

Economic Statistics

Message:

- Private sector forecasters expect that BC's real GDP growth will be the fastest in Canada for the next two years.
- **In the past year, BC has added 82,100 jobs**, with massive gains in the private sector [LFS, April 2019]
 - 44,000 full-time jobs. [LFS, April 2019]
 - 38,000 part-time jobs. [LFS, April 2019]
- In April, BC added nearly 6,000 jobs— more full-time job creation than any other province. [LFS, April 2019]
- We have the lowest unemployment rate in Canada, now for 21 months in a row. [4.6%, LFS, April/19].
- In 2018, BC saw the highest wage growth in a decade. [+4.1% Labour Force Statistics, Jan 2019].
- Retail sales are growing – up 2.1% in the first quarter of this year. [BC Stats, May 2019]
- In March, the value of BC commodity exports grew 5.1%. [BC Stats, May 2019]

Kevin Falcon on CBC, Feb. 19, 2019:

Gallagher: Did the government also inherit problems at ICBC and problems at BC Hydro in terms of the deferral account?

Falcon: They did. I think the previous government, which I used to be a part of, has to accept its share of blame, especially for the ICBC situation.

They deferred making tough decisions that they should have made. No question about that.

So they have to wear their share of responsibility for that.

Hydro has always been the challenge of being honest with British Columbians about the fact that you've got a corporation making massive needed capital investments and trying to play a game of pretending that we somehow don't need to pay for it through higher fees that the public is going to have to pay.

That has always been the crux of the problem.

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Bob Simpson, Mayor of Quesnel

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(CBC, May 11)

Validators: Coast Forest Sector Revitalization

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(Jan 17, 2019)

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- Robert Dennis, Chief Councillor, Huu-ay-aht First Nations (Jan 17, 2019)

Letter from Tolko Industries President & CEO Brad Thorlakson:

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- Brad Thorlakson, President & CEO, Tolko Industries Ltd (April 22, 2019)

Minister's statement on Tolko's closure of Quest Wood mill

May 10, 2019

Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, has issued the following statement:

"I am saddened by today's news that Tolko will permanently close its Quest Wood sawmill in Quesnel and eliminate a shift at its Kelowna sawmill.

"The loss of jobs in resource communities is difficult, and my thoughts are with the workers.

"I understand that Tolko will provide support to employees at both mills throughout the transition and that representatives from Tolko's Employee and Family Assistance Program will work to assist impacted employees. Staff from the regional economic development branch of my ministry and staff from the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction will work with Tolko and the community to co-ordinate the delivery of provincial support programs. We will also work with the federal government to ensure supports are made available to affected workers.

"I have spoken with the company and with Quesnel Mayor Bob Simpson, and have offered our government's support.

"Unfortunately, the problems facing Tolko are not new. They have been mounting for the past several years. Tolko has experienced increasing fibre supply shortages in Quesnel as the mountain pine beetle epidemic ended and the volume of beetle-killed timber declined. This fibre shortage was exacerbated by the impacts of the 2017 wildfire season and weakening lumber markets.

"While the most recent closure will most acutely impact Quesnel, the declining supply of beetle-killed wood has been a factor on the Interior timber supply for the last few years. Successive governments, the forest industry and most Interior communities have known for the past two decades that some impacts on Interior sawmilling capacity were inevitable in the wake of the mountain pine beetle epidemic. The industry accelerated harvesting to take advantage of beetle-killed forests, knowing full well that the newly available timber supply was finite. In fact, industry consultants Jim Girvan and Murray Hall predicted closures several years ago.

"It is for just that reason that last month our government invited forest company CEOs to come together to work collaboratively with other companies, First Nations, local governments and union executives to develop local visions –
- unique visions for industry competitiveness in each timber supply area. Some companies, including Tolko, expressed a strong interest in doing so. We will be successful in addressing the challenges facing the forest industry only by working together and finding solutions that work for everyone.

"Our government is committed to supporting the tens of thousands of people that work in our forests and mills, and in the marketing and transportation sectors that deliver more than \$14 billion annually to customers around the globe. Forest products are central to the economy and standard of living of every part of our province. I continue to believe that collaboration and transformation are the paths to ensuring a competitive forest industry that produces high-value products, good jobs, community economic stability and benefits for area First Nations."

Letter from Paper Excellence CEO Brian Baarda:

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- Brian Baarda, Paper Excellence (May 9, 2019)

Forestry Validators

Letter from Dunkley Lumber Ltd. President Robert Novak:

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- Robert Novak, Dunkley Lumber Ltd. (May 6, 2019)

Massey Replacement

Highlights:

- The Mayor's Council wrote a letter to the Premier, urging completion of the Massey replacement to be moved up to 2025/2026 and that only tunnel options should be considered.
- The independent technical review of the Massey replacement project found the original project pushed the 10-lane bridge option without fully considering feasible alternatives or local opinions on the best path forward.
- On May 16, the Ministry of Transportation announced a request for proposals for a technical team to help develop the options for a long term solution to the Massey Crossing.

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Solution:

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- The technical analysis including engineering, costs and construction details, is underway.
- And in the meantime, we are aggressively pursuing congestion relief for the traffic network on both sides of the river.
- We are also implementing safety improvements at the tunnel, new lighting, improved drainage, resurfacing and other measures.
- We will ensure local communities and people in the area help determine the solutions that will get them out of traffic and home with their families.

Quotes:

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Member for Kamloops-South Thompson
(Todd Stone), CBC Early Edition, Oct. 11, 2017.

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" Member for Kamloops-South
Thompson (Todd Stone, Oct 10. 2017)

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- Richmond Mayor Malcolm Brodie (July 24,
2017)

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Greg Moore, chair of Mayor's Council (Sept. 6, 2017).

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Old government's Clone Speech (June 22, 2017).

Background:

- An independent technical review of the George Massey crossing, led by professional engineer Stan Cowdell, is now with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure.
- On December 17, 2018, government released the independent technical review and announced plans for community engagement, safety improvements, and interim congestion relief.
- **Phase 1:** Goals and objectives (Due Apr 2019). Ministry staff are working with identified Indigenous Groups, local and regional governments, and representative stakeholders to develop these and will aim to achieve informed consensus.
 - 16 meetings have taken place so far. On April 26 the Metro Vancouver Board will meet to endorse our goals and objectives.

- **Phase 2:** Crossing options (Due Nov 2019). The ministry will collaborate with governments and select key stakeholders to identify options and conduct a preliminary MAE assessment.
- **Phase 3:** Business Case for new crossing (Due Fall 2020). This phase is primarily technical, meeting as required to finalize the business case.
- The ministry is pursuing of immediate safety improvements, valued at \$40M:
 - These improvements include better lighting, upgraded safety systems, drainage, resurfacing Highway 99 from Steveston Interchange to Highway 17A, brighter lane markings, signage and fire safety door replacement.
 - The drainage and pavement rehabilitation work is scheduled for summer 2019. All others are scheduled for completion by summer 2020
- Interim Traffic Congestion Relief
 - We are working closely with Tsawwassen First Nation, Richmond and Delta to develop options for traffic congestion relief that is agreeable on both the Steveston Interchange and the Delta side.
 - Once these interim improvements are identified we are scheduled to be tender ready by fall of 2020.

Privately Managed Forests

Highlights:

- The Green Caucus will ask questions about privately managed forest lands and the how clear cutting on private land impacts communities.
- On May 28, the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations launched a public review of the management of private forests.
- Fernie and Nelson have called on BC to strengthen standards for logging on private lands by bringing them in line with those on Crown land. They plan to bring resolutions on this topic to UBCM in September 2019.

