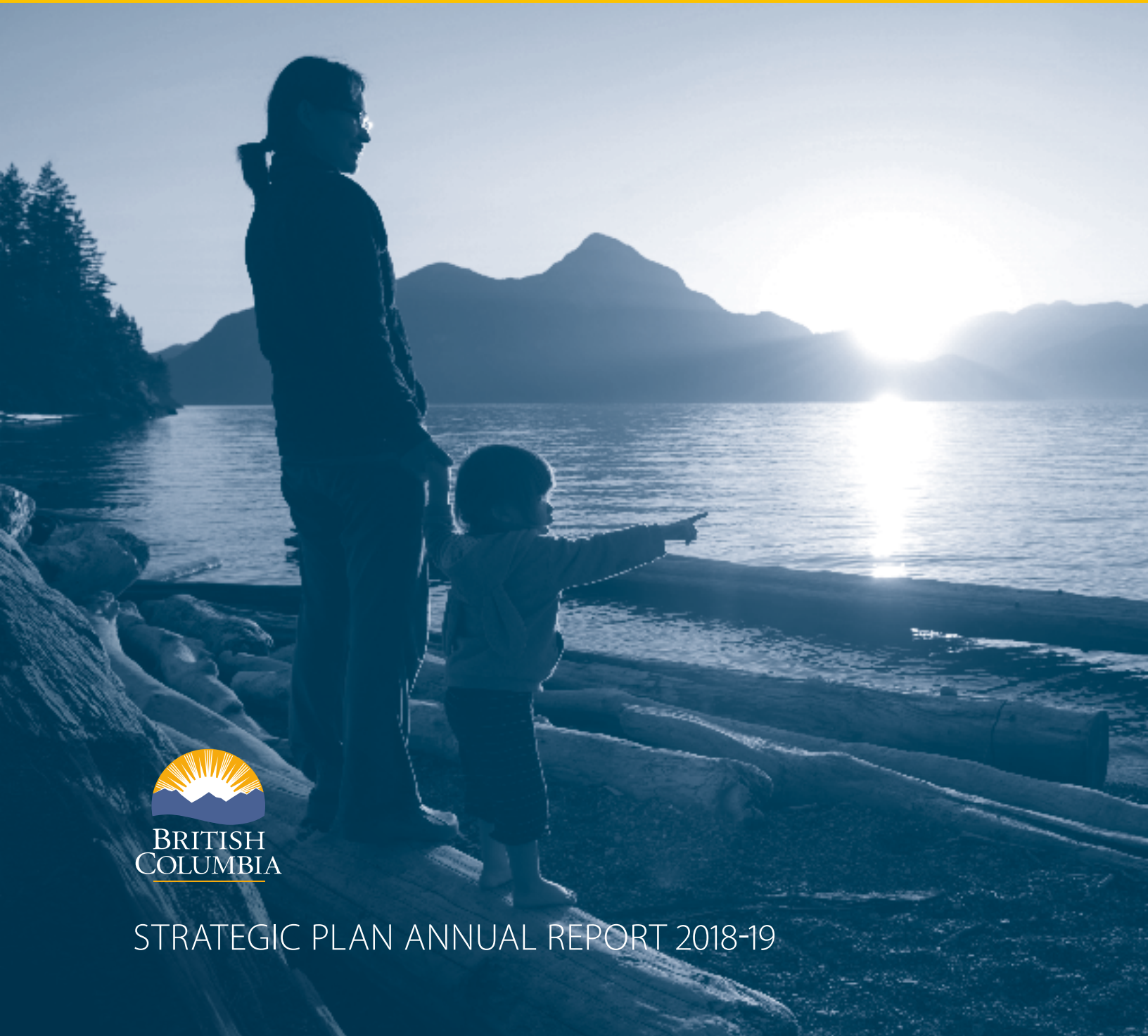


PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

WORKING FOR YOU



STRATEGIC PLAN ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19



PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Working for you and getting results

For the first time in a long time, B.C. has a government that is putting people first. We're working hard to put our province on a better path. We're tackling the real-life challenges people face every day. And we're starting to get results that are making life better.

We're creating more opportunities for British Columbians, so everyone can enjoy a good life in the communities they call home. That means an affordable home whether you own or rent. It means having the hospitals, schools, child care and public services you need. It means having a good-paying job and opportunities for the future.

With Budget 2018, our government put B.C. on a different path. We announced bold plans to make life more affordable, improve the services that people rely on, and build a strong, sustainable economy, including:

- ▶ A historic \$1-billion, made-in-B.C. child care plan that is making quality, affordable child care available to hundreds of thousands of B.C. families.
- ▶ A \$7-billion investment in affordable housing, the biggest in B.C. history, to tackle the housing crisis, along with a 30-point housing plan to moderate the market.
- ▶ Record levels of infrastructure investment to build the schools, hospitals, roads and transit that people rely on, and creating tens of thousands of jobs.

In Budget 2019, we introduced the biggest middle-class tax cut in a generation—putting thousands of dollars back into people's pockets, while continuing to invest in the services British Columbians need. Our balanced approach is good for people, good for communities, and good for the economy.

We're creating opportunities to help people and businesses thrive through historic investments, including:

- ▶ A new B.C. Child Opportunity Benefit, starting in 2020, which will put money back into the pockets of 290,000 families and help give kids under 18 a better start in life. The benefit will save families up to \$1,600 per year for one child, \$2,600 per year for two children and as much as \$3,400 per year for three children.
- ▶ Fully eliminating MSP premiums for everyone starting January 1, 2020, saving individuals \$900 per year and families as much as \$1,800 per year.
- ▶ Investing in CleanBC—the largest investment in climate action in B.C.'s history—so we can create jobs and opportunities for people while rising to the challenge of climate change.
- ▶ Eliminating interest on B.C. student loans, so young people can get a better start in their lives and careers. Someone with a \$28,000 combined federal and provincial loan debt will save approximately \$2,300 in interest charges over 10 years.
- ▶ Deepening the Province's commitment to achieving true and lasting reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, including an estimated \$3 billion over the next 25 years for the largest revenue-sharing agreement with First Nations in B.C.'s history.

A family of four earning \$80,000 per year, with children aged 1 and 3 in licensed child care, could receive as much as \$23,400 per year in benefits.

We're proud of the progress we've made so far. The investments we're making in people will pay dividends for years to come. We're going to keep working hard every day to make life better by making choices that put people first.

Delivering strong and stable government for B.C.

