

Too often, the news is filled with conflict and violence between different communities. So it's encouraging to see women of different faiths taking the lead in starting a discussion.

There has recently been a lot of discussion about the need for more women in leadership roles, and the bias women face in the workplace... even me.

Sometimes I'll be meeting with a group of male dignitaries, and they will instinctively look across the table at the men who work for me...

As if they're in charge.

Here's what we've done about this in government:

Since becoming Premier, I've made it a priority to give women more opportunities in leadership roles.

Just under half of my Cabinet and senior public-service leaders are women, as well as over 40% of our government's board appointees.

We've achieved this without quotas. They were each the best person for the job.

Outside of politics, we need more women to take on leadership roles in fields as diverse as business, entertainment, and academia.

And we need more women like you: leaders in faith and community organizations.

Because while we talk about the need for more women at the top...

we can't forget that there are women who face far worse challenges than being passed over for promotion.



There are women and young girls around the world who face the threat of violence every day.

While we've made progress, there's a lot more to do. And that's where you come in.

You're doing a great job getting your communities engaged in conversations about these issues.

And you're doing an even better job encouraging woman and young girls to stand up, speak out, and take on leadership roles.

What you're doing is important because it improves your daughters' lives, and for generations to come.

When women are given opportunities to contribute their perspectives, new ideas, and broader experiences...

When you unlock all that potential wisdom and talent, entire communities succeed.

**Men, women, everyone.**

**That's true at the global level, nationally, and at the local level.**

**It's not always easy, but it's worth it. Because when men and women contribute equally to society and the economy, the world is a better place.**

**- END -**

**Acknowledge:**

**Hon. Teresa Wat**, Emcee

**Dr. Henry Yu & David Choi**, LIAC Co-Chairs

**Fred Kwok**, Freemason, ceremony lead

It's an honour to join members of the Chinese community for the Qingming ceremony, which has been performed for over 2,500 years.

And in all that time, it hasn't changed much: it's about gathering family together, and paying respects to those that came before us.

We owe them so much.

For 100 years, Chinese immigrants have been settling in BC, making our entire province culturally and economically richer.

We didn't always appreciate this.

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

Despite this discrimination, the Chinese community became a pillar of communities like Vancouver across BC.

Two years ago, 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.

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

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

So today we honour those who came before us – and learn from their wisdom.

- END -

BC is leading the country right now, with a strong, growing economy.

And Site C is a crucial part of our vision to continue leading.

We're getting to yes. Yes to supplying clean, renewable energy for our growing and diverse economy...

Yes to increasing capacity, not just to meet today's energy needs – but planning for growth...

Today, we're taking another step forward.

Site C Clean Energy Project has awarded its \$470 million turbines and generators contract to Voith Hydro Inc.

It includes the design, supply and installation of six vertical turbines, six generators, and associated equipment.

A few fun facts just to give you a sense of the scale:

Together, the six turbines could fill an Olympic-sized swimming pool in one second.

In one year, a point at the end of the rotor will travel the distance from the Earth to the moon – five times.

If you stood the turbine up here in the rotunda, it would surpass the dome of the legislature.

Site C is part of BC Hydro's ambitious capital plan, investing \$2.4 billion and creating 12,000 jobs per year for the next 10 years.

That's in addition to the \$7 billion in government capital projects in the field right now, creating tens of thousands of jobs.

This is what a strong economy looks like and this is what it allows us to do:

- low taxes;

- eliminate the operating debt in four years, for the first time in 40 years;
- invest in vital infrastructure for tomorrow and create jobs today.

Jobs like the 150 this turbine contract will provide.

Jobs like the 1,500 union and non-union for the main civil works project, announced last fall, with opportunities for British Columbians first.

A total of 10,000 jobs from Site C alone.

That spells opportunity for people in Prince George, the Peace and all across our province to work on this once-in-a-generation project.

That's what a growing economy gives us the ability to do.

Thank you.



CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

COFI

April 8, 2016

Thank you very much for being here.

I want to pay tribute to our Minister of Forests because he doesn't stop working at the end of the day, Steve Thomson, and my fellow MLAs in the Okanagan.

Dan Ashton is here from Penticton, one of our neighbouring ridings, who works so hard in every way in supporting our caucus and the great champion for forestry.

There are a lot of community leaders here who represent communities where you fight for the forest industry every day because if you don't have forestry in your community, you don't have your community.

There are 140 communities in BC that depend on this business. That makes forestry so unique in BC because it's the only industry where so many communities are almost solely or principally dependent on it.

It's the lifeblood of BC in a unique way because of that.

150,000 jobs in direct and indirect employment across the province.

Those are jobs we need. Those are jobs for people who pay taxes. Those are jobs that mean that people can go home at the end of every day and know that they can afford to put food on the table for their kids.

I want to say a quick word about a group of Canadian women in timber who are here, because the work they're doing is all about kids.

It's about raising a generation of British Columbians who understand what community leaders and what industry leaders have known for a long time: we can't do without a healthy, thriving forest industry.

I meet with kids at the Legislature all the time and I always do a little lesson with them.

I start out with, "What would you like to do? What's your list of important things you would do?"

Then I say, "How much do you think that would cost?"

Then, "Where do you think you're going to get that money?"

Of course the answer to that is we are going to get that money from your mom and dad.

Then, "What if your mom and dad have less money because the government takes more money from them for our tax system? What are they going to have less for?"

Kids all know the answer to that. Less money for hockey equipment. Less money for school. Less money for trips and all those things.

But there's always one child, when I ask them what they'd like to do if they could be Premier, is "We should stop cutting down trees."

I'm glad they say it because it's a chance for education. "You know, if we don't cut down trees in BC we have to take more money from your mom and dad. If your mom and dad don't happen to work in forestry your mom and dad are going to have to start taking money from the government."

We need kids to understand that our forest industry is not just something that exists in a vacuum.

It supports our entire province, schools, hospitals, all the rest of it. Our forest industry is part of what makes BC the most economically sustainable place and environmentally sustainable places in the world.

We should be so proud of what you do with the cleanest, most environmentally sound, most sustainable forest industry anywhere on the globe. You have worked for decades to earn that designation and we should be loud and proud about telling people all around the world about how what we do is absolutely the best.

I want to talk about resilience because none of you is a stranger to resilience. In a lot of communities there have been tough years and you've made it through.

You kept going, kept your nose to the grindstone and kept your head down and you succeeded. Heaven forbid anybody should call it a sunset industry. It's now a sunrise industry because all of you have stuck with it.

That's strong leadership.

Leadership really is about keeping your eye on the ball, staying focused, being really determined and purposeful about where you want to get. But leadership is about more than just strength. Leadership is also about imagination because you need to be creative in trying to find solutions...particularly in an industry with so many calls on what you need to do and so many different people pulling you in different directions.

Everybody wants something different. At the end of the day, you need to create jobs and you need to make a profit...

But you've got to have a lot of other people to please as well, and that requires imagination.

My example where I learned this was from my mom and dad.

I grew up in Burnaby. My dad was a schoolteacher and my mom didn't have a driver's license.

We had an old blue Rambler and every summer my dad would take us on a road trip, usually to the Okanagan.

He always knew where he wanted to go and he always knew when he wanted to get there. So, that was the leadership.

Then my mom had a different kind of leadership. She had to figure out where to stop, who sat beside each other in the car, who wanted what drink and what food, what to pack and what to leave behind, what time to leave, and how to settle all the fights along the way.

That was another kind of leadership. Making sure that we got there without killing each other, all six of us in the car.

Knowing where you want to go with purpose. And then figuring out how to get there with a plan and creativity, and recognizing there will be forks in the road.

You need to recognize how to get there. You need to find your way around the bumps in the road and you don't always necessarily get exactly the solution you imagined.

But you need to know the parts of the solution that have to be there for you.

I think you all know what I'm talking about: softwood lumber.

We need to make sure that we get a softwood lumber deal with America that works for BC.

We export 50% or more of the softwood that Canada exports, and we need to make sure that our softwood lumber interests are protected.

That means manage trade with the US and it means absolutely under no circumstances will we accept an agreement that includes quotas.

We've got to fight for BC and I want you to know that we are.

In my first conversation with the new Prime Minister I raised softwood. In my first meeting with the new Prime Minister I raised softwood. In my trade mission to Ottawa with 100 people, many from the forest industry, we talked about softwood.

When Steve met with his minister and his offices federally he has talked about softwood.

Every single one of our MLAs and ministers has a firm instruction and they have carried it out:

When we meet with any Member of Parliament, from the government or opposition, we talk about softwood and we talk about how urgent it is that we get this deal done.

As a result, our Prime Minister has listened. Now we have an agreement, a public commitment between he and President Obama to get to a deal and a timeline to get there.

You were a part of that. Industry leaders who talked to MPs, who met with the ambassador, who spent time educating and making sure everyone understood the importance of this issue to BC: you helped us get there.

We've got it on the national agenda but I want you to know I understand, and Steve understands, we haven't got it across the line yet. We have more to do.

I want you to know that when we hit those forks in the road we aren't going to take the wrong one, because we know from experience that BC has vital interests on softwood to protect. Whatever deal we get to, it will one that is good for BC.

Another thing I wanted to talk to you about is innovation, because innovation is a vital part of this industry and it always has been.

When we think about where we are in terms of climate change and the international discussions around climate change, our forest industry is part of the solution to all of those problems the world has, and it's part of the way that BC can offer a solution for Canada.

