

## **China Canada Business Council Lunch Tuesday Aug. 23, 2011**

### **Event: what is it?**

- A luncheon with the Chinese business community and a meeting with Zhang Junsai, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China

### **Audience: who are they?**

- Members of the China Canada Business Council TBC
- Ambassador Zhang

### **Audience: what do they want to hear?**

### **KEY MESSAGES:**

This fall government is working to defend and create jobs- a huge part of creating jobs in about opening up the Asia Pacific Gateway.

Asia is our future and we will continue to build and strengthen ties with China to spur investment and trade.

Our location as the Asia Pacific Gateway will lead to an estimated 255,000 jobs and \$76 billion in increased trade with the Asia-Pacific by 2020.

For the first time ever, we are sending more softwood to China than to the US and we are exporting more goods to Asia than to the US.

**I am honoured to be with you here today, and to personally thank His Excellency, Ambassador Zhang (Jong) for his attendance today.**

**The past few weeks have been a time of uncertainty for many of us as we watch events unfold on the global economic stage.**

**Here in British Columbia, we're going to be focused on defending and protecting jobs.**

**And I believe that Asia will play a major role as we move forward.**

**British Columbia has an advantage nobody else in Canada can claim – we are this country's Asia Pacific Gateway.**

**And I know that the people in this room will play a critical role in creating the future we want for B.C.**

**Your energy, your ideas and your abilities will help build B.C.'s economic strength and competitiveness.**



**The Chinese-Canadian community in B.C. is helping us build strong ties with one of our most important trading partners – the People's Republic of China.**

**We must continue to build our relationship, and develop new markets for our products and resources.**

**In fact, for the first time ever, we are sending more softwood to China than to the US –**

**And that has led directly to 27 mills re-opening since 2009, creating jobs for British Columbians and breathing new life into northern and Interior communities.**

**And for the first time ever, we are exporting more goods to Asia than to the US.**

**Asia is our future. China is our future, and that's something I've been sharing with people everywhere I go across B.C. and Canada.**

**Our location as the Asia Pacific Gateway will lead to an estimated 255,000 jobs and \$76 billion in increased trade with the Asia-Pacific by 2020.**

**To foster our relationship with China, last year we opened new B.C. Trade & Investment offices in Beijing and Guangzhou, in addition to the existing office in Shanghai.**

**In the next few months I plan to travel to China to build on our existing bonds of friendship and business and create new ones.**

**The Chinese-Canadian community is a bedrock of our society in B.C. – a foundation we can build on together.**

**Each year we welcome twice as many new citizens from China than from anywhere else in the world.**

**In fact British Columbians of Chinese origin now make up close to 10% of our entire population.**

**And together we celebrate your contributions to B.C.'s prosperity, and to the rich cultural tapestry that makes this such a tremendous place to live.**

**Regardless of whether you're a new Canadian or were born here, we depend on your input, your support and your partnership to help grow our cultural and economic ties with China.**

**Our goal is to work side by side with all of you to lead Canada and North America into the Asia Pacific Century.**

**Xie xie (Shay shay – Mandarin for thank you.)**

**Port Mann Bridge  
Saturday, August 27, 2011**

**Event: what is it?**

- Event to mark the fifty per cent completion milestone of the Port Mann/Highway 1 Improvement Project.
- To recognize the contribution of construction workers on the PMH1 to date, Kiewit-Flatiron in cooperation with the Transportation Investment Corporation (TI Corp) is hosting a picnic/barbecue for workers and their families.

**Audience: who are they?**

- Workers on site
- Lower Mainland commuters

**Key Messages**

- **Thank you to Kiewit-Flatiron workers who are building B.C.'s future as they build the Port Mann Bridge and Highway 1 project.**
- **The bridge will cut commute times, leaving people more time for their families, and help our economy and our environment.**
- **This is an important project for the Pacific Gateway and B.C.'s and Canada's economy.**
- **Thanks for keeping the project on time and on budget.**

WELL, WE'RE HALFWAY THERE!

What a proud moment this is for the 1,500 people working on this highway and bridge project right now.

I salute all the workers here today. You've reached the halfway point building this magnificent structure.

It's a huge responsibility...because you're not only building a bridge.

You're building British Columbia and you're building Canada.

Think of the commuters who will be able to spend about an extra hour a day with their families because you've built this bridge.

That's more time to play with the kids, to walk the dog, to go to the gym...time they can spend at home with the people they love doing the things that really matter to them.

You're also helping improve our highway system- the backbone of our economy helping us move goods seamlessly in and out of BC.

We are expanding our markets in the Asia Pacific and we need infrastructure projects of this calibre to provide the support that will boost domestic, cross-border and global export opportunities.

The roads and bridge that you're building ensure that we are the hub.

So you see, you're not just building a bridge.

You're building our future. You're building our tomorrow.

## **Port Mann Bridge**

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I want to thank every one of you here today and every person who has worked on this bridge, keeping it on time and on budget...

The engineers, the steelworkers, the deck workers, the project managers, the tradespeople, the sub-contractors and so many others.

People like Dawn Chapman, a mom with two kids, who has worked on this bridge, and has been with Kiewit for five years.

And when cars start to drive across this bridge in 2012, Dawn's children will say, "My mom built that bridge."

And Dawn, your children will drive across the bridge and proudly tell their children that you built this...

This is more than a bridge.

This is a point of pride for everyone who worked on it, and this is a day to celebrate a benchmark moment, for all of us, together.

To every person who has worked on this bridge, thank you.

I look forward to seeing all of you back here next year to celebrate the opening of the Port Mann Bridge.

- END -



## Key Messages:

1. The temple represents BC's strong multicultural heritage
2. The temple represents the extraordinary result when an entire community is behind a singular project
3. The temple is an important piece of B.C.'s and Canada's history

Thank emcee SATWINDER BAINS, Director for Indo-Canadian Studies at the University of the Fraser Valley, for introduction.

THANK YOU TO MEMBERS OF THE GUR SIKH GURDWARA FOR WELCOMING US TO YOUR CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION TODAY

### ACKNOWLEDGE

- Prime Minister Stephen Harper
- MP for Abbotsford, Ed Fast
- Mayor of Abbotsford, George Peary
- Kabul Singh Hundal, president of the Khalsa Diwan Society of Abbotsford

I'M HONOURED TO BE HERE TODAY WITH THE COMMUNITY TO CELEBRATE THIS GREAT OCCASION – THE 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF YOUR TEMPLE.

When the first Sikhs arrived in the Fraser Valley in 1905, from Punjab in India,

They settled in the valley and worked on farms, in the mills, on the river...

And they helped build our province- they were pioneers.

In 1908, local Sikhs started to build a temple right here in Abbotsford.

It took 4 years of hard work by the entire community – both financial and physical – to finish building it.

Both Sikh and non-Sikh community members worked together on this project and they celebrated together once it was completed.

And now, here we are 100 years later, Sikh and non-Sikh coming together again to celebrate this beautiful building.

I look at what you have achieved here and I see more than a building – I see a heritage of pride, tradition and history.

This building and the people who built it and care for it, are a significant part of the cultural mosaic that makes our province great.

Every year, we build on the heritage established by your ancestors as we welcome new immigrants to Canada.

Today we acknowledge your community's perseverance, your strength, and your contributions to B.C.'s prosperity.

Your community and this temple are key parts of the rich cultural tapestry that not only helps define us, but makes us who we are.

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**Kamloops Air Ambulance Service Announcement  
Tuesday August 30, 2011**

**Key Messages**

- **This latest addition means families from the Interior and those travelling through will now have that extra peace of mind.**
- **In critical emergencies, lives can be saved and lives can be lost in a matter of minutes and this air ambulance will make a huge difference in patient outcomes.**
- **This is something the community asked for and MLAs advocated for and it is now a reality.**
- **The decision follows an extensive evaluation of an 8-week trial period last summer.**
- **The addition of a fourth dedicated helicopter ambulance to the provincial fleet will improve patient care in British Columbia's interior.**

**I'm honoured to be here today with all of you to make an announcement that will save lives.**

**Long drives are a reality in this part of the province. And, unfortunately, so are accidents in isolated areas.**

**In critical emergencies like this, lives can be saved and lives can be lost in a matter of minutes.**

**So we need to make sure paramedics can get to the scene quickly and transport patients to care.**

**So I am pleased to announce that a helicopter ambulance service based in Kamloops will immediately begin serving residents of the Interior.**

**Last year, Interior Health and BC Ambulance Service conducted an eight-week trial of a dedicated helicopter air ambulance service that served the Interior 12 hours a day.**

**This trial allowed paramedics to transport critically ill or injured patients to hospitals in Kamloops, Kelowna and Vancouver.**

**And I'm pleased to confirm that the air ambulance will continue to operate as a 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. service, seven days a week, weather permitting.**

**The service will be operated by BC Ambulance Service and funding will be managed within the existing Emergency Health Services Commission budget.**

**This is a \$2.35 million investment in patient care.**

**In cases where saving time is critical to saving a life, air ambulances are vital.**

**Without the air ambulance, outcomes may be tragically different.**

**This is something that your community has asked for and something that your local MLAs both Terry Lake and Kevin Krueger have been advocating for and it's now a reality.**

**This latest addition means families from the Interior and those travelling through will now have that extra peace of mind.**

**They will have better and faster access to care, and improved outcomes.**

**Thank you.**

**-END-**



## Key Messages:

1. Encouraging play will help keep kids healthier
2. The power of play: not only good for their bodies, but good for their minds as well.
3. We are helping B.C.'s public schools and supporting PACs who have recently raised funds for playgrounds.
4. PACs who have raised money for playgrounds will now be able to use their funds for other projects that benefit students.

As a mother, I've spent a lot time at the playground with my son.

Watching him make new friends, discover imaginary worlds and yes, even fall down, get up, and brush himself off again – all in the name of fun.

It's something that every parent knows well: kids need to play.

That is why I'm pleased to announce the province is providing \$8 million over the next 2 years...

...To assist with the installation, upgrade or replacement of playground equipment for public elementary and middle schools across British Columbia.

Initial estimates show that 44 schools in BC do not have any playground equipment.

So for those schools requiring new or replacement playgrounds they can expect to get up to \$50,000.

Not only does play keep our kids physically active and healthier – it also helps their brains

Playgrounds are an extension of the classroom.

Children learn more and learn better if they've had a chance to play outside during the day.

And play allows children to use their creativity while developing their imagination.

In addition to the 44 new playgrounds, schools requiring upgrades to existing playgrounds will be valued at \$25,000 per school.

And we'll be reimbursing those that have installed playgrounds since January 1<sup>st</sup> of this year, up to a maximum of \$50,000 per school.

This equipment is even more important as 37,000 students enrol in full day kindergarten this year.

Playgrounds aren't only used during school hours...

They are a place where families with children of all ages gather on weekends and during the holidays.

Providing access to safe playgrounds helps make kids happier, healthier and ready to learn.

And now every public elementary and middle school in this province that wants a playground will have one.

**-END-**

**Key Messages**

- We support the natural gas industry's efforts to open new markets. It is an important part of our plan to create and defend BC jobs.
- The value of a job is that it ensures we all can have a good quality of life and the services families want.
- In order to have jobs we need to lead the way to clear the way, support strong infrastructure to get our resources overseas and developed new markets, underpinned by a skilled BC workforce.

**Outline**

- Introduction
- The Natural Gas Industry
  - Value of a job
  - Value of contributions to BC's economy
  - State of the global economy
- Our response: Foreshadow Jobs Plan
  - Three-pronged approach
  - Strong foundation: skills training and safe harbour
- We support the natural gas industry's efforts to open new markets in order to create jobs
  - Foreshadow health announcement
  - Potential for LNG: not "if" but "when"
  - Foreshadow skills engagement
  - Hydraulic fracturing announcement
  - Road announcement
- Conclusion

## **Introduction**

Thank Mayor Bill Streeper and council of the Northern Rockies Regional Municipality for invitation.

Thank representatives from City of Fort St John for sponsoring this lunch.

I would like to acknowledge that we are gathered in the traditional territory of Fort Nelson First Nation, a member of Treaty 8 First Nations.

And I would also like offer my sincere condolences to that community for the terrible loss that happened over the weekend.

There are a few people here with me today I want to introduce:

- Rich Coleman, Minister of Energy and Mines,
- Blair Lekstrom, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure and MLA Peace River South,



- Pat Pimm, MLA Peace River North and Parliamentary Secretary for Natural Gas, AND
- Senator Richard Neufeld

### **The Natural Gas Industry**

I am pleased to be here in the northeast during Oil and Gas week as we celebrate your contributions to British Columbia.

Today I'd like to talk about the future of the natural gas industry:

How you will help lead the way for economic growth in our province;

How your success is a key piece of British Columbia's success as whole.

There are a lot of people out there who have no idea how much the natural gas industry contributes to the lives of families in our province.

They don't know what goes on "up here."

They don't understand it and they don't appreciate it.

I think that's a story that needs to be told and it's one I am going to share everywhere I travel.

The natural gas industry here in British Columbia provides jobs to an estimated 5,000 people.

That's 5,000 people with good, family-sustaining jobs: People who are able to put food on the table and look after their kids because of your work.

And the natural gas industry also provides work and helps support thousands of other jobs through small businesses and contractors.

And that's important. But beyond that, you brought in \$1.3 billion to provincial coffers in 2009 and 10.

That's a big number. What does that really mean to the average British Columbian?

Well, \$1.3 billion covers the cost of 14,700 nurses for a year.

Or it pays for 96,000 knee replacements...

Or 52,000 open heart surgeries.

Without your contribution, we couldn't afford the services that people rely on every day.

Your work is important work.

It's worth acknowledging, championing and it is so important to defend it for our future.

Clearly, we in BC are feeling the effects of the global economic downturn. We feel it even though we remain in better shape than many other places.

To the south, the United States continues to grapple with high unemployment.

And our European neighbours are struggling to keep the sovereign debt crisis contained.

As a small, open, export-based economy, British Columbia is not isolated from what is going on around us.

I am not going to sugar coat reality: we are headed for some rough economic times ahead.

That's why we are working so hard on a plan to ensure BC creates and defends jobs for British Columbians.

And your industry will help lead the way.

## **Jobs Plan**

We're focused like a laser beam on how we can defend and create BC jobs for families... the kind of jobs that you can raise a family on.

And we will be rolling out our full plan in the next few weeks.

With all this economic uncertainty, we need to think strategically about how we can insulate British Columbia from the worst of it.

In practical terms the plan is built on three pillars, three areas where we need to focus.

The first is we need to lead the way and clear the way.



Government often gets in the way of job creation, all levels of government. I heard that when I was Fort St. John in March for my first town hall and I've heard it in communities all over BC.

We have to recognize that and take action to get out of the way of job creation.

Second, we have to build infrastructure so that once businesses have created jobs, they can actually get their goods to markets.

And third, we have to open those markets for BC goods, spending time in China and India, where economies are booming and we are well positioned to get a foothold.

Of course underlying the three pillars is the need for a strong, skilled BC workforce, trained for the jobs of tomorrow.



And the need to keep our strong economic foundation: to keep those things that make us a safe harbour for investment right now.

So what makes BC a safe harbour?

A safe harbour means keeping our triple AAA-plus Credit rating, a signal to the financial/investment community that we are fiscally prudent managers.

It's a low-tax regime.

And it's having the right infrastructure in place to access markets.

My government is committed through our Jobs Plan to doing whatever it takes to protect and defend BC as a safe harbour.

I believe if we focus on these three pillars and maintain our strong foundation, people will have jobs; families will be able to put food on the table and we will all be able to focus on the more important things in life, like raising our kids or helping our parents.

And if we focus on these things we as British Columbians will be able to pay for the services we all want, like funding our world class health care and education systems.

We've seen what happens in the US when a government overburdens itself with debt and loses the confidence of investors... capital flees and it's a downward spiral.

We were there ourselves in the 1990s, watching as opportunity passed us by. We can't go backwards to get to where we want to go.

It's a dead end road we've already been down.

In order to pay for the services we want, we have to grow our economy.

I know Rich Coleman, Blair Lekstrom and Pat Pimm have been doing a lot of the ground work on our jobs plan with the natural gas industry, stakeholders and communities here in the northeast.

I want to thank everyone here who has been involved in those discussions.

**As part of that plan, I can tell you we are committed to supporting the natural gas industry's efforts to open new markets in the Asia Pacific.**

**We must grow and safeguard this industry for the future of our province.**

Responsible development of the natural gas industry and the growth of new markets will benefit families and rural communities.

When I was in the northeast in March, I heard people do have concerns. Mostly, they want to ensure they maintain their quality of life.

But people here are also proud of the sector: the \$7 billion dollars the natural gas industry invested last year, and the jobs both direct and indirect.

They want to see a future for this industry, an industry with access to new markets that is able to hire from a local pool of skilled workers and contractors.

Economic opportunities created from the Horn River Basin, Liard and Cordova are spurring growth and potential.

The days of seasonal work are over – the natural gas sector is now busy year-round.

The emergence of shale; new technology and your hard work has changed the sector.



Resource capacity is no longer a concern – the focus now is on what to do with our growth potential.

The International Energy Agency has called natural gas the “only fossil fuel for which demand is higher in 2053 than in 2008.”

The World Economic Forum anticipates global trade of liquefied natural gas will increase 50 per cent by 2020.

Yet, US demand is diminishing and they expect to be self-reliant by 2035.

It's no secret – we need export capacity to diversify BC's natural gas sector and secure this economic activity.

There are currently at least five Liquefied Natural Gas Terminals under consideration in BC.

We will move on our opportunity to export natural gas to the Asia Pacific.

**The question is not “if”, but “when.”**

Because it's also no secret that states like Oregon would be more than happy to have BC's natural gas leaving their ports.

Down there, our potential is their front page news, literally.

We need to fight to defend those jobs and use our strategic advantage as Canada's Pacific Gateway to build new markets in the Asia Pacific.

**We are also committed to working with you to ensure the skills training program we have in place helps us capture natural gas jobs in BC.**

I know skills shortage is a major concern in this industry.



And I know a lot of great partnership work has been done in recent years to address that.

The creation of the Centre of Excellence/Jim Klassen Industry Training Centre at the Northern Lights College in Fort St. John has helped us meet the energy sector's long-term education and training needs.

It is a remarkable example of industry support and collaboration.

And it is an important contributor to our career development initiatives and investments in job training opportunities.

But we need to look at the future opportunities and ask "Are we are doing enough?"

There will be an estimated 67,000 job openings in the natural gas industry by 2019.

And we want to ensure as many jobs as possible are filled by British Columbians.

Part of our Jobs Plan involves working with everyone in this room to ensure our skills training programs target people who want to live and work in BC.

And it involves working with our partners in Alberta and Saskatchewan to ensure we have the markets in the Asia Pacific for our energy products.

Let's face it, sometimes you have to till the soil far away to create jobs at home.

Through the New West Partnership with Alberta and Saskatchewan, we are committed to using all our collective strength to tell your story overseas.

And I will be working to develop those markets as part of my trade mission to China and India in November.

Talking with Premiers Brad Wall and Ed Stelmach we've come to realize we are much louder when we go out and market these things together.

Louder overseas... And louder in Ottawa.

Part of ensuring we help this industry grow is ensuring we continue to maintain our world class regulatory environment.

B.C. has the expertise, experience and the regulatory structure to ensure natural gas activities are conducted in the safest manner possible.

Yes, there are complex issues associated with petroleum and natural gas activity – that is why we have strict regulations in place and oversight by the BC Oil and Gas Commission.

Appropriate oversight is what maintains a safe and responsible natural gas sector in our province.

## **Hydraulic Fracturing announcement**

That's why I am pleased to announce BC is taking the lead on an ongoing issue for us all: hydraulic fracturing and water use.

The shale gas revolution has increased opportunities, but policy has become just as important as geology and technology.

Markets want to know their investments in shale gas are safe and secure.

Many jurisdictions outside of B.C. are struggling with how to move forward - most do not have the history and expertise that BC has in regulating.

The Province feels strongly that hydraulic fracturing is regulated safely in B.C., and we continue to implement leading, sustainable practices.

And as I mentioned, we are proud of our regulations and oversight by the BC Oil and Gas Commission.

BUT – there is room for improvement.

Industry continues to be attentive - the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers is announcing plans to improve hydraulic fracturing practices in Canada, as well as support for the voluntarily disclosure of hydraulic fracturing chemicals.

And government applauds this move.

But we are going a step further.

On behalf of Minister Coleman, I am pleased to announce that soon, B.C. will launch an online registry.

It will disclose details about hydraulic fracturing, and about additives used.

The information will be accessible to all.

This is not about being stricter. It's about government leading the way.

Openness and transparency will show how strong B.C.'s regulations are; how responsible industry is.

Many of us know how things are done, but many do not – it is time to show them.

The website is planned for January 2012.

### **Highway 52/Boundary Road**

I am also pleased today to make an announcement on behalf of Blair Lekstrom, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure.

To strengthen the highway system in the Tumbler Ridge area, we are investing \$4 million in upgrading Highway 52/Boundary Road.



As many of you have probably seen, work is already underway.

The money comes from our oil and gas rural road improvement program.

It's part of our commitment to work with industry to ensure that our road network meets their needs as they continue to invest in the oil and gas industry.

Our highway system is the backbone of a strong economy and we need reliable roads for both our jobs creators and the people who work and live in the area.

## **Conclusion**

As I said at the beginning of my remarks, we are living in times of economic uncertainty.

But I believe that BC's has an advantage compared to much of the world.

We are and will continue to be a safe harbour in stormy seas.

Communities like Fort Nelson offer a good quality of life for families. People want to live here.

If we as government lead the way and get out of the way of job creators;

If we have the infrastructure in place like roads and ports and develop new markets in the Asia Pacific;

If we can grow our markets, invest in a skilled workforce and keep BC's reputation as a safe place to invest;

I believe we can come out of this stronger than when the economic troubles began.

Everyone in this room has an important role in helping us get there;

Helping us build a British Columbia where families have opportunities to put food on the table for their kids no matter what part of BC they call home;

And we can collectively afford the services to look after the most vulnerable among us.

It's about building a province where we all want to live.

The turmoil may scare others into hunkering down.

But I say now is the time to make a concerted effort to lead Canada towards new markets, new investment and new jobs.

This is British Columbia's time to shine.

Thank you.

-End-

## **KEY MESSAGES:**

- **September is Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month**
- **British Columbians can be proud of our province's leadership in cancer prevention and treatment, in particular of our Ovarian Cancer Research Program – but we need to keep pushing awareness.**
- **Nobody knows for sure the exact cause of ovarian cancer; symptoms are often vague and there are currently no proven population screening methods to detect it.**
- **That's why awareness is critically important to improving all cancer survival rates, especially ovarian cancer, the disease that whispers.**
- **Because of our home-grown research here in B.C., we are on the brink of making major advances worldwide in the area of ovarian cancer prevention and treatment.**

I'm honoured to be here today as a co-chair of the second annual Ovarian Cancer Awareness luncheon.

And I'm proud our government is a presenting sponsor, to support Ovarian Cancer Canada's awareness and education programs here in BC.

Last year over 1,000 people attended the first ovarian cancer awareness luncheon to honour former business council of B.C. President and CEO Virginia Greene.

Sadly, after a brave fight, Virginia passed away from ovarian cancer three months later, on December 2, 2010.

Starting today, and at every annual luncheon from now on, there will be an empty place setting at the head table to honour the memory of Virginia and of the more than 1,000 Canadian women who die from this disease every year.

Virginia's daughter Justine is here with us today. Justine, I want you to know we're all so proud of the work your mother did to raise awareness of ovarian cancer in B.C.



Ovarian cancer is known as the disease that whispers.

Nobody knows for sure its exact cause; its symptoms are often vague and we don't yet have proven population screening methods to detect it.

That's why awareness and knowing the potential markers is so critically important to getting an early diagnosis.

Many of you know this first-hand – and there's one woman in particular here today who knows it as well as anyone.

Two years ago, Diane Johansen decided to get in shape. She did so well that she lost 50 pounds, so she decided to really go for it and went to a trainer.

The trainer gave Diane exercises, when she noticed that her waist was expanding and thickening, never something you want to see when you're doing your best to get fit.

Diane's smart, and most importantly – Diane's aware – she knew something was wrong so she didn't waste time.



She took action instead.

She went to an internist and to her family doctor, and she had an ultrasound where they found a mass attached to her ovaries.

Dr. Diane Miller did the necessary surgery.

That was in the spring. Diane finished chemo last week and is now starting five weeks of radiation therapy.

Diane Johansen, please stand up. Everyone, let's give Diane a round of applause – she's a fighter and one smart woman.

In fact, I think everyone here deserves a hand – whether you're a patient, a survivor, a doctor or researcher, or you came today to help raise awareness.

Diane, I've heard your motto is "I don't know how to die so I'm not going to die". I love that, and I wish you all the best and every success on your journey and into the future.

But Diane, you're not alone.

About 300 women in B.C. are diagnosed with ovarian cancer every year, and if detected early enough we know we can boost the survival rate to as high as 90 per cent.

We're incredibly fortunate to have a talented and dedicated group of gynaecologists, oncologists and pathologists working at Vancouver General Hospital and the BC Cancer Agency, who together formed the Ovarian Cancer Research Program of BC.

People like Dr. Miller, who's a gynaecologic oncologist at VGH and BCCA.

And like Dr. David Huntsman, the director of the joint VGH and BCCA Ovarian Cancer Research program.

Today Dr. Huntsman will receive the first Virginia Greene Leadership Award, recognizing his outstanding contributions to the cause of raising ovarian cancer awareness.

British Columbians can be proud of our province's leadership in cancer prevention and treatment, and in particular of our Ovarian Cancer Research Program.

Because of our home-grown research here in B.C., we are on the brink of making major advances worldwide in the area of ovarian cancer prevention and treatment.

But to help make sure that happens we need to keep pushing awareness – and September is Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month.

After you leave here today I want every one of you to go out there and talk with at least one woman in your life, or even better, two women or more in your life, and make sure they know the facts about ovarian cancer.

If everyone here today does that, then together we'll be honouring Virginia Greene's legacy, together we'll be honouring fighters like Diane Johansen, and together we'll make every month Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month.

Thank you.

-end-

**Key Messages**

- Your success working with Pat Bell to expand lumber sales in China is the inspiration for our BC Jobs Plan and we intend to increase those efforts.
- I am calling on architects, engineers and designers to help us build the tallest wood building in the world for our Wood Innovation and Design Centre.
- I applaud your efforts to improve safety in the forest industry but urge you to go even further, so that every mom and every dad gets to go home, safe and sound.

## **Introduction**

Thank you Nick (Arkle, chair of the Council of Forest Industries) for the introduction.

There are a few people here with me today I want to introduce:

- Steve Thomson, Minister of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Operations;
- Pat Bell, Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Innovation and MLA for Prince George-Mackenzie;
- Shirley Bond, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Attorney General, and MLA for Prince George-Valemount;
- And, John Rustad, MLA for Nechako Lakes;



## **The Asia Pacific Success story**

Well... what can I say other than... welcome back.

After three years of hard work... of struggle... of knuckling down...

Give yourselves a round of applause.

The forest industry in BC and the companies you represent have an amazing story to tell.

It's a story every British Columbian needs to hear and one I intend to champion everywhere I travel.

There are a lot of people out there who have no idea about your efforts to keep people working, to keep food on the table for BC families.



In the face of the US housing market collapse and a global economic slow-down, you have found a way to survive, get stronger and protect BC jobs.

You banded together, went over to China and captured the attention of their construction sector.

That's no easy task.

It's a market of billions of people. They don't pay attention to small players.

As individual companies going over there on your own, you got little attention.

But by coming together as an industry, and working together with government, you formed a critical mass... a contingent big enough to catch the attention of China.

You are a force leading Canada.

And in June, for one month, China was the number-one overseas destination for B.C. lumber in terms of value.

This was a big first.

Because of your efforts: we've had 27 mills re-open.

We have 10,000 people working – that's direct jobs – putting food on the table for their families.

You have set an example of how we can find and open new markets.

Pat Bell has been with you on this journey. He's been government's voice in a market where government representation is important.

Now we are taking what he learned from working with you and leading efforts to do the same thing, not just in forestry, but in other sectors of our economy.

Your success is the inspiration for our soon-to-be released BC Jobs Plan.

It is proof that even in these difficult times, we can defend and create BC jobs by looking beyond our traditional markets.

To the south, the United States continues to grapple with high unemployment.

And our European neighbours are struggling to keep the sovereign debt crisis contained.

As a small, open, export-based economy, British Columbia is not isolated from what is going on around us.

I am not going to sugar coat reality: the marketplace is sure to challenge us once again.

There is going to be tough sledding ahead.

That's why we are so focused on implementing a plan to ensure BC's economy is sustained despite the challenges.

And the forest industry joins us in leading the way.

### **Jobs Plan**

We're focused like a laser beam on how we can defend and create jobs for BC's families... the kind of jobs that you can raise a family on.

I am in the business of ensuring BC is a great place to live.

What makes a great place? Good caring families, ones where we look after each other: an aging parent, a disabled sibling, a growing child.

The business of raising children matters because its families that instil character and build good citizens.

And good citizens build safe neighbourhoods.

Families create good citizens who build a good province and a good country.

And what do you need to be a good parent? A job.

That's where our goals intersect.

When you create wealth, you create jobs.

And when you create jobs, you provide the essential ingredient for healthy families.

With all this economic uncertainty, we need to think strategically about how we can insulate British Columbia from the worst of it.

That's why we've been working on a plan to attract new investment and strengthen our economy to protect jobs for families in every region of BC.

We will be announcing further details of that plan next week.

In practical terms the plan is built on three pillars, three areas where we need to focus.

The first pillar is that we need to be great at producing goods and supporting an environment for robust economic activity.

Government doesn't create jobs but we do impair their creation.

Conversely, we can also enable their creation.

We need a common-sense government that clears the path.

The second pillar is we have to continue to build infrastructure so that once businesses have created jobs, they can actually get their goods to markets.



And the third pillar is we have to open up markets for BC goods, by spending time in China and India, where economies are booming.

We need to be great at expanding and understanding those markets and producing goods to feed those market demands.

When it comes to forestry, the BC Jobs Plan is about doubling those efforts already underway.

We are not going to let up. We've barely scratched the surface.

With competition in Europe and even the US starting to take notice of the opportunities in China, we need to push forward even harder.

We've made good in-roads.

You've changed your products to meet demand.

