

## ACKNOWLEDGE:

Hon. Amrik Virk

Bill Tam, president and CEO of BCTIA

Greg Peet, Premier's Technology Council co-chair

MLAs Bruce Ralston and George Heyman

You sometimes hear people referring to BC's tech sector as "untapped."

For an "untapped" industry, BC's tech sector makes a pretty big splash:

- Over \$23 billion in annual revenue.
- Over 86,000 jobs at more than 9,700 companies.
- Tech is the second-fastest private-sector job creator over the past decade.

If you were advising a young person about potential career paths, it's hard to find a better bet than tech.

In BC, they earn more than the average tech worker in Canada...  
And 60% more than the average British Columbian.

That's why we identified tech as one of the eight key industries to focus on in the BC Jobs Plan.

Because investors are looking for two things:  
A climate where business can thrive...  
And an educated, talented, creative workforce.

That's what's drawing some of the biggest names in the tech sector to BC, like Microsoft, Amazon, and Twitter.

And that's why BC boasts home-grown success stories and business potential, like Hootsuite, Global Relay, Westport and Stemcell Technologies...  
All competing on the world stage.

We're taking steps to ensure they can draw on a bigger pool of well-trained, tech-savvy talent.

B.C. is expecting one million job openings by 2022. 44 per cent of those will be in the skilled trades and technical occupations.

That's more than the population of Richmond and Burnaby – combined.

Think about the difference that will make in B.C.'s largest tech hubs: not just Vancouver, but Victoria and Kelowna. And Kamloops and Nanaimo are also growing quickly.

Some of the companies growing the fastest specialize in visual effects, software development, life sciences, and aerospace.

Clean technology is a quickly developing subsector, crossing over into many traditional industries, creating more efficient, effective and sustainable practices.

And then there's the snowball effect where the tech sector boosts other key sectors, including agri-foods, LNG, resource extraction, and health care.

Many of these developing sectors are well-represented by the nominees here today.

Together, you illustrate just how diverse the technology industry really is...

Innovation that will allow us to lessen our impact on the planet like Axine Water Technologies's water treatment solutions...

Innovation that connects people, like Sierra Wireless's internet connectivity and cloud services.

Innovation like Urthecast's software that allows us to see Earth as Commander Chris Hadfield saw it from the International Space Station.

And yet for all that success...  
In a sense, BC's tech industry IS untapped.  
Because there's still so much potential for growth.

I want to congratulate all of tonight's nominees who dream and shape our future...  
And those who invest and support the amazing people in this "untapped" industry.

Thank you.

-END-

International Day of Yoga

June 5, 2015

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

## ACKNOWLEDGE:

Lululemon Athletica

Y Yoga Studios

AltaGas

Earlier this year, I had a chance welcome the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, to Canada

And in between discussions about cultural ties, trade, and investment...

We naturally talked about yoga.

To say we have embraced yoga in BC is something of an understatement. That passion has spread across the country – and the continent.

From a few studios here in Vancouver...

To hundreds from coast to coast, and millions of people taking part.

It has become part of the cultural fabric.

In India, they see yoga a little differently.

It's a source of enormous cultural pride. It's one of the greatest cultural exports of an ancient civilization that also invented ink, buttons, and the concept of zero.

But it is yoga they consider their gift to the world.

When you're pushing yourself towards perfect posture in a difficult pose – you might not be thinking about India.

But there's no better example of the cultural, trade, and family ties that between us and India today...

Ties that have enriched us beyond measure.

International Day of Yoga  
June 5, 2015  
CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

This year, the world will thank India for this gift by celebrating the first-ever International Day of Yoga.

So I am pleased to officially proclaim June 21 the International Day of Yoga in British Columbia.

And to invite British Columbians from across the province to Vancouver.

Along with Lululemon, Y Yoga Studios, and AltaGas – we're going to set a record for the most downward dogs, sun salutations, and warrior poses.

Whether you're a master or have never tried yoga in your life – I hope you'll join us on June 21.

Thank you.

