



BETTER MAKING LIFE BETTER

BUDGET 2019

A PLAN FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA



MAKING LIFE BETTER: A PLAN FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA

PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA STRATEGIC PLAN 2019/20 — 2021/22



TABLE OF CONTENTS

5 MAKING LIFE BETTER

7 MAKING YOUR LIFE MORE AFFORDABLE

B.C. CHILD OPPORTUNITY BENEFIT	8
ELIMINATING THE MSP PREMIUMS	9
REDUCING TAXES FOR THE MIDDLE CLASS	10
STUDENT LOAN INTEREST RELIEF	13
TACKLING THE HOUSING AFFORDABILITY CRISIS	13
HOMES FOR B.C. — PROGRESS REPORT	14
BUILDING NEW AFFORDABLE HOMES AND MODERATING THE MARKET	14
GREATER SECURITY FOR RENTERS	14
BUDGET 2019: BUILDING ON THE WORK TO DATE	15
MADE-IN-B.C. CHILD CARE	16
INVESTING IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS	17
LIFTING PEOPLE UP AND OPENING DOORS TO OPPORTUNITY	18

20 DELIVERING BETTER SERVICES FOR YOUR FAMILY

HEALTH CARE THAT WORKS BETTER FOR PATIENTS	21
BUILDING AND EXPANDING HOSPITALS	21
BETTER CARE AND SHORTER WAIT TIMES	21
CARING FOR SENIORS	22
ADDRESSING THE OVERDOSE CRISIS	23
A PROVINCE-WIDE APPROACH TO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES	23
EXPANDING PHARMACARE AND REDUCING COSTS	24
INVESTING IN STUDENTS AND CLASSROOMS	25
BUILDING AND SEISMICALLY UPGRADING SCHOOLS	25
INVESTING IN CLASSROOMS	25
NEW IDEAS TO BETTER SUPPORT STUDENTS	26
MORE PLAYGROUNDS, BETTER PHYSICAL ACTIVITY	26
IMPROVING ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME	26
FIRE MANAGEMENT, COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND RESTORING OUR FORESTS	27

28 RECONCILIATION WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

REVENUE SHARING WITH FIRST NATIONS 30

31 INVESTING IN A STRONG, SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY THAT WORKS FOR PEOPLE

CLEANBC: PROTECTING NATURE; POWERING OUR FUTURE 32

MAKING ZERO-EMISSION VEHICLES MORE AFFORDABLE 32

IMPROVING ENERGY EFFICIENCY WHILE PUTTING MONEY BACK INTO PEOPLE’S POCKETS 32

SUPPORTING CLEANER BUSINESSES AND COMMUNITIES 33

DELIVERING LOW-CARBON GOODS AND SERVICES 33

EXPANDING THE CLIMATE ACTION TAX CREDIT 34

MEETING OUR CLEANBC COMMITMENTS 34

A PRIORITY ON TALENT 34

MODERNIZING OUR INFRASTRUCTURE 36

CONNECTING OUR PROVINCE THROUGH HIGH-SPEED INTERNET 37

STRENGTHENING RESOURCE INDUSTRIES 37

LNG: A \$40 BILLION PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENT 37

REVITALIZING B.C.’S FOREST INDUSTRY 38

BOOSTING THE MINING SECTOR 38

REACHING FOR B.C. PRODUCTS 38

FUELLING JOB AND INDUSTRY GROWTH 39

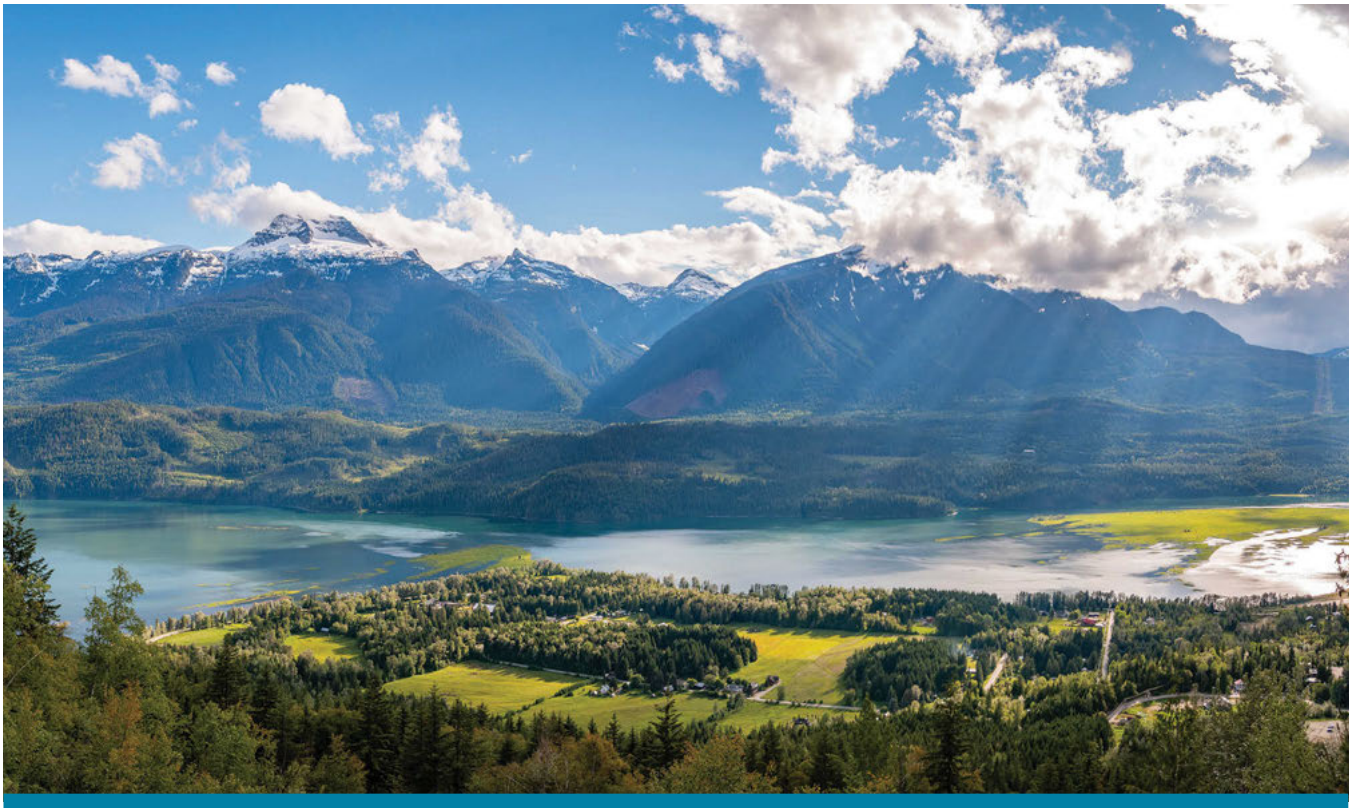
HELPING BUSINESS THRIVE..... 39

B.C. TECH: 106,000 JOBS AND GROWING 40

INVESTING IN ARTS AND CULTURE 40

PROMOTING B.C.’S TOURISM APPEAL 41

PROTECTING PEOPLE AND PLACE 41



MAKING LIFE BETTER

British Columbia is a remarkable place filled with unmatched natural beauty and resources, hardworking people, and a thriving economy. But a truly prosperous economy and province needs to work for everyone.

For too long, people in B.C. have been struggling with challenges, from the over-heated housing markets in our urban centres to overcrowded classrooms in our schools.

These problems weren't created overnight, and they won't be fixed overnight. Our government is working hard to take on the real-life challenges British Columbians face every day.

We're working to create more opportunities for British Columbians, so everyone can enjoy a good life and a better, more secure future in the community they call home.

That means a job with good pay and a solid future. It means an affordable home whether you own or rent. It means having the hospitals, schools,

child care and other public services you need, and it means being able to afford a good life while putting money away for tomorrow.

Budget 2018 set our province on a new course. Since then, we have taken bold action to deliver better child care, health care and services for you and your family, and made the investments needed to build a strong, sustainable economy that will continue to lead the country today and into the future.

Budget 2019 is the next step in our work to make life better for you and your family. And it provides these opportunities while delivering another balanced budget for B.C.

Government also undertook consultations with the B.C. Green Caucus on Budget 2019, as committed to in the Confidence and Supply Agreement.

We have a plan that puts thousands of dollars a year back into the pockets of British Columbians through the new B.C. Child Opportunity Benefit, eliminating interest from B.C. student loans and getting rid of MSP premiums entirely.

Budget 2019 moves forward on our CleanBC climate action plan that puts B.C. on the path to a cleaner, more sustainable future. CleanBC will help our province rise to the challenge of climate change by investing in a strong, low-carbon economy along with energy-efficient solutions that reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It creates opportunities while protecting our clean air, land and water.

We are building B.C. with the largest capital investment plan in our province's history. The construction of these schools, roads and bridges, hospitals, post-secondary institutions and other infrastructure projects will create and support tens of thousands of jobs and training opportunities.

In Budget 2019, we're investing in better public transit and safer highways to keep the people of B.C. moving. Reducing commute times means more time with your family and less time in traffic.

These infrastructure investments support communities and the economy, create good jobs and help train the skilled workforce of the future.

To break down barriers and give people the opportunity they need to succeed, Budget 2019 funds B.C.'s first poverty reduction strategy. The strategy builds on government's ongoing efforts to increase affordability and improve services for people with new investments aimed at tackling homelessness, improving supports for people in need, and lifting up children and families.

Sharing revenue with First Nations communities is an important step toward

Indigenous self-determination. To advance true and lasting reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, B.C. First Nations will now share a new stable, long-term source of funding to support strong, healthy communities.

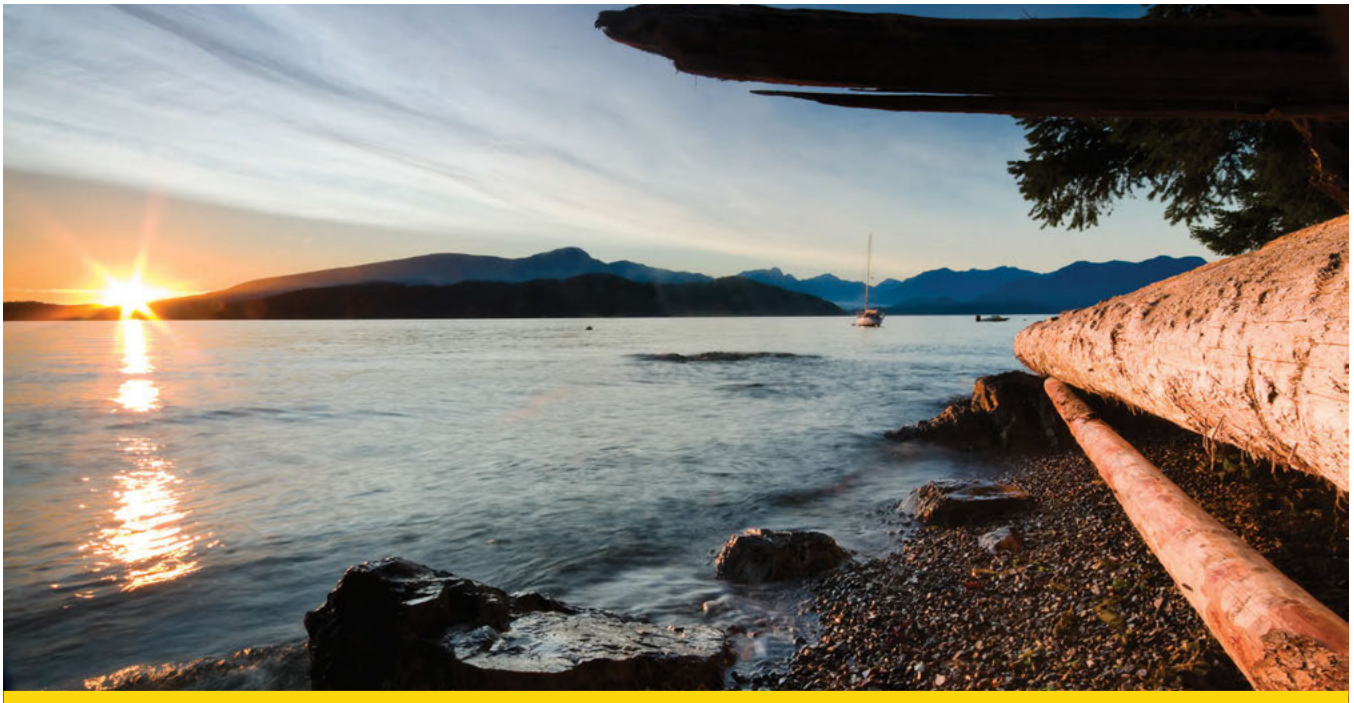
First Nations in B.C. will benefit from an estimated \$3 billion over 25 years in provincial revenue. This means First Nations governments will receive an anticipated \$100 million each year to invest in the services and infrastructure their communities need — child care, supports for new parents, housing, road upgrades and economic development — to create a better future for everyone in B.C.