Cutting new lumber sizes to specific lengths and dimensions...

Switching to the metric system, and...

Educating Chinese buyers on the potential for wood frame housing.

These things have helped.

But we need to do more.

And we are not going to forget about Japan.

It's a country that buys our highest quality manufactured products. And our wood pellets.

They are in the process of rebuilding after last year's tragedy and we know there is growth potential.

And India... India is like China 10 years ago, it is full of unexplored opportunity.

India's middle class is currently more than 50 million people, larger than our entire country.

And that market of middle class consumers is expected to grow to more than 500 million people in the next 15 years.

That market will be larger than the entire population of the United States.

It would be incredibly valuable to develop India as another market for BC forest products.

It would add pricing stability and protect family sustaining jobs.

This relentless focus on expanding into Asia Pacific markets is the third pillar of our jobs plan.

And you have been blazing the trail for the rest of our economy and our country.

Of course underlying these three pillars is the need for a strong, skilled BC workforce, trained for the jobs of tomorrow.

And we also need to keep our strong economic foundation: to keep those things that make us a safe harbour for investment right now.

So what makes BC a safe harbour?

A safe harbour means keeping our triple AAA-plus Credit rating.

It means a low-tax regime.

And it means having the right infrastructure in place to access markets.

I believe if we focus on these three pillars and maintain our strong foundation, people will have jobs; families will be able to put food on the table.

And if we focus on these things, we as British Columbians will be able to pay for the services we all want, like funding our health care and education systems.

We've seen what happens in the US when a government overburdens itself with debt and loses the confidence of investors... capital flees and it's a downward spiral.

We were there ourselves in the 1990s, watching as opportunity passed us by. We can't go backwards to get to where we want to go.

Debt is a dead-end street. Ask Greece. Ask the European Union. Take a look at the United States.

In order to pay for the services we want, we have to grow our economy.



## **Wood Innovation and Design Centre**

To support your industry's efforts to create jobs and grow in these new markets, I am pleased to announce some steps today that will help make the Wood Innovation and Design Centre in Prince George a reality.

Thanks to a land contribution from our partners, the City of Prince George, we have a location for this centre of excellence. Mayor Dan Rogers and council. Thank you.

The Wood Innovation and Design Centre will be downtown, at the site of the former Prince George Hotel.

And we are kick starting this project with a call for ideas from architects, designers and engineers.

How do we create the world's tallest wood building in Prince George?

Pat likes to talk about a 10-storey structure: the tallest multi-use wood building in the world.

Home to academic and research programs, it will ensure we remain leaders in wood construction.

It will be the show piece of our aggressive sales pitch for wood around the world.

And we will be selling aggressively. I will be anywhere that government matters, helping you pitch BC wood products.

It will highlight new and innovative wood building products and techniques.

It will help us meet the market demands of tomorrow and continue building on the success you have had in the Asia Pacific markets.

## **Safety**

As this conference gets underway, I'd like to close my remarks by personally thanking you for your efforts to reduce fatalities and serious injuries in the forestry sector.

Safety is families first.

Since this issue was on front pages in 2005, you have reduced the fatality, lost time and serious injury rates significantly.

It has made you more competitive as an industry and more attractive to new workers.

And it means more moms and more dads get to come home every night to their families.

I know at Interfor, under the leadership of Duncan Davies, this improvement has been part of a big culture shift.

Interfor has taken the stance: if you want to work, you follow the safety rules.

I know a lot of other companies share this view. It's more than a slogan, it's a new standard.

I agree: Safety has to be the industry standard.

We have come a long way but I still believe we can do better. I am calling on you to finish the job.

Become a provincial and world leader by taking the next step and make us even more competitive on the world stage.

We aren't done until everyone gets home at night safe and sound.

## **Conclusion**

As I said at the beginning of my remarks, we are living in times of economic uncertainty.

But you have proven that BC and Canada have an advantage compared to much of the world.

We are and will continue to be a safe harbour in stormy seas.

If we as government lead the way and get out of the way of job creators;

If we have the infrastructure in place, like roads and ports, and develop new markets in the Asia Pacific;



If we can work together to grow our markets, invest in a skilled workforce and keep BC's reputation as a safe place to invest;

I believe we can come out of this stronger than when the economic troubles began.

Everyone in this room has an important role in helping us get there.

Helping us to build a British Columbia where families have opportunities to put food on the table for their kids no matter what part of BC they call home;

The turmoil may scare others into hunkering down.

But I say now is the time to make a concerted effort to lead Canada towards new markets, new investment and new jobs.

You have started us down that path and we are now more committed than ever to continuing that journey.

This is our chance to lead.

This is our chance to grasp a generational opportunity.

We sit on the Pacific edge of this country - we face Asia and the world's economic future.

This is our time.

Thank you.

-End-

## **Terry Fox Plaza Re-Dedication Friday, September 16, 2011**

### **Key Messages**

- This new memorial and renovated plaza are a long-term and fitting legacy to this globally recognized crusader against cancer.
- This statue by Douglas Coupland captures Terry's determination and hope, and reminds us to continue the Marathon of Hope.
- On this day we also honour Betty Fox. We are so fortunate that Betty and her family chose to share Terry's legacy with all British Columbians.
- In two days the 31<sup>st</sup> annual Terry Fox Foundation Marathon of will get underway. It is an astonishing testament to Terry, his family and many supporters that it has become the world's largest annual one-day fundraiser for cancer research, with over \$550 million raised to date.

**THANK MC FOR INTRODUCTION (Minister Bell)**

**ACKNOWLEDGE:**

**Representatives of the Fox family  
BC MPs (tbc)  
Minister Bell  
Warren Buckley  
BC MLAs (tbc)  
Gregor Robertson, Vancouver Mayor (tbc)  
GVRD Mayors (tbc)  
David Podmore, Chair, Board of Directors  
Douglas Coupland, Artist, Terry Fox statue  
Vancouver Board of Trade members  
Downtown Vancouver Association and DVBLA members**

**Good morning everyone.**

**And a very big thank you to all our student runners from  
Terry Fox Secondary School, Renfrew Elementary, St  
John's School and Elsie Roy Elementary. Thank you for  
your spirit and energy.**

**It will soon be on permanent display to tell future  
visitors about today's re-opening of Terry Fox Plaza.**

**Nearly every adult Canadian has an image of Terry Fox seared into his or her memory.**

**It is an image of a young man appearing over the crest of a hill, on the side of a road, running with that unique hopping gait...**

**In his firm jaw and in his eyes, we saw an unmistakeable resolve that inspired our entire nation.**

**He showed us what is meant by “the power of one”**

**... and just how far a lonely dream can soar.**

**Terry’s journey is now the journey of hundreds of thousands of runners around the globe ...**

**Just forty-eight hours from now the 31st annual Terry Fox foundation marathon will get underway.**

**It has become the world’s largest annual one-day fundraiser for cancer research, with over \$550 million raised to date.**

**Entire generations of families have participated in the run and today’s adult runners share childhood memories of watching Terry’s original run on television.**



## **Re-Dedication of Terry Fox Plaza**

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**Today, we honour terry's vision and courage by officially declaring open this beautifully renovated plaza ... The Terry Fox plaza.**

**Today we also honour the memory of Betty Fox.**

**We are so fortunate that Betty and her family chose to share Terry's legacy with all British Columbians.**

**To help keep that legacy alive Douglas Coupland has created a striking centre piece for the new plaza ...**

**... A thoughtful new work of art that evokes Terry's journey and its underlying message of hope and what one person can accomplish.**

**I would like now to invite the students and the other members of the platform party to join us as we unveil this artistic tribute to Terry and his legacy.**

**Thank you.**

**- END -**

**31<sup>st</sup> Annual Terry Fox Run**  
**Sunday, September 18, 2011**

**Key Messages**

- Congratulations to all of the participants in today's Terry Fox Foundation Marathon of Hope.
- Each of you can take pride in knowing that you have helped to bring us one step closer to the fulfillment of Terry's dream ... to cure cancer.
- The 31<sup>st</sup> annual Terry Fox Foundation Marathon is an astonishing testament to Terry, his family and many supporters. It has become the world's largest annual one-day fundraiser for cancer research, with over \$550 million raised to date.

**THANK MC BRUCE MOORE FOR INTRODUCTION**

**ACKNOWLEDGE:**

**ROLLY FOX, Terry Fox's father**

**GREG MOORE, Mayor, Port Coquitlam**

**DAVE TEIXEIRA, Organizer, Port Coquitlam Terry Fox  
run**

**JIM TERRION, Race Participant and Fund Raiser**

**Good morning everyone.**

**In April of 1980 Terry Fox took the first steps on his  
brave journey to help defeat cancer.**

**And 31 years ago this month that he was forced to  
abandon his run.**

**But he never abandoned his goal.**

**He said "Even if I don't finish, we need others to  
continue. It's got to keep going."**

**That is how he passed the baton to Canadians, and to  
this day we are responding with the same spirit and  
determination that defined Terry.**

**Special Canadians like Jim Terrion and Dave Texeira, both of whom I am honoured to share this stage with today.**

**Dave has now organized the Port Coquitlam Terry Fox run for eight years. And Jim has set a personal goal of raising \$1 million for the Terry Fox Foundation.**

**He is more than half-way there and this year marks his 22nd consecutive Terry Fox run.**

**That kind of spirit is contagious.**

**And it explains why today the Terry Fox run is the world's largest annual one-day fundraiser for cancer research.**

**And so today we honour the memory of Terry.**

**We also honour the memory of Betty Fox, who so recently left us.**

**We are so fortunate that Betty and her family chose to share Terry's legacy with all British Columbians.**

**Congratulations to everyone participating in today's 31<sup>st</sup> Terry Fox Foundation Marathon of Hope.**

**Each of you can take pride in knowing that you have helped to bring us one step closer to achieving Terry's dream ... to cure cancer.**

**Thank you.**

**- END -**



# Speaking Bullets

## Haisla LNG

### Sept. 19, 2011

- Acknowledge in Haisla Territory.
- It was important that I be here with First Nations leaders on day one as we roll out the Jobs Plan. First Nations across BC have an important role in ensuring the success of the BC Jobs Plan.
- On Thursday, we are announcing the full details of our BC Jobs Plan and I can tell you, the development of export potential for Liquefied Natural Gas plays a big role in it.
- Right here in Kitimat, the Haisla First Nation has developed agreements with the proponents of the LNG project, EOG Resources and Apache Corporation, which will provide ongoing economic benefits to the Haisla and other communities of the NW.
- This is a great success story and I want to take a moment to say congratulations to the Haisla and the proponents on working together to develop mutual beneficial agreements.
- Your leadership is paving the way for new jobs and benefits to flow to First Nations and non-First Nation communities across the north.
- Today I am pleased to announce a set of clear goals and markers for LNG development. Assuming the projects receive permits, I want to see an LNG terminal operational in this region by 2015.
- It will mean a lot of families across Northern BC.
- Working in partnership with First Nations is the best way to improve local economies and increase Aboriginal participation in economic opportunities. In order to put families first, you need a job.
- Chief Clarence Louie of the Osoyoos First Nation explains this well: he says if your neighbours are poor, chances are you will be poor. Our province cannot achieve its full potential without having First Nations at the table as partners. We must work together.
- BC Jobs Plan: three pillars, two key foundations.



- Young aboriginal people represent a growing segment of our society and their potential is an important piece of future prosperity for all of BC. We want to make sure they have access to the training and skills they will need to fill the jobs available in their communities.
- Earlier today I was in Prince Rupert to announce \$15 million for a \$90 million project to expand road and rail export capacity on Ridley Island. It will provide jobs for locals and allow communities to benefit all across the province. It is the first phase of a \$300 million project that will ensure we have port capacity for the future for all communities.
- Part of our BC Jobs Plan is working to create new economic opportunities for Aboriginal communities and to help businesses work together with Aboriginal people in developing projects in their traditional territory.

## **Ridley Terminals Improvements**

### **Monday, Sept. 19, 2011**

#### **Event: what is it?**

- The launch of "Canada Starts Here: BC Jobs Plan" includes two announcements.
- We are contributing \$15 million towards the Road Rail Utility Corridor, a \$90-million project that will allow more coal, potash and other goods to move through the terminals on Ridley Island. This is Phase One of a \$300-million development to expand port capacity.
- Other funders include CN Rail (\$30 million); Port of Prince Rupert (\$30 million)
- And we making the Ports Property Tax Act permanent, with a view to expand it to other ports, to ensure the Pacific Gateway is competitive and provides an environment for private sector port terminal investment.
- Property tax relief is currently provided to major industrial ports by capping municipal tax rates on eligible facilities and the Province compensates local governments for the resulting impact.

#### **Audience: who are they?**

- Longshoremen from Maher Terminals and Ridley Island.
- Executives from Prince Rupert Grain, Ridley Terminals and the Port of Prince Rupert, and Maher Terminals, which operates the Fairview Container Terminal (announcement location).
- Media

#### **Key Messages**

- Today's announcements commit \$75 million towards the roads, railways and ports that connect BC and Canada to growing markets in the Asia Pacific. This is a pillar of our jobs plan.
- We believe the future of our country lies in the potential of our BC to connect Canada to the world. No matter where you live in this country, Canada Starts Here.
- And we are making the Ports Property Tax Act permanent, with a view to expand it to other ports, to ensure our ports are able to attract private sector terminal investments.

Thank you for joining me today.

We are gathered here in the traditional territory of the Coast Tsimshian people.

I am pleased to be joined by:

- Pat Bell, Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Innovation;
- Blair Lekstrom, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure;
- Don Krusel, CEO of the Prince Rupert Port Authority;
- And Claude Mongeau, President and CEO of CN.

### **Canada Starts Here**

Later in the week, I will be announcing the full details of our BC Jobs Plan.

But I wanted to come up here to get the ball rolling.

## Ridley Terminals Infrastructure Announcement – Sept. 19

There is no better place in Canada to talk about our future than here on the shores of Prince Rupert, our western-most port city.

We are standing on the Pacific Edge of this country.

From here, we are three days closer to Asia than any other port on this continent.

A century ago, this was where the maps ended.  
Today it is where the future begins.

From the docks here at Fairview Terminal, we can look out at opportunity, not just for B.C. but for the entire country.

Our plan is called Canada Starts Here.

It means we take the best of Canada and we make it even better ... right here in BC.

## Ridley Terminals Infrastructure Announcement – Sept. 19

Defending and creating jobs is the primary mission of my government.

Visiting Prince Rupert port facilities, you can see all of our country at work.

- You can see coal from Tumbler Ridge being loaded onto ships.
- And stacks of containers stuffed with lumber from Prince George.
- You can see wood pellets from Houston and Quesnel.
- And grain from farmers all across Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

This isn't just "cargo." It is jobs. Good Jobs. And these jobs are the key to strong families and which lead to stable communities.



## Ridley Terminals Infrastructure Announcement – Sept. 19

It is jobs for the people who produce it; the people who get it here; and people like you who load it onto ships.

It is people hard at work all over our country.

As a Premier dedicated to opening new markets, and to defending and creating jobs, I look around me and I know, Canada Starts Here.

This coast is Canada's coast ... and that is such an opportunity for B.C.

Our location and geography is an asset, but it is just one part of the British Columbia story.

Diversity is at the core of who we are: it is a key strength for our society and it enriches all our lives.

## **Ridley Terminals Infrastructure Announcement – Sept. 19**

From the strength of our First Nations people seeking opportunities for their future, to the people of Asian and Indian descent who have been settled here for a century or more, our diverse population is a key asset to diversifying our economy and making sure our families prosper.

### **The BC Jobs Plan**

There are three pillars to our jobs plan.

First we have to be great at supporting a thriving business environment and the people who make or grow ideas, products and goods.

Government needs to make sure it gets out of the way so people can create jobs.

Second, we have to have the infrastructure so we can get goods to markets.

## Ridley Terminals Infrastructure Announcement – Sept. 19

There are lots of people who don't understand just how important roads, rail, bridges, ports and airports are to supporting jobs.

They form a web that ties our country together in a very real way.

And the third pillar is making sure we know what the emerging markets in Asia want and that they know we can provide it.

As your Premier, I am committed to making sure we sell BC so that businesses grow trade with Asian markets...

...So that more goods move through Metro Vancouver, Prince Rupert and Vancouver International airport.

Diversified markets are key to ensuring people have jobs.

## **Ridley Terminals Infrastructure Announcement – Sept. 19**

Now you can't have stable pillars without a strong foundation.

These three pillars are supported by a foundation made up of a skilled workforce, and continuing to keep government's fiscal house in order.

We have to preserve our government's reputation for spending within our means.

We can't be a safe harbour for investment if we mismanage our resources.

And it's investment that creates jobs.

### **Road Rail Utility Corridor**

As I said, the importance of our roads, ports, and rail to jobs and our economic stability cannot be overstated.

## **Ridley Terminals Infrastructure Announcement – Sept. 19**

That's why I am pleased to announce as part of our BC Jobs Plan a significant commitment to connect BC and Canada to growing markets in the Asia Pacific.

We are committing \$15-million towards the \$90-million Road Rail Utility Corridor project on Ridley Island.

CN Rail and the Port of Prince Rupert are each contributing \$30 million towards this project. I want to thank you for that.

Our most important partner in this venture is the federal government.

The support and leadership of Stephen Harper's government has been tremendous.

Today's announcement, with my government, CN and the Port all able to confirm our respective contributions, simply would not have been possible without our national government at the table.



## **Ridley Terminals Infrastructure Announcement – Sept. 19**

It is the first phase of a \$300-million project.

It will make sure we can get more rail cars and trucks in and out of the terminals on Ridley Island.

It means 576 jobs during construction, with millions in wages going into the pockets of workers.

It means more longshore jobs in the future – good paying jobs here in Prince Rupert.

And it means we can meet the increasing demand for coal and other goods in the growing Asia Pacific markets.

## **Port Property Tax Act**

I also spoke earlier about how important it is for government to support job creators and get out of the way of people who are growing jobs.

## **Ridley Terminals Infrastructure Announcement – Sept. 19**

So I am also pleased to announce we will be introducing legislation to make permanent the existing temporary municipal tax rate caps for B.C.'s major port terminals.

This will ensure all of our ports are able to attract private sector terminal investments and support future developments.

And we will also review the Ports Property Tax Act, with the possibility of expanding the program to other ports.

### **Natural Gas**

Later today I'll be in Kitimat to lay out some clear goals and markers for the development of Liquefied Natural Gas export terminals in this region of the province.

We want to create a new industry with the capacity to export B.C.'s natural gas to overseas markets.

## Ridley Terminals Infrastructure Announcement – Sept. 19

If we don't fight for this opportunity, we could lose it. We have a plan to move forward aggressively.

We want to see the Kitimat liquefied natural gas plant operational by 2015.

And our goal is to work with all the partners to have three new terminals in place in 2020.

I'll also be meeting with members of the Haisla Nation who are very involved with the proposed Kitimat LNG terminal and have benefitted from it.

I'll be talking with the Haisla about future economic development in the northwest.

The BC Jobs Plan is about putting all our families first.

We are fighting to protect jobs that help people put food on the table for their kids.

## Ridley Terminals Infrastructure Announcement – Sept. 19

We are fighting to support a robust private sector that helps us pay for those services, like health care and education.

With markets growing in the Asia Pacific, we believe the future of our country lies in our ability to connect Canada to the world.

Today I have started to outline our BC Jobs Plan and that's what it has to be – a plan for the entire province, by the entire province.

Not a plan for the government, not a plan for one party – but a plan that brings all of us together and moves us all forward ... together.

No matter where you live in this country, in BC we know that Canada Starts Here.

-End-

**International Education Strategy  
Thompson Rivers University  
Tuesday, Sept. 20, 2011**

**Event: What is it?**

- Held at Thompson Rivers University, this is an event to announce key elements of BC's International Education Strategy and a skills training plan.
- The goals of the international education strategy will be to increase international students by 10 per cent a year for four years, enhancing long term relationships in both existing and emerging economies like China, India and Brazil.
- We will also be targeting our training/skills programs to regional needs and focussing in sectors where we most need workers.
- To do this we are creating Regional Workforce Tables to bring together communities and stakeholders to make sure supply meets demand in regional labour markets.

**The Audience:**

- Staff and students from Thompson Rivers University
- Community and business leaders
- Media

**Key Messages:**

- These announcements today – part of "Canada Starts Here: the BC Jobs Plan" - will grow BC's skilled workforce, protect and defend jobs, and increase our social connections to growing markets overseas.
- The International Education Strategy will create jobs and build on the success of universities like Thompson Rivers by targeting specific countries to find prospective students who can best fill our future job needs and increase our connections in the global economy.
- We are also adjusting our skills training to focus on regional needs, making sure labour supply meets demand and we have the most people with good jobs as possible.



Thank you for joining me today.

We are here in the traditional territory of the Shuswap Nation, and the Kamloops Indian Band.

I'd like acknowledge a few people here with me today:

- Pat Bell, Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Innovation;
- Naomi Yamamoto, Minister of Advanced Education;
- Terry Lake, Minister of Environment and MLA for Kamloops-North Thompson;
- Kevin Krueger, MLA for Kamloops-South Thompson.
- Kamloops Chief Shane Gottfriedson
- Kamloops Mayor Peter Milobar (TBC)
- And, Alan Shaver TRU President.

Let me start by congratulating Ron Olynyk, former chair of the board of governors, on the honorary degree he will receive in October for his tremendous contributions to Thompson Rivers University.

It is well deserved.

Thompson Rivers University is an amazing success story.

And Ron, you played a big role in that.

But there's a larger story here that's worth telling.

This is an education success story, but it is also a success story when it comes to growing our economy and creating jobs.

And you know, people don't usually think of events at educational institutions like this as a jobs event. Or see universities as job creators – so let's change that!

Let's see universities for what they are and can be in BC – major BC job creators.

And so... jobs are what I am here to talk about today... defending and creating jobs... that is my government's primary mission - job creation.

Kamloops is an example of what communities coming together can accomplish.

Back in 2003/2004, the Friends of UCC University Society led the charge to get full university status.

You got thousands of people together. You put your shoulders to the wheel for Thompson Rivers University.

And you made it happen.

Kamloops is an example of what thinking big and embracing the global economy can accomplish.

Since then, the number of international students studying here at TRU has almost doubled.

Through the TRU World program, this institution drew about 1,500 international students here last year.

And they pumped \$88 million into the Kamloops economy.

The contribution of TRU to your community creates jobs.

It's part of what makes this a great place to live and raise a family.

On Thursday I'll be announcing the full details of our BC Jobs Plan, but I wanted to come here to Kamloops today to announce **2** big pieces.

The Plan is called Canada Starts Here.

We chose this name because we know BC can pull Canada into the next century – we know we can lead this country like never before.

Canada starts here because we are at the Pacific edge of the nation, and we are literally facing the future of the world in Asia.

But if we want to be successful, every region of BC will have to work together, just like you have.

So, the two parts of the jobs plan I'd like to talk about today are: our international education strategy and our skills training plan.

Chief Gottfriedson, I know that skills training is very close to your heart.

These two announcements are about growing our economy and defending and creating jobs in the short term.

But they are also about how we build on Canada's diversity and grow more talent in BC to meet the skills shortage on the horizon.

### **International Education**

First, international education...

People in Kamloops know that international education creates jobs, it drives growth and it spurs innovation.

We want to grow those job opportunities.

BC's International Education Strategy will help us target specific countries to connect international students with the right schools and communities.

We are known world-wide for the quality education we offer.

Today, I am announcing that the province is setting an aggressive target to grow our international student population in BC by 50 percent over the next 4 years.

Across BC, international education supports 22,000 jobs and puts more than \$1.25 Billion into our economy.

If we meet our targets, we can put 9,000 people to work and put another \$500 million dollars into our economy.

94,000 international students choose BC as a place to study each year.

That's 30 per cent of all the international students in this country.

But I believe we can do better. Canada is recruiting more and more students each year but compared to other countries, on a percentage basis, we are doing quite poorly. This is inexcusable given the tremendous opportunity and amazing feedback we receive from student who come here.

And so I am also announcing that we will create an International Education Council and we will leverage BC's trade offices to help connect students to BC's education opportunities.



We want to showcase our colleges, technical institutes and universities.

If you want to study in BC, there should be no wrong doors to knock on.

Our strategy will make sure communities are ready to welcome students from abroad...

...that we are building long term relationships with existing and emerging economies like China, India and Brazil.

...And we are sending more of our students overseas to prepare them to work in a global economy.

But BC's strategy will be about more than bricks and mortar.

It's about the human relationships that will build connections between BC, Canada and the rest of the world.

Think about it...right now, as I speak, more than 1,000 international students are heading to class at Douglas College in the Lower Mainland.

And do you know what they are learning? Richard, a computer science student from India, said he is doing more than preparing for a job... he is learning to be a Canadian.

Whether students like Richard choose to stay in BC or return to their homes, they will always have a connection here.

This is a big part of BC's plan to create jobs now and help fill jobs in future years when we know skilled workers will be in short supply and high demand.

Let's face it – once you move to BC, it's hard to leave.

Here in Kamloops, International TRU grad Usman Vahidy, is working at the Business Development Bank of Canada for a year.

Coming from the United Arab Emirates, he's bringing a global experience to fill a local demand here in the interior.

## **Skills Training**

And this leads me to the second thing I'd like to speak to you about – skills training.

You know, I was up in Fort Nelson earlier this month and there's a lot of work going on up there in the natural gas industry.

But some of those jobs are being filled by people who don't live or pay taxes in our province.

Now I've got nothing against Albertans, but it's clear in Fort Nelson that skill development hasn't kept pace with industry demand.

That situation isn't unique. We expect to have a million job openings in the next 10 years and 70 per cent of those will require post secondary education.

We won't always have a workforce primed and ready to go. Not unless we start working on this now – together.

That's why as part of the BC Jobs Plan, we are taking the following actions in the area of skills training:

1) We are setting up Regional Workforce Tables throughout BC – a new platform for educators, industry, labour, and small business.

They will work as partners with local chambers of commerce across the province and they will have real input, and real dollars, into how the province delivers skills development programs on a regional basis – including up to \$15 million annually for post-secondary institutions.

2) We will work in partnership with industry to ensure job demands in key sectors are met – in areas such as forestry, mining, tourism, technology, transportation, the wine industry, and service industries. And we will provide up to \$6 million to help sectors identify their skills and workforce needs.

3) The province will ensure that the more than a half a billion dollars spent annually on labour market and training programs is better targeted to meeting regional and industry needs. Moreover, we spend close to \$2 billion a year on post-secondary education. We will make sure we're training people for jobs that will exist when they graduate.

4) In December, we will hold a major provincial training conference to bring together a wide range of stakeholders to explore ways to meet industry apprenticeship needs.

These initiatives are all about open government.

They're about listening and they're about collaborating with the right people to ensure we get things done together.

Why does all this matter? We have to give our young people job opportunities to work WHERE they grow up.

And, in particular, we have to make sure that BC's young aboriginal people have those opportunities too...

Yesterday, I was up in Kitimat talking with the Haisla First Nation about economic development in their region.

Young people there want to work. They want to stay and live in their home community.

They want opportunity.

The Regional Workforce Tables are part of our plan to make sure their young people can work in the Liquefied Natural Gas Industry if they choose to.

Aboriginal young people are the fastest-growing demographic in BC.

The number of First Nations' young people will grow twice as fast the rest of Canada's work force in the next decade.

We must work with First Nations leaders to meet the needs of their young people.

That's why we support agreements like the one we have with Kamloops bands to share mineral tax royalties from the New Afton Mine.

These are real opportunities for First Nations communities to become actively involved in training and development opportunities around the mine.



Right now, as we speak, young people in Kamloops are exploring opportunities at the Aboriginal Trades Forum.

We want to support the hopes and aspirations of all our young people, including those who are committed to staying and growing in their hometowns.

### **BC Jobs Plan**

On Thursday, I will be officially announcing the BC Jobs Plan. It has three key pillars.

First, we have to be good at supporting a thriving business environment.

Government has to know when to lead and when to get out of the way – and that means clearing the path for businesses to create jobs for families.

Second, we have to build the infrastructure to get their goods, ideas and products to markets faster and more efficiently.

That means bridges, roads, ports and airports.

But it also means strengthening the human connections to other countries. That's where the International Education strategy will play a part.

The third pillar of our jobs plan is about opening up markets for BC goods – it's about making sure we know what the emerging markets in Asia want and making sure they know we can provide it.

Education is part that pillar too – it is one of the areas we need to sell hard overseas.

It's also one of our most important exports, with young British Columbians studying abroad and bringing home skills and experiences that build our province in new ways.

I am going to be the best salesperson BC has ever had.

Stable pillars need a strong foundation. Our plan has two.

The first is training a skilled workforce to get the jobs that BC will need people to do tomorrow. And I've talked about that today.

The second foundation is preserving our government's reputation for fiscal discipline.

This foundation is so important – because we can't continue to be a safe harbour for investment if we aren't prudent about our economy.

You've probably heard me say before that everything I do is about putting families first.

Good citizens come from families that instil character ... they become the foundation for strong, stable and safe communities, that make a great province and a great country.

Being a parent is the most important thing I do, and I suspect the same is true for all of you.

And what do you need to be a good parent?

You need a job.

That's why we created the BC Jobs Plan.

Our province is a place of relative economic calm and stability, but we are surrounded by a world of economic turmoil... Europe struggles with a debt crisis and a crisis of confidence.

Our best friend and closest neighbor, the United States, continues to grapple with high unemployment, high debt and political gridlock.

I am not going to sugar-coat reality, the world is facing stormy seas ahead.

But we won't keep our heads above water by hunkering down.

I believe our plan says the best defence is a good offence.

BC has incredible advantages that make us truly unique in the world:

- Our proximity to the world's biggest markets
- Our diverse population
- World class infrastructure
- Sound fiscal fundamentals
- A wealth of natural and intellectual resources

We need to build on our position of strength... and never has this been more important than now, given the global economic uncertainty we are facing.

Building on our strengths is what our BC Jobs Plan will do.

## **Conclusion**

I want to thank everyone in this community who fought to make TRU what it is today.

Post-secondary institutions play an important role in driving innovation, growing connections and building local economies.

Your ability to galvanize around an opportunity is a lesson to every one of us.

The work you have done here hasn't just shaped Kamloops. It is shaping BC.

Your work will help us ensure we can lead Canada in growing our connections in international markets.

That we can defend and create jobs for families. That we can attract and train skilled workers.

That we can afford to provide the quality government services we all depend on.

