Climate Leadership Plan:

Ministry of Environment August 2016

CARBON PRICING

1. Why have you not addressed the carbon tax?

- As committed to in 2013, the revenue-neutral carbon tax is frozen at \$30 a tonne until 2018. B.C. continues to have the highest and most comprehensive carbon tax in North America.
- An increase to the carbon tax before other provinces come to the table could potentially be unaffordable and harmful to B.C.'s economy.
- Our revenue-neutral carbon tax does not choose winners or losers. It simply taxes pollution while allowing B.C.'s economy to grow and jobs to be created.
- Carbon pricing is currently being discussed with our provincial and federal partners as part of a pan-Canadian approach to climate action.
- B.C. supports the adoption of the province's price on carbon as a benchmark, and will consider changes to our carbon tax in an affordable way, once others catch up.
- Any mechanism must be in place to keep industries that are emission-intensive and trade-exposed competitive with other jurisdictions.
- We will also protect jobs by ensuring that our province is globally competitive and remains a great place to invest.

2. How does B.C.'s carbon tax compare with other jurisdictions?

- Since the introduction of our Climate Action Plan in 2008, B.C. has been recognized as a world leader in the fight against climate change.
- We have shown we can reduce GHG emissions while continuing to grow the economy.
- B.C. was the first jurisdiction in North America to introduce a broad-based, revenue-neutral carbon tax, and to have a carbon-neutral public sector.
- Our new Climate Leadership Plan is being designed to not only keep us on a track where we can achieve our long term GHG reduction goals, but also allow us to maintain a strong economy and grow green jobs.
- Independent studies have found that since the implementation of the tax between 2008 and 2012 – fuel use in B.C. dropped by 16% per capita, while it has risen in the rest of Canada.
- There's increasing global recognition not only that carbon pricing is necessary to reduce GHG emissions, but that B.C.'s broad-based, revenue-neutral carbon tax is a successful model to follow.
- B.C.'s carbon tax has been profiled in the Economist, the New York Times and the LA Times as a leading environmental policy.

Strictly Confidential Page 1 of 7

 In a December 2014 speech, World Bank President Jim Yong Kim praised B.C.'s carbon tax as "one of the most powerful" examples of carbon pricing.

CLIMATE LEADERSHIP PLAN

3. How much will B.C.'s Climate Leadership Plan cost taxpayers?

- As part of the creation of this plan, we have provided estimate costs towards the provincial budgeting process.
- These costs will be vetted against all government priorities during the 2017 provincial budgeting process.
- We are also working with the federal government and other provinces and territories to implement a coordinated climate action framework.
- Once this pan-Canadian approach is established and budgets finalized, we will
 provide B.C.'s final funding commitments to support the actions outlined our
 Climate Leadership Plan.

4. Do you have estimates for investments required to implement the new actions found in the plan?

- We have used a combination of economic modelling and input from ministries responsible, including potential cost estimates, to forecast both economic and emission reduction impacts of the plan.
- We will provide more information on final funding commitments as work progresses on the pan-Canadian framework for climate action and provincial budgets are approved and finalized.
- 5. You've previously said you'd have a draft Climate Leadership Plan ready for public comment last December. Then you said you'd have a Climate Leadership Plan out in the spring. And now you only have the start of a new plan. Why are you not meeting your public commitments?
 - We've previously laid out, and followed, a planned, year-long schedule to ensure BC's new Climate Leadership Plan was well-informed by all British Columbians.
 - Last spring we announced the Climate Leadership Team which, last fall, provided us advice and recommendations for a new Plan.
 - Last summer we conducted our first public engagement, the results of which helped the Climate Leadership Team do its work.
 - We shared the CLT's recommendations and launched a second public engagement to further refine proposed elements of a new plan.
 - In addition, since the federal election we had an entirely new climate action landscape in Canada. Our process now dovetails with the new Federal process.
 - This includes the Vancouver Declaration, signed in March, which has since led to work towards a pan-Canadian approach to climate action.
 - We are ensuring the actions we take in B.C. support a national climate vision.

Strictly Confidential Page 2 of 7

6. How do you view Alberta/Ontario/federal government's actions they're taking to combat climate change?

- We are encouraged by actions other jurisdictions are taking in order to catch up to the policies B.C. has already implement. We have a proven track record of reducing our emissions while growing a strong economy.
- We are working towards a national carbon pricing strategy that will ensure that B.C. is not alone in combatting climate change.
- We are pleased other jurisdictions are prepared to join B.C. in the fight against climate change.

