

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

A month ago, the Trudeau government approved the Kinder Morgan TransMountain project.

For 4 and a half years, we have taken a consistent and principled stand for BC:

For any new or expanded heavy oil pipeline through our province, our 5 conditions must be met.

On protecting our coast and the marine environment:

Ottawa has committed to a world-leading system on our coast through their \$1.5 billion Ocean Protection Plan.

We identified 10 actions that must be taken – and Ottawa has committed to all of those actions.

We estimate the cost of doing that means BC's coast will receive the largest share of the \$1.5 billion invested nationally.

That investment includes 2 new salvage tugs capable of rescuing and towing large vessels – and that will be in addition to 2 escort tugs on the south coast from Kinder Morgan, along with more than \$150 million investment in the Western Canada Marine Response Corporation.

Ottawa's commitment to world-leading means a commitment to continuous improvement, including further resources and investments as required in the future.

We operate under a polluter pay model, and the federal government has further back-stopped that to fully insure BC...for any costs or damages.

Let me add this about protecting our coast: Before first shipments leave our coast, we will work with the federal government to ensure a world-leading system is in fact in place.

As part of our Five Conditions, we have also made the case that BC deserves a fair share of economic benefits. The project is estimated to result in:

- More than 75,000 person-years of employment.
- \$3.8 billion in GDP in construction and \$15.3 billion during operation.
- Some \$2.2 billion in provincial tax revenue over 20 years.
- And \$512 million in property taxes to municipalities.

Further, we have reached two additional agreements with Kinder Morgan:

One... putting British Columbians first. The company will turn to qualified British Columbians first when it comes to jobs and contracts in our province.

And two, we have an unprecedented revenue sharing

agreement with Kinder Morgan. BC will receive up to \$50 million per year – or up to \$1 billion over 20 years.

Every penny of those funds will go into a new BC Clean Communities Program. Every year, community groups throughout our province will be able to apply for funding for programs to protect and enhance the environment – everything from restoring habitat and cleaning up polluted sites to cleaning up beaches or controlling invasive species.

The other 3 conditions are all met or are being satisfied. That includes environmental certification, addressing treaty rights and opportunities for First Nations, and world-leading land spill prevention response and recovery.

We always recognized the decision to approve projects like this is not ours to make. It's a federal decision. But it is our job to stand up for BC. Fight for our interests. And protect our province.



BC's 5 conditions are an articulation of how we do business here in BC: The right and responsible way. Protecting our environment. Creating jobs. Sharing the benefits with all British Columbians.

BC's way of doing business works. And I would argue – others can learn from it.

Our 5 conditions were not always widely accepted across the country. But after 4 and a half years of being clear, and consistently fighting for our province...

All parties have not only come to accept them, but they are taking action ... to the benefit of British Columbians.

Mary Polak is with me to answer any questions you may have on the environmental certification process. And I'm happy to take your questions.

January 11, 2017  
CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Updated Jan 10

ACKNOWLEDGE:

Tammy Truong, Andy Pham (Co-emcees)  
Trang Nguyen (translator)

Welcome – and Happy New Year.

We are so lucky to live here in BC – a thriving, vibrant place that welcomes and celebrates our many unique cultures.

I have two New Year's resolutions to share with you:

First, keep working every day to build a province with more opportunity – for you, your children, and your grandchildren.

Everything we do is guided by one principle:

The person who knows best how to invest your hard-earned money is you, not government. That's why we have the lowest taxes for middle class families.

We've worked hard to build a solid economic foundation:

- Number one in economic growth across the country.
- The best job creation record in Canada, with 191,000 jobs since we launched the BC Jobs Plan.
- And the lowest unemployment rate.

And because we've done that, we have the ability to make record investments in health, infrastructure, education, and programs that lift people up, like BC Home, which helps first-time buyers save for a down payment — up to \$37,500...because hard-working British Columbians deserve to make their dream of owning a home come true.

My second New Year's Resolution is to make sure the Vietnamese community is represented in the legislature – and that starts with Trang Nguyen.

Chuc Mong Nam Moi {chook mong numb moi}  
Happy New Year – I wish you all good health.

## **ACKNOWLEDGE:**

Rich Coleman

John Helin, Mayor, Lax Kw'alaams Band

Elected council members

I'm honoured to be welcomed to Lax Kw'alaams traditional territory and Mayor John Helin.

