

StrongerBC

for everyone

STRATEGIC PLAN ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22





A Stronger BC For Everyone

By always putting people first, our government is responding to today's challenges and building a stronger B.C. for everyone

Through a year unlike any other, British Columbians remained strong. We experienced the same inflation that disrupted economies around the world, faced historic climate disasters, and weathered successive waves of the global COVID-19 pandemic. Our government responded with a historic vaccine rollout, some of the highest pandemic supports for people and businesses per capita in Canada, and a paid sick leave program that will benefit people long after the COVID-19 pandemic is over.

In summer 2021, we experienced a heat dome and one of the most devastating wildfire seasons in our province's history. Only a few months later, floodwaters and mudslides washed away highways and homes, with farmers' fields submerged.

British Columbians pulled together like never before, from community members who filled sandbags or took in evacuees, to the highway crews who rebuilt roads and bridges in record time, to the first responders and health-care workers who always answered the call.

While our government adapted and responded to a wide range of challenges, we continued to make progress on priorities like bringing down people's everyday costs, strengthening the services people count on and building a sustainable and inclusive economy.

Over the last year, our government continued building child care spaces at an unprecedented rate and opening thousands of new affordable homes throughout the province. Drivers enjoyed the biggest ICBC rate reduction in history, while children 12 and under started riding for free on public transit. And we raised the minimum wage then tied future increases to the rate inflation, so people don't fall behind.

Workers are finding good jobs through the largest infrastructure investment in B.C.'s history, while we all enjoy the new schools, hospitals, and highways being built across the province.

Our government delivered on key priorities for British Columbians, with an accelerated CleanBC Roadmap to 2030, an action plan dedicated to implementing the Declaration Act on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the new StrongerBC economic plan.

Great things are happening in British Columbia. One hundred thousand jobs were created last year. Wages are up and child poverty has been cut in half. We welcomed more than 100,000 people to B.C., the most in 60 years. Our StrongerBC economic plan builds on this progress – and grows the economy in a way that works for people.

There are still challenges ahead, but B.C. is on the right track. Our government is focused on making life better for people and building a stronger B.C. that works for everyone.



Working with the federal government, the average child care fees for B.C. kids ages five and under will be cut by approximately 50% from 2019 levels by December 2022.

Putting People First

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed long-standing inequalities within B.C. and around the world. Our government is committed to closing these gaps by putting people first – that means bringing down costs, reinforcing our strong public services, and building a more inclusive province.

OUR GOVERNMENT IS WORKING HARD TO BRING DOWN COSTS FOR BRITISH COLUMBIANS.

- Delivered the biggest ICBC rate reduction in history, saving B.C. drivers an average of \$400 and providing better care for people injured in a crash.
- Saved families up to \$672 a year per child with free public transit for kids 12 and younger.
- Introduced the Child Opportunity Benefit, which has put up to \$133 a month for the first child into the pockets of families with children under 18 since October 2020.
- Provided more than 2.7 million British Columbians with the BC Recovery Benefit. Families and single parents received up to \$1,000, with individuals receiving up to \$500.
- Increased affordable, quality child care by more than doubling the number of \$10-a-day child care spaces, giving early childhood educators a well-deserved raise and continuing to build and expand spaces.

- Accelerated record investments in affordable housing, with more than 32,000 homes built or underway as part of a 10-year plan.
 - ▶ In 2021-22, people moved into 5,245 new housing units in 48 communities throughout the province.
 - ▶ Through our work, more than 53,000 new homes were registered last year in B.C., the highest level in a single year since BC Housing started tracking this two decades ago.
- Increased minimum wage then tied future increases to the rate of inflation, which gives the lowest-paid workers in B.C. a raise to \$15.20. The minimum wage will increase again to \$15.65 per hour on June 1, 2022.
- Implemented the largest-ever rate increase of \$175 per adult for income and disability assistance and the first increase to the Senior's Supplement since 1987.

OUR GOVERNMENT IS REINFORCING B.C.'S HEALTH-CARE SYSTEM TODAY AND BUILDING FOR A STRONGER, HEALTHIER TOMORROW.

- Continued work on 17 new or expanded hospitals and moved new cancer care centres forward.
- Ongoing expansion of team-based and urgent primary care to provide people with faster access to doctors and nurse practitioners, with \$253 million in new investments over the 2021-22 fiscal plan.
- Committed an additional \$585 million over the 2021-22 fiscal plan for the Health Career Access Program that will recruit, train and employ up to 3,000 health-care workers over three years.



- Provided \$96 million over the 2021-22 fiscal plan to support expanded post-secondary education and training capacity for the health workforce, including adding over 600 nursing training seats.
- Delivered a record number of surgeries and lowered wait times for hip and knee replacements to the shortest in Canada, after being among the longest in Canada prior to 2017.
- Worked with key partners to help remove financial and logistical barriers for internationally educated nurses to practice in B.C. and deliver high-quality care for residents.
- Brought better wages, working conditions and job security to almost 4,000 health-care service workers after they were contracted out to private companies almost 20 years ago.
- Converted 24 rural ambulance stations from on-call paramedic staffing to 24/7 stations with enhanced ambulance coverage.
- We also improved health care in rural areas by adding more than 500 new full-time and part-time permanent paramedics and building out the BC Emergency Health Services fleet with 55 ground ambulances and five air ambulances.

