

Keep BC Strong

Proven Leadership for BC's Economy



Index

Premier's Message	1
Six Pillars for a Strong BC	2
Our Open Platform process	3
Strong leadership and stable government	4
Living within our means	5
Lowering costs on our economy	10
Improving and protecting vital public services	16
Investing in jobs and infrastructure	32
Building on our strategic advantages	37



Building on our strength

On May 12th, British Columbians will decide who they want to represent them in the Legislature and as government. It's a crucial election that will determine who will manage our economy and lead BC through these turbulent economic times.

Although we're not immune from the global recession, we are in much better shape than most other places. We've built a strong foundation and we will get a major boost when we host the Olympics and by our new stature as one of Canada's leading economies. That confidence is built on stability and a record of performance.

The Conference Board of Canada predicts that British Columbia will lead the nation in economic growth next year if British Columbians continue to have confidence in one another, in our wealth of human talent and in all that our province has to offer.

Together we will continue to open Canada's Pacific Gateway and to attract new investment and jobs to every region of our province. We can forge a new relationship with First Nations, lead the way on climate action, and create new opportunities for growth in clean energy, forestry, mining, small business, tourism, technology and every sector of our economy.

A strong economy allows us to increase funding for crucial public services like healthcare, education, social housing and public safety. We maintain our economic strength by living within our means and maintaining low taxes, and prudently managing taxpayers' money.

We've made real progress over the last eight years, but there is more work to be done. I invite you to review our Platform and our record at www.bcliberals.com. On May 12th, we need to re-elect a proven team to keep BC strong. I need your help.

Premier Gordon Campbell

This is the most critical election in living memory. Now more than ever, we need stability.



The key to a strong economy is confidence, leadership and vision. That's what our plan and this election is all about.

Six Pillars for a Strong BC

- 1 Strong leadership and stable government**
- 2 Living within our means**
- 3 Lowering costs on our economy**
- 4 Improving and protecting vital public services**
- 5 Investing in jobs and infrastructure**
- 6 Building on our strategic advantages**



In 2005, we adopted Five Great Goals for the next decade and beyond. We aspired to be the best in health, education, support services, environmental stewardship and job creation. We sought to build new partnerships with First



Nations, the federal government and other governments. And we were determined to tackle the challenges of global warming, homelessness, and the inequities that have disadvantaged Aboriginal people.

Those goals continue to guide our government and we are making progress, as you can see at www.gov.bc.ca. Dozens of specific strategies are readily available at www.gov.bc.ca/govt/government_plans_and_strategies.html. As we reach towards that vision, the strength of our economy and our ability to fund those priorities all comes down to one word: **CONFIDENCE.**

Confidence and stability are critical to our economic strength and prosperity. This Platform outlines Six Pillars for a Strong BC that will continue to build confidence, that will attract new investment, create new jobs and generate the opportunities and revenue we need to achieve our great goals.

Our Platform builds on the strong foundation we have created together to help our province realize its full potential and make the most of its advantages, for our families and our communities. Our goals are clear and our way forward is working. This Platform highlights our plan for new progress.

Our Open Platform process

Elections are a time for parties to lay out their plan for the future of the province. But plans are created by people sharing their ideas and being clear about their priorities for their province. Last fall, we launched Open Platform to give all British Columbians a new forum to share their views on the issues facing our province, their input on the progress we are making together and the path they would choose to the future.



Open Platform is your chance to help shape our policies during and beyond this election; and it's just one part of our ongoing dialogue with British Columbians and our evolving action plan to address your priorities and help keep BC strong.

Share your ideas. Make your voice heard. Help us build upon BC's strengths

Since launching Open Platform, we've had over 1,500 submissions from the public. We've heard from thousands of British Columbians in communities across the province. Our "digital bus" has visited cities, universities and colleges across BC. We are engaging young adults who are more informed and connected than any generation in history because this is their future we are talking about.



We've received lots of positive suggestions. Many are reflected in this booklet and in the policies initiated by government. British Columbians are confident about their future and they are ready to lead in tackling the issues of our times. They are concerned about their jobs and financial security in the face of the global recession, but they know there is no place on Earth that offers more promise for them than British Columbia.

Most citizens understand there is a limit to what we can afford to fund with their tax dollars. They don't want to see their money wasted and they don't want any party to try to buy their votes with expensive, unaffordable election promises. This Platform is a responsible program for steady progress and prudent management of your tax dollars.

1 Strong leadership and stable government



Confidence in our economy starts with the knowledge that government will work with the private sector – not against it – to encourage investment and create new jobs. This election, voters will decide who will provide the strongest leadership for our economy and build on the confidence we've created in BC over the past eight years.

You need to know that when you work hard, you can get ahead. Businesses need to know they will be able to successfully compete on a level playing field that welcomes investment and rewards risk-taking. If you're thinking of risking your

hard-earned capital to create or expand any business, you need to know that your government will be there as an ally, to help maximize your opportunities for growth. That creates confidence for consumers, for investors, and for BC families. More importantly, it creates jobs.

Uncertainty and instability have the opposite effect. They undermine confidence, drive away investment and put people out of work.

During these turbulent economic times, our economy can ill afford higher taxes, higher costs and more uncertainty under an

Our economy is precious, but fragile. This is not the time for risky experiments or on-the-job training. Now more than ever, we need a steady hand at the top. We need to re-elect Premier Campbell's BC Liberal Government.

inexperienced NDP government. The Opposition's reckless and irresponsible policies and promises will kill confidence and will put our province in an even weaker position than it was in the 1990's. In today's circumstances, our economy needs an experienced team with practical solutions that work. That's what our team and our plan is all about.



This election is critical to our economy and to the future of our province.

2 Living within our means

Families know that when finances get tight, it gets tougher to pay the bills. The last thing they want to do is rack up new debt on the credit card for luxury items that they really can't afford. They have to carefully manage their budgets and only pay for what they need, so that they can continue to make ends meet today and in the future.



It's no different for government. After all, there is no such thing as "government money." There is only *your* tax dollars. As hard as it is sometimes to curb spending, we have to live within our means, so that we can continue to pay for important public services without having to raise taxes or leave a burden of debt to our children.

*[excluding spending related to the new provincial administration of the Labour Market Development program that was previously administered by the federal government.]

Responsibly managing your tax dollars

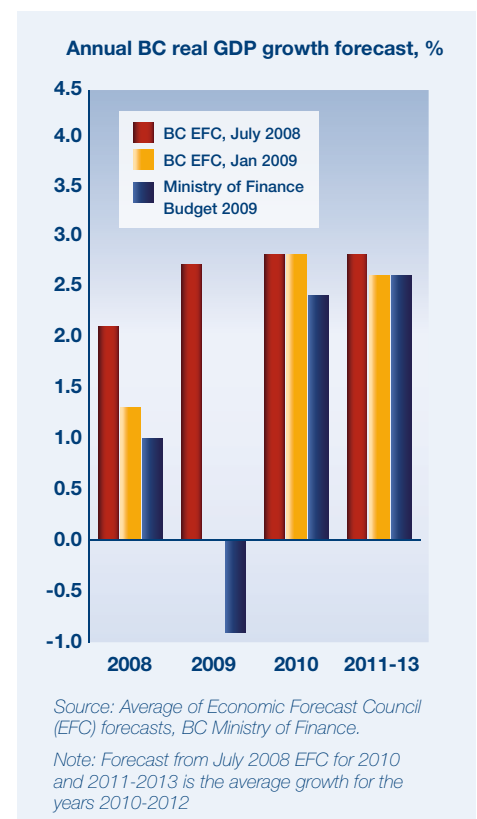


British Columbians have worked too hard to get their government's fiscal house in order to see that squandered by reckless spending and runaway deficits. We've laid out a detailed budget www.bcbudget.gov.bc.ca/2009/ to carefully control spending. While investing more on core services, it reduces spending on less critical priorities.

Our budget calls for overall average annual spending growth of 2.2 per cent over the next three years*. With our economy predicted to contract by about 0.9 per cent this year, and little or no inflation, that's still a sizeable increase. We think it pushes the limit of affordability for taxpayers and small businesses throughout the province.

This is a volatile time for global markets that has been far more

severe than any of the experts projected. We have to be conservative in our forecasts, in case revenues fall more quickly, or for a longer period, than anticipated. It's a complex job putting together a three-year budget that balances \$41 billion worth of revenue and expenditures, backed up by a detailed business plan for every ministry. But our record shows that we have the competent team and credible plan to get it right. That's why BC has the best credit rating in the country.



Our plan saves taxpayers \$1.9 billion

The global economic downturn and falling commodity prices have caused significant drops in provincial revenues that have made it tougher for government to live within its means. To address that challenge, we have looked at every facet of government to determine where savings could be found without compromising core services.

Our Platform calls for \$1.9 billion in government savings and a return to balanced budgets in the next three years while keeping your taxes low. They include:

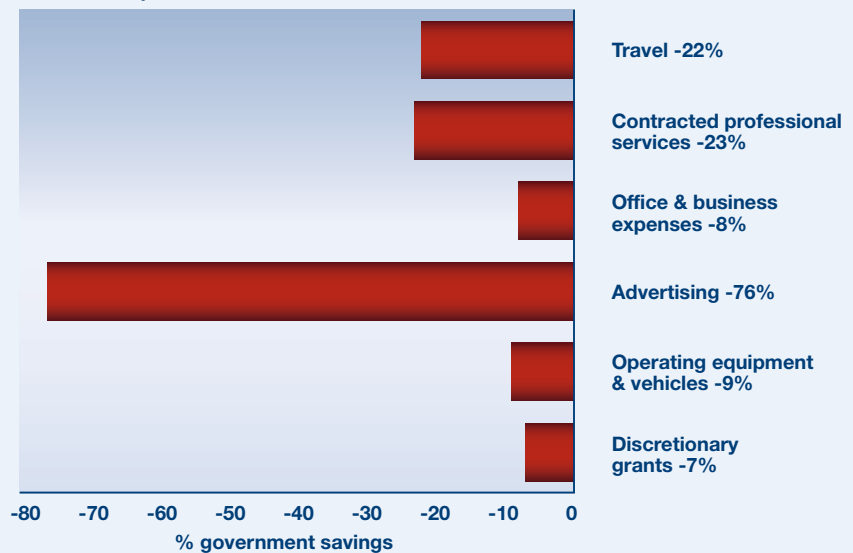
- ↓ **76 per cent reduction in government advertising**
- ↓ **22 per cent cut in government travel costs**
- ↓ **23 per cent less for contracted professional services**
- ↓ **20 per cent fewer senior executives in government**
- ↓ **Reductions in discretionary grants and office expenses**
- ↓ **Modest budget reductions for 11 of 20 ministries**
- ➔ **Holding the line on public sector wage increases**

“Fuelled by the 2010 Vancouver Olympic Games and positive growth in the battered forestry and manufacturing industries, the province will get back on its feet next year. Real GDP will turn around from a 0.1 per cent drop this year to a nation-leading 4.3 per cent gain in 2010.”

The Conference Board of Canada

\$1.9 billion in Government Savings

2009/10 compared to 2008/09

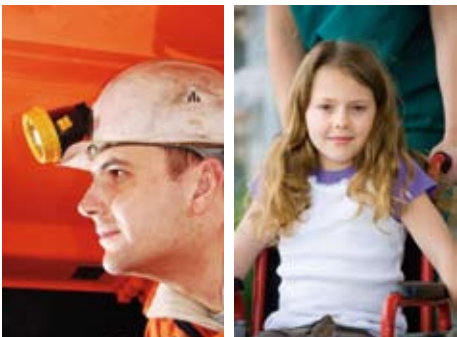


Source: Budget and Fiscal Plan 2009/10 - 2011/12

A BC Liberal Government will continue to find new savings and new value for every tax dollar through public-private partnerships, investments in “green buildings” that reduce life-cycle operating costs, and more efficient delivery of government services. It will also work with municipalities to help lower their costs and alleviate growing pressures on property taxpayers, without provincial “offloading.”

Our plan targets spending where it's needed: health, education and helping workers

As we seek to minimize avoidable cost increases, we also need to make the most of every tax dollar available for government services. Even with the savings above, the overall cost of government will go up by \$2.8 billion over the next three years.



