

PROVINCE OF

British Columbia

STRATEGIC PLAN 2010/11 – 2012/13

MARCH 2010 | www.gov.bc.ca

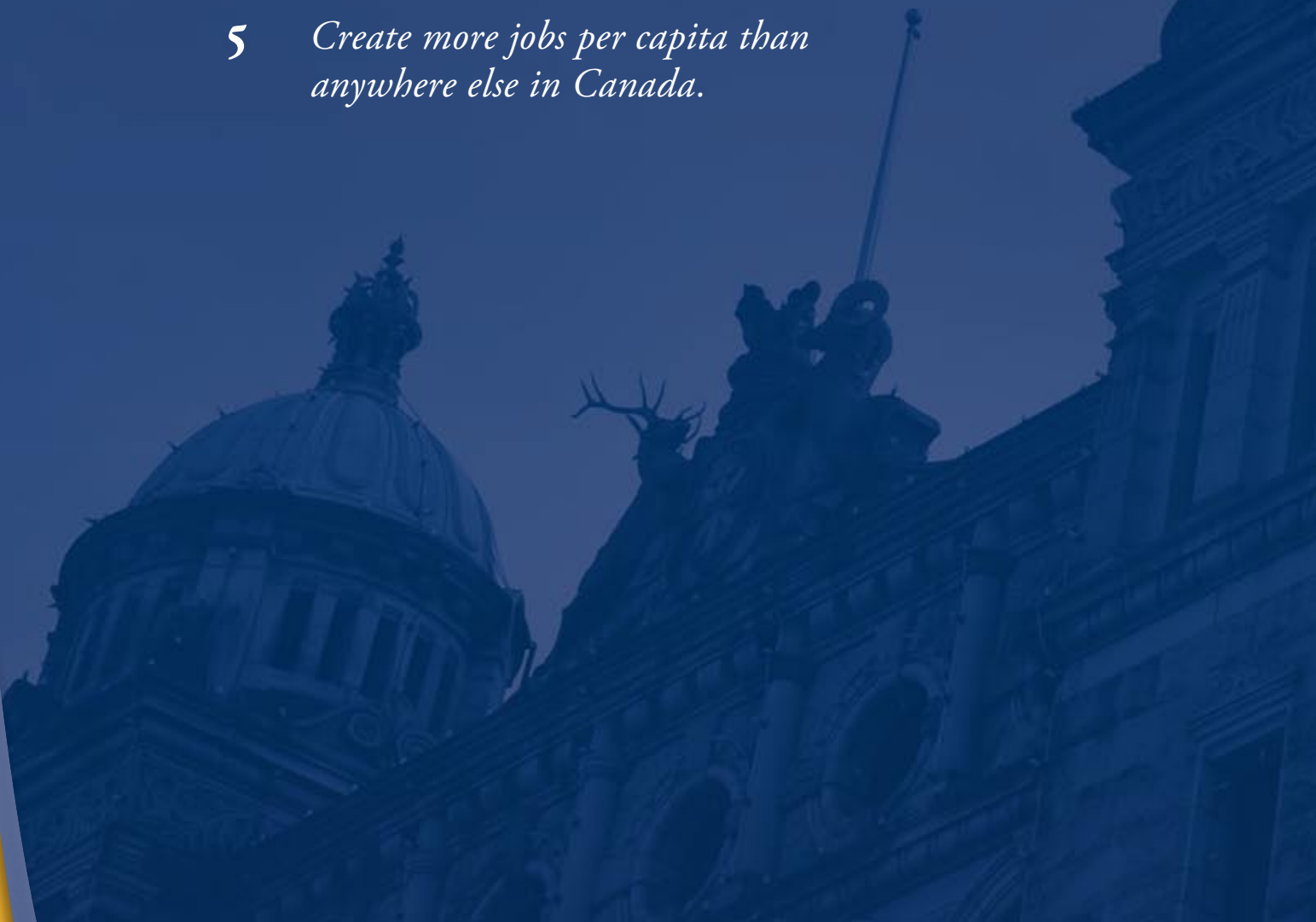


BRITISH
COLUMBIA

The Best Place on Earth

GREAT GOALS FOR A GOLDEN DECADE

- 1** *Make B.C. the best educated, most literate jurisdiction on the continent.*
- 2** *Lead the way in North America in healthy living and physical fitness.*
- 3** *Build the best system of support in Canada for persons with disabilities, those with special needs, children at risk and seniors.*
- 4** *Lead the world in sustainable environmental management, with the best air and water quality, and the best fisheries management, bar none.*
- 5** *Create more jobs per capita than anywhere else in Canada.*





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To be a prosperous and just province, whose citizens achieve their potential and have confidence in the future.

GOVERNMENT'S CORE VALUES ARE

- **Integrity:** to make decisions in a manner that is consistent, professional, fair, transparent and balanced;
- **Fiscal Responsibility:** to implement affordable public policies;
- **Accountability:** to enhance efficiency, effectiveness and the credibility of government;
- **Respect:** to treat all citizens equitably, compassionately and respectfully; and
- **Choice:** to afford citizens the opportunity to exercise self-determination.

Letter From The Premier

With the 2010 Olympic Winter Games now behind us, British Columbia has been introduced to the world — and the world liked what it saw. All British Columbians and Canadians deserve a gold medal for being welcoming, selfless hosts and for opening your hearts to visitors around the world. To the Four Host First Nations, VANOC, our provincial and territorial partners, sponsors, volunteers, trainers, coaches, community groups and the legions of proud citizens — thank you. Every one of our Olympic athletes has reason to be proud. They have inspired a generation to dream big and to reach high. Their performances will live in our history books for all time. We now look forward to the Paralympic Games to be held this March.


The Olympics have been a launching pad to help lift our province and our country to new heights and new opportunities. It is now incumbent on us to use that launching pad to achieve our goals and embrace new solutions for this new century. We have learned that in this age of global transformation, standing still is not an option. In the year ahead we will build on the Olympic momentum, introduce changes for our children's advantage and build a foundation for the province we want for 2030.