The Confidence and Supply Agreement, negotiated with the BC Green Party Caucus, provides strong and stable government for British Columbia. This agreement, rooted in shared priorities and shared values, has allowed government to make progress on the things that matter most.

Our government is taking critical action on climate in collaboration with the BC Green Party Caucus. The CleanBC plan will expand B.C.'s economy and create jobs and opportunities for people. The plan includes rebates and incentives to make vehicles, homes and businesses cleaner and more energy efficient, saving people money while fighting climate pollution.

We have also taken important steps to address the housing crisis, and deliver safe, affordable housing for people of all ages and income levels. Government is acting on the recommendations of the Rental Housing Task Force, which included BC Green Party Caucus representation, to better protect the rights of renters and landlords.

The past year has also seen collaborative work to restore wild salmon, which are critical to B.C.'s environment, history, economy and way of life. The Premier's Wild Salmon Advisory Council, which included representation from the BC Green Party Caucus, made recommendations that guide government's work to protect wild salmon and enhance their habitat. This is an important shared priority with the BC Green Caucus and B.C. will continue to work with all of its partners to help restore wild salmon populations.

Over the past two years, the Confidence and Supply Agreement has also enabled progress on:

- ▶ affordable, quality child care
- ▶ removing barriers to post-secondary and skills training
- ▶ expansion of team-based health care
- ▶ stronger environmental assessment rules
- ▶ getting to the root causes of money laundering
- ▶ restoring balance to B.C.'s labour laws and making workplaces safer
- ▶ appointing the innovation commissioner to promote B.C.'s technology sector
- ▶ creating the Emerging Economy Task Force, to make sure people benefit from advances in innovation and technology
- ▶ banning big money in provincial and local elections
- ▶ protecting B.C.'s environment and coast from the risks of a bitumen spill

Making life more affordable

Instead of letting costs rise uncontrolled, our government is making life more affordable for families. We're tackling the housing crisis, providing more affordable child care for more families, and reducing costs and fees across the board.

Making progress on homes for B.C.

Every person in B.C. deserves a secure place to call home.

An out-of-control housing market has left too many British Columbians unable to afford a place to call home and businesses without the workers they need.

Our government is taking bold steps to tackle the housing crisis and deliver the affordable homes British Columbians need. In Budget 2018, we launched *Homes for B.C.*, 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 moderating housing prices by increasing supply, curbing speculative demand, and tackling fraud and money laundering in the real estate market.



New rental homes are on the way for middle-income families across the province

Moderating the market

For too long, speculators have been driving up housing costs and using the real estate market like a stock market. This has made owning and renting a home in B.C. much more expensive. In Greater Vancouver, the benchmark price for a single-family home increased by over 75% in just five years. That's not sustainable.

We introduced the speculation and vacancy tax to target speculators who own homes in B.C., but do not pay tax here.

This tax is turning empty units into homes for people and families. It's successfully capturing speculators: more than 80% of people paying the tax are foreign owners, satellite families and Canadians living outside of B.C., while more than 99% of British Columbians won't pay this tax.

Our government increased the foreign buyers tax to 20% and expanded it to urban areas beyond Vancouver to ensure foreign buyers are fairly contributing to provincial services and programs in return for the high quality of life they enjoy when they move to B.C. Revenue collected from both the foreign buyers and speculation taxes is reinvested in building housing in local communities, so more people can find an affordable place to live.

These measures are starting to get results, with strong indications that moderation and stability are returning to B.C.'s housing market.

Cracking down on tax fraud and closing loopholes

It's unacceptable that the proceeds of crime are distorting the housing market, while British Columbians are struggling to find secure, affordable housing. That's why we're moving ahead with a public inquiry into money laundering and cracking down on the estimated \$5 billion in "dirty money" laundered through B.C. real estate that's hiked the price of buying a home by at least 5%, and upwards of 20% in areas like Metro Vancouver.

The decision to proceed with a public inquiry followed three independent reviews that found extraordinary levels of money laundering in B.C.'s real estate market and other sectors of the economy. It will help us identify better protections to shut out money laundering and keep our economy strong and working for people, not organized crime.

But we aren't waiting to act. As part of our plan, we passed world-leading legislation to end hidden ownership of land in B.C. This public registry—the first of its kind in Canada—will help crack down on tax evasion and make sure people and companies are paying their fair share.

For years, it was widely acknowledged that the practice of pre-sale condo flipping in Greater Vancouver was a factor in driving up real estate prices and avoiding taxes. That's why we acted to close real estate loopholes in the condo market by establishing Canada's first ever condo pre-sale registry to track pre-sale flipping and assignments.

By cracking down on money laundering, stopping tax fraud and closing loopholes, we are doing our part to make our real estate market fair for everyone.

Building the homes people need

Our government is committed to working in partnership to deliver 114,000 affordable homes over 10 years. This includes directly funding new, affordable housing and working with committed partners to deliver the homes people need.

We are building homes for people with a range of incomes: people experiencing homelessness, people with low to moderate incomes and middle-income earners.

In less than two years, we are well on our way to delivering affordable housing all over the province, with more than 20,000 new homes open or underway in nearly 80 communities.

With new government funding and partnerships with municipalities, Indigenous communities, and housing groups, we are working toward building 114,000 homes for people living in British Columbia, including student housing, seniors housing, social housing, Indigenous housing, and affordable rentals for middle-income families.

We are committed to building 1,750 new homes to support Indigenous peoples, both on- and off-reserve, over 10 years. This makes B.C. the first province in the country to fund on-reserve housing. To date, 1,100 homes are already underway in 26 communities.

We are also supporting local governments in their efforts to bring affordable housing to their communities with new tools like rental zoning, and new funding programs to help municipalities assess their long-term housing needs. New building code changes are also allowing the safe construction of taller wood buildings, supporting our mass timber industry and forest-dependent communities, and delivering the homes that British Columbians need, faster.

Providing more security for renters and landlords

Renters have been struggling with inflated rents and rental laws that failed to protect them for years. To help ease pressure on renters, our government cut the annual allowable rent increase by 2%, limiting it to inflation.

To offer families and seniors some relief from rising costs, we have expanded eligibility and increased the benefits available under the Rental Assistance Program and Shelter Aid For Elderly Renters by an average of 17% and 42% respectively. By closing the fixed-term lease loophole, we have put an end to unfair rent hikes when leases end and are being renewed. We have also strengthened protection for renters during renovations and demolitions to prevent unfair renovations.