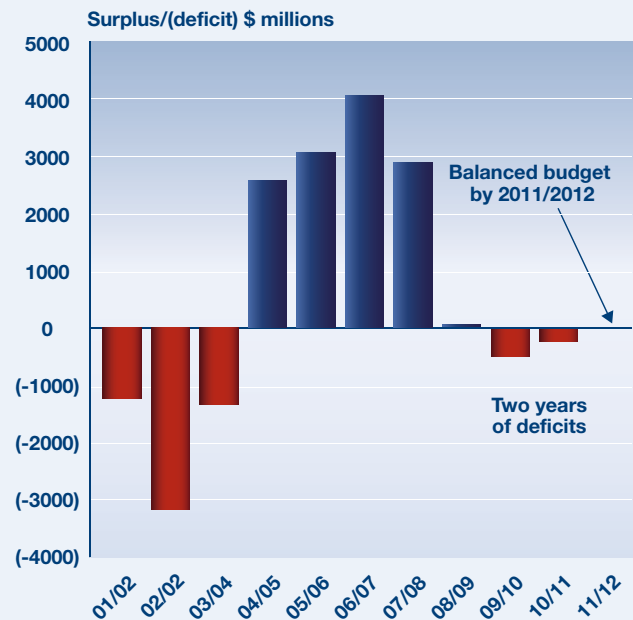
- **Over 90 per cent of all new government spending in the next three years will go to increases for healthcare**
- **An additional \$4.8 billion for healthcare over three years**
- **Record high funding for K-12 education and post-secondary education**
- **Over \$800 million in additional annual funding for education by 2011/12**
- **Over \$300 million in extra funding over three years for vital social services**
- **More funding for child care subsidies, services for children and families with special needs, and supports for adults with developmental disabilities**
- **More funding for policing and victims services**
- **New investments in social housing and new housing for seniors**
- **Major new funding commitments to support forest workers, miners and others who have been especially hard-hit by the global economic crisis**

Economic growth flows from prudent fiscal management

“The anticipated deficits, relative to consolidated revenues, are small when compared to those recorded in the late 1990s and early years of the current decade... We also believe that British Columbia, with its recent track record of outperforming budget targets, has the discipline necessary to ensure that deficits arising from the economic downturn remain cyclical and do not become structural.”

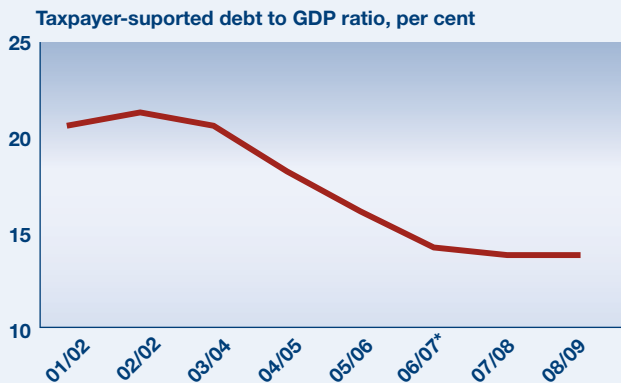
Moody's Investor Services

Operating debt cut in half



Source: Budget and Fiscal Plan 2009/10 - 2011/12

Taxpayer-supported debt reduced



*Moody's upgraded the Province's credit rating to AAA on October 5th, 2008.

Source: Budget and Fiscal Plan 2009/10 - 2011/12 and 2008 British Columbia Financial and Economic Review, July 2008

Through prudent fiscal management, and growing revenues fueled by our strong economy, we have dramatically reduced the burden of “taxpayer-supported debt” – or debt that can only be repaid by taxpayers.

We have cut ‘operating debt’ nearly in half. That debt was accumulated over eight successive operating deficits in the 1990s and from the structural deficit that the NDP left behind. It’s dead-weight debt from chronic overspending that weakened our economy and our ability to deliver top quality services. We owe it to our children to reject that approach. We must responsibly manage taxpayers’ money to protect the services and supports we have today for future generations.

Our Platform calls for 100 per cent of all future surpluses to be used first to eliminate the operating debt. It also ensures that taxpayer-supported debt does not rise to levels that would jeopardize our province’s hard-won Triple-A credit rating.

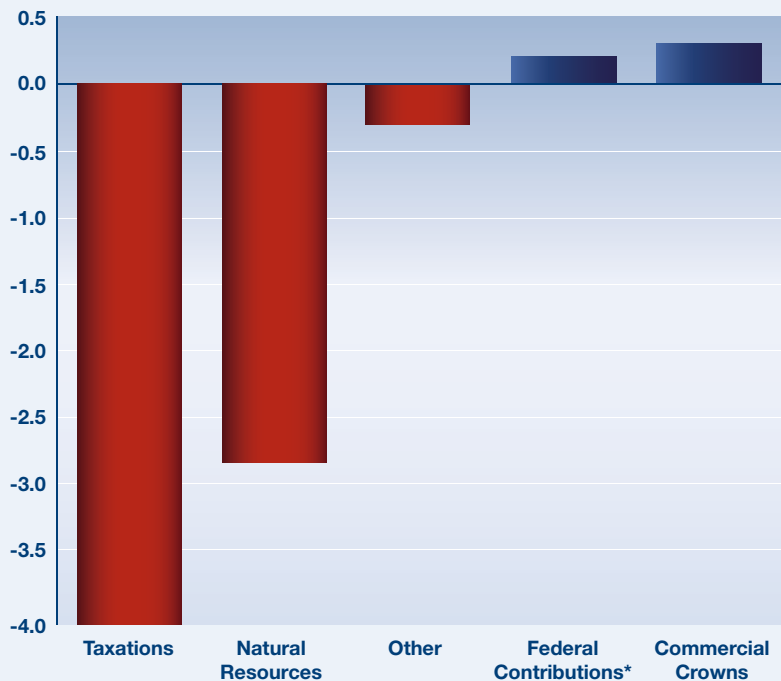
British Columbia and Alberta are the only provinces that currently enjoy that top credit rating. That has meant lower interest rates, lower borrowing costs and new savings that have been used to fund services for people, instead of paying interest to banks and lenders.

Government should balance its budget

Despite all of these efforts, the global recession has made a deficit in each of the next two years unavoidable. The economic downturn has caused a \$6.6 billion reduction in revenue over last year's fiscal plan. It's simply not possible to find savings large enough to offset that revenue loss without unacceptable cuts to essential public services. We will therefore incur a deficit of \$495 million this year and \$245 million next year. However, we have also passed a law that requires the budget to be balanced by 2011 and every year thereafter. No ministry will be legally allowed to exceed its budget in any year, and every penny of future surpluses must first go towards eliminating the operating debt.

\$6.6 billion decline in revenues

Three year change in projected revenue since the first Quarterly Report (\$ billions)



*Excludes \$870M in funding for the Labour Market Development Agreement transfer

Source: Budget and Fiscal Plan 2009/10 - 2011/12

“The fact is, under the NDP, we became a have-not province for the first time in our history. Does anyone really want to go back to those dismal days? We’ve had seven years of growth under the BC Liberals and that’s put us in very good shape to weather this storm. It’s all about leadership and competence and Gordon Campbell and his team have demonstrated both.”

Chuck van der Lee, President & CEO Rogers Retail

3 Lowering costs on our economy

It's no accident that our provincial economy has gone from being one of the weakest in Canada to one of the strongest anywhere today. Our province is more competitive and more attractive to new investment and job creation, because every year our government has lowered costs on our economy. We have put more money back in taxpayers' pockets and reduced costs on families and small businesses alike.

Right now, as everyone struggles to make ends meet, lowering costs is even more crucial. That was the heart of the Premier's economic strategy last Fall. It is a central component of our Platform. For more details on the government's economic plan, see www.gov.bc.ca/economic_plan

Reducing taxes on families

Income tax cuts increase your take-home pay. They are critical to our vision of lowering your costs. British Columbians now have the lowest personal income taxes in Canada at every income level up to \$116,000. We have eliminated provincial income taxes altogether for anyone earning under \$17,775 – a major benefit. It means 250,000 additional citizens with the lowest incomes pay zero in provincial income tax.

Tax Relief for BC Families

Taxable Income	BC Tax Before 2001 Tax Cuts	BC Tax After 2009 Tax Cuts	Reduction in BC Tax	Reduction in BC Tax
\$20,000	\$810	\$205	\$605	-75%
\$60,000	\$4,911	\$3,091	\$1,820	-37%
\$100,000	\$11,525	\$7,418	\$4,107	-36%

Source: Budget and Fiscal Plan 2008/09 - 2010/11

As the table above shows, the new tax reductions introduced last fall mean that citizens earning \$20,000 a year will now pay 75 per cent less provincial income tax than they did under the NDP, while middle income earners will pay at least 37 per cent less. The Opposition voted against virtually every one of these tax reductions.

We have established new options to allow people facing financial hardship to defer their property taxes. That can save homeowners thousands of dollars in the next two years when they need their money most. All British Columbians received a \$100 climate action dividend last year. As well, they received an accelerated five per cent income tax reduction. But the plan recognizes that one-size-fits-all solutions don't work in a province the size of BC.

A new Northern and Rural Homeowner benefit provides an

added \$200 saving on property taxes for residents of the north and rural areas. It will help offset the added costs that northern and rural residents face with regard to the revenue neutral carbon levy. The low income climate action tax credit of \$100 per adult and \$30 per child will also increase by five per cent on July 1, 2009.

There are new savings and incentives to promote energy efficiency, hefty rebates for old vehicles, and sales tax exemptions on fuel efficient vehicles that can save people thousands of dollars on new cars and trucks. We have acted to protect families' RRSPs from creditors and created new security for deposits in credit unions. **Next year, we will introduce a new voluntary, defined contribution pension plan for all citizens who currently lack that option and want to participate in a private pension plan.**

Reducing taxes on business

We all know why businesses, workers and investment fled BC in the 1990s. Under the NDP, taxes were sky-high and investment was discouraged. Businesses faced a crisis of confidence. Since 2001, we've turned that around, with over 120 tax cuts for individuals and businesses. The Opposition fought them all.



Small business is our economy's backbone. You don't build confidence by ignoring their advice. You build it by listening to them, learning from them and working with them. That's what the BC Liberal government will continue to do.

The NDP voted against our reductions to income tax rates for small businesses and corporations. They voted against the elimination of the corporate capital tax, the removal of sales tax on machinery and equipment, and training tax credits for employers and employees. They said "no" to doubling the threshold for small business income, which has enabled many more small businesses to qualify for lower tax rates.

New tax cuts for BC businesses

Our Platform provides additional tax relief to attract and expand businesses in British Columbia. Here are just a handful of new tax cuts that were introduced in the Premier's economic plan and in the Budget this year:

- **44 per cent reduction in small business income taxes in 2008**
- **Reduction in general corporate income tax rate to the lowest rate in Canada by 2011**
- **New Industrial Property Tax Credit of 50 per cent of provincial school property tax payable by light and heavy industries**
- **Extended BC Mining Flow-through Share Tax Credit**
- **Extended film tax credits and expanded eligibility for Film Incentive BC tax credit**

A BC Liberal Government will continue to reduce taxes as revenues allow. We will continue to use every penny of revenue collected from the carbon emissions tax to reduce taxes. **We will reduce the small business income tax to the lowest rate in Canada by April 1, 2012, and raise the small business income threshold to \$500,000 on January 1, 2010. We will also double the BC Training Tax Credit, effective July 1, 2009.**

Eliminating red tape and costly barriers to investment



One of the most effective ways governments can help lower costs on business is by getting rid of costly red tape and unnecessary regulations that also impose administrative costs on taxpayers. Premier Campbell's government has eliminated over 150,000 needless regulations since 2001. More will be done to streamline approval processes and expedite investment and job creation at lower cost.

Streamlining approvals for investment and job creation

We will aggressively push for a "single window" process for environmental assessments and other necessary reviews requiring multiple government approvals. We need to speed up job creation in energy, mining and resort development with a single assessment for each project. Today, over \$1.6 billion worth of projects in BC have their provincial Environmental Assessment Certificates, but are still awaiting federal approval.

Multiple assessments by multiple governments often replicate the same work. That adds time, cost and uncertainty to companies wanting to invest. In short, it increases risk and reduces investment. We will eliminate that duplication of effort through new reciprocal arrangements and equivalency agreements with the federal government and other provinces. We will also push to replace the federal Navigable Water Protection Act with a modern framework to properly protect our waterways without undue costs or unnecessary jurisdictional overlaps.



Prince George Airport

"Open Skies" means thousands of jobs for BC

It's time to eliminate federal restrictions on international air travel and pursue "Open Skies" agreements that allow airlines to land at any airport that can handle their business. That will open up our international airports to new direct flights from Asia, India and Europe that are currently prohibited by Ottawa. This is a key priority.

Open Skies agreements will save travelers time and money by giving them more direct flight options to and from their destinations. They will also attract new growth in tourism in places like Prince George, Kamloops, Terrace, Comox, Nanaimo and Cranbrook. Open Skies will create hundreds of millions of dollars in economic activity and thousands of jobs in every region of the province. The major airport expansions we have undertaken in partnership with the federal government create opportunities for international air carriers and open our province to the world.

Leading Canada with open trade and labour mobility

Together with Alberta, British Columbia has led the removal of costly barriers to trade, investment and the free movement of skilled workers across Canada. The new Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement (TILMA) with Alberta has created the second largest economy in Canada, with a combined market of over 7.7 million people. That will add \$5 billion in new economic growth and 78,000 new jobs to our province.

Under TILMA, businesses registered in one province are automatically recognized by the other. By harmonizing our standards and regulations, and eliminating costly administrative overlaps, we are saving businesses time and money. We are creating a larger market for businesses to grow without trade barriers.

British Columbia recently became the first province to legislate free labour mobility for skilled workers across Canada. Under the new Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT), all doctors, nurses, teachers and other professionals who are recognized in other provinces will soon be free to practice anywhere in Canada.

