

**ACKNOWLEDGE:**

**Terry Lake**, Minister of Health

**Greg D'Avignon**, Chair, BC Cancer Foundation

**Dr. Malcom Moore**, President, BC Cancer Agency

We are fortunate that BC's economy is leading the country.

At a time when economies are struggling across the world, our country, even right next door in Alberta. BC has created the most jobs in 2015 of any province - more than 50,000.

That didn't happen by accident.

Our plan is succeeding, thanks to hardworking British Columbians.

And that means we can continue to invest in the services that make a difference in peoples' lives.

Today, we're providing \$3 million to the BC Cancer Foundation for cutting edge, world-leading research that will change the lives of cancer patients in BC, and around the world.

If you picture every person's genomic map as a 50,000 page novel...these doctors here can find an error on page 3,000.

More importantly, they can identify that error and fix it without eradicating good or bad genes - which is why we do this better than anyone else.

The results are astonishing.

Just ask Trish Keating, who beat aggressive colorectal cancer with genomic sequencing.

Or ask Zuri Scrivens, who overcame breast cancer with an untraditional combination of diabetes drugs and cancer treatment.

These trials are setting a global precedent both in terms of the types of cancers being researched, and the number of participants, while saving lives.

Since trials started in 2012, over 350 patients participated, with more than 50 different forms of cancer.

The next phase will increase the number of participants over the next five years from 350 to 2,000.

There's another reason this world-leading research is so important...

It brings investment, creates a hub and inspires momentum for BC to lead on the world stage.

That means jobs, and life-saving research in the life-sciences sector as part of our strong, diverse and growing economy.

I'll have more to say on this at the tech summit next week.

We all know someone whose life has been touched by cancer.

And if we keep working, we're all going to know someone who has beaten cancer – for good.

–END–



**Acknowledge:**

**Don Shove**, presenting the medal

**Grace Kwok**, presenting flowers

**Teresa Wat**, Minister of International Trade

**Richard Lee**, MLA Burnaby North, Deputy Speaker

**Gavin Dew**, BCLiberal Candidate, Vancouver-Mt.Pleasant

**Kevan Seng, President**, Vancouver Chinatown Lions Club

**David Thompson, President**, Vancouver Evergreen Lions Club

**Paul and Linda Wong**, MC's

It's an honour to receive the Lions Club International Medal of Merit for recognizing the historic contributions of the Chinese forefathers.

I'm proud to live in a province where we aspire to be fair and just.

Where people of all nations and cultures are welcomed, accepted and respected.

**But it wasn't always this way.**

For 100 years, Chinese immigrants have been settling in towns across BC...

They came here because they saw a chance to build a better future for them and their children.

But when more than 15,000 Chinese arrived during the early 1880s, they were denied the rights and privileges of other immigrants.

They were even made to pay for the privilege we take for granted.

Despite this discrimination, the Chinese community has made, and continues to make, BC more culturally rich and more prosperous.

We can't undo the past – but we can acknowledge and learn from it.

Last year, all sides of the legislature came together to apologize to Chinese Canadians for historical wrongs.

We've implemented legacy initiatives to help British Columbians understand the impact of these wrongs, and highlight Chinese Canadian achievements and contributions.

More British Columbians will have access to our shared history thanks to digital archiving projects and exhibitions like Gold Mountain Dream - which I had the opportunity to see during my recent trade mission to China.

Later this year, a book commemorating Chinese-Canadian contributions to BC will be released.

And we've updated BC's curriculum to ensure tomorrow's leaders don't repeat yesterday's mistakes.

Back then they were afraid of diversity. Today we understand it's our greatest strength.

It gives us a significant advantage in the global economy.

I'm honoured to accept this award.

Thank you.

- End -

## **MAILLARDVILLE MILL**

It's not just an election year for the TLA. They're having them in East Vancouver and also in Coquitlam.

Right next door is Maillardville.

Until recently, it was known for two things: its mill, and one of the only places in BC to brush up on your French.

That's because in 1910, two railway tycoons, William Mackenzie and Donald Mann, decided to buy the old sawmill at Fraser Mills.

They got it cheap, because it wasn't very profitable. But Mann and Mackenzie saw an opportunity. So they invested a lot of money to modernize it.

They ended up with probably the biggest, most highly mechanized mill in the British Empire.

Four years later, a good investment became an even better investment...labour was suddenly in short supply.

The mill not only continued to run during the war – production never dropped off. One of the few in Canada.

I take three lessons from that.

First, that mill ran until 2001. It survived two world wars...but not the '90s.

It's insulting to tell people who wear a hard hat to work every day – “don't worry, I keep one in my car.”

If the NDP have their way, you may as well take yours and lock in in your attic – you won't need it again.

I want to thank Don Banasky for his hard work as president.

I want to congratulate new president Jacqui Beban – the first ever female TLA president. It just goes to show: it takes more than just balls to tell a bunch of truckers where to go.

I want to talk to you today about steep change.

I want to tell you about what we're doing to boost competitiveness.

I want to talk to you about preparing for the future.

But first, I want to talk about innovation.

Creating jobs is about more than reaching into your tickle trunk to play Mr. Dress-up.

Second, a thriving industry builds communities that last. Maillardville is still defined by its French-Canadian flavour because of the skilled mill workers from Quebec who came here.

And third – nobody can tell the future. Mann and Mackenzie didn't automate the mill because they knew the war was coming. They did it to stay ahead of the curve.

Then and today – the best way to prepare for the future is to keep innovating, and keep finding new efficiencies.



## **INNOVATION**

That's still happening. And it's not just large-scale projects like the Wood Innovation and Design Centre in Prince George.

Almost a third of BC's wood fibre is used for bio-energy. With increasing demand for clean energy solutions around the world...that number will go up.