After years of moving in the wrong direction, people in British Columbia are beginning to experience the benefits from the work our government is doing to make life better.

Budget 2019 builds directly on the work started in Budget 2018 to deliver better services for people, make life more affordable, and put B.C. on a more sustainable path.

**A BRIGHTER FUTURE AND
A BETTER LIFE FOR EVERYONE
IN B.C. IS POSSIBLE.**

**BUDGET 2019 HELPS
US GET THERE.**



MAKING YOUR LIFE MORE AFFORDABLE

For too long costs have been piling up, putting pressure on B.C. families. Struggling to make ends meet has become an everyday reality for too many people. Our government is working to make life more affordable and making decisions to benefit all British Columbians, instead of just the few at the top.

- Families just starting out need some relief, from the climbing costs of housing, child care, student loan debt, and so much more. Too many people in their twenties and thirties can't imagine ever being able to afford a home in the communities they work in and want to build their lives in. They want a future in British Columbia but aren't sure they can afford to make it a reality.
- People who have worked hard all their lives, helping build B.C.'s strong economy, should not be forced to leave their communities when they retire. They should be able to spend time with their kids and grandkids without worrying about whether they can afford a home to live in.
- Businesses in British Columbia's urban centres are struggling to find and keep skilled workers, because these workers can't find affordable housing or child care.

A better future in British Columbia should be available to all of us. By making life more affordable, we can help young people plan a life right here in British Columbia. We can give seniors the dignity and peace of mind they deserve. We can make sure people have the support they need to succeed.

Our work to make life more affordable for people began just months after taking office. In the late summer of 2017, we removed all bridge tolls so that people could move freely around the Lower Mainland for work and family reasons. Since then, we've reduced or removed unfair fees that were making life harder for people in all areas of the province.

Our government is putting people first and we are working hard to make life more affordable for you and your family. It's good for people, good for the economy, and good for our shared future.

B.C. CHILD OPPORTUNITY BENEFIT

Every child should have the opportunities they need to thrive.

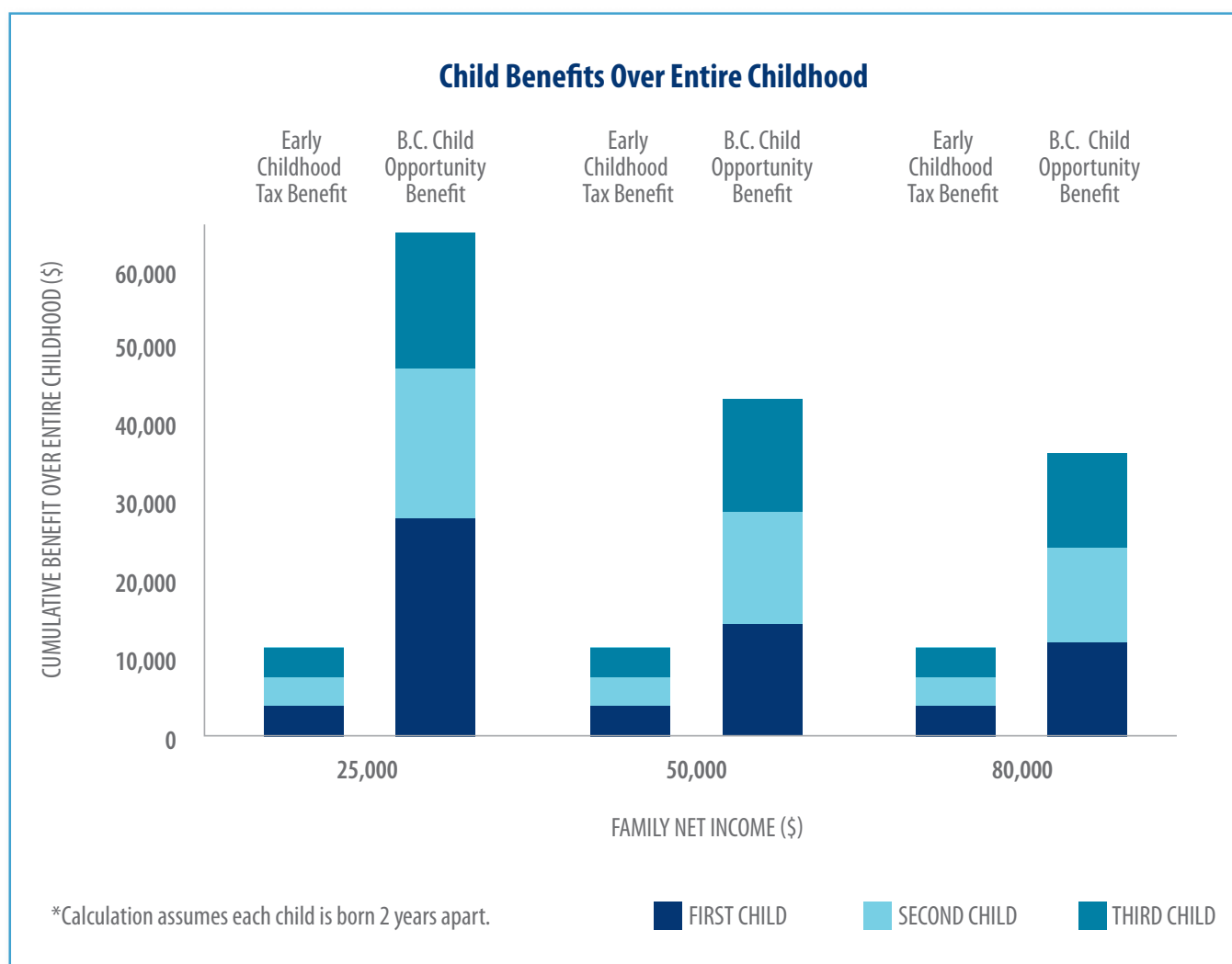
Our government is working hard to provide the services kids need, but B.C. families working hard to pay the bills need some relief.

To help parents make ends meet, and to give families and kids extra support, Budget 2019 is transitioning and expanding the current Early Childhood Tax Benefit (ECTB) into a new B.C. Child Opportunity Benefit. Starting in October 2020, families with one child will receive up to \$1,600 per year, those with two children will receive up to \$2,600, and those with three children will receive up to \$3,400.

While the ECTB was only for children up to the age of six, the new B.C. Child Opportunity Benefit will support children up to age of 18. That means once the new benefit is in place, a family will receive as much as \$28,800 from when the baby is born until adulthood. For a family with two children, support can easily surpass \$40,000 for a family.

The majority of B.C. families with children will receive the benefit. Families with one child earning up to \$97,500 are eligible for the benefit, as are families with two children earning up to \$114,500.

The benefit will improve the lives of hundreds of thousands of children and their families, with the largest supports going to those with the greatest need. The B.C. Child Opportunity Benefit will help to reduce child poverty in British Columbia.

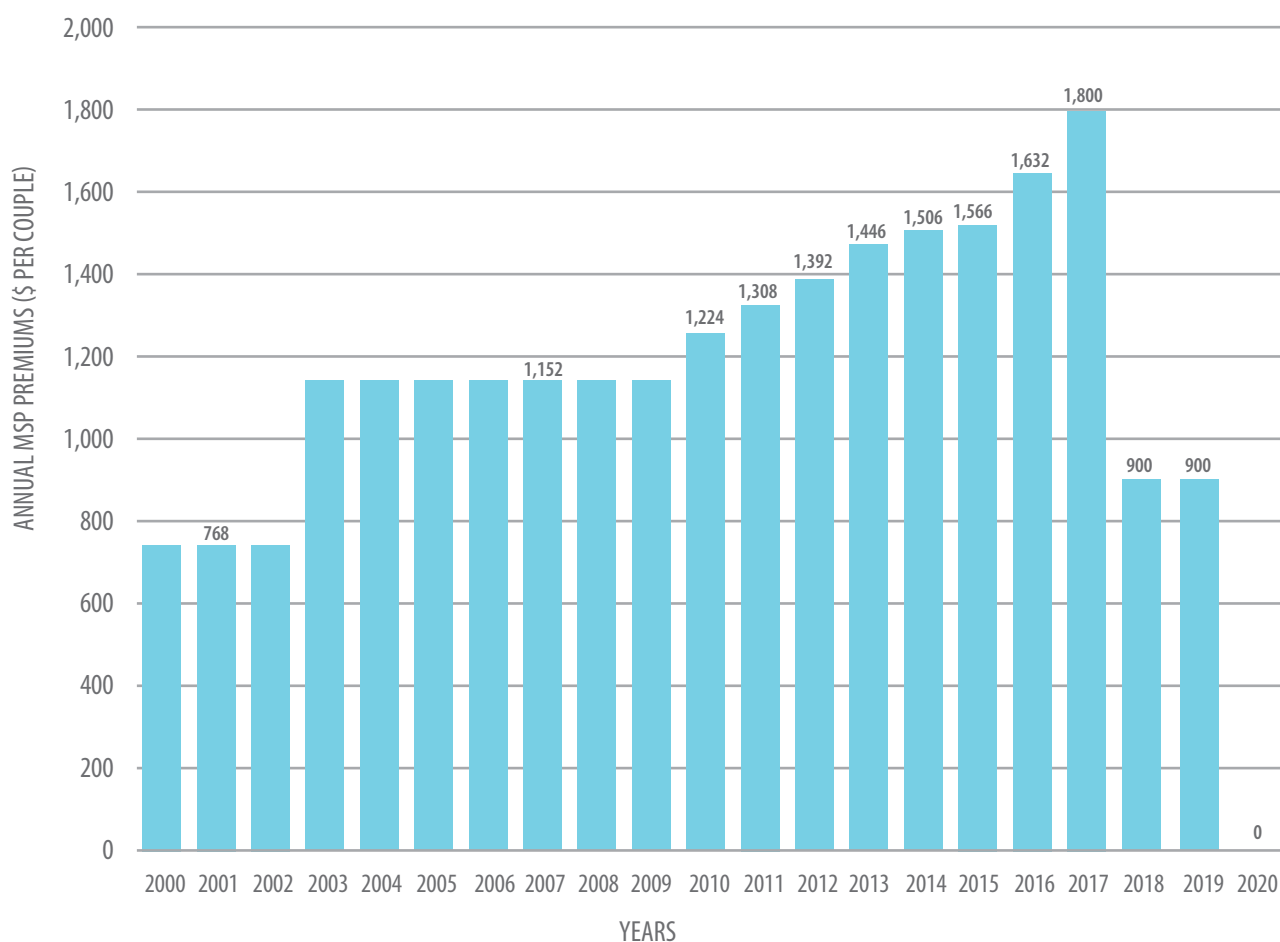


ELIMINATING THE MSP PREMIUMS

The last government doubled Medical Services Plan premiums.

Our government is making different choices. Last year, we began one of the biggest middle-class tax cuts in B.C.'s history by cutting Medical Services Plan premiums by 50%. This put \$450 for individuals and \$900 for families back into people's pockets.

Budget 2019 follows through with government's commitment to fully eliminate MSP premiums on January 1, 2020, saving families as much as \$1,800 per year.



