

I would like to acknowledge the traditional territory of the Coast Salish people, particularly the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh. Thank you for welcoming us as we embark on our third All Chiefs gathering.

Chief Leween is here from the Cheslatta...

I owe you a visit – and I look forward to seeing you again this weekend as we finally put right wrongs that were done to your people half a century ago.

It's hard sometimes to put aside long held, legitimate grievances to decide to travel the long road to reconciliation. You and your community chose to take that path. And I know you've done this because you want your children's future to be different. To be free of some of the burdens of our shared, and sometimes tragic past.

John Rustad, you and your staff deserve our thanks.  
Last year, you organized 156 one-on-one meetings with  
Ministers and Deputies so that we could talk directly to  
Chiefs about their specific needs.

This year, you've organized more than 300 meetings.

From our federal government, Ministers Jody Wilson-  
Raybould and Marc Garneau are here.

Thank you. For several years we have invited the entire  
federal Cabinet and all the federal Deputies to come.  
Your participation is a very welcome first.

We hope that next year you will be joined by many more of  
your colleagues – especially the Minister and staff from  
INAC and perhaps also the Prime Minister.



Our entire Cabinet and all Deputies are here. 204 Chiefs are here. We are here for 2 days of dialogue – to talk and to listen.

But we cannot hope that this dialogue will lead us to a full reconciliation without Canada at the table. I hope this meeting is a productive one for you, and that you return to Ottawa with a sincere invitation to all of your colleagues to join us at our next gathering as well.

A third of all First Nations in Canada are in BC. So, not surprisingly, this is the only place in the country where a gathering like this happens.

But we should not be alone in this and I am so pleased today to welcome Byron Mallott, the Lieutenant-Governor of Alaska. And also, Vice President, Will Micklin of the Central Council Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska. They're considering a gathering of their own.

One month ago, on a very hot summer day, I traveled to Ahousaht. Chief Maquinna and his community honoured me with a name. Chuch-oo-mah. It is the name of one of his female ancestors. For me it was a profoundly meaningful gesture.

You see, from the stage I stood on as I was blanketed and named, I could almost see the beach in Ahousaht territory where my grandfather was born. He was born to parents who were very poor. His was only the third recorded birth of a non-aboriginal child in the region.

As the sun lit up with islands around us, I reflected on the fact that when he was born in 1899, to a very poor mother, probably in a shack on the beach, his mother very likely depended on an Ahousaht midwife to deliver him into the world safely.

As he grew up, and he and his brother made their way, they most certainly learned how to find the salmon from the Ahousaht fishermen whose knowledge is based on millennia of accumulated wisdom.

As he and his brothers Charlie and Eddie made their livings as fishermen on those perilous west coast waters, their lives were undoubtedly saved many times by the Nuu Chah Nulth men with whom they worked side by side for months on the boats.

The reason I tell you this story, is because it illustrates something you many of you already know. The people of the Nuu Chah Nulth could certainly have done without my great grandparents and his children in their territory.

But my family could never have survived without the Nuu Chah Nulth. And this often ignored part of our shared history is worth remembering.

And the Ahousaht are still doing it. Last year Ken Lucas and Clarence Smith...two Ahousaht fishermen tracked a single distress flare.

They and others faced down a deadly storm...and they saved 21 lives when a whale watching boat capsized.

It is the difference that standing together as brothers and sisters can make.

Look at Paul and Raven Lacerte.

A father and daughter skinning a moose together in Northern BC...

When they get an idea.

An idea to tackle domestic violence.

To give men a way to stand up with courage and say:  
we will not accept violence against women in our homes.

Four years later, the Moose Hide Campaign has gone from the forest floor of Northern BC, to the United Nations Special Forum on Indigenous Issues... it has become a gift to the world.

## ANNOUNCEMENT #1

Today, I'm proud to announce we are following Paul and Raven's lead, with a contribution of \$250,000. And next year, we're proclaiming the first annual Moose Hide Day in British Columbia.

This year, Raven shot her first moose. That moose will feed her family this winter. 150,000 people across this country will wear its hide.

Paul and Raven, please stand up. Thank you for showing us what the spirit of reconciliation can mean.

## **WALKING THE PATH TOGETHER**

We haven't solved every problem. But, together, we are making a difference:

- A conversation on Indigenous child welfare;
- The first major healing event for families of missing and murdered Indigenous women, a new safety plan for Highway 16, and a federal inquiry;
- A framework agreement with the Tsilhqot'in covering their title lands

And in just the past year, more than 45 economic and reconciliation agreements. That includes:

- LNG benefits agreements with 6 First Nations
- 3 clean energy revenue-sharing agreements with 2 First Nations;
- And 37 forest tenure opportunity agreements.

And there are another 700 agreements being negotiated right now.

We partnered with the Lheidli T'enneh and created a new provincial park.

And we partnered with the Ahousaht to develop more jobs, prosperity, and opportunity.

But it's not perfect. But I don't need Chief Phillip to remind me of that. I have a teenager....

So while it's a long way from perfect, and never ever easy, reconciliation is only possible by working together.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

One area is economic development.

We need to grow the economy, and we need to make sure that First Nations people can be part of that growth. Education and training are essential to that.

Programs like the one we work together on with the Tsimshian. It's helped more than 200 Tsimshian people find permanent, well-paying jobs.

Over the past year, more than 1,000 First Nations men and women received skills training. Another 1,000 will receive training this year in projects in 45 First Nations.

As Chief Wilf Adam told me last year: "I am tired of administering poverty. Let's fight poverty instead."

You can't fight poverty with just social assistance alone. First Nations communities want education, jobs, and a piece of the action from businesses that will grow their economies.

First Nations leaders want to administer wealthy healthy communities.

So we have been working with the BC-AFN to help make First Nations full partners in a growing economy.



## ANNOUNCEMENT #2

So yesterday, we announced \$2.5 million over three years to help get that work underway.

Because with Canada's leading economy...  
Now is the time.

This is one form of reconciliation in action.

I want to thank Shane Gottfriedson for his leadership.

### **HEALING**

There are other statistics we need to change. Suicide rates, low graduation rates, high incarceration rates.

Economic growth and good jobs will help change these statistics but so will government investments.

For example, on-reserve kids deserve to have the same supports as off-reserve kids.

A First Nations child in BC gets less money for family supports and preventative supports from the federal government than any other child in the country.

The same child, if he or she lived on reserve next door in Alberta, would get 3 times the amount from the federal government.