7. Critics have long maintained you would never achieve your legislated 2020 GHG reduction target. Are you finally admitting that?

- We have always said that the 2020 target would be very difficult to achieve.
- The Climate Leadership Team has come to the same conclusion, and has said its recommendations would not be enough to achieve that level of GHG reduction required to meet the 2020 target.
- However their recommendations would put us on a pathway to ensure the 2050 target can be met, and we are committed to achieving that 2050 target.
- 8. Are you not concerned your climate policy is not aggressive enough and will not achieve necessary GHG reductions/ is too aggressive and will force the closure of industrial operations because they can't be competitive in BC?
 - British Columbia has a history of caring for our natural environment as well as our economic environment.
 - We have proven to be world leaders in showing how to protect our environment for future generations, while allowing for a thriving resource based economy and good-paying, family-supporting jobs throughout BC.
 - We will continue that leadership in our natural resource economy and in our progressive environmental policies, including in our land base, our water and our airsheds.
- 9. Critics have said you already have the information you need to reduce GHGs and reach climate goals, rather you just haven't had the political will to enact the necessary policies. How do you respond?
 - B.C.'s 2008 Climate Action Plan was ground breaking, and put B.C. on the path to unquestioned global leadership around climate action.
 - It also was designed to only take us part ways to our climate reduction goals.
 Those goals have been met, as evidenced by successfully achieving a 6 per cent GHG reduction by 2012, while continuing to grow our economy.
 - However, the Climate Action Plan was designed to require updating to respond to present day climate challenges with present day climate solutions.

Strictly Confidential Page 3 of 7

- That is precisely the exercise we are undertaking with our new Climate Leadership Plan.
- 2016 is not 2008. The advances in technology alone mean we can tap new climate fighting initiatives.
- So, those who say we should not explore new technology to reduce GHGs or ask British Columbians for their input into how we can best achieve our climate goals are free to express that opinion. But it is an opinion I vehemently disagree with.

CLIMATE LEADERSHIP TEAM RECOMMENDATIONS

10. Why did you not accept all of the CLT's recommendations?

- The first phase of the Climate Leadership Plan that we've released reflects many of the CLT's recommendations.
- As we continue our work with federal and provincial partners on a pan-Canadian approach to climate action, you can expect to see more of the CLT's recommendations reflected.
- Further actions will be announced after the federal government releases their pan-Canadian approach to climate action, and the remaining recommendations will continue to be considered.

11. The CLT recommended such things as eliminating the PST on electricity rates and establishing an innovation fund to support energy-intensive trade-exposed sectors. Why did you not accept those specific action items?

- The CLT came up with some ideas to support emissions-intensive trade-exposed sectors.
- But our first priority is to discuss this directly with industry and our provincial and federal partners and, together, see if we can't establish a mechanism that meets the needs of both industry and government.
- Those discussions will continue over the coming months.

12. The CLT recommended a one point reduction in PST supported by incremental carbon tax. Why did you not accept that specific action item?

The CLT stated that they were not explicitly recommending a PST 1% cut in 2018 in their recommendation 4. The CLT recognized that the fiscal impacts of their recommendations were complex and further diligent analysis would be required.

The Commission on Tax Competitiveness is currently undertaking a review of the provincial tax regime, including the PST, to examine whether the current tax regime, is best suited to enable business competitiveness and encourage investment in our economy.

Strictly Confidential Page 4 of 7

Our ability to do business across distances and time zones has transformed the provincial, national and global economies. British Columbia's economy is also evolving as a result of changing demographics, advances in technology and the growing importance of the service sector. Given these changes, British Columbia's business tax structure is being examined to ensure it effectively promotes productivity, investment and growth in a modern economy.

13. What would a new mechanism to address emissions-intensive trade-exposed sectors look like?

- Any new mechanism to address emissions intensive trade exposed sectors would be designed around the value of protecting industry competitiveness and B.C. jobs.
- It is important that actions we take combat climate change as well as protect and create opportunities for B.C. families.
- We are actively engaged with industry as well as our provincial and federal partners to do a couple things:
 - Firstly, we need to establish the criteria to determine specifically which sectors are, in fact, emissions-intensive trade-exposed sectors that would be harmed by an increased carbon tax.
 - Secondly, we need to find out what potential remedies would work best for industry and for government.
- These are discussions that will continue over the coming months.