Innovation is happening at the granular level, too.

There's a forestry research firm called FP Innovations they've been working with industry and the Ministry of Transportation on ways to bring down trucking costs.

In December, they launched a new 9-axle log truck configuration.

It increases payload by 7 tons, reduces GHG emissions... and here's the best part: it's cheaper.

It saves up to \$3 per cubic metre of delivered wood. Bigger, cleaner, and cheaper is an impressive trifecta.

Like meeting a guy who's good looking, has a great job ...and straight.

Every time a log is handled, its value goes down. Steve Thomson's team has been looking at the whole log handling process to improve efficiencies, and make sure your product retains its value.

Steve tells me they've found a way to reduce a 38-day process for exports by nine full days.

## **STEEP CLIMB, BUMPY ROAD**

We need to keep working together to find those efficiencies. Because like Mann and Mackenzie, it's the only way to be ready for future challenges.

And there are some bumpy roads ahead.

BC's forestry has always stood up for the whole province, paying for schools and hospitals that we all depend on.

And I want you to know: in good times and bad...the province has your back.

You can't stand up for BC's forestry sector if you drive around with a bumper sticker saying "ban raw log exports."

A ban on raw log exports would effectively shut down the coastal industry – pulp mills, sawmills, and logging.

That's at least 38,000 jobs, gone at the stroke of a pen.

It would also jeopardize discussions with the United States. Removing raw logs from the open market demonstrates we have a free, fair forestry regime.

I know not everyone in this room is panicked about the Softwood Lumber Agreement. For others, it's life or death.

I've made this a priority with Prime Minister Trudeau. He has put this on the table for President Obama.

It's the same with the US Department of Commerce decision on Catalyst. It's wrong.

This fight isn't over. We're going to press for a full investigation that will make it clear: they received no subsidies.

## **COMPETITIVENESS**

These are real challenges. But BC's forestry industry is resilient. As Premier, I have two jobs:

First, to have your back in disputes with our trading partners, and fight until we get it right.

And second, to work with you on ways to increase your competitiveness.

It starts with ensuring you can count on a reliable, sustainable timber supply.

That's why we've invested \$383 million since 2004 in Forests for Tomorrow.

That's why Steve Thomson and his team are working on the Forest Enhancement Program.

The FEP is about restoring the land base...

Reclaiming areas damaged by wildfires and the mountain pine beetle...

And enhancing forests that aren't very productive or economical to harvest today.

You'll see more about that in next month's budget.

We're also continuing to work on creating certainty around the land base. That means working with First Nations.

To ensure they aren't just asked to rubber stamp agreements written for them, but involved every step of the way...

And receiving their fair share of the benefits.

We have a long way to go. But it's worth pointing out, we have:

- 104 Forest Tenure Opportunity Agreements
- 115 Forestry Consultation and Revenue Sharing Agreements.
- And we're providing technical support 17 First Nations on 22 different forest sector projects.

We're on the right track.

## **FUTURE FORESTERS**

A thriving industry also needs people – Mackenzie and Mann brought in workers from Quebec because there weren't enough British Columbians who knew how to use the new machines.

We estimate there will be 3,600 forestry and logging job openings over the next 10 years.

That's why it's great to see the high school forestry education programs in Port Hardy, and Port Alberni, supported by TLA member companies...

And it's great to see the Interior Logging Association having success with their training programs.

This year, 16 new heavy equipment operators and four logging truck drivers got their start in a new career.

The program is so popular, they're turning people away.

I want you to know – we're looking at ways to support you...so that nobody looking for a career in forestry is turned away.



Last year, we announced the Come Home to BC program. We travelled across the border to Calgary, Edmonton, and Fort McMurray to tell thousands of British Columbians who may have left to work in the oilpatch – come home.

## **CONCLUSION**

Maillardville isn't unique. It's a town that was built by the forestry industry. Like Powell River. Like Mackenzie.

We need BC's forestry industry to keep thriving...

To keep making the steep climbs...

And it's not just industry towns. It's the whole province.

150,000 British Columbians depend on it to provide for their families.

\$757 million in revenues to government, which means money for schools, roads, and hospitals.

If you look at value-added economic output, BC's forest sector is the largest on the continent.

The stakes are high.

If we keep working together – we'll not only keep putting food on the table for families across BC...

We'll ensure their kids can do the same.

Thank you.

It's a pleasure to officially open the first annual BC Tech Summit.

First and foremost – this summit is different.

It's not long speeches and people hoping nobody notices you're on SnapChat or Candy Crush.

So I will keep this short. I want to talk to you about the importance of tech, the role government has to play, and to introduce the three pillars of our BC Tech Strategy.

### **DON MATTRICK**

But first, I want to talk about a Burnaby boy made good.

Not long after Don Mattrick and his high school friend started their company, they had their first big win: Nintendo was buying one of their games.

It meant \$1 million in future royalties.

Don wanted to invest that money back into his company, buy more computers, and hire more people. He went into his local bank, and explained his plans.

They laughed at him.

They told him maybe if he was making tractors or fishing boats. But making *video games* with some company...from *Japan*?

Three things to take from that:

First, you don't throw in the towel at the first roadblock. That game did pretty well for Don and his company – you may have heard of it: *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*.

Second, when you're innovating, by definition you're ahead of everyone else. So they might not understand what success looks like.

Sometimes, emerging technologies even create resistance.

We're seeing that today, all over the world, with the share economy. Uber, Lyft, AirBnB.

Here's what I think about that: people want choice and convenience.

I believe in a free market and competition – and governments that listen to people. Governments also have to make sure emerging technologies are reliable, and more than anything else...safe.

And that's what we're doing in BC.