The 18-story wood-framed building being built as a student residence at UBC, is an example for the world.

The timber bridges that are getting longer and longer. And more examples for the world about how to build with wood: polymers, bioplastics, greener adhesives, all of that product that low quality wood goes to produce.

All of that and that effort to use every speck of lumber or every speck of fiber is part of the contribution that BC is going to make and be able to offer to Canada as they look at all the different options to try and meet the ambitious goals they agreed to in Paris.

We have to make sure that we support you in innovation. We have to make sure that we connect our science and academics to our forest industry and all of our resource industries, so that we can always continue to say we have the cleanest resource sector, and the cleanest and most sustainable forestry sector in the world.

As you develop new products, the second step is helping you find new buyers.

I'm doing my eighth trade mission to Asia later this year. Steve has been over every year. Teresa Wat, our Minister of International Trade, has been over every year to make sure that we are not just nudging those doors open overseas, but kicking them down.

We're investing another \$8 million in FII this year.

Some of that is going to go to Canada Wood Group to continue expanding the use of wood in China, Korea and Japan. Some of that will go to COFI to support them in the same market.

As you probably know, we are investing \$5 million in opening doors for our wood products in a brand new market in India, a country where a million new people are joining the workforce every month, for the next 15 years.

You know what happens when people join the workforce. They want to build a house. Let's make sure that they want to build that house with wood.

I know that some of you are thinking, "India? Really?"

But, I'd ask you to think back to 2001 or 2003 when people said, "China? Really?"

That was a pivotal moment in the history of BC's economy, when the forest industry and the BC government and Canada got together and said, "We are going to go after that market aggressively, open up new opportunities, and have a diversity of customers so we're no longer dependent on just one market."

That pivotal moment is here again with the fastest growing middle class in the world in India. We need to see that future before our competitors see it, as New Zealand and other companies and other countries get heavily into the wood market... Countries that are more proximate but don't produce the same kind of product, and just don't have the same knowledge about opening up overseas markets.

We need to make sure that we open those markets in India, and that we're continuing to open those markets in places like Chinese cities, which are also huge opportunities for us, that still don't know enough about BC wood.

Steve is working really hard on the competitiveness strategy because while you want to get the most value out of your wood products, you want to get the highest profit as well.

That's not just about getting the best price. It's about also having a lower cost. We know in BC we have to look at competitiveness because we have to keep up with other jurisdictions, especially south of the border.

So, we released the forest fiber action plan last September, which is the product of a lot of work and thinking on the part of Steve in our cabinet.

We're streamlining the log handling procedures on the coast. Within the next few weeks you're going to see the value added action plan and the pulp and paper strategy. It's all to make sure we invest in finding ways to reduce your costs as much as we can.

In addition to protecting your industry and the workers who depend on it, we also invested: \$85 million into wildfire prevention and mitigation. And \$10 million for the Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative.

Then of course there's the Rural Dividend, recognizing that small, rural, resource dependent communities are fed up with sending all the money out of their communities and not seeing enough of it come back.

So, we created the Rural Dividend so that local communities can diversify their economies, find new things to do with fiber, as one example, and make sure they get a chance to see some more of that money they send down south come back to their communities and their citizens – so that they can also start growing again.

So, last I want to say this. I started by telling you that softwood is our absolute top priority, and I know it's the number one priority for all of you in this room.

It's something that governments have to do on your behalf, although every one of you has been a critical voice and incredibly valuable part of making sure our voice is heard. This needs to be done by your government, and you need to know that we're standing there with you.

Back to my first story about this road trips I used to take with my dad and mom. My dad always used to characterize a second marriage not really as getting a new wife, but "under new management."

I always felt like that as a kid too. We would be in the back seat, all four of us, like a scene from Lord of the Flies.

It was easy for each of us to look at the front seat and give my mom and dad all kinds of advice. Where they should turn and how fast they should go and whether or not they should stop.

Every once in a while my dad would turn around and say, "I'm going to turn this car around if you don't stop bothering me."

He never did, of course, because you can't.

We have across this province all kinds of people who are telling us and telling you all the time that we should turn the car around.



CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

We have people at a convention in Edmonton this weekend who are debating a manifesto, which is all about turning the car around, rolling back the clock, stopping resource development all across this country in every single sector.

That's okay. We should have freedom of debate in this province and we should have the freedom to express our real views about things.

I see the world differently. We need resource development and we need a healthy forest industry. We need that 150,000 jobs and paycheques that come from this industry and we should never for a moment be ashamed of the work that we do in BC in developing the best resources, the cleanest resources and the most sustainable forest industry anywhere in the world.

What you do matters.

So, no matter what the backseat drivers have to say, we're not turning the car around.

There will be bumps in the road and there will be curves and there will be things we have to be imaginative about in order to get to our destination.

But our destination is this: growth. Our destination is jobs. Our destination is competitiveness and our destination is a forest industry that is a sunrise industry that attracts new workers, new investment, new jobs for BC.

Our destination is a forest industry that is a future industry for BC.

-END-

## Acknowledge: Mayor Doug Findlater

If you ask a lot of people why they don't choose an electric car, they think it's too expensive, too inconvenient. We're working to change that.

Today, by upgrading their fast-charging infrastructure, the City of West Kelowna is making it easier to go electric.

Easily accessible on Highway 97, the DC fast charger can charge a vehicle in about 30 minutes.

All new vehicles will be emissions-free by 2050 – only 34 years from now. We need to make sure the infrastructure is in place well before then.

So expect to see more electric cars and charging stations across BC in the months and years to come.



BC already has Canada's

- largest public charging network;
- second-highest per capita adoption of electric vehicles.

Over the last 5 years, the Clean Energy Vehicle Program has invested more than \$31 million. That's helped put more than 2,300 clean vehicles on the road.

Last month, we went even further, with nearly \$7 million from the Innovative Clean Energy Fund, for:

- more charging stations,
- more purchase incentives for clean vehicles under \$77,000
- and the green light for clean vehicles to use HOV lanes – no matter how many people are in the car.

It's part of our plan to ensure BC remains a climate leader – and ahead of the curve.

- END -

**ACKNOWLEDGE:**

**Suzanne Anton**

**Andrew Wilkinson**

**Linda Reid**

**Shane Foxman, Emcee**

**DJ Schneeweiss, Consul-General of Israel to Toronto &  
Western Canada**

I'm honoured to be joining you this evening...  
To stand up and celebrate our shared values.

The values British Columbia was built on.  
And the values embodied by the State of Israel.

- We succeed best as a society when we work together.
- Hard work, education and innovation are the only way to guarantee a secure future.
- The world is a better place when men and women are given the opportunity to contribute equally.

The hard work and advocacy of the JNF shows that even if you live halfway around the world, you can help build Israel.

On behalf of British Columbia and as a friend of Israel's, I'm proud to help make a difference in the Middle East's only democracy.

Today, you're helping build the "Vancouver Shelter" in Rishon Le Zion...

A safe haven for women and children living with domestic violence.

Israeli women fleeing abuse will have the support, encouragement, and opportunity to rebuild their lives... and create a better future for their children.

Thanks to the JNF, 'No to Violence Against Women', and everyone here today.

What you're doing is important because it transforms entire societies.

When women are given access to education, and opportunities to contribute their perspectives, new ideas, and broader experiences...

When you unlock all the potential wisdom and talent, entire communities succeed.

That's true in Vancouver, that's true in Canada, and that's true in Israel.

- END -

Later today, we're going to introduce a motion supporting the Trans Pacific Partnership...

The TPP is a free trade agreement with 12 Pacific Rim nations that will create more wealth, opportunity, and jobs across BC by making it easier for BC businesses to get their goods to new markets around the Pacific.

The people here today all represent vital industries and organizations that see incredible opportunity in the TPP... They're standing up to support it.

- Christina Burrridge – BC Seafood Alliance
- Kevin Boon – BC Cattlemen's Association
- Dan Baxter – BC Chamber of Commerce
- Mike Mueller – Aerospace Industry Association of Canada
- And our host, the owner of Finest at Sea, Bob Fraumeni.

50 per cent of Bob's frozen product is shipped to Asia Pacific. That means jobs for 150 people right now. But Canada signing onto this deal would mean the potential for Bob to hire a lot more people right here in Victoria.

The same is true for hundreds of other companies in dozens of other industries in cities all across our province.

This is important, because right now in Canada, there are voices that want to shut down all economic development, stop creating jobs for working people, and end trade deals.

International trade is the foundation of our economy. It's important we speak with one voice as British Columbians and send a strong message that signing the TPP is good for jobs – good for BC and good for Canada.

*Madam Speaker, I am pleased to close debate on my motion.*

Trade is the foundation of our economy. It creates opportunity and jobs in every corner of our province.

This is not a controversial opinion. It's just the truth.

The Leader of the Opposition doesn't take a position – but he quotes a whopping three people who oppose the TPP.

He's ignoring the industries who stood with us today:

- BC Chamber of Commerce
- BC Seafood Alliance
- BC Cattlemen's Association
- Aerospace Industry Association
- And the over 80 businesses who signed a letter to Minister Freeland declaring their support for TPP.

The leader of the Opposition believes taking a position means we think we know best.

He's right about one thing:  
when it comes to growing an economy, diversifying markets, and creating jobs that British Columbians can rely on...

Yes, we do know better than him.

Instead of growing jobs, the Leader of the Opposition once again says no.

No to eliminating tariffs.

No to increasing exports.

No to breaking down trade barriers.

No to the jobs that trade creates.