Today I have started to outline parts of our BC Jobs Plan – and that is just what it has to be – a plan for all of BC.

Not a plan for government, not a plan for one party. But a plan that unites us, a plan that brings us together.

You've helped teach us how to reach out and shake hands with our global neighbours. And those bonds will build a bridge of opportunity for all of our country.

You are taking the best of Canada and making it better.

This is our time. This is our opportunity.

In Kamloops, Canada Starts Here.

-End-



## **62<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of Founding of People's Republic of China**

**Hyatt Regency Hotel**

**Tuesday, Sept. 20, 2011**

### **Event: What is it?**

- National Day Reception of the People's Republic of China.
- This is the 62<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the People's Republic of China.

### **The Audience:**

- Consul General Liang Shugen
- 
- Chinese media in attendance

### **Key Messages:**

- B.C. has a long relationship with China.
- The Asia Pacific is a major focus as we move forward.
- First overseas trip will be to China, highlighting the value we place on our relationship.

## INTRODUCTION

On behalf of the Government of British Columbia, I am delighted to be here tonight to commemorate the 62nd Anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

Thank you to Consul General LIANG for inviting me and indeed all of us to be here at this important National Day event.

I am honoured to speak about British Columbia's strong relations with China. We are, after all, China's closest neighbour on the other side of the Pacific Ocean.

My government values this friendship with China and we are committed to making the relationship even stronger.

We have worked to strengthen the strong ties between representatives of my government and China's consular representatives in Vancouver, as well as through bilateral arrangements with our sister-province Guangdong, and through engagement with other government and business officials.

## **ASIA PACIFIC**

Since the launch of BC's trade and investment office in Shanghai in 2007, British Columbia has made it a priority to deepen this relationship.

Since then, two more offices— in Beijing and Guangzhou — have opened, and the Asia-Pacific Business Centre was established in Vancouver to help investors from Asia and China connect to business and economic opportunities here in British Columbia.

British Columbia is proud to be Canada's gateway to Asia. China is an important partner — and deeply valued friend.

Which is why China is the first country I will visit when I embark on my first overseas visit as Premier in November. Travelling with me will be a delegation of government officials and industry representatives who, like me, are committed to deepening this important relationship.

Our ties with China not only promote our mutual economic and trade interests; they also promote better understanding – of B.C. in China and of China in B.C.; and they encourage cultural and social connections.

## **CLOSE TIES TO CHINA**

As Canada's Pacific province, B.C. has many personal bonds with China.

These historic bonds predate the creation of Canada itself. Some of Canada's earliest pioneers came from China in search of gold and fortune.

Since those early days over 150 years ago, Chinese entrepreneurs have been building the economy of BC and we continue to look to China to expand our international trade and drive investment in order to create new jobs for both our countries.

Our people-to-people ties with China have also continued to strengthen as a result of decades of immigration and growing family and business connections that have contributed to an emerging global society that has taken hold here in BC. The diversity of our people is truly our greatest strength in a globally connected world.

Today, hundreds of thousands of British Columbians speak a Chinese dialect as a mother tongue, and thousands of Chinese visa students are enrolled in our education system. Our school districts and post-secondary institutions are actively engaged in joint programming and these connections, in turn, contribute to intercultural understanding and friendships between our young people.

And Guangdong is British Columbia's sister province and 16 B.C. municipalities have similar relationships with Chinese counterparts.

We have good friends in China.



## **CONCLUSION**

My government looks forward to an even stronger, mutually beneficial relationship - with China.

And to continuing our harmonious friendship with your people.

It has been an honour speaking with you today.

Please accept our sincerest congratulations on the 62nd anniversary of your country's national holiday.

Thank you, Xie Xie Ni [SHAY SHAY NEE].

-30 -



# Surrey Board of Trade

## Wednesday, Sept. 21, 2011

### **Event: what is it?**

- Keynote address to Surrey Board of Trade and Canada India Business Council.
- BC intends to provide a \$3 million increase to B.C.'s successful Small Business Venture Capital Program tax credit.
- Delivering a three year extension of the \$31 million annual BC Training Tax Credit.
- The Province will also continue its leadership in reducing the cumbersome steps and time involved in accessing government services and complying with regulatory requirements by:
  - Extending government's commitment to no net-increases in regulations to 2015.
  - Introducing legislation to ensure progress on regulatory accountability is reported annually.
  - Reducing the regulatory burden on citizens and small businesses.
  - Streamlining and simplifying government processes..

### **Audience: who are they?**

- Small business people.
- South Asian business community.
- Media

### **Key Messages**

- Small business is a key driver for the B.C. economy.
- Government needs to get out of the way to let them create jobs.

Surrey Board of Trade  
Wednesday Sept 21

## INTRODUCTION TO SURREY

It is great to be here with you this morning.

I'd like to introduce a few people here with me today.

- Finance Minister Kevin Falcon, MLA for Surrey Cloverdale,
- Labour, Citizen's Services and Open Government Minister Stephanie Cadieux, MLA for Surrey-Panorma,
- Surrey-Tynehead MLA Dave Hayer,
- Surrey-White Rock MLA Gordon Hogg,
- Jobs, Tourism and Innovation Minister Pat Bell, and
- Surrey City Councillor Linda Hepner.

I wanted to come here today because when I think about the things that are going right in this province, I think of Surrey.

You have shown what can be accomplished when a community sets aside divisions and pulls together to do great things.

The business community here in Surrey, along with Mayor Dianne Watts and your city council, were way ahead of the curve in creating the Economic Summit.

In its third year, the Summit brought business leaders here from China...from India...from Singapore...all to tell us how important trade with the Asia-Pacific region was going to be for our future.

You got that right, and that's why I will be leading a trade mission to India and China in November.

Because as everyone here knows, our economic opportunity lies there ... that's where our future lies.

That's why Surrey's bioLytical Laboratories just secured an 8 hospital commitment for its rapid HIV testing unit.

And why Surrey-based Jhaji lumber has just recently started shipping its first ever containers of wood to Port Kandla, India.

Almost a thousand people are moving to Surrey every month.

Soon, your population will top Vancouver's.

That immigration is part of what makes Surrey so successful, and it is also one of the key advantages that BC has to offer – strong family and business connections to India and other Asian countries.

That's why we're working with our federal counterparts to increase the number of applicants we can accept through our provincial nominee program.

The South Asian community – which makes up 28 percent of the population here – has been essential for driving small business growth at home and for opening up trade for all of us across the Pacific.

And as Surrey grows, your diversity will grow ... it will make your community richer and your small businesses stronger.

### CANADA STARTS HERE

Tomorrow I will be announcing the full details of our plan, but today I want to talk about the important role small business has to play.

Our plan is called Canada Starts Here.

We chose this name because we know British Columbia can pull Canada into the next century – we know we can lead this country like never before.

It means we can take the best of Canada and we can make it better ... right here in BC.

Executing on this plan is my central mission as your Premier.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today, I am announcing three tax initiatives that will help BC small businesses defend and create jobs, while they drive innovation across our economy.

First, we will be enhancing the Small Business Venture Capital Tax Credit by investing an additional \$3 million dollars into it.

This plan already helps small businesses deal with one of their key challenges – getting the capital they need to start up or expand – and that’s what we need to create jobs for BC families.

The program will be expanded so that more angel investors can get a 30 percent refundable tax credit for investing in eligible small businesses – and that means these job creators can get a leg up on capital, on hiring and on receiving strategic advice from experienced investors.

This program is already helping companies like Surrey’s own Endurance Wind Power, one of the world’s safest and most efficient wind turbines for producing clean energy.



Glenn Johnson, Endurance Wind Power's CEO, has said that along with a strong business plan and a great team, the Venture Capital Tax Credit has been a key ingredient to Endurance's success.

The second announcement I am making today is an extension of the apprenticeship tax credit that has been helpful to so many small businesses here in Surrey.

BC is expected to have more than one million job openings in the coming decade.

So British Columbia needs a highly skilled workforce.

And this government is committed to helping employers and workers get the skills they need.

That's why we're extending our \$31 million dollar a year Apprenticeship Training Tax Credit for another three years.

Extending this funding will give employers and apprentices the certainty they need to plan their business and their education.

Apprenticeships are a great way for young people to get their careers off on the right foot and to set themselves on a course for a lifetime of good jobs.

And the third announcement I am making today is that the Minister of Finance will be appointing a panel to review BC taxes to see how they can support business competitiveness and economic growth to enable job creation.

This panel will bring together members of the small business community, tax experts and people from the government to develop recommendations to make sure BC's tax regime is attractive to global investors and that it encourages innovation.

I am focused on small businesses as part of this plan because of the transformative power they can have on job creation.

Just recently we saw Vikram Vij open a 28,000 square foot facility in Surrey to cook and package his new line of frozen food.

As many of you know, Vikram is the owner of Vij's in Vancouver.

It's not just one of the best restaurants in BC – it's one of the best in the world.

One of the best Indian restaurants in the world – and it's not in India – it's right here in British Columbia.

And that's something we should all be proud of.

That's the power of small business in BC.

### JOBS PLAN PREVIEW

These initiatives are all key parts of our BC Jobs Plan – as I said, it's called "Canada Starts Here."

While others will hunker down and try to weather the storm of global economic turmoil, we will go out there and find new markets and new investment, to create jobs right here at home.

The BC Jobs Plan is built around the focused pursuit of that first new dollar. This means bringing new investment here so each new dollar can grow, and multiply and circulate – circulate from the initial investment, to our value added sectors, to our small businesses and, finally, to dinner tables, rec rooms and ice rinks from one end of BC to the other.

There are three pillars to our jobs plan.

The first pillar is enabling job creation with a commonsense government that opens doors instead of closing them, that makes things simple for business by getting out of the way when we can.

Does that mean stripping back environmental and other social protections?

Absolutely not. But it does mean taking a businesslike approach focused on the end game – defending and creating jobs for BC families.

Your Mayor's Red Tape Reduction Advisory Committee is a great example of this.

Our second pillar is continuing to build smart infrastructure – roads, bridges and ports – so businesses can get their goods, ideas and products to markets faster.

This also means strengthening the human relationships that help us succeed.

The third pillar of our jobs plan is about opening up markets for BC goods – it's about making sure we know what the emerging markets in Asia want and making sure they know we can provide it.

I am going to personally lead this effort as the chief salesperson for our province.

The three pillars of our plan are built on two foundations.

The first is creating a strong, skilled BC workforce, training for the jobs our economy needs today and in the future.



And that means promoting education that matches the needs of our economy, so that people who live in all parts of BC can find jobs that will allow them to stay close to home ... keeping families together, while building a stronger economy.

And the second foundation is preserving our government's reputation for fiscal discipline.

This foundation is so important – because we can't continue to be a safe harbour for investment if we aren't prudent about our finances.

We all feel a special pride in being Canadians. We are well thought of around the world and respected for our diversity and our tolerance – but Canada also has a well-deserved reputation for fiscal responsibility.

Canada's debt to GDP ratio is 36% - if you look south, it's 72%.

I am proud to say that BC's ratio is only 15%.

Here in BC we take Canada's fiscal prudence one-step further through our commitment to low taxes and balanced budgets.



The best of Canada combined with the best of BC allows us to be a safe harbor, with a triple AAA credit rating and a stable banking system.

And I want to take a second to say thank you to my friend Kevin Falcon, one of Surrey's MLAs and British Columbia's Finance Minister. Every day Kevin keeps a firm hand on the budget and I can't tell you how much all British Columbians should appreciate that.

You will notice our BC Jobs Plan is not about figuring out how many tax dollars we can spend ... in fact the spending commitments are really quite modest.

Darn right they are.

I'm quite proud of that – we are being smart and strategic, because I think taxpayers deserve to be treated with respect.

We're not just going to recirculate your money – we're going to go out and get new investments from new markets.

## FAMILIES FIRST

I've told you what we plan to do – now I'd like to talk about why we are doing it.

Everything I do is about putting families first, and that's something I think I have in common with the people of Surrey.

Good citizens come from families that instill character ... and they become the foundation for strong, stable and safe communities. That's what builds a great province and a great country.

And what do families need to be strong and stable?

You need a good job.

## THREATS

You will notice our plan is about defending the jobs we have as well as working to create new ones. And that's very important.

Our province is a place of relative economic calm and stability, but we are surrounded by a world of economic turmoil ... the Eurozone still struggles with a debt crisis and a crisis of confidence.

Our best friend and closest neighbor, the United States, continues to grapple with high unemployment, high debt and political gridlock.

I don't have to sugar-coat it for you, the world is facing stormy seas ahead.

But we won't keep our heads above water by hunkering down.

Our plan says the best defense is a good offence.

## OPPORTUNITIES

BC has such incredible advantages, ones that make us truly unique in the world:

Our proximity to the biggest markets

Our diverse population

Our world class infrastructure

Our sound fiscal fundamentals

And a wealth of natural and intellectual resources

We need to build on our position of strength... and never has this been more important, given the global economic uncertainty we are facing.

Building on our strengths is what our BC Jobs Plan will do.

We have so many advantages to attract that first new dollar to BC – and when we do, it will circulate through our entire economy and help every British Columbian.

But first we have to put aside the divisions of the past and pull together as one BC team, with one focus – good stable jobs for BC families.

## CONCLUSION

The BC Jobs Plan gives us a path to follow that will help us weather the storm and ensure our success as a province. It means we will have to give it our all and lead Canada like never before.

We know what we need to do and where we need to focus our efforts so we can defend and create BC jobs.

It means we need to listen – listen to you, listen to our small businesses, to our employees, and to our employers – to all British Columbians.

I am optimistic about the future. I know our province can lead this country if we are at our best – if we are united, if we are optimistic and if we are confident.

BC is at a crossroads and Surrey is right in the middle of it. We are facing a generational opportunity, and we are going to lead Canada into next century.

This is our time.

This is our chance to lead.

This is our moment.

When it comes to building the future, *Canada Starts Here*.

-End-

Premier Christy Clark introduces *Canada Starts Here: The BC Jobs Plan* to the  
Vancouver Board of Trade  
Thursday, September 22, 2011

### ***Check against delivery***

Thanks, Dave, for the introduction.

I'd like to acknowledge my caucus members in attendance, as they stand up - please give them a warm round of applause.

Iain Black is here today as well.

And most importantly I want to acknowledge all the job creators in the room and that's you.

You know, my grandfather was a member of the trade delegation that went to Japan with this Board of Trade in 1954. I found this wallet of his from the trip when I was cleaning out some boxes in my garage a couple months ago. He worked for a B.C. small business, Nelson Brothers Fisheries. He was the production manager and he went on this trade mission that flew through Anchorage, Alaska and then on to Japan. The whole point was to reach out to open new markets and create new jobs in British Columbia.

I am really proud he did that, and that the Board of Trade had the foresight to lead that mission in the 1950s. Fifty-seven years later, I am standing here before the same organization to talk about the same thing – new markets, new opportunities and good jobs for families.

Back then, it was no small task, but he went anyway. Just think about it. Nine years after the end of World War Two, imagine how unknown Japan was to people in our part of the world. You couldn't get live streaming news from Tokyo over the Internet. And you definitely couldn't watch Iron Chef on TV.

But way more importantly, in 1954, it would have been impossible for British Columbians to provide the kind of help we are providing as Japan recovers from the recent natural disasters. Back then, Japan must have felt like another planet. Yet today, they are B.C.'s third-largest trading partner.

This shows how far a determined effort and a clear vision can take our economy and our province.



And it's time to do it again.

Our plan is called Canada Starts Here.

We chose this name because we know British Columbia can pull Canada into the next century – we know we can lead this country like never before.

It means we can take the best of Canada and we can make it better – right here in B.C.

Executing on this plan is my central mission as your Premier.

Our plan is centered on bringing what we call the “first new dollar” to British Columbia.

This means bringing new investment here so each new dollar can grow, and multiply and circulate – circulate from the initial investment, to our value added sectors, to our small businesses and, finally, to dinner tables, rec rooms and ice rinks from one end of B.C. to the other.

Our BC Jobs Plan is built on three pillars and today I'd like to tell you about some of the key initiatives we'll be implementing as part of this plan:

The first pillar is enabling job creation with a commonsense government that opens doors instead of closing them, and makes things simple for business by getting out of the way when we can.

Does that mean stripping back environmental and other social protections?

Absolutely not. But it does mean taking a businesslike approach focused on the end game – defending and creating jobs for BC families.

Our jobs plan recognizes that sometimes government must lead the way. But sometimes the best thing government can do is get out of the way.

I am announcing today that we will establish a “Major Investments Office” that will help businesses who want to invest in B.C. get the answers they need in a quick, clear way.

This office will facilitate answers, make sure timelines don't slip and negotiate solutions to problems. If the answer is “yes,” let's get there as quickly as possible and get the jobs created as soon as we can.

I am also announcing today that we will move aggressively to eliminate one of the big problems inhibiting job growth in our province – the endless delays in permitting approvals.

We will invest \$24 million across natural resource ministries over two years, in order to eliminate the backlog in key authorizations that is preventing projects from proceeding.

Let me stress, we are not changing environmental protections.

And we are also adding more resources to make sure we continue to meet our legal obligations to First Nations – and continue to involve them in the benefits of economic development.

We are going to take the time we need to protect our clean air and water, but we are not going to leave investors hanging because the government that makes the laws can't process the permits.

I am also announcing today that the new BC Jobs and Investment Board will be up and running in 60 days. It will include citizens from across B.C. to promote economic development by holding government's feet to the fire to make sure we are doing everything possible to make B.C. competitive – and not standing in the way of good jobs.

B.C. will only win if we win together, so this board will bring together business leaders and labour leaders, community leaders and government to fight for jobs like never before.

I am also announcing the establishment of an Aboriginal Business and Investment Council to help connect First Nations to capital and expertise, so deals can get done, jobs can get created and progress can be made.

And by 2015 the B.C. government will sign at least 10 new non-treaty economic development agreements with First Nations to further improve economic certainty.

But this plan won't just help Aboriginal people – it will help every British Columbian by increasing investment in our province.

Small business is a key driver of job growth and the cornerstone of many communities. The potential of clean technology and the creative economy, of digital media and the arts, to bolster our economy and enrich our lives is one of the reasons that I announced in Surrey yesterday three tax initiatives to help small businesses in these areas and others.

These include a competitiveness review of business taxation to ensure the film industry and others benefit from streamlined administration.

We will also make the most of B.C.'s natural gas advantage. I will be our top salesperson as we work to grow new natural gas markets in Asia for B.C. – I will market this resource with a single-minded focus and promote the use of natural gas as a transportation fuel.



We will take action to realize the potential of Liquefied Natural Gas. As I announced in Prince Rupert on Monday, we will clear the way and secure the investment required to establish up to three LNG plants by 2020.

We have enough electricity available to launch the first two phases of the project.

And I need to be clear here today – we will not allow a lack of power supply to stand in the way of further important steps in this project.

Earlier this week I met with leaders of the Haisla First Nation to talk about LNG and they have a real problem on their hands – it's going to create more jobs than their community can fill. I think that's a problem a lot of communities would like to have.

The second pillar of our jobs plan is about continuing to build smart infrastructure, and I don't just mean bricks and mortar ... I mean people, too. We need to support the human relationships that help us succeed, the unity we must foster and the education we must strengthen.

That's why earlier this week in Kamloops I announced that the province is setting an aggressive target to grow the international student population in B.C. by 50 per cent in just the next four years.

And our physical infrastructure is the start of a web that also ties our country together in a very real way.

Our ports are not just British Columbia's ... they are Saskatchewan's ports too. The workers building the Port Mann bridge know they aren't just building it for the Lower Mainland – they are building it for families in places like Woodstock, Ontario so they can get auto parts delivered from Asia.

This coast is Canada's coast – and that is why I am announcing today that we will invest \$50 million to improve the B.C.-owned rail corridor that connects Deltaport to Canada's transportation network.

With this contribution, the Port of Metro Vancouver can now move forward on a \$200-million expansion to increase container capacity, enabling the creation of over 600 jobs at port operations and ensuring goods move efficiently. This follows my announcement on Monday that B.C. is committing \$15 million towards the Road Rail Utility Corridor on Ridley Island.

We will also be thinning our border with the United States to help trade and people move more efficiently.

We will be consulting broadly and announcing further infrastructure investments in the coming weeks, many of them with our good partners the federal government – and all of them made with an eye to defending existing jobs and creating new ones.

The third pillar of our jobs plan is about opening up markets for B.C. goods.

It's about doing what my Grandfather did in 1954, but doing it today on a much larger scale and harnessing all of the strengths our B.C. team has to offer.

We will focus especially on China and India, where economies are growing and the middle class is coming to the fore. The middle class in India alone is expected to be more than 10 times the size of Canada's entire population in less than 20 years.

We need to be great at expanding and understanding those markets, and producing goods to feed their demands.

Opening up new markets for B.C. is key to our success, and I intend to lead this effort personally. I intend to be the chief salesperson for our province as we take our place leading this great country.

By selling B.C. wood all over the world, we have created a renaissance in the forest sector – 27 mills have opened in the last two years, including one in Kitwanga. A sizeable chunk of that mill's sales will be going to China, Japan and Korea. I was there when they opened the mill in Kitwanga and I've seen what a positive effect it's had on that community. There are 481 people living there and that mill – which started with that first new dollar – employs 45 of them. And about three quarters of those employees are First Nations people.

Those are real jobs, for real families right here in British Columbia – and it shows the impact of focusing on trade with Asia – and the power that trade can have all over our province, in communities large and small.

It also shows the power of Pat Bell, our Jobs Minister, and it's a great example of why I gave him the job in the first place.

And all over B.C. we see examples of small businesses working in Asia too, leveraging the strength of established local community connections with those Asian markets.

Like Surrey-based Jhajj lumber, who have just recently started shipping their first ever containers of wood to India.

As many of you know, to increase our share I am going to lead a trade mission to China and India, so that I can make sure we're working with the right people, with the best ideas, to open up and expand markets for B.C.



We are launching an investor-focused international marketing campaign and I will have more to say about this tomorrow at the Business Council's Asia Pacific Forum.

These three pillars – enabling job creation, building smart infrastructure and opening new markets – will stand on two key foundations.

The first foundation is creating a strong, skilled B.C. workforce, trained for the jobs our economy needs today and in the future. And that means promoting education that will give our citizens the best chance to get the good jobs that will allow them to stay close to home, keeping families together, while building a stronger economy.

It also means having an immigration system in place to support job creation. That's why we support an increase to the number of applicants we can accept through our provincial nominee program, and we're working with the federal government on any other strategies we can identify.

And the second foundation is preserving our government's hard-earned reputation for fiscal discipline.

This foundation is so important – because we can't continue to be a safe harbour for investment if we aren't prudent about our finances.

We all feel a special pride in being Canadians. We are well thought of around the world and respected for our diversity and our tolerance – but Canada also has a well-deserved reputation for fiscal responsibility. Here in B.C. we take Canada's fiscal prudence one-step further through our commitment to low taxes and balanced budgets.

Canada's debt to GDP ratio is 36 per cent – down south in the US it's a whopping 72 per cent. And I'm proud to say that here in B.C. it's only 17.5 per cent. That's one of the reasons we have a triple AAA credit rating.

This is what I mean about taking the best of Canada and making it better.

We have to stick to our fiscally prudent course – we can't honestly say we are putting families first if we are saddling future generations with more and more debt.

High debt policies won't work for tomorrow and they won't work for today either. Just ask Greece; go ask the European Union; go ask anyone who lived through the 1990s right here in British Columbia.

You will notice our BC Jobs Plan is not about figuring out how many tax dollars we can spend – in fact the spending commitments are really quite modest. I'm quite proud of that.

We are being smart and strategic, because I think taxpayers deserve to be treated with respect.

Our plan is premised on the focused pursuit of the first new dollar. To do this we have identified eight sectors with the greatest opportunity to bring that first new dollar into British Columbia.

These key sectors are:

- Forestry
- Mining
- Natural gas
- Agri-foods
- Tourism
- Transportation
- Technology, clean tech and the green economy, and
- International education.

These are sectors where our unique advantages – our creativity, our diversity, our resources, our geography – will put us on the path to success. They are sectors that will lift our entire economy by helping the businesses small and large that are the engine of job growth and create the greatest number of spin-off jobs.

They were chosen because they drive export growth. And that means everyone wins.

If you want to see how it works, take the example of the little town of Princeton. Two hundred and seventy people in Princeton now have a good job because of the mine at Copper Mountain – a job they can rely on when they need to buy a new truck – a job that will allow them to renovate their home. And maybe for the first time, they'll be able to put lunch in their children's lunch boxes each and every day.

The mine was shut down in the 1990s, and they were able to re-open Copper Mountain, based on one contract, with one company, in one Asian country.

That's how that first new dollar helps everyone. Because whether you work in manufacturing or the service industry, those dollars move around quickly.

Increased commodity prices make expanded mining a great opportunity for B.C. And the fact that our companies set the global standard for responsible mining means we can take advantage of it.

That means more revenue for health care and education.

We need to create more Princetons.

I've told you what we plan to do – now I'd like to talk about why we are doing it.

Everything I do is about putting families first – families of all shapes and sizes.



Good citizens come from families that instill character – and they become the foundation for strong, stable and safe communities. That's what builds a good province and ultimately that's what builds a great country.

And what makes families strong and stable?

You need a good job.

That's why a thriving private sector is so important. You create wealth, and in doing so, you create jobs. And you also create the revenues needed for education, for health care and for the services we all depend on.

You will notice our plan is about defending the jobs we have as well as working to create new ones. And that's important.

Our province is a place of relative economic calm and stability, but we are surrounded by a world of economic turmoil. Today alone we have seen a global market sell off, a significant decline in our own currency and an escalating crisis in the Eurozone.

Our best friend and closest neighbour, the United States, grapples with high unemployment and high debt. Even their own treasury secretary admits many are questioning whether their political system can deal with the economic turmoil.

I don't have to sugar-coat anything for you, the world is facing stormy seas ahead. But we will not keep our heads above water by hunkering down.

Our plan says the best defense is a good offence.

In the 1990s, North America underwent one of the biggest economic expansions in its history and, I'm sorry to say, British Columbia sat it out. The government of the day raised taxes, drove up debt, and chased away investment. And they killed jobs in every community doing it. They pitted one British Columbian against another, they divided our society and the results were tragic.

Businesses were lost ... families saw their dreams go up in smoke ... and then families were pulled apart as 50,000 people left the province looking for a better life.

They were looking for jobs.

We spent the last 10 years catching up.

B.C. turned the page in 2001 and worked to repair the damage done and end the divisive battles.

We got our fiscal house in order by giving taxpayers the respect they deserve, by using proven economic fundamentals, by cutting taxes and by balancing budgets.

A little common sense went a long way.

We saw our credit rating go up and we improved our quality of life because we could afford investments in health and education.

Now we are going to turn the page again and build on the platform of the last 10 years.

We are going to pull together as one B.C. team, with one focus – good stable jobs for BC families.

B.C. has incredible advantages that make us truly unique in the world:

- Our proximity to the biggest markets on the globe.
- Our diverse population.
- Our world class infrastructure.
- Our sound fiscal fundamentals.
- And a wealth of natural and intellectual resources.

We need to build on our position of strength... and never has this been more important than now.

I am a proud Canadian and I'm even prouder because B.C. will be leading Canada into the next decade. We will invite our fellow Canadians to join us and we will tell the world "Canada Starts Here."

This is a unique moment in history for us to do more than our fair share for the rest of Canada, to grasp B.C.'s opportunity to help build an even greater country.

Canada starts here because we are at the Pacific edge of the nation, and we are literally facing the future of the world in Asia.

Our location and geography is an asset, but it is just one part of the B.C. story.

Diversity is at the core of who we are: it is a key strength for our society and it enriches every one of our lives.

From New Canadians to the strength of our young First Nations people, to the people of Asian and Indian descent who have been settled here for a century or more now, our diverse population is a key asset to expanding our economy and making sure that B.C. families prosper.

40 per cent of the population of Greater Vancouver identify themselves as Asian. If you want to argue there is an Asian city outside of Asia, Vancouver is it.



There has never been a place like this in the history of the world. And we have a plan to capitalize on our unique advantages.

Today I have outlined our BC Jobs Plan and that's what it has to be – a plan for the entire province, by the entire province. Not a plan for the government, not a plan for one party – but a plan that brings all of us together and moves us all forward. And that means we need to listen.

As you know, I am a big proponent of open government.

This jobs plan will be “exhibit A” of that commitment. If you visit the website <http://www.bcjobsplan.ca/> you will see that a public engagement effort is now getting underway.

We're also going to initiate regional and sectoral engagement across the province, with communities, with chambers and with everyday British Columbians.

We will also be issuing semi-annual reports to British Columbians to tell them about our progress, but also to ensure we improve the plan using what we've learned from talking to British Columbians.

I am doing this because government doesn't have all the answers and we need your help – because government doesn't create jobs, you do that.

I am optimistic as we look forward to tomorrow. I know our province can lead this country if we are at our best – if we are united, if we are optimistic and if we are confident.

As I worked with our team to prepare this plan, I took my inspiration from what this Board of Trade – and my Grandfather – did so many years ago with the mission to Japan. They were writing the story of B.C. and we are going to keep writing it – today and tomorrow.

We are facing a generational opportunity, and we are going to lead Canada into next century.

This is our time.

This is our chance to lead.

This is our moment.

When it comes to building the future, *Canada Starts Here*.

**ASAP Gala**  
**Friday, September 23, 2011**

**Event: what is it?**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Association of South Asian Professionals (ASAP) Gala
- A non-profit organization of south Asian professionals from various backgrounds who network and act as positive role models, mentors and advocates.
- ASAP actively encourages South Asian professionals to become involved in socially responsible activities.
- Premier to speak for 2-3 minutes.

**Audience: who are they?**

- Jindy Bhalla, President ASAP
- Jas Sandhu, Vice-president ASAP
- Divyesh (Dave) Gadhia, Keynote Speaker
- Others TBC

**Key Messages**

- **The contribution of the South Asian community in B.C. cannot be overstated.**
- **The people in this room are key job enablers and are helping grow BC's economy.**
- **Accomplishments in the South Asian community are not only proud moments for their families, but proud moments for all British Columbians.**

### Key Messages

- The contribution of the South Asian community in B.C. cannot be overstated.
- The people in this room are key job enablers and are helping grow BC's economy.
- Accomplishments in the South Asian community are not only proud moments for their families, but proud moments for all British Columbians.