Third, when Don and I were in school, they weren't teaching tech skills. Don started learning the basics after he talked his way into a summer job at Computerland.

But the next generation of tech leaders are right here. And they're getting a better head start.

That's why I'm excited about the first-ever BC Tech Summit.

Because it's not just a series of speakers. It's about making real connections.

We've brought together 2,800 business leaders, tech companies, entrepreneurs, academics and students.

We're matching 180 potential investors with opportunities – along with more than 100 CEOs.

More than 500 people in the Tech Fest.

And, best of all, hundreds of students are here.

Whether they're joining a coding camp, or just having fun – the next Don Matrick is probably here today.

## **STRONG, DIVERSE ECONOMY**

Kids are naturally drawn to tech. They often understand it much better than we do.

And that's good, because as they start to think about their careers, BC's tech sector is vibrant.

There are more than 86,000 British Columbians working in tech, with 60% higher wages than the average.

But we can't just assume that will always be the case. Because these are risky times.

Our neighbours and trading partners are going through hard times.

BC is keeping its head above water thanks to a firm commitment to controlling spending, growing a diverse economy, and the BC Jobs Plan.

## **THREE PILLARS**

Government's role starts with creating the right atmosphere to attract investment. And it continues with asking people across the tech sector what they needed, and how we could help create more opportunity.

Your feedback is what informed the BC Tech Strategy.

We kept hearing the same three things:

- ☐ Make it easier to access investment and venture capital;
- ☐ A deeper local talent pool; and
- ☐ Make it easier to access new markets – including selling to government and overseas exports.

## **CAPITAL**



In December, we started to move on making it easier to access capital with the \$100-million BC Tech Fund.

In the months ahead, we'll announce more details about how it will work, once we've finished negotiations with a successful private sector fund manager.

We're also continuing our competitive tax rates and credits, such as:

- ☐ Provincial corporate tax rate of 10%.
- ☐ Income tax credits of up to \$33 million each year for investing in venture capital firms.
- ☐ Tax credits for Digital Animation or Visual Effects, and Interactive Digital Media.

## **TALENT**

The industry also told us that what's crucial for success and competitiveness is talent.

That process needs to start in our schools.

We have just helped 400 students aged 8-18 to participate in coding events at tech based organizations across our province...and now we're going further.

Over the next three years, every student in K-12 will have the chance to learn the basics of coding, and other fundamental tech skills...through a new curriculum.

It will continue at the post-secondary level, with \$450 million for training leading to in-demand jobs in tech.

We're also updating post-secondary curriculum with a greater emphasis on technology, math, sciences, and creativity.

Students need real world experience...and often, a growing tech firm needs talent. We will continue to help through the BC Tech Co-ops Grants Program...and we are

working to enhance MITACS to build stronger partnerships between industry and academic institutions.

And we're further working on programs like government funding incubators and coding academies. This past year we funded coding academies at 5 public institutions...with the expansion being announced today in the Tech Strategy, we're going to double that to 10.

Beyond post-sec, if you're already in the workforce, looking to change careers, or need a skills top-up... We are investing \$4.5 million towards opening a technology stream within the Canada-BC Job Grant Program, which covers tuition, training, and all the materials you need.

This program is in place, effective today...  
And is accepting applications right now.

We're taking these steps so that British Columbians will continue to be first in line as the sector grows.

But even with the deepest possible talent pool... sometimes, you're going to need to recruit specialized talent from elsewhere...top-level talent who can take a business to the next level and create more jobs right here in BC.

So we are working with all levels of government to remove barriers to tech talent labour mobility.

The BC Provincial Nominee Program, or PNP, is our only direct tool to select immigrant workers and entrepreneurs.

Our quota is 5,500 per year. This year we made a number of changes to ensure tech employers can attract the global talent they need to flourish here...

Including an online application system and temporary new staff to cut down the time it takes to process.

And next week you will also see the launch of a new PNP Skills Immigration Registration process on the WelcomeBC website.

This will cut wait times even more, and with 5,500 precious spaces...

Ensure that our nominations align with your needs.

As your needs change, the PNP must continue to evolve with them. So please – let us know what we can do to help.

And you can do that by visiting the website or calling the number on the screen behind me.

([www.welcomebc.ca/pnp](http://www.welcomebc.ca/pnp) or [604.775.2215](tel:604.775.2215))

## **MARKETS**

Obviously, capital and talent mean nothing if there aren't market opportunities – in new and developing markets overseas, and with the provincial government.

Let's start with government. For far too long, in the name of being careful, we've been looking for proven, time-tested technology from around the world -- in other words...old. When innovation is happening right under our nose.

Consequently, some of you have had an easier time selling to Germany and Texas than to BC. Does that make sense?

We're changing our culture, and I've charged my officials to reach out locally for what we need.

You want to see us walk the talk. It starts today, right here at the summit where government officials are holding face to face meetings...

Fully two hundred and fifty B to B meetings at this summit are with government officials.

And it will continue after today with initiatives like the BC Developers' Exchange. Opening the public sector to you so that you can help us do a better job...two examples: the Ministry of Transportation sharing road events with app-makers so that they can help British Columbians get from point A to point B.

Or BC Assessments working with you to share its data to better support businesses working in real estate, mortgage financing or home renovations.

Globally, we're working with companies to find or expand their overseas markets. That's what my trade missions are about...together with the ongoing work of our network of trade representatives.

Just ask H + of Vancouver, or ReFleX about how they've tapped into the support we can provide to make connections, raise brand awareness and make deals.

Last year, our people at the Ministry of International Trade facilitated more than 170 BC business delegations to conventions, trade shows, meetings and conferences around the world. And we will continue to support you in global markets to secure investments and create export opportunities for life sciences, cleantech, ICT, and digital media.

