

## **Official Opening of Schneider Electric Microgrid Lab July 8, 2014**

**Event:** Official opening of the Schneider Electric Microgrid Lab. The Premier will speak for 2-3 minutes. Premier will flip the switch to declare the lab open. The Microgrid lab will develop and test inverters. These convert DC solar power to AC for grid transmission on a global utility scale.

### **Audience:**

- Daniel Peloquin, President, Schneider Electric Canada
- Laurent Bataille, Senior VP and CEO Solar Business, Schneider
- MC Jill Tipping, VP Operations and CFO, Schneider Electric
- Schneider Electric employees
- MP Kennedy Stewart,
- Burnaby Mayor David Corrigan
- media

### **KEY THEME:**

BC economy is regaining momentum. We have a bright future as a global provider of clean energy.

### **KEY MESSAGES:**

Schneider's continuing investments in B.C. are an expression of confidence in B.C.'s bright future as a global provider of clean energy and clean energy technology.

**ACKNOWLEDGE:**

MC: JILL TIPPING (VP Operations & CFO, Solar Business, Schneider Electric)

DANIEL PELOQUIN, President, Schneider Electric

LAURENT BATAILLE, Senior VP and CEO, Solar Business, Schneider Electric

KENNEDY STEWART, NDP MP for Burnaby-Douglas

DEREK CORRIGAN, Burnaby Mayor

First of all, let me congratulate Schneider Electric for being selected as the 2014 BC Technology Impact Awards "Team of the Year".

It's a well-deserved honour and proof that you're among the very best in the technology business.

As British Columbia's 9<sup>th</sup> largest technology company, we all have a stake in the success of Schneider Electric.

Because from the very beginning, British Columbia has made a living supplying resources and energy to our neighbours.

But it's not just a question of hewing wood and drawing water, as the old saying goes...  
Increasingly, it's about innovation.

It's about new technologies.

It's about finding ways to supply cleaner, greener forms of energy – because demand is going up.

And make no mistake – that demand will be met.

If it's not from clean sources like solar, or liquefied natural gas, it will come from burning more coal.

B.C. has a very bright future as a global provider of clean energy and clean energy technology.

That's what our Skills for Jobs Blueprint is about.

We are better aligning our education and training with real-world industry needs to ensure British Columbians are first in line for the jobs that will come...

In our growing LNG industry...

And with companies like Schneider Electric.

Schneider Electric's investment in this lab...and the \$50 million they invest annually in solar power research...

Are a vote of confidence in that green future.

It's a big step in the right direction – one that will create a better, cleaner future.

Thank you.



**Event:** BC Liquefied Natural Gas Engagement Dialogue hosted by Government of British Columbia

**Audience:**

**Sheikh Abdullah** (Address as “Your Highness”), UAE trade delegation, and BC private sector representatives.

BC LNG is poised to transform our economy. British Columbia is a great place to invest and do business, and the UAE is a potential key partner in the development of this new industry.

**KEY THEME:** Brief introductory greeting. The LNG engagement dialogue promotes British Columbia’s potential as a reliable energy supplier and safe harbour for investment.

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- Greetings and Happy Ramadan.
- I just came from an excellent meeting with His Highness Sheikh Abdullah and his delegation.
- I’m very pleased that His Highness has had this opportunity to visit British Columbia, and get a look at what we have to offer.
- Again, it was an honour for my ministers and me to have the pleasure of meeting you today, Your Highness.
- I’d like to thank Minister John Baird and Minister Ed Fast for arranging His Highness’ visit, and Minister James Moore for his participation.

**BC LNG Engagement Dialogue**

July 8, 2014

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

- I told His Highness about BC's strong record of fiscal responsibility – our balanced budget, our Triple-A credit rating, our strong business climate – and the many investment opportunities here, from LNG to infrastructure, natural resources and services.
- I think we established a foundation of goodwill that will allow us to build on our existing relationship with the United Arab Emirates.
- This Liquefied Natural Gas Engagement Dialogue will provide our guests with an overview of the great potential of BC's natural gas resources, and the LNG export industry we are developing with our industry partners.
- I regret that I can't stay – but I leave you in the capable hands of Colin Hansen, president of AdvantageBC, who will moderate the session, our Deputy Premier and Minister of Natural Gas Development Rich Coleman, and Teresa Wat, our Minister of International Trade.

BC Hydro & FortisBC event  
Thursday, July 10, 2014

**Event:**

- BC Hydro and FortisBC are announcing that they will be expanding energy-efficiency programs to help customers, particularly those on low-incomes, reduce their electricity and gas bills.

**Audience:**

- Media
- BC Hydro, Fortis BC

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- FortisBC and BC Hydro Power Smart are helping low-income households in British Columbia to reduce their energy costs.
- These programs are helping those British Columbian families who need it most.
- Together, the utilities will spend almost \$5.4 million this year on programs to help low-income customers reduce their energy costs.

ACKNOWLEDGE:

MINISTER BILL BENNETT

JOANNA SOFIELD, GM of PowerSmart, BC Hydro

TOM LOSKI, VP of Customer Service, FortisBC

GARY HAMER, Energy efficiency expert

POWER PIONEERS, BC Hydro retirees

BC HYDRO EMPLOYEES, Cranbrook district office

Here in British Columbia, we are blessed with abundant natural resources.

But with that abundance comes a responsibility to steward those resources carefully.

So, for years now, we have been asking British Columbians to practice the three Rs: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.

In my own experience, the hardest of those three is "Reduce".

Reduce the number of trips in your car. Reduce the amount of garbage we throw away. Reduce the amount of energy we use.



When you're working hard and raising a family at the same time, you can't always cut down on loads of laundry. You can't always skip showers and baths, or run your dishwasher less.

Fortunately, there are ways to make appliances, water heaters and entire homes more energy efficient.

And, just by taking a few small steps, you can also save money on your energy bills.

Because I know there are ways you'd rather spend that money.

You'd be surprised that small changes around your home can add up to big savings on your bills:

CFL or LED light bulbs, water-saving showerheads, weather-stripping on your doors can all help.

Becoming more energy efficient helps everyone, and has a lasting benefit: it helps all of us save money and energy, year after year.

So we want to make it easier for British Columbians – especially low income families – to find energy efficiencies, and save on their electricity and gas bills.

Together, BC Hydro and FortisBC are spending \$5.4 million on programs to reduce energy costs, dedicated to helping those who need it most.

They're offering new rebates of up to \$6,000 for a range of energy efficiency upgrades, including:

- Heating,
- Hot water systems,
- Insulation,
- And draft-proofing.

These upgrades can help homeowners reduce their energy bills by up to 30 per cent.

And we're making changes to the eligibility requirements for these programs, and making it easier to apply – so that more British Columbians can start saving money on their energy bills.

Customers who receive an Energy Saving Kit from BC Hydro – including a number of easy-to-install products like CFL bulbs and weather stripping – could see energy savings of close to \$100 each year.