THANK YOU (BARINDER TO ADVISE) FOR THE INTRODUCTION.

I'M SO PLEASED TO JOIN YOU AT THE SECOND ANNUAL ASAP GALA.

The South Asian community's contributions to British Columbia over the past century cannot be overstated.

You are leaders from every field and walk of life...

Many of your families came to this country with a dream to make your home British Columbia.

It was with hope, hard work and perseverance that you all became the successful British Columbians you are today.

Your community has grown and evolved from mill workers and farmers- to include successful engineers, accountants, lawyers and business owners.



You have helped shape a supportive, diverse and fruitful community for your children to grow up in.

When I think about some of the milestones in the South Asian community, I think about people like Baltej Singh Dhillon.

Baltej, an BC RCMP officer, who had a passion for his province and for his culture, was the first RCMP officer in Canada to wear a turban.

He lead the way for other RCMP officers who stayed faithful to their heritage while embracing a profession protects his fellow British Columbians.

I also think about people like Lieutenant-Colonel Harjit Singh Sajjan...

Who this month assumed command of the British Columbia Regiment here in Vancouver – the first Canadian Sikh to command a Canadian army regiment...

...a tremendous accomplishment.

Accomplishments like these are a very proud day for these individual's families and their community- but they are also proud moments for all of us as British Columbians.

You all shine in your professional lives and have reached tremendous success, not just for yourselves, but for your community and for this province.

I've spent this past week travelling around British Columbia and unrolling our BC Jobs Plan.

I am going to defend and create jobs in British Columbia by expanding markets for our products, strengthening our infrastructure and working with people like yourselves to enable job creation.

This November, I'm going to travel to China and India.

Jas Sandhu will be joining me, and I hope some of you be able to come along as well...

And I am going to be the chief salesperson for our province as we take our place leading this great country.

We need to be great at expanding and understanding those markets, and producing goods to feed their demands in order to create jobs here at home.

Our keynote speaker tonight, Dave Gadhia, knows a thing or two about job creation.

Over the course of his career he has helped employ thousands of British Columbians.

And when people have a job and they don't have to worry about how they are going to put food on the table for their family, they are going to be a better parent to their children.

ASAP exemplifies the achievements and the drive of the South Asian community in B.C.

MULTICULTURALISM IS NOT ONLY AN IDEA WE TALK ABOUT.

It's what we are and what we have embraced, and you are showing us the best of it.

You are strengthening your community and your province.

You all have so much potential and I expect we'll see the legacy of your contribution live on in B.C. for many years to come.

On behalf of all British Columbians, thank you for all the roles you play in communities all across the province...

Your vision, your spirit of giving and your values are an integral thread in the fabric of our province.

- END -

**BC Business Council  
Asia Pacific Symposium  
Friday, September 23, 2011**

**Event: what is it?**

- The Business Council of British Columbia is hosting *British Columbia's Gateway: Realizing Canada's Asia Pacific Opportunity*, a half-day conference at the Vancouver Convention Centre.
- The conference will bring together business and trade organizations, economists and governments to focus on developing an action plan for Canada to fully capitalize on Asia as the most dynamic and fastest growing part of the world economy.
- Featured speakers include Yeun Pau Woo, president and CEO of the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada and James Moore, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages
- The Premier has been asked to speak for 15 minutes.

**Audience: who are they?**

- Canadian CEOs and business people from key commodity, education, new technologies, tourism and export sectors, current and former government leadership, and international dignitaries interested in growing relationships with the Asia Pacific.
- Other notable guests include former BC Finance Minister Carole Taylor.



## BCBC Asia Pacific Symposium

Friday Sept 23

Length: 15 minutes

V8

### INTRODUCTION TO SYMPOSIUM

It is pleasure to be here with you today.

Before I begin, I want to introduce a couple of my colleagues.

- Jobs, Tourism and Innovation Minister Pat Bell
- Chilliwack MLA John Les, who serves as my parliamentary secretary.

Also in attendance

- James Moore, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages.
- Carole Taylor and,
- Yeun Pau Woo, president and CEO of the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada.



Yesterday, I announced the details of our BC Jobs Plan.

It lays out how we will grow our connections with emerging markets in Asia... to defend and create jobs ... and attract that first new dollar into BC.

Because as everyone here knows, a big part of our economic opportunity lies there over there ... that's where our future lies.

In many ways, our success rests on our ability to build on the advantages that come with our diversity – our historic family and business connections to India, China and other Asian countries.

But in stormy seas, it's not just economies that shut down, too often it's people's hearts. Not here.

We have an advantage in British Columbia – embracing diversity is second nature to us.

While other nations facing economic strain will look inward, we will look outward – looking for friends.

Friends from around the world. Friends who have been woven into the fabric of British Columbia for over a century. Because our society is not one that defines itself by how tolerant we are, but how we welcome and embrace others, and become a part of each other's lives.

## **CANADA STARTS HERE**

These ideas are at the heart of our BC Jobs Plan.

It's called "Canada Starts Here."

We chose this name because we know British Columbia can pull Canada into the next century – we know we can lead this country like never before.

We know we can take the best of Canada and we can make it better ... right here in BC.

Executing on this plan is my central mission as your Premier.

It is a priority for every single ministry across government.

And today I am asking you to join us – to see yourself in this plan – to make executing on it your mission as well.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today, I am announcing three steps to open and grow new overseas markets:

First, we are doubling our trade presence with a key focus on expanding markets.

We will do this by strengthening our network of trade offices to help BC companies enter Asian markets.

We will increase our focus on attracting foreign investment and international students to BC.

This means having an international education specialist in every one of our trade offices.

If you want to study in BC, there should be no wrong doors to knock on.

Second, we will be setting up a hosting program to welcome international business and investment delegations to BC.

We will provide personalized service and assistance to overseas delegations.

We want to match them with the right potential business opportunities and partnerships.

And in order to do that, we will work closely with regional development offices, local governments and job creators to arrange tours, site visits and meetings.

Whatever they need – to know that we want their business here in British Columbia, we want their investment, we want them to create jobs in our province.

Third, I am also announcing that we are implementing a targeted marketing campaign to highlight BC as a safe harbour for investment.

This marketing effort started today with an ad in the Wall Street Journal Asian edition — so potential investors in Tokyo, Hong Kong, Kuala Lumpur, Mumbai and Delhi can read about all we have to offer.

We won't succeed if British Columbia remains the world's best-kept secret ... that's why I am going to be BC's top salesperson — I will be focused like a laser on making the case for our province, our people ... our plan.

## **Enabling Job Creation Pillar**

The first pillar of our jobs plan is enabling job creation with a commonsense government that opens doors instead of closing them, that makes things simple for business by getting out of the way when we can.

Under our plan, we will establish a “Major Investments Office” that will help businesses who want to invest in BC get the answers they need in a quick, clear way.



The office will facilitate answers, make sure timelines don't slip and negotiate solutions to problems. If the answer is "yes," let's get there as quickly as possible and get the jobs created as soon as we can.

We will move aggressively to eliminate one of the big problems inhibiting job growth in our province – that's the endless delays in permitting approvals.

We will invest \$24 million dollars across natural resource ministries over two years, in order to eliminate the backlog in key authorizations that is preventing projects from proceeding today.

We are also adding more resources to make sure we continue to meet our legal obligations to First Nations – and continue to involve them in the benefits of economic development.

We are going to take the time we need to protect our clean air and water, but we are not going to leave investors hanging because the government that makes the laws can't process the permits.

## **Smart Infrastructure Pillar**

The second pillar of our jobs plan is about continuing to build smart infrastructure, and I don't just mean bricks and mortar ... I mean people too.

I don't have to tell the people in this room how important that is.

Our BC Jobs Plan sets an ambitious target of growing the international student population in BC by 50 percent in just the next four years. We estimate this will create 9,000 jobs and put another \$500 million dollars into our economy.

But we also get much more. We get the brain power of students like Xu Zhang from Beijing. As part of the Mitacs internship program, she worked at SFU this summer modeling and designing power trains for hybrid vehicles.

And we get social connections with students like Usman Vahidy.

This Thompson Rivers grad is working at the Business Development Bank of Canada for a year and bringing in global experience to fill a local demand.

Now whether Usman chooses to stay in BC or go back to the UAE, he will always have a connection here.

Our plan focuses on strengthening the physical infrastructure as well ... and we are making significant investments in port infrastructure here at Deltaport and at Ridley Island off Prince Rupert.

### **Opening Markets Pillar**

The third pillar of our jobs plan is about opening up markets for BC goods. This is what the announcements made earlier are about – and they're just the beginning.

In November I am going to China and India on a trade mission and I will personally lead this effort as the chief salesperson for our province.

One of the most important stops will come on November 14<sup>th</sup>, when I address the World Economic Forum in Mumbai. Our trade mission will spend time in Guangzhou, China, Shanghai and Beijing as well as Delhi, Bangalore, Amritsar and Chandigarh.

In many ways, these efforts will be about building on success.

Look at (Palisus) Pelesys Learning Systems. With the support of our trade and investment team, (Palisus) Pelesys just signed a contract with the Commercial Aircraft Corporation of China.

Their software will be used to train Chinese pilots flying commercial planes ... but their employees will be working in Richmond.

Business will be a key partner in our efforts. I may be the chief salesperson, but I can't be the only one ... so I hope you'll join us.



When I first started talking with Pat Bell about the BC Jobs Plan, he told me that the most important moment in the renaissance of the BC forest industry was when the whole sector realized they needed to present a united front in China.

And now we need our whole province to do the same thing.

**Twin foundations – skilled workforce and fiscal responsibility:**

These three pillars – enabling job creation, building smart infrastructure and opening new markets – will stand on two key foundations.

The first is a strong, skilled BC workforce, trained for the jobs our economy needs today and in the future.

And that means promoting education that will give our citizens the best chance to get the good jobs that will allow them to stay close to home ... keeping families together, while building a stronger economy.



It also means having an immigration system in place to support job creation. That's why we support an increase to the number of applicants we can accept through our provincial nominee program. And we are working with the federal government on any other strategies we can identify.

The second foundation is preserving our government's hard-earned reputation for fiscal discipline.

And this foundation is so important – because we can't continue to be a safe harbour for investment if we aren't prudent about our finances.

We all feel a special pride in being Canadians. We are well thought of around the world and we are respected for our diversity and our tolerance – but Canada also has a well-deserved reputation for fiscal responsibility.

Here in BC we take Canada's fiscal prudence one-step further through our commitment to low taxes and balanced budgets.

Canada's debt to GDP ratio is only 36% - compare that to the US, where it's a whopping 72%.

And I'm proud to say that here in BC it's only 17.5%.

And that's one of the reasons we have a triple AAA credit rating.

That is what I mean about taking the best of Canada and making it better.

We have to stick to our fiscally prudent course – we can't honestly say we are putting families first if we are saddling the next generations with debt.

High debt policies won't work for tomorrow and they won't work for today either ... just ask Greece ... just ask the European Union ... go ask anyone who lived through the 1990s in British Columbia.

This is one of the reasons our BC Jobs Plan includes very modest spending commitments. We are being smart, we are being strategic ... because I think taxpayers deserve to be treated with respect.

## **FAMILIES FIRST**

I've told you what we plan to do – now let me tell you why we are doing it.

Everything I do is about putting families first – families of all shapes and sizes; families that are however you define them.

Good citizens come from families that instill character ... and they become the foundation for strong, stable and safe communities. That's what builds a good province and ultimately that's what builds a great country.

And what makes families strong and stable?

You need a good job.

If you want to know what a difference a job makes, take the example of the little town of Princeton.

270 people in Princeton now have a good job because of the mine at Copper Mountain.

A job they can rely on when they need to buy a new truck.

A job that will allow them to renovate their home.

And maybe for the first time, they'll be able to put lunch in their children's lunch boxes each and every day.

The mine was shut down in the 1990's, and they were able to re-open Copper Mountain, based on one contract, with one company, in one Asian country.

BC's commitment to families is also a key reason we are going to succeed in our efforts to sell in China – a passionate commitment to families is a fundamental value we share in common.

## **THREATS**

You will notice our plan is about defending the jobs we have as well as working to create new ones. And that's important.

Our province is a place of relative economic calm and stability, but we are surrounded by a world of economic turmoil. Every day seems to bring a new shock. Yesterday alone we saw a global market sell off, a significant decline in our own currency and an escalating crisis in the Eurozone.

Our best friend and our closest neighbor, the United States, continues to grapple with high unemployment and high debt.

Even their own treasury secretary admits that many are questioning the ability of their political system to deal with the economic turmoil.



I don't have to sugar-coat it for anyone here, the world is facing stormy seas ahead.

But we won't keep our heads above water by hunkering down.

Our plan says the best defense is a good offence.

## **OPPORTUNITIES**

BC has such incredible advantages, ones that make us truly unique in the world:

Our proximity to the world's biggest markets

Our diverse population

Our world class infrastructure

Our sound fiscal fundamentals

And a wealth of natural and intellectual resources

As I said earlier, our diversity is a core advantage. We share cultures and values ... family ties and business connections.

40 percent of the population of Greater Vancouver identify themselves as Asian. If you want to argue there is an Asian city outside of Asia, Vancouver is it.

There has never been a place like this in the history of the world. And we have a plan to capitalize on those unique advantages.

## **Conclusion**

Today I have outlined our BC Jobs Plan and that's what it has to be. Not a plan for the government, not a plan for one party – but a plan for our entire province. A plan that brings all of us together and moves us all forward.

That means we need to listen and I hope you will let Pat and I know what you think about it – and how we can make it better.

After all, government doesn't have all the answers ... and government doesn't create jobs, you do that.

I am optimistic as we look forward to tomorrow. I know our province can lead this country if we are at our best – if we are united, if we are optimistic and if we are confident.

We are facing a generational opportunity, and we are going to lead Canada into next century.

This is our time.

This is BC's chance to lead.

This is our moment.

When it comes to building the future, *Canada Starts Here*.

-End-

## **Governor General Johnston Welcome Monday, September 26, 2011**

### **Event: what is it?**

- His Excellency Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada and Her Excellency Mrs. Sharon Johnston make their first official visit to British Columbia
- Premier to speak two minutes at welcome event at Legislature

### **Audience: who are they?**

- His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada
- Her Excellency Mrs. Sharon Johnston

#### **Distinguished guests:**

- Hon. Bill Barisoff, Speaker of the Legislature
- Hon. Robert Baumann, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and Mrs. Susan Bauman
- Ms Carole James, MLA representing Leader of the Official Opposition
- Rear-Admiral Nigel Greenwood, Commander Maritime Forces Pacific and Mrs. Deborah Greenwood
- Consul General Rosa Elena Moreno, Dean of the Consular Corps of B.C. and Consul General of El Salvador
- Chief Andy Thomas, Chief of Esquimalt Nation and Mrs. Mary Anne Thomas
- His Worship Dean Fortin, Mayor – city of Victoria
- MR. Murray Farmer, Chancellor of University of Victoria and Mrs. Lynda Farmer
- Commissioner Norm Lipinski – Acting Commanding Officer "E" Division, RCMP
- First Nations dancers
- Military veterans
- School children

### **Key Messages**

- **Welcome to British Columbia**
- **British Columbians are proud of their historic ties to the British Commonwealth**

**On behalf of the people of British Columbia, I would like to welcome your excellencies on your first official visit to our province.**

**In the past year, you've had the opportunity to see much of our country and preside over many events which have been unique to their areas.**

**We're proud to welcome you to Victoria, Canada's western-most provincial capital, here at the shores of the Pacific Ocean...**

**On the traditional territory of the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations.**

**From our rough beginnings as a Hudson Bay fort to the shining success we are today, our province's history has been written by her people...**

**People who have worked hard and become world leaders in so many areas.**



**The mountains and ocean provide a backdrop of beauty for thriving industry of our province and British Columbia remains a land of opportunity.**

**The people you'll meet on your B.C. journey will be as diverse as our province.**

**I know you'll enjoy Family Day with our Maritime Forces Pacific, and your meetings with First Nations in Tofino, Bamfield and Vancouver.**

**I know that the people of the Canadian Club of Vancouver are eagerly awaiting your arrival.**

**You'll meet so many of the people who are weaving the continuing history of our province.**

**140 years ago, British Columbia joined confederation and took our place as proud Canadians.**

**As representatives of the Crown, I am sure you will see the evidence throughout Victoria of our long tradition with Britain and the monarchy.**

**Over the years, B.C. has hosted many members of the royal family, and our residents maintain a steadfast loyalty to the Crown.**

**We are honoured that you're here with us today. We hope that today's ceremonies, and your journey over the next three days will mark the first of many official visits to British Columbia...**

**And that the beauty and majesty of our province will encourage you to visit again soon.**

**I would now like to invite His Excellency, the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada, to say a few words.**

**- END -**

Good evening your Excellencies and distinguished guests.

I hope you've had a great day in our capital on your first official visit to British Columbia.

I'm sorry for the lack of weather cooperation this morning. We like to think of it as liquid sunshine here on the west coast.

We think a little differently about a lot of things here.

As Canada's western-most province, with the ocean as our next-door neighbour, we've looked to the Pacific Ocean for many things.

Many British Columbians have made their living on the ocean, defended Canada on the ocean, and now we also see it as a source of energy, and an ecological treasure.

We also know the Pacific Ocean is a highway to trade with the Asia Pacific region, enriching our province and our country.

Our proximity to the growing economic powers of Asia will help build B.C.'s economic strength and competitiveness.

For the past 140 years, British Columbians have been a hardy people. Early in our history, the economy was built on the natural resource industry.

Our wood and minerals sustained us as we built cities and towns around the industries.

Today, those same resources play a major part in our economy, providing jobs for our families.

British Columbia's abundance of natural resources, such as wood, minerals, food and clean energy is in demand around the world.

And we continue to grow new markets for our products and resources, like lumber.

Our future is bright, and we want to be a leader among provinces.

I'm really pleased that as you continue your journey through our province, you'll have time to meet some of the people who are building the future of our province.

I thank you for coming to visit as a representative of our Queen, and for bringing the monarchy to us.

British Columbians have been loyal subjects of the monarchy and continue to look forward to every visit.

I hope you enjoy meeting the people of our province and having the opportunity to see our unique coastal lifestyles and landmarks, and that this visit will lead to many more.

- END -



**UBCM Reception Greeting  
Wednesday, September 28, 2011**

**Event: what is it?**

- Premier to greet UBCM delegates at B.C. reception

**Audience: who are they?**

- Mayors, councillors, delegates to UBCM

**Key Messages**

- **Municipal government is a strong partner**
- **Let's work together to create a bright future for B.C.**
- **Together we can build an even better province**

**Welcome to the B.C. government reception and welcome to UBCM.**

**Thank you all for coming tonight. It's great to see so many familiar faces and to meet new people.**

**It's been a busy few days at UBCM and I've already had the opportunity to meet with many of you.**

**And it's so clear the dedication you bring to serving your communities.**

**You've come to UBCM because you know that by working together...**

**By sharing your knowledge and experience, you are making your communities stronger.**

**I share your goal.**

**I know that strong communities make a strong province, and that by working together we can be even better than we are now.**

**As leaders, you work hard in your communities all year and we all appreciate the work you do.**

**You demonstrate the values of hard work, innovative thinking and vision.**

**I want you to know that all of government is here to listen to your concerns and ideas, and that we can work together toward our goals...**

**And create a new level of economic growth and prosperity.**

**Out of challenges, we can find opportunities...**

**And out of opportunities, we will find success.**

**Let's move forward together and create a bright future for British Columbia.**

**- END -**

## Key Messages:

1. Extending the life of BC Place so families can enjoy time together for many years to come.
2. Creating jobs
3. Go Lions Go!

The BC Lions were granted their football franchise back in 1954...

29 years later BC Place opened and became the home of Lions.

Since then, the stadium has welcomed rock stars and royalty...

It has hosted the Grey Cup Championship Game SEVEN TIMES since it opened...

The 8<sup>th</sup> time is just around the corner as Vancouver holds the 99<sup>th</sup> Grey Cup in November.

BC Place played host to the world when it opened and closed the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games.

And it will have its first Whitecaps FC MLS soccer match this Sunday.

The new retractable roof reveals more than two acres of sky, turning BC Place into a year-round, open-air facility.

But it's not just the roof that's new.

They've done seismic upgrades, they've put in new and larger seats and they upgraded and modernized washrooms...



Not to mention access ramps, concourses and concessions for better service and better accessibility for everyone.

Most importantly, the revitalization of BC place has helped support thousands of jobs for British Columbians

More than 5,000 trades people were involved in the project at its peak...

And the boost in events is expected to create thousands of additional, indirect jobs for British Columbians.

PavCo is hiring between 500 and 600 people to work at BC Place, mostly during events...

The people of Vancouver, sports fans tuning in from across the province and the fans here today can't wait to see the new and improved BC Place – and they won't be disappointed

In the words of the BC Lions' star receiver Geroy Simon: it's "time to get to the big house"

-END-

# **UBCM ADDRESS**

## **INTRODUCTION**

I first want to thank Barbara Steele for the work she has done over the past year as your president. She's been a strong, reasoned voice for UBCM and has made sure the issues that matter to you got the attention they deserve.

All of you give up your time and put a lot of energy into making your communities a better place to live.

It's a real commitment you make.

I also want to acknowledge a few mayors who are stepping down this fall after many years of service:

Chris Causton, the mayor of Oak Bay has served on Council since 1987 and has been mayor since 1996.

Mayor Bernice Magee of Burns Lake has served five terms on council, the last three as mayor.

In Salmon Arm, Mayor Marty Bootsma, who I spent time with this week, has dedicated 12 years to municipal office – half of that as mayor.

And Mayor Joe Trasolini from Port Moody is stepping down after first being elected to office in 1996 and serving as mayor since 1999.

I want to thank you and all the elected officials not seeking re-election for the work that you do.

And it wouldn't be UBCM without acknowledging Mayor Gerry Furney, who has been a leader in the town of Port McNeill in six decades.

I also feel very fortunate that I followed Gordon Campbell, who had a much harder job when he took the reigns. And Gordon also rebuilt our relationship with UBCM, making it one of the most important dates on the political calendar.

So thank you for inviting me today to speak.

It has been a great week of listening to you, and learning about the work you are doing and the needs of the citizens you represent.

This week I've met with individual representatives from more than 50 communities across BC, and I've met a lot of interesting characters ... James Baker ... George Burns ... James Brown.

And after speaking with James Brown ... I feel good. Like I knew that I would.

I feel so good I'm smiling.



One of my critics was with you yesterday and he spent some time complaining that I do that too much.

But you know why I smile? Because I'm optimistic.

I have hope.

And when I look around this room, I see a lot of smiling faces.

Mayor Dave MacDonald is smiling because Liquefied Natural Gas has the potential to make Port Edward a boomtown.

Mayor Kerry Cook from Williams Lake is smiling because new gold mines are being planned in her community.

Mayor John Fraser from Tofino is smiling because he believes our international education strategy could bring a lot of people to their community.

And people from New Hazelton are smiling because a Chinese company just bought their chipper mill site and are already looking at buying more property.

Everyone one of them – and everyone one of you – runs for office because you believe it's possible to make your community better.

You have hope. You are optimistic.

If you didn't believe you could make the future better,  
why run for office?

Believing you can help create a better future by  
coming up with a plan and executing on it is the  
essence of leadership.

And it begins with optimism.

No matter how tough the times get, we have to stay  
positive. Don't you agree?

I have been reminded again this week about the value  
our municipal governments provide – in so many  
ways you are the glue that holds our communities  
together ... and that means you play a vital role in  
holding BC together.

The fact that the smallest village can carry the same weight as the largest cities here at UBCM means this is a great forum to listen to each other ... it is also a great forum for all of us to benefit from the wisdom rural British Columbians have to offer.

I believe in rural BC and that's one of the reasons I appointed Donna Barnett as Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Communities ... one of the things Donna has to offer is a background in local government. She was mayor of 100 Mile House for a long time and I can tell you – she goes 100 miles an hour on behalf of rural BC.

But Donna's not the only MLA here today – I'd like to ask my caucus to stand for a round of applause. They are all working so hard for your communities.

You know the thing I noticed through all of my meetings is how much we have in common ... how the things that pull us together are so much bigger than the things that pull us apart.

We're all trying to look out for the people around us.

I like to call it putting families first.

Good citizens come from families that instill character ... and they become the foundation for strong, stable and safe communities. That's what builds a good province and ultimately that's what builds a great country.



Families are as diverse as the communities represented here today ... but for all that diversity, BC families need the same thing.

They need to be able to care for each other, to provide for each other.

And, more than anything, that means they need a good job.

I am optimistic as we look forward to tomorrow. I know our province can lead this country if we are at our best – if we are united, if we are optimistic and if we are confident.

## **ANNOUNCEMENT**

Today I am pleased to be making an announcement that will help create jobs and strengthen families and communities across BC.

Our government is going to help local communities around BC open the doors to new or improved recreation facilities where they live.

We are creating a \$30 million dollar fund that local governments can apply to for capital projects that will promote healthy living in your communities.

We will partner with you to invest up to 80% of the funds for the recreational facilities and projects that will create jobs and allow families to spend time together, having fun and getting healthier.

You only have to look to Nakusp to see the impact these kind of investments make.

The province provided \$400,000 dollars to the community and they transformed their old rink into something more than a recreational facility – it's a community space.

Mayor Karen Hamling has called it the lifeline of their community.

The price tag for this recreational fund is modest, and I am proud of that, because in challenging economic times, we have to manage our budget just as carefully as you do.

Given the economic turmoil in the world today, we have to leverage every single tax dollar to maximum effect.

Operating dollars will be tight, but we will continue to make forward looking decisions on infrastructure.

Not only will these investments help promote healthy living, they also create sustainable communities – and that will attract families and make it possible for them to stay.

I have heard time and time again from leaders in this room and many of your citizens about the need for these facilities, particularly in rural BC. It's good for families, and it's families that build strong communities.

Today is a proud day for me.

Today is the first day that our government is providing smoking cessation products free to British Columbians who want to kick their habit.

The program started at midnight last night.



Our first call for a prescription came in at 11:58 PM.

By 9:45 this morning, 300 prescriptions had already been filled.

And I'll tell you as an ex-smoker, this is proof that small investments can go a long way.

## **BC JOBS PLAN**

Last week we announced our jobs plan, called Canada Starts Here.

We chose this name because we know British Columbia can pull Canada forward— we know we can lead this country like never before.

It means we can take the best of Canada and we can make it better ... right here in BC. And I mean in all parts of BC.

Canada starts at Prince Rupert, the edge of our gateway.

It starts in Kamloops, where they host over 2000 international students.

It starts in the Elk Valley, which feeds Asia's demands, and it starts in the First Nations communities on Vancouver Island, who will provide tomorrow's workforce.

Our plan is about bringing what we call the “first new dollar” to British Columbia.

This means bringing new investment here so each new dollar can grow, and multiply and circulate – circulate from the initial investment, to our value added sectors, to our small businesses and, finally, to dinner tables, rec rooms and ice rinks from one end of BC to the other.

That first new dollar will give small businesses the power to start up and grow, and they will create jobs all over BC.

We will not look inward. We will not be pessimists. we will stand up and reach out like never before.

We will have hope for what is possible if we work hard together.

We are ensuring that BC's reputation as a safe harbour is well known in international financial markets. Minister of Finance Kevin Falcon is on a plane today to visit Europe's financial centres to share B.C.'s success story.

And we have so many unique advantages that are part of BC's story - our creativity, our diversity, our resources, our geography. Each and every one of your communities has something to unique offer and something to gain.

In the little town of Stewart there are new opportunities that can come from a new port ... up and down Vancouver Island the benefits of a growing organic agri-food sector are just starting to be felt ... and in cities like my hometown of Burnaby, the strength of our digital and creative economies are providing great jobs for young people.

That's one thing Derek Corrigan and I can agree on.

Our jobs plan sets a path to follow to build on that position of strength.



The first pillar of our jobs plan is about enabling job creation with a common-sense government that opens doors, and makes things simple for business by getting out of the way when we can.

Our plan moves aggressively to eliminate one of the big problems inhibiting job growth in BC – delays in permitting approvals.

We will invest \$24 million dollars across the natural resource ministries over two years, in order to eliminate the backlog in key authorizations that is preventing projects from proceeding.

The second pillar of our jobs plan is about continuing to build smart infrastructure.

Our government will be working with you to find new ways to invest in the kind of infrastructure that will create jobs and strengthen our communities.

That's why the Evergreen Line here in the Lower Mainland is such an important opportunity.

It will help so many people get to their jobs and will create new jobs doing it.

It's an important step in relieving congestion, but also in providing clean air, protecting our environment and making BC a better place for families.

That's why our government is dedicated to seeing the Evergreen Line completed – it's why we have committed \$583 million dollars to it.

I know transportation Minister Blair Lekstrom has had a lot of good dialogue with the Mayors Council and we await their decision.

The third pillar of our jobs plan is about opening up markets for BC goods.

We will focus especially on China and India, where economies are growing and the middle class is coming to the fore.

Expanding trade with markets in the Asia-Pacific region will be the key to our success moving forward.

Take the example of the town of Princeton.

278 people are now directly employed because of the mine at Copper Mountain.

That's a job they can rely on when they need to buy a new truck.

A job that will allow them to renovate their home.

And maybe for the first time they won't have to worry about how they'll be able to put food in their children's lunch boxes each and every day.

That mine was shut down in 1996, and they were able to re-open Copper Mountain, based on one contract, with one company, in one Asian country.

I met with Princeton Mayor Randy McLean this week, and guess what? He's smiling ear to ear.

And that's why opening up those markets is so important to our success and yours.

I'm proud of the work that many of your local governments have been doing to open up new markets through our BC Asia Twinning Project.

To date, 23 BC municipalities have signed Memorandums of Agreement with the province and have received twinning grants for a total of \$1 million dollars, to foster new trade relationships with Asia.

Those relationships are part of our gateway to Asia.



## **BC JOBS PLAN AND MUNICIPALITIES**

Now I've already told you why our plan is called Canada Starts Here.

But when we say that about BC, we are really talking about each and every one of the communities you represent.

Look at the Harmac pulp mill in Nanaimo that employs 325 people or the cellulose mill in Port Alice that employs 385 ... when some people were about to give up, those communities and those workers had hope. They refused to throw in the towel. They came together, worked on a plan supported by government, and implemented it – and in doing so, they defended jobs in their communities.