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Background:

- The Private Managed Forest Land Program was established in 2003 with the introduction of the Private Managed Forest Land Act.
- After more than a decade of implementing this framework, government is reviewing the program's performance.
- There is a clear distinction between what legislation, regulations, bylaws and oversight apply to timber harvested on private land versus the legislation, regulations, bylaws and oversight that is applied to private managed forest land (a property class assigned by the BC Assessment Authority).
- Awareness of a specific property's class is integral to the context for how forestry activities on the property may be regulated.
- All private landowners, regardless of property class, are subject to the Water Sustainability Act, Drinking Water Protection Act, Environmental Management Act, Wildlife Act, Assessment Act, Wildfire Act and federal acts such as the Fisheries Act, Migratory Birds Convention Act and Species at Risk Act.
- Regulations governing private managed forest land are in addition to those for basic private forest landowners. The Private Managed Forest Land Act establishes management objectives for key public environmental values, including soil conservation, critical wildlife habitat, fish habitat, drinking water quality and reforestation.
- The private managed forest land program is voluntary. Property owners receive a lower property tax rate from BC Assessment by participating in the program. Owners must also pay an annual administration fee to the Managed Forest Council and submit an annual declaration of forest management activities completed during the year. They also must pay an exit fee, should they leave the program before an initial 15-year commitment period.
- In exchange for their commitment to long-term, sustainable management practices and required time in the program, private managed forest landowners receive assessed values for land that are generally lower than residential, which can result in lower property taxes.
- Fernie and Nelson have called on the Province to strengthen regulations and standards for private land logging by bringing them in line with those on Crown land. They will bring resolutions on this topic to UBCM in September 2019.

Job Creation

Highlights:

- The Opposition and some business groups have been critical of government's approach to economic development, saying there are no supports for businesses or job growth.

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Validators:

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(Laurie Schultz,
President and CEO of ACL privately-owned software
company headquartered in Vancouver, Jan 2018)

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(Greg D'Avignon, President of
Business Council of BC, Nov 27, 2018)

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(Marcia Smith, Teck Resources Limited,
Dec 5, 2018)

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(Laird Cronk, President of BC
Federation of Labour, Dec 5, 2018)

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(Kathy Kinloch, president, BCIT,
and chair of Emerging Economy Task Force, Dec 5,
2019)

(Dr. Wal van Lierop,
founding partner and executive chairman, Chrysalix
Venture Capital, Dec 5, 2018).

(Bryan Cox,
President of Mining Association of BC, Jan 28, 2019)

Background:

- Private sector forecasters estimate BC real GDP to grow by 2.3% in 2018 – **among the highest in Canada** (behind Alberta and Quebec) and above the national average of 2.1%. [FIN]
- Private sector forecasters expect that BC's real GDP growth will be the fastest in Canada for the next two years.

April Labour Force Survey (released May 2019)

Unemployment

- Unemployment rate at 4.6%
- BC has the lowest in Canada for 21 months in a row.

Job Growth

- Year-over-year employment in the province increased by 82,100.
 - +44,000 full-time and +38,000 part-time
 - +91,200 private sector, -4,300 public sector, and -5,000 self-employed
- Month to month employment:
 - +5,900 jobs (+29,900 full-time, -24,000 part-time), leading all provinces in full time job creation
 - +19,900 private sector, +5,000 public sector and -19,100 self-employed

Wage Growth

- 2018 was BC's highest annual wage growth in the last 10 years.

Exports and Retail

- In 2018, merchandise exports rose 7.3% compared to 2017. [FIN IN, Mar/19]
- In 2018, exports to the U.S. rose 2.3%, while exports to other countries rose 12.5% compared to 2017. [FIN IN, Mar/19]
- In the first quarter of 2019, BC's exports rose 2.1% and the value of B.C.'s commodity exports grew 5.1% in March. [BC Stats, May/19]

Housing

- In April 2019, the level of B.C. housing starts was 51,093 units, up 23% from the same month last year and well above the historical annualized monthly average of 30,000 units [CMHC, May 2019]
- In Vancouver, the number of housing starts remains 34.2% above the 10-year average. [FIN IN, May 19]

Accomplishments – Spring Session 2019

Childcare

- Our government continues to make child care more accessible and affordable for families through our Childcare BC plan.
- Our two affordability measures – the Affordable Child Care Benefit, and the Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative – have helped families save almost \$200 million, with many paying \$10-a-day or less.
- Since July 2018, we've approved funding for 4,300 licensed child care spaces and more projects are being approved each week.
- We're addressing the Early Childhood Educator shortage with a wage boost this year, another boost next year, bursaries and new post-secondary spaces.

Speculation and Vacancy Tax

- We're taking action on housing affordability by tackling speculation and out-of-control housing costs.
- Our real estate should first and foremost be there for British Columbians who want to live in our province, work and raise a family.
- Speculation drives up costs for everyone and hurts regular British Columbians.

Strong Economy

- BC's economy is the strongest in Canada and we want to keep it that way while making it work for people.
- Private sector forecasters expect BC's real GDP growth will be the fastest in Canada for the next 2 years.
- In the last year, 82,000 jobs were created in BC and BC has had the lowest unemployment rate in Canada for 21 months in a row. [4.6%, LFS, April 2019]
- Budget 2019 saw more than more than \$20 billion in capital investments - the largest infrastructure investment in B.C.'s history - which will create tens of thousands of jobs in communities around B.C.
- Our government is reinvesting in the northwest with a \$100 million grant to help address long-standing infrastructure needs and support communities as they prepare for resource development in the region
- Our approach to LNG has delivered the largest private sector investment in Canadian history – right here in B.C. The LNG Canada project will:
 - Create \$23 billion in revenue for B.C.
 - Generate 10,000 construction jobs
 - Provide 950 permanent jobs

Advance Education Skills and Training

- Budget 2019 eliminated interest on B.C. student loans, providing relief to 200,000 British Columbians and making post-secondary education more accessible.
- We have taken action to root out money laundering from our colleges and universities.
- Thanks to our government's tuition waiver program, over 800 former kids in care are now in post-secondary accessing their next level of education.
- We've made a \$3.26 million investment in open education resources including more open textbooks, making education more affordable for students.

Attorney General

- We launched a public inquiry into money laundering to get British Columbians the answers they deserve and continue our work to build an economy that works for people - not organized crime.
- We made important changes at ICBC to clean up the old government's mess while providing more care and getting people fairer and faster compensation.

Agriculture

- We're helping farmers farm. We kicked off Feed B.C. to increase the amount of B.C. food in our hospitals - to build new opportunities for producers and improve hospital food for people.
- We launched the B.C Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund to help restore our wild salmon stocks in B.C.

Children and Family Development

- Foster parents, adoptive and extended family caregivers and home-share providers are receiving the first increase in 10 years in support payments – to make life more affordable and provide more support to some of B.C.'s most-vulnerable children and adults.
- For family members caring for children through the Extended Family Program, support will nearly double to the same rate as foster caregivers. This addresses recommendations by Grand Chief Ed John.

Citizen services

- We've continued expanding access to high-speed Internet - 455 communities, including 75 Indigenous communities, are now connected or in process since July 2017.

Education

- Our government has invested \$1 billion more than the previous government did in 2016/17.
- For the first time since 2006, every school district is forecasted to see an increase in funding next year.
- We launched a \$5 million school playground fund.
- We've approved three times as many seismic projects in the last year compared to each of the previous two years.

Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources

- We took action to keep electricity rates affordable for people.
- We invested \$20 million over three years to support the Mining Jobs Task Force's recommendations, to help foster a healthy, thriving and responsible mining sector, with high-paying jobs.
- To support investment in BC, we made the Mining Flow-Through Share tax credit, and the B.C. Mining Exploration Tax Credit permanent.
- With CleanBC, we announced that all new vehicles sales in B.C. will be 100% zero-emission by 2040.

Environment

- We added nearly 600 new campsites throughout BC so people can enjoy the natural beauty of our province.
- We provided \$902 million for CleanBC, our plan to put BC on the path to a cleaner, brighter low-carbon future.
- CleanBC will reduce air pollution and save families money through the Clean Energy Vehicle Program, incentives for energy-saving home improvements, a net-zero building code and programs to help communities transition to cleaner energy sources.