REDUCING TAXES FOR THE MIDDLE CLASS

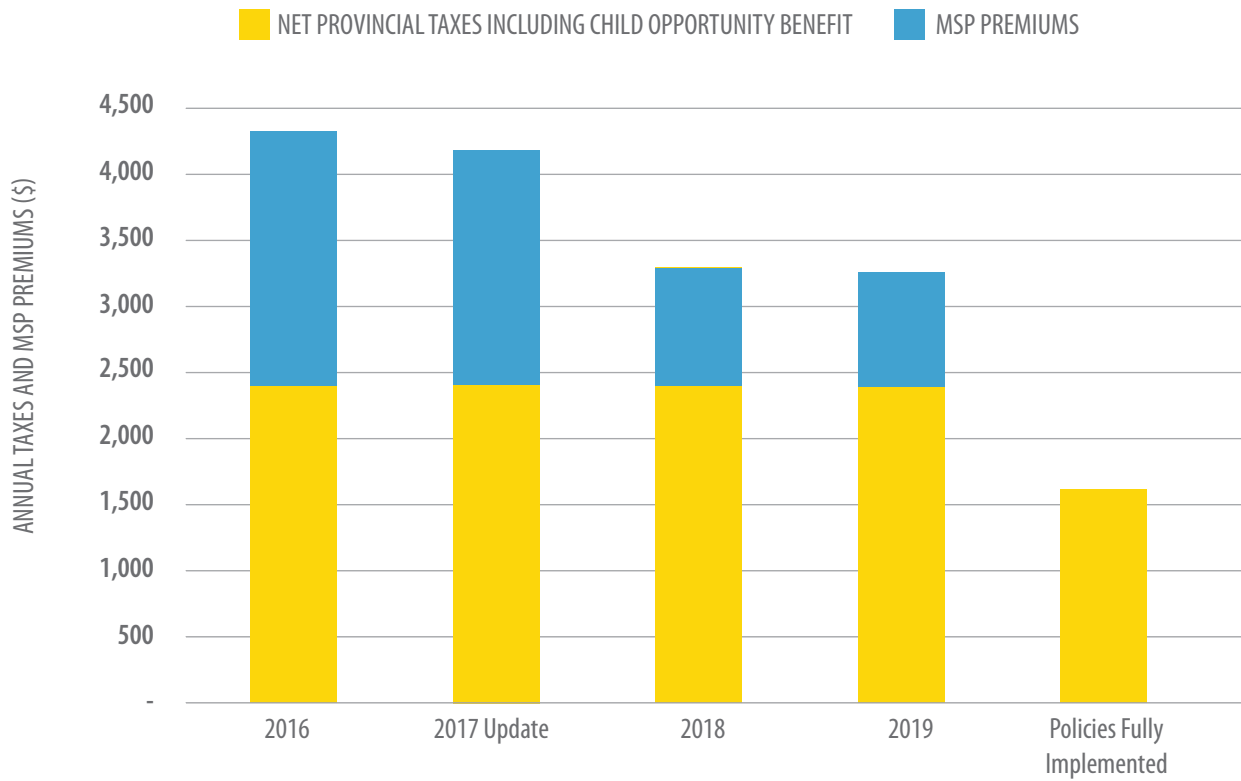
Building on government's commitment to affordability, Budget 2019 significantly reduces the tax burden for working- and middle-class families.

With the elimination of MSP premiums and the introduction of the new Child Opportunity Benefit, middle-class families will see the biggest reduction in their taxes in a generation. Here are examples of how much families will save once the new Child Opportunity Benefit takes effect in October 2020 (all examples are compared to 2016 tax levels):

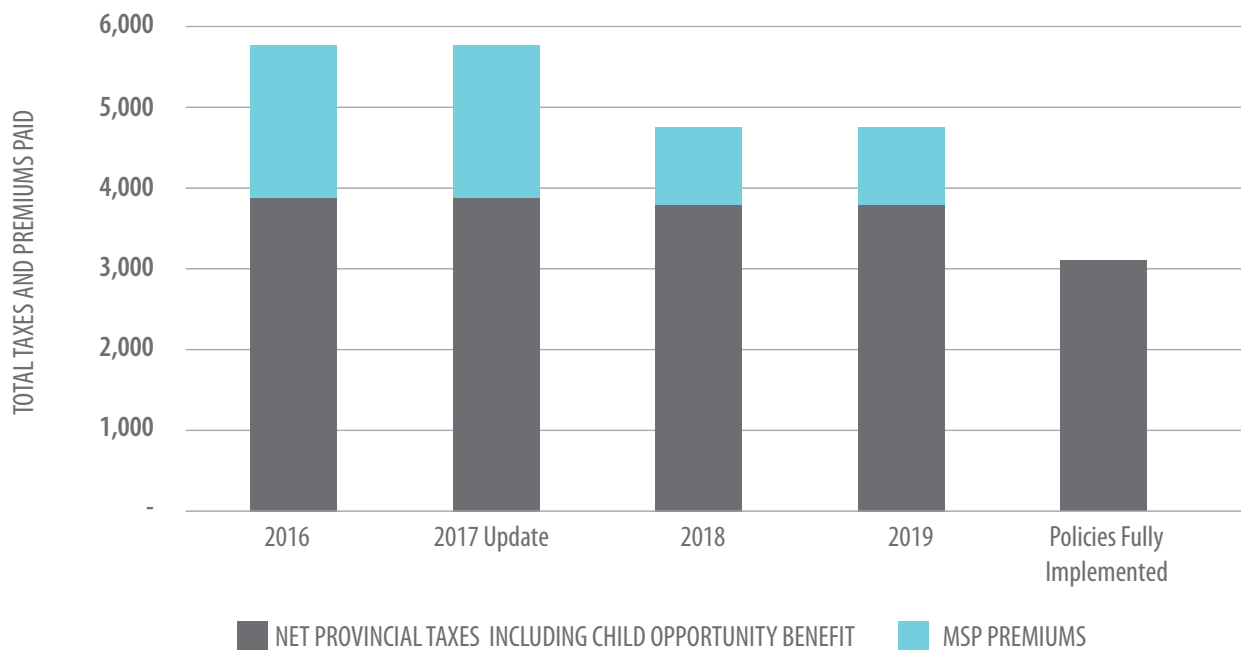
- Net provincial taxes for a family of four earning \$60,000 will be reduced by 60% with Budget 2019. This means our government has put more than \$2,500 back into the pocket of this family.
- For a family of four earning \$80,000, net provincial taxes will be reduced by 43% since 2016, putting almost \$2,400 back into the pocket of this family.
- And for a family of four earning \$100,000, net provincial taxes will be reduced by 22% since 2016, putting almost \$1,600 back into the pocket of this family.



By 2020, a family of four earning \$60,000 will save more than \$2,500 in taxes.



By 2020, a family of four earning \$80,000 will save almost \$2,400 in taxes.



\$60,000 of Family Net Income	2016	2017 Update	2018	2019	Policies Fully Implemented
MSP Premiums.....	1,800	1,800	900	900	0
Provincial Income Tax	1,714	1,663	1,595	1,505	1,505
Early Childhood Tax Benefit ...	(660)	(660)	(660)	(660)	0
Child Opportunity Benefit	0	0	0	0	(1,380)
Carbon Tax	208	208	233	261	232
Sales Tax	958	969	1,003	1,025	1,078
Fuel Tax	218	218	218	218	218
Net Provincial Tax	4,238	4,198	3,289	3,249	1,653

\$80,000 of Family Net Income	2016	2017 Update	2018	2019	Policies Fully Implemented
MSP Premiums.....	1,800	1,800	900	900	0
Provincial Income Tax	2,869	2,824	2,761	2,713	2,713
Early Childhood Tax Benefit ...	(660)	(660)	(660)	(660)	0
Child Opportunity Benefit	0	0	0	0	(1,380)
Carbon Tax	236	236	265	305	393
Sales Tax	1,174	1,184	1,215	1,245	1,295
Fuel Tax	218	218	218	218	218
Net Provincial Tax	5,637	5,602	4,699	4,721	3,239

\$100,000 of Family Net Income	2016	2017 Update	2018	2019	Policies Fully Implemented
MSP Premiums.....	1,800	1,800	900	900	0
Provincial Income Tax	4,340	4,298	4,234	4,148	4,148
Early Childhood Tax Benefit ...	(-660)	(-660)	(-660)	(-660)	0
Child Opportunity Benefit	0	0	0	0	(-580)
Carbon Tax	269	269	303	348	449
Sales Tax	1,434	1,447	1,480	1,527	1,553
Fuel Tax	290	290	290	290	290
Net Provincial Tax	7,473	7,444	6,547	6,553	5,860

STUDENT LOAN INTEREST RELIEF

People graduating from post-secondary institutions are being saddled with high levels of debt. Higher education should open doors, not make it harder to get ahead. The typical undergraduate student finishes university with \$11,200 in British Columbia student loan debt — and \$28,000 when combined with federal student loan debt.

To help young people and new families get off to a good start in their lives and careers, our government is eliminating interest from all British Columbia student loans.

All B.C. student loans will stop accumulating interest as of February 19, 2019. This means everyone who is working to pay off their student loan will get immediate relief. For example, someone with a \$28,000 combined federal and provincial loan debt will save approximately \$2,300 in interest charges over a 10-year repayment period.

TACKLING THE HOUSING AFFORDABILITY CRISIS

Every person in this province deserves a secure place to call home. But for years, too many British Columbians have been unable to find an affordable place to live, hurting people, businesses and our economy.

People need the opportunity to thrive and get ahead. That starts with having an affordable place to call home.

Our government is taking bold steps to tackle the housing crisis and deliver affordable housing throughout B.C. Budget 2018 saw the launch of *Homes For BC*, government's 30-point housing plan and the largest investment in housing affordability in B.C.'s history — \$7 billion over 10 years. Through this plan, we are building the homes people need and improving security for renters. We're stabilizing housing prices while increasing supply, curbing speculative demand, and tackling fraud and money laundering in the real estate market.



HOMES FOR BC — PROGRESS REPORT

BUILDING NEW AFFORDABLE HOMES AND MODERATING THE MARKET

Homes for BC laid out an ambitious plan to build 114,000 affordable homes for purchase or rent over ten years. In just the first year, 17,000 homes are already built or underway, including:

- 4,900 new affordable, mixed-income rental homes, the first of 14,000, are on their way in 42 communities across B.C.;
- More than 2,000 new modular homes either built or underway in 22 communities, providing people experiencing homelessness with the support they need;
- The Province's first major investment in transition housing in more than two decades, \$734 million over ten years, with 280 new transition homes for women and children leaving violence and abuse funded to date;
- 2,295 new homes for students on campuses around the province have been announced to date, providing affordable homes for students and alleviating the high demand for rentals in key communities; and
- Working in partnership with First Nations communities to build and operate 1,750 new units of social housing both on- and off-reserve in Indigenous communities. This makes B.C. the first province in Canada to fund on-reserve housing, which highlights the urgency of action needed from the federal government.

Over the past year, we have taken additional steps to help moderate the B.C. housing market and make homes more affordable for British Columbians. These include:

- Increasing the foreign buyers tax rate to 20% and expanding it to areas outside of Metro Vancouver; and

- Bringing down housing costs by taxing speculators and empty home owners who are driving up housing costs.

In less than a year, we're seeing results. Over the past six months the benchmark price for single family homes in Greater Vancouver decreased by 8.3%, condo prices are down 6.6%, and townhome prices are down 6.2%.

GREATER SECURITY FOR RENTERS

Renters, young or old, deserve greater security. The stress of rent increases, renovations, and unfair leases can leave renters feeling unsure about where they will be living next month. As part of *Homes For BC*, our government has provided increased security by:

- Expanding benefits to seniors living independently, by increasing the amount they receive through the Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER) program by an average of \$930 per year. This investment, combined with lifts to the Rental Assistance Program (RAP), represent a \$116 million increase over three years in making housing more affordable for people with lower incomes;
- Limiting rent increases to the rate of inflation is providing greater certainty for renters. Previously, landlords could raise rents by inflation plus 2% each year. This new limit means, for example, that someone paying \$1,200 per month in rent could save \$288 in 2019;
- Closing the fixed-term lease loophole and eliminating the geographic rent increase clause;
- Strengthening protections for manufactured home park tenants; and
- Delivering more robust protection for people threatened by potential renovations and demovictions.

BUDGET 2019: BUILDING ON THE WORK TO DATE

Our plan is working. We are increasing supply. Foreign and domestic speculation has dropped off. Vacancy rates are starting to rise, and the real estate market is beginning to moderate in B.C.'s urban areas. And this is only the beginning.

Beyond continuing to build new affordable homes in communities throughout the province, Budget 2019 highlights include:

- Greater security for renters: For people living paycheck to paycheck, an unexpected expense — like having your car break down — can stretch a family's monthly budget too far. If you're going through a tough time, that shouldn't result in your family losing their home. Seven communities in B.C. currently operate rent banks, which provide short term loans with little to no interest to low-income tenants who can't pay their rent due to a financial crisis. Budget 2019 builds on that work by establishing a provincial program to provide funding to community organizations to operate rent banks that will support renters across the province who need immediate, short-term relief to prevent unnecessary eviction.
- Reducing homelessness: To further help people who need it most, Budget 2019 makes a nearly \$76 million investment to buy more land and build more modular homes for homeless people in B.C., and the services they need to get back on their feet. This will bring the number of modular houses for people in need of a home to 2,200.

B.C. is leading the country in making sure the housing market is providing homes for people — not shelter for foreign capital or, worse, money laundering. Tackling the housing crisis is about making life more affordable for people. It's about making

it easier for businesses to thrive. It's also about restoring a sense of hope, a sense of optimism to people in our province so that they can imagine building a future they are truly proud of right here in B.C.





MADE-IN-B.C. CHILD CARE

For too long, parents in British Columbia haven't been able to find care for their kids; when they do it's often too expensive. Previous governments chose not to act and left child care to be delivered through a fragmented and patchwork system that failed to meet the demand for spaces. This resulted in higher costs, lower quality and fewer choices for parents.

Parents have been faced with the difficult choice to either pay for child care that's beyond their means or to drop out of the workforce to care for their children themselves. It's an unfair choice for families to have to make, it's too much pressure on already tight monthly budgets, and the outcome is bad for B.C.'s economy no matter how you look at it.