OUR GOVERNMENT IS CREATING A NEW SYSTEM OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTIONS SUPPORT IN BRITISH COLUMBIA, WHERE ONE DID NOT EXIST BEFORE.

- Delivered a historic half billion-dollar investment in mental health and substance use treatment through Budget 2021.
- Created more than 65 new or enhanced services throughout B.C., adding more than 130 full-time-equivalent staff and opening approximately 195 new substance-use treatment beds. This will support a spectrum of services, including:
 - ▶ Prince George's new sobering and assessment centre.
 - ▶ Interior Health's new transitional/stabilization beds, which will help keep people connected to care.
 - ▶ Northern Health's new peer-support initiatives will provide care after people return home.

- Applied to – and received support from – the federal government to decriminalize small amounts of illicit drugs for personal use, helping to formally establish substance use as a public health challenge rather than a criminal act.
- Launched a first-of-its-kind complex-care housing program in Surrey, Abbotsford and Vancouver, with more locations planned.
- Expanded the Foundry Network with 11 centres open around the province, including Vancouver-Granville, Campbell River, North Shore, Ridge Meadows, Abbotsford, Kelowna, Prince George, Victoria, Penticton, Richmond and Terrace.
 - ▶ This past year, more than 12,500 young people visited Foundry Centres and 2,300 accessed services through Foundry Virtual.
 - ▶ Eight Foundry centres are in development with four to be announced for a total of 23 Foundry centres provincially.
- Increased access to low- and no-cost mental health and substance use counselling with investments in 49 organizations, including those that serve rural, remote and Indigenous communities.

OUR GOVERNMENT IS EXPANDING THE TRANSIT AND INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK THAT KEEPS PEOPLE MOVING, GOODS DELIVERED, AND COMMUNITIES CONNECTED.

- Continued work on more resilient infrastructure, with landmark projects underway or in planning, including the Broadway Subway project, Pattullo Bridge replacement, Highway 1 through Kicking Horse Canyon and the Surrey-Langley Skytrain.
- Moved forward with a business case for a new eight-lane immersed-tube tunnel to replace the George Massey Tunnel on Highway 99, providing a toll-free crossing and better transit, cycling and walking connections across the Fraser River.

- Reached a construction milestone at Kennedy Hill, a project that will make travel between Port Alberni and the west coast of Vancouver Island safer.

OUR GOVERNMENT IS MAKING SURE B.C. CHILDREN LEARN IN SAFE, SUPPORTED SCHOOLS AROUND THE PROVINCE.

- Announced nearly \$500 million for new and improved schools and site purchases for future schools throughout B.C. This includes:
 - ▶ New or expanded schools in communities like Surrey, West Kelowna, Langford, Upper Halfway and Nanaimo.
 - ▶ Seismic replacement schools in Port Moody, Burnaby and Saanich, and major seismic upgrades at a school in Langley.
 - ▶ Site purchases for new francophone schools in Victoria, Burnaby and Pemberton.
 - ▶ Together, these projects are adding more than 3,600 new student seats to accommodate enrolment growth, and a safer place to learn for 2,475 students through seismic mitigation projects.
- Built new, safe and accessible playgrounds in 2021-22 for more than 14,000 B.C. students to enjoy around the province.
- Created the new Ministry of Education and Child Care to integrate child care within the broader learning environment.
- Updated legislation to better support child care professionals, along with other changes to make it easier to build child care centres on school grounds.



Our government is making B.C. a more inclusive province, where everyone – regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, sexuality or gender identity – is free to be who they are.

- Brought in the Accessible British Columbia Act and appointed the Provincial Accessibility Committee, with most members living with some form of disability. The committee will provide recommendations on accessibility standards in a wide range of areas, including employment, service delivery, and the built environment.
- Engaged with Indigenous Peoples and racialized people throughout B.C. to help shape the Anti-Racism Data Act, the first of its kind to be co-developed with Indigenous Peoples.
 - ▶ More than 13,000 people participated in over 450 engagement sessions from September 2021 to January 2022.

- Adopted more inclusive language across government by removing another 741 cases – for a total of 1,300 – of gendered language.
- Made it easier for people to have their true genders reflected on their B.C. identification documents.
- Began developing a multi-year gender-based violence action plan with stakeholders, including representatives from the anti-violence sector, Indigenous partners, 2SLGBTQ+, IBPOC, immigrants and newcomers, sex workers and disability advocates.
 - ▶ Doubled new support for the Ending Violence Association of BC to help deliver more community-based sexual assault response programs throughout B.C.
- Launched consultations on new pay transparency legislation to help close the gender pay gap, working with Indigenous organizations, public- and private-sector employer groups, business and union organizations, and equity-seeking organizations.