Finance

- To end the hidden ownership of real estate (a massive loophole for money launderers) we are establishing a new, publicly accessible registry of who owns real estate in BC. This has been celebrated as world leading legislation.
- We launched the new Condo and Strata Assignment Integrity Register, Canada's first online register to collect comprehensive assignment information to crack down on tax evasion and improve fairness and transparency in B.C.'s real estate market.
- We've taken much-needed action on gender-based violence by committing to build 1500 new transition homes for women leaving violence, and by increasing support for programs and services for victims of violence by \$18 million over three years.
- Budget 2019 introduced the new BC Child Opportunity Benefit, which gives all kids the opportunity to thrive.

Forests, Lands, Natural Resources and Rural Development

- We've been working hard with industry, labour, First Nations and communities to strengthen our forest-dependent communities.
- This work allowed us to **launch** our Coast Forest Revitalization Plan and the locally driven renewal of BC's interior forest industry.
- We put people and public trust first and foremost with our changes to the Forest Act.
- Through the Rural Dividend, our government distributed almost \$19 million to support rural communities.
- We implemented a comprehensive wildfire recovery program of nearly \$280 million, focused on people and communities, economy, infrastructure and the environment.

Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

- Announced a historic revenue-sharing agreement with the First Nations Leadership Council that will see approximately \$3 billion over the next 25 years shared with BC First Nations.
- Continued working hard with the First Nations Leadership Council to co-develop new legislation to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in BC.

Jobs, Trade and Technology

- Our government hosted another successful #BCTECH Summit in March 2019, promoting B.C.'s thriving tech and innovation sector.
- As part of Budget 2019, government enhanced the small business venture capital tax credit to help B.C.'s early stage businesses grow.
- In March 2019, Ministers Ralston and Chow travelled to South Korea March to strengthen trade and investment ties, and to expand economic opportunities for businesses in B.C.

Labour

- We passed legislation with long-overdue improvements to protect worker health and safety and to restore fairness to labour relations.
- Improvements like: ensuring workers who have built up fair wages and job security don't see those stripped away; protecting children and youth from dangerous work; and providing job protection to people dealing with difficult personal circumstances like domestic violence.
- To help lift people out of poverty, we set the path to reaching a minimum wage of at least \$15.20 an hour in 2021, with an increase to \$13.85 an hour on June 1, 2019 (from \$12.65).

Mental Health and Addictions

- We expanded access to mental health and substance use care, so more people can find support where and when they need it.
- We expanded hours and services at Surrey's Roshni Clinic to connect more people to culturally safe treatment.
- We launched a new mental health and substance use mobile unit in Terrace.
- We doubled capacity at Kelowna's medication assisted treatment clinic

Public Safety and Solicitor General

- We are standing up for people by addressing concerns British Columbians have with cell phone billing transparency, live event ticket purchasing and making sure that the most financially vulnerable people are protected through regulation of high cost loans.
- Added \$1.7 million for the Crime Victim Assistance Program to support entitlements for victims of crime.
- To support community resiliency in the face of wildfires, floods and other emergencies, we provided a \$31 million boost to the fund for local governments and First Nations.
- Provided record funding of \$18.6 million for ground search and rescue groups so they can better help people in communities across BC.

Social Development and Poverty Reduction

- We launched TogetherBC, our province's first poverty reduction strategy, committing to reducing overall poverty in BC by 25%, and cutting child poverty in half, over the next five years.

Tourism, Arts and Culture

- Provided \$350,000, an increase of \$100,000 over last year for free family day events across the province.
- Launched a new Tourism strategic framework that will guide year-round tourism growth that benefits people and communities, while protecting British Columbia's natural environment.

Transportation

- We increased service on 10 ferry routes that the old government cut, restoring 2,700 round-trip sailings for people living in coastal communities.
- We committed to continue BC Bus North that connects BC's northern and rural communities.
- Taken next steps in our South Island Transportation plan.
- Passed legislation to ensure that the public interest is the top priority for all BC Ferry services.

Speculation Tax

Highlights:

- The Opposition continues to raise questions about the impact of the speculation and vacancy tax on people in Belcarra with family cabins.
- On March 14, the Leader of the Opposition was criticized for attacking the speculation tax at a West Vancouver Yacht Club.
- This follows other comments at the end of February where the Leader of the Opposition referred to renting as a “wacky time of life.”

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Quotes:

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(Douglas Todd, reporter, Feb 9, 2018)

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Show Host, Feb 4, 2019)

" (Lynda Steele, Talk

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Greene, Richmond City Councillor, Feb 7, 2019) " (Kelly

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' (Patrick Johnstone, New Westminster City
Councillor Feb 9, 2019)

Polls:

- March, Research Co. (BC):
68% support (up 6% from June 2018).
55% of BC Liberal voters support (up 2%)
- September, VoteLocal – Mustel/GVBOT (Metro Van):
77% support measures to curb speculation.
63% of business community support
- May 4-7, ²⁰¹⁸ Angus Reid Institute (BC):
75% support (45% very good idea, 30% good idea).
62% of BC Liberal voters support
- August 2018, Angus Reid Institute (Metro Van):
88% support the speculation tax.
81% of BC Liberal voters support

Background:

- Between January 21 and February 14, declaration letters will be mailed to 1.6 million homeowners in regions impacted by the Speculation and Vacancy Tax.
- People have until March 31 to declare for an exemption – this can be done online or over the phone.
- Over 99% of British Columbians will be exempt from the tax.
- The tax focuses on BC's major urban centres that are experiencing a housing crisis with near-zero vacancy rates and home prices surging past local incomes.
- The tax applies in the Metro Vancouver Regional District (excluding Bowen Island and Electoral Area A, except the portion of the electoral area that is UBC and University Endowment Lands), the Capital Regional District (excluding the Gulf Islands and Juan de Fuca), Kelowna-West Kelowna, Nanaimo-Lantzville (excluding Protection Island), Abbotsford, Chilliwack, and Mission.
- Primary residences and long-term rentals (rented out at least 6 months a year, in 30 day increments) are exempt from the tax.
- In 2018, tax rate is 0.5% of property value. In 2019 and beyond the rate will stay 0.5% for British Columbians, and Canadians living in other provinces, and will rise to 2% for foreign investors and satellite families.
- British Columbians with a 2nd home valued under \$400,000 will be exempt, and those with a second home valued over \$400,000 will receive a \$2000 credit.
- The BC Real Estate Association reports the average MLS price has eased by 5.2% from last year [BCREA, Dec 2018 vs Dec 2017]
- In the last 6 months, the MLS benchmark price for Metro Vancouver has gone down 7.2% [REBGC, Jan 2019]
- Land under development that is in the permitting process will be exempt.
- Exemptions will be available for special cases such as: someone undergoing medical care or residing in long-term care or temporary absence for work.

Support for Rural B.C.

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Maple Ridge Supportive Housing

Highlights:

- The Opposition has claimed that the Province is not working constructively with the mayor of Maple Ridge on the issue of homelessness and that there are no mental health and addictions supports planned for the Burnett St. site.
- On April 16 Penticton council voted to support the resolution suggested by Maple Ridge and write to the Premier and UBCM. It states that Penticton urges the Province to commit to work in collaboration with local governments on all projects.
- The Opposition is dropping leaflets in Maple Ridge alleging that the government is warehousing people without supports and suggesting the local MLAs have not stood up for their community.