A BC Liberal Government will continue to implement the TILMA and the AIT. It will build a new Western Economic Partnership with Alberta and Saskatchewan to create an even broader open trade agreement this year. That will make the West an even greater economic powerhouse that will drive Canada's economy into the 21st century. For more details, check out www.gov.bc.ca/tted



Drive the Coquihalla for free

The recent removal of tolls on the Coquihalla Highway will reduce travel costs by about \$230 million over the next four years. A typical commercial truck making even one round trip per week will save \$4,800 a year, while anyone who frequently travels over the Coquihalla will save hundreds.

New investment in roads, bridges, airports, borders, ports, ferries, rail and both public and rapid transit will result in significant savings from reduced travel times and lower fuel costs. Congestion currently costs our economy over \$1.5 billion annually. By reducing congestion, we reduce travel times and increase family time, while we reduce greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution.

"I can't imagine gambling on the future of this province with inexperienced leadership, particularly right now when there's so much to be done. Premier Campbell's taken this province from worst to first, that's got to count for something. He knows what needs to be done and he knows how to get us back on the road to prosperity again."

Jack Davidson, President, BC Road Builders and Heavy Construction Association

Reducing global warming's impact by creating jobs and increasing investment

Eleven of the last 12 years were the warmest ever in BC since 1850. Climate change is already imposing a harsh cost on our economy and on our planet. Our glaciers and snow packs are rapidly melting. Our forests have been ravaged by the mountain pine beetle, a direct result of warmer winters. Communities have been hit hard by devastating wildfires, record droughts, and severe winter storms, floods and other weather events that have taken a heavy toll on public resources and private property.

That is why Premier Campbell's Government has taken such strong leadership on climate action. Here are just a few BC "firsts" contained in our Climate Action Plan, the most aggressive plan to reduce greenhouse gases in North America. Visit www.livesmartbc.ca/government/plan.html

- **First province in Canada to legislate hard targets for greenhouse gas emissions, including a 33 per cent reduction by 2020**
- **First jurisdiction in North America to legally require all government ministries, agencies and Crown corporations to be "carbon neutral", by 2010**
- **First jurisdiction in North America to legislate a requirement for electricity self-sufficiency by 2016, with 50 per cent of all new demand for power to be met through conservation**
- **First jurisdiction in North America to legislate a carbon emissions tax that also requires 100 per cent of all revenue collected on fossil fuel emissions to be returned to taxpayers through other new tax cuts**
- **First in Canada to join the Western Climate Initiative, which now includes 11 states and provinces that are committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions through market-based approaches which lower costs and open up trade**
- **First in Canada to legislate a framework for introducing a regional or continental "cap and trade" system that will set hard caps on greenhouse gas emissions and mandatory requirements for future reductions**
- **First in Canada to legislate requirements for capture of landfill gases, "zero routine" flaring in natural gas production, capture and storage of produced water from coal gas extraction activities**
- **First in Canada to create a provincial Crown agency for facilitating carbon trading and carbon offsets, through the Pacific Carbon Trust**

"With its policy initiatives of the last two years, the BC government has become a world leader in combating climate change."

Dr. Mark Jaccard, Professor of Resource and Environmental Management, SFU, and Lead Author for Sustainable Energy Policy in the Global Energy Assessment and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Dealing with the problems of climate change

As we act to arrest and reverse global warming, we must acknowledge that climate change will intensify as the greenhouse gas effect is compounded in years to come. If we learn to adapt to the current and future reality of global warming, and take steps to advance research and innovation, we will avoid higher costs later.

As we do that, we will also find new solutions to help reduce our “carbon footprint”, lighten our impact on the environment and give British Columbia a competitive edge in the new green economy. That is why we have made a **10-year \$100 million commitment to flood prevention** activities that will raise and reinforce dykes along key rivers, and responsibly address gravel build-ups that are causing erosion and spring flooding.



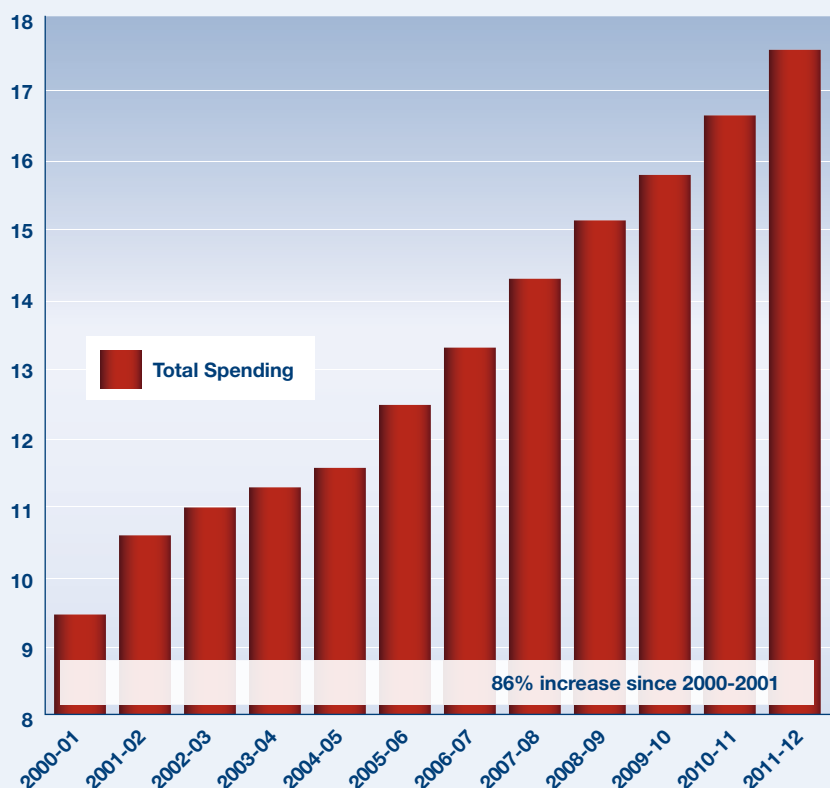
Other major initiatives to adapt to climate change include the following:

- **LiveSmartBC.ca – featuring new incentives, rebates, tax exemptions and extensive information to help individuals and businesses make green choices that save them money, at home, at work and on the road**
- **The new \$94.5 million Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions, involving UVic, UBC, SFU and UNBC, which will make British Columbia an even more important world leader in climate research and adaptation strategies**
- **\$100 million commitment over four years for the Innovative Clean Energy Fund, which is investing in new clean energy technologies**
- **The new BC Bioenergy Network and Geoscience BC**
- **Seven new regional Citizen Conservation Councils to help build public literacy about steps to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change**
- **Creation of the world's largest cabled seafloor observatories (Projects Neptune and Venus) to monitor marine ecosystems, measure changes in our ocean chemistry relating to climate change, and provide early notice of earthquakes and tsunamis**
- **Creation of the Pacific Coast Collaborative, with California, Washington, Oregon and Alaska, to help focus on solutions for green growth, climate action and ocean health**
- **Creation of the International Climate Action Partnership, which British Columbia founded along with several other US states and countries around the world, including the United Kingdom, France, Germany and the European Commission**

4 Improving and protecting vital public services

Health Spending

\$ Billions



Source: Budget and Fiscal Plan 2009/10 - 2011/12 and 2008 British Columbia Financial and Economic Review, July 2008

Increasing investments in healthcare

As the chart shows, total annual funding for healthcare will continue to soar over the next three years, by over 16 per cent. The Ministry of Health Services alone will see a

three-year total funding increase of \$4.8 billion. Health spending across government will be \$8 billion more or 86 per cent higher in 2011/12 than the NDP's last full year in office.

We've made a lot of improvements in health delivery over the last eight years www.gov.bc.ca/yourbc/patients. The Conference Board of Canada rates British Columbia's

90 per cent of all new funding for government over the next three years will go to healthcare

healthcare system as the best in Canada. The year-long Conversation on Health has led to many improvements in health delivery, including a constructive new relationship with doctors, nurses and other health professionals that better serves patients' needs.

We have the longest life expectancy in Canada, the best cancer and cardiac care, and the most generous Pharmacare system. ActNowBC is widely recognized as the most aggressive health promotion program in the country.

Surgical wait times have been dramatically reduced for hip and knee replacements and for cardiac surgery. Compared to the year 2000, the total number of annual surgeries is up 155 per cent for knee replacements and, up 70 per cent for hip replacements. Diagnostics have similarly been improved with a 163 per cent more MRI scans and 86 per cent more CT scans last year as compared to 2001.

Largest investments ever in new hospitals and health facilities

Access to emergency health services has been substantially improved in many hospitals. We delivered on our commitments to build the new 300-bed Abbotsford Regional Hospital & Cancer Centre, the new Northern Medical School and expanded Prince George Regional Hospital. We built the new Outpatient Hospital at Vancouver General and completed major expansions at East Kootenay Regional Hospital in Cranbrook; Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital in Trail; Royal Inland Hospital in Kamloops; Nanaimo Regional General Hospital; and Prince Rupert Regional Hospital.



Surrey Memorial Hospital (artist's rendering)

The BC Liberal Government has launched the largest health capital plan in the province's history. **A new critical care tower at Surrey Memorial Hospital; a new Surrey Outpatient Hospital; a new Royal Jubilee Hospital and a new emergency department in Victoria General Hospital** are all under

construction today. We will dramatically improve **Kelowna General Hospital with a new Patient Care Tower, a new Cardiac Care Centre and a new medical school. The new BC Children's Hospital** will be another major addition to the health care improvements we will provide to British Columbians.

We will build the **new Patient Care Tower at Vernon Jubilee Hospital; the new Fort St. John Hospital and Residential Care Project; and the new Northern Cancer Centre in Prince George**. More will be done. The North Island and Metro Vancouver still await the important regional healthcare decisions that must be made this year.

New support for rural and Northern families

There is nothing more traumatic for a family than having a child who is seriously ill or in need of medical



Prince George Cancer Centre

attention. For families living in rural and remote communities it is especially hard. They have to travel long distances to get their child to the hospital and they also have to cope with additional expenses in travel and accommodation costs.

A BC Liberal Government will create a new program to provide **new travel and accommodation assistance to families** who must travel long distances to be with their children when they are receiving care. **The new \$13 million BC Family Residence program** will be launched this summer to provide those families with new travel and accommodation support, starting at BC Children's Hospital and expanding in the years ahead.



Kelowna General Hospital

More nurses. More doctors. More patient care.

A key part of our strategy to improve healthcare is to ensure we have the health professionals we need today and in the future. That is why Premier Campbell's Government has doubled the number of medical spaces, with new medical schools in partnership with UBC at UNBC in Prince George and at the University of Victoria. The new medical school program will be ready to launch in Kelowna this September.



University of Northern British Columbia
image provided courtesy of the UNBC

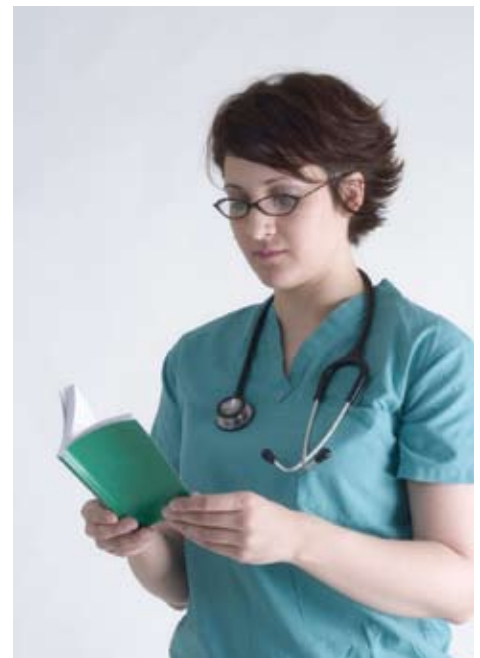
We have also doubled the number of nurse training spaces since 2001 and added 24 new nursing programs in post-secondary institutes across BC. Plus we created the first ever Nurse Practitioner training program in BC, and a new, three-year nursing degree at BCIT to graduate more nurses, faster.



It takes several years for doctors and nurses to complete their training. We have only recently begun to fully benefit from those new graduates, including 13,000 new registered nurses and 1200 new physicians. By contrast, the NDP did not create one new medical training space and actually eliminated 1,600 full-time nursing positions.

Our Platform will create new labour mobility to allow qualified doctors, nurses and other health professionals from anywhere in Canada to automatically be registered to practice in British Columbia. It also expands training through a new medical school in Kelowna. It will build on the new labour agreements recently concluded with the BC Nurses Union and with the BC Medical

Association, that will create certainty, stability and constructive working partnerships with government to improve patient care.



Innovation in health services

Innovation is critical to improving health delivery with funding increases that are sustainable for the long term. The new Medicare Protection Act obliges government to deliver health services in keeping with the five principles of the Canada Health Act and with the principle of sustainability. We are committed to improvements that embrace individual choice, personal responsibility, innovation, transparency and accountability.