## **TECH SAVES LIVES**

Tech not only changes lives – it saves lives.



Last week I had the opportunity to announce a \$5 million contribution to the BC Cancer Agency – and the personalized onco-genomics program.

They're doing amazing work developing targeted treatments for the most challenging cancer cases.

This work is saving lives, and it's happening right here in BC – because this is where the talent is.

We need to support cutting edge work.

That's why the government is contributing almost \$20 million towards an \$80 million planned upgrade of the Life Sciences undergraduate teaching laboratories at the University of BC.

This will ensure teaching facilities are up to the challenge of creating tomorrow's researchers and innovators

## **CONCLUSION**

The tech sector is about ideas. That can only come from you. But the right environment so that your ideas can fly...that's government's job. The right tax regime is important, whether it's the carbon tax or the 33 million dollars in income tax credits under BC's Small Business Venture Capital Act is. Now we can take the next step with the right strategy...which we've built together. Growing the talent pool, opening new markets, and access to venture capital.

None of us are alone. The hundred million we put forward works with every other dollar on the table.

Just last week Marty Reed and Jonathan Rhone over at EVOK announced it will access the Clean Oil and Gas Innovation Fund - a \$100 million fund - to invest in oil and gas clean tech initiatives.

And Zymeworks and Kairos Therapeutics embarked on a new partnership – Zymeworks announced \$61.5 million for cancer treatment research.

That's just in the past seven days. Over the last several months:

- Slack established an 80 million dollar fund for early stage investments in companies building apps
- Victory Square announced a 30 million dollar fund for sports, health and entertainment tech entrepreneurs
- Istuary Innovation announced the same amount to help start ups
- Another 15 million dollars in seed financing from China/Canada Clean Tech Innovation...

These are companies that want to do business here.

To invest here.

To create jobs and set down roots here.

That's the opportunity we have here. To shape the kind of economy we want in British Columbia.

We are already doing it.

And when I look in this room – I can see we will do it even better tomorrow.

Thank you.

Welcome to Vancouver.

BC's economy is leading the country at a time when economies are struggling across the world, our country – even right next door in Alberta.

That didn't happen by accident.

It's because of hard working British Columbians – and our plan to build a strong, diverse and growing economy

This morning, we introduced the BC Tech Strategy, based on three pillars.

- Access to capital, through the \$100 million venture capital fund and tax credits.
- Deepening the talent pool, by giving British Columbians more access to training, and making it easier to move here.
- Creating new market opportunities for business to thrive, overseas and selling to government.

With more and more new tech companies emerging across the province – BC has become a world-class tech hub.

Tech has created 86,000 good-paying jobs in BC – and that number will go up. It also drives innovation, efficiency, and productivity in sectors as different as natural resources to healthcare.

Tech is ultimately about connecting people – and so is tonight.

Thank you.

## **Part 1 - Opening Remarks – Vision for youth in tech.**

- Tech is a growing industry in BC.
- 60% higher wages than average.
- Yesterday, announced funding to help more students learn skills for tech careers.

## **Part 2 – Premier's Q&A:**

Brian Wong – Founder & CEO of Kiip (pronounced "keep")

Kristine Steuart – Founder & CEO of Allocadia

1. What got you interested in tech?
2. What educational preparation would you recommend for students who want a career in tech?
3. What skills are required in your job on a day-to-day basis?
4. Could you describe one of your typical workdays?
5. The tech industry has grown a lot in the past 10 years. What have you seen from inside your company? Where do you see BC's tech sector heading in the next 10 years?

## **Part 3 – Questions from students**

Virtual Schools: We're going to open up to session to questions from you – starting with those schools joining us virtually.

1. **Martin Runge** (Teacher), Correlieu Secondary (Quesnel)
2. **Jay Dixon** (Principal) and **Don Robinson** (Electronics Technician), North Island Secondary School (Port McNeill)
3. **Greg McNeill** (Teacher), Heritage Park Middle School (Mission)

Vancouver attendees: Take questions from those joining us here.

**ACKNOWLEDGE:**

Mike Morris

Shirley Bond

I want to talk to you about how the world is changing around us. And while the world is transforming, BC will change along with it.

One thing will remain the same: our economy, our prosperity, and the role we play in Canada and the world will always be defined by our resource industry.

**AN ENDLESS CHAIN OF ROMANCE**

Back in the '80s, Prince George had the most millionaires per capita in the country.

In the decade that followed, things changed.

Those particular wounds were self-inflicted. But the cycle of resource boom and downturn is well-known in BC.

In the first decades after we joined Confederation, BC was an economic mess.

Expenses far outstripped revenues. BC had to borrow ruinous amounts of money just to pay the bills, much less invest.

Things changed. This was written about BC's north around 1910.

*"He who has the courage to break away from old surroundings in a new land...  
Will find the right kind of conditions for happiness and independence.*

*History will record here in the Nechako Valley an endless chain of romance, happiness, and fortune building."*

What happened to make such a difference in such a short time?



Back then, political leaders congratulated themselves for landing a short-term subsidy from Ottawa.

It's true; that helped – a little. But what really changed was a boom in commodity prices. Then as now, BC depended on a healthy resource sector.

### **MAKE HAY WHILE THE SUN SHINES**

There's another lesson for governments that depend on resource revenue: it's easy to spend money when commodity prices are high.

But as they're learning right now in Alberta...what matters more is being ready when prices come down.

Because commodity prices are beyond our control.

Right now, BC is in a good position:

- We're going to lead the country in economic growth.

- We're investing record amounts in infrastructure – \$7 billion worth of projects in the field right now, without going into deficit.
- Three consecutive balanced budgets, with a fourth coming next month.
- A unique approach on public sector wages, tying increases to economic growth.
- In 4 years, we're eliminating the operating debt for the first time in 40 years.
- And last year, we created 50,000 new jobs – top in the country.