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Background:

Current deployment of Fraser Health services supporting people experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness in Maple Ridge (\$2,672,000):

- **Intensive Case Management Team** – Contracted service with RainCity Housing Society. Assertive outreach service with a Housing First approach to homeless clients with serious substance use with or without a concurrent mental illness.
- **Nurse Practitioner 1.0 FTE** – Outreach primary care services for homeless/vulnerable individuals at the modular housing development, Anita Homeless camp, ICM clients, Salvation Army Shelter and Mental Health Centre.
- **Mental Health Services:** 1.0 FTE combo of Outreach Nurse (0.6 FTE) and other Mental Health Centre nurses 0.4 FTE; Mental Health Care Worker 0.25 FTE
 - *Nurses:* provision of dedicated service to clients at modular housing, Anita Homeless camp, Salvation Army Shelter and other homeless individuals
 - *Mental Health Worker:* assistance to attend medical appointments, housing searches, recovery-focused interventions, other support.
- **Psychiatrist Services** – psychiatric consultations at Maple Ridge Mental Health Centre on an as-needed basis.
- **Alouette Addictions Services Society** - contracted substance use services in Maple Ridge including counselling, service linkage, education.
- **Opioid Agonist Treatment (OAT) Clinic** –Contracted service with Alouette Addictions Services Society.
- **Public Health Nurse** - 0.75 FTE assigned as overdose lead for Maple Ridge and a proportion of 1.0 FTE Community Health Specialist. Supports Maple Ridge overdose prevention and response broadly with focus on upstream prevention.
 - *Harm Reduction Coordinator* – 1.0 FTE for Maple Ridge, consultation, education & support on harm reduction & overdose service planning.
 - Maple Ridge Public Health Unit provides fixed site harm reduction supply distribution (including THN), immunization services, incl. outreach-based clinics for marginalized populations, communicable disease response.
- **Home Health:**
 - *0.2 FTE Home Care Nurse* - primary care nursing assessments, wound care, palliative care, and some shower and personal care support.
 - *0.2 FTE Home Support Worker* - personal care support

- **Contracted services:**

- *Alouette Addictions Services Society*: Peer-based sharps recovery services seven days per week within a six block radius of Anita Place camp plus harm reduction supply distribution to camp residents.
- *RainCity Housing Society*: Full-time coordinator supporting peer teams at Anita Place & downtown core. Peer teams provide sharps recovery, supply distribution including THN, peer-to-peer-based overdose prevention education & response & linkages to health, social & MHSU services.
- *Stride with Purpose*: mobile harm reduction services in Fraser North.

Background - Housing in Maple Ridge:

- On March 20, Minister Robinson announced 51 units of supportive housing will be built on provincially owned land in Maple Ridge - enough to accommodate all 47 people who until recently were living at Anita Place homeless camp.
- 53 units of temporary Modular Supportive Housing were built in Fall 2018 on Royal Crescent Road but could not accommodate everyone in the camp.
- After a fire safety evacuation order, Minister Robinson stated that unless the City came up with a plan by March 8 the Province would move ahead on its own. The City requested an extension until the March 12th council meeting to submit a plan.
- Maple Ridge staff were told March 6 that Royal Crescent could not accommodate more units and Minister Robinson told the Mayor prior to March 12th council meeting.
- However, the proposal passed unanimously by council March 12th was for additional units at Royal Crescent. There was no mention at the meeting that it was not possible.
- The plan also included building affordable seniors housing on provincially owned land and recovery housing on land to be identified by the city.
- The camp reopened March 11 but Maple Ridge is only allowing people from their list of 14 "verified residents" to return. BC Housing restored heat and electricity on March 18.
- Since the evacuation the province has been supporting a 24 hr shelter - starting March 18 it will only operate 16 hrs with dinner and Breakfast from 5pm-9am until April 1.

Affordability

Highlights:

- On April 1, scheduled increases to BC Hydro rates, ICBC rates and the carbon tax took effect.

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Background:

- The only change to personal income taxes made by the current government was to reverse the tax cut for individuals with income above \$150,000 (approximately the top 2% of earners) in Budget Update 2017.
- Budget 2018 increased taxes on luxury vehicles, homes over \$3 million, and speculation in the housing market.
- Families have seen reduced net taxes between projections in Budget 2017 and those in Budget 2019. A Family of four earning \$90,000 pays 8.7% less (\$862) [\$9796 - \$8934], Family of four earning \$60,000 pays 15% less (\$979) [\$6525 - \$5546]. A Family of four earning \$30,000 pays 48% less (\$204) [\$420 - 216].
- Once Budget 2019 measures are fully implemented, net taxes for a family of four earning \$60,000 will be 61% lower than in Budget 2016. Net taxes for a family of four earning \$80,000 will be 43% lower. Net taxes for a family of four earning \$100,000 will be 22% lower.
- Budget 2019 invests \$233 million over 3 years to increase the climate action tax credit. Effective July 1, 2019 the maximum credit is increased by 14% so that low and middle-income families of four receive up to \$400 this year.
- As a result of annual increases, the climate action tax credits amount on July 1, 2021 will be almost 70% higher than on July 1, 2017.
- According to Statistics Canada, the average family income in BC in 2016 is \$61,291. If single individual families are excluded, average family income is \$82,221.
- On March 28, the Canadian Taxpayers Federation claimed the taxes increases for 2019 equate to \$687 per family.
- On April 1, the following scheduled increases took effect:
 - BC Hydro: +1.8%
 - ICBC: +6.3%
- The carbon tax was introduced at \$10 per tonne in 2008. It increased by \$5 each year until it reached \$30 per tonne in 2012 where it was frozen.
- It was frozen in 2013 for 5 years at a price of \$30 per tonne.
- Starting April 2018, the carbon tax increased to \$35 per tonne. It will increase by \$5 per tonne each year until it reaches \$50 per tonne in 2021.

ICBC

Highlights:

- On April 1, 2019, a basic insurance rate increase of 6.3% came into effect.
- Media has reported that the Trial Lawyers Association of B.C. will be filing a constitutional challenge in B.C. Supreme Court on April 1 to the new caps on minor injury claims, citing Charter and access to justice concerns.
- The Opposition Leader has said he wants to “send ICBC to the wrecking yard” (Dec. 14, 2018) and that “it’s time to have privatization” (Nov. 3, 2018).
- ICBC is currently on track to record a \$1.18 billion loss for 2018/19 – a larger than expected loss, following 2017/18’s \$1.3 billion loss.

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Quotes:

Even the Insurance Bureau of Canada supports the new minor injury caps:

Copyright

– Aaron Sutherland, Insurance Bureau of Canada Vice President (March 29, 2019)

On the Leader of the Opposition:

Copyright

– Member, Kamloops South Thompson (Jan. 23, 2018)

From the gallery:

Copyright

– Vaughn Palmer (Jan. 26 2018)

Copyright

– Mike Smyth (Aug. 17 2017)

Background:

- On Jan. 2, 2019, the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC) has approved ICBC's application for a 6.3% increase to basic insurance rates on an interim basis for the policy year beginning April 1, 2019.
- ICBC is currently on track to record a \$1.18 billion loss for 2018/19 – a larger than expected loss, following 2017/18's \$1.3 billion loss.
- ICBC's current mandatory Basic insurance rate is, on average, ~\$1,000 per year.
- At the Opposition's November 2018 convention, they passed a resolution calling on the B.C. government to "open up the B.C. auto insurance market to competition, giving drivers choice in auto insurance." (Policy Resolutions, p. 5)
- ICBC determines a person's premium primarily on their driving experience, claims history, where they live and how they use their vehicle.
- Private insurance often factors in personal details such as age, gender, marital status, credit score and how drivers finance their vehicles, which can often lead to certain demographics paying significantly more for their insurance.

Rate Design Changes:

- On Aug. 9, 2018, the Province announced ICBC's proposed rate design changes to ensure that insurance premiums more accurately represent a driver's risk.
- The changes will come into effect on September 1, 2019.
- The changes align with feedback government received from nearly 35,000 British Columbians on how to make insurance fairer.
- Key proposed changes to how Basic insurance premiums are set include:
 - Moving to a driver-based model, so that at-fault crashes are tied to the driver and not the person who owns the vehicle;
 - Increasing Basic insurance discounts for drivers with up to 40 years of driving experience, up from the current limit of nine years; and,
 - New discounts available for vehicles with original, manufacturer-installed automatic emergency braking technology and for vehicles driven less than 5,000 km per year;
 - Basic insurance discounts for inexperienced drivers will be adjusted to better reflect their risk;
 - At-fault crashes will have a larger impact on the premium a driver pays;
 - Rate classes and territories data (currently based on 2007 data) will be updated to reflect significant changes in traffic density, population growth and changes in the urban infrastructure; and,
 - An increase to the Driver Penalty Point (DPP) and Driver Risk Premium (DRP) programs of 20% on Nov. 1, 2018 and 20% on Nov. 1, 2019.