New investments also mean that renters and landlords are seeing reduced wait times and getting better service from the Residential Tenancy Branch. A new Compliance and Enforcement Unit will ensure everyone follows the rules or face real consequences when they break them.

People deserve the opportunity to thrive and get ahead. That starts with having an affordable place to call home. After years of out of control rents and skyrocketing housing prices, we've made great progress in our 10-year housing strategy. But this is only the beginning. There is more to do and we're committed to continuing our work to build a better future for everyone in B.C.

Delivering affordable child care for families

Every parent in British Columbia wants to give their child the best start in life.

For too long, the lack of quality, affordable child care has forced many families to pay more than they can afford or drop out of the workforce.

We are committed to working with municipal and federal partners to make affordable, accessible and quality child care a reality for B.C. families, with the most significant investment in child care in B.C.'s history—\$1.3 billion over three years.

This investment includes a child care fee reduction for families of up to \$350 per child, per month, for eligible child care spaces. As of February 2019, more than 54,000 spaces are eligible for a fee reduction.

We are working on the first phases of our universal child care plan, with many families saving up to \$1,250 per month or \$15,000 per year, per child, through the Affordable Child Care Benefit. More than 80,000 families are eligible for support with their monthly child care costs through this benefit.

To make child care more accessible, we're investing \$237 million over the next three years to support the creation of 22,000 new licensed child care spaces around the province. We have funded more than 8,000 new licensed child care spaces across all of our space-creation programs, with more spaces announced every month.

In partnership with the federal government, B.C. launched 53 prototype sites (2,900 children) to deliver child care that will cost families a maximum of \$200 per month, per child, in addition to increasing supports for young parents, Indigenous communities and children with extra support needs.



Childcare BC will give families access to quality child care at a price they can afford

Core to these initiatives is a well-supported early care and learning workforce. That's why we've implemented a \$1-per-hour wage enhancement, launched in January 2019, with an additional \$1 to follow in April 2020.

With the Child Care Fee Reduction and the Affordable Child Care Benefit, almost 18,000 children in B.C. have accessed child care for a daily cost of \$10 or less. This includes 7,500 children from low-income households whose families are now paying nothing at all for child care.

In addition, we are improving access to professional development opportunities for those who are already working in the sector and expanding bursaries for students who are interested in becoming an Early Childhood Educator (ECE).

Government is also investing \$7.4 million over the next three years to fund spaces for an additional 620 ECE graduates at public post-secondary institutions throughout B.C. to grow the workforce of early childhood educators.

Quality, affordable child care can be transformative. It gives children the chance to play, learn and grow in a safe and supportive environment.

For parents and caregivers, it means the chance to work and build a career, with the peace of mind that their children are cared for. It's good for people, good for communities and good for the economy.

Lifting people up

People in B.C. are generous by nature. When someone is struggling, we lift them up.

Every person in this province deserves the same opportunities to succeed. But for too long, the social priorities of British Columbians were ignored and underfunded by those who could make a real difference in people's lives. Today, there are half a million people in B.C. living in poverty. Our government is making different choices.

In early 2019, we launched TogetherBC, British Columbia's first-ever Poverty Reduction Strategy. It aims to reduce the province's overall poverty rate by 25% and the child poverty rate by 50% over the next five years. This will help lift 140,000 people out of poverty, including 50,000 children.



New modular homes offer hope for people experiencing homelessness

To make sure everyone can afford basic necessities, we have made progress in a reasonable and measured way to increasing the minimum wage—currently at \$13.85 as of June 1, 2019—to at least \$15.20 by 2021. Now the Fair Wages Commission is exploring how we can close the gap between the minimum wage and living wages in our communities.

To help people experiencing homelessness, our Rapid Response to Homelessness program has been delivering results. Close to 1,300 modular homes are now open in 14 communities throughout the province. Our goal is to have more than 2,000 modular homes open in 22 communities by the end of 2019. We're also building 1,500 new transition homes for women and children affected by violence, the first major investment in transition housing in more than two decades.

For people living paycheck to paycheck, an unexpected expense—like having your car break down—can stretch a family's monthly budget too far. In partnership with the Vancity Community Foundation,

the province is working towards establishing a provincewide rent bank system to support renters who need immediate, short-term relief to prevent eviction.

Our government doubled operating support for B.C.'s 22 not-for-profit dental clinics to help provide a mix of free and low-cost dental care for people living in poverty. The \$3.6 million in funding over three years includes \$2 million to upgrade dental equipment in the clinics. These non-profit clinics serve approximately 54,000 patient visits each year.

Opening the doors to higher learning

We're breaking down barriers for people by making post-secondary education and skills training more accessible and affordable.

We acted quickly to eliminate tuition fees for Adult Basic Education and English Language Learning programs, and greatly expanded tuition fee waivers for former youth in care. Since September 2017, 806 former youth in care have benefited from the expanded Provincial Tuition Waiver Program.

To help young people get off to a better start in their lives and careers, our government eliminated interest from all British Columbia student loans. As of February 19, 2019, all B.C. student loans stopped accumulating interest—meaning everyone working to pay off their student loans received immediate financial relief.



Expanding opportunities for trade and tech students

Making public auto insurance fair and affordable

For years, the old government neglected soaring rates at ICBC, making life more expensive.

We committed to making life more affordable for people across the province and got down to work to get ICBC back on track. We introduced legislation and a regulatory framework that improves care for injured people, while helping get ICBC on the path to financial sustainability. Our focus is on making rates more affordable while giving drivers the peace of mind that care will be there when they need it.

Better services for people

People want better public services, like quality health care and a world-class education system that sets children up for success. We're hard at work improving the services your family counts on.

Making health care better

Too many British Columbians are struggling to access the health care they need.

They can't find a family doctor, are waiting too long for surgeries and diagnostics, and worry about caring for their aging loved ones. Our government is taking bold steps to make health care better.

Our new primary and community care strategy will make health care work for people again. We are introducing a team-based approach that will bring together doctors, nurse practitioners and other health care professionals to provide patients with better access to care. As a first step, we're providing opportunities for 200 new family physicians and 200 primary care nurse practitioners to deliver team-based care.

To provide better health care, the B.C. government is making capital investments in 12 new and existing hospitals and health-care facilities, with more to come.