Hon. Steve Thomson  
Hon. Michelle Stilwell  
Don McRae  
Lee Doney, WFP Chairman of the Board

From the very beginning – Nanaimo has worked hard to build a diverse economy.

Fishing, logging, lumber milling, sandstone quarrying, and transport industries helped build the Harbour City.

But long before there was a modern city here – it all started with forestry.

The Snunéymuxw (Schnuh-Nai-Mo) were masters at using the land and trees for homes, canoes, works of art – everything.

Here in the Harbour City, and across the province, families depend on mills...

With more than 6,600 businesses creating more than 58,000 jobs.

Western Forest Products is a big part of that. They're the largest woodland operator and lumber producer on the coast...

And the largest cedar lumber manufacturer in North America.

Even the oldest industry has to adapt with the times.

That's why I'm pleased to announce that West Forest Products is putting \$30 million toward strategic capital investments as part of their continued investment in coastal BC.

This is in addition to the \$10 million they already invested in Duke Point Mill.

A large portion will be invested in Duke Point to continue modernizing the mill, and installing new technology.

The consolidation of Duke Point and the closure of the Nanaimo mill will increase lumber production here at Duke Point, and the Saltair sawmill in Ladysmith.

By making investments and staying competitive, this will ensure jobs stay right here – jobs you can depend on to raise a family.

Because if you're lucky enough to live and work in a city like Nanaimo – why would you ever want to leave?

Forestry has a bright future in BC. That's why we made it one of the key sectors of the BC Jobs Plan to ensure there

are good-paying forestry jobs across the province – and well-trained British Columbians to fill those jobs.

I want to thank Western Forest Products for their investment today...

Their confidence in B.C.'s forestry industry...

And for the men and women who will take advantage of the great opportunity here.

–END–

Parksville Chamber of Commerce

June 11, 2015

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

## ACKNOWLEDGE:

Hon. Michelle Stilwell

Mayor of Parksville Marc Lefebvre

Robynne Shaw, President, Parksville & District Chamber  
of Commerce

I'm here to tell you about our balanced budget...  
Our third consecutive balanced budget.

Some of the hard work that went into that,  
What having a balanced budget means for British  
Columbians...

And what it puts us in a position to do about our future.

For the Province. For Parksville and Vancouver Island.

A small province isn't supposed to thrive in a global  
recession. Other provinces have struggled to balance their  
books.

But we've worked to build a diverse economy, with diverse markets.

We've surprised the doubters.

This year, our surplus and our forecast allowance add up to almost a billion dollars.

There are those who want us to spend it all.

I say, let's pay off the debt.

Then we get the chance to go home and tell our kids that they're \$1 billion better off.

You can only control government spending through strong management every day.

The alternative is to spend more, tax more, and borrow more.

Make government bigger, and people's wallets smaller.

We believe in a different path. One that leads to a growing economy.

You achieve that by staying disciplined today.

You achieve that by sticking to your principles.  
You achieve that through a thriving private sector.

You know all about that in Parksville, and the Island.

You may be known for tourism – but look at the innovation taking place here.

Look at Ron Chiovetti. You just honoured his team at Isle Golf Cars as Business of the Year with Under 15 employees...

But if he keeps having success bringing zero-emission vehicles to the community...

He won't be eligible for that particular award much longer.

Or look down the highway in Nanaimo, where Inuktun Services has created a robot that will help remove damaged reactors in Fukushima.

Ideas coming from Parksville and Vancouver Island are making the world a cleaner, safer place – while creating opportunity and jobs right here.

**MICHELLE STILWELL**

When I look around this room, I see champions.  
Champions in business, and your community.

Michelle Stilwell is your champion. For you, and your community.

She has excelled at everything she has ever done.

To the best of my knowledge – she's the only gold medallist and world record holder in the legislature.

She brings that same determination to her new role.

From day one, she's been a fierce champion for Parksville-Qualicum and Vancouver Island.

When there was talk about closing Departure Bay – Michelle made sure that didn't happen.