Changes to the Basic Insurance Product:

- In Feb. 2018, government announced changes to the Basic Insurance product:
 - \$5,500 cap on general damages for pain and suffering resulting from legally defined minor injuries, with the option to purchase additional coverage;
 - Substantial increases to wage loss, funeral and death benefits;
 - A doubling of the upper limit for medical and rehabilitation costs from \$150,000 to \$300,000;
 - Alternative Dispute Resolution for the majority of injury claims through the Civil Resolution Tribunal to reduce costs for ICBC and so that claimants who don't use a lawyer will get to keep their entire settlement, rather than paying a portion of it to lawyer fees;
 - Payment of wage loss and medical expenses as they occur rather than lump cash settlements, and ICBC becomes second payer on tort wage loss and medical costs;
- These changes are projected to bring in net savings of over \$1 billion annually to ICBC – without these changes, British Columbians would be paying more for their basic insurance.
- Increases to medical benefits are retroactive to January 1, 2018 with other changes to take effect April 1, 2019.
- The escalating cost of injury claims is the single biggest factor impacting basic insurance rates.
- Injury claims costs have soared by 43% in just five years; projected to total \$3.67 billion in 2018 alone.
- B.C. is the last province in Canada to introduce some form of restrictions to address rising minor injury claims payouts.

Escalating Legal Administration Costs

- Almost half of each litigated settlement is now being absorbed by legal expenses.
- Over the past year, the increasing use of expert reports has contributed to inflating ICBC's settlement costs by 20%.
- This includes lawyers' fees, estimated contingency fees, the costs of securing and paying for expert witnesses, and the costs of delay.
- Crashes that happen before April 1 will continue to be handled under the old rules.

Highway 1 Illecillewaet

Highlights:

- The contract for the Illecillewaet portion of the Highway 1 expansion project was awarded to Emil Anderson Construction on March 28th, 2019.
- The Opposition has blamed CBA aspect for the increase in the cost of the project.

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Solution:

- People rely on Highway 1 and it's important this stretch to the Alberta border is upgraded quickly.
- We know we are in a hot construction market and we are seeing increased material costs across the board.
- **The CBA is not the reason for these increases.**
- These material costs are affecting all projects, CBA and non-CBA alike.
- Earlier this month, a non-CBA highway project was deferred after its costs increased by 100%
- Additionally, five school projects have also seen notable increases due to material costs. Those are not CBA projects.

Sponsorship

Completion
rates

- 40%
 - In 2009, the BC Place roof and renovations were estimated to cost \$365 million. The final project cost was \$514 million.
- 60%
 - In 2004, the Vancouver Convention Centre was estimated at \$565 million, but the final cost was \$900 million.
- 80%
 - BC Hydro's Northwest Transmission Line was estimated at \$404 million, but final cost is now estimated at \$736 million.
- Unlike the previous government, we are providing good jobs for local people.
- We are ensuring women and Indigenous people have access to these jobs.
- And we are providing apprenticeships and training opportunities.
- Instead of ignoring the labour shortage, as the Opposition did, we are taking action to build up our workforce.
- That is our approach and I'm proud that we are moving forward on important projects that will provide extra benefit to local communities.

Background:

- Highway improvements between Kamloops and Alberta are expensive due to the challenging terrain over most of the corridor, and the ministry has prioritized projects to improve sections that have higher than average crash histories, high traffic volumes and bridges that need replacing.
- On Feb. 11, 2019 a tender was issued for the Illecillewaet portion of the project to improve safety and capacity on the Trans-Canada Highway.
- The tender closed on March 28th, 2019. Five bids were received and are currently being evaluated by the Ministry.
- The project will widen two kilometres of Highway 1, approximately 42 kilometres east of Revelstoke.
- The brake-check area will be expanded to accommodate up to 15 trucks at once from the current five-truck capacity.
- Acceleration and deceleration lanes will be added to improve safety for trucks entering or leaving the brake check.
- The total estimated project of \$62.9 million is cost shared, with the Government of Canada contributing up to \$15.5 million and the Province providing the remaining \$47.4 million.
- Construction is expected to start this spring.

Forestry

Highlights:

- On May 10, Tolko Industries Ltd. announced the permanent closure the Quest Wood sawmill in Quesnel and a reduction from two to one shift at one of its Kelowna sawmills.
- The Opposition has criticized recent forestry changes, alleging the changes have created unnecessary bureaucracy, will force companies to leave BC and will cause job loss.
- Government has introduced changes to the Forest Act and launched a renewed Interior forestry strategy and Coastal forest strategy.

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Background:

- On April 11, Government introduced amendments to the Forest Act.
- The changes will:
 - improve government's ability to exert more control over the disposition of Crown tenures;
 - ensure that public interest is considered in the disposition of Forest Act agreements;
 - ensure that dispositions and changes of control do not result in further concentration within the forestry sector; and
 - ensure government has the necessary information when needed from companies to inform policy and legislative changes to address emerging forestry issues.
- On April 5, Government launched an initiative to renew B.C.'s Interior forestry industry aimed at developing a competitive, sustainable future for forest companies, workers and communities.
- On January 17, Government introduced the Coast Forest Sector Revitalization Initiative.
- The 5 main goals of the Coast Forest Sector Revitalization are:
 - Rebuilding solid wood and secondary industries to ensure more B.C. logs and fibre are processed in B.C.
 - Improving harvest performance to ensure more fibre is available for domestic mills, including the pulp and paper sector.
 - Maintaining a credible auction system by taking steps to ensure bids on timber sale licences are independently made.
 - Fostering stronger business-to-business relationships between BC Timber Sales, major licensees and First Nations.
 - Restoring public confidence through amendments to the Forest and Range Practices Act and auditing the private managed forest land regime.
- The coastal forest sector is an integral part of the B.C. economy. In 2017, it generated over 24,000 direct jobs and \$3.1 billion in gross domestic product.

Supporting Farmers

Highlights:

- On March 24, the Opposition held a townhall in Surrey to protest government' changes to the Agricultural Land Commission Act (Bills 15 and 52).
- The Opposition claims that Bill 15's proposed changes to the exclusion process on the Agricultural Land Reserve are an "assault" on farmers' rights and remove their "personhood." Bill 15 does not change the definition of person.
- There were only 39 landowner exclusion applications in B.C. in 2018. Exclusion applications already have to go through local government.
- The Opposition may also ask about the new house size limits on the ALR that came into effect on Feb. 22, 2019 (Bill 52).

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– Anita Huberman, Surrey Board of Trade CEO
(March 7, 2019)

Copyright

– Stan Vander Waal, BC Agriculture Council
President (March 7, 2019)

Background (Bill 15):

- Bill 15 would require that exclusion applications be submitted to the ALC only by local governments, First Nations governments or the Province.
- People already cannot apply directly to the ALC for an exclusion – local government have to review applications and forward them to the ALC.
- Under the proposed changes, it will be local government itself that will make the application to the ALC to demonstrate that the exclusion fits with community plans and is part of a broader land use planning process.
- In 2018, there were 39 landowner Exclusion Applications made in B.C.

Landowner Exclusion Applications for 2018 Calendar Year - s.30(1) of ALCA		
Updated as of March 13, 2019		
Region	Number of Applications	Number of Applications by Local Government
Interior	2	1 Cariboo Regional District
		1 City of Kamloops
Island	4	1 City of Langford
		1 Township of Esquimalt
		1 Comox Valley Regional District
		1 Islands Trust Denman Island
Kootenay	4	2 East Kootenay Regional District
		2 Kootenay Boundary Regional District
North	4	1 Bulkley-Nechako Regional District
		1 Kitimat Stikine Regional District
		2 Peace River Regional District
Okanagan	11	1 City of West Kelowna
		1 District of Lake Country
		1 City of Salmon Arm
		3 Columbia Shuswap Regional District
		1 District of Coldstream
		1 Township of Spallumcheen
		1 District of Summerland
		1 Okanagan Similkameen Regional District
		1 Town of Osoyoos
South Coast	14	1 City of Abbotsford
		1 City of Chilliwack
		1 District of Kent
		1 Fraser Valley Regional District
		4 City of Maple Ridge
		1 City of Surrey
		1 District of Delta
		3 Township of Langley
		1 Sunshine Coast Regional District

Reference Case

Highlights:

- On May 24, the BC Court of Appeal unanimously ruled against the province in the reference case. Specifically, the court said BC doesn't have the jurisdiction to bring in the proposed amendments to the Environmental Management Act.
- In response, the Attorney General said BC will appeal the decision to the Supreme Court of Canada.
- The Opposition says the BC government should stop blocking the Trans Mountain Expansion project and have continued to link this project to Metro Vancouver's gas prices.