New primary care networks will link patients to the care they need in their communities. From maternity to end-of-life, busy families will get the services they need. Primary care networks have been launched in the Fraser northwest, Prince George, Burnaby, Richmond and South Okanagan Similkameen. Work is underway to launch additional primary care networks throughout the province. In the next three years,

primary care networks will be up and running in 70% of B.C. communities with populations of 50,000 to 100,000, as well as smaller populations in rural areas.



The provincial network of hip and knee programs is part of a strategy to reduce wait times for people

Urgent primary care centres are a new addition to B.C.'s health-care system. Open late and on weekends, urgent and primary care centres can help people with flu-like symptoms, headaches and earaches, minor cuts and sprains. These centres also connect people who don't have a family doctor with the care they need. Urgent and primary care centres are now open in Surrey, Langford, Quesnel, Kamloops, Nanaimo, Prince George, Vancouver, and one will open in Burnaby. More than 34,000 patients have already benefited from these centres.

For people who need emergency, critical or intensive care, hospitals are a vital part of our health-care system. But B.C. hospitals are aging, and for growing communities, overcrowding is the norm. For years, the Province delayed building and upgrading hospitals and failed to keep pace with B.C.'s growing population. Our government is working quickly to build, renovate and expand hospitals throughout B.C., including a new hospital in Surrey, new patient care towers in Kamloops and

Richmond, a new emergency department and intensive care unit in Quesnel, and a new intensive care unit in Nanaimo.

We are making sure seniors get the quality care they need and deserve every day. After years of cuts, we added 1.2 million hours of care for seniors in residential care homes in 2018-19, with 270,000 more hours of direct care. Government is investing \$240 million over three years to increase the direct care seniors receive up to 3.36 hours per-resident day by 2021. This will be the first time this average has been reached since the Ministry of Health set that target almost 10 years ago.

Our government is adding thousands more surgeries and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) exams throughout the province, so people can get the procedures they need, faster and closer to home.

And we've brought down the cost of prescription drugs for many British Columbians by reducing or eliminating Fair PharmaCare deductibles and co-payments. We've reduced deductibles for families with a net income of less than \$45,000 a year, while families with a net income of less than \$30,000 a year have no deductible at all and get help right away. When people pay less for prescription medications, they have more money left over for the essentials. Up to 240,000 families are already benefiting from this change, which is part of our plan to make life more affordable.

It will take time to fix the problems, but we are working hard to deliver better, faster health care for people.

Addressing mental health and addictions

Our government is tackling B.C.'s overdose crisis and expanding mental health services for the people who need it most.

To address the fragmented mental health and addictions care system, we've invested \$322 million to help stem the tide of the overdose crisis. We are taking action to save lives by expanding harm reduction services, increasing access to naloxone and connecting people to life-saving supports, including treatment and recovery.

In June 2019, we launched B.C.'s mental health roadmap. *A Pathway to Hope* is our 10-year plan, but we know people need help right away. Our immediate focus for the next three years is on improving wellness for children, youth and young adults, supporting Indigenous-led solutions, improving substance use care, and improving access and quality of care across B.C. This includes creating a comprehensive mental health and addictions system of care where every door is the right door, and where you ask once and get help fast.

Foundry centres provide wraparound services to children and youth in communities around the province. There are eight Foundry centres in operation and up to 11 more on the way.

A better future through education

With record-high levels of funding for more teachers and support staff, a new curriculum and graduation program, and smaller class sizes, British Columbia students are getting better support in their classrooms so they can all reach their full potential.

Smaller class sizes and student enrolment growth has led to a 14% increase in the number of classrooms in B.C. To support these new classes, we are investing over \$400 million a year for school districts to hire almost 4,000 new teaching positions, including 500 special education teachers and 190 more teacher-psychologists and counsellors. An additional 1,000 education assistants have been hired in the past two years.

We have accelerated seismic upgrades, school expansions and new schools in communities throughout the province—more than \$1.5 billion invested so far—so that kids have safe and modern places to learn. Since September 2017, our education investments have added 9,720 new student spaces in growing communities around B.C.



New playground funding helps provide healthier, more accessible learning environments for kids

Playgrounds are a key factor in a child's development and learning. They encourage outdoor physical activity, help students learn how to share, overcome challenges, and help them focus and learn more effectively in the classroom. Launched in May 2018, the annual Playground Equipment Program has already provided funding for new playgrounds at more than 100 schools throughout B.C.

B.C. schools should be welcoming and inclusive places. Every student deserves to receive an education in environment free from discrimination, bullying, harassment, intimidation, and violence. Our government is expanding the ERASE (Expect Respect and a Safe Education) anti-bullying strategy to include resources for mental health and wellness, and sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI).

ERASE also provides over 190 online safety sessions to more than 19,000 students in grades 3 to 12 throughout the province.

All 60 B.C. school districts and several independent schools have joined the B.C. SOGI Educator Network to further help educators make schools safe and inclusive for students of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

Education is critical to achieving meaningful reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. We are committed to improving results for Indigenous students and increasing the presence of Indigenous languages, culture and history throughout all subject matter in B.C. schools.

Indigenous students in B.C. are completing secondary school at the highest rate ever, with a completion rate of 70%. This is 4% higher than the year before and 8% higher than it was four years ago. We will continue to support the success of Indigenous learners, with targeted funding estimated to rise to \$89 million next school year—a 27% increase over the past two years.

For the first time, the new K-12 curriculum ensures Indigenous knowledge and perspectives are woven across all grade levels and areas of learning, including a new First Nations history curriculum, developing full-course offerings in Indigenous languages, and implementing the education-related calls to action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

To help address long-standing recruitment and retention challenges for specialist positions in B.C.'s K-12 schools, we have invested \$3.5 million to create about 250 new seats in teacher education programs in B.C. post-secondary institutions. This will help train new teachers in special education, French, and secondary math and physics, as well as Indigenous educators.

Connecting people

Connectivity opens doors to new possibilities for every person in every community in B.C.

We're expanding broadband connectivity in smaller communities throughout B.C. so people have more opportunities to learn, run their businesses, access public services and stay connected.

Since July 2017, projects to improve high-speed internet connectivity are underway or completed in 462 communities, including 76 Indigenous communities, or nearly 45,000 households.

Working with federal and local partners and internet service providers, our government has announced more than \$94 million in funding to expand access to high-speed internet for an estimated 219 communities, including 70 First Nations and Indigenous communities.

Building a more fair and inclusive province

Our government is taking steps to fight inequality and break down the barriers that are holding people back.

