

Key Messages:

The Province of BC recognizes the significance of the Tsilhqot'in decision and title lands of the Xeni Gwet'in.

The Supreme Court of Canada has provided us with clarity and direction and now we must begin the hard work of reconciliation.

This is a profound opportunity to build a more positive relationship between the Province and the Tsilhqot'in Nation and for a renewed and strengthened vision of First Nations as partners in the economic, political and social future of this province.

Background

Xeni Gwet'in First Nations Government is located in the Nemiah Valley, 150 km southwest of Williams Lake on Chilko Lake and the last 75 km from Lee's Corner to Xeni (Nemiah Valley) is gravel road. The main community is at Chilko Lake Reserve No. 1A on the east shore of Chilko Lake at the mouth of the Nemiah River. They have eight reserves on 1,200 hectares.

Nation Membership and Representation:

The Tsilhqot'in Nation is comprised of six communities: Xeni Gwet'in, Tsi Deldel (Alexis Creek, or Redstone), Yunesit'in (Stone), ?Esdilagh (Alexandria), Tl'esqox (Toosey) and Tl'etinqox (Anaham).

The Tsilhqot'in National Government (TNG) is a political association of the six Tsilhqot'in bands. Chief Joe Alphonse is the Tribal Chair of the TNG, as well as the Chief of Tl'etinqox. Chief Roger William is the Vice Chair.

Tsilhqot'in members are not currently engaged in the treaty process.

Pronunciations (listed alphabetically, and in speaking notes)

?Esdilagh - *ess-dey-la*

Tl'etinqox – *cl-a'inco*

Tl'esqox – *cl-us-co*

Tsi Deldel – *si del del*

Tsilhqot'in - *sill-ko-teen*

Yunesit'in – *you-neh-se-teen*

Xeni Gwet'in – *honey gwe-teen*

NOTE: Do not point at Mount Tsylos is considered sacred, and that bad things will come if people point at it.

Introduced by Crystal Verheghe (Executive Director,
Tsilhqot'in National Government)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

I would like to recognize and acknowledge some of the people here today.

- Chief Joe Alphonse, Tribal Chairman – Tsilhqot'in (*sill-ko-teen*) National Government and the Tl'etinqox (*cl-a-inco*),
- Chief Roger William, Vice Chairman – Tsilhqot'in (*sill-ko-teen*) National Government, and the Xeni Gwet'in (*honey gwe-teen*),
- Chief Francis Laceese, Tl'esqox (*cl-us-co*),
- Chief Percy Guichon, Tsi Deldel (*si-del-del*),
- Chief Bernie Mack, ?Esdilagh (*ess-dey-la*),
- Chief Russell Ross Myers, Yunesit'in (*you-neh-se-teen*),
- And Councillor Marilyn Baptiste and Councillor Lori Williams, Xeni Gwet'in << *honey gwe teen* >>

We are grateful to the Tsilhqot'in (*sill-ko-teen*) for your genuine welcome, and your generosity as hosts.

I have visited the Tsilhqot'in (*sill-ko-teen*) Territory many times – both as a politician and as a visitor.

But today is different. We are here to take part in a very significant moment in our shared history.

I am here today for the first time on what are **now confirmed** Tsilhqot'in (*sill-ko-teen*) title lands.

Today, I am here representing the Government of British Columbia. I have been invited to speak, on equal terms, with the government of the Tsilhqot'in (*sill-ko-teen*) Nation.

It is an honour and a privilege.

I would also like to acknowledge the people who launched the Tsilhqot'in (*sill-ko-teen*) land claim, more than three decades ago.

Because of your profound commitment to your people and a deep connection to your lands, you have made this day – and all the opportunities it holds – possible.

It's great to see so many of you here today. I would particularly like to acknowledge the Tsilhqot'in (*sill-ko-teen*) Elders, the holders of your history and keepers of your stories.

I especially want to honour the nine elders who passed before they could see the results of this part of their story.

They were not able to see their dream become a reality, to watch us build a new partnership.

They are with us in spirit. And I'm sure they are very proud of your work, your commitment, and how you continue to honour their legacy.

Because of their efforts, we now have the opportunity to work together and fundamentally change the way we manage land and resources in British Columbia – today and in the future.

LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING

I am here today to sign the Letter of Understanding between the Government of the Tsilhqot'in (*sill-ko-teen*) People, and the Government of British Columbia.

This agreement commits us to working in partnership as we explore how to implement the Tsilhqot'in (*sill-ko-teen*) Nation judgement.

The Supreme Court of Canada has provided us with clarity and direction. Now we must begin the hard work of reconciliation.

This is a profound opportunity to build a more positive relationship between the Province and the Tsilhqot'in (*sill-ko-teen*) Nation.

And for a renewed and strengthened vision of First Nations as full partners in the economic, political and social future of this province.

The next step is today's Letter of Understanding. It sets out how we will work together to:

- **Redress issues of the past**, including the wrongful trial and hanging of the Tsilhqot'in Chiefs in 1864 and 1865;
- **Begin the immediate work of the present**, by establishing tables that will work together to implement court's decision;
- The letter also sets out how we will **move into the future**.

That includes Longer-term reconciliation initiatives that explore economic opportunities, and improve the health, education and socio-economic well-being of the Tsilhqot'in people.

CONCLUSION

We can't change the past. But if we work hard today, we can leave a legacy for the children and young people of this community.

In 40, 50, or 100 years, they will look back at today, and at the work we are just beginning.

This event will become part of their story. Just as all the elders who set us on this road are part of our story.

I am here today to tell you that my government is committed to this relationship.

We will honour the past.

We will be open and honest in our work in the present.

We will work with you, as equal partners, to build a future for all our children.

Thank you.

-END-

Welcome

Thank you for coming here today to meet with me, and our ministers of the Crown...Government to Government.

And let me assure you. I am not here to talk about the progress I think we're making.

That's not why you're here.

Yes we're making progress, but there's so much more to do. You want to talk about reconciliation, respect, and recognition of title.

You want to talk about the Mount Polley Mine. You want to hear our view of the Supreme Court of Canada's decision in the Tsilqhot'in Case.

That decision has resulted in a fork in the road. As leaders, we have a decision to make. We can ignore it, encourage more litigation, put economic development and our future in peril.

Or we can choose to build a new path. A different road.
To a better destination. For all of us.

I can't build that road on my own and say 'here's the way.' It has to be built by all of us. On behalf of the citizens of British Columbia who I represent. On behalf of the 203 First Nations of British Columbia who you lead.

And you have come such a long way just to be here in Vancouver today...Our story together is unfinished. We have this opportunity to begin the work of writing this next chapter of our history...