Households with an Energy Star fridge could save up to \$165 per year in energy costs.

And those who upgrade their insulation could save over \$300 per year.

Reducing our energy use is something that every British Columbian can do, and we've just made it easier.

Becoming more energy efficient is good for your pocketbook, good for the environment, and can help us make sure we have reliable, affordable energy for future generations.

Thank you.

- END -

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**ACKNOWLEDGE:**

**LAURIE GOODLAD**, President of Cranbrook Rotary Club  
**DAVE BUTLER**, President of Cranbrook Chamber  
**MAYOR WAYNE STETSKI**, Mayor of Cranbrook  
**MINISTER BILL BENNETT**

Thank you.

Cranbrook is a reminder of just how big this province is – B.C. is one of just three provinces that stretch into two different time zones.

I think a lot of British Columbians – a lot of Canadians – would benefit from driving through our province.

Not just the highway between Vancouver and Calgary, but all through it.

From sagebrush country to islands to mountain passes...

B.C. has it all.

And while our province is large...



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And our population may be small...

We punch above our weight.

Why is that?

## **GOOD FORTUNE AND HARD WORK**

A combination of good fortune and hard work.

Let's start with good fortune. For literally thousands of years, British Columbians have been blessed with an abundance of natural resources.

It's no different today. Fisheries. Agriculture. Forestry. Mining. Natural gas.

Good fortune is one thing. It's a head start. But you've got to capitalize on it.

Because when you combine good fortune and hard work – anything is possible.

Let me give you a personal example.

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My grandfather grew up an orphan in a dirt-floor house in Scotland, came to Canada without two nickels to rub together.

He got a job at Hudson's Bay. And then he got carted away back to Europe, to the trenches of the First World War. An experience he never talked about.

He came home to find that his employer had paid him the whole time he was off serving his country.

That's what they did back then.

Surviving the trenches, coming home to more money than he'd ever seen – that was good fortune.

He took that money and went to medical school.

He became a doctor. He dedicated his life to public service, building veterans' hospitals across Canada.

That's hard work.

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With either, you can accomplish a lot. But when you have both? The sky's the limit.

## **MEETING THE CHALLENGE OF OUR TIMES**

Like my grandfather, we're living in a world on the cusp of profound change.

The kind of change our country went through after the Great Depression.

The kind of massive societal shift we saw after the two world wars.

We like to think it's the '60s. Western governments could grow spending every year because economies could count on 6 or even 8 per cent annual growth.

It's not the '60s anymore. Western economies are lucky to have 2 per cent growth.

And that's a problem, because the services we depend on are paid for with a growing economy.

Eventually, it will catch up.

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Now combine the effects of slow growth with the biggest financial crisis since the 1930s.

In 2009, our economy took a massive hit. It created a \$2 billion hole in our provincial revenues.

Sometimes big numbers become meaningless. But \$2 billion is the equivalent of the provincial contribution to Cardiac Services BC, the BC Cancer Agency, and B.C.'s mental health and substance use programs.

Unless we cut programs like that...that money has to come from somewhere.

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

In Asia, they're going through an even bigger change ...the exponential rise of the middle class in countries like China and India.

One of the biggest transformations in human history.

And we sit here, just on the other side of the Pacific, rich in resources and talent.



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This good fortune presents us with a unique opportunity.

Through forestry, agriculture, mining...and LNG.

We're working every day towards securing final investment decisions – even one could be the biggest single private sector investment in BC's history.

And we're going to make sure British Columbians will be first in line for the jobs that will come.

But how? By learning from our own history.

In moments of profound transformation, success depends on putting politics aside, and coming together.

That's why, one year ago, we sat down with labour leaders and asked them: how can we work together to bring home the opportunity of LNG?

Because while we have differences, we also have the same goal: secure, good-paying jobs for British Columbians.

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It's why we've been able to come together with First Nations, communities, and business.

As you know, First Nations participation is critical to British Columbia's economic success.

We are committed to working with First Nations communities to make sure they are full partners in economic growth.

That means continuing to negotiate economic benefit agreements, and creating opportunities for First Nations to be participants in resource projects.

The Supreme Court of Canada's recent decision provides further clarity on the path forward. We need to continue the work we've been doing. Continue to build positive relationships. Continue to work together to ensure First Nations are partners in this province's shared success.

Because we ALL want jobs for British Columbia.

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It's why we launched our 10-year skills training plan, to put British Columbians to the head of the line for the jobs of the future.

It's why we're working with the governments of Alberta and Saskatchewan to remove the barriers to the mobility of apprentices in skilled trades across Western Canada.

That's why I led a delegation to Ottawa to ensure the federal government is there to support us.

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

Because the stakes could not be higher.

If we continue to work hard, we have an opportunity to help lift people out of poverty, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, create 100,000 jobs – and create a lot of opportunity for business across the province.

Take Gipman Millwork and Design here in Cranbrook. They make custom cabinetry and countertops.

They recently acquired new, high-tech equipment to step up production.

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And that's good, because demand? It's going to increase.

Through the LNG-Buy BC program, we're going to connect small and medium businesses across B.C. with the multinationals building projects.

That's why we held boot camps for prospective suppliers – for example...companies who might supply cabinets for workforce housing.

There's a direct relationship between attracting multinationals and supporting small business.

That's something I think we've done very well in B.C.

We actually rank first in Canada for the number of small business per capita.

Small business makes up 98 per cent of all business in B.C. – and employs over a million people.

And that's not just good fortune – we work hard to create an environment where small business has every chance to thrive.



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Last year, the provincial government announced the BC Small Business Accord. It's about holding government accountable to making B.C. the most business-friendly jurisdiction in Canada.

There's more work to do, but we've got a lot to be proud of:

- We raised the small business tax threshold to \$500,000 – the highest in Canada
- We have the second lowest small business corporate income tax rate in Canada.
- the CFIB gives us an A – their highest grade – for cutting red tape
- And through the Small Business Venture Capital program, we invest up to \$110 million every year in small businesses.

It's not the Bay paying my grandfather for while he was off fighting the trenches. But it's still an investment in

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

someone's future – an investment that will change lives today, and in the future.

## **BALANCED BUDGET**

As any business owner knows, the foundation of success starts with your bank balance. It starts with controlling spending.

It's plain common sense – if you're spending more than you take in, you're a bad investment.

But it's deeper than that.

To me, it's a core value. You just can't rack up bills and leave them for someone else to pay. That someone else is our kids. And their kids.

And if we gave in to every demand – we'd hamstring the next generation.

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So from day one, we made the tough decisions to keep taxes as low as we can, and still eliminate the deficit.

And we balanced the budget last year. Then we balanced the budget again this year.

Accomplishing that means we keep our coveted Triple-A credit rating that keeps borrowing costs low...  
...and more money to invest in the services people depend on.

Make no mistake – that takes a lot of tough decisions.

During contract talks in 2010, the majority of unions accepted two-year agreements with net-zero wage increases.