We are working hard to make life better for women and girls. We created a gender-balanced cabinet, appointed B.C.'s first Parliamentary Secretary for Gender Equity, and have implemented gender-based analysis plus (GBA+) to make sure these voices and experiences are heard and included when we build our budgets, policies and programs.

Our choices are starting to get results, with nearly 50% of public board seats now held by women, up from 41%. We've made historic investments in B.C.'s Childcare BC plan to help families access affordable, quality child care, so that parents aren't forced to choose between their career and family. And we've made the largest investment in affordable housing in B.C.'s history, which includes 1,500 new transition homes for women and children affected by domestic violence and sexual assault.

We are creating a more inclusive and just society for all British Columbians by protecting and promoting human rights with the re-establishment of a human rights commission. The former commission was dismantled in 2002. The commissioner will address issues of discrimination and combat widespread patterns of inequality in society.

Our government also provides funding for projects designed to promote multiculturalism and fight racism in communities around B.C. Last year, we updated the criteria for the multiculturalism grants program to focus more on reducing barriers and building intercultural trust. In 2019, 76 community groups received funding, including the Punjab da Folk project, Shuswap Immigrant Services Society project and Nanaimo Literacy Association project.

Almost a million people in B.C. identify as having a disability. Our government is working with partners to make B.C. communities more inclusive and accessible. The Province proclaimed May 27 to June 2, 2018, as AccessAbility Week in B.C. to recognize people and organizations that are bringing down barriers for people with disabilities in their communities. We have also awarded a \$10 million grant to the Rick Hansen Foundation to support its work to make our communities more inclusive. These grants form part of the \$5 billion that B.C. spends each year to fund services and supports for people with disabilities.



More students are now supported by SOGI-inclusive education

By the end of 2019, all public schools around B.C. will be required to provide free menstrual products for students in school washrooms.

Our vision for B.C. is a province where everyone can fully participate in every aspect of life, including sport, regardless of income. That's why we continue to support the good work of the Indigenous Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation Council (I-SPARC), which helps fund equipment grants, youth camps, coach development and North American Indigenous Games training. We also supported B.C. communities to attract and host 80 provincial, national and international level sports events. Events included the 2018-2019 Junior Hockey Championships in Vancouver and Victoria and the 2019 Para Nordic Skiing Championship in Prince George.

Supporting strong and safe communities

Everyone deserves to be safe where they live, work and raise a family.

From action to deal with guns and gangs and organized crime, to planning for the safe implementation of legalized non-medical cannabis, to more support for programs that prevent and reduce crime, we are improving public safety for all British Columbians.

Talking to kids as early as possible about guns and violence helps them make better choices. That's why one of our first announcements as a government was to provide the Surrey Wrap program with ongoing, annual funding of \$500,000 to deliver anti-gang programming to youth in Surrey. We are also funding six gang-related prevention and intervention programs based in Abbotsford, the Cariboo-Chilcotin region and the Capital Regional District. The Gun and Gang Violence Action Fund supports community-specific initiatives aimed at preventing and intervening in local gang activity in areas struggling with gun and gang crime.



ERASE program expands to protect students from violence, discrimination, bullying, harassment, and intimidation.

Information is another important tool we can use in the prevention of violence. The expanded Expect Respect and a Safe Education (ERASE) program includes training for school staff, parents and youth to prevent and respond to safety issues involving gang-related behaviour, guns and illicit drug use. We're providing the ERASE program with \$1.12 million in additional funding for the creation and delivery of new training and intensive supports, including new resources for classroom teachers. We also invested in the End Gang Life program, which supports local police officers who work to dispel myths about gang life and steer young people toward crime-free futures.

To support important, on-the-ground work happening in B.C. communities, our government has provided \$6 million in Community Crime Prevention grants to programs that mentor youth to resist joining gangs, support women experiencing violence, and help Indigenous families heal from intergenerational traumas.

On October 17, 2018, cannabis was made legal across Canada. British Columbia opened its first legal non-medical cannabis retail location in Kamloops, and British Columbians throughout the province were able to legally purchase non-medical cannabis online. To make sure British Columbians had all the facts they need to make informed choices, we launched our public education and awareness campaigns, Get Cannabis Clarity.

To make sure B.C. roads are safer, we are giving police more specialized training and more tools to remove drug-affected drivers from behind the wheel, including a 90-day driving ban. We also made sure that local and Indigenous governments have the power to make decisions based on the needs and priorities of their communities, including creating bylaws or other laws with respect to property, public health and safety and nuisances.

We're going to keep working with our partners in law enforcement all levels of government make sure our communities are stronger and safer.

Helping communities and first responders

The last two years of unprecedented wildfire and flood seasons have left many British Columbians with a sense of uncertainty.

While we can never predict how each season will unfold, we can lay the foundations needed to keep people and communities safe. Our government is doing everything in its power to support communities and prepare for what lies ahead.

Since the spring of 2017, the Province has invested \$1.64 billion on flood and wildfire response and recovery. We are continuing our support of the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF), so that local governments and First Nations can reduce their wildfire and flood risk and effectively respond to emergencies when they happen.

The Province's CEPF funding includes Indigenous Cultural Safety and Cultural Humility Training, which will support eligible applicants to provide emergency management personnel with training to more effectively partner with and assist Indigenous communities during times of emergency.

We're also investing \$19 million in 40 wildfire risk reduction projects throughout the province delivered through the Forest Enhancement Society of B.C. Of the 40 projects, 36 focus on fuel management that will directly reduce the potential impacts of wildfires on communities.

Through these programs and others aimed at addressing and reducing flood and wildfire risk, we're building resilient communities. We know there's more to do to adapt to a changing climate.

We are focused on providing more support for first responders who risk their personal safety during emergency situations. Firefighters, police officers, paramedics, sheriffs and correctional officers who experience trauma on the job and are diagnosed with a mental health illness should not have the added stress of having to prove that their illness is work related to receive support and compensation.



More support for firefighters and first responders

That's why we have made presumptive coverage available to these workers. And we have also expanded that recognition to include nurses, emergency dispatchers and publicly funded health-care aides. These changes are about compassion for workers who serve British Columbians and whose jobs put them more at risk of developing mental illnesses.

Since 2018, we have made it easier for firefighters to access workers' compensation and support services for cancer, lung and heart disease that can arise from work conditions. The presumption has now also been extended to all firefighters, including wildfire fighters, fire investigators and firefighters working for First Nations and other Indigenous organizations.