To shape our journey together... mindful of the past...embracing the future...and seized with purposeful determination today...to begin defining a new path.

To work together in partnership...for us and our children.

There's a story I want to share with you about our journey. It's a story about a gift and a lesson I received in a meeting with First Nations leaders.

But before I tell you that story, let me tell you about two journeys I've been on, recently.

Yesterday, I was invited up to the Tsilqhot'in title lands...Where I witnessed a kind of nobility that inspires... Graceful winners...

People who overcame years of adversity with unwavering determination.

They heard over and over again "you can't win the court case". "You will lose." "You will not win."

You know, I have heard something like 'you will not win' a few times myself. Maybe a few dozen times, actually.

Well, they kept going. They have proven their critics wrong.

We were on the other side. For all those years.

But let me tell you, the truth is, we are all winners in that victory for the Tsilqhot'in.

Because all British Columbians can benefit if we have the courage to shape our future together.

To the six Chiefs of the Tsilqhot'in National Government...
Chiefs Joe Alphonse, Roger William, Bernie Mack, Francis
Laceese, Percy Guichon, Russell Myers...

Thank you.

Instead of walking away in victory, you've extended your hand. To walk together...in partnership.

On behalf of the people of British Columbia, I am honoured to have signed a Letter of Understanding with you. To recognize that the Supreme Court of Canada's decision gives us a new opportunity. A shared responsibility.

How we build our future together gives new hope for generations to come. And it gives meaning to everyone

who has come and gone...for all their sacrifice...for all that they have helped us achieve.

Partnership doesn't mean we have no misunderstandings. Or challenges. It means we have to find something lasting, something good even in our toughest moments.

I witnessed just that when I travelled to Likely last month...grace under pressure, a rare kind of noble spirit that stands strong even in the midst of crisis.

First Nations elders in that region held a healing ceremony in the aftermath of the failure at the tailings pond at Mount Polley mine.

The elders led us as we walked together, First Nations and non-First Nations. So that the entire community may heal. So that the river that gives life may heal.

And then we took further steps together, our government and the Xatsull (HAT-sul) and William's Lake First Nations governments...

To begin an independent inquiry and investigation,

To determine the truth of what happened,
To make sure it never happens again to anyone else.

Chief Bev Sellars and Chief Anne Louie, thank you for
your commitment to your First Nations and for your
partnership for all the people of British Columbia.

This is just the beginning and we know our journey is not
easy. There can be disagreements. But after all this time
together, by now we must certainly know...

The first step we take together is to understand one
another.

For me, that means listening. And I will not shy away from
truths that have to be spoken here today. That is why I
am here today.

So to that story about the gift. And the lesson. I met with
the Treaty 8 Chiefs just before National Aboriginal Day,
and Chief Liz Logan gave me...a pair of moccasins.

She said, "I want you to know what it's like to walk a mile
in our shoes."

I am not here to tell you that I know. But I do know I can walk that mile with your help.

I am not here to tell you that I have all the answers.

Real answers that can stand the test of time, must come from all of us inside this room.

THE BOTTOM LINE

Years ago in the Delgamuukw decision, the Chief Justice said "we're all here to stay". He was right. We're all still here.

For the BC government, the key word is "partnership"... One based on respect, on recognition, equality, and our common interest.

For the last forty years, the courts have been telling us that a new partnership is necessary.

We accept the decisions.

We welcome the possibilities that partnerships will bring.

I do believe, we need to remain pragmatic, and stay focused on real results.

We want to help make investments happen that will benefit all the people of British Columbia, all the partners in the prosperity we are building...to invest in economic activity that will return dividends to all of us.

These partnerships can take the form of equity, guaranteed cash flow, revenue sharing, job training, and shared responsibility for environmental stewardship.

They can help break the cycle of discrimination, poverty, and real hardship that have hurt so many.

We want these partnerships to emerge from negotiation. They won't work if they're imposed.... If it's a one way conversation.

We're also prepared to work with First Nations to ensure the speedy resolution of disputes.

Going to court for twenty or thirty years can't be the only answer. Isn't there a better way?

We see title as something that recognizes rights, law, and history.

And we see title as creating opportunities to make joint decisions....In true partnership.

The Tsilqhot'in decision is not the end of the conversation. It's the beginning of a new dialogue. To be on the right side of history. All of us, together.

CONCLUSION

In so many ways, First Nations values have come to define all of us in BC, how we see ourselves, and our province in Canada and the world.

First Nations values are the foundation of BC values.

Because we all survive, and we thrive from the land and the ocean...

We know that where we live is precious. It's not limitless. We are stewards of this magnificent part of our planet. It sustains us, and we must protect this place.

That's part of our partnership.

We are not yet where we need to be.

It's a work-in-progress. Now, we have the chance to take the next step...beginning today.

It's an enviable challenge. Others should be as lucky as us, to have this chance to build a partnership, grow together prosperous and healthy...

To work together, as we must.

Can anyone know, can anyone truly know what it is like to walk a mile in the others' shoes?

We have miles to go. But we can only get there through true partnership.

Because, we have a chance to shape history. Even if we sit back...fail to see the moment...

Even if we ignore the call...

History will be shaped for us.

I say we might as well be the ones to shape it.

In BC, we can build a partnership that is a model for everyone else in Canada.

A partnership that is a lasting legacy for generations to come.

They will look back at us in that future.

Perhaps they will look back to this day. To us.

Let's work to make sure they do.

Let's work to make sure this day stands up to their scrutiny.

Let's begin this work together.

**B.C. Cabinet and First Nations Chiefs
Gathering
September 11, 2014**

**Premier Christy Clark – Closing
Remarks**

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Cheryl Casimir, thank you very much, and John Rustad, thank you.

I think you may have had the hardest jobs of anyone today. You kept us on track. You kept us on time. It's a very large group of people.

I want to say on behalf of everybody here who participated a very, very big, sincere mark of gratitude.

And to the leadership council, thank you. We worked very closely together to set up this first and in Canada historic meeting between the cabinet and leaders of First Nations.

This has never happened in this country before. We are very proud of being able to have accomplished this much together.

And all of you gathering here today have joined us in doing that, in making this beginning -- and clearly it is a beginning -- such a success.

This is the first of many future annual meetings.

We'll invite our federal members of parliament and our federal decision-makers, the third party that needs to be at the table, in the partnership that we form and forge as we start down a new path.

And in between, we commit to work together in a more meaningful way, real dialogue to talk about how we can reach the goals that we have heard about today.

We've talked about the four points that the leadership council has presented.