To care for kids and lift families up, our government has made the most significant investment in child care in B.C.'s history: more than \$1 billion over three years beginning in Budget 2018. Highlights in the past year include:

- Delivering a fee reduction for parents of children in licensed care of up to \$350 per month, \$4,200 per year, for more than 52,000 child care spaces.
- Introducing the Affordable Child Care Benefit (ACCB), which is available to most families in B.C. and can save them up to \$15,000 per year, per child. The ACCB is eligible to households earning up to \$111,000 and will support more than 80,000 B.C. families.

- Expanding the availability of quality child care by investing \$237 million over three years to support the creation of 22,000 new licensed child care spaces around the province. We are also supporting unlicensed child care providers to make the transition to become licensed.
- Launching universal child care prototype projects throughout the province, as part of the Early Learning and Child Care Agreement with the Government of Canada. We converted more than 2,500 spaces at 53 child care sites to deliver child care that will cost families \$200 per month, or less, per child. This has made a huge difference in the lives of these families and is the critical first step towards delivering our vision of universal, affordable child care to B.C. families.

The Affordable Child Care Benefit and the new B.C. Child Opportunity Benefit, along with the fee reduction for licensed child care spaces, means more money is going back into the pockets of B.C. families who need it most. Some families with one child will receive nearly \$20,000 per year in savings and benefits, and some families with two children more than \$28,000 per year. Government will be working to expand these benefits to even more B.C. families.

INVESTING IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS

And because early childhood educators (ECEs) are key to delivering quality child care to B.C. families, our Early Care and Learning Recruitment and Retention Strategy supports current and future ECEs through:

- A \$1-per-hour (approximately \$2,000/year) wage enhancement in 2019, with a further \$1-per-hour lift in 2020 (to bring the total increase to approximately \$4,000/year), for those ECEs working at licensed facilities that have been approved for the Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative.
- A \$10-million expansion of the bursary program administered by the Early Childhood Educators of B.C., with the support from the Government of Canada under the federal-provincial Early Learning and Child Care Agreement.
- An additional 620 early childhood educator seats at B.C.'s public post-secondary institutions over three years.
- Access to a variety of professional development opportunities that will support ECEs to stay current on emerging research, trends and practices in the early care and learning sector.

We believe affordable, quality child care should be available to every family in British Columbia that wants or needs it. Working together with parents, child care providers and Indigenous Leaders, we are starting to make this a reality. And, along with the brand-new B.C. Child Opportunity Benefit, we are taking enormous strides forward to give families a break, give parents more choices, and make sure children in British Columbia can get off to the right start.

LIFTING PEOPLE UP AND OPENING DOORS TO OPPORTUNITY

For too long, British Columbia has been the only province in Canada without a poverty reduction strategy. The result of this failure to act has been stubbornly high poverty rates that are greatly out of step with the wealth and prosperity of our province.

This year will see the introduction of B.C.'s first poverty reduction strategy.

By tying together initiatives that are underway across government with new programs and investments, this strategy will cut B.C.'s child poverty rate in half, and general poverty by a quarter, by 2024.

Key investments in the plan include:

- Raising rates for people who rely on disability and income assistance by an additional \$50 per month, effective April 1, 2019.
- Introducing the new B.C. Child Opportunity Benefit.
- Helping more British Columbians become job-ready through improvements to WorkBC.

The strategy will address long-standing gaps in the support systems available to British Columbians and repeal mean-spirited policies that have held people back from accessing opportunities. It also includes an expansion of efforts to address homelessness, including an additional \$76 million for building and supporting new modular housing that will help people get stabilized and off the streets.

Access to employment alone isn't enough to give people the security they need. Wages need to support people to succeed. That's why our government is continuing to increase wages for the lowest-paid workers in British Columbia. The minimum wage will increase to \$13.85 this year, while the serving wage will be raised to \$12.70. Both are set to reach at least \$15.20 an hour by 2021.

Increasing opportunity for everyone means improving income for those facing the greatest need, including minimum wage workers and people on income assistance and disability. It also means helping people access skills development and education, so they can follow their dreams.

Budget 2019 also addresses serious inequities when it comes to caring for some of the most vulnerable people in B.C., from kids in care to people living with disabilities. After years of neglect, we are investing in care and caregivers to help those who need it most to live a better life.

- Community Living BC homeshare providers help adults with developmental disabilities live as independently as possible, as an alternative to residential care facilities. There are more than 3,000 people who share their homes and provide ongoing care and support. Home sharing is at the heart of inclusive communities.

For too long, these caregivers have not been fairly compensated for their important work. As the cost of living has gone up, their compensation stayed the same. That is why our government is increasing the compensation they receive — for the first time since 2009. Budget 2019 provides \$45 million over three years to better support this vital role.

- While federal and provincial child tax benefits for families with children continue to rise, provincial support payments for children in care have remained unchanged for far too long. This is unfair and needs to change. Our government is investing millions of dollars toward enriching the lives of children in care.
- To help cover the cost of necessities like food, clothing and housing, support payments to family-based caregivers, including foster parents, will be increased by \$179 a month. This is the first increase in a decade.
- Similarly, post-adoption assistance has not increased since 2009. Budget 2019 introduces an increase of 15% to account for increases to the cost of living over the past ten years.

- Budget 2019 moves forward on Grand Chief Ed John's recommendation to harmonize the support payments received by extended family, like grandparents and aunts who support children and keep them out of care, with those of foster parents. This will help reduce the number of children in care by keeping more kids with extended family and giving these families more resources.
- Budget 2019 dedicates \$94 million over the next three years to support children and youth with special needs and children in residential care.
- Budget 2019 also introduces \$6 million annually to provide rest and relief for parents who care for children with special needs. This funding will increase the annual respite benefit amount by up to \$280 and significantly reduce the waitlist for respite services.





DELIVERING BETTER SERVICES FOR YOUR FAMILY

Better services mean a better life for you and your family. Our government is investing in the services that make B.C. a great place to live, for families, for seniors and for everyone.

We are building hospitals and schools for British Columbians today and for generations to come. People deserve the security of knowing British Columbia is a place that gives kids the strong foundation they need to grasp opportunities and thrive. A place where access to quality health care is there when they need it.

Delivering better services will give you and your family what you need to have a good life in the communities you love and call home.

HEALTH CARE THAT WORKS BETTER FOR PATIENTS

Good health is a foundation for a good life, and good health depends on having access to quality health care services when you need them. For too long, B.C.'s health care system has failed people who have been unable to find a family doctor in their community. It has failed people who are waiting more than 26 weeks for hip surgery and failed those being kept awake at night worrying about the care a relative is receiving. The choices made by previous governments have left our province's health care system failing to provide British Columbians with timely access to quality services.

It will take time and hard work to address the health care challenges British Columbians face throughout the province. But we are already well underway to building a more patient-centred public health care system with major investments in the last year in new urgent care centres, expanded hospitals and more doctors, nurses and other health care professionals.

And with Budget 2019, we are delivering new investments that will address the overdose crisis, help those struggling with mental health challenges, staff our hospitals and clinics, train the next generation of health care providers, and help people access the prescription medications they need.

BUILDING AND EXPANDING HOSPITALS

From Terrace to Dawson Creek to North Vancouver, we are building, renovating, and expanding hospitals so that our health care system has the facilities it needs now — and for future generations of British Columbians. Major capital projects are underway or in development in communities across British Columbia, including the redevelopment of Royal Columbian Hospital in New Westminster, a new patient care tower at the Royal Inland Hospital in Kamloops, and a new St. Paul's Hospital at the Station Street site in Vancouver.

Experiencing a life-or-death medical emergency is something no one wants to think about, but people want the peace of mind of knowing the very best care is there for them and their families. This year, work will continue on expanding the emergency departments at Langley Memorial Hospital and Peace Arch Hospital, and building a new emergency department for Eagle Ridge Hospital. These projects will mean better emergency care for people in these communities.

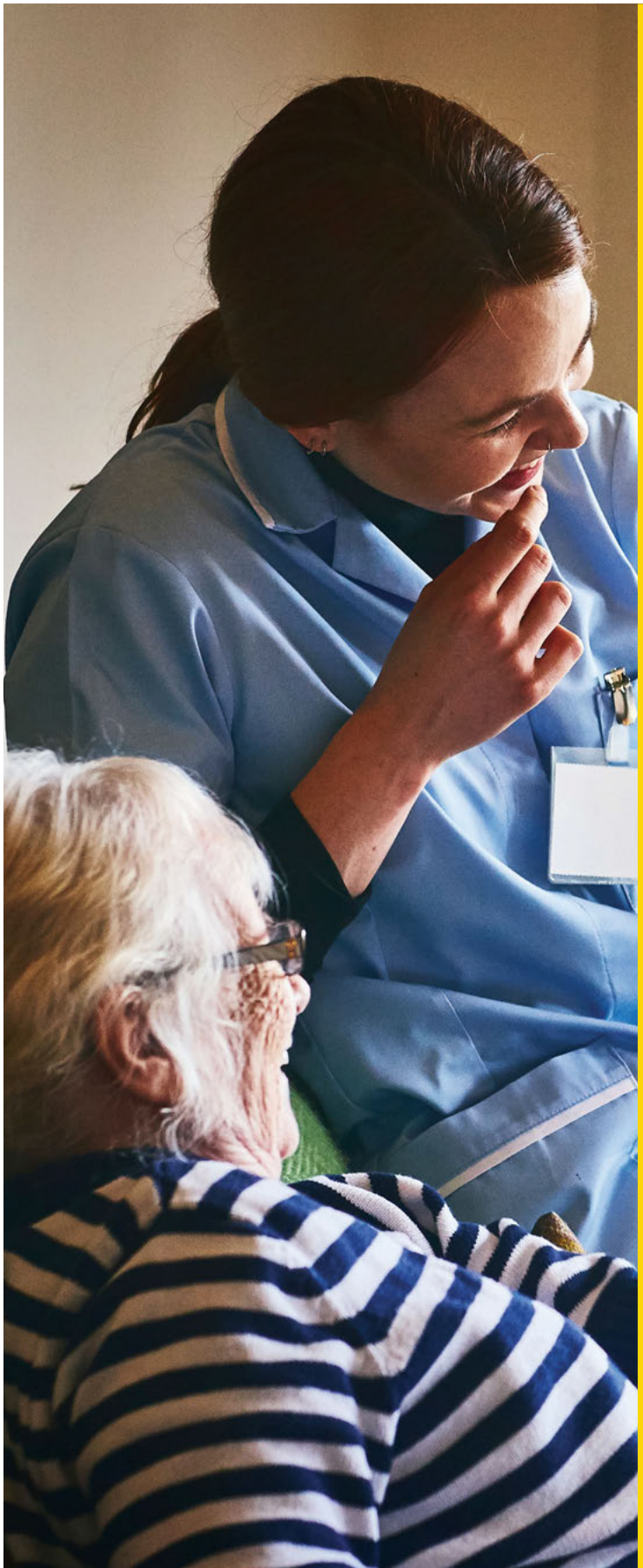
BETTER CARE AND SHORTER WAIT TIMES

To deliver better, faster health care for people, we're hiring 200 new family practice physicians, 200 more nurse practitioners and 50 more clinical pharmacists.

We have also added more health-care assistant seats in 11 post-secondary institutions throughout British Columbia, and Budget 2019 includes millions of dollars to help train the health care professionals of tomorrow, including sonographers, health care assistants, nurse practitioners and specialty nurses.

Our new network of urgent primary care centres in each health region is in progress, with five centres open in Vancouver, Surrey, Langford, Quesnel and Kamloops, and five more coming by spring 2019. These centres will bring together and co-ordinate local health-care providers, services and programs, making it easier for people to access regular care providers, receive follow-up care and connect to other services they may need.

To give people faster access to diagnostic services, we have added more than 800 hours of MRI operating time per week by extending operating hours and installing four new MRI machines in communities facing increased demand: Surrey's Jim Pattison Outpatient and Surgical Centre; Ridge Meadows Hospital in Maple Ridge; Vernon Jubilee Hospital; and Nanaimo Regional General Hospital. We are on track to provide 37,000 more MRI exams throughout the province this year than we did last year.



In 2019, we will continue to develop and implement our community-based primary care networks, building a team around patients and their needs. Under the network model, doctors, nurse practitioners and counsellors all work together to provide quality care for you, for your whole life. This team-based care will also help to free up family doctors, so they can take on new patients.

Budget 2019 also includes \$105 million over three years to support cancer care services delivered by the BC Cancer Agency. This funding will increase the number of cancer-related surgeries, diagnostic imaging, and expand PET and CT scans. It will also help meet the need of increased chemotherapy demands.

CARING FOR SENIORS

The staff who care for seniors at B.C.'s residential care homes do a great job, often under challenging circumstances. But when residential homes are understaffed and overstretched, everyone loses. Our goal is make sure the resources are in place to deliver the quality care seniors need and deserve every day.