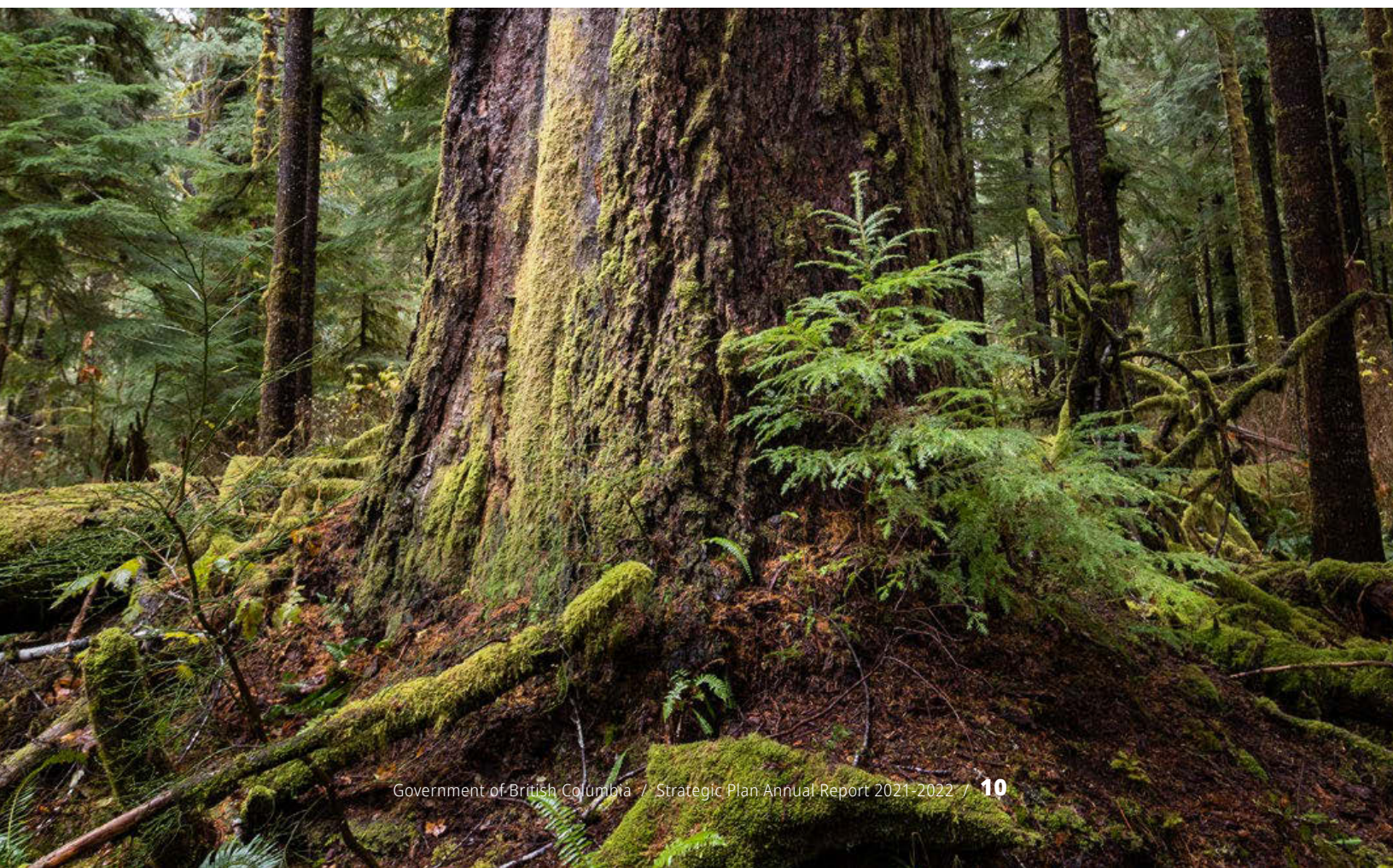
Lasting and Meaningful Reconciliation

Working in partnership with Indigenous Peoples, our government is committed to advancing true and lasting reconciliation. Together, we are taking steps to make B.C. a place where the human rights of Indigenous Peoples are respected, celebrated and implemented in every aspect of society.

- On March 30, 2022, B.C. became the first jurisdiction in Canada to deliver an action plan to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- Established the Declaration Act Secretariat, a dedicated body to support government's obligation to ensure that laws, policies and practices are consistent with the Declaration Act.
- Changed legislation to recognize Indigenous identity as a protected ground against discrimination and make it clear that all provincial laws uphold, and do not diminish, the rights of Indigenous people protected under Section 35 of the Canadian Constitution.
- Completed more than a year of planning and consultation with natural resource ministries, First Nations and sector stakeholders to help shape the new Ministry of Land, Water and Resource Stewardship.
- Launched engagement with First Nations rights and titleholders on the deferral of old growth logging in their territories.

- ▶ In partnership with First Nations, the Province deferred nearly 1.7 million hectares of old growth forests, while continuing work to develop a new, long-term approach to old growth management.
- Government recognizes the title and rights of Indigenous Peoples. This includes the inherent rights of First Nations to own, use, develop and control lands and resources within their own territories. Examples of recent work include:
 - ▶ Initiated negotiations with the Tahltan Central Government on the first consent decision-making agreement under Section 7 of the Declaration Act. The agreement was signed in June 2022 and will guide the environmental assessment of the Eskay Creek Revitalization Project.
 - ▶ Finalized a collaborative agreement between the Province and Lake Babine Nation that describes how both will work together on future environmental assessments for projects in the Nation's territory.
 - ▶ Signed Í:xel Sq'eq'ó (Together We Paddle), which brings together Leq'á:mel, Máthxwi and Semá:th First Nations, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and the City of Mission to transfer approximately 60 acres of Crown land to the LMS Society, representing the three First Nations.
 - ▶ Reached an initial agreement with Blueberry River First Nations that begins to support healing the land and helps provide stability and certainty for forestry and oil and gas permit holders in Blueberry's traditional territory in the immediate term.