She's been the driving force behind safety improvements on Wembley Road and Highway 19A, seven new school buses for Qualicum Beach, and expanding the Parksville-Qualicum Beach Wildlife Management Area.

She excelled as Caucus Chair, and now in Cabinet.

World champion athlete, and Minister of Social Development – that's a diverse resume.

Like Michelle, BC is no one-trick pony. We have a diverse economy and diverse markets for the exports we identified in the BC Jobs Plan.

- Forestry
- Technology
- Mining
- Agriculture
- Film
- Tourism
- Natural gas
- Clean energy

And we're diversifying our markets.

- In 2001: 70% of exports to United States. Just 2.3% to China.
- In 2014: just 51% to the United States. 40% to Pacific Rim, including Japan. About 20% to China alone.

We've worked hard to open new markets – and we are well ahead of our peers in Canada.

Consider Ontario...heavily dependent on a single market.  
Consider Alberta...heavily dependent on a single commodity.

It's BC's diverse economy – and diverse markets – that makes us strong and resilient.

It's working. Since we launched the BC Jobs Plan, 74,600 jobs have been created.

Promise made, promise kept.

It's the greatest reduction in unemployment in the country since the Jobs Plan was introduced.

Promise made, promise kept.

That's the path to building our future ...

And we build on a strong foundation of fiscal responsibility.

With three consecutive balanced budgets, we are unmatched in Canada when it comes to fiscal responsibility.

Promise made, promise kept.

That's a collective achievement. It took all of us in BC to get here – we shouldn't forget that.

I also don't want people to forget how hard it is to climb out of a fiscal hole.

I've had to do it twice.

In 2002, after ten years of the NDP, and in 2011, after the global recession.

Many other jurisdictions tried to hold off on digging themselves out. We've already done it.

Back in September 2009, spending was expected to grow by an average of 3 per cent every year.

Had that continued, we wouldn't have a surplus today. Instead, we'd have had a deficit of \$384 million. In two years, it would be almost \$2.5 billion.

That's enough to build the Oceanside Health Centre 148 times.

I'd rather spend money on a place like Oceanside, where every day:

- 69 people are treated in urgent care
- 33 people meet a mental health practitioner
- 11 women receive mammograms

That's a much better way to spend money.

And that's why I want to reduce and eliminate our operating debt – the credit card bill.

So we and our kids can be free of the need to borrow to pay for operating costs – the groceries.

## **MAJOR INVESTMENTS**

With our Skills for Jobs Blueprint, we're re-engineering the system to spend that money where it's needed most.

Before they reach that stage, we need to give our kids a strong foundation.

So we've budgeted another \$1.6 billion for K-12 infrastructure.

To continue our economic growth...to pay for all of this...we need to invest in the roads and bridges that let our goods get to market from every corner of the province.

So we've set aside \$2.9 billion for transportation infrastructure.

To get goods to market – and improve safety.

## **CREATING OPPORTUNITY**

Balanced Budget 2015 includes targeted tax measures that will encourage investment and job creation.

- Extending the BC Training Tax Credit to the end of 2017...so businesses have an incentive to train the next generation of skilled workers.
- Extending the Interactive Digital Media Tax Credit to 2018...supporting some of our most innovative businesses in sectors like video games and film.
- And we're going to increase the Small Business Venture Capital Tax Credit by \$3 million for 2015...encouraging investment in small business.

BC has some of the lowest corporate taxes in North America...and we intend to keep it that way.

But we will keep doing the same for families...leaving as much money as we can in their pockets.

Because we believe British Columbians can spend their own money better than the government can.

So we are maintaining the lowest personal provincial income taxes in Canada for individuals making up to \$122,000.

### **CLIMBING THE INCOME LADDER**

I know all of you in this room will continue to do well.

But we all do better when everyone does well. That's what makes strong communities.

Our best chance to succeed is if everyone is contributing, all the way down the bench.

Let me give you an example: there are 16,000 single parents on social assistance in BC.

For decades, governments have tried to get them off assistance and into jobs. And for decades we've failed.