In addition to that, in my individual meetings with many of you today I have heard about many other visions and hopes for the future that reflect the uniqueness of each of the 203 First Nations communities in British Columbia.

We do need solutions that work for the whole province and for the whole country, but we must also remain cognizant - - and we certainly heard this in the working groups today -- of the fact that each First Nation is unique, and each First Nation has its own vision for its own future and its own people.

We'll strive through that dialogue to recognize those differences and to try and meet our joint expectations for partnerships.

Now, when I opened the session today, I said this is just the beginning, and clearly, having heard our other speakers, it's no mystery to any of you that we really do have a lot more work to do together.

But because we haven't finished our work in one day doesn't mean that the work can't be done.

Because we haven't been able to completely change history in this moment doesn't mean that we won't do that together.

I believe we will do that, and I believe that here in British Columbia that we can do that.

The Supreme Court of Canada has said aboriginal title exists in this country, and in my government we embrace that decision, and so now our challenge is how to translate that decision into reality for First Nations across British Columbia, how to implement it, how to meet your expectations and the expectations of all British Columbians.

It was Chief Monk who said today we will not be different until we show that the statistics begin to be different.

Violence against aboriginal women and girls, suicide rates, educational attainment levels, the number of PhDs, the number of journeymen, all of the statistics that members and leaders have talked about today....

Until those statistics are similar between aboriginal and non-aboriginal communities, we will not have succeeded.

And so as Vern Jack said to me today, as well, if we are to take a new path, we need to pave that path.

The stones of that path need to be made of respect -- respect for the fact that First Nations leaders, each of you, has a vision for your community, a vision that you will create and hold and cherish and keep.

Our task -- and it will be a difficult one -- will be to make that a reality.

Chief Harry, you said today that we are beating the table when we should be beating a drum.

I think there's going to be a little of both.

I think we will continue to beat some tables as we disagree and as we work through the very difficult decisions that are ahead of us...

but we will get there if we also remember the beating of the drum that we hear in the background urging us on to success.

I want to thank every single leader who is here today.

Like me, all of you carry with you the trust and responsibility given to you by your people, the ones you represent.

And leadership to me is two things.

One, it is vision, the courage that comes with having a vision and setting it out.

Second, it's the ability to bring those who you represent, those who have chosen you to help shape their future along with you to support you on that path.

We all have a job to do in reaching in both directions, perhaps no more than I do amongst all of us, but I tell you this:

I am committed to being on this journey with you...
to charting a new path, one paved with respect...
prepared to take on the hard work and the difficult decisions that will come with that, recognizing the uniqueness of each community and also the universal hope that all of us share...

For all British Columbians, aboriginal and non-aboriginal alike.

I want to thank you for coming, and I look forward to the work that we are going to continue to do in the days ahead.

It won't be easy, but if we are truly of one heart and one mind I do believe that we can change history.

Thank you very much. Thank you for coming.

Thank you.

You're familiar with the ancient Chinese curse:

May you live in interesting times.

And in China, that curse probably carries a lot more weight than any of us can imagine.

Because they understand "interesting times."

In a way that we in the West haven't had to grapple with for generations.

There's a reason they aspire to predictability.

Because predictability is often linked with prosperity.

Predictability in business, predictability in investment – I don't have to tell you, predictability might be boring...

But boring is good.

RISING TO THE CHALLENGE

Here in B.C., yes, we've had challenges. Social challenges, economic challenges. And we've always overcome them.

We've overcome them by working together.

We've overcome them by doing our jobs.

My job as Premier is to stand up for BC values in the face of challenges that come our way, to manage that challenge, to define change when we have to ...and to do that with an eye to the long-term.

To find a way to achieving stability and certainty.

That's what can help create a climate in which you can do business.

A climate in which you have the opportunity to succeed.

Because when you do, the province prospers, people get hired, and talented people choose to put down roots here.

EDUCATION

History can inspire us. It can be discouraging as well.

In public education, we have a labour relations history that none of us are proud of.

30 years of disruptions, back-to-work legislation and a conflict that has spilled out from the classroom to picket lines to the courts.

In the early hours of this morning we began to set a new course toward labour peace and stability in the classroom.

We negotiated a first in our history. BC's first 6-year agreement with the Teachers' Federation.

Once ratified, it means our students who are already achieving world-leading results, can look forward to achieving more with labour peace and additional investments.

It means a fair wage increase for hard-working teachers...

just like other public servants who have endured zero increases through some lean years.

And it means we worked together with the Teachers' Federation to find an affordable settlement...

Without raising your taxes, without cutting funding to other services, and without borrowing money or running a deficit.

I'll have more to say about it later, but none of this could have been possible without Education Minister Peter Fassbender. Our cabinet colleagues. And our caucus.

And I have to say, none of this could have happened without Jim Iker of the BCTF and his members.

Most of all, none of this would have been possible without the patience of British Columbians, who endured the strike, and waited for the two sides to find agreement the right way:

at the bargaining table and above all, for our students.

MT. POLLEY

Challenges in business or in public policy are never easy to solve. But they demand a willingness to see things honestly, to navigate thoughtfully, and to lead relentlessly.

The situation at the Mt. Polley mine in the town of
Likely...has presented such a challenge to us all.

We don't know how this happened. That's why we're
investigating.

Contrary to what you may have heard, there are no fewer
inspections on major mines.

To the contrary, there are actually more staff in the Mining
and Mineral Resources Section of the ministry now than
there was in 2001.

We're going to get to the bottom of this, and we're going to
take the necessary steps to ensure this remains an
isolated incident.

But that's just part of the story.

When that dam burst, public confidence burst with it.

Public confidence takes years, even generations to build.
But it can be lost in an instant.

The tailings pond breach quickly became about more than
just Mount Polley...

...it became about the whole mining industry.

We've built a diverse economy, with success in industries as varied as tourism, agriculture, our wine and craft beer industry, and many others.

But here's the thing: all this prosperity...all this success...

...was built on a foundation.

And that foundation is resource development.

It's the bedrock of our prosperity. And it's vital to recognize this basic fact, because right now, people are angry.

And they should be. But that anger at one incident could threaten the stability – the predictability – that underpins much of B.C.'s prosperity.

The mining industry has a huge task ahead of it. It needs to make sure people understand what they do matters.

Not just to the thousands of men and women who depend on it directly for jobs – but to everyone in the province.

Because B.C. needs mining. B.C. needs the resource industry.

Mining employs 30,000 men and women in communities across BC.

That includes direct employment at mine sites. But it also includes suppliers and head office jobs.

Over 1,000 mining companies have their head offices in BC. The vast majority of them are right here in Vancouver.