Around the province we are improving residential care homes, by restoring the hours of care seniors need after years of cuts. Almost 270,000 more direct care hours have been added to support seniors and people in long-term care. More hours make sure seniors are getting the care they need and deserve. This year, an additional 1.2 million hours of care will be added across all facilities.

By converting part-time and casual staff to full time, we have already added significantly more hours of care for patients. By 2021, seniors will receive an average of 3.36 care hours per day. Over 300 part-time and casual health-care aides have already converted to full-time positions, with another 500 to follow in 2019.

ADDRESSING THE OVERDOSE CRISIS

Overdoses are a life and death issue. To help address the ongoing fentanyl crisis, Budget 2019 is increasing the investment our government has made in the life-saving services and supports delivered by BC Emergency Health Services, the BC Centre for Disease Control, and other programs to a total of \$608 million to address this emergency.

This will fund paramedics in rural and remote regions, build up successful pilot programs that are keeping people alive, and expand the distribution of life-saving naloxone kits.

Our government opened a first-in-B.C. pilot project at the St. Paul's Hospital Emergency Department, which provides people who have survived an overdose with take-home doses of Suboxone. This helps to stabilize people with opioid use disorder, ensuring they are connected to a safe alternative to toxic street drugs.

Other key actions include:

- Take Home Naloxone kits available at over 1,480 locations, including almost 600 community pharmacies.
- 21 overdose prevention sites and nine supervised consumption sites run by regional health authorities. Between July 2017 and June 2018, there have been over 475,000 visits to these sites, with over 3,000 overdoses survived and zero deaths reported.
- Funding and enabling organizations to implement safer supply programs for people most at risk of overdose. An example is the PHS Molson Overdose Prevention Site.
- Investment of \$1.7 million into Community Innovation Projects driven by organizations in 27 communities, focused on local action to save lives, addressing stigma and connecting more people to treatment and recovery.
- Signing of a historic tripartite agreement with First Nations and the federal government that fundamentally changes our relationship

around addiction and mental health and wellness, putting First Nations communities in the driver's seat in shaping and delivering programs.

- Funding of \$20 million over three years for First Nations communities and Indigenous peoples to help address the overdose crisis.
- Six OAT clinics that serve 314 clients (five in Vancouver, one in Surrey). Further expansion planned with health authorities is underway. Two additional sites are expected to be in operation by April 2019, with capacity to serve 40 clients (20 in Victoria, 20 in the Interior). The number of people receiving oral OAT grew from 19,240 in June 2017, to 21,549 in December 2018, an increase of 10%.

Through these and other actions by government and its partners over the past year, an estimated 4,700 overdose deaths have been averted around the province.

A PROVINCEWIDE APPROACH TO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Budget 2019 takes further steps toward improving mental health care for British Columbians with new initiatives focused on prevention and early intervention for children, youth and young adults. This \$74 million investment will improve access to mental health care for children and youth by making it easier for families to find and access high-quality and integrated mental health services. It will also help children with the most severe and complex needs get the right kind of help, faster, by linking together mental health care and substance use services.

These initiatives include:

- Opening additional Foundry centres, which bring existing services under one roof, so families and young people can access integrated primary care, mental health, substance use and social services. The centres are for youth between the ages of 12 and 24 years.

- Increasing the number of programs available for parents and families to support the social and emotional development of children in their early years. These programs will be developed in communities throughout the province.
- Providing specialized family care services or day treatment programs for young people, to prevent them from needing intensive services such as hospitals.

EXPANDING PHARMACARE AND REDUCING COSTS

No parent should have to make the difficult decision between their family's health and putting food on the table. That's why the B.C. government eliminated PharmaCare deductibles for working families with the lowest incomes in the province.

Through a \$105 million investment in Fair PharmaCare over three years, deductibles will be eliminated or reduced for 240,000 B.C. families with net household incomes under \$45,000. In particular, beginning January 1, 2019, deductibles were eliminated entirely for families with net annual incomes between \$15,000 and \$30,000. This was a crucial step, as data showed that prescriptions given to members of families in this income range would routinely go unfilled because deductibles were too high.

In Budget 2019, we're expanding Pharmacare even further by investing \$42 million to cover more drug options, including drugs that treat pulmonary arterial hypertension, diabetes, asthma and eye infections.





INVESTING IN STUDENTS AND CLASSROOMS

In order to give kids in British Columbia the education they deserve, we need to make sure our schools are providing the learning environments that are up to the challenge. After years of uncertainty, our government is making record investments in B.C.'s children by delivering smaller class sizes, putting more resources into the classroom, and introducing a new curriculum.

BUILDING AND SEISMICALLY UPGRADING SCHOOLS

To help students and teachers, we're making an investment of almost \$1 billion in new schools, expansions, seismic upgrades, and property purchases.

We are buying land in communities like Langley, Surrey, and those in Central Okanagan to build schools and meet the needs of these growing communities. And, we are creating over 5,500 new student spaces in growing

communities throughout B.C. to help move more kids out of portables and into classrooms. This includes a new Southside Area elementary-middle school in Chilliwack, an expansion at Royal Bay Secondary in the Sooke School District and an addition at Sullivan Heights Secondary in the Surrey School District.

Additionally, our government accelerated the plan for seismic upgrades for B.C. schools. Since September 2017, we have approved 28 seismic upgrade projects in schools where it is needed.

INVESTING IN CLASSROOMS

Budget 2019 delivers over \$550 million in additional support so our schools can continue to expand and meet the needs of our growing communities. This includes an increased investment of \$58 million over three years for the Classroom Enhancement Fund, to continue to address class size and composition.

And after years of classroom cuts, we've already hired more than 4,000 new teachers, including nearly 700 special education teachers and 160 more psychologists and counsellors. School districts have hired over 1,000 new education assistants to care for kids and support teachers. This means more professionals in the classroom so that students have the supports they need to succeed.

NEW IDEAS TO BETTER SUPPORT STUDENTS

As part of our commitment to true and lasting reconciliation, we are supporting Indigenous learners by implementing a new First Nations history curriculum, developing full-course offerings in Indigenous languages and implementing the educational Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

We're also ensuring schools are welcoming and inclusive by expanding the ERASE anti-bullying program and working to make sure all school districts have resources and supports for mental health and wellness, and sexual orientation and gender identity.

MORE PLAYGROUNDS, BETTER PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Playgrounds are important for a child's development and learning. They encourage outdoor physical activity, help students learn how to share and overcome challenges – and even help them focus and learn more effectively in the classroom. The Playground Equipment Program will provide school districts up to \$5 million each year to buy new or replace playground equipment at schools around B.C.

In all, these investments will help make sure B.C. schools are inclusive and safe spaces to learn, grow and thrive. A good education is the foundation for a better life.

IMPROVING ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME

To improve fairness in the justice system, our government has significantly increased the budget for legal aid and launched a review of legal aid focusing on people's experiences.

Together, the Ministry of Attorney General, the Legal Services Society, and the Law Foundation of BC will review the reforms proposed in the Maclaren review of legal aid service delivery.

To build on this work and improve access to justice, Budget 2019 is providing funding to pilot legal clinics in up to eight communities across the province. In partnership with the Law Foundation, these legal clinics will provide community-based access to justice programming through legal advice and advocacy.

Legal clinics will provide free legal advice and advocacy in poverty law, family law, child protection, children's and seniors' law, Indigenous law, and criminal law in areas not covered by Legal Services Society to people who cannot afford a lawyer.

The scope of services each legal clinic provides will be influenced by local needs and build on the Law Foundation's existing network of 40 locations throughout B.C.

Budget 2019 also increases funding for the Crime Victim Assistance Program, which supports the recovery of victims of violent crime, as well as helping address financial losses experienced by victims and their families.



FIRE MANAGEMENT, COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND RESTORING OUR FORESTS

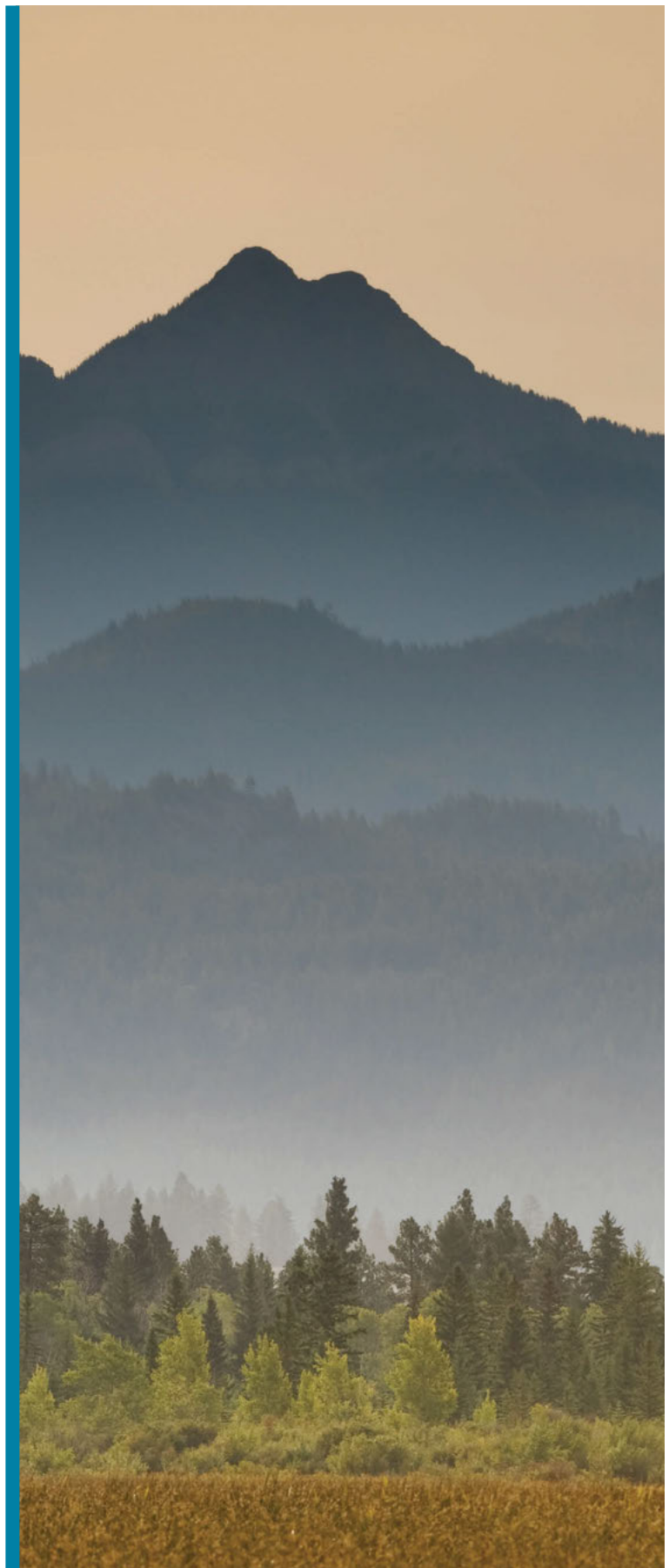
In 2017 and again in 2018, B.C. experienced the most devastating wildfire seasons in its history. Wildfires burned record amounts of land and people across the province worked tirelessly to mitigate the damage.

We recognize that in a changing climate, we need to do more to prevent, prepare, respond and recover from emergency events like wildfires. As part of this work, we will continue to prioritize building and strengthening partnerships with Indigenous and local communities.

This work started in Budget 2018 when we invested \$72 million to support wildfire recovery and resiliency activities in B.C. communities.

In Budget 2019, we are allocating an additional \$111 million over three years to fire management. This funding will be used to strengthen B.C.'s efforts to combat and prevent wildfires. This will provide additional capacity for direct wildfire control and increase resources for communication and community engagement during wildfire season.

Budget 2019 also provides \$13 million over the next three years for the Forest Carbon Initiative. This initiative, delivered in partnership with the Forest Enhancement Society of British Columbia and the Government of Canada, supports the restoration of forests damaged by disease and wildfire.





RECONCILIATION WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Underpinning everything we do as government is a fundamental commitment to achieving true and lasting reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. This commitment is embedded into the daily work of our government and foundational to all the decisions we make.

We have an obligation to address the injustices that continue to affect the lives of Indigenous peoples. Every person in B.C. has a role to play in reconciliation to understand our shared history, and respect the inherent rights of Indigenous peoples.

Together with Indigenous peoples, we are taking concrete action to support healthy communities and build a better future for everyone in British Columbia.

The United Nations has proclaimed 2019 as the International Year of Indigenous Languages, to draw attention to the critical loss of Indigenous languages. Our government has invested \$50 million to support the work of First Peoples' Cultural Council (FPCC) and First Nations communities to revitalize Indigenous languages in danger of disappearing. This has created the opportunity for the FPCC to

increase its Mentor Apprentice Program by 50% in the first year after funding. The Council is using the funds to support new Indigenous language speakers, document languages, and offer coaching and other supports to communities and organizations pursuing language revitalization.