Had we ignored economic reality and agreed to modest annual raises of even two per cent...  
we would have to find \$790 million more to support those wage increases.

That's the equivalent of \$450 per household. Or increasing the PST to 8 per cent.

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Under the cooperative gains mandate, we're offering public sector workers a chance to share in the benefits.

We asked them to identify waste in their own systems, not ask you for more money.

And as the economy grows, we gave them a stake in growing the economy. If we exceed our annual forecasts, they get more money. In effect, they are shareholders in British Columbia.

The results speak for themselves. There are over 150,000 public sector employees covered by ratified agreements.

It's why I'm confident, ultimately that our Teachers' Union will bury the hatchet and get there too.

Just like school support workers who settled after 5 days of intense bargaining.

Because despite the battle of the last 30 years, despite their strike vote...we all believe teachers deserve a raise.



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We all want the best outcomes for our students. We all want labour stability in the classroom...

We agree on that, and we have to achieve that with the money we have, just like every other public sector settlement. It's only fair.

## **TAXPAYER ACCOUNTABILITY**

But it's not just about controlling spending in core government. What about Crown Corporations and public entities?

That's why we introduced the Taxpayer Accountability Principles and it's for Crown Corporations and Public Entities.

We're giving mandate letters to the boards of directors.

They will be evaluated against those mandate letters. And those mandate letters will spell out these basic principles...

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Control spending. Drive down the cost increases and deliver great service.

Drive a culture change.

Prioritize the work on the priorities of British Columbians and their government.

Do it with integrity. Government will give guidance on a standard of conduct and those organizations will codify that standard for their executives and employees.

It's only fair. You deserve their promise to treat every dollar like it's their last.

## **CONCLUSION**

Because in a rapidly-changing world, where we can't necessarily count on the economy to grow by itself...

If we're going to take advantage of our good fortune...

We have to keep making tough decisions.

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We have to keep working hard.

Our opportunity as a generation is to make that choice.

We can manage decline, and find ways to survive within negligible economic growth.

We can spend ourselves into debt, leaving our kids with their own, much bigger, fiscal hole.

Or, we can find new ways to grow the economy. To create more opportunities.

I say we be that generation that rises to the challenge.

All of us.

Together.

Thank you.

**-END-**

**ACKNOWLEDGE:**

LIANA SHAW, President of Kimberley Chamber

JOHN KETTLE, Chair, RD of Central Kootenay

COUNCILLOR DON MCCORMICK, City of Kimberley

Thank you.

British Columbia has a well-deserved reputation as one of the most beautiful places in the world.

But even here in BC, the Kootenays are a uniquely spectacular region, and Kimberley is no exception.

But each of you in this room is proof that a great location is not enough to guarantee success.

It's great to live someplace scenic – but you have to add hard work and innovation if you're going to make a living and build a community.

That's what you've done here: build a community that's a great place to live, work, and raise a family.



Kimberley took another big step just the other day, by breaking ground on the Sun Mine.

It's turning a reclaimed mine site into the biggest solar power operation in Western Canada.

It's going to create jobs. It's going to benefit the environment.

And it's a great example of how you can turn your natural circumstances into new opportunities by investing and innovating.

Now, I'm a believer that while entrepreneurs like yourselves are busy growing the economy, it's the job of government to create the most competitive environment that we can.

You're keeping your end of the bargain – we've got to keep ours.

How do we do that?

- Keeping red tape to a bare minimum. In the past 13 years of BC Liberal governments, we've reduced the number of regulations by 42 per cent. The Canadian Federation of Independent Business gives us an A, their highest grade.
- Controlling government spending, so we can keep your taxes low. In 2001, the small business tax rate was 4.5 per cent. Now, it's down to 2.5 per cent, and we want to bring it down to 1.5 per cent by 2017.
- We're working to create more opportunities for small businesses to compete for government contracts.

And, perhaps most importantly, we've kept our promise to stick to balanced budgets. We're sending a signal that BC is committed to fiscal responsibility, and a great place to do business.

And that approach has translated into real results.

There's no question that being an entrepreneur is a challenging way to make a living.

But the most recent survey by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business shows that small businesses in BC are the most confident in Canada.

Since the great recession, BC small business confidence has rebounded to the point where 30 per cent of owners are planning to add full time staff.

There is a lot more work to be done. Growing our economy is a constant effort.

And my team and I are determined to do our part.

That's why we're moving so aggressively to seize our LNG opportunity.

Because we know that this industry could create 100,000 new jobs in BC. Just one LNG export facility would be the biggest private sector investment in BC history.

And the benefits of LNG investment won't be limited to the North.



Through our LNG Buy BC program, we're making sure that contractors and small business right across the province are equipped to provide goods and services to those large multinational companies.

We know that LNG is an opportunity we can't pass up. That's why we're working with the private sector, with communities, with unions, with First Nations.

As you know, First Nations participation is critical to British Columbia's economic success.

We are committed to working with First Nations communities to make sure they are full partners in economic growth.

That means continuing to negotiate economic benefit agreements, and creating opportunities for First Nations to be participants in resource projects.

The Supreme Court of Canada's recent decision provides further clarity on the path forward. We need to continue the work we've been doing. Continue to build positive relationships. Continue to work together to ensure First Nations are partners in this province's shared success.



Because we ALL want jobs for British Columbia.

So, while you're working hard to make a living and keep the paycheques going out the door to your employees, we're doing our best to stay off your back.

Because when we keep government spending under control, keep the budget balanced, maintain our Triple A credit rating – that's how we stay competitive and attract new investment.

That's how we can tell the world that British Columbia is a safe harbour for investment, and a great place to start or grow a business.

Thanks for doing your part, day after day.

Now, I'd be happy to take your questions.

- END -

ACKNOWLEDGE:

WEI SHAO, Managing Partner, Denton's (*Introducer*)

JILL PRICE, VP, Asia Pacific Foundation

MIN. TERESA WAT

Thank you.

I want to thank Yuen Pau Woo for his nine years at President and CEO on the Asia Pacific Foundation.

And to welcome Stewart Beck – Stewart, you have some very large shoes to fill – but I know that you are up to the task.

Under Pau's leadership, the Asia Pacific Foundation has played a key role – giving advice and building bridges. And we were fortunate to have him there.

In B.C., it's been a pivotal nine years. Since then, we have undergone the worst economic slowdown since the Great Depression.

And while Canada, and B.C. in particular, managed to weather that storm better than most...

It had profound effects for our biggest trading partner, the United States.

The recession created a \$2 billion hole in our provincial revenues – and made us think about our future.

To grow and diversify our trade relationships.

It made us look to our west – to our partners in Asia.

## **VANCOUVER**

Standing here today, in one of the most Asian cities in the world outside of Asia itself...

The decision to build relationships across the Pacific seems obvious.

Most the world refers to Asia as the Far East...but for us here in B.C., Asia is our western neighbour.