I believe that most of those parents want to find work.  
They want to earn more.  
To be able to give their children more.  
They want to set a different example for their kids.

So we asked ourselves, why don't they?

Turns out that for years, while we've told single parents that we want them to go get jobs...  
And if you need to go back to get training to get the job...  
You'll have to find the money to pay for it yourself.

Then you'll have to pay for the cost of the bus or a car to get there every day.

Then you'll have to figure out who will look after your kids.  
Yes, you'll have to pay for that too.

Oh, and the day you start your first class – not the minute you start your new job – your government cheque...  
The money you use to look after your children...  
Will stop coming.

Is it any wonder some people took a hard look at their options, and decided to remain on assistance?

So we're fixing it.  
We're starting a Single Parents Employment Initiative.

We're going to start investing in those single parents instead of standing in their way.

You want off social assistance and into a high demand trade? We'll pay for your training.

You need a ride to school? We'll cover your transportation.

Childcare? We'll see if we can cover that too.

**AND** we'll keep your government cheque coming for up to a full year until you're trained up for that job.

And you know what happens when you do that? Those people can start contributing to our economy fully.

When single parents have the opportunity for a career...

When they climb up the income ladder...

It helps more than the single parent.

It gives their child a role model, something to aspire to, to aim higher and achieve more.

And what could be a greater gift from a parent to a child?

I know it's meaningful for Michelle, because in Michelle I see a parent who works hard against all odds.

Who educates her children, who raises them every day thinking about setting the example, inspiring them to succeed in life.

So I can't think of a better, more passionate or more dedicated minister to direct this program than Michelle Stilwell.

## **CONCLUSION**

We are so lucky to be Canadians.

We have the gift of being able to think about the future.

But we have to stay focused. We can't lose our discipline.

We have to keep our heads in the game, and focus on what's in front of us.

We have a chance:

To make our children's future.

To leave them better off.

And as February...they're almost a billion dollars better off.

Thank you.

The Order of British Columbia recognizes outstanding British Columbians who make a difference

The positive impact of their efforts is felt throughout the province and, in some cases, the world.

I want to thank Lieutenant-Governor Judith Guichon, Chief Justice Robert Bauman and the members of the Advisory Council...

For their dedication and work in selecting this year's Order of B.C. recipients.

This year we honour 16 new recipients whose commitment, innovation, and creativity makes us proud.

Your contributions are as diverse as this province.

Among you are visionary entrepreneurs, philanthropists, inspirational community leaders, inventors, and distinguished academics.

Every day, British Columbians challenge conventional wisdom, advance the limits of human knowledge, break down barriers and change lives for the better.

You represent us at our very best. So today, we are honouring you with the Order of British Columbia...

On behalf of all British Columbians, please accept our sincere congratulations – and thanks.

And I would also like to thank those who inspire you helped you get there ... your friends, family and supporters.

You've made a difference And you've done us proud.

OBC Investiture  
Monday, June 15, 2015  
CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

**Congratulations!**

**-END-**

South Okanagan Chamber of Commerce

June 18, 2015

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

ACKNOWLEDGE:

Linda Larson

Thank you. The welcome here is as warm as the temperature.

It is hot here...and I thought I was used to heat...political heat.

But at least in Victoria – there's a breeze... from the windbags on the other side.

I love being here...because you have created a paradise in the desert.

People who can do that in the desert know this:  
There's no room for a mistake...no room for waste.

You're an example to the rest of the province on how you build success.

At the same time, I like to think of our whole province as an oasis – an oasis of balanced budgets in a desert of deficits in our country.

Leading our country in economic growth.  
Building a place we can be proud of, where our kids can build an even better future.

That's what I want to talk about today, but before I do...  
I was reading about the origins of Oliver.

## **HONEST JOHN**

While First Nations thrived here for thousands of years...  
The first European settlers avoided the desert in favour of the coast and the more fertile valleys up north.

That all changed when a one-armed prospector named Reid discovered gold.

