

ANDREW
WEAVER

CHANGE YOU CAN COUNT ON



PLATFORM 2017

ANDREW
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greens
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

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PREFACE

This platform has been developed with input from many British Columbians who have come forward with a wide range of ideas, comments, issues and concerns. We have extracted themes and positions from the submissions to help us form the overarching direction of the party. We are truly grateful for their vision, commitment and engagement in the democratic process.

The BC Green Platform demonstrates our distinct perspective. We need to do more than tinker with current ideas. We believe we need a fundamentally different philosophy of government.

In a democratic society, representatives are elected by the people to represent them – not the corporations or the special interest groups. For more than 30 years we have had

governments focused on maximizing returns to private corporations rather than the wellbeing of British Columbians. We will change that.

Our platform sets out our philosophy, our vision and the actions we will take to enrich the lives of all British Columbians. We are enthusiastic about an innovative and sustainable private sector and we know the health and wellbeing of British Columbians is inextricably linked to the economy. However, government should ensure that people are not just a factor of production, working for the economy, but that the economy is working for people.

Thank you for taking the time to learn about the BC Greens.

INTRODUCTION

I am no professional politician; I am a scientist. I got into politics because I was deeply concerned about the direction politicians were taking our province.

We live in one of the most incredible places on earth. We know BC could provide all of us with prosperous lives while sustaining this beautiful place for generations to come.

Yet, after 16 years of BC Liberal rule, many of us feel a growing anxiety about our future. Many are just barely making enough to pay the bills. Income disparities have grown, the child poverty rate is one of the highest in Canada, homelessness is on the rise, more people than ever rely on food banks, there is massive growth in the number of working poor and our youth struggle to find employment.

It would be trite to say BC Liberals are oblivious to this. But they have been fixated on a political and economic mantra that says, “if you have a strong economy, then the benefits will trickle down to all in society.” By traditional measures of a strong economy – GDP and job growth – BC seems to be doing well. But there is one fatal flaw:

There is no trickle down.

Life is getting harder for many British Columbians and the BC Liberal prescription is to stay the course. It reminds one of the old definition of insanity – doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different result.

The BC Liberals have spent 16 years getting us to this place and, in those same 16 years, the BC NDP have failed to provide British Columbians with a credible alternative.

THE PROBLEM IS THAT THE BC LIBERALS ARE FOCUSED ON MAXIMIZING THE PRIVATE RETURN FROM GOVERNMENT INVESTMENTS, NOT THE SOCIAL RETURN. THEY ARE, IN EFFECT, PUTTING PROFITS BEFORE PEOPLE.

- SUBMITTED BY A PLATFORM CONTRIBUTOR

It is hard to categorize the NDP’s economic philosophy: their policy positions change repeatedly over time. Remember it was an NDP government that initiated major cuts in public services in the 1990s, precursors to many disastrous BC Liberal policies. The NDP lurches back and forth between their union wing and their environmentalists. The resulting compromises are uninspiring and unsuccessful, often attacking the symptoms rather than the root causes.

We need change – change you can count on.

There is another way. One where everyone enjoys economic security, our province’s resources are managed sustainably, and where equity is a fundamental value of a government that operates in the best interests of this generation – and future generations.

The BC Green platform sets out a bold plan to achieve this vision. It is grounded in economic security and sustainability in their full and truest

sense. And it provides clear steps – based on evidence – to move us towards greater wellbeing for all British Columbians. Our platform provides an unambiguous contrast to the dogmatic approach of the BC Liberals – and the NDP.

We care about people; we care about communities.

If we are going to make BC a more prosperous place for ordinary people, we must:

- Eliminate the fear of income insecurity which has debilitating impacts on people’s health and wellbeing;
- Take our role as stewards of the environment seriously;
- Reset the relationship between people and government, and communities and government;
- Embrace the new economy and take measures to ensure we all share in the benefits and that no one is left behind;

- Start measuring the changes in human conditions that represent genuine progress, and end the pretence that Gross Domestic Product (or “GDP”) bears any relation to the health and wellbeing of British Columbians.

As I said, this is a fundamental shift that cannot be done overnight. We are not just tweaking the system – we are addressing the root causes and impacts of instability. It will challenge many of the accepted norms of the past 25 years, and there will be rocky patches as we go. But without a change of approach, a large proportion of British Columbians face a very uncertain future, while a privileged few feed off their insecurity.



Andrew Weaver
Leader, BC Green Party

CORE PHILOSOPHY

Our plan is built around our core philosophy:

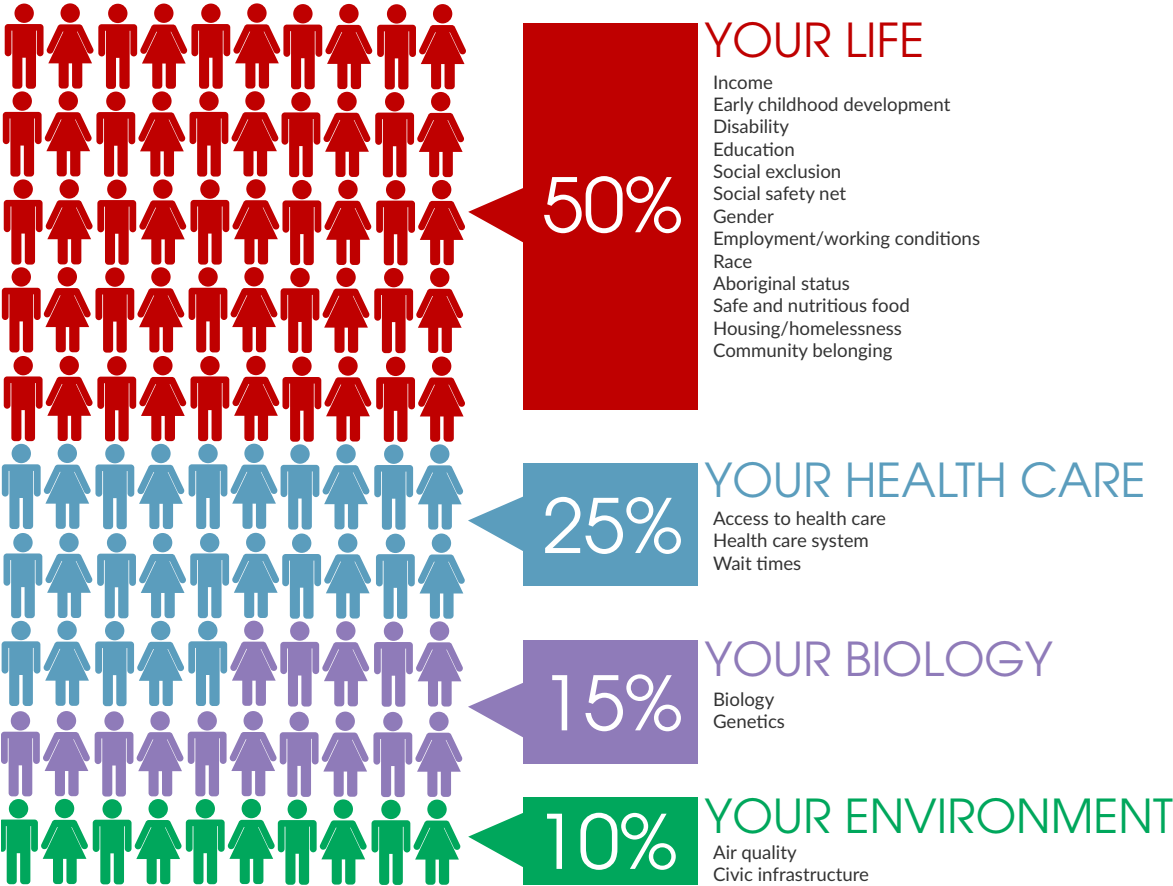
- 1. The purpose of government is to facilitate the highest and best outcomes for the health and wellbeing of current and future generations of British Columbians.