He was not alone.



One month ago, the Member for Surrey-Whalley said: “My position is clear, it should be opposed, and we’ll have that debate in the House.”

Today, he has no opinion.

Compare that with the Member for Oak Bay-Gordon Head. He opposes the TPP, and explained why.

I disagree with him. But I appreciate his principled stance.

*And with that, I move Motion Number 11.*

Acknowledge:  
Hon. Mike Morris  
Hon. Stephanie Cadieux  
RCMP

People in Surrey have built a vibrant, thriving community.  
The people who live here deserve to feel safe.

There's no room for low-life gangsters who think they can  
treat this community like their personal playground.

It's unacceptable. And it's not going to end well for them.

That's why today, we're providing \$23 million for an  
expanded province-wide guns and gangs strategy.

It means more integrated police teams...  
More prosecutors dedicated to combating gang violence...  
And more supports for RCMP officers on the ground.

It ensures the RCMP can continue to build on the gains they have made with BC's guns and gang strategy.

As of February 1<sup>st</sup>:

- 25 individuals arrested
- 176 charges advanced
- Over \$4.5 million in drugs seized on March 16<sup>th</sup>.

Last year, they made over 800 arrests, and seized more than 170 weapons and firearms,

Another \$23 million means:

- Two additional 10-person Combined Forces Special Enforcement Units (CFSEU) on the ground...
- Permanent funding for the Provincial Tactical Enforcement Priority, which integrates police intelligence systems...
- And a new Office of Crime Reduction and Gang Outreach, to help people escape gang life.

The people of Surrey should know: we will not rest until we break this cycle of violence.

We'll continue to give the RCMP all the resources they need to go after these low-life criminals.

And for those who have fallen into gang life: you are jeopardizing yourself, your family, and your neighbourhood.

It's not too late to change course. Because now more than ever, your days as a gangster are numbered.

Acknowledge:  
Hon. Rich Coleman  
Rob Lamoureux

This was a sad week in BC, as we honoured Constable Sarah Beckett, the RCMP officer and young mother who was killed in Langford.

She was the first female RCMP officer killed in the line of duty in British Columbia, leaving behind a husband who loved her so much, and two very young children.

I was honoured to join thousands of police officers, firefighters, and paramedics for the service in her honour.

For first responders, it was a chance to pay tribute to a beloved colleague and a friend.

Her family got to see all Sarah honoured as a hero.

And for the rest of us, it was an opportunity to reflect on the sacrifices first responders make every day to keep us safe.

Running towards danger takes a special kind of courage that many people can't even imagine.

You do the hard things so we don't have to because the rest of us aren't that brave.

Firefighters are jacks-of-all-trades, responding to everything from fires to cats in trees.

You even respond to calls for help halfway around the world. When an earthquake devastated Nepal, Burnaby firefighters answered the call for help.

But you're also leaders in the community, volunteering your hard-earned downtime to local charities:

- Healthy snacks for schools;
- Christmas toys for kids who might not got any;
- Sponsoring dry grads.
- \$100,000 to Vancouver General Hospitals' burn unit.

So tonight, I want to say thank you to all of you for everything you do.

- END -

- Thank you to the executive of the Khalsa Diwan Society. (For temple only)
- This is a great time of year...  
Spring is here, the days are brighter, and we come together in the largest Vaisakhi celebrations in North America.
- Vaisakhi is a chance for families and friends to celebrate the principles of the Sikh faith that have helped build our province...
  - Equality,
  - service,
  - honest living,
  - and hard work.
- It's a testament to a community that has helped shape BC into what it is today: a prosperous, vibrant, multicultural society that is the envy of the world.
- BC is a better, richer place because of you.
- Happy Vaisakhi... Lakh Lakh Vadaiya



Thank you. And thank you for speaking out.

Because you all understand what's at stake.

If we can bring home the opportunity of LNG, it means thousands of jobs in communities like Fort St. John.

- It means paying down your mortgage.
- It means college tuition for your kids.
- It means a better life for you and your family.

And I need you to keep standing up. Because they don't always hear you in downtown Vancouver.

Some people there don't like to get their hands dirty. They don't want anyone's hands to get dirty.

I want you to know that I hear you. Pat Pimm hears you.

Because right now, B.C. is leading Canada. And to keep leading, we need to keep creating opportunity across the province.

And we won't stop working to bring home LNG. We won't stop fighting to create more opportunity in Fort St. John and across B.C.

It's still April – but for the past few weeks, it has felt more like August.

We've had 150 fires so far across BC. Earlier this week, we had 34 different fires in the northeast alone, including one north of Prince George that forced evacuations.

It looks like the next few days will bring a brief reprieve from Mother Nature, with rain and colder temperatures.

But this is the new reality in BC. Summers are hotter, drier, and coming earlier and earlier.

As the temperature goes up, we have to be ever more vigilant.

Monday night, there was a fire north of here that forced evacuations.

Here's what government is doing:

- Investing over \$27 million every year to prepare and plan for emergencies.
- We mobilized air tankers earlier than usual this year
- More than 200 BCWS staff have been deployed in the Prince George Fire Centre.
- More than 1,400 firefighters are available this season, with another 1,600 available in an emergency.

Last year, a third of all wildfires in BC were caused by people. That's far too high.

That means respecting fire bans. Unfortunately, not everyone has gotten the message.

So here's fair warning: fines have gone up. For example, failing to comply with a fire restriction will more than triple to over \$1,100.

And for people who interfere with firefighting efforts, it's even worse: up to \$100,000...and one year in jail.

The Province will spend whatever we need to keep people and property safe. But Smokey the Bear was right...only you can prevent wildfires.

## NO ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I'm honoured to be here with so many men and women of faith...

And to bring greetings on behalf of the Province.

Faith communities make British Columbia a better, stronger, richer place.

Faith strengthens the foundations of our institutions.

Faith gives rise to countless acts of kindness, large and small.

And our faith traditions give rise to the principles our compassionate and generous society is founded on:  
Strong families, living in safe communities.

A British Columbia where there is a place, a purpose, and a future – for everyone.

Thank you for your support, and for your prayers.

And now a reading from the Old Testament:

The LORD is near to everyone who prays to him.

- **Psalm 145.18**

Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.

- **Jeremiah 29:12**

- END -

- This is a great time of year...
- Spring is here, the days are brighter, and we come together in the largest Vaisakhi celebrations in North America.
- Vaisakhi is a chance for families and friends to celebrate the principles of the Sikh faith that have helped build our province...
  - Equality,
  - service,
  - honest living,
  - and hard work.
- It's a testament to a community that has helped shape BC into what it is today: a prosperous, vibrant, multicultural society that is the envy of the world.
- BC is a better, richer place because of you.
- Happy Vaisakhi...
- Lakh Lakh Vadaiyan [Luck Luck Va-Da-Yian]

Sexual violence is one of the worst things that can happen to anyone. It leaves scars that last a lifetime.

Victims don't always know where or how to look for help.

Far too many stay quiet. But that only makes the problem worse.

Because a rapist's best friend is silence.

A rapist's best friend is shame.

A rapist's best friend is the failure of authorities to recognize a complaint.

Today, we took a step in the right direction. Every post-secondary institution in BC will need to have a sexual violence and misconduct policy.

As parents, we expect our sons and daughters will be safe.

And for students, university is often the first place they're on their own.

They have every right to feel safe on campus.

Andrew Wilkinson will work with colleges and universities to develop a framework to address the issue...

So that students who find themselves subject to sexual violence or harassment know how to reach out for help.

I want to acknowledge Andrew Weaver for helping to make this happen with Minister Wilkinson.

We don't always agree on every issue.

But even when we disagree, Dr. Weaver is an example of what can be accomplished when you set politics aside...

Come forward with ideas and not just criticism...

And work together to make a real difference.



## ACKNOWLEDGE:

Linda Reid (MC and introduces the Premier)

Pastor Tim Schindel

Thank you.

Earlier this year, Constable Sarah Beckett, an RCMP officer from Langford, was killed in the line of duty.

The entire province mourned her.

Sarah's death hit us hard, because Sarah wasn't just a police officer. She was a daughter, a wife, and a mom who left behind two beautiful young children.

She was an ordinary person, who answered an extraordinary calling.

Just like all the other emergency first responders honoured here.

This garden wasn't designed as a big, imposing memorial.  
It's a place for reflection.

Because the men and women honoured here were  
heroes. But they were also our friends, neighbours, and  
parents.

Their dedication to helping people, putting themselves in  
harm's way...

Reflects British Columbia at our very best.

The designers wanted the memorial to be a garden, which  
symbolizes life and regeneration.

I think the men and women honoured here would be  
proud. Because that's the calling they answered: to  
preserve and save life.

To keep the rest of us safe.

For those we lost along the way, we can cherish their memory, and honour them in a way that would make them proud.

And for their colleagues who continue to serve...  
We should all take the opportunity to thank them more often.

Yesterday in Langford, Constable Sarah Beckett was on duty when her police cruiser was involved in a collision.

Despite the best efforts of first responders on the scene, they were unable to save her.

Constable Beckett leaves behind grieving colleagues in the RCMP.

But more importantly, she also leaves behind her husband and two young children.

In her honour, the flag outside the legislature will be lowered to half-mast.

Nothing we can say or do in this House will ease her family's pain right now.

But in the years to come, I hope they will take comfort in the knowledge that their mother was a real hero.

Each and every day, police officers put themselves in harm's way to keep the rest of us safe.