This visit was a long time coming. For me, it's well worth the wait. It's amazing to see the community you have built here.

This is transformative time for B.C. And I don't just mean the election in May.

For the past several years – we have been working hard with communities and First Nations across the province, walking a new path, together.

A path towards reconciliation.

That's why we're supporting The Royal BC Museum in its efforts to bring ancestral remains and items of cultural significance home where they belong.

That's why we're getting behind the Moose Hide Campaign to take a stand against domestic violence in all our communities.

And that's why we're focused on creating real partnerships and economic opportunities in First Nations communities.

That's why we invested \$9 million in the Tsimshian Roundtable – so the next generation can shape their own futures.

Some of them are already on their way, studying and learning at Coast Tsimshian Academy.

Some of those kids will find great jobs at AltaGas's propane terminal.

And in the years ahead, many could work on Pacific NorthWest LNG.

Creating opportunities for them is why we've worked so hard to build a solid economic foundation:

- We have delivered 4 balanced budgets, with a fifth on the way in a few weeks.
- We are on track to pay off our operating debt in 4 years – the first time since 1975.
- We have the lowest middle class taxes
- We have the lowest unemployment rate in the country – the best comparison since 1961.
- And we have the best job creation record in Canada, with 191,000 jobs since we launched the BC Jobs Plan.

Our next step is making sure all regions of BC have opportunity and share in the benefits of Canada's leading economy.

Because it's worth it. That's why we have the ability to make record investments in health, infrastructure, education, and programs that lift people up, like the Single Parent Employment Initiative.

We've also made record investments in housing - \$855 million last year alone.

That includes \$4.8 million for two affordable housing projects in Port Simpson – 8 units for seniors, and 10 for families, ready in 2018.

## **CONFIRMATION LETTER PRESENTATION**

Mayor Helin – please come back up here.

These projects are not the first investments in Lax Kw'alaams. But as we continue to forge a new, better partnership – there will be much more to come.

We have more to do. And we're working every day to keep building this partnership.



**ACKNOWLEDGE:** Jacqui Beban

Steve Thomson

Shirley Bond

Donna Barnett

Good afternoon – and welcome to 2017. If you don't believe the world is full of risk...

And change can happen overnight...

Let me introduce you to our friend – 2016.

You work too hard, and we work too hard with our plan to make sure British Columbians are first, to let changes elsewhere in the world push us backwards.

Whether that change is in global commodity prices, or in a rising appetite for protectionism in the U.S...

We've got your back. And right now, it's time to double down.

Today, I want to talk to you about the role forestry plays in Canada's leading economy, and the decision BC faces in just four months.

But first, I have to tell you about this logging company that hired a guy whose resume says he was the top lumberjack in Russia.

On his first day, the foreman hands him a chainsaw, says "you have to cut down 20 trees a day."

At sunset, the Russian comes back covered in sweat and sawdust. "How many did you get?" Four.

The foreman says okay, you had a bad first day, you'll do better tomorrow.

The next day, the Russian heads out at dawn, and comes back at sunset, even sweatier and dirtier.

“How many this time?” Seven.

The foreman says “that’s unacceptable. Come outside and watch me, and I’ll show you how it’s done.”

The foreman starts the chainsaw, and over the roar he can see the Russian panic – he asks what’s wrong?

“What the hell is that noise?”

## **LEADING CANADA**

Now that’s hard work.

I work every day to make sure we have every opportunity to go on saying that we’re leading the country.

It’s working:

- 4 consecutive balanced budgets – and number five coming in a few weeks.

- Leading the country in growth – three times faster than the rest of Canada.
- Being on track to eliminate our operating debt in 4 years – the first time since 1975.
- The lowest middle class taxes in Canada.
- The lowest unemployment rate in the country – the best comparison since 1961.
- Record investments in health, infrastructure, education, and programs that lift people up, like the Single Parent Employment Initiative.
- And the best job creation record in Canada, with 191,000 jobs since we launched the BC Jobs Plan. If all those jobs were their own city, they'd be B.C.'s fifth biggest – and gaining fast on Richmond.

## **SOFTWOOD**

Those aren't just meaningless statistics. They're jobs people depend on. And with a fair deal on softwood, we'd be doing even better.

Time after time, without regard for facts, the US Department of Commerce and US International Trade Commission accepts any and all allegations filed by the US lumber industry.