According to the “Social determinants of health”¹, 60% of illness is caused by

economic, social and environmental factors, with income as the number one factor. If government is going to achieve the highest and best outcomes for health and wellbeing, the social determinants of health – especially livable income – must be addressed.

Our goal is to ensure that all people have economic security.

THE SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH¹



¹ “Health equity and the social determinants of health” Canadian Medical Association (online) <https://www.cma.ca/En/Pages/health-equity.aspx> [April 2017]

2. The purpose of government is to sustainably manage our province in the interests of intergenerational equity.

The original concept of sustainability, “meeting the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs,” is still very relevant today. Sustainable management is essential if our land, air and water are to support life as we know it, now and for years to come. That does not mean we must pit the environment against the economy. Rather, with innovation and inspiration, we can profit from our clean environment while diminishing the threat to economic and social stability from global warming and environmental degradation.

Our goal is to sustainably manage our province for the benefit of all British Columbians.

3. The purpose of government is to be the steward of public resources, and manage the delivery of public goods and services on behalf of the people, as important assets owned by everyone.

We need to reset the relationship between people and their elected representatives. Governments are people, elected by people, to look after the best interests of *all* people in the province. Public goods and

services belong to us, and they are part of our personal wealth. It is our duty to take a direct interest in ensuring these assets are well-managed and maintained on our behalf.

The quality of our public infrastructure: our public transportation, our hospitals, our schools and the availability and excellence of services such as those provided by our mental health nurses, our teachers, our peace officers and our social workers, enhances the livability – and pride – in our communities.

For 16 years, the BC Liberals have portrayed government as a burden that weighs down citizens with taxes and regulations, often irresponsibly spending their money on schools, roads and hospitals. They have persuaded people to give up their ownership of public assets such as parks, public transport, crown land, hospitals and schools, and to look down on public servants. They have destroyed community, glorified a brash individualism, and disparaged those concerned for communal wellbeing and future generations.

Our goal is to rebuild British Columbians’ pride in their parks; the infrastructure that supports health, education, commerce and recreation; assets government can, and should build and maintain to contribute to our quality of life.

AN ECONOMY FOR EVERYONE

The challenge of ensuring that everyone can meet their basic needs for food, clothing, transportation and shelter is growing. It is no longer just the marginalized who are having difficulty making ends meet. Many employed people face income insecurity. The growing segment of near-poor is almost half the US population. Here in Canada, the trend is somewhat less pronounced but still well established. Globalization and technological change are causing a sharp decrease in the number of well-paying blue collar jobs. New jobs are often minimum wage and part-time.

Our goal is to ensure that our economy works for us and that all people have economic security.

We have a three-step plan to achieve financial sustainability for British Columbians:

- Ensure people have the knowledge, skills and abilities to be successful in the 21st century economy;
- Promote sustainable business development in a dynamic economy;
- Ensure everyone has access to the means that support a healthy life, regardless of whether or not they are employed.

For people to enjoy full economic security, they must feel that their health needs, personal safety and physical property are protected. Keeping British Columbians healthy enables people to lead happy, productive lives – it also saves money in the acute and chronic care systems.

An effective justice system is an essential component of personal security. Our system is bogged down dealing with the consequences of poverty, mental health and substance abuse issues. All of these are highly preventable, and distract resources from serious crime.

Strategy for LIFELONG LEARNING FOR A CHANGING ECONOMY

A love of learning does not begin in Kindergarten. Many studies have indicated that the preschool years are a critical factor in determining outcomes in the teenage years and through into adulthood. Investment in early childhood education and care assists parents in returning to the work force, and creates the base upon which lifelong learning is built.

In 2016, the province began the transition to new K-12 curriculum designed to ensure “students get the skills they need to succeed in our changing world”². This ambitious project is supported by the BC Greens in concept, however, we are concerned about effective implementation. The system has been grossly underfunded for the past 16 years, with the burden on teachers becoming increasingly difficult to manage, and the special needs of many students inadequately supported. Without significant new resources, implementing a new curriculum is a recipe for disaster.

There is also an urgent need for teacher training at universities to be focused on the new curriculum and its delivery. We will continue to work with postsecondary institutions to ensure students are being given adequate instruction in the new curriculum and find ways to meaningfully support teachers to implement the new curriculum.

Ensuring that all children arrive at school, every day, ready to learn is essential to improving outcomes. Research shows that well-nourished, physically active students learn better than those who go to school hungry, or who lead sedentary lives watching screens. We may not be able to directly address the issues faced by those students who are traumatized by domestic violence, or troubled children in care, or those suffering from mental health issues; but we can take steps to promote healthy lives and support students to be mentally and physically prepared.

The cost of postsecondary education has been rising. Many graduates are saddled with huge debt, and fees create significant barriers for less well-off students. Apprenticeships are hard to find, and educational upgrading or retraining can be costly and only available in larger communities. “Lifelong learning for a changing economy” is designed to remove barriers to self-realization, and nurture the ambitions and entrepreneurial spirit of British Columbians.

The actual number of careers a person has in a lifetime is not tracked, however, estimates range from 5 to 10. A 2014 Workopolis article stated that, “If the current trend continues, Canadians can expect to hold roughly 15 jobs

² “B.C.’s Redesigned Curriculum” Government of BC (online)
<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/teach/curriculum/redesigned-curriculum> [April 2017]

in their careers.”³ This means that people must be capable of transitioning smoothly between jobs and careers, and that the demand for retraining and upgrading will be great.