People need to understand the effect.

You don't need to persuade me.

But there are a lot of people who voted to support resource development who need to know that they placed their confidence in the right place.

In a world where business needs social license to operate...

British Columbians become, in effect, your shareholders.

They're not all voting in your shareholders' meeting. But they are going to have a say in what happens.

You can't just let public opinion happen – it's going to be disproportionately influenced by the loudest and angriest voices.

You have to get involved in the conversation.

For my part, for the government's part, we'll continue to investigate what happened, and we'll continue to support the industry as a whole.

And if you play your part, if you make your case...

We'll get through this challenge.

SUPREME COURT RULING

It's about shaping the outcome, and even shaping history. Because history will happen to us, whether we step up to shape it or not.

When the Supreme Court of Canada handed down its ruling in the Tsilqhot'in Case...

We could have stuck our heads in the sand, risk more litigation, and endanger economic development.

That's not a choice.

Because, here's the reality of the ruling...

On a legal basis, there's no getting around it:
The Tsilhqot'in won title.

The decision is clear: Aboriginal title exists.

It is also clear that we have to work with First Nations to determine how to implement that.

Years ago in the Delgamuukw decision, the Chief Justice said "we're all here to stay."

If we work with First Nations on partnership – a partnership based on respect, on recognition, equality, and our common interest...

We have the chance to create a more stable climate for investment and prosperity.

And that's what the courts have have been telling us for 40 years.

After we received the Supreme Court ruling, we reached out to First Nations leaders and asked – how can we move forward?

I went up to Anahim Lake to meet with Chief Roger William and the Tsilhqot'in.

Chief William is a gracious winner.

We signed a Letter of Understanding committing us to work in partnership as we find the way forward.

The very next day, I convened a gathering of First Nations leaders from across the province with my cabinet.

And I told the chiefs: we can all win from a new opportunity here. .

That starts with working together.

Because we've seen the benefits that have come to First Nations communities when they have those opportunities to fully participate in the economy.

We've now reached 31 non-treaty agreements, more than triple our commitment.

Since 2006, we have reached more than 200 agreements with First Nations, both through the treaty process and non-treaty agreements.

We're going to build on the progress we've made, and find a way forward.

JOBS PLAN REFRESH

In the coming weeks, we'll be releasing the three-year update to the jobs plan.

It's not a checklist against three-year-old commitments.

We are measuring progress.

Progress like the near-record 2.3 million people working in BC...

The \$3.9 billion in economic growth last year...

Or the \$7.7 billion in economic expansion since 2010.

But we will be building on the plan with new commitments:

- Developing a strategic plan to further improve the climate for innovation, entrepreneurship and tech sector growth.
- Pursuing supplier development opportunities to prepare B.C. manufacturers to benefit from high

growth subsectors and major resource project
developments

The 3 year update will map out where we have been – and where we will strive to go.

SKILLS TRAINING/TFWs

With the jobs that are coming, skills training has never been more important in BC.

It's why we launched our Skills for Jobs Blueprint – to reengineer our education and training system to meet the needs of tomorrow's economy.

We are hitting a tipping point in 2016:

For the first time, there will be fewer young workers entering the workforce than older workers leaving it.

That's why it's key to connect people with the skills they need. Because if we train too few skilled workers... investment leaves.

It's what happened in Australia. We can't let that happen here.

British Columbians have always come first, and they always will. But inevitably, some of those jobs will be filled with Temporary Foreign Workers.

That's become a dangerous phrase lately. People are going to play politics with this issue, but let me ask them:

Are you opposed to foreign workers becoming citizens? Because the majority of TFWs aren't just looking for a quick buck...

They're looking to build their lives and raise their families here.

To contribute to this country the exact same way the ancestors of almost everyone in this room did.

Premier Brad Wall mentioned an interesting fact at Council of the Federation:

over half of TFWs in Saskatchewan became permanent residents through their nominee program.

In Manitoba, the percentage is even higher.

Here in B.C., 90 per cent of current provincial nominees to become permanent residents are former TFWs.

This isn't anything new. This is literally how this country – and especially the West – was built.

Nobody moved West because they had a farm waiting for them.

CONCLUSION

They came here to be part of the same economic miracle that has made everyone in this room prosper.

And that's not something to be threatened by. It's something to celebrate.

It's the best possible validation that we're getting it right.

And we will need every British Columbian at their best for the coming opportunity of a new LNG industry.

This fall, In a special session of the legislature, we will introduce the framework for an LNG tax...to ensure certainty for business, to ensure competitiveness, and to ensure that British Columbians benefit from exporting our resource,

Yes, there will be challenges. But we'll overcome them the same way we overcome all challenges:

By sticking to our values.

By reaching across to all British Columbians to work together.

And by running a fiscally responsible government... That is how we can find the resources to take care of those who need it most.

Leave the province as pristine as we found it.

And leave the next generation with not a bill to pay...but a legacy of prosperity and opportunity.

That's what I want for my son. I know it's what each of you want for your own kids.

There is a lot of hard work to be done...there is history to be made.

Let's have the courage, to stand up, stand together, and the get job done.

Thank you.

ACKNOWLEDGE:
HON. TERRY LAKE
HON. TODD STONE
MAYOR PETER MILOBAR
CHIEF SHANE GOTTFRIEDSON

Thank you.

This region, and this province, is blessed.

Just look outside. Kamloops and the Thompson Valley have incomparable scenery. You have an abundance of natural resources.

You have a storied junior hockey team – and by hosting the 2016 Women's World Hockey Tournament, you will further cement your well-earned reputation as Canada's Tournament Capital.

You also have strong leadership. Our Kamloops caucus has two members.

Todd Stone is the Minister of Transportation. He's not a rising star, he is a star.

He understands job creation and what it takes to grow the economy.

Before becoming an MLA, Todd was the founder and CEO of iCompass Technologies.

He served on five different boards.

And he's done an incredible job in a tough ministry.

And of course, the senior member of our Kamloops caucus – Terry Lake.

This isn't a man who shies away from tough jobs.

Terry is my Minister of Health. Previously he was Minister of the Environment. And before that, Mayor.

From day one, he's played a vital role in caucus.

Todd and Terry are both passionate champions of Kamloops in our caucus.

And they both understand what it takes to create and build on success.

Good fortune is one thing. But it's nothing without hard work.

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.

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

CONTROLLING SPENDING

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

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

But it's deeper than that.

Check Against Delivery

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 while we're trying to get things right for our kids' future – hopefully tomorrow they'll get some good news about their immediate future.