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Solution:

- Our government said from the outset that we would stand up for British Columbia's environment, economy and coast.
- We have a responsibility to defend the interests of British Columbians and that is exactly what we have been consistent in doing.
- We strongly believe that we have the authority and the responsibility to defend our coast and our environment.
- That's why we will take this case to the Supreme Court.
- A single spill of diluted bitumen would threaten tens of thousands of jobs and billions of dollars of economic activity.

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- We will continue to defend our jobs and our coast.

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Quotes:

Government of B.C. 2016 argument to NEB on KM:

Copyright

(Final Argument, Jan 11, 2016)

Ellis Ross:

Copyright

[December 20, 2013]

Copyright

Copyright

[January 9, 2012]

Christy Clark:

Copyright

[January 12, 2017]

Copyright

Background:

- The Federal Finance Minister announced on May 29 that they reached an agreement to buy the existing Trans Mountain pipeline and assets related to the Trans Mountain Expansion for \$4.5 billion.
- On Aug 30, the Federal Court of Appeal quashed the federal approval of the TMX project, ruling that the federal government had not adequately consulted with First nations and that the NEB's review "unjustifiably" didn't include tanker traffic and impacts on Southern Resident Killer Whales.
- On Sept 21, the federal government announced they would send the TMX pipeline for an additional 22-week review by the NEB on marine traffic impacts.
- BC intervened in the additional NEB review process.
- On October 3rd the federal government appointed former Supreme Court Justice Iacobucci to lead further First Nations consultation on the project. The federal government says they expect this process will take several months.
- On February 22nd the NEB released its report recommending approval of the project while noting that it would have significant adverse impacts on Southern Resident Killer Whales and on Indigenous cultural use of the whales. They also found the environmental impacts of a serious spill would be severe.
- BC sent a reference to the BC Court of Appeal which consists of a proposed amendment to the Environmental Management Act and three questions to confirm the province's authority to make such a law.
- In December 2018, BC and the federal government submitted written arguments for the reference case. Both jurisdictions responded to one another's written arguments in February 2019, with hearings taking place in March 2019.
- On May 24, the BC Court of Appeal ruled unanimously against BC in the reference case. The Attorney General responded by saying BC will now take the case to the Supreme Court of Canada.
- Section 36 of the Supreme Court of Canada Act gives the province the right of appeal on a reference case.
- There are numerous instances of the Supreme Court of Canada overturning unanimous BC Court of Appeal decisions. Examples include: *Bessette v. British Columbia* (2019), *SA v. Metro Vancouver Housing* (2019) and *Creston Moly Corp. v. Sattva Capital Corp* (2014).

Shipping Oil by Rail

Highlights:

- The Opposition has claimed delays to the construction of the TMX pipeline will increase oil by rail shipments through BC and increase risks to communities.
- While there have been increases in oil by rail volumes in Canada, the vast majority of shipments do not transit through BC and instead enter the US via Montana or North Dakota.
- Data from the Washington State Department of Ecology show shipments received via BC's lower mainland have declined dramatically since 2017.

s.13

Solution:

- Our government is committed to protecting our lands and waters from the risk of diluted bitumen regardless of how it is shipped.
- We have already introduced new regulations governing oil by rail to increase spill preparedness and response.
- These include requirements for contingency plans, drills and exercises, and plans for recovery.
- And for the first time, requiring reporting of transportation of hazardous substances through BC. Something the previous government ignored.
- We have issued an order to rail companies under new regulations requiring them to report volumes.
- The spill regulations we are proposing before the BC Court of Appeal would also apply to shipments of diluted bitumen by rail.
- We want to ensure we fill the gaps in the science around effects of a diluted bitumen spill, and that we can be sure it can be cleaned up.
- We are taking action to make British Columbians safer in the face of risks of bitumen transport be it by rail or by pipeline.

Background:

- Crude oil exports by rail from Canada have increased significantly in 2018 to 6.4 million barrels in July according to the NEB.
- While it is difficult to obtain reliable statistics as companies do not publicly report figures, most Canadian oil by rail shipments do not involve BC.
- The only oil by rail terminal in British Columbia is the Burnaby Rail Terminal which has a capacity to handle just 8,000 barrels per day.
- There are no facilities in BC to offload oil by rail onto tankers so all oil by rail for export that transits BC must go to Washington State.
- Data from the Washington State Department of Ecology show that while there was an increase in oil by rail shipments through BC from late 2016 to mid-2017, these shipments have declined since October 2017.
- In 2017 there were 3.17 million barrels shipped through BC to WA. In 2018 there were just 1.2 million.
- In the first half of 2017, under the old government, there were 1.64 million barrels shipped through BC to WA. In the first half of 2018 there were just 385 thousand.
- The reports show a major shift in routing of Canadian oil by rail shipments to Washington away from passing through BC and instead entering the state from the eastern border with Idaho.
- For the first three quarters of 2018, there were no shipments of oil by rail entering WA state via BC in 31 out of 40 weeks.
- Inter-provincial rail transportation regulation is the jurisdiction of the federal government and the transport of oil by rail is regulated by federal government under the Railway Safety Act and the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act .
- The federal government has initiated a review of the Railway Safety Act and the BC government is fully participating in the review, including bringing forward concerns heard from municipalities on dangerous goods traveling through their communities.
- While the Province does not have jurisdiction over rail transport, it does have ability to regulate environmental impacts that could be caused by spills.

- The Environment Minister implemented a first phase of new spill regulations on October 13, 2017. The regulations apply to transport of liquid petroleum products by pipeline, rail and trucking.
- This first set of new regulations passed by the current government activates legislation passed in 2016, and contains provisions that:
 - define “regulated persons” as pipeline, rail and trucking transporters of liquid petroleum products over 10,000 litres;
 - require the development and implementation of spill contingency plans;
 - define requirements for drills and exercises;
 - mandate record-keeping for spill preparedness and response;
 - require enhanced reporting and set additional cost recovery mechanisms;
 - enable government to require plans for recovery.
- The Ministry of the Environment has conducted public consultations on proposals for a second phase of spill regulations, including:
 - Response times, to ensure timely responses following a spill;
 - Geographic response plans, to ensure resources are available to support an immediate response, that take into account unique characteristics of a given sensitive area;
 - Compensation for loss of public and cultural use of land, resources or public amenities in the case of spills; and
 - Maximizing application of regulations to marine spills.
- The government has submitted a reference question to the BC Court of Appeal that would confirm the ability of the province to address the risks of increased diluted bitumen shipments by rail or by pipeline.

Caribou Agreements

Highlights:

- BC has signed a draft Conservation Agreement with the federal gov. for the 21 southern mountain caribou herds throughout the province and has also signed a Recovery Partnership Agreement with the federal gov. and West Moberly & Saulneau First Nations for 3 herds in the Peace region.
- On April 15, government announced a month-long extension for the engagement period and also appointed Blair Lekstrom the community liaison for the Peace region on the draft agreement.
- Mr. Lekstrom provided his report to government on May 27 and public engagement on the draft agreements ends May 31.
- The Opposition has been critical of the public engagement, saying local governments have been left out.

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Background:

- B.C. is pursuing a Bilateral Section 11 Conservation Agreement with Environment and Climate Change Canada under the federal Species at Risk Act, and a Partnership Agreement with the federal government and West Moberly & Sauteau First Nations.