Employers are increasingly relying on workers with postsecondary education (PSE). The Conference Board⁴ notes that the number of

workers with PSE has grown from approximately 50% in 1991/92, to 70% today and that this is expected to rise to 77% by 2025. Employers have expressed concern about their ability to hire qualified workers, yet there are conflicting messages, as many new graduates struggle to get employment in an area related to their studies.

How does “Lifelong learning for a changing economy” support the maximization of the health and wellbeing of British Columbians?

Education is a key factor in determining health outcomes, it helps us make better lifestyle choices, get better jobs and be engaged in life. BC has one of the best education systems in the world, but in a world of rapid technological change, the mentality where you pass an exam which qualifies you for a job for life, no longer applies. People entering the workforce today can expect to have between five and ten careers in their lifetime. Moving successfully between jobs will be determined by each person’s ability to adapt, and learn new skills. The priority is to nurture children’s natural curiosity into a love of learning that stays with them throughout their lives.

3 Peter Harris (December 2014) “How many jobs do Canadians hold in a lifetime?” (online) <http://careers.workopolis.com/advice/how-many-jobs-do-canadians-hold-in-a-lifetime/> [April 2017]
4 “PSE Skills for a Prosperous British Columbia”. The Conference Board of Canada. December 2016

A BC GREEN GOVERNMENT WILL:

✓ INVEST IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (ECE)

1. Phase in funding for a comprehensive program for early childhood education and care to support:
 - Up to 25 hours free ECE per week for three- and four-year-olds;
 - Free daycare for working parents with children under age three;
 - Up to \$500 per month for families with children under age three and a stay-at-home parent.

ECE Funding will rise from \$495 million in 2017/18 to \$1.38 billion in 2020/21. The initial focus will be on expanding spaces for early childhood education and care.

✓ FUND 21ST CENTURY EDUCATION

2. Increase funding for schools, beginning in 2017/18 at \$220 million and rising to \$1.46 billion in 2020/21, to allow schools and school districts to invest in every child and prepare students for the 21st century economy, and to invest in innovation and technology. This is in addition to the \$330 million committed by the BC Liberals to address the recent court ruling on class size.
3. Provide \$10 million per year to restore funding for adult secondary education upgrading and language training.

✓ CREATE A HEALTHY START PROGRAM

4. Direct \$35 million into nutrition and physical activity programs to promote learning readiness, and improve student health.

✓ SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR TEACHERS

5. Invest \$140 million over three years to train teachers to deliver the new curriculum.
6. Work with Indigenous leaders, teachers, universities and colleges to develop policies and strategies to attract the brightest and best to the profession, and support recruitment

and retention. Special attention will be paid to increasing the number of Indigenous teachers and to incorporating more content on Indigenous culture into the curriculum.

✓ ENSURE EQUITABLE ACCESS TO PUBLIC EDUCATION

7. Review the funding model for the K-12 education system with a view to ensuring equitable access for students. This will address targeting funding to schools with the greatest need and increasing local autonomy regarding funding priorities and distribution.

✓ ALLEVIATE THE BURDEN OF STUDENT DEBT

8. Implement needs-based grants for postsecondary students.
9. Offer tax forgiveness for up to five years to assist qualifying graduates to repay outstanding debt incurred for tuition fees.
10. Set up a task force on postsecondary education funding with a mandate to identify ways to make postsecondary education more relevant, accessible and affordable. The task force will present its report by July 2018.

✓ ASSIST YOUTH IN FINDING EMPLOYMENT

11. Invest \$65 million over four years to support co-op and work experience programs for high school and undergraduate students.

✓ INVEST IN WORKER SKILLS, UPGRADING & RETRAINING

12. Allocate up to \$10 million per year for in-service skills training for workers in small and medium-sized enterprises, and retraining for those displaced by automation or changing markets.

Related commitments in other parts of the platform:

From “Green economy”:

75. Promote innovative collaborations with domestic and international partners; facilitate strategic business mentoring; and invest \$35 million over four years in talent to help create, grow and attract companies in the sector.

Strategy for SUSTAINABLE ENTERPRISE

The second step toward economic security is a dynamic economy providing a constant and growing supply of quality employment opportunities. For this we need to ensure that enterprise and innovation are supported and rewarded, whether it is starting a small business, commercializing a new product or applying technology in established industries. We must take advantage of opportunities created by a changing climate, new markets, and rapid technological change to build a clean and green economy.

BC's traditional industries will continue to bring revenue into the province, however the number of people employed in these sectors has declined over recent decades. Technological advances are replacing human labour in many areas.

Many of the jobs that have been created in recent years have been precarious, part-time, minimum wage jobs that do not provide income security. If BC is to be able to create jobs that pay living wages, the government must create the

conditions that support clean energy, the tech sector, and green industries. The government must support the creative economy, promote value-added industries and innovation in the resource sector. We must also do more to foster entrepreneurship, and nurture small business.

In the past, it was generally thought that automation was a good thing – machines would allow us to work less to meet our needs while we pursued richer lives. This is not what is happening. Many are working longer hours, while many can find no work at all. We must be creative and find ways to enable all British Columbians to share in the growth of our economy.

Business is often focused on cutting costs and keeping wages down, but that may not be the best strategy. Henry Ford shocked the business world when he increased his factory workers' wages from \$2.25 to \$5 per day. Business contemporaries thought he was crazy, but he believed workers should have enough money to buy his cars. He had

How does “Sustainable enterprise” support the maximization of health and wellbeing of British Columbians?

Income and employment are two of the key social determinants of health. A strong economy with plentiful job opportunities is a key part of enhancing health and wellbeing. Clean and green industries enhance environmental quality which further supports healthy outcomes.

the foresight to see that if the benefits of growth are shared equitably, it's good for everybody, including business. Today, more and more people are being left behind by globalization and automation. Business and government must work together to create employment opportunities and ensure that everybody shares in the new economy.

Our objective is to support entrepreneurs,

small, medium and large scale businesses, to create a steady supply of employment opportunities in enterprises that put BC on the leading edge of the green economy. We know about 50% of people are employed by small businesses, and the bulk of new jobs are created by small business. We are concerned about the viability of small businesses, given their sensitivity to relatively small cost changes.

A BC GREEN GOVERNMENT WILL:

✓ USE GOVERNMENT BUSINESS & PROCUREMENT TO STIMULATE INNOVATION AND BC BUSINESSES

13. Review the mandates and legislation of public sector agencies and Crown Corporations to ensure they promote innovation and support business development. For example, the mandate of BC Hydro will be revisited to optimize support for clean energy development.

✓ DEVELOP A SUPPORTIVE & PROGRESSIVE REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT

14. Establish an Emerging Economy Task Force to address the changing nature of business over the next 10 to 25 years. The task force will report to the government by July 2018.