We will work to strengthen our economy, reinforcing our fiscal framework to create jobs. This will include new and ongoing partnerships with First Nations, local, federal, territorial and provincial governments, business, our neighbours to the south and countries across the Pacific. We will work to remove barriers to investment and open our borders to new job creation. We will capitalize on our geographical and cultural advantage as Canada's Pacific Gateway by furthering opportunities in digital media, film, wood innovation, transportation, natural resource sectors, tourism and the financial industry.

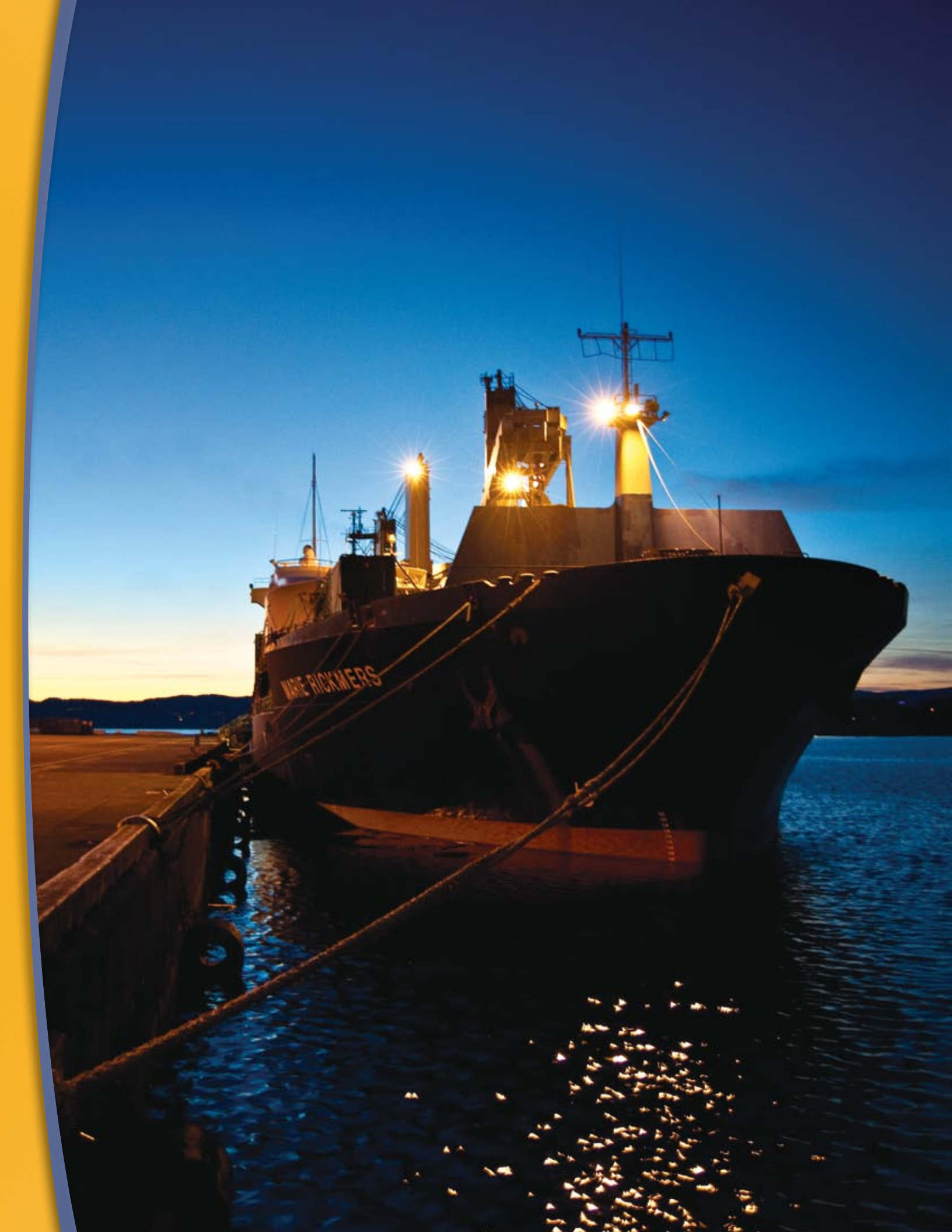
We will maximize our potential as a clean energy powerhouse and a global leader in climate action. New legislation will encourage investment and independent power production. New transmission infrastructure will open up the North and further secure our domestic power supply. New conservation measures will maximize savings for individuals and families.

New measures will be introduced to add support for families with children so future generations have the best possible chance to prosper. Our education system will be modernized to create new opportunities for early learning, new choices for students and to ensure smarter use of our educational resources. Innovation in health delivery will be expanded to give patients new choices, reward performance and secure public health care for future generations.

We need to be bold; we need to be innovative; we need to be aggressive and to launch ourselves into the next decade and take advantage of the opportunities in front of us. This Strategic Plan provides our vision and priorities for British Columbia over the next three years. Further details on each Ministry's role in these priorities can be found in individual Ministry Service Plans and Annual Service Plan Reports.



Honourable Gordon Campbell
Premier of British Columbia



Strengthening Our Economy

G R E A T G O A L

*Create more jobs per capita than
anywhere else in Canada.*

This government has been unwavering in its focus on fostering economic growth and strength since 2001. Having a strong economy is the foundation upon which our quality of life is reliant upon, and the measures implemented have built upon that foundation. This will continue to be one of our primary priorities.

Over the last eighteen months, we have taken aggressive steps to stimulate economic recovery. These efforts have included significant tax cuts for industry, small business and individuals, such as the recently announced new tax credit for digital media intended to support continued growth, development and competitiveness of BC's film and video game sectors. We have invested heavily in our infrastructure to keep people employed in our construction sector.