For the first time ever, the new Patient Care Quality Review process gives patients a clear, consistent means to have their healthcare service concerns



formally addressed, independently reviewed, and resolved. Other innovations include new funding mechanisms to pay health providers premiums for higher performance and to have patient-funding follow patients when they get treated by health authorities. New pilot programs have shown amazing results. A new surgical innovation program at St. Paul's Hospital has allowed surgeons to nearly double their surgical cases for foot and ankle, and hand and wrist injuries. It has resulted in much shorter surgical wait times, thousands of more surgeries to be performed each year, and significantly faster recovery times.



For more on recent innovations in healthcare, check out www.gov.bc.ca/yourbc/patients

Promoting healthy living, sport and fitness

ActNowBC has garnered global praise for its success in promoting healthy living, nutrition and fitness. In partnership with 2010 Legacies Now, the Healthy Living Alliance and countless sports organizations across BC, we are helping British Columbians to improve their health and to live longer, more active lives.



British Columbia is leading the way with new investments in sports facilities, like the new Northern Sport Centre at UNBC in Prince George and the new Field House at Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops. We have led Canada in banning junk food in vending machines in schools and government buildings, and in banning the use of trans-fats in the preparation of food in schools and restaurants. We have expanded our anti-tobacco programs, and published the **BC HealthGuide Handbook** in multiple languages.



We have launched a new 24/7 **HealthLinkBC 8-1-1 hotline** and website so that all British Columbians can speak with a nurse about their symptoms in any one of over 130 languages. It allows them to consult with a pharmacist about their medication questions, or get healthy eating advice from a dietitian. www.healthlinkbc.ca/kbaltindex.asp



A BC Liberal Government will introduce new measures to help remote communities get new

access to fresh fruit and vegetables. It will continue to create new Seniors Community Parks and expand cycling paths and pedestrian walkways to create greener, healthier communities. It will give all British Columbians new electronic access to their health records. And our plan increases investments in chronic disease and addiction prevention, mental health and AIDS prevention and treatment programs.

The new mental health and addictions facility in Burnaby provides an enormous new opportunity to care for those who need our help, as do projects such as The Crossing at Keremeos addiction treatment facility for youth. More will be done.

Record-high funding for education

Under our Platform, annual funding for education at all levels will go up by over \$800 million by 2011/12. K-12 education funding will increase by 35 per cent by 2011/12 over 2000/01 levels, despite a continued drop in student enrolment, with 53,000 fewer students today than in 2001. Per pupil funding will rise to historic high levels.



Steveston-London Secondary School

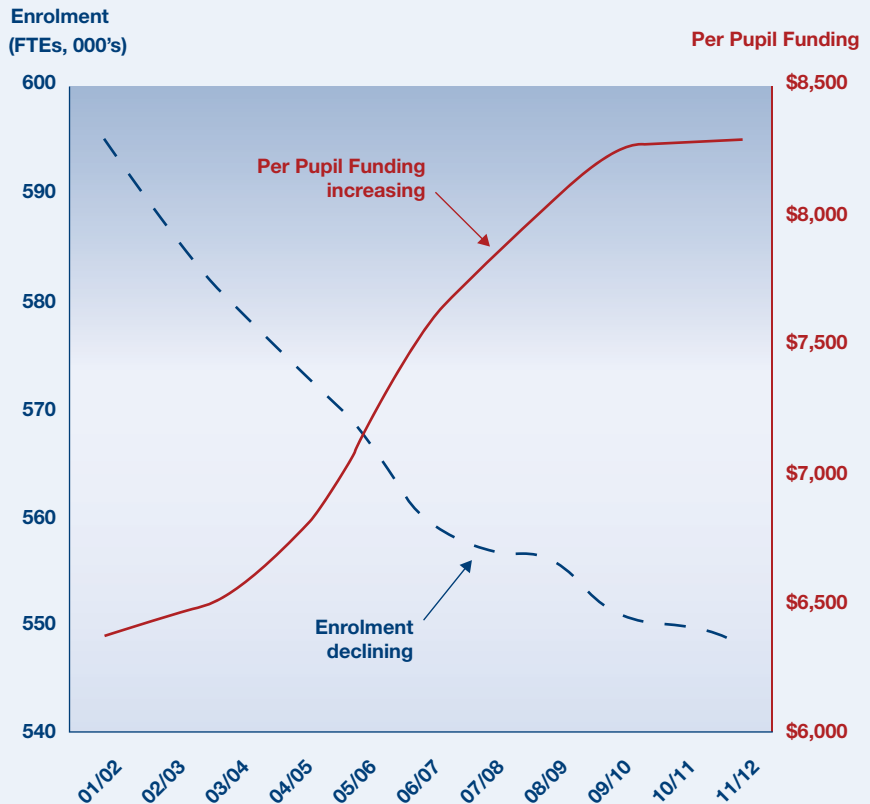
Over the last eight years we have increased parental involvement in school planning, increased accountability for teachers and school boards, increased choice in schooling, and protected volunteer rights. A new Teacher's Discipline Registry now requires public reporting of teachers disciplined for misconduct involving emotional, physical or sexual abuse. We have decreased class sizes through new legislation that requires

consultation with parents and teachers on class sizes and other facets of school planning, and reports annually on class size in every school – the most comprehensive reporting in Canada. For information on class sizes in any school, visit: www.bced.gov.bc.ca/reporting/enrol/class-size.php

Funding for students with special needs is also on the rise, and new

funding is being provided for helping students with autism. This year, we are providing new grants for playground expansions, more money for ESL programs, and new funding for community literacy programs, distance learning and seismically upgrading schools.

K-12 per pupil education spending



Source: Budget and Fiscal Plan 2009/10 - 2011/12

Pursuing excellence in education

A BC Liberal Government will continue to strive for excellence in literacy and education and accountability for results. New efficiencies will be sought to redirect savings from administration to new performance incentives that will be developed through the Learning Roundtable. We will launch a major education review to be sure we are putting up-to-date tools in the hands of parents and teachers that will work for all our children. We want every child to be excited by learning.

The Foundation Skills Assessment will remain an important part of our plan. We will also launch a comprehensive curriculum review to identify areas needing more attention, including a new focus on climate change, Aboriginal history, personal health and personal financial planning. The education of today must reflect the best research we have on child learning and teaching practices. We will work to ensure each dollar is being put to the best use in each classroom and parents will help shape the educational strategies of the decades ahead.

Parents also want new tools to help improve school safety and property protection for their kids.



A BC Liberal Government will give parents, teachers and principals the right to decide through School Planning Councils whether video surveillance cameras should be installed in their schools to help protect students and their property.

All day, voluntary five-year-old kindergarten will be established and the plan for its development will include early childhood education expansion for interested teachers. Eventually, voluntary preschool opportunities will be established for four-year-olds, as the economy starts to grow again.

We will continue to establish **StrongStart Centres** in schools across the province. This will help families and children get ready for exceptional educational experiences and will ensure our kids are ready for their school experiences.

The **Neighbourhoods of Learning** program, that we initiated last year, has captured the imaginations of a number of Boards of Education across the province. The Neighbourhoods of Learning model will be expanded and developed in concert with parents, community groups, Boards of Education and City Councils who are interested.

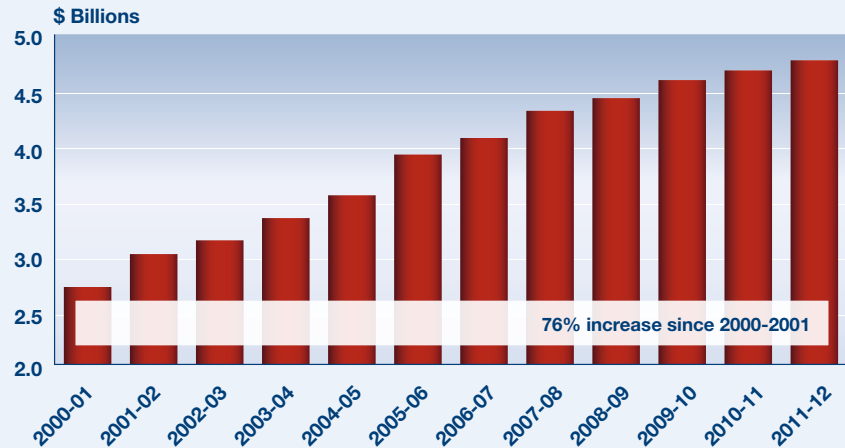
Increasing access to post secondary education

Premier Campbell's BC Liberal Government has led the largest expansion in post-secondary education in the last 40 years (see www.gov.bc.ca/yourbc/students). We have created seven new universities and three new medical schools, and have funded over \$1.6 billion of capital improvements to those and other institutions and colleges across BC. This has added nearly 36,700 new student spaces since 2001, including 2,500 new graduate spaces by the end of the year, such that anyone graduating high school with a B-average can get into university.

Seven New Universities:

- 1 **Vancouver Island University**
- 2 **University of the Fraser Valley**
- 3 **Kwantlen Polytechnic University**
- 4 **Emily Carr University of Art and Design**
- 5 **Capilano University**
- 6 **Thompson Rivers University**
- 7 **University of British Columbia – Okanagan**

Post-secondary funding



Source: Budget and Fiscal Plan 2009/10 - 2011/12 and 2008 British Columbia Financial and Economic Review, July 2008

As the chart above shows, our Platform calls for additional funding increases for advanced education over the next three years. By 2011/12, total funding for post-secondary education will be 76 per cent higher than under the NDP's last year in office.

We know that in these tough economic times, many more students and workers will choose to advance their education and skills. Now the student spaces are there to help them do that, closer to home, at thousands of dollars in savings in travel and accommodation costs.

A BC Liberal Government will further expand BC's post-secondary system with:

- A new law school at Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops in collaboration with the University of Calgary
- A new medical school at UBC Okanagan
- A new Wood Design and Innovation Centre at UNBC in Prince George
- A new Earth Systems Science Building at UBC
- A major expansion of the Sauder School of Business at UBC
- The new Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions, involving UVic, UBC, SFU and UNBC



For a flat fee that is the same for students throughout Metro Vancouver, and lower for students in other areas that have less access to public transit, all students will have equitable, affordable access to public transit in their regions. Students attending smaller universities or colleges deserve the same discounts as those attending the largest post-secondary institutes in each region. A BC Liberal Government will deliver that new support for students by September 2010.

New support for students

BC's undergraduate tuition fees at publicly-funded universities are currently the 5th lowest in Canada. They account for about one-third of the cost of each student space, while the taxpayers fund the remaining two-thirds.

We will continue to limit tuition increases to the rate of inflation. We will maintain this year's **higher funding levels for student aid** and create new time-limited tuition

assistance programs for displaced forest workers, miners and other workers to help them through this global recession.

A BC Liberal Government will also work with universities, colleges, TransLink and BC Transit to introduce a common U-Pass program for all post-secondary students across BC.

All student bodies will have the option to participate in a universal, accessible, affordable public transit program that lowers their transit costs.





Investing in trades and training

Funding for industry trades training and apprenticeships has increased by 42 per cent since 2001, with some 47,000 registered apprentices and trainees expected this year – more than triple the number under the NDP's last year in office. Our plan dedicates \$105 million per year to the Industry Trades Training Authority (ITA). By year end, we will have funded an additional 7,000 new apprenticeship spaces since 2007/08.

To stimulate new jobs for trades workers, we introduced a BC Training Tax Credit in 2007. It provides refundable income tax credits for employers who employ apprentices enrolled in any of the 100-plus apprenticeship programs covering over 140 careers administered through the ITA. The cost to government is about \$20 million a year.

A BC Liberal Government will build on its 2009 Budget by doubling the BC Training Tax Credit, effective July 1, 2009. Employers will be eligible for a tax credit of 10 per cent of salary and wages paid, to a new maximum of \$4,000 per apprentice, for any tax year in which the employee is still in the first 24 months of apprenticeship. This will be financed from savings in the contingency budget. It will create new incentives for job creation that will help trades workers and employers alike in these challenging economic times.

Enhancing support for ESL and immigrant services

Each year, more than 40,000 immigrants move to BC. Our plan includes new investments to help support them through WelcomeBC and enhanced ESL programs. It includes \$16 million over the next three years to help remove barriers to employment through the Skills Connect for Immigrants and the International Qualifications programs. Those programs will help immigrants get new skills, language support, credential recognition and workplace experience to overcome barriers to employment.

The Provincial Nominee program will also be enhanced to accelerate immigration for qualified skilled workers, designated health professionals, international graduates and experienced entrepreneurs. We will continue to push for the expansion of the federal Temporary Foreign Workers program. Skilled immigrants are key to meeting our labour force needs in health delivery, construction, information technology and new media, film and television production, life sciences, clean energy, engineering, and other vocations.





More services for children and families

Over the past eight years, an additional 300 front-line staff have been recruited to support at-risk children and families.

The budget for children and youth with special needs is three times greater than in 2001, and the autism treatment budget is 12 times higher than in the year 2000. Child care funding is now 42 per cent higher than in 2000, and the number of child care spaces qualifying for subsidies has doubled.

