

## **SPEAKING NOTES**

### **2024 BC Natural Resources Forum**

**Jan. 16, 2024**

Good evening.

It's a pleasure to join you on the territory of the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation.

Thank you to Chief Logan, Mayor Yu and Council for the warm welcome today.

It's always good to be in Prince George.

And it's great to be back at the Natural Resource Forum for such an important conversation...

Especially with such a timely theme:

Harnessing B.C.'s natural resources to shape a sustainable future for the next generation.

But my speech is a little shorter this year than it was last year, because as my wife, Cailey, likes to remind me: 'reducing emissions begins at home.'

In all seriousness, there's ten times as much that I want to hear as I want to say.

So I'll be keeping my remarks short enough that we have time for some questions and answers.

There are many reasons why I want to hear directly from you.

A top one being that it's you – the people in this room– who are key to B.C.'s clean energy future.

We don't need to look very far to find examples.

Prince George is home to Canada's first stand-alone renewable diesel refinery.

Your city is a growing hub for clean hydrogen, with today's announcement from Teralta.

Soon the Canfor Pulp Mill here in town will be using clean hydrogen to power its operations.

You also have excellent access to international markets through the Port of Prince Rupert.

To the west, you'll find the future site of Cedar LNG in Kitimat.

It will be the largest First Nations-majority-owned energy project in the country and one of the cleanest LNG facilities in the world.

Rio Tinto's is a state-of-the-art facility with the lowest emissions aluminium in the world.

This year is a major milestone for the company...  
70 years of operating in British Columbia.

Congratulations! We see time and time again that natural resources are foundational to our province.

They're the backbone of many local economies across British Columbia.

From First Nations peoples whose deep connection to the land and water goes back centuries.

To communities of all kinds who depend on forestry, mining, and natural gas for jobs today.

We all share a stake in ensuring a strong, sustainable natural resource sector as a core part of B.C.'s future.

To borrow a line from our nation's favourite sport, let's skate to where the puck will be, not to where it has already been.

We know you're facing big challenges.

Some people look at the challenges ahead and think there's a simple answer. That we should just say no to resource development.

Regardless of the cost to jobs and opportunities.

Others say all resource development should go ahead.

Even at the expense of abandoning action on climate change and reconciliation.

These are false choices.

We can't continue the old way of doing things.

The future is in sustainable development and partnerships with First Nations—whether in forestry, mining, or oil and gas.

Here in B.C., we understand that reconciliation with Indigenous people creates opportunities for everyone.

I want to thank everyone here tonight – Indigenous and non-Indigenous people alike – for putting in the hard work to build real partnerships.

You are the people who keep us moving forward.

And through your work, you show that a rising tide lifts all boats.

While climate change poses real challenges...

B.C.'s natural resources put us in a unique position to excel in shifting economic times...

While maximizing the benefits to the people of our province.

Our government sees natural resource workers as leaders in the clean economy of the future.

And we have a plan to leverage B.C.'s natural strengths to create good jobs and opportunities for everyone.

I do want to recognize that while natural resource development brings great opportunities...

It also puts pressure on the services and infrastructure of nearby communities.

To those in the northwest who have long advocated for sharing the wealth generated by resource development...

I hear you.

Thank you for your advocacy.

I hope to have more to say in the coming months about what we can do with the Northwest Resource Benefits Alliance.

Forestry has been – and will always be – a foundation of B.C.'s economy.

But today, the forestry sector is in transition.

Damage caused by wildfires and the mountain pine beetle has caused timber supply to decline.

I want you to know – our government takes the issue of fibre supply seriously.

I've directed the ministry to work with the sector, specifically the Council of Forest Industries, to expedite access to fibre.

We're committed to action now.

And I couldn't be more excited to have Andrew Mercier in his new role...

as the new Minister of State for Sustainable Forestry Innovation.

Minister Mercier will be working directly with forest companies big and small to address the urgent need for timber supply.

He's going to be focused on delivering practical solutions to the challenges you're facing on the ground.



I think of a meeting I had recently with the owner of Nicola Post and Rail.

Half of his employees are Indigenous and he's proud to create a lot of local, family-supporting jobs.

He could expand his business – but a lack of timber supply is holding him back.

At the same time, the First Nation down the road has access to trees.

His question was: how do I partner with them?

These are exactly the kind of problems that Minister Mercier will be working to solve.

Our government understands the urgency of the fibre supply shortage and we're looking at all options.

We are partnering with the Forest Enhancement Society of BC to put \$50 million into local projects.

We are accelerating Forest Landscape Planning to provide greater predictability for everyone.

And we are helping BC Timber Sales to evolve, innovate and modernize. Recent changes include an enhanced value-added program, with a restricted bidding pool for the sector...

We have increased First Nations revenue sharing, with an additional lift for BC Timber Sales, and direction to lead the way on salvage and commercial thinning...

And we've reached forestry agreements with Kwadacha, Squamish and the Lilwat First Nations.

Tonight, I'm sharing another important step forward.

The Carrier-Sekani First Nations and the Ministry of Forests have recently reached an interim agreement with BC Timber Sales.

This agreement covers over 600,000 cubic metres of fibre in the Prince George Timber Supply Area.

With this agreement, we will ensure that the Carrier-Sekani people benefit more equally from the forest economy...

And show, once again, that partnerships are key to achieving a more stable supply of fibre in our province.

At the same time, we are looking at ways to create more value-added wood manufacturing.

The BC Manufacturing Jobs Fund does just that...

By securing hundreds of good, sustainable jobs in the resource sector.

Tomorrow, Minister Bailey will be announcing funding for another round of projects.

There is good news coming for:

- San Group in Port Alberni;
- Richmond Plywood in the Lower Mainland;
- Coast Tsimshian Resources in Lax Kw'alaams, just to name a few.

Today's young people want to know they can make a good living in B.C.'s forests.

Just as generations before them have done.

Our government is committed to working with you to make this a reality.

In a world that is hungry for clean power, B.C.'s low-cost and low-carbon electricity is a major competitive advantage.

I'd like to recognize BC Hydro for backing up Alberta and Washington State during a time of need.

Neighbours help neighbours.

And this time we were able to help with our clean electricity.

Alberta was there for us during the forest fire season...

And we were there for them when cold weather shut down their natural gas.

There are many advantages to B.C.'s abundance of clean electricity.