As you know, early yesterday morning, we negotiated a first in our history:

B.C.'s first 6 year agreement with the Teachers' Federation.

I'm not going to get into great detail before teachers can vote on the tentative agreement.

If ratified, it would be a major breakthrough after 30 years of a dysfunctional relationship between government and the BCTF.

It will provide a historic 6-year agreement – the longest ever.

That means 5 years of labour peace in the classroom.

And that gives teachers, school districts and government an opportunity to work together for what matters... our students.

They're already achieving world-leading results. Imagine what they can do if we work together, instead of being in disputes.

It means a fair wage increase for hardworking teachers...just like other public servants who have endured zero increases through some lean years.

And it means we worked together with the BCTF to find an affordable settlement...

Without raising taxes...
without cutting funding to other services...
and without borrowing money or running a deficit.

We promised to work with the TF to get to a long-term, negotiated settlement. And thanks to a lot of patience and hard work on both sides – promise made, promise kept.

We promised British Columbians we'd make the tough decisions to keep taxes as low as possible, and still eliminate the deficit.

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

Promise made, promise kept.

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 for Crown Corporations and Public Entities.

Check Against Delivery

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

- 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.
- And 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.

Because there's only one taxpayer. And they deserve to know their tax dollars are spent wisely and efficiently.

That's why I was disappointed to see the Ernst & Young Report on rising municipal wages in B.C.

Under the affordability mandate, we have agreements with over half the public sector, representing well over 150,000

Check Against Delivery

men and women – and that's not counting the pending agreement with the BCTF.

We know this isn't easy. That's why we've offered to work with local governments on ways to help address issues raised in the report.

A lot of local governments are looking carefully at revenues and potential revenues – and that's fine, but they need to be looking just as closely at their expenditures.

This report provides an opportunity to explore ways to deliver similar services at similar costs for the public.

I'm looking forward to working with UBC, and I'm looking forward to working with municipal leaders like Mayor Milobar, who have done great work on this front.

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.

Because their 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 decision made two things clear.

First, Aboriginal title exists. We have to recognize that. And we do.

Second, governments across Canada have to have a dialogue with First Nations about how to implement that.

Last week, we gathered First Nations leaders from every corner of the province to meet with my cabinet.

Leaders like Chief Shane Gottfriedson, who spoke about title-based decision making.

I heard a lot of different ideas and opinions about the next steps.

It's going to take a lot of time and patience – on both sides – to take those steps together.

I'm optimistic that we will. Because while there are real differences, there's also a lot of common ground.

We all want healthy communities. We all want more opportunity, both today and in the future.

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...

Just like we did with New Brunswick at Council of the Federation.

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. And next month, I take off on my sixth, this time to India.

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 businesses across the province.

Companies like Horizon North Logistics.

Horizon North specializes in workforce accommodation, camp management, catering services, road and access.

They've done well supplying companies next door in Alberta's oil sands.

But they see the opportunity in their own backyard.

And that means jobs here in Kamloops.

Jobs that might be filled by graduates from TRU's trades training program, which received funding for an additional 52 training spaces for future welders, electricians, and carpenters.

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
- Through the Small Business Venture Capital program, we invest up to \$110 million every year in small businesses.
- And we took steps to bring B.C.'s liquor laws into the 21st century, which will benefit Kamloops' two wineries, two breweries, three cideries, and three distillers.

CONCLUSION

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

Check Against Delivery

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.

Thank you

-END-

ACKNOWLEDGE:

Joe Olivier, Vice President, RBC (Introducing PCC)

Randy Pratt, President, Adara Group

Brooke Wade, founding President & CEO of Methanex s.22

s.22

Thank you.

It's a pleasure to speak to the leaders of tomorrow.

You all have experienced success, and you know what that takes.

A little good fortune. And a lot of hard work.

LEADERSHIP

To really make it big – both help. But you also know good fortune is nothing without hard work.

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.

The end result, of course, is an opportunity to lead. That can mean a lot of different things in different fields.

Whatever path you've chosen, be it business, government, or anything else...

leadership is a unique privilege. And like all privilege, it comes with responsibility.

Because leadership means standing up and being clear about your values.

Leadership means listening. Leadership means sticking to your principles, even if it gets tough, or if you get tempted to waver.

It might be easier for a short time. But once you shrink in the face of a challenge, you're not leading. You're not shaping history...

You're letting history happen to you.

That's been our approach here in B.C.

We've had some challenges – you've probably read about a few of them.

Through it all, we stood behind our principles. Our core values.

- Control spending and respect the taxpayer.
- Take care of those who need it.
- Create more opportunity by growing the economy.
- And leave a legacy for the next generation, not a bill to pay.

There's no great secret there.

From the provincial election, to labour strikes at Port Metro Vancouver and the teachers' federation...

We have never wavered from those values.

TEACHERS

Let me give you the most recent example:

The teachers' strike.

As a leader, you can't be tin-eared – you have to hear the conversations out there. But you also need a spine.

Our goals were knocking against 30 years of a bad relationship.

This didn't come out of nowhere. There's a long history of mistrust and bad feelings between the provincial government and the BCTF.

The constant cycle of strike and legislated settlement had to end.

So when the most recent contract ended, we stood firm for a negotiated settlement.

We didn't give in to calls for binding arbitration. Why would we offload our responsibility to balance the budget to a third party?

We didn't give in to the pressure for back to work legislation.

Back to work legislation is a key reason we've had dysfunctional labour relations with teachers for 30 years.

We insisted on a negotiated settlement to break that cycle, and give a better relationship a chance.

A new path going forward, where instead of teachers and governments fighting each other we can work together for students.

Thanks to the courage of the union leadership, the agreement we negotiated was within the frame of the fiscal reality.

We stand at the start of a historic opportunity. With the longest agreement ever reached with teachers.

A 6-year negotiated settlement means 5 years of labour peace ahead of us to help students achieve even more.

Make no mistake – it wasn't easy to get here. But we knew none of this would be possible unless we stuck to our principles.

LNG AND TRADE WITH ASIA

And we will continue to be guided by them, because in B.C., we have a unique opportunity to shape history – not just here at home, but around the world.

The ongoing expansion of the Chinese middle class is one of the greatest transformations in human history.

It's lifting millions of people out of poverty. But this transformation needs huge amounts of energy.

China has relied on coal for the vast majority of its power generation, which has created real problems with pollution and smog.

Increasingly, they're turning to natural gas – the world's cleanest-burning non-renewable resource.

They're turning wherever they can get it, including Russia. But China prizes stability and predictability – they need at least one reliable trading partner.

Just across the Pacific, lies British Columbia, with enough supply to last 150 years.