We should all take the opportunity to thank them more often.

Madam Speaker, every day in British Columbia, thousands of first responders kiss their loved ones goodbye, don a uniform and go to work to protect the rest of us.

Thankfully, the vast, vast majority return home safely.

But tragically - last week in Langford - RCMP Constable Sarah Beckett did not make it home.

Constable Beckett was not only a police officer – she was also a young mother.

She leaves behind a husband and two small children whose world has been changed forever.

I don't think any of us can truly appreciate what they are going through.

All of us in this house have seen the incredible outpouring of grief in the community that Constable Beckett served – but also across the province.

This afternoon, I and several other members of this house will have the honour of joining thousands of first responders for a Regimental Service to honour her memory.

For her fellow officers, it's a way to pay tribute to a beloved colleague and friend.

For her family, it's a chance to see their wife and mother honoured as the hero she is.

And for the rest of us – it is a chance to pause and reflect on her sacrifice and on behalf of all British Columbians - to say thank you.

- Madame Speaker, over the next few days, hundreds of thousands of British Columbians join millions of Sikhs around the world to celebrate Vaisakhi.
- British Columbia is the proud home of the largest Vaisakhi celebrations in North America.
- As we celebrate the birth of the Khalsa, Vaisakhi is also a chance for families, friends, and neighbours to celebrate the proud and enduring principles of the Sikh faith.
- Sikhs participation in business and community life has helped shape our province into what it is today: a prosperous, vibrant, multicultural society that is the envy of the world.
- I look forward to joining thousands of British Columbians participating in Vaisakhi events over the next few weeks.
- To all those celebrating Vaisakhi - may the coming year bring you success, health and happiness.
- Lakh Lakh Vadaiya! [Luck Luck Va-Da-Yian]

I want to thank Investors Group for putting together today's event...  
and all of you for stepping up – and stepping out – for a good cause.

More than 60,000 British Columbians suffer from Alzheimer's. They are our parents and grandparents. These are the people who brought us into the world. Protected us.

Taught us their values.

Loved us unconditionally.

Remember how you saw your parents when you were young. They knew everything, they could do anything. And I think a part of us always feels that way.

So when a parent suffers from dementia – it's almost harder on their family.

Alzheimer's affects people from every walk of life. It even touched BC's greatest Premier, Bill Bennett.

This is a man who shaped modern British Columbia. But in his final days, he was no longer himself.

That's why, today, I'm announcing \$2.7 million in funding for First Link.

It's small compared to the support every family gives. But it can help families love and honour their parents, grandparents, uncles and aunts.

First Link offers support, information, and education for the people who live with Alzheimer's – including their families and caregivers.

It's proactive support. Once Alzheimer's has been diagnosed, First Link calls you to offer support. And they'll keep checking in to make sure needs are being met.



Dealing with Alzheimer's is one of the hardest things many families will ever have to do.

If we can make it even a little bit easier – we should.

Thanks for your support.

**ACKNOWLEDGE:**  
**Hon. Shirley Bond**

BC is leading Canada.

- We are #1 in economic growth.
- Growing at twice the national average.
- Four consecutive balanced budgets
- And we created 72,000 new jobs in the last year

We've worked hard to create a growing, diverse economy because of what it allows us to do:

- Record investments in infrastructure
- Training for people to get a better job.
- And the resources to place a record number of children in care in adoptive homes.

We want everyone to share a dividend. And that's why we are raising the minimum wage over and above B.C.'s Consumer Price Index.

This year, a 40 cent increase, effective September 15th. And a further increase next year of at least 30 cents.

With these increases, BC's minimum wage will be at least \$11 dollars and 25 cents – third highest in Canada.

It means more than \$1,400 in your pocket every year, if you have a full-time job.

This will make six separate minimum wage increases since I became Premier.

98 per cent of business in BC is small business. Over 1 million British Columbians work for one.

Some small business owners have expressed concern about raising the minimum wage.

So I am re-affirming our commitment to lower the small business tax rate from 2.5 to 1.5 percent ...that's a reduction of 40 per cent.

It's one thing to raise the minimum wage. But it doesn't mean much if you can't find a job.

So today, I'm also announcing \$2.88 million in new training programs to help address labour shortages.

\$2 million of that will cover 100 per cent of training costs for businesses that hire an unemployed person.

We're also expanding investments in training youth, small business training grants, and expanding the Get Youth Working program.

We have focused on growing the size our economy instead of the size of government.

Minimum Wage  
May 4, 2016

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Our plan is working. And it's paying dividends for British Columbians in every corner of the province.

**ACKNOWLEDGE:**

Mr. Hu Chunhua, Secretary of the Guangdong Provincial  
Committee of the Communist Party of China

Ambassador Luo

Hon. Teresa Wat

Consul General Liu Fei

Consul General Rachael Bedlington

It's an honour to welcome Secretary Hu to British  
Columbia and Vancouver.

And as long as the journey from Guangzhou is, I think he  
will feel at home here.

Because Vancouver is not just Canada's Pacific  
Gateway...

it is also the most Asian city outside of Asia.

China and our sister province matter to British Columbia...let me give you four examples:

I made Teresa Wat, a fluent Cantonese speaker, as my minister of international trade.

I have led three different trade missions to China since becoming Premier five years ago.

Three years ago I appointed Ben Stewart as my special envoy to China – in addition to four Trade and Investment Representative Offices in China.

And as you know, British Columbia became the first foreign government in the world to issue a bond in China's RMB market.

That was a sign of our deep respect for your currency – but make no mistake, it was also a smart investment.

Because for 10 years, we have worked hard to strengthen our economic ties with China. We're building on cultural ties that reach back a long way.

For 100 years, Chinese immigrants have been settling in towns across BC, enriching them culturally and economically.

Many of them came from Guangdong.

It's amazing what those first immigrants and their descendants have accomplished in the new world. They have become pillars of their community.

Over 11 per cent of British Columbians identify as Chinese. Most of them speak Chinese at home, and keep their proud cultural traditions alive.

And as China continues to transform its economy, our Chinese connections are a source of great strength.



Today, China is:

- our second-largest trading partner
- second-greatest market for tourism
- and the top source of new immigrants to BC.

We will continue to build on those ties and create opportunity here in British Columbia.

But our sister province relationship with Guangdong is particularly important to us. Because we see ourselves in you.

Guangdong has more than three times the number of people in all of Canada. But we are both leaders in our respective countries.

Guangdong is a pioneer in economic reform, and British Columbia leads Canada in growth, job creation, and fiscal management.

And maybe that is why when we look at each other...  
We both see something familiar – and we both see  
opportunity.

British Columbia offers world-recognized leadership on  
climate change and clean tech. And we're eager to share  
that with our partners in Guangdong.

That's why we worked hard on reaching last year's MOU.

I look forward to discussing how we can continue to move  
forward on low carbon development, education,  
information tech, and China's One Belt One Road  
initiative.

I also want to further discuss the important role of LNG will  
play in both our provinces.

Guangzhou Gas Group and Woodfibre LNG are signing  
an \$11.5 billion contract to export 1 million tons of LNG to  
Guangzhou for 25 years.

For Guangdong, it means energy to meet the needs of your growing economy and expanding middle class...

And it means cleaner air and blue skies for generations to come.

For British Columbia, it's an economic opportunity that will create thousands of jobs across the province.

For both our provinces, it's a cornerstone of the foundation we're laying for future prosperity.

We should celebrate our historical ties...and the future we're working together to build.

In BC, when we look west across the Pacific, we see our future.

**ACKNOWLEDGE:**

Mr. Hu Chunhua, Secretary of the Guangdong Provincial Committee of the Communist Party of China

Last night I had the opportunity of returning the honour Secretary Hu did me and the BC delegation when he welcomed us to Guangdong.

BC and Guangdong have been sister provinces for 20 years. But the cultural and ancestral connections between us are as old as British Columbia.

We will continue to build on those ties, which have enriched our cities beyond measure. But recently, we have been building new ties, with an eye to the future.

Shortly after Mr. Secretary Hu welcomed us to Guangdong...

we signed an agreement with Governor Zhu to work together on new trade opportunities...

Specifically in clean technology and climate action.

And the One Belt One Road Initiative.

This will benefit BC, China, and the whole world.

BC is world leader in clean tech and low carbon technology.

And with the world's most ancient civilization and fastest-growing economy, China is a world leader in every sense of the word.

Later today, at Ballard Power Systems and the University of British Columbia, you'll see firsthand some of the ideas and innovation that we are working on here.

I also want to further discuss the important role of LNG will play in both our provinces.

Guangzhou Gas Group and Woodfibre LNG are signing an \$11.5 billion contract to export 1 million tons of LNG to Guangzhou for 25 years.

For Guangdong, it means energy to meet the needs of your growing economy and expanding middle class...

And it means cleaner air and blue skies for generations to come.

For British Columbia, it's an economic opportunity that will create thousands of jobs across the province.

Before we begin, I want to touch on the agreement with the nurses – 99% of unionized employees are now covered by collective agreements.

It's a great example of what can be achieved when we give the public sector a stake in BC's growing economy.

We all succeed when we build BC together.

I want to thank Doug Parton, Derek Dinzey, from the Local 97, British Columbia's Ironworkers, for coming here.

They called and asked to come. Because they want to say they support getting to yes on projects like Site C and LNG.

Because they want to get their members working.

We're working hard every day to put them to work.

Right now Minister Shirley Bond is in Ottawa, addressing the National Building Trades Convention. She's the first BC cabinet minister to be asked to do so.