For over a hundred years, B.C. has been home to immigrants from Asia, especially Mainland China. And

they have become pillars of communities across the province, but especially here in the Lower Mainland.

According to the most recent census, B.C.'s Asian community is over a million people strong.

That may not sound like much – but it's a quarter of our population.

This has given us a unique advantage. We have old, strong cultural ties across the Pacific.

And increasingly, with organizations like the Asia Pacific Foundation, we're building on those cultural ties with commercial and trade relationships.

It's a good investment – the economies of Asia have been dramatically outperforming those of North America and Europe for decades.

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



That's why we have four trade and investment offices throughout China, and a permanent special representative in Beijing, Ben Stewart.

That's why in B.C., Schedule III banks qualify for provincial tax breaks under the International Business Activity Program.

That's why we were the first foreign government to issue bonds in the RMB market.

And we want to take the next step, and become the first to open an international trading centre for RMB in Vancouver.

We envision Vancouver as a natural hub for Asian companies for their North American operations.

Our goal is to have five new head offices in Vancouver by 2020 – just six years away.

It's an ambitious goal, but I'm optimistic.

Because while Vancouver has long been Canada's Pacific Gateway...traffic goes both ways.

Vancouver should also be Asia's gateway to Canada, and North America.

### **RESOURCEFUL B.C.**

Our strategy to expand trade relationships across the Pacific is paying dividends.

Last year, exports to Asia reached \$14.7 billion – that's an increase of 6.5%.

Almost half of that went to China: \$6.8 billion, a 15% increase from the year before.

China is the fastest-growing market for B.C.'s natural resources:

- Coal exports from B.C. almost doubled last year,
- Forest products jumped 60% between 2010 and 2012.

- We've signed deals to give B.C. cherry growers full access to China, which could generate millions per year for them.

We're working to build on these accomplishments. But our biggest opportunity is LNG.

They're undergoing the largest transformation in human history. By 2020, the middle class in Asian countries is forecast to triple...to 1.7 billion people.

By 2030, LNG demand there is projected to increase two and a half times.

That's why China signed a deal with Gazprom and Russia to supply \$400 billion of natural gas over 40 years.

But as massive as that deal is – China and the rest of Asia need more.

That demand is why they're willing to deal with Russia and the political uncertainty there.

But in every portfolio...you need a safe investment.

A reliable trading partner.

On the other side of the Pacific, B.C. is North America's shortest shipping route to Asia.

And underneath northern B.C. lies an ocean of natural gas – enough supply for 150 years.

Almost 3,000 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.

B.C. is politically stable, and with a triple-A credit rating, internationally recognized as a safe harbour for investment.

And we have created a regulatory environment and tax structure that will make us among the most competitive jurisdictions in the world.

This fall, we will introduce the legislative framework. And hopefully, be in a position to announce a final investment decision.

There are now 15 proposed LNG projects in B.C.



Our partners include global players such as PETRONAS, Shell, and CNOOC.

The industry has the potential to create up to 100,000 jobs, and we are taking steps to ensure our labour force is ready to fill them.

We recently unveiled B.C.'s Skills for Jobs Blueprint: Re-engineering Education and Training.

It's a comprehensive plan to ensure that apprenticeship, education and training dollars align with labour market demands.

We are re-engineering our education system – from kindergarten to post-secondary training and beyond.

And we're working with the governments of Alberta and Saskatchewan to remove the barriers for mobility...

...so apprentices in skilled trades across Western Canada can build careers where they're in demand.

We're moving without needless delay because for us, the stakes are high.

Here in British Columbia it could create 100,000 new jobs. It could help us pay down our provincial debt.

It could help accelerate innovation in another growing industry, our clean-tech sector.

It could mean that we are able to innovate even further not just in making natural gas cleaner but in also making forestry and mining better businesses for the environment.

## **CONCLUSION**

Now, for those of you who have travelled here today, I'd like to say thank you. And I'd like to leave you with this:

British Columbia is very much open for business. And we are very much your partners. We want to work with you.

For generations we have worked to build a responsible resource economy. It's what has grown our province.

It's what sustained generations of our families.

It's what attracted generations of immigrants from around the world.

And we haven't gotten to this place by saying no. We haven't gotten to one of the best economies in Canada and one of the best economies in North America by being overwhelmed by problems, by ignoring risks.

We have done it by looking at them head on... looking them in the eye and deciding that we are up to the challenge.

It's how we do business in BC, and it works.

Our task is to build a growing economy, to create jobs and at the same time leave a better world for future generations.

It has been a pleasure working with organizations like the Asia Pacific Foundation, and with people the calibre of Yuen Pao Woo and Stewart Beck.

July 14, 2014

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

With your help, we'll keep building bridges.

Thank you.



July 17, 2014

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ACKNOWLEDGE:

JACKIE TEGART

JULIE VAN KOLL, President, Merritt Chamber

MAYOR SUSAN ROLINE, City of Merritt

DAN ALBAS, MP

CHIEF GREG BLAIN, Ashcroft Indian Band

CHIEF RON IGNACE, Skeetchestn Indian Band

Thank you.

I'd like to begin by saluting this Chamber of Commerce for its work to help out the businesses whose buildings burned down in the recent fire.

I hope the firefighter who was injured is recovering well.

Businesses like yours are the heart of any community, and it's inspiring the way you've pulled together in the face of crisis.

Because pulling together – combining our efforts, our abilities, our individual courage – is how we pull through when times are tough.

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

That's also how we seize opportunity – even in the face of great challenges.

You know, this region is blessed with an abundance of natural resources.

But good fortune is one thing. It's a head start. But you've got to capitalize on it.

Because when you combine good fortune and hard work – anything is possible.

Let me give you a personal example.

My grandfather grew up an orphan in a dirt-floor house in Scotland, came to Canada without two nickels to rub together.

He got a job at Hudson's Bay. And then he got carted away back to Europe, to the trenches of the First World War. An experience he never talked about.

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That's what they did back then.

Surviving the trenches, coming home to more money than he'd ever seen – that was good fortune.

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He became a doctor. He dedicated his life to public service, building veterans' hospitals across Canada.

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## **MEETING THE CHALLENGE OF OUR TIMES**

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The kind of change our country went through after the Great Depression.

The kind of massive societal shift we saw after the two world wars.

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Eventually, it will catch up.

Now combine the effects of slow growth with the biggest financial crisis since the 1930s.

In 2009, our economy took a massive hit. It created a \$2 billion hole in our provincial revenues.



Sometimes big numbers become meaningless. But \$2 billion is the equivalent of the provincial contribution to Cardiac Services BC, the BC Cancer Agency, and B.C.'s mental health and substance use programs.

Unless we cut programs like that...that money has to come from somewhere.

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

In Asia, they're going through an even bigger change ...the exponential rise of the middle class in countries like China and India.

One of the biggest transformations in human history.

And we sit here, just on the other side of the Pacific, rich in resources and talent.

This good fortune presents us with a unique opportunity.

