Mt. Milligan
- New Afton
- Bonanza Ledge
- Red Chris
- Treasure Mountain

We've also permitted five expansions already.

This is the biggest expansion of mining in the modern era of British Columbia.

It's quite a change from 2001, when only one mine was actively moving through the environmental approvals process.

I'm telling you this to prove that when we make a commitment, we get it done.

We are delivering on mining and we will deliver on LNG.

Two LNG projects have already received export licences from the National Energy Board – BC LNG Douglas Channel and Kitimat LNG.

Four projects are in various stages of due diligence, including preparing themselves for applications:

1. LNG Canada, which is the partnership of Shell, Korea Gas, Mitsubishi and Petro-China.
2. The Progress/PETRONAS joint venture.
3. The Nexen/INPEX joint venture.
4. And a potential British Gas Group project in Prince Rupert.

We have also engaged with other companies from around the world on other projects that are on the drawing board.

These are projects that represent huge revenues for our province.

This is how we pay for health care, education and the other social services that are so vital to our quality of life.

We pay for our social services with money we collect from BC citizens.

And when more families are working, when more businesses are prospering, the less we have to take from each of them, and the less we have to take from all of you.

When I look out into this audience and I see representatives from Shell, EnCana, Apache, Spectra, and other companies, I see paycheques in the pockets of men and women across this province, I see kids who don't go to school hungry. I see strong families, and I see us building a better province and a better country together.

But we cannot create this great society without you.

As I said earlier, LNG represents a trillion dollar industry over the next 30 years.

Just to put that in context, that is five times as large as BC's current annual GDP.

It is bigger than the annual GDP of Quebec and Ontario combined.

It's a brand new industry that can provide huge revenues that we can use to improve services for future generations, and help the families that need it most.

Construction of LNG facilities and pipelines are anticipated to generate up to 60,000 person years of employment over a decade, and create spin-off jobs in sectors like technology throughout the province.

Just think what that would mean to W.A.C. Bennett, who also created a new industry here. He had a vision that opened up our province for resource development and he

was the one whose vision really set us on the road to prosperity.

With full development of LNG in British Columbia, we could see more than 1500 kilometers of pipeline. And our exports could grow up to roughly 2 Trillion Cubic Feet per year by 2022.

I love these numbers.

They represent years of health care spending, years of funding for our schools, our kids, our parents, our families.

They represent an opportunity for us to strengthen families in every corner of BC, an opportunity to make our children's dreams come true, an opportunity for us to look after our most vulnerable citizens, and an opportunity for us to create prosperity for regional economies in BC that have been suffering through tough times.

And better yet, I know that with the review processes we have in place, this development is balanced with the

highest standards of environmental protection, to ensure that our kids and their kids will be able to enjoy all the clean air, clean water and other spectacular natural gifts that make life better for every British Columbian.

I'm sure this sounds like good news to all of you.

And it is certainly something that I celebrate.

But make no mistake.

There is opposition to this development in British Columbia and there are many who are not celebrating with us.

We all know – and this is abundantly clear in the work BC Hydro is doing now in their consultations on the Integrated Resource Plan – that our future power needs in British Columbia are significant.

But we will encounter strong resistance in British Columbia to our plans to increase our use of hydro power to process

natural gas. Our opponents oppose Site C, because they say we don't need the energy.

They demand also a moratorium on new independent renewable energy sources.

But liquefied natural gas development is an opportunity that we can't miss out on, and new energy sources are a crucial part of our plan.

By fighting our efforts to develop new renewable energy resources for our plants, the opposition could squander this incredible opportunity for BC.

Natural gas is the cleanest burning fossil fuel on the planet, one that will help us protect clean air and clean water the world over. So why wouldn't we want to go that extra step and use renewable energy to process it as well?

Not only would it protect our environment, we would be the first in the world to produce it with clean energy.

We must expand our capacity for power generation in British Columbia.

If we refuse to develop our own new, clean power sources, the effect would be to raise electricity rates for BC families, and expose us to the uncertainty of the global energy market.

Not building Site C and a moratorium on independent power would put us in a position where we become net importers of energy, losing all control over how clean our power is.

And in addition to the economic benefits that will flow from this new industry, it will also help BC be even more of a leader in the fight against climate change.