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That's why we created the BC Hydro Task Force and the B.C. Centre for Innovation and Clean Energy.

It's why we've worked to keep electricity rates stable and affordable.

For the sixth consecutive year, BC Hydro has applied for a rate increase below the rate of inflation.

In fact, BC Hydro rates are currently 12.4% lower than what they would've been under the previous government's rates plan.

And it's why we will be working with BC Hydro to invest billions in clean electricity.

Today, BC Hydro is announcing capital investments of almost \$36 billion to advance electrification...

This work will happen across the province over the next 10 years.

This represents a 50% increase from previous plans.

These new construction projects are projected to support 10,500 to 12,500 jobs on average annually...

And they will increase and maintain BC Hydro's capital investments as major projects like Site C are completed.

Through BC Hydro's upcoming call for power and this historic investment, we'll be ready to meet the needs of a growing clean economy.

Additionally, we will be collaborating with BC Hydro on a new, streamlined process to help industrial emitters make new investments to decarbonize.

So instead of spending unnecessary time and resources on two applications, there will only be one.

We are committed to maintaining B.C.'s position as a global leader in clean energy.

At the same time, we recognize that natural gas is an important part of our economy. Many communities and thousands of people depend on natural gas development for their livelihoods.

The good news is – B.C. holds some of the lowest-carbon intensity natural gas in the world.

We remain committed to working with the industry to meet our Clean BC goals by electrifying their operations.

Mining is another major strength for British Columbia.

We are a world-leading mining jurisdiction with the critical minerals to power a low-carbon economy.

From electric cars to wind turbines and solar panels.

What sets B.C. apart in the global market is our ability to provide these resources sustainably, along with a stable and secure climate for investors.

B.C. products are delivered with lower carbon emissions, good wages and working conditions for people and in partnership with Indigenous peoples.

Our work with the Tahltan Nation on the future operations of Red Chris Mine is just one example.

There is great potential for partnership and economic growth in the remote northwest region.

But I hear from both the mining industry and the Tahltan Nation that Highways 37 and 51 are major barriers to future development.

So, let's fix these roads.



Once an initial study is complete, we will be seeking federal funding through the Critical Minerals Infrastructure Fund.

This will go towards improvements like road widening, passing lanes, safety improvements, and planning for future growth.

I also want to thank everyone here for the work you do, every single day...

To look after your workers, to innovate and to keep pushing B.C. forward as a clean energy leader.

Your efforts are being noticed by the global market.

Since we formed government, there has been over \$15 billion in mineral investment transactions.

This includes global mining giant, Newmont, taking over two mines in northwest B.C. worth over \$5 billion through their acquisition of Newcrest.

We have a stable investment climate here...

So when you get your regulatory approvals, you can trust your investment is secure.

I think of the Cobre Panama copper mine...

Where some Canadian companies chose to invest because of lower operating costs.

It seemed like a good deal – until the Panamanian government closed the mine, with little process or recourse.

That's not going to happen here.

We are a stable, responsible supplier of critical minerals, with a critical mineral strategy under development.

We have a skilled and experienced workforce.

Stable government and public support for mining.



And we have a mining sector that is already powering operations with clean electricity over fossil fuels.

With the European Union implementing charges on high-carbon imports, and the U.S. considering the same...

This will continue to be a major strength for British Columbia.

These are just some of reasons why a company like E-One Moli is choosing to grow their operations here.

They see B.C. as a competitive place to do business, to invest and to innovate.

In return, the new E-One Moli facility will create hundreds of good, local jobs for people.

And it will establish B.C. as a producer of the battery components we need to power a clean energy future.

Over the last year, I've met with many of you.

There wasn't a single meeting with industry where concerns about permitting weren't raised.

We need to not only address the backlog but fix the permitting system.

While much more needs to be done, I can report that progress is being made.

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We're rolling out this approach to permits across the natural resources sector as well.

For example, the oil and gas sector has confirmed that the one-window, full-lifecycle oversight approach with the BC Energy Regulator is working well for them.

On mining, we've seen a 52% reduction in the backlog of regional mine permit permits...

And on waterway protection permits, 90% of new applications are processed in 30 days, instead of 9-12 months...

Continuing to improve our permitting process across the natural resources sector is a priority.

It's vital to the work you do, every day.

And to ensure B.C. remains a competitive place for capital investment.

For too long, there's been a misconception that a cleaner future is at odds with resource industries.

That's not true.

In British Columbia, it's resource workers who are helping to build the new clean energy economy.

And some of our province's most historic industries are the very ones making a brighter future possible.

Together, we are showing that the cleaner choice is not only the responsible choice for our children and grandchildren...

It's the smart choice to make today.

It's a choice that creates opportunities now – in mining, in forestry, in oil and gas, and more.

Looking around this room, I am optimistic about the future we can build together.

A future where a growing British Columbia is powered by clean energy...

Built and harnessed here at home.

Thanks for your partnership and I look forward to continuing our work together.

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**Subject:** Final: Premier's speech to BC Natural Resources Forum  
**Sent:** 01/16/2024 04:04:16  
**Attachments:** 20230116\_SN\_PDE\_Natural Resources Forum\_PDE FINAL.docx

Hi!  
Please see the final version attached.

I'll print tonight and bring a couple copies. There will be one more review with Premier tomorrow.

Thanks,  
Aileen

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**From:** Walker, Alexa GCPE:EX <Alexa.Walker@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 15, 2024 6:58 PM  
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**Subject:** RE: For REVIEW: Premier's speech to BC Natural Resources Forum

Hi all,

Please see attached for an updated version (highlights are new) of the NR Forum speech. Aileen was in the speech review with PDE and will be reviewing the speech in detail shortly.

Aileen will send a final version and print copies to bring with her.

Thanks all.

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**Alexa Walker** (she/her)  
Director | Writing and Content Strategy  
Government Communications and Public Engagement | Government of BC  
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Bain, Don PREM:EX <[Don.Bain@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Don.Bain@gov.bc.ca)>; Milne, Gala PREM:EX <[Gala.Milne@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Gala.Milne@gov.bc.ca)>; Sundhu, Sachin  
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**Subject:** For REVIEW: Premier's speech to BC Natural Resources Forum

Hello all,

Please find attached a draft of the Premier's speech to the BC Natural Resources Forum on Tuesday, Jan 16<sup>th</sup>. It's been reviewed by EMLI, ENV, FOR (including the Carrier-Sekani First Nations' negotiator), MIRR, and JEDI. Doug Caul also provided some very valuable input into this version.