Those partnerships shouldn't only happen when the chips are down ... that's the lesson of "Initiatives Prince George," where community and business leaders are blazing the trail for new opportunities like their airport expansion ... and that means new jobs.

One of the foundations of our jobs plan is creating a strong, skilled BC workforce, trained for the jobs our economy needs today and in the future, so they can get a job that will allow them to stay close to home.

And we're also working on initiatives like our government's partnership with Telus, which will have a direct impact on strengthening BC communities.

This partnership means better broadband and cellular services in rural BC and First Nations communities, so they can all capitalize on the economic and educational opportunities that being connected provides.

Upgrades in Lytton, Crawford Bay, and Revelstoke have already been completed.

And more are coming in Wyndell and Cape Mudge, which is represented by my friend Jim Abrams.

## **RCMP**

As I said, it's clear that the things that unite us are far greater than those that divide us ... and our work on your behalf to get a reasonable agreement with the federal government for policing is one of those things.

I think 'The General,' Shirley Bond, is doing a great job on behalf of all British Columbians.

Now, I know the federal government is just as committed as you are – and as the province is – to keeping our families safe and our communities secure ... so I am hopeful we can reach an agreement.

We need an agreement that mandates accountability for the RCMP and protects you and your taxpayers by keeping costs under control. We cannot put our property taxpayers on the hook for unchecked spending on things that don't put a single officer on the streets or single criminal behind bars.

It would be easier to simply sign on the dotted line and get it over with, but we need to keep in mind that this agreement is for 20 years.

I don't know where you'll be, but I'll be eligible for CPP by then.



## **BC JOBS PLAN AND MUNICIPAL AUDITOR**

### **GENERAL**

We are committed to keeping a strong, steady hand on the wheel when it comes to our finances.

The US's debt to GDP ratio is a whopping 72%.

Canada's is half of that.

And I'm proud to say that BC's is half of Canada's.

That's one of the reasons we have a triple AAA credit rating.

Simply put, staying committed to low taxes and balanced budgets is a key part of our plan to attract investment.

It is necessary to create jobs ... and this approach is critical to maintaining BC's status as a safe harbour in stormy seas.

Respect for taxpayers is the key reason we will be creating a Municipal Auditor General through legislation.

I can certainly understand why some don't like the idea.

But we have one at the provincial level and he keeps us on our toes. Auditors General ensure the public knows they are getting value for every tax dollar. Value for money audits have led to improvements that have literally put money in the pockets of taxpayers.

The Municipal Auditor General will be able to help the 188 communities in British Columbia learn from each other – because when there's a million ways to do one thing, wouldn't you like to know which ways are working best?

The BC government will pick up the tab for the Municipal Auditor General – but as you save money, it's your communities that will reap the benefits.

I know local governments still have lots of questions – and we will continue to work with the UBCM executive in the weeks ahead.

## **OPEN GOVERNMENT**

One of the key changes I am making in government is a commitment to open government – to making sure that we have the most open provincial government in the country.

As part of this commitment I have been holding open town hall meetings across the province to hear from people directly.

The very first one was in Fort St. John, where we heard about the benefits of shale gas extraction, but also about some of the concerns.

Listening to those concerns encouraged us to launch a detailed health study in North East BC.

I know the issue of gaming grants is of prime concern for many of you – so we committed to an open discussion on how to create a sustainable, predictable funding formula for the non-profit organizations that receive those funds.

Skip Triplett has headed this up and travelled across the province to get input into funding.

That's open government in action.

That spirit of listening is why the meetings I've had this week have been so valuable.



When I met with Mayor Andy Anderson from Ashcroft, he told me about an exciting opportunity for their community. They believe they have the perfect area for tech investment, so I promised I'd work with them on it and be a salesperson for them – so if they need me to meet with investors, I'll be there.

We have also adopted the most robust open data platform of any province in Canada by making 2500 datasets fully available to the public ... and I am happy to say municipal leadership from Surrey, Langley and Vancouver helped lead the way and set the standard.

## **ECONOMIC THREAT**

You will notice our plan is about defending the jobs we have as well as creating new ones. And that's important.

Our province is a place of relative economic calm and stability, but we are surrounded by a world of economic turmoil.

Our best friend and closest neighbour, the United States, grapples with high unemployment and high debt. Just this week we saw consumer confidence in the US stagnate at a two-year low.

And last week we saw a global market sell off and an escalating debt crisis in the Eurozone.

High debt policies won't work for tomorrow and they won't work for today either ... just ask Greece ... go ask the EU ... ask anyone who lived through the 1990s right here in British Columbia.

Businesses were lost ... families saw their dreams go up in smoke ... and communities like yours were pulled apart as 50,000 people left the province looking for a better life.

Our small communities were hit particularly hard ... because when a mill shuts down you can see it on mainstreet when restaurants close, stores are shuttered and small businesses go under.

Kitimat has weathered some tough times and lost its second biggest industrial taxpayer.

But new opportunities are now emerging for the Kitimat community and the Haisla First Nation, in the form of Liquefied Natural Gas. The story in Kitimat shows us that while we face challenges ahead, opportunity is just around the corner if we look for it.

That's why today we're taking a different approach – we are focused on going out into the world and finding new investments that will help improve life here at home.

## **PARTNERSHIP**

But our jobs plan can't be successful if we are going it alone.

Our government wants to work with the UBCM, to identify creative ways to defend and create jobs, together.

Implementing this plan is my central mission as your Premier and I want your help ... so I say "come join me – let's do this together."

As Premier, I know our provincial government can do more to remove the barriers to job creation. There is an awful lot we can do better.



And I ask you to do the same.

Let's challenge ourselves to become the most competitive place to do business, not by compromising environmental safeguards, but by being smart, responsive and nimble.

## **ADVANTAGES**

BC has incredible advantages that make us truly unique in the world:

- Our proximity to the biggest markets on the globe
- Our diverse population
- Our world class infrastructure
- Our sound fiscal fundamentals
- And a wealth of natural and intellectual resources



So we need to build on our position of strength... and never has this been more important than now.

## **CANADA STARTS HERE**

I am a proud Canadian and I'm even prouder because BC will be leading Canada into the next decade.

We will invite our fellow Canadians to join us and we will tell the world "Canada Starts Here."

This is a unique moment in history for us to do more than our fair share for the rest of Canada, to grasp BC's opportunity and build an even greater country.

Canada starts here because we are at the Pacific edge of the nation, and we are literally facing the future of the world in Asia.

Our plan is not a plan for the government, not a plan for one party – but a plan to brings all of us together and moves us all forward.

We are facing a generational opportunity, and we are going to lead Canada into next decade.

This is our time.

This is our chance to lead.

This is our moment.

So let's be optimistic.

When it comes to building the future, *Canada Starts Here*.

-End-

## KEY MESSAGES:

Congratulations to the 2011 Order of B.C. recipients.

This year's Order of B.C. recipients represent the commitment, innovation and creativity that make us all proud to be British Columbians.

I thank Lieutenant-Governor Steven Point, Chief Justice Lance Finch and the members of the Advisory Council for their dedication and work in selecting this year's Order of B.C. recipients.

It's an honour to meet with the new recipients of the Order of B.C. today.

Each one of you is a reminder that every day there are British Columbians who break down barriers, advance the limits of human knowledge, change lives for the better, preserve our past and shape our future.

**LUIGI AQUILINI**, owner of the Vancouver Canucks, is one of B.C.'s most generous philanthropists, supporting causes such as the BC Children's Hospital, Juvenile Diabetes Research and the Canucks for Kids Fund.

**PETER BAIRD** has played a central role in the building relationships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians through exhibitions, art, culture, film, policy, international exchanges and politics.

**GORDON CAMPBELL** has been an exemplary British Columbian in education, business and public service.

**KEN DOBELL** has had a lengthy career in public service, deeply involved in projects that have shaped British Columbia today and into the future.

**CRYSTAL DUNAHEE** has lived through personal tragedy and become a community leader and advocate for services to families whose children go missing.

**DAVID EMERSON** has contributed greatly to B.C.'s economic success over many years of leadership in both the private and public sectors, serving his province and country with distinction.

**YURI FULMER** built his business from a single A&W franchise 13 years ago to a company with annual revenues of \$55 million. More importantly, Yuri's remarkable record volunteer service and community leadership set him apart.

**TIM JONES**, known as "Knuckles" to his fellow search and rescue volunteers, is regarded as one of the Godfathers of the North Shore Rescue team, doing gruelling, dangerous and unpaid work to keep others safe.

For more than 40 years, **DR. PHIL MUIR** has encouraged health and wellness in the largely First Nation community of Hazelton through his work in advocating for an addictions and rehabilitation program, the development of an assisted living facility and other local projects that have changed lives and improved his community.



**JAMES O'ROURKE** has been a leader for 35 years in mine evaluation, financing development, marketing and mining operations in B.C., helping to create thousands of jobs.

**KAREN O'SHANNACERY** has worked for more than 40 years to develop solutions and provide comfort to the homeless of Vancouver's downtown eastside.

For many British Columbians, **JIM ROBSON** always has and always will be the voice of hockey following his 47-year career broadcasting more than 2,000 NHL games, 4 Stanley Cup Finals and 5 all-star games.

**BALJIT SETHI** has dedicated her life to helping immigrants and promoting equality and justice for all Canadians since coming to Canada in 1972.

**ELLEN WHITE** is a teacher, author, story-teller and medicine woman renowned for her dedication to social change and community-building through education.



Thank you to the people across our province who nominated such worthy candidates and to the advisory council for choosing these 14 names.

Thank you to the family and friends of this year's recipients for encouraging their successes.

But most of all, congratulations to all the new members of the Order of B.C., and thank you for your commitment to our province.

Each one of you embodies the best of who we are, and together you inspire us to pursue the best we can be as individuals and as a province.

Your achievements challenge us, inspire us, and make us all proud to be British Columbians.

-END-

**KEY MESSAGES:**

**Congratulations to the 2011 Order of B.C. recipients.**

**This year's Order of B.C. recipients represent the commitment, innovation and creativity that make us all proud to be British Columbians.**

I thank Lieutenant-Governor Steven Point, Chief Justice Lance Finch, advisory council members, recipients and their friends and families.

Since the Order of British Columbia was established in 1989, a total of 300 British Columbians have received this honour in recognition of their outstanding contributions to our province.

They include volunteers, athletes, artists, business leaders and even politicians from across the social, economic and cultural spectrum.

British Columbia is a truly blessed province, evidenced by tonight's honourees.

Your creativity, selflessness and excellence represent the best in all of us.

And we're proud to have you join the ranks of your fellow Order of BC inductees.

Your contributions have made our lives richer, brighter and more vibrant.

The achievements of the people we have recognized today would not have been possible without the support and encouragement of those of you who have joined them as guests this evening.

We are fortunate to have tonight's Order of B.C. honourees, and they are fortunate to have you in their lives.

On behalf of all British Columbians I want to thank you for all you've contributed to making our province richer.

I would now like to introduce Ms. Karen O'Shannacery who will speak on behalf of the recipients.

-END-



**Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce  
Canada Starts Here: The BC jobs Plan  
Wednesday, Oct. 5, 2011**

**Event: what is it?**

- A breakfast hosted by the Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce is being sponsored by the University of Victoria.
- It is the first opportunity for the Premier to address greater Victoria's business community.
- With a membership of more than 1,500 members, they are the second largest chamber of commerce in the province.
- The Premier has been asked to speak for 20-25 minutes.

**Audience: who are they?**

- Business leaders from Greater Victoria.
- The current chair is Dave Marshall, principal of Strategus Consulting, a management consultancy. He is also a retired Naval Captain and former Base Commander of CFB Esquimalt.
- Executive Vice-Chair, Mr. John Espley will be introducing the Premier. He is also the Business Development Manager at Accent Inns.
- The guests include:
  - Bruce Carter, Chamber CEO
  - Dave Marshall, Chamber Board Chair & Principal, Strategus Consulting
  - Dr. David Turpin, President, University of Victoria (and event sponsor)
  - John Espley, Executive Vice-Chair & Business Development Manager, Accent Inns
  - Pauline Rafferty, Board Secretary & CEO, Royal BC Museum
  - Martin Leclerc, General Manager, Fairmont Empress & Board Chair, Downtown Victoria Business Association

Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce  
Wed., Oct 5

**INTRODUCTION**

I'd like to acknowledge a few people before I start.

- Ida Chong, Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development and MLA for Oak Bay-Gordon Head;
- Murray Coell, MLA, Saanich North & the Islands, and
- Mayor Dean Fortin, City of Victoria.

I wanted to come here today because when I think about the things that are going right in this province, I think of the Victoria region.

You have shown what can be accomplished when businesses set aside divisions and pull together to do great things. The partnerships between your universities and the technology sector are an example to the rest of BC.

The Vancouver Island Technology Park at UVIC is bringing together industry and bright minds to drive research and innovation.

There's a \$2.6-billion tech industry here in Greater Victoria.

Even during the recession, Victoria's larger high tech firms reported 7.5 per cent revenue growth and an 11 per cent increase in employment.

The sector provides jobs to more than 12,000 people. Good paying jobs.



The work you are doing in technology will support BC's other sectors like forestry, mining and natural gas. It keeps us on the cutting edge.

And Victoria continues to be a leader in areas like tourism, and international education.

### **CANADA STARTS HERE**

Recently we announced our jobs plan, called "Canada Starts Here."

We chose this name because we know British Columbia can pull Canada forward— we know we can lead this country like never before.

It means we can take the best of Canada and we can make it better ... right here in BC. And I mean in all parts of BC.

Canada starts in Comox at Shelter Point where they have founded the country's second single malt whisky distillery.

It starts in Nanaimo where 325 people are working at the Harmac pulp mill.

And it starts here in Victoria at CoolEdge Lighting where they are working new LED technology.

Our plan is centered on bringing what we call the "first new dollar" to British Columbia.

This means bringing new investment here so each new dollar can grow, and multiply and circulate – circulate from the initial investment, to our value added sectors, to our small businesses and, finally, to dinner tables, rec rooms and ice rinks from one end of BC to the other.

We have identified eight sectors that are best positioned to bring in those first new dollars. Three of those play a big role in Victoria's economy: tourism, technology and international education.

Bringing in that first new dollar will give small businesses the power to start up and grow, and they will create jobs all over BC.

The world is facing stormy seas ahead. But we will not keep our heads above water by hunkering down.

BC will not look inward – we will stand up and reach out like never before.

## **BC Jobs Plans**

### **Enabling Job Creation Pillar**

The first pillar of our jobs plan is enabling job creation with a commonsense government that opens doors instead of closing them, that makes things simple for business by getting out of the way when we can.

That's why the Minister of Finance will be appointing a panel to review BC taxes to see how we can support business competitiveness and economic growth to enable job creation.

This panel will bring together members of the small business community, tax experts and people from the government to develop recommendations to make sure BC's tax regime is attractive to global investors.



I am focused on small businesses as part of this plan because of the transformative power they can have on job creation.

Also, we are enhancing the Small Business Venture Capital Tax Credit by investing an additional \$3 million dollars into it.

This plan helps small businesses deal with one of their key challenges – getting the capital they need to start up or expand – and that's what we need to create jobs for BC families.

The program will be expanded so that more angel investors can get a 30 percent refundable tax credit for investing in eligible small businesses – and that means these job creators can get a leg up on capital, on hiring and on receiving strategic advice from experienced investors.

It means a lot to Victoria companies, like General Fusion where they are working on a new green process to create energy using sea water.

They are benefitting from a \$1.2 million tax credit to support their innovative start-up.

As part of enabling jobs, we are also extending of the apprenticeship tax credit that has been helpful to so many small businesses here in Victoria.

BC is expected to have more than one million job openings in the coming decade. So British Columbia needs a highly skilled workforce.

And this government is committed to helping employers and workers get the skills they need.



The Province is supporting B.C.'s robust shipbuilding industry with a \$550,000 investment to develop training strategies for workers within a new industry-led marine training centre that Camosun College will help develop.

It's also why we are backing Seaspan's bid for the National Ship Building Procurement with \$35 million to support training and other labour tax credits.

Seaspan has an opportunity to create 500 jobs here in Esquimalt and an opportunity to train a whole new generation of ship builders. We are doing and will continue to do everything in our power to support that effort.

### **Smart Infrastructure Pillar**

The second pillar of our jobs plan is about continuing to build smart infrastructure, and I don't just mean bricks and mortar ... I mean people too.

I don't have to tell the people in this room how important that is.

Our BC Jobs Plan sets an ambitious target of growing the international student population in BC by 50 percent in just the next four years.

We estimate this will create 9,000 jobs and put another \$500 million dollars into our economy.

94,000 international students choose BC as a place to study each year.

That's 30 per cent of all the international students in this country.

There are currently close to 1,700 international students enrolled at the University of Victoria and another 600 at Camosun College.

These students bring more than \$80 million into the local economy.

There's another 1,700 at Vancouver Island University that bring close to \$60 million.

We are gathering leaders from our educational institutions to work and leverage BC's trade offices to help connect students to BC's education opportunities.

We want to showcase our colleges, technical institutes and universities.

We want an international education expert in every one of our international trade offices.

If you want to study in BC, there should be no wrong doors to knock on.

Our strategy will make sure communities are ready to welcome students from abroad...

...that we are building long term relationships with existing and emerging economies like China, India and Brazil.

...And we are sending more of our students overseas to prepare them to work in a global economy.

Government is supporting our colleges and universities with investments like \$15 million for a new Learning and Innovation Centre at Royal Roads; \$21 million for new buildings at UVIC; and close to \$2 million for buildings at Camosun's Lansdowne and Interurban campuses.

But this strategy is about more than bricks and mortar.

This is about strengthening the human relationships that will build connections between BC, Canada and the rest of the world...something your universities already know a lot about.

Royal Roads is the FIRST university in B.C. to have a graduate program in environmental management approved by the Chinese government.

And Royal Roads students are working in partnership with the Tianjin University of Technology to develop an eco-city in China.

Another example, China's top energy researchers were at UVIC this spring exploring green technology and clean energy solutions with our researchers.



But it wasn't an "ivory tower" event. They were joined by industry, bringing together the key ingredients for partnerships that will drive innovation AND grow business opportunities in the future.

### **Opening Markets Pillar**

The third pillar of our jobs plan is about opening up markets for BC goods. Growing new markets is critical the future stability of our province and our country.

In November I am going to China and India on a trade mission and I will personally lead this effort as the chief salesperson for our province.

One of the most important stops will come on November 14<sup>th</sup>, when I address the World Economic Forum in Mumbai.

Our trade mission will also spend time in Guangzhou, China, Shanghai and Beijing as well as Delhi, Bangalore, Amritsar and Chandigarh.

In many ways, these efforts will be about building on success.

The global investment community is aware of BC but we want to make sure they know about opportunities here on Vancouver Island.

There are huge opportunities for Victoria when it comes to increasing international tourism.

I know visitor numbers for the first half of the year show visits from the U.S. to BC are down this year.

It illustrates why we can't rely on one just one market.

Last year, the federal government signed the Approved Destination Status (ADS) agreement with China.

Under the new agreement, Chinese citizens are now able to travel to Canada in organized tour groups.

And do you know where the first group from China chose to start their Canadian visit? They came here.

For visitors, the Vancouver Island is magic.

When you live here you tend to forget that we have rainforests and castles and killer whales all within an hours' drive.

There's a reason we can expect to see visits from China grow 15 to 20% annually over the next three years.

As part of the BC Jobs Plan, we want to focus our efforts on promoting those tourism products where BC can achieve growth most quickly, and aggressively focus our promotional efforts in those markets around the world where we can have the greatest impact.

While we work on new opportunities in countries such as China, we will not lose sight of the markets that lie to the south and east of B.C.

Pat Bell, Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Innovation, has been working hard with our tourism industry partners on a new strategy for the sector and he will be announcing those details in the coming weeks.

And I want to applaud the collective vision for a new float plane terminal in Victoria's inner harbor. It will bring more visitors and enhance the visitor experience.

## **Twin foundations – skilled workforce and fiscal responsibility:**

These three pillars – enabling job creation, building smart infrastructure and opening new markets – will stand on two key foundations.

The first is a strong, skilled BC workforce, trained for the jobs our economy needs today and in the future.

To this end, we are setting up Regional Workforce Tables throughout BC – a new platform for chambers of commerce, educators, industry, labour, and small business.

These tables will have real input, and real dollars, into how the province delivers skills development programs on a regional basis – including up to \$15 million annually for post-secondary institutions.



The second foundation is preserving our government's hard-earned reputation for fiscal discipline.

And this foundation is so important – because we can't continue to be a safe harbour for investment if we aren't prudent about our finances.

We all feel a special pride in being Canadians. We are well thought of around the world and we are respected for our diversity and our tolerance – but Canada also has a well-deserved reputation for fiscal responsibility.

Here in BC we take Canada's fiscal prudence one-step further through our commitment to low taxes and balanced budgets.

We have to stick to our fiscally prudent course – we can't honestly say we are putting families first if we are saddling the next generations with debt.

This is one of the reasons our BC Jobs Plan includes very modest spending commitments. We are being smart, we are being strategic ... because I think taxpayers deserve to be treated with respect.

### **Municipal Auditor General**

Respect for taxpayers is the key reason we will be introducing legislation to create a Municipal Auditor General next month.

No doubt, Auditors General tend to be more popular with taxpayers than they are with politicians, and I suspect that will be the case with the Municipal Auditor General as well.

We have an Auditor General at the federal and provincial level. And now we will have one to help the 180 communities in British Columbia learn from each other – because when there's a million ways to do one thing, I think we'd all like to know which one is working best?

### **FAMILIES FIRST**

You know the thing I have noticed as I travel this province is how much we have in common ... how the things that bring us together are so much bigger than the things that pull us apart.

We're all trying to look out for the people around us, and that's what I call putting families first.

And the reason I care about families is because it is families that do something that government cannot do, something that schools cannot do, and that's instill character. It gives children, future citizens, a sense of morals, a compass to guide them through life, ethics.

It's families that build character, and when families build character, they build good citizens, and good citizens build great communities, safe communities, and that's what builds a great province. And that, ultimately, is what makes Canada great. It begins with the work that families do.

Families are as diverse as the people represented here today, but for all of that diversity, families need the same thing.

They need to be able to care for one another. They need to be able to be there in times of crisis, to offer a loving hand for somebody who perhaps isn't doing so well.

## **OPPORTUNITIES**

BC has such incredible advantages, ones that make us truly unique in the world:

- Our proximity to the world's biggest markets
- Our diverse population
- Our world class infrastructure
- Our sound fiscal fundamentals
- And a wealth of natural and intellectual resources

Our diversity is a core advantage. We share cultures and values ... family ties and business connections.



There has never been a place like this in the history of the world. And we have a plan to capitalize on those unique advantages.

## **Conclusion**

Today I have outlined our BC Jobs Plan and that's what it has to be. Not a plan for the government, not a plan for one party – but a plan for our entire province. A plan that brings all of us together and moves us all forward.

Our government wants to work with businesses to identify creative ways to defend and create jobs, together.

After all, government doesn't have all the answers ... and government doesn't create jobs, you do that.

And THIS is a plan for Victoria and all of Vancouver Island. The technology, tourism and international education sectors have a huge role in bringing in that first new dollar. We must work together.

This is a chance for us to do more than we ever have for this entire nation. It is a chance to grasp our opportunity to lead this country. Canada starts here because we are at the Pacific edge of the nation.

This is our time. This is our chance to lead. This is our moment, so let's take it.

Let's be hopeful. Let's be optimistic as we tell the world that Canada -- Canada -- starts right here.

- END -

## **Grey Cup Festivities Announcement**

**Thursday, October 13, 2011**

### **Event: what is it?**

- Announcement of Grey Cup events with representatives from the seven sponsors of Raise the Roof, the Grey Cup Festivities

### **Audience: who are they?**

- Dennis Skulsky, President and CEO – BC Lions Football
  - Moray Keith, Chair – 2011 Grey Cup Festival Committee
- Representatives from
- Molson Canadian
  - PlayNow.com (BCLC)
  - Safeway Canada
  - Scotiabank
  - TELUS
  - Vancouver Sun
  - Vanier Cup Championship

### **Key Messages**

- **B.C. looks forward to hosting the 99<sup>th</sup> Grey Cup Game, a great Canadian tradition.**
- **We're planning a safe event that will be fun for everyone**
- **British Columbians are invited to volunteer to help with the festivities**
- **Vanier Cup tickets will be made available to low-income families who may not otherwise be able to see BC Place or attend a football game.**

**THE GREY CUP IS A UNIQUELY CANADIAN  
EVENT.**

**It is a time for families and friends to gather and  
celebrate a truly Canadian professional sports  
championship.**

**It happens every year – and this year we're proud  
to be hosting the 99<sup>th</sup> Grey Cup right here in  
Vancouver at the newly-refurbished BC Place,  
home of our very own BC Lions.**

**And I know we're all hoping to relive moments like  
the last time the Leos won in their den in 1994,  
when Lui Passaglia kicked the winning field goal  
as time expired in one of the best Grey Cup  
games of all time.**

**So here's hoping the Lions continue their winning  
ways this weekend.**

**All the planning of the last two years is about to turn into reality, and we're very excited.**

**If there's one thing that British Columbians have shown in the past, it's their willingness to volunteer...**

**Their willingness to answer the bell when they're asked to help.**

**So, we're asking British Columbians to participate in the Grey Cup by signing up to help us make this the best one ever.**

**We've proven that we're great hosts, and that we're a great province of volunteers.**

**When you volunteer, you get to meet our neighbours from all across Canada...**

**And leave a lasting impression of the fantastic spirit we have here in B.C.**



**Thanks to all our partnerships and the 650 volunteers we are helping us seize a tremendous economic opportunity.**

**The Grey Cup Festival is expected to bring more than \$100 million into the local economy,**

**Creating jobs and increasing tourism to our province.**

**And I'm pleased to announce that the province will contribute \$550,000 to help support the Grey Cup festival.**

**This is our time to shine and embrace the largest sporting event and Festival in the country.**

**From the 24<sup>th</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup> of November, we're hosting a party for all Canadians.**

**We're proud to showcase our province and host the 99<sup>th</sup> Grey Cup celebration in Vancouver...**

**As part of the province's sponsorship, we also have the opportunity to include more families in another upcoming sporting event, the Vanier Cup.**

**The province will distribute Vanier Cup tickets to families who may otherwise not be able to visit BC Place or attend a football game.**

**I know that no matter which teams play in this year's Grey Cup game, Vancouver will host a safe, exciting event that all British Columbians can be proud of.**

**"Roar you Lions Roar!" – All the way to the championship!**

**- END -**

Key Message: Together WE can change the world.

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TO THE 18,000 BC STUDENTS AND TEACHERS HERE  
WITH US TODAY: WELCOME TO WE DAY  
VANCOUVER!

Thank you for being here...

Your attendance here today shows you are committed to positive change by helping build a better world and creating hope for the future.

Building schools...Providing clean water...Creating sustainable communities.

What you do here today is important to people struggling here in Vancouver, in B.C., in Canada...

But it's also important to the rest of the world...

It shows all of us what can be achieved in the midst of global uncertainty...

Like students in the Delta School District who have raised money for the Terry Fox Foundation, collected used shoes for children in Africa, and together raised over \$65,000 for local and global projects through the We Schools in Action program.

Or the 12 Vernon cyclists and their sponsors who raised \$15,000 for the Free the Children Big Dreamer Awards in their stage of the Victoria to Montreal National Bike Ride for Youth.

Or Erin Pope's global education class at Ucluelet Secondary School who raised over \$1,000 toward clean water projects in Haiti, and earned 32 tickets to attend today's event.

So whether we act locally by participating in Halloween for Hunger trick-or-treating for non-perishable food items for our local food banks...

Or we act globally by joining thousands around the world on November 30<sup>th</sup> and take the 24-hour Vow of Silence to stand up for the rights of children across the world...

Raising awareness and donations for children silenced by poverty, war and oppression.

All of you here today are doing your part to help other children and youth around the world, and by extension, strengthening families – and strong families make a stronger world.

Today is about planning and doing the small things that make a big impact.

And as Premier of this province, I pledge to do my part to help build a caring and generous society – creating opportunity and optimism for our shared future.

## CONCLUSION

We Day is about participation, inspiration and compassion.

So I encourage you to keep on getting out there. Keep on setting the example for others. Volunteer. Lead the way. And most importantly – stay involved!

And by working together, we can make the world a better place for everyone.

-END-



**BC Chamber of Commerce  
Annual Premier & Cabinet Luncheon  
Fri., Oct. 14**

**The Event: What is it?**

- This annual event allows members of the BC Chamber of Commerce to network with Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries of their choice, followed by a speech from the Premier.
- The event begins at 11 a.m. with a one-hour networking opportunity.
- The Premier has been asked to speak for 15-20 minutes, followed by a Q&A.
- The event is closed to media.

**The audience: Who are they and what do they want to hear?**

- The audience includes 250 people, mostly representing small and medium sized business.
- The BC Chamber of Commerce members want to hear how the BC Jobs Plan supports small and medium size business, specifically in the service sectors.
- They would also like to hear about the transfer back to the PST and Municipal Auditor General.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Thank you for the introduction.

Hopefully you have all had a good chance to put my colleagues through the ringer and ask them your toughest questions.

I would like to introduce my colleagues who are here today:

### **Ministers in attendance:**

Honourable Mary Polak Reconciliation	Minister of Aboriginal Relations &
Honourable Naomi Yamamoto	Minister of Advanced Education
Honourable Don McRae	Minister of Agriculture
Honourable Mary McNeil Development	Minister of Children and Family
Honourable Ida Chong Cultural Development	Minister of Community, Sport and
Honourable Rich Coleman (Minister Responsible for Housing)	Minister of Energy and Mines
Honourable Terry Lake	Minister of Environment

Honourable Steve Thomson	Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resources
Honourable Pat Bell	Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Innovation
Honourable Margaret MacDiarmid	Minister of Labour, Citizens' Services and Open Government
Honourable Shirley Bond	Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General and Attorney General
Honourable Stephanie Cadieux	Minister of Social Development
Honourable Harry Bloy	Minister of State for Multiculturalism

**Parliamentary Secretaries In Attendance:**

John Les	Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier
Richard Lee	Parliamentary Secretary for the Asia- Pacific to the Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Innovation
Gordon Hogg	Parliamentary Secretary for Non-profit Partnerships to the Minister of Labour, Citizens' Services and Open Government
John Yap	Parliamentary Secretary for Clean Technology to the Minister of Energy and Mines
Ron Cantelon	Parliamentary Secretary for Seniors to the Minister of Health

All of you dedicate your lives to your businesses which in turn help make this Province a great place to live and work.