This is profoundly unfair...but we know with this minister, and this government...

We have a chance to change this.

And while we work to change the inequitable system of federal funding we will also fight to make sure that the dollars that are already coming go in the right direction.

For example, the federal government has a new childcare program. We think that BC's portion of that could be up to \$50 million. We want to make sure that all of that new childcare money goes to support early childhood development and parent support in First Nations communities.

Those statistics I talked about...they include the devastating impact of addiction, rates of diabetes, life expectancy.

The fact is that Aboriginal parents have to worry about those a lot more than non-Aboriginal parents. This has to change.

In March, we began that work with the First Nations Health Council. We will address the social determinants of health...

Because poor health is something that we should be preventing.

## **ANNOUNCEMENT #3**

It starts with asking First Nations across BC what works and what doesn't.

We're investing up to \$1.9 million to get that dialogue started...building on the regular regional caucus meetings you already have with the First Nations Health Council.

### **ADOPTIONS/CHILDREN IN CARE**

On the challenge of First Nations children in care...  
Previous generations have tried to address this...  
The cure was too often worse than the disease.

So we started a new conversation. It started at the Children and Family Gathering in May.

We started three key actions:

- Ensuring local First Nations know where children their they are;
- Working with Ottawa on fixing the profound inequities in funding for BC kids; and
- A joint working group with First Nations leaders, Victoria and Ottawa to address longer-term issues like jurisdiction and governance.

You are right that First Nations children are better off when they can stay in their own communities and their own families. And you are right that we need to honour traditional practices that allow kids to stay.

So we are recognizing customary adoption practice.

We will change the Adoptions Act.

The next step is a process that will keep Indigenous children from coming into the child welfare system altogether...  
and expanding it to address children already in care.

### **ADOPTIONS – ED JOHN REPORT**

Last year, I also committed to the appointment of Grand Chief John as a special advisor to the Minister of Children and Family Development.

He has been busy, engaging with Aboriginal, First Nation and Métis communities on:

- Permanency discussions;
- Better options for supporting Aboriginal children in their very early years;
- And ways to address the overrepresentation of Aboriginal children in care.

I want to thank him for his leadership and wisdom. I look forward to hearing his recommendations for the next steps.

## **SACRED OBJECTS**

Last, I want to touch on one more aspect of reconciliation that I know is vital to all of you. I have talked a lot about the future. About growing jobs and education, about changing the way governments support First Nations children and health care.

But the future, if we are to change it for the better, needs to also reflect our past.

And history for BC First Nations goes back millennia in these lands.

Traditions and stories have been handed down for generations. Handed down because First Nations communities have always understood that while our future is ours to shape...

When we arrive in this world, we are the creation of everything that has gone before.

Our history tells us nothing less than who we are.

That is why we have begun a purposeful international campaign to bring home the cultural objects that have been sold or stolen from your communities.

Every one of them tells a story of the past. Many of them have deep spiritual significance. And for human remains that have found their way into the basement at Harvard or New York museums...

It is time for them to come home. To rest in peace, with their families, where they belong.



They need to be returned.

I have asked Professor Jack Lohman of the Royal BC Museum to begin this work. I want to be clear: all of the cultural objects and gravesites remains belong to you, not to the museum or to the province of BC.

They are yours. But I want to support you in getting them back

#### ANNOUNCEMENT #4

We will use diplomatic pressure, Dr. Lohman's deep knowledge of the international law on repatriations, and \$2 million in new money to allow your communities to take the lead on which items you would like to work together to repatriate to your communities.

Dialogues have begun with the Huu ay Aht and Heiltsuk, and some objects have already been repatriated to the Sliammon First Nation.

Today, we're taking another step. We are reuniting part of sacred regalia, taken from a chief's grave over a century ago, to the Heiltsuk people.

## **CONCLUSION**

One month ago, I stood on a stage near Tofino and thought a lot about history. Especially the part of my family history that was so irrevocably shaped by the Ahousaht people.

On that bright sunny day, I recognized that Chief Maquinna is a teacher. He honoured me with the gift of an ancient name from the past to help deepen my understanding of our shared history.

But more importantly, to help prepare me better for the work that we will do together to shape our shared future. Thank you Maquinna. Thank you to all of you for choosing to travel this path of reconciliation together.

**INTRODUCTION:** Donna Barnett  
**ACKNOWLEDGE:** Chief Shane Gottfriedson  
Elder Mary Charles (blessing)  
Keith Henry, CEO Aboriginal Tourism Association

I'm honoured to be here in the traditional territory of the Coast Salish People, specifically the Squamish, Musqueam, and Tsleil-waututh (First Nations).

Tomorrow, we will be welcomed back to kick off the third annual gathering of First Nations leaders and Cabinet.

We started this conversation to walk down the path of reconciliation.

Today I'm making two important announcements that represent steps on that journey:  
One that will benefit First Nations communities across BC...

And one that will benefit one of the fastest-growing sectors in BC tourism – the Aboriginal tourism industry. More than 300 Aboriginal tourism businesses are operating in B.C.

Because we have Canada's leading economy – we have the ability to put British Columbians first. Investing people, and the industries that drive our economy, like tourism.

One of the biggest draws is the Great Bear Rainforest, the largest intact coastal temperate rainforest in the world... Protected forever through the actions of our government.

We have an obligation to protect this jewel – but also to share it with our guests.

That's why the Government of B.C. and BC Ferries are working toward a new seasonal direct ferry service between Port Hardy and Bella Coola.

A search is underway for the right vessel, we want to have this up and running for the 2018 summer tourism season.

We're also investing more than \$198,000 in the Bella Bella Airport to help build a new terminal.

This is the result of the work we've been doing with the Aboriginal Tourism Association of B.C. and its partners.

One of the most effective champions has been Regional Chief Shane Gottfriedson and the B.C. Assembly of First Nations.

Chief Gottfriedson and his team have been working to find ways to more fully involve First Nations in B.C.'s strong and growing economy.

He heard directly from First Nations on what they need to create more prosperous, healthy communities.

This is a great first step – but there's a lot more to do.

That's why British Columbia is providing \$2.5 million to support BC-AFN as they continue to develop its economic development strategy.

This will support a suite of projects designed to provide more resources for First Nations to open new businesses, to partner with industry, or get the training for a better job.

There are more than 1,200 Aboriginal-run businesses across B.C. — most founded in the past 10 years.

