

**STRONG
ECONOMY
SECURE
TOMORROW**

**DEBT
FREE BC**

**CHRISTY
CLARK
TODAY'S
BC LIBERALS**



Today's BC Liberals

2013 Platform



PLATFORM SUMMARY

From a Jobs Plan to a Debt-Free B.C.

TODAY BRITISH COLUMBIA STANDS TALL as a safe harbour in a world marked with economic turmoil.

But soon, we will all have to make a choice.

Does British Columbia keep moving forward, or do we risk sliding back to our darker past? That's the question that matters on May 14, 2013.

Choosing Today's BC Liberals means choosing a balanced budget, a growing economy, small government, and low taxes.

Returning to the NDP means a return to bigger government, consistently reckless spending, more debt, and higher taxes.

Our platform

Strong Economy. Secure Tomorrow. reflects the strength, competence, and diversity of Today's BC Liberals.

Our platform is divided into five key themes that outline our vision for B.C.'s future and how we intend to get there. Our plan is responsible. Our plan is practical. Our plan is affordable. But most importantly, our plan recognizes that this election shouldn't just be about the people who call British Columbia home today.

If it isn't okay for parents to leave their children with debt, then it isn't okay for government to leave future generations saddled with debt either. That's why Today's BC Liberals are the right choice for British Columbia.

It starts with a Jobs Plan...

...and ends with a Debt-Free B.C.

Highlights

Our platform is divided into five key themes that outline our vision for B.C.'s future.

STRONG ECONOMY

The B.C. Jobs Plan protects our future

- » Comprehensive strategy to seize B.C.'s liquefied natural gas (LNG) opportunity
- » Small Business tax cut and red tape reduction
- » Targeted strategies to spur growth across B.C.'s economy

Modernizing Education and Skills Training

- » Skills training to make sure B.C. workers are first in line for jobs
- » A 10-year education agreement that respects teachers and benefits students
- » Early childhood education and childcare benefits for families

SECURE TOMORROW

A Safe, Clean, Healthy and Affordable B.C.

- » Leading Canada in the reduction of crime
- » Protecting our water, air, land and coastline
- » Doubling hospice beds, training more doctors, and adding 500 addiction spaces
- » Putting the freeze on personal income tax rates and the carbon tax

Controlling Spending and Balancing the Budget

- » Capping government spending increases
- » Launching a core review of government ministries
- » Toughening B.C.'s balanced budget legislation

Roadmap for a Debt-Free B.C.

- » Debt Paydown Plan for government debt, BC Ferries and BC Hydro
- » Dedicating LNG revenues to the B.C. Prosperity Fund
- » Controlling spending while growing the economy

STRONG ECONOMY. SECURE TOMORROW.

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Today's BC Liberals

2013 Platform

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STRONG ECONOMY. SECURE TOMORROW.

Today's BC Liberal Plan

A message from Premier Christy Clark

In this provincial election, British Columbians will face a choice between Today's BC Liberals' plan to control spending, create jobs and keep the economy growing, or going back to the NDP who will run up debt and grow the size of government.

Under the 1990s NDP, we became a have-not province for the first time in our history. Per-capita economic growth fell to dead last in Canada, and the provincial debt load doubled. Starting in 2001 we turned the page and, through diligence and focus, got our fiscal house in order and climbed back out of the NDP's have-not status. Now, we're at a crossroads. Do we keep moving forward, or do we risk sliding back?

With our balanced budget and the BC Jobs Plan, Today's BC Liberals want to grow the economy and pay off the provincial debt. A key part of this plan is taking advantage of our once-in-a-generation opportunity to

develop a new industry by exporting Liquefied Natural Gas to Asian markets. Over the next 30 years, this clean resource has the potential to generate \$1 trillion in economic activity, \$100 billion for the BC Prosperity Fund, and 100,000 high-paying jobs. The NDP refuse to come clean on their position on natural gas and would blow this historic opportunity.

The Leader of the NDP and I are both applying for the same job, the job of your Premier, and we're doing it at a time when our province is surrounded by economic risk. Let's compare our platforms, our visions, our plans, and our teams... then let you, the people of B.C., decide.



Creating jobs is
the best thing we
can do to protect
and secure a
brighter future
for B.C. families.



STRONG ECONOMY

I. BC Jobs Plan protects our future

Around the world, financial uncertainty still threatens the global economy.

Runaway deficits and debt have brought hardship to people in the United States, Greece, France, Spain and now Cyprus.

In a turbulent global economy, investment is looking for signals of strength and competence: a safe harbour. The latest international crisis is a fresh reminder that we cannot afford to let our guard down in British Columbia – or spend more than we take in.

Creating jobs is the best thing we can do to protect and secure a brighter future for B.C. families.

The BC Jobs Plan has three main goals:

1. Work with employers, communities and post-secondary institutions to enable job creation across B.C.
2. Expand the markets for B.C.'s goods and services, particularly in Asia Pacific and South Asia.

3. Strengthen our infrastructure to get goods to market.

Succeeding with these goals requires broad commitment to fiscal discipline and skills training. The first is found in Balanced Budget 2013. Keeping public debt down is the key to making B.C. the economic engine of Canada, a place that countries around the world want to invest in and do business with.

B.C. has many strengths to build on:

- Abundant natural resources, such as natural gas, forests, seafood and minerals.
- Proximity to Asia that gives B.C. an edge in conducting trade with countries in the Asia Pacific and South Asia.
- Our diverse multicultural population acts as a bridge across the Pacific.
- A record of fiscal discipline, reflected in B.C.'s low debt-to-GDP ratio and balanced budget.

- A highly skilled workforce and great post-secondary institutions.

The BC Jobs Plan builds on these strengths, turning them to our competitive advantage.

In British Columbia under Today's BC Liberals, unemployment is down, investment is up, jobs are up and communities are succeeding.

We are stable and, even better, we are growing.

Today's BC Liberals will use the next term in office to pursue even greater gains.

This platform is about carrying forward the work we've started and must continue, and driving forward with new commitments built on the foundation we've laid for British Columbians.



Asia is the key to growing our economy

What does Asia have to do with B.C.'s economic future? Everything.

An ocean may divide us, but we have a long shared history with Asia. The Asian middle class is growing in leaps and bounds and they need our resources like natural gas, copper, agrifoods, coal, and lumber, as well as our knowledge-based services like green technologies and education.

It's a natural fit. Our province boasts considerable personal and business connections with Asia while our ports are closer than any other on the west coast. Our investments in the \$22 billion Pacific Gateway have improved the movement of goods. Premier Christy Clark's trade missions with her team are ensuring predictability and relationship development with our major trading partners, including China, India, Japan and South Korea, with the goal of increasing trade by another 50 per cent over the next five years.

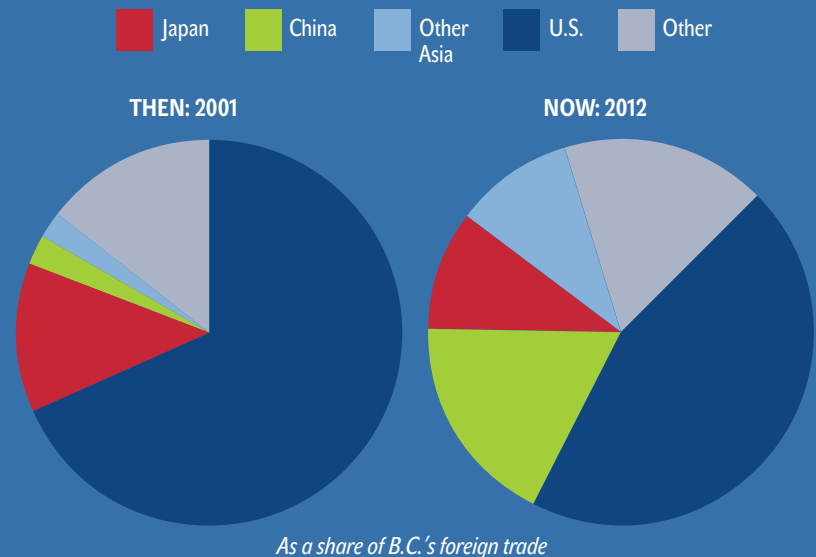
Growing numbers of entrepreneurs and investors from Asian nations are turning to us for safe, stable business opportunities.

Our goal is to make B.C. the headquarters for Asian businesses in North America.

Our work is producing results:

- B.C.'s goods exports to Asia have increased by more than \$7 billion, or 106 per cent, since 2001, reaching more than \$14 billion in 2011 – a record amount.
- Since 2007, when we launched the Asia Pacific Initiative, the Province's exports to Asia have increased by more than \$5 billion.

Diversifying Trade Partnerships: Trade with Asia has thrived under BC Liberal leadership



Source: Ministry of Finance



Premier Christy Clark meets with the Chinese Vice Premier.

Photo: Copyright © 2013, Province of British Columbia.

- 170 Asian companies are represented here. Asian corporate offices include: Agricultural Bank of China, Korea Southern Power, Mitsubishi Corporation, and eight LNG-related companies from Asia have a physical presence.

DRIVING FORWARD

Today's BC Liberals will:

- Work with Canada and the Business Council of B.C. to create an organization designed to attract major Asian companies to invest and locate their North American presence in British Columbia. The goal is to attract five North American head offices to British Columbia by 2020.
- Commit to annual ministerial-level trade missions to Asia.
- Commit to minimum of one premier-led trade mission to Asia per year.

LNG: Jobs and prosperity

Under our feet lies as much energy as Alberta has in its oil patch. It is in the form of natural gas, a cleaner alternative to oil or coal, in the Northeast corner of British Columbia.

Natural gas is extracted using environmentally safe methods.

Today, our market for natural gas is in North America, where we can only ship it via pipeline.

Tomorrow, our goal is to have a Liquefied Natural Gas industry that will add value to our abundant natural gas resource by shipping it by sea to Asia where it currently sells for over five times the North American price. By realizing this vision we can deliver jobs, opportunity and a legacy for future generations.

What we are doing about it

LNG facilities are currently proposed by business groups that include some of the world's biggest energy companies – Shell, Imperial, Chevron, British Gas, Petronas, SK & ES of South Korea, Inpex and the Chinese National Offshore Oil Corporation, to name some of the major players. It's no fantasy.

Photo: Copyright © 2013, Province of British Columbia.

The projects mean 39,000 jobs to British Columbia during construction with another 75,000 full time jobs created once in operation. We can create \$1 trillion in economic activity and create the BC Prosperity Fund with \$100 billion over 30 years.

An opportunity this good faces lots of global competition. Premier Christy Clark and Today's BC Liberals have worked diligently to enable LNG as an economic generator for decades to come.



“LNG exports are now a necessity for the future of Canada’s natural gas industry. “

ARC Financial Corp., “Dreaming Big, Again,” October 1, 2012

“LNG growth is unfolding in real time, all around the world, and the biggest winners are far from being determined. For Canada, nothing is more urgent right now than getting in the game.”

Jim Prentice, former federal cabinet minister, now vice-chairman of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, Feb. 2013

“We are providing one trillion yen [\$10 billion] in loan guarantees. We would like to boost the Canadian projects forward.”

Keisuke Tsujimoto, general manager of the Vancouver office of the state-owned Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation, The Vancouver Sun, April 2013

The government has set a goal of at least three LNG facilities online by 2020. In just one year, we’ve had multi-national companies commit \$7 billion to be a part of this exciting new industry.

How the NDP will blow this opportunity

The NDP are divided on LNG and have not shown industry the clear positions that investors need. They oppose the development of clean-energy Site C. They have promised to review, and even impose a moratorium, on hydraulic fracturing, even though B.C. already has the most up-to-date regulations in the world.

LNG is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for greater economic prosperity, but we have to move quickly. Other regions have natural gas as well and also want to seize the opportunity.

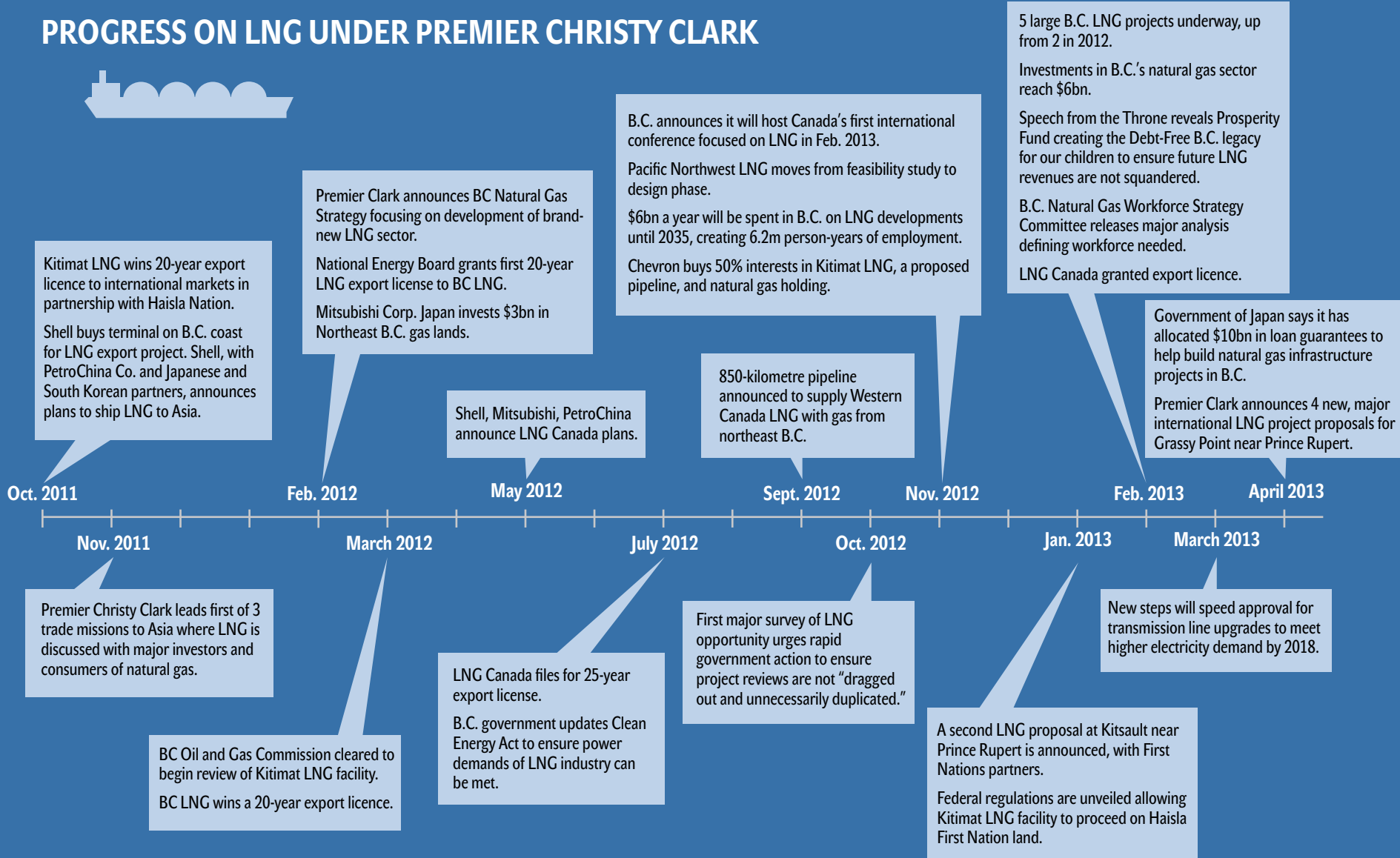
Now, the NDP wants to slap a job-killing natural gas tax on our producers in Northeast B.C.

Today’s BC Liberals will move decisively to ensure we do not lose out.