- Supported the demolition of a former residential school and construction of a new community centre in Lower Post through partnerships with the Daylu Dena Council, Liard First Nation, Taku River Tlingit First Nation, the Tahltan people, the Kaska people and the federal government.
 - Set aside \$12 million in funding to support First Nations-led investigations at the sites of former Indian Residential Schools and Indian Hospitals throughout B.C. This included \$1.5 million to assist Indigenous service providers as they respond to the immediate wellness, cultural and mental health needs of Indigenous Peoples.
 - Supported skills training and post-secondary education in Indigenous communities with an additional \$15 million for the Indigenous Skills Training and Education program.
 - Collaborated with the First Nations Education Steering Committee to bring reconciliation into the classroom:
- ▶ First Nations participating in the education jurisdiction initiative in B.C. will soon be able to certify teachers and schools, approve courses and set graduation requirements.
 - ▶ Starting in the 2023-24 school year, all secondary school students will now be required to complete Indigenous-focused coursework as part of their graduation program.
- Opened a virtual Indigenous Justice Centre, in partnership with the BC First Nations Justice Council, to provide free legal services to Indigenous clients in rural and remote parts of B.C. This is in addition to Indigenous Justice Centres operating in Prince George, Prince Rupert and Merritt.
 - Committed to providing access to high-speed internet for everyone in B.C. by 2027, closing the digital divide for rural, remote and Indigenous communities.



Fighting Climate Change For a Better Future

British Columbians weathered a year of climate disasters unlike anything seen before, from wildfires and a heat dome to mudslides and flooding. Our government was there to protect people and help communities rebuild after a year of climate-related disasters.

- In the wake of a devastating wildfire season and November's catastrophic flooding, Budget 2022 provided more than \$2.1 billion over three years to help people recover from climate-related disasters and better protect communities in the future. These significant investments fall outside of the scope of the 2021-22 strategic plan annual report.

OUR GOVERNMENT TOOK ACTION TO HELP PROTECT PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES FROM WILDFIRES.

- Committed a total of \$136 million to fighting wildfires in Budget 2021, representing a \$72 million increase from three years earlier.
- Responded to a total of 1,642 wildfires throughout the year, causing approximately 17,000 people to evacuate their homes.
- Engaged more than 4,000 firefighting personnel at the peak of the 2021 wildfire season.
- Supported the Village of Lytton's recovery with \$1 million in December 2021, more than \$8.3 million in February 2022 to support ongoing village operations and recovery, and \$18.4 million in March 2022 to help with rebuilding costs, like archaeological fees and debris removal.

OUR GOVERNMENT RESPONDED TO AND HELPED COMMUNITIES RECOVER FROM NOVEMBER'S FLOODS.

- Repaired catastrophic damage from November's extreme floods to reopen highways, repair bridges and keep people and goods moving safely.
 - ▶ On the Coquihalla Highway, flooding and washouts damaged more than 20 sites along 130 kilometres. This included seven bridges which collapsed or were heavily damaged.
 - ▶ The Coquihalla Highway was reopened to commercial vehicle traffic in just 35 days. Permanent repairs will begin in summer 2022.
 - ▶ Upgraded more than 30 forest service roads, repaired over 60 kilometres of forest service roads and replaced 10 bridges damaged in November's flooding.
- Distributed more than \$18.5 million in emergency financial relief to 7,500 households affected by November flooding through the Canadian Red Cross.
- Began distributing funds from a \$228-million federal-provincial recovery program to help farms return to production after November's floods and strengthen B.C.'s food security.
- Supported the hard-hit communities of Merritt and Princeton, and the Okanagan-Similkameen region with funding to update flood-hazard mapping and develop new flood-mitigation plans.

More than 300 workers using 200 pieces of equipment moved more than 400,000 cubic metres of gravel, rock and other material to repair and reopen the Coquihalla in just 35 days.



At the end of 2021, there were almost 80,000 light-duty ZEVs registered in B.C., more than 3,000 public charging stations, and four public hydrogen fuelling stations in B.C.

Our government is accelerating work to fight climate change by driving down carbon pollution and building a stronger, cleaner British Columbia for generations to come.