You get more fair, impartial rulings in pro wrestling.

They have picked a fight – and they're going to find out British Columbians are no pushovers.

In the long term, we will get a fair deal, for three reasons.

First, we're not going away. We will pursue every strategy the law allows.

Second, self-interest. Americans are no different from us. In the heartland, the middle class...what do they want? Housing that's affordable, just like us.

With housing starts on the rise, the US needs our lumber. Penalties would be unfair to BC but let's not forget: it will punish hard-working middle class Americans.

Let's make that case together across the American heartland.

Third, every time their allegations are tested in an impartial court...they lose.

Because the facts are on our side.

But they seem determined for a fifth try at this, and they'll lose that, too.

But in the short term, a fair deal doesn't seem to be over the horizon.

And while we can't replace the US market – we are working every day to diversify our client base.

Look at the work we've done over 15 years in China. And look at the work Steve Thomson is doing in the world's fastest-growing economy, India – quadrupling softwood exports there in just three years.

And today, we're taking another step forward.

As we speak, the largest shipment of mass timber from B.C. is on its way to India.

It's being put to good use – including the first commercial wood demonstration project in India.

Indian builders eager to build with BC wood will see the best in BC products and techniques.

It's the latest investment we've made in BC forestry.

We promised to protect logging contractors. Today, the Forestry Services Providers Protection fund has \$6.5 million. Promise made, promise kept.

We promised to help restore forests devastated by pine beetle and wildfires.

Today, the Forest Enhancement Society has \$85 million for to focus on wildfire risk reduction and stewardship – they've invested in 23 projects around the province. Promise made, promise kept.

We promised to help rural communities cushion the blow from economic challenges, build capacity, and diversify



their economies.

The second intake from the Rural Dividend grants will be announced in the coming weeks. Promise made, promise kept.

And finally, when resource industries have been depicted as the bad guys all over the world, we promised to ensure that people around the world knew that B.C. does forestry right.

The Great Bear Rainforest and its inclusion in the Queen's Commonwealth Canopy are an endorsement of the way we do business here...

Striking a balance between environmental protection, and making a living off the land...

It's what people have done here for millennia.

It gives our customers the confidence and peace of mind that comes from buying resources from a place that does it sustainably, respectfully, and intelligently.

Dallas Smith is here – as negotiator he played a key role in getting it done. Most of you know him from the North Island – and you'll be getting to know him in Victoria after May.

We are not done.

The ILA wants to hire British Columbians for jobs – and that's why we've supported them to make sure British Columbians have the skills to be first in line.

Today, we're contributing more than \$531,000 to train 28 more heavy equipment operators and log truck drivers.

First priority will go to First Nations, displaced workers, recent immigrants and unemployed youth who don't qualify for EI.

## **CONCLUSION**

In 2017, BC has a stark choice: a party that supports resource development and projects that get British Columbians working...

And one that says no to jobs, across the board.

The NDP used to be guarded and coy about this.  
But little by little...the mask drops.

The NDP look at the map of BC, and see two places:  
Vancouver, and what they probably call "Beyond Hope."

But you can't make record investments in health, education, housing, and transit by shutting down every mine and mill in the province.

You can't make a difference in the fight against global warming by shutting down the province and watching countries like China and India satisfy growing demand with coal.

You can't be first in job creation, economic growth, and unemployment by sticking your head in the sand.

To be fair, the NDP also brought a lot of firsts to BC.

- First in job losses.
- First time becoming a have-not province.
- And first in thank you cards from the Calgary Chamber of Commerce.

That's what's at stake.

There's no such thing as an easy election in B.C.

Every single one is tough, and every single one is decided by a few thousand votes in a few key ridings.

That's a good thing. Because it means every vote counts.

I'm going to keep fighting for our plan. I'm going to fight for responsible resource development.

I'm going to fight for our ideas and the values that built this province, and made BC a leader in Canada.

Thank you. I'm happy to take your questions.

**ACKNOWLEDGE:**

Mike Danks, North Shore Rescue

Tim Jones' Family

Jane Thornthwaite (MC)

Naomi Yamamoto

Ralph Sultan

MP Jon Wilkinson

MP Pam Goldsmith-Jones

MP Terry Beech

Thank you.

As British Columbians, we define ourselves by our connection to nature.

It's a source of inspiration and pride. It's a place to find and test ourselves. And occasionally, it's dangerous.