Through forestry, agriculture, mining...and LNG.

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

We're working every day towards securing final investment decisions – even one could be the biggest single private sector investment in BC's history.

And we're going to make sure British Columbians will be first in line for the jobs that will come.

But how? By learning from our own history.

In moments of profound transformation, success depends on putting politics aside, and coming together.

That's why, one year ago, we sat down with labour leaders and asked them: how can we work together to bring home the opportunity of LNG?

Because while we have differences, we also have the same goal: secure, good-paying jobs for British Columbians.

It's why we've been able to come together with First Nations, communities, and business.

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

As you know, First Nations participation is critical to British Columbia's economic success.

We are committed to working with First Nations communities to make sure they are full partners in economic growth.

That means continuing to negotiate economic benefit agreements, and creating opportunities for First Nations to be participants in resource projects.

The Supreme Court of Canada's recent decision provides further clarity on the path forward. We need to continue the work we've been doing. Continue to build positive relationships. Continue to work together to ensure First Nations are partners in this province's shared success.

Because we ALL want jobs for British Columbia.

It's why we launched our 10-year skills training plan, to put British Columbians to the head of the line for the jobs of the future.



It's why we're working with the governments of Alberta and Saskatchewan to remove the barriers to the mobility of apprentices in skilled trades across Western Canada.

That's why I led a delegation to Ottawa to ensure the federal government is there to support us.

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

Because the stakes could not be higher.

If we continue to work hard, we have an opportunity to help lift people out of poverty, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, create 100,000 jobs – and create a lot of opportunity for business across the province.

Take the Merritt Green Energy Project, right here in town.

They're a state-of-the-art biomass facility that's creating jobs by find new uses for wood waste.

That's a vote of confidence in Merritt's future. Just like the 3 million dollar hotel that's coming in just off Highway 5.

These kinds of success stories are springing up all over BC, and that momentum is going to continue.



Through the LNG-Buy BC program, we're going to connect small and medium businesses across B.C. with the multinationals building projects.

That's why we held boot camps for prospective suppliers – companies who might supply goods and services for major projects.

There's a direct relationship between attracting multinationals and supporting small business.

That's something I think we've done very well in B.C.

We actually rank first in Canada for the number of small business per capita.

Small business makes up 98 per cent of all business in B.C. – and employs over a million people.

And that's not just good fortune – we work hard to create an environment where small business has every chance to thrive.

Last year, the provincial government announced the BC Small Business Accord. It's about holding government

accountable to making B.C. the most business-friendly jurisdiction in Canada.

There's more work to do, but we've got a lot to be proud of:

- We raised the small business tax threshold to \$500,000 – the highest in Canada
- We have the second lowest small business corporate income tax rate in Canada.
- the CFIB gives us an A – their highest grade – for cutting red tape
- And through the Small Business Venture Capital program, we invest up to \$110 million every year in small businesses.

It's not the Bay paying my grandfather for while he was off fighting the trenches. But it's still an investment in someone's future – an investment that will change lives today, and in the future.

## **BALANCED BUDGET**

As any business owner knows, the foundation of success starts with your bank balance. It starts with controlling spending.

It's plain common sense – if you're spending more than you take in, you're a bad investment.

But it's deeper than that.

To me, it's a core value. You just can't rack up bills and leave them for someone else to pay. That someone else is our kids. And their kids.

And if we gave in to every demand – we'd hamstring the next generation.

So from day one, we made the tough decisions to keep taxes as low as we can, and still eliminate the deficit.

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

And we balanced the budget last year. Then we balanced the budget again this year.

Accomplishing that means we keep our coveted Triple-A credit rating that keeps borrowing costs low...

...and more money to invest in the services people depend on.

Make no mistake – that takes a lot of tough decisions.

During contract talks in 2010, the majority of unions accepted two-year agreements with net-zero wage increases.

Had we ignored economic reality and agreed to modest annual raises of even two per cent...

we would have to find \$790 million more to support those wage increases.

That's the equivalent of \$450 per household. Or increasing the PST to 8 per cent.

Under the cooperative gains mandate, we're offering public sector workers a chance to share in the benefits.



We asked them to identify waste in their own systems, not ask you for more money.

And as the economy grows, we gave them a stake in growing the economy. If we exceed our annual forecasts, they get more money. In effect, they are shareholders in British Columbia.

The results speak for themselves. There are over 150,000 public sector employees covered by ratified agreements.

It's why I'm confident, ultimately that our Teachers' Union will bury the hatchet and get there too.

Just like school support workers who settled after 5 days of intense bargaining.

Because despite the battle of the last 30 years, despite their strike vote...we all believe teachers deserve a raise. We all want the best outcomes for our students. We all want labour stability in the classroom...

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

We agree on that, and we have to achieve that with the money we have, just like every other public sector settlement. It's only fair.

## **TAXPAYER ACCOUNTABILITY**

But it's not just about controlling spending in core government. What about Crown Corporations and public entities?

That's why we introduced the Taxpayer Accountability Principles and it's for Crown Corporations and Public Entities.

We're giving mandate letters to the boards of directors.

They will be evaluated against those mandate letters. And those mandate letters will spell out these basic principles...

Control spending. Drive down the cost increases and deliver great service.

Drive a culture change.

Prioritize the work on the priorities of British Columbians and their government.

Do it with integrity. Government will give guidance on a standard of conduct and those organizations will codify that standard for their executives and employees.

It's only fair. You deserve their promise to treat every dollar like it's their last.

## **CONCLUSION**

Because in a rapidly-changing world, where we can't necessarily count on the economy to grow by itself...

If we're going to take advantage of our good fortune...

We have to keep making tough decisions.

We have to keep working hard.

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Our opportunity as a generation is to make that choice.

To try and measure up to the generation that my grandfather was a part of.

To come together and combine our efforts.

To find new ways to grow the economy. To create more opportunities.

If we do that, we can leave a lasting legacy, for our kids and for theirs.

Just like the generation that fought a world war, then came home to build a better country.

I say we be that generation that rises to the challenge of these times.

All of us.

Together.

Thank you.



Merritt Chamber

July 17, 2014

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

**-END-**

ACKNOWLEDGE:  
SENATOR KEVIN RANKER (MC)  
DOUG BLOOM, Spectra Energy (Introducing)  
RICHARD DUNN, Encana (Thanking)  
MINISTER LETNICK (PNWER Lead)  
AMBASSADOR GARY DOER  
AMBASSADOR BRUCE HEYMAN

Thank you.

It's an honour to host you here in Whistler...one of the most spectacular settings in the world...

To talk about issues that affect us all.

Energy. Climate change. Current and future prosperity.

We sometimes fall into the trap of separating these issues.

Treating them like different problems...that require different approaches and solutions.

But you can't separate them. You can't apply a "prosperity" mindset to one issue...

And then turn around and apply “climate change” to another.

That leads to confusion.