That didn't happen by accident. Our plan is succeeding thanks to hardworking British Columbians.

Balanced Budgets are the foundation, together with a relentless focus to building a strong diverse economy that creates good jobs for BC families.

But we can't take our eye off the ball for even a minute.

We're surrounded by serious and bad news on the economy...around the world...in Canada...and right next door in Alberta.

There's too much at risk to relax now.

I understand my job is to be your partner. To have your back, and create the conditions where you succeed and create jobs.

The NDP see themselves as plumbers – plug every hole in the ground.

They don't understand: what we've built here is precarious. Our trading partners are hurting.

- Alberta is paying not just for putting their eggs in one basket, but for assuming the supply was endless.

- Ontario is the world's largest sub-sovereign debtor.
- The United States is still recovering from the greatest economic crisis since the Great Depression.
- Even China has seen some stormy seas in their stock markets.

Just because we've survived the global economic downturn better than most – we can't make the Alberta Mistake, and assume the good times will never end.

## **FORESTRY**

Look at forestry. It's what the north is known for, from the Wood Innovation and Design Centre, to the *Timber Kings* show.

It's worth more than \$12 billion per year in exports – nearly half of which is manufactured products. If you look at

value-added economic output, BC's forest sector is one of the largest and most efficient in North America.

But there are clouds on the horizon: the softwood lumber agreement.

I made this a priority with Prime Minister Trudeau. He put this on the table with President Obama.

I also want to touch on the US Department of Commerce ruling on Catalyst: it's not just disappointing. It's wrong.

That fight is just beginning. We're pressing for a full investigation to confirm they received no subsidies.

I had the opportunity to speak to the Truck Loggers last week. And I'll tell you what I told them: I have two jobs.

First, to have your back in disputes with your critics, be they in Congress or our own legislature.

Second, work with the industry to increase competitiveness.

On both counts: you couldn't ask for a better champion than Steve Thomson.

He's led the way in our efforts to maintain timber supply, restore the land base, and working with First Nations on tenure and revenue sharing agreements.

And he's got more help. As of today, John Martin is Steve's new Parliamentary Secretary. He's a fresh set of eyes, a tireless advocate – and as a BBQ champion, he's used to taking the heat.

### **OIL AND GAS / DCAT**

The north is also rapidly becoming known for oil and gas.

Just this morning, AltaGas signed agreements to develop an export terminal near Prince Rupert to ship propane overseas.

They're consulting with First Nations, local communities, and regulatory authorities. And if those are successful...

It means:

- a \$500 million investment in the north
- new construction and long-term operational jobs
- and another concrete step in the right direction towards diversifying our exports.

As the industry expands, so has demand for power.

The proponents looking at projects there had two choices: burn gas to power their facilities...

Or look elsewhere.

No longer.

I'm pleased to announce the new 230-kilovolt Dawson Creek-Chetwynd Area Transmission Line is up and running.

The new line doubles the amount of power available in the region – and more importantly, it will mean new jobs.

EnCana and Shell are already connected – and several more large industrial customers hooking up this year.

## **LNG**

I want to finish with two industries facing similar challenges right now, with low commodity prices. Of the two, LNG has attracted more attention.

Low global prices right now for natural gas may mean companies will take longer to make final investment decisions.



But that's okay. Because BC wasn't founded by quitters who threw in the towel when they first ran into trouble.

And I don't think Rich Coleman has ever thrown in the towel on anything.

Prices for natural gas will never be this low again...  
Because the world is changing. Not only is demand for energy growing as the middle classes of Asia emerge...

Increasingly, the world insists on clean energy. LNG is the transition fuel between things like coal, and the clean tech solutions being developed and improved as we speak.

It's not about what prices will be today – but 5, 10, or 50 years from now.

We have built a great foundation from scratch:

- A competitive Tax framework
- A world-leading Environmental framework

- Building a labour force
- Reaching agreements with First Nations.

That's why there are 20 active projects at various stages of development. Over 30 investment partners are involved, and between them, they have invested some \$20 billion.

With a committed federal partner – our first final investment decision is not far away.

## **MINING**

The other industry facing challenges with low commodity prices is mining.

If you're up for a challenge, Bill Bennett is right there with you.

Mining has double the number of people working since 2001 – over 30,000.

We set a goal for 15 new or expanded mines – the biggest expansion in BC history – and we did it. New mines are being built, including the Brucejack Mine near Stewart, and the Silver Tip Mine near Atlin.

But right now...commodity prices aren't good. Many in the industry are going through some tough times.

Not just the companies – but the men and women who depend on mining to pay the mortgage and put food on the table.

BC's mining industry has survived worse, including a government that tried its very best to kill it for good.

It will find opportunities even in downward cycles, especially if they know: government has their back.

That's why we committed to:

- Keep hydro rates low, by sticking to our 10-year plan.

- freeze the carbon tax;
- and Bill Bennett and his team are looking at other steps we can take.

## **MINING FOR MIRACLES**

We have to be there for the men and women of the mining industry, because from the beginning – they have stood behind us.

It's not just the career opportunities, the revenue to government that pays for everything from schools to the world's leading cancer and HIV research.

It's programs like Mining for Miracles.

Despite the tough times in the industry you were able to raise nearly \$2 million last year in support of the BC Children's Hospital.

So I'm very pleased today to officially launch the 2016 Mining for Miracles campaign.

This year all funds raised will support the development of the new CAUSES Research Clinic. At CAUSES, they literally work miracles for kids with conditions we couldn't otherwise identify, much less treat.