A town called Fairview sprung up, and is often the case with gold rush settlements...it didn't last.

That's what happens when you put all your eggs in one basket.

It would have been a short chapter in BC history, if it weren't for what happened after the First World War.

Thousands of men who answered their country's call to service were coming home.

In 1918, the Premier was "Honest" John Oliver – a farmer. So when others saw an abandoned boomtown in the desert, he saw unused farmland.

The government bought 22,000 acres of land, put in place an irrigation system, and gave land to veterans to farm.

Look at what they built...after risking their lives for our country..

Look at what those veterans, successive generations and you built here.

You did this.

B.C.'s success is like the story of Oliver – the town, not Honest John.

A small prospecting village in the desert...

Isn't supposed to become an agricultural centre, or a major tourism draw.

And the wine you grow here was never supposed to rival California, much less France.

But we've led the charge to expand markets to the world's fastest-growing economies...

Are leading by example to open up borders in Canada...

And making it easier for vintners to sell their products at the vineyard, and at farmers' markets.

A small province isn't supposed to thrive in a global recession.

Other provinces have struggled to balance their books.

But we've worked to build a diverse economy, with diverse markets, increasing trade to Asia for all our BC Jobs Plan sectors:

- Forestry
- Technology
- Mining
- Agriculture
- Film
- Tourism
- LNG
- Clean energy

It's working. Since we launched the BC Jobs Plan, 74,600 jobs have been created.

Promise made, promise kept.

We've made the biggest reduction in unemployment in the country since the launch of the Jobs Plan in 2011.

And we are building that progress on a strong foundation... Of fiscal discipline, controlling spending to balance the budget, and keeping government small and smart.

That's also a promise made, promise kept...three years in a row.

This year, our surplus and our forecast allowance add up to almost a billion dollars.

There are those who want us to spend it all.

I say, let's pay off the debt.

Then we get the chance to go home and tell our kids that they're \$1 billion better off.

We're doing that for our kids and we can still build the Okanagan Correctional Centre...

The new South Okanagan Secondary School...

The new Patient Care Tower at Penticton Regional Hospital...

And we're not done here. Linda Larson wouldn't let me off the hook that easily...

## **LOCAL ANNOUNCEMENT**

That's why I'm pleased to announce Phase Two of the pedestrian safety improvements in Oliver along Highway 97.

Thanks for making me do this, Linda.

The project will include re-paving, constructing pedestrian bump-outs, and better signage and lighting.

The tender will go out late next month, and estimated to be complete by October 31<sup>st</sup>.

You can't make these vital investments if you don't control spending.

The NDP way is to just spend more. Spend more, tax more, and borrow more.

Make government bigger, and people's wallets smaller.

I believe in growing the economy, not the size of government.

I believe in cutting red-tape for small business...because I don't believe government knows better than you...

I believe in you.

## **LINDA LARSON**

That's just a core value I share with Linda.

She knows all about small business. She's been creating opportunity for decades here.

She's run three successful small businesses...  
And if that wasn't enough work for one woman, she has volunteered her wisdom and time.

She served as Mayor of Oliver for 8 years.  
She served on the Small Business Roundtable.

She volunteered with Desert Sun Counselling and Resource Centre, Junior Achievement BC, and Community Futures.

All that before she decided to turn her attention to fight for Boundary-Similkameen in Victoria and fight for BC's future with all of us in the government caucus.

It's a brighter future as we get closer to major investments in LNG every day...

It's a brighter future with more skills training to make sure British Columbians are first up to secure jobs from this generational opportunity.

It's a brighter future for hardworking British Columbians because we are maintaining the lowest personal provincial income taxes in Canada for individuals making up to \$122,000.

It's a brighter future for students because we've secured a six year negotiated agreement with teachers...

The longest in BC history...

So that the adults can stop fighting and our kids can learn.

We have the third best student outcomes in the world today...but now we can work together to do even better.

## **CLIMBING THE INCOME LADDER**

And here's something I'm particularly proud of that we did this Spring: something for the 16,000 single parents on social assistance in BC.