ENGAGEMENT

14. What were the results of your two public engagements?

- Between the first engagement last summer and the second engagement earlier this year, government received:
 - o 7,604 online feedback forms
 - o 8,282 emails; and
 - Over 300 detailed submissions
- Input was also received from over 300 organizations, local governments, and businesses via webinars, meetings, teleconferences, and email.
- The Climate Leadership Plan website received over 27,000 visits.
- The discussion and consultation guides were downloaded 7,425 times.

15. What kinds of topics were discussed?

- Several themes were identified throughout the engagement process:
 - Transportation
 - Clean tech and clean energy
 - Carbon tax
 - Community, homes and living
 - Economy

Strictly Confidential Page 5 of 7

- Values
- Consultation process
- Climate adaptation
- the CLT report
- Clean tech, clean energy and transportation themes were among the most popular discussion topics week over week.

16. Why was a detailed survey and public polling by Ipsos Reid never done, as you'd committed to?

- Government received detailed comments on a wide variety of topics from thousands of British Columbians. The second consultation period was also extended to ensure everyone who wanted to participate in this process had the opportunity and time to do so.
- The single, high-level question from the second engagement that was posted on the website provoked thoughtful and valuable feedback.
- We wanted to know the public's thoughts on the most important actions we can
 take to lower our greenhouse gas emissions and take advantage of the low
 carbon economy of the future. We accomplished just that through the single,
 open-ended question, and so the detailed survey and Ipsos Reid polling wasn't
 necessary.
- In addition to receiving public comments, staff from multiple ministries met with industry leaders to get their input on the next phase of climate action in B.C.

17. How was feedback from the first public consultation used? What about the Climate Leadership Team's recommendations?

- The feedback we received in the first round of public consultation from British Columbians helped inform government and the Climate Leadership Team.
- The Climate Leadership Team recommended a wide range of actions for us to consider.

18. Why did you have separate consultations with industry?

- Just like the public, it was important we engaged with industry on our new Climate Leadership Plan.
- We wanted to ensure industries in B.C. remain competitive and can continue to provide job opportunities for B.C. families.
- There was a broad range of topics and proposed actions on the table across industrial, transportation and buildings sectors. We needed industry's input on actions, programs and policies to achieve our GHG reduction targets, while considering other of government's economic and resource objectives.
- Ministry staff met with industry leaders to have further conversations around the next steps for implementing the plan.

Strictly Confidential Page 6 of 7

19. Will a summary of the responses be provided? When? Will submissions be confidential?

- Submissions provided through the online form have been summarized and posted to the Climate Leadership Plan website.
- All submissions sent by organizations are also posted to the website.
- Individual form responses were not posted to the engagement website.
- Results and submissions from the first round of engagement can also be found on the website.

Strictly Confidential Page 7 of 7

Climate Leadership Plan: Second round of public engagement

Ministry of Environment January 2016

1. Why is government consulting with the public/stakeholders?

- We're taking the next step in climate leadership by engaging with British
 Columbians on new climate actions that will support a growing economy and help
 achieve our climate goals.
- We want to know the public's priorities regarding this next phase of climate action.
- Public input is essential as the Climate Leadership Plan will help shape how we live, travel, and work for decades to come.
- We want to ensure a wide range of views are considered in developing a new climate action plan we all can be proud of.

2. You've previously said you'd have a draft Climate Leadership Plan ready for public comment in December, but it's now January. What changed?

- We've previously laid out, and are following, a planned, year-long schedule to ensure B.C.'s new Climate Leadership Plan is well-informed by all British Columbians.
 - In the spring of 2015, we announced the Climate Leadership Team (CLT), which has now provided us advice and recommendations for a new plan.
 - In the summer of 2015, we conducted our first public engagement, the results of which helped the Climate Leadership Team do its work. We have posted the CLT's recommendations on the Climate Leadership Plan website.
 - The new Climate leadership Plan will be released this spring 2016.
- Initially we thought a draft plan could be in place in December. However, we needed to take the necessary time to properly review and consider the very detailed and thoughtful recommendations we've received from the Climate Leadership Team.
- In addition, since the federal election we have an entirely new climate action landscape in Canada, and we want to ensure the actions we take in B.C. support a national climate vision.
- It is important that all British Columbians be a part of this process, and so further engagement is the right thing to do.