Bilateral Section 11 Conservation Agreement

- The draft Section 11 Agreement outlines overarching agreement principles and broad recovery commitments from BC and Canada for all Southern Mountain Caribou in BC (Central, Northern and Southern Groups).
- Given the alternative of an emergency Protection Order under Section 80 of the federal act, B.C. believes a Section 11 Agreement is preferable.

Partnership Agreement

- BC is pursuing a Partnership Agreement in Principle with the federal government and West Moberly & Sauteau First Nations, focused on the recovery of Central Mountain Caribou herds of Southern Mountain Caribou.
- The tri-lateral Partnership Agreement is currently under development with B.C., the federal government, West Moberly First Nations and Sauteau First Nations with the intention of providing incremental habitat protection and a comprehensive planning process with directly affected parties.
- B.C. has also engaged with directly affected Treaty 8 First Nations (Doig River, Halfway River, Horse Lake, McLeod Lake Indian Band) and key industrial sector representatives to understand their perspective.

Public Engagement

- Public engagement on the draft agreements to conserve southern mountain caribou populations has been extended until May 31.
- On April 16, government appointed Blair Lekstrom to consult with community leaders and local stakeholders on the draft agreements, provide input into the economic impact analysis and advise how the Province can meet its obligation to protect southern mountain caribou, while also protecting local jobs and communities.
- The public engagement, as well as online feedback, will be compiled into a "what we heard" report that will be made public.

Newsom calls for investigation into California's high gas prices

Sophia Kunthara April 24, 2019 Updated: April 24, 2019 8:59 a.m.

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*Sophia Kunthara is a San Francisco Chronicle staff writer.
Email: sophia.kunthara@sfchronicle.com Twitter: [@SophiaKunthara](https://twitter.com/SophiaKunthara)*



April 10, 2019

Ref: 245662

Andrew Wilkinson, MLA
Vancouver-Quilchena
5640 Dunbar St
Vancouver BC V6N 1W7

Dear Mr. Wilkinson:

I am writing to correct inaccurate statements you have made to media in the past week about the existing and planned supportive housing in Maple Ridge.

You said that people need supports including "on-site managers 24 hours a day, by having people providing addictions services, by having doctors and nurses going by the location, providing the services." You also suggested that those services were not available and that "the Provincial Government is basically putting people in boxes and saying it's all about housing. And they're ignoring the addiction issue."

These statements are not accurate. In fact, our modular supportive housing provides the exact type of support you outline.

Every new supportive housing project delivered through the Rapid Response to Homelessness program is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, by trained and dedicated staff. Each building includes both on-site supports and connections to additional specialized supports available in the broader community. These supports vary from one building to the next because they are tailored to the needs of each resident. For some residents, those supports may focus on education and employment training to enable people to better access employment opportunities; in other cases, some residents may need access to mental health and addictions services.

In the case of Maple Ridge—the focus of your remarks recently—a seven-day-a-week nurse position will be shared across all three Maple Ridge housing sites operated by Coast Mental Health. This is a professional resource to address primary health, mental health, and addiction challenges, depending on the needs of individual residents. The nursing position will also work closely with the community-based health services offered by Fraser Health. This position will support residents in their treatment and recovery journey.

.../2

Ministry of Municipal Affairs
and Housing

Office of the Minister

Mailing Address:
PO Box 9056 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9E2
Phone: 250 387-2283
Fax: 250 387-4312

Location:
Room 310
Parliament Buildings
Victoria BC V8V 1X4

<http://www.gov.bc.ca/mah>

I was also disappointed to hear you mention the deaths of two individuals who were living in Royal Crescent supportive housing. Both individuals had pre-existing health conditions—one had terminal cancer and the other had heart failure. It is inaccurate to imply that these deaths were related to the living situation in modular housing, and unfair to the families grieving lost loved ones. I hope you will not reference their deaths again as a way to criticize this housing.

I hope you will not continue to repeat these inaccurate statements, and, if given the opportunity, will clarify the record. The hundreds of staff working tirelessly in these buildings, many of which are in communities represented by members of your party, deserve to have the work they do in supporting the residents of these buildings recognized, and not mischaracterized.

These homes are already successfully helping more than a thousand people transform their lives, and helping to strengthen and support communities across the province. I believe that you share my desire to build a better British Columbia for all residents of this province, and I know that the work we are doing in providing these homes is doing just that—both across the province and in Maple Ridge.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SR', is written over a horizontal line.

Selina Robinson
Minister

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Mr. David Morton

Chair, BC Utilities Commission

Dear Mr. Morton,

I am writing with regards to the high price of gasoline that we are experiencing in comparison to the rest of the country. I hope to engage the expertise of the B.C. Utilities Commission to investigate gas prices in the best interest of British Columbians.

Across the province, but particularly in Metro Vancouver and on Vancouver Island, people are alarmed at the rapid increase in the price at the pumps. Some of the underlying reasons are understood – changes in the price of crude, seasonal refinery maintenance and product changes. What British Columbians do not understand and cannot accept is a situation where the price of gasoline, correcting for differences in tax rates, gets increasingly out of line with the prices in the rest of Canada. The wholesale price of gasoline, which does not have fuel taxes, retail sales and carbon taxes added to it, had historically been 2.5-4 cents a litre more expensive in Vancouver than in Edmonton – which reasonably reflected the cost of transporting refined products from Edmonton to Vancouver. Starting about four years ago, however, this spread began to widen significantly, and over the past two months has exploded. So far in the month of May, the gap is almost 24 cents a litre.

British Columbians want to know why refining margins are so much higher than in other parts of the country. In March 2019, refining margins for Vancouver were more than double the Canadian average and higher than any other major city in North America. This suggests that the producers are realizing a significant additional profit margin for fuel sold in Metro Vancouver compared to other jurisdictions. This is not acceptable and British Columbians want answers.

Provincial taxes are not to blame. Over the past three months, gasoline prices in some regions have increased by 40 cents while provincial taxes have risen by just 1 cent. Cutting taxes would amount to the public subsidizing oil companies as there is nothing to stop companies from raising prices in response. British Columbians know the government's 1 cent increase will help pay for transit and green transportation, but they deserve to know what has caused the additional 39 cents for oil companies.

Experts and public commentators debate the reasons for the high margins, and there are many theories. British Columbians need to be working from a common understanding, based on evidence from an independent body. As a trusted and respected regulator, I ask that you facilitate a fair, transparent and inclusive investigation so we all have the information required to seek solutions to the high and wildly fluctuating price of gasoline. Our government will work with you to develop an appropriate Terms of Reference that would include examination of refining margins and fair value for product as well as other possible impacts such as price fixing and gouging. In my view, this should include calling on the oil companies to explain their prices.

With your ability to conduct detailed hearings that include multiple intervenors, I am certain you will provide British Columbians with the necessary evidence and recommendations to inform the best path forward.

I hope that you will confirm your interest in participating and your commitment to providing evidence in the best interests of British Columbians.

Regards,

John Horgan, Premier of British Columbia

VIA EMAIL

April 22, 2019

Government of British Columbia
Office of the Premier
PO Box 9041 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC
V8W 9E1

Dear Premier John Horgan:

I write to you in response to your letter dated April 1, 2019.

I want to start by thanking you for the letter, and by agreeing with you that the British Columbia forest sector faces many long-standing challenges that need to be addressed.

I agree that business conditions in British Columbia are deteriorating, and I also agree that these conditions are neither unanticipated nor insurmountable. These are issues that need to be addressed in a timely manner.

As a British Columbia owned and operated company Tolko continues to reinvest in British Columbia.

We recently rebuilt our Lakeview sawmill (after our tragic fire of November 2017) and this mill just recommenced production, with a grand opening scheduled for May 2019. This reinvestment will enable Tolko to extract more value from the diminishing log supply in the Williams Lake geography.

Tolko is also modernizing our mills in Lavington, Armstrong, Soda Creek and Lumby. These multi-million-dollar investments are aimed at extracting greater value from our existing log supply and restoring Tolko's competitiveness.

Tolko has been a leading adopter of sustainable forest management certification. Our harvest and consumption practices are all third party certified to the globally recognized SFI (Sustainable Forestry Initiative) and PEFC (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification) standards.