Because it's how we create the wealth and prosperity we all depend on.

This Saturday, the Ironworkers are holding a competition for their Apprentices. They're going to tell you more about that.

The Ironworkers are doing their part. And so are we.

Because the best way to support working people – is to make sure we're creating jobs...so there is work.

And the best way to do that is by getting to yes on jobs and growing the economy.

- We love our pets. Look at these faces – nobody wants to see them in distress.
- Some people don't know that on a hot day, it doesn't take long for a parked car to become a greenhouse.
- In just 10 to 20 minutes, temperature can rise from warm to life-threatening.
- Jane and Minister Letnick have been working with the SPCA on an awareness campaign to remind everyone: dogs in hot cars are not cool.
- Nobody means to put their pet in a life or death situation. But it happens. And it shouldn't.
- The social media campaign will remind people:
  - of the risks to their pets lives
  - the consequences they could face under Canada's toughest animal cruelty penalties in BC
  - and to help people learn to spot the signs of a dog in distress
- These efforts will create awareness to help protect animals in British Columbia, which is what today is all about.



Animal Protection Day  
May 12, 2016

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

## ACKNOWLEDGE:

Jackie Tegart

Mayor Frank Armitage

We're here to do two things: have fun, and celebrate mining in B.C.

It's important, because there are some people in this province who don't understand how important mining is.

Two years ago I met with Mayor Frank Armitage at UBCM.

He said that between forestry and Copper Mountain, you contribute \$750 million per year to the provincial economy.

But for all the wealth you generate here, Frank had to ask for help to build an elevator at town hall.

That's not right. That's why we set up the Rural Dividend – to better share BC's prosperity with the communities that create it.

There are some people who say we should stop mining.  
That it's a 20<sup>th</sup> century industry in a 21<sup>st</sup> century world.

They could not be more wrong.

And if they'd just put down their latte, they'd see 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 you mine right here is going to  
increase with it.

For transmission line wire and conductors, for electric  
cars, 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 metal.

The reason they have social housing in Victoria and Vancouver isn't because of socialism – it's because the men and women of Princeton are hard at work creating that wealth.

The reason BC has world-leading cancer and AIDS researchers, the reason BC is leading Canada in economic growth, the reason BC has the lowest unemployment in the country...

Is you.

So have fun today – and thank you for building this great province.

**ACKNOWLEDGE:**

MLAs Richard Lee, Jane Thornthwaite, Doug Bing, Marvin Hunt  
MC James Leland, FST Ironworkers Local 97

This week Doug and Derek came to Victoria and I was proud to stand with them in support of getting to yes on economic development.

Putting working people to work is the first step in building an even better BC together.

Everywhere you go in BC, the Ironworkers have left their mark from the bridges we drive across, to the schools we grow up in.

When you look at a guy like Dave Milne – the modern day Davey Crockett, who's been an Ironworker since the '50s – you see someone who has literally built BC.

Apprenticeship programs ensure the next generation is ready to build their own legacy, so there will be more Davey Crocketts for generations to come.

That's why we invest over \$7 billion annually in education and to ensure apprentices get the skills they need for high paying, family supporting jobs like the ones LNG and Site C will offer.

Every ironworker in BC gets their start right here at BCIT. And if the competition today is any indication – the next generation of Ironworkers will be ready for the challenge.

The best way to support working people is to get them working – and we'll continue to work with industry and labour to create jobs and opportunity.

It's an honour to be here with you.

Just over 100 years ago, the Komagata Maru arrived in Vancouver with 376 people on board.

They came to Canada with the dream of a better life for their families.

After months at sea, you can imagine the hope they felt when they finally saw land and arrived at Burrard Inlet.

And you can only imagine how they felt when they were turned away.

They weren't even allowed to dock.  
All because of their ethnicity. The colour of their skin.

For 100 years, we have been trying to atone.

Thankfully, attitudes changed. South Asian immigrants and their children have become pillars of their communities.

But I can't help but wonder what opportunities we missed. What contributions the Komagata Maru passengers would have made.

What their descendants would have accomplished here.

In 2008, the B.C. government joined with the opposition to pass a motion of deep regret.

These events transcend politics. And they serve as an important reminder to us, and to future generations:

That we must value, respect and welcome all immigrants who seek to build their lives here.

They enrich our communities and culture, and strengthen our economy – and make our country better.

We have learned a lot since the Komagata Maru was turned away.

We owe it to the next generation to make sure they never repeat these mistakes.

Thank you.

- END -



**Acknowledge:**

**Mike Bernier**

**Linda Hepner, Mayor of Surrey**

**Shawn Wilson, Surrey Board Chair of Education**

**Annette Keeper, Principal, Panorama Park Elementary**

**Stephanie Cadieux**

**Marvin Hunt**

**Gordon Hogg**

BC is leading Canada like never before. Last year, we created 50,000 jobs, and we have the number one GDP growth in the country.

These jobs and opportunity means more families are moving to BC...

And it's no surprise many are choosing to call Surrey home.

Surrey is one of the fastest-growing cities anywhere in Canada, with some 800 new residents each month.

That's why we're partnering with the Surrey school district to invest almost \$100 million to create more spaces for students in Surrey schools.

I would like to invite up some special student guests to help me for the big reveal.

**[Students will reveal 2,700 student spaces on a banner. Students will peel one number off at a time and yell out the numbers one by one.]**

2,700 new seats!

We're moving fast with a rapid expansion of up to 600 seats at Sullivan, Woodward Hill and here at Panorama Park elementary schools starting this summer. They'll be ready for when classes start in fall 2017.

In South Surrey, there will be a brand new Grandview Heights Secondary with space for 1,500 students. That will help relieve pressure on Earl Marriot Secondary and Semiahmoo Secondary.

We're also building a new Clayton North Elementary school with space for 605 students.

And we're planning for the future by purchasing land for a future elementary school in Port Kells.

The construction of the new schools will be completed under the B.C.'s Apprentices on Public Projects Policy... helping more young people get connected with skills training and apprenticeship opportunities.

It's because we have stayed focused on getting to yes on economic development...

Because we have stayed focused on controlling spending

and growing our economy...  
We have the ability to invest in what matters most to  
British Columbians.

Thank you.

– END –

Madam Speaker,

Like many Canadians, yesterday I watched the images and stories of the fire in Fort McMurray. An entire city being forced to evacuate is nothing less than a nightmare come to life.

Alberta is our partner, our neighbour, and our friend. But more than that, Alberta is family. And in times of need, family stands together.

So although our own resources are stretched to the limit fighting fires in the northeast, yesterday we reached out to Alberta to offer whatever support we can.

While the battle is far from over, the fact that no lives have been lost is a testament to the bravery and coordination of the authorities, police, fire fighters, and emergency responders.

We won't know the full extent of the damage until the fire is extinguished. But it appears thousands of people may lose their homes.

Hundreds of British Columbians have reached out , asking how they can help. I encourage them – and all British Columbians – to donate to the Red Cross and their ongoing relief efforts.

By rallying together, keeping each other safe, and staying calm in the face of disaster, the people of Fort McMurray have shown Canada at our very best. To them, and especially those facing an uncertain future – you are not alone.

## ACKNOWLEDGE:

John Kim, Partner, Fasken Martineau (MC and Sponsor)  
Ambassador Eric Walsh  
Ben Stewart

It's an honour to open the BC Tech Investment Seminar.

Thank you to our guests for attending and for taking time to learn more about the investment and partnership opportunities offered by the BC tech sector.

I also want to thank our British Columbia panelists for traveling to Korea to tell your story about your company and the BC tech sector.

It is an honour to be back in Korea. Since becoming Premier in 2011, this is my third visit here.

There are tech sectors and tech hubs around the world. But BC's sector is not only thriving, but offers advantages other places can't.

We have one of the best-educated and tech-savvy workforces in the world.  
Our proximity to Silicon Valley offers natural partnerships, opportunities, and advantages.  
And the provincial government's targeted tax credits encourage innovation, entrepreneurs, and investment.

Korea has shown how to build a successful tech sector that leads the world.

Like Korea, BC is a leading tech centre, with 86,000 people working, with multinational companies like Microsoft, Amazon, Sony Pictures Imageworks, Electronic Arts, and Samsung Electronics.

Korean tech companies have realized business opportunities in BC:

- Samsung Electronics has an R&D centre just outside Vancouver in Burnaby,;

- Hyundai Motors conducted its Canadian hydrogen fuel cell vehicle launch just outside Vancouver;
- Korean gaming studios have partnered with BC digital media firms like Roadhouse Interactive.

And BC firms are making connections in Korea:

- Adtrack Media's in-tunnel subway digital advertising platform. You may have seen it on your way here.
- KEAI Bioresearch makes specialized medical devices that produce stem cells.
- And Greenlight Innovation provides battery and fuel cell testing equipment to Samsung, Hyundai, and LG.

These are all votes of confidence in a thriving sector. And to make sure BC stays ahead of the curve, we launched the *BC Tech Strategy* in January.

It was based on a simple premise...

We asked the tech sector what they needed to keep growing and thriving.



They told us investment in venture capital, deepening the technology talent pool and making it easier for BC tech companies to access new markets.

With a \$100 million tech fund, more programming and strong post-secondary institutions , we're making that happen.

In January, we hosted the first BC Tech Summit, with 2,800 business leaders, tech companies, entrepreneurs, academics and students.

We matched 180 potential investors with opportunities – and more than 100 CEOs.