They can read a person's entire genomic sequence to find one of 7,000 extremely rare disorders.

I had the pleasure today of meeting the Doran family here today. They're from Prince George, and in December, their daughter Collyns became the first person to receive a diagnosis through this program.

Collyns is very special. She's just five years old – and is one of six children in the world known to have her condition.

Every year thousands of Children like Collyns from across B.C. visit the Children's hospital.

That was possible because of you. Because of the hardworking men and women of BC's mining industry, and the \$3 million you raised for Mining for Miracles.

## **CONCLUSION**

According to Resource Works, a 10% increase in BC's natural resource output would increase Canada's GDP by \$4.5 billion, most of which would stay here in BC.

It would create 29,000 new jobs – the equivalent population of Fort St. John and Quesnel, combined.

Think of the opportunities that will create.  
Jobs...revitalized communities...and programs like Mining for Miracles and the CAUSES clinic.

So it's hard to take criticism from a party whose leader:

- Drives around with a bumper sticker saying "ban raw log exports."
- Called for a moratorium on LNG
- Worked for a government that did everything but make mining illegal in British Columbia

As our neighbours struggle – now is not the time to start messing around with the industries that we depend on.

Not just in the north, but in every community and coffee shop across the province, from Fort Nelson to Victoria.

We are going to keep our focus – and we are going to continue to work with you...to keep BC on top.

**Opening of the Mennonite Heritage Museum**

Friday, Jan. 22, 2016

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

**Acknowledge:**

**Darryl Plecas, MLA**

**Ed Fast, MP, Abbotsford**

**Henry Braun, Mayor, Abbotsford**

**Peter Redekop, President, MHM**

**Richard Thiessen, Executive Director, MHM**

It's an honour to be here for the grand opening of the Mennonite Heritage Museum.

I would like to recognize everyone who helped bring this museum to life – especially the volunteers.

Before today, individuals and families had the responsibility of preserving artifacts, and telling your stories.



## **Opening of the Mennonite Heritage Museum**

Friday, Jan. 22, 2016

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Now, the Mennonite Heritage Museum will share permanent displays of over 500 years of Mennonite history from Europe, Canada, and here in Abbotsford.

British Columbians should know that Mennonites settled in the Fraser Valley after suffering so much persecution elsewhere.

And they might not remember that the first Mennonites here used their knowledge not only to feed themselves – but also those less fortunate.

This museum is a gift to future generations of Mennonites, who will see their own history brought to life...

And all British Columbians, with a fuller understanding of BC's rich and diverse culture.

On behalf of Canada, British Columbia, and Abbotsford – thank you for sharing your history with us.

**Opening of the Mennonite Heritage Museum**

Friday, Jan. 22, 2016

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

**—END—**

## ACKNOWLEDGE:

Hon. Bill Bennett  
Gavin Dirom

Last year, I floated Gavin's proposed new slogan for mining in BC: "we built this city on rock and coal."

It didn't fly, Gavin. I tried. Not very hard. But I tried.

But I would never come back empty-handed. So I'll suggest a new slogan: "A mine is a terrible thing to waste."

That's what I want to talk about this morning – because with low prices for coal and copper... mining had a rough year in BC.

And when a mine goes to waste – a lot of opportunities go along with it.

## **A MINE IS A TERRIBLE THING TO WASTE**

I don't know if you've ever heard of, much less been to Anyox.

It's about as remote as you can get – about 40 kilometers south of Stewart.

Today, it's long forgotten. But it was one of the richest, most pure copper mines ever found in BC – and played a huge role in developing the northwest.

By the standards of the time, it had everything: schools, hospitals, churches, and regular steamship service to Prince Rupert and Vancouver.

It survived the Spanish flu, the First World War, and almost survived the Great Depression and low copper prices.

But an accident with explosives sealed the deal...and the mine...and the town...to this day.

Three things to take from that:

First, the old townsite and mine are just across the inlet from Haisla territory. But nowhere in the history of Anyox will you find any reference to First Nations.

We do things differently today.

We have 22 Economic Community Development Agreements with 37 Indian Act Bands.

Since 2013, that has meant more than \$22 million in revenues from new mines and major mine expansions.

Second, Anyox was one of the first places in BC where they started to understand the importance of safety and environmental regulations, when acid rain killed most of the trees around the site.

We do things differently today, with world-leading health, safety, and environmental standards.

And things go wrong – like at Mount Polley – we work overtime to ensure we fix it.

And third, we have to focus on things we can control. it's easy to spend money when commodity prices are high. But as they're learning right now in Alberta...what matters more is being ready when prices come down.

We do things differently today.

## **THE FOUNDATION**

Because right now, BC is in a good position:

- We're going to lead the country in economic growth.
- \$7 billion in infrastructure projects right now, without going into deficit.

- Three consecutive balanced budgets, with a fourth coming next month.
- A unique approach on public sector wages, tying increases to economic growth.
- In 4 years, we're eliminating the operating debt for the first time in 40 years.
- And last year, we created 50,000 new jobs – tops in the country.

That didn't happen by accident. Our plan is succeeding thanks to hardworking British Columbians.

The foundation is balanced budgets, along with a relentless focus to building a strong diverse economy that creates good jobs for BC families.

But we can't take our eye off the ball for even a minute. We're surrounded by serious and bad news on the economy...around the world...in Canada...and right next door in Alberta.

There's too much at risk to relax now.

My job is to be your partner. To have your back and give you breathing room when times are bad...  
And create the conditions where you succeed so that you can create jobs.

The NDP see themselves as plumbers – plug every hole in the ground.

Think about how far we've come since 2001.

### **CLIMBING OUT OF THE PIT**

Even with recent layoffs, we have double the number of people employed in mining since 2001.