Our plan increases funding for Children and Family Development, which is now 40 per cent higher than in 2001.

Every child born in British Columbia on or after January 1, 2007 receives a \$1,000 grant that grows larger with interest to help fund their education after graduation.

We will increase funding for early childhood development, childcare and supports to children with special needs. The budget for Adult Community Living Services will also increase this year.

Providing new options for seniors

The global economy has taken a heavy toll on seniors' savings. Premier Campbell's Government responded by legislating new protection to secure RRSPs from

creditors and to provide unlimited deposit insurance on all deposits in credit unions. We urged the federal government to increase RRSP contribution limits and to ease the rules on mandatory RRIF withdrawals to give seniors more time for their investments to recover, and to make the best decisions for their personal circumstances.

We will continue to advocate an increase to the allowable RRSP contribution limit and to allow all seniors to continue contributing to their RRSPs until age 75. We will continue to seek an immediate, indefinite suspension of the mandatory withdrawal requirements on RRIFs, so that seniors are not forced to liquidate their investments now, and can instead wait for the markets to improve and their investment values to rebound.

We have outlawed mandatory retirement. Yet more can be done to allow seniors to work longer while collecting their pensions, without punitive income tax policies.

We will seek changes to allow the first \$20,000 of seniors' pension income to be completely tax exempt, with no penalties or clawbacks on any income earned above that amount.



Thousands of new homes for seniors

With seniors living longer, more active lives, we need to create new independent living options that better meet their needs in their communities. New “campuses of care” can help seniors to “age in place” as their needs become more complex. www.gov.bc.ca/yourbc/seniors/

For a decade, the NDP failed to invest in upgrading or increasing seniors’ housing. Thousands of units were allowed to deteriorate. Major repairs and renovations have been undertaken to make them safer and more suitable for seniors’

needs. We have upgraded or replaced over 6,500 units, to allow for proper wheelchair accessibility, new overhead lifts, new treatment technologies, more space to allow residential care attendants to assist seniors in bathing or grooming, and expanded lounge, activity, dining room and other social spaces.

Since 2001, the BC Liberal Government has added, upgraded or replaced over 12,400 assisted living, residential care and supportive housing beds, including 5,896 brand new beds. Wait times for access to residential care have declined from about a year in 2001, to an average of 15-90 days today. Funding for home care and community support has increased by over 61 per cent under Premier Campbell’s Administration.



Working with Kiwanis representatives, facilitated provincial funding via BC Housing Corp. for construction of the new \$14.7 million supportive and assisted living facility in West Vancouver between 21st and 22nd street. It provides 76 new affordable housing apartments for seniors.

Our Plan will:

- **Dedicate \$123 million to create 1,000 new homes for seniors and persons with disabilities across BC. Those units will be built this year, largely in smaller communities**
- **Establish a registry for residential care aides, so British Columbians can be confident that care aides who are disciplined by one care facility are tracked and known when applying for work at any other provincial care facility**
- **Legislate a new “Residents Bill of Rights” to set out clear commitments to care and to the rights of seniors living in residential care facilities, including the right to representation through resident and family councils**
- **Develop a new provincial website to give families new access to comparative, detailed information about residential care facilities**
- **Increase access to home-support services, in-home nursing and rehabilitative care to help seniors live more healthy, active, independent lives**



Dominion Hotel, Vancouver



Cordova Residence, Vancouver



Astoria Hotel, Prince George



Acadia Building, Kamloops

Ending homelessness with new solutions

Like most large cities across Canada, ours have been challenged by homelessness, despite record high investments in housing and unprecedented supports to help those in need. This year, we will spend \$469 million on housing programs in BC – four times more than in 2001.

The BC Liberals are focused on helping individuals and families break the cycle of homelessness. That is why we quadrupled funding for social and supportive housing since 2001 and nearly tripled the number of supportive housing units. That is why we doubled the number of shelter beds across BC and are creating more than 16,000 new units of subsidized housing and new 24/7 access to emergency shelters. We have purchased 45 single room occupancy hotels and affordable housing buildings, a \$130 million investment.

We will invest \$90 million in upgrading and renovating those 2,000 new units to protect them for affordable housing. We will expand the new outreach programs that now operate in 48 communities to connect homeless people with safe housing and shelters, income assistance, employment counseling, and

medical services. Over 80 per cent of the 4,600 people who have been helped by those outreach programs are still living in safe and secure housing today. That gives new stability to their lives. We will succeed in conquering homelessness one person at a time and in partnership with governments, the non-profit sector and private individuals who want to help.

The new Rental Assistance Program, which we established, now provides rental assistance of an average \$350 per month to more than 7,700 low-income, working families with children. That's **\$4,200 each year in new rental supports for low income families**. Seniors have also benefited from our **doubling of the Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER)** rent subsidy program. It now provides an average annual rental subsidy of \$1,800 to over 15,700 seniors – 3,700 more seniors than in 2001.

We will build on these and other initiatives by further investing more than \$172 million in housing projects on six sites in Vancouver, with another six sites ready to go when the city gives them appropriate approvals. Non-profit societies have been selected to manage the 569 new units as soon as they are complete, creating 1,100 new jobs. We are also investing \$130 million to build an additional 478 new housing units on 11 sites in seven additional communities, creating an estimated 830 direct jobs.

Cracking down on crime: over 1,000 new police officers

Since 2002, we've added 1,100 extra police officers across BC, including 168 more officers, and new anti-gang units in Prince George and Kelowna. Municipalities now receive 100 per cent of all traffic fine revenues, to help them hire more police and improve community safety. Local governments received no assistance under the NDP.

We have also created a team of 26 prosecutors who are dedicated to prosecuting gang and gun crimes. We have led the way in Canada in convincing the federal government to pursue tougher sentencing under the Criminal Code, including tougher bail provisions and eliminating the "two-for-one" credits for time served while waiting for trial that have historically reduced sentences for convicted criminals.

Our plan includes funding for more jails, new rewards for catching criminals, new steps to outlaw armoured vehicles and body armour used by gangs, and tough new licensing provisions for "prop masters" who supply replica weapons to the film industry. It includes new anti-gang outreach programs, to help prevent young people from joining gangs.

With our federal MPs, a BC Liberal Government will continue

Cracking down on gangs and gun crimes

1. More police officers
2. More prosecutors
3. More jails and secure courts
4. Tougher laws and sentences
5. Crackdown on illegal guns
6. Outlaw armoured vehicles and body armour
7. New gang hotlines and rewards program



to push for modern wiretap rules, simplified disclosure requirements, and mandatory jail for anyone carrying an illegal gun while on bail. We will give local governments in Metro Vancouver the opportunity to recommend the most appropriate site for a new maximum security remand centre. And we will work with local governments to pursue

regional policing models, more integrated policing units and amalgamated police forces, in keeping with the wishes of those communities.

For more on our plan to fight gangs, gun violence and organized crime visit www.gov.bc.ca/pssg



Improving community safety

British Columbia has led the way in fighting car thefts, with the largest “bait car” program of its kind in North America. Already it has helped reduce auto thefts by 38 per cent, or by 10,000 fewer stolen vehicles, since the program was launched in 2005. A BC Liberal Government will expand that and other programs aimed at reducing property crimes.

We created the first dedicated transit police force in Canada. It now has 130 armed officers on buses, SkyTrain, Seabus and the Westcoast Express who have full police powers. To make SkyTrain stations even more secure for women, youth and vulnerable citizens, we will invest in new “smartcard” technology that will also discourage fare evasion. We will also build on our recent efforts to introduce street cameras in high-risk areas. Those cameras help prevent street crimes and help police to catch and punish those who commit criminal acts.

Last summer, we opened Vancouver’s Downtown Community Court – a first in Canada. That court will process some 1,500 offenders a year, including many who are caught in the downward spiral of alcoholism, drug addiction, mental illness, homelessness and poverty. By taking individual problem-solving approach to address the underlying causes of their criminal behaviour, the Community Court is creating more effective relationships between the justice system, health and social services, community organizations, area residents, merchants, faith communities and schools.

Our Platform will expand Community Courts to other communities, to expedite sentencing and support aimed at preventing crimes, appropriately punishing criminals, and reducing repeat offenders. It will build on our government’s Safe Streets Act, with **new legislation to require those arrested with outstanding warrants from other provinces to be immediately returned to those jurisdictions. That new law will deny those individuals access to income assistance and other services, with residency requirements until they can prove that their warrants have been dealt with.**



A BC Liberal Government will also strengthen initiatives to stop school bullying, and it will move aggressively to combat the use and abuse of dangerous drugs, like crystal meth. It will expand partnerships with non-profit and volunteer organizations to further expand access to 24/7 safe homes for women escaping violent or abusive relationships.

Protecting our environment

No government in BC history has done as much to protect the environment as has Premier Campbell's Government. We have led Canada in developing aggressive action plans on climate change, water quality, air quality, fisheries management, ecosystem-based land-use planning, and sustainable growth in our communities. www.gov.bc.ca/yourbc/planet

Since 2001, we have created 57 new parks and expanded over 50 others, while adding 143 new conservancies and new ecological reserves. That has protected over 1.8 million hectares, an area three times larger than P.E.I. Over 14 per cent of our provincial landbase is now protected, or 13.5 million hectares – more than any other province in Canada. It's an area larger than Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and P.E.I. *combined*.



By finalizing land use plans in several areas across BC, we have created new certainty on the land base for forestry, mining, energy and other resource industries. We have eliminated a backlog of 3,000 Crown land applications that had

“As premier, he has shown his leadership on the environment, including overseeing BC becoming the first jurisdiction to introduce a Carbon Tax in North America.”

Gregor Robertson, Mayor, City of Vancouver

Source: Vancouver Sun, April 4, 2009



accumulated under the NDP and cost our economy \$1 billion and 20,000 jobs.

The massive new Central and North Coast Land Use Plans were put in place through an unprecedented partnership between governments, First Nations, environmental organizations and resource industries. With the Kitsoo First Nations, we have established a new Spirit Bear Conservancy to permanently provide secure habitat for B.C.'s Spirit Bear. In the Great Bear Rainforest a new ecosystem-based management regime will ensure all permitted activities within the area are environmentally sustainable and scientifically sound.

The Living Rivers Trust, our Water Plan and wetlands preservation measures are similarly enhancing protection for our precious salmon and fish habitats.

A BC Liberal Government will build on this strong foundation for environmental protection. It will extend BC's network of land conservancies, and implement new anti-idling measures, low-carbon fuel content standards and California-equivalent tailpipe standards on vehicle emissions.

The BC Liberal government will expand strategies to protect species at risk, to ensure BC remains a showcase of biological diversity.

We will honour our commitment to outlaw the dumping of raw sewage into the Strait of Juan de Fuca and help implement a new sewage treatment plan for Greater Victoria. We will work with the federal government to ensure an orderly transfer of regulatory oversight to the federal government for aquaculture fisheries management.

5 Investing in jobs and infrastructure



One of the best ways we can help to create jobs and keep people working in these tough times for our construction industry is to invest now in building and upgrading roads, bridges, airports, public transit, schools, hospitals, universities, community facilities, and other types of capital infrastructure. Working in partnership with the federal government, our \$14 billion capital construction plan will create up to 88,000 jobs in hundreds of construction projects across BC over the next three years.

As part of that plan, we have identified over 400 projects that are either ready to go or possible to accelerate for work to begin in the next few months. We have been working closely with the federal government to take advantage of their offer to help, with cost-sharing programs announced in the recent federal budget. Already, \$2.8 billion worth of those projects have

A \$14 billion capital construction plan

Working in partnership with the federal government

Hundreds of projects creating up to 88,000 new jobs

been approved and initiated across the province. For more information on those projects, visit www.gov.bc.ca/infrastructure

It makes sense to invest now in these projects, while interest rates are at record lows, building costs are down, and skilled workers are readily available. These capital construction projects are less expensive for BC taxpayers if we can build them with 50 per cent federal funding support or through public-private partnerships. Although that does add to our provincial "taxpayer-supported debt," these capital projects will benefit many generations to come.

These projects will create a new legacy of building in every community that has lasting value for everyone who ultimately

"pays the bills." It's debt that will be repaid like a mortgage on your home, with annual payments over two or three decades. But unlike dead-weight operating debt from deficits, that capital debt will be for tangible assets that we need now, and that will only get more expensive to build in the future. Nevertheless, like a mortgage, there are limits to the level of debt that government can afford to incur without placing undue future pressure on taxpayers, through higher debt-servicing costs that reduce future funding available for other services or that result in higher taxes.

Our Platform strikes the right balance. It maximizes immediate investments in critical infrastructure that will create jobs now and reduce long-term costs for taxpayers.