I want to invite you to visit BC.

To explore the growing opportunities in tech...  
and also to attend the 2017 BC Tech Summit.

I hope to see you there.

I hope you have a productive session and I look forward to seeing you at the luncheon this afternoon.

Thank you.

## ACKNOWLEDGE:

Ambassador Eric Walsh

Mr. Yong-Jae Kim, Partner, Gowlings (MC)

Mr. Byungkwon Oh, Assistant Governor for Economy,  
Gyeonggi Province

Colleen Chapco-Wade, Vice-Chair, Canadian Chamber of  
Commerce in Korea

I want to thank the Chamber for organizing the luncheon.

I hope you have already met my special representative for  
Korea and Asia, Ben Stewart, and Luke Shim, the  
managing director of our Trade and Investment Office  
here in Seoul.

Their job is to build bridges across the Pacific.

It's a sign of our focus on Korea, your businesses and our  
growing relationship.

British Columbia and Korea understand each other.  
Because we are both sometimes underestimated, and  
overlooked by our larger neighbours.

Look at what you have accomplished here.

Korea has no natural resources, but you have managed to  
become wealthy. Because you have Korean people.

You have determination, skill and purpose and you never  
give up.

That's how you have survived occupation and war, and  
became an economic powerhouse, and a global giant in  
LNG, electronics, automotive, and more.

In British Columbia, our innovation and our clean  
resources make us perfect partners to help build each  
other's economy.

But there's something else that brings us together,  
something else we have in common.

We are rarely over-estimated. In fact, people sometimes underestimate us. Maybe it's because of Korea's geographic size or BC's population.

Whatever the reason...it's a mistake. As Koreans know well, the hottest peppers are the small ones.

The other thing we have in common is Koreans. We have a strong Korean community in BC. They give us character and backbone to face our challenges...and get the job done.

BC and Korea had strong ties before the Canada-Korea Free Trade Agreement, with nearly half of all Canadian exports here. Now, we have the opportunity to build on those ties.

Look at what's happened in just one year:

- BC Softwood lumber exports up 22 per cent
- BC seafoods exports up 52 per cent
- Agrifoods exports up 64 per cent

In BC, we are focused on building on those ties.

That's why we held the BC-Korea Trade and Investment Forum last year, and that's why I am the first Canadian Premier to visit here since the agreement came into effect.

Let me give you three examples of how this is working.

First, I have the pleasure of announcing this summer... Shinhan Bank will open its first Western Canadian branch in BC.

It's a good investment, with 54,000 Korean-Canadians in British Columbia, and Korean companies.

And it's a vote of confidence in BC's economy – because BC is leading Canada right now.

- We lead Canada in economic growth
- We have the country's lowest unemployment rate
- Alone in the country, we have four consecutive balanced budgets and the highest-possible credit rating.

Shinhan Bank is far from alone.

Earlier today, the Canada Korea Business Association and Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Korea signed an agreement to work together on creating more opportunities.

Korean companies are also finding opportunities in BC. Samsung C&T signed a joint venture partnership as part of Peace River Hydro Partners.

They were just awarded a \$1.75-billion construction contract for the Site C hydroelectric dam project – which will mean 100 years of clean energy to meet rising demand in BC and our neighbours.

Site C is a perfect example of how we do things in BC. It's the largest investment in BC history – and we're not going into deficit.

Getting to yes on economic development – while ensuring the highest environmental standards.

You see the same approach reflected in setting aside 85 per cent of the world's largest temperate rainforest...an area equivalent to a third of Korea...

While ensuring economic opportunities for the peoples who have lived there for millennia.

You see that approach in our commitment to the world's cleanest LNG facilities, like the proposed LNG Canada facility in BC's north, with KOGAS as a major partner.



## **CONCLUSION**

Korea and BC are natural partners. Not just because we have common interests...but because when we look to the future, we see each other.

We're both living proof jurisdictions don't have to choose between economic development and building towards a cleaner future.

We're both leaders by example. Not just within our own countries – but to the world.

We've made incredible progress, with the first and only Canadian free trade agreement in Asia.

Let's continue to work together. Let's continue to build on 20 years of partnership.

Thank you.



**ACKNOWLEDGE:**

Peter Xotta, Port of Vancouver (introduces PCC)  
Kyunghan KIM, Director General, Gyeonggi Province  
Mr. Shin Myoung-jin, Chairman / CEO, KOIMA  
Ambassador Eric Walsh  
Luke Shim, BC Trade and Investment Office, Seoul  
Ben Stewart

South Korea is important to British Columbians. This is my third visit here since becoming Premier five years ago.

I come because Korea is an important partner for us. But it's easy to come because I feel so at home here... and because we admire what you have accomplished here.

As the much of the world struggles to climb out of recession, Korea is an example of what can be accomplished.

Think back 50 years, when formal diplomatic ties between Canada and Korea were first established.

It's amazing what you've accomplished in such a short time. And it's amazing how the relationship between us has grown.

54,000 Korean-Canadians call B.C. home...  
And they're going to feel even more at home when Shinhan Bank opens its first Western Canadian branch later this year in BC.

It's a vote of confidence in the B.C. economy. And so is the fact that major Korean companies, like Samsung are doing work in BC on projects like the Site C dam.

Korea is our fourth largest trading partner. Last year, B.C. companies shipped \$1.8 billion in goods to Korea, most often from Peter's home turf at Port Metro Vancouver to his sister port at Incheon.

And with the Canada-Korea Free Trade Agreement, both ports are going to be busier and busier.

It's Canada's first free trade agreement with an Asian country and I have the honour of being the first Canadian Premier to visit Korea since it went into effect.

We will continue to make every effort to leverage this agreement. Just last week, 19 BC agrifood companies were at the Seoul Food Show. Tonight, we are enjoying BC salmon.

In fact, I am myself an example of the growing ties between BC and Korea...

In my last visit, I had the honour of becoming an honorary citizen of Gyeonggi Province.

And earlier today, I received an honorary doctorate from Sookmyung Women's University.

We have guests from Sookmyung with us tonight, including a string quartet.

Today I also visited with Governor Nam of Gyeonggi Province. We discussed ways to build on the B.C.-Gyeonggi Sister-Province Three Year Action Plan, which has borne fruit for both our provinces.

I hope to have the honour of welcoming the Governor to BC this year.

The BC Ministry of International Trade and the Korea Importers Association signed an agreement to find and develop more opportunities provided by the free trade agreement.

I want to share some of the opportunities for trade. I most often talk about tech, or clean energy. And these are great opportunities. But tonight, I want to start with beer.

If you've had the chance to spend any time in Canada, you know Canadians take a lot of pride in our beer. And in BC, we take even more.

Because in the past 10 years, BC's craft beer industry has exploded. There are beers here tonight from companies like Fuggles and Warlock, Whistler Brewing and Mission Springs.

You may have tried them before, because they also operate in Korea...because they see the opportunity here in a growing and prosperous economy.

Right now, Korea imposes a 30% duty on Canadian beer. And duties as high as 269% on Canadian malt barley. Those will be eventually reduced or eliminated under the free trade agreement. And you'll see what all the excitement about BC beer is about.

When they're not drinking beer, British Columbians are known for having active lifestyles. So it's no surprise that our two most iconic clothing brands make activewear.

I understand Lululemon and Arc'teryx have samples here tonight – and there will be a draw for these products tonight.

Through trade agreements and missions like this...  
We're building a better, more prosperous future together.

Thank you.



## ACKNOWLEDGE:

Dr. Sun Hye Hwang, President, SWU

Dr. Allan Cahoon, President, Royal Roads University

Mr. Eric Walsh, Ambassador of Canada to Korea

I want to begin by expressing my gratitude. I am honoured and humbled to receive an honorary doctorate.

The 100,000 women who have graduated from Sookmyung Women's University have gone onto great things, and made Korea into a world leader.

That's why three different universities in B.C. wanted to establish links with SWU...

Including Royal Roads University. Dr. Allan Cahoon is here from Royal Roads.

The last time I was in Korea, I had the pleasure to witness the MOU between SWU and Royal Roads.

Today, I'm pleased to announce we are going to build on that relationship. For the next two years – the Government of BC, through our trade office in Seoul, will offer a summer internship for a Sookmyung student.

## **WOMEN IN PUBLIC LIFE**

I recently had a very different honour.

Earlier this year, I became Canada's longest-serving female first minister.

I have been Premier for five years. It was surprising that no other woman had made it this far.

I am often asked why that is. In a country like Canada, one of the world's most progressive and equitable societies... Women are still under-represented in leadership roles.

We have come a long way in a long time – but we can do better.

Here's how I believe we can do that:

First, help people change attitudes.

Second, to support and encourage more women to pursue careers in non-traditional fields, such as natural resources.

Third, to accept that women will approach things differently.

Let me speak about these three things in order. The first is changing attitudes.

I am the Premier of Canada's economic leader. Yet there are times I am meeting a group of men.

And they instinctively look to my male staff, as if they are really in charge.

In Canada we inherited our political system from Britain. It's an adversarial system, with a loyal opposition whose job is to criticize government policy.

I spent some time in opposition. And I always spoke my mind. The Premier at the time was a man. So were the next three.

None of them faced the same kind of comments I get about my clothing, my hair and my body.

Here's what I've done in government to support more women in leadership roles.

Almost 40 per cent of my Cabinet are women.

Over 40 per cent of our 2,000 board appointments are women. So are 48 per cent of my senior public servants.