The new K-12 curriculum has woven Indigenous knowledge and perspectives across every grade level by increasing the presence of Indigenous culture and history throughout all areas of learning in B.C. schools. Teachers are being supported to include Indigenous content, both historical and contemporary, into all subject matter. In addition, 17 Indigenous languages are now ready to be taught in B.C. schools, with six more in development.

The disproportionate number of Indigenous children in the child-welfare system is a stark

reminder of system-wide assumptions and practices that have failed Indigenous kids, families and communities.

Our government is working with Indigenous communities to reduce the number of children and youth coming into government care by shifting our focus to prevention. Central to this work is supporting families and providing culturally appropriate services. This includes our investment of \$30 million from the Early Learning and Child Care Agreement with the Government of Canada to expand and enhance Aboriginal Head Start programs. These programs provide culturally-based, inclusive child care and early learning, family bonding and prevention services.

At the end of 2018, there were almost 6,400 children and youth in care in B.C. — nearly 450 fewer than the previous year. Of these children, just over 4,100 are Indigenous — almost 230 fewer than 2017. This is the lowest number of Indigenous children and youth in care since 2014. Expanded government supports are helping to increase the rate of family preservation — for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous families.

While we have started to make progress, we still have much to accomplish.

Acting on what we have heard from families in Indigenous communities across B.C., Budget 2019 moves forward on Grand Chief Ed John's recommendation to harmonize the support payments for extended family, like grandparents and aunties, with those for foster parents. We are ending the unfair practice of providing extended families with fewer financial resources than foster parents receive. This will help reduce the number of children in care by keeping more kids with extended family.

Through the Tripartite First Nations Children and Families Working Group, the Province is working with the federal government and First Nations Leadership Council to explore systemic changes to B.C.'s child-welfare system, including

governance and jurisdiction. We are working with a number of individual First Nations and Indigenous communities on the transfer of jurisdiction.

In 2018, the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) signed two important tripartite agreements around children and family service. The first was with the Secwépemc Nation and the federal government, and the second with the Wet'suwet'en Nation and the federal government. Ongoing discussions continue between the Province and the Shuswap Nation Tribal Council, Huu-ah-ayt First Nations, Cowichan Tribes, and Northern Secwépemc te Qelmucw (NStQ). MCFD also signed a historic joint commitment with Métis Nation BC to achieve the goal of Métis exercising jurisdiction over children and families — according to their cultures and traditions — by 2021.

Budget 2019 also invests \$3 million into the BC Indigenous Clean Energy Initiative to support both on-grid and off-grid Indigenous communities that are working to advance energy efficiency and clean energy projects.

When it comes to Crown-Indigenous relations, our government has been clear that the status quo was not working. That's why we've reached groundbreaking government-to-government agreements with Nations that support self-determination and meet the aspirations of communities.

REVENUE SHARING WITH FIRST NATIONS

Sharing revenue with First Nations communities is an important step toward self-determination.

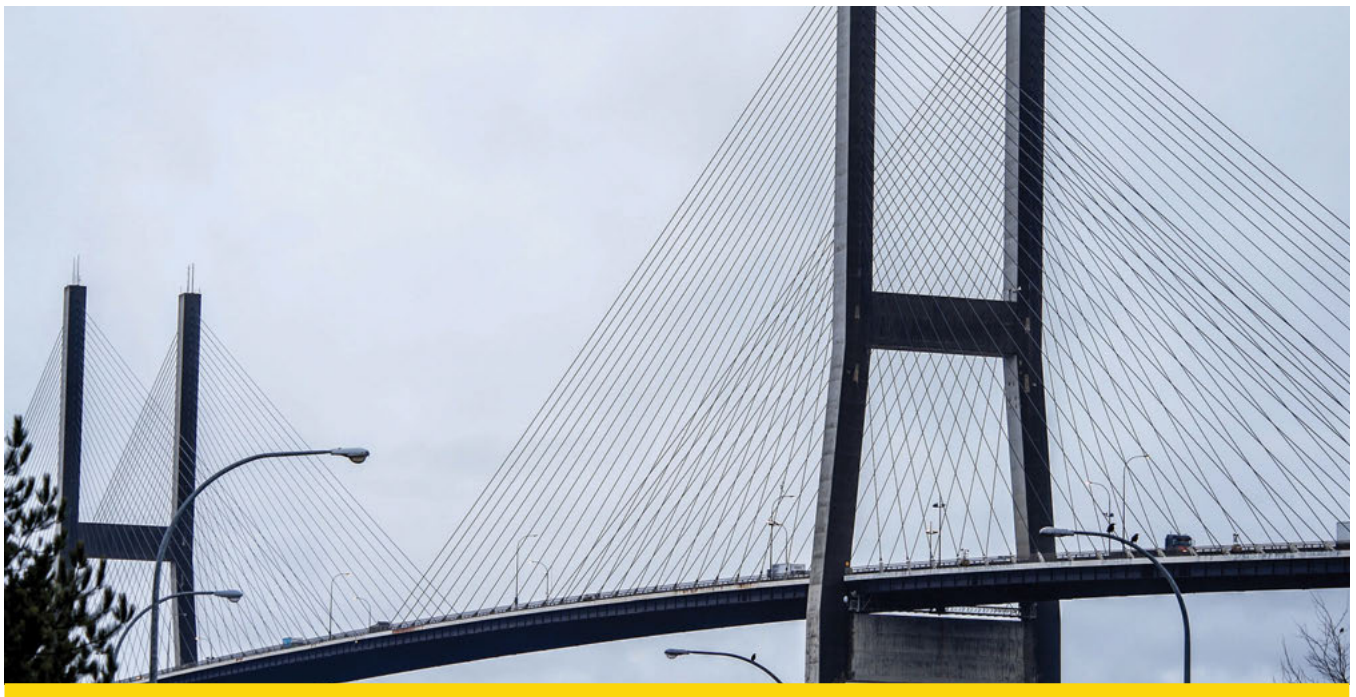
As part of Budget 2019, First Nations in B.C. will now have a stable, long-term source of funding to support strong, healthy communities. The B.C. government will share over \$3 billion in provincial gaming revenue with First Nations over the next 25 years.

The funding will be available to every First Nation in British Columbia.

This infusion of approximately \$100 million each year to First Nations will give these communities the ability to invest in a broad range of services and infrastructure to make life better — including health and wellness, housing, road upgrades, training and economic development.

This revenue-sharing agreement is a result of decades of work by First Nations with the Province to address the need for stable funding in their communities. This agreement affirms our government's commitment to true and lasting reconciliation. Our government is proud to build on the work First Nations have done as part of our commitment to creating a new fiscal relationship that supports self-government and self-determination. Our shared goal is to create a better future for everyone in B.C.





INVESTING IN A STRONG, SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY THAT WORKS FOR PEOPLE

British Columbia is expected to lead the nation in economic growth and has the country's lowest unemployment rate, helping communities be stronger than ever.

But we'll never have a truly prosperous province until everyone living in British Columbia can share in that prosperity. We believe the economy must work for all, not just the few at the top.

Our government is making different choices and tackling the biggest challenges facing B.C.

Budget 2019 continues our work to deliver the investments B.C. needs to build a resilient economy and a better future in all communities.

We're making strategic investments to create good jobs and opportunities in every sector of the economy, in every corner of the province.

The CleanBC plan, presented in December 2018, puts our province on the path to a cleaner, better future — with a low-carbon economy that creates

opportunities for all while protecting our clean air, land and water.

To make sure people have the skills they need to succeed, and our labour force meets the demands of the market, we're investing in education, skills training and skills recognition across the board.

But prosperity is about more than just jobs. It's also about convenient access to health care, education and other public services; it's about finding an affordable home; it's about being able to afford a good life, while putting money away for the future.

That's why we're investing in the public services and infrastructure that help make life better and more affordable for everyone.

CLEANBC: PROTECTING NATURE; POWERING OUR FUTURE

CleanBC will reduce climate pollution while creating more jobs and economic opportunities for people, businesses and communities. It serves as a highlight achievement of the collaboration between government and the B.C. Green Caucus.

Budget 2019 lays out new funding for CleanBC initiatives totalling \$902 million over three years — making sure that we can meet our climate commitments and make life better for people in British Columbia.

CleanBC will help B.C. to seize new low-carbon opportunities, mobilize our skilled workers, and reduce climate pollution. By moving to clean, renewable energy — like our abundant supply of B.C. electricity — we will power our growing economy. First Nations governments, local governments, businesses, and people from across British Columbia are all partners on the path forward.

MAKING ZERO-EMISSION VEHICLES MORE AFFORDABLE

We are committed to getting more clean energy vehicles on the road, and making sure that more vehicles are powered by clean B.C. electricity, hydrogen and renewable fuels.

Lowering our fuel consumption means lowering our costs, which is good for families and businesses — that's why we're helping with the upfront costs that can come from switching to cleaner fuels.

We're investing tens of millions of dollars to make zero-emission vehicles (ZEV), like electric cars and hydrogen fuel cell vehicles, affordable for all British Columbians. This will save people up to \$6,000 on their purchase, and approximately \$1,500 per year in fuel costs.

Government is also investing \$6 million to help light-duty vehicle fleets adopt clean energy vehicles.

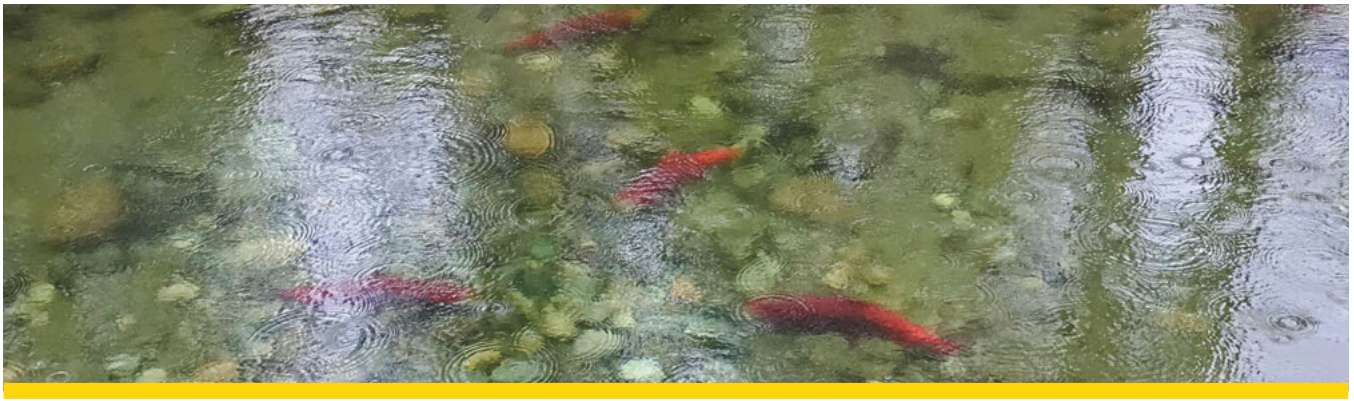
Making zero-emission vehicles more accessible also means having the infrastructure in place to support their use. A \$20 million investment will build new public fast-charging and hydrogen fueling stations, and an additional \$5 million will expand electric vehicle charging stations at highway rest stops and buildings owned by the Province. Another \$5 million will go towards incentives for the installation of home and workplace charging stations.

The build out of new cleaner transportation technology and infrastructure will stimulate new economic opportunities and development in communities throughout B.C. Budget 2019 contributes \$6 million toward research, training programs for automotive technicians and electricians, and to commercialize the zero-emission vehicle sector. And, we are supporting the development and implementation of a ZEV standard with \$3 million over the next three years

IMPROVING ENERGY EFFICIENCY WHILE PUTTING MONEY BACK INTO PEOPLE'S POCKETS.

We all benefit when we build more efficient buildings — conserving energy cuts down on pollution and makes buildings healthier and more comfortable. Budget 2019 provides \$41 million over three years to make energy-saving improvements more accessible and affordable for all British Columbians.





To save families money on their renovation costs, we are supporting clean energy retrofits for people's homes. People can receive:

- \$2,000 to replace their oil, propane or natural gas heating system with an electric air-source heat pump.
- Up to \$1,000 to upgrade and better insulate their windows and doors.
- Up to \$700 toward a highest efficiency natural gas furnace.

In addition, we will develop new retrofit financing options to make these upgrades more affordable for people across B.C.

When we build better buildings, we make the most of B.C.'s leadership in clean building and put new skills and newly skilled workers to work. Budget 2019 invests almost \$40 million to support energy efficiency and emission-reduction projects in more than 1,500 owned and leased government buildings across the province. To support this work, \$3 million will be put toward developing net-zero energy building codes for all new buildings by 2032, new standards to renovate existing buildings, and new energy-efficiency standards.