South Fraser perimeter road (artist's rendering)



Top left: Bennett Bridge, Top right: Port Mann (artist's rendering), Bottom left: Park Bridge, Bottom right: Golden Ears Bridge

Historically high investments in transportation

We've made countless improvements in transportation since 2001, with nearly \$4 billion in capital investments. Over 25,000 lane kilometres of roads have been paved, or the equivalent distance of paving from Vancouver to Halifax over five-and-a-half times. Our plan calls for over \$3.3 billion in new investments over the next three years, with **90 per cent of all current projects being built in areas outside of the Lower Mainland**. To learn more about the Campbell Government's transportation projects and plans in every region, visit <http://www.gov.bc.ca/projects.htm>

Eight years ago, we promised to open up BC with new investments that would open up Canada's Pacific Gateways in every region. We are delivering on that commitment with the new container Port of Prince

Rupert, the new William R. Bennett Bridge across Lake Okanagan, the new Sea-to-Sky Highway, and the new upgraded Simon Fraser Bridge and new multi-modal transportation hub in Prince George. We have made the largest border improvements in BC history and led the way in expediting border flows with enhanced Drivers' Licenses. We have built or are building, the new Pitt River Bridge and Mary Hill By-pass, the new Park Bridge at Kicking Horse Canyon, and major airport expansions in Comox, Terrace-Kitimat, Smithers, Prince George, Cranbrook, Kamloops and Nanaimo.

We eliminated tolls on the Coquihalla Highway, launched the largest public transit plan in BC history, and opened up the North, with the new Sierra Yoyo Desan resource road near Fort Nelson and major new investment in rural and remote roads. Our plan helped BC Ferries upgrade its terminals and deliver three new super-C class ferry vessels, that were delivered on time and under budget.

Some of the priorities for the future include:

- **Accelerating four-laning of the Cariboo Connector**
- **Building the new 10-lane Port Mann Bridge and the Gateway Project, including the new North and South Fraser Perimeter Roads**
- **Accelerated improvements to Highway 3, Highway 16, Highway 97, the Pine Pass, and the Trans-Canada Highway, from Kamloops to the Alberta border**
- **Completing the next phase of improvements to the Kicking Horse Canyon**
- **Expanding the Port of Prince Rupert and Deltaport**
- **Replacing 26 old ferries over the next 15 years with new state-of-the-art ships**
- **Delivering the \$14 billion provincial transit plan**
- **Replacing existing railway crossings on Lower Mainland roads with elevated crossings that allow traffic to flow freely**

The largest investment ever in public transit: \$14 billion



The new \$2 billion, 19-kilometre Canada Line linking downtown Vancouver to the International Airport in Richmond is on-budget and will open on Labour Day, three months ahead of schedule. For a copy of the new Provincial Transit Plan, visit: www.th.gov.bc.ca/Transit_Plan/index.html

- Double transit ridership by 2020 to over 400 million trips a year
- \$10.3 billion for four new and expanded rapid transit lines
- \$1.6 billion for 1,500 new, clean-powered buses to increase access to public transit in communities across BC
- \$1.2 billion for new RapidBus lines in Kelowna, Victoria and Metro Vancouver that will provide frequent, reliable, express service with few or no stops between main stations, and priority movement through dedicated lanes and overpasses
- New \$2 billion Canada Line, \$1.4 billion Evergreen Line, \$2.8 billion Broadway Station to UBC Line, \$3.1 billion to double capacity on the Expo Line, and \$1 billion for new rail cars
- New transit service across the new Port Mann Bridge
- Improved transit security from electronic gates, closed-circuit cameras, "smartcard" machines, and new security personnel
- Major transit studies underway to identify best transit options for the Fraser Valley and southern Vancouver Island, including upgrading the existing Southern Rail and E&N rail corridors
- Up to 1,000 secure bike lockers at transit exchanges
- Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of 4.7 million tonnes cumulatively by 2020 that will also improve air quality

Jobs in every region in mining, agriculture, manufacturing, film & technology



Source: Picture BC

Renewed confidence in our economy has helped our mining industry become one of the fastest growing mining regions in the world, up until the recent global economic crisis. In 2008, investment in mineral exploration was almost 1,300 per cent higher than in 2001, with 60 per cent of all Canadian exploration companies now based in BC, and a 786 per cent increase in mineral claims. Twelve metal mines have opened or reopened in BC since then. Half of all new mine development projects in Canada are here, in BC.

The BC Liberal Government encouraged mining by eliminating the Corporate Capital Tax and the sales tax on machinery and equipment. Canada's 2nd lowest

corporate income tax rates, new tax credits and deregulation initiatives all undertaken since 2001 have made a huge difference.

Over 28,000 miners depend on confidence remaining high in the government and in the province, so they can continue working in their high-paying mining jobs. Many of those workers are now facing layoffs due to the global recession. We are going to work with them, to extend the same support programs that have been available to forest workers to them and their families.

We are going to continue to streamline mine approval processes, cut corporate taxes, and lower costs on mining companies who risk their capital to help create jobs in our province. We will extend the Mining Flow-Through Share Tax Credit and open up new mining potential in the Northwest, by working with First Nations, the federal government and mining companies to build the new transmission line along the Highway 37 corridor. That new transmission line will also reduce remote communities' dependency on dirty diesel power and give them new access to clean electricity, as well as opening mining and new energy opportunities. That means jobs!

Our plan will build upon the new confidence created in every sector. It will deliver on the new Agriculture Plan www.al.gov.bc.ca/Agriculture_Plan/ and support new strategies to market BC-grown farm products and help ranchers, hog-growers,

wineries, and others get through these challenging times and expand their businesses.

Our Government will implement the new BC Research and Innovation Strategy www.tted.gov.bc.ca/TRI/research/Documents/strategy.pdf, expand access to venture capital, and work with the BC Innovation Council and the Premier's Technology Council to help maximize growth in new media, information technology, software, biotech, and clean tech. It will also pursue new strategies for manufacturing growth in value-added forestry and other growing manufacturing sectors.

"Gordon Campbell has delivered over a hundred different tax cuts for individuals, families and small businesses. So, we all keep more of what we earn and BC's in better shape than any other place in the country. Right now, there's no place I'd rather be because this province will weather this economic storm better than other places, thanks to Premier Campbell and his team."

***Justis Greene,
Film Producer, Disk Productions***

1,000,000 jobs and counting, working with small business

Small business has always been the backbone of our economy. Small businesses employ over a million people in BC and account for over one-third of our entire provincial economic activity. Confidence is key to the expansion and success of small businesses, and the new confidence created since our election in 2001 has generated 39,500 new small businesses and an additional 159,000 jobs in our communities.

But now, with the global economy hammering small businesses'

access to credit, cash flow and customer growth, the last thing small businesses need is a \$450 million cost imposed by the NDP to increase the minimum wage. The last thing they can afford is an increase in their payroll costs of close to 30 per cent, with benefits, as the Opposition's minimum wage policy would impose. We know that would only lead to more layoffs, more job losses and cash-strapped businesses that would be pushed into bankruptcy. That is why we acted instead to cut the small business income tax rate by 44 per cent, and doubled commissions for retailers who collect PST on the province's behalf. We want to remain a high-employment, high-wage province.

Our Platform is all about increasing consumer confidence and lowering costs on small business, to help



them become more competitive and to stimulate new business investment. If you're laying your life savings on the line to create or expand a small business, you need to know that the government will increase certainty and not add to your risks and costs with reckless changes in labour policy, employment standards, WorkSafe regulations, or other NDP experiments in "social engineering."

A BC Liberal Government will continue to lower costs for small business. It will:

- **Reduce the small business income tax to the lowest rate in Canada, by April 1, 2012**
- **Raise the small business income tax threshold to \$500,000, on January 1, 2010, to make more small businesses eligible for that significant tax advantage**
- **Double the maximum available BC Training Tax Credit by July 1, 2009**
- **Continue to reduce regulations and red tape**
- **Create a new voluntary, defined contribution pension plan for self-employed workers, small business owners and their employees**
- **Implement the Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement with Alberta**
- **Develop the new Western Economic Partnership with Alberta and Saskatchewan, to open up new opportunities for business expansions through harmonized procurement, regulatory and business registration processes**
- **Launch a review of the BC Assessment process, to identify improvements that might be made for fairer assessments to lower the unfair burden of property taxes on small businesses**

6 Building on our strategic advantages

Forging a new relationship with Indigenous Nations

It's about mutual respect and recognition

It's about new certainty on the land base

It's about closing the gaps in education, health, housing and economic opportunity



Four years ago, we embarked on a new relationship with First Nations. A relationship founded on mutual respect and recognition of Aboriginal rights and title. One that moves beyond the failed approaches of the past with constructive dialogue and a genuine desire to move forward together, as true partners in building a stronger BC.

We sought to engage one another with new trust and a shared resolve to improving the quality of life and living conditions for Aboriginal people. It was a historic agreement aimed at providing new certainty on the land base, new clarity about our mutual legal rights and responsibilities, and a new commitment to shared decision-making and to revenue and benefit sharing.

That new relationship has already led to more progress in the last four years than in the previous 150 years combined www.gov.bc.ca/yourbc/firstnations. The future will not be won through denial or through the old relationship marked by confrontation, litigation and institutionalized inequity. It will be built through formal recognition of Indigenous Nations and a new government-to-government relationship. It will be built through negotiation, consultation, accommodation and the reconciliation of Aboriginal peoples' constitutionally-protected inherent rights and title with the Crown's title, jurisdiction and obligations to all British Columbians.

For the first time ever in our province's history, we are poised to repair the damage caused by so many years of mistrust and misguided policies. We are looking forward to a positive future guided by a new Recognition and Reconciliation Act that sets out the principles for defining and honouring the province's new commitments to Indigenous Nations. That will produce new economic opportunity for all citizens and it will create new confidence in our economy and on our the land base.



Source: Picture BC

Forestry for today and tomorrow

Forestry has always been a mainstay of BC's economy. It will continue to be as wood gains in prominence as a building material, and as the new Asia markets open their doors to a wood culture. Our industry has been battered by the mountain pine beetle, the collapse of the US housing market, falling lumber prices, new global competition and of course, by the softwood lumber dispute.

But our forest industry has a bright future as we enter the new low carbon economy, develop new biofuels to meet the world's growing demand, create new building products to meet growing needs and become recognized as the world's best forest stewards, with the world's most productive and creative forest workers.

Canada is recognized as the world's largest softwood lumber

exporter, and British Columbia has by far the largest share of those exports. We are a global leader in dimensional lumber, panels, pulp and paper, and value-added forestry products. The Softwood Lumber Agreement has provided new stability of access to our largest market, the United States.

That Agreement has also returned \$2.4 billion in US duties to our forest companies, which is helping them weather this downturn and minimize worker impacts. Now is not the time to take risks with our largest trading partner as the NDP has suggested. It could potentially cost thousands of jobs.

We will develop new uses for wood, new markets and new value in growing trees, as recommended by the Working Roundtable on Forestry. That will create unprecedented potential for sustainable growth, thousands of new jobs for forest workers and new stability for forest-dependent communities. For more on our vision for forestry, check out www.gov.bc.ca/for/



Supporting resource workers

A BC Liberal Government will continue to help forest workers and their families through these challenging economic times.

We will provide an additional \$30 million in new funding to expand and supplement the \$129-million federally funded Community Development Trust we launched last year. That Trust is delivering new transitional and pension bridging support for older workers, new tuition assistance to help forest workers upgrade or diversify their skills, and new job opportunities to keep people working.

Across British Columbia, we have given all families facing financial hardship, including those in hard hit resource industries, the option of deferring their property taxes in each of the next two years, for as long as they own their home. That will save many families thousands of dollars in avoided property tax, now when they need that money the most. We worked with other provinces to convince the federal government to extend Employment Insurance benefits.

A BC Liberal government will do more. Rather than having many laid-off workers in forestry and in other sectors exhaust their E.I. benefits, **a BC Liberal Government will propose a new national Extended Employment Insurance Program. Working with other provinces and the federal government, it would aim at stopping the spiral into dependency that comes when workers exhaust their E.I. benefits and are forced to resort to Income Assistance programs.**

In the new Extended Employment Insurance program provincial governments would direct the dollars that would normally be used for income assistance into employment insurance if the federal government would agree to top up those payments up to regular E.I. benefits for up to an additional year. This would help keep workers from entering into a downward spiral that comes with disposing of assets and other major moves that create real challenges.

We expect Canada and BC to come out of this downturn earlier than many other places and this plan would build a secure bridge to those workers' futures.

“Wood First”: Strengthening Canada’s forest industry



We have to look to ourselves to create new demand for our forest products. We need to maximize growth in our domestic market first. A BC Liberal Government will continue to expand its **“Wood First”** policy to require wood as the primary building material in all new publicly-owned and provincially-funded buildings, consistent with the new *BC Building Code*.

That new Building Code now provides for the construction of six-storey buildings, up from four storeys. That will dramatically increase the wood content of buildings in the public and private sectors alike, and will allow BC to lead the way in new wood construction techniques that can be marketed around the world. Our new “Wood First” policy will not only apply to structural

designs, it will also apply to building finishing designs, inside and out. Wood is the best environmental building material, is less expensive to build with, and will help secure long-term markets and long-term jobs for our forest workers.