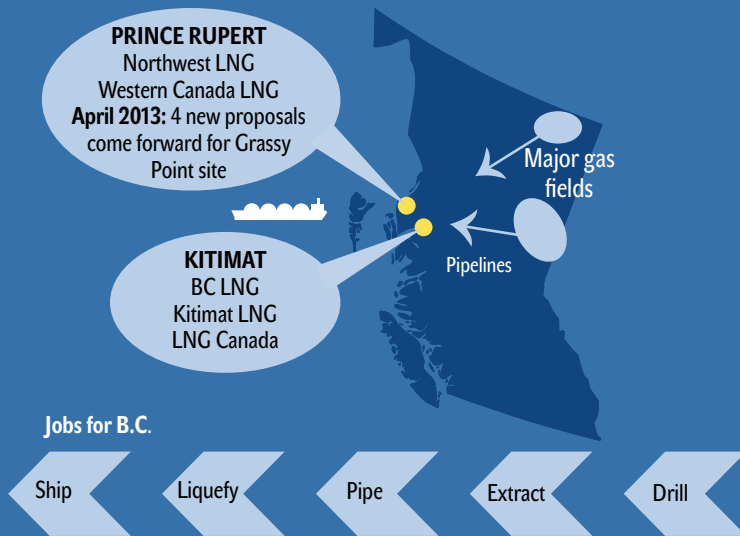
“...[LNG] was an evolution over some decades. It took strong provincial level leadership in the state of western Australia in the seventies and Northwest Shelf to occur, and 30 years later everyone says what a wise premier he was at the time.”

Former Australian prime minister Kevin Rudd speaking in Vancouver, April 6, 2013

PROGRESS ON LNG UNDER PREMIER CHRISTY CLARK



LNG proposals

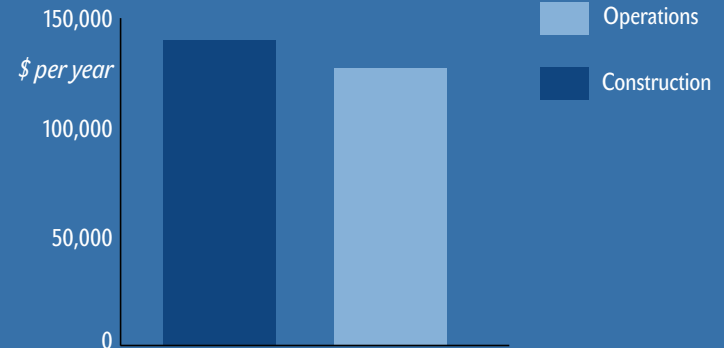


“You have to look at least 25 to 30 years ahead for LNG, simply because that’s the nature of the business. If somebody is going to spend \$5 billion you are going to look at that sort of horizon to get a return on the investment.”

*LNG expert Zohar Meratla, quoted by
The Canadian Press, Feb. 14, 2013*

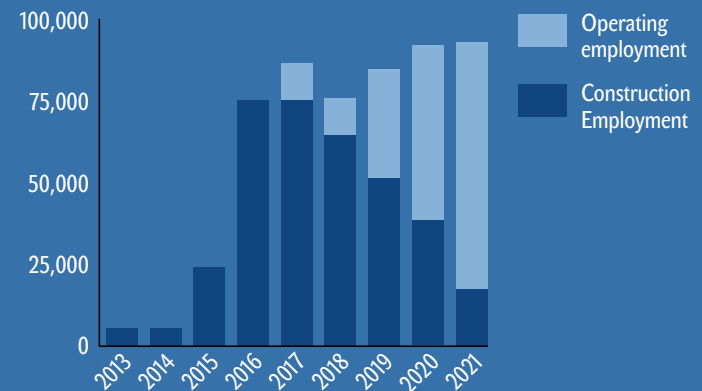
LNG means healthy salaries

High-paying LNG construction and operations jobs are direct consequences of the five proposed projects.



LNG means thousands of jobs

Five LNG plants costing \$98 billion mean 100,000 jobs for British Columbians. (FTEs)



Source: Ernst & Young, “Potential Revenues to BC Government from Potential Liquefied Natural Gas in BC,” for Ministry of Energy, Mines & Natural Gas

An economic generator for future generations

OUR PLEDGES IN SUPPORT OF LNG

An extensive effort led by Premier Clark identified what needs to be done to ensure we can close the deal on LNG:

LNG PROSPERITY FUND

- Debt elimination first priority.

LEADERSHIP

- Create a Ministry of Natural Gas Development.
- More resources to be granted to LNG Secretariat to ensure rapid engagement with proponents.
- A cabinet committee composed of the Premier, Minister of Natural Gas Development, other Ministers and MLAs and business and community leaders to work with the LNG Secretariat to capture the LNG opportunity.
- Work with the federal government to ensure there is one comprehensive environmental assessment process in place for LNG developments.
- Make the international LNG conference held in February 2013 an annual event to ensure global

investors understand the opportunity in British Columbia.

- Ensure British Columbia's LNG facilities are the cleanest in the world.

PUT PUBLIC FIRST

- Provide affordable energy rates for families, communities and industry even as we market our surplus natural gas for a Debt-Free B.C.
- Pursue new power sources for LNG manufacturing, including Site C, that will secure future energy for consumers.
- Work with First Nations, communities and private sector to secure an LNG pipeline corridor across northern B.C. to service LNG facilities in and around the Prince Rupert area.

SAFETY

- Remain world leaders in safe natural gas extraction practices.
- Continue to innovate and support the use of world-leading hydraulic fracturing techniques to supply LNG projects with natural gas.

- Require annual reporting on water issues arising from hydraulic fracturing through the BC Oil and Gas Commission.
- Apply tough environmental standards to those who use our water.

CLEAN ENERGY

- Work with Clean Energy B.C. to ensure continued opportunities for renewable power to be a source of power for British Columbia.
- Live up to the clean energy power purchase agreements made by BC Hydro on behalf of the electricity users of the province.
- Continue the Standing Offer Program that encourages the development of Clean Power Projects of less than 15 megawatts in support of regional economic development and First Nations energy projects.

FIRST NATIONS

- Work with LNG project proponents and First Nations who have traditional territory claims over areas covered by proposed pipeline routes or proposed LNG facilities, and support First Nations who participate in LNG projects – as the Haisla are doing.
- Secure a further \$1 million in 2014-15 to help Aboriginal communities participate in the clean energy

sector via the First Nations Clean Energy Business Fund, including wind energy, biomass and run of the river hydroelectric power.

- Continue to work with First Nations on Economic and Community Development Agreements that help First Nations share direct mineral tax revenues on new mines and major expansions.
- Work with Clean Energy B.C. and First Nations communities to ensure continued opportunities for clean and renewable power projects to provide energy to the LNG plants planned for northwest British Columbia, once key decisions have been made.

TRAINING

- Develop relevant training programs to ensure British Columbians, especially northern and aboriginal British Columbians, are first in line for the LNG jobs of the future.

POLICY

- Ensure B.C. companies are not ignored by ensuring Alberta lives up to their Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement (TILMA) obligations not to discriminate against companies wishing to set up head offices in British Columbia from accessing Alberta contracts.

5 ways the NDP puts politics before fair process

Adrian Dix says the NDP wants LNG but his words ring hollow when you look at his actions.

- » NDP opposes Site C dam in Northeast B.C.
- » Senior members of the NDP say they want to review or even stop hydraulic fracturing, creating delays even though there has never been a single incident of harm to groundwater in British Columbia. The NDP has provided no details about who will be on the review panel, its terms of reference or the length of time the process will take. Inserting this massive uncertainty into the LNG process would send investment to other countries.
- » NDP's inability to say "no" to their friends in big labour would lead to the same kind of soaring construction costs seen on LNG projects in Australia, where one project alone is \$20 billion over budget.
- » NDP's vow to reject the Joint Review Panel process for the Northern Gateway pipeline has raised the question of how an NDP government would approach LNG approvals.
- » NDP's proposed tax on natural gas extraction will drive investment out of B.C. and endanger our province's LNG opportunity.

That's not leadership. These positions will drive away jobs and investment from British Columbia and put our LNG opportunity at risk.

"I think that we need to stop fracking. Hold the level at where it is until we do those studies and then decide what the safe way to proceed is."

George Heyman, NDP candidate Vancouver Fairview and former head of B.C. Government Employees Union, Youtube, Oct 2012

"I wouldn't rule it out if the evidence is we need to do that [a moratorium on hydraulic fracturing]."

NDP Energy Critic John Horgan, The Province, Oct. 2012



Five conditions: Standing up for B.C.'s environment and economy

Where we stand on heavy oil pipeline proposals

For British Columbia to consider support for heavy oil pipelines, the following five conditions must be met:

1. Successful completion of the environmental review process. In the case of Enbridge, that would mean a recommendation by the National Energy Board Joint Review Panel that the project proceed;
2. World-leading marine oil spill response, prevention and recovery systems for B.C.'s coastline and ocean to manage and mitigate the risks and costs of heavy oil pipelines and shipments;
3. World-leading practices for land oil spill prevention, response and recovery systems to manage and mitigate the risks and costs of heavy oil pipelines;
4. Legal requirements regarding Aboriginal and treaty rights are addressed, and First Nations are provided with the opportunities, information and resources necessary to participate in and benefit from a heavy-oil project; and

5. British Columbia receives a fair share of the fiscal and economic benefits of a proposed heavy oil project that reflects the level, degree and nature of the risk borne by the province, the environment and taxpayers.

The BC Liberal government recognizes that responsible choices must be made if society is to continue benefiting from natural resource development.

DRIVING FORWARD

Today's BC Liberals will:

- Continue to press Alberta, Ottawa and the private sector to accept the five conditions.
- Complete the study we have undertaken on marine shipping on Canada's west coast, to determine the resources necessary to protect our coast.
- On the basis of that report, press the federal government to commit the resources necessary to protect our coast from marine shipping accidents of all kinds.
- Continue to press for new Coast Guard resources to be placed in Vancouver following the closure of the Kitsilano Coast Guard Station.

David Black's vision for a B.C. refinery



David Black is a B.C. entrepreneur who sees an opportunity for British Columbia to generate jobs and wealth. He has found the financing necessary to build Canada's biggest refinery that would be located in Northern B.C. and ship refined products, like gasoline and diesel fuel, to Asia.

His \$25-billion proposal for value-added resource development in Northwest B.C. would be the largest single private-sector investment in B.C. history. Construction means 6,000 jobs, with another 3,000 when the refinery is in operation.

Internationally recognized energy consulting firm Navigant said Black's refinery proposal "has economic merit and should be seriously considered by the Government of the Province."

Black's refinery would be, potentially, a tremendous game-changer for our children and their children, providing jobs and revenues and economic opportunity for British Columbia.

The environmental benefit of the refinery is that it would reduce the risk to our coastline by shipping lighter petroleum products compared to existing proposals.

DRIVING FORWARD

Today's BC Liberals will:

- Encourage and support the proposal's further development so it can be judged on its merits by a robust, rigorous and, most importantly, independent environmental process free from political influence.
- Work with the province of Alberta to ensure that the Black refinery is supported by Alberta and the rest of Canada subject to it passing environmental assessment approvals.
- Work with David Black to examine the potential of refined gasoline being produced for the B.C. market and possibly reduce the cost for British Columbians.

"Everybody's got a good idea... There's a sucker born every minute."

*John Horgan, NDP Energy Critic,
talking about the David Black proposal, March 2013*

"Dix slags refinery"

Prince George Citizen, Aug. 2012



Building to grow the economy and support families

We continue to make historic investments in public infrastructure at a record pace.

We have abundant resources and our ports are closer to Asian markets than anywhere else in North America. To take full advantage of these huge strategic advantages, we also need world-class infrastructure. That's why we are investing in our ports, railways, roads and airports – so B.C. goods can get to market faster, more efficiently and more competitively.

Since 2005 the public and private partners in the Pacific Gateway Alliance have completed over \$22 billion of work to expand our ports, roads, airports and runways.

We are just getting started.

Some of the projects around B.C.:

PLANNED

George Massey Tunnel replacement: Will save commuters travel time to Vancouver and improve the flow of travellers and goods between Vancouver and the U.S. border.

IN PROGRESS

Evergreen Line: Will save commuters to downtown Vancouver up to 45 minutes a day over driving.

South Fraser Perimeter Road: Improving the movement of people and goods to better connect Deltaport to Highway 1.

Four-laning Trans-Canada highway between Kamloops and the Alberta border: A 10-year plan.

Kicking Horse Canyon Project: Upgraded 26 km of Trans-Canada Highway from Highway 95 junction in Golden to the western boundary of Yoho National Park.

COMPLETE

Canada Line: Adds transit capacity equivalent to 10 major road lanes.

Sea to Sky Highway: Increased safety, reliability and capacity.

New Port Mann Bridge: World's widest bridge cutting commute times in half.

Infrastructure

Today's BC Liberals will keep our budget balanced and pay off our provincial debt, while continuing to make strategic investments. Balanced Budget 2013 means capital expenditures of \$10.4 billion over the next three years. Since 2001, our government has invested over \$15 billion in transportation infrastructure – while maintaining our AAA credit rating.

TRANSLINK

The issue of how to fund public transit in Metro Vancouver continues to challenge all levels of government.

Demand is high, but the desire to pay for transit improvements remains in question.

The original SkyTrain Line, Millennium Line, Canada Line and soon to be completed Evergreen Line have all presented commuters with better and faster options. The

Rapid Bus across the new Port Mann Bridge will also play a significant role in reducing traffic from south of the Fraser River to downtown Vancouver.

However, there are new calls for transit investments along the Broadway corridor to UBC, in Surrey, and in the Langley area. These projects will cost a lot of money to build and operate and current funding levels will not be enough.



Photo: Copyright © 2013, Province of British Columbia.



Photo: Copyright © 2013, Province of British Columbia.

The B.C. government and Metro Vancouver Mayor's Council have been working together to find solutions for TransLink's funding challenges.

However, in order for these solutions to have legitimacy and taxpayer agreement, they need to be tested by the electorate who, ultimately, will be paying for them.

DRIVING FORWARD

Today's BC Liberals will:

- Work with the Metro Vancouver Mayor's Council and TransLink to identify possible sources of funding for transit improvements. Any new revenue sources would then be subject to a referendum to be held at the same time as the municipal elections in November 2014.
- Work with communities in Metro Vancouver to accelerate replacement of the Massey Tunnel.
- Complete four-laning of Highway 1 from Kamloops to Alberta border – a \$650-million investment that means 3,300 direct jobs over 10 years.
- Invest \$582 million to complete another 45 seismic upgrades of B.C. schools over the next three years.
- Collaborate with the Union of B.C. Municipalities on municipal priorities for next round of federal infrastructure funding.



**"I'm not so convinced that the answer is a brand new crossing...
Things that could be done to improve traffic flow is painting the
inside of the George Massey Tunnel to make it brighter."**

*Sylvia Bishop, BC NDP candidate for Delta North,
Shere Punjab, January 2013*

- Complete South Fraser Perimeter Road on time and on budget by December 2013 to help get goods to market more quickly.
- Initiate and consult on a transportation strategy for Vancouver Island to improve movement of people and goods by road, rail, air and sea. This strategy will include safety improvements to the Malahat corridor.
- Build on B.C.'s \$7.5-million investment in the E&N corridor by encouraging the federal government and VIA Rail to re-establish rail passenger service on Vancouver Island.

Photo: Copyright © 2013, Province of British Columbia.





Every \$1 invested in
mining creates \$2.50
in benefits for the B.C.
economy.

Mining's comeback – as good as gold

An environmentally safe and economically sound industry

In 2012, mining companies spent a record \$680 million seeking new coal and mineral deposits. The B.C. Jobs Plan defined aggressive targets—eight new mines and nine expanded ones in production by 2015 which would provide \$150 million in revenues and 5,000 new direct jobs.

The NDP has killed mining – twice. It did so first in the 1970s. The second time came during their last time in office when its hostility toward the mining industry cost B.C. millions in revenues and thousands of jobs across our province. We've closed the gap by many important measures – yet we know with continuing support, more progress can still be made.

Today, there are 29,000 mining jobs in B.C. and another 33 mine applications are working their way through the Environmental Assessment process.