Since 1987, the North Shore mountains have been a safer place. That's when Tim Jones started volunteering his talents and his time.

I don't think Tim was what you'd call a clockwatcher. But if he kept track of any number, I hope it was this:

1,400.

Tim led or participated in more than 1,400 missions.

To the more than 1,600 people he risked his neck to help or even save...

He was a hero.

He was a hero to us all.

Three years ago yesterday, Tim was doing what he loved, when we lost him.

We can't replace him. But we can follow his example.

When he wasn't saving lives, Tim was a tireless spokesperson and champion – not just for North Shore Rescue, but search and rescue professionals, volunteers, and organizations across B.C.

When we lost Tim – we lost a true hero. And like another B.C. hero, Terry Fox, we can only begin to celebrate his example.

Tim loved the wilderness. Another man might have become jaded by all those rescue missions – but they drove him to inspire more people to experience nature...safely.

We asked how to best pay him tribute. We consulted with North Shore Rescue, community groups, First Nations, and of course, his beautiful family.



This March at the legislature, we will dedicate a memorial to search and rescue volunteers who lost their lives in the line and duty.

And today, I am proud to say...

The wilderness he loved will bear his name, forever.

Part of Mount Seymour, Tim Jones Peak will stand long after we're all gone.

Hundreds of years from now – I hope Vancouverites will still enjoy the wilderness he helped protect, still find themselves in nature...

And when they look at the North Shore mountains, I hope they reflect on Tim, and the legacy he left us all.

Thank you.

**ACKNOWLEDGE:**

Shirley Bond

Andrew Wilkinson

Donna Barnett

Naomi Yamamoto

Jane Thornthwaite

Stephen Robinson and Graham Manders, DarkVision

Thank you for joining us today at one of the leaders in our thriving tech sector.

DarkVision is the perfect example of the link between tech and traditional resource industries – and the opportunities they create.

DarkVision's imaging technology gives oil and gas operators more and better information about their wells.

For the oil and gas industries, that means better decisions, more efficiencies, reduced costs – and reduced environmental impacts.

And at DarkVision, that means creating jobs, right here at home.

When we launched the BC Jobs Plan in 2011, we were ninth out of ten provinces in creating jobs. Since then, we've become number one – 191,500.

We were fourth in economic growth. Today, we're leading Canada.

We have the nation's lowest unemployment rate.

Exports are up 10 per cent to almost \$36 billion.

What has driven that success is we have stuck to our plan, stayed focused on the eight key sectors and four cross-sectors in the Jobs Plan.

In our five year update, we are going to build on the successes in those core areas by targeting new emerging sectors like technology.

I am delighted UBC president Professor Santa Ono has agreed to become Chief Advisor of the Innovation Network...

Which is designed to foster greater collaboration between public post-secondary institutions and innovation-driven industries.

We'll have much more to say about Professor Ono and his new role in March.

As we continue to diversify, strengthen and grow Canada's leading economy, the 5 year update sets out 25 new targets.

We had great success in meeting our 2011 targets...  
Because you don't end up leading the country without  
ambitious goals.

Some of our plans have taken longer to realize because of  
low prices and global supply. It's a reminder that in a  
global economy, we can get everything right here at  
home...

And still be at risk.

We are surrounded by risk – just look south of the border.  
We live in turbulent times, and rural communities who  
depend on resource industries are feeling that.

These are communities that carried B.C. And now it's our  
turn to have your back.

We're going to do that in two ways.

First, we're going to keep working to get to yes on projects that create jobs in rural communities. That means Site C, LNG, mines, and more.

Second, I have asked Donna Barnett, our Minister of State for Rural Economic Development, to work on a strategy. In the short term, that means infrastructure investments.

In the longer term, finding ways to diversify rural economies, like developing a rural tech sector.

You'll see a lot more detail in the near future.

We can take pride in leading the country in job creation and economic growth...But that's not why we work hard for economic success.

We build a growing economy because that's the best way to afford to invest in the services we all depend on.

We work to create jobs because that's how you create opportunity, lift families out of poverty, and give people a way to build their own futures, on their terms.

Saying no, or waving the white flag when times get tough isn't leadership. It takes us back instead of pushing us forward.

Saying yes, and finding solutions is what we work on, what we fight for, every single day.