Protecting people, homes and communities starts in the here and now, but we must also prepare for what lies ahead. We are working hard to help keep people safe, but we know we still have a long way to go. With help and collaboration from local and First Nations governments, federal partners, and our emergency services providers, we can get there together.

Advancing reconciliation together

Our government is committed to work in partnership with Indigenous peoples and communities to advance meaningful reconciliation.

At the heart of this work is a commitment to implement the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the 94 Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

To give life to these commitments and embed them in the day-to-day work of government, we launched *10 Draft Principles to Guide All Public Service Employees' Relationships with Indigenous Peoples* based on respect and recognition of inherent rights. These draft principles are a touchstone for the Province to fundamentally change its relationships with Indigenous peoples. The principles have been released in draft, as a starting point for conversations with First Nations and Indigenous peoples.

We recognize that reconciliation and self-government require a renewed economic relationship. This relationship must be developed in collaboration with Indigenous peoples and the federal government in ways that promote mutually supportive partnerships. The first step in this renewed relationship has been the development of a historic new revenue-sharing agreement with First Nations. The agreement will support self-government and self-determination, strong, healthy communities and services that make life better for families.

Under the agreement, First Nations communities around the province will share in almost \$3 billion in new funding projected over the next 25 years to support their priorities for social services, education, infrastructure, cultural revitalization and self-government capacity. This revenue offers the potential for hundreds of new community projects and programs and significant economic development to create a better future for everyone in B.C. Supporting strong, healthy communities with reliable, long-term revenue will help advance lasting reconciliation.

Friendship Centres focus on the well-being of Indigenous peoples living in urban areas. An additional \$6.45 million in ongoing, dedicated funding is supporting the centres to deliver programs and services to Indigenous peoples in areas like health care, employment and skills training, and education.

We are investing in Indigenous priorities, identified in collaboration and consultation with Indigenous peoples, including affordable housing, language and culture, child care, mental health and addictions, reducing poverty, improving access to justice and revitalizing the environmental assessment process.

We have provided stable funding for Aboriginal friendship centres in B.C. to make sure that B.C. First Nations members who live off-reserve and in urban areas have access to critical services into the future.

B.C. is home to more than half of all Indigenous languages in Canada, but all of these languages in our province are severely endangered. As part of our efforts to advance reconciliation in partnership with Indigenous peoples, the Province made a \$50 million investment to support the work of the First People's Cultural Council, to revitalize languages in danger of disappearing. With this support, the council has expanded community grants, language planning and learning, documentation and community outreach. The number of Indigenous people learning their languages and mentoring new learners has increased exponentially, as has the number of people receiving training to support their efforts in community language revitalization.

The path to reconciliation is transformative and collaborative. We are working together with Indigenous peoples to lay a strong foundation for lasting relationships that will help to build a more prosperous future for everyone who lives in B.C. By sharing a significant new revenue source, delivering affordable housing, supporting language revitalization, and having the care of children in Indigenous communities where it belongs, as well as collaborating on land-use planning and environmental stewardship, Indigenous communities are better supported in their inherent rights to self-government and self-determination.

We know there is more to do. Every person in B.C. has a role to play in reconciliation. By better understanding our shared history, we can help heal the traumas of the past and present, and build a brighter future together.



Supporting Indigenous communities' work to preserve and revitalize Indigenous languages in British Columbia

Creating a strong and sustainable future

There's nothing more important than taking care of the place we call home.

Growing a strong economy and protecting the place we live go hand in hand. That's the legacy we want our kids and grandkids to inherit. We are putting the province on a path to a cleaner, better future—with a low-carbon economy that creates opportunities for all while protecting our clean air, land and water. By rising to the challenge of climate change, we are taking strong action to protect our environment, while expanding B.C.'s economy and creating opportunities and jobs for people all around our province.

Leading on climate action with CleanBC

Our CleanBC plan is putting B.C. on the path to a cleaner, better future.

We're rising to the challenge of climate change, while creating jobs and opportunities for people throughout the province.



Provincial government puts B.C. on path to 100% zero-emission vehicle sales by 2040

Through CleanBC, we are reducing air pollution by shifting homes, vehicles and businesses away from fossil fuels and toward greater use of clean, made-in-B.C. electricity and other renewable energy. We are boosting energy-efficient technologies, like zero-emission vehicles, by making them more affordable and accessible. We're providing CleanBC Efficiency Rebates to help lower the cost of energy-saving home and building improvements.

CleanBC is also changing how British Columbians get around, with a focus on cleaner vehicles, lower emissions, cleaner fuels, and active transportation like bike paths and walkways. It will improve where we live and work, through building retrofits and new net-zero energy standards for new buildings.

We're promoting industrial electrification and carbon capture, and supporting new and existing industries to deliver cleaner operations. We're positioning B.C. as a destination for new investments and industries that share our goal of urgent climate action. Most importantly, we're creating jobs and opportunity for people, businesses and communities.

While governments in other places are moving in the wrong direction, B.C. is showing that by fighting climate change we can also strengthen our economy and open the doors of opportunity for people.

We're helping communities prepare for the impacts of climate change, so we can protect what makes this place so special.

Climate change is the greatest challenge of our time. We can and must reduce our emissions. But government can't do it alone. First Nations governments, communities and businesses are all partners on the path forward.

Combined, these initiatives will put us on the path to meeting our legislated climate targets and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 40% by the year 2030, based on 2007 levels.

CleanBC is a pathway to a more prosperous, balanced and sustainable future. CleanBC was developed in collaboration with the BC Green Party caucus and supports the commitment in the Confidence and Supply Agreement to implement climate action to meet B.C.'s emission targets.

A place worth protecting

More than 190 hectares of ecologically sensitive land throughout B.C. has been acquired as new parks, or as additions to existing provincial parks. Parks benefit our environment, our economy, and make life better for people in B.C. every day.

To help maintain these lands for future generations to enjoy, BC Parks is making \$240,000 available to support volunteer projects that will enhance park services and protect the conservation and heritage values of these natural spaces for all British Columbians to enjoy.

We know that the decisions we make as a government about resource development affect the air, land and water we value. And it will impact the environment we pass along to our children and grandchildren.

Our new *Environmental Assessment Act* provides a strong and transparent environmental assessment process. Sustainability, climate impacts, community health and safety, and effects on future generations will all be addressed in future assessment decisions.

The legislation was built in partnership with First Nations and gives meaningful engagement and decision-making opportunities on projects happening in their territory. People in B.C. will be able to participate meaningfully in environmental assessments, and companies will be able to get good projects reviewed and ready more quickly.