It's a heart and soul commitment you make.

Listening to your thoughts and being open to your ideas is something government must do so we can work in partnership to grow our economy.

## **BC JOBS PLAN**

A few weeks ago we announced our jobs plan, called Canada Starts Here.

We chose this name because we know British Columbia can pull Canada forward – we know we can lead this country like never before.

It means we can take the best of Canada and we can make it better ... right here in BC. And I mean in all parts of BC.

Canada starts in Surrey where Jhaji lumber recently started shipping its first ever containers of wood to Port Kandla, India.

It starts in Kamloops, where they host 1,500 international students at Thompson Rivers University.

It starts in the Elk Valley, where they produce steel-making coal that is feeding China's growth and building their cities.

Our plan is centered on bringing what we call the "first new dollar" to British Columbia.



This means bringing new investment here so each new dollar can grow, and multiply and circulate – circulate from the initial investment, to our value added sectors, to our small businesses and, finally, to dinner tables, rec rooms and ice rinks from one end of BC to the other.

This first new dollar gives our entrepreneurs the power to start up and grow, and it will create family-sustaining jobs all over BC.

The world is facing stormy seas ahead.

We are ensuring that BC's reputation as a safe harbour is well known in international financial markets.

Minister of Finance Kevin Falcon just got back from visiting Europe's financial centers.

He was in London, Paris, Frankfurt, Munich and Zurich, meeting with major investors to share BC's success story and encourage them to continue to invest here.

And he met with Credit Suisse, a leading financial services company that has plans to build a new \$200-million office tower here in Vancouver.

We have so many unique advantages that are part of BC's story - our creativity, our diversity, our resources, our geography...

And the innovative spirit of small businesses who export 47 per cent of the total value of goods from the Province.

Our jobs plan helps us build on that position of strength.

## **Enabling Job Creation Pillar**

The first pillar of our jobs plan is about enabling job creation with a common-sense government that opens doors, and makes things simple for business by getting out of the way when we can.

Our plan moves aggressively to eliminate one of the big problems inhibiting job growth in our province –delays in permitting approvals.

We are investing \$24 million dollars across the natural resource ministries over two years, in order to reduce the backlog in key authorizations that is preventing projects from proceeding.

And we have set up a “Major Investments Office” that will help businesses who want to invest in BC get the answers they need in a quick, clear way.

We have extended our commitment to reduce red tape until 2015.

Also, as recommended by **your** members, we are setting up a Jobs and Investment Board. The board will be up and running in 40 days to hold our feet to the fire, clearing the way for job creation while continuing to monitor key economic and social indicators.

### **Smart Infrastructure Pillar**

The second pillar of our jobs plan is about continuing to build smart infrastructure.

We can't generate those first new dollars if we can't get our products, ideas and resources to growing markets.

Our government will be working with you to find new ways to invest in the kind of infrastructure - roads, rails and airports - that will create jobs and strengthen your businesses.

That's why we are investing \$50 million dollars to improve the BC-owned rail corridor that connects Deltaport to Canada's transportation network.

And another \$15-million dollars towards the Road Rail Utility Corridor on Ridley Island near Prince Rupert.

And there is a lot more to come...

### **Opening Markets Pillar**

The third pillar of our jobs plan is about opening up markets for BC goods.



We are focused especially on China and India, where economies are growing and the middle class is coming to the fore.

Expanding trade with markets in the Asia-Pacific region will be the key to our success moving forward.

One of the areas where there is huge potential is clean technology and Liquefied Natural Gas exports.

In fact just yesterday we moved a major step closer to further establishing the liquefied natural gas industry in BC when the National Energy Board approved a 20-year export licence for the Kitimat LNG facility.

This is the first of its kind in Canada and will help open our natural gas sector to new and important markets.

British Columbia is on the verge of growth and new economic opportunity with the diversification of our natural gas sector and we are well on our way of establishing the LNG infrastructure to make it happen.

In November I am going to China and India on a trade mission and I will personally lead this effort as the chief salesperson for our province.

One of the most important stops will come on November 14<sup>th</sup>, when I address the World Economic Forum in Mumbai.

Our trade mission will spend time in Guangzhou, China, Shanghai and Beijing as well as Delhi, Bangalore, Amritsar and Chandigarh.

We are committed to doubling our trade presence in places like China and India. We will reach out to help B.C. companies entering Asian markets. We will be better equipped to welcome foreign investors through a new hosting and business development program.

By focusing on these three pillars we can defend and create jobs all across our province.

Now I know some of you are thinking: this is great for energy companies and mining companies, but how does this plan benefit businesses that aren't directly involved in exports?

Well, you only have to look to the town of Princeton.

270 people are now directly employed in that community because of the mine at Copper Mountain.

They have a job they can rely on when they need to go down to their auto dealer and buy a new truck.

A job that allows them to spend money at the hardware store and renovate their home.

That allows them to go out for a nice meal at a restaurant.

That mine was shut down in 1996, and they were able to re-open Copper Mountain, based on one contract, with one company, in one Asian country.

The enthusiasm and confidence in Princeton that started with Copper Mountain is now driving other business investment.

The Mayor of Princeton has proudly noted a new \$5-million grocery store, a new apartment complex and fast food business are coming to his town.

Focusing on first new dollars is not a plan for the government, or a plan for one party – but a plan for our entire province. A plan that brings all of us together and moves us all forward.

## **TWO FOUNDATIONS**

The pillars of our jobs plan are built on a foundation of a skilled workforce and fiscal discipline.

Creating a strong, skilled BC workforce means having people trained for the jobs our economy needs today and in the future, so they can get a job that will allow them to stay close to home.



That's why we're extending our \$31 million dollar a year Apprenticeship Training Tax Credit for another three years.

We want to preserve our government's hard-earned reputation for fiscal discipline is so important – because we can't continue to be a safe harbour for investment if we aren't prudent about our finances.

I have asked the Minister of Finance to appoint panel to review BC taxes to see how they can support business competitiveness and economic growth to enable job creation.

And we will be enhancing the Small Business Venture Capital Tax Credit by investing an additional \$3 million dollars into it.

This plan already helps small businesses deal with one of their key challenges – getting the capital they need to start up or expand – and that’s what we need to create jobs for BC families.

The program will be expanded so that more angel investors can get a 30 percent refundable tax credit for investing in eligible small businesses – and that means these job creators can get a leg up on capital, on hiring and on receiving strategic advice from experienced investors.

We are committed to make the transition back to the PST plus GST tax system as quickly as we responsibly can.

We are not setting a firm transition date yet, but we are targeting March 31, 2013.

We need to be responsible and get it right the first time.  
There's no second chance here.

By the time the transition is complete, about 30,000 new businesses in B.C. will have started up under the HST. They will need to learn to administer the PST in tandem with the GST.

Helping businesses across B.C. will be a major part of this transition work, and the Province will embark on an outreach program to help businesses make the transition.

Canada's debt to GDP ratio is 36% - down south in the US it's a whopping 75%.

And I'm proud to say that here in BC it's only 17.5%.

That's one of the reasons we have a triple AAA credit rating.

## **MUNICIPAL AUDITOR GENERAL**

Simply put, staying committed to low taxes and balanced budgets is a key part of our plan to attract investment.

It is necessary to create jobs ... and this approach is critical to maintaining BC's status as a safe harbour in stormy seas.

Respect for taxpayers is the key reason we will be creating a Municipal Auditor General through legislation that will be introduced this fall.

When I stood up and spoke about the Municipal Auditor General at the Union of British Columbia Municipalities two weeks ago, it was not the warmest reception.

And I was not surprised. Auditors general tend to be more popular with the public than politicians.

But we plan to have the office operating in early 2012, with the first audits conducted in 2012.

We have an auditor general at the provincial level and he keeps us on our toes. He ensures the public knows they are getting value for every tax dollar.

Value for money audits have led to improvements that have literally put money in the pockets of taxpayers.

We will be funding the office of the Municipal Auditor General to help find efficiencies and highlight best practices that can be shared among local governments.

Whether it is policing, parks and recreation or drinking water management, there's a million ways to do one thing. I think we'd all like to know which ways are working best.



## **Crown corporations review**

I spend a lot of time talking to people and one of the things I've been hearing is they struggle to make ends meet. They feel like they are always fighting to get ahead.

That's why we are looking at our crown corporations to do what we can to make life as affordable as possible.

Planned rate hikes by B.C. Hydro have been reviewed and will be reduced by half.

And starting in January, we will be taking a hard look at all our crown corporations to ensure taxpayers and families are protected and the interests of all British Columbians are well served.

## **OPEN GOVERNMENT**

One of the key changes I am making in government is a commitment to open government – to hearing from people directly.

We consulted with you as we built this and it doesn't stop there.

One of the areas I want to hear from you on is how we ensure we have a skilled workforce now and in the future.

Because government doesn't create jobs, you do.

We want to keep working with you.

That's why as part of the BC Jobs Plan, we are asking you to partner with us to set up Regional Workforce Tables throughout BC.

This will be a new platform for educators, industry, labour, and small business.

Working in partnership with local chambers of commerce across the province, these tables will have real input, and real dollars, into how the province delivers skills development programs on a regional basis – including up to \$15 million annually for post-secondary institutions.

## **ECONOMIC THREAT**

You will notice our plan is about defending the jobs we have as well as working to create new ones. And that's important.

Our province is a place of relative economic calm and stability, but we are surrounded by a world of economic turmoil.

Our best friend and closest neighbour, the United States, grapples with high unemployment and high debt. Last month, we saw consumer confidence in the US stagnate at a two-year low.

And despite some recent positive developments, market uncertainty continues in the Eurozone.

High debt policies won't work for tomorrow and they won't work for today either ... Just ask Greece ... go ask the European Union ... ask anyone who lived through the 1990s right here in British Columbia.

That's why today we're taking a different approach – we are focused on going out into the world and finding new investments that will help improve life here at home.

## **PARTNERSHIP**

But our jobs plan can't be successful if we are going it alone.

Our government wants to work with the business community to identify creative ways to defend and create jobs, together.

Implementing this plan is my central mission as your Premier and I want your help ... so I say "come join me – let's do this together."



## **ADVANTAGES**

As I said, BC has incredible advantages that make us truly unique in the world:

- Our proximity to the biggest markets on the globe
- Our diverse population
- Our world-class infrastructure
- Our sound fiscal fundamentals
- And a wealth of natural and intellectual resources

So we need to build on our position of strength... and never has this been more important than now.

This is a unique moment in history for us to do more than our fair share for the rest of Canada, to grasp BC's opportunity and build an even greater country.

Canada starts here because we are at the Pacific edge of the nation, and we are literally facing the future of the world in Asia.

We are facing a generational opportunity, and we are going to lead Canada into next decade.

This is our time.

This is our chance to lead.

This is our moment.

When it comes to building the future, *Canada Starts Here*.

-End-

## **Opening of SAP Executive Briefing Centre Friday, October 14, 2011**

### **Event: what is it?**

- Opening of SAP Labs Canada's new Executive Briefing Centre in Vancouver.

### **Audience: who are they?**

- Bill McDermott, Jim Hagerman Snabe Co-CEOs of SAP. (TBC)
- Minister \_\_\_\_ (tbc)
- \_\_\_\_\_, MLA (tbc)
- SAP executives
- Members of the Vancouver business community

### **Key Messages**

- **SAP is a leading technology innovator that employs 1200 knowledge workers in Vancouver, making it the company's largest Canadian location. SAP has been in the Hewitt Associates yearly Top 50 Employers in Canada for 6 years running.**
- **It has more than 25 years of development experience in Business Intelligence.**
- **SAP is a great example of private sector job creation.**
- **The new Executive Briefing Centre is a showcase for SAP innovation that will enhance the productivity and performance of organizations world-wide – right here in Vancouver.**

For many years planners and futurists talked excitedly about the coming information economy.

Now that it's here, there are many who wish we had our time back – it seems to have arrived a little too emphatically.

The explosion of data and the technology to access it threatens to overwhelm business decision makers.

As we just saw, in 2006 there were 2.7 billion Google searches per month, now there are 88 billion every month.

The total number of text messages sent every day exceeds the planet's population by a factor of 8.

To your credit, SAP is continually finding new ways to help business keep their competitive edge by ensuring they have the right information in their hands... at the right time.

In the process you have created jobs for 1,200 British Columbians.

Which means you have helped to raise a lot of families.

That is the power of innovation and the knowledge economy.

And it's why we hope to see a lot more companies like SAP in B.C. over the next several years.

A few weeks ago we announced our jobs plan, called Canada Starts Here.

We chose this name because we know British Columbia can pull Canada forward – we know we can lead this country like never before.

And our jobs strategy makes clear that we understand our role – to create an environment in which the private sector can flourish.

Because we understand the private sector's ability to create jobs – you demonstrate it every day.

We will work with employers and communities to enable job creation across B.C.

We will continue to strengthen our infrastructure to get our goods to market.



And we will continue to expand our markets for B.C. products – commodities and technologies - to places like China and India where I will lead a trade mission just a few weeks from now.

We need to build on our position of strength... and never has this been more important than now.

Canada starts here because we are at the Pacific edge of the nation, and we are literally facing the future of the world in Asia.

Here at SAP you are demonstrating the entrepreneurial drive and spirit that are hallmarks of our B.C. culture.

The new Executive Briefing Centre is a showcase for innovation that will help the bottom lines of businesses world-wide.

Canada starts here because we are at the Pacific edge of the nation, and we are literally facing the future of the world in Asia.

When it comes to building the future, *Canada Starts Here*.

Thank you.

**- END -**

**Northern Lights College Ribbon Cutting**  
**Oct. 15, 2011**

**Key Messages:**

- Energy House **will** make Dawson Creek a leader in training knowledge-workers for the emerging clean technology industry.
- The Health Science Building has been transformed into a state-of-the-art facility, equipped to train health-care assistants and practical nurses.
- These additions to the College mean that students from the North interested in clean energy and health care will no longer have to travel and live hundreds of miles away to acquire the skills they need.

**FIRST NATION NAME: Treaty 8 First Nations**

## **ACKNOWLEDGE:**

Thank MC BOB HAUGEN for introduction

(Bob Haugen is Clean Energy Programs coordinator at Northern Lights College)

Laurie Rancourt, Northern Lights College President

For Northern Lights College, for Dawson Creek and for the entire Peace Region, the opening of Energy House and the Health Science Building is another step towards becoming a leader in clean energy.

Here in the North, you have the potential to lead BC and Canada, to offer our Pacific neighbours clean, efficient energy, waste reduction and health-care solutions.

The creation of the Centre of Excellence/Jim Klassen Industry Training Centre at the Northern Lights College in Fort St. John and today's opening of Energy House here in Dawson Creek are helping us meet the energy sector's long-term education and training needs.

It is a remarkable example of industry support and collaboration.

Earlier today, I had the pleasure of joining Prime Minister Harper and students from the wind turbine maintenance technician program.

The current class is the second intake of the program and the program is already expanding from 16 students in this intake to 24 students in February.

It's the only the program of its kind in B.C. and graduates have the opportunity to complete the examination to obtain BZEE certification and work around the world and right here in B.C.

It is also an example of why I am such a believer in British Columbia and what we can do together – how we can win together.

Like our colleagues in Ottawa, our government is focused on jobs – defending and creating jobs is my primary mission as your premier.

The BC Jobs Plan is called “Canada Starts Here” and this kind of creativity and leadership is a great example of why that name is so appropriate. BC will only win if we win together – if we are optimistic and confident in embracing the future.



We will build on our strengths and our commitment to clean technology is one of those strengths.

Energy House will become an important centre for applied research in clean energy that will benefit communities and industry around the province.

It will also make Dawson Creek a leader in training knowledge-workers for the emerging clean energy industry.

I'd like to thank the federal government for their leadership, matching the province's funding of \$3.9 million under the Knowledge Infrastructure Program to build Energy House.

Comment [gc1]: BC provided \$3.9M  
Fed Govt contributed another \$3.7M)

And a further total funding of \$2.3 million dollars in federal-provincial matched funding has made it possible to create the Health Science Building.

Comment [gc2]: •BC provided \$1.1M. Fed Govt contributed another \$1.2M)

Renovations to the old vocational Health Science Building have transformed it into a state-of-the-art facility, equipped to train health-care assistants and practical nurses.

These additions to the College mean that students from the North interested in clean energy and health care will no longer have to travel and live hundreds of miles away from their families to acquire the skills they need.

It's hard not to feel it ... the winds of change are blowing ...  
and here in the Peace, we're going to harness them to  
lead Canada.

That's the future we're building together.

Thank you.

-END-

- Today is a very special day for a very special member of the Legislature.
- Today, my colleague Linda Reid is celebrating her 20<sup>th</sup> year of service to the people of British Columbia.
- Linda is the longest serving MLA in this House.
- She is currently Deputy Speaker and has previously served as Minister of State for Childcare and Minister of State for Early Childhood Development.
- Linda has a passion for her province and her community and she is deeply respected, especially in her constituency of Richmond East.
- She is a tireless advocate for her constituents- whether it's for the agriculture sector, education, child care, literacy or the arts.
- Linda's warm and nurturing personality serves her well as a resource for her colleagues in the Legislature and her constituents.
- Before she entered politics she worked as a language therapist, teacher and school administrator for the Richmond School District.

**Western Forest Products Announcement  
October 18, 2011**

**Key Messages**

- **Demand from China is driving a renaissance for the Forest Industry on Vancouver Island.**
- **Companies like Western Forest Products are re-opening mills and creating well-paid jobs on Vancouver Island, providing opportunity for people to stay and thrive in the communities they call home.**

## Introduction

I want to thank you for your confidence and for this significant investment in Vancouver Island mills.

What a difference a few years makes.

Not so long ago it was commonplace to read op-eds that wrote off forestry as a sunset industry

... some sunset! Today, here on Vancouver Island, it's looking much more like a sunrise.

The Coastal Forest industry is once again thriving, thanks to companies like Western Forest Products.

And of course, thanks to customers like China.

China has become a country with money to spend and a voracious appetite for western resources.

In the next 15 years, 300 million rural Chinese will move to cities...



That means that every single month, China must build an infrastructure equivalent to Vancouver, Surrey, Burnaby, Richmond, Abbotsford and Delta combined.

To do that in a sustainable way the Chinese need wood.

And that is why they have become our fastest-growing market for wood products.

Already, more than 20 mills in B.C. have re-opened as a result of helping China meet the needs of its exploding middle class.

Those re-opened mills have created over 10,000 jobs.

Four or five years ago Western Forest Products was shipping 30-40 million board feet of lumber to China.

Today, they are shipping 200 million board feet!

And they are creating jobs here on the Island – in places like Ladysmith, where the mill re-opened in January this year just to serve those customers in China.

That meant 40 new jobs at that mill alone ... and of course when you create jobs at a mill, you're also generating new business for tire and equipment suppliers and local businesses like restaurants.

Over the past weeks, I've been laying out the BC Jobs Plan which is called "Canada Starts Here" and this kind of creativity and leadership is a great example of why that name is so appropriate.

And one of the key pillars is expanding markets for B.C. products, particularly in Asia.

Today's event is the result of the work industry and government.

Next month, I will personally lead a trade mission to China and to India as the chief salesperson for our province.

We're going there to demonstrate why B.C. is a great place to do business with.

We are committed to moving forward while preserving B.C.'s reputation for the fiscal discipline that makes the province a safe harbour for investment.

It's that strength that gives families a sense of confidence even in uncertain times...

And it's that strength that supports local businesses as they help build a skilled workforce, creating opportunities for people to stay and thrive in the place they call home.

And it's that strength that gives us all the ability to meet every challenge and opportunity with determination, now and into the future.

Canada Starts Here, with Western Forest Products and Vancouver Island.

- END -

**Vancouver Island Economic Summit**  
**Tuesday, October 18, 2011**

**Event: what is it?**

- Speech at opening reception of the Vancouver Island Economic Summit, an annual event that brings together businesspeople and stakeholders interested in stimulating the economy on Vancouver Island.

**Audience: who are they?**

- Bruce Hanson, President Vancouver Island Economic Alliance
- Key Business leaders from Island
- Large media contingent

**Key Messages**

- **The BC Jobs plan is important to Vancouver Island and in fact it started on Vancouver Island with the Seaspun announcement.**
- **Vancouver Island's industries are well-positioned to benefit from investment from Asia-Pacific and marketing to the Asia-Pacific.**
- **Government is committed to helping to create an environment where businesses can thrive.**

## **Introduction**

Thank you for inviting me to speak today at the opening of the fifth State of the Island Economic Summit.

(insert Harmac story... I need only point to Harmac, an Island success story and the president of Harmac Pacific Levi Sampson to illustrate the Island commitment.)

I'm really inspired when I see so many business leaders and job creators here...

People who are leading the way on the Island.

B.C. has long been a province of leaders.

There are a few people on the Island whose work I'd like recognize.

Don McRae, Minister of Agriculture and MLA for the Comox Valley.

He's done an amazing job fighting for the agri-food sector, not only at the cabinet table, but across BC.

Ron Cantelon, MLA for Parksville-Qualicum and Parliamentary Secretary for Seniors, and he is working hard to ensure seniors are well supported.

And I can't forget Ida Chong, Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development and MLA for Oak Bay-Gordon Head and Murray Coell, our MLA for Saanich North and the Islands.

They make sure Vancouver Island is always on our minds and near to our hearts.

A few weeks ago, I announced the BC Jobs Plan... a plan to defend and create jobs in every community and every region of our province- and right here on Vancouver Island.

The plan is called "Canada Starts Here."

We chose this name because we know British Columbia can pull Canada into the next century – we know we can lead this country like never before.

It means we can take the best of Canada and we can make it better ... right here in BC.

Executing on this plan is my central mission as your Premier.



Our plan is built around the focused pursuit of that first new dollar.

This means bringing new investment here so each new dollar can grow, and multiply and circulate – circulate from the initial investment, to our value added sectors, to our small businesses and, finally, to dinner tables, rec rooms and ice rinks from one end of BC to the other.

As part of the plan, we have identified eight sectors that are best positioned to bring in those first new dollars from growing markets in Asia.

Five of those – forestry, tourism, technology, agri-food and international education - play a HUGE role in the Vancouver Island economy.

### **BC Jobs Plan**

There are three pillars to our jobs plan.

The first pillar is enabling job creation with a commonsense government that opens doors instead of closing them, that makes things simple for business by getting out of the way when we can.

Does that mean stripping back environmental and other social protections?

Absolutely not. But it does mean taking a businesslike approach focused on the end game – defending and creating jobs for BC families.

You know as well as I that government doesn't create jobs – business creates jobs.

And sometimes, the best thing government can do is to get out of the way, and let business get to work.

The jobs plan includes \$24 million for natural resource ministries to reduce backlogs on permits and approvals for resource-based projects.

Once the backlogs are addressed, government will maintain an average target of a 60-day turnaround for mining permits and approvals.

We're now going to tackle the significant backlog of permits and approvals. It's an important part of this plan to create and protect jobs.

## **INFRASTRUCTURE**

The second pillar is continuing to build smart infrastructure – roads, bridges and ports – so businesses can get their goods, ideas and products to markets faster.

Here in Nanaimo with the port, airport and ferries, you know the importance of being a transportation hub...

Earlier this year, we invested \$7.5 million to continue passenger rail service on the E&N Rail line.

People up and down the Island came out to show their support for that project.

And transportation and infrastructure investments continue to flow to Vancouver Island.

We've expanded the airports in both Nanaimo and Campbell River.

From 2009 to 2012, the budget for Vancouver Island roads and bridges is close to \$90 million.

That's a lot of asphalt and a lot of construction jobs for Island workers.

And infrastructure projects have had a budget of \$95.7 million.

We are talking about buildings, sportsplexes, water mains, water treatment plants, sewer upgrades, cruise ship terminals, libraries and pier expansions...

But building smart infrastructure is more than bricks and mortar.

It is also about strengthening the human relationships that help us succeed.

That's why as part of our BC Jobs Plan, we want to increase the number of international students to BC by 50 per cent over the next four years...

Did you know that almost 1,700 international students attended Vancouver Island University here in Nanaimo last year...

And they brought close to \$60 million into the economy.

Whether they choose to stay in our province or return to their home country when they finish their education, international students help us build connections with the world.



## **OPENING NEW MARKETS**

The third pillar of the jobs plan is about opening up markets for BC goods –

Vancouver Island's tourism, education, agriculture and technology are things that we need to share with the world.

We're starting with a trade mission to China and India next month to forge new ties and strengthen existing friendships and business relationships.

International education, BC seafood and agri-products, tourism and forestry are all on my agenda.

In the days ahead, we will also be announcing a new tourism strategy.

Pat Bell, Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Innovation, has been engaging a wide range of industry and government stakeholders to develop this plan and I can assure you, ongoing partnerships will continue to provide a solid foundation for success.

The tourism industry on Vancouver Island has such enormous future potential.

It's so picturesque here they are currently filming Superman in Ucluelet because it looks like Alaska, only better.

The Chinese government has designated British Columbia as an approved destination. We can expect many more visitors and tour groups from China.

Last year, almost 120,000 visitors came to B.C. from China, and we expect that number to increase.

Visitors from China stay an average of 28 days because of the long travel distance.

Vancouver Island can capitalize on this by continuing to market itself as a tourism destination.

Mount Washington had the deepest snow base in the world last year...over five metres by the end of December, and was still open for skiing June 1!

What skier wouldn't want to come here to take advantage of that?



Campbell River – the Salmon Capital of the World – does booming business in outdoor sports...

And just this past weekend, Tofino hosted the Queen of the Peak Women's Surf Championships.

The cold-water surfing draws surfers from around the world.

And of course here, in the historic Harbour City, the heritage areas mix with artists' galleries in an eclectic downtown and stunning harbour walkways.

Talking to buyers in Asian markets about BC's value added forest product is also important.

We want to build on the work we have already done with the forest sector.

China is our fastest growing market for wood products.

More than 25 mills in B.C. reopened as a result of helping China meet the needs of its exploding middle class, creating over 6,000 jobs, including jobs on Vancouver Island.

Today I was speaking with Western Forest Products, who, thanks to new and emerging Chinese markets, are able to invest \$200 million to grow their company.

And they've created jobs for Vancouver Island families.

We want more success stories like Western Forest Products, and as your Premier I am going to be your chief sales person to help make this happen. People on Vancouver Island are committed to the future of the forest industry.

And in Port Alice, the Neucel (pronounced New Cell) Specialty Cellulose mill was bought by Fulida Holdings of China to supply rayon fibre.

They've invested \$35 million in upgrades in the mill.

The cellulose fibre product made here is used around the world – in Asia, Europe and other parts of North America.

We want to attract more investment and more buyers, not just in forestry but all our sectors.

## **FOUNDATIONS**

The three pillars of our jobs plan – enabling jobs, building infrastructure and opening new markets- are built on a strong foundations.

The first part of that foundation is a strong, skilled BC workforce, trained for jobs today and in the future.

We want to make sure that people who live in all parts of BC can find jobs that will allow them to stay close to home ... keeping families together, while building a stronger economy.

It's why as part of our BC Jobs Plan, we will be partnering with educators, industry, labour, and small business to set up Regional Workforce Tables throughout BC.

Working in partnership with local chambers of commerce across the province, these tables will have real input, and real dollars, into how the province delivers skills development programs on a regional basis – including up to \$15 million annually for post-secondary institutions.

And the second foundation is preserving our government's reputation for fiscal discipline.

This foundation is so important – because we can't continue to be a safe harbour for investment if we aren't prudent about our finances.

Canada's debt to GDP ratio is 36% - down south in the US it's a whopping 75%.

And I'm proud to say that here in BC it's only 17.5%.

That's one of the reasons we have a triple AAA credit rating.

Simply put, staying committed to low taxes and balanced budgets is a key part of our plan to attract investment.

### **THREATS**

You will notice our BC Jobs plan is about defending the jobs we have as well as working to create new ones. And that's very important.

Our province is a place of relative economic calm and stability, but we are surrounded by a world of economic



turmoil ... despite some positive news this week, the Eurozone still struggles with a crisis of confidence.

Our best friend and closest neighbour, the United States, continues to grapple with high unemployment and political gridlock.

I don't have to sugar-coat it for you; the world is facing stormy seas ahead.

But we have to do more than tread water.

Our plan says the best defence is a good offence.

### **OPPORTUNITIES**

BC has such incredible advantages, ones that make us truly unique in the world:

- Our proximity to the biggest markets
- Our diverse population
- Our world class infrastructure
- Our sound fiscal fundamentals
- And a wealth of natural and intellectual resources

We need to build on our position of strength... and never has this been more important, given the global economic uncertainty we are facing.

Building on our strengths is what our BC Jobs Plan will do.

We have so many advantages to attract that first new dollar to BC – and when we do, it will circulate through our entire economy and help every British Columbian.

But first we have to put aside the divisions of the past and pull together as one BC team, with one focus – good stable jobs for BC families.

### **CONCLUSION**

The BC Jobs Plan gives us a path to follow that will help us weather the storm and ensure our success as a province.

It means we will have to give it our all and lead Canada like never before.

We know what we need to do and where we need to focus our efforts so we can defend and create BC jobs.

It means we need to listen – listen to you, listen to our small businesses, to our employees, and to our employers – to all British Columbians.



I am optimistic about the future. I know our province can lead this country if we are at our best – if we are united, if we are optimistic and if we are confident.

BC is at a crossroads and Vancouver Island is home to so much potential.

We are facing a generational opportunity, and we are going to lead Canada into next century.

This is our time.

This is our chance to lead.

This is our moment.

When it comes to building the future, on Vancouver Island, *Canada Starts Here*.

**- END -**

Independent Contractors and Businesses Association of BC  
36<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting – Keynote  
Oct 19, 2011  
Length: 15-20 minutes, Q&A

**Introduction**

Thank you so much for inviting me back.

It's been an amazing year for me.

Last year I was here talking as to you as a broadcaster,  
now I am here as your Premier.

You want to know how it is going? I'm looking at you  
Phillip when I say this, "I'm living the dream."

Last year, I started my talk with a joke about Jim Sinclair  
and a brothel.

Now that I'm wearing the Premier's hat, those jokes just don't seem appropriate. I'm trying to elevate the conversation.

Not that I can say the same for the opposition. For the last three weeks their conversation has been nothing but Dix and my body.