But some communities face unique barriers to employment and economic development. We have to help break those barriers down.

With Canada's leading economy – now is the time. It's reconciliation in action, and lies at the heart of government's relationships with First Nations.

**Attracting investment, expanding business and boosting employment lifts all British Columbians up.**

**ACKNOWLEDGE:**

Victor Smith (introduction)

Mark Strahl

Laurie Throness, Jackie Tegart

Randy Swope (artist)

Emile Scheffel, CN

One of the best parts of my job is getting to travel the province. In every city and town – you find another reason to be grateful and proud to be a British Columbian.

I want to thank Randy Swope for giving me the honour of helping him unveil his latest creation...

And for another reason to be a proud British Columbian

Randy's art speaks to two things that make Hope a special place.

First, Hope's wildlife and natural beauty.



We have a responsibility to leave the next generation a legacy, not a mess to clean up.

That's true for the economy – and the environment. We work very hard to strike a balance between creating opportunity and protecting this unique place.

And we are.

Randy's art also speaks to Hope's history.

Think about the thin steel spine of rail that connects our vast, diverse country...

This was the most expensive – and most dangerous – stretch.

I want to thank CN for partnering with Hope...

A company that believes both in creating jobs, and investing back into the communities they have roots in.

You know, I hear a lot about Hope from Laurie Throness – he's been a champion for Hope, Agassiz, and the area since the first day I met him.

But with the Elections BC boundary changes – I want to introduce you to Jackie Tegart, my caucus chair, and the MLA for Fraser-Nicola.

You couldn't ask for anyone better to carry on Laurie's work on behalf of Hope.

I want to thank Randy Swope – and next time, I'm looking forward to seeing the world's loudest art form as it's being made – in person.

## **ACKNOWLEDGE:**

Elder (TBC)

Chief Corrina Leween,  
Councillors Hazel Burt and Ted Jack

It's my great privilege to be welcomed to the traditional territory of the Cheslatta Carrier Nation.

My respects to Chief Corrina Leween, Councillors Hazel Burt and Ted Jack. Cheslatta Lake is a beautiful place and a stunning location.

It is also a place full of deep emotion and history.

Visiting the gravesites a few minutes ago was moving.

They are a powerful reminder of what happened here more than 60 years ago...

When the Cheslatta people were displaced from their homes to make way for construction of Kenney Dam.

We can't change history. And it can be very hard to set aside old, and legitimate, grievances.

But working together, working in partnership, we can create more opportunity and sustainable prosperity for the Cheslatta people.

Reconciliation is a journey towards shared prosperity and a sustainable future.

The framework agreement we are signing is a road map – a shared set of values:

- Preserving and respecting sacred places;
- Ensuring we leave these lands to our children and grandchildren in a condition that allows them to enjoy and benefit from them;
- And creating more opportunity and sustainable prosperity, both in the short term, and for future generations.

And it ensures that the reconciliation and settlement agreement I believe is within reach will address:

- The impact of flooding on traditional land and sacred sites;
- Partnership in the development and management of economic projects that provide jobs, a stake in B.C.'s growing economy, and self-sufficiency;
- And funding to make sure the Cheslatta have the education, training, and resources they need.

And, as we work together towards lasting reconciliation, we're going to start that funding right away.

With goodwill and commitment, we are working to chart a new path to reconciliation.

We have more steps to take. But today, we're off to a good start.

Thank you.

**INTRODUCTION:** William Westering, Managing Partner,  
Fasken Martineau

**ACKNOWLEDGE:**

Mr. Rajiv K. Chander, Consul General, Consulate General  
of India

Mr. K Nagaraj Naidu, Director, Ministry of External Affairs.

Welcome to Vancouver.

India and BC may be oceans apart – yet we are  
connected.

Connected by cultural and ancestral ties...

By growing trade and investment ties...

And by common values, and goals for the future.

Let me quickly touch on these.

First, people from South Asia have helped build BC's  
future for 100 years.

The Indo-Canadian community is so successful, so vibrant, so visible – it's surprising to hear they constitute about 5 per cent of BC's population.

Second, our government has worked hard to build on those ties to create opportunity.

It wasn't always this way. For too long, we focused on the United States. That's changing.

In a short time, we've come a long way. Since 2001, trade between India and B.C. has increased by almost 300 per cent.

And since I became Premier, I have made our relationship with India a priority.

**We see India both as natural partners – but also a crucial market. Consider the opportunity:**

- There are more people in India than the entire western hemisphere.
- A million people are joining the Indian workforce every month, for the next 15 years. That's an entire BC, every four and a half months.
- By 2030, will have the second largest middle class in the world, with 475 million people.

That's why we've expanded our trade and investment network in India with representatives in Delhi, Bangalore, Mumbai and Chandigarh.

Last week, we became the first foreign government to issue a Masala bond on the London Stock Exchange – a vote of confidence in India's growing economy.

As India's economy continues to grow, BC is ready to provide the natural resources, clean-technology, and expertise India needs.



Let me finish with the third connection between us: values.

It's not enough to just grow – you have to do it right.

Prime Minister Modi has a saying:

SUB KA SAATH, SUB KA VEE-KAS

*"Everyone working together, for everyone's progress and development."*

Indian initiatives like Smart Cities, Digital India, and the national climate change policy have a common thread...

Not only do they present opportunities in sectors BC has been leading...

Each one will not just make for a better India – but a better, cleaner, more prosperous world.

By working together, we can help create that world.

Thank you.

**ACKNOWLEDGE:**

**Doug Bing**, Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows

**Marc Dalton**, Maple Ridge-Mission

**Mayor Nicole Read**

**Linda Lupini**, PHSA & BC Emergency Health Services

Good morning.

BC's economy is leading Canada.

That means more and more people are choosing to call BC home...And it's not hard to see why so many have chosen Maple Ridge.

We are building a strong foundation by saying yes to jobs and economic development.

And because we have our house in order, we can focus on the things that matter most to you and the people you love.

Maple Ridge has seen one of the fastest increases in ambulance calls of any city in British Columbia.

We promised to act if more service was needed.  
So today, we're adding a third ambulance to our fleet.  
Promise made, promise kept.

This new ambulance joins the existing network of emergency care in the Lower Mainland...  
And will help speed up emergency response times.

Our strong, diverse and growing economy means we can make investments like this in vital services British Columbians depend on.

Since January, we've added an additional nine ambulances to communities in the Lower Mainland.