✓ ESTABLISH A MORE EFFICIENT & FAIR TAX SYSTEM

15. Work with the federal government to streamline business and consumption taxes to avoid distorting effects on business investment decisions and to promote risk taking and innovation.

✓ SUPPORT INNOVATION & NEW BUSINESS MODELS

16. Review existing programs to ensure they are effectively supporting innovation, and new business models in the emerging economy.
17. Establish an Innovation Commission to support innovation and business development in the technology sector, and appoint an Innovation Commissioner with a mandate to be an advocate and ambassador on behalf of the BC technology sector in Ottawa and abroad.

✓ ENHANCE BUSINESS LEADERSHIP SKILLS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

18. Invest up to \$20 million per year to support ideation, mentoring and networking at postsecondary institutions to promote entrepreneurship, leadership and business skills development.
19. Provide up to \$70 million over four years for qualifying entrepreneurs to leverage seed or angel funding.

✓ CREATE BUSINESS ACCELERATORS

20. Invest up to \$50 million in business incubators, accelerators and affordable space for small and medium-sized enterprises. The province will work with local governments to develop a strategy for affordable space.

✓ MODERNIZE BC'S LABOUR LAWS

21. Modernize labour laws to recognize new and emerging types of work relationships in the emerging economy by introducing a fairer, more responsive and more inclusive code that contributes to increased competitiveness.

Strategy for

COVERING THE BASICS: INCOME SECURITY

Despite the apparent economic success in BC as measured by Gross Domestic Product (GDP), there are worrying trends such as growing income inequality, increasing numbers of children living in poverty, homelessness, more working poor and increased reliance on food banks. Even those not on the margins of society are struggling to find jobs that pay living wages. Over the past 25 years, many well-paying jobs in manufacturing and the resource industries have been automated. New jobs are often part-time, pay minimum wage, and are often not located in the communities where displaced people live. Meanwhile many young people struggle to enter the job market.

In the 21st century, technology will continue to replace human labour and, without government action, this will lead to even greater concentration of wealth in the hands of the privileged few. Globalization and highly mobile capital makes it difficult to hold corporations responsible for the welfare of their workers. They will cite competitive concerns, and can easily move to jurisdictions with lower wages, poorer working conditions and lower environmental standards. This race to the bottom is difficult for provincial governments to counter. However, the province can work to mitigate the resulting economic insecurity and avoid major negative effects on the health and wellbeing of British Columbians.

We must complement initiatives to promote job

WHILE MERE SURVIVAL MAY BE POSSIBLE ON BARELY SUFFICIENT RESOURCES, FLOURISHING REQUIRES SOMETHING MORE THAN THE BARE MINIMUM OF CONSUMPTION.

- MARK A. BURCH, *SUFFICIENCY: ENOUGH FOR EVERYONE FOR EVER*, 2012

creation and the ability of British Columbians to fill those jobs with a new approach to support people and families when they are between jobs, on low incomes, or experiencing other life transitions. There has been a lot of discussion recently about guaranteeing a basic livable income. If British Columbians are to be able to respond to the opportunities of the 21st century in a bold and entrepreneurial fashion, we must eliminate the fear of uncertainty that is brought by income insecurity.

Many people who are not paid to work outside the home are making a major contribution to the quality of life of British Columbians through volunteering, caring for children or elderly relatives without financial reward. Women often take on this work and undervaluing their contribution often leaves them struggling to

make ends meet. “Covering the Basics” is the least we, as a society, should do for them.

“Covering the Basics” involves creating a secure environment for people that ensures their health and essential needs are met without being stigmatized. This means addressing income, food security, and affordable housing. Our plan is to implement various measures to support livable incomes and to address the deficiencies in real estate and housing that contribute to the lack of affordability.

Phasing in a basic income program is a key priority. We will begin by carrying out a pilot project, drawing on experience from Manitoba in the 1970s and current pilot projects being implemented in Ontario. In the interim, we will increase welfare rates to improve the lives of the most vulnerable in our society, who last saw an increase in rates a decade ago.

Income security will lead to housing security, but only if there is adequate accommodation available.

There is a dearth of adequate, affordable housing in BC. The Liberals have promised to build more affordable housing, but we need to go much further than this. We must address the number of units available as well as zoning issues such as secondary suites and urban densification, mobile homes, security of tenure and high rents. We must find innovative ways to increase the supply of suitable accommodation, and must work with partners in the federal and local governments, and the private sector to achieve this.

Several other commitments in our platform will also improve income security including our commitment to invest in early childhood education and care, to support parents re-entering the workforce, and tax reforms aimed at making the tax system less regressive.

Sadly, the legacy of 16 years of BC Liberal neglect for the welfare of British Columbians is well entrenched, and it will take several years to undo the damage that has been done to the most vulnerable in our society.

How does “Covering the basics” support the maximization of the health and wellbeing of British Columbians?

The World Health Organization defines the social determinants of health as the circumstances in which people are born, develop, live and age. They include: income and income distribution, housing, food security, employment and working conditions, unemployment and job security, social safety net and health services.

“Covering the basics” will ensure British Columbians enjoy a sense of security about the future in a changing world and, ensure they have a springboard to greater wellbeing. This will enhance health outcomes, and reduce costs associated with poverty and deprivation.

A BC GREEN GOVERNMENT WILL:

✓ MOVE TOWARD LIVABLE INCOMES

22. Initiate the transition to livable incomes with an increase in Persons with Disabilities (PWD), income assistance and shelter allowance rates. Rates will increase by 10% effective October 1, 2017, rising to 50% above the current level on April 1, 2020. This increase will be supplemented by other programs to support those on assistance. Estimated cost of the program is \$79 million in 2017/18, rising to \$788 million in 2020/21.

Existing assistance programs will be reviewed to ensure that they are efficient, effective and fair; and, that financial disincentives to work are avoided.

23. Introduce a basic income support for youth aged 18 to 24, who are transitioning out of foster care. Estimated cost is \$60 million per year.
24. Draw on experience in other jurisdictions to design a basic income pilot to test whether giving people a basic income is an effective way to reduce poverty, improve health, housing and employment.

✓ ESTABLISH FAIR WAGES & LOW INCOME SUPPORT

25. Establish an at-arm's-length Fair Wages Commission that will be tasked with establishing a new minimum wage and overseeing regular rate reviews. The commission will bring forward recommendations regarding strategies to address the discrepancy between minimum wages and livable wages. The commission will make its first report on a new minimum wage by November 30, 2017. The new minimum wage will become effective January 1, 2018.
26. Work with the federal government to provide a Low-Income Benefit of up to \$205 per month for low income families.