It's hard to overstate the scope of this opportunity. It would mean 100,000 new jobs, and enough revenue to eliminate our debt.

It's an opportunity for First Nations to fully participate in an emerging industry – as full partners.

It's an opportunity to become leaders in Confederation, by making contributions like never before.

It's an opportunity to make a real difference in the fight against climate change.

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

But what a difference that fraction would make.

The resulting greenhouse gas reductions would be equivalent to one and a half times our entire annual output in B.C.

It's the equivalent to shutting down British Columbia...every industry, every school and hospital, every vehicle...

For a year and a half.

Cleaner air in China means cleaner air right here in BC, throughout the West Coast, and right across Canada.

Our reserves of natural gas and proximity to Asia are good fortune.

It's going to take hard work to bring this opportunity home.

It starts with a firm commitment to controlling spending and balancing our budget.

We've done that two years in a row, with projected surpluses increasing every year in the next five.

It continues with preparing British Columbians for those 100,000 jobs. That's the idea behind the BC Jobs Plan, and the Skills for Jobs Blueprint.

They aim to reengineer our education and training system to meet the needs of a changing and growing economy.

Because there's going to be a lot of opportunity here. That's why I've led five international trade missions to the growing economies of Asia – with my sixth just around the corner.

On each trip, we've been accompanied by representatives from B.C. companies establishing trade and investment ties across the Pacific.

This has resulted in deals in sectors as diverse as clean tech, agriculture, forestry, and advanced education.

There's a lot more to do. But our focus is unwavering.

CONCLUSION

You're here because you understand the difference between good fortune and hard work.

You're here because you've put yourself in a position to lead – to shape events and make a difference around you.

Don't ever lose sight of how important that is.

I often think of my grandfather. Because what he accomplished made a difference for the veterans who received care in his those hospitals.

And it made a real difference for his family. It made a difference for me.

That's the opportunity you've given yourselves.

To shape events...

To make a difference in people's lives...

To effect lasting change that lasts for generations.

I wish you all the good fortune in the world. And I know you'll know what to do with it.

Thank you.

Welcome. I'm glad you're here.

Public service is more than a full-time job. And so is an election campaign.

Tonight's not about work. It's about meeting your colleagues from across the province to share ideas and experiences.

As you balance the demands of your day job and your night job – which is campaigning to keep your day job...

I'd encourage you to think everything you done – each of you – to make a difference in your community.

Because that's the opportunity we have all been given: the chance to make a difference.

The chance to lead.

The chance to shape the future. A better future.

It's not easy work. And it's even more difficult if you don't lean on your peers – for ideas, examples, and advice.

Or maybe just for a drink.

I'm looking forward to meeting with you.

But until then, have a great night. You've earned it.

Guangdong Trade Office Opening

September 25, 2014

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Meeting with Zhu Xiaodan, Governor of Guangdong Province to officially announce and inaugurate the Guangdong Economic and Trade Representative Office in Canada in Vancouver

Official delegation:

- Mr. LI Feng, Secretary-General, People's Government of Guangdong
- Mr. FU Lang, Director-General, Guangdong Foreign Affairs Office
- Mr. LAI Tiansheng, Director General, Guangdong Commission of Economy and Information Technology
- Mr. ZENG Zhiquan, Director-General, Guangdong Department of Finance
- Ms. WU Yali, Interpreter, Guangdong Foreign Affairs Office

- Hon. Teresa Wat, Minister of International Trade
- BC Chief of Protocol
- Mr. Weldon Epp, Consul General of Canada in Guangzhou
- Ms. Cathy Yao, Managing Director, BC International Trade and Investment Office (TBC)
- media

KEY MESSAGES:

- This visit marks the beginning of celebrations for 20 years of BC-Guangdong sister-province relationship and will establish an action plan to commence anniversary.
- The opening of the Guangdong Economic and Trade Representative Office Vancouver marks a new milestone in our close relationship. This is a significant achievement, and one that is mutually beneficial for the people of Guangdong and British Columbians.

This is the Governor Zhu Xiaodan's first trip to British Columbia since taking office...

I hope he feels welcome.

*pause for translation

British Columbians are very proud of our 20-year partnership with the people of Guangdong.

It was a natural fit. BC is home to Canada's second largest Chinese. And a large proportion of BC's Chinese community have family ties to Guangdong.

*pause for translation

Over the past two decades, our provinces have developed closer ties, cooperating on issues as diverse as:
trade and investment;
educational exchanges;
responses to infectious diseases;
and environmental sustainability issues.

*pause for translation

EDUCATIONAL PARTNERS

Two years ago, we launched our International Education Strategy, promoting the two-way global flow of students, educators and ideas.

The international connections students make go a long way towards preparing them for jobs in the global economy.

*pause for translation

Of all the international students in Canada, almost a third are hosted in BC. There are almost 13,000 Chinese post-secondary students studying in BC.

To support these students, we offer scholarships and funding. It's a good investment. It promotes understanding and leads to increased trade and investment.

*pause for translation

TRADE PARTNERS

Increasing trade with Guangdong and China is a major component of my plan to grow BC's economies.

That's why I'm very excited about the opening of the Guangdong Economic and Trade Representative Office in Vancouver.

*pause for translation

As Canada's gateway to Asia and the Pacific, BC is an ideal place for Chinese companies to set up their North American headquarters.

I can't stress enough the importance we place on trade and investment with China.

That's why next month, I'm leading my 6th trade mission to Asia.

That's why 4 out of 11 BC overseas representative offices around the world are located in China: in Beijing, Shanghai, and Guangzhou.

*pause for translation

CONCLUSION

For more than a century, BC's Chinese community have made this a better, more prosperous, and culturally rich place.

British Columbians think of ourselves as a Pacific people. Partnerships like the one we share with Guangdong build friendships and cultural ties that blossom into trade and business ties.

Over these next few days, we hope to build on our successes as we look toward the next 20 years of our partnership as sister provinces.

—END—

Good morning.

I'd like to acknowledge the traditional territory of the Coast Salish peoples, specifically the Squamish Nation and Lil'wat First Nation

This is a special year for most of you.

It's when you stand up. Stand up for your values, and ask for your communities' support to lead.

I want to talk to you today about the responsibilities that come with that privilege.

What it means to lead.

What's at stake in our province. The role of rural communities -- how rural and urban communities are connected.

I want to talk to you about resource development.

Done responsibly. Done right. That's at the heart of our history.

It powers what all of us do in this room. And it's the key to our future.

First, I want to acknowledge some of the titans of BC municipal politics who have chosen not to run again next month.