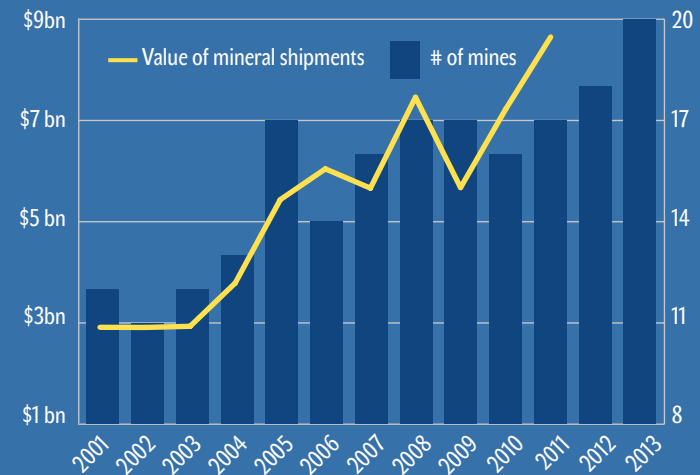
DRIVING FORWARD

Today's BC Liberals will:

- Fully support any mining project that has been successful in securing Environmental Assessment Office approval.

Mining's recovery – more mines, higher revenues

Today's BC Liberals saw the potential of the minerals sector and are halfway to their goal of 17 new mines.



Source: Ministry of Energy, Mines and Natural Gas – Mine Operating Status 1984–2013; Commodity Production Indicators

- Continue to build on BC Jobs Plan promise that has already delivered 10 new non-treaty benefit agreements with B.C. First Nations to secure economic partnerships. We commit to another 10 new non-treaty benefit agreements with B.C. First Nations over the next two years, like these success stories:
 - » McLeod Lake ECDA with the province in relation to the Mount Milligan mine.
 - » Tk'emlups and Skeetchestn Indian Band ECDAs with the province in relation to the New Afton mine.
- Work with the federal government to ensure mining projects undergo only one environmental review process.
- Extend the New Mine Allowance and other credits allowing new mines and major mine expansions to receive depreciation credits of up to 133 per cent from 2016 to 2020.
- Complete the Northwest Transmission Line and Iskut Extension opening up vast areas of Northwest B.C. to mining and mineral exploration.
- Work with Geoscience B.C. to establish long term and predictable funding to continue the \$37-million work Geoscience B.C. is doing to foster oil, gas and mineral

exploration and development in B.C.

- Continue to streamline mining application processes, ensuring they can all be done online with faster turnarounds for investors.
- Encourage more secondary school apprenticeships through partnerships like Mount Polley Mine and the Cariboo Chilcotin School District model where high school students get first hand job experience at operating mine sites.

New mines, new wealth

Every \$1 invested in mining creates \$2.50 in benefits for the B.C. economy. The direct jobs created are some of B.C.'s best paying, averaging \$108,100. Mining creates service, manufacturing, supply, finance, legal, education and scientific jobs in every region of the province, benefiting local and regional economies. We must resist the backward-looking NDP policies on mine approvals that shrank the number of mines by 60 per cent in the 1990s and made B.C. renowned as one of the worst jurisdictions for mining in the world. Today, the stars are aligned for significant sectoral growth:

- » Red Chris (Dease Lake area)
- » Huckleberry (Houston area)

- » Endako (Fraser Lake)
- » Treasure Mountain (Hope area)
- » Copper Mountain (Princeton area)
- » Barkerville Gold Mine (Williams Lake)
- » New Afton (Kamloops)
- » Mt. Milligan (Prince George area)



Photo: Copyright © 2013, Province of British Columbia.

How the NDP left mining for dead

- » Under the NDP, two mines closed for every one that opened.
- » In the last year of the NDP, a mere \$29 million was spent on exploration and development. Under Today's BC Liberals 2,300 per cent more was invested in 2012.
- » 40 per cent of people working in B.C.'s mining industry when the NDP took power had lost their job by 2000.
- » By 2001, mining executives ranked B.C.'s mining laws as the most antagonistic of any jurisdiction in the world.

By committing to returning to a 12 per cent corporate tax rate, the NDP of 2013 are showing they haven't yet learned from their mistakes. This policy is bad for job creators who need to generate profits to hire employees.

That's not leadership. That's the same old NDP.

"I'd be inclined to look at the royalties first; I think that's a first step.... Raise the royalties, bring more money into government from the sector to use for climate change plans."

Carole James, then NDP Leader, Voice of BC, Oct. 2007

High quality, high value: that's agriculture to us

The agrifoods sector provides more than 61,000 jobs and generates over \$10.9 billion a year in provincial revenues. It is the most diverse agrifoods industry in Canada and has the potential to be a \$14 billion powerhouse by 2017. Much of that potential can be realized in Asia's markets where there is a growing demand for B.C. agrifoods, with its strong reputation for quality, safety and taste. That's why Premier Christy Clark has led three trade missions to the continent to gain access to key emerging markets.

The fall 2011 trade mission took part in the massive Fisheries and Seafood Show in Qingdao – the world's second largest in terms of attendance – and built business relationships with buyers and investors in Guangzhou. Although it's difficult for companies to estimate the impact on their future business, the Province expects agrifoods exports to China will increase by at least 10 per cent in the year ahead.

Today's BC Liberals also recognize the importance the agricultural sector plays in communities across British Columbia. Whether the community is urban or rural, communities need a thriving agricultural sector to survive. Promoting 50- and 100-mile diets weaves communities together and strengthens relationships

between producers and consumers, and putting B.C. vegetables and milk in classrooms raises awareness of eating fresh, healthy and local foods.

Our plan is based on three strategies:

1. Focusing on high-quality, high-value products.
2. Expanding domestic and international markets.
3. Staying competitive on taxes and regulations.

DRIVING FORWARD

Today's BC Liberals will:

- Re-introduce Balanced Budget 2013 that provided \$20 million in carbon tax relief for greenhouse and flower growers and ongoing \$4 million in carbon tax relief for farmers who purchase coloured fuel for use in their farming equipment.
- Give growers a tax credit of 25% of the wholesale value of food donated to a food bank.
- Begin work on a permanent and sustainable tree fruit replant program, to be implemented following the current 3 year, \$2 million program.
- Add a further \$2 million to the Buy Local campaign building on the original \$2 million commitment in August 2012. This will encourage consumers to think

about where their food comes from and promote 50- and 100-mile diets for British Columbians.

- Introduce a new meat inspection system effective January 1, 2014 and work with the B.C. Association of Cattle Feeders to develop and promote their “Certified B.C. Beef” brand.
- Continue to work with other provincial governments to break down barriers that prevent the movement of B.C. wine across provincial borders.
- Create a Centre of Excellence for Agriculture at the University of the Fraser Valley.
- Have a major B.C. presence in the 5 large global agricultural conventions.
- Work with the organic farming industry to develop a B.C. Organic brand to promote the provincial organic food sector.



Forestry: Resilience, renewal and renaissance

Our forests have built and sustained B.C.’s families and rural communities and provided the resources that have built urban B.C. Forests are a cornerstone of our economy, directly employing over 56,000 in 2012 and exporting goods totalling \$10.2 billion.

The industry has been hit by unforeseeable impacts – the pine beetle epidemic, the U.S. housing crash – but it has remained resilient and innovative, choosing to invest. B.C.’s forest industry is growing again.

The BC Jobs Plan Forest Sector Strategy means growing a strong forest industry that can take advantage of market upturns and remain competitive when markets are soft. Success meant challenging ourselves and doing things differently. Under the NDP, 27 mills closed permanently because of red tape and punishing taxes that shrunk B.C.’s forest industry even as it expanded in the rest of Canada.

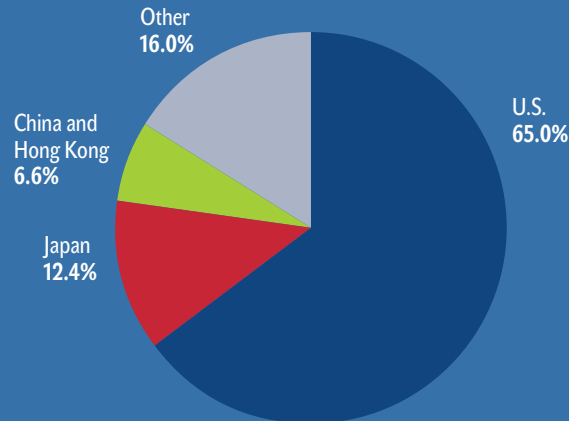
Exports to China are up 1,500 per cent since 2011 and we are expanding into India and South Korea. Without these exports to China there would be up to 16 fewer mills in operation today in British Columbia.

Helping the Forestry Industry Grow: BC Liberals focus on Asia pays off for forestry products

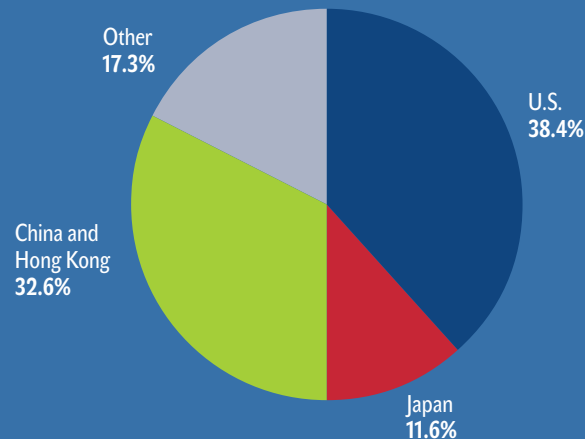
Over \$1 billion worth of B.C. lumber now goes to China thanks to BC Liberal focus on this market.

Shares of B.C. Forest Products Exports (volume) by Destination

2006



2011



Source: Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations – “Our Natural Advantage: Forest Sector Strategy for British Columbia”

New markets secure the future

To protect B.C. from trade challenges and market downturns in the United States and Japan, we knew we had to sell our wood products to more countries around the globe. That meant expanding our Asian outreach.

Helping the industry open markets in Asia is one way government can help. We will continue to travel overseas to open new markets.

Access to timber

Banning exports of unprocessed logs won't solve timber access issues for mills, especially coastal ones. Even as they promised to ban log exports in the 1990s, the NDP actually grew such exports from nearly nothing to 3 million cubic metres a year.

Our preference is to have logs milled here at home, but log exports are a key component to growing our coastal forest economy and keeping people employed in the forests of our province. We are committed to ensuring an approach that meets the needs of both domestic mills and the economy in this province. With a balanced and prudent approach, Today's BC Liberals helped support 3,000 to 4,000 jobs by accelerated auctions of wood.

Since 2001, British Columbia has committed \$884 million to battle the Mountain Pine Beetle and mitigate future impacts.

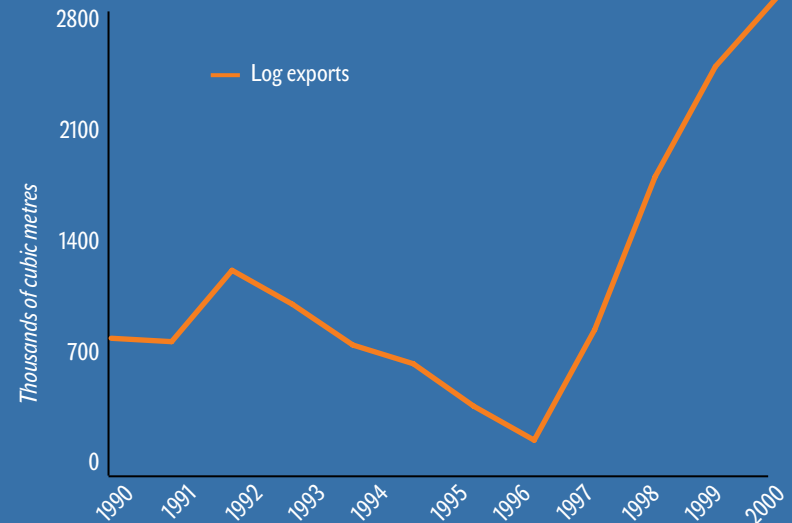
British Columbians are rightly proud of the work that has been done to protect the special places we have in our province. When this work began, we had a target of 12 per cent as a goal for protection and preservation. We have met this target.

DRIVING FORWARD

Today's BC Liberals will:

- Co-sponsor with the forest industry annual B.C. trade missions to China, India, Japan and Korea to ensure continued export growth in these established and emerging markets.
- Provide up to \$500,000 to be accessed by researchers who can demonstrate projects designed to produce new products out of our provincial wood resource.
- Work with the coastal forest industry to balance the needs of those in the industry who need to export unprocessed wood with mill owners who require wood in order to keep people employed in their mills.
- Direct B.C. Timber Sales to identify more wood for our B.C. sawmills without compromising our obligations

BC NDP Exported Logs



Source: Financial and Economic Review 2012

under international trade agreements and the softwood lumber agreement.

- Cellulose Filaments are long strands of cellulose wood fibre that can be used to reinforce traditional pulp and paper materials as well as bio-plastics and composites. Canada is at the leading edge of this technology but we need to build a research centre that can help take the

technology from the lab into commercialization and eventually the marketplace. We have the technology, the expertise and the resource. We are committed to working with industry to build a testing facility in Chetwynd.

- In addition to the 225 million trees being planted in 2013, we will increase annual silviculture activities in regions hit hard by the pine beetle epidemic by an additional minimum \$10 million annually starting in 2015/16.
- Assist affected communities as they face the challenges and opportunities of transition through an improved rural dividend program.
- Following consultation with communities, industry, environmental organizations, forest professionals, and First Nations; we will increase the diversity of area-based forest management by enabling transition volume-based licenses where appropriate and consistent with the mid-term timber supply recommendations, in order to enable investment in growing trees and adding value.
- Implement the recently announced 10-year, \$80-million forest inventory plan to ensure 35 million hectares are inventoried in mountain pine beetle affected priority areas. This inventory will be used to assess forest



condition forecasts, timber supply analysis, silviculture, timber harvest planning, habitat mapping, wildlife risk assessment and biodiversity assessments.

- Implement regulations for new legislation that will provide fibre security to bio-energy, pellet and secondary manufacturing operators.

Revenue dividends for resource communities

B.C. has been built on its resource industries. The BC Liberal government has negotiated agreements with communities in Northeast B.C., such as a recently signed framework with Fort Nelson, to share in resource revenues to help build their communities and plan for future growth.

With our opportunities in LNG and other resources, it's time to broaden resource sharing across rural B.C., to assist the communities in Northwest B.C. to prepare for the LNG opportunity.

By seizing on our opportunities with natural resources we can build communities in rural B.C.

Today's BC Liberals are proud of our resource industries and the people who work in them. We are innovators, we have stringent environmental protections, we have strong partnerships with First Nations and we are globally competitive.

The NDP feel the need to apologize for B.C.'s resource industries. Adrian Dix has agreed with his federal leader Thomas Mulcair that Canada suffers from 'Dutch Disease'. Dix and Mulcair agree that resource jobs in

B.C. and the rest of Western Canada are hurting the manufacturing sector in Ontario and Quebec.

Dix believes B.C. should kill high paying resource jobs to benefit Ontario and Quebec. Under his leadership the NDP would drive investment out of resource communities just like they did in the 1990s.

DRIVING FORWARD

Today's BC Liberals will:

- In recognition of the critical role rural British Columbia plays in generating wealth and economic opportunity for the province, commence revenue sharing discussions with rural resource communities, especially those in Northwest B.C. to help them prepare for future growth.
- Continue to negotiate revenue sharing agreements with First Nations.
- Honour revenue-sharing agreement with Fort Nelson and begin discussions with Peace River Region to possibly extend the agreement between the government of B.C. and the Peace River Region to ensure communities in Northeast B.C. are able to meet the needs that accompany significant resource development.

Gaining the edge in tourism

“Gaining the Edge” is our strategy to help grow B.C. tourism into an \$18 billion sector by 2016. Today, it employs over 127,000 people across the province and is a \$13.4-billion sector.

B.C.’s first Family Day sent families flocking to enjoy ski hills and other attractions providing a boost to our provincial tourism operators.