Strictly Confidential Page 1 of 4

3. What does this engagement entail? How long do people have to provide comments?

- This second public consultation is very similar to the first engagement period.
- This consultation runs from January 25, 2016 until March 25, 2016 (60 days) with the online release of the consultation guide.
- Citizens are encouraged to email us at climateleadershipplan@gov.bc.ca or complete the online form_and share their thoughts and ideas on the most important actions we can take to lower our greenhouse gas emissions and take advantage of the low carbon economy of the future.
- Concurrent with the public engagement, sector-specific industry consultations will also take place, along with public polling by Ipsos Reid.
- A more detailed survey will also be posted during the engagement period.

4. Why are you undertaking public polling?

 Along with input solicited through the public engagement period, public polling is being undertaken to ensure a represented sample of British Columbians is canvassed.

5. Why are you having separate consultations with industry? How will you be consulting with them?

- Just like the public, it is important we engage with industry on our new climate leadership plan.
- We want to ensure a wide range of views are considered in developing a new plan we all can be proud of.
- There are a broad range of topics and proposed actions on the table across industrial, transportation and buildings sectors. We need industry's input on actions, program and policies to achieve our GHG reduction targets, while considering other government's economic and resource objectives.
- We will be reaching out and having deeper discussions with industry leaders very soon.

6. After nine months, why is the extent of your engagement only asking for the public's thoughts in a single, high-level question about the climate plan?

- We want the final plan to reflect the values of British Columbians.
- To begin this next round of engagement, and because we realize this is a very complex issue, we want people to focus on a single question and provide as much of their feedback as possible.
- This is a lengthier, more comprehensive approach, which is why we have allotted 60 days for this engagement period.

Strictly Confidential Page 2 of 4

7. How can people submit their comments?

- The consultation guide can be found on the B.C. government's Climate Action Leadership website – http://engage.gov.bc.ca/climateleadership
- The public is invited to provide feedback, including submissions, on preferences for a new Climate Leadership Plan by emailing climateleadershipplan@gov.bc.ca or filling out the online form at engage.gov.bc.ca/climateleadership

8. Will submissions be confidential?

- Written submissions, including stakeholder submissions, will be posted to the web site. Personal information from private citizens will be removed.
- Submissions provided through the online form will be summarized at a later date and posted to the website.
- Summaries of stakeholder discussions will be posted to the website.
- Individual surveys will be kept confidential.

9. Will a summary of survey results be provided? When?

- A summary of all the survey results will be publicly posted after the period to provide comments has ended and government has had time to review and compile responses.
- Results and submissions from the first round of engagement can be found on the Climate Leadership Plan website.

10. Can the public comment on other submissions?

- While we are encouraging a public conversation around our future climate actions, British Columbians will not be able to comment on other submissions.
- The climate conversation is widely discussed complex issue with a variety of viewpoints. An open forum could be counterproductive to getting real responses to this important topic.
- We want to know what citizens' feel are the most important actions we can take
 to lower our greenhouse gas emissions and take advantage of the low carbon
 economy of the future.
- Government needs time to review and compile responses received and ensure public responses posted to the web are free of personal information.

11. What are the next steps?

- When this engagement period concludes March 25, government will review the public and stakeholder industry feedback received, and the results of the Ipsos Reid public polling.
- Government will further analyze options, including the CLT recommendations for the final plan.
- The final Climate Leadership Plan will be released in the spring.

Strictly Confidential Page 3 of 4

12. How was feedback from the first public consultation used? What about the Climate Leadership Team's recommendations?

- The feedback we received in the first round of public consultation from British Columbians helped inform government and the Climate Leadership Team.
- The Climate Leadership Team recommended a wide range of actions for us to consider.
- We are carefully reviewing these recommendations.

13. How will the cabinet working group on climate leadership and this public engagement align with the pan-Canadian approach to climate action that the federal government is proposing?

- The Prime Minister and federal environment minister have both been very clear that the various regions of the country are different, and that different approaches to reducing harmful emissions may well be appropriate.
- B.C. is working with the federal government, provinces and territories to establish a Pan-Canadian Framework to meet national greenhouse gas emission targets.
- B.C.'s is recognized as a global leader. We have been very successful in reducing our emissions while growing our economy.
- We will build on that success with our next Climate Leadership Plan.
- At the same time we will be an active partner, along with the other provinces and the federal government, to move our nation's fight against climate change forward.