✓ ABOLISH REGRESSIVE MSP PAYMENTS

27. Roll MSP payments into the payroll tax and personal income tax to ensure that they are administered in a more equitable and progressive manner.

Strategy for AFFORDABLE HOMES

One of the challenges with the housing crisis is that people often conflate the problem of runaway real estate prices (mostly in Vancouver and Victoria) with the problem of the availability of affordable housing, or homelessness, and often add in the challenge that millennials are having purchasing a home for good measure. Obviously, there is a link between these issues, but cause and effect is not completely linear.

The price of real estate is primarily a middle-class issue, as that is the group that would expect to have the means to be able to purchase property, if prices were not sky-high. There are some ripple effects to the availability of affordable housing; however, cooling the real estate market would not, in and of itself, solve the problem of homelessness.

The availability of affordable housing is an issue for the working poor, welfare recipients and

people who are seeking a place to rent. Lack of affordable housing has many consequences, including out-migration of the young, difficulty in retaining key employees, long commutes and traffic congestion, as well as the rise of illegal suites in detached homes, and young adults remaining in the family home into their late twenties.

The challenge of getting into the real estate market faced by millennials is a hybrid, partially driven by the cost of real estate, and partially by the precarious nature of employment for many young people. From the baby boom onwards, entry into the real estate market at an early age has almost been viewed as a middle-class right. However, currently it appears to be out of reach for many, despite the persistence of low interest rates. More reasonable house prices will assist those with stable incomes to purchase more desirable homes, but will

not solve the problem for those in precarious employment who do not qualify for mortgages.

The BC Liberals introduced the BC Home Owner and Equity Partnership in January 2017, to assist first time home buyers make a down payment. The BC Greens consider programs that facilitate property purchase by those who are only marginally capable of servicing a mortgage, to be ill-considered and potentially financially ruinous to families in the event of interest rate increases, major family illness, economic downturn or other unforeseen circumstance.

Government has a social responsibility to ensure that everyone has access to reasonable, affordable accommodation.

The BC Green housing strategy is part of

a multi-faceted approach to improve the health and wellbeing of British Columbians by ensuring that everyone has access to habitable, affordable housing.

Our approach has four objectives:

1. Address the impact of absentee ownership and speculative investment in the real estate market;
2. Increase the supply of affordable accommodation;
3. Effective protections for tenants and landlords;
4. Ongoing support for those experiencing income insecurity.

A BC GREEN GOVERNMENT WILL:

✓ ACT TO COOL THE MARKET FOR RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE

28. Work with the federal government to introduce measures to eliminate money laundering and international property speculation from the BC residential real estate market.

29. Discourage speculation by:

- Enhancing the progressive nature of the Property Transfer Tax (PTT) by introducing a sliding scale of rates from 0% on properties under \$200,000 to 12% on properties over \$3.0 million (see below);
- Applying the PTT to the transfer of beneficial ownership;
- Introducing a “speculation” PTT to discourage flipping of property;
- Expanding the foreign buyers tax to apply across the province, and increase the rate to 30% in addition to the PTT payable;
- Introducing measures to tax lifetime capital gains in excess of \$750,000 on principal residences;⁵
- Working with financial institutions and the federal government to develop protections for recent homebuyers who are negatively affected by market cooling initiatives.

Range	PTT rate	
	Current	Proposed
\$0 to \$200,000	1%	0%
\$200,001 to \$500,000	2%	2%
\$500,001 to \$1.0 million	2%	2%
\$1.0 million to \$2.0 million	2%	6%
\$2.0 million to \$3.0 Million	3%	10%
\$3.0 million +	3%	12%

⁵ The tax on capital gains will only apply to homes that have been owned for less than five years, and only the provincial portion of capital gains tax would be payable.

Table 2. Examples of impact on tax paid					
	Property value	PTT current		PTT proposed	
	Median (Mar. 2017) ⁶	Amount	%	Amount	%
Victoria condo	\$354,500.00	\$5,090.00	1.4	\$3,090.00	0.9
Vancouver Island family	\$728,500.00	\$12,570.00	1.7	\$10,570.00	1.5
N. Van. townhouse	\$979,500.00	\$17,590.00	1.8	\$15,590.00	1.6
N. Van. single family	\$1,725,000.00	\$32,500.00	1.9	\$59,500.00	3.4
W. Van. single family	\$3,500,000.00	\$83,000.00	2.4	\$236,000.00	6.7

- 30. Begin to transition the home owner grant (HOG) starting in 2019, to be income based, to release funds for investment in affordable housing.
- 31. Introduce a progressive property tax system that imposes a surtax based on the property value, and allows homeowners to credit rental income and their previous year's BC income tax against the surtax.

✓ INCREASE THE SUPPLY OF AFFORDABLE ACCOMMODATION

- 32. Invest up to \$750 million per year to support the construction of approximately 4000 new units of affordable housing per year.⁶
- 33. Work with federal and local governments to make land available for the construction of affordable housing.
- 34. Work with social and Indigenous housing agencies and federal and local governments to develop and implement a provincial housing plan to address deficiencies in the supply of affordable rental accommodation based on priority needs.
- 35. Lead a comprehensive rethink of zoning to ensure it is consistent with government objectives such as the provision of affordable housing. Issues for consideration include densification, especially along transit corridors; revitalizing neighborhoods surrounding schools; cultural and social amenities; and complete communities.
- 36. Protect existing social housing and reduce operating costs by investing \$100 million per year in retrofits and renovations of older units.
- 37. Partner with First Nations, non-profit developers, cooperatives, and the private sector to support the planning and construction of low income rental units.

⁶ The property tax initiative described above is designed to reduce the incidence of vacant properties, which will also improve the supply of accommodation.

38. Introduce incentives for the construction of, and/or conversion of existing buildings for rental property.

✓ PROTECT TENANTS & LANDLORDS

39. Enhance the provisions of the Residential Tenancy Act to control rent increases, and to protect tenants from tenure termination that will result in the loss of affordable accommodation.
40. Work with BC Housing to enable the inclusion of private rental properties in their directly managed portfolio of affordable accommodation.

✓ MAINTAIN & ENHANCE HOUSING SUPPORT PROGRAMS

41. Maintain or enhance existing housing support programs in the context of the suite of initiatives to address income insecurity.

Strategy for HEALTHY LIVES

It may seem redundant to say that healthy lives are fundamental to health and wellbeing, but often it is not until misfortune or self-neglect result in trauma or chronic illness that people realize how important it is. It is well accepted that prevention is better than cure – and is more cost effective – yet we pay comparatively little attention to wellness.