\$338 million spent on mineral exploration in 2014 – more than eleven times higher than 2001.



The best measure of confidence is what percentage of exploration investment in Canada takes place in BC.

In 2001 it was 6%. Last year, it was 21%.

We want our portion of Canadian exploration investment to continue growing – because it's critical for the future.

Exploration is like R&D:

If you don't do it...eventually you don't have projects to develop into mines.

We set a goal for 7 new mines – the biggest expansion in BC history – and we did it.

They include Pretivm's Brucejack Mine near Stewart, JDS's Silver Tip Mine by Atlin, and Imperial Metals' Red Chris Mine the Tahltan First Nation voted 83% in favour of.

We also have, several other promising proposals in the development stage, and several exploration projects that we want to see mines grow from.

And these are good investments – because the world will need our minerals and our high- quality metallurgical coal.

The world is changing and that doesn't mean less of our mining products...it means more.

As demand for clean energy in Canada and around the world continues to increase...demand for copper and coal will rise.

Copper for transmission line wire and conductors.

Copper and other metals for electric cars.

Metallurgical coal for wind towers and solar farms.

And as the middle class in China and India continue to expand exponentially – every iPad, Google Glass, and every self-driving car...

They're all going to need vast amounts of metals, and metallurgical coal.

## **PARTNERS**

That's coming in the medium term. But in the short term – you're stretched right now.

Until we get there – we've got your back.

That's why we committed to keep hydro rates low, by sticking to our 10-year plan.

That's why we froze the carbon tax.

That's why we extended the New Mine Allowance to 2020.

There's something else we can do to help the operating mines stay open.

Bill Bennett is working on a plan so that mines can defer some of their considerable power costs until commodity prices bounce back.

We have to get this exactly right. That means taking everything into account and making the best decision for British Columbians.

It can't be a subsidy that puts taxpayers at risk – because we can't control commodity prices. Coming to government must be a last resort.

Getting it right also means understanding that jobs and entire communities are at stake.

I can tell you this right now: we will do our part.

We will do our part ...so that companies can make the decision to keep their mines in operation, so they can expand, so they keep on hiring more people when copper goes up to \$3.50 a pound.

I know you have concerns about access to the land base.

90 per cent of the province is covered by regional land use plans which clearly delineate areas for protection... and areas suitable for resource development.

I think we all know the world is changing. Many First Nations are looking to protect lands that have been important to them for thousands of years.

And it's no secret; there will always be pressure on government to slow down what you do.

This is my commitment to you:  
My government will put a lens on everything we do that relates to the land base.

Every time there is a call for restriction of land use, we will ask ourselves...

What is in the best interests of British Columbians?  
How can we generate more investment, more jobs, and more confidence in our province?

We're committed to sustainable natural resource development and policies that reward investment.  
And we're also committed to protecting the environment.  
These aren't contradictory.

Bill Bennett has done amazing work reducing the time and complexity of the permitting process – down to an average of 60 days for exploration, and 180 days for environmental assessment.

## **TAX CREDIT**

With commodity prices low – we can do more to help in the meantime.

So today, I am pleased to announce we are extending the Mining Exploration Tax Credit...  
and the B.C. Mining Flow-Through Share Tax Credit.

The Mining Exploration Tax Credit provides a 20% refundable tax credit for eligible mineral exploration...  
and an enhanced rate of 30% is available for exploration in areas affected by the mountain pine beetle.

The Flow-Through Share Tax Credit allows individuals who invest in flow-through shares to claim a non-refundable tax credit of 20% of their B.C. flow-through mining expenditures.

## **CONCLUSION**

Our critics object to this. They want the future of mining in this province to be Anyox – once promising, now a largely forgotten footnote.

They're wrong.

The future of mining in BC is towns like Princeton, where men and women depend on mines.

The future of mining in BC is the next generation, ever more plugged in with electronic devices that need our raw materials.

And the future of mining in BC is right here in Vancouver.

It's not just that most of the mineral exploration in the world is done by Canadians based right here...



It's everything this city has to offer.

Vancouver doesn't have social housing because of socialism – it's because of mining in the Elk Valley.

Everything from the world's leading cancer and HIV researchers, to a venue like BC Place...all because of mining.

From the very beginning, you've stood behind this province and the prosperity we all enjoy.

The very least we can do is have your back.

Coquitlam SAR Funding  
January 28, 2016  
CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY  
ACKNOWLEDGE:

Linda Reimer

**Darren Timmer**, Coquitlam SAR President

**Gord Lyster**, VP

**Liz Clyne**, Mobile Command Centre Project Manager

**Wade Pierlot**, Coquitlam Fire Chief

At some point, we all need help – sometimes, urgent help.

We're fortunate to have 2,500 dedicated and selfless volunteers who help the lost or injured across backcountry – including here in Coquitlam.

It never fails to amaze me how, a very short distance from town, how rugged and challenging the back country can be.

That's why we announced \$10 million in one-time funding to BC Ground Search and Rescue – to give these volunteers the tools they need.

Once allocated, the funds will go towards:

- Updating equipment
- Providing administrative support
- New or additional training

For over 40 years, Coquitlam Search and Rescue have been working in some of southwestern BC's most treacherous terrain.

Thanks to their great champion Linda Reimer...

I'm pleased to announce a \$10,000 grant to purchase 10 digital handheld radios for the new mobile command unit.

These radios will give rescue teams the reliability and range needed to continue saving lives.

Coquitlam SAR Funding

January 28, 2016

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Thank you so much for everything you do.

Acknowledge:

**Steve Thomson**

**Marilyn Slett**, Chief Councillor, Heiltsuk Tribal Council

**Hereditary Chiefs**

**Heiltsuk Tribal Council**

I want to thank the Heiltsuk First Nation for welcoming us to your territory.