14. What would a new mechanism to address emissions-intensive trade-exposed sectors look like?

- We will sit down with industry to do a couple things:
- Firstly, we would need to establish the criteria to determine specifically which sectors are in fact emissions-intensive trade-exposed sectors that would be harmed by an increased carbon tax.
- Secondly we would then speak directly with them to find out what potential remedies would work best for them and for government.
- These are discussions that will take place over the coming months.

Strictly Confidential Page 4 of 4

Release of the Climate Leadership Team's Recommendations

Ministry of Environment November 2015

1. What were the Climate Leadership Team's recommendations? Is government accepting all the recommendations? What about (specific) recommendation?

- I want to thank all the members of the Climate Leadership Team for their hard work, their dedication to this very important endeavor, and for the thoughtful, constructive recommendations they've put forward.
- In their report, the Climate Leadership Team recommended a wide range of actions for us to consider, including:
 - The need to set and maintain clear goals
 - To underpin those with regular monitoring of our progress
 - And a range of other actions that can bring down emissions in BC.
 - They also recommended that we build on the success of our carbon tax to consider a new, integrated fiscal policy.
 - This would involve a mechanism to protect the competitiveness of industries that are emissions-intensive and trade exposed...while sending a higher price signal for carbon.
- We are now going to carefully review the recommendations, and engage further with British Columbians in January.
- Government's final Climate Leadership Plan we release in the spring will be an
 incredibly important public policy that must be crafted with care, insight and the
 input from all British Columbians.

2. What would a new mechanism to address emissions-intensive trade-exposed sectors look like?

- We will sit down with industry to do a couple things:
- Firstly, we would need to establish the criteria to determine specifically which sectors are in fact emissions-intensive trade-exposed sectors that would be harmed by an increased carbon tax.
- Secondly we would then speak directly with them to find out what potential remedies would work best for them and for government.
- These are discussions that will take place over the coming months.

Strictly Confidential Page 1 of 5

- 3. The CLT recommends such things as eliminating the PST on electricity rates and establishing an innovation fund to support energy-intensive trade-exposed sectors. Will you accepting those specific action items?
 - The CLT has come up with some ideas to support emissions-intensive tradeexposed sectors.
 - But our first priority is to discuss this directly with industry and, together with them, see if we can't establish a mechanism that meets the needs of both industry and government.
- 4. Will you raise the carbon tax? How much will raise the carbon tax? When will you raise the carbon tax? Will you extend the freeze on the carbon tax? Will you peg increases to the carbon tax to inflation like Alberta? Will you keep the carbon tax revenue neutral?
 - Putting a price on carbon is recognized as the most effective tool for reducing GHGs. And a carbon tax is generally regarded by economists as the most effective form of carbon pricing.
 - In fact our revenue neutral carbon tax has been praised by international leaders like Jim Yong Kim, President of the World Bank, who called it "one of the most powerful" examples of carbon pricing.
 - Our carbon tax is currently one of the highest in world at \$30 a tonne. It has been
 effective in helping us to reduce GHGs, while still leaving money in the pockets of
 B.C.s families and businesses through corresponding tax cuts.
 - The Climate Leadership Team has recognized that we cannot make changes to government climate policy like the carbon tax that will put emissions intensive, trade exposed industries at risk.
 - It does not help any of us if those industries face competitive pressures such that they simply move their emissions elsewhere.
 - In answer to that, the Team has recommended a concept for an entirely new carbon pricing mechanism that would send a higher carbon price signal, while at the same time, fully protecting those industries.
 - We will be looking at the Team's recommendation more closely, and will be consulting with those vulnerable industries in the coming months.
 - We will not raise the carbon tax in 2018 or afterwards, unless we
 - Maintain the principle of revenue neutrality
 - Develop anew mechanism to protect the competitiveness of BC's job creators in emissions intensive/trade exposed industries,
 - Ensure competitiveness for BC businesses
 - Ensure affordability for British Columbians.
 - However, this is the kind of innovative, forward thinking that will keep B.C. in a
 global leadership position, because we will demonstrate to the world that we can
 reduce emissions while having a thriving economy.

