

Godfrey, Sam AGRI:EX

From: Madevon, Solenn <Solenn.Madevon@leg.bc.ca>
Sent: February 8, 2019 3:11 PM
Subject: Week in Review: February 4-8

Hi everyone,

Here are a few things the government announced this week:

Statement on reconciliation process between Province and Office of the Wet'suwet'en

- Yesterday, the Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs, Premier John Horgan and Scott Fraser, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation issued a [statement](#) to mark the start of a new reconciliation process.
- The Office of the Wet'suwet'en and the Province are committed to explore a path forward together and are undertaking a process focused on Wet'suwet'en title, rights, laws and traditional governance throughout the Wet'suwet'en Yintah, or territory.
- To support this work, the Province has appointed Murray Rankin as B.C.'s representative to help guide and design the reconciliation process.

B.C., Washington strengthen ties as B.C. backs next phase of high-speed corridor study

- Our government is working together with Washington State to grow our region's tech economy, promote trade and improve transportation connectivity to create good jobs and a better future for people on both sides of the border.
- Yesterday, Premier Horgan joined Washington Gov. Jay Inslee to announce that BC will contribute an additional \$300,000 to fund the next proposed phase of a study of a potential ultra-high-speed corridor service linking British Columbia, Washington state and Oregon.
- "Improving transportation connectivity is a critically important part of the path forward, and we're going to keep working together to seize opportunities and strengthen the relationship between Washington state and B.C.," said Premier John Horgan.

B.C., Washington state united on climate action, building sustainable future

- Washington Gov. Jay Inslee and B.C. Premier John Horgan are working together to rise to the challenge of climate change while investing in a sustainable, low-carbon economy.
- Gov. Inslee joined Premier Horgan as he signed on to the Statement on Stepping Up Climate Ambition. The states of Washington and California, the Government of Canada and other governments, as well as agencies from around the globe, have supported the statement, which emphasizes the need to increase ambition and strengthen efforts to tackle climate change.
- "B.C. and Washington state are taking important steps forward together to fight climate change, grow the innovation economy and build a sustainable future. I'm very optimistic about what we can achieve to make life better for the people who live in the Pacific Northwest," said Premier Horgan.

Action plan to provide faster care for people with Parkinson's

- Our government is working hard to provide faster care and improved access to surgeries for people.

- The Province is increasing access to deep brain stimulation for people with Parkinson's disease whose symptoms can no longer be controlled with medication. The number of primary insertion DBS surgeries will increase from 36 in 2016-17 to 72 for the 2019-20 fiscal year.
- "We are taking action to expand access to deep brain stimulation for Parkinson's patients through a five-point plan that the ministry has developed with Vancouver Coastal Health to address wait times now and going forward," said Adrian Dix, Minister of Health.

Expanded settlement services benefit newcomers in B.C.

- For too long, thousands of immigrants haven't been able to transition their skills, education and experience to find a career in their field in BC. We are investing in expanded settlement services to help empower newcomers to become active participants in their community, while helping our province benefit from the skills they bring with them.
- The Province is expanding settlement services by more than 45% by increasing funding to Career Paths for Skilled Immigrants and BC Settlement and Integration Services (BCSIS). The government's investment represents more than \$11 million in settlement and skills training initiatives to help improve the lives of new British Columbians.
- "The steps we're taking will remove barriers to opportunities by expanding credential recognition supports, language training and other services, helping make their lives better and more fulfilling," said Bruce Ralston, Minister of Jobs, Trade and Technology.

Students supported by new school mental health resources

- We are working to make life better for children and youth by strengthening mental health and addictions care across the province. With access to new mental health programs in schools, students will get the help they need when they need it.
- B.C. students will benefit from a \$3-million investment that will support new school-based mental health programs focused on prevention, wellness promotion and early intervention. The funding will include grants for all 60 school districts and independent schools for staff, parents, and student training sessions and programs.
- "This is essential as we all work together to strengthen mental health and addictions care in British Columbia. Educators, students and parents are clear that we need to help schools better identify early warning signs and provide ongoing support to youth with mental health issues," said Rob Fleming, Minister of Education.

New housing for Indigenous families on the way in Colwood

- People across British Columbia are struggling to access safe and affordable homes, but Indigenous people are disproportionately affected by our housing crisis. Our government is responding to this critical need by working with First Nations and Indigenous housing providers to build new indigenous housing both on and off-reserve.
- The Province is partnering with the Aboriginal Land Trust Society (ALT), Huu-ay-aht First Nations and the City of Colwood to build 124 affordable homes for Indigenous individuals and families at 342 Wale Rd.
- "We know from our intensive work to address long-standing housing issues in B.C. that the struggle to find a good home can be even greater for Indigenous peoples. "That's why we are partnering with Indigenous organizations and municipalities throughout the province to build the homes that Indigenous families need in our community and at prices they can afford," said Mitzi Dean, MLA for Esquimalt-Metchosin.

More supports for women and children leaving violence in Kelowna

- After 20 years of neglect and cuts to services, our government is investing in transition and supportive housing to give women and children escaping dangerous situations the security and support they need.
- On Wednesday, Mitzi Dean, Parliamentary Secretary for Gender Equity, announced 40 new units of second-stage and permanent affordable housing for women and children fleeing violence in Kelowna. The project will be funded through the Building BC: Women's Transition Fund, a \$734-million investment over 10 years to build 1,500 transition and second-stage housing, and long-term housing spaces for women and children leaving violence.
- "Family violence has devastating and lifelong impacts on women, children and their communities. Our government is working hard to make sure women and children have the homes and support they need to be able to leave violent situations," said Mitzi Dean, Parliamentary Secretary for Gender Equity.

Solenn Madevon | Research and Communications Officer | New Democrat BC Government Caucus
T: 250-387-0314 | C: 1-204-890-8658 | solenn.madevon@leg.bc.ca | www.bcndpcaucus.ca

From: Madevon, Solenn <Solenn.Madevon@leg.bc.ca>
Sent: February 21, 2019 4:05 PM
Subject: Week in Review: February 18-21

Hi everyone,

Here are a few things our government announced this week.

Budget 2019 creates opportunities, makes life better for people

- Under the last government, only the few at the top benefitted, while opportunities became further out of reach for most. Budget 2019 puts people first, it lifts people up so that everyone can meet their full potential.
- We're tackling the big problems in B.C. while balancing the budget and continuing to build on the strongest economy in the country.
- Budget 2019 is creating opportunities for all British Columbians by removing interest from B.C. student loans, investing in caregivers, reducing taxes for businesses and investing in clean energy and climate solutions.
- With the full elimination of MSP premiums and the introduction of the B.C. Child Opportunity Benefit, we're moving ahead with the biggest middle-class tax cut in a generation for families. A family of four making \$80,000 will be paying 43% less a year in taxes than they did under the last government.
- "Budget 2019 opens doors for you and your family by putting thousands of dollars back into your pocket. We're helping hard-working British Columbians get ahead at every stage of their life, no matter where they're starting from," said Carole James, Minister of Finance.

B.C. First Nations, Province partner in historic revenue-sharing agreement

- The rights and needs of Indigenous Peoples in British Columbia have been set aside for far too long. Our government is working together in partnership with Indigenous Peoples towards true and lasting reconciliation.
- As part of Budget 2019, the Province is implementing a revenue sharing agreement to share gaming revenue with First Nations. Starting April 2019, approximately \$3 billion over 25 years will be shared with B.C. First Nations, meaning every First Nation community in B.C. will be eligible for between \$250,000 and \$2 million annually through the agreement.
- "This agreement is the result of decades of tireless work by the First Nations Leadership Council to ensure that the resources of our province are shared in a way that advances self-government and self-determination," said Carole James, Minister of Finance.

Province reinvesting in the Northwest with grants to regional districts, municipalities

- For years, the previous government neglected northern B.C., leaving communities struggling to improve and maintain their aging infrastructure. Our government is investing in the success of northwest communities by addressing long-standing infrastructure needs that are holding back the region.
- The Province announced a \$100-million Northern Capital and Planning Grant that will go to four regional districts (Fraser Fort George, Bulkley Nechako, Kitimat Stikine and North Coast) and their 22

municipalities. This grant fulfils Premier Horgan's commitment to northwest mayors to make sure local workers and communities are able to reap the full benefits of resource development in their region.

- "We're reversing this legacy of neglect with a new Northern Capital and Planning Grant that will help people and communities make the most of new opportunities, so that the benefits of resource development are felt for years to come," said Premier Horgan.

New St. Paul's Hospital officially moving forward

- After 16 years of health care cuts, our government is building and improving hospitals across the province to give people the quality health care they deserve.
- Improved access to life-saving health care is on the way to downtown Vancouver with the approval of the business plan for a new St. Paul's Hospital. Doors of the new \$1.9-billion St. Paul's are expected to open in 2026 and will be located at 1002 Station St.
- "British Columbians have always expressed great confidence, and taken great comfort, in the care delivered by St. Paul's. After more than a decade and a half of stalling, it is exciting to give the green light to a new, state-of-the-art St. Paul's Hospital that will continue this legacy for many years to come," said Adrian Dix, Minister of Health.

Improving health-care services for people in West Kootenay Boundary

- People deserve proper access to the health services they depend upon, where and when they need it. Our government is investing in regional hospitals so that people in rural areas can get the care they need close to home.
- The Province has approved a new ambulatory care area and expanded pharmacy for Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital (KBRH). The total cost of project is \$38.8 million, with the provincial government committing \$23.3 million.
- "Having been a frequent user of Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital over the years, I know how much the ambulatory care and pharmacy area upgrades are needed. This new investment in our regional hospital, along with the current emergency department redevelopment that is now underway, is vital for better patient care in this region," said Katrine Conroy, MLA for Kootenay West.

Best,

Solenn Madevon | Research and Communications Officer | New Democrat BC Government Caucus
T: 250-387-0314 | C: 1-204-890-8658 | solenn.madevon@leg.bc.ca | www.bcndpcaucus.ca