We can do well by doing good.

By helping Asian countries move from coal-fired generation to the cleanest burning fossil fuel, we will be helping advance a global solution to a global problem.

However, the power from Site C and new independent renewable power will still not be enough to allow us to achieve that delicate balance between keeping rates low, remaining competitive and protecting our environment.

To make sure BC can win in the global marketplace while doing our part for the environment, we will be announcing a new regulation that will define natural gas as clean energy under certain circumstances.

Our regulation will have two key components:

- First, this definition will apply only to natural gas that is being used to support LNG development in the north. We will not change the definition for power use in the rest of the province.
- Second, this regulation will only apply to power generation that meets world leading environmental standards on emissions.

This is consistent with our comprehensive natural gas strategy and also consistent with our efforts to use renewable energy. We continue to be committed to the use of local renewable energy. Our Liquefied Natural Gas industry will use the cleanest power of any LNG industry in the world.

But even beyond the question of power, if our opposition had their way, we wouldn't be able to attract investment to this incredible opportunity – in the last six months alone they have recommitted themselves to raising royalties.

But I know that jacking up taxes and royalties means investors will flee.

They say they support natural gas development, but they don't support the infrastructure the industry needs. That's like saying you want to win the Stanley Cup, without ever lacing up a pair of skates.

BC is a safe harbour. We have a triple A credit rating that has proven to be a magnet for international investment.

We have that triple A rating because we have controlled government spending and we are balancing our budget.

We've done that because we simply can't let once in a lifetime opportunities like this be undermined by reckless and risky economic policies.

Our competitiveness is vital to each of you and your families. When you make the pitch for B.C. in your international boardrooms, I want you to win.

Because when you win, B.C. wins.

My government has moved fast.

We recognized immediately that the demand/supply gap for global LNG is expected to close somewhere between 2018 and 2020.

Some of our competitors have been on track for some time. Others are just joining the race along with us.

When our first three projects come to fruition, B.C. could be exporting close to 25 million tonnes per annum by 2020, putting Canada in the top five LNG exporters in the world.

Some of you may have heard about my government's agenda this spring. Again, some called it too ambitious. I think they just didn't like the heavy lifting.

I said, bring it on.

I said bring on new legislation that allows British Columbia to enter into agreements with Canada and First Nations, to administer provincial laws on First Nations lands.

Like on a Haisla Nation reserve near Kitimat.

I said bring on changes to our self-sufficiency policy to mitigate rate increases. That means B.C. Hydro treating every year like we're experiencing average water

conditions, instead of assuming each year will have historically low water inflow conditions.

I said bring on the Labour Market Partnership to create a natural gas workforce strategy and action plan.

Government has doubled the number of apprentices in the system since 2004, but 32,000 apprentices still isn't enough. We must do more.

That's why we have policy changes underway that not only include rethinking our post-secondary education system, but also secondary education in BC. There are still students not graduating from high school, so we need to be able to offer them a secondary school education that captures their interest and keeps them in school.

For many, that could be a trades focused curriculum that leaves them better prepared to enter the work force as they graduate.

Where we have jobs, we want British Columbians trained to fill them.

We will ensure that the over \$500 million we provide annually for labour market and training programs is targeted to meet regional and industry labour demands, including those of the LNG market.

And we have undertaken engagement with local communities on concerns about water use, exposure to sour gas and emergency response.

We initiated work with industries and local communities to establish an airshed monitoring association for the Peace.

Simply put, we are paving the way to take advantage of growing global demand for LNG.

Japan is the main market, followed by South Korea. I visited both of those countries in May to pitch the BC opportunity.

China's demand is forecast to increase over 500% in the next 8 years.

India's demand is also expected to grow dramatically, by over 300% in the same period.

That's why I visited China and India last November.

My government is committed to building and maintaining the confidence of the international investment community, so that we can draw those dollars to British Columbia.

Lately we've heard some national and provincial political leaders say that investment, wealth generation and well-paying jobs in B.C. and Alberta are undermining the well being of the rest of the country.

I disagree. Resource development and extraction is an essential part of who we are. Lumber, coal, copper, gold, and natural gas.