And I established the Premier's Women's Economic Council – a group of women leaders in business, to discuss ways to grow the economy.

We've achieved all this without quotas. Every one of them is there because they're the best person for the job.

The second thing we need to do is help and encourage women to pursue non-traditional careers. That doesn't have to be government or politics.

Let me give you two examples:

In the next 8 years, we're expecting a million job openings in BC. A substantial portion of those will be in the skilled trades – areas traditionally dominated by men.

So we started the Women in Trades Training Program to help with financial assistance and support. Since 2008, over 3,000 women have gotten their start in a new career through this program.

That's one example. As a government, we wondered why more single mothers weren't finding jobs and moving off social assistance.

We realized that to get off welfare and go to school, you had to pay for tuition and transportation, find child care – and your cheques stop when you start school.

So we started the Single Parent Employment Initiative. We pay for tuition, transportation and child care during training.

In just 8 months, we've helped over 2,600 single parents – over 90 per cent of them are women.

Finally, we need to accept women will do things differently. And that's a good thing.

Let me first tell you what that doesn't mean. I don't believe we help female politicians by insisting they focus on "women's issues."

Because what are women's issues? I believe women and men care about the same things:

- A healthy, growing economy
- Creating jobs that pay enough to support families
- Taking care of those in society who need it.

But women will have different priorities.

One of the issues I am most passionate about is bullying. For generations in Canada, it was seen as a rite of passage – something all kids had to go through.

It should not have been surprising to see the same behaviour we tolerated in school stay in the workplace.

It leaves lasting psychological scars – it has to stop.

So we are working with students, sports teams, and everyone to put an end to it, through events like Pink Shirt Day.

## **CONCLUSION**

Canadians and Koreans are fortunate. I am personally fortunate to live in BC, and that I have opportunities many other women like my mother did not.

As you may know, I became a mother while serving in Cabinet. I arranged a nursery in the legislature so I could keep working.

I was lucky. I was a Cabinet minister who could make decisions. And I worked with a great team of staff and colleagues who supported me.

If we're going to encourage more women into leadership roles – we need to think about the women who aren't the boss.

Who have to get permission to take time when their kids get sick.



As you've been showing at Sookmyung Women's  
University...

When you unlock the potential in women, you can change  
the world.

Thank you.

## ACKNOWLEDGE:

Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines, the Honourable Jose Rene D. Almendras (al-MEN-dras) Michel Belanger is here in place of Ambassador Neil Reeder ...he is the Senior Trade Commissioner at the Canadian Embassy

Consul General of Philippines to Vancouver, Neil Ferrer Governor of Palawan Province, Jose Alvarez

Secretary Irene Isaac, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority

Chairperson Patricia Licuanan (lee-KWA-nan), Commission on Higher Education

It's an honour to be here among friends.

Much of Canada looks to the United States, in BC we are used to looking across the Pacific.

Nearly half of all BC exports are now destined for markets in Asia – and we expect that to increase.

But it's not just trade. It's cultural.

Many of our delegates are of Filipino descent. They represent a thriving, vibrant Filipino community in BC, with more than 135,000 people.

We view cultural diversity as our greatest strength. Not only does it enrich our cities and neighbourhoods... cultural and ancestral ties lead to trade and investment ties.

We have something else in common, too. Location. Just as British Columbia is Canada's Pacific Gateway, the Philippines has been the gateway for many Canadian enterprises into Southeast Asia.

Trade between BC and the Philippines has grown dramatically in just four years. But this is just scratching the surface.

That's why this evening I am proud to officially open the British Columbia Trade and Investment Office in Manila.

The office will be led by Ms. Eva Yazon, and I hope you will get to know her very well.

Eva will serve as a key point of contact for you to explore business opportunities in British Columbia. She's here tonight – please introduce yourself and let her explain how she can help you.

Eva knows only too well she has a solid foundation to build on. Just today we built new links and agreements that will make a difference in BC and the Philippines. Let me just touch on a few examples.

Incognito Software is opening an office here in Manila and they've signed an agreement with a major Philippine telecom.

BC's tech success extends to health, with world-leading AIDS and cancer research centres, and the world's best cancer recovery rates.

Now, state-of-the-art cancer detection technology, made in BC, will be available in clinics throughout Metro Manila...thanks to an agreement between Pharma Canada and Hi-Precision Diagnostics.

We have World Rotary Help from BC working with Rotary Phillippines and Manila Hospital ...delivering donations of vital medical supplies.

Two of our leading schools are here, the University of British Columbia and North Island College. They signed agreements that will lead to many Filipino students studying in BC, as well as joint research, and faculty exchanges.

Governor Alvarez of Palawan Province is here – today his government signed an agreement with Xanatos Marine to

supply maritime surveillance equipment. This means they can more quickly respond to any environmental threats.

Trade goes two ways, so we also look forward to Filipino companies coming to British Columbia, and attracting them will be a key focus of our new BC office.

For example, tomorrow morning I will be meeting Mr. Ernesto Tanmantiong of Jollibee Restaurants. I plan on encouraging him to open a Jollibee in BC as soon as possible.

Not just because 135,000 Filipino-Canadians will want a taste of home – but all British Columbians enjoy global cuisine.

I want leave you with two other experiences I was fortunate to have in Manila today. First, this afternoon I laid a wreath at the Monument to Jose Rizal.

Dr. Rizal held many of the same beliefs that Canadians hold dear...just like you: tolerance, freedom, enlightened self-determination and love of country.

Second, a dedicated group of British Columbians from Rotary World Help were here, bringing medical supplies to local hospital authorities.

These partnerships, economic and cultural, are sure to increase now that we have a dedicated BC presence in Manila.

Thank you.

## ACKNOWLEDGE:

Ambassador Neil Reeder

Neil Ferrer, Consul General of the Philippines in  
Vancouver

Mr. Ramon Del Rosario Jr., Chairman, Makati Business  
Club

Mr. George Barcelon, President, Philippine Chamber of  
Commerce and Industry

Mr. Perry Pe, President, Management Association of the  
Philippines

I am honoured to be here.

It has been said that Canada is not just a country...but a  
continent.

Spread between three of the world's great oceans, each of  
our 10 provinces has their own distinct cultures,  
economies, and priorities.



By Filipino standards, British Columbia is not large in population. But we stand out.

- We lead Canada in economic growth
- We have the country's lowest unemployment rate
- Alone in Canada, we have four consecutive balanced budgets and the highest-possible credit rating.

And uniquely in Canada, British Columbians are a Pacific people. We are Canada's Pacific Gateway...but it goes deeper than that.

Every year, 50,000 people choose to move to BC, many of them from Asia. And they feel at home among 135,000 Filipino Canadians in BC.

So even for those of us with no ancestral ties in Asia – we feel at home here. We see ourselves across the Pacific. And we see our future.

Nearly half of our exports go to Asia, and that's going to increase.

The large BC delegation that has traveled here represents our commitment to building on this partnership in the Philippines.

BC leads all Canadian provinces in exports to the Philippines, with \$190 million in exports in 2015. That's up almost \$40 million in four short years.

This relationship has the potential to grow even stronger.

### **ANNOUNCEMENT – TRADE OFFICE**

And that's why I'm proud to announce the new British Columbia Trade and Investment Office in Manila is officially open for business.

The office will be led by Ms. Eva Yazon, and I encourage you to go and meet her. Eva, please stand up.

Her office will serve as a bridge, connecting your companies with business opportunities in British Columbia.

Like all bridges, traffic goes two ways. So Eva's office will also be a great resource for B.C. companies looking for partnerships and investment in the Philippines.

### **SUCCESS STORIES**

Let me touch on a few success stories. Let's start in tech – a key focus of our government's BC Jobs Plan.

Bill English is here from Xanatos Marine. Last year, he signed a \$7.5-million contract with Zambales Province to supply an automatic vessel identification system that will help mariners stay safe.

Yesterday, they agreed to provide maritime surveillance equipment to the Government of Palawan, helping detect illegal poaching of sea turtles.

This is a great example of world-leading BC technology protecting an environment under threat.

BC tech also protects people. Yesterday, PharmaCanada signed an agreement with Hi-Precision Diagnostics... To provide equipment for lung cancer screening and diagnostics in Metro Manila for two years.

BC has the world's best cancer survival rates, in part because of early screening. This is going to save people's lives.

I also want to touch on education. We believe in supporting students who study abroad, from BC students going overseas, and international students coming to BC. It's a good investment.

Last year, over 114,000 international students were in BC. Not nearly enough came from the Philippines. But that's going to change, for three reasons.

First, the number is already going up. In just four years, the number of Filipinos studying in BC doubled.

Second, Filipino students have been at a disadvantage.

The educational reforms taking place here will better prepare ambitious young Filipinos to attend school overseas...

Creating countless new connections and opportunities down the road.

And finally, we're increasing the number of partnerships between post-secondary institutions in BC and the Philippines. As of yesterday, there were six. We've just added two more.

North Island College and the University of British Columbia signed agreements that will see many Filipino students study in BC.

Speaking of UBC, this morning I had the opportunity to meet with Mr. Fernando Zobel de Ayala this morning to discuss their investment in British Columbia... a beautiful 250 unit residential apartment building in Vancouver.

Mr. Ayala and I also witnessed the signing of an agreement between Ayala and UBC to work together on promoting sustainability, smart cities, and big data.

We are also joined by Mr. Ernesto Tanmantiong, CEO of Jollibee Restaurants.