Access to health care, the health care system, and wait times make up one quarter of the social determinants of health. Therefore excellence in health care is important. By maintaining healthy lifestyles, and keeping as many people as possible out of the health care system, we can focus on those who need it most.

Health care is an important part of economic security. Health events and long term disability can lead to significant financial hardship. It is essential that our system is effective at keeping people healthy, and restoring them to health quickly when illness and injury strikes.

Healthy lives begin before we are born, and carry on to our senior years, and end of life. The BC Greens' take an integrated approach, based on the whole person; one that tries to shift the balance towards self-management and community support, from acute care interventions.

We know that alleviating poverty and homelessness will also have a strong, positive impact on people's health. Here, we are focusing directly on healthy lives, through six lenses:

1. Wellness;
2. Prevention and primary care;
3. Acute care;
4. Mental health and addictions;
5. Seniors and end-of-life;
6. Children.

WELLNESS

Optimal wellness is different for everyone, depending on their needs, experiences, personality, and circumstances. Knowledge and self-awareness, opportunity and motivation are key to living a balanced life.

Government cannot legislate people to be healthy, but can put in place those things that support and promote healthy lifestyles.

A BC GREEN GOVERNMENT WILL:

✓ FOCUS ON HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

42. Establish a Ministry responsible for health promotion, disease prevention and active lifestyles.

✓ PROMOTE HEALTHY CHOICES

43. Explore additional measures to discourage the consumption of substances that can be harmful to health such as tobacco and alcohol.

Related commitments in other parts of the platform:

From “Lifelong learning”:

4. Direct \$35 million in nutrition and physical activity programs to promote learning readiness, and improve student health.

PREVENTION & PRIMARY CARE

Everyone appears to agree: we need to increase the emphasis of health care spending on prevention. The challenge is how to make the transition, for the benefits of prevention are enjoyed in the future, while there are people who need treatment for chronic conditions, heart surgery, or a hip replacement now. Making the shift requires political will, and we need a plan to make the transition.

Access to primary care is a key part of preventing small health issues from becoming full blown crises, whether it is an unattended sprained ankle that leads to chronic arthritis, or an ignored lump that turns out to be cancer, early intervention can, cost effectively, improve health outcomes.

Many British Columbians do not have a family doctor. Some are deterred from taking medications by prescription charges; or from seeking help from health practitioners, such as physiotherapists, by user fees; others do not know how to navigate the healthcare system in order to get the services they need. We need to remove the barriers, and enhance the transparency of primary care services.

A BC GREEN GOVERNMENT WILL:

✓ PLAN FOR TRANSITION

44. Establish a task force to develop a plan to transition the balance of resources between acute care and preventative care. The task force will review the funding and range of services covered by the health care system to ensure the mix of services better meets the treatment and prevention needs of the population. The task force will deliver its recommendations to the government by May 2019.
45. Consult with physicians and other stakeholders to improve efficiency, reduce administration, and incentivize becoming a General Practitioner.

✓ ENHANCE ACCESS TO GENERAL PRACTITIONERS AND SHORTER WAIT LISTS

46. Allocate \$100 million for the expansion of support for interprofessional, integrated primary care to be provided by physiotherapists, nurse practitioners, midwives, dietitians and other health professionals. This will reduce the need for people to see a general practitioner and potentially avert the need for surgery.

✓ MAKE PRESCRIPTION DRUGS AFFORDABLE

47. Develop a proposal to implement an essential drugs program beginning in 2019, designed to reduce the costs of prescription drugs and ensure the cost of drugs is not a barrier to health management.

ACUTE CARE

Acute care is a costly part of the health care system. The costs of an acute care bed can range from \$800 to \$2000 per day according to a 2015 report by the BC Care Providers Association (BCCPA). The availability of hospital beds is the choke point, determining surgery waitlists, which are a priority in health care. Governments tend to respond by announcing more money for knee and hip replacements, while this may be politically popular, it may do little to address the root cause of the problem.

According to the BCCPA, approximately 13% of acute care beds are occupied by someone who does not need to be there, but is waiting for a residential care bed, which cost about \$200 per day. Seniors make up the majority of those unnecessarily occupying acute care beds.

Integrated healthcare delivery – a closer relationship between acute and post-acute care providers – can improve the efficiency and effectiveness of healthcare resource use. By coordinating care across the system, investing in integrated information technology systems, addressing variations in the utilization of healthcare services, and, leveraging non-physician healthcare professionals, the pressure on acute care beds can be reduced. Regionalization of the health care system was put in place to implement integrated care, however, it has not fully delivered on this objective.

The Liberals are moving in the direction of further privatizing surgical services, however, there is evidence that there is room for innovation in the public sector that can reduce wait times without major cost increases. There have been several initiatives in BC that have successfully brought down wait times, but the province has failed to build on these. There is a major need for the province to show leadership by promoting and supporting efficiency in the system.

A BC GREEN GOVERNMENT WILL:

✓ INVEST IN LONG-TERM CARE BEDS

48. Invest \$40 million in new long term care facilities to increase the availability of beds in acute care facilities.

✓ INTEGRATE COMMUNITY CARE

49. Work with health authorities to identify and remove barriers to the implementation of integrated healthcare delivery between acute and post-acute service providers.

✓ PROMOTE INNOVATION

50. Establish an Acute Care Innovation Task force to promote the application of best practices to reduce surgery wait times across the province.

MENTAL HEALTH & ADDICTIONS

Mental health issues and addictions often go hand-in-hand, and, as noted by the Auditor General, affect people of all ages.

Mental health and substance use problems and illnesses affect people from all walks of life – our parents, siblings, children, friends, co-workers, neighbours and often, ourselves. The costs of inadequate planning and inconsistent access to mental health and substance use services are high – both personal and financial. People with mental health and substance use problems and illnesses face stigma and discrimination. They contend with obstacles to completing education, pursuing employment opportunities and obtaining adequate housing.

Carol Bellringer, Auditor General

Access to Adult Tertiary Mental Health and Substance Use Services, May 2016

There are failures occurring at all levels in the system. Adults with severe needs are unable to get adequate access to adult tertiary care; less than 20% of the 1.2 million Canadian children and youth that are affected by mental illness will get appropriate treatment,⁷ there are limited resources for early detection in schools; and, there is fragmented programming for youth with mental illness transitioning into adulthood.

Young people who are engaged in child and youth mental health services, and who require continued services, are often not well supported as they prepare to enter the adult mental health system. Transition-aged youth who disengage from mental health services are at a significantly higher risk of developing more enduring mental health problems later in life.

Early intervention can improve quality of life and provide significant cost savings. Empowering youth, educators, and health professionals with a better understanding of mental health can help alleviate the social and economic impact of some mental health problems.

The fentanyl crisis has highlighted the inadequacy of our addiction services, our lack of safe injection sites and naloxone training.