We are now starting to see signs of recovery in the economy, including indicators such as the stabilization of job markets and the drastic improvement of housing markets. We are slowly emerging from this economic storm, with the outlook from the Economic Forecast Council indicating a positive economic growth in 2010 and beyond. Our long term focus will be on continuing to create the optimum conditions that will foster sustained growth and economic prosperity.



Fundamental to that growth in the coming year is the economic boost that will come from the Olympics. The Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games have been an unparalleled success, both for our incredible athletes and for the economic benefits to individuals and businesses across the Province that they have already provided.

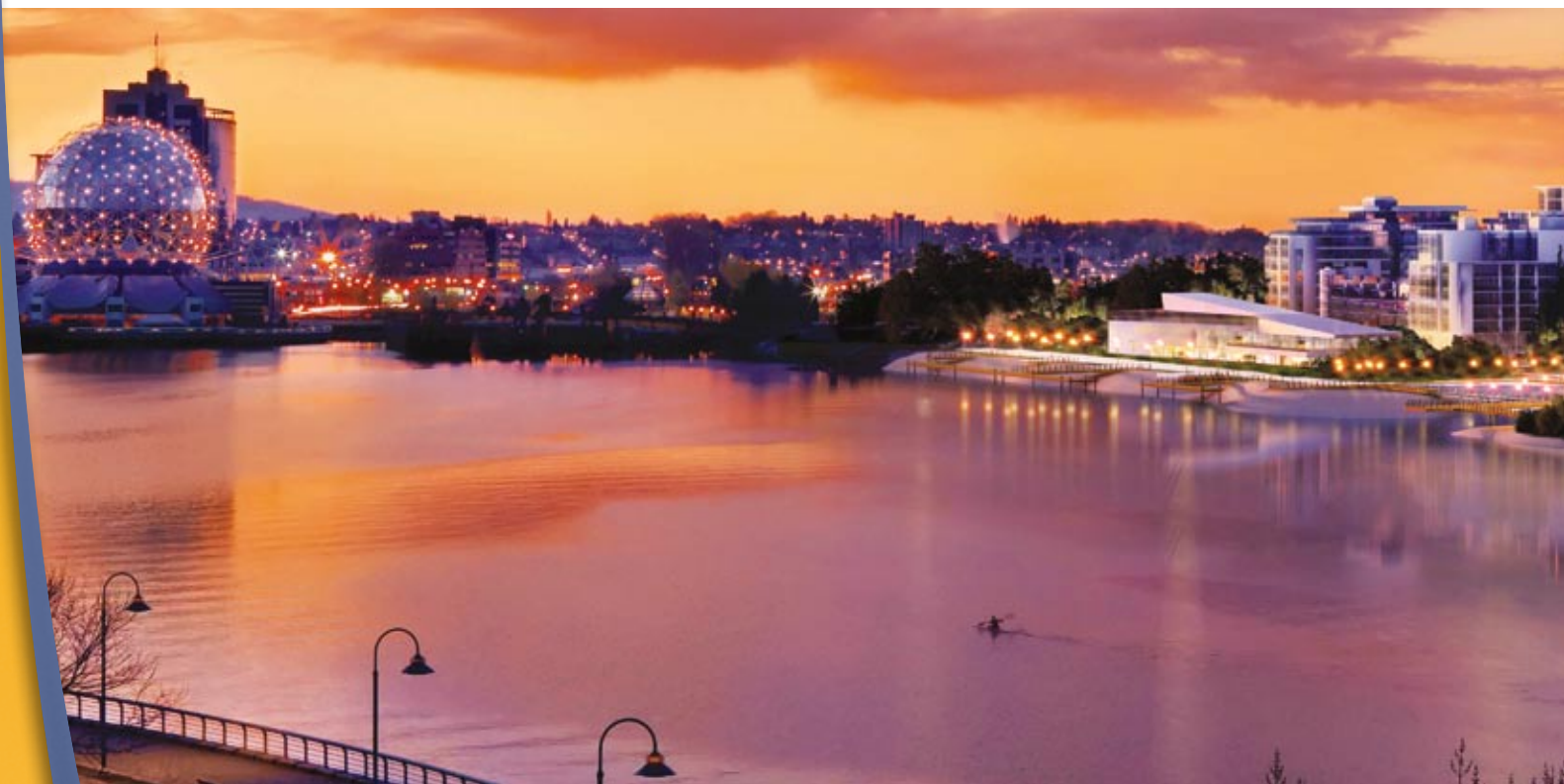
These Olympic and Paralympic Games have provided us with the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to showcase our Province and promote our talented people, our strategic location and our competitive tax rates. Already there are predictions that B.C. will lead Canada in growth next year, and these Olympic games provide us with the mechanism to build on the momentum. The legacy of these Games, and the upcoming Paralympic Games, will provide lasting economic, sport and social benefits throughout B.C. for years to come.

In July, we will be implementing the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST), under the agreement negotiated with the federal government. The HST, which is the lowest in Canada, is estimated to provide \$2 billion in savings to B.C. businesses, as well as savings to the Province associated with administering the tax.

The Province will also be receiving a transfer payment of \$1.6 billion — funding that will go towards further supporting our social services. School boards, universities and hospitals will be receiving rebates from the Province to ensure that there will be no additional tax pressures to these institutions beyond what is currently paid.

This tax will allow us to remain competitive with the more than 130 countries and five Canadian provinces, including Ontario, that have shifted to a value-added tax like the HST; enhance our Province's competitiveness; and increase investment and productivity. We will continue to have the second lowest overall tax burden in Canada as a result of the 120 tax cuts undertaken since 2001. Individuals in B.C. earning up to \$118,000 now pay the lowest provincial personal income taxes in Canada.

Development of clean and renewable green energy will be one of the highest priorities for the Province, with the intention of making B.C. a green-energy powerhouse. Already, the Province has significant clean renewable energy through our heritage assets, which were the cornerstone for economic expansion in the 1960's and 70's.