We need to stand up for our province and fight for BC families. That means working to develop policies that will

benefit BC's economy, and ultimately Quebec and Ontario's too.

Developing resources and selling them is not a disease. It's healthy. Good for BC, good for the West, and good for Canada.

We are facing tough issues, maybe the most difficult of the public policy questions we must grapple with.

And that takes character and stamina. You can't walk away because it's hard work. You can't shrink away from criticism.

My commitment to British Columbia and to Canada is a simple one.

I am fair and open-minded, and I am always – ALWAYS – weighing what is in the best interests of our province.

That requires a cooperative, common sense approach with our federal government. But that's easier said than done.

They have a budget to balance, just like we do.

They are immersed in tough public policy questions, just like we are.

They are committed to economic development that will improve the prospects of Canadians, just like we are.

I consider the federal government a partner.

We work together when we agree. And we work together when we disagree.

And I know that in every good partnership, you have to start with good faith.

I want to work with Ottawa's national leadership on development questions, while always keeping BC's interests in mind. And that's also my approach with my fellow premiers.

Because I truly believe that Canada does start here.

This is a unique moment in our history – the stars have aligned for our province.

We can do more than our fair share for the rest of Canada ... and we can grasp BC's potential to build the future of our country.

But I need your help to do it.

Working together, we can continue to make BC an energy powerhouse, and we can drive our province's economy and the country's economy forward.

We can realize our potential and we can create the future we dream of.

I spoke to you earlier about W.A.C. Bennett's historic vision for BC. About how he opened up resource development, kick-started our economy and helped create jobs that supported thousands of families across B.C.

W.A.C. Bennett saw a bright future for BC, and he made it

a reality.

W.A.C. Bennett got a lot done. But he was also Premier for almost 20 years. Well, I see a bright future too, and believe me, I'm just getting started.

Thank you.

-END-

Greek Day
Sunday, June 24, 2012
Speech length: 3 minutes

Event: what is it?

- Event to celebrate Greek Heritage and engage with the Greek community of Kitsilano. Premier to speak during the welcoming ceremony.

Audience: who are they?

- MP Joyce Murray
- MLA Colin Hansen
- Mayor Gregor Robertson
- Georgios Ayfantis – Consul General of Greece
- John Craig – SFU Dean of Arts
- Andre Gerolymatos – Chair of Hellenic Studies at SFU
- Patrick North – President of the WBBIA
- Michael Christopoulos – President of Hellenic Canadian Congress
- Peter Capadouca – Chairperson Greek Heritage Month/Greek Day

Key Messages:

- Thank you for your generosity of spirit and all the hard work that goes into Greek Day every year. You contribute so much to our province.
- Over 100,000 people will come to Greek Day this year to find their kefi (spirit).
- Announce \$20,000 contribution to Greek Days

- Thank Peter Zelis for the introduction.
- Acknowledge the distinguished platform party, incl:
 - Colin Hansen, MLA for Vancouver - Quilchena
 - And my good friend Andre Gerolymatos
- It's an honour to join the festivities at Greek Day.
- And to be a part of the 100, 000 people that celebrate this festival every year.
- Impressed how this event has grown over the years.
- Everyone in Vancouver who is looking for their kefi (spirit) will be here this afternoon to celebrate with you.
- Greek Days is more than a celebration of Greek culture it's a celebration of our province.
- It's an opportunity to remind everyone what Greek culture means to BC – family, community, service.
- These are bedrock beliefs you bless us with... beliefs that help define who we are and who we all need to be as British Columbians.
- Because strong happy families, build strong communities
- Proud we are able to support this event with a contribution of \$20,000 to help keep the celebration strong and fun and vibrant.

- Thank-you! And OPA!

Families First Agenda Launch
Monday, June 25, 2012
Speech length 10-12 minutes

Event: what is it?

- Introduction of third pillar of Families First Agenda BC – family affordability – at the South Arm Community Centre.
- Introduction of a student loan repayment assistance program that will provide better supports for people on low incomes having trouble repaying student loans.

Audience: who are they?

- Families, parents, seniors, students

Key Messages

The Families First Agenda for B.C. helps strengthen B.C families so that they have the best ability to succeed. We are making targeted investments to support those most in need and will continue to find ways to innovate existing programs, to ensure they are making a difference for B.C. families.