⁷ “Improving mental health outcomes for all” Mental Health Commission of Canada (online) <http://www.mentalhealthcommission.ca/English/focus-areas/children-and-youth> [April 2017]

A BC GREEN GOVERNMENT WILL:

✓ FOCUS ON MENTAL HEALTH

51. Establish a Ministry responsible for mental health and addictions; which will be responsible for developing and implementing:
 - A Mental Health and Addiction Strategy based on the recommendations of the auditor general;
 - A Youth Mental Health Strategy for early detection of mental health illness.

✓ PRIORITIZE EARLY INTERVENTION

52. Allocate \$80 million to fund early intervention, youth mental health initiatives, supervised injections sites, and community-based centres for mental health and rehabilitation.

✓ INTEGRATE PRIMARY CARE

53. Implement an integrated primary care model specific to youth and mental health so that patients and their families can easily navigate resources in a supportive environment, and support innovative community-based options for responding to the needs of young people with mental illness and their families such as the Clubhouse International model.

✓ RESPOND DECISIVELY TO THE FENTANYL CRISIS

54. Develop an immediate response to the fentanyl crisis based on successful programs in Europe that invest in treatment on demand, drug substitution, early-warning monitoring systems, and coordinated response.

SENIORS & END-OF-LIFE

As the number of seniors in BC rises, the pressures on the health care and long-term care systems increase. In BC, seniors are generally healthy and independent as they age. According to the second Annual Report of the Office of the Senior's Advocate, only 10% of seniors (88,900) are frail and require residential care, palliative care, or supports for daily living.⁸

While those with age-related, health concerns account for less than 2% of the provincial population, they consume 35% of all services.

The Senior's Advocate report noted some concerning trends, including a decline in the average number of home support hours delivered per year; an increase in wait times for residential care; and, an increase in the number of residential beds available has failed to keep pace with the growth in the number of seniors aged 85 and older.

There is growing consensus that supporting seniors to remain in their own homes and communities as long as possible is the most cost-effective and appropriate way of addressing the needs of BC's aging population. However, this requires the expansion of BC seniors' access to a full range of home supports including non-medical home supports such as transportation, housekeeping and yard work, and support for the construction of age-friendly communities.

Recent reports have shown that more needs to be done to improve the standard of care in both public and private residential homes. In January 2017, it was reported that 91% of all care homes failed to meet the Ministry of Health staffing guidelines, of those that did, all but three were run by health authorities. The report also showed that the level of therapy was lower in private homes and there was a significantly higher level of reportable incidents in private homes.

Lack of specific staffing standards in seniors' residential facilities and lack of accountability negatively impact the safety and wellbeing of residents and result in distrust of the residential care system by seniors and their families

With the increasing number of seniors, there has been increasing attention to doctor assisted death. The lack of a national strategy to support Medically Assisted in Dying (MAiD) Legislation reduces support, protection and access for physicians, nurses and patients who wish to participate in a medically assisted death.

⁸ "Report – Monitoring Seniors' Services" Office of the Seniors Advocate (2016) (online) <https://www.seniorsadvocatebc.ca/osa-reports/report-monitoring-seniors-services-2016/> [April 2017]

A BC GREEN GOVERNMENT WILL:

✓ INVEST IN HOME CARE

55. Invest \$35 million over four years in home care to enable seniors and other people who need assistance to stay in their own homes.

✓ IMPROVE THE LEVEL OF CARE IN RESIDENTIAL HOMES

56. Ensure the staffing of public and private care homes meets government guidelines, and provide an additional \$200 million over four years to address staffing levels in public facilities.
57. Collaborate with Health Authorities and BC Care Providers Association to ensure that clear, measurable and enforceable staffing standards for residential care facilities are implemented. Standards will be supported by monitoring and enforcement to ensure they are being met, and there will be annual public reporting.

✓ SUPPORT ENDING LIFE WITH DIGNITY

58. Develop a Medically Assisted in Dying (MAiD) Strategy that supports training for physicians and nurses who wish to provide medically assisted dying services and ensures patients receive services in an appropriate time frame and in appropriate settings.

CHILDREN

As previously stated, we take a holistic view of health and wellbeing. When it comes to wellness, we take a “whole-life” perspective. From conception to passing, outcomes can be improved through good public policy that protects and nurtures the body and soul.

Sadly, we know that those whose childhood years are spent in poverty and/or abusive homes have worse health outcomes than those who grow up in a stable, income secure environment.

British Columbia’s child welfare system plays an important role in ensuring the safety and protection of children in our province. However, our current system is often unable to adequately perform its duties, leaving children and families struggling in vulnerable situations without resources or support.

We want communities where children and youth are supported and protected. Our goal is to provide preventative support, education, and family preservation work so that families can provide primary care for their children while ensuring our system of protecting children is able to intervene when necessary.

BC Greens believe that all children deserve a warm and loving environment and the opportunity to become successful adults, especially children in government care. We also believe in reforming our system that disproportionately sees Indigenous children taken into government care.

The transition from youth to adulthood can be challenging. We have already addressed the challenges facing youth transitioning out of foster care in “Covering the basics”. Similarly, the transition to adult care for young adults with chronic conditions (mental health, type 1 diabetes, cancer survivorship, etc.) presents significant challenges for the youth, their families, and their care providers.

A BC GREEN GOVERNMENT WILL:

✓ ENHANCE CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES

59. Invest an additional \$100 million in child protection to hire additional social workers and staff to support social workers, and to implement incentives to attract social workers to rural and underserved regions.

✓ TACKLE CHILD POVERTY

60. Identify strategies to address all aspects of child poverty in the province, including specific actions to address poverty affecting Indigenous children and families as part of a comprehensive anti-poverty strategy.

✓ ENHANCE SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

61. Work with stakeholders, including front line service delivery agencies, Indigenous people, local governments, educators, and community not-for-profit agencies to address recommendations made by the Representative for Children and Youth, and the Select Standing Committee on Children and Youth, including those regarding adoptions and foster care.
62. Engage with patients and their families as well as their care providers to identify the need for transition services and to determine the means to implement those services in the most efficient manner possible
63. Work collaboratively with First Nation communities to implement the recommendations from Grand Chief Ed John's report, *Indigenous Resilience, Connectedness and Reunification: From Root Causes to Root Solutions*.

Strategy for PUBLIC SAFETY

The BC justice system is creaking under the strain of underfunding mental health and social programs. It is taking longer and longer to bring cases to court, and people accused of serious crimes have gone free because the system cannot manage the caseload.