Premier Christy Clark fulfilled her promise to create Destination BC, our new provincial tourism operating agency. It began operations in April 2013 and is industry led, allowing B.C. tourism operators to make decisions for their sector.

Tourism is one of the key economic areas identified in the BC Jobs Plan. Key accomplishments and plans include:

- The revitalized BC Place – home to the Vancouver Whitecaps FC MLS franchise and the BC Lions, has become a world-class facility not only for sports but also for major international performing artists like Paul McCartney and Taylor Swift. It brings in about \$40 million in additional economic activity each year.
- Partnering with the Times of India to bring the Times of India Film Awards (TOIFA) to British Columbia in

April 2013 showcasing B.C. to an estimated 400 million viewers. Visitors from India are up 11% this year and growing steadily –one of our biggest growth markets.

- The new Vancouver Convention Centre has allowed the largest conventions in North America to come to British Columbia, meet in Vancouver and then tour the rest of the province. The NDP wasted \$73 million attempting to expand Vancouver’s trade and



convention centre in Vancouver and they never went through with their plans.

- Improved Nexus cross border access for U.S. visitors.
- Extensive upgrades to transportation infrastructure across the province directly benefit tourism.
- Budget 2012 eliminated a provincial jet fuel tax on international flights. Since that time we have seen new international connections at YVR from China Southern Airlines, Virgin Airways and Sichuan Airlines.

DRIVING FORWARD

Today's BC Liberals will:

- Fully implement the Outdoor Recreational Vehicle strategy to improve safety and develop new trail networks for residents and tourism businesses.
- Invest \$3 million per year beginning in 2015/16 to upgrade rest stops and visitor centres across British Columbia.
- Advocate for new international direct flights to B.C. with a goal of three more by 2014.
- Modernize Tourism Accommodation (Assessment Relief) Act to reflect increased property values.

"... what I find very frightening – the tax exemptions on jet fuels so that we can get more flights in here. I think again it shows, really, the misguided priorities of their government."

NDP MLA Claire Trevena, Hansard, Feb. 22, 2012

Modernizing B.C.'s Liquor System

Today's BC Liberals have worked with the public and industry in modernizing the system and promoting local enterprise. We will continue to put public safety first, reduce outdated regulations, and support efforts to create local jobs.

- Brewers and distillers will help us develop a 'made-in-B.C.' program designed to encourage consumers to buy local in government liquor stores across the province.
- Allow brewpubs to own more than one establishment.
- New craft distillery policy.
- Catering regulatory changes.
- More Cold Beer and Wine stores since 2001.

Creative sector gets a boost

Today's BC Liberals have been long-term supporters of the creative industries in our province. Look at our digital media – there are 600 businesses in BC involved in video games, film, animation and special effects.

In January 2013, our government launched BC Creative Futures, a three-part strategy to support sustainable, long-term success for the province's creative sector.

BC Creative Futures helps foster a creative workforce by providing more arts opportunities for young British Columbians, by building a comprehensive, sector-wide vision to support the development and growth of B.C.'s creative industries and by expanding capacity at Emily Carr University of Art + Design.



In Balanced Budget 2013 the government will invest \$60 million for arts and culture in BC, \$7 million higher than last year. This includes \$24 million to the BC Arts Council which now has its highest funding levels ever from government.

Film industry

We support our film industry through hundreds of millions of dollars in tax credits and incentives to keep film here in B.C. The province provided about \$330 million for motion picture, television and interactive digital media production tax credits in 2012-13.

Since the introduction of tax credits for the film industry, government has been very supportive of the system, raising the tax credit three separate times.

When	Tax credit
Under NDP	11%
Dec. 2004	Raised to 18%
Dec. 2007	Raised to 25%
Feb. 2010	Raised to 33%

In addition to boosting the tax credit, Today's BC Liberals have encouraged the growing digital media industry by increasing the following:

- Digital Animation or Visual Effects tax credit bonus increased to 17.5 per cent from 15 per cent;

- New BC Interactive Digital Media tax credit for video game development of 17.5 per cent of qualifying B.C. labour costs; and,
- Qualified B.C. labour expenditures cap increased to 60 per cent from 48 per cent of production costs.

Matching Ontario's tax credits would cost B.C. taxpayers in excess of \$100 million. A 2013 campaign promise by Adrian Dix will cost \$75 million. That's why B.C. under a new Today's BC Liberal government will call on other provinces to work together on film incentive policies across Canada.

Adrian Dix and the NDP voted against every funding increase and initiative we have provided to the arts and culture community. In voting against the BC150 Cultural Fund, Adrian Dix and the NDP voted against an initiative expected to generate \$8 million annually for new arts and culture activities and programs across B.C.

DRIVING FORWARD

Today's BC Liberals will:

- Work with the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec to establish a rational film incentive policy across Canada to prevent unaffordable industry support systems.
- Establish a BC Film office in Los Angeles to work with regional film commissions and encourage television and film production in British Columbia.

- Apply the Rural Film Distance Credit of 12 per cent to Victoria, putting it on a better competitive footing with the rest of B.C.
- Create one-stop shop for investors looking to start new digital ventures in British Columbia.
- Include post-production as eligible for the Digital Animation or Visual Effects tax credit to encourage further post-production in British Columbia.
- Build on efforts to attract Bollywood productions to British Columbia through initiatives like the Times of India Film Awards.

Investing in the future of a creative economy

Balanced Budget 2013 confirmed the \$134 million investment to build a new and expanded Emily Carr University of Art + Design campus that will take the creative high school graduates of today and turn them into the creative job creators of tomorrow.

"The move may prove to be good politics, but beefed-up film subsidies announced Tuesday by NDP leader Adrian Dix are bad policy."

Don Cayo, columnist, Vancouver Sun, April 10, 2013



On the leading edge of a new high-tech economy

BC Liberals believe in the technology industry and the power of the private sector to grow and foster young entrepreneurs. Together we have created a global hub of expertise with new and established companies, and centres of research excellence. Vancouver ranked 9th among startup hubs in the world.

The Premier's Technology Council has published 13 reports which helped frame the B.C. technology policy. Today, British Columbia is one of the most connected jurisdictions in North America. At the end of 2008, access to affordable, high-speed broadband service was available to more than 92 per cent of British Columbians and with the partnership between Telus and the province, over 99 per cent of B.C. will have access to high-speed internet. The province has strong information technology, life sciences, alternative energy, new media and wireless sectors and is home to the world's leading fuel cell cluster.

B.C. companies are at the leading edge of the green economy, developing technologies to turn our abundant natural resources into renewable energy. Finding new markets for solar, wind, bio-mass and other technologies can help turn B.C. into a clean technology powerhouse.

Launched in July 2012, our technology strategy aims to create and support jobs in the province's technology sector and its main subsectors:

- Clean technology
- Information and communication technologies
- Wireless, digital and screen-based media
- Health and life sciences

Twenty-four initiatives across government are aligned under the strategy's four key actions of:

- Accelerating technology commercialization and adoption.
- Building on regional strengths to create new opportunities.
- Developing talent for a knowledge-based economy.
- Expanding markets for B.C.'s technology.

B.C. introduced the Small Business Venture Capital Program to encourage "angel investors" to support higher risk start-up entrepreneurs. Under it, B.C. has issued over \$152 million in tax credits. But more can be done to foster the growing B.C. technology sector.

DRIVING FORWARD

Today's BC Liberals will:

- Further expand the Small Business Venture Capital Program by an additional \$5 million in 2015/16.
- Work with the BC Technology Industry Association to encourage the federal government to adopt the same program, thereby doubling tax credits available for BC technology entrepreneurs.
- Work with the federal government to expand the Provincial Nominee Program and encourage the world's best and brightest technology minds to relocate to British Columbia.
- Expand the BC Training Tax Credit Program to include co-op and intern placements in small technology firms.

Small business: 1 million jobs and growing

Across B.C., small businesses keep more than a million people working. Small businesses drive almost 55 per cent of B.C. exports and represent 98 per cent of all our business. Premier Christy Clark and Today's BC Liberals believe in freeing up small business from regulatory burdens that make it impossible to grow. Contrast that to the 1990s, when 400 new regulations were added, every year, and small business was taxed at the second highest rate in the country.

B.C. has the second highest number of female small business owners in the country. We have invested \$100,000 with the Women's Enterprise Centre to encourage new women entrepreneurs in the province.

DRIVING FORWARD

Today's BC Liberals will:

- Give small business owners a 40 per cent tax cut by lowering the small business tax rate from 2.5 per cent to 1.5 per cent no later than the 2017/18 fiscal year with at least a 0.5% reduction in 2015/16.
- Launch the Premier's Small Businesses of the Year awards, with winners selected by small businesses around the province in concert with the Canadian



Federation of Independent Business and other business associations.

- Streamline RFP processes for government procurement to ensure small businesses can compete for government contracts on a more level playing field.
- Limit RFP paperwork for government to a maximum of two pages for contracts under \$250,000 so that small businesses can apply and compete.
- We will work to establish a minimum 20 per cent increase in small business procurement from government.
- Less red tape for mobile businesses by working with municipal groups to secure inter-municipal business licences especially in the Metro Vancouver and Capital regional districts.
- Create a new Premier's Women's Economic Advisory Council to provide face-to-face feedback on how government policy changes can help further women's business opportunities in the province.

"[Tax cuts are] elitist and ideological."

Adrian Dix, now NDP Leader, Vancouver Sun, Apr. 2005



Photo: Copyright © 2013, Province of British Columbia.

"British Columbia is the only province that has demonstrated a sustained commitment to measuring red tape."

Laura Jones, Executive Vice-President, Canadian Federation of Independent Business, News Release, Jan. 2013, announcing that BC was the only province to receive an "A" in the CFIB's latest Red Tape Report Card

Manufacturing: Building on our strengths

Low taxes, streamlined regulations and infrastructure are what manufacturers look for because they need to make their goods and get them to customers quickly.

Today's BC Liberals created conditions necessary for new jobs and GDP growth. Pacific Gateway transportation investments like the South Fraser Perimeter Road have transformed the movement of goods.

From companies like Viking Air in Victoria that is building new de Havilland Twin Otter airplanes, to furniture manufacturers in the Fraser Valley, our manufacturing sector is on the rise. In 2011 the sector grew by 3.1 per cent – faster growth than the provincial economy.

Manufacturing sectors, like aerospace, show a lot of promise.

Shipbuilding

Working with Seaspan, we helped to secure the future of shipbuilding in B.C. with a minimum \$8-billion federal contract. Combined with other operations at Seaspan, this will create more than 4,000 jobs over eight years.





Our support for the venture took the form of sector-specific apprenticeship training credits. This is in line with the BC Jobs Plan goal of enhancing access to skills and apprenticeship training throughout the province, in touch with regional labour market needs.

The demand-oriented BC Jobs Plan for shipbuilding is in stark contrast to the union-driven Adrian Dix NDP shipbuilding policy. It left taxpayers on the hook for \$463 million and resulted in three fast ferries that never worked and had to be sold at a massive loss.

DRIVING FORWARD

Today's BC Liberals will:

- Leverage the Federal Industrial Regional Benefits Programs to attract global aerospace and defence contractors to B.C. This would be assisted by an investment of \$5 million over five years to kick start the development of a unified B.C. aerospace cluster to attract investment and integrated contract sourcing from global firms.

Photo: Copyright © 2013, Province of British Columbia.

The Adrian Dix NDP claim to be “business friendly”

In the 1990s, business leaders were told the same thing too, and some believed it. By the time they realized the opposite was true, it was already too late:

“[NDP leader Mike Harcourt] stunned his audience with a pro-business, pro-profits, pro-growth talk that utterly vacated traditional socialist ground...”

– Denny Boyd, Vancouver Sun, March 11, 1989

“When the New Democratic Party swept to power it carried the goodwill of the business community...That goodwill is badly eroded after a year of the Harcourt government.”

– Judy Lindsay, Vancouver Sun, Dec 05/92

“The deficit-plagued Mike Harcourt government is expected to pick taxpayers’ pockets in a big way next Tuesday when the 1993 provincial budget is introduced.”

– Brian Lewis, The Province, Mar 24/93

The importance of a balanced labour code

The BC Jobs Plan requires a stable business environment. Years of BC Liberal perseverance have paid off with relative labour peace across British Columbia. B.C.’s longshore workers and foremen have signed contracts that ensure stability at our ports through 2018. In the public sector, the Cooperative Gains Mandate led to labour stability with no additional money needed from taxpayers. The proposed 10-year teachers agreement promises a return to fairness for both workers and working families.

Under an NDP government, this era of labour peace is at risk. The agenda of the labour leaders who are financing, quarterbacking and promoting the Adrian Dix campaign would become the agenda of all British Columbia – promising to sap our economic strength as happened the last time they were in power.

In particular, big labour wants to eliminate the secret ballot during certification drives. The secret ballot allowed Licensed Practical Nurses to freely choose the BCNU as their bargaining agent. When we introduced this change in the legislature, the NDP voted against it.

We believe that all ballots should be secret. If it’s the right way to choose your political leaders, it should be

the right way to choose your labour leaders, and those who represent you at the bargaining table.

DRIVING FORWARD

Today's BC Liberals will:

- Not change provisions surrounding secret ballots during a certification drive.
- With respect to nurses:
 - » Work with the B.C. Medical Association, B.C. Nurses Union and provincial health authorities to improve the scope of practice for nurse practitioners especially in primary care settings and underserved areas of the province.
 - » Work with B.C. Nurses Union to reduce accreditation wait times for qualified nurses who are landed immigrants.
 - » Ensure that B.C.'s Licensed Practical Nurses who democratically voted to leave the Hospital Employee's Union to be represented by the B.C. Nurses Union have their voices heard and are represented by the BCNU in contract negotiations following consultations with the impacted labour unions.

"Throughout our history, we've only been successful when unions and the NDP have stood together united."

Carole James, The Democrat, Dec. 2006



Photo: Copyright © 2013, Province of British Columbia.

2. Modernizing education and skills training

A strong economy starts with a strong workforce and that means investing in education.

Working families need barriers removed so they can participate fully in the economy knowing their children are getting the best start. We owe it to our children to test and challenge them as they progress through school. Intense demand for skilled trades people is only growing so our plans focus on in-demand skill sets for the regions that need them. In higher education, fiscal discipline has allowed us to keep tuition costs down while ensuring maximum classroom seats for students.

We support the Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) because it helps measure how our students are doing and provides critical information for success. Even though the NDP created the Foundation Skills Assessment tests, they have attacked standardized testing, causing instability in classrooms and confusion for parents and students.

An end to politics in the classroom

Last year, Premier Christy Clark and her team began working to build a framework to bring peace in education. For the past 25 years virtually every contract negotiation between the B.C. Teacher's Federation and government has led to a strike, with the lives of students, parents and teachers disrupted – no matter which party was in government.

There has to be a better way.

And there is. We created a document outlining a 10-year labour agreement between teachers and government.

"In public education it means getting rid of a Foundation Skills Assessment system..."

Adrian Dix, NDP leadership debate, March 2011

**A strong economy starts with
a strong workforce and that
means investing in education.**



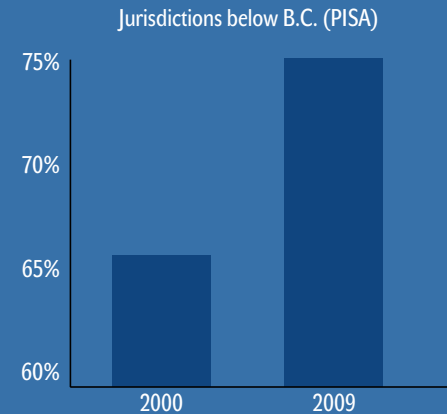
DRIVING FORWARD

Today's BC Liberals will:

- Immediately begin discussions with BCPSEA and the BC Teachers' Federation to achieve a 10-year collective agreement with the B.C. Teachers Federation, which:
- Offers the membership of the BCTF the average of a basket of public sector settlements. If the BCTF had bargained under that structure during the past decade, teachers would not have had any classroom disruptions on the basis of compensation, and would have actually had a higher wage increase than they received after strikes and job actions.
- Commit significant funds to address classroom size and composition challenges across the province.