**We're going to keep working to grow the economy, lead  
Canada – and putting British Columbians first. Thank you.**

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

## **ACKNOWLEDGE:**

**Pranav Mistry, Global Vice President of Research at Samsung and DARPAN 2016 International Sensation Award winner**

Good evening. It's an honour to be here.

With so many of the foremost achievers, builders, entrepreneurs, philanthropists and volunteers who make British Columbia what it is:

Proud, diverse, and growing.

You're leaders. And you reflect BC at our best – embracing the world, and making it a better place.

Community service is sometimes underappreciated. But there's no greater indicator of a healthy, vibrant community than the number of people who freely give their time and talents to make a difference in people's lives.

As in so many things – when it comes to community service, the Indo-Canadian community does more than its share.

Look at what Pravan Mistry has done in his brief career – making tech wearable, more usable, and better.

Indo-Canadians are a vital part of our shared culture, to our commerce, and of the image B.C. proudly projects to the world.

Because of you, British Columbia has connections and ties abroad – real advantages in the global economy.

India is an exciting place to be right now. Companies and governments are lining up. As Premier of British Columbia...I have an advantage:  
You.

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

I have the privilege to represent a province with a vibrant, successful Indo-Canadian community.

Let me congratulate the nominees and the winners of the 2014 Darpan Extraordinary Achievement Awards.

And thank you for having me tonight.

-END-

**ACKNOWLEDGE:**

**Naomi Yamamoto**  
**Jane Thornthwaite**

Expanding transit in Metro Vancouver has never been more important.

So I'm pleased to hear the Mayor's Council has agreed to move forward on Phase One of transit expansion funding we announced earlier this year with the federal government.

These investments will help meet rising demand, ease congestion, lower our carbon footprint, and enhance our quality of life.

It means more SkyTrain cars, improvements to bus and SkyTrain exchanges, moving forward on rapid transit in Vancouver and Surrey...  
And a new Seabus here in North Vancouver.



Our contribution of more than \$246 million, which includes more than \$13 million for a new Seabus, is ready immediately.

BC is in a position to make investments in services British Columbians depend on because we've got a solid foundation - a growing diverse economy that's leading Canada...

And have controlled government spending with four straight balanced budgets, with a fifth coming next spring.

As BC grows, we need to continue expanding and improving transit services to meet the needs of British Columbians today and in the years to come.

We believe transit plays a pivotal role in the creation of liveable, affordable and connected communities.

I look forward to working with our federal and municipal partners on Phase Two, to keep our province growing and thriving.

## ACKNOWLEDGE: Mayor Greg Moore

Terry Fox has become a national and international icon. But here in PoCo – he's more than that. He's one of ours. And always will be.

As a young man struck with cancer, he could have given up. Instead, he fought back, and taught us what bravery and courage truly mean.

He decided to run across Canada to raise awareness, raise money for research, and help people around the world.

Running across any country is hard to do... But to run across Canada is something else.

Terry ran the equivalent of a full marathon, every day, for 143 days...with one leg.

Cancer forced him to stop. But he has never stopped inspiring us.

Terry showed the world two things:

First, cancer research works. If Terry was born today, his cancer would be treatable – largely because of the money he helped raise.

And second, that we can all make a difference.

Since Terry first began his journey across the country more than \$700 million has been raised in his name to help beat cancer.

These runs save lives.

Thank you to all the volunteers, sponsors, and participants who help make this event possible.

We're here today to take action on affordable housing with the largest investment in a single year by any province in Canada...

An investment of \$500 million to increase the supply.

\$300 million for innovative housing projects built over the next year...

And \$200 million for construction financing.

Altogether, this will create another 2,900 affordable rental units throughout B.C.

This is on top of the \$355 million announced in the budget to construct and renovate another 2,000 new affordable housing units across the province.

We're taking a variety of approaches, including buying existing buildings as well as new construction.

But no matter what kind of building, we will focus on helping those who most need affordable housing:

- Low and moderate-income renters;
- Youth and students;
- Adults with developmental disabilities;
- Seniors;
- Aboriginal people;
- Single mothers;

This is a major investment. Here's how we're paying for it:

- The Housing Priority Initiatives Special Account we created two months ago;
- Revenue generated by the additional 15% property transfer tax paid by foreign buyers.
- But mostly because we have our house in order, with four consecutive balanced budgets, and Canada's leading economy.

That's what gives us the ability to make investments like this. To put British Columbians first.

The man responsible for this is right here. Over 15 years, Rich Coleman has overseen a massive investment in affordable housing:

- This year, more than 104,000 B.C. households will benefit from provincial social housing programs and services.
- Since 2001, we have invested \$4.8 billion to provide affordable housing for low-income individuals, seniors and families.

**We are not done. There's more to come, based on 6 principles I outlined earlier this year:**

- Increase housing supply
- Link communities together with smart transit investments
- Support first-time home buyers
- Protect consumers from shady practices
- Increase rental supply
- And most of all, keep the dream of home ownership within the reach of BC's middle class.



## **ACKNOWLEDGE:**

**Greg D'Avignon (introduction)**

**Bill Gates**

**Satya Nadella**

**Governor Jay Inslee**

**Hon. Navdeep Singh Bains**

**Amrik Virk**

I want to start by thanking Bill Gates and Satya Nadella not only for being here, but your investment and vote of confidence in Vancouver and British Columbia.

And of course, Governor Inslee of Washington state. We share a lot in common – including a vision of how tech will transform both our economies.

Finally, my own Minister of Innovation, Technology, and Citizen's Services Amrik Virk. His title says a lot about the role tech plays in how government interacts and serves its citizens.

I want to welcome all of you to Vancouver, and British Columbia, where tech is thriving...

But it's much more than a single sector of our economy. Tech is making traditional industries cleaner and more efficient... and saving lives.

I want to briefly share some of the ways we're partnering and investing in future growth... And how Microsoft will play a central role.

But first, I want to share a story about one of your most accomplished alumni – and a BC boy made good.

## **THE NEXT GENERATION**

Most of you probably know Don Mattrick.... One of the driving forces behind the Xbox One... Which, as the mother of a teenager, I'm very familiar with.

Don tells a great story about signing his first deal to make a video game...

And going to the bank to apply for a loan.

They laughed at him. They said maybe they'd consider it if he was making things people really needed...

Like farm equipment.

True story.

Don's remarkable career path resonates with me. And I take a few things from it.

First, he illustrates one of the most important, but underappreciated, benefits the Microsoft Canada Excellence Centre brings us:

The investment...the great jobs...and a talent incubator.

