



StrongerBC

BUDGET 2025

STANDING STRONG FOR B.C.

STRATEGIC PLAN



STANDING STRONG FOR BC

British Columbia is an extraordinary place. We have everything we need to succeed here. Abundant natural resources and clean energy. An economy supported by many strong industries. Access to global markets. And our most important strength of all: the hardworking people who call this beautiful place home.

Right now, the world is feeling uncertain. Reckless tariff threats from the United States are putting jobs, businesses, and our economy at risk. And families everywhere are being stretched by the cost of living. We can't leave our prosperity to the whims of unpredictable forces from beyond our borders. And we won't leave people to fend for themselves.

Our government is working to secure a brighter future by building on our strengths. We're standing up for British Columbians to defend workers and our economy from the threats posed by tariffs. We're strengthening and protecting the public services that people rely on.

Standing strong, together, so people here in B.C. thrive no matter what the world throws at us.

OUR PRIORITIES

- Growing a stronger economy by helping people train for better jobs, building up B.C.'s critical infrastructure, attracting investments and supporting B.C. companies to innovate and grow.
- Improving health care and defending the front-line services people depend on, without adding fees or hiking costs.
- Delivering homes people can afford and working to bring down costs—from childcare fees to car insurance bills.
- Making our neighbourhoods and communities safer by addressing street disorder and shoplifting, and cracking down on organized crime.

ADVANCING MEANINGFUL RECONCILIATION WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Through each of these priorities, government is working to strengthen our partnership with Indigenous Peoples and advancing reconciliation. We are implementing the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act and working in partnership with First Nations rights-holders to advance shared interests.

Included in Budget 2025 is new funding for the First Peoples' Cultural Council. This investment will support critical language preservation and revitalization to meet the growing demand for language instruction, as well as supporting learners and jobs for expert speakers, particularly Elders and First Nations women.

ADVANCING OUR PRIORITIES

We have so much going for us here in B.C. The people and our natural abundance make us strong. But we are facing uncertain times. Too many hardworking people are struggling and worried about threats to our industries from outside our borders.

The good news is we've got everything we need here to thrive. A strong, diversified economy, Canada's fastest wage growth, natural resources, access to global markets, clean energy, and – most importantly – the skilled, diverse, and hardworking people of B.C. We are strongest when we build on these advantages and stand together to support our industries and workers.

This work is already well underway. We are streamlining permitting and regulatory approvals to get major critical mineral and energy projects moving to create jobs and support our economy. We are training the next generation of skilled tradespeople and boosting the participation and employment security of Indigenous Peoples across the B.C. economy. And we are supporting B.C. companies to modernize, innovate and grow through programs like the BC Manufacturing Jobs Fund.

Budget 2025 is a made-in-B.C. plan to support economic growth and defend good jobs as we face the threat of unjustified tariffs. We're investing in critical transportation infrastructure and transit upgrades to keep people and goods moving. And taxpayer-supported infrastructure spending will support 180,000 good-paying direct and indirect jobs over the three years of the fiscal plan.

Through Budget 2025 we're encouraging innovation and investment to create good jobs through programs like the Integrated Marketplace Initiative, which connects tech companies with commercial partners to test drive their products and services in real-world environments. And increasing incentives to keep good-paying film and TV industry jobs in B.C., while also supporting the creation of more Canadian content.

In an uncertain economic environment, it's more important than ever to protect the services people rely on – from health care and education, to supporting the most vulnerable people in our communities.

Our government is making B.C. an attractive place to work for health professionals with good pay and better conditions to deliver the care people need. And we're seeing progress. We've hired more doctors and nurses, opened more urgent and primary care centres and reduced wait times for surgeries. Everyday more people are connected with a primary health-care provider.

Through B.C.'s Health and Human Resource Strategy, government has funded hundreds of training seats over the past two years, including new undergraduate medical seats, new residency spots and new nurse practitioner training seats.

Budget 2025 builds on this progress with investments to increase capacity in the health-care system, improve patient outcomes and support a growing demand for services. This includes more resources to support our primary care strategy, as well as new and upgraded acute care, long-term care and cancer care facilities across the province. And we are continuing to invest in training the next generation of health care providers.

Our government is building a system of care to better support people facing mental-health challenges and people living with addiction. This includes care that is culturally safe for Indigenous people. The toxic-drug crisis has cut short the lives of so many of our friends, family and loved ones. Improving access to treatment and recovery continues to be an important cornerstone of government's action on this public-health emergency.

Budget 2025 invests to continue work already underway to strengthen treatment and recovery services. These include Road to Recovery, Foundry, secure care, supports for children and youth, and Indigenous-led treatment, recovery and aftercare services.

Budget 2025 supports students in the K-12 education system, with funding for hiring more teachers, and more funding for special education teachers, teacher psychologists and counsellors to support the growing number of children with diverse needs. And a capital plan to build, renovate and upgrade schools.

Funding is also increasing for services for children and youth with support needs, children and youth in government care, and adults with developmental disabilities.

B.C. is a beautiful place, but too many people are facing high costs and struggling to find a place to live that they can afford. We're tackling the challenge to reduce costs for families everywhere we can. It's making a difference – rents are going down and we've reduced childcare costs, auto insurance rates, and electricity prices. But people are still feeling squeezed.

Budget 2025 builds on work already underway with further investment in BC Builds, our housing program to speed up the development of new homes for middle-income people. The new funding will support our goal of thousands more new middle-income rental units.

Budget 2025 increases monthly rental supplements available to working families and seniors with lower incomes through the Rental Assistance Program and the Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters program.

Budget 2025 also includes another ICBC rebate to help people and businesses facing high costs.

Everyone in B.C. deserves a safe community to call home and timely access to justice. We're working to make communities safer by addressing street disorder and shoplifting, and cracking down on organized crime by tackling the tough issues people face with real solutions that make a difference.

We're standing up for British Columbians, supporting people in need, and working to make communities safer. And it's making a difference – we have more officers, more people in stable homes, and more people getting the care they need.

Budget 2025 brings more resources to support this work, with new funding to close encampments by providing more housing, to address public safety concerns about robbery, shoplifting and other property crimes, to provide more resources to law enforcement to fight crime, to build capacity in the legal system to ensure timely access to justice, and to continue support for other public safety programs.

Budget 2025 also includes investments that will train more police officers and support more capacity for the First Nations and Inuit Policing Program.

STANDING UP FOR BRITISH COLUMBIANS

In the face of unwarranted tariffs, our government is focused on defending British Columbia. We are committed to protecting jobs and the services British Columbians rely on. The journey ahead will not be easy. But by standing together and building on our strengths, we can weather the storm and come out the other side stronger than ever.