Today, we are inviting British Columbians to become part of the dialogue on how to make a meaningful difference for families on topics such as

affordable child care, encouraging savings for a child's education, and improving crime prevention programs.

The Families First Agenda highlights family-first actions our government has accomplished, outlines initiatives we are currently implementing, and invites dialogue from British Columbians to help shape and frame future policy decisions.

We are introducing a new, two-stage Repayment Assistance Plan to ensure that low-income students –and their families –have extra support when repaying their student loans.

Acknowledgements

- Minister McNeil (emcee)
- Minister Yamamoto
- MP Kerry-Lynne Findlay

Introduction

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

Everyday and everything we do is about making that commitment a reality. In every decision we make, we ask ourselves whether we've put families first. We ask whether we're making a difference. We ask what more we can do.

Family can mean a lot of different things. Families are as diverse as our great province, but the thing that unites them is an unshakable commitment to supporting each other.

Strong, happy families are the building blocks of good communities, a thriving province, and a great country.

We know that every family wants opportunities to grow, to prosper and to live in a safe community.

We know that every family wants the chance to succeed, to be self-sufficient and to contribute to a growing and strong economy.

By putting families first, we have made significant progress in making life better and a more affordable for families across BC.

We raised the minimum wage. We created Family Day. We are implementing our Family Law Act on March 18 next year so that a child's well-being comes first in British Columbia.

We also launched seven pilot projects that target the needs of families struggling to get out of poverty, because

we recognize that every community and every family has unique needs and resources.

But we must do more. We have to make sure that every British Columbian can fully participate in our growing economy. And that means looking out for the families that need it most.

Over the last few weeks we've talked about two pillars of our Families First Agenda – 'Supporting Vulnerable Families', and 'Safe Communities, Strong Families'.

We know that the best social assistance program is a good paying job that provides people with dignity, respect and the opportunity to support their families' needs.

That's why we introduced balanced reforms to our income and disability assistance programs as part of our 'Supporting Vulnerable Families' pillar.

Our government is dedicated to making our communities safer and more secure. That's why we committed \$66

million over the next three years to keep 168 positions in our anti-gang police teams as part of the 'Safe Communities, Strong Families' pillar.

Keeping Family Life Affordable

Raising a family is an exciting challenge, but for some families, it can be difficult to tend to things that others take for granted – like packing a healthy lunch every day or putting enough money aside to pay for their child's education.

Today, I'm proud to announce the last of the three pillars of the Families First Agenda – 'Family Affordability'.

Our government is continuing to look at every possible means to help make life more affordable for British Columbians.

We've worked to keep taxes low. Since 2001, provincial personal income taxes for most taxpayers have been

reduced by 37 per cent. More than one million British Columbians no longer pay any B.C. income tax.

We introduced renovation credits and homeowner grant programs that reduce property taxes.

We provide property tax deferral options for qualified people, and renovation grants that help seniors stay in their own homes.

And we are keeping tuition increases capped at 2 per cent, to ensure that our students can build the lives they dream of once they finish school.

Student Loan Repayment

Even though tuition in British Columbia has been Canada's 4th lowest for the last six years, sometimes students need extra support—particularly those with a lower income or who those with family responsibilities that put an extra strain on their budgets.

And as tough as being a student can be, many of us can also relate to how difficult it is to repay student loans as a recent graduate who is new to the work force.

So, as part of the 'Family Affordability' pillar, we're introducing changes that will better support British Columbians with student loans.

On July 1, a new, two-stage plan will ensure that people with a lower-income—and their families—have the support they need when repaying student loans.

The first stage provides payment assistance for the interest portion of the student loan, while the second stage provides payment assistance for the principal portion of a loan.

This new Repayment Assistance Plan is based on the borrower's ability to repay—meaning that income, family size and student loan debt load are accounted for in the eligibility process.

This plan was designed by the federal government with input from B.C. and the other provinces, with the goal of replacing previous programs intended to help students manage their loans.

We are doing this because this common sense approach offers more flexibility; particularly around the income threshold.

That flexibility allows us to help out people who are making a little bit more money but are still struggling with student loans because of their circumstance.