Tolko is and remains a British Columbia company and employer.

In your letter you suggest that we need to seize the opportunity to bring willing forest companies, First Nations, labour and communities together in individual Timber Supply Area processes to develop a positive and forward-looking vision for industry competitiveness. This would include collaboratively managing constraints on the land base, maintaining employment and community economic stability and incorporating First Nation's interests while contributing to a healthy British Columbia economy.

You state that where commitment emerges, government will support a facilitated planning process and provide capacity support for participation by First Nations leaders and provide analytical resources to assist in developing an inclusive viable and implementable TSA level vision for industry competitiveness and community economic stability.

Tolko would like to seize this opportunity.

You indicate that you expect a similar commitment to sustained senior management participation from companies and locally based coalitions that want to engage in collaborative planning.

On behalf of Tolko, I am making that commitment to you. Tolko has a strong and enduring track record for collaborative approaches to resource management and agrees that this is the best path forward in British Columbia.

Annually, Tolko transacts over eighty million dollars of business acquiring First Nations goods or services, either through direct purchase or hire, or through our many partnerships. Tolko has been a business partner with both Tsi Del Del Enterprises and Ecolink Enterprises in the Cariboo Forest District for over 25 years. Both are hugely successful First Nations companies.

Tolko is a member of the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business and is currently seeking Bronze level certification in their Progressive Aboriginal Relations program. This is a third-party certifying agency that assesses individual company's corporate commitment and track record for accommodation and reconciliation.

Tolko continues to be a leader in collaborative management. In British Columbia, we are collaboratively managing multiple First Nations interests within our approved Forest Stewardship Plan areas. We have staff seconded to Tsi Del Del to assist that company and the First Nations communities they represent in their forest planning efforts. We are also working with Chief Christian of Splatshin in Enderby to define an innovation and collaboration model for areas within the Okanagan TSA. This model could serve Tolko and First Nations elsewhere.

As British Columbia and Tolko embrace the current challenges facing the forest products industry, we will need to remain mindful of guidance provided by the *Report and Findings of the BC Flood and Wildfire Review*, the *Logging Contractor Sustainability Review*, and the *Professional Reliance Report*. Previously, and separately, Tolko has participated in a constructive manner with Ministers Heyman and Donaldson, and their teams, on these critical issues. We believe that these matters will continue to need to be addressed “from the ground up” in any TSA driven exercise.

Additionally, there are ongoing issues with the Market Pricing System, that has served British Columbia well for the past few decades. That system is now inadvertently shaping the restructuring of the British Columbia forest products sector into larger mills in fewer communities. The Market Pricing System will need to be addressed if your vision for a competitive forest sector is to become a reality.

With decreasing annual allowable cuts throughout much of the British Columbia interior, the industry will continue to rationalize. Tolko, in response to the mountain pine beetle epidemic, increased its shifting at its mills. Unlike other companies, we did not build large regional super mills. As annual allowable cuts drop, we are responding accordingly. We need to make certain that current policies and programs along with new ideas generated under this collaborative approach align to support a forest industry that works for all British Columbians.

Tolko is prepared to take a leadership role to find a new way forward and a new vision for a competitive forest sector that will inspire companies to make new investments. We are prepared to collaborate and innovate. We are prepared to work with British Columbia to develop local coalitions and to plan collaboratively. This is critically important to British Columbia, as our primary products (veneer, plywood, stud and dimension lumber) form the foundation for extracting greater value from the forest in the form of biofuels, engineered wood, renewable energy, and next generation pulp.

I would like to take this opportunity to also recognize the leadership you have demonstrated recently with the changes to the British Columbia building code, recognizing the expanded uses for forest sector products and 12 storey buildings, and for the new requirement for consideration of wood, when governments build new buildings.

Finally, I am completely aligned with our common purpose “a competitive forest industry with opportunities for local workers, real partnerships for First Nations and security for forest dependent communities and an industry that maximizes value rather than relies on volume”.

We look forward to working together and agree that it is time to bring focus and leadership to maintaining industry competitiveness. Again, there is an urgency to this work.

Yours truly,
Tolko Industries Ltd.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brad Thorlakson', with a stylized, cursive script.

Brad Thorlakson
President and CEO.

Cc: Honourable Doug Donaldson
Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

Honourable George Heyman
Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy



May 9, 2019

Honourable John Horgan
Premier of British Columbia
Office of the Premier
PO Box 9041 STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, British Columbia, V8W 9E1

Dear Mr. Premier:

Thank you for your letter dated April 1, 2019 outlining your plans to address important fibre supply issues challenging the forest sector in British Columbia.

Paper Excellence is one of British Columbia's largest forest products company with six large operating pulp and paper mills manufacturing about 2.4 million tonnes of products annually that create 2,500 well-paying BC jobs and contribute over \$3 billion directly and indirectly into BC's economy annually. We are a critical part of the forestry value chain converting waste wood products from forest harvesting and sawmilling into high value added pulp and paper products. Paper Excellence neither owns nor operates any significant pieces of forest lands and, as such, is highly reliant on harvesting and sawmilling operations of other BC companies. We purchase 9 million m3 of residual fibre in BC which represents approximately 15% of the provincial AAC and we are largest single consumer of renewable biomass fuels. Over the past five years, we have come under increasing financial stress due to lack of available economic forest fibre.

We applaud your efforts to improve the state of BC's forests and our sector. We have long believed that the very changes you talk about are critically important to our long term viability. Paper Excellence believes that there are two areas of particular opportunity. First, efficient use of BC's forests is in every stakeholder's best interest. Improved removal of fibre from all harvested lands will go a long way towards increasing fibre availability and reducing raw fibre costs. Second, continued integration of First Nations interests into BC's forest industry will improve both reconciliation efforts as well as the economic lift from those activities. Paper Excellence is highly motivated to be part of the on-going First Nations conversation as we are dependent on tenure holders to sustain our BC operations. We are prepared to work collaboratively with your government and local nations in developing forest operations which would improve our supply chain.

Again, Paper Excellence applauds your government's work in identifying these issues and we commit to helping make this initiative a success. We are committed and ready to take a leadership role in collaborating with community leaders, First Nations and industry counterparts to arrive at solutions that address the many interests across the land base.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Baarda", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Brian Baarda
Chief Executive Officer



PHONE (250) 998-4421
FAX (250) 998-4513

P.O. BOX 173
PRINCE GEORGE, B.C.
CANADA V2L 4S1

Honourable John Horgan,
Premier,
Province of British Columbia,
PO Box 9041, Stn Prov Govt,
Victoria, BC
V8W 9E1

May 6, 2019

Dear Premier Horgan,

We are replying to your letter of April 1, 2019 which outlined the current situation facing the forest industry along with a request to willing forest companies to come together with First Nations and communities to "re-style" our forest sector.

We want to first take this opportunity to indicate to you that Dunkley Lumber is and will continue to be a forest company willing to be part of the concepts and required work that you have outlined. Candidly, as a company that has been in the forest industry for 68 years, employs 275 people at our mill near Quesnel but have historically needed to purchase 70+% of our timber from the log market, we are more than aware of challenge. Having said that, those same challenges have also cemented a recognition and philosophy at Dunkley that in addition to being efficient and profitable, we need to work with everyone for our company to continue to be a part of this industry.

We concur with your listing of the many issues our industry has in front of us – in our opinion we are at the epicentre of many of them here in the "post beetle north central Interior of BC" zone. We also concur that we won't be successful moving ahead if we waste time and energy pointing fingers or debating the past.

We hope that our company is viewed within Government as being a good employer, forest manager and corporate citizen. We also hope that Government sees Dunkley as a willing forest company participant for the work that lies ahead.

Our senior management would like to start by engaging with key Government representatives to flesh out common understandings, concepts and find either previous work that can be built upon or a starting point for moving ahead. We would appreciate and be assisted by a reply to this letter indicating the names of the appropriate Government people we should meet with to get the ball rolling.

Thank you very much, both for your letter and hopefully for permitting our company to be involved in this process.

Yours truly,
Dunkley Lumber Ltd.

Robert Novak
President