Over the last two years, we have created 1,025 new provincial campsites around the province. For the third year in a row, there will be no increase to camping fees in provincial parks.

Building a strong, sustainable economy for everyone

Making life better for people is the true measure of a strong economy.

The wealth our province creates should be shared back with British Columbians through strong public services, jobs and opportunity in every region, and a brighter future in the communities we love. We're making sure B.C.'s economy works for everyone, not just the people at the top.

Our focus is on supporting economic development throughout the province, nurturing small businesses, championing tech and innovation, and promoting B.C.'s competitiveness as a preferred place to invest and do business.

Building British Columbia

Building the infrastructure that families and businesses count on means good jobs during construction and much-needed infrastructure in our communities.

We're investing a record \$26 billion over three years on infrastructure projects around B.C., including schools, roads and transit improvements, which will create over 50,000 direct and indirect jobs.

We're making sure growing communities have the safe, modern schools they need. Our government is building schools in growing communities, so that schools are closer to home and children don't have to travel as far to get the education they deserve. Since September 2017, we have created 9,720 student seats in some of the fast-growing communities provincewide.

In 2018, government froze ferry fares on major routes, reduced fares on non-major routes, and brought back the 100% weekday seniors' passenger fare discount. We are maintaining the freeze and fee reduction for 2019, helping the 22 million passengers who use BC Ferries each year.

To keep coastal communities connected, we restored ferry service on 2,700 round trips that were cut in 2014.

We have provided a \$100-million Northern Capital and Planning Grant to four regional districts (Fraser Fort George, Bulkley Nechako, Kitimat Stikine and North Coast) and their 22 municipalities, to help them meet their infrastructure needs today, and set them up to benefit from development opportunities in the future.

Community Benefit Agreements (CBAs) are creating good-paying jobs, better training and apprenticeships, and more trades opportunities for

Indigenous peoples, women and youth around the province. We are using CBAs on public projects like the Pattullo Bridge, the Broadway subway and the four-laning of Highway 1 from Kamloops to the Alberta border. We're putting local workers first in line for these projects, and we're making sure there are apprenticeship and training opportunities through CBA projects, to help B.C. fix the skills and labour shortage. As we build up our province, we should build up our people.

Getting people and goods moving

Keeping people moving is critical to growing our economy and making our communities more livable. That's why we're improving the safety, efficiency and reliability of B.C.'s transportation networks.

We have moved quickly from transit gridlock to transit investments in the Lower Mainland. We increased B.C.'s share of funding from 33% to 40% of the capital costs of the Mayors' Council 10-Year Vision to make sure we have a modern, integrated and affordable transit system as the Metro Vancouver region grows by one million people by 2050.

We are making progress in all corners of B.C. Upgrades to Highway 14 and improvements to the Malahat have made our Island highways safer and more efficient. A new interchange at Highway 91 and 72nd Avenue in Delta is reducing congestion. Government is replacing the Pattullo Bridge, to make sure drivers have a safe route from Surrey to New Westminster. Work is underway to add one lane to the Alex Fraser bridge. And BC Bus North is providing safe and affordable bus service for people in the North, filling the gap left behind by Greyhound's discontinued service.

After years of inaction, our government passed legislation to bring ride-hailing to B.C. Ride hailing will enter the market in 2019, giving passengers options and flexibility, while making sure people are safe.

Helping farmers farm

Farmers and ranchers are the backbone of communities throughout British Columbia.

We're helping farmers farm, so they can keep creating good jobs in B.C. and growing the high-quality, local food we depend on.

Buy BC is once again helping farmers and producers market their products to reach more people looking for made-in-B.C. products. We've also kicked off a Feed BC pilot program to increase the amount of B.C. food in our hospitals. Feed BC also includes the launch of a food hub network to support B.C.'s growing food processing sector, with the first hub operating as a pilot in Vancouver.

Through our new Land Matching Program, we're helping more people start farming by connecting new and young farmers with landowners around the province who want to see their fields in production.

We passed legislation to increase the independence of the Agricultural Land Commission and give it the tools it needs to support farmers and ranchers in every corner of B.C., from cracking down on dumping garbage and construction waste on farmland, to stopping big developers from driving up the cost of land, while supporting multi-generational farming families.

To help keep farmers farming, we're driving innovation and supporting producers through the challenges they face. We're supporting tree fruit producers and processors to plant new, in-demand varieties, update equipment, and expand their marketing and research efforts. We're helping hazelnut growers replant with more resilient trees and expand their operations.



The BuyBC program promotes B.C. products and supports B.C. farmers and producers

After devastating wildfires in 2017 and 2018, our government helped farmers and ranchers get back on their land, and back to their livelihoods with up to \$25 million to rebuild affected operations or recover lost income.

The Premier's Wild Salmon Advisory Council, which included representation from the BC Green Party Caucus, made recommendations that guide government's work to protect wild salmon and enhance their habitat. B.C. will continue to work with all partners to help restore wild salmon populations. In 2019, B.C. and Fisheries and Oceans Canada announced \$142 million over five years for a new B.C. Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund. This new fund will deliver on many of the priority recommendations of the Wild Salmon Advisory Council, including investing in salmon habitat restoration and existing community-based hatcheries.

Moving ahead with liquefied natural gas

In October 2018, LNG Canada announced it was moving ahead with a liquefied natural gas facility in Kitimat, which will deliver jobs, opportunity and benefits for people and our province.

The LNG Canada project is expected to generate \$23 billion in public revenue over 40 years, creating new funds available to invest in health care, schools, child care and other public services.

LNG Canada's investment was made possible by our government's new framework, which requires that all natural resource projects protect B.C.'s air, land and water, including living up to our CleanBC climate targets; provide a fair return for B.C.; create jobs and training opportunities for British Columbians; and respect and partner with First Nations.

The LNG Canada project will open the doors of opportunity to people in the North, with 10,000 jobs in the construction phase, and 900 permanent jobs once operations are underway. LNG Canada is

committed to a local hire first policy, with opportunities for local people and First Nations.

Supporting B.C. mining

B.C. is a mining province. Mining and mineral exploration adds more than \$8 billion to our economy each year.

More than 30,000 people and 1,100 businesses depend on a strong mining sector. Our government is supporting growth in B.C.'s mining industry, while making sure people benefit from the wealth their hard work creates.