- Launched the CleanBC Roadmap to 2030, accelerating action to reduce climate pollution, protect B.C.'s communities and build a more sustainable economy.
 - ▶ The Roadmap will help us meet B.C.'s legislated greenhouse gas target of 40% below 2007 levels by 2030.
 - ▶ Our government's CleanBC Program for Industry achieved global recognition at COP26 in Glasgow.
- Completed a comprehensive review of B.C.'s decades-old oil and gas royalty system. A new system was introduced in May 2022 that puts the interests of British Columbians first and eliminates outdated and inefficient fossil-fuel subsidies.
- Launched the B.C. Hydrogen Office and a comprehensive hydrogen strategy to help achieve our climate goals, the first province in Canada to do so.
- Established the Centre for Innovation and Clean Energy with the federal government and industry partners to help scale-up B.C.-based clean energy technologies.
- Continued the CleanBC Communities Fund in partnership with the federal government. Our government is supporting projects like:
 - ▶ waste heat recovery systems for Vancouver's False Creek neighbourhood and Richmond's Oval Village community;
 - ▶ clean hydropower to reduce Nuxalk Nation's reliance on diesel; and
 - ▶ energy-efficient building upgrades for aquatic centres in Kamloops and Prince George.
- Introduced new rules to support local governments acting quickly to institute bans on plastic bags and certain single-use plastics. More than 20 municipalities in B.C. are developing bylaws banning single-use plastics.
- Planted more than one billion trees since 2018, including over 300 million in 2021.

A stronger British Columbia – through COVID-19 and beyond

Through the global COVID-19 pandemic, our government has been working hard to protect people's health and livelihoods today, while always building a stronger province for tomorrow.

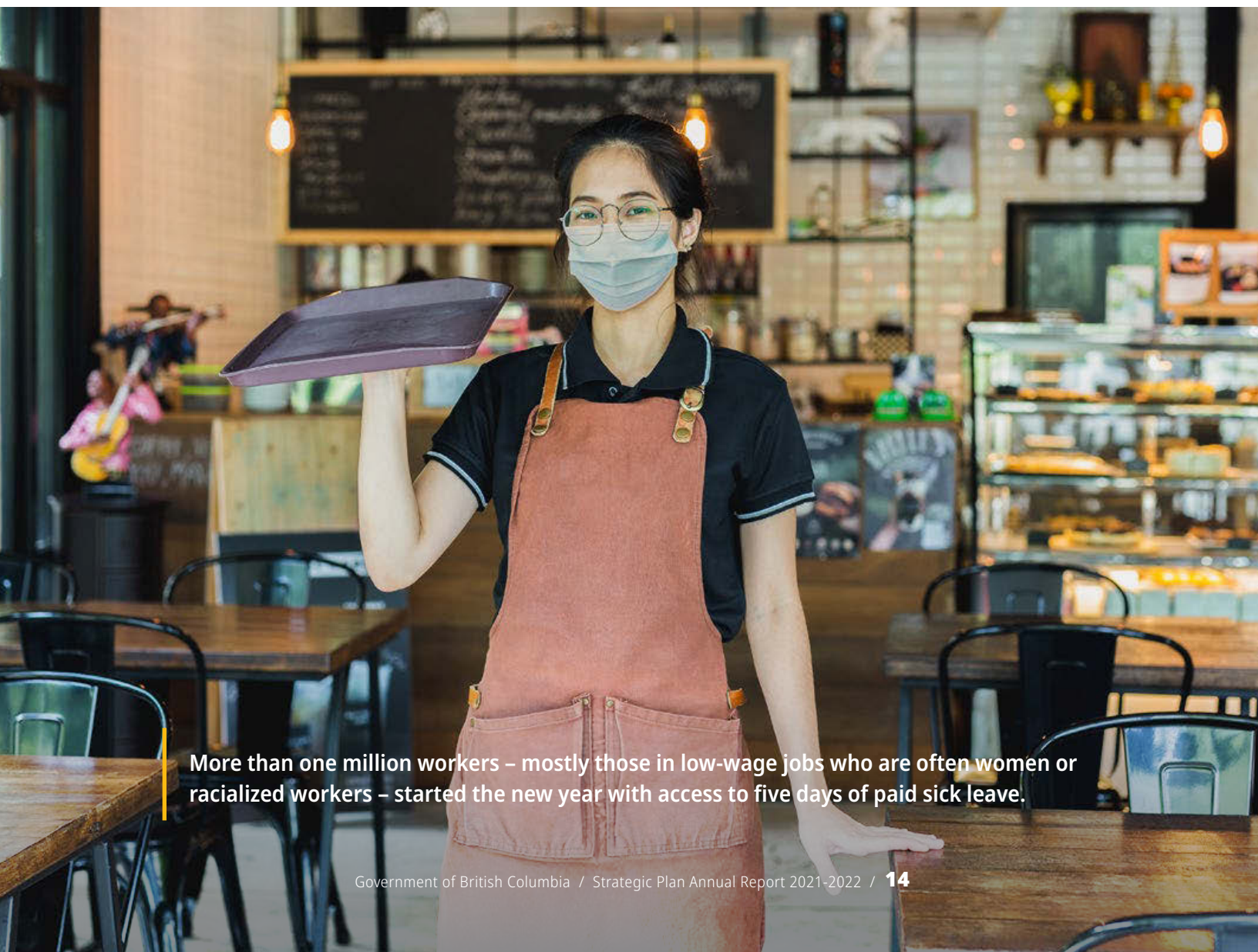
- Provided more than \$2 billion in health-related COVID-19 management in 2021-22 to support our government's continued response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This included:
 - ▶ Ongoing testing and contact tracing;
 - ▶ Increased capacity at the BC Centre for Disease Control;
 - ▶ Ongoing supports to ensure the safety of long-term care and assisted living facilities, including screening staff and providing additional personal protective equipment;
 - ▶ Launched the COVID-19 booster campaign; and,
 - ▶ Launched the pediatric vaccine for children from age five to 11.

