QUESTIONNAIRE

Q.1 Fiscal plan surpluses and increased revenues in 2008/09 are available for tax reductions, new or expanded services, wage increases for public sector workers, paying down the debt, new infrastructure, or a combination of these items.

Please rank the following five items from 1 to 5, with 1 being the most important priority, 2 the second most important priority, 3 the third most important priority, and so on.

- ☐ Tax reductions
- ☐ New or expanded programs and services
- ☐ Wage increases for public sector workers
- ☐ Financing new infrastructure projects
- ☐ Paying down the debt

Other comments and suggestions on budget priorities:

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Q.2 There are always risks and challenges to keeping British Columbia's budget balanced. International events can lead to economic slowdowns. Revenues can drop unexpectedly. Natural disasters like forest fires, earthquakes and floods can create large unforeseen expenses.

The government's approach to managing these risks is to set aside a contingency fund and a forecast allowance to protect the balanced budget from unforeseen events. At the end of the year, if these are not needed, they are used to reduce borrowing and debt.

Do you agree with this approach? ***Please check the appropriate box:***

- ☐ **Yes.** The budget should contain a healthy contingency fund and a forecast allowance to keep the budget balanced.

or

- ☐ **No.** The budget should spend all available revenues. If something unexpected happens, there are other options.

If you answered "No" above, please rank the following alternative options from 1 to 3, with 1 indicating your most preferred option, 2 the second most preferred option, and so on.

- ☐ The government could increase my taxes to keep the budget balanced.
- ☐ The government could reduce spending on programs and services to keep the budget balanced.
- ☐ The government could run a deficit.

Other comments and suggestions on how the budget should deal with unexpected events:

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Q.3 Important investments in roads, schools, and health care facilities worth over $12.1 billion are planned over the next 3 years.

The province's infrastructure projects are funded by new borrowing – much like a homeowner may take out a mortgage to pay for building an addition to their home. The surplus is used to reduce this new borrowing.

When the surplus is larger, the province needs to borrow less, when the surplus is smaller, the province may need to borrow more.

Please check the appropriate box to indicate the statement below that you agree with most. ***Please choose only one response.***

- ☐ It is important to build needed infrastructure projects, regardless of how much we need to borrow.
- ☐ It is important to build needed infrastructure projects, but we need to limit our borrowing and keep debt affordable.
- ☐ The government should not borrow any money; instead I am willing to pay higher taxes to build needed infrastructure projects.
- ☐ The government should not borrow any money; instead I am willing to postpone or cancel needed infrastructure projects.
- ☐ The government should not borrow any money; instead it should cut programs and services to fund needed infrastructure projects.

Other comments and suggestions on infrastructure projects and debt:

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Q.4 **Other comments and suggestions regarding your priorities for Budget 2006:**

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