Strictly Confidential Page 2 of 5

- 5. Critics have long maintained you would never achieve your legislated 2020 GHG reduction target. Are you finally admitting that?
 - We have always said that the 2020 target would be very difficult to achieve.
 - The Climate Leadership Team has come to the same conclusion, and has said its recommendations would not be enough to achieve that level of GHG reduction required to meet the 2020 target.
 - However their recommendations would put us on a pathway to ensure the 2050 target can be met.
 - They have also recommended setting a 2030 target, which is something many other jurisdictions are doing.
 - At the COP 21 climate summit in Paris these are the discussions I and Minister Polak will be having with other jurisdictions around the world, as well as with our federal and provincial partners right here in Canada.
 - We want to make sure we are in alignment with other jurisdictions because a coordinate approach to fighting climate change has a much better chance of success.
- 6. Are you not concerned your climate policy is not aggressive enough and will not achieve necessary GHG reductions/ is too aggressive and will force the closure of industrial operations because they can't be competitive in BC?
 - British Columbia has a history of striking the right balance between caring for our natural environment as well as our economic environment.
 - We have always relied on our natural environment to generate wealth, jobs and economic opportunity. We will continue that investment in our natural resource economy.
 - Similarly we have a deserved global reputation for our natural splendour and our progressive environmental policies. We will continue that investment in our natural environment - our land base, our water and our airsheds.
 - Our climate action plan has proven this delicate balance can be achieved. We have reduced our GHGs while being an economic leader in Canada.
 - It is essential we continue to strike this balance as we move our climate agenda forward.
 - I am fully confidant we are going to be world leaders in showing <u>how</u> to protect our environment for future generations, while allowing for a thriving resource based economy and good paying, family-supporting jobs throughout BC.

Strictly Confidential Page 3 of 5

7. How do you view Alberta/Ontario/federal government's actions they're taking to combat climate change?

- Since the introduction of our Climate Action Plan in 2008, B.C. has been recognized as a world leader in the fight against climate change.
- Whether at the national or sub-national level, B.C. has encouraged, and will continue to encourage other governments to take action to combat climate change – to meet or beat our carbon tax.
- We have proven we can reduce our emissions while growing a strong economy.
- We are pleased other jurisdictions are prepared to join B.C. in the fight against climate change.
- BC's new Climate Leadership Plan is being assembled with the advice of the Climate Leadership Team, and through public consultation.
- We will carefully review the Climate Leadership Team's recommendations, and consult further with British Columbians before releasing our government's new Climate Leadership Plan in the spring.

8. Critics have said you already have the information you need to reduce GHGs and reach climate goals, rather you just haven't had the political will enact the necessary policies. How do you respond?

- B.C.'s 2007 Climate Action Plan was groundbreaking, and put B.C. on the path to unquestioned global leadership around climate action.
- It also was designed to only take us part ways to our climate reduction goals.
 Those goals have been met, as evidenced by successfully achieving a 6 per cent GHG reduction by 2012, while continuing to grow our economy.
- However, the Climate Action Plan was designed to require updating to respond to present day climate challenges with present day climate solutions.
- That is precisely the exercise we undertaking as we develop our new Climate Leadership Plan.
- 2015 is not 2007. The advances in technology alone mean we can tap new climate fighting initiatives.
- So, those who say we should not explore new technology to reduce GHGs or ask British Columbians for their input into how we can best achieve our climate goals are free to express that opinion. But it is an opinion I vehemently disagree with.

Strictly Confidential Page 4 of 5

- 9. You've previously said you'd have a draft Climate Leadership Plan ready for public comment in December, but now you're characterizing it as simply further engagement in January. What's changed?
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 - This past spring we announced the Climate Leadership Team, which has now provided us advice and recommendations for a new Plan.
 - This past summer we conducted our first public engagement, the results of which helped the Climate Leadership Team do its work.
 - We are now sharing the CLT's recommendations and will soon launch a second public engagement to further refine proposed elements of a new plan.
 - The new Climate leadership Plan will be released in Spring 2016.
 - Initially we thought a draft plan could be in place in December. However we will
 need to take the necessary time to properly review and consider the very detailed
 and thoughtful recommendations we've received from the Climate Leadership
 Team.
 - In addition, since the federal election we have an entirely new climate action landscape in Canada, and we want to ensure the actions we take in B.C. support a national climate vision.
 - It is important that all British Columbians be a part of this process, and so further engagement is the right thing to do.

Strictly Confidential Page 5 of 5