It's going to be a lot different here next year without people like John Kettle and Walter Grey – and a lot less colourful.

It was John who told a packed room recently that nudity is the best form of birth control as we age.

It's a good thing we have so many natural resources – because we'd all be naked without them.

To everyone wrapping up your career in elected public service: thank you.

I also want to thank Rhona Martin for everything she's accomplished at UBCM.

We didn't always see eye to eye, but that's okay. I don't need or want to be surrounded by people who agree with me.

In fact, I relish it. There really is no other explanation for me running in Vancouver-Point Grey.

Rhona, you've been a tireless advocate for municipalities across the province, and I thank you for calling it like you see it.

And I want to congratulate incoming president Sav Dhaliwal. I'm looking forward to working through the issues with you together.

One of the things we have done best in British Columbia is ensure we meet regularly, face to face.

This isn't always the case in other provinces. But there is tremendous value in bringing together local and provincial leaders...

To discuss the issues that matter to the people who have entrusted us with the privilege of representing them.

Two weeks ago, I convened a very different meeting of leaders, when I invited 400 First Nations chiefs from across the province to meet with my cabinet and my deputies.

It wasn't modeled on UBCM, and obviously the issues are very different – but the concept is basically the same.

The first step towards solutions is dialogue.

SNYDER AND SPINTLUM

Meeting face to face...

Talking our way through problems...

It's what made this province the place it is today.

My grandfather used to take me out fishing on the Fraser River. A river whose rich resources sustained my family for generations.

It's part of who I am.

In that rugged, beautiful river, there's a story at the heart of our identity.

The gold rush of 1858 was a dangerous time.

When gold was discovered here just a mere nine years after the California rush...

It attracted thousands of American prospectors north across the border – which was disputed at the time.

The mark they left lasts to this day along the Fraser, with names like Boston Bar, Texas Bar, and Yankee Flat.

As they moved farther and farther upstream, they came into increasing contact with First Nations.

And with increasing contact came increasing tensions, until one day bodies started to appear in the river.

The colonial government in Victoria was too far away to intervene.

Motivated by revenge, two different American militias formed to attack nearby First Nations, led by Chief Spintlum.

One of those American militias was led by Captain Snyder. Perhaps he was motivated by purer instincts... Or perhaps he knew they were hugely outnumbered.

What he didn't know was Chief Spintlum was also counselling peace.

Spintlum knew this was just the first wave. His people might defeat this rabble, but thousands upon thousands more were coming.

Think about that moment when they eventually met.

It must have been unimaginably tense. They both arrived thinking thought the other side was spoiling for a fight.

And in a way, they were both right: plenty of people on both sides wanted one.

Instead, there was peace. Because there was leadership – Snyder and Spintlum.

Both with the courage to shape history, even when surrounded by people who disagree.

They found the best way forward.

They found a way to work together.

And they changed the future of our province and our country – forever.

Two men who probably never grasped the impact of their decision that day.

Two men who stood up to be counted despite opposition.

Two men who did what they sincerely believed was right for the people they led.

Why haven't we heard more about this story?

For starters, Governor Douglas hated it, because it showed how little control he had, and how vulnerable B.C. was.

Can you imagine what would have happened if a bunch of American prospectors had been killed by First Nations?

The US army would have been up here. And they might not have left.

I might not have gotten to enjoy those afternoons on the Fraser with my grandfather.

And in Hope, where a lot of those prospectors started their journey north – next month, you might have been voting to send a congressman to a deadlocked government in Washington, DC.

LEADERSHIP

Snyder and Spintlum understood the special role they had as leaders.

The same special role that has been given to each of you...

To shape the future.

To make history happen, instead of letting it happen to you.

But Snyder and Spintlum didn't just lead by looking forward...they also led by reaching back.

Back to the men who followed them. And persuaded enough of them to take another path.

A path of peace, rather than conflict.

It's how the BCTF and provincial government solved the teacher's strike: leadership on both sides.

The BCTF could have decided to force the government's hand – and government could have decided to legislate them back to work.

But we didn't.

Because we were determined to come to a negotiated settlement.

Determined to call a truce, and start a new kind of relationship.

One that focuses first and foremost on kids.

And while determination and a square focus on the long game is part of leadership...

It's not the whole story.

We were able to reach this historic agreement because leadership on both sides of the table had the support of those who entrusted us with leadership.

Teachers who, in the end, voted 86 per cent in favour of the agreement, and the thousands and thousands of British Columbians who were prepared to endure the long strike...

Because they wanted this ended the right way.

Today, none of us is leading our communities to war – thank Goodness.

But all of us, we hope, are leading our communities to greater health and wealth.

Everyone wants prosperity.

None of us should think we can benefit from economic development...

and then excuse ourselves from rolling up our sleeves and making it happen.

I met with Mayor Frank Armitage yesterday.

There are less than 3,000 people in Princeton, yet Frank tells me they contribute \$750 million per year to the provincial economy, via forestry, and the Copper Mountain Mine.

They came to see me yesterday about getting some help to install an elevator in their town hall, so their courtroom is accessible to everyone.

Despite all the wealth they produce for all of us, they still struggle to meet the needs of their small but mighty community.

This isn't a new story. Wealth has always flowed from rural BC down to the urban centres, then over our borders or across the sea.

It is how we create wealth together – urban and rural.

The dispute between Snyder and Spintlum. It all started because of mineral wealth – gold.

But here's something we in urban centres sometimes forget...

Spintlum didn't want to stop the gold mines. He just wanted the miners to leave some of that wealth behind.

It's the same today in Rural BC. It's the same with First Nations.

They're for economic development. They just want to see more of the benefits extracted from the land they live on to come back.

That's why I asked Donna Barnett to lead a Rural Advisory Committee. Because we have to do a better job making sure places like Princeton, and Terrace, and Fort Nelson, and 100 Mile...

Get their fair share.

That starts with getting development right. Getting to "yes" doesn't mean skipping the necessary steps.

There's anxiety in places like Squamish and Burnaby, where they're debating development projects. And that's understandable.

To earn social license, you can't hide from people's real concerns

That's what the 5 Conditions are about.

An articulation of our core principles for development.

There needs to be a formal environmental review...

World-leading practices on land and in the water in place

for prevention and response in case of accidents...

Aboriginal rights must be addressed...

And we need a fair share of the benefits that reflect the risk.

These conditions are an articulation of the ways we do business in BC.

It works. Others can learn from it.

It's the same approach I take with liquefied natural gas. I see a tremendous opportunity for British Columbians from LNG.

It's because it's the cleanest-burning fossil fuel.

Because it's safe to transport.

Because we have the highest standards for worker safety.