SUPPORTING CLEANER BUSINESSES AND COMMUNITIES

To help businesses reduce their fuel consumption and reduce air pollution, we're providing \$10 million to offer more incentives to switch medium- and heavy-duty vehicles to cleaner fuels, including

trucks, port and airport ground equipment, buses and marine vessels. An additional \$3 million will support a new heavy-duty vehicle efficiency program.

We understand tackling climate change isn't the same in every community. That's why we're investing \$15 million this year for remote communities to switch to cleaner energy. Remote communities served by the province's 22 largest diesel-power electricity generation stations will get financial support to reduce or eliminate diesel generation and replace it with energy from cleaner sources.

CleanBC builds on the comprehensive range of public transportation initiatives well underway in the province to cut congestion, pollution, and carbon emissions. Budget 2019 provides \$6 million for projects that help make communities more walkable and that support cycling infrastructure.

DELIVERING LOW-CARBON GOODS AND SERVICES

A key element of CleanBC is the formal memorandum of understanding (MOU) between government and business — as represented by the Business Council of British Columbia (BCBC) — which was agreed to and signed in late 2018. The MOU commits both parties to work together to develop a clean industry strategy that transitions our province into a low-carbon economy leader.

For a decade, B.C. industries and businesses have been leaders in implementing new processing and production technologies aimed at reducing the emission of greenhouse gases (GHGs). The MOU between government and BCBC confirms and expands that direction, with the aim of positioning British Columbia as a destination and supplier of choice for investment and industry looking to drive low-carbon economic growth, jobs and opportunities.

The MOU is intended to unlock British Columbia's full economic potential in a world that's rapidly embracing urgent climate action and eager for low-carbon solutions in the form of products, technologies and energy inputs. This initiative complements the CleanBC plan and is consistent with the commitment of both parties to advancing reconciliation through new economic opportunities for Indigenous peoples.

EXPANDING THE CLIMATE ACTION TAX CREDIT

And to put even more money back into the pockets of hardworking British Columbians, Budget 2019 enhances the climate action tax credit by \$223 million over the next three years. This means a family of four will get up to \$400 this year, and \$500 by July 1, 2021. Increasing this tax credit by 70% helps keep life affordable for those who need help most.

MEETING OUR CLEANBC COMMITMENTS

To implement CleanBC and roll out associated programs and enabling legislation, Budget 2019 contributes an additional \$3 million over three years to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy.

The CleanBC initiatives outlined in this Budget will build a cleaner future. By rising to the challenge of climate change, we can mobilize our skilled workers, natural resources, and booming technology sector to reduce climate pollution and create good jobs and economic opportunities across B.C.

A PRIORITY ON TALENT

Improving access to skills development and continuing education is good for people and the economy. We're working hard to make sure people can access affordable post-secondary education and training, so they can unlock their full potential and succeed.

This kind of investment has never been more important: like many other places, B.C. is facing a serious skills shortage in all sectors and communities. The actions we are taking will open the doors to opportunity for everyone committed to taking advantage of them.

- Adult basic education and English language learning programs were made tuition-free at public post-secondary institutions throughout the province, opening the door to thousands of people wanting to upgrade their skills. As many as 19,000 students are taking part in these programs and getting the skills they need to build a better life. To continue this work, Budget 2019 invests nearly \$18 million that will continue to make adult basic education and English language learning free and accessible for the people who need it.
- We're helping boost people's confidence in reading, writing, and using a computer by investing in adult literacy programs in communities throughout the province. For many adult learners, these programs are an important first step in an educational journey to post-secondary studies. In 2018, we put \$2.4 million into community adult literacy programs. This investment is helping adult learners access these programs in 75 communities throughout B.C.
- Removing tuition for former youth in care is helping make life better for hundreds of British Columbians. Because former youth in care are less likely to attend post-secondary education or training than young people who grew up with family supports, our government introduced the first province-wide tuition-waiver program for former youth in care. It is available at all 25 public post-secondary

institutions and 10 trades-training providers. The response has been incredible. As of October 2018, 687 former youth in care are benefiting from the provincial tuition waiver program.

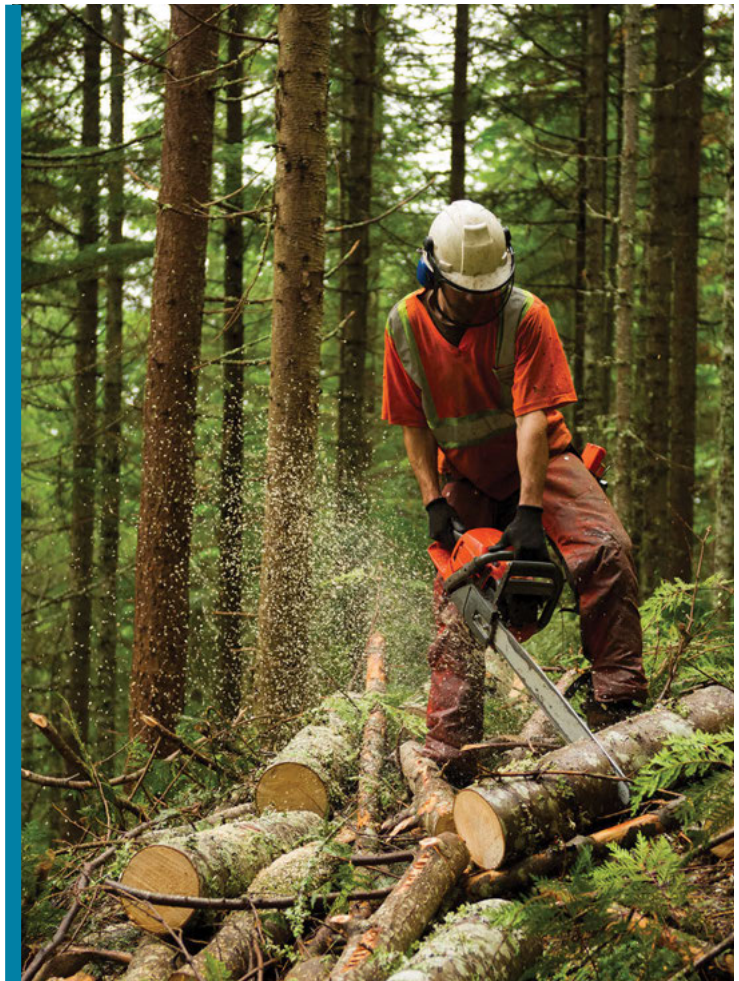
- WorkBC continues to bring federal and provincial dollars together to help people find jobs, explore career options and improve their skills — and then helps employers find the talent they're looking for. This year, we're making improvements by expanding WorkBC centres to 103 locations from 84, extending eligibility for specialized WorkBC services, and adding \$9 million for enhanced skills training.
- Expanding apprenticeship opportunities is critical to tackling the growing skills shortage. For too long, apprenticeships weren't a government priority and the results showed with fewer opportunities and lower completion rates. Our government is putting apprenticeships back at the forefront again. The Community Benefits Agreement that we launched in 2018 means that major infrastructure projects, like the replacement of the Pattullo Bridge and the projects within the TransCanada four-laning program, will be completed in a way that maximizes opportunities for apprentices, helping train the next generation of skilled construction trades workers.

And Budget 2019 invests an additional \$3 million over three years in the Industry Training Authority (ITA) to increase resources and supports for apprentices and employers. This funding will also support the ITA's progress toward greater inclusion of Indigenous people, women and other equity seeking groups in skilled trades.

- We're opening up more seats in colleges and universities in high-demand areas, including 2,900 in tech; investing \$10.5 million to create more co-op opportunities and entrepreneurial

training for post-secondary students; Budget 2019 is investing \$5 million over three years to train more nurse practitioners, specialty nurses and other health care professions; and making advanced education more affordable by eliminating interest on student loans.

- We're taking a major step forward in delivering more and better opportunities for newcomers to B.C., while helping our province benefit from the skills and experience immigrants bring to our province. By expanding B.C.'s immigrant settlement services — including improvements to credential recognition programs — thousands more immigrants will get help finding careers in the fields they've trained for. And to help employers find the talent they need, we're extending B.C.'s enhanced Provincial Nominee Program pilot in the tech sector.





MODERNIZING OUR INFRASTRUCTURE

Through an investment of \$20.1 billion, the biggest three-year capital plan in B.C.'s history, our government is building infrastructure projects in communities throughout the province. The construction of these schools, roads, health care facilities, housing and post-secondary institutions will create and support tens of thousands of jobs and training opportunities for British Columbians.

At the centre of our major infrastructure projects is the Community Benefits Agreement (CBA). This landmark agreement will deliver good-paying jobs and benefits, increase training and apprenticeships, and provide more trades opportunities for local workers, Indigenous people, women and youth. And it will help make sure major projects are delivered on time and on budget because the CBA guarantees no strikes or lockouts.

CBAs are used successfully in Los Angeles, Seattle and throughout North America.

Our government introduced one here because we believe British Columbians rightfully expect B.C. projects to benefit B.C. workers, families and communities. As we move forward, three projects will make use of the CBA:

- The Pattullo Bridge replacement, which will provide a safe, reliable crossing for vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists.
- Projects within the four-laning of the Trans-Canada Highway between Kamloops and the Alberta border, allowing traffic to move more safely and efficiently.
- The Broadway Subway to provide fast, reliable transportation in one of Metro Vancouver's busiest transit corridors, reducing traffic congestion and air pollution.

Around the rest of the province, we're investing more than \$100 million on smaller infrastructure projects aimed at keeping our highways, roads, tunnels and bridges safer and more reliable, helping keep British Columbians moving.

Additional projects are aimed at helping:

- Improve public transit with an additional \$21 million for BC Transit. This will expand bus services in 30 communities around the province and make improvements to help seniors and people with disabilities in both rural and urban communities access transit services.
- Make life in coastal communities more affordable by continuing the freeze on fares for major ferry routes, reducing fares on smaller routes, and keeping ferries free for seniors Monday to Thursday.
- Modernize the taxi industry and enable ride-hailing in B.C. through a \$9 million investment in the Passenger Transportation Board in its new role as regulator for passenger-directed vehicles.

CONNECTING OUR PROVINCE THROUGH HIGH-SPEED INTERNET

Internet connectivity plays a vital role in staying connected with the world, providing educational and work opportunities, accessing services and communicating with family and friends. Digital infrastructure is the backbone of the modern economy, but too many rural communities have been left behind.

Nearly 43,000 households will gain internet access through projects to improve high-speed internet connectivity that are underway or completed in 417 rural and remote communities, including 74 Indigenous communities.

Budget 2019 invests \$50 million to expand high-speed internet service even further. People in more than 200 communities will gain high-speed internet access and be able to participate in today's economy.

STRENGTHENING B.C.'S RESOURCE INDUSTRIES

B.C.'s resource industries — and the people who work in them — have built our province and will continue to be at the core of our economy moving forward. To keep them strong, to keep them

competitive on the global stage, we need to make sure that we maximize the value of the resources we harvest and that we continue to find new ways of improving energy efficiency and reducing climate pollution.

LNG: A \$40 BILLION PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENT

Our government has facilitated the largest private-sector investment in Canadian history — a \$40 billion liquefied natural gas project (LNG Canada) that will see construction of a natural gas pipeline from northeast B.C. to Kitimat where a new terminal will process and ship LNG to Asian markets.

Direct benefits of the LNG Canada final investment decision include:

- \$24 billion of direct private-sector investments in British Columbia;
- Up to 10,000 jobs for people during construction and 950 permanent jobs in northern B.C., once operations are underway;
- Some \$23 billion in new government revenues over the life of the project — new resources for health care, schools, child care and services for the people of B.C.; and
- Significant funding for First Nations' capacity building, training and education, contracting and employment, and community contributions.

By securing this investment, our government has shown that B.C.'s future can balance economic opportunity and job creation with forward-looking environmental action and a commitment to reconciliation.

We set four conditions for giving this project a green light. Any new LNG project must provide a fair rate of return for our natural resources; there must be job opportunities and training for people in B.C.; a meaningful partnership must be created with First Nations; and, critically, it must fit within our climate action targets.

It's an example of how taking a different approach can encourage investment confidence in British Columbia.

Government continues this people-first approach with trade partners as we work to expand global markets and attract additional investment to British Columbia.

REVITALIZING B.C.'S FOREST INDUSTRY

To rebuild a strong healthy forest sector for British Columbia, government announced the Coast Forest Sector Revitalization Initiative that will create and support good jobs in B.C. communities.

Budget 2019 includes an investment of \$10 million over three years to support coast forest sector revitalization.

The Coast Forest Sector Revitalization Initiative has five main goals:

- Rebuilding solid wood and secondary industries to make sure more B.C. logs and fibre are processed in B.C.
- Improving harvest performance to make sure more fibre is available for domestic mills, including the pulp and paper sector.
- Maintaining a credible auction system by taking steps to make sure bids on timber sale licences are independently made.
- Fostering stronger business-to-business relationships between BC Timber Sales, major licensees and First Nations.
- Restoring public confidence through amendments to the Forest and Range Practices Act and auditing the private managed forest land regime.