## ACKNOWLEDGE:

Bill Bennett

Gavin Dirom

Diane Nicolson, Chair, AME (introduction)

Thank you Gavin Dirom. Every year we try and come up with a new slogan for mining.

You might recall last year Gavin's suggestion was

"We built this city on rock and coal."

While mine was "a mine is a terrible thing to waste."

The NDP also had a contribution:

"mining on the rocks."

There are two ways to put mining on the rocks.

First, obviously, if commodity prices are too low. That's what happened in the Golden Triangle, starting with the Premier Gold Mine, just upriver from Stewart.



100 years ago, when prices were high, it was the most significant source of gold and silver in the country – and Stewart was the centre of the world.

When they fell, it became too expensive to get there.

Mining can also be on the rocks if government policy tries to strangle it. In B.C., we have seen examples of that, too.

Today the Golden Triangle is making a big comeback. One of the reasons for that is the other man I want to single out.

As you know, Bill Bennett has chosen to spend more time with his family at home in Cranbrook.

And if you've seen his home, with the best-stocked humidor north of Havana – you understand why.

At a time when mining needed a champion – you got one.  
One who wasn't afraid to swing for the knockout.

Bill has been one of the most dogged, persistent, and  
effective advocates for mining in Canada, or the world.

Look at what has happened on his watch:

The turnaround time for exploration permitting, more than  
cut in half, from an average of 110 days to 50.

The Major Mines Permitting Office is improving the co-  
ordination of authorizations for major mining projects.

He's worked with you to keep mines open in tough times,  
with exploration tax credits, low hydro rates, and the ability  
to defer power costs until commodity prices come back to  
normal.

And today, we are extending the Flow-Through Share Tax Credit – a non-refundable tax credit of 20 per cent.

When Bill brings these ideas to cabinet, he makes it clear: you asked for it. And we have done our best to deliver.

That brings me to something else you have been asking for – stable funding for Geoscience BC.

We have provided more than \$60 million since 2005. And it's a good investment. Every single dollar invested is returned five times over to British Columbians.

That's why B.C. is the premier destination for mining in North America, with almost a fifth of all exploration investment in Canada.

To be fair, it was the same in the '90s – if you take “a fifth” to mean “five per cent.”

Today, I'm pleased to announce \$10 million for Geoscience BC over the next two years.

It means stability for a sector that has seen its share of ups and downs.

And we need stability. Because when I look at you – I see the thousands of people who depend on you to build their futures.

I see the roads, hospitals, and schools mining has built – and is going to build.

B.C. needs mining. Because you're a crucial part of Canada's leading economy.

- 4 consecutive balanced budgets – and number five coming in a few weeks.

- Leading the country in growth – three times faster than the rest of Canada.
- Being on track to eliminate our operating debt in 4 years – the first time since 1975.
- The lowest middle class taxes in Canada.
- The lowest unemployment rate in the country – the best comparison since 1961.
- Record investments in health, infrastructure, education, and programs that lift people up, like the Single Parent Employment Initiative.
- And the best job creation record in Canada, with 191,000 jobs since we launched the BC Jobs Plan. If all those jobs were their own city, they'd be B.C.'s fifth biggest – and gaining fast on Richmond.

Earlier today, we released the 5-year update to the Job Plan. We're focusing on rural communities that have borne

the brunt of the pressure from low commodity prices and international economic risk.

I'd invite you to compare our update and our record with the NDP's Jobs Plan, which they promised to release months ago. Maybe they released it over the recycling bin.

They're also telling you they have a vision for mining. They do have a vision – one where you forget about their record.

I could tell you that two mines closed for every one that opened.

I could tell you B.C. lost over 5,000 mining jobs.

I could tell you that mineral exploration ground to a halt. Ancient history, they say – although "they" are the exact same people who brought mining to its knees.

Instead, look at the Golden Triangle today. Look at Brucejack Mine, where 900 people are working on construction right now. And when it's running, it means 300 permanent, good-paying jobs.

The mine is on Nisga'a traditional territory, with a cooperation and benefits agreement.

Or look at Red Chris, powered by the Northwest Transmission Line – which the NDP called the line to nowhere.

It's not nowhere to the 350 people working there. Or to their families, who depend on those jobs to put food on the table.

And it's certainly not nowhere to the people who have lived there for millennia, the Tahltan, who voted 87 per

cent in favour of the opportunity and jobs that Red Chris brought.