Microsoft values and invests in people. And they understand that ambitious, brilliant people like Don may eventually leave to pursue their own ideas and vision.

Microsoft has become a family tree of great entrepreneurs and innovators...

And the more of them who stay in BC, the better.

### **INNOVATION CORRIDOR**

Our job in government is to encourage them to do just that.

Governor Inslee and I see eye-to-eye on this.

That's why today, he and I are signing an agreement to create a Cascadia Innovation Corridor.

We're going to work together to build an economic corridor for the 21<sup>st</sup> century – transnational, forward-looking, and sustainable.

## **BC TECH STRATEGY**

This is a priority, because BC is leading Canada right now:

- First in economic growth;
- First in job creation;
- Lowest unemployment.

Tech is big part of the reason why. In fact, tech is expanding faster than the rest of the economy.

It employs over 86,000 people in BC, with wages 60% higher than average.

75,000 of those jobs are in here in Vancouver, with another 15,000 expected in the next three years.

But we can't just rest on our laurels. Just look at the auto industry, also the "industry of the future" at one time.

Things change. And some of our neighbours and trading partners are going through hard times.

That's why earlier this year, we convened the first BCTECH Summit, and unveiled the BC Tech Strategy.

Our strategy was simple: talk to industry leaders. Ask what we could do to help.

They said first; make it easier to access new markets – including selling to government and overseas exports. And we are.

Second, give them access to a deeper local talent pool. I want to return to that.

And third, make it easier to access investment and venture capital;

Next year, we're going to build on the success of the first BCTECH Summit – with Microsoft as our sponsor.

## **COMMERCIALIZATION STRATEGY**

That brings me to the second lesson from Don's story.

How many other tech geniuses had a great idea that died on the vine, when they met rejection at the bank?

That's why we're working on a strategy to help get tech and innovation startups to commercialization.

I've asked Santa Ono, the new president of the University of British Columbia, to work with Amrik Virk.

Because success breeds success – but it also breeds jobs.

## **TECH IN OTHER SECTORS**

Success in tech doesn't stay in a silo. Every day, tech innovators are making BC's resource industries cleaner and more efficient.

Look at Port Coquitlam's Finger Food Studios. Their HoloLens project is going to reinvent productivity for PACCAR, a trucking company in Seattle.

Tech is also pushing new boundaries in medical research and treatment. It's saving lives. If you have the misfortune to be diagnosed with cancer, British Columbia is the best place in the world to be.

And every day, they're pushing ahead even further.

The BC Cancer Agency is doing amazing work with personalized onco-genomics – reading DNA like a map to develop targeted treatments for the most challenging cancer cases.

Those advances don't just happen. They happen when you have a culture of innovation, where government and the private sector invest in research – and people.



## **THE KIDS ARE ALL RIGHT**

That's the other lesson I take from Don's story.

The bank manager who denied him that loan...

Was just doing their job.

They had no way of knowing what a good investment in the video game industry looked like.

We can only guess at what the next generation will come up with. And we may not understand their vision of success will look like.

Our best bet is to help them prepare to deliver it. And to make sure the pool of tech-savvy students and entrepreneurs is deep.

That's why starting this year, every K-12 student in BC will have the chance to learn the basics of coding, and other fundamental tech skills.

And when they reach post-secondary, we've invested \$450 million for training leading to in-demand jobs in tech.

And we're not alone. Microsoft Canada is partnering with Kids Code Jeunesse to support teacher trainings for the new coding curriculum.

Microsoft Canada also sponsored the Code:Mobile initiative, Canada's first coding truck. Just a few blocks from here at the YMCA, they hosted a coding workshop for youth who might not otherwise be exposed to it.

## **CONCLUSION**

Let me wrap up by saying this: the tech sector is about ideas. That can only come from you.

My job, and Governor Inslee's job, is to create the right environment so that your ideas can fly.

**Because when they do, it creates opportunity, it creates jobs – and it saves lives.**

**We have an amazing opportunity to shape the kind of economy we want in British Columbia.**

**We are already doing it. Together.**

## ACKNOWLEDGE:

Andrew Wilkinson

Jim Hamilton, President, Okanagan College

Welcome to Okanagan College and the newly updated Trades Training Complex.

I often think about students today, and the world they're graduating into...

And how different it will be from the one I graduated into.

By 2025 – just nine years from now – there's going to be nearly a million job openings in BC alone.

Nearly eight out of 10 of those jobs will need some kind of post-secondary education or training.

That's good-paying 800,000 jobs we want British Columbia kids to trained and ready for.

We're in a unique position in Canada. In economic growth, job creation, and employment...

We're leading across the board.

What that means is we're able to invest in people. To make sure we put British Columbians first.

That's why we're investing \$185 million through our Skills for Jobs Blueprint for capital projects and equipment to support trades and skills training throughout BC.

This project is the first of its kind in British Columbia.

Over 50 years old, this complex was transformed into a modern learning space.

It's energy neutral, LEED certified, and has seats for more than 2,400 students each year.

That's 2,400 more graduates every year, becoming electricians, automotive technicians, welders, plumbers – you name it.

Each one of them will graduate equipped for careers in fields with growing demand.

This place will launch thousands of bright futures.

Now that's an investment that will pay dividends for generations.

Thank you.

Welcome back to British Columbia ministers McKenna, Carr and LeBlanc...and thank you to the Prime Minister and to you.

You've come a long way to deliver great news for our province and for our country.

The Federal Government's approval today of the Pacific Northwest LNG project follows a very thorough review.

It took a lot of work. And it's a significant milestone.

This is the last major requirement for the project before a final decision can be made. That will be up to market conditions and the company, and they will take the time they need to do their own review.

But here's what a positive decision can mean:

- A \$36 Billion investment in BC and Canada

- Thousands of jobs across BC, but in particular for hardworking communities in the northeast and northwest;
- For families and working people
- And importantly, for our First Nations and Indigenous people, an unprecedented opportunity to fully participate in the mainstream economy and build their future.

We will continue to work with First Nations, with all communities to make sure this project advances responsibly and respectfully of our environment and our province.

As much as this is about economy and jobs, this is also about doing the right thing the right way.

That's why BC has set the benchmark for the cleanest LNG in the world.



And we know that BC's clean LNG will help displace coal in export markets like China to reduce global emissions.

We will do more. Through our Climate Plan we propose to reduce upstream emissions with electricity.