Thanks,

Alexa

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**Alexa Walker** (she/her)

Director | Writing and Content Strategy

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## **SPEAKING NOTES**

### **2024 BC Natural Resources Forum**

**Jan. 16, 2024**

#### **Headline**

*World's clean energy future will be powered by B.C.'s natural resources, says premier*

#### **Quote**

*"The future is in partnerships with First Nations and sustainable development—whether in forestry, mining, or oil and gas. B.C.'s natural resources put us in a unique position to excel in shifting economic times, while maximizing the benefits to the people of our province. Our government sees natural resource workers as leaders in the clean economy of the future. And we have a plan to leverage B.C.'s natural strengths to create good jobs and opportunities for everyone."*

#### **Audience**

- Conference theme: Shaping Tomorrow: BC's Resource Sector and Future Generations
- Over 1,000 delegates from industry, First Nations, government
- Includes Indigenous leaders; business and resource planning; engineering and environmental consultants; government personnel involved in resource development; planning and permitting; executives, project managers and staff involved in natural resource development (LNG, oil and gas, renewable energy, mineral exploration, transportation)
- Ministers Bailey, Heyman, Ralston, Rankin, Mercier, Cullen and Osborne will be attending

#### **Format**

- Premier's remarks take place as part of an evening banquet to open the Natural Resource Forum
- 7-12-minute speech at podium, followed by moderated QA with Sarah Weber, President & CEO of C3 Alliance Corp



*Speech arc begins on next page ...*

## **OPENING:**

- Lheidli T'enneh, Chief Logan, Mayor Yu, Council
- Ministers Bailey, Heyman, Ralston, Rankin, Mercier, Cullen, Osborne
- Good to be in PG – timely theme
- Joke: reducing emissions starts at home

## **CONNECT: A clean future starts here**

- Want to hear directly from you – people in room, region, building BC clean energy future
- Ex: diesel refinery, Teralta, PR port, Cedar LNG
- Rio Tinto – congrats on 70 years in BC

## **CONNECT: NR foundational to future**

- NR foundational to province, backbone of economy
- Indigenous ppl w. deep connection to land & water
- Com't who depend on forest, mining & natural gas
- Share a stake in a strong, sustainable NR sector
- Skate where puck will be, not where it's been

## **CHALLENGE: Can't continue old ways**

- Some say, no to all resource dev, regardless of cost to jobs & opportunities
- Or yes to all, regardless of cost to env. & rec.
- False choices, can't continue old ways

- Future = partnership w. FN & sustainable dev – in forestry, mining, oil and gas
- In BC, recognize reconciliation creates opportunities
- Thanks everyone – Indigenous & non-Indigenous people – for building strong partnerships
- Keep us moving, show a rising tide lifts all boats

### **SOLUTION: Building on B.C.'s natural strengths**

- Climate change poses real challenges, but in a unique position to excel w. max benefits to ppl
- Natural resource workers = clean economy leaders
- Plan to leverage B.C.'s strengths, create jobs & opportunities for everyone
- Recognize opportunities = pressure on services, infrastructure
- Advocacy of NWRBA & more to say in coming months

### **SOLUTION: Bold action on forestry**

- Forestry foundational to B.C. economy
- In transition – wildfire & mountain pine beetle
- Ministry working w. sector (COFI) to expedite fibre
- Minister of State on Sustainable Forestry Innovation
- Story – Nicola Post and Rail
- Forest Enhancement Society, landscape planning, BC Timber Sales evolve and modernize

- **ANNOUNCE: Carrier-Sekani FN & Min. of Forests have reached an interim agreement w. BCTS**
- 600k cubic metres of fibre in PG Timber Supply Area
- Wood on auction by **July**
- Partnerships key to achieving stable fibre supply
- Looking at new ways to create more value-added wood manufacturing
- **ANNOUNCE: Minister Bailey to announce 8 new projects tomorrow**
- Good news coming for: San Group; Richmond Plywood; Coast Tsimshian Resources, and more.

### **SOLUTION: Clean-energy superpower**

- Low-cost, low-carbon electricity = advantage
- BC Hydro backing up AB and WA – neighbours helping neighbours
- Many advantages to clean electricity, leverage strength & help more industries electrify, faster
- Created BC Hydro Task Force & BC Centre for Innovation and Clean Energy
- 6<sup>th</sup> yr below inflation, 12.4% below other gov.
- **ANNOUNCE: \$36B on electrification over 10 yrs**
- 50% increase over previous plans
- 10,500 – 12,500 jobs average annually

- **ANNOUNCE: new, streamlined process to help industrial emitters make new inv to decarb**
- Committed to maintaining B.C.'s position as global leader in clean energy
- Recognize natural gas → economy & livelihoods
- Some lowest-carbon intensity natural gas in the world
- Work w. industry to meet Clean BC goals, electrify

### **SOLUTION: Critical minerals powering future**

- World-leading mining jurisdiction w. critical min
- Responsible supplier – Panama copper mine
- Deliver copper & critical mins w. lower carbon, good wages & working cond't, partnership w. Indigenous ppl
- Tahltan Nation on Red Chris Mine
- Great potential for partnership & economic growth in northwestern BC
- Fix Highways 37 & 51 w. federal funding through Critical Minerals Infrastructure Fund
- Interest from global market: \$15B in mineral inv transactions, Newmont acquiring Newcrest
- Have stable inv. climate → contrast to Panama mine
- B.C. has critical minerals strategy, skilled workforce, clean power
- Europe maybe US looking at charging tariffs on carbon intensity = clean power is a major strength



- Reason why companies like E-One Moli are choosing to grow operations here.

### **SOLUTION: Improving permitting**

- Not a single meeting where permitting not raised
- More to do, but making progress
- s. 13
- Rolling out approach to permits across NR sector
- Oil and gas confirms one-window approach works
- Mining = 52% reduction in backlog
- Water = 90% new applications processed in 30 days vs 9-12 months
- Continuing to improve is a priority – help you do your work, keep BC competitive

### **CLOSING:**

- Misconception that cleaner future at odds with resource industries. Not true.
- Resource workers who are helping to build the new clean energy economy.
- Clean choice = responsible for grandkids; and smart choice for today = new opportunities
- Optimistic about the future – a growing B.C. powered by clean energy, built & harnessed at home

*Speaking notes begin on next page ...*



Good evening.