The Heiltsuk's history and culture have been linked to the Great Bear Rainforest since time immemorial.

It covers 6.4 million hectares...

That's a quarter of all coastal temperate rainforest remaining in the world.

We all have a stake in preserving and protecting this jewel.

That's why we asked the public, First Nations communities, and stakeholders for their input on proposed land use projects.

But if we're going to successfully implement an ecosystem-based management system in the Great Bear Rainforest... Agreements with First Nations will be the key.

This agreement is a big step in the right direction. It will increase development and employment opportunities for the Heiltsuk...

And includes \$150,000 over three years in training funds to ensure they have the necessary skills for the jobs that will come with it.

Today's agreement is not historic. It's the opposite – because it continues a very ancient tradition.

For thousands of years, the people who lived here protected the air, land and water – while making a living from them. And they will continue.

- END -

Saint Augustine said “No eulogy is due to him who has done his duty and nothing more.”

And that is precisely why we are here today. To eulogize, to honour one man, one of Kelowna’s proudest sons, who did so much more than his duty.

I’m honoured to have been invited by Premier Bennett’s family to offer my reflections on what he meant to us. I occupy the office he once held but, unlike the most of the speakers before me today, I can’t claim unique personal knowledge of him.

I was 10 years old – in grade 5 - when Bill Bennett became our Premier. I was on the cusp of 21, when he exited public life. But I knew him. I grew up with him. Premier Bennett loomed large over all the years in which my political imagination was taking shape.

He was MY Premier. The way one only can be before you realize that Premiers come and go.

And the lessons I absorbed in those formative years left an indelible mark on me: the best way to describe that impact is probably that Bill Bennett was what leadership looked like to me.

Bob and Norman and Jimmy have talked about the huge endowment of infrastructure and cultural legacies he left us. The Alex Fraser Bridge, The Coq, BC Place, Skytrain, Expo, and – of course – the initial work on Site C....

And among all of them, you can detect a proud thankfulness to have been associated with a man who possessed such singular vision and such capacity to make those ideas real.

Jane Addams once said that when we think of great men, it is easy to think only of their great deeds – and not think enough about their spirit.” And so, I’d like to spend a moment reflecting on his character - on the lessons he taught to those of us who didn’t know him personally, but who nonetheless grew up with him.

The first of those is loyalty.

In all his years in office, through all the bumps and twists, almost none of his colleagues was ever publicly at odds with him. The stories of his Cabinet’s loyalty are the stuff of legend. I’ve heard it said that’s because his colleagues weren’t just loyal to him – they loved him.

We all saw that in their resolute unity. We saw it in the way he let them do the jobs. How he let them take credit for their victories. He commanded respect because he gave it.

The second is values.

All of us saw the fierce strength of his beliefs. His refusal to waver from the core principles that he had set to guide his government.

He stood up to make government smaller, not bigger – because he believed in it.

He stood up to create a government that spent less, not more – because he believed in it.

He didn’t believe that government should do everything, but, as his son Brad said, “He did believe there was a time and place for government to make a difference”

And it was because of his steadfastness in following his deeply held convictions that we got to see so much of the third lesson he taught us: courage. An apparently bottomless reservoir of will to confront any

foe, any obstacle. The kind of courage that one finds in only the fiercest competitors.

When all of Canada was hurting. When it became clear that government was just too big and the economy just too small, Premier Bennett took it on. He tabled 26 Bills in the Legislature in one day, and then went outside to meet nothing less than the largest labour disruption in BC history.

(He was asking them to accept 14 and 8 percent increases over two years....those were the days my friends...)

He won.

And so we learned that no one will remember you as a leader because you did the easy things. It's doing the hard things that distinguishes each of us.

But he didn't do it because his ego demanded that he find a way to be remembered. He did it because it was what he believed our province needed.

And for me, I think this fourth lesson is the best one we learned from Bill Bennett. That he took on these formidable tasks because he believed it was his duty to do so.

How else to explain his decision to leave a prosperous business, sacrifice time with his family? To leave Kelowna to take on a party in disarray?

A sincere sense of duty.

PAUSE



Duty, I think is borne of two parents.

First, the recognition that life isn't all about us. Nor is life all about making yourself happy. As Viktor Frankel put it: It is about fulfilling the tasks that life sets before us. "It is not about what we expect from life, he wrote, it is about what life expects from us."

The second parent of duty is, I believe, love. In Bill Bennett's case it was an undeniable love of this province. A deep desire to improve it. To prepare the way for the generation after him.

And he did that. Not because it made him feel important or valued of even thanked...- but because he believed he had a duty to the province he loved so profoundly.

PAUSE

To Audrey, Brad, Kevin, Steven and Greg, ..... our deepest thanks – on behalf of all British Columbians.

The sacrifice inherent in watching your father, your beloved husband give himself so completely to public life is no small thing.

Daniel Webster said that "Great men are the property of our country." But he didn't speak to how hard it would have been to have to share him with all those who loved him, with those who wanted something from him, and hardest of all, to feel the barbs of those who professed to hate him.

Nonetheless, you shared him with all of us, so that he could build our future.

PAUSE

He was a man of granite and you, Audrey, were the mountain on which that granite rested. He left all British Columbians so many gifts and today Audrey, we gratefully acknowledge your sacrifice. Thank you for giving him to British Columbia for so long.

He left us bridges and highways and a world fair.

But even more significant were his examples of courage, principles, duty, and his love for British Columbia.

Those qualities of character are the legacies I will remember. Those are the things that have etched him indelibly in our collective memory. Etched him forever into the history, the present and the future of this magnificent province.

We were honoured by his love for this place. He didn't just make our province better. He made us better.

Thank you.