Expanding development in the green energy sector, including exploring options on Site C, examining trade and export opportunities with neighbouring jurisdictions, ensuring First Nations' participation, leveraging investments through long-term contracts, and developing run-of-river small hydro, wind, geothermal, biomass and ocean energy, can provide opportunities for new job creation, move us towards electricity self-sufficiency and support meeting our climate change goals.

In support of expanding this sector, the Province created a Green Energy Advisory Task Force comprised of leaders in the field of green energy, who focused their attention on turning green energy potential into real economic, environmental and social benefits for the Province. Building on their contribution, the Province will launch a comprehensive strategy to put B.C. at the forefront of clean energy development. This includes introducing a new *Clean Energy Act* that will be introduced to encourage new investments in independent power production, strengthen BC Hydro and provide fair, predictable, clean power calls.

The Province will continue to work collaboratively to explore partnerships and opportunities with neighbouring and international jurisdictions. The governments of British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan will continue to pursue the New West Partnership, creating a broad western interprovincial trade agreement and creating the largest barrier-free trade and investment market in Canada.

The Province also signed a framework agreement with the Washington State Governor that will result in cooperation between the two jurisdictions on transportation and other initiatives that will build B.C.'s competitiveness, strengthen the regional economy, and create growth.

Additionally, on February 12th of this year, leaders from British Columbia, California, Oregon, and Washington have signed onto a series of joint actions that will help create jobs, strengthen the Pacific Coast economy, advance action on climate change and clean energy, and protect the marine environment.

These agreements are an important step towards advancing North America's West Coast as a global leader in the new low-carbon economy, ocean health, renewable energy and transportation.



The Province will work towards opening up our Pacific Gateway between North America and the Asia-Pacific region, through the continued support of initiatives aimed at enhancing our ties to the growing economies of China, India, Japan, and South Korea. We have recently celebrated the opening of the third berth at the Deltaport container terminal in Roberts Bank, an expansion of the container terminal's capacity by 50 per cent.

An Open Skies Summit was held last year that looked to expand opportunities of Open Skies agreements that are critical for international trade and increased tourism. We have opened a new office in Bangalore, India, which is considered to be the "Silicon Valley" of India. This new office will help B.C.'s export-ready companies link to opportunities in India.

We are working to further our relationship with China regarding its increasing demand for our wood products. China has recently developed new building codes which now allow wood in construction and have increasingly looked to B.C. as the supplier to meet this increasing demand. As a result, B.C. softwood lumber exports to China in 2009 hit an all-time annual high, with 1.63 billion board feet exported.

The housing market in the United States continues to recover slowly, but we can not tie ourselves predominantly to that market anymore. We will need to continue to increase our efforts to expand and diversify our exports of wood products to the key Asian markets, including China, Japan and new potential markets in India, in order to support our forest industry and stimulate growth. A new Wood Innovation and Design Centre will be built in Prince George to further foster our reputation as global leaders in wood construction, engineered wood products and design.

The Province will also continue to work with First Nation communities as a key priority. Recently, a treaty was initialled by the Yale First Nation, British Columbia and Canada, and reconciliation agreements were reached with the Haida First Nation and the North Coast First Nations. These agreements will provide certainty to investors, ensure that the Province is meeting its legal obligations to First Nations, and enable the provision of economic benefits to First Nations as a result of resource development.

It is anticipated that an additional number of treaties will also be concluded over the next 12–24 months, further providing economic benefits to these First Nation communities through the provision of land, cash and governance authorities. However, treaty negotiations are lengthy, complicated negotiations that can take a number of years to conclude. Complementary to treaty negotiations, the Province will continue to examine opportunities to conclude other types of agreements, such as reconciliation agreements, that will provide benefits to First Nations and certainty to industry in the short term.

We are continuing to manage projects planned and currently underway through the Province's three-year \$14-billion capital infrastructure program, which will create up to 88,000 jobs and help build vital public infrastructure in every region of B.C. Currently, the value of the 882 large-scale construction projects planned or underway across B.C. is at \$189 billion. This value of projects represents the investor confidence in the province's economic recovery and are positive indicators for B.C.'s construction industry.

The Province will be working with our provincial and federal counterparts to ensure approval processes are as efficient as possible, with a focus on harmonizing the environmental assessment review process to remove duplication and overlap. We cannot afford to stand by and wait while \$3 billion worth of projects that have been approved by the Province are stranded in the federal approval process. Through the new Investment Process Review, we also will ensure that provincial approval and regulatory processes are as simplified, efficient and effective as possible in order to foster economic growth and create opportunities for workers across the Province.

Our oil and gas sector continues to be one of the most competitive natural gas jurisdictions in the world. The Province announced an oil and gas stimulus package in 2009, designed to attract investment and produce economic benefits, and the resulting natural gas and oil rights sales for 2009 is an indication that the stimulus package further strengthened this sector. The 2009 calendar year total for rights sales was just under \$893 million, making it the third-best calendar year total in history. Natural gas will continue to be viewed as a bridge on the way to a renewable future, burning cleaner than other fossil fuels and therefore reducing green house gas emissions.

The Province will be proceeding with new transmission investments in the Highway 37 corridor. This investment line has the potential to generate billions of dollars in capital investments, create thousands of new jobs and open economic opportunities on a global scale in the Northwest. The project could support the development of a number of new mines, as well as take advantage of the vast mineral potential in the region. With the rising commodity prices, this year could be a strong year for B.C.'s mineral industry. In 2009, mineral exploration activity in B.C. reached \$154 million, with 30 mine development projects submitted to government.

We will be developing new transmission infrastructure to link Northeast B.C. to the integrated grid in order to provide clean power to the energy industry. This infrastructure will also provide new capacity for clean power exports to Alberta, Saskatchewan and the United States.

Many of the investments made in the areas of infrastructure, forestry and forest service roads, oil and gas, mining, First Nations, and clean energy, will continue to benefit rural communities. These communities are the backbone of our province, and our commitment to these communities remains strong.