It's a pleasure to join you on the territory of the Lheidli T'enneh [***clayt-lee ten-ay***] First Nation.

Thank you to Chief Logan, Mayor Yu and Council for the warm welcome today.

It's always good to be in Prince George.

And it's great to be back at the Natural Resource Forum for such an important conversation...

Especially with such a timely theme:

Harnessing B.C.'s natural resources to shape a sustainable future for the next generation.

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This year is a major milestone for the company...

70 years of operating in British Columbia.

Congratulations!

## **CONNECT: Natural resources foundational to future**

We see time and time again that natural resources are foundational to our province.

They're the backbone of many local economies across British Columbia.

From First Nations peoples whose deep connection to the land and water goes back centuries.

To communities of all kinds who depend on forestry, mining, and natural gas for jobs today.

We all share a stake in ensuring a strong, sustainable natural resource sector as a core part of B.C.'s future.

To borrow a line from our nation's favourite sport, let's skate to where the puck will be, not to where it has already been.

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## **CHALLENGE: Can't continue old ways**

We know you're facing big challenges.

Some people look at the challenges ahead and think there's a simple answer.

That we should just say no to resource development.

Regardless of the cost to jobs and opportunities.

Others say all resource development should go ahead.

Even at the expense of abandoning action on climate change and reconciliation.

These are false choices.

We can't continue the old way of doing things.

The future is in sustainable development **and** partnerships with First Nations—whether in forestry, mining, or oil and gas.

Here in B.C., we understand that reconciliation with Indigenous people creates opportunities for everyone.

I want to thank everyone here tonight – Indigenous and non-Indigenous people alike – for putting in the hard work to build real partnerships.



You are the people who keep us moving forward.

And through your work, you show that a rising tide lifts all boats.

### **SOLUTION: Building on B.C.'s natural strengths**

While climate change poses real challenges...

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And we have a plan to leverage B.C.'s natural strengths to create good jobs and opportunities for everyone.

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It also puts pressure on the services and infrastructure of nearby communities.

To those in the northwest who have long advocated for sharing the wealth generated by resource development...

I hear you.

Thank you for your advocacy.

I hope to have more to say in the coming months about what we can do with the Northwest Resource Benefits Alliance.

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But today, the forestry sector is in transition.

Damage caused by wildfires and the mountain pine beetle has caused timber supply to decline.

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I've directed the ministry to work with the sector, specifically the Council of Forest Industries, to expedite access to fibre.

We're committed to action now.

And I couldn't be more excited to have Andrew Mercier in his new role...

as the new Minister of State for Sustainable Forestry Innovation.

Minister Mercier will be working directly with forest companies big and small to address the urgent need for timber supply.

He's going to be focused on delivering practical solutions to the challenges you're facing on the ground.

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He could expand his business – but a lack of timber supply is holding him back.

At the same time, the First Nation down the road has access to trees.

His question was: how do I partner with them?

These are exactly the kind of problems that Minister Mercier will be working to solve.

Our government understands the urgency of the fibre supply shortage and we're looking at all options.

We are partnering with the Forest Enhancement Society of BC to put \$50 million into local projects.

We are accelerating Forest Landscape Planning to provide greater predictability for everyone.

And we are helping BC Timber Sales to evolve, innovate and modernize.

Recent changes include an enhanced value-added program, with a restricted bidding pool for the sector...

We have increased First Nations revenue sharing, with an additional lift for BC Timber Sales, and direction to lead the way on salvage and commercial thinning...

And we've reached forestry agreements with Kwadacha, Squamish and the Lilwat First Nations.

Tonight, I'm sharing another important step forward.

**The Carrier-Sekani First Nations and the Ministry of Forests have recently reached an interim agreement with BC Timber Sales.**

This agreement covers over 600,000 cubic metres of fibre in the Prince George Timber Supply Area.

This means that the wood will be on auction by July.

With this agreement, we will ensure that the Carrier-Sekani people benefit more equally from the forest economy...



And show, once again, that partnerships are key to achieving a more stable supply of fibre in our province.

At the same time, we are looking at ways to create more value-added wood manufacturing.

The BC Manufacturing Jobs Fund does just that...

By securing hundreds of good, sustainable jobs in the resource sector.

**Tomorrow, Minister Bailey will be announcing funding for another round of projects.**

There is good news coming for:

- San Group in Port Alberni;
- Richmond Plywood in the Lower Mainland;
- Coast Tsimshian Resources in Lax Kw'alaams ***[lacks-qwah-lambs]***, just to name a few.

Today's young people want to know they can make a good living in B.C.'s forests.

Just as generations before them have done.

Our government is committed to working with you to make this a reality.

## **SOLUTION: Clean-energy superpower**

In a world that is hungry for clean power, B.C.'s low-cost and low-carbon electricity is a major competitive advantage.

I'd like to recognize BC Hydro for backing up Alberta and Washington State during a time of need.

Neighbours help neighbours.

And this time we were able to help with our clean electricity.

Alberta was there for us during the forest fire season...

And we were there for them when cold weather shut down their natural gas.

There are many advantages to B.C.'s abundance of clean electricity.

That's why we created the BC Hydro Task Force and the B.C. Centre for Innovation and Clean Energy.

It's why we've worked to keep electricity rates stable and affordable.

For the sixth consecutive year, BC Hydro has applied for a rate increase below the rate of inflation.

In fact, BC Hydro rates are currently 12.4% lower than what they would've been under the previous government's rates plan.

And it's why we will be working with BC Hydro to invest billions in clean electricity.

**Today, BC Hydro is announcing capital investments of almost \$36 billion to advance electrification...**

This work will happen across the province over the next 10 years.

This represents a 50% increase from previous plans.

These new construction projects are projected to support 10,500 to 12,500 jobs on average annually...

And they will increase and maintain BC Hydro's capital investments as major projects like Site C are completed.

Through BC Hydro's upcoming call for power and this historic investment, we'll be ready to meet the needs of a growing clean economy.

Additionally, we will be collaborating with BC Hydro on **a new, streamlined process to help industrial emitters make new investments to decarbonize.**

So instead of spending unnecessary time and resources on two applications, there will only be one.