Better Test Scores: BC students' math scores are on the rise

Since 2000, British Columbia children have risen in their mathematics ranking in Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) testing. Today they do better than students in three-quarters of other jurisdictions.



Source: Ministry of Education

“Abandoning standardized testing in its present form means abandoning our most at-risk students.”

*Children and Youth Representative Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond,
October 2007*



B.C. Early Years Strategy

The Early Years Strategy means your Today's BC Liberal government is using resources wisely to give children the start in life they need:

- Full-day kindergarten has been implemented, along with StrongStart BC early learning program and funding for the Roots/Seeds of Empathy program.
- The Child Care Subsidy Program has an annual budget of \$142 million to support care for over 50,000 children including a supplement for children with special needs.
- Over \$34.8 million invested in the Success By 6 program to support early learning, nutrition and family services in more than 225 communities across B.C.
- Allocate an additional \$32 million over three years to support creation of up to 2,000 new licensed child care spaces with the goal of creating 13,000 more spaces by year 8.

We will re-introduce Balanced Budget 2013 which outlines the creation of a Provincial Office for the Early Years to ensure multiministry activities across government are well coordinated and targeted.

DRIVING FORWARD

Today's BC Liberals will:

- Make child care easier to find by requiring local school boards to establish a policy promoting the use of school property between the hours of 7am and 6pm on weekdays by licensed child care providers. This will help provide additional child care options for parents of 5-12 year old students who require before or after school care.



Photo: Copyright © 2013, Province of British Columbia.

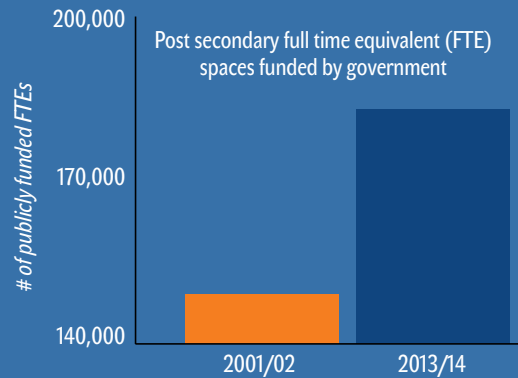
- Link in a range of family support services, children and youth mental health services and services to parents of children with special needs via the Ministry of Children and Family Development, creating one-stop access to practical advice and support.
- Create a province-wide child care registry to provide parents with better information about the availability of spaces in their community.
- Work with the early childhood development community to improve the Early Childhood Educator and out-of-school care provider quality.

Advanced Education

We are keeping B.C.'s tuition rates competitive with the rest of Canada, while at the same time investing \$1.9 billion this year to grow our institutions and ensure students have the courses they need.

The last time the NDP was in government, they froze tuition but failed to provide universities with funding to make up for the lost revenue resulting in fewer classes, longer wait lists and higher cut-off points for admission. The BC Liberal government has created 23 per cent more seats. Under the NDP, students often took five or six years to graduate adding significant cost simply because they could not access the courses they needed.

More Post-Secondary Spaces: A 23% increase



Source: Ministry of Advanced Education

In B.C. we have a number of world recognized post-secondary institutions. From UBC, which is ranked 30th in a list of global universities, to UVic and SFU which are also ranked among the country's top institutions, B.C. students are fortunate to be able to study at these high quality schools, right here at home.

DRIVING FORWARD

Today's BC Liberals will:

- Limit tuition fee increases to a maximum of 2 per cent through our next term in office.
- Provide free text books to university and college students. As the average cost of a text book today is

\$100, this initiative covering 40 high-use text books results in a significant savings for B.C. students.

- Commit to a further 20 textbooks be made available online to students once the first 40 have been selected by the Open Textbook committee.

School of Traditional Chinese Medicine

As announced in Throne Speech 2013, the government will partner with a publicly funded post-secondary institution to develop a School of Traditional Chinese Medicine.

- Immediately following the election, a BC Liberal government will convene an advisory committee to help guide the development of this new school.

Regional focus targets local demands

We're working with local institutions and industry through the Regional Workforce Tables to ensure the training being offered meets with the local job demands. Concrete steps we've taken:

- A labour-market-driven student aid program that encourages students to take in-demand training in regions where there's a need for those skills - such as

oil & gas field operations at Northern Lights College and commercial vehicle transport mechanics at Thompson Rivers University.

- StudentAid BC's loan forgiveness program pays back a student's loan, in full, when a grad agrees to work in publicly funded facilities, in underserved areas of B.C. – eligible careers such as medicine, nursing and midwifery.
- Government has committed new capital projects – including nearly \$60 million for new trades training facilities at Camosun & Okanagan Colleges and \$17 million in new training equipment to put the latest tools in the hands of students. This builds on the hundreds of millions in new capital expenditures on campuses province-wide in recent years.
- Government has added seven new universities to provide venues for in-demand education or training, in communities closer to home.
- B.C. requires new degree proposals to be supported by a business case that addresses labour market demand for the proposed degree.

Sports and Arts

At a time when resources were especially tight, Premier Christy Clark and her Cabinet recognized the value to families and communities of stable funding for arts, culture and sports.

DRIVING FORWARD

Today's BC Liberals will:

- Reintroduce Balanced Budget 2013 that provided \$60 million in new and reallocated funding to continue the Sports and Arts Legacy Fund originally introduced in Budget 2010.
- \$18 million added funding for programming that increases youth participation in the arts.



Open skills training-driven apprentice system means a better path to jobs



British Columbia's skills training system is the envy of the country. Every year the system is graduating more skilled workers ready to take their place in the economy. Today's BC Liberals want to build on this legacy, and further expand and modernize the apprenticeship system so more young workers can get certified and get working as

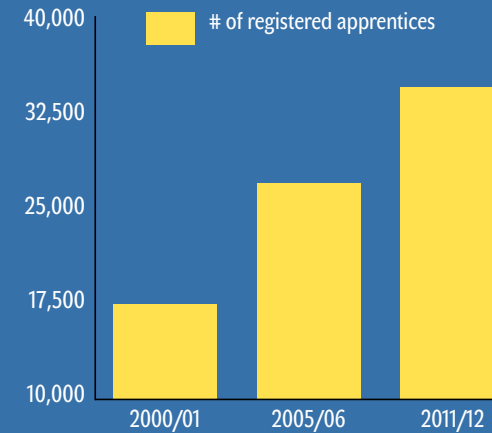
quickly as possible.

The NDP and organized labour have a plan that will do the opposite.

In 2004 the BC Liberals created the Industry Training Authority that opened up the training system and brought more people into training. Though government still sets the ground rules and oversees the process for anticipating future demand, the ITA is independent – a contrast to what it replaced: a bureaucratic and costly apparatus rooted in the past.

Under the NDP, the system was broken. Now the system is working.

Doubling Apprenticeships between 2001-2012



Source: Department/Ministry of Labour annual reports to 1986/87, then Ministry of Advanced Education and successor Ministries. Industry Training Authority from 1990 to present.





Every year we graduate a record number of apprentices. In 2013 B.C. is training more than twice as many apprentices as the NDP did. HRSD Canada reported that 85 per cent of B.C. apprentices passed their Red Seal exams. In the rest of the country 77 per cent passed.

Today there is a healthy relationship between learners, trainers, and employers. The goal is to achieve competency in skills that are of practical use on today's job sites.

The BC Liberal approach to skills training and apprenticeships is more inclusive. First Nations participation doubled between 2006 and 2011. Since 2004, there has been a 300 per cent increase in youth participation.

Over the next decade, there will be more than one million job openings in British Columbia, 43 per cent of them in the skilled trades.

You might expect the NDP to applaud a demand-driven skills training system that will address this need and that has 33,000 registered apprentices in the career pipeline.

If you thought that, you'd be wrong.

Risk of going backwards

The NDP voted against creating the ITA and creating thousands of new opportunities for young people. They have assigned the union movement to draft the party's 2013 labour platform. This is why Adrian Dix claims there is a crisis in skills training.

The unions are pressing the Adrian Dix NDP to undo our work and restore old-style quotas, compulsory trades, counsellors and costly enforcement.

Under the NDP, unions would move to take over the job of the free-market economy.

Instead of listening to demand, the NDP would partner with unions to control supply and drive up costs.

A government that abandons the apprenticeship program in its current form will veer away from the BC Jobs Plan goal of ensuring that British Columbians are first in line for those 430,000 new trades jobs.

Making the most of opportunity

Federal statistics show B.C.'s completion rates are in line with the Canadian pattern, a trend we need to continue studying. B.C. stands out because of its huge growth in certifications that offset small decreases in completion rates.

Today's BC Liberal's Strong Economy, Secure Tomorrow platform is about progress for all. Highlights of our work so far:

YOUTH

- Expanding opportunities for students to begin apprenticeships before they graduate high school.
- Giving school districts more flexibility in applying provincial funding for scholarships and awards to encourage student participation in trades and technical training.

- School districts are receiving help to coordinate regional sessions to review labour needs and opportunities.

FUNDING

- Upgrading training facilities and equipment through a \$75-million investment on top of the \$500 million annually invested in skills training.
- In 2012, B.C. provided \$17 million to support public post-secondary institutions to upgrade equipment.



Photo: Copyright © 2013, Province of British Columbia.

TARGETING

- **55+:** B.C. invested \$6 million in the Jobs Option B.C.-Urban Workers Program to encourage workers 55 and over to remain in the workforce.
- **LOW LITERACY:** B.C. invested almost \$430,000 to partner with Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters to provide training to workers with low literacy.

COOPERATION

- College of the Rockies has a partnership with Teck Coal's five Elk Valley mines to place heavy-duty mechanic and industrial electrician apprentices at the five mines for their apprenticeship hours.
- Between 2008-2012, the Labour Market Agreement between Canada and B.C. provided training to approximately 74,000 people around B.C.

RESULTS

- Last year, B.C. saw a record number of qualified tradespersons enter B.C.'s labour market.



Trades training can and should begin earlier

Across the province there are examples of innovative programs that allow high school students the opportunity to gain real-world on the job experience by linking schools with employers. Districts like Powell River and Cariboo Chilcotin, to name two, have programs in place where students earn high school credits while earning on the job experience with employers. In fact, Powell River is placing students directly with employers upon graduation into well paying vocational jobs.

Through the Industry Training Authority and Ministry of Education, programs have been developed that provide

new opportunities for vocational training while still in high school. Ace-It, the Secondary School Apprenticeship Program, and the Youth in Trades all play roles in developing the apprentices of today and the red seal holders of tomorrow.

But we need to do more.

DRIVING FORWARD

Today's BC Liberals will:

- Work with school boards to enhance and expand vocational training paths in high schools, especially for those students who know early on they wish to pursue trades training.
- Encourage partnerships between employers and high schools to offer improved opportunities and scholarships for students.
- Expand opportunities for students to begin apprenticeships before they graduate high school.
- Give school districts more flexibility in applying provincial funding for scholarships and awards to encourage student participation in trades and technical training.
- Provide help to school districts to coordinate regional sessions to review labour needs and opportunities.

"Labour platform is being developed with the BCNDP... including the BC Labour Code, Workers Compensation Board (WCB), trades training and employment standards"

"Ensuring the NDP wins in 2013"

"We have to publicly support Adrian/NDP with our members, instill confidence in his leadership."

Internal memorandum: "What do we want to achieve together as a BC labour movement during 2012", B.C. Federation of Labour



SECURE TOMORROW

3. Building a Safe, Clean, Healthy and Affordable B.C.

Families are at the centre of everything we stand for as Today's BC Liberals. They inform our priorities, from protecting B.C. during uncertain times in the global economy, to ensuring quality services, to setting aside a day each year to celebrate Family Day.

To protect our accomplishments and build a secure tomorrow, we need to grow the economy and make life more affordable for families by reducing taxes.

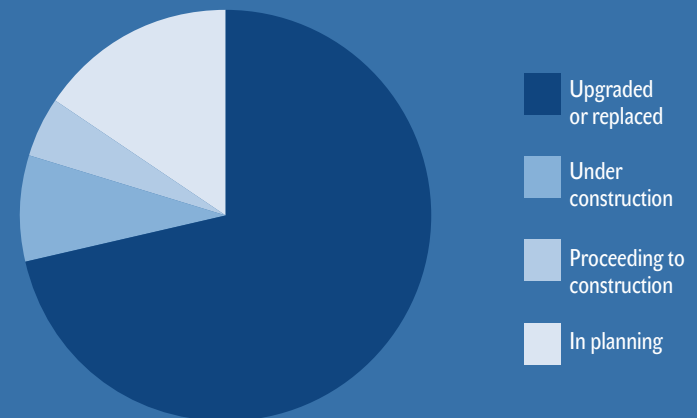
Opening up new markets in Asia and securing opportunities like LNG mean we will be able to afford more investments in health care, public safety, justice, and protecting the environment.

Safe

A strong economy delivers a secure tomorrow

For three successive terms, Today's BC Liberals have shown they can match fiscal responsibility with a high standard of citizen protection.

Investing in School Safety: \$840m in Seismic upgrades



Source: Ministry of Education

Seismic upgrades

Since 2001 government has spent more than \$840 million on seismic upgrades of schools in 37 districts. To date, 143 school seismic upgrade projects are completed. In the 1990s, the NDP cancelled the seismic upgrade of Van Tech Secondary – but carried one out for a liquor warehouse distribution centre nearby; in the 2009 election they promised no new money for seismic upgrades.

Crime and Justice

British Columbians deserve to feel safe in their communities. We will continue to crack down on crime by ensuring B.C.'s police officers have the tools they need. We are committed to providing secure, stable funding and adopting cutting-edge technologies and techniques.

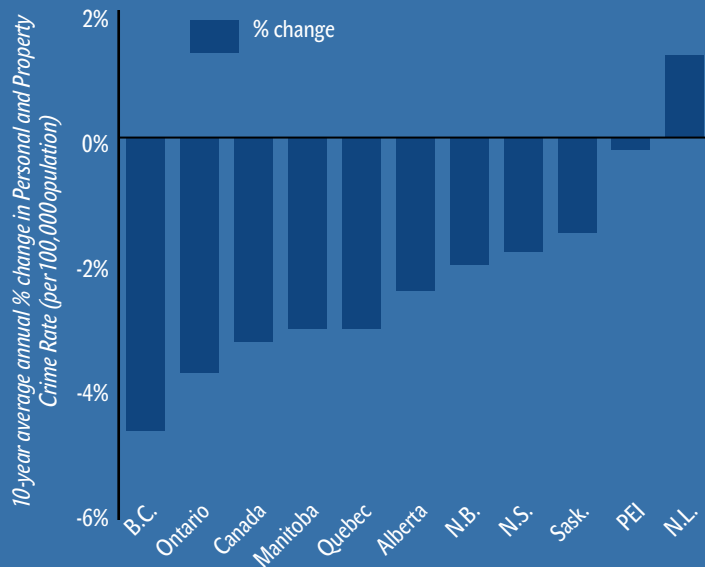
Police costs continue to rise requiring us to develop flexible, collaborative solutions.

Costly, delay-prone and overly complex justice processes are unfair to citizens and we continually fight for better solutions.