Now is not the time to alter from our current path. We need to continue to be proactive; to take bold steps that will generate new opportunities that will drive job creation and economic growth while ensuring that we are managing our spending in fiscally responsible ways. We need to look at new ways of doing things, streamlining approval processes to facilitate investment and investor certainty, accessing new markets that are emerging as a result of issues such as climate change, and fostering and building on relationships with business partners such as Asia-Pacific countries. We all need to work together to build a future that our children will be proud of and that we all will be able to prosper in.





Focusing On Healthy, Educated Families and Children

G R E A T G O A L S

Lead the way in North America in healthy living and physical fitness.

Make B.C. the best educated, most literate jurisdiction on the continent.

Build the best system of support in Canada for persons with disabilities, those with special needs, children at risk and seniors.

This Government has made a commitment to protect core public services, including health and education. Despite the difficult economic conditions, this commitment stands. Funding over the next three years for health services is being increased by nearly 18 per cent. By 2011, health services funding will reach \$15.7 billion. Per-student funding for kindergarten to Grade 12 is being maintained at over \$8,200, regardless of declining enrolment. Government has provided an additional \$420 million over three years to meet the greater demands associated with income assistance.

However, we all need to examine ways to ensure our health, education and social services funding does not overwhelm our ability to fund priorities in other areas. An aging demographic and the increases in costs associated with new diagnostic treatments and pharmaceuticals, will continue to put pressure on future budgets. We will need to ensure that we do not have unaffordable growth in health costs in order to return to a balanced budget by 2013 and protect other core program funding.

Government is looking to ensure that we are making wise choices in our investments that maximize our returns on investments. But Government can only provide the services; we also all need to take part in making healthy lifestyle choices for ourselves.

We are working with Health Authorities to find efficiencies in service delivery, such as the nearly \$90 million saved as a result of procurement processes for cardiac, renal dialysis and operating room supplies undertaken through the B.C. Health Authority Shared Services Organization.

We are looking at ways to introduce innovations to give more choices to patients, reward those that produce results, and ensure that those successful organizations are able to share their program delivery models with those that are struggling to achieve similar performance outcomes.

We are investing in areas of early detection and prevention of disease, such as the building of the Robert H.N. Ho Research Centre at Vancouver General Hospital that will focus on researching and developing new treatments and cures for disease.

Programs such as ActNow focus on healthy lifestyles, reducing obesity, consumption of healthy foods and decreased smoking levels are an equally important key part of reducing our future health care costs.

However, we cannot look at the health of an individual solely through a health care lens. Evidence shows that the health of an individual is directly tied to their childhood experiences and environment. Fostering supports for children, and particularly children between the ages of one and five, will be a key priority for the Province to ensure that children and their parents have access to the tools for a healthy future.

The Province will be working in partnership with the private sector to enable neighbourhood schools of learning for four- and three-year-olds over the next five years. We will continue to implement its StrongStart BC program, a free early learning program for preschool-aged children to help increase literacy, promote community and give our children a safe and nurturing environment in which to thrive.

The Province is investing \$43 million to expand the program to all of B.C.'s 60 school districts. The Province has also invested heavily in other early learning initiatives, such as \$15 million for the kindergarten readiness program Ready, Set Learn, and \$2.7 million for LEAP BC.

The Province is moving ahead on its commitment to implement optional full day kindergarten for all five-year-olds in B.C. — a major innovation for families. Full day kindergarten will be available for up to 50 per cent of kindergarten students in 2010 and for every five-year-old starting school in 2011.

We are looking at ways to modernize our education system, focusing on the individual and unique needs of our children. We need to ensure that parents have the means to be involved in their children's education, the individuals will be provided choices and diversity within the education system, and that resources are focused where they are most needed — on students' learning needs.

The Province is also committed to ensuring youth at risk have the supports that they need to strengthen their skills. Programs such as BladeRunners, the award-winning program for at-risk youth, have had their funding increased by \$14 million to provide double the number of training spaces, expanding services in communities, and improving access to certificate programs and other enhanced skills.



A cross-ministry protocol also came into effect in November, 2009, focusing on young people between the ages of 14 and 25 who require significant additional educational, medical/health and social/environmental support.

However, focusing efforts solely on children without also taking into consideration supports needed for the entire family misses a critical component of a child's health. Parents need the education, access to resources and support structures to provide a healthy and stable environment for their children. To support those parents wanting to take adult basic education towards receiving their high school graduation, tuition is free at post-secondary institutions, online or at local high schools.

The Province has also expanded free access to English language training programs to assist immigrants and refugees in communities across British Columbia. A new pan-Canadian framework also improves the recognition of immigrants with foreign qualifications.

The Province also recognizes the fundamental importance of affordable, accessible, safe, quality child care, and provides child care subsidies based on each family's circumstances. The Child Care Resource and Referral Program helps parents with information on how to find child care and the types of child care available in their communities.

The Province is committed to ensuring that child care, and supporting child care programs, provide the best environment for children and the best supports for parents. A new Extended Family Program will provide improvements to the existing Child In The Home of a Relative program that will ensure increased assistance, supports and safeguards for children.

A healthy family not only requires access to the right services like education and child care, but also a healthy living environment.

The Province has recently taken steps to protect victims of domestic violence. These steps include the establishment of a domestic violence unit in the Capital Regional District, establishing a uniform policy for investigations of all instances of domestic violence, and developing cross-agency domestic violence policies that set out obligations and commitments for all ministries, policing agencies, Crown and service providers involved in high-risk domestic violence cases.





Healthy environments also include the ability to provide a house as well as a home. Housing prices, particularly in the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island, can extend beyond the reach of many families. Housing needs to be affordable, and we need to be innovative in exploring options to make owning a house within the reach of more families, such as the Family With Children Property Tax Deferral Option. We need to examine ways to build our communities that are environmentally sustainable, economically viable and socially responsible. The Province has embarked on initiatives intended to foster green communities, including increasing public transit services, and will continue to examine options as well as mechanisms to increase affordable housing in B.C.

Part of a sustainable environment is the efficient and effective provision of services. The requirement to go to multiple organizations to receive services results in valuable time taken away from families. The Province will be examining ways to streamline services, making them more efficient and enabling families to spend more time together.

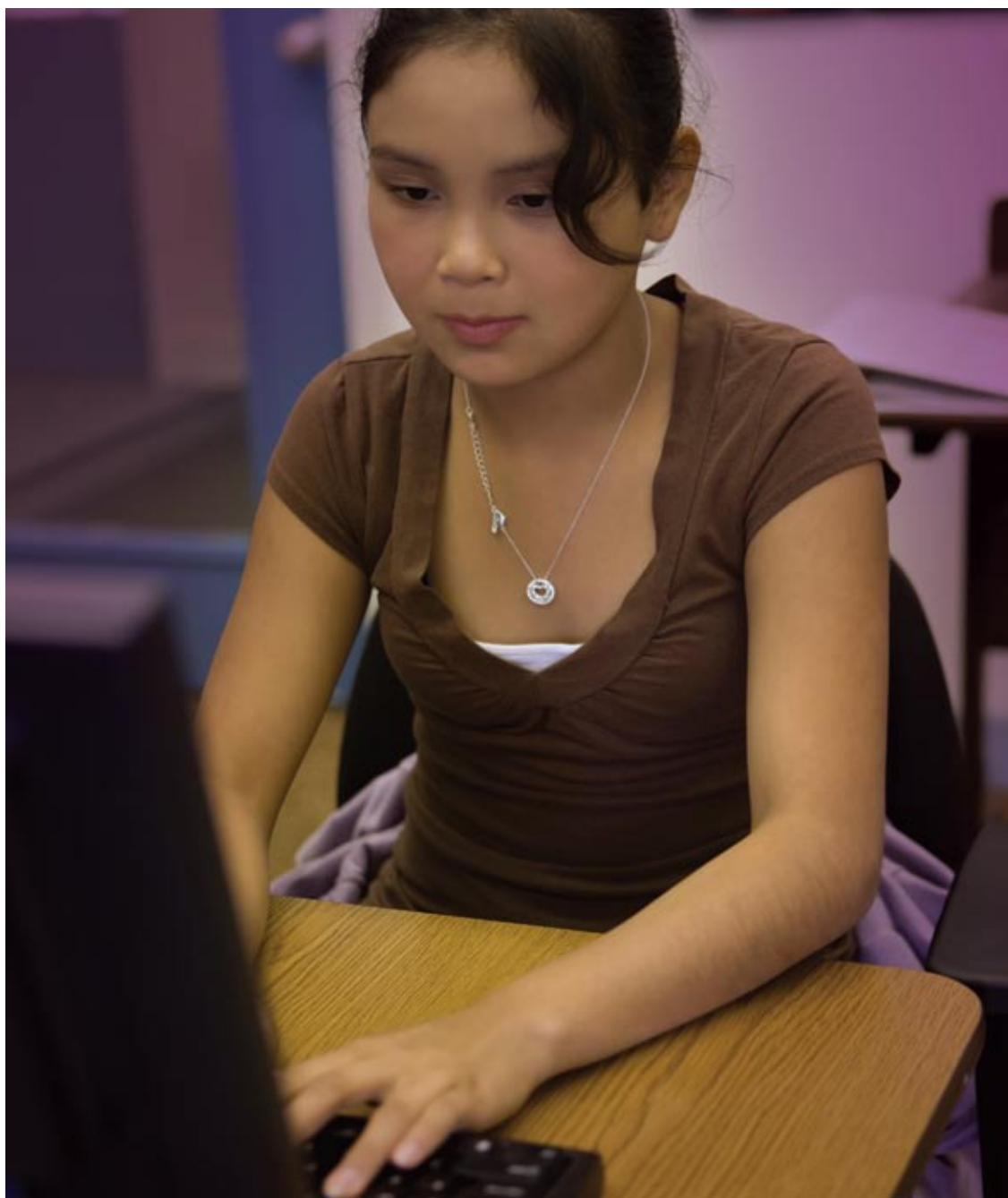
Services to help those that cannot help themselves is also a key pillar of the social safety net provided by the Province. We have budgeted \$450 million for social housing, more than three times as much as in 2001, as part of the initiative aimed at breaking the cycle of homelessness. We partner with local governments, health authorities, the federal government, and service providers to build affordable and supportive housing with integrated support services.

The Province has also introduced the *Assistance to Shelter Act* to keep homeless British Columbians safe from extreme weather. The Act provides police with the authority to take people at risk of harm to emergency shelters and safe accommodation.

In many cases, the issues of homelessness cannot be separated from those associated with mental health and addictions. The Province has created the Homelessness Intervention Project, established in five communities across the Province, to connect those with mental health and addictions with the housing, services, and supports that they need.

We have introduced a Resident's Bill of Rights to ensure that residents in B.C. care facilities know their rights. These rights promote health, safety and dignity and contribute to an environment that will provide high-quality care. This Bill of Rights will apply to adults who live in residential care facilities licensed under the *Community Care and Assisted Living Act*, including long-term care, mental health and substance use, community living, hospice and acquired brain injury facilities.

Additionally, in January of this year, a more equitable rate structure was introduced for all residential care clients to reduce the burden on low-income seniors and support ongoing improvements to the residential care system. Under the new structure, approximately 25 per cent of clients with the lowest incomes will see a reduction in their rates, resulting in individual savings of up to \$540 per year.





Protecting Our Environment and Combating Climate Change

G R E A T G O A L

Lead the world in sustainable environmental management, with the best air and water quality and the best fisheries management, bar none.

Climate change and ensuring we are protecting and sustaining our environment remains a key priority for the Province. We all need to work together to mitigate the effects and adjust to the impacts of climate change, and we need to ensure that we are managing our environment in a way that enables future generations to experience its majesty. This will take a collective effort and a commitment to sharing the responsibility, as individual lifestyle choices are just as important as decisions by industry or policy setting by Government.