Because we have a 50-year record of environmental safety.

It's because we are doing it right that I see opportunities for businesses across the province, through the LNG Buy BC program.

Opportunities for thousands of people, trained for new careers through the Skills for Jobs Blueprint

In July we allocated almost \$7 million for additional foundation and apprenticeship seats.

We're already hearing stories about students who are making the most of this chance.

Students like Andrew Broadbent of Summerland, who got one of the new seats at Okanagan College.

My priority is people like Andrew across this province who are thinking about their future.

But Andrew doesn't have that future without the visionary leadership from all of you.

Because of people like Andrew and all those workers in BC, that we have to be tough regulators.

Vigilant about protection and safety.

After the tailings pond breach at Mount Polley, I went up there to meet with the people affected. They were devastated.

That can't happen again.

The inquiry and investigation underway will let us get to the bottom of what happened, so it won't.

In British Columbia we do have a record of developing resources that is better than almost anywhere else in the world.

We must strive every day to improve and keep our status as tough regulators with responsible, sustainable resource industries.

Equivocation, evasion, and caving in don't count as doing better.

Standing up for what we do...

Striving to improve – that's what leadership is.

MAYORS

And just as wealth from our forests, mines, and gas reserves flow from Rural BC, part of our job as leaders is putting each other in a position for success.

Linda McGuire and her council are here. They are finally – finally – going to be able to bring broadband access to Granisle.

Basic infrastructure that will allow Mayor McGuire's small community to reach its full potential.

They need it – as all small communities do – for economic development, for health care, and for education.

You can imagine how disappointed they were to learn that fibreoptic was coming down the highway, but stopped 2 kilometres short of the community.

We're finding a way to fix that. And we want to fix it for other small communities.

This will be a significant initiative across government, coming out over this coming year.

And it will build on so many good stories...so much possibility around the province.

Dancin' Dave MacDonald says there's a house on the market in Port Ed for \$445,000. Probably the highest listing ever in the town.

It's the same in Salmon Arm. Where's Mayor Nancy Cooper? Housing, retail, and tourism – all up.

And Janice Perrino told me there's 100 new building permits been issued in Summerland.

Terrace saw an average of 1 residence built per year. They've had 190 in the last 24 months.

Joe Stanhope is thinking about how to take the 30 % cut in gas rates recently announced by the province, and turn it into economic opportunity for Vancouver Island.

ONE TAXPAYER

The foundation for all of this success is getting our own house in order.

We can't ever forget: there's only one taxpayer funding multiple levels of government and important public services.

It's up to the provincial and local governments to ensure we're working together to ensure those services aren't costing citizens more than necessary.

That's why we commissioned the Ernst & Young report.

It shows we've had some successes. And it shows there's a lot more work to do.

Some local governments are paying more than the province for people to do similar jobs.

And in those cases, compensation levels are simply too high.

It's not just local governments. The report also shows we need to keep working to manage compensation and spending at Crown corporations...

That's why we've taken steps towards addressing that with the Taxpayer Accountability Principles.

I'm not here to point a finger – this is a healthy process that all governments at all levels need to go through.

And I understand only too well just how difficult and heated negotiation can be with public sector unions.

But we all have to stick to our guns.

We will not raise taxes.

We will not commit to something we cannot afford.

We will not kick the ball down for the next generation to figure out.

There are success stories here, too. I met with Mayor Carman Graf of Telkwa yesterday.

They have some of the lowest per capita expenditures in B.C.

Their plan is fairly simple:

Grow, then spend more. Not vice versa.

But it's not just about wages.

We are in the midst of our first major core review in 12 years, but some of you got to it before I did.

Dan Ashton led a successful review in Penticton that led to property taxes being frozen – with no cuts.

But the road to prosperity – the road to economic growth – can be bumpy. Things can happen along the way that are unexpected.

Back to Captain Snyder for a moment.

Remember he was the leader of just one of two American militias bent on revenge against the First Nations.

But after deciding to seek peace himself, he went to his fellow American leader, Captain Graham, and persuaded him to do the same.

But in a moment of weakness, Graham changed his mind and went off anyway in search of a fight.

Instead of igniting a full-scale war, he got himself killed – possibly by his own men.

Captain Graham could have reached Spintlum first. And if he had, the US army, already sent from California to northern Washington State, could have been sent in.

Thousands more people might have died on all sides. And the national motto, from sea to sea, would be something quite different.

The lessons of Snyder and Spintlum have never been more relevant.

They remind us our province wasn't shaped by destiny alone.

It was shaped by men and women who made choices.

156 years after two brave men decided to find a better way forward, we've encountered another fork in the road.

The Supreme Court of Canada has told us Aboriginal title exists.

As leaders, we have a decision to make. We can ignore it, encourage more litigation, and put economic development and all of our futures on hold.

Or we can follow that fork in the road. We can begin a journey down a new road together. Embrace it as an opportunity to start down a new path.

A path with First Nations as partners. Sharing in all the benefits of a growing economy.

Sharing in access to education, job opportunities, new revenues.

Wanting more of the resources of this province to go back to their communities, just as you do to yours.

CONCLUSION

You have decisions to make in your communities, too.

Because as one politician to another: I know this is a big year.

Public service is more than a full-time job, and if that wasn't enough to fill your evenings and weekends...

you're getting into the home stretch in your re-election campaigns.

And when you're competing for people's attention – talking about the things that bring us together, rather than fighting about the things that divide us...

Isn't all that sexy.

But as Captain Graham learned...

The path to glory can be very short-term indeed.

Like them, we need to understand the reality of our times.

We need to summon the courage to shape history, even when surrounded by people who disagree.

We need to keep searching for the best way forward, and new ways to work together.

We've come a long way.

Think about what our resource economy makes possible.

If you get cancer – anywhere in BC – you have best treatment centres, with the best outcomes in anywhere in the world.

That's largely due to research and work done in Vancouver. And we've been able to make significant investments, because of the wealth generated in our resource sector.

Think about what our post-secondary institutions are achieving on the world stage.

Next month, I'm leading my sixth trade mission, this time to India.

We'll be visiting the University of the Fraser Valley's campus there. They wanted to form partnerships with B.C. institutions because of what we're achieving here.

That's only possible because of the wealth generated in our resource sector.

Universities with campuses and partnerships across the Globe...

Think about the opportunities that opens up for young British Columbians from every corner of this province.

We've talked about our history – but that's our future.

And if we learn those lessons, and stay true to our shared vision...

If we're not afraid to work hard, and make the tough decisions...

We'll find we are so much stronger. As a province.
Together.

Thank you.

-END-