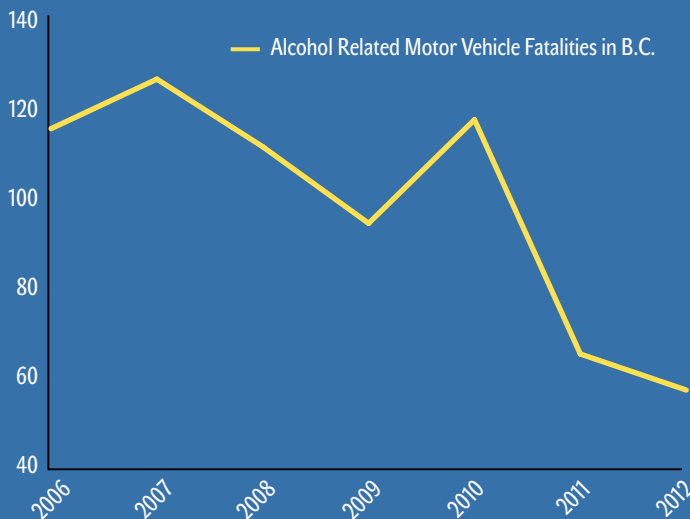
Highlights of our track record:

- In the last decade, personal and property crime has fallen faster in B.C. than any other province.
- B.C. now has the toughest impaired driving laws that have resulted in over 100 fewer deaths due to drunk driving.
- Created the Independent Investigations Office, meaning that incidents of death or serious injury involving police are now investigated by an independent organization rather than police themselves. This change marks a new era of transparency for policing in B.C. and strengthens public faith in our justice system.
- The Community Safety Act will enable people to submit confidential complaints to a new provincial unit designed to investigate problem properties and curb threatening and dangerous activities. The act will target the sites of specific and criminal activities including drug production and trafficking, prostitution, illegal liquor sales, child abuse, possession of illegal weapons or explosives and activities conducted by gangs or organized crime.

Safer Communities for BC Families



Tough on impaired driving, fewer road deaths



Source: BC Stats; BC Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

- B.C.'s new Civil Forfeiture Act seizes and sells property obtained through illegal activities in B.C. It has distributed over \$9 million in proceeds from crime to non-profit agencies.
- 100 per cent of net traffic fines are now returned to local government so communities can access funds to improve safety in their regions.

DRIVING FORWARD

Today's BC Liberals will:

Justice

- Work with the Legal Services Society to expand LSS work in criminal and family law situations.
- Move traffic tickets out of the provincial courts into an administrative tribunal freeing up valuable court time and resources for more important matters.
- Develop a framework for specialized courts, including domestic violence courts.
- Work with police departments and communities in Metro Vancouver and the Capital Regional District to determine whether a regional policing system can better meet the needs of citizens while being affordable to taxpayers in those two regions.



- Continue to implement the recommendations of the Geoffrey Cowper report to improve the timeliness of justice in our court system.
- Work with former Lieutenant-Governor Steven Point to implement the recommendations contained in the report of the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry.
- Deliver the new Okanagan Correctional Centre on time and on budget which will provide additional cell space and improve safety for both our correctional officers and those serving sentences in prison.

Anti-Bullying

- Today's BC Liberals will continue to work with school districts, parents and the police to reduce the incidents of bullying in our province. \$1 million in new grants available for anti-bullying organizations went to 81 agencies.
- Contribute an additional \$250,000 annually to school districts to ensure Pink Shirt Day is supported in provincial classrooms.
- Continue to build upon the successful ERASE (Expect Respect And a Safe Education) anti-bullying program, which is a 10-point program to address bullying and harmful behaviours.

Community

- Work with the B.C. Association of Building Officials to develop a framework for accrediting home inspectors in British Columbia to ensure consumers can select highly qualified home inspectors when they are investing in the largest purchase most will make in their lifetime.
- Work with the federal government and Fraser Valley municipalities to secure a long term Fraser River dredging and dyking program.

Photo: Copyright © 2013, Province of British Columbia.

Clean

While other governments talked about climate change and the environment, we acted. When leadership mattered, Adrian Dix and the NDP opposed the carbon tax.

You can trust Today's BC Liberals to show national and international leadership with groundbreaking measures recognizing the need to respect the environment. A secure tomorrow means protecting these gains and moving forward.

That's why we have a vigorous, robust and independent environmental assessment process and have increased office funding to support applications and to strengthen compliance and enforcement.

We have a principled approach to heavy oil pipelines in the province. That's why we hosted a three-day symposium on land based spill preparedness and why we are proactively taking the first step toward defining a world-leading marine-based spill response model to protect our coastline.

In addition to creating 84 new parks and expanding protected areas by more than 2.3 million hectares of land, we protected the Klappan Valley (Sacred Headwaters) through a partnership with Shell under which Shell's coal-bed methane drilling rights were extinguished.



DRIVING FORWARD

Today's BC Liberals will:

- Consult on the Water Sustainability Act in 2013 with the intention of passing this legislation in 2014. The Act will protect B.C. aquifers and drinking water resources while providing industry with a framework under which drinking water allocations are made.
- A BC Liberal government will work with communities, First Nations and industry to examine the feasibility of

developing a provincially designated protected area in the Klappan.

- Today's BC Liberals will establish a provincial round table of representatives from communities, industry, labour, First Nations and the environmental community to provide guidance to government on how to balance the need to protect important parts of the environment with the need to create jobs and wealth for the province.
- Direct all revenues from fishing licences be provided to the Freshwater Fisheries Society for conservation activities (\$2.4 million), by 2015/16.

A legacy of action

Three BC Liberal programs that have helped B.C. keep pace with a changing world – while being recognized as groundbreaking examples for the rest of the world:

- Carbon Tax
- B.C. Clean Energy Act
- Clean Vehicle Program

Healthy

Through tough economic times, we've made smart investments in health care that mean better care for you and your family. Our \$8-billion investment in health capital includes new hospitals and new hospital towers in Abbotsford, Victoria, Kelowna, Vernon, Surrey and Vancouver; many more major projects are progressing as well.

B.C. has among the shortest surgical wait times in Canada in key areas. We are performing more surgeries and



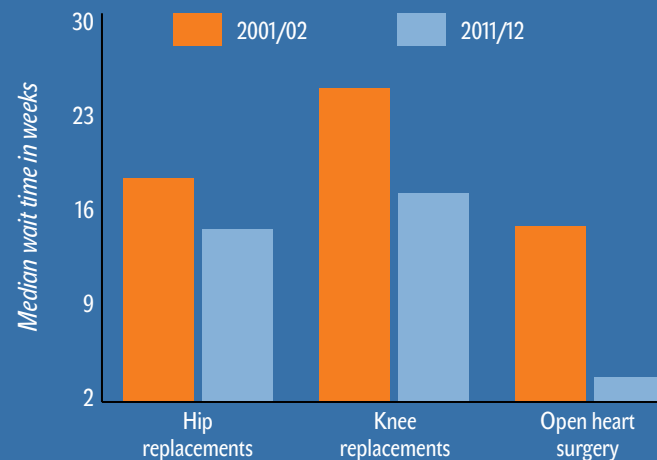
doing them faster than before 2001. Under the previous NDP government, care was neglected, wait times grew and nursing jobs were reduced. The wait for long-term residential care was two years, a figure we reduced to 90 days on average.

Our health-care system helps people and it also gives British Columbia a competitive advantage. When people are looking for a place to live they come to B.C. because health care is one more thing they don't have to worry about.

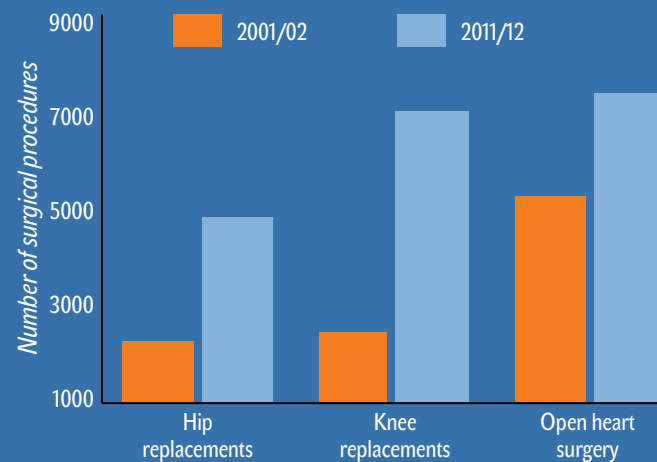
Our work is not complete. Health costs spiral upward faster than in any other area of government. The solution is not to stop investing, which is what the NDP did the last time it was in government by ignoring the need for thousands of new long-term care beds. Projects worth a further \$2.3 billion will be built over the next three years. Today's BC Liberals have invested and B.C. now has 31,300 publicly subsidized residential care, assisted living and group home beds. That is a 23 per cent increase since 2001 (approximately 6,000 new beds).

Through the work of Dr. Julio Montaner and his colleagues at the BC Centre of Excellence for HIV/AIDS, supported by financial contributions of government, the incidence of HIV has been reduced by nearly 60 percent in B.C.

Ending the NDP era of needless wait-lists



Better Patient Care: Compare the Records



Source: Canadian Institute for Health Information

B.C. has been a national leader working with the non-profit sector by convening a successful Non-Profit Summit in 2011 and introducing legislation that allows the incorporation of Community Contribution Companies.

The BC government has made great strides to provide new facilities and services to citizens with mental health issues.

We are building a new \$62-million mental health treatment facility at Lions Gate Hospital. We have provided resources that have created a new 51-bed mental health facility in Duncan and we have invested in a new \$82-million dollar facility at Vancouver General Hospital.

Best cancer survival rates

BC has led the way to fund research in the fight against cancer. So, it is not surprising that B.C. has the overall best cancer survival rates in Canada. According to 2012 estimates in the Canadian Cancer Society's Canadian Cancer Statistics report, mortality rates for all cancers combined are lowest in B.C.

In addition, B.C. men and women have the:

- Lowest overall mortality rate for all cancers in Canada.
- Lowest overall incidence rate of cancer in the country.
- Lowest incidence rate for lung and colorectal cancers.

Living with disabilities

Today's BC Liberals recognize the unique struggle facing persons with disabilities in our province. As part of our Families First Agenda, we have introduced balanced reforms to income assistance policies to ensure all British Columbians share the benefits as our economy continues to grow.

Through changes to monthly earnings exemptions, enhanced earnings exemptions for individuals receiving disability assistance, asset increases and the elimination of separate limits on cash assets, we are increasing supports to individuals, couples and families to help individuals with disabilities lead more independent lives and give their families more opportunities.

The province also helps cover costs by rebating fuel taxes, lowering the cost of insurance and providing additional homeowner grants for people with disabilities or who have a relative or spouse living with a disability in their home.

Our vision is simple. We believe that British Columbia should be the most progressive jurisdiction for the people and families living with disabilities in Canada.

But there is much more that we can, should, and will do.

Investing in hospital infrastructure

PROJECTS COMPLETE INCLUDE:

- » BC Cancer Agency's Centre for the North
- » Fort St. John Hospital and Residential Care Project
- » Gordon and Leslie Diamond Health Care Centre
- » Jim Pattison Outpatient Care and Surgery Centre
- » Centennial and Anderson Buildings at Kelowna General Hospital
- » Kootenay Lake Hospital redevelopment
- » New Emergency Department at Nanaimo Regional General Hospital
- » New Emergency Department at Victoria General Hospital
- » New Renal Unit at Nanaimo Regional General Hospital
- » Polson Tower at Vernon Jubilee Hospital
- » Royal Jubilee Hospital Patient Care Centre
- » Shuswap Lake General Hospital redevelopment

PROJECTS UNDERWAY OR IN PLANNING INCLUDE:

- » BC Children's and BC Women's Hospitals redevelopment
- » Hope Centre at Lions Gate Hospital
- » Interior Heart & Surgical Centre
- » Joseph and Rosalie Segal Family Health Centre at Vancouver General Hospital
- » New Campbell River Hospital
- » New Comox Valley Hospital
- » St. Mary's Hospital expansion
- » New Emergency Department and Critical Care Tower at Surrey Memorial Hospital



Photo: Copyright © 2013, Province of British Columbia.

ST. PAUL'S

The St. Paul's Hospital redevelopment announced by Premier Christy Clark in 2012 will revitalize and enable the upgraded hospital to provide the latest – and best – care to more people, quicker and cheaper.

St. Paul's Hospital – located in the heart of Vancouver for over 118 years – is a provincial hub for care, innovation, research and teaching in a multitude of globally recognized areas.

PENTICTON HOSPITAL

In March, Premier Christy Clark announced planning will move ahead for a new patient care tower at Penticton Hospital. The planning process will identify current and future community needs and the fiscal demands of the project.

- » New Lakes District Hospital in Burns Lake
- » New patient care tower at Penticton Regional Hospital
- » New Queen Charlotte/Haida Gwaii Hospital in Queen Charlotte City
- » Royal Inland Hospital redevelopment, phase 1
- » New ICU and electrical upgrade at East Kootenay Regional Hospital
- » Burnaby Hospital Redevelopment
- » Royal Columbian Hospital Redevelopment
- » St Paul's Hospital Redevelopment

DRIVING FORWARD

Today's BC Liberals will:

Health

- Through Balanced Budget 2013 invest a further \$2.4 billion in health care over next three years.
- Continue the \$132.4 million GP for Me program – every British Columbian who wants a family doctor is able to access one by 2015.
- Encourage development of new hospice spaces by partnering with hospice societies. Our goal is to increase the number of hospice beds available in the province by 100 per cent by 2020.
- Recognize that additional addiction services are

required in the province and work with provincial health authorities and the not-for-profit sector to create an additional 500 addiction spaces in the province by 2017.

- Fund \$2 million in enhanced treatment, counselling and prevention services to address problem gambling.
- Continue our commitment to Social Innovation by working with the non-profit sector to improve community service delivery.
- Work with other provincial governments to ensure discussions on the Comprehensive Economic and



Trade Agreement do not restrict access to generic drugs and drive up provincial health care costs.

- Restore heart disease in firefighters to the list of presumptive diseases recognized by Worksafe BC.
- Create another \$2-million partnership between the provincial government and the Heart and Stroke Foundation to provide 450 automated external defibrillators (AEDs) in venues across the province such as community centres, arenas, recreation centres, playing fields and sports centres.
- Proceed with business case planning for a new patient care tower at Penticton Regional Hospital.

Seniors

- Work with the health care community to develop new options to care for people living with dementia to ensure appropriate and cost-effective forms of care are provided to these citizens.
- Work with the United Way to provide additional support for seniors through the Better at Home program—we will provide a further \$5 million per year commencing in 2014/15 bringing the total support to the United Way to \$10 million annually.

- Commit to ongoing funding of \$500,000 to partner with communities to make their communities more age-friendly for senior residents, through the successful age-friendly community grant program.

Health professionals

- Provide \$12 million over next three years to complete the funding necessary to expand the number of medical student spaces to 288 graduates per year—up from 128 in 2001.
- Encourage new physicians to move to British Columbia by providing \$1 million annually to apply the same loan forgiveness program to out-of-province medical school graduates as applies to in-province graduates.

New opportunities for people with disabilities

- Upon re-election, Today's BC Liberals will mandate a white paper on the issues facing people with disabilities in British Columbia. Upon completion of the white paper, it will be circulated for public comment and followed up with a provincial summit in order to ensure we as a government and society are national leaders in reducing barriers and increasing freedoms for people living with disabilities.

Affordable

Here's why eliminating the debt is so important. When debt is low, financing costs are lower too. As a result, taxes can be reduced. Result: sustainable affordability for B.C. families.