The Province recognizes the important economic contribution of wild fishery and the aquaculture industries in British Columbia. We remain committed to ensuring the sustainable management of these industries. We are in the process of negotiating the transfer of regulatory oversight of shellfish and finfish aquaculture to the federal government. This will comply with court direction creating a more efficient and streamlined aquaculture management system that sustainably manages B.C.'s aquaculture sectors. Until this transition takes place, we continue to monitor and enforce licensing and regulatory requirements ensuring aquaculture operators are accountable for implementing environmentally sustainable practices, including preventing finfish escapes from containments nets.

Currently, we have more than 13.5 million hectares of protection land. This is over three times the size of Denmark, more than any other province in Canada, and represents over 14 per cent of the Province. Most recently, we have negotiated a new partnership with the State of Montana to protect the Flathead River Basin in the Kootenays. Current uses such as forestry, recreation, guide outfitting and trapping will continue, but mining, oil and gas development and coalbed gas extraction will not be permitted.

Since 2001, the Province has shown its commitment by investing more than \$2 billion in climate change initiatives, but we need to continue with policy and funding support to ensure British Columbia remains a leader on this issue and effects change.

We have enshrined in legislation targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions: 6 per cent below 2007 levels by 2012, 18 per cent by 2016, and 33 per cent by 2020. We have set out our broad policy direction in the Climate Action Plan, and are proceeding to implement the Plan across government. We have developed a number of supporting strategies, such as the BC Bioenergy Strategy, the BC Energy Plan and Living Water Smart: British Columbia's Water Plan.

The Province implemented the world's first broad-based, revenue-neutral carbon tax on all fossil fuels. This step was considered a crucial step to reducing fossil fuel usage and making progress on reducing our greenhouse gas emissions. Through legislation, every dollar collected through the carbon tax is returned to British Columbians through personal and business tax reductions.

The carbon tax is already driving new innovation and efficiency in industry, such as the \$1 billion natural gas project being developed by British Petroleum that will use new technology to reduce emissions by 80 per cent.

We have put in place, as of January 1, 2010, the requirement for all facilities in British Columbia that emit over 10,000 tonnes of greenhouse gases annually to publicly report their emissions.

This regulation will ensure the province has accurate and timely data as the first step towards developing an effective cap and trade system and is consistent with the work we are currently undertaking with our partners in the Western Climate Initiative (WCI) to develop a comprehensive regional cap and trade system. British Columbia is now the first Province to require reporting of greenhouse gas emissions at this threshold.

Through our emphasis on green, climate-friendly technology and carbon-neutrality, we have had the opportunity to hold one of the greenest Olympic Games in history and look forward to doing the same with the upcoming Paralympic Games. The venues feature award winning cutting-edge green technology and design, and programs have been developed to offset all of the carbon emissions associated with the Games.

We have embraced the goal of making all government operations carbon-neutral; a goal that has been incorporated in legislation. Whether it is through the tracking of all provincial employees on business travel and purchasing offsets through the Pacific Carbon Trust, or building new government facilities to LEED gold or better standards, we are taking key steps to reducing our carbon emissions and reaching our greenhouse gas targets.

An area of focus that will continue to be a priority for Government will be fostering green energy as a cornerstone of B.C.'s climate action plan. Electricity self-sufficiency and clean, renewable power generation will be integral to our efforts to fight global warming.

As a province, we have the natural advantages to support clean energy development. Already we have a legacy of clean power generation, with approximately 90 per cent of our electricity generated from our heritage assets, which are zero or near-zero emission facilities. But we have much more potential, including bioenergy, tidal power, wind power, and small-scale hydro projects.

These new types of green energy power will require greater investment in the short term. However, in the long run they will produce exponentially higher economic returns, environmental benefits and jobs.



The creation of the Green Energy Advisory Task Force was announced in the last Throne Speech, with membership from clean-energy experts, energy consultants, renowned climate experts, leading academics, First Nation representatives and environmentalists. This Task Force met over the month of December to provide their recommendations to maximize British Columbia's clean power potential.

Building on this work, we will be proceeding with a new *Clean Energy Act*, which will encourage new investments in clean energy power production, while also providing for fair, predictable, and clean power calls. This new legislation will encourage investment and jobs in the clean energy sector, further helping to reduce our carbon footprint and greenhouse gas emissions.

We have put many fundamentals in place to make the move towards expanding green energy developments, such as through supporting research on new technologies or issuing calls for clean energy projects from BC Hydro.

We are supporting the building of the northwest transmission line, which will not only spur economic development but will also enable some small remote communities to move away from diesel power to electricity, a much cleaner source of energy. We have clarified our intentions to the BC Utilities Commission to replace the first energy supply from Burrard Thermal with clean, renewable and cost-effective energy. The Province will also be examining ways in which we become electricity self-sufficient, with a vision that we are no longer reliant on importing more power than we export.

Since the creation of the Innovative Clean Energy (ICE) fund in 2007, a fund dedicated towards encouraging the development of clean energy and technologies, approximately \$47 million in conditional funding has been committed to help promising clean power technology projects succeed. This fund is currently supported through a levy on final sales of electricity, natural gas, fuel oil, propane and other products prescribed by regulation as an energy product. While this levy will end when the Harmonized Sales Tax is introduced, we will continue to support these types of initiatives over the coming years.

As our demand for electricity grows, both as a result of our increasing population and on an increasing reliance on electricity as a clean energy source, we will need to be increasingly open to new ways of managing and increasing our existing resources. We will also need to look at innovative mechanisms to ensure the costs of electricity to our citizens remains affordable.



The Province and industry will need to work closely and collaboratively with our First Nations partners, to ensure that First Nations communities are able to benefit from development and participate in the sector. Not only does involvement in this sector provide economic benefits to the community, but in some cases developments can result in communities being powered by clean energy, thus replacing their need for power generated by diesel.