What's also different is that the program, in its second stage, will actually forgive a portion of a borrower's debt. For some people it could actually be all of their debt.

No such program currently exists in B.C. We expect that this new plan will provide support for up to 20,000 people every year.

Public Engagement

Our Families First Agenda is important to the future of B.C. because it will strengthen every family, in every corner of our province. It lays out the path our government is taking to support families and help the communities they live in thrive.

It also identifies important areas where we are looking for more feedback from British Columbians, to ensure that the good ideas families can offer us are translated into actions that meet the needs of citizens.

Our government has a great track record of progressive and innovative policies and programs to help families.

- We instituted a 50 per cent reduction in BC Hydro's proposed rates over three years
- We started all day Kindergarten

- British Columbians can now access assistance with the cost of smoking cessation aids
- And we initiated the B.C. First-Time New Home Buyer's Bonus

But as the needs of families change, so must government's approach.

We've learned that to make a difference, to be meaningful, we have to listen BC's families. That's why we will consult with British Columbians on key elements of the Families First Agenda.

We're encouraging people to tell us what issues matter most to their family. We want to hear ideas about:

- How we can increase access to childcare and make it more affordable.
- How we can make Strong Start, an early learning program for young children, better.

- How we can encourage more saving for education.
- How we can improve support for families dealing with dementia.
- And, how we can improve crime prevention programs.

My commitment to British Columbians is that if you get involved, you will be heard. We are always ready to listen.

Your input will connect with decision makers, and decision makers will connect back with you, so that you know your feedback hasn't just disappeared into an inbox.

We will report back with a summary of these consultations over the course of the fall and these ideas will inform our future budget priorities.

That is our approach to open government — we are here to listen, to act on good ideas, and to report back on our progress.

Conclusion

The “Families First Agenda for British Columbia” is designed to help B.C. families continue to progress and thrive.

Three pillars are at the heart of the Families First Agenda: Supporting Vulnerable Families; Safe Communities, Strong Families; and Family Affordability.

It highlights what we have already accomplished to strengthen B.C. families, and shows the actions we are taking to build on these initiatives as we move forward.

The challenges that families face are linked to the issues we face together as a society: keeping the cost of government affordable; an aging population; affordable

housing and services; protecting vulnerable families and children; and ensuring safe streets and communities.

So please, join us in implementing, developing and expanding this Families First Agenda.

If we work together, I know we can create a better British Columbia for every family.

One where they have every opportunity to make their dreams come true.

- END -

Smoke Alarm Campaign Event – West Kelowna
June 26, 2012
Speech Length: 1-2 minutes

Event: what is it?

- Third in a series of smoke alarm events being held across B.C. with the goal of saving lives by having a working smoke alarm in every B.C. household. This event will announce West Kelowna as the newest partner in the campaign.

Audience: who are they?

- Hon. Shirley Bond, Minister of Justice and Attorney General and MLA for Prince George-Valemount
- Ben Stewart, MLA Westside-Kelowna
- Hon. Steve Thomson, Minister of Forest, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and MLA for Kelowna – Mission
- Hon. Stephanie Cadieux, Minister of Social Development and MLA for Surrey Panorama
- Len Garis, President, Fire Chiefs Association of B.C. and Surrey Fire Chief
- Doug Findlater, Mayor, District of West Kelowna
- Kidde Canada rep Pat Follett, Black Press and insurance industry representatives
- Westbank First Nation representatives
- Media

Audience: What do They Want to Hear?

KEY THEME: Safety and Security for Families

KEY MESSAGES

- The goal of this campaign is to have a working smoke alarm in every household in British Columbia and throughout Canada. The Fire Chiefs Association of B.C. and our office of the Fire Commissioner are providing leadership to ensure this life-saving campaign is effective and sustained.
- Since the campaign kicked off in March, it has gained \$425,000 in support from Kidde Canada and Black Press, including the donation of 5,000 smoke alarms and a \$350,000 multimedia investment.
- I am pleased to announce that West Kelowna is now the newest member of the campaign.