When we welcome the world in 2010, we will showcase spectacular new buildings that feature BC wood, such as the new Richmond Olympic Oval that showcases one million board feet of mountain pine beetle timber and the new Vancouver Convention Centre’s spectacular hemlock walls and fir beams. Wood will now be featured in every way possible in buildings across BC. **We will push for a new national “Wood First” policy to create new demand for renewable, “carbon-neutral” Canadian wood products across Canada.** As we move across the country we intend to move both south of the border and around the world expanding trade, markets and jobs.



Creating new wood products, new jobs and a stronger economy

Our goal is to help BC become the world’s acknowledged leader in wood construction. While the housing market is facing a significant downturn, the non-residential market (schools, hospitals, malls and other large buildings) continue to be built. Wood is only currently used in 19 per cent of those buildings in North America. We can change that.

A BC Liberal Government will create a new **Wood Innovation and Design Centre in Prince George**, at UNBC, working in partnership with UBC, as part of the new Wood Enterprise Centre. It will provide architects, designers, engineers and builders with new training and information on how to master the use of wood in commercial, institutional and mid-rise residential buildings. It will leverage existing expertise to develop and promote new building technologies and new applications for our innovative wood products. And it will promote new uses for beetle-killed wood in buildings.

Turning waste wood into clean, renewable energy

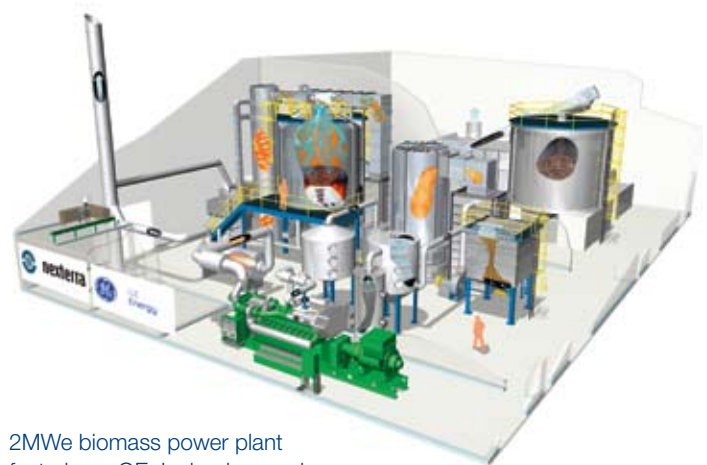
One of the largest opportunities for our forest industry is to develop BC's unlimited potential in bioenergy. We can use waste wood that has been left on the forest floor, and trees ravaged by the mountain pine beetle, to generate new clean electricity that can create new jobs and opportunities for families in forest-dependent communities. That's what our new **\$35-million Bioenergy Strategy** is all about. Check out: www.energyplan.gov.bc.ca/bioenergy

We can also use that fibre to create new low-carbon cellulosic ethanol that offers about four times more net energy than other biofuels. We can use it to produce biodiesel fuel. Wood pellet production is one of the fastest growing value-added export opportunities. It dries and compresses waste wood into pellets that can be used as fuel in new clean-burning pellet stoves that produce virtually no smoke. It has great potential to maximize the economic value of our forests.

A BC Liberal Government will continue to aggressively pursue these opportunities for clean energy through new tenures that provide new access to waste wood and to stable fibre supplies for bioenergy. It will build on BC Hydro's recent bioenergy and clean energy power calls, with new measures to make these clean forms of energy more economically viable.

Creating new value from our forests

The export of raw logs is only allowed if they are deemed to be surplus to domestic needs. The best way to reduce even the current amount is to create more domestic demand for those logs. We will



2MW biomass power plant featuring a GE Jenbacher engine

create that demand by expanding value-added growth in manufacturing and engineered wood products. Our goal is to generate more economic value per hectare of forest-land than any other jurisdiction on Earth, by 2020.

A new **Value for Wood Secretariat** will be created to provide a one stop access to government agencies aimed at expanding and expediting investments in value-added growth. To help meet that end, we will also establish a **new Commercial Forest Reserve** that ensures harvested lands continue to be protected as a forest asset.

We will work with First Nations and communities to give them more access to fibre that they can depend upon for value-added growth. We will work to stimulate innovation and commercialization and to promote wood education and culture. We will facilitate the "right fibre to the right process," to make better use of small dimension timber, different species, and grades of fibre. Our vision is to eliminate waste and to leave no part of the tree unused. To that end, we will also introduce new "lump sum" sales, where licensees can buy an area of timber instead of only paying for the trees they harvest.

Opening up new markets for BC wood products

Although British Columbia is far less dependent on the United States than other provinces in Canada for many of its exports, the same cannot be said for our softwood exports. The United States is, by far, our largest customer and will remain so for many years to come. That is why the Softwood Lumber Agreement is so important.

A BC Liberal Government will continue to honour that Agreement which creates stability in our forest industry. The NDP forest critic has counselled that “we take our chances” on policies that could jeopardise the Agreement. We profoundly disagree. That would only expose our forest industry and our forest workers to new American countervail duties and other protectionist measures that would hurt our forest workers and companies.

As we open our markets in Canada and across North America, we will build our markets in Europe and Japan, which already account for over 90 per cent of all BC wood pellet exports. We will also continue to build new markets for BC wood products in Asia, particularly India, China and Korea. We will pursue additional demonstration projects like the wood frame construction of schools in China, as we set the

example here at home with wood as the primary building material for schools, health facilities and other public buildings. We will build on the significant expansion of BC wood exports that is being realized through new wood roof truss construction in Shanghai and new wood landscape projects in Guangdong Province. Both of those endeavours represent multi-billion dollar opportunities for the BC forest industry.

We will increase BC's marketing budget in China by 50 per cent and open up new international trade offices in Asia.

It will help deliver on our goal of selling four billion board feet of lumber into China by 2011. This would represent 30 per cent of our annual production, add to the opportunities in forestry and help balance off the dependence we currently have with the US market.

Creating new value from tree planting and carbon sinks

The new green economy provides new opportunities for BC to build on its expertise in silviculture and plant more trees as “carbon sinks” that can attract new investments for carbon offsets under the new provincial **Pacific Carbon Trust**. Sophisticated tree

improvement programs, intensive forest management, fertilization, pre-commercial thinning, multiple brushings all will help us get more economic, social and environmental value from our forests.

Our new vision for silviculture will include a new tenure specifically designed for growing trees, as outlined in the government's new discussion paper www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/silviculture/discussion_paper



Our British Columbia tree planters have planted over 6 billion seedlings in the last 80 years. We will add to that pace. We are the first jurisdiction in Canada to adopt a ground-breaking **Zero Net Deforestation** policy. We will continue to invest in our multi-million dollar **Mountain Pine Beetle Action Plan** working with local communities, and to invest millions more in our **Forests for Tomorrow** program, which has already planted 17 million seedlings, and will plant 60 million more seedlings by 2013. For more information on all of these initiatives, see www.gov.bc.ca/for

Canada's Pacific Gateway: 255,000 new jobs in BC alone

No markets on Earth offer more promise for growth in trade, investment and tourism than the new economic giants on the Pacific Rim. Japan, China, South Korea, Taiwan, India and the ASEAN countries offer incredible potential for British Columbia. We are Canada's front door on the Asia Pacific. As Canada's Asia Pacific Gateway we are also North America's closest location to those burgeoning economies.

Not only are we geographically closer than our competitors, we are increasingly linked through families and relationships. More than one-quarter of British Columbia's population identified itself as Asian in the most recent Canadian census. Over a quarter of all BC's exports are to Asian countries. About a quarter of all Asian immigrants to Canada migrate to BC. BC now hosts almost half of all tourists from the Asia Pacific to Canada. A number of our schools have ESL populations that are 40 or 50 per cent of the entire student body.

By 2020, many experts predict that China's economy will be larger than that of the United States. Today, China is BC's second



largest trading partner, after the USA, with \$12 billion in bilateral trade last year. Japan is the second-largest economy in the world, and imports more than \$5 billion worth of BC exports a year. Some experts now predict that India's GDP per capita will quadruple by 2020, and its economy will surpass the United States by 2043. Korea is our fourth-largest trading partner, with bilateral trade levels of more than \$3.7 billion in 2008. These are enormous opportunities for all of us.

We are blessed with a wealth of resources needed to power those countries' economies into the future – clean energy, wood,

metals, coal and human talent. We have the potential to generate an additional \$76 billion in annual trade and 255,000 new jobs by 2020.

To seize that advantage, we will open up our ports, airports, rail and trucking corridors, to handle the growing volume of container shipping business that will be flowing between our two continents. We will expand the Port of Prince Rupert with phase two development and continue to enhance the Metro Vancouver Ports in our southern communities. Our international airports create enormous opportunities for trade, tourism and educational and cultural exchange.

Canada's Pacific Gateway: 255,000 new jobs in BC alone (continued)



Whether its Prince George or Comox, Cranbrook or Nanaimo, Vancouver or Abbotsford we can benefit with millions of dollars in economic growth, with a new national Open Skies policy that allows international air carriers direct flights between our cities and international markets. There are enormous economic and job benefits from Asia alone. We will harmonize our domestic trading and shipping regulations to expedite trade and lower shipping costs and add to our economy.

We must remain competitive to keep our economy strong and we have to send a message of stability to create investor confidence. We have lowered taxes and eliminated the Corporate Capital Tax that had alienated investment under the NDP. We are opening up international trade offices throughout the Pacific

Rim. We are establishing new partnerships with key cities in China and throughout the Pacific Rim, including new international partnerships in education, health research, exchange programs, and more.

The new One World Scholarships are all directed at strengthening our ties with the international community. We are a small open trading economy and international relationships are our economy's life blood. The largest single international promotion we will ever have the opportunity to capitalize on will be the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

For more information, check out:
www.canadaspacificgateway.ca or
www.gov.bc.ca/ecdev/down/asia_pacific_initiative_out.pdf.

BC: Canada's clean energy giant

British Columbia is becoming world renowned as Canada's clean energy powerhouse. Energy is now by far our largest single source of provincial revenue and our fastest growing industrial sector. We have massive deposits of clean, natural gas and tremendous potential in clean, renewable energy of all kinds – wind, thermal, run-of-river hydro, solar, tidal and bioenergy. A critical key to our economic future is conservation and investment in clean energy and new energy technologies that will help the world solve its problems. We can lead the way.

Harnessing this potential is our opportunity. We must grasp that chance now, for the benefit of the generations that follow. As the world searches for low-carbon energy alternatives to dirty coal power or nuclear power, we can show them how it's done. Just as we built this province by capitalizing on our enormous potential in large-scale hydro power, so too can we create new opportunities for sustainable jobs in every region by opening up our new opportunities in energy. That's what our Clean Energy Plan is all about. www.energyplan.gov.bc.ca

The new Northern energy corridor: billions in investment and thousands of jobs

Since 2001, revenue from oil and gas has increased by nearly 60 per cent. It's now more than three-times than the average in the 1990's. The industry has invested almost \$30 billion in that time, creating 34,000 direct and indirect jobs. Capital investment is up by 61 per cent, at over \$5 billion. Thanks to government policy and some enormous new discoveries, oil and gas land rights sales soared to \$2.66 billion last year – double the previous record high set only a year earlier.

Confidence is the key to that investment. And key to that confidence has been responsible taxes, new royalty regimes to encourage summer drilling and "tight gas" exploration, new investments in resource roads, streamlined approval processes, and a government that welcomes and encourages that investment.

A BC Liberal Government will continue to build upon that foundation and the estimated 52 trillion cubic feet of conventional gas and 650 trillion cubic feet of unconventional gas that we have in BC. If all of that gas were recoverable, it would be enough to heat 650 million homes for 15 years. That would reduce greenhouse gas emissions resulting from coal and other forms of power by hundreds of millions of tonnes.

We will work with Northern communities, including First Nations, to open up BC's energy potential in the Horn River, Montney, Bowser and Nechako Basins. We will give those residents the opportunity to open up a new Northern energy corridor that could carry liquefied natural gas from the Peace River to Asia, via the Port of Kitimat.

Pending a thorough environmental assessment, we will decide whether to build a new energy corridor from across the North that could foster billions in investment and create thousands of construction jobs, new wealth for Northern communities including a new supply and distribution centre in the Northwest and new Port development for Kitimat that would complement the new container facility at Prince Rupert.

"We may not be immune from what's happening in the world's economies, but we're in better shape than any other place I can think of, and that's no accident. Gordon Campbell and the BC Liberals got our financial house in order, and that's making a big difference in these tough times. That kind of leadership works."

Johnathon Rhone, President & CEO Nexterra Energy

Renewable energy and sustainable jobs for rural BC

BC Hydro and BC Transmission Corporation will remain Crown corporations under public ownership under a BC Liberal government. If the Site C hydro project ultimately goes ahead, after extensive environmental reviews and public consultation processes, it will do so as a public asset, owned by BC Hydro. The same is true of major upgrades in transmission lines as we move to a new generation of smart electricity grids throughout the province. BC Hydro, its dams and its generation facilities are heritage assets which will be kept in public ownership.