Some like to characterize economic growth and environmental protection as competing interests at odds with each other...an either-or proposition.

But it's not either-or. Any responsible leader in the 21<sup>st</sup> century knows it is both. Together.

Because leadership requires that we govern for today AND tomorrow.

Energy security. Economic growth and jobs. Environmental protection and making a real difference in reducing global greenhouse gases –

That's how we build prosperity for our generation. And for those to come.

Policies based on a commitment to these core values:

- To ensure our children have greater opportunities than us,
- In a world as magnificent and pristine as we found it,
- To have the means to afford vital services for our societies and for the most vulnerable among us.

That's responsible leadership. That's the lens we have to put on the decisions we make today.

And that is what we in BC, and other jurisdictions on the West Coast, are proving today:

Energy is the key that unlocks the challenges of growing the economy and protecting our environment.

As you know, B.C. is blessed with significant hydroelectric resources. Years ago, we made the necessary investments to generate the vast majority of our electricity needs.

Now British Columbia has a new clean energy opportunity, and we're acting decisively to take advantage.



Working with our partners like California, Oregon and Washington, BC is proud of our leadership in taking action on climate change and developing a clean economy...

With the most comprehensive carbon tax in North America.

We set a target to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions 6% below 2007 levels. And we've met that target.

And last year, the Government of British Columbia was carbon neutral for the fourth year in a row.

And now BC has the single largest opportunity to fight global greenhouse gas emissions.

By exporting our liquefied natural gas to Asia...to countries like China...

To help power their remarkable economic growth with our clean natural gas...instead of coal.

Look at what the conversion to natural gas has meant for the United States and its global climate leadership.

And imagine what's possible in China.

I said LNG is BC's single largest opportunity to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions...here's what I mean.

China plans to increase natural gas power generation by about 4%. Just a fraction.

But the resulting greenhouse gas reductions would be equivalent to one and a half times our entire annual greenhouse gas output in BC.

That fraction in China is the equivalent to shutting down British Columbia...every industry, every school and hospital, every vehicle...

For a year and a half.

And studies have shown, cleaner air in China means cleaner air right here in BC and throughout the West Coast – right across the board at the community level.

It means fewer smog days in LA.

The environment knows no borders. It's one world.

And that one world is where our economic future also resides.

B.C. has set an ambitious goal of three operating LNG facilities by 2020.

5 plants would mean 100,000 jobs across our province over 30 years.

Even just one plant would mean the largest single investment in our province's history.

## **WORKING TOGETHER**

To get there, we need to look past politics...we can't dwell on differences...we need to work together in common cause.

Doing that takes open dialogue, better access to information, and co-ordination among everyone involved.

That's why within BC we sat down with labour leaders – many of whom have opposed our government and actively campaigned against us – and asked them: how can we work together to bring home the opportunity of LNG?

Because while we have differences, we also have the same goal: secure, good-paying jobs for British Columbians.

Based on their input, we recently unveiled B.C.'s Skills for Jobs Blueprint: a 10-year plan to re-engineer our education and training systems.

It's a comprehensive strategy to ensure that apprenticeship, education and training dollars align with labour market demands.

We are re-engineering our education system – from kindergarten to post-secondary training and beyond.

That's also why we're committed to working closely with First Nations.



One great example is the Haisla Nation, who have been living on BC's northern coast for some 9,000 years.

They've launched an energetic push to place an LNG export facility on their territory, at the head of the Douglas Channel.

They have a deepwater port that's been operating for decades, serving the mineral industry.

They recognize that their location represents an opportunity for unprecedented economic development.

So we've signed a framework agreement with the Haisla Nation to fast-track a major LNG facility in the Kitimat area. And they've received a 20-year export licence from the National Energy Board.

In that same region, we've also reached revenue-sharing agreements with the Lax Kw'alaams and Metlakatla First Nations.

Those communities will share part of the provincial revenues from our sole proponent agreements related to Grassy Point, another potential LNG export site.

Here in BC, we're committed to working with First Nations communities to make sure they are full partners in economic growth.

As we move forward on LNG and other major projects, we're going to build on this strong track record of negotiating economic benefit agreements...

Creating opportunities for Aboriginal communities to be participants and see lasting benefits from natural resource development.

Our goal is a shared prosperity that lifts up all British Columbians.

## **LABOUR MOBILITY**

And a stronger British Columbia means a stronger Canada. As the heartbeat of our country's economy moves west, we in the West are increasingly working together.

Earlier this month, I was joined by the Premiers of Alberta and Saskatchewan in calling for a free trade zone within Canada.

Because it's past time we broke down the barriers to inter-provincial trade.

And we're working with the governments of Alberta and Saskatchewan to remove the barriers for labour mobility...

...so apprentices in skilled trades across Western Canada can build careers where they're in demand.

This March, we all agreed to take a hard look at our apprenticeship training levels and processes, so that we can begin to make that movement more efficient.

Because there's no sense stopping a qualified young carpenter, getting his start in Alberta, from coming to work on a resource project in British Columbia.

So our provincial governments are working together – and we're bringing employers into that conversation as well.

## **WEST COAST COOPERATION**

In BC, we are strengthened by our New West Canadian partners...and by all of you.

We're proud to be part of a Pacific Northwest Economic Region, and an integrated West Coast economy extending from Alaska to California...

Joined together by trade and tourism, infrastructure and ecosystems.

We are blessed to live together in this region where our businesses and people buy and sell so much from each other that the success of each jurisdiction, benefits all.

And the more we can work together to help each other the greater those benefits will be.

That's why I am so pleased that PNWER has gathered so many leaders together this week.



That's why we've also joined with Washington, Oregon and California through the Pacific Coast Collaborative to grow the clean economy along the West Coast.

In 2012, I joined with Governors in Vancouver where we signed a West Coast Action Plan on Jobs, with the objective of creating 1 million net new jobs on the West Coast by 2020 by aligning actions on energy efficiency, clean technologies, and climate change.

In 2013, at a meeting in San Francisco that I chaired by Telepresence from Vancouver, we doubled down on that Action Plan...

With a Pacific Coast Action Plan on Climate and Energy that includes new commitments to further align actions, such as:

- All agreeing to work to put a price on carbon emissions, building on what we already do in B.C. with our carbon tax...
- Aligning actions on low carbon fuels standards to move toward a harmonized regional market for low carbon fuels...

- Promoting alternative and renewable transportation fuels, including natural gas and electricity,
- And 11 other initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and act on ocean acidification, further green our public buildings, and make our energy use more efficient.

## **CONCLUSION**

Much has been accomplished. And much remains to be done.

And I believe that the Pacific Northwest Economic Region is a key forum for us to continue this progress.

The Pacific Northwest is among the best places in the world to live – regardless of which side of the border you're on.

And with our good fortune comes a great responsibility.

To leave this place better than we found it.

To make tough decisions today that will leave tomorrow in better shape.

So our children and grandchildren will look back at us, and say:

They were the generation...that saw the future...that did the work...that made our lives, our success possible.