- Acknowledge: Minister Bond, Minister Thomson, Minister Cadieux, MLA Stewart, and Pat Follett from Kidde (Kid-dah) Canada
- Making sure families are protected and feel safe is a key part of our government's Families First agenda. One of the simplest, most effective ways we can protect the safety of B.C. families in their homes is by ensuring they all have a working smoke alarm that they test regularly. In fact, research shows working smoke detectors can reduce fire related deaths by 32 percent.
- This is what the Families First agenda is all about – targeted measures that can have a big impact on the lives of B.C. families.
- Our government and its partners launched the Smoke Alarm Campaign in March to achieve that goal, with spectacular results.
- Kidde (Kid-dah) Canada provided 5,000 smoke alarms and Black Press donated a \$350,000 multimedia investment. BC Hydro is getting the message out to its 200,000 customers using blogs, social media and an e-newsletter.
- We are guided by the Fire Chiefs' Association of B.C., the office of the Fire Commissioner and supported by the Insurance Brokers Association of B.C., to name a few.
- And we are gaining momentum. Today, I am especially proud to announce that West Kelowna has become our newest partner in this important program.

June 26, 2012 - Smoke Detector Campaign Event

- We know that older British Columbians are particularly at risk and with so many people choosing to retire in the beautiful Okanagan, our campaign is especially relevant here.
- Thank you West Kelowna for helping us get out an important message that reflects our commitment to families in this province.
- Working Smoke alarms save lives, and prevent injuries and property damage in B.C. You owe it to your family to have them. It's a matter of life and death.

TELUS Data Centre Ground-breaking
Friday, June 29, 2012
Speech length: 5 minutes

Event: what is it?

- Official ground-breaking of Kamloops data centre site
- It will be announced that for each guest in attendance, a tree will be planted by Tree Canada.
- A cheque for the total raised by TELUS's Phones and TVs for Good campaign in the region will be presented to the benefiting charity, the Royal Inland Hospital Foundation. The amount will be for \$360,000 and Darren Entwistle will cross this out with a marker during the presentation and change it to \$400,000.

Audience: who are they?

- Minister MacDiarmid, MLA Krueger, MLA Lake
- Darren Entwistle – president and CEO of TELUS Corp.
- Mayor of Kamloops Peter Milobar
- BC Hydro representative (TBC)– future client
- Key stakeholders – business and community
- TELUS team members
- Media

KEY MESSAGES:

This data centre is more proof that the BC Jobs Plan is working – it will create 200 jobs during construction and 75 permanent jobs for Kamloops.

Kamloops has a highly skilled workforce and is in a perfect geographic location to become a hub for data centres, along with the family-supporting jobs that come with them.

Over 84,000 British Columbians work in the technology industry and jobs in technology are growing twice as fast as overall employment growth in the province.

- This is a very exciting day for Interior British Columbia as we stand on the site of the future TELUS data centre in Kamloops.
- TELUS is investing \$100 million dollars in Kamloops over the next 3 years to build this new Data Centre and to provide wireless and wire-line communications to residents, companies and government.
- The data centre will create 200 construction jobs and up to 75 permanent jobs – contributing to the regional economy.
- Investments made by TELUS in BC are a great example of what the private sector can do for families – from building infrastructure that provides Internet access to rural areas, to creating jobs that support families across B.C.
- By the end of the year, TELUS will bring Kamloops the most advanced, fastest wireless technology available in the world.
- Technology is one of the sectors in our Jobs Plan we are focusing on because we know that families, schools and businesses need to faster and more stable connections to be able to thrive.
- So it is my government's goal to see every community in BC is connected with high-speed Internet in the next 10 years.
- Our Families First Agenda is designed to help families in B.C. continue to progress and thrive – and Families First Agenda is built on the foundation of the BC Jobs Plan.

- We are proud to work with companies like TELUS – to see them creating jobs and opportunities for BC families.

Background:

Of the \$100 million investment, \$75 million is dedicated to building the Internet Data Centre and \$25 million is dedicated to providing the wireless and wire-line communications to residents, local companies and government.

TELUS will invest \$3 billion in advanced technology and state-of-the-art facilities over the next three years in British Columbia.

Hiring 800 people this year alone and bringing world's fastest wireless service to 4 million British Columbians.

TELUS will maintain and improve high-speed Internet connections for families and businesses in rural and remote B.C.