BOOSTING THE MINING SECTOR

The BC Mining Jobs Task Force brought together government, First Nations, industry leaders and labour, and produced a set of recommendations aimed at strengthening mining, exploration, and the communities that depend on this important sector.

And government is moving forward on those recommendations.

First and foremost, the mining flow-through share (MFTS) tax credit and the B.C. mining exploration tax credit (METC) are being made permanent incentives to drive investment in our province. In addition, government will ensure resources are available to improve mining application processes and industry safety and oversight.

A plan is being developed to review the remaining task force recommendations.

All British Columbians, particularly workers, deserve a fair, independent oversight body in the mining sector. We are moving forward with this important measure with a historic \$20 million investment, so our workers and our economy can stay strong. This funding will increase the number of mines inspectors and support a new auditing function.

REACHING FOR B.C. PRODUCTS

In 2018, the provincial government brought back the *BuyBC* program. Cancelled in the early 2000s, this revived program is already increasing brand awareness and sales of B.C. food, beverage and seafood products.

The *BuyBC* Partnership Program involves cost-shared funding that is available not only to agriculture and seafood producers, processors and co-operatives, but also to relevant industry associations as well as agricultural fairs and markets within B.C.

Our government is also moving ahead with actions to enhance B.C.'s food security future. Legislation passed in late 2018 makes it clear that land in the Agricultural Land Reserve is for farming and ranching, by:

- Cracking down on the dumping of construction debris, toxic waste and other fill that has been allowed to contaminate farmland.

- Putting an end to the construction of mega-mansions on farmland by limiting new house sizes to less than 5,400 square feet (approximately 502 square metres), except through application to the Agricultural Land Commission.

Additionally, government will be launching a food security task force aimed at bringing more farmland into production and growing new produce for markets here and abroad. The goal: to produce more food, jobs and prosperity from B.C.'s rich farmland.

FUELLING JOB AND INDUSTRY GROWTH

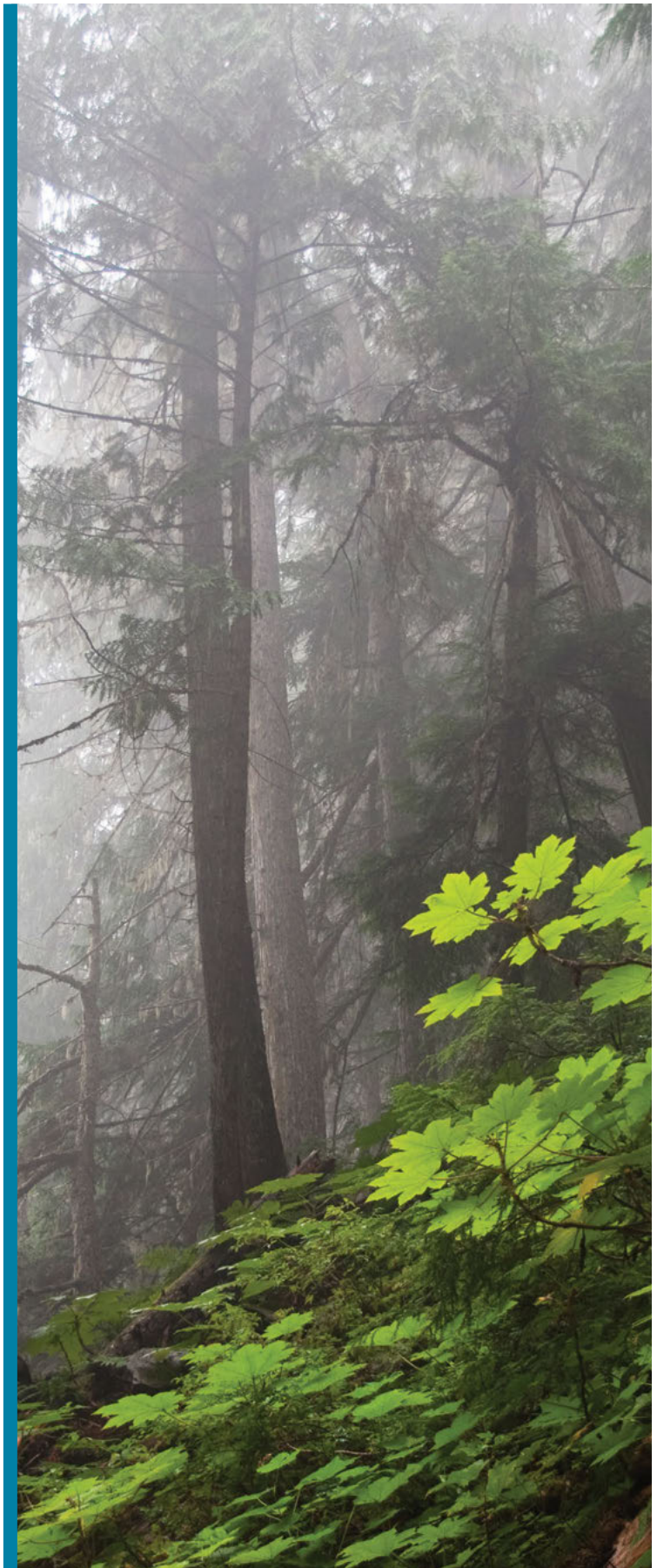
The provincial government is working to generate the conditions for businesses to succeed and jobs to be created — including \$800 million in tax cuts to business over the course of Budget 2019's fiscal plan. Highlights include:

HELPING BUSINESSES THRIVE

To support businesses, we've cut the small business corporate income tax rate from 2.5% to 2%, a 20% reduction.

We have also cut the provincial sales tax (PST) on non-residential electricity in half and will eliminate it completely by April 2019. This will save businesses in B.C. \$150 million annually.

B.C. is joining with the federal government to enhance business competitiveness with a more than \$800 million reduction in provincial corporate income taxes over the course of the fiscal plan. These tax savings, the result of enhanced write offs of capital expenditures, will encourage businesses to invest in new plants, new factories and new equipment, creating more jobs and helping grow B.C.'s economy.





B.C. TECH: 106,000 JOBS AND GROWING

The tech sector in B.C. is one of the fastest-growing areas of our economy. More than 10,200 tech-related businesses throughout the province support over 106,000 good-paying jobs. The tech and innovation sector is growing quickly and government is working collaboratively with industry to make our region a global hub of innovation and connectivity.

Our government is investing to develop future tech talent, support research and innovation, and help B.C. companies better compete globally, including:

- Scholarships to attract and retain the best graduate students, as well as support and encourage women to participate in science and tech-based professions.
- \$10.5 million for co-op opportunities and entrepreneurial training to give post-secondary students hands-on experience.
- An enhanced Provincial Nominee Program tech pilot, which we have extended by another year, to make it easier for companies to recruit top international talent.
- And, we announced the appointment of B.C.'s first Innovation Commissioner in 2018.

INVESTING IN ARTS AND CULTURE

Arts and cultural wealth are critical to the well-being of any society. Investments in these areas are investments in the future of British Columbia. To support artists and to continue making B.C. a leader in the arts, Budget 2019 invests an additional \$15 million in the BC Arts Council — on top of Budget 2018's \$15 million — to grow our creative economy.

PROMOTING B.C.'S TOURISM APPEAL

Budget 2019 invests \$39 million over three years in the Resort Municipality Initiative to fund infrastructure projects that will create jobs and support tourism in communities across B.C.

In response to the strong growth in the tourism sector, Destination BC will receive \$3 million to expand promotion of British Columbia as a global tourism destination.

Government will modernize the Royal BC Museum, to protect its historic holdings and provide better access to its collections. We will also establish a new Chinese Canadian museum, to honour the community's significant contributions to our province.

PROTECTING PEOPLE AND PLACE

In Budget 2019, we are investing nearly \$14 million in new funds over three years to transform employment standard protections and enforcement in our province and create a Temporary Foreign Worker Registry that will help protect vulnerable workers from

exploitation. New funds will increase supports for complaints resolution, improve education and enhance outreach, and allow for more proactive enforcement activities because people deserve a safe place to work.

Revitalizing the environmental assessment (EA) process in B.C. is a shared priority between government and the B.C. Green caucus and is part of the Confidence and Supply Agreement.

Budget 2019 invests \$9 million to implement the new environmental assessment legislation passed in November 2018. The legislation reflects government's commitment to reconciliation and implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Indigenous collaboration in environmental assessments will be greatly enhanced and will result in a more certain and efficient process, where good projects can move forward more quickly and provide benefits to Indigenous peoples while respecting their rights.



These changes modernize the EA process so that important considerations like climate change, cumulative impacts and new scientific standards are properly incorporated. This will help strengthen public confidence in government decision making.

Budget 2019 establishes the Office of the Superintendent of Professional Reliance through a nearly \$2 million investment over three years. This office will provide a centralized statutory authority for professional governance oversight to ensure consistency and best practices are applied to the work of natural resource professionals.

Through the Sustainable Environment Fund, our government will put \$7 million over the next three years toward increased monitoring and oversight activities under the Environmental Management Act.

ECONOMIC OVERVIEW OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

British Columbia's economy is strong and is projected to lead the country in growth in 2019 and 2020.

In 2018, B.C.'s economy added 26,800 jobs and the year ended with a record 2.54 million people employed in the province.

Full-time employment in B.C. expanded by 24,700 jobs in 2018 and accounted for 92% of total employment gains.

B.C.'s unemployment rate in 2018 was 4.7%, the lowest in Canada and the lowest in the past 10 years.

People are sharing in the benefits of growth. In 2018, B.C. had the highest wage growth in the past decade at 4.1%, leading all of Canada.

FISCAL OVERVIEW OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

The B.C. government has made historic investments to make life better for all British Columbians while balancing the budget over each year of the fiscal plan.

B.C.'s fiscal picture is strong and getting stronger by the day.

B.C. remains the only province with a AAA credit rating from all three major international rating agencies.

In 2017–18, even after historic losses at ICBC and a \$950 million adjustment to start to clean up the books at BC Hydro, government maintained a surplus of \$301 million.

Over the next three years of the fiscal plan, government is forecasting surpluses of \$274 million, \$287 million, and \$585 million in 2019–20, 2020–21, and 2021–22 respectively.

Government's decision to fully eliminate MSP premiums on January 1, 2020 means that approximately \$2.7 billion will be returned to British Columbians each and every year.

With implementation of Budget 2019, a middle-class family of four earning \$80,000 will see a 43% reduction in net provincial taxes since Budget 2016.

Over the next three years, the B.C. government will invest in the largest capital infrastructure build in B.C.'s history. More than \$20 billion will be invested in communities around the province.

As a result of government's prudent fiscal management, the Province successfully eliminated British Columbia's operating debt this fiscal year for the first time in 40 years.



KEY PROVINCIAL DEBT INDICATORS

PERCENT	ACTUAL 2013/14	ACTUAL 2014/15	ACTUAL 2015/16	ACTUAL 2016/17	ACTUAL 2017/18
Taxpayer-supported debt to GDP ratio	17.9	17.3	17.2	15.7	15.5
Taxpayer-supported debt to revenue ratio	96.4	94.1	91.3	81.8	82.5
PERCENT	UPDATED FORECAST 2018/19	BUDGET ESTIMATE 2019/20	PLAN 2020/21	PLAN 2021/22	
Taxpayer-supported debt to GDP ratio	14.9	15.0	15.7	16.1	
Taxpayer-supported debt to revenue ratio	78.4	81.5	87.0	89.6	

THREE YEAR FISCAL PLAN

(\$millions)	Updated Forecast 2018/2019	Budget Estimate 2019/20	Plan 2020/21	Plan 2021/22
Revenue	56,636	59,047	60,038	62,458
Expense	(55,762)	(58,273)	(59,451)	(61,573)
Forecast allowance.....	(500)	(500)	(300)	(300)
Surplus	374	274	287	585
Capital Spending:				
Taxpayer-supported capital spending	4,771	6,340	6,837	6,911
Self-supported capital spending.....	4,192	4,274	3,333	3,361
	8,963	10,614	10,170	10,272
Provincial Debt:				
Taxpayer-supported debt	43,957	46,384	50,454	53,986
Self-supported debt.....	23,459	25,664	26,905	28,090
Total debt (including forecast allowance)	67,916	72,548	77,659	82,376
Taxpayer-supported debt to GDP ratio.....	14.9%	15.0%	15.7%	16.1%
Taxpayer-supported debt to revenue ratio .	78.4%	81.5%	87.0%	89.6%
Economic Forecast:				
	2018	2019	2020	2021
Real GDP growth	2.2%	2.4%	2.3%	2.1%
Nominal GDP growth	4.6%	4.4%	4.3%	4.0%







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