Filipino Canadians are excited. Because they heard Jollibee will soon be opening restaurants across Canada. I'm looking forward to the first Jollibee in BC.

Between the new Trade and Investment Office – and, I hope, after the Philippines also signs on to the Trans-Pacific Partnership – we will find more and more success stories.

## **CONCLUSION**

As I said at the beginning, in BC we see our future across the Pacific.

Yesterday, I had the honour of laying a wreath at the monument to Jose Rizal. As Dr. Rizal said:

*“He who does not know how to look back at where he came from...*

*Will never get to his destination.”*

BC and the Philippines share many things in common – we both know where we came from – and we have a common destination.

If the 20<sup>th</sup> century was the American century, the 21<sup>st</sup> century will be the Pacific century.

Let's continue to build a better future for us both.

Thank you.



## ACKNOWLEDGE:

Mr. John Kim, Partner, Fasken Martineau  
Ben Stewart

I want to thank Fasken for sponsoring us today. And all the BC panellists for traveling here to talk about the industry they have turned into a world leader.

It's an honour to be here, where the world's tech revolution really got started...to officially open the BC Tech Strategy Seminar in Tokyo.

There are tech sectors and tech hubs around the world. But BC's sector is not only thriving, but offers advantages other places can't.

We have one of the best-educated and tech-savvy workforces in the world.

Our proximity to Silicon Valley offers natural partnerships, opportunities, and advantages.

And the provincial government's targeted tax credits encourage innovation, entrepreneurs, and investment.

That's why sectors like clean tech and aerospace are thriving – and that's why BC is the world leader in quantum computing.

To make sure BC stays ahead of the curve, we launched the *BC Tech Strategy* in January.

We asked the tech sector what they needed to keep growing and thriving.

They told us:

- investment in venture capital
- a deeper talent pool
- and make it easier for BC tech companies to access new markets.

With a \$100 million tech fund, more programming at post-secondary institutions, we're making that happen.

In January, we hosted the first BC Tech Summit, with 2,800 business leaders, tech companies, entrepreneurs, academics and students.

We matched 180 potential investors with opportunities – and more than 100 CEOs.

We're building on success. BC is a leading tech centre, boasting multinational companies like Microsoft, Amazon, Samsung, Electronic Arts, and Sony Pictures Imageworks.

BC has also attracted major Japanese gaming companies including Bandai Namco Studios, CAPCOM, and Valhalla Game Studios.

There are several examples of fruitful partnerships between BC and Japan:

- The Centre for Digital Media partnered with Tokyo University of the Arts to collaborate on a R&D project on digital media and a student exchange.
- Powertech provides testing services for all the major Japanese auto makers for their fuel cell vehicles.
- Ballard reached a deal to deploy fuel cell back-up power systems for cellular relay stations.
- And Greenlight Innovation's annual participation in FC Expo Japan has led to sales of their battery testing equipment and fuel cell testing equipment.

These are all votes of confidence in a thriving sector.

I want to invite you to visit BC.

To explore the growing opportunities in tech...

and also to attend the 2017 BC Tech Summit.

I hope to see you there.

I hope you have a productive session and I look forward to seeing you at the luncheon this afternoon.

Thank you.

## ACKNOWLEDGE:

Vern Brownell, CEO, D-Wave's CEO (introduces PCC)

Dr. Kazuo Kyuma, Council for Science, Technology and Innovation

As Premier, I attend a lot of events and seminars...  
But this is probably the first one I have attended on  
Quantum Annealing.

I am very proud to be here, because Quantum computing  
and D-Wave Systems represent a remarkable Canadian  
and BC success story.

We are honoured to have Professor Hidetoshi Nishimori  
join us – the pioneering founder of the theory of quantum  
computing.

There is an expression in English – “there is nothing new under the Sun.”

If that is true, Professor Nishimori and the people at companies like D-Wave and 1Qbit must live under a different sun.

Because they are integrating brand new discoveries in physics, manufacturing, and computer science...  
And creating a new industry.

Quantum computing isn't just faster than regular computing – it has the ability to solve complex problems that even the world's most powerful computers cannot.

That's why D-Wave's computers are used by aircraft manufacturers, Google, and NASA.

The Government of British Columbia supports BC's tech industry and leading-edge companies such as D-Wave Systems and 1QBit.

That's why we launched the *BC Tech Strategy* in January.

We asked people like Vern what the industry needed from government to reach its full potential.

We kept hearing three things:

More access to venture capital;

Make the talent pool deeper;

Make it easier for BC tech companies to access new markets.

With a \$100 million tech fund, and more programming training strong post-secondary institutions, we're making that happen.

In January, we hosted the first BC Tech Summit, with 2,800 business leaders, tech companies, entrepreneurs, academics and students.



We matched 180 potential investors with opportunities –  
and more than 100 CEOs.

Later today, I will be speaking at a tech investment  
seminar.

It's a good opportunity to talk about BC's growing tech  
sector – and to explore opportunities for partnerships in  
Japan.

Thank you.

## ACKNOWLEDGE:

Ron Haigh, Chair, Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Japan

Acting Ambassador Martial Page and Canadian Embassy staff

Ben Stewart

It is an honour to be here with you, today at this BC-Canada Chamber Council in Tokyo. And we just held the Japan-Canada Chamber Council in Vancouver, in March.

Strengthening our ties from both directions.

This is my third visit to Japan since becoming Premier five years ago.

Representing British Columbia in Tokyo, just as my grandfather did more than 60 years ago, when he came here to promote our fishing industry.

Brief moments in the life of my family, and in your long history. But we all know, every important change comes from brief moments.

From the Meiji Revolution to where you stand today, Japan has been a student of the world...and a teacher to the world. You have studied the best the world has to offer. And you have offered something even better.

Japan has done that by making purposeful decisions in so many brief moments. And with BC, together we are build a deep and lasting relationship from every brief moment.

This is a pivotal time. Japan is revitalizing its economy – and across the Pacific, BC is leading Canada:

- ☐ We lead Canada in economic growth
- ☐ We have the country's lowest unemployment rate

- Alone in Canada, we have four consecutive balanced budgets and the highest-possible credit rating.

BC is succeeding because we have controlled government spending, and because we have focused on expanding our trade relationships in Asia.

The BC delegation joining me here is determined to revitalize our relationships with Japan...in business, and also in education. Through culture and tourism and by building our future through technology and health sciences. Building on our strong foundation in natural resources.

## **MINING**

Let me start with mining. For over 30 years, Japanese companies have played a crucial role in BC exploration and mining projects. That builds communities and a future for working families.

Here's one example – Copper Mountain Mine. I visited with the company and the families that depend upon that mine in the town of Princeton last week. We celebrated mining day together.

Mitsubishi Materials owns 25 per cent of Copper Mountain, and buys almost all of what it produces.

### **CLEAN ENERGY**

Japan also has a major stake in the development of BC's clean natural gas and LNG industry.

Japanese firms are partners in several projects, like Mitsubishi in LNG Canada, and JAPEX in Pacific NorthWest LNG.

And I'm proud to say Japan sent the largest delegation to the International LNG in BC Conference in 2015.

We all know that global conditions are slowing LNG development.

But we can't be distracted by the price today. 10 and even 20 years will be upon us in just a brief moment.

Japan has become the world's largest importer of LNG through purposeful work.

And here's what we know about the future. Demand for clean energy is only going to increase in Japan, and also your neighbours in Asia.

The high quality of our natural gas also presents immediate opportunities...with LNG and other products.

Astomos is a company that recognizes that potential.

Just last week, Astomos announced its intention to purchase 50 per cent of a propane export project in Prince Rupert developed by Alta Gas.

From natural gas to the bioenergy developed by BC's innovative forestry sector, BC has what you need.

For example, Pacific BioEnergy reached a long-term agreement with a Japanese utility company to supply wood pellets. BC continues to be the largest supplier of wood pellets to Japan.

## **TECH**

BC's diverse economy depends on natural resources – but our booming tech sector is playing a larger and larger role.

We talked about opportunities for Japanese investors at the BC Tech Investment Seminar earlier today. We have advantages:

Strategic location...easy access to the US and Asia. A competitive tax climate, a culture of innovation.

That's why Valhalla Games, announced they're building their global headquarters in Vancouver

Tech is about investment but also scientific exchange. Japan and BC working together to change the future.

Let me tell you about quantum computing. Professor Hidetoshi Nishimori is the world -leading pioneer. I met him earlier today, along with a BC company called D-Wave and their Japanese partner 1Qbit.

If normal computing is like climbing over a mountain, quantum computing is like blasting a tunnel through the mountain. It is transformative. And that's why D-wave and 1Qbit have clients like google and NASA.

## **CONCLUSION**



Together, we can turn science fiction into science fact.  
But behind every innovation...there are people, from both  
sides of the Pacific...The future is transformed by our  
relationship.

From new agreements that bring teachers from Tokyo and  
Hiroshima to BC for training...

To student exchanges..

To the growing tourism between our homes...

To even the tiniest frozen BC blueberries now available for  
you at Lawsons and 7-11's in Japan...

Our relationship is growing stronger across every sector of  
our lives.

I hope our two countries have the courage to take the next  
step to liberalize trade through the Trans Pacific

## Partnership and Canada-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement.

So that together, we can take every best thing we do...and do it better.

So that we can take this one brief moment together and transform our future.

As you say in Japan:

ICHI-GO, ICHI-EH

Let's treat each time we meet like it's our last. And build a lasting relationship together.

Thank you