

Thank you for coming.

In the life of our province...

There are moments when we must look far beyond the everyday,

And make decisions to secure our future.

Today is such a day.

The Site C Clean Energy Project will not be built in a day or even a year.

But once built, its benefits will flow for a hundred years for all British Columbians.

That is why we have decided to go forward with Site C Clean Energy.

Let me give you an insight into this very necessary decision.

One we've arrived at only after careful analysis...

After taking a deep and prudent look at the merits and the drawbacks of the project....

And a great deal of discussion between us.

It was not an easy decision to come to because it shouldn't have been an easy decision to come to.

It's one that required our most diligent work, and we took the time to ensure that we gave it our attention.

It comes down to five principles:

- Don't build what we don't have to.
- We should only build it if it's affordable for the people of the province.
- The most reliable.
- The most sustainable.
- And make sure it's the best option for the long-term.

In this case, it is a very long term.

So let me go through those principles.

We are reducing future electricity demand through energy efficiency and conservation.

BC is a continental leader on that front, with one of the most ambitious plans...the most ambitious plan...anywhere in North America.

and while that reduces how much we need to build, we still need to build.

Some alternative options are as sustainable and clean. But none are as affordable for ratepayers.

None are as reliable, rain or shine, day or night, wind or no wind...

We are blessed in British Columbia with a history of building major dams like Site C, with a proven record of delivering cheap power... whenever we need it.

And we know from that experience, from that endowment from past generations, about the value of projects like Site C.

They attract industry. They create thousands of jobs. They leave more money in the pockets of ratepayers, and they generate clean and reliable power – to power a century of

needs, whether that's around the kitchen table, or in schools, or in workplaces.

Beyond those five principles, this decision really does come down to people.

I believe in the people of B.C. I believe in the future of B.C.

I believe that British Columbians will continue to succeed and that BC will grow.

Long after this announcement is over. Long after my working days in this job are over...the people of our province will continue to prosper and continue to create wealth and opportunity.

In order for our economy to grow, we need to ensure that there is power – clean, reliable, sustainable power at low cost.

An investment in our future and in our children's future.

My faith in that comes with a responsibility to make sure we have the power in the future to succeed.

To make sure the cost estimate of this project is realistic and achievable and that the people managing the budget and this project are accountable to taxpayers.

We have made sure of that in this decision.

To make sure we have the BC workers we need to build Site C and bring home the opportunity of LNG.

We have done that as well.

Previous generations have recognized in our province that there are two major investments that we need to make in order to grow, in order to ensure that our economy is not constrained.

One of them is in people, and we have done that in this province, and we're continuing to do it...

To invest in one of the best education systems you will find anywhere in the world, secondary and post-secondary...

Ensuring that British Columbians are first in line for jobs, that we have the skilled workers that we need to grow our economy.

The second is in reliable, sustainable, low-cost power. Previous generations ensured that our generation could benefit from those investments.

And today we are ensuring that future generations will also benefit from similar foresight and similar investment.

I want to thank everyone at BC Hydro, in government, everyone who worked so hard to ensure that we had all the information that we needed to make the best decision.

I thank you on behalf of the people of our province...so many of whom are here today, and so many of whom are yet to be born...but who will benefit so much from your work.

Last, not that anybody needs it. But a reminder:
The real work starts today.
And we have a lot of work ahead of us.

Thank you.