Oh well: genius has its limitations, stupidity doesn't suffer that handicap.

### **ICBA contributions**

I've got to say, I'm so happy to be here. I like working with people who bring suggestions and solutions to the table, who don't just show up with a sack of problems.

People who don't suffer the illusion that government can

solve the world's problems with a never ending supply of cheques and fairy dust.

People who understand that to pay for government services, you have to grow wealth and have a robust economy.

I want to thank you for that.

Since becoming Premier, I've had some great discussions with Phillip and Kurt, (Krampl, Airstream Heating and Air Conditionin, chair of the ICBA board).

And I am looking forward to future conversations with Phil and Steve (Lornie, Stonecroft Management Ltd.) as he takes the reigns for this organization in the coming year.

## **BC Jobs Plan**

I'd like to talk to you today about our BC Jobs Plan.

As a small, open, export-based economy, BC is not isolated from what is going on in the world.

Our province is a place of relative economic calm and stability, but we are surrounded by a world of economic turmoil.

Our best friend and closest neighbour, the United States, grapples with high unemployment and high debt.

And despite some recent positive developments, market uncertainty continues in the Eurozone.

That's why a few weeks ago I announced the BC Jobs



Plan. My entire cabinet is focused on it.

It is centered on bringing what we call the “first new dollar” to British Columbia.

This means bringing new investment here so each new dollar can grow, and multiply and circulate – circulate from the initial investment, to our value added sectors, to our small businesses and, finally, to dinner tables, rec rooms and ice rinks from one end of BC to the other.

Our plan is built on three pillars.

## **Enabling Job Creation Pillar**



The first pillar of our jobs plan is about enabling job creation with a common-sense government that opens doors, and makes things simple for business by getting out of the way when we can.

Our plan moves aggressively to eliminate one of the big problems inhibiting job growth in our province –delays in permitting approvals.

We are investing \$24 million dollars across the natural resource ministries over two years, in order to reduce the backlog in key authorizations that is preventing projects from proceeding.

We have extended our commitment to reduce red tape

until 2015.

## **Smart Infrastructure Pillar**

The second pillar of our jobs plan is about continuing to build smart infrastructure.

We can't generate that first new dollar if we can't get our products, ideas and resources to growing markets.

Our government will be working to invest in the kind of infrastructure - roads, rails and airports - that will create jobs and strengthen your businesses.

## **Opening Markets Pillar**

The third pillar of our jobs plan is about opening up markets for BC goods.

We are focused especially on China and India, where economies are growing and the middle class is coming to the fore.

Expanding trade with markets in the Asia-Pacific region will be the key to our success moving forward.

We have identified eight sectors with the greatest opportunity to bring that first new dollar into British Columbia.

In November I am going to China and India on a trade mission and I will personally lead this effort as the chief salesperson for our province.

By focusing on these three pillars we can defend and

create jobs all across our province.

## **STRONG FOUNDATION**

The pillars of our jobs plan are built on a foundation strong that includes a skilled workforce and fiscal discipline.

Creating a strong, skilled BC workforce means having people trained for the jobs our economy needs now and in the future.

That's why we are setting up regional tables to work more closely with labour and industry.

We want to make sure that in the regions where jobs are being created, we have people trained to work them.

And the second part of that foundation is preserving our

government's hard-earned reputation for fiscal discipline is so important – because we can't continue to be a safe harbour for investment if we aren't prudent about our finances.

We are committed to keeping a strong, steady hand on the wheel when it comes to our finances.

The US's debt to GDP ratio is a whopping 72%.

Canada's is half of that.

And I'm proud to say that here in BC it's half of Canada's.

That's one of the reasons we have a triple AAA credit rating.

We have to stick to our fiscally prudent course – we can't



honestly say we are putting families first if we are saddling future generations with more and more debt.

High debt policies won't work for tomorrow and they won't work for today either ... just ask Greece ... ask the European Union ... go ask anyone who lived through the 1990s right here in British Columbia.

Our BC Jobs Plan is **NOT** about figuring out how many tax dollars we can spend ... in fact the spending commitments are really quite modest.

I'm quite proud of that.

We are being smart and strategic, because taxpayers deserve to be treated with respect.

**MUNICIPAL AUDITOR GENERAL**

Simply put, staying committed to low taxes and balanced budgets is a key part of our plan to attract investment.

It is necessary to create jobs ... and this approach is critical to maintaining BC's status as a safe harbour in stormy seas.

Respect for taxpayers is the key reason we will be creating a Municipal Auditor General through legislation that will be introduced this fall.

When I stood up and spoke about the Municipal Auditor General at the Union of British Columbia Municipalities two weeks ago, it was not the warmest reception.

And I was not surprised. Auditors general tend to be more

popular with the public than politicians.

We plan to have the office operating in early 2012, with the first audits conducted in 2012.

We have an auditor general at the provincial level and he keeps us on our toes. He ensures the public knows they are getting value for every tax dollar.

The Municipal Auditor General will be able to look across 188 communities in British Columbia and help them learn from each other.

To help find efficiencies and highlight best practices that can be shared among local governments.

I know your organization has voiced concerns about the cost of local government fees on construction, fees that are growing at five times the rate of inflation.

If a municipal auditor can find ways to save local governments money, then you will save money. And that means more construction and more jobs.

## **PST**

I also want to assure you that we are committed to making the transition back to the PST/ GST tax system as quickly and responsibly as we can.

We are not setting a firm transition date yet, but we are targeting March 31, 2013.

Changing a province's tax system is a complex undertaking for both business and government. We need to be responsible and we need to get it right the first time.

There's no second chance here.

It is not just changing the rate of an existing tax. It's bringing back a whole tax system.

Businesses will need to prepare to comply with a second tax that has its own set of rules and procedures that are separate from those they have to follow for the GST.

We have a solid plan in place with a dedicated team to focus on the transition.

By the time the transition is complete, about 30,000 new businesses in B.C. will have started up under the HST. They will need to learn to administer the PST in tandem with the GST.

Helping businesses across B.C. will be a major part of this transition work, and the Province will embark on an outreach program to help businesses make the transition.



## **OPEN GOVERNMENT**

Since I've taken office I've been working to open government.

Our jobs plan can't be successful if we are going it alone, because let's face it, government doesn't create jobs, you do.

We want to work with the business community to identify creative ways to defend and create jobs, together.

And all joking aside, I do believe there are people out there who want to elevate the level of conversation about the future of our province.

As part of the BC Jobs Plan I am committed to opening doors to have those discussions.

It also gives me a chance to explain to people why I believe creating jobs are so important.

## **FAMILIES FIRST**

Good citizens come from families that instill character ... and they become the foundation for strong, stable and safe communities. That's what builds a great province and ultimately that's what builds a great country.

And what makes families strong and stable?

You need a good job.

That's why a thriving private sector is so important. You create wealth, and in doing so, you create jobs.

And you also create the revenues needed for education, for health care and for the services we all depend on.

## **Conclusion**

In the 1990s, North America underwent one of the biggest economic expansions in its history and, I'm sorry to say, B.C. sat it out.

The government of the day raised taxes, drove up debt, and chased away investment.

And they killed jobs in every community doing it.

They pitted one British Columbian against another, they divided our society and the results were tragic.

Businesses were lost ... families saw their dreams go up in smoke ... and then families were pulled apart as 50,000 people left the province looking for a better life.

They were looking for jobs.

We spent the last 10 years catching up.

BC turned the page in 2001 and worked to repair the damage done and end the divisive battles.

We got our fiscal house in order by giving taxpayers the respect they deserve, by using proven economic fundamentals, by cutting taxes and by balancing budgets.

A little common sense went a long way.

We saw our credit rating go up and we improved our quality of life because we could afford investments in health and education.

Now we are going to turn the page again and build on the platform of the last 10 years.

The BC Jobs Plan isn't for the government, it's a plan our entire province. A plan that brings all of us together and moves us all forward.

I know you will be a part of that.

So let's work together to lead this great nation.

I am happy to take your questions...

-END-



**Surrey Regional Economic Summit  
Thursday October 20, 2011**

**Key Messages**

- **Welcome to the 2011 Surrey Regional Economic Summit.**
- **This event is timely, as October is Small Business Month in B.C., and with the world economy in fluctuation, now more than ever we need to work together to keep B.C. on a solid footing and build on our foundation of 10 years of strong fiscal management.**
- **Through our Canada Starts Here jobs plan we are proving our government's commitment to defend and create jobs in B.C.**
- **Next month, I will personally be our chief salesperson on a trade mission to China and India to build relationships and bring new business opportunities to our province.**

## **Introduction**

Thank you Dianne (Watts) for the introduction.

Before I begin, I'd like to acknowledge the tremendous work done by Surrey Mayor Dianne Watts, her council, and Greg D'Avignon of the Business Council of B.C. to make the Surrey Regional Economic Summit one of the most important economic conferences of the year.

And I especially want to acknowledge Dianne for all she's done for Surrey during her 6 years as mayor, and before that, during her 9 years on the city council.

Thank you so much Dianne. You're a terrific advocate for the community you obviously love so much.

THANK YOU FOR INVITING ME TO SPEAK AT THE  
OPENING OF THIS YEAR'S SUMMIT.

It's really inspiring to see so many business leaders and job creators here – people who are leading the way.

And it's great to see so many people out there smiling today.

I'm often smiling and I've been smiling a lot more in the last few days, because BC is on a roll.

Just yesterday the federal government awarded an \$8 billion shipbuilding contract to Seaspan. That's more than 4,000 jobs for BC families.

And a couple of days ago I was on Vancouver Island with Western Forest Products and they announced a \$200 million investment in their mills, because of increased exports to China.

And just last week the National Energy Board approved a 20-year export licence for the Kitimat Liquefied Natural Gas facility – the first license of its kind in Canada.

And as we increase trade with Asia there will be even more to come.

We are indeed on a roll.

And I'm so impressed by the speakers and presenters you've attracted over the past three years – people like Tony Blair, Rudy Giuliani, and Steve Forbes.

You've scored a big double this year with President Bill Clinton and President George W. Bush both presenting.

That should definitely be a lively discussion.

**THIS YEAR'S SURREY REGIONAL ECONOMIC SUMMIT IS BOTH TIMELY AND NECESSARY.**

Here in B.C., October is Small Business Month, and with the fluctuating world economy, now more than ever we need to work together to keep our province on a solid footing.

We'll do that by building on the foundation of strong fiscal management we've developed in the last 10 years.

Recently I introduced Canada Starts Here: The BC Jobs Plan, to defend and create jobs.

This plan is about taking decisive action to remove barriers and to provide support in the key sectors that



will create domestic, cross-border and global export opportunities.

It's about bringing new investment to all regions of the province, to create jobs and increase the revenue that supports B.C. families.

We're doing this because in B.C., small business is big business.

Small businesses provide over half of all private sector employment – over 1 million people – the second-highest rate in the country.

It's those small businesses that account for one-third of our province's GDP.

In every community in our province, there are small business success stories to share.

Surrey is no exception.

Your own Nathan YANG was nominated in 2009 in the Business Skills category of the BC Provincial Nominee Program.



Mr. YANG, a Chinese citizen, invested almost \$1 million dollars to establish Kuzco Lighting in Surrey.

His company imports and distributes residential and commercial lighting products throughout North America, and has established a solid name for itself with clients such as Westbrook at UBC, Coast Hotel, Osoyoos Walnut Beach Resort and the Woodward's redevelopment.

Mr. YANG has grown the company from 6 to 15 employees and is now relocating to a larger facility to accommodate future expansion.

That's the kind of success story we're seeing right across B.C's small business sector.

One of the critical elements of the BC jobs plan is opening up markets for BC goods.

It's about making sure we know what the emerging markets in Asia want and making sure they know we can provide it.

That's why we're going on a trade mission to China and India next month, to forge new ties and to strengthen the existing friendships and business relationships.

We're taking the lessons we learned from selling our wood to China with us – a focused approach, a team of dedicated people, and a long-term commitment...

And we're looking to repeat those results not only in China, but in other countries with other industries and commodities.

## **CONCLUSION**

We know British Columbia can pull Canada into the next decade – we know we can lead this country like never before.

It means we can take the best of Canada and we can make it better ... right here in BC.

Executing on this plan is my central mission as your Premier.

This means bringing new investment here so each new dollar can grow, and multiply and circulate – circulate from the initial investment, to our value-added sectors, to our small businesses and, finally, to dinner tables, rec rooms and ice rinks from one end of BC to the other.

This is our time.

This is our chance to lead.

This is our moment.

When it comes to building the future, Canada Starts Here.

Thank you.

**- END -**

**CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF PETROLEUM PRODUCERS**  
**Friday Oct. 21, 2011**

**Key Messages**

- **B.C. is open for business, supporting the natural gas industry's efforts to open new markets. It's an important part of our BC Jobs Plan.**
- **We are a major step closer to establishing a liquefied natural gas industry in B.C. now that the National Energy Board has approved a 20-year export licence for the Kitimat LNG facility – the first licence of its kind in Canada.**
- **British Columbia is on the verge of growth and new economic opportunity with the diversification of our natural gas sector.**

## **Introduction**

Thank xx for the introduction.

It's great to be here.

Exciting things are happening right now in Alberta, and all across Western Canada.

There is a shift underway in the global economy, with a renewed focus on growing markets in the Asia Pacific and this part of the country is really leading the way for growth.

## **The natural gas industry**

You will help lead the way to economic growth in British Columbia;

And your success is a key piece of B.C.'s and Western Canada's success.

A few weeks back, we launched our BC Jobs Plan. It's called "Canada Starts Here."



One of the sectors we are focusing on is natural gas, because the industry is so important to our economy now and in the future.

The natural gas industry contributes a tremendous amount to the lives of families in my province, And I think that's a story that needs to be told and it's one I've been talking about wherever I go.

The natural gas industry provides direct jobs to an estimated 12,000 people.

That's 12,000 people with good, family-sustaining jobs: people who are able to put food on the table and look after their kids because of your work.

But beyond that, natural gas brought in \$1.3 billion to provincial coffers in 2009 and 10, with the overall oil and gas industry bringing in \$6.8 billion.

Your work is important – and it's growing.

I'm keenly aware that it's worth acknowledging, championing and defending the work you do in our province.

Just last week we moved a major step closer to making a liquefied natural gas industry in B.C. a reality.

The National Energy Board approved a 20-year export licence for the Kitimat LNG facility – the first licence of its kind anywhere in Canada.

What does that mean to us? It means we can open up our natural gas sector to new, important markets in the Asia Pacific.

It means Encana, Apache and EOG can start working towards development of the Kitimat LNG facility.

I don't need to tell you what an incredible opportunity this is for the people in this room and what a great chance it is for the individuals and families who are living in Northwest BC.

But we can do more.

Our goal is to see the Kitimat LNG facility in full operation by 2015, and up to three LNG plants established by 2020.

### **BC Jobs Plan**

Your industry is critical part of the BC Jobs Plan.

There are three pillars to the jobs plan and each one supports the natural gas industry.

The first pillar is enabling job creation with a commonsense government that opens doors instead of closing them, that makes things simple for business by getting out of the way when we can.

One of the most important things we can do as a government is lead the way and clear the way...

That's why we've committed \$24 million to put special teams in place throughout B.C. to reduce backlogs on permits and approvals for resource-based projects.

Once the backlog has been addressed, we'll maintain an average turnaround time of 60 days...

Investors will have the confidence they need that new projects will proceed in a timely way.

And we'll do it while ensuring that environmental standards are upheld and that First Nations are consulted.

The second pillar is to build and maintain infrastructure so that once businesses have created jobs, they can actually get their goods to markets.

And the third pillar is opening up markets for our goods and products – knowing what the emerging markets in Asia want and making sure they know we can provide it.

We're starting with a trade mission to China and India next month to forge new ties and strengthen existing friendships and business relationships.

LNG is on my agenda in both countries.

As my trade specialists like to remind me, shipping routes from Kitimat are actually shorter to northern Asia than from Australia.

Underlying the three pillars of the Jobs Plan is a strong foundation – made up of a strong, skilled workforce and the fiscal responsibility that makes B.C. a great place to invest.

For the past four years, the Centre of Excellence/Jim Klassen Industry Training Centre at the Northern Lights College in Fort St. John has been helping meet your sector's long-term education and training needs.

It's a remarkable example of industry support and collaboration and we need to continue that kind of collaboration.

Right now we are working on an assessment what skills and training development will be required to help our resource sectors grow, including support for an LNG industry.



And we will continue to build partnerships to make sure that where there are jobs, we have people trained to work them.

I know that Rich Coleman, Blair Lekstrom and Pat Pimm have done a lot of the ground work on our jobs plan with the natural gas industry, stakeholders and communities, and I want to thank them for their involvement.

### **Health Study**

One of the things I know you want to hear about is the review of the oil and gas industry with respect to health and safety.

The Province feels that the oil and gas sector is regulated safely, and operations are conducted with the most responsible practices possible.

As anyone in your industry knows, in order to have social license to operate, you need to work with people.

That is why we are moving forward with a public health risk study.

The study will help us understand the concerns and complete an independent review to provide evidence-based recommendations.

The health risk study will be developed in three phases:

We will start with a stakeholder consultation to inform scope and terms of reference.

Second, there will be a human health risk assessment based on scientific review

Third, we will report out to public and stakeholders. We are just starting this process and we will see where it goes but I am confident we will get good advice and feedback from the participants.

## **Hydraulic Fracturing**

Everyone here knows openness and accountability is important.

That's why in September we announced our plan to introduce an online registry to disclose details about hydraulic fracturing activities.

The registry also supports our goal of creating a more open and transparent government.

It's a good move – by government and for industry. Through the registry, we will be able to increase everyone's understanding of the operations occurring in province.

I applaud the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers' (CAPP) introduction of new 'Guiding Principles for Hydraulic Fracturing'.

We are happy industry supports the disclosure plans and efforts for continuous improvement.

We will work with our provincial neighbours to see if we can work together on this plan moving forward.

## **Conclusion**

I believe that our province has an advantage compared too much of the world.

We are and will continue to be a safe harbour for investment.

Communities like Fort Nelson, the hub of our oil and gas industry in B.C., offer a good quality of life for families.

If we as government lead the way and get out of the way of you, the job creators...

If we have the roads and ports in place and develop new markets in the Asia-Pacific...

If we can grow our markets, invest in a skilled workforce and keep B.C.'s reputation as a safe place to invest – if we can keep B.C. "open for business"...



Then I believe that together we can come out of this stronger than when the economic troubles began.

Western Canada as a whole has tremendous opportunities on the horizon.

BC is at a crossroads and all of Western Canada has so much potential.

When it comes to building the future, in the west of our country, *Canada Starts Here*.

Thank you.

-END-



I'm really looking forward to our discussion today. I always like talking to people who come to the table with a constructive and collaborative mind-set, so we can work together to move forward.

All of us in the room today have very similar goals.

How can we do more for business in BC, how can we contribute to the growth of our economy and how can we make all these things work to our advantage so we are ultimately making better communities and families in our province.

A few weeks ago we announced our jobs plan, called Canada Starts Here.

We chose this name because we know British Columbia can pull Canada forward – we know we can lead this country like never before.

Our plan is centered on bringing what we call the “first new dollar” to British Columbia.

This means bringing new investment here so each new dollar can grow, and multiply and circulate – circulate from the initial investment, to our value added sectors, to our small businesses and, finally, to dinner tables, rec rooms and ice rinks from one end of BC to the other.

This first new dollar gives our entrepreneurs the power to start up and grow, and it will create family-sustaining jobs all over BC.

And you in the retail sector have the opportunity to invest those first new dollars to create jobs and contribute to executing the BC Jobs Plan.

I want to work with all of you to increase consumer confidence in BC so you can grow your business.

But we have to do more than that, we have to defend and create jobs.

Because when a person has a job and a steady income, they are more likely to go out and buy a cup of coffee more often, or a new computer for their family.

And that benefits all of you and helps you grow your sector so you can hire more people.

That's a win-win for all of us.

Let's talk about your opportunities and challenges so we can find a plan and solution.

-END-

**BC Tourism Industry Conference  
BC Jobs Plan: Tourism Strategy  
Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2011**

**Event: What is it?**

- Key note address to release the tourism sector strategy for the *Canada Starts Here: The BC Jobs Plan* during the BC Tourism Industry Conference.
- The BC Tourism Conference is hosted by the Tourism Industry Association of BC and is the only province-wide event that brings together all the related tourism sectors.
- This announcement fits well with the conference theme "Focus on the Future: Steps for a Better Industry Tomorrow."
- A Premier has not attended this event for the past several years.
- The Premier will be introduced by Lana Denoni, chair of the board of directors TIA-BC (pronounced Tie-Ah.)

**The Audience:**

- 350 to 400 people representing destination marketing organizations and community marketing associations, tourism business owners, industry association representatives (taxi, hotel, guide outfitters etc), and tourism students.
- Media

**Key Messages:**

- The success of your industry is important to the success of our province as a whole and it is an important part of our BC Jobs Plan.
- The Tourism Sector Strategy lays a path that brings us together to focus on specific products and markets where we know we can get the best results.
- Although the strategy is important, it is your pride and passion that breathes life into our landscape for our visitors. And it is your skills and knowledge that enhance our global visibility and reputation.



## Tourism Industry Association Conference

### BC Tourism Industry Conference

Tuesday Oct 25

Length: 25 minutes

#### **Introduction:**

Thanks Lana for the introduction.

And thank you to everyone in the audience for joining me today.

I'd like to acknowledge my caucus members in attendance, as they stand up - please give them a warm round of applause.

It's been a pretty good couple weeks for families in this province.

Two weeks ago, the National Energy Board approved the first ever export license for liquefied natural gas for a project in Kitimat.



## Tourism Industry Association Conference

This will create 1,500 person-years of work during the construction phase and 120-140 permanent positions once the terminal is in operation.

The mayor up there says it feels like going from “doom town” to “boom town.”

And then, last week Western Forest Products announced \$200-million of capital investment for Vancouver Island mills.

That was pretty good.

And then Seaspan brought home an \$8 billion ship building contract that will drive an entire industry for a generation.

In BC, it feels like we are on a roll.

## Tourism Industry Association Conference

So is GREAT to be here to today.

Just like natural gas, forestry and ship building, the tourism industry is so important to the future of BC.

You have an enormous impact on our economy. 127,000 people have jobs because of the work you do.

**But** there's something unique about tourism. The impact of your work goes far beyond the tourism industry.

The impression you leave with visitors defines B.C. It influences whether people want to live, invest and work in our province.

Take John Eckland as an example.

## **Tourism Industry Association Conference**

John's first visit to BC was on a fishing trip. He liked it so much that in 2006, he came back through our Provincial Nominee Program.

He put \$2.8 million into buying and renovating the historic Kaslo Hotel and he now has 24 employees and a good business going in the Kootenays.

It all started with that fishing trip... but we were the ones who lured him in.

All the people in the tourism industry – from hotel operators, to tour guides and cab drivers – every one of you are an ambassador for our province.

You tell the story of who we are to the world.

## **CANADA STARTS HERE**

A few weeks back we launched a plan to defend and create jobs in BC. Our plan is called “Canada Starts Here.”

We chose this name because we know British Columbia can pull Canada into the next century – we know we can lead this country like never before.

It lays out how we will grow our connections with emerging markets in Asia... to defend and create jobs ... and attract that first new dollar into BC.

In many ways, our success rests on our ability to build on the advantages that come with our diversity – our historic family and business connections to India, China and other Asian countries.

## **Tourism Industry Association Conference**

And it rests on our collective ability to do what you all do each and every day...

To tell the world who we are and what we have to offer so they realize that Canada Starts Here.

### **Our Key Focus**

Our plan is centered on bringing what we call the “first new dollar” to British Columbia.

This means bringing new investment here so each new dollar can grow, and multiply and circulate – circulate from the initial investment, to our value added sectors, to our small businesses and, finally, to dinner tables, rec rooms and ice rinks from one end of BC to the other.

To do this we have identified eight sectors with the greatest opportunity to bring that first new dollar into British Columbia.



## Tourism Industry Association Conference

Tourism is one of those sectors, and it's a **BIG** one.

When Pat Bell and I were working on the Jobs Plan this summer, we knew the Jobs Plan had to benefit every region and every community in BC.

Tourism does that.

Growing this sector will help businesses small and large that are the engine of job growth and create the greatest number of spin-off jobs.

And that means everyone wins.

### **Tourism Strategy**

When we released the BC Jobs Plan earlier this year, we talked about creating sector specific strategies that would help guide our work.

## **Tourism Industry Association Conference**

As part of the BC Jobs Plan, I'm pleased to be here today to announce the first of those strategies – a new five-year tourism strategy called 'Gaining the Edge.'

It will maximize economic growth and job creation across our province.

<<Hold up a copy of the document>>

You have put an incredible amount of work into this and it belongs to you as much as it does government. So give yourself a round of applause.

This tourism strategy lays out a plan to capitalize on our recent world-wide exposure from the 2010 Games and deliver the best results for British Columbia's tourism industry.

## **Tourism Industry Association Conference**

And like the BC Jobs Plan itself, it is focused, it is targeted, and it leverages our strengths.

It will grow tourism industry revenues by five per cent a year, up to \$18 billion by 2016.

It outlines five areas that will drive growth in tourism.

First, we are going to focus on the key tourism products where BC has a competitive advantage, like aboriginal tourism, outdoor adventure and eco-tourism, touring vacations, conventions and meetings, city experiences and our great winter skiing and snowboarding.

Second, this strategy targets markets where our products have the greatest existing and future potential.

This means focusing on existing markets like Ontario, California, Australia, the UK and Japan, as well as emerging ones like China, India and Mexico.

## Tourism Industry Association Conference

As Pat Bell likes to say, this strategy is designed to fish where the fish are.

With China granting approved destination status to Canada in 2010, visitor growth from China is expected to be in the 15 to 20 per cent range each year.

Third, the strategy focuses on facilitating world-class experiences.

This means more partnerships with local government and businesses to make sure we are market ready.

## **Tourism Industry Association Conference**

And it means better research for growth and planning and working closely with the Aboriginal Tourism Association of BC to grow and promote the authentic First Nations experience.

Fourth, it means working with industry to remove barriers for growth, taking action to ensure you have workers with the skills and training your industry needs.

And fifth, it means creating an action plan for stable and predictable funding.

I am committed to providing the best marketing support for BC's tourism industry.

Pat Bell and staff at his Ministry have been working hard to gather your thoughts on options for a new Provincial Destination Marketing Organization.



## **Tourism Industry Association Conference**

And TIA-BC is providing us with advice and industry representation in this process.

I know some people would like a quick decision, but I believe that quick doesn't always mean you get the best results.

We want a marketing plan that industry can stand up and support... that will provide a long term future for strong marketing.

While these actions are specific to the tourism strategy, the BC Jobs Plan includes other actions that will grow BC's economy across all the sectors.

So I'd like take a moment to tell you about those as well.

**BC Jobs Plan: Three pillars**

Our BC Jobs Plan is based on three pillars.

The first pillar is enabling job creation with a commonsense government that opens doors instead of closing them, that makes things simple for business by getting out of the way when we can.

The second pillar of our jobs plan is about continuing to build smart infrastructure.

We can't generate those first new dollars if we can't get our products, ideas and resources to growing markets.

The third pillar of our jobs plan is about opening up markets for BC goods.

## **Tourism Industry Association Conference**

I am going to lead a trade mission to China and India in November, so that I can make sure we're working with the right people, with the best ideas, to open up and expand markets for BC.

We will reach out to help B.C. companies entering Asian markets. We will be better equipped to welcome foreign investors through a new hosting and business development program.

### **Twin foundations – skilled workforce and fiscal responsibility**

So these three pillars – enabling job creation, building smart infrastructure and opening new markets – stand on two key foundations.

We need a skilled workforce and we need to keep our province on a solid footing, building on a foundation of 10 years of strong fiscal management...

## **Tourism Industry Association Conference**

...To keep those things that make us a safe harbour for investment right now.

So what makes B.C. a safe harbour?

A safe harbour means keeping our triple AAA credit rating, it means a low-tax regime and it means a stable banking system.

### **State of the Tourism Industry**

The tourism industry just like the global economy is always shifting and changing.

While this year's visitor numbers haven't been great, there are opportunities to expand our markets and create a more stable industry in the long term.

## **Tourism Industry Association Conference**

In this business, you have to keep on top of the most recent trend without losing focus on what got you to where you are in the first place.

It is a pleasure to see TIA evolving along with the needs of your industry.

I want to congratulate you on your efforts to reset and refresh your association.

I agree with Minister Bell, we need a strong sector association and we are commitment to working with you to achieve success.

After all, government doesn't create jobs, you do.

Building on our strengths is what our BC Jobs Plan and Tourism Strategy will do.



## Tourism Industry Association Conference

And one of those strengths is your industry, and your people.

In the coming weeks we will be launching our \$1.1 million North American Winter Ski Campaign for this 2011/12 winter season.

The content for this campaign was brought together by working with our 13 ski resorts.

It will target those areas where we can attract the most skiers: Ontario, California and Washington State.

The tagline is "*Get Above it All in British Columbia.*"

It's an innovative campaign where we will turn elevators and escalators into ski lifts in a targeted event in Toronto, and utilize online advertising and travel media relations across all markets.

## **Tourism Industry Association Conference**

And it showcases what BC is known for: our great snow, our spectacular and pristine mountains, our world-class resorts and most importantly our warm hospitality.

Because when it comes to tourism, who we are matters.

Your pride and passion as British Columbians breathes life into the landscape for visitors.

And your skills and knowledge enhance our global visibility and reputation.

## **CONCLUSION**

By working together with the ski industry, we expect good results with this campaign.

We expect even better results next year when our Tourism Strategy is fully underway.

## Tourism Industry Association Conference

And I'd like to think that of the thousands skiers and snowboarders who will hit BC's slopes this year... maybe there will be a few "John Ecklands" among them.

BC is at a crossroads and every region of our province is home to so much potential.

We are facing a generational opportunity, and we are going to lead Canada into next century.

This is our time.

This is our chance to lead.

This is our moment.

When it comes to building the future, in British Columbia,  
*Canada Starts Here.*

-End-

Mr Speaker, I have the pleasure of introducing a Canadian political legend this afternoon.

He was the founder of the Reform Party of Canada and became the leader of Canada's official opposition in 1997.

He served as a Member of Parliament for eight years and helped reshape the political landscape in Canada, with his focus on strong fiscal responsibility and open government.