LOW DEBT = LOW TAXES

How our tax load compares:

2013 breakdown of TOTAL BC TAX: \$6,539

Provincial income tax: \$1,322

Net property tax: \$2,104

Sales tax: \$2,104

Fuel tax: \$218

Net carbon tax: \$208

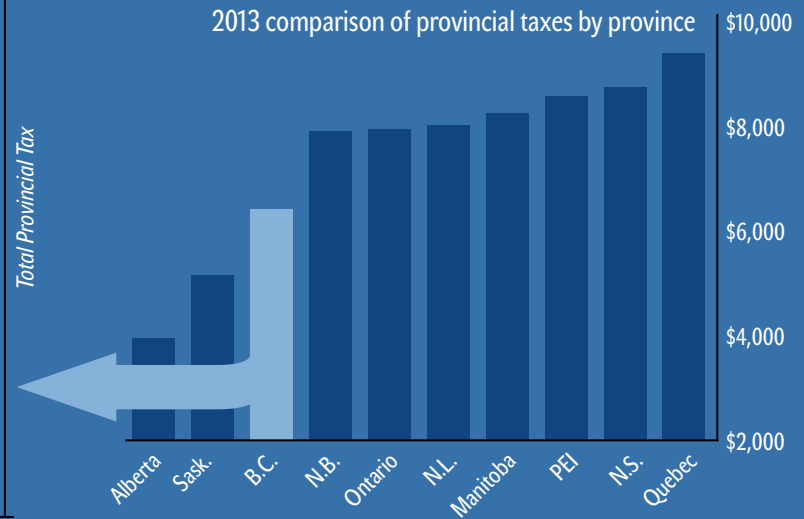
Health Care Premium: \$1,596

Source: Ministry of Finance



Two-income family of 4
\$60,000 income

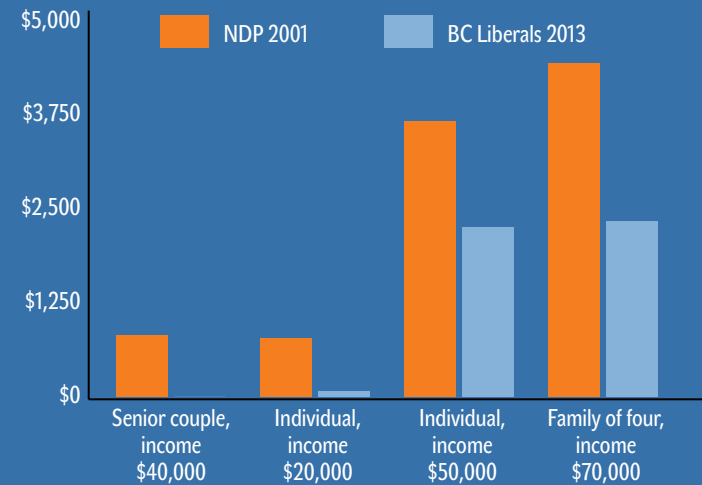
2013 comparison of provincial taxes by province



Highlights include:

- British Columbians earning up to \$122,000 pay the lowest income taxes in Canada.
- British Columbia increased the minimum wage three times to \$10.25 per hour, the second highest of any province.
- Earnings exemptions for people with disabilities raised to \$800 per month (September 2012) in order to allow people with disabilities to work a significant amount of hours per month before seeing their benefits clawed back.
- Over 1 million low-income British Columbians pay absolutely no income tax today in British Columbia—an increase of 400,000 since our government was elected.
- More than 800,000 residents do not pay MSP premiums.
- Since we achieved a credit upgrade to AAA in 2007, taxpayers have saved \$300 million in interest payments.
- All levels of government can use a fresh set of eyes on how they spend tax revenues and run their organizations. That's why BC Liberals introduced a new Auditor General for Local Government to assist

Lower Taxes for BC Families



Source: Ministry of Finance

municipal and regional governments in finding better ways to serve their public at the same or lower cost.

- Over the last decade, our government has invested \$3.2 billion to provide affordable housing for low-income individuals, seniors, and families in communities across the province – and as a result close to 21,000 new housing units have been completed, are under development or have had funding committed.

DRIVING FORWARD

Today's BC Liberals will:

- Freeze personal income tax rates for the next five years.
- Freeze the carbon tax for five years to allow jurisdictions to catch up to B.C.'s leadership position.
- Remove the two-year increase to the personal income tax rate for those earning in excess of \$150,000 as scheduled on January 1, 2016.
- Return the general corporate tax rate to 10 per cent no later than 2018.
- Provide parents with a one-time \$1,200 B.C. Training and Education Savings Grant with which to invest in an RESP upon the child turning six for all children born on or after January 1, 2007. Parental contributions can further add to this post secondary nest egg. The NDP have promised to cancel the program and claw this money back from families.
- Make the new British Columbia Early Childhood Tax Benefit available to parents with children under six years of age, effective April 1, 2015. It means \$146 million annually to approximately 180,000 families with young children. These families will be eligible to receive an annual \$660 per year to help offset the cost of providing child care.
- Introduce a back-to-school tax credit for parents of children in grades K-12 of up to \$250 per child.
- Provide on-line textbooks for selected elementary, middle and high school courses to ensure parents have access to textbooks to help their children study at home.
- Recognize the time, money and effort teachers contribute to their school community and the students they teach by creating a tax credit of \$500 per year for teachers who coach sports/arts.
- Introduce a children's fitness equipment tax credit that will provide a tax credit of up to \$250 per child per year.
- Reduce the maximum interest payable on payday loans from \$23 per \$100 borrowed to \$17 per \$100 borrowed.
- Maintain free parking in provincial parks for day use activities.
- Maintain the grant of up to \$1,000 per year (10 per cent of renovation costs) for seniors who wish to renovate their homes to make them more accessible and allow them to stay in their residence instead of being forced to move.

4. Controlling spending and balancing the budget

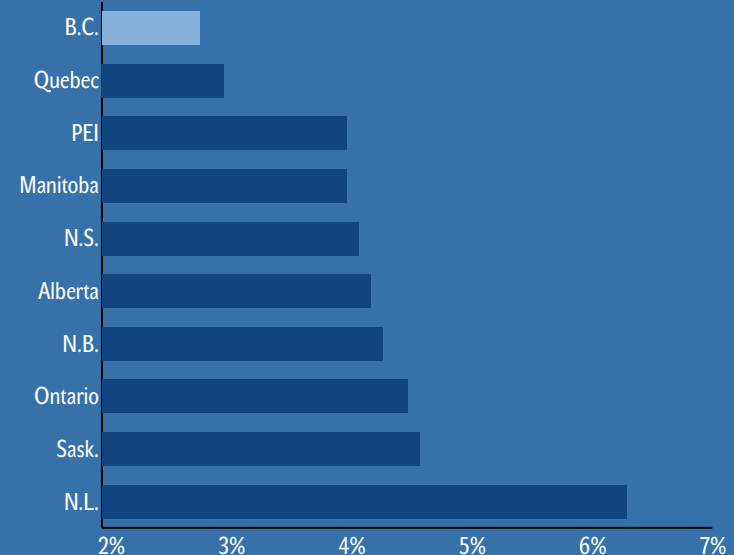
When it comes to controlling spending, compare the records.

Balanced Budget 2013 carried forward Today's BC Liberals commitment to fiscal responsibility. This means careful budgeting and prudent spending limits. Moody's Investor Service, an independent credit rating agency, agreed with this assessment in April when it stated that our budget projections are realistic. Though the NDP has stated otherwise, it's possible they do not know what a balanced budget is since in 9 out of 10 years in office, it failed to produce one.

In reconfirming B.C.'s AAA debt rating, Moody's stated that:

"...strong fiscal management and performance in recent years enabled British Columbia to reduce

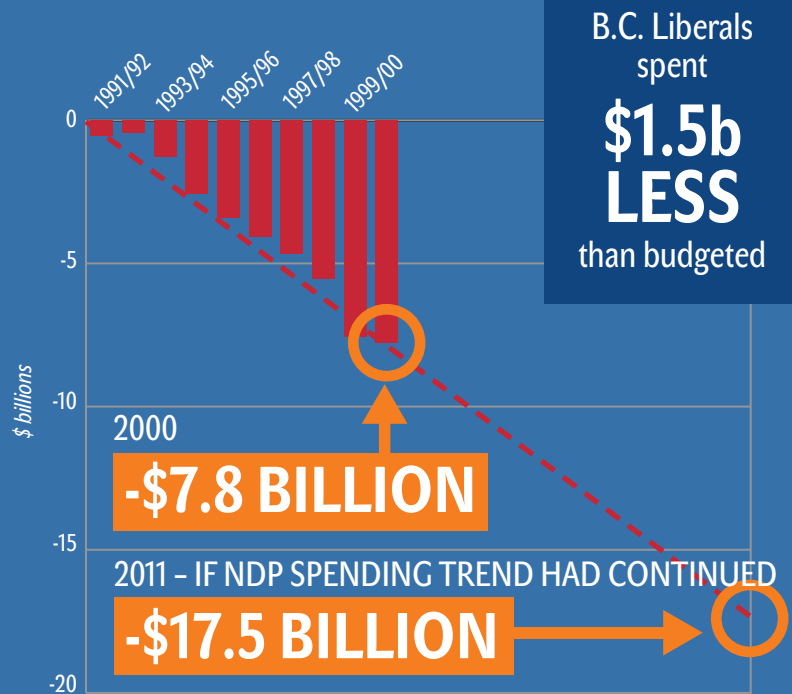
Controlled Spending



Average annual percentage change, 2006/07 to 2011/12

Source: Provincial reports

For nine years out of 10, the NDP blew their budgets – piling on a staggering \$7.8 billion extra debt for B.C.



Source: Consolidated Revenue Fund, 2012 Financial and Economic Review, July 2012 p. 79. Numbers extrapolated.

its debt burden to a level that is below the median of Canadian provinces, supporting an even higher degree of fiscal flexibility than most other provinces.”

Canada’s largest debt rating agency, Dominion Bond Rating Service (DBRS), weighed in with authority in March, saying our spending targets were credible “given the government’s superior track record of expenditure control.”

We can’t afford to go back to years of reckless NDP spending if we are to avoid passing on mountains of debt to our children.

Today’s BC Liberals have a credible plan to keep our budgets balanced and pay off our provincial debt—once we have secured the promise of a new LNG industry in our province. Our plan starts with getting the fundamentals right for B.C.

It starts with controlling government spending — not easy to do when there are daily calls to spend more, not less — and on this point Premier Christy Clark and her team have stood firm.

Highlights of Balanced Budget 2013:

- Surpluses totalling nearly \$850 million over the next three years. Because of prudent management, these surpluses are on top of our \$750 million forecast

allowance, set aside in case the global economic recovery is slower than predicted, for a total of \$1.6 billion in reserve.

- Projected economic growth is 2.1 per cent according to the Economic Forecast Council. But, as an added measure of prudence, B.C. is budgeting on the basis of 1.6 per cent growth this fiscal year.

How Today's BC Liberals built the foundation we have

The first BC Liberal government began by reversing damage left by the NDP. Tight spending and low taxes led the way.

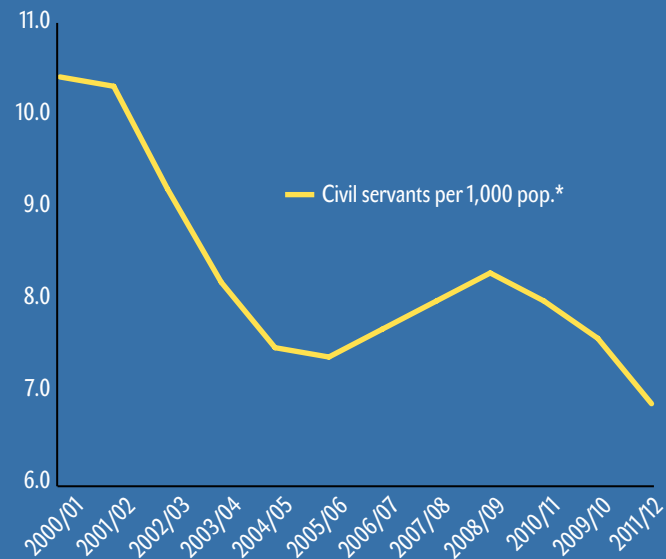
Over 11 consecutive budget years, Today's BC Liberals spent \$1.5 billion less than they budgeted for. Over a decade in power, the NDP failed to stay within its own spending plan in 9 out of 10 years, resulting in \$7.8 billion extra unbudgeted spending. This additional debt is now being carried by B.C. taxpayers. Had the NDP been allowed to continue with this undisciplined approach, \$17.5 billion would have been added to the debt by now.

Low taxes have remained a priority for our government. The NDP raised taxes dozens of times. Since taking office

“The 2013 B.C. budget presented in February was a difficult juggling act amid intense pressures on the province's revenues... In the end, the government maintained its commitment to eliminate its deficit in 2013-2014 by holding the line on spending...”

— Robert Hogue, Senior Economist, RBC Economics,
B.C. Provincial Outlook March 2013

Smaller, more efficient government since 2001



*Shows administrative ranks; does not include SUCH sector staff employment.

Source: Financial and Economic Review 2012

in 2001, BC Liberals have dramatically reduced personal and business taxes.

A competitive tax regime is a clear signal to investors that they and their employees can get ahead by working hard. High taxes say the opposite.

BC Liberals eliminated the NDP's job-killing Corporation Capital Tax on financial institutions that drove the financial industry to Toronto. Adrian Dix went on the record during his 2011 bid to win his party's leadership stating that a Corporate Capital Tax would be resurrected if he came into power.

BC Liberals reduced the size of government after the NDP years of a large, costly civil service.

Small businesses pay only 2.5 per cent income tax.

"The plan to eliminate a deficit requires that a reasonable degree of prudence be embedded in the revenue projections. It is my judgment that such a degree of prudence is evident in the documents I have had an opportunity to examine."

*B.C. Budget 2013 Economic & Revenue Forecasts—
Review and Assessment by Dr. Tim O'Neill,
Former Chief Economist BMO Financial Group*

"We had to do some rough-justice things, some of which I don't regret, but I don't like them. I don't like the corporate capital tax. It's not a tax on profit. I would have preferred a tax on profit."

Mike Harcourt, Vancouver Sun, Dec. 1992

Large B.C. businesses enjoy the third best corporate tax regime in Canada. They pay the second lowest corporate tax in the country. Corporate taxes have been reduced by one third since 2001 allowing for jobs to be created and investments made.

This record means Today's BC Liberals have a credible claim to carry forward in sustaining a strong economy for a secure tomorrow.

Good government means setting good examples

- Your Today's BC Liberal government has spent no additional money on public sector wage increases up to April 2014. Net Zero and Cooperative Gains Mandates mean a fair share of the pie for all, even in times when it's not getting bigger.
- Your Crown corporations and agencies are not exempt from high standards of prudent, responsible government stewardship. Today's BC Liberal

government has implemented audit recommendations for BC Hydro, ICBC, and TransLink (reduction of executives, executive compensation review reductions).

- In the five-year period 2007 to 2011, the BC Liberals contained growth in general government costs to an inflation-beating 0.5% a year – compared to 20% higher costs for the same category in the last five years of NDP government.
- B.C. has the smallest, most efficient public sector in Canada, according to the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.

DRIVING FORWARD

Today's BC Liberals will:

- Implement a government wide Core Review process to ensure the best possible use of government resources and hard earned tax dollars.
- Work with the Legislative Assembly to ensure that the Assembly is subject to the annual audits by an independent auditor and are made public at the same time as public accounts.
- Limit government spending growth to nominal GDP in the province.

Adrian Dix and the NDP: Risking B.C.'s future

This election is about making a choice: Moving forward with Premier Christy Clark and Today's BC Liberals or going backward with Adrian Dix and the B.C. NDP.

Adrian Dix and friends like Jim Sinclair in organized labour want to turn back the clock on a decade of labour peace and economic stability. Because of a strong economy, B.C. union membership is up 7 per cent since 2001, yet the NDP want to take us back to a time where people were bullied during organizing drives and prevented from voting in private through a secret ballot. That's not leadership. What's good enough for elections should be good enough for unions.

British Columbians simply can't afford another bait and switch from the NDP which makes promises before an election, yet once in office does the exact opposite.

When it comes to fiscal responsibility here is the NDP record:

- Adrian Dix and Glen Clark presided over six successive credit downgrades.
- B.C. became a have-not province and actually received equalization payments from the federal government at a time of unparalleled global economic growth.

That's not leadership. That is the trademark of a political party that thinks debt is someone else's problem.

Here is what NDP thinks about debt:

- Instead of committing to keeping spending low, Adrian Dix wants to abolish the law that holds Ministers and Deputy Ministers accountable for hitting their budget targets. He held this same view a dozen years ago – when he told the NDP not to bother balancing the budget.
- Adrian Dix is making promises showing he plans to overspend year after year, just like the last time he sat in the Premier's Office at the right hand of Glen Clark.

That's not leadership. That's called being stuck in the past.