Our government struck the Mining Jobs Task Force—with representatives from industry, First Nations, post-secondary, labour, environmental groups, and the financial sector—to identify strategies that are helping to keep B.C. mining competitive.

We're investing \$20 million over three years to support the Mining Jobs Task Force's recommendations, to help foster a healthy, thriving and responsible mining sector, with good-paying jobs for British Columbians.

Revitalizing forestry

Forestry is the anchor of 140 B.C. communities. Families depend on it, businesses bank on it, and our economy is tied to its success.

Today, B.C. is a leader in engineered wood products. In 2019, we became the first province in Canada to proactively adopt the 2020 National Building Code, opening the door to the construction of tall wood buildings up to 12 storeys. These buildings are fire resistant, faster to build and will help us meet our CleanBC targets. B.C. has mandated every government ministry and Crown agency to consider the use of wood as a primary building material for future projects.

Wood buildings will put B.C. on a cleaner, more sustainable path, create jobs and opportunity in our value-added and manufacturing sectors, and promote a stronger, healthier forest industry for the people and communities who depend on it.

Our government is working hard to revitalize forestry and make life better for the communities that count on it. In January 2019, we introduced a plan to renew the coastal forest sector, ensuring our province gets the most value out of every log, grows our manufacturing sector, and promotes B.C.'s innovative wood products.



Promoting and growing markets for B.C. wood products at home and abroad

In the Interior, diminishing supply and back-to-back catastrophic wildfire seasons have reduced available fibre for companies, First Nations, workers and communities who depend on our forests for their livelihoods. We've challenged industry, labour, First Nations and local communities to come together and develop a new vision for the Interior forest sector, with support from government.

Growing tourism, arts and culture

We are working to grow B.C. as a preferred destination and attract more visitors from around the world.

Tourism is as an important economic force in B.C., with nearly 6.1 million international visitors from around the globe choosing destinations throughout the province last year. B.C.'s tourism industry generated \$18.4 billion in revenue and contributed \$9 billion to the B.C. economy.

Arts and culture are critical to the well-being of any society and supports healthier, more inclusive communities. To support artists and continue making B.C. a leader in the arts, our government is investing an additional \$5 million annually into the BC Arts Council, bringing its total budget to \$34 million in 2019-20, up from \$24 million in 2017-18. The council had not had an increase in its budget since 2013.

We are also investing in B.C.'s creative sector with new funding for live music events, musicians, recording professionals and companies through the renewal of funding to Amplify BC in 2019. We established the \$75-million fund in 2018. To date, the program has helped 33 B.C. music companies expand and diversify their activities, 190 B.C. artists with career development projects, 77 live music event, festival and concert presenters expand performances throughout the province, and 37 industry-building events and initiatives.

Government is also modernizing 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.

Boosting #BCTECH

The tech sector is one of the fastest growing sectors of B.C.'s economy. Technology and innovation are embedded in every industry.



Investing in B.C.'s growing tech and innovation economy

Our government hosted another successful #BCTECH Summit in March 2019, promoting B.C.'s thriving tech and innovation sector. Budget 2019 made significant enhancements to the Small Business Venture Capital Tax Credit program to encourage investment. To date, the BC Tech Fund has committed nearly \$60 million to B.C.-based funds and companies. These investments have already spurred \$100 million from partner investors and have supported 500 good jobs for people in B.C.

None of our work to advance and diversify our economy would matter without the skilled workers to do these jobs. That's why we're supporting 2,900 tech-related spaces at post-secondary institutions across the province.

Helping businesses thrive

We are working to support small business and entrepreneurs. We've cut the small business corporate income tax from 2.5% to 2%, making it the second-lowest small business rate in Canada.

In January 2018, we reduced PST on non-residential electricity by 50%, and as of April 2019, we eliminated it entirely.

The Province will also be joining with the federal government to deliver tax reductions for businesses investing in machinery and equipment in British Columbia. In total, B.C.'s contribution means \$800 million in tax reductions for businesses over the next four years.

Promoting B.C. on the world stage

Our government is reaching out to neighbours to the south and trade partners around the world to expand markets and attract investment.

B.C. has a positive working relationship with Washington state and the Cascadia corridor. Premier John Horgan and Washington State Gov. Jay Inslee met for a bilateral meeting at the Cascadia Innovation Corridor Conference in the fall of 2018 and signed a memorandum of understanding to grow the region's innovation economy, protect the environment and combat climate change, promote trade, and improve transportation connectivity.

Our government is exploring the feasibility of an ultra-high-speed corridor connecting B.C., Washington and Oregon, which would cut travel times and bring huge benefits to British Columbia. We've contributed \$300,000 towards a Washington-state led study that is now complete and have committed another \$300,000 for the next exploratory steps in this project.

The 2018 trade mission to Japan and South Korea helped strengthen ties in clean energy, information and communications technology and agrifoods.

To date, the Export Navigator program has helped more than 300 small rural businesses and entrepreneurs in B.C. get their goods to international and interprovincial markets. With the addition of four new advisors and more capacity-building support for Indigenous peoples, women and youth, we expect to see this success continue and grow.

Creating opportunities for newcomers

As many communities across B.C. are facing workforce shortages, we are making investments to meet this challenge today and in the future.

At a time when other jurisdictions are cutting back support for refugees and newcomers, our government is making different choices. We are improving access to settlement supports, language training and employment services.

There are more than 45 communities participating in the Province's Entrepreneur Immigration-Regional Pilot, to attract new businesses that create jobs and spread investment around B.C.

The Provincial Nominee Program tech pilot has been extended to June 2020. This pilot helps tech companies recruit and retain the international talent they need when local skilled workers are unavailable, so they can continue to grow.

Many immigrants arrive in B.C. with valuable education, skills and experience gained outside of Canada that are not always recognized by professional regulatory bodies. The Career Paths for Skilled Immigrants program will receive an increase in funding to help more skilled newcomers upgrade their skills and obtain employment that matches their professional background.

Migrant workers play an important role in our economy and should feel confident that they have the same rights and protections as any other worker. To better protect and support foreign workers who are vulnerable to abuse, our government brought in the new Temporary Foreign Worker Protection Act. The legislation will set out the rules governing the licensing of foreign-worker recruiters, the registration of employers, recruiter and employer obligations and overall administration and enforcement.

Making life better

Making life better starts with the choices we make every day. By putting people first, government can transform lives and make life better for everyone.

Our government's actions are starting to get results for people. But we're not stopping now. We're going to keep working hard to build a better B.C. for everyone.