For decades, governments have tried to get them off assistance and into jobs. And for decades we've failed.

I believe that most of those parents want to find work. They want to earn more. To be able to give their children more. They want to set a different example for their kids.

So we asked ourselves, why don't they?

Turns out that for years, while we've told single parents that we want them to go get jobs...

And if you need to go back to get training to get the job...

You'll have to find the money to pay for it yourself.

Then you'll have to pay for the cost of the bus or a car to get there every day.

Then you'll have to figure out who will look after your kids. Yes, you'll have to pay for that too.

Oh, and the day you start your first class – not the minute you start your new job – your government cheque...

The money you use to look after your children...

Will stop coming.

Is it any wonder some people took a hard look at their options, and decided to remain on assistance?

So we're fixing it.

We're starting a Single Parents Employment Initiative.

We're going to start investing in those single parents instead of standing in their way.

You want off social assistance and into a high demand trade? We'll pay for your training.

You need a ride to school? We'll cover your transportation.

Childcare? We'll see if we can cover that too.

AND we'll keep your government cheque coming for up to a full year until you're trained up for that job.

And you know what happens when you do that? Those people can start contributing to our economy fully.

Now the NDP would just say raise the rates...which YOU would pay for.

To make it just a little bit less uncomfortable to stay on social assistance.

But when single parents have the opportunity for a career...

When they climb up the income ladder...

It helps more than the single parent.

It gives their child a role model, something to aspire to, to aim higher and achieve more.

And what could be a greater gift from a parent to a child?

And what could be a greater investment for the taxpayer...

An investment in future savings for every person who no longer needs social assistance...

An investment in success for every person willing to work for it.

## **CONCLUSION**

We have the gift of being able to think about the future.

When he first found gold, I don't know if the one-armed prospector thought about anyone's future but his own.

And Fairview turned out to be a flash in the pan.

Oliver is still here – and thriving.

Because it was built by people who had survived the trenches...who wanted to build a better future for themselves, and their kids.

It might have been named after a politician...  
But when people look at this town, that's not what they see.

They see the ordinary people who took the opportunity that was created – and built something extraordinary.

B.C. is like that. We are a province of ordinary people, with the chance before us to build something extraordinary.

But we have to stay focused. We can't lose our discipline.

We have an even bigger chance:  
To make our children's future.

South Okanagan Chamber of Commerce

June 18, 2015

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

To leave them better off.

And as February...they're almost a billion dollars better off.

Here in Oliver, you've shown BC what's possible when you give hardworking people an opportunity, and a free hand to capitalize on it.

We have an ambitious and audacious goal: to try and do it again and again, on a provincial scale.

And as you continue to build on an amazing legacy and story in Oliver – and the entire South Okanagan...

You have this commitment from me:

We will be behind you.

Not in front of you.

Every step of the way.

Thank you.

**ACKNOWLEDGE:**

Hon. Coralee Oakes

Hon. Norm Letnick

Hon. Steve Thomson

Chief Louis, Westbank First Nation

District of West Kelowna Councillors

The communities on the west shore of the Okanagan have a long history.

Thousands of years ago, the ancestors of the Westbank First Nation discovered this beautiful, bountiful land.

The roots they laid down are still blooming today.

When settlers first arrived, they brought a few different names: MacDonald's Plain, Sunnyside, Hall's Landing, and Westside.

And while the eastern shore remained the larger centre...  
A distinct and different community evolved here.

And for some time now, it's been a city in all but name.

Now, it's my pleasure to announce that today, West Kelowna officially became B.C.'s 51st city.

Congratulations to the City of West Kelowna.  
It has a nice ring to it.

This happened because the people who live here wanted it. Because they recognized their community and identity have evolved.

Today, West Kelowna is a thriving urban centre with a vibrant downtown core...  
Home to more than 30,000 people and 1,400 businesses.

West Kelowna Becomes a City  
Friday, June 19, 2015  
CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

This is an exciting time for our province. We have a growing, diverse economy, with diverse markets.