- Exceeded government's initial commitment in 2020 to provide more than \$1.5 billion through our StrongerBC economic recovery plan to help people, businesses and communities impacted by the pandemic. Examples include:
 - ▶ Over the last two fiscal years, we delivered more than \$560 million to support hard-hit businesses with grants like the Small and Medium-Sized Business Recovery, Circuit Breaker Business Relief, and COVID-19 Closure Relief.
 - ▶ Continued delivering the Launch Online Grant Program through 2021-22 to support more than 5,500 small- and medium-sized businesses looking to upgrade their e-commerce skills.
 - ▶ Delivered \$30 million to establish a new Recovery and Resiliency Fund to support non-profit groups affected by COVID-19.
- Established three new paid leaves for workers – including five days of paid sick leave – to help keep employees healthy and businesses operational through the pandemic.
- Completed a successful provincial quarantine program that helped seasonal agricultural temporary foreign workers stay healthy and B.C.'s supply of local food plentiful.



**OUR GOVERNMENT IS SUPPORTING THE
HARD-HIT TOURISM SECTOR SO THAT IT CAN
COME BACK EVEN STRONGER, WITH MORE
OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE AROUND
THE PROVINCE.**

- Delivered targeted supports for the hard-hit tourism sector, like the B.C. Major Anchor Attraction Program, which provided relief for more than 80 anchor attractions and tour bus operators.
- Provided nearly \$30 million to help fairs, festivals and events safely resume, including the Quesnel Children's Festival, Elk Valley Pride Festival, Concord Pacific Dragon Boat Festival, and more.
- Supported more than 100 local tourism projects through the Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program to improve trails in the Fernie Nordic ski area, upgrade the Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre, expanded the Hiellen Longhouse Village, and more.
- Boosted funding to Indigenous Tourism BC to support a second round of grants for Indigenous tourism businesses, including resorts, restaurants, and eco-tourism.
- Launched a new three-year roadmap to help rebuild and revitalize tourism in B.C. and reach 2019 levels by 2024.
- Supported the bid process for major sport events, such as the 2025 Invictus Games and FIFA 2026 World Cup.



More than one million workers – mostly those in low-wage jobs who are often women or racialized workers – started the new year with access to five days of paid sick leave.

A Strong, Sustainable Economy That Works For Everyone

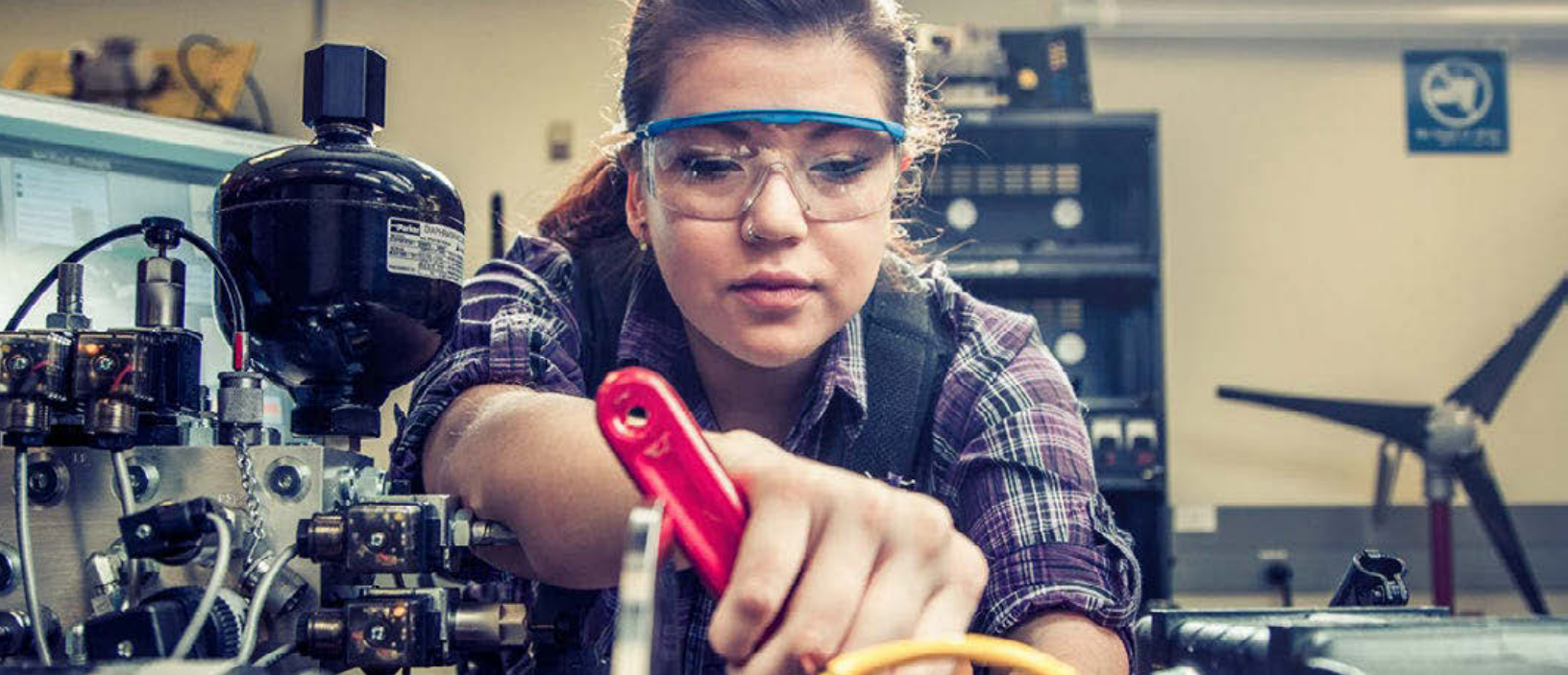
Protecting people, businesses and communities through the pandemic is paying off. British Columbia continues to lead Canada's economic recovery with strong, clean and inclusive growth.