"Once again, NDP's message to investors: drop dead"

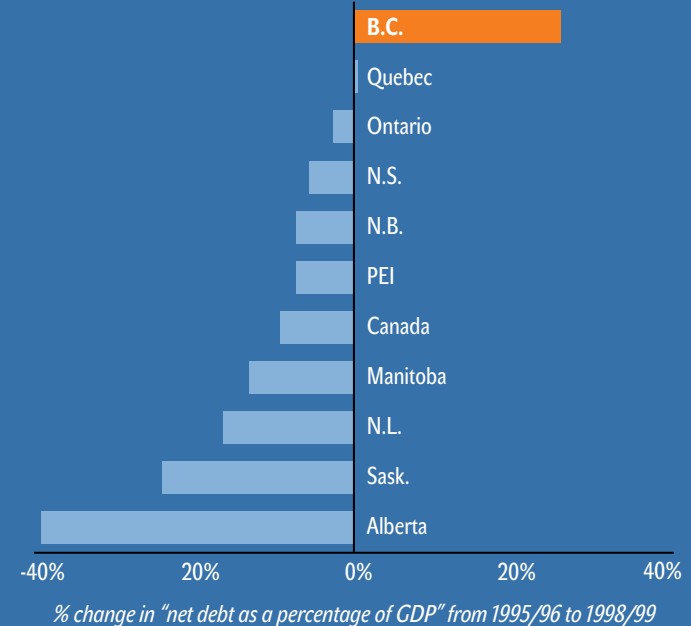
Vancouver Sun, Oct. 1998

*Balanced budgets are "politically toxic" to the NDP:
Adrian Dix*

When is the best time for fiscal prudence under the NDP?
Never, judging by the words of NDP leader Adrian Dix himself.

Today, he rejects balanced-budget legislation, promising to tear up this most prudent of BC Liberal accomplishments.

**As the rest of Canada prospered through 90s,
NDP-run B.C. grew debt by 25%**



Source: Nesbitt Burns Inc.

He says he may try to balance the budget again some time in the future, when business conditions have improved.

But his own words suggest there will never be such a time.

In 2000, with the NDP government having taken B.C.'s debt load to an all-time high, Adrian Dix insisted it would be a bad idea for his party's leader to table balanced-budget legislation. Bringing in a law that would ban deficits would be "politically toxic to the NDP," Adrian Dix said at the time. He says much the same now.

Right now, ministers do not receive their full salary when there is a provincial deficit. By scrapping B.C.'s balanced budget legislation, Adrian Dix would avoid receiving a pay cut and avoid personal financial accountability for jacking up debt.

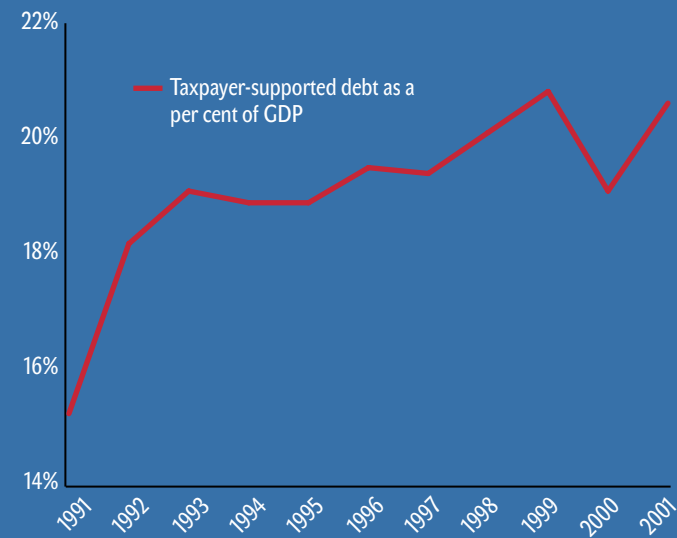
So it's not that Adrian Dix approves of deficit budgets just in bad times, it's that they're all he knows.

Unbridled spending, deficits every year, and more debt.

That's not leadership. That's the same old NDP.

Today's BC Liberals Strong Economy, Secure Tomorrow platform is of vital importance today. Without these ideas under the guidance of Premier Christy Clark and her team, the NDP agenda would erase years of progress.

NDP policy on debt: pile it on



Source: Ministry of Finance

"We'll be driving business away, investment away. The whole idea behind the tax structure that's been put in place is to attract investment, and we don't see this as being particularly attractive."

John Winter, President & CEO British Columbia Chamber of Commerce reacts to NDP fiscal plan, CKWX, April 9, 2013



5. Our plan for a Debt-Free B.C.

Today's BC Liberals Have a Bold Vision for British Columbia



Debt-Free B.C. is about controlled spending, growing the economy and creating prosperity.

Premier Christy Clark has controlled spending and nurtured a private sector that is investing

billions in British Columbia. The dream of a debt-free British Columbia is within our reach. Under Today's BC Liberals we have moved in the right direction, keeping interest costs low with our AAA credit rating that the NDP could jeopardize. Under the NDP, more than one dollar in every 10 went to interest payments alone.

In a Debt-Free B.C., our children will be able to make choices without the worry of how to repay the debt we have left them. In a Debt-Free B.C., our province and our economy will be stronger and even more resilient to global uncertainty.

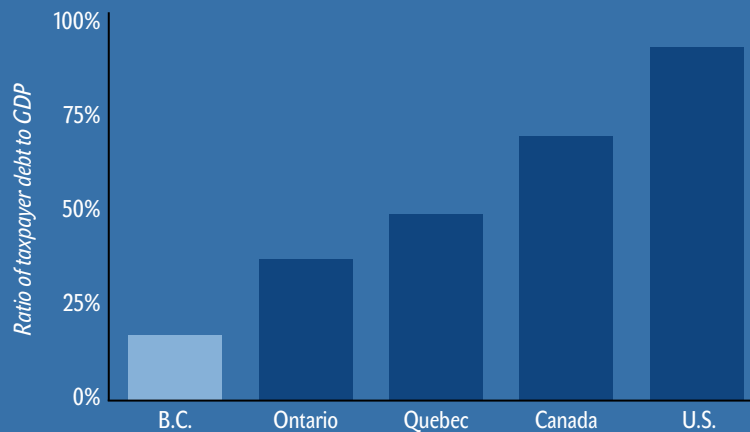
Our children will inherit choice and opportunity instead of interest payments on debt they didn't create.

This future starts with the BC Jobs Plan, balanced budgets and controlled spending. It requires acting with speed and conviction to create success conditions for our LNG future.

The wrong approach is higher spending and more debt.

By introducing Balanced Budget 2013 Today's BC Liberals are on the right path.

Today's BC Liberals have kept debt low



Source: Ministry of Finance



Our Record in British Columbia

The BC Liberal government has led in these key areas:

- By reducing the tax burden on British Columbians.
- By investing in new highways, hospitals and schools.
- By imposing strict controls on the size and growth of government.
- By working toward our promise – now delivered – of a balanced budget that doesn't spend more of your tax dollars than what you give.

That is how we got to today. Now it's time to decide the story of tomorrow.

Today's BC Liberals offer a vision for prosperity

The BC Prosperity Fund is not about spending. It is about saving. Our natural resource revenues today will be tucked away to create value for future generations. In 1990, Norway created its Oil Fund to save surplus petroleum revenues. The first surplus flowed six years later and now the Oil Fund is worth \$700 billion.

The government of British Columbia commissioned consultants Ernst & Young and Grant Thornton

to validate the jobs, economic benefit and financial opportunity of LNG for B.C. They both found there are huge opportunities if we seize this once-in-a-generation opportunity.

Up to \$100 billion will flow to the BC Prosperity Fund over the next 30 years if five LNG plants are in operation. Industry is asking for permission to build them at a total cost, including pipelines, of \$98 billion.

The BC Prosperity Fund

DRIVING FORWARD

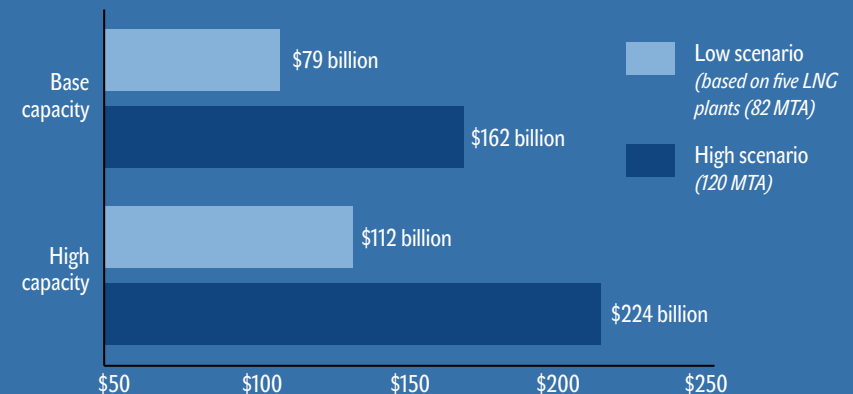
Today's BC Liberals will:

- Introduce legislation creating the BC Prosperity Fund that will outline that the first priority for BC Prosperity Fund revenues is to pay off provincial debt, including BC Ferries, BC Hydro and the Port Mann Bridge.
- Once provincial debt is repaid, protect the principal accumulated in the BC Prosperity Fund to ensure its long-term sustainability for future generations.
- Dedicate revenues from LNG development and the proposed Kitimat Clean refinery to the BC Prosperity Fund.
- Enact legislation to protect the BC Prosperity Fund from becoming a 'cash-cow' for wasteful and desperate government spending.

“Free enterprise has a proud record of taking ideas and getting them done – a legacy of hydroelectric power; infrastructure and resource development, and the generational opportunities in the energy sector we’re seeing today.”

*Brad Bennett
Kelowna, B.C.*

Estimated B.C. tax revenue from LNG, over 20 years



Source: Independent projection by Ernst & Young, February 2013.



Reducing debt: BC Ferries, Hydro and Port Mann Bridge

The LNG opportunity in British Columbia presents our province with a unique opportunity to eliminate our provincial debt, with revenues expected to flow into the BC Prosperity Fund beginning in 2017.

And not only the debt of core government, but of some of our very important provincial assets.

During the last term of the NDP government, they chose not to invest in the things that mattered most to British Columbians. They chose not to invest in BC Ferries (save the \$463 million they blew on three useless fast ferries). They did not invest in the infrastructure of BC Hydro (but Adrian Dix wanted to build a power plant in Pakistan on our dime). And they did not invest in the infrastructure necessary to move people and goods around the Lower Mainland.

In short, they mismanaged our tax dollars and shortchanged the province.

Today's BC Liberals know the accumulation of debt in our Crown corporations and taxpayer-supported entities is squeezing affordability for those who use these services.

Strengthening BC Ferries for stronger coastal communities

Last year, Today's BC Liberals announced a \$79.5 million financial assistance package for BC Ferries to reduce pressure on ferry rates for the traveling public. While this is a good first step, we need to do more to ensure coastal communities have access to a high quality ferry service that affordably meets the needs of the travelling public.

In 2012, debt servicing costs for BC Ferries totaled nearly \$72 million. This is expected to grow with the need to replace the rapidly aging ferry fleet.

Today's BC Liberals recognize this is unsustainable.

Our LNG future gives us a generational opportunity to reinvest in our coastal ferry system, reduce debt and make ferry fares more affordable over the long term.

Reducing pressure on ratepayers

As the BC Prosperity Fund reduces public debt, this will include reducing the debt for BC Hydro and the Port Mann Bridge by allowing us to accelerate the paydown of debt for capital projects that are helping build the province.

Photo: Copyright © 2013, Province of British Columbia.

DRIVING FORWARD

Today's BC Liberals will:

- Put one third of the dollars that flow into the BC Prosperity Fund toward eliminating the debt at BC Ferries up to \$1 billion.
- Accelerate the paydown of debt at BC Hydro and for the Port Mann Bridge once the core provincial debt is paid down.



ROADMAP TO A DEBT-FREE B.C.



B.C.'S STRONG ECONOMY is creating jobs and keeping taxes low for families. We're protecting it with a balanced budget and controlled spending. This creates a generational opportunity to Secure Tomorrow and create real change by making a Debt-Free B.C. possible for our kids.

Here's our roadmap to a Debt-Free B.C.:

1. Debt Paydown Plan

- » B.C.'s budget is balanced and on the road to surpluses if we stay the course. We will dedicate at least 50% of future surplus revenues to debt reduction.
- » Create the BC Prosperity Fund to capture Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and proposed Kitimat Clean refinery royalty revenues, and dedicate all revenues to debt reduction until provincial debt is eliminated.
- » Enact legislation to protect the BC Prosperity Fund from becoming a 'cash-cow' for wasteful and desperate government spending.

2. Controlling Spending

- » Cap government spending increases against the rate of nominal GDP.
- » Launch a core review of all government ministries.
- » Recommit to B.C.'s Balanced Budget Law with tougher penalties for Ministers who miss budget targets.

3. Growing the Economy

- » Freeze personal income tax rates and the carbon tax for five years.
- » Reduce B.C.'s Small Business Tax by 40% and reduce Corporate Income Tax rates to 10% by 2018.
- » Accelerate the BC Jobs Plan to drive growth across B.C.'s economy.

PLATFORM COSTING

Today's BC Liberal Platform is built on Balanced Budget 2013. A re-elected BC Liberal government will re-introduce the same budget as was introduced on February 19th by Finance Minister Michael De Jong. Balanced Budget 2013 had revenue forecasts reviewed by Dr. Tim O'Neill, a well-respected Canadian economist and received positive reviews and affirmed credit ratings from global bond rating agencies.

"After an examination of the economic and revenue forecasts planned for the Budget 2013 plan of the Government of British Columbia and the supporting documents that underpin those forecasts, the conclusion reached is that the economic and revenue expectations are generally well founded.

They reflect the utilization of sound methodologies and processes, effective use of private-sector expertise and appropriate assessment of the risks to the economic outlook and the associated revenue projections."

Dr. Tim O'Neill, Former Chief Economist, Bank of Montreal

"Another important component of the expenditure management plan is limiting growth in health care spending to an average of 2.6 per cent over the three-year forecast horizon. This is to be achieved, in part, by efforts to reduce prices paid for generic drugs. This is a more aggressive target than the 3.2 per cent average increase contained in last year's plan but is still viewed by DBRS as achievable for a few years given the government's superior track record of expenditure control."

Dominion Bond Rating Service, March 25, 2013

The expenditure measures contained in Balanced Budget 2013 remain in place. What follows in our Platform Costing section are new measures that will be undertaken by a re-elected Today's BC Liberal government for priorities to be funded within the current fiscal plan.

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Platform Costing

Budget 2013 in millions	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Revenue	44,387	44,986	46,377
Expense	-43,990	-44,550	-45,592
Contingency	-225	-225	-225
Forecast Allowance	-200	-225	-325
Surplus (deficit)	197	211	460
New Priorities			
Additional Buy Local Campaign funding	-2	-2	-2
Aerospace Cluster Investment		-1	-1
Age-friendly grants to communities			-0.5
Anti-bullying support		-0.25	-0.25
Back to school tax credit (250/child)			-25
BC Film Trade office in Hollywood			-4
Better at Home home care services partnership with United Way		-5	-5
Capital funding for skills training			-10
Cellulose Filaments Investment			-4
Centre for Excellence in Agriculture		-2	-2
Children's sports equipment tax credit		-5	-5
Extra-curricular and back to school teacher tax credits		-3	-3
Farmer Food-bank Tax Credit			-0.7
Film DAVE post-production tax credit	-1.2	-1.2	-1.2
First Nations Clean Energy Fund		-1	
Forest Innovation Investment-India		-1	-1
Freshwater Fisheries			-2.4
Heart and Stroke AED's in venues			-1
Increased Silviculture			-10
Legal Services Society		-2	-2
LNG Minister and Secretariat	-2	-2	-2
Loan forgiveness for out-of-province medical graduates		-1	-1
Organic agriculture branding		-0.5	-0.5
Rest Stops and Visitor Centre Upgrades			-3
Rural Revenue Sharing with UBCM			-25
Small Business tax rate reduction (0.5%)			-55
Small Business Venture Capital Program			-5
Student Online Textbooks			-2
Wood innovation research		-0.5	-0.5
Remaining Surplus	191.8	183.55	293.45







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