After weathering the global economic slowdown better than most...

Great things are on the horizon.  
For BC...and for West Kelowna.  
The *City* of West Kelowna.

Congratulations.

-END-

Thank you for inviting me to share today with you.

I see families, parents, elders, and the bright eyes of tomorrow's parents and elders.

It makes me think about the heritage they will inherit.

A proud tradition and culture that reaches back thousands and thousands of years.

They're also a reminder to look ahead, and think about what kind of Canada they will inherit – and their children, and theirs.

Because as tomorrow's elders inherit their culture and the country we're leaving them...

We have to do everything we can to make sure they don't inherit today's struggles.

We're making progress. But we still have a lot of work to do.

We need to embrace the diverse heritage and cultures of all Aboriginal peoples.

And ensure Aboriginal people are full partners, sharing in all the benefits of the 21<sup>st</sup> century economy.

I want to thank the Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society for inviting me here...

And for everything they do throughout the year to reach out.

**ACKNOWLEDGE:**

William Westering (introduces PCC)

Thank you.

I want to talk to you today about all that our two societies have in common.

There are many differences. Korea is an ancient civilization; BC and Canada are recent creations.

And British Columbians are blessed to have good, trustworthy neighbours.

But there is so much more that unites us.

As the much of the world struggles to climb out of recession...

Korea is an example of what can be accomplished.

50 years ago, Canada and Korea first established formal diplomatic ties.

What Korea has accomplished in such a short time is nothing short of amazing.

It's something I see every time I visit. You're changing the world with leadership in fields like business, design, and innovation.

I've noticed the pace of growth even in the two times I've visited since becoming Premier, and discussed it with Governor Kim of our sister province Gyeonggi.

On the long flight home, I watched the movie Yuk-Rin: The Fatal Encounter.

There's a young king under attack by members of his court – and he prevails.

The king has a favourite Confucian verse:

“Do your utmost in the small things. Because when others see your utmost sincerity, they are changed by it.”

That changes the world. Your sincerity changes the world by getting small things right.

That’s something you have in common with British Columbia.

We are both sometimes overlooked. Even underestimated.

It's a mistake. Because British Columbians and Koreans both punch above our weight.

Our success has been due to controlling spending, and a growing, diverse economy, with diverse markets.

So while the global economic slowdown has affected B.C.  
– we have weathered it better than most.

We're one of just three Canadian provinces with a  
balanced budget – and the only one with three in a row,  
and a billion-dollar surplus.

And unlike some other provinces, BC isn't dependent on a  
single commodity – or one predominant trading partner.

We prize our reputation for stability, and as a safe harbour  
for investment.

It's reflected in our Triple-A credit rating, and in companies  
like the Korean Exchange Bank opening branches in  
British Columbia.

None of this happened by luck. I've focused on expanding  
our export markets, including and especially our partners  
in Asia.

Since I became Premier four years ago, five different BC trade missions have visited Korea – I led two of them myself.

We have had success. On my second trade mission...

- Samsung opened a research and development facility in Burnaby.
- UBC signed agreements with KOGAS and the Korea Institute of Science and Technology.
- Roadhouse Interactive partnered with Korea's Red Pig Games to adapt and publish video games.

But everything we accomplished together – all the partnerships we formed...could have been more.

For 10 years, B.C. has advocated for a free trade agreement between our two countries. It was long overdue.

Over those 10 years, Korea successfully negotiated agreements with the United States, European Union, and Australia.

So we have some ground to make up. That's a big part of the reason BC's exports to Korea actually declined between 2011 and 2013 – after years of steady growth.

Now that the free trade agreement is in place – the path ahead is clear.

With an even playing field – I like BC's chances.

The federal government predicts exports will increase by a third – boosting Canada's GDP by \$1.7 billion per year.

As we've seen, there are opportunities in everything from agrifoods and seafood to natural resources.

On my visits to Korea, what I've noticed is Koreans are getting increasingly refined in style, in design, in taste for things.

So what do Koreans want from BC?