- B.C. ended the fiscal year with eight straight months of job growth, one of the lowest unemployment rates and among the highest job recovery rates in the country, including labour market improvements in the private sector and among women.
- More than 100,000 people moved to B.C. in 2021, setting a 60-year record for in-province migration.
- The Labour Market Outlook predicts more than one million jobs are on the way in this decade, representing incredible opportunities for young people to move into rewarding careers.

OUR GOVERNMENT IS WORKING WITH BUSINESSES, COMMUNITIES, AND FIRST NATIONS TO ADD VALUE TO B.C.'S FOUNDATIONAL INDUSTRIES, LIKE MINING, FORESTRY AND AGRICULTURE.

- Mining exploration in British Columbia exceeded \$600 million in 2021 – the highest level in a decade. A \$4.3-billion investment by Newcrest Mining in B.C. is just one example of strong investor confidence.
- Embarked on a new vision for forest care that is more diverse, competitive, and focused on sustainability.

- Introduced changes that will ensure local communities, First Nations and smaller companies have more opportunities in the forest sector, establish a fair framework for compensation regarding changes to harvesting rights, and enhance government's ability to manage timber harvesting in the public interest.
- Delivered a three-year program backed by \$69 million to support almost 2,000 forestry workers with bridging to retirement, retraining and job-matching programs.
- Supported B.C.'s farmers through a difficult year, while opening up new opportunities for agritech companies to operate in B.C.
- Expanded the Feed BC program so that thousands of students, faculty and staff in 20 of B.C.'s public post-secondary institutions are enjoying more local food.
- Approximately 30% of the food served in B.C.'s hospitals and post-secondary institutions now comes from local farms and food producers.
- Supported the launch, development and growth of B.C.'s 12 Food Hubs, which help more than 60 small and medium-sized businesses by sharing services and food processing facilities.
- Launched a new program to help expand farmers' markets and keep them running through emergencies, providing fresh food to British Columbians.
- Provided \$7.5 million in new grants for high-potential agritech companies and advance plans for a new agritech centre for excellence.



Our government's StrongerBC Economic Plan builds on British Columbia's strengths today, while providing a vision for the economy of tomorrow.

- Launched in February 2022, the StrongerBC Economic Plan is shaping an inclusive and clean economy, which will close the skills gap, grow B.C.'s life sciences, manufacturing, mass timber and agricultural sectors, while building an economy that works for everyone.
- This plan is built by British Columbians – through the summer and fall of 2021, our government heard from small and big business, labour, First Nations and Indigenous leaders, municipalities, not-for-profits, universities and colleges, and many more.

THROUGH STRONGERBC, OUR GOVERNMENT IS MAKING A GENERATIONAL COMMITMENT TO CLOSE THE SKILLS GAPS, TO HELP BUSINESSES GROW, AND PREPARE PEOPLE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF NEW OPPORTUNITIES.

- Expanded training in high-opportunity employment areas by funding 2,600 tech student seats in 2021-22.

- Continued training more than 3,000 new health-care assistants with \$585 million over three years to support the Health Career Access Program.
- Added just over 600 new nursing seats to approximately 2,000 seats currently in nursing programs in B.C.'s public post-secondary institutions.
- Brought in the Skilled Trades BC Act as part of a made-in B.C. system to support and train the skilled trades workers that B.C. needs.
 - ▶ More people are choosing to get their skilled trades certificate this year than last, with a 20% increase across the board. Certificates earned by Indigenous individuals increased by 30% and women by 7%.
 - ▶ Worked with the ITA to train more people from under-represented groups for a career in the trades, with more than 700 people benefiting from 18 new pre-apprenticeship programs.

WE ARE TAKING STEPS TO SUPPORT INCLUSIVE GROWTH IN B.C., INCLUDING:

- Training thousands of students at a new state-of-the-art Trades and Technology Complex at the British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT) Burnaby campus.
- Committed to closing the digital divide by connecting everyone in British Columbia to high-speed internet by 2027, building on connecting more than 500 remote, rural and Indigenous communities.
- This year saw improved connectivity around B.C., with more than 70 new communities benefiting from the Province's work. Recent and ongoing projects include:
 - ▶ Expanded cellular coverage along 92 kilometres of Highway 3 between Hope and Keremeos.
 - ▶ Better connectivity for residents in the Indigenous communities of Okanagan 1, Paul's Basin 2, Nooaitch 10 and Kamloops 1.
 - ▶ Continued work on the Connected Coast project, which will bring world-class connectivity to nearly 140 coastal communities once finished.