LNG is one part of our jobs plan. And it's one part of positioning BC as a global hub for energy solutions for the world to fight climate change, along with research, innovation, tech and clean tech.

And with Catherine McKenna here I want to say one more time:

BC is proud to be the climate leader in North America. We have the first, highest and most comprehensive tax on carbon pollution on the continent.

We are very encouraged that we have a federal partner that wants to send a clear and strong signal:  
Carbon pricing will be established across Canada.

We will support that work, working with you and our provincial partners, for a pan-Canadian price on carbon to rise to BC's level...

And then rise affordably over time.

We can do that, putting British Columbians first, making sure we return every penny with deep tax cuts.

We can do that making sure we respect different methods provinces may choose, whether carbon tax or cap and trade.

We can do that while protecting and creating jobs by making sure job creators stay in BC and Canada

We want a Canada that is the cleanest place to do business and the best place to do business.

BC has strongest economy. We want to make sure we continue to contribute to our national fabric.

PNW

September 27, 2016

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

**Ministers thank you. Let's continue to work together to make sure Canada and British Columbia continue to lead.**

I want to start by acknowledging the traditional territory of the Lekwungen people, the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations.

Thank you, Al Richmond, for all your hard work over the past year.

And congratulations to incoming president Murry Krause. I'm looking forward to working with you.

Thank you all for coming to Victoria. As you know, we're not the only visitors here right now.

The Royal children, Prince George and Princess Charlotte, are visiting here, a city named after their great, great, great, great, great grandmother. That's five greats.

But in 1843, when James Douglas chose the site for the fort a few blocks from here, they first named it after Victoria's husband, Albert.

They changed it. But with all the Albertans coming here to find work...

Who knows, it may change back.

### **THE PEOPLE WE WORK FOR**

When I see you...

I see the people you work for.

You are all leaders.

As leaders, we all take risks for people we may not even know. Leadership is fulfilling but it can also sometimes be a hard road.

But I am often struck by how what we think of as leadership can pale in comparison to the risks that so many individual people take on any given day.

And how we count on them to take those risks...  
For themselves, and for their children's futures.

They are the ones who build our province.

One of them lives in Quesnel.

Kaila has been raising her three kids on social assistance for years. She wanted to get off the welfare treadmill and into a job – but it was just too hard.

You see, before she could get a job, she needed training and she had to find the money for that.

Then she had to make the trip to Prince George every day and she didn't have the money for that. She had to find childcare and she didn't have the money for that either.

And then, her social worker told her that even if she could overcome all of those barriers and get the training she needed...

The government would cut off her social assistance on her first day of class.

Here was a woman, a single First Nations mom.

She wanted to get work, but to her, it probably felt like government was doing everything it could to discourage her.

And the fact is, government had been doing this to her and single parents like her for decades.

So we changed it.

Last September we started a program called the Single Parents Employment Initiative. For single moms like Kaila.

We pay her tuition, books, her transportation to school, we support her childcare, and we keep her social assistance cheque coming, while she's training.

We designed the program thinking 200 people might decide to take us up on it.

And we vastly underestimated the determination of people like Kaila to build a different life for their kids.

Instead of 200 parents this year...

More than 3,300 have found their way through our program – 91% of them women.

Kaila graduated last Friday and has already been hired full time.

Her kids see her go to work every day and they imagine a new future for themselves too.



Kaila's story is one that I wanted to tell you today because I think it illustrates something fundamental:

Almost all of us dream of something better and most of us are willing to make sacrifices for it...

But so many of us need just a little help to realize our dreams.

An investment from government – and in Kaila's case, a relatively small one – and we free her to do the really hard work.

We cleared away some of the obstacles, but SHE did it.

SHE was the one who did the work.

Who changed her life. Who changed her children's' lives.

## **ECONOMIC ENGINE OF CANADA**

And now, in British Columbia, we are in the enviable position, like nowhere else in the country, to make significant, smart, investments in people like Kaila.

- First in Canada in economic growth;
- First in creating jobs since the BC Jobs Plan was launched in 2011;
- Lowest unemployment;
- Lowest taxes for middle class families.

We're controlling government spending with four straight balanced budgets – with a fifth coming this Spring.

We're on track to be free of any operating debt in just 4 years.

It means we're able to make record investments in our citizens...

In their healthcare, their education, and in their jobs.

Those investments mean a growing middle class. And more opportunities for the people who pay our bills: the citizens of British Columbia.

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

How did we end up with the biggest surplus in Canada?

The biggest reason was that more people are paying income tax.

Let me underline that: more people paying taxes...

Not people paying more taxes.

## **HOUSING**

But as our economy grows – so do costs for citizens. Especially for housing. So we are pushing back on the forces distorting the market...

And helping people on low and moderate incomes, families, students, and seniors.

This month, we made the largest annual investment by any province in Canada...

A half a billion dollars to create another 2,900 units throughout BC.

That's on top of \$355 million we already announced this year for 2,000 new affordable units across the province.

It's also on top of taxing foreign purchasers in Vancouver, and new regulations on the real estate industry to protect consumers.

Plus, the luxury tax on the most expensive homes.

Plus a break on taxes for new home buyers.

We're not done. There's more to come, based on 6 principles I outlined earlier this year:

- Increase rental supply
- smart transit investments
- Protect consumers from shady practices
- Increase housing supply
- support first time home buyers

We are working to grow this economy and create jobs for the people who live here. For the people who are contributing here.

We will put British Columbians first, and to do that we must keep the dream of home ownership within the reach of BC's middle class. That is investing in people.

## **CLIMATE**

A growing economy also gives us the flexibility to confront another great challenge: climate change.

Yesterday, we got the news that Pacific Northwest LNG had finally been approved by the Canadian government.

They approved it, they said, because they recognize how important it is that we get on with creating high-paying jobs in Canada.

But, like our government, they agree that it must be clean LNG.

Even with the most stringent regulations and mitigation measures, it will have an effect on provincial emissions.

If BC and Canada were the only global emitters, that would be unacceptable.

But global climate change is just that: global.

And if we don't help the biggest emitters reduce their emissions, nothing we do here will matter. When we ship LNG to China, India and Japan...

It means less coal gets burned. It means our air is cleaner and the growth of the world's emissions is slowed.

96 per cent of local governments in BC have signed on to the BC Climate Action Charter. Thank you.

We are working with Ottawa on a national plan to fight climate change, but two things won't change:

We will not tax the people of our province out of their jobs.