It can be summed up in this word:

Clean.

Healthy and natural.

The best in the world

## **AGRIFOODS AND SEAFOOD**

It starts with our agrifoods and seafood.

British Columbians take a lot of pride in the food we grow and catch here – from Okanagan cherries and wine, to the best salmon in the world.

We see these are gifts – which we are eager to share with the world.

Until recently, B.C. exported \$8.1 million per year of fish and seafood to Korea – and that was with tariffs of up to 47 per cent.

The free trade agreement will eliminate 70 per cent of tariffs in the next four years – and 100 per cent by 2026.

The agreement also eliminates tariffs on 87 per cent of BC produce. BC cherries and blueberries had tariffs of up to 45 per cent.

With those eliminated, BC's farmers will have an even playing field...and Korean food lovers will have access to the world's best.

We're already seeing positive results: compared with the same quarter last year...

agrifoods exports are up 79 per cent, and seafood exports by 150 per cent.

## **NATURAL RESOURCES**

While the free trade agreement will create opportunity across the board – it's natural resources that might be the biggest opportunity in the short term.

Because you know in BC...it is clean. Harvested and extracted at the highest standards.

So with tariffs eliminated in forestry and wood products, including biomass, and commodities like coal...

You can feel confident about the source.

Korea imports 98 per cent of its energy and British Columbia has a 150-year supply of the world's cleanest-burning fossil fuel.

Your neighbours in China are betting on LNG to power their growth while lowering emissions.

Cleaner air for them will mean cleaner air in Korea – and cleaner air in British Columbia.

This is nothing new in Korea, where they already lead the world in LNG imports, and stand ready to profit from it.

BC's LNG industry has come a very long way in a very short time.

We've put in place a tax framework that rewards investment, gives proponents certainty – and still gives a fair return to British Columbians.

We've established environmental regulation that will ensure BC has the cleanest LNG facilities in the world.

That's why there are 19 LNG proposals in the works – with \$12 billion invested in BC already.

And last month, we took our biggest step forward so far – an agreement with Pacific NorthWest LNG. That could be the first big project.

There are still two conditions to meet:  
One, the approval of the provincial legislature.

And two, a positive outcome in the federal environmental assessment process, along with continued constructive engagement with First Nations.

The project development agreement will be scrutinized and debated in the legislature.

And we will continue to do everything we can to work with Pacific NorthWest LNG and First Nations to ensure the highest environmental standards.

As we develop this industry – Korea has a major role to play.

In fact, the Korea Gas Corporation is already a key partner in the LNG Canada project in Kitimat.

And it's not just proponents. As we build export facilities, and supply clean power across the Pacific – opportunities will be created in services, manufacturing, workforce housing, and more.

That's why Husteel opened an office in Vancouver: LNG facilities need steel pipes.

## **CONCLUSION**

Governments around the world are increasingly concerned with two things:

- Finding ways to maintain or renew economic growth;
- And finding ways to protect the water we drink and the air we breathe.

In BC, we've shown it's possible to do both. That's why leaders and investors around the world are taking notice.

BC and Korea share a lot in common – but the most important thing we share is an opportunity.

The Canada-Korea Free Trade Agreement clears the path for nothing less than a chance to build a better world.

A cleaner world. A more prosperous world, with more opportunity for people on both sides of the Pacific.

Let's have the courage to work together...to shape our future for our children and grandchildren.

Because by working together, we have a chance to transform our world for the better.

Thank you.

Thank you. In a few days, we'll celebrate Canada Day.  
And in August, we'll celebrate BC Day.

But today is different. It's about celebrating Westside...  
And as of yesterday, the City of West Kelowna.  
And all the incredible, talented people who make this  
place so special.

It started with the First Nations who were here thousands  
of years ago.

More than a century ago, the first pioneers and growers  
set up here, starting the foundation of the community here  
today.

Imagine if they could see the City of West Kelowna now.  
What a legacy.

You have so much to be proud of. We have so much to  
celebrate. Thank you, stay safe and have a great time.