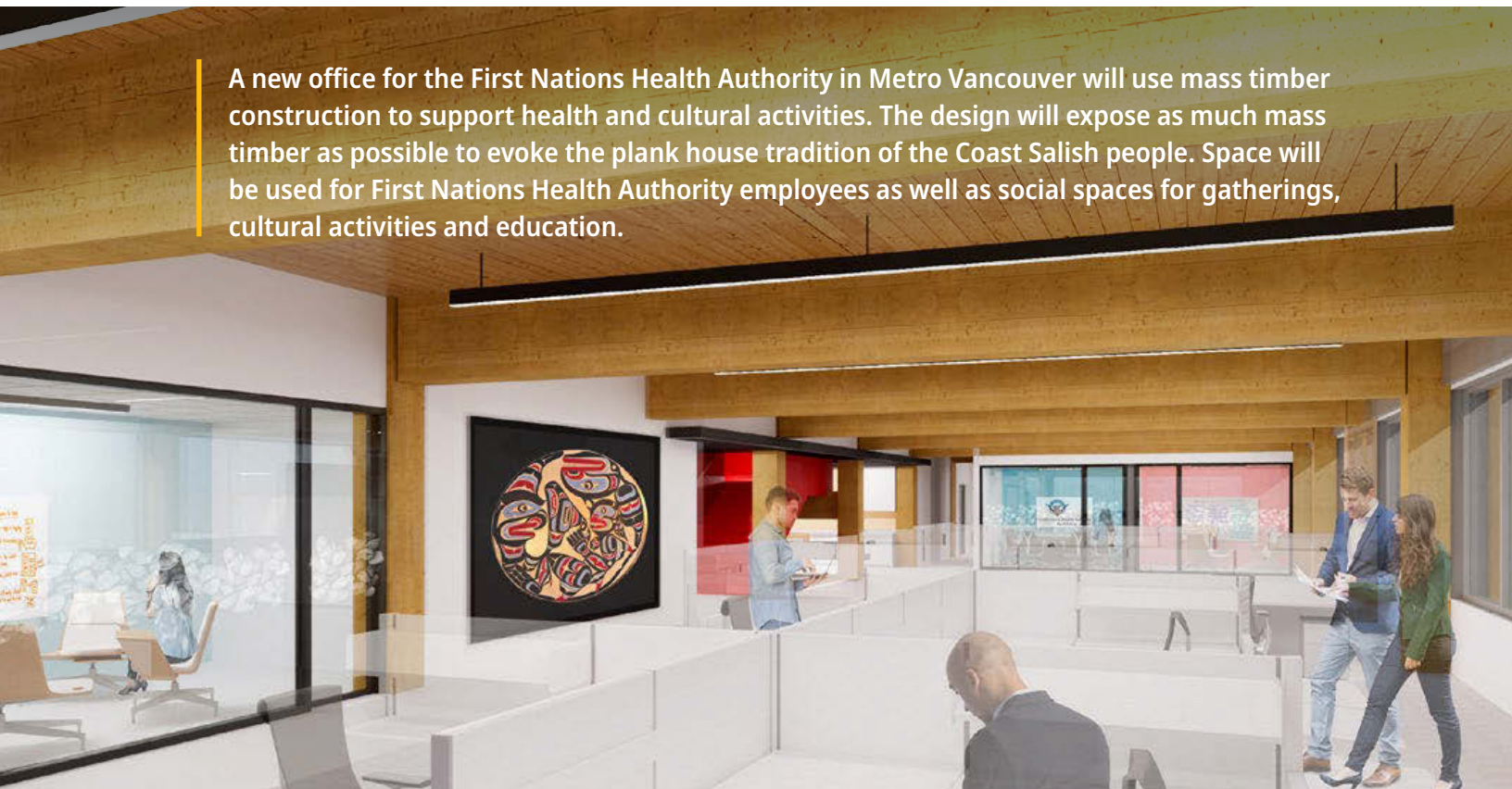
WE ARE WORKING TO HARNESS THE POTENTIAL OF CLEAN GROWTH, WITH ACTIONS LIKE:

- Supporting several projects through the Mass Timber Demonstration Program as part of B.C.'s new Mass Timber Action Plan.
- Positioning B.C. as a hub for life sciences and biomanufacturing with nearly \$195 million in grant funding for Michael Smith Health Research BC and Genome BC.



Renderings courtesy of DIALOG.

A new office for the First Nations Health Authority in Metro Vancouver will use mass timber construction to support health and cultural activities. The design will expose as much mass timber as possible to evoke the plank house tradition of the Coast Salish people. Space will be used for First Nations Health Authority employees as well as social spaces for gatherings, cultural activities and education.



Putting People First

After one of the most challenging periods in our history, B.C. is building back stronger.

It's the result of our government acting quickly to protect lives and livelihoods when the pandemic spread to B.C. And when extreme weather devastated communities, we responded by pulling together to reopen highways and rebuild infrastructure in record time.

We're not through it all yet. People are feeling exhausted and stretched. But we can be proud of how far we have come, together.

Our government has – and will always – put people first. That is how we will continue building a stronger province and reach the better days ahead for B.C.