I look forward to doing that work with you.

Thank you.

- END -

Event:

- The 2014 order of B.C. investiture Ceremony recognizes 23 new members of the Order. 21 were appointed in 2014, and 2 in 2013. 4 recipients were unable to attend this year.
- Premier to speak for 2-3 minutes following remarks by the Lieutenant-Governor and upon completion of the ceremony and medallion presentation.

Audience:

- Lt.-Gov. Judith Guichon, Chancellor of the Order

The 2013 Advisory Committee consists of:

- The Honourable Robert J. Bauman (chair), Chief Justice of British Columbia;
- The Honourable Linda Reid, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly;
- Dr. Kris Bulcroft, president, Capilano University;
- Athana Mentzelopoulos, deputy minister, Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat;
- Rhona Martin, president, Union of British Columbia Municipalities;
- Larry Berg, O.B.C., and Sergio Cocchia, O.B.C. (2013 recipients of the Order).
- Guests of recipients
- MLAs TBC

**KEY MESSAGE:** Congratulations to the 2014 Order of B.C. recipients. You are leaders in your fields and your achievements inspire us.



## ACKNOWLEDGE:

MC Lucy Lobmeier

Lieutenant-Governor Judith Guichon

Advisory Council members

Recipients, friends and families

## MLAs attending:

Douglas Horne

Marvin Hunt

Richard T. Lee

Linda Reimer

Ralph Sultan

John Yap

George Heyman

Carole James

Nicholas Simons

It's a privilege to be here today to honour the recipients of the Order of British Columbia.

You are leaders in your fields, but perhaps more importantly....you are leaders by example.

Every day, you break down barriers, expand the frontiers of human knowledge, and improve the lives of others.

You've served as mentors, educators and pioneering researchers.

You have contributed by creating jobs, raising funds for good causes, helping to save lives, and fighting for the rights of the less fortunate.

You represent us at our very best.

On behalf of all British Columbians, and especially of the people you have served – thank you.

Thank you to those who served on this year's Advisory Committee...

and to the families and friends of this year's recipients for helping make their achievements possible.

But, most of all, congratulations to the new members of the Order of British Columbia.

Today, you are presented with the highest honour that our province can confer upon our citizens.

Your achievements make us all proud to be British  
Columbians.

-END-

## **Announcement of \$6M in funding for construction of the Okanagan Centre for Innovation in Kelowna.**

Audience:

Speaking:

Minister of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services, Andrew Wilkinson

Kelowna Mayor Walter Gray

Jeff Keen, OCI founding member

Non-speaking role:

Lane Merrifield

Minister Steve Thomson

Minister Norm Letnick

MP Ron Cannan

MP Dan Albas (TBD)

District of West Kelowna Mayor Doug Findlater

Representatives, Kelowna Innovation Society

Representatives of Okanagan College and UBC Okanagan

Representatives of Accelerate Okanagan and the Central Okanagan Development Commission

Media

**KEY THEME:** Investing to make our high tech industry more competitive.

**KEY MESSAGE:** Our government understands the challenges and opportunities faced by start-ups. We are investing in this project to help give people working in our tech industry a competitive advantage.



## ACKNOWLEDGE:

Minister Andrew Wilkinson  
Mayor Walter Gray  
Lane Merrifield

The Okanagan has always been a cradle of free enterprise and innovation.

That entrepreneurial spirit drives economic development – not just here, but across B.C.

Whatever we can do to nurture it, to encourage it...is a good investment.

It's a good investment because it creates economic growth, jobs, and prosperity.

And like any entrepreneur can tell you – it all starts with a good idea. Moving it forward takes money, good advice, and support.

Today I am announcing six million dollars in funding to help build a new state-of-the-art Okanagan Centre for Innovation.

The centre will house established technology businesses...

and offer work space at minimal cost to help budding local entrepreneurs launch start-ups.

Becoming the next tech giant like Hootsuite and Club Penguin is a tough feat.

Start-ups face both tremendous challenges and opportunities – and when they survive and thrive, so do entire communities.

The tech sector is the third largest contributor to B.C.'s economy.

It has created more than 9,000 companies...

And 84,000 good jobs...

Jobs that help build strong families and communities.

We want to launch Kelowna as not only a national tech leader...

but a globally recognized destination for tech investment and entrepreneurial development.

The new Innovation Centre will be a showcase for innovation that can help the bottom lines of businesses worldwide.

I want to thank all of the industry, community and university partners for the dialogue and co-operation that have made this project possible.

The Okanagan has long been known for our climate, our wine...it won't be long before we're also known as a place where high tech and innovation thrives.

Thank you.

- END -

ACKNOWLEDGE:

DAN ASHTON (introduces PCC)

CAMPBELL WATT, Chamber President

MLAs attending:

NAOMI YAMAMOTO

SUZANNE ANTON

TERRY LAKE

STEVE THOMSON

NORM LETNICK

PETER FASSBENDER

MIKE DE JONG

ANDREW WILKINSON

TODD STONE

AMRIK VIRK

RICH COLEMAN

DON MCRAE

JOHN RUSTAD

Thank you.

Businesses like yours are the heart of any community, and it's inspiring the way you've pulled together in the face of crisis.



Because pulling together – combining our efforts, our abilities, our individual courage – is how we pull through when times are tough.

That's also how we seize opportunity – even in the face of great challenges.

This region is blessed with an abundance of natural resources. We're the fruit basket of Canada. A wine industry that has attracted international acclaim.

And if you look outside...you see why the rest of the country wants to move here.

But good fortune is one thing. It's a head start. But you've got to capitalize on it.

Because when you combine good fortune and hard work – anything is possible.

Let me give you a personal example.

My grandfather grew up an orphan in a dirt-floor house in Scotland, came to Canada without two nickels to rub together.

He got a job at Hudson's Bay. And then he got carted away back to Europe, to the trenches of the First World War. An experience he never talked about.

He came home to find that his employer had paid him the whole time he was off serving his country.

That's what they did back then.

Surviving the trenches, coming home to more money than he'd ever seen – that was good fortune.

He took that money and went to medical school.

He became a doctor. He dedicated his life to public service, building veterans' hospitals across Canada.

That's hard work.

With either, you can accomplish a lot. But when you have both?

The sky's the limit.

## **MEETING THE CHALLENGE OF OUR TIMES**

Like my grandfather, we're living in a world on the cusp of profound change.

The kind of change our country went through after the Great Depression.

The kind of massive societal shift we saw after the two world wars.

We like to think it's the '60s. Western governments could grow spending every year because economies could count on 6 or even 8 per cent annual growth.

It's not the '60s anymore. Western economies are lucky to have 2 per cent growth.

And that's a problem, because the services we depend on are paid for with a growing economy.

Eventually, it will catch up.

Now combine the effects of slow growth with the biggest financial crisis since the 1930s.

In 2009, our economy took a massive hit. It created a \$2 billion hole in our provincial revenues.