We will continue to have your back.

Because you have always had B.C.'s back, in good times and bad.

Because you are a good investment,

Because it means jobs in communities that need them, and because it's the right thing to do...

And because you have a vital role to play in B.C.'s future.

You're seeing a glimpse of that future here in Vancouver, a city that relies more and more on a thriving tech sector.

Some people think tech jobs are all clean, green jobs in a downtown loft.

But every iPad needs metallurgical coal.



Every solar panel and geothermal heat pump needs copper.

## **CONCLUSION**

In 2017, BC has a stark choice: a party that supports resource development and projects that get British Columbians working...

And one that says no to jobs, across the board.

The NDP used to be guarded and coy about this.  
But little by little...the mask drops.

The NDP look at the map of BC, and see two places:  
Vancouver, and what they probably call "Beyond Hope."

But you can't make record investments in health, education, housing, and transit by shutting down every mine and mill in the province.

You can't say you support working people and then fight every project that gets people working.

You can't be first in job creation, economic growth, and unemployment by sticking your head in the sand.

To be fair, the NDP also brought a lot of firsts to BC.

- First in job losses.
- First time becoming a have-not province.
- And first in thank you cards from the Calgary Chamber of Commerce.

That's what's at stake.

There's no such thing as an easy election in B.C.  
Every single one is tough, and every single one is decided by a few thousand votes in a few key ridings.

That's a good thing. Because it means every vote counts.

I'm going to keep fighting for our plan. I'm going to fight for responsible resource development.

I'm going to fight for our ideas and the values that built this province, and made BC a leader in Canada.

Thank you.

## ACKNOWLEDGE:

Don McRae

(fed rep)

John Bowman, president, North Island College

The whole country has taken notice of what we're building here...

Canada's leading economy.

That includes the Trudeau government. And we're partnering with them to make investments to make sure British Columbians are first in line for the jobs we're creating every day.

Today, with our partners in Ottawa and North Island College, we're announcing \$13.5 million for a new trades training facility.

Before, if you wanted training in Campbell River, it meant sharing space with a high school.

**Not anymore.**

For students looking at careers as chefs, transport, or in B.C.'s thriving aerospace sector...  
Their journeys will start right here.

And as more and more First Nations youth build their own career possibilities, they'll feel welcome and at home at North Island College.

The new facility will include a First Nations lounge, study area, and an Elder in Residence for guidance.

Over the next decade, we're expecting nearly one million job openings in British Columbia.

8 out of 10 of these will require post-secondary education.

## That's why we've repeatedly invested in North Island College:

- 464,550 for 105 new critical trade seats – and that's on top of \$2.6 million through the ITA for 700 trades training seats per year.
- \$1.2 million for industry-standard trades training equipment;
- and \$200,000 towards trades initiatives for students with disabilities.

Because we've done the hard work of growing the economy, and stuck to our plan to control government spending...

We're able to make investments like this – that give young people a head start on in-demand careers...

And put British Columbians first.

## ACKNOWLEDGE: Jack Barr, Chamber President

Thank you for coming here tonight, and thank you for supporting free enterprise. We have a lot to celebrate in BC – and a lot to fight for.

But first, I want to introduce a kindred spirit of mine – Matthew Wilson.

We both grew up in homes where we talked politics every day at the dinner table.

Both our fathers stood up for what they believed in and put their name on the ballot.

And both of us know how hard it is to see your dad lose an election.

We have a lot more in common.

Matthew believes in free enterprise.

He believes in striking a balance between protecting the environment with responsible, sustainable resource development.

And he knows the person who knows best what to do with your hard-earned money...

Is you.

That's why we've worked so hard to build a solid economic foundation:

- We have delivered 4 balanced budgets, with a fifth on the way.
- We will pay off our operating debt in 4 years – the first time since 1975.
- We have the lowest middle class taxes
- We have the lowest unemployment rate in the country – the best comparison since 1961.
- And we have the best job creation record in Canada, with 191,500 jobs since we launched the BC Jobs Plan.

Our next job is to build on that success – and to make sure the benefits and opportunities are shared across the province...

North and south, urban and rural.

Because we have built Canada's leading economy, we have the ability to make record investments in health, infrastructure, and education

- Making sure Powell River's coast guard station was included in the \$1.5 billion Ocean Protection Plan;
- \$5.6 million for seismic upgrades at Henderson Elementary and L'Ecole Cote-du-soleil;
- \$400,000 for 4 new hospice beds at the Powell River Hospice Society.



