

Flatman, John CSCD:EX

From: Pochynok, Carlie JTST:EX
Sent: Thursday, January 19, 2017 12:41 PM
To: Wizinsky, Jennifer LASS:EX
Subject: FW: MSB OpEd
Attachments: MSB Uncertainty OpEd - v3 CP Edits.docx

Hey sorry – was told to go to Nick with this. Let me know if you have questions

From: Pochynok, Carlie JTST:EX
Sent: Thursday, January 19, 2017 12:38 PM
To: Koolsbergen, Nick LASS:EX
Subject: MSB OpEd

Hey Nick – can you give me a quick call about this when you get a chance? s.22
want to give some context

Thanks!

Carlie

. MSB wants this out today, just

Flatman, John CSCD:EX

From: Pochynok, Carlie JTST:EX
Sent: Thursday, January 19, 2017 12:04 PM
To: Currie, David GCPE:EX
Subject: OpEd
Attachments: MSB Uncertainty OpEd - v3 CP Edits.docx

As discussed

Uncertain times demand BC keep its eye on the ball

In my roles as the MLA for Prince George-Valemount and BC's jobs minister, I spend a lot of time traveling to many communities throughout BC and talking to British Columbians from all walks of life.

Thanks to more than a decade of record investments in health care, education, and skills training, more British Columbians than ever before are being trained, finding careers they love, and building the lives they want.

However, even as BC leads the country in economic growth and job creation, there's still some work to do. We have a responsibility to make sure that every region, community, and family shares in the benefits of that strong economy. That's why I was so pleased to see Cariboo-Chilcotin MLA Donna Barnett appointed Minister of State for Rural Development, with a mandate to help ensure long-term resilience of rural BC communities.

In some regions of the province, workers and their families are facing uncertainty. Global economic factors particularly in the natural resource sector are being felt most where many people work in those industries.

This isn't just a challenge in rural BC. Hundreds of thousands of jobs rely on BC's abundant natural resource wealth and so does the health of our overall economy.

It's important to note that we continue to get to yes on major projects that create jobs and opportunity throughout BC, projects like Site C and AltaGas' LNG terminal near Prince Rupert. Global giants like Microsoft and Amazon are hiring hundreds as part of BC's growing tech sector. With our focus on low taxes and balanced budgets, BC is a highly attractive place to invest.

BC has strong competitive advantages in forest products, technology, agriculture, mining, and many other industries and with sound government policies, our businesses continue to compete on the global stage.

These advantages depend on strong trading relationships around the world, so BC's export industries can get the best price for their products.

Now more than ever, it's critical that we continue to work with our federal government and our forest industry to ensure continued access to the U.S. market.

A new U.S administration, the looming renegotiation of the Softwood Lumber Agreement, instability in the European Union, and other developments around the world all demand that we keep fighting for British Columbia's interests.

"We're also going to continue our focus on diversifying markets in Asia, which now account for almost 40% of BC's exports, up from 27% in 2006.

In this uncertain global landscape, now is not the time to lose focus. Now is not the time to create uncertainty for job creators -- whether it's the local corner store, or the international company deciding where to invest. And now is certainly not the time to take more money out of the pockets of British Columbians with tax hikes.

As we engage in lively debate around the upcoming provincial budget and provincial election, let's not put our strong economy at risk with reckless spending, higher taxes, and more restrictive regulations.

Let's not take for granted the many things that are going right. And let's not put at risk what British Columbians have worked so hard to build.

From: Pochynok, Carlie JTST:EX
Sent: Thursday, January 19, 2017 4:03 PM
To: Chin, Ben PREM:EX; Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX; Mills, Shane PREM:EX
Cc: Verge, Kent JTST:EX
Subject: MSB Op Ed - Direction

Hi all

Seeking approval to run this op-ed from MSB, Van Sun will run this online tomorrow if you're ok with it. Text below:

Uncertain times demand BC keep its eye on the ball

In my roles as the MLA for Prince George-Valemount and BC's jobs minister, I spend a lot of time traveling to many communities throughout BC and talking to British Columbians from all walks of life.

After more than a decade of record investments in health care, education, and skills training, more British Columbians than ever before are being trained, finding careers they love, and building the lives they want.

However, even as BC leads the country in economic growth and job creation, there's still some work to do. We have a responsibility to make sure that every region, community, and family shares in the benefits of that strong economy.

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