Big numbers can become meaningless. But to put it in perspective...

\$2 billion is the equivalent of the provincial contribution to Cardiac Services BC, the BC Cancer Agency, and B.C.'s mental health and substance use programs.

Unless we cut programs like that...that money has to come from somewhere.

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

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To me, it's a core value. You just can't rack up bills and leave them for someone else to pay. That someone else is our kids. And their kids.

So from day one, we made the tough decisions to keep taxes as low as we can, and still eliminate the deficit.

And we balanced the budget last year. Then we balanced the budget again this year.

That meant taking a hard look at ourselves, and where tax dollars go. That's why we launched a core review of all government services.

It's a great idea – and if it sounds familiar, it should.

Under Dan Ashton's leadership, Penticton led by example. The core services review here saved money – and paid real dividends for the citizens of Penticton... Their property taxes were frozen for three years.

That's why Dan was a natural choice to be Parliamentary Secretary for the Core Review, and vice chair of the Cabinet Working Group on Core Review.

Because I'm not too proud to tell you – we followed Penticton's example.

And under Dan's leadership, Penticton led by example again, when you volunteered to be the first municipality to be audited by the Municipal Auditor General.

Balancing the budget is more than an accomplishment to tout in pamphlets and brochures. It has real, tangible benefits.

It meant B.C. keeps a Triple-A credit rating that keeps borrowing costs low...  
...and more money to invest in the services people depend on.

And make no mistake – that takes a lot of tough decisions. Here's an example.

During contract talks in 2010, the majority of unions accepted two-year agreements with net-zero wage increases.

Had we ignored economic reality and agreed to modest annual raises of even two per cent... we would have to find \$790 million more to support those wage increases.

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Do it with integrity. Government will give guidance on a standard of conduct and those organizations will codify that standard for their executives and employees.

It's only fair. You deserve their promise to treat every dollar like it's their last.

## **THE OPPORTUNITY BEFORE US**

Controlling spending is the foundation. The next step is identifying and seizing opportunity.

In Asia, they're going through an even bigger change ...the exponential rise of the middle class in countries like China and India.

One of the biggest transformations in human history.

And we sit here, just on the other side of the Pacific, rich in resources and talent.

This good fortune presents us with a unique opportunity.

Through forestry, agriculture, mining...and LNG.

We're working every day towards securing final investment decisions – even one could be the biggest single private sector investment in BC's history.

And we're going to make sure British Columbians will be first in line for the jobs that will come.

But how? By learning from our own history.

In moments of profound transformation, success depends on putting politics aside, and coming together.

That's why, one year ago, we sat down with labour leaders and asked them: how can we work together to bring home the opportunity of LNG?

Because while we have differences, we also have the same goal: secure, good-paying jobs for British Columbians.

It's why we've been able to come together with First Nations, communities, and business.

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That means continuing to negotiate economic benefit agreements, and creating opportunities for First Nations to be participants in resource projects.

The Supreme Court of Canada's recent decision provides further clarity on the path forward. We need to continue the work we've been doing. Continue to build positive relationships. Continue to work together to ensure First Nations are partners in this province's shared success.

Because we ALL want jobs for British Columbia.

It's why we launched our 10-year skills training plan, to put British Columbians to the head of the line for the jobs of the future.

It's why we're working with the governments of Alberta and Saskatchewan to remove the barriers to the mobility of apprentices in skilled trades across Western Canada.

That's why I led a delegation to Ottawa to ensure the federal government is there to support us.

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



Because the stakes could not be higher.

If we continue to work hard, we have an opportunity to help lift people out of poverty, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, create 100,000 jobs – and create a lot of opportunity for business across the province.

Last month, Dan Kelly and Laura Jones of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business were here – and they had nothing but praise.

They singled out Penticton's fiscal discipline, support for business, and the core review process here.

One more shoutout for Dan Ashton there.

And it's not just groups like the CFIB – you can tell confidence is on the rise here.

Take Gerry Turchak and Penticton's own Nor-Mar Industries. They make heavy-duty boxes for fueling trucks – and they can see what's coming with the LNG opportunity.

And that means jobs here in Penticton.

These success stories are springing up all over BC, and that momentum is going to continue.

Through the LNG-Buy BC program, we're going to connect small and medium businesses across B.C. with the multinationals building projects.

That's why we held boot camps for prospective suppliers – companies who might supply goods and services for major projects.

There's a direct relationship between attracting multinationals and supporting small business.

That's something I think we've done very well in B.C.

We actually rank first in Canada for the number of small business per capita.

Small business makes up 98 per cent of all business in B.C. – and employs over a million people.

And that's not just good fortune – we work hard to create an environment where small business has every chance to thrive.

Last year, the provincial government announced the BC Small Business Accord. It's about holding government accountable to making B.C. the most business-friendly jurisdiction in Canada.

There's more work to do, but we've got a lot to be proud of:

- We raised the small business tax threshold to \$500,000 – the highest in Canada
- We have the second lowest small business corporate income tax rate in Canada.
- the CFIB gives us an A – their highest grade – for cutting red tape
- And through the Small Business Venture Capital program, we invest up to \$110 million every year in small businesses.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

And because we have kept our house in order – and because we made the tough decisions – we're able to make investments in our future.

It's no secret that Penticton relies on tourism. And when the Ironman moved to Whistler, it left a hole in Penticton's summer events calendar.

To help fill the gap, I'm pleased to announce \$125,000 for the Challenge Triathlon.

The money comes from the Community Gaming Grants program, which is intended to support the organizations and events that help make B.C. culturally and athletically rich.

As Penticton continues to grow, so will the demand placed on the services people rely on – roads...schools...and health care.



That's why we're moving forward with the new Patient Care Tower at Penticton Hospital.

We have approved Interior Health's business plan. The next step is a Request for Qualifications for qualified companies to design, finance, build, and maintain the tower.

I want to thank the community and partners who are contributing to this project:  
\$122 million provided by the Okanagan-Similkameen Regional Hospital District,  
and \$20 million provided by the South Okanagan Similkameen Medical Foundation.

We still have more work to do – but this is a crucial step in the right direction.

It's an investment in Penticton's future – an investment that will change lives today, and for generations to come.

**CONCLUSION**

The choice for my grandfather, for that generation, wasn't between staying the same, or changing.

They took on the challenges of change to not just protect what they had...but to grow...to build a better future.

Because if they didn't...they faced decline.

It's the same for us today.

We're seizing the opportunity of LNG because if we don't export to Asia...our natural gas industry would be stuck with one shrinking market. The US.

It's about protecting what we have. What we're blessed with. And then working hard to build something more than that.

Just like the generation that fought a world war, then came home to build a better country -- the generation whose shoulders we stand on today.

Let's be the generation that rises to the challenge of our times. That builds a lasting legacy for our kids and theirs.

All of us. Together.

Penticton Chamber  
July 31, 2014  
CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Thank you

-END-