And programs that lift people up, like the Single Parent Employment Initiative. In less than a year and a half, 4,200 have taken us up on our offer, 49 here in Powell River.

Who could be against that?

To be fair, the NDP also brought a lot of firsts to BC:

- First in job losses.
- First time becoming a have-not province.
- And first in Christmas cards from the Calgary Chamber of Commerce.

Every vote counts – look at what happened in the US.

For the next 105 days, I am going to fight for the ideas and the values that have made this province what it is today.

Aberdeen Centre

January 27, 2017

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

EMCEES: Mary Lo, Mandy Chan (Hoi), Suiki Zhang, Clement Tang (translation)

ACKNOWLEDGE:

Teresa Wat

John Yap

Minister Harjit Sajjan

Senator Yonah Martin

Joe Peschisolido, MP

Alice Wong, MP

Bill McNaulty, Councillor (dressed as God of Fortune)

Thank you. Today is proof that in BC, our greatest advantage is diversity.

For over 100 years, British Columbians of Chinese heritage have made our communities brighter, and stronger. Today, Chinese-Canadians continue to play a crucial role, making our communities more prosperous.

With record numbers of people working, and the lowest taxes for middle class families, BC's strong, diverse economy is leading Canada.

And we're going to keep on leading Canada by continuing to build cultural and economic across the Pacific to Asia. That's why I'm so proud to have Teresa Wat on my team.

By opening new opportunities overseas, controlling government spending, and investing in the services so we can take care of the ones we love, we're working every day to ensure BC can enjoy another record year.

May the Year of the Rooster be a safe, healthy and prosperous one for you and your family.

Kung Hei Fat Choi and Gong Xi, Gong Xi.

## ACKNOWLEDGE:

Karen Beaubier, President

Bobby Gidda, Co-Chair

Elfriede Schmoll, Co-Chair

It continues to be my privilege to represent Westside. There's a particular responsibility to earn this seat – working for one of the fastest-growing regions in the province...

But also, living up to the legacy of W.A.C and Bill Bennett.

Free enterprise may not have been born in the Okanagan. But this is where it bloomed...

And this is where it survived B.C.'s socialist relapses.

If you had to sum up the Bennett Doctrine in one sentence, you could say "money is best spent by the people who earn it."

I agree. And that's why we've worked so hard to build a solid economic foundation:

- We have delivered 4 balanced budgets, with a fifth around the corner.
- We have the best job creation record in Canada, with 191,500 jobs since we launched the BC Jobs Plan.
- We have the lowest middle class taxes
- We have the lowest unemployment rate in the country – the best comparison since 1961.

- And we will pay off our operating debt in 4 years – the first time since 1975.

Think about that...kids born that year won't be asked to bear the burden their parents and grandparents put on their shoulders. The Bennetts would be proud.

Earlier this week, we updated our Jobs Plan. We've set ambitious targets – because that's the only way to keep leading Canada.

We're refocusing on innovation and our thriving tech sector, which in the Okanagan has grown by a remarkable 30 per cent in just two years.

We're also working to ensure the benefits and opportunities of a growing economy are shared across the province...

North and south, urban and rural.

Because we have built Canada's leading economy, we have the ability to make record investments in health, infrastructure, and education

- \$18.4 million to create more than 130 new housing units around Kelowna.
- \$28 million to expand and renovate the trades training facilities at Okanagan College, giving more than 2,400 students and apprentices a leg up on an in-demand career.

- To keep up with a growing population, there are major upgrades to Highway 97 coming this year – which builds on the RapidBus expansion.
- \$3 million invested in Foundry Kelowna, a new integrated youth-service centre for kids and teens.

We've also made investments in programs that lift people up, like the Single Parent Employment Initiative. In less than a year and a half, 4,231 have taken us up on our offer, 165 in Kelowna.

Who could be against that? I think you know.

This is no time to change course and start spending money like it's going out of style.

We are surrounded by economic risk. And in uncertain times – B.C. needs a fighter. Someone who will fight for jobs, for economic growth, and for families.

For the next 102 days, that's what I going to. I am going to fight for the ideas and the values that have made this province what it is today.

Thank you. I'm happy to take your questions.