And, we will return every penny back to British Columbians in lower taxes. So that British Columbia can remain affordable for everyone.

Revenue neutrality is our guiding principle, shifting tax from things we do want – like bigger paycheques – to things we don't want, like pollution.

That's why, tomorrow, the United Nations will be honouring BC as a world leader in fighting climate change.

But we all know that carbon pricing is just one tool. You also need technological breakthroughs and immediate actions to reduce emissions, like:

- Methane reduction and electrification of the upstream in the gas patch;
- An ambitious reforestation plan;
- Expanding our CEV program and charging station infrastructure across BC;
- Encouraging net zero buildings;
- And making BC a hub where marine vessels can be fuelled with liquefied natural gas. This change alone could reduce global emissions by more than BC's total emissions.

And, we have reached an agreement with Ottawa to work toward a national framework on carbon pricing...

We will benefit when the rest of the country catches up. Once they do, we will then work on increasing it, together, over time.



## **SITE C**

We are also committing to 100% renewable clean power. We're at 98 per cent now...working to get to 100.

A big part of that plan is Site C, and the 100 years of clean, emissions-free power it will generate.

In the meantime, Site C is creating jobs for working people.

1,500 people are working there. Right now.

People like Holly Striloff, from Fort St. John. She's driving a large rock truck.

Or Ardith Brule, also from Fort St. John – the new HR Director for Peace River Hydro Partners.

Or Mona Hampel, from Tumbler Ridge. Today, she's a construction safety officer at Site C.

Those women know – if we want more clean power, you've got to build it.

## **RESOURCE ECONOMY**

Ten years of work, of consultations, studies, and reviews went into Site C. Even then, the decision to build it wasn't an easy one.

All big decisions are hard ones. And in today's world, projects take court cases, consultations...and money.

Look at Pacific NorthWest LNG. If it goes ahead, it will be the largest private investment in our province's history.

In another time, it may have received much less scrutiny. But as important as the investment is – it's even more important to get it right.

Here's what a positive decision can mean:

- A \$36 Billion investment in BC and Canada;
- The cleanest LNG facility on the planet;
- Thousands of jobs
- Real, long term wealth for First Nations communities.

In places like Port Edward, it's exciting times. I can only imagine how many jigs Dancing Dave MacDonald did last night.

But not every Mayor of a resource community is doing a jig these days.

There are some communities that depend on a particular industry – and when prices are down, times can be tough.

Lots of mining towns are feeling it. And in communities that depend on forestry, the looming countervail is a frightening prospect.

It doesn't help when our biggest trading partner breaks agreements made in good faith.

On softwood, I want you to know – we have your back. We're working with our federal partners every day to get a fair deal on softwood. Not just any deal – one that works for BC workers and communities.

Five years ago, we launched the BC Jobs Plan. Since then, we've created over 176,000 jobs. We are the strongest economy in Canada – and that is without LNG up and running yet.

In tourism, we're setting records. We're already over 3 million visitors this year – and that was just up to July.

And look at BC's thriving tech sector. Vancouver has become a global hub. In Kelowna it produces over a billion dollars a year. In Nanaimo it's growing, and here in Victoria, it's a 4 billion dollar business.

It now employs more people than even our provincial government.

There are four tech startups worth more than a billion dollars in Canada – three of them are in BC.

Why are they coming here? Because B.C. is competitive. Because taxes are low, the lifestyle is incomparable and because we believe in investing in our people.

## **TRANSIT**

But we all know that to remain a top destination, our cities and towns must remain liveable and connected.

**\$8.7 billion in transportation infrastructure will help with that.**

Local governments used to have to pay over half of that. Now, just 17 per cent.

I want to thank the Metro Van Mayors Council for stepping up and voting yes on Phase One. Our contribution of more than \$246 million, is ready right now.

And for other communities, there's \$160 million in BC Transit improvements across the province.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

And we are not done. Our surplus budget puts us in a position to invest in the services we all depend on... And to take care of the people we love.

## **WILD FIRE FIGHTERS**

Let me start with one our Al Richmond will appreciate.

Last year the Cariboo was devastated by wildfires.

Many of you went to the fire line. You saw firefighters walk towards a wall of fire, with a gas can and an axe.

These brave men and women were there when we needed them most.

The least we can do is return the favour.

So I am very pleased to announce BCGEU benefits will be extended to wildfire firefighters. Thank you to BCGEU president Stephanie Smith for fighting for this. It is the right thing to do.

### **RURAL DIVIDEND UPDATE**

I want to touch on two programs we're investing in that will help municipalities manage both growth and costs.

Last year, I promised rural mayors we would share the wealth that comes from rural B.C. more fairly.

**We're keeping that promise.**

The first round of projects, with more than \$8 million in funding, has been approved. You'll be hearing more details in the days and weeks ahead.

The second round of this year's Rural Dividend funding – this time with \$15 million – opens on October 3rd.

We also approved a number of projects under the Small Communities Fund...you'll hear more about that on Friday from Peter Fassbender.

## **CLEAN WATER AND WASTEWATER FUND**

Whether you're in Vancouver or Valemount, Kamloops or Kaslo, Nothing is more important than clean water.

So we are ready to move on the Clean Water and Wastewater Fund, right now, with a provincial contribution of up to \$148.5 million.



With the federal commitment, that will create up to \$373 million for renewing and upgrading water, wastewater and storm water systems across B.C.

Municipalities only have to cover 17 per cent.

And I know you want to get on with it so Peter Fassbender and Minister Sohi will have more details on the intake.

### **OPIATE STRATEGY**

I want to share one final thing with you.

There's an epidemic of drug overdoses sweeping North America. Fentanyl has become a plague.

Here in BC we are taking decisive action.

We were first to declare this a public emergency;  
first to assemble a joint task force;  
first to de-schedule the life-saving antidote naloxone...

And today, we will be the first to establish a dedicated centre on substance use.

This includes a new \$10 million investment.

\$5 million for the inaugural BC Centre on Substance Use, one of the first of its kind in Canada.

I want to thank the man who spearheaded this initiative, Dr. Evan Wood, for his leadership.

And \$5 million for the task force to help them continue their vital work like making naloxone more available... increasing testing capabilities...

And working with Ottawa to crack down on fentanyl entering our borders.

Every single one of these deaths is tragic and every one is preventable. We must stem this epidemic on our streets.