New generation or transmission capacity, like the proposed Highway 37 transmission line and new clean independent power projects will be built with new private sector investments



Source: Picture BC/WAC Bennett Dam

that transfer risks from the taxpayer to those investors. At the same time, new measures like in-home metering, smart grids and **LiveSmartBC** energy efficiency incentives will be implemented to help meet our goal of becoming electricity self-sufficient by 2016. Fifty per cent of all incremental electricity demand from now until 2020 will be met through increased conservation, and at least 90 per cent of all of our

electricity will be from clean, renewable sources.

We will move BC from being a net importer of dirty coal power from the United States and elsewhere, to a model of clean, renewable power that reduces regional greenhouse gas emissions on all sides of our borders. We will maintain our competitive advantage from low cost heritage power, for residential and industrial users alike.

“Premier Campbell is definitely the leader in Canada when it comes to creating jobs in a green economy. No other government has made the kind of commitments and changes he’s introduced. Our kids will thank him for having the foresight and courage to stand up for the environment and build an economy that emphasizes new, green jobs.”

Donald McInnes, Vice-Chairman and CEO Plutonic Power

Building the strength of rural BC



Source: Picture BC

Rural and remote communities stand to benefit enormously from new investment and jobs in small and mid-size independent power projects. Countries around the world are all looking at British Columbia with envy, as they try to find new sources of green energy that can help them meet their obligations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. When the new

regional “cap and trade” system kicks in, in 2012, this will be all the more important for British Columbia and all members of the Western Climate Initiative.

The answer to today’s power challenges is not to do as the NDP would do, and abandon the commitment to electricity self-sufficiency, or reject private sector investment in clean power generation and lose thousands of potential jobs in rural BC. The answer is not to pretend that our population and our economy will not grow, or to neglect the new energy demands we will face from new electric plug-in vehicles and other technologies.

Rather, the answer is to embrace our potential in clean energy production and build on that advantage as a critical economic driver of jobs and growth, especially in rural and remote communities. As we develop these new technologies they become commercially viable products for export around the world.

To help ensure that we develop our electricity potential in a plan that meets British Columbians’ long-term needs, the BC Utilities Commission is currently conducting an Inquiry. See www.bcuc.com/sectionfiveinquiry.aspx



Source: Picture BC



Building the strength of rural BC (continued)

As stated in a recent public notice inviting all British Columbians to participate in that process, it will assess our electricity generation and transmission resources in BC that will potentially be developed during the next 30 years, and the most cost-effective and most probable sequence(s) of development by geographic area.

In conducting that public review, “The Commission must take into consideration various factors such as utility long-term resource plans, domestic load requirements, export opportunities for clean, renewable or low-carbon electricity, and areas in BC that will be inappropriate for development of generation resources, including but not limited to, parks and protected areas... The Commission must not make determinations on the merits of specific generation projects or with respect to the specific routing or technology of transmission projects.”

This should give all British Columbians the confidence to know that we will develop our potential in run-of-the-river projects and other forms of clean, renewable energy to meet public needs, in the public interest.

As that process continues over the next several months, **a BC Liberal Government will also appoint**

a Green Energy Advisory Task Force. It will be comprised of leading climate change experts, academics, environmental leaders, government representatives and industry experts, and it will look at how we might maximize our growth in clean energy at the lowest net impact to our environment.

As we develop these new forms of green energy, supported by investments from the new **Innovative Clean Energy Fund**, we will also support new energy solutions in solar, tidal, methane capture from landfills, and fuel cell technologies. We will support new solar power solutions that can help remote communities eliminate their dependency on diesel power. We will create new incentives for homeowners and industrial property owners, to equip 100,000 solar roofs with solar water heating and solar photovoltaics by 2020.

A BC Liberal Government will open the first leg of the Hydrogen Highway in time for the Olympics. We will work in partnership with the Pacific Coast states, to establish hydrogen fuelling stations that will allow vehicles to travel from BC to Baja, California.

A BC Liberal Government will lead the way in commercializing the production of cellulosic ethanol and biodiesel, and will actively support our growing expertise in vehicles powered by compressed natural gas and liquefied natural gas.

Capitalizing on our unique “Olympic advantage”

In 10 months, over three billion people around the world will watch us host the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. It's the biggest show on earth, and the largest tourism marketing opportunity on the planet. It will launch both BC and Canada into a 21st century world of opportunity. We will use that unique advantage to leverage new tourism, investment, trade and jobs.

The Olympics has already been a major driver of private sector investment, economic growth and job creation in BC. They are giving our economy a boost. This year VANOC alone is spending between \$3 million and \$4 million a day. The Games and related activity are estimated to create 244,000 jobs. Just the Games themselves will generate an estimated \$4 billion worth of direct economic benefit that is creating and sustaining jobs in every region.



We will build on this incredible strategic advantage, in partnership with the 95 Spirit Committees that have been established, representing over 266 communities across BC. The Torch Relay alone will travel to 266 communities all across BC. It is estimated that about 92 per cent of all British Columbians will be within a one hour drive of the torch relay's route. That 106-day journey across Canada will start in Victoria, on October 30th. Host communities in every region of the province will get to celebrate that Torch Relay's visit.

We will all benefit from Olympic-related economic activity before, during and long after the Games.

Together, British Columbians will showcase their talent, their communities, their culture and their province to the world. We will use this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to forge new global awareness of our amazing tourist attractions, of our world-class amenities and institutions, our diverse population and of our burgeoning role as Canada's Pacific Gateway.

“Fuelled by the 2010 Vancouver Olympic Games ... the province will get back on its feet next year. Real GDP will turn around from a 0.1 per cent drop this year to a nation-leading 4.3 per cent gain in 2010.”

*Conference Board of Canada,
Provincial Outlook – Winter 2009*





Vancouver Convention Centre



Vancouver Art Gallery



Squamish Lil'wat

Opening up BC's potential in tourism

Since 2001, we have put in place a strategic plan (see www.gov.bc.ca/tca) to double tourism revenues with related new strategies for cultural tourism and Aboriginal tourism. To that end, we have more than doubled funding to the tourism industry and greatly enhanced regional tourism marketing initiatives. Last year, tourism generated over \$13 billion in economic activity – up 35 per cent from 2002. Tourism now employs over 120,000 workers in BC and indirectly supports another 170,000 jobs.

We are opening up new tourism offices in key global markets and working with communities to open up new destination resorts, “circle tours,” and stunning facilities, like the new Convention Centres in Penticton and Vancouver, the refurbished BC Place Stadium that will be home to the new Vancouver MLS Whitecaps Soccer Club, and the Squamish Lil'wat, Haida and Nk'Mip Desert Cultural Centres.

It is why we established the \$150-million BC150 Cultural Fund and are investing \$50 million in a new generation Vancouver Art Gallery. Our film, visual, and musical arts communities help define a rich cultural diversity and vibrancy that always puts BC in a great light internationally.

Carole James opposed the Olympics

“I wasn't a supporter of going for the Olympic bid.”

Carole James, Leader of the NDP Pulp, Paper & Woodworkers of Canada Annual Convention, March 11, 2004

Investing in innovation, research and technology



The most critical resource in the new knowledge economy is skilled people. It is human talent, ingenuity, creativity and discovery that will ultimately fuel our economy and help keep BC strong. That is why Premier Campbell's Government has invested over \$1.5 billion in advanced research – more than any other government in BC history.

We have made record funding commitments to the BC Knowledge Development Fund, and new research and regional innovation chairs, through the **Leading Edge Endowment Fund**. We have dedicated record amounts to advancing cancer research, Alzheimer research, genome and life sciences research, therapeutic drug research, and climate research. The ICORD Spinal Research centre, the Brain Research Centre, Centre for Hip Health and Mobility and Prostate Research Centre are putting our doctors, scientists and clinical researchers at the leading edge

of research. The Michael Smith Foundation is constantly breaking through with new discoveries that help people around the world. All of that has helped leverage over \$1 billion in other new research and development that has created countless spin-off businesses and new jobs.

A BC Liberal Government will strengthen that foundation, working in partnership with our leading public research institutes: the Michael Smith Foundation, Genome BC, the BC Innovation Council, the Premier's Technology Council, the BC Technology Industry Association, Life Sciences BC, Geosciences BC, and other leading edge institutions. The new Wood Innovation and Design Centre at UNBC and the new Pacific Centre for Climate Solutions will also help shape that future. Major new investments will be made in health research at BCIT, earth sciences at UBC, and cancer research.

Building our creative economy

In the new creative economy, art, theatre, culture, sport, design and other creative enterprises are integral components of a thriving technology industry and a vibrant society that can attract and retain highly skilled workers. People want to live, work and invest in British Columbia because they know that our creative economy offers

a quality of life that is second to none. More than 78,000 people work in BC's art and cultural sector, which contributes over \$5 billion each year to our provincial economy.

The new, \$150-million BC150 Cultural Fund will give a tremendous boost to that sector, as has the BC Arts Renaissance Fund, the new Spirit of BC Arts Fund, and the Cultural Olympiad. The refurbished Vancouver East Cultural Centre, the new BC Spirit Squares, and the Olympic Live Centres across our province all contribute to our cultural diversity. The Merritt Mountain Music Festival and the prospect of Canadian Country Music Hall of fame all add to the richness of our lives.



Vancouver East Cultural Centre

From the new Centre for Digital Media at Great Northern Way Campus, to the new Northern Sport Centre in Prince George, or the incentives now helping our film industry, we are creating new jobs and opportunities. We are adding funding for provincial heritage sites, including Barkerville and Fort Steele. We are building on the many programs in sport, art and literacy now delivered through Legacies Now to open up BC's creative economy, and to build confidence that keeps BC strong.



Premier Gordon Campbell
Vancouver-Point Grey



Randy Hawes
Abbotsford-Mission



John van Dongen
Abbotsford South



Michael de Jong
Abbotsford West



Dianne St Jacques
Alberni-Pacific Rim



John Slater
Boundary-Similkameen



Lee Rankin
Burnaby-Edmonds



Pat Pimm
Peace River North



Blair Lekstrom
Peace River South



Bill Barisoff
Penticton



Bernie Hiller
Port Coquitlam



Iain Black
Port Moody-Coquitlam



Dawn Miller
Powell River-Sunshine Coast



Pat Bell
Prince George-Mackenzie



Shirley Bond
Prince George-Valemount



Harry Bloy
Burnaby Lougheed



Richard Lee
Burnaby North



John Nuraney
Burnaby-Deer Lake



Donna Barnett
Cariboo-Chilcotin



Bruce Ernst
Cariboo North



John Les
Chilliwack



Rob Howard
Richmond Centre



Linda Reid
Richmond East



John Yap
Richmond Steveston



Murray Coell
Saanich North and the Islands



Robin Adair
Saanich South



George Abbott
Shuswap



Donny van Dyk
Skeena



Scott Groves
Stikine



Barry Penner
Chilliwack-Hope



Mark McKee
Columbia River-Revelstoke



Don McRae
Comox Valley



Douglas Horne
Coquitlam-Burke Mountain



Dennis Marsden
Coquitlam-Maillardville



Cathy Basskin
Cowichan Valley



Jeannie Kanakos
Delta North



Wally Oppal
Delta South



Kevin Falcon
Surrey-Cloverdale



Jagmohan Singh
Surrey-Fleetwood



Rani Mangat
Surrey-Green Timbers



Ajay Caleb
Surrey-Newton



Stephanie Cadieux
Surrey-Panorama



Dave Hayer
Surrey-Tynehead



Radhia Benalia
Surrey Whalley



Gordon Hogg
Surrey-White Rock



Carl Ratsoy
Esquimalt-Royal Roads



Rich Coleman
Fort Langley-Aldergrove



Ella Brown
Fraser Nicola



Jody Twa
Juan de Fuca



Terry Lake
Kamloops-North Thompson



Kevin Krueger
Kamloops-South Thompson



Norm Letnick
Kelowna-Lake Country



Steve Thomson
Kelowna-Mission



Dr. Margaret MacDiarmid
Vancouver-Fairview



Mary McNeil
Vancouver-False Creek



Kash Heed
Vancouver-Fraserview



Syrus Lee
Vancouver-Kensington



Bill Yuen
Vancouver-Kingsway



Dr. Moira Stilwell
Vancouver-Langara



Sherry Wiebe
Vancouver-Mount Pleasant



Colin Hansen
Vancouver-Quilchena



Bill Bennett
Kootenay East



Brenda Binnie
Kootenay West



Mary Polak
Langley



Ken Stewart
Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows



Marc Dalton
Maple Ridge-Mission



Jeet Manhas
Nanaimo



Rob Hutchins
Nanaimo-North Cowichan



John Rustad
Nechako Lakes



Laura McDiarmid
Vancouver-West End



Eric Foster
Vernon-Monashee



Dallas Henault
Victoria-Beacon Hill



Jesse McClinton
Victoria-Swan Lake



Ralph Sultan
West Vancouver-Capilano



Joan McIntyre
West Vancouver-Sea to Sky



Ben Stewart
Westside Kelowna

Pending nomination:
Vancouver-Hastings



Josh Smienk
Nelson Creston



Carole Millar
New Westminster



Herb Pond
North Coast



Marion Wright
North Island



Naomi Yamamoto
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