

## **Grieve, Katie CITZ:EX**

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**From:** Aaron, Sage PREM:EX  
**Sent:** January 28, 2021 9:34 AM  
**To:** Smith, George PREM:EX  
**Subject:** FW: final clean copy  
**Attachments:** 20210128\_SN\_PJH\_Natural Resources Forum\_V8\_finalJH.docx

Sage (she/her)  
778-678-0832

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**From:** Holmwood, Jen PREM:EX  
**Sent:** January 27, 2021 6:01 PM  
**To:** Aaron, Sage PREM:EX ; Hagglund, Jarrett PREM:EX  
**Subject:** final clean copy

**Jen Holmwood** (she/her)  
Deputy Communications Director and Press Secretary  
Office of the Premier | Government of BC  
British Columbia Parliament Buildings | 501 Belleville St, Victoria, BC V8V 2L8 | 250-818-4881

**SPEAKING NOTES**  
**Natural Resources Forum**  
**January 28, 2021**

**Headline**

Premier Horgan says strong natural resources are essential to helping build a sustainable economic recovery that works for everyone.

**Quote**

*“The strength of BC’s natural resource sector is helping put our province on a road to economic recovery and beyond. We want to continue developing your industries in a sustainable way, while balancing our joint commitments to reconciliation and climate action.”*

**Word count**

745 words – approx. 6 minutes

*Speaking notes begin on the next page*

## **SPEECH ARC**

1. Opening: Intros of Ministers in new portfolios
2. CleanBC Announcement: Facilities Electrification Fund (\$84.4 million)
3. Reconciliation: meaningful partnerships to benefit all British Columbians
4. Mining/Mineral Exploration:
  - steps to ensure mining stayed strong during pandemic
5. Forestry Announcements:
  - FireSmart Economic Recovery Fund (\$10 million)
  - Detect and Remove Invasive Species (\$12 million)
6. Energy: LNG Canada a big part of BC's economic future
7. Closing

*[Land acknowledgment]*

## OPENING

Thanks to the event organizers for all your hard work.

And to Kendra Johnston for moderating today.

Many of my cabinet ministers have spoken over the past few days.

There are a few new faces:

- Katrina Conroy, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
- Nathan Cullen, Minister of State for Lands and Natural Resource Operations
- Ravi Kahlon, Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation
- Murray Rankin, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

I want to thank Ministers George Heyman and Bruce Ralston for their continued work.

It's been a challenging year.

COVID-19 has changed everything.

But with your help, BC has done a great job keeping many sectors open and working safely.

With vaccines now on the ground, hope is on the horizon.

But we still need to keep people safe until all British Columbians can be vaccinated.

There are some key elements to our government's approach to economic development.

## CLEANBC

We're committed to:

- the CleanBC Industry Fund
- mass timber for BC buildings
- new incentives for industry to use more recycled materials
- incentives for zero emissions medium- and heavy-duty vehicles.



## **[ANNOUNCEMENT] CleanBC Facilities Electrification Fund**

I'm also happy to announce another tool in our CleanBC toolbox.

In partnership with the federal government, the Province and BC Hydro are introducing the CleanBC Facilities Electrification Fund.

The Fund will offer a discount on BC Hydro's standard industrial rates, open to:

- new companies setting up or expanding operations in BC with clean energy

- existing customers that install new equipment that uses electricity rather than fossil fuels

The Fund will make \$84.4 million from the federal government available to help industrial customers connect to the grid or upgrade existing connections.

## RECONCILIATION

Another key aspect of our economic recovery is meaningful partnerships with Indigenous peoples.

These partnerships, guided by the Declaration Act, are already a part of how many of you have been operating.

BC was the first jurisdiction in Canada to develop mining revenue sharing agreements with First Nations.

There are now 48 mining agreements with Indigenous Nations.

## MINING/MINERAL EXPLORATION

Mining has a large part to play in our economic recovery.

Early in the pandemic, we worked with you to make sure that mining and mineral exploration was listed as an essential service.

We took steps to keep the mining industry strong during the pandemic:

- hydro rate relief
- extending permits for workers getting into the field
- PST rebates on machinery and equipment.

Because of your hard work, mineral exploration has thrived.

Investment in exploration in B.C. for 2020 was over \$358 million.

But some challenges persist.

We will work with you to address these as best we can.

## FORESTRY

We've also given space to the Interior forest sector during the pandemic by deferring stumpage fees and BC Hydro payments.

Together we're exploring new opportunities for higher value products from our forests – like mass timber – and better manufacturing jobs.

Our Recovery Plan includes several measures to assist the forestry sector.

## **[ANNOUNCEMENT] FireSmart Economic Recovery Fund**

The \$10M FireSmart Recovery Fund will help protect B.C. forests and communities from wildfires, while giving people new skills.

## **[ANNOUNCEMENT] Detect and Remove Invasive Species**

We're also working with the Invasive Species Council of BC,

Investing \$12 million to help control the spread of invasive species throughout the province.

We're taking steps to make sure that the communities and industries that depend on BC forests are strong and sustainable, now and in the future.

## ENERGY

LNG is a big part of BC's energy future.

The LNG Canada project will create thousands of jobs and generate \$23 billion in new government revenue.

Which will be reinvested into the infrastructure and services B.C. families and communities depend on.



Jobs and procurement opportunities have been substantial for local Indigenous and non-Indigenous businesses..

## CLOSING

B.C. was in an enviable economic position before the pandemic hit.

Those fundamentals are still there.

The strength of BC's natural resource sector is helping put our province on a road to economic recovery.

Commodity prices are high.

There are many opportunities in front of us.

There are also challenges ahead.  
We will keep listening.

My government will continue to be available to people, businesses and communities.

So that we can come through COVID stronger than we went in.

There's lots of positive signs on the horizon.

We still have to stay vigilant against the virus.

But I believe we can keep each other safe, and build a better tomorrow.

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