## **CONCLUSION**

We can do all this and more, because we stuck to our plan to get our finances in order, to create jobs and invest in people.

It has been hard work but nothing like the work that the people we represent have to do.

Ask Kaila. She knows what pure grit and determination look like.

And there's nothing that can replace determination when you want to get things done.

So let's stay the course. Let's keep getting to yes.

Let's create jobs for our citizens. And let's invest in them so that they can change their own lives.

As Kaila says, the best thing about getting back into the workforce isn't the paycheck...

It's the way her kids look at her now.

She can come to Bring Your Parent to School Day, and talk about her job – because now, she has one.

She knows her kids are so proud of her. And that makes her proud of herself.

That's what putting British Columbians first looks like to me.

Thank you.

**ACKNOWLEDGE:**

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, and Prince George and Princess Charlotte

Governor-General David Johnston

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau

Lieutenant-Governor Judith Guichon

Welcome to Victoria – a city named after Prince George and Princess Charlotte’s great-great-great-great-great grandmother.

That’s five greats. And that’s appropriate, because Her Majesty Queen Victoria was a great – and strong – woman.

I think she’d be proud of the city that bears her name...

And the province it serves as capital.

British Columbia is thriving and vibrant. We are the proud of home Canada’s greatest diversity of ecosystems and wildlife.

Our people are just as diverse. I am very much looking forward to the honour of introducing Your Royal Highnesses to some of the different communities that make this such a great place to live.

From here in picturesque Victoria, to cosmopolitan Vancouver; from the warm and dry Okanagan Valley, to the world’s largest intact coastal rainforest, the Great Bear.

British Columbians like to call their home the best place on Earth. I’m looking forward to showing Your Highnesses why.

And to help me welcome Your Highnesses, it’s my pleasure to introduce the Victoria Children’s Choir...

Singing *Gai Le Rosier* and *I am the Song*.

**ACKNOWLEDGE:**

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge  
Prince George and Princess Charlotte  
Governor-General David Johnston  
Lieutenant-Governor Judith Guichon

In just two days, Their Royal Highnesses have seen a glimpse into British Columbia's diversity.

From downtown Vancouver, to Bella Bella and the Great Bear Rainforest.

A unique and diverse province also faces unique and diverse challenges. And Their Royal Highnesses have also observed some of the ways British Columbians are facing them.

And on behalf of all British Columbians, it's my privilege to present gifts that reflect the province.

1- For the entire family, a BEAR SPIRIT BLANKET, which I hope will remind you of your upcoming visit to Haida Gwaii.

2- For the Duchess, a BEAR SPIRIT WRAP, a collaboration between First Nations artists and Chloe Angus Design.

3- For Princess Charlotte a mini BEAR SPIRIT WRAP.

4- And for the Duke of Cambridge and Prince George – BEAR PRINT BOWTIES.

The Bear design in these was provided by Clarence Mills, a Haida artist.

The bear is a symbol of strength – and family. Because for thousands of years, that is where the peoples of the coast have found their greatest strength.

And even though we may live halfway around the world...  
I believe that it something we have in common.

**ACKNOWLEDGE:**

Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge  
UBC President Dr. Santa Ono  
UBC Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Okanagan Campus, Dr.  
Deborah Buszard (introduction)  
Chief Jonathan Kruger, Penticton Indian Band

Welcome to UBC's Okanagan campus – UBCO. We have a lot to be proud of.

The University of British Columbia, one of the top two post-secondary institutions in Canada, is celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

And 10 years ago, UBC opened a campus here in Kelowna – UBCO. In that short time, UBCO has come to play a crucial role in the rapid growth and economic diversification Kelowna, and the Okanagan.

The campus has an annual economic impact of some \$1.5 billion. It has formed research partnerships with dozens of local and international industry leaders.

UBCO's growing alumni base is a vital source of young talent – 60% of all graduates remain in Okanagan.

And UBCO is increasingly a home for Aboriginal students – this year has record high enrolment, more than double the first year 10 years ago.

Students are voting with their feet. This year is a year of record enrolment, because they see UBCO's innovative programs as a bridge to the future careers.

And let's face it...

There are worse places to be a college student than Kelowna.

## ACKNOWLEDGE:

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, and Prince George  
and Princess Charlotte

Governor-General David Johnston

Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould (introduction)

Lieutenant-Governor Judith Guichon

Chiefs Dallas Smith and Marilyn Slett (MC)

All British Columbians take pride in the Great Bear  
Rainforest.

And it's not only a jewel for British Columbians – it's a  
global treasure.

That's why we worked for 20 years on a landmark  
agreement to protect it.



Today, we're taking another step. I'm pleased to announce the establishment of the Great Bear Rainforest Education and Awareness Trust...

And an initial investment of one million dollars.

The Trust will support:

- Developing teacher and student resources;
- Raising awareness of the Great Bear and the people who have lived here for more than 12,000 years;
- Resource management practices; and
- Resource management based education, awareness and understanding in the Great Bear Rainforest area.

And to give all British Columbians an opportunity to support and show their pride...

We have designed a poster.

It's being sent to schools across BC.

It's also available from the Queen's Printer for \$19.95...

With \$5.00 being directed toward the trust.

I want to invite John Innes from UBC to help me unveil the poster;

*<after poster unveiling>*

It is my honour to introduce the Duke of Cambridge, His Royal Highness Prince William.

## **MCLOUGHLIN BAY**

**ACKNOWLEDGE:** Chief Marilyn Slett (introduction)

The Great Bear Rainforest is not only a jewel for British Columbians – it's a global treasure.

We have a unique responsibility to protect it...  
But also to remember that people have been living here for millennia.

That's why we reached out to local First Nations, NGOs, and other partners on a landmark agreement.

It protects 85% of old and second forest growth forest.

We consider this our gift to the world.

We believe agreements like this are the future of conservation. And through the Queen's Commonwealth Canopy, we hope to have a lot of company.

To commemorate the Great Bear Rainforest Agreement –  
and the Royal Tour...

We have partnered with the Heltsiuk on a plaque, and a  
monument built in Bella Bella.

I'd like to invite His Royal Highness, the Duke of  
Cambridge, to unveil the monument – and the plaque.

<unveiling>

Totem poles are deeply spiritual for coastal First Nations.  
For thousands of years, they have told the stories of the  
people who live here.

And they will tell the story we are writing today.

Rory Housty is with us today. Rory is an Elder of the  
Heiltsuk Nation.

I want to invite Rory to for a traditional blessing.