The Province will ensure that we make strategic investments in areas and technologies that will provide the biggest return on our investment.

We have invested \$21.8 million for new technology project at the University of Northern B.C. to convert waste wood to clean energy and improve energy efficiency, \$27.6 million for campus expansion at the Okanagan College which includes the construction of a Centre for Green Building Technologies and \$7.8 million for the Energy House project at Northern Lights College in Dawson Creek which will specialize in LEED Platinum education and research with focus on alternative energy.

We have invested in expanding the public transit system throughout the Province, including the building of Canada Line, the country's first direct rapid transit system to an airport. Our public transit plan includes \$14 billion in investments that focus on safe, reliable services that will highlight green technologies and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The Province, in collaboration with the federal government, the Resort Municipality of Whistler and the Canadian Hydrogen Fuel Cell Association have provided funding for the world's largest fleet of hydrogen fuel cell buses. These buses are now in operation and are supported by the world's largest hydrogen vehicle fuelling station. This investment is the first step in the goal of integrating hydrogen fuel cell buses into the regular operational service of urban transit systems.

The Province will also focus on the environments and structures that we live in as a means to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. Currently, 43 per cent of our emissions are related to community activities such as transportation, buildings and solid waste. We need to examine innovate and integrated ways of developing our communities by looking at our buildings, transportation, land use and waste management.

We need to have vibrant, connected, affordable and sustainable communities that maximize the use of technologies and environmentally-sustainable practices while minimizing our footprint on the land and our carbon emissions.

We will continue working with our local governments to ensure elected officials, contractors and citizens are fully aware of the tools and options available to them as well as the benefits of developing green buildings.

The Province will, with our local government partners, utilize incentives, regulation, legislation and capacity building to assist local government action on climate change, remove barriers and disincentives to green, affordable development and promote green infrastructure.

We will continue to emphasize the use of wood in the construction of new buildings, as wood used in buildings continues to store the carbon contained in the trees. The Vancouver Convention Centre, where wood was used as a building material, is one of the greenest meeting places in the world and can be used as a model for other jurisdictions.

Specific strategies related to climate change containing more detailed information on the activities being undertaken by government include:

- *The Agriculture Plan: Growing a Healthy Future for BC Farmers*
www.al.gov.bc.ca/Agriculture_Plan/
- *The BC Air Action Plan*
www.bcairsmart.ca
- *The BC Bioenergy Strategy*
<http://energyplan.gov.bc.ca/bioenergy/>
- *The BC Energy Plan: A Vision for Clean Energy Leadership*
www.energyplan.gov.bc.ca
- *BC Green Building Code*
www.housing.gov.bc.ca/building/green/
- *Trees for Tomorrow*
<http://treesfortomorrow.gov.bc.ca/>
- *The BC Transit Plan*
www.th.gov.bc.ca/Transit_Plan/index.html
- *Energy Efficient Building Strategy*
www.energyplan.gov.bc.ca/efficiency/
- *Living Water Smart: British Columbia's Water Plan*
www.livingwatersmart.ca
- *LocalMotion*
<http://localmotion.gov.bc.ca/>
- *The Mountain Pine Beetle Action Plan*
www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/mountain_pine_beetle/
- *Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions*
www.pics.uvic.ca



Performance Measures For Great Goals

Goal 1 – BC best educated, most literate	Baseline	Current Status Jan 2010	2015/2016 Target
School Readiness • % kindergarten students entering school "ready to learn"	72.1% (04/05 restated)	71.4% (08/09)	85%
Student Literacy • Program for International Student Assessment Ranking	2 ND in Canada, 3 RD internationally	3 RD in Canada, 6 TH internationally (measured every 3 RD year)	1 ST in Canada, improve internationally
High School Completion	79% (04/05)	79% (08/09)	85%
Post-secondary completion	56% (2004), Canadian average 57%	59.6% (2009), Canadian average 61.4%	Exceed Canadian average

Goal 2 – Lead the way in healthy living and fitness	Baseline	Current Status Jan 2010	2015/2016 Target
Life Expectancy at birth	81 yrs (2004)	81.4 yrs (2008), Highest in Canada	>81 yrs
Physical activity of British Columbians • More than 30 minutes of moderate physical activity per day	58.1% (2003)	58% (2008), 1 ST in Canada	73%
British Columbians who are overweight	42.3%, Lowest % in Canada (2003)	44.6% (2008), Lowest % in Canada	32%
Tobacco use	15%, Lowest % in Canada (2003)	14.7% (2008), Lowest % in Canada	13%

Goal 3 – Best system of supports	Baseline	Current Status Jan 2010	2015/2016 Target
Disabled British Columbians who are working • Of those who wish to work	52% (2001), Canadian 41.5%	56.5% (2005/06, most recent data available)	62%
Disadvantaged children in age appropriate grade	86% (2005)	85.1% (2009)	95%
British Columbia seniors living in institutions • Seniors 75 or older in health care or related facilities	10.3% (2001), 2 ND lowest in Canada	10% (2006), Lowest in Canada	Maintain Canadian 2 ND place rank

Goal 4 – Sustainable environmental management	Baseline	Current Status Jan 2010	2015/2016 Target
Average fine particulate concentration in major metropolitan areas	Vancouver is 2 ND lowest in Canada (2004)	Vancouver is lowest in Canada (2008)	Lowest in Canada
Province wide greenhouse gas emissions	67.3 million metric tonnes in 2007	67.3 million metric tonnes in 2007 (most recent data available)	6% below 2007 levels by 2012; 18% by 2016; 33% by 2020
Water quality • % of B.C. water bodies monitored under the Canada – B.C. Water Quality Monitoring Agreement with stable or improving trends	96% (04/05)	96% (2007/08)	>96%

Goal 5 – More jobs per capita	Baseline	Current Status Jan 2010	2015/2016 Target
Number of new jobs per capita	1 ST (2005)	9 TH (2009)	1 ST

PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA STRATEGIC PLAN •



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