We are committed to maintaining B.C.'s position as a global leader in clean energy.

At the same time, we recognize that natural gas is an important part of our economy.

Many communities and thousands of people depend on natural gas development for their livelihoods.

The good news is – B.C. holds some of the lowest-carbon intensity natural gas in the world.

We remain committed to working with the industry to meet our Clean BC goals by electrifying their operations.

### **SOLUTION: Critical minerals powering clean future**

Mining is another major strength for British Columbia.

We are a world-leading mining jurisdiction with the critical minerals to power a low-carbon economy.

From electric cars to wind turbines and solar panels.

What sets B.C. apart in the global market is our ability to provide these resources sustainably, along with a stable and secure climate for investors.



B.C. products are delivered with lower carbon emissions, good wages and working conditions for people and in partnership with Indigenous peoples.

Our work with the Tahltan Nation on the future operations of Red Chris Mine is just one example.

There is great potential for partnership and economic growth in the remote northwest region.

But I hear from both the mining industry and the Tahltan Nation that Highways 37 and 51 are major barriers to future development.

So, let's fix these roads.

Once an initial study is complete, we will be seeking federal funding through the Critical Minerals Infrastructure Fund.

This will go towards improvements like road widening, passing lanes, safety improvements, and planning for future growth.

I also want to thank everyone here for the work you do, every single day...

To look after your workers, to innovate and to keep pushing B.C. forward as a clean energy leader.

Your efforts are being noticed by the global market.

Since we formed government, there has been over \$15 billion in mineral investment transactions.

This includes global mining giant, Newmont, taking over two mines in northwest B.C. worth over \$5 billion through their acquisition of Newcrest.

We have a stable investment climate here...

So when you get your regulatory approvals, you can trust your investment is secure.

I think of the Cobre Panama copper mine...

Where some Canadian companies chose to invest because of lower operating costs.

It seemed like a good deal – until the Panamanian government closed the mine, with little process or recourse.

That's not going to happen here.

We are a stable, responsible supplier of critical minerals, with a critical mineral strategy under development.

We have a skilled and experienced workforce.

Stable government and public support for mining.

And we have a mining sector that is already powering operations with clean electricity over fossil fuels.

With the European Union implementing charges on high-carbon imports, and the U.S. considering the same...

This will continue to be a major strength for British Columbia.

These are just some of reasons why a company like E-One Moli is choosing to grow their operations here.

They see B.C. as a competitive place to do business, to invest and to innovate.

In return, the new E-One Moli facility will create hundreds of good, local jobs for people.

And it will establish B.C. as a producer of the battery components we need to power a clean energy future.

### **SOLUTION: Improving permitting**

Over the last year, I've met with many of you.

There wasn't a single meeting with industry where concerns about permitting weren't raised.

We need to not only address the backlog but fix the permitting system.

While much more needs to be done, I can report that progress is being made.

We're rolling out this approach to permits across the natural resources sector as well.

For example, the oil and gas sector has confirmed that the one-window, full-lifecycle oversight approach with the BC Energy Regulator is working well for them.

On mining, we've seen a 52% reduction in the backlog of regional mine permit permits...

And on waterway protection permits, 90% of new applications are processed in 30 days, instead of 9-12 months...

Continuing to improve our permitting process across the natural resources sector is a priority.



It's vital to the work you do, every day.

And to ensure B.C. remains a competitive place for capital investment.

## **CLOSING:**

For too long, there's been a misconception that a cleaner future is at odds with resource industries.

That's not true.

In British Columbia, it's resource workers who are helping to build the new clean energy economy.

And some of our province's most historic industries are the very ones making a brighter future possible.

Together, we are showing that the cleaner choice is not only the responsible choice for our children and grandchildren...

It's the smart choice to make today.

It's a choice that creates opportunities now – in mining, in forestry, in oil and gas, and more.

Looking around this room, I am optimistic about the future we can build together.

A future where a growing British Columbia is powered by clean energy...

Built and harnessed here at home.

Thanks for your partnership and I look forward to continuing our work together.

**From:** Machell, Aileen PREM:EX(Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca)  
**To:** Alexa.Walker@gov.bc.ca, Walker, Alexa GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** FW: Message frame - Natural resources  
**Sent:** 01/12/2024 22:33:40  
**Attachments:** MESSAGE FRAME - Natural Resources Forum - PO FINAL.docx

Sorry, not sure if this slightly revised version got to you.

---

**From:** Smith, Jimmy PREM:EX <Jimmy.Smith@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 12, 2024 8:48 AM  
**To:** Venn, Tania GCPE:EX <Tania.Venn@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Machell, Aileen PREM:EX <Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** Message frame - Natural resources

Hey Tania,  
As discussed yesterday, here's the message frame to be used for the Natural Resources Forum. Looking forward to discussing it more with you and the other CDs today.  
Cheers!

**Jimmy Smith** (he/him)  
Deputy Communications Director  
Office of the Premier  
250-882-2892

## MESSAGE FRAME: NATURAL RESOURCES

s. 13

“s. 13

s. 13

### CONNECT: Natural resources foundational to our future

Natural resources are foundational to our province and the backbone of many local economies across British Columbia.

From Indigenous peoples whose deep connection to the land and water here goes back centuries. To communities of all kinds who depend on forestry, mining, and energy for jobs today.

We all share a stake in ensuring a strong, sustainable natural resource sector as a core part of B.C.’s future.

### THE CHALLENGE: Can’t continue the old ways of doing things

We know you’re facing big challenges, especially in the forestry sector.

Some people think we should respond to the challenges by just saying no to resource development. Regardless of the cost of jobs and opportunities.

Others say all resource development should go ahead. Even at the expense of abandoning action on climate change and reconciliation.

We all know this is a false choice. We can’t continue the old way of doing things. The future is in partnerships with First Nations and sustainable development—whether it’s forestry, mining, or oil and gas.



## **SOLUTION: Building on B.C.'s natural strengths**

While climate change poses real challenges, B.C.'s natural resources put us in a unique position to excel in shifting economic times and maximize the benefits to the people of our province.

Workers in the natural resources sectors will be the leaders in the clean economy of the future.

Reconciliation with Indigenous people creates opportunities for all. BC companies are embracing reconciliation and the opportunities that come with it.

Natural resources are critical to building a stronger, cleaner economy that works better for everyone.

And we have a plan to leverage our natural strengths as a province to create good jobs and opportunities for everyone:

- Leverage our strength as a clean-energy superpower to **help industries electrify and ensure BC is a global leader in the clean economy**. That's why I created the BC Hydro Task Force.
- Leverage our strength in mining with a **new critical mineral strategy that will help meet global demand for clean technology** like battery cells.
- Leverage the strength of B.C.'s forests with a reliable fiber supply and enabling **more value-added wood manufacturing including through our Manufacturing Jobs Fund**.

We are taking action to improve our permitting processes and are committed to ensuring BC is a competitive jurisdiction for capital investment. We recognized a problem and are taking action.

We know, and British Columbians can be proud, that we can have strong resource industries and meet our climate objectives.

**From:** Machell, Aileen PREM:EX(Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca)  
**To:** Doug.Caul@gov.bc.ca, Caul, Doug D PREM:EX  
**Subject:** Fwd: Updated frame - Natural resources  
**Sent:** 01/12/2024 01:22:23  
**Attachments:** MESSAGE FRAME - Natural Resources Forum - Updated Jan 11th 5.00pm.docx

Hi Doug, looks good to me. Can you do another review? Full speech will come tomorrow.

Thanks!  
Aileen

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---

**From:** Smith, Jimmy PREM:EX <Jimmy.Smith@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 11, 2024 5:18:44 PM  
**To:** Machell, Aileen PREM:EX <Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** Updated frame - Natural resources

Hey, here it is. My edits and updated from Alexa's latest.

When you and Doug are good with it, I'll send to the CDs

Thank you!

**Jimmy Smith** (he/him)  
Deputy Communications Director  
Office of the Premier  
250-882-2892

## MESSAGE FRAME: NATURAL RESOURCES

s. 13

s. 13

s. 13

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- s. 13

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**From:** Caul, Doug D PREM:EX(Doug.Caul@gov.bc.ca)  
**To:** Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca, Machell, Aileen PREM:EX  
**Subject:** MESSAGE FRAME - Natural Resources Forum.docx  
**Sent:** 01/11/2024 00:34:44  
**Attachments:** MESSAGE FRAME - Natural Resources Forum.docx

Hi [s. 13](#)  
next step considerations.

So please use this version for

[s. 12](#)



## MESSAGE FRAME: NATURAL RESOURCES

s. 13

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s. 13

### CONNECT: Natural resources foundational to our future

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### THE CHALLENGE: Can't continue the old ways of doing things

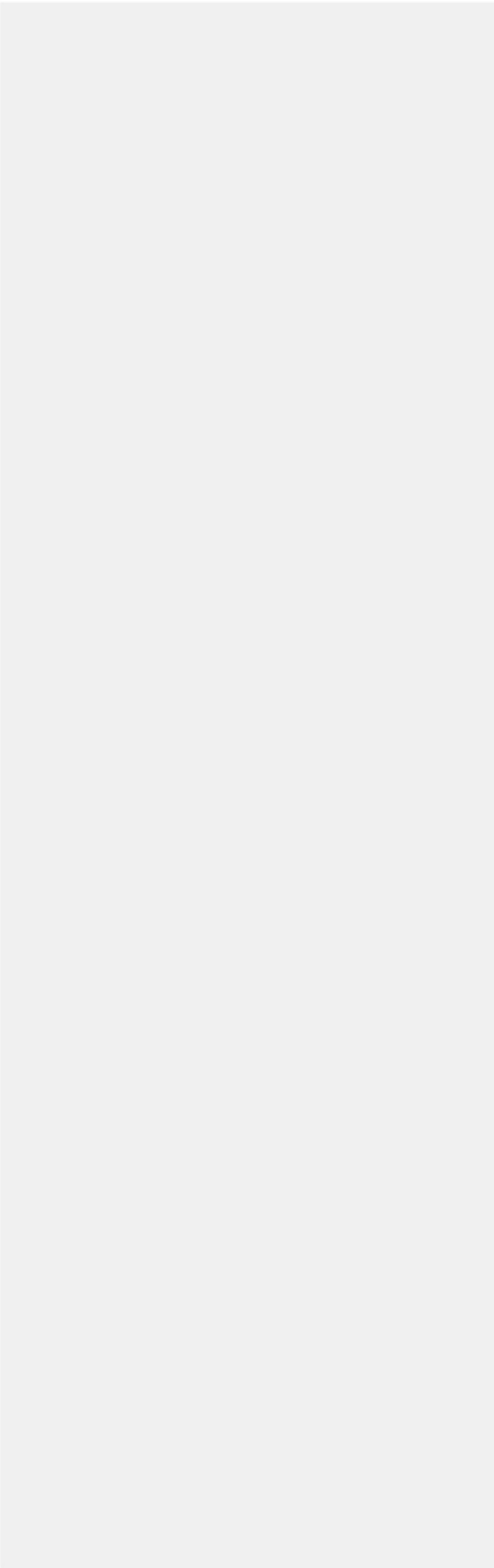
We know you're facing big challenges, especially in the forestry sector.

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**From:** Bain, Don PREM:EX(Don.Bain@gov.bc.ca)  
Alexa.Walker@gov.bc.ca, Walker, Alexa GCPE:EXAileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca, Machell, Aileen PREM:EXJimmy.Smith@gov.bc.ca, Smith, Jimmy  
**To:** PREM:EXGeorge.Smith@gov.bc.ca, Smith, George PREM:EXBhinder.Sajan@gov.bc.ca, Sajan, Bhinder PREM:EXGala.Milne@gov.bc.ca, Milne, Gala PREM:EXSachin.Sundhu@gov.bc.ca, Sundhu, Sachin PREM:EX Sam.Dinicol@gov.bc.ca, Dinicol, Sam GCPE:EXRaina.Delisle@gov.bc.ca, Delisle, Raina  
**To:** GCPE:EXTom.Hawthorn@gov.bc.ca, Hawthorn, Tom GCPE:EXCharlie.Demers@gov.bc.ca, Demers, Charlie GCPE:EXSarah.Marriott@gov.bc.ca, Marriott, Sarah GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Re: For REVIEW: Premier's speech to BC Natural Resources Forum  
**Sent:** 01/13/2024 04:02:37

s. 13

---

**From:** Bain, Don PREM:EX  
**Sent:** January 12, 2024 7:58 PM  
**To:** Walker, Alexa GCPE:EX; Machell, Aileen PREM:EX; Smith, Jimmy PREM:EX; Smith, George PREM:EX; Sajan, Bhinder PREM:EX; Milne, Gala PREM:EX; Sundhu, Sachin PREM:EX  
**Cc:** Dinicol, Sam GCPE:EX; Delisle, Raina GCPE:EX; Hawthorn, Tom GCPE:EX; Demers, Charlie GCPE:EX; Marriott, Sarah GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Re: For REVIEW: Premier's speech to BC Natural Resources Forum

Actually it is Lheidli T'enneh [clayt-lee ten-ay]

---

**From:** Walker, Alexa GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** January 12, 2024 6:27 PM  
**To:** Machell, Aileen PREM:EX; Smith, Jimmy PREM:EX; Smith, George PREM:EX; Sajan, Bhinder PREM:EX; Bain, Don PREM:EX; Milne, Gala PREM:EX; Sundhu, Sachin PREM:EX  
**Cc:** Dinicol, Sam GCPE:EX; Delisle, Raina GCPE:EX; Hawthorn, Tom GCPE:EX; Demers, Charlie GCPE:EX; Marriott, Sarah GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** For REVIEW: Premier's speech to BC Natural Resources Forum

Hello all,

Please find attached a draft of the Premier's speech to the BC Natural Resources Forum on Tuesday, Jan 16<sup>th</sup>. It's been reviewed by EMLI, ENV, FOR (including the Carrier-Sekani First Nations' negotiator), MIRR, and JEDI. Doug Caul also provided some very valuable input into this version.

Thanks,

Alexa

---

**Alexa Walker** (she/her)  
Director | Writing and Content Strategy  
Government Communications and Public Engagement | Government of BC  
617 Government Street, Victoria | (250) 361 – 8136  
ləkʷəŋən Territory

**From:** Machell, Aileen PREM:EX(Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca)  
Don.Bain@gov.bc.ca, Bain, Don PREM:EXAlexa.Walker@gov.bc.ca, Walker, Alexa  
GCPE:EXJimmy.Smith@gov.bc.ca, Smith, Jimmy PREM:EXGeorge.Smith@gov.bc.ca,  
**To:** Smith, George PREM:EXBhinder.Sajan@gov.bc.ca, Sajan, Bhinder  
PREM:EXGala.Milne@gov.bc.ca, Milne, Gala PREM:EXSachin.Sundhu@gov.bc.ca,  
Sundhu, Sachin PREM:EX  
Sam.Dinicol@gov.bc.ca, Dinicol, Sam GCPE:EXRaina.Delisle@gov.bc.ca, Delisle, Raina  
**To:** GCPE:EXTom.Hawthorn@gov.bc.ca, Hawthorn, Tom GCPE:EXCharlie.Demers@gov.bc.ca,  
Demers, Charlie GCPE:EXSarah.Marriott@gov.bc.ca, Marriott, Sarah GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Re: For REVIEW: Premier's speech to BC Natural Resources Forum  
**Sent:** 01/13/2024 05:00:19

Thanks, Don!

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**From:** Bain, Don PREM:EX <Don.Bain@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 12, 2024 7:58:15 PM  
**To:** Walker, Alexa GCPE:EX <Alexa.Walker@gov.bc.ca>; Machell, Aileen PREM:EX <Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca>;  
Smith, Jimmy PREM:EX <Jimmy.Smith@gov.bc.ca>; Smith, George PREM:EX <George.Smith@gov.bc.ca>; Sajan,  
Bhinder PREM:EX <Bhinder.Sajan@gov.bc.ca>; Milne, Gala PREM:EX <Gala.Milne@gov.bc.ca>; Sundhu, Sachin  
PREM:EX <Sachin.Sundhu@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Dinicol, Sam GCPE:EX <Sam.Dinicol@gov.bc.ca>; Delisle, Raina GCPE:EX <Raina.Delisle@gov.bc.ca>;  
Hawthorn, Tom GCPE:EX <Tom.Hawthorn@gov.bc.ca>; Demers, Charlie GCPE:EX  
<Charlie.Demers@gov.bc.ca>; Marriott, Sarah GCPE:EX <Sarah.Marriott@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** Re: For REVIEW: Premier's speech to BC Natural Resources Forum

Actually it is Lheidli T'enneh [clayt-lee ten-ay]

---

**From:** Walker, Alexa GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** January 12, 2024 6:27 PM  
**To:** Machell, Aileen PREM:EX; Smith, Jimmy PREM:EX; Smith, George PREM:EX; Sajan, Bhinder PREM:EX; Bain,  
Don PREM:EX; Milne, Gala PREM:EX; Sundhu, Sachin PREM:EX  
**Cc:** Dinicol, Sam GCPE:EX; Delisle, Raina GCPE:EX; Hawthorn, Tom GCPE:EX; Demers, Charlie GCPE:EX;  
Marriott, Sarah GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** For REVIEW: Premier's speech to BC Natural Resources Forum

Hello all,

Please find attached a draft of the Premier's speech to the BC Natural Resources Forum on Tuesday, Jan 16<sup>th</sup>. It's been reviewed by EMLI, ENV, FOR (including the Carrier-Sekani First Nations' negotiator), MIRR, and JEDI. Doug Caul also provided some very valuable input into this version.

Thanks,

Alexa

---  
**Alexa Walker** (she/her)  
Director | Writing and Content Strategy  
Government Communications and Public Engagement | Government of BC  
617 Government Street, Victoria | (250) 361 – 8136  
lək'wəŋən Territory





**From:** Machell, Aileen PREM:EX(Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca)  
**To:** George.Smith@gov.bc.ca, Smith, George PREM:EXJimmy.Smith@gov.bc.ca, Smith, Jimmy PREM:EXBhinder.Sajan@gov.bc.ca, Sajan, Bhinder PREM:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Recommended edits from Aileen and Doug for tomorrow  
**Sent:** 01/11/2024 01:02:21  
**Attachments:** MESSAGE FRAME - Natural Resources Forum AM DC EDITS.docx

Sorry – one more edit regarding reliable supply of logs.

Updated version attached.

---

**From:** Machell, Aileen PREM:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 10, 2024 4:24 PM  
**To:** Smith, George PREM:EX <George.Smith@gov.bc.ca>; Smith, Jimmy PREM:EX <Jimmy.Smith@gov.bc.ca>; Sajan, Bhinder PREM:EX <Bhinder.Sajan@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** Recommended edits from Aileen and Doug for tomorrow

Hi,  
Here are some suggested edits to the frame from W&C. We will see if PDE is ok with these tomorrow morning, then can send back to Alexa.

Thanks,  
Aileen

**Aileen Machell**  
Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Premier  
*Pronouns: she/her*  
250-361-5381

## MESSAGE FRAME: NATURAL RESOURCES

s. 13

s. 13

s. 13

### CONNECT: Natural resources foundational to our future

Natural resources are foundational to our province and the backbone of many local economies across British Columbia.

From Indigenous peoples whose deep connection to the land and water here goes back centuries. To communities of all kinds who depend on forestry, mining, and energy for jobs today.

We all share a stake in ensuring a strong, sustainable natural resource sector [as a core part of](#) B.C.'s future.

### THE CHALLENGE: Can't continue the old ways of doing things

We know you're facing big challenges, especially in the forestry sector.

Some people think we should respond to the challenges by just saying no to resource development. Regardless of the cost of jobs and opportunities.

Others say all resource development should go ahead. Even at the expense of abandoning action on climate change and reconciliation.

We all know this is a false choice. We can't continue the old way of doing things. The future is in partnerships with First Nations and sustainable development—whether it's forestry, mining, or oil and gas.

## SOLUTION: Building on B.C.'s natural strengths

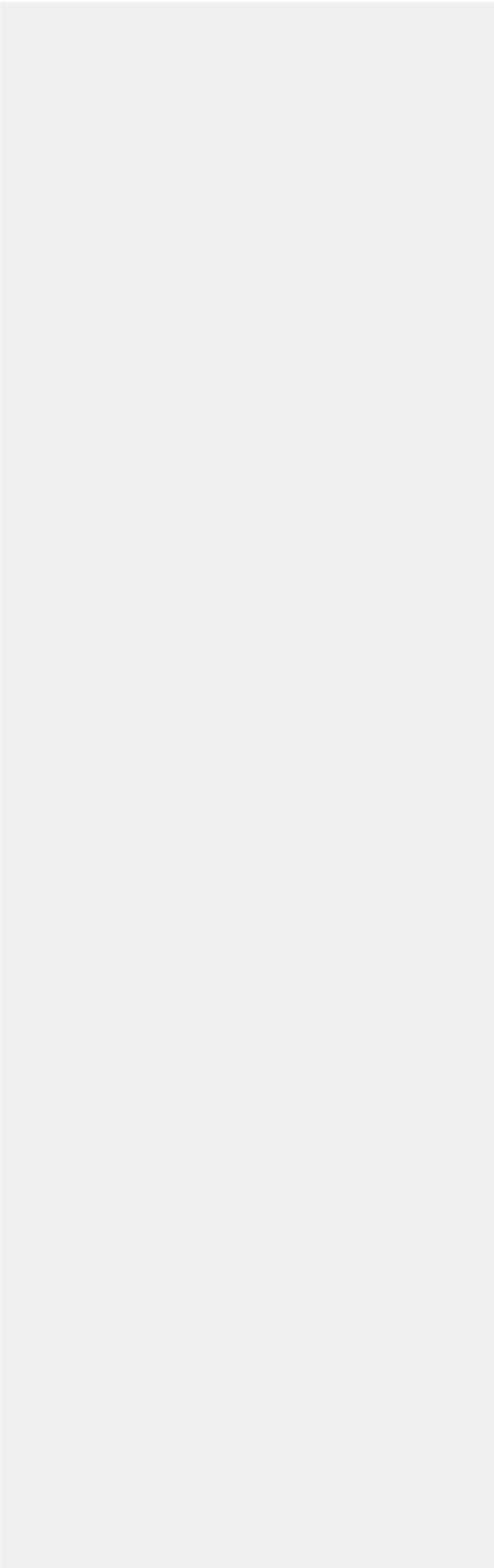
s. 13

And we have a plan to leverage our natural strengths as a province to create good jobs and opportunities for everyone:

- Leverage our strength as a clean-energy superpower to **help industries electrify and ensure BC is a global leader in the clean economy**. [That's why I created the BC Hydro Task Force.](#)
- Leverage our strength in mining with a **new critical mineral strategy that will help meet global demand for clean technology** like battery cells.

s. 13

- [We know, and British Columbians can be proud, that we can have strong resource industries and meet our climate objectives.](#)





**From:** Machell, Aileen PREM:EX(Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca)  
**To:** Doug.Caul@gov.bc.ca, Caul, Doug D PREM:EX  
**Subject:** FW: Frame on natural resources forum  
**Sent:** 01/10/2024 20:00:22  
**Attachments:** MESSAGE FRAME - Natural Resources Forum.docx

Hi Doug,

Premier has an interview tomorrow to preview his visit to Prince George. Can you review the attached and give me a call if you have any concerns on the frame?

Thanks!  
Aileen

---

**From:** Walker, Alexa GCPE:EX <Alexa.Walker@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 10, 2024 11:33 AM  
**To:** Machell, Aileen PREM:EX <Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** Frame on natural resources forum

As discussed, a high-level frame from Sam that has helped shape the speech. The speech is written and moving through fact checks with shops as we speak.

A bulleted outline to follow...

---

**Alexa Walker** (she/her)  
Director | Writing and Content Strategy  
Government Communications and Public Engagement | Government of BC  
617 Government Street, Victoria | (250) 361 – 8136  
ləkʷəŋən Territory

## MESSAGE FRAME: NATURAL RESOURCES

s. 13

s. 13

### **CONNECT: Natural resources foundational to our past—and future**

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s. 13

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## SOLUTION: Building on B.C.'s natural strengths

s. 13

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- Leverage our strength as a clean-energy superpower to **help industries**  
s. 13
- Leverage our strength in mining with a **new critical mineral strategy that will help meet global demand for clean technology** like battery cells.
- s. 13

**From:** Caul, Doug D PREM:EX(Doug.Caul@gov.bc.ca)  
**To:** Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca, Machell, Aileen PREM:EX  
**Subject:** s. 13  
**Sent:** 01/10/2024 23:51:39  
**Attachments:** s. 13

## MESSAGE FRAME: NATURAL RESOURCES

s. 13

s. 13

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s. 13





























