It is increasingly difficult to get access to justice, although there has been some progress towards keeping small cases out of the courts. Allowing wider use of paralegals and other professionals could provide greater access to justice and assist in reducing lengthy and costly court processes. Increasing the use of restorative justice programs and related public education initiatives can reduce the number of cases going to court, heal the damage done

and rehabilitate those committing offences. Much more must be done to produce more effective long-term outcomes for communities.

The police have become our front line social workers, dealing with the symptoms of poverty, addictions and mental health issues rather than concentrating on serious crime. It is more cost effective – and socially responsible – to directly address the root causes of crime. We need to eliminate the structural stigma against those with mental illnesses and substance addiction which is an obstacle to effective service delivery. We must develop multidisciplinary approaches that will improve public safety and reduce re-offending.

Given the social causes of many crimes, it is

How does “Public safety” support the maximization of health and wellbeing of British Columbians?

Economic security is also affected by threats to personal property, safety and physical security. People may incur additional costs to reduce the threats, or may be the victims of crime that takes away their confidence, directly damages their health, or robs them of their savings or precious possessions. People who live in safe communities can live life to its fullest, without fear of crime.

unsurprising that Indigenous people are over represented in the justice system. Social justice for Indigenous people is essential on every level.

Our guaranteed basic income plan will begin to alleviate these issues and reduce costs on the justice system. However, it will take time to reverse the negative impacts of 16 years of BC Liberal mismanagement and missed opportunities to alleviate poverty.

While the BC Greens take a compassionate position on those whose interaction with the justice system is driven by poverty, mental health and substance abuse, a tough stance on serious crime is required to protect public safety and the health and wellbeing of British Columbians.

Gang violence and drug rings are a major concern to communities. We support the government's "guns and gangs strategy", however without freeing up the justice system to deal with such offenders,

its effectiveness will be hampered. We must eliminate the financial incentive for trafficking in illegal drugs. This requires the decriminalization of drug use and possession and effective government programs to support and rehabilitate addicts.

White collar crime has long gone under-punished. Unscrupulous financial advisers have stolen millions of dollars from unwitting clients, often senior citizens. Those defrauding government have even been characterized as heroes fighting unjust taxes.

Perhaps one of the more insidious developments in recent years has been the number of scams perpetrated through the internet and over the phone. Non-violent crimes affect British Columbians' sense of safety and their financial security and overwhelmingly affects seniors.

We need to take a much stronger stance on white collar crime and fraud, it is costing us too much.

A BC GREEN GOVERNMENT WILL:

✓ IMPROVE ACCESS TO JUSTICE

64. Allot \$50 million to support the increased use of restorative justice and other alternatives to the criminal justice system, and to provide related public education.
65. Allow wider use of paralegals and other professionals to provide greater access to justice and assist in reducing lengthy and costly court processes.
66. Work with the health care sector to prevent the systematic exclusion of those with mental illnesses and substance addiction from participation in civic and social life. The government will participate in the development of an integrated mental health strategy that addresses related police and Crown policies and practices.

✓ CONFRONT GANGS & DRUG TRAFFICKING

67. Work with police and the federal government to identify strategies for harm reduction and for tolerating drug possession and use, while maintaining severe penalties for predatory drug trafficking.
68. Enhance the coordination of initiatives targeting gangs and organized crime.

✓ CONTROL WHITE COLLAR CRIME

69. Spend \$15 million to improve and expand the tracking of business fraud to include electronic and telephone scams, enhance the understanding of how to prevent financial crimes, and to pursue perpetrators when crimes are committed.
70. Collaborate with the federal government, relevant agencies, and other provinces to track fraud and address securities related offences.
71. Introduce a “whistleblower program” to help inform authorities of fraud, and introduce harsher penalties for companies who turn a blind eye to financial crimes.

TOWARD A SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

The BC Greens believe that government should be responsible for managing the province's resources for the benefit of both present and future generations of British Columbians.

It is worth recalling that the original definition of sustainability was "meeting the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." Much of what we are doing today is clearly compromising our children's future wellbeing. From deforestation to toxic waste discharges, habitat destruction and fossil fuel emissions, we are slowly, and systematically depriving future generations not only of those things that make life worth living, but of ecological systems that support life itself.

We recognize that economic opportunities are essential for people, and our sustainable economy proposals are designed to seize opportunities for innovation, efficiency, value-added and intrinsic benefits by promoting stewardship and sustainable use.

But, a sustainable economy must also be a resilient economy. We need an economy that identifies the challenges we face, and develops strategies to mitigate risk. Our climate is changing, and while it is important to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, we also need to face up to the reality that we have already committed ourselves to rising global temperatures and extreme weather events for years to come and that without proper preparation, the economic and social consequences are potentially catastrophic. We need to build resilience into our communities and our resource assets so that we may prosper. Facing reality may be uncomfortable and difficult but the consequences of not facing it are even harder. There are costs associated with building resilience but the costs of failing to prepare are even greater.

Our natural environment is our greatest asset, but it has been treated as an encumbrance while our natural resources are a goody bag to be pillaged, leaving little for future generations. "Towards a Sustainable Economy" applies the principles of sustainability in three key areas:

- Green economy strategy;
- Building resilience for communities, industry, and resource sectors;
- Climate action strategy.

Strategy for a **GREEN ECONOMY**

The term “green economy” is used in many ways. At a high level, it can be thought of as an alternative vision for growth and development that is consistent with sustainable development. A Green Economy promotes a triple bottom line: sustaining and advancing economic, environmental and social wellbeing.

On a practical level, it is economic development designed to reduce conventional levels of resource consumption, harmful emissions, utilize waste and minimize all forms of environmental impact. Green jobs can be found in all industries: energy, construction, transportation, agriculture, forestry, biomaterials and technology to name a few. There are millions of jobs in the global green economy today, and many more that can be created through progressive government policy.

Government regulation can stimulate innovation and technology adoption, and economic instruments can be used to change

**THE MOMENT YOU FOCUS ON
SHORT-TERM PROFITS, AND NOT
LONG-TERM REVENUES, YOU PUT
HANDCUFFS ON INNOVATION.**

- GEORGE DEEB, RED ROCK VENTURES

behaviour, while creating centres of excellence can propel new technology development.

The BC Liberals have paid lip service to the green economy. The BC Greens see the green economy as the central component of a thriving 21st century economy. Our Green Economy Strategy will inspire greening in the public and private sectors with the development of new technology and the creation of employment opportunities, all while improving the quality of our environment. It is also central to achieving our greenhouse gas reduction targets.

How does “Green economy” support the maximization of health and wellbeing of British Columbians?

“Green economy” supports health and wellbeing in multiple ways. It creates new, well-paying jobs, which will provide income security for British Columbians. It will lead to a cleaner, healthier environment. It will reduce waste and encourage more efficient use of resