

Speaking Notes
for the

Hon. Mike Bernier
Minister of Education

Budget 2017

Wednesday, Feb. 22, 2017

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

KEY MESSAGES:

- This past year was a banner one for British Columbia's students and education system. We've accomplished a lot and seen great successes.
- With today's Budget delivering an historic increase to education funding, we are poised to build on these investments for an even better 2017.
- B.C.'s education system will benefit from an additional \$1.1 billion in funding over the next three years.

INTRODUCTION:

- Hi everyone,
- It's a pleasure to be here.
- As most of you know, today is a very important day for us in education, and for everyone in B.C...
- It's great to see so many of you getting into the spirit of Pink Shirt Day.

THEME ONE: ERASE bullying strategy & SOGI

- Government is committed to ensure every student is supported, respected and safe at school.
- Our comprehensive ERASE Bullying Prevention Strategy promotes inclusion, and supports the diversity of all B.C. students.
- Since launching the strategy we've trained over 15,000 educators and community partners on how to address bullying and threats in school.
- And the ERASE bullying website has an online bullying reporting tool to help students reach out for help.

- In September we announced that every school board and independent school must have anti-bullying policies that are sexual orientation and gender identity-inclusive.
- The implementation is now virtually complete.
- And we are very pleased with how the sector has responded and taken this important change on with enthusiasm.

THEME TWO: Capital/seismic

- This past year was a banner one for British Columbia's students and education system. We've accomplished a lot and seen great successes.
- A key focus in 2016 was tackling increasing student enrolment in rapidly growing communities.
- We made major investments in new schools, in additions, and in seismic mitigations.
- Across the province, tremendous progress has been made upgrading and replacing seismic high-risk schools to improve student safety.

- Here are some of the seismic projects currently in progress or recently completed:
 - Seismic upgrade and restoration at Kitsilano Secondary in the Vancouver School District - \$65-million project.
 - Seismic replacement of Centennial Secondary school in the Coquitlam School District - \$61.1-million.
 - Seismic upgrade at Langley Secondary school – \$26.2 million.

- Work is also currently underway to create more than 4,800 new student seats in Langley, Surrey and Coquitlam through the construction of new schools and classroom additions.

- Government has also made B.C.'s largest ever investment in a school – with \$106.5 million to replace New Westminster Secondary school.

- In Vancouver alone, there are nine projects worth more than \$200 million currently underway or recently completed.

- Under our Seismic Mitigation Program, we've invested \$1.3 billion to complete 163 high-risk schools.

- With 224 projects either completed or in progress, government is on track to complete the remaining 118 schools.
- We also invested \$65 million in our School Enhancement Program – our fix-it fund that helps districts extend the life of their schools
- Along with our partners in B.C. school districts we've made solid progress moving capital and seismic projects forward.

THEME THREE: Surrey capital

- Recently, we announced \$217 million over the next three years for the Surrey School District to accelerate the construction of up to 5,200 new student spaces.
- This is the largest single capital investment to a school district in recent memory.
- A newly established joint executive project board will help get Surrey students out of portables and into new classrooms.

- The new funding is on top of the \$100 million announced last year to build a new secondary and elementary school, expand three elementary schools and purchase land for a future elementary school in Surrey, creating up to 2,700 new seats.

THEME FOUR: Outcomes

- Student learning is at the heart of everything we do.
- In a recent international assessment B.C.'s Grade 10 students earned the top-spot for reading, second in science, and sixth in math.
- It means our students are the best readers in the world and their outcomes put them at the head of the class globally.
- Eighty four percent of B.C. students are graduating...
- ...And more Aboriginal students and students with special needs are graduating now than ever before – with completion rates at 64% and 67% respectively.

THEME FIVE: Curriculum & coding

- World-leading results like these are what we are building on with our new curriculum.
- Our goal is to provide B.C. students with the hands-on experience, collaboration, critical thinking and communications skills they need to succeed in today's rapidly changing world.
- We are now halfway through the rollout of the new curriculum – by school year 2018/19 it will be fully implemented across the province.
- I've had the pleasure of visiting schools all over B.C. and seeing firsthand how the new curriculum is coming to life in the classroom.
- Students are learning all kinds of cool things under the new curriculum, including coding.
- Coding is a hands-on way of teaching kids how to analyze a problem, determine the steps to fix it, and direct a machine to carry out those steps.
- The skills coding teaches can be used in almost any field – and basic coding can be the launch pad to a career in the tech sector.

THEME SIX: Parent consultation – student reporting

- As the new curriculum rolls out in classrooms, we're consulting with parents about how we can enhance the information they receive on their child's progress.
- Whether that's through parent teacher meetings, regular student/parent/teacher check-ins, or the use of technology to show students' work.
- Parents can share their thoughts online at: engage.gov.bc.ca/yourkidsprogress, or attend a community meeting.
- Parents have been very engaged in person and online – with over 27,000 visits to the site and over 5,000 surveys completed.
- All the feedback received from parents will be considered when we produce a final report.

THEME SEVEN: Public consultation – rural education

- We're also in the midst of another important consultation with the public on rural education in B.C.

- We are talking to parents and community members to create a rural education strategy that looks at public school funding, the state of facilities, and the role education and schools play in rural communities.
- We're doing this because in rural areas, the local school is often the centre of the community and helps support the local economy.
- Rural communities often face unique challenges – decreasing enrolment, smaller community size, remoteness and harsh climates – that's why we are supporting them in unique ways...
- ...through funding protection, and with special supports like the Rural Education Enhancement Funding.
- In fact, 2016's \$2-million Rural Education Enhancement Fund kept seven eligible rural schools from closing.

THEME EIGHT: Additional Measures

- The Rural Education Enhancement Fund is just one of a number of additional measures we introduced this year to support student learning, help teachers bring the new curriculum to life and cut costs for families.

- Over the weekend I was very pleased to announce the new Student Learning Grant.
- This \$29.4-million one-time fund will help B.C. schools purchase classroom equipment...
- Everything from lab supplies and textbooks, to computer programs and sports equipment.
- This funding will help bring B.C.'s new curriculum to life in the classroom, so students can gain the hands-on experience, collaboration, critical thinking and communications skills they need to succeed in college, university and the workforce.
- We have already invested \$6 million to train teachers on coding and B.C.'s new curriculum and to buy computers for classrooms.
- As part of the ongoing negotiations with the BCTF, we gave districts \$50 million so they can immediately begin hiring more teachers and improve student supports for the 2016-17 school year.
- We introduced the \$14.7-million Student Transportation Fund to help school districts make bus services more affordable, reliable and accessible for students and families.

- \$25 million of administrative savings returned to school districts to help them invest in students.
- All of these measures –
 - The Rural Education Enhancement Fund
 - The Student Learning Grant,
 - The \$6 million to implement coding and new curriculum
 - The administrative savings
 - The Student Transportation Fund
 - And the \$50 million to hire more teachers –
- Are in addition to our record \$5.1-billion funding to school districts in 2016.
- And together, they equal an extra \$125 million flowing to school districts over the course of the last year.
- With today's Budget delivering an historic increase to education funding, we are poised to build on these investments for an even better 2017.

THEME NINE: Budget 2017

- We're committing an additional \$740 million in operating funds over the next three years.

- That is in addition to \$400 million in previously announced increases that have yet to enter the system.
- Added together, B.C.'s education system will benefit from an additional \$1.1 billion in funding over the next three years.
- This is great news for students, parents, teachers, and communities right across our province.
- We already have one of the best education systems anywhere.
- B.C. students have among the very best outcomes in the world.
- And this new funding means we can take things to the next level.
- We have the strongest economy in Canada.
- More people have jobs. More people are moving to B.C.
- We have growing communities and families.
- That means we need more teachers and more classrooms.

- On April 1, B.C.'s education budget will increase to \$5.9 billion. That's a record year-over-year increase of \$314 million -- or a 5.6 percent lift.
- This historic increase allows us to:
 - Fully fund enrolment growth (\$228 million);
 - Cover teacher and support staff wage increases (\$44 million);
 - Help districts manage inflationary and operating pressures (\$94 million);
 - Improve student transportation and eliminate bussing fees (\$45 million);
 - Keep more rural schools opens (\$9 million); and,
 - Provide ongoing support for the estimated 1,100 new teachers entering the system under the interim agreement with the BCTF (\$320 million).
- Education funding is up 44% under our tenure.
- That's an increase of more than \$1.8 billion per year.

THEME TEN: Capital Budget 2017

- In addition, over the next three years, we're committing \$2 billion in capital spending to upgrade or build new schools.
- Our total capital for this coming year is over half a billion dollars (\$687 million) – that's up 36% (\$183 million) compared to 2016.
- This means we can continue to make record investments to replace aging facilities, build more student spaces in growing communities, improve seismic safety, and ensure schools are well-functioning and equipped.

THEME ELEVEN: BCTF Negotiations

- Negotiations with the BCTF on implementing the restored clauses continue. I want to commend the parties on the important progress that has been made so far.
- It is not helpful to presume the outcome or cost of any final agreement.
- Suffice it to say that Budget 2017 fully supports the negotiated commitments we've made to date.

- Once we have a final agreement on implementing the restored language, further funding will be identified within the fiscal plan to the extent that it is required.
- In January, in response to the Supreme Court Decision, we announced an interim agreement with the BCTF where we provided school districts with \$50 million so they could immediately begin hiring upward of 1,100 teachers.
- Of the \$1.1 billion in increased funding over the next three years, \$320 million is specifically earmarked to sustain these new teaching positions.
- This is in addition to the Learning Improvement Fund, which was established in 2012 to help address class size and composition.
- This fund allows for \$310 million in classroom supports over the next three years, of which \$248 million is specifically earmarked for more teachers or teacher hours.
- The Learning Improvement Fund was established in response to the BCTF's legal case and this funding is an integral component of any final resolution.

- The Learning Improvement Fund provisions will continue until there is a final agreement.

CONCLUSION

- This past year was a banner one for British Columbia's students and education system.
- With Budget 2017 we are building on our success, and I can't wait to see what the year ahead brings.
- Thank you.

Key Messages – Budget 2017

Minister Mike Bernier

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Added together, B.C.'s education system will benefit from an additional \$1.1 billion in funding over the next three years.

In addition, Budget 2017 supports \$2 billion in capital spending to upgrade or build new schools.

This is great news for students, parents, teachers, and communities right across our province.

We already have one of the best education systems anywhere. B.C. students have among the very best outcomes in the world. And this new funding means we can take things to the next level.

We have the strongest economy in Canada. More people have jobs. More people are moving to B.C. We have growing communities and families. That means we need more teachers and more classrooms.

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Our total capital for this coming year is over half a billion dollars (\$687 million) – that up 36% (\$183 million) compared to 2016.

Budget 2017 builds on Government's longstanding commitment to education.

Our record is clear: student outcomes are up, especially for First Nations and students with special needs.

Education funding is up 44% under our tenure. That's an increase of more than \$1.8 billion per year. We've already invested about \$4.5 billion in new school construction, expansions and seismic upgrades.

We have great teachers and we are in the midst of implementing an exciting new curriculum. Our goal is to provide B.C. students with the hands-on experience, collaboration, critical thinking and communications skills they need to succeed in rapidly changing world.

BCTF Negotiations

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Key Messages – Learning supports and B.C.'s new curriculum

Response to Glen Hansman's post-budget comments on needing \$60M each year/three years to support B.C.'s new curriculum.

Budget 2017 provides a record increase of \$314 million to education funding - including money for districts to use to renew their learning resources.

B.C.'s new curriculum is ensuring our students have the skills they need to succeed. I am excited K-9 students throughout the province are already learning from our new curriculum – and that 10-12 students are not far behind with some already learning elements of the draft curriculum now. I have even had the pleasure of visiting schools all over B.C. to see first-hand how the new curriculum is coming to life.

Every school year, districts use a portion of their funding to renew learning resources. As announced in Budget 2017, B.C.'s \$5.9 billion investment into education will make it even easier for districts to do just that – and support student learning through the new curriculum.

To date:

- The B.C. government is investing \$6 million to support coding and the new curriculum. This includes training teachers and helping buy computers so coding and the new curriculum are a success.
- The first year of the new curriculum roll-out, ten new hours of non-instructional time was provided for all public school teachers to quickly become familiar with the new curriculum.
- More than 2,000 teachers received training through local learning sessions, and travel support was made available to rural school districts to support teachers attending these sessions.
- In 2016/17, five new hours of non-instructional time for public school teachers is being made available, and one existing professional development day is being designated to new curriculum training. The same will happen in 2017/18.

I also recently announced \$29 million through the Student Learning Grant to support student learning, cut costs for families and bring B.C.'s new curriculum to classrooms. Public and independent schools will use the one-time funding to purchase a wide range of supplies, resources and equipment for schools and classroom – everything from textbooks, hands-on learning tools and computer programs, to athletic equipment, art supplies and lab equipment – to help teachers deliver B.C.'s new curriculum.

It's also worth remembering that teachers often create their own resources and, through the new curriculum, we are giving teachers more tools and flexibility to teach the new curriculum and new funding will be available as we move forward.

Also, bringing in B.C.'s new curriculum doesn't require a whole new set of resources at once. We are halfway through the roll out of the redesigned curriculum, which was developed in collaboration with more than 200 B.C. teachers, and we will continue to build this momentum to support students and teachers for years to come.

ADVICE TO MINISTER

CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE Ministry: Advanced Education Date: Feb. 20, 2017 Minister Responsible: Hon. Andrew Wilkinson	Budget 2017
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ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- The Ministry of Advanced Education budget will increase to \$2.046 billion in 2019-20 from \$1.947 billion in 2016-17 as part of Budget 2017.
- The Ministry of Advanced Education budget will increase 4.3% to \$2.031 billion in 2017-18 from \$1.947 in 2016-17. The \$84.323-million increase in 2017-18 includes:
 - \$58.925 million for Ministry negotiated staff agreements.
 - \$2.5 million to boost internet connectivity for post-secondary institutions.
 - \$1.5 million to support mental health initiatives for post-secondary students.
 - \$14.4 million to support #BCTECH Strategy (\$46 million over three years).
 - \$5.199 million for Emily Carr University of Art and Design.
 - \$1.7 million for student services programs.
- Operating grants will increase from \$1.856 billion in 2016-17 to \$1.939 billion in 2017-18 and to \$1.955 billion in 2019-20.
- B.C. student loan interest rate will be cut from 5.2% to 2.7% (prime) effective Aug. 1, 2017.

IF ASKED ABOUT ECONOMIC STABILITY MANDATE INCREASES:

- Government continues to support the Economic Stability Mandate.
- Economic Stability Mandate funding of \$100.54 million in 2017-18 to fund post-secondary employees negotiated wage increase includes a lift of \$22.3 million and will continue to be funded in 2018-19 and 2019-20.
- The Economic Stability Mandate provides public sector employees with the opportunity to share in the economic growth of the Province.

CAPITAL INVESTMENTS:

- Budget 2017 includes a direct investment of \$1.028 billion over the next three years in provincial funding. Projects include:
 - The five-storey, 15,000-square-metre, \$126-million Energy Systems Engineering Building at SFU Surrey. Provincial funding is \$45 million. Completion is expected in 2018.
 - The \$80 million upgrade and expansion to the undergraduate teaching laboratories at UBC. Provincial funding is \$11.8 million. Completion is expected in spring 2018.
 - The \$33-million trades training centre at Northern Lights College in Dawson

Creek. Provincial funding is \$15 million. Completion is expected in spring 2018.

- The \$36 million Chip and Shannon Wilson School of Design at Kwantlen Polytechnic University in Richmond. Provincial funding is \$12 million. Completion is expected by the end of 2017.

IF ASKED ABOUT #BCTECH FUNDING:

- Government is developing a number of initiatives to ensure that there is more home-grown talent to support the growing and diverse innovation economy.
- As noted in the BC Jobs Plan update released on Jan. 23, 2016, the government is taking steps to ensure that there is sufficient talent to support the continued growth of the sector and that British Columbians are first in line for job opportunities.
- Premier Christy Clark has tasked UBC president Santa Ono with establishing an innovation network to ensure continued growth in innovation industries with the main priority being the development of home-grown talent.
- Further details will be released in the #BCTECH Strategy at the #BCTECH Summit.

IF ASKED ABOUT STUDENT SPACE INCREASES:

- The overall post-secondary FTE target includes Ministry of Advanced Education and Industry Training Authority funded student spaces. These figures change over time, reflecting changes in programming mix and emphasis.
- Enrolment targets for the Ministry of Advanced Education reflect the commitment of government to align education and training with in-demand occupations, including the growing tech sector.
- Programming is being aligned throughout the post-secondary system with the top 100 occupations listed in the British Columbia 2025 Labour Market Outlook as well as priority health occupations, regional labour priorities, and programs for Aboriginal people and people with disabilities.
- High-priority occupations range from business, to professional to tech through to health and trades.

GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATIONS / GOVERNMENT DIGITAL EXPERIENCE:

- The budget for Government Communications / Government Digital Experience is expected to increase slightly from \$34.205 million in 2017-18 to \$34.357 million in 2019-20. GCPE has two divisions including Government Digital Experience which became part of GCPE in 2013.
- Government Communications will increase by \$79,000 from \$26.687 million in 2017-18 to \$26.766 million in 2019-20.

BACKGROUND REGARDING THE ISSUE:

The three-year allocation for the Ministry of Advanced Education in Budget 2017 includes an increase of \$14.501. The Budget was introduced on Feb. 21, 2017.

Questions may be asked about no funding increase for the Economic Stability Mandate in 2018-19 and 2019-20. Budget 2017 includes \$100.54 million in 2017-18 for collective agreement costs. This includes a \$22.3 million lift. However, this has not been annualized in the following two years. The Ministry of Finance has confirmed that funding is included within the fiscal plan and will be added in

ADVICE TO MINISTER

a future budget.

Budget 2017 identifies an additional \$87 million over three years to support the tech sector. The Ministry of Advanced Education will receive \$46 million of the funding with the remainder shared with JTST (\$20M), MTICS (\$18M) and MIT (\$3M).

	Sub-Vote Description	Restated Estimates 2016/17 (000's)	2017/18 Estimates (\$000)	2018/19 Plan (\$000)	2019/20 Plan (\$000)
Vote 13	Educational Institutions and Organizations (EIO)	1,856,886	1,939,200	1,937,189	1,955,163
	Student Support Programs	70,374	72,076	70,395	70,395
	Private Training Institutions	1	1	1	1
	Executive and Support Services	19,922	20,229	20,448	20,448
	TOTAL Vote 13	1,947,183	2,031,506	2,028,033	2,046,007
Vote 14	Government Communications	26,658	26,687	26,766	26,766
	Government Digital Experience	7,221	7,518	7,591	7,591
	TOTAL Vote 14	33,879	34,205	34,357	34,357
Votes 13 & 14	MINISTRY TOTAL	1,981,062	2,065,711	2,062,390	2,080,364

The Economic Stability Mandate applies to all public sector employers with unionized employees whose collective agreements expired on or after December 31, 2013. The mandate provides employers with the ability to negotiate longer-term agreements and offers public sector employees an opportunity to participate in the economic growth. If actual GDP growth is one percentage point above forecast GDP growth, then a 0.5% wage increase would result, beyond whatever wage increase was negotiated.

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