But when he left elected office, fortunately for us, he didn't leave public life.

He's released a book entitled Think Big, describing his use of the tools and institutions of democracy to change Canada's national agenda.

And he is the President and CEO of the Manning Centre for Building Democracy, where he continues to play a major role in ensuring government is connected to the people.

Mr Speaker, would the House please give a big BC welcome to Preston Manning.

-END-

Hello everybody.

Thank you for joining me here today, as we get ready to set out on this historic jobs and trade mission.

12 years ago, Kiet Luong started a small business exporting live crabs. Today he owns Adanac Seafood – a major Vancouver seafood company that exports primarily to China.

China is B.C.'s third-largest market for seafood. In 2010, we exported a record \$80 million dollars in seafood to China.



When combined with other agriculture exports to China, the total exceeded \$118 million dollars, the most ever.

In 2011, we expect to set a new record.

Much of that success is because of businesses like Adanac.

This family business, run by Kiet and his daughter Betty, is now expanding to a 20,000 square foot facility because of the success they've had working with China.

This expansion will double their staff and more than double their business.

In 2011, Adanac Seafood will export over one million pounds of live crabs to China, and are expected to gross nearly \$7 million dollars.

So I want to congratulate the Luong family – you have built a true BC success story.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Adanac does a lot of their business with the three Chinese cities we are visiting on our jobs and trade mission – Shanghai, Beijing and Guangzhou.

But we are also going to India: to Delhi, to Mumbai, to Bengaluru, Chandigarh and Amritsar, so that we can build on our relationships there as well.

The delegation we bring with us will be the largest delegation ever assembled in BC for a mission like this, with the widest range of sectors ever represented by a provincial trade mission from Canada.

Accompanying our delegation will be Ministers Bell, Thomson and De Jong – and I know all of them will be great salesmen for BC.

## **JOBS AND TRADE MISSION**

We are setting out on this jobs and trade mission with three goals in mind:

- strengthening our existing relationships;
- opening new doors;
- and setting the stage for future opportunities with China and India.

## **STRENGTHENING RELATIONSHIPS**

British Columbia has deep historical, cultural and business ties to Asia.

For more than a century, people of Asian ancestry have been building our province, creating jobs and making our communities stronger.

Those relationships help us do business across the Pacific.

Growing trade with Asia is essential to shelter us from the economic turmoil facing the U.S. – strengthening these ties will mean we always have trade partners that are hungry for our exports.

## **OPENING NEW DOORS**

This mission is also an opportunity for us to open new doors that will support the success of Canada Starts Here: The BC Jobs Plan.

If we want to grow, we have to take action to find new investment. And that means building on our strengths to find new partners.

## **FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES**

And we also want to set the stage for future opportunities with China and India. We want to let them know that this is just the beginning – that they should expect to see more and more people from BC reaching out in the future. This is not our first mission, and it certainly won't be our last.



## **WHY START IN CHINA/INDIA?**

But when it comes down to brass tacks, we're leading this mission so that we can defend and create jobs at home in B.C.

To create those jobs, we need to sell our goods and services to Asian markets, and we need to raise the profile of BC as a safe harbour for investment.

But we're facing a lot of competition – so this mission will help us get to the front of the line.

You've heard that a picture is worth a thousand words – well I think an hour in person is worth a thousand phone calls.

The first-hand experience we gain will help us better understand those Asian markets and their unique needs.

We can bring that experience home and help BC businesses anticipate emerging demands from Asia, so that we can move our exports up the ladder from raw resources to desired products.

While other economies are facing turbulent times ahead, by helping China and India grow, we can grow and prosper alongside them.

This is our time. This is our moment. This is our chance lead.

When it comes to building the future, Canada starts here in BC and companies like Adanac Seafood.

-END-

Hello everybody.

Thank you for joining me here today, as we get ready to set out on this historic jobs and trade mission.

Look around this room. This is the largest delegation ever assembled in BC for a mission like this, with the widest range of sectors ever represented by a provincial trade mission from Canada.

I'd like to thank each and every one of you ... but if I did, we'd be here all night. So I say 'thank you all' – give yourselves a big round of applause.

Before we get going though, I would like to personally thank Ministers Bell, Thomson and De Jong, who will be traveling with us on this mission. I know you'll all be great salesmen for BC.

You know, my grandfather was a member of the trade delegation that went to Japan with the Vancouver Board of Trade in 1954.

I found this wallet of his from the trip when I was cleaning out some boxes in my garage this summer.

He worked for a BC small business, Nelson Brothers Fisheries. He was the production manager and he went on this trade mission that flew through Anchorage, Alaska and then on to Japan.



The whole point was to reach out to open new markets and create new jobs in British Columbia.

That work paid big dividends for three decades.

As I worked with our team to prepare for this trade mission, I took my inspiration from what the Board of Trade – and my Grandfather – did so many years ago with the mission to Japan.

They were writing the story of BC and we are going to keep writing it ... today and tomorrow.

## **JOBS AND TRADE MISSION**

We are setting out on this jobs and trade mission with three goals in mind:

- strengthening our existing relationships;
- opening new doors;
- and setting the stage for future opportunities with China and India.

Our relationships to the Asia-Pacific region have brought new investment to BC, allowing us to defend and create jobs at home.

This mission is an opportunity to strengthen those relationships while also discovering new ways we can work together.

We also want to set the stage for future opportunities with China and India. We want to let them know that this is just the beginning – that they should expect to see more and more people from BC reaching out in the future.

## **FAMILIES FIRST**

I know that we're here today to talk about business – but in the end, I believe the reason we care so much about business is because we want to care for our families. If you strengthen the economy, you strengthen families.

Above all, we're trying to look out for the people around us. That's what I call putting families first.

Our jobs plan is about strengthening families, and it will help strengthen families in China and India too – because we will create opportunities for all of us to prosper together.

Right now, we have an incredible opportunity to do great things with our partners in China and India.

I've been calling it a generational opportunity. While other economies are facing turbulent times ahead, by helping China and India grow, we can grow too.

The advantages BC offers means we can be a great partner for them, and that partnership will allow us to prosper together.

This is our time. This is our moment. This is our chance lead.

When it comes to building the future, Canada starts in BC.

-END-

**Audain Exhibition at Vancouver Art Gallery**  
**Shore, Forest and Beyond: Art from the Audain Collection**  
**Friday, October 28, 2011**

**Event: what is it?**

- “Leadership Opening” of Audain Exhibition at Vancouver Art Gallery
- All special guest attendees will be introduced and speak within a 15-minute time frame
- Premier to speak two minutes

**Audience: who are they?**

- Michael Audain, Member - Board of Trustees - Vancouver Art Gallery
- Mrs. Yoshi Karasawa
- George Killy, Chair - Board of Trustees - Vancouver Art Gallery
- Kathleen Bartels, Director - Vancouver Art Gallery
- Brian McGuire, Vice President – Scotiabank, Exhibition Presenting Sponsor
- Invited guests

**Key Messages**

- Thank you to Michael Audain and Yoshi Karasawa for sharing their collection with all British Columbians.
- Michael’s commitment to B.C. and Canadian art over the years has provided opportunities for artists and the public.



**THANK YOU KATHLEEN, FOR THE  
INTRODUCTION.**

**British Columbia is really blessed to have  
residents like Michael and Yoshi Audain...**

**Their generosity to our province is shown in so  
many ways, and through so many acts of  
philanthropy.**

**Michael has given more than \$25 million through  
the Audain Foundation to support artists and the  
arts in Canada.**

**Comment [PC1]:** <http://museumpublicity.com/2011/02/19/audain-foundation-donates-750000-to-royal-bc-museum/>

**And his keen interest in sharing our culture  
ensures that art becomes available to everyone.**

**Art speaks to us and tells us stories if we are  
willing to listen.**

**Michael Audain not only heard the stories, but  
understood and responded by becoming a  
collector and a champion of B.C. artists.**

**Along with seminal works of Mexican art and Canadian modernists...**

**This exhibition of some of Michael's personal collection reflects the history of our province.**

**His tenacity at unearthing and repatriating British Columbia art has led to the remarkable assembly of visual art that we will enjoy tonight.**

**We are so fortunate that Michael and Yoshi are sharing their collection with British Columbians and visitors to our province...**

**On behalf of all British Columbians...**

**I want to thank you for the opportunity you've given us...**

**To peer into our fascinating past, become aware of our present bounty of artists, and be dazzled by our cultural future.**

**Thank you for your generosity.**

**- END -**

## **Key Messages**

- British Columbia is THE place in Canada to invest in the export business, as we are perfectly situated to take advantage of markets in the Asia Pacific region.
- Next week, I will personally be our chief salesperson on a trade mission to China and India to build relationships and bring new business opportunities to our province.
- Congratulations to all the finalists and congratulations in advance to today's award recipients.

Thank you Jill for the introduction.

And congratulations to all the award finalists here today and to the eventual award recipients as well.

These are exciting times to be in the export business in British Columbia, and I'm here today to thank our exporters, who are definitely doing their jobs well.

From just January to August of this year, according to Stats Canada, BC has exported \$21.5 billion worth of goods.

That's up an impressive 14% from the same period last year, and includes a 30% growth in our exports to Asia.

But what does that really mean to us?

It means that you are the people who are creating jobs, real jobs, well-paying jobs that allow your employees to put food on their tables, a roof over their heads and raise their families right here in BC.

And that's so important.

As a small economy on the global scale, our economic health depends on marketing our goods internationally and attracting foreign investment.

I think it's important for people to understand, the economy isn't just an abstract concept.

It isn't about statistics and graphs. It's about people – about families, about turning the conversations I've had – and the people in this room have every day – into real, tangible improvements in people's lives.

It's about family-run companies like 2010 Export Award winner Pacific Prince Investments Inc.

PPI was founded in 1990 by Mr. Muhammad Amir and his late wife Shaheen Zafar.

Under its trade-name SPF Precut Lumber, they grew the company into one of our largest exporters of pallet stock and Canadian dimension lumber to the US, the Middle East, the Far East, Southeast Asia and Europe.

...And that's making a difference in people's lives.



Or Pioneer Log Homes of British Columbia in Williams Lake – founded in 1973 by Bryan Reid Sr.

For over 30 years family and friends who have become family have created homes that will stand the test of time,

Making the company a world leader in its field.

And that's making a difference in people's lives.

When I ran for Premier, I made the commitment to organize a trade mission to China and India.

I'm meeting this commitment, and next week our trade mission will depart for China.

I'm sure some of the people in this room will be on that mission, and I look forward to working with you as our province's chief salespeople.

I'm also sure some of you do a lot of your business with the three Chinese cities we are visiting on our jobs and trade mission – Shanghai, Beijing and Guangzhou...

...and with Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chandigarh and Amritsar, in India.

The delegation we bring with us will be the largest ever assembled in BC for a mission like this, with the widest range of sectors ever represented by a provincial trade mission from Canada.

Accompanying our delegation will be Ministers Bell, Thomson and De Jong – and I know all of them will be great salesmen for BC.

### **JOBS AND TRADE MISSION**

We are setting out on this jobs and trade mission with three goals in mind:

- strengthening our existing relationships;
- opening new doors;
- and setting the stage for future opportunities with China and India.

## **STRENGTHENING RELATIONSHIPS**

British Columbia has deep historical, cultural and business ties to Asia.

For more than a century, people of Asian ancestry have been building our province, creating jobs and making our communities stronger.

Today, those relationships help us do business across the Pacific.

Growing trade with Asia is essential to shelter us from the economic turmoil facing the U.S. – strengthening these ties will mean we always have trade partners that are hungry for our exports.

## **OPENING NEW DOORS**

This mission is also an opportunity for us to open new doors that will support the success of the BC Jobs Plan.

If we want to grow, we have to take action to find new investment. And that means building on our strengths to find new partners.

## **FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES**

And we also want to set the stage for future opportunities with China and India. We want to let them know that this is just the beginning – that they should expect to see more and more people from BC reaching out in the future.

This is not our first mission, and it certainly won't be our last.

In fact, I'm already forward thinking to the spring when I plan to do a similar trade mission to Japan and Korea.

## **WHY START IN CHINA/INDIA?**

But when it comes down to brass tacks, we are leading this mission to defend and create jobs at home, in BC.

To create those jobs, we need to sell our goods and services to Asian markets, and we need to raise the profile of BC as a safe harbour for investment.

But we're facing a lot of competition – so this mission will help us get to the front of the line.



You've heard that a picture is worth a thousand words – well I think an hour in person is worth a thousand phone calls.

## **FAMILIES FIRST**

I know that we're here today to give awards for business – but in the end, I believe the reason we care about business is because we want to care for our families. If you strengthen the economy, you strengthen families.

Above all, we're trying to look out for the people around us. That's what I call putting families first.

Our jobs plan is about strengthening families, and it will help strengthen families in China and India too – because we will create opportunities for all of us to prosper together.

While other economies are facing turbulent times ahead, by helping China and India grow, we can grow and prosper alongside them.

This is our time. This is our moment. This is our chance lead.

When it comes to building the future, Canada starts in BC.

-END-



## KEY MESSAGES

- Kits Secondary School is being rebuilt.
- The new school will preserve the important heritage while providing a 21<sup>st</sup> century learning experience and a safe place for students.
- Since 2001, 40 capital and seismic projects worth more than \$188 million have been completed in the Vancouver School District.

**Thanks George for the introduction.**

**For 100 years, Kitsilano Secondary School has been graduating students who have gone on to change their world.**

**Kitsilano Secondary's alumni have included a World War II flying ace, Jimmy Whalen, Olympic athletes like Kathleen Heddle and famous actors like Ryan Reynolds.**

**What Kitsilano students learn here needs to prepare for them success not only in today's world, but a world we cannot yet imagine.**

**It's important they have a sense of belonging to a school with traditions and a proud history.**

**A proud history that includes two visits and performances from Louis Armstrong and a famous art teacher Jack Shadboldt.**

**It's also important to give students a safe environment to learn and grow, starting with the building around them.**

**After extensive consultation with parents, the school board and the community...**

**I'm pleased to tell you that by 2016, Kitsilano Secondary School will be rebuilt, saving its historic facade.**

**The school will be built to LEED Gold standard, and the Province is spending \$57.8 million on the rebuild.**

**Since 2001, we have been studying and seismically upgrading schools across the province to ensure that our children have the safest buildings we can give them.**

**Sometimes these schools can't safely be upgraded, and we have to rebuild.**

**Kitsilano Secondary School was given the highest rating for heritage status...**

**And we knew we needed to launch a heritage preservation project as well as a seismic upgrading and expansion.**

**The 1,500 students at this school will have a 21<sup>st</sup> century learning experience, while at the same time, be able to retain a vital link to the school's storied past.**

**We want to create new learning environments for students that allow them to discover, embrace, and fulfill their passions.**

**There will be three gymnasiums, a theatre and plenty of room for learning aimed at individual support and collaborative group work. And we hope that the experience of each student links to what they experience and learn in their everyday lives.**

**Every child who graduates from this school is unique, and we're proud to be rebuilding this school to provide opportunities for future generations.**

**- END -**



## **Education Capital Plan Hazelgrove Elementary, Surrey Oct 31, 2011**

### **The Event: What is it?**

- Announcement of a capital plan to provide new school spaces in areas of the province where the population is growing or expected to grow.
- This plan commits \$353 million for 19 school capital projects in seven school districts, including Surrey, Sooke, Langley, Central Okanagan, Vancouver, Richmond, and the Conseil scolaire francophone
- The event is taking place at Hazelgrove Elementary in Surrey. Hazelgrove opened in 2009 but already has more than 700 students. They will be happy to hear new schools will soon be built.

### **The audience: Who are they?**

- The audience includes parents, students and media.

### **What do they want to hear?**

- We are taking action today to meet the needs of growing student populations in school districts like Surrey and Sooke, by investing \$353-million for new schools, school additions, and land purchases for future schools.
- This capital plan will also create an estimated 1,850 jobs for B.C. families throughout the province – which builds on Canada Starts Here: The BC Jobs Plan.
- Here in Surrey this includes two new elementary schools, two secondary school additions, and the purchase of land for four future schools.



**Thank you Kevin for the introduction.**

**You really never know how far your experience in school will take you.**

**This summer, four students from Princess Margaret Secondary right here in Surrey rocketed all the way to the NASA Johnson Space Centre in Houston.**

**Smruthi Nair, Nikhil Dhingra, Supreet Singh and Seshan Nair designed a proposal for an international space station that can hold 10,000 people.**

**Their design was one of 11 selected from submissions sent in from all around the world.**

**They went to the NASA Centre to compete.**

**They proved themselves to the top aerospace engineers on the planet.**

**Canadian students have never made the finals... until now.**

**The staff at Princess Margaret Secondary helped these students discover, embrace, and fulfill their passions.**

**These four students are preparing for success not only in today's world, but a world we cannot yet imagine.**

**That's the power of education. It's literally out of this world.**

**Today, I am pleased to announce a plan that will support students in communities like Surrey where they need more school spaces.**

**Our new capital plan commits \$353 million for 19 school projects in seven school districts.**

**This includes Surrey, Sooke, Langley, Central Okanagan, Vancouver, Richmond, and the Conseil scolaire francophone.**

**Here in Surrey, this plan means two new elementary schools, two secondary school additions, and the purchase of land for four future schools.**

**My colleague Kevin Falcon never lets me forget how fast Surrey is growing... about 1,000 new students a year.**

**So this is great news for Surrey.**

**It also means once projects get underway, an estimated 1,850 jobs will be created for families across the province, building on *Canada Starts Here: The BC Jobs Plan* which was released in September.**

**BC students dream big and we need to support them. And that's what we're doing today, providing students with modern classrooms so everyone can shoot for the stars.**

**Thank you.**

**-End-**

## **Key Messages**

- British Columbia is THE place in Canada to invest.
- I will personally be our chief salesperson on a trade mission to Asia to build relationships and bring new business opportunities to our province.
- The International Education Strategy will create jobs and build on the success of our universities by targeting specific countries to find prospective students who can best fill our future job needs and increase our connections in the global economy.

Thank you, John, for the introduction.

And thank you Ms. Rosa Elena Moreno, Dean of the Consular Corps and Consul General for El Salvador, for allowing me to come and speak with you today.

Each one of you in this room is a key partner with us in building positive relationships and promoting BC.

Since becoming premier, I've been working hard to deliver change to B.C. politics.

I've spent a lot of time listening to British Columbians. You know what people tell me they want most? Jobs!

So my government is refocusing its efforts to encourage investment to create good, stable jobs that help build good, stable families.

I think it's important for people to understand, the economy isn't just an abstract concept.

It isn't about statistics and graphs. It's about people – about families, about turning the conversations I've had – and the people in this room have every day – into real, tangible improvements in people's lives.



Economic prospects are vitally important to how someone experiences life.

The economy doesn't just support the services people value, like health care and education, it gives them a sense of hope and optimism for the future.

So that's what I believe my main job as Premier is – to put families first by creating high-quality and sustainable jobs.

These days in our global economy, in order to secure job growth at home, I sometimes end up tilling the soil far away.

That brings me to why I am here today.

I want to make sure you know British Columbia is the place in Canada to invest.

We are the strategic western link between the growing Asia Pacific markets and the rest of North America. No matter which way you look: British Columbia is the gateway to opportunity.

Last month our government unveiled a plan designed to protect and create B.C. jobs.

Canada Starts Here: The BC Jobs Plan is about taking decisive actions – removing barriers and providing support in key sectors to boost domestic, cross-border and global export opportunities.

It's about bringing new investment into all regions of the province – accelerating job creation and growing revenues which support B.C. families.

A key component of our jobs plan is the international education strategy.

The Strategy will help us target specific countries to connect international students with the right schools and communities.

We are known world-wide for the quality education we offer, and we have set a target to grow our international student population in BC by 50 percent over the next 4 years.

Each year, about 94,000 international students choose BC as a place to study.

That's 30 per cent of all the international students in this country.

But I believe we can do better through showcasing our colleges, technical institutes and universities on a global scale.

Our strategy will make sure communities are ready to welcome students from abroad...

...that we are building long-term relationships with existing and emerging economies throughout the world.

...And that we are sending more of our own students abroad to prepare them to work in a global economy.

### JOBS AND TRADE MISSION

In 3 days i will be leading a jobs and trade mission to Asia.

The delegation we bring with us will be the largest delegation ever assembled in BC for a mission like this, with the widest range of sectors ever represented by a provincial trade mission from Canada.

We are setting out on this jobs and trade mission with three goals in mind:

- strengthening our existing relationships;
- opening new doors;
- and setting the stage for future opportunities.

You've heard that a picture is worth a thousand words – well I think an hour in person is worth a thousand phone calls.

The first-hand experience we gain will help us better understand external markets and their unique needs.

We can bring that experience home and help BC businesses anticipate emerging demands, so that we can move our exports up the ladder from raw resources to desired products.

BC's diversity is a unique advantage – both socially and economically.

In fact, our cultural diversity isn't just an advantage – it's who we are.

With the right steps, those connections are an advantage that we can turn into action.

CONCLUSION

I want you to know that each and every one of you here today is important to us...

As we build mutually beneficial relationships, growing trade, and growing not only our own economy, but yours as well.

The upcoming jobs and trade mission will be my first, but it certainly won't be my last, and I hope to visit as many of your home countries as possible in the years ahead.

Thank you.

-END-



## **Seaspan Victoria Staff and Family Event**

### **Wed. Nov. 2, 2011**

#### **Event: what is it?**

- Premier to speak for 5 minutes
- Event is a celebration for Seaspan employees and their families of the \$8-billion contract through the National Shipbuilding Procurement Strategy to build non-combat ships for an estimated 8 years.

#### **Audience: who are they?**

- Kyle Washington, Exec. Chair, Seaspan (TBC)
- Jonathan Whitworth, CEO, Seaspan (TBC)
- Nancy McKenzie, CFO, Seaspan (TBC)
- Robert Hedley, Senior VP, Seaspan (TBC)
- Malcolm Barker, VP, GM, Victoria Shipyards (TBC)
- Tony Matergio, VP/GM, Lower Mainland Shipyards (TBC)

#### **Key Messages**

- This is a huge win for BC. This contract is going to provide a big boost to our shipbuilding and ship maintenance industries.
- Combined with other operations at Seaspan, this multi-billion dollar contract could create an average of over 4,000 direct and indirect jobs over 8 years, including 2,400 jobs at the shipyard alone.
- The great work done by Seaspan on their successful bid is something all British Columbians can be proud of.

Thank XX for introduction

Acknowledge:

KYLE WASHINGTON, Exec. Chair, Seaspan (TBC)

JONATHAN WHITWORTH, CEO, Seaspan (TBC)

MALCOLM BARKER, VP, GM, Victoria Shipyards (TBC)

TONY MATERGIO, VP/GM, Lower Mainland Shipyards (TBC)

I'm honoured to be here today to speak with your employees and their families as you all celebrate the \$8 billion contract with the national shipbuilding procurement strategy.

On behalf of my government, and in fact on behalf of all British Columbians, I thank you for the great work you all put in on your successful bid.

This is a huge win for BC.

This contract is going to provide a tremendous boost to our shipbuilding and ship maintenance industries, and I know the benefits will begin to flow quickly, as you build 7 large vessels right here in BC over the next few years.

But what does that really mean to us?

It means that you are the people who are creating jobs, real jobs, well-paying jobs that allow your employees to put food on their tables, a roof over their heads and raise their families right here in BC.

And that's so important.

It's important for people to understand, the economy isn't just an abstract concept.

It isn't about statistics and graphs. It's about people – about families, about turning the conversations I've had – and that you've had too – into real, tangible improvements in people's lives.

It's about companies like Seaspan building a solid reputation based on your 'Can-Do' attitude that helped you win this major contract.

I know that we're together today to celebrate this win – but in the end, I believe the reason we care about business is because we want to care for our families. If you strengthen the economy, you strengthen families.

The Seaspan bid has helped pave the way for future generations of ship builders.



You know that this industry has raised a lot of families. These are great-paying jobs.

Your successful bid guarantees that the skills and knowledge that you have will be shared with the next generation as they join you in the work you've started and opportunities you've created.

Earlier this afternoon, Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Innovation Pat Bell announced a sector-based table.

This is a critical step in ensuring we have the skilled workforce needed to advance B.C.'s shipbuilding and repair sector for the near future and for decades to come.

We're inviting Seaspan and other shipbuilding and repair companies to get directly involved in deciding what job training needs to be done to ensure the industry carries on and keeps getting stronger.

You here at Seaspan have set an example that will make our province stronger.

Our jobs plan is about strengthening families – because we will create opportunities for all of us to prosper together.

This is our time. This is our moment. This is our chance to lead.

And this is our day to celebrate.

## Seaspan employees/families celebration

When it comes to building the future, Canada starts here at Seaspan.

Thank you.

-END-



**National day of Remembrance  
for Road Crash Victims**

**Wednesday, November 23, 2011**

**Event: what is it?**

- The National Day of Remembrance for Road Crash Victims in Canada is a day set aside to remember those killed or seriously injured on Canadian roads, often in avoidable collisions, and those left to deal with the sudden and unexpected loss of people they love.
- Premier speaks for 2 minutes

**Audience: who are they?**

- Hon. Shirley Bond, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General
- Laurel Middelaer (Michael Middelaer TBC)
- Carol and Arnie Hamilton (Carol was just elected Mayor of Colwood & Arnie is a former MLA- their son was killed in a motor vehicle accident)
- MADD representatives
- All British Columbians who care about safety of BC families on our roads and cutting down on needless deaths due to impaired driving
- media

**KEY MESSAGES:**

1. **As we remember the victims of all road accidents, we hope that by taking impaired drivers off the road we will save lives and spare families.**
2. **The impaired driving laws in BC are having a positive effect.**

Wednesday, Nov. 23, 2011 – National Day of Remembrance for Road Crash Victims

## Today is the National Day of Remembrance for Road Crash Victims

It is a day to pause to remember the victims of road crashes and recognize the pain their families have gone through.

I'd like to recognize families like Carol and Arnie Hamilton, who are here today to remember their son who tragically lost his life in a motor vehicle accident.

And today the thoughts of many British Columbians will also be with families like the Middelaers.

On May 17, 2008, Laurel and Michael Middelaer lost their 4-year-old daughter when an impaired driver lost control of the car and hit Alexa as she by the road with her aunt, feeding a horse.

It is stories like Alexa's that hit home and remind us just how preventable drinking and driving tragedies can be.

As we move into the holiday party season, deciding to not to drink and drive, and finding a safe ride home should be on top of mind for all British Columbians.

Drinking and driving continues to take a toll on families in British Columbia and across Canada

In B.C., we feel it's important for us to take a tough stand on people who choose to drive impaired.

The latest statistics show that the new laws are having an effect...

Preliminary data shows a 40% reduction in alcohol-related motor vehicle fatalities in our province.

And an estimated 45 more people are alive today because of them...

That's 45 families who won't have to experience a late-night knock on their door from police – to hear their loved one has been the victim of an accident.

So we'll keep focused on removing these people from the road because we are keeping focused on the victims...



Alexa and families like hers are the reason we'll continue to take impaired drivers off the road, knowing this approach saves more lives.

Thanks to a team effort and numerous contributions from families, private donors, BCAA, MADD Canada, ICBC, the City of Surrey the Alexa's Bus Project is becoming a reality.

And I'm pleased to announce today that the province will contribute \$40,000 to the Alexa's Bus Project to further enforce impaired driving and to help educate the public on impaired driving and road safety.

We will continue to work together, because just one life lost from drinking and driving is one life too many.

-END-



## **Announcement of Location of Municipal Auditor General's Office Thursday, November 24, 2011**

### **Event: what is it?**

- Premier to announce where the office of the Auditor General for Local Government will be located.
- Minister Ida Chong will later be presenting the Auditor General for Local Government Act, 2011, which will serve to establish the Office of the AGLG.

### **Audience: who are they?**

- Minister Ida Chong, Community, Sport and Cultural Development
- **Surrey Councillors:** Acting Mayor Tom Gill, Councillor Barinder Rasode, Councillor Marvin Hunt
- Validators
- Taxpayers

### **Key Messages**

- **The AGLG was a commitment from my leadership campaign and we're moving ahead. I believe it's more important than ever now.**
- **The AGLG will help us put families first – there is only one taxpayer and we need to make sure that all levels of government are respecting by using tax dollars efficiently.**
- **The AGLG is part of being an open government – and we were also open to hearing ideas about how to implement it.**
- **The AGLG will help local governments manage their spending and resources, to make sure taxpayers are treated with respect.**

During my leadership campaign, I made a commitment to establish an office of the auditor general for local government.

And today we're delivering.

I believe that this office is needed now more than ever – we just saw the Canadian Federation of Independent Business report that spending by BC municipalities has grown four times faster than the rate of population growth and inflation.

So I'm pleased to announce today that the office of the Auditor General for Local Government will be located in Surrey.

Families work hard for their money.

When they pay taxes, they want to know that their money is being spent prudently, where it's needed most.

## Announcement of Location of Municipal Auditor General Office

The Auditor General for Local Government will help local governments manage their spending and resources, to ensure that taxpayers get treated with the respect they deserve.

So a big part of the AGLG's job will be helping local governments keep property taxes under control, so that families can create strong communities.

But even more importantly, if we want to defend and create jobs for families, BC has to be a safe harbour for investment – and that means fiscal prudence at all levels of government.

The AGLG also represents our commitment to open government – to making sure that government is listening to the needs of families and acting on them.

And we were also open to ideas about how to implement it.

## Announcement of Location of Municipal Auditor General Office

We consulted with Union of B.C. Municipalities to clarify the role and mandate of an AGLG, and we heard a lot of great ideas about how to make it work.

But we also heard ideas we didn't think would work – above all, even though the AGLG may not be popular with every politician, it's my job to make sure we are listening to taxpayers first.

As part of our consultations we also invited business and community leaders, and representatives of small businesses, to give us their important ideas and opinions.

The AGLG will not restrict local governments' abilities to make policy decisions about taxation, land use, or anything else.

But this office will focus on finding the biggest benefits for taxpayers, by helping local governments be as efficient as possible.

## Announcement of Location of Municipal Auditor General Office

We all know that every level of government is faced with high demands for service and limited resources.

And the AGLG will also help the 188 communities in BC learn from each other by highlighting and sharing best practices, to ensure that when one municipality gets it right, everyone benefits.

This is a vital step forward on behalf of all British Columbia taxpayers.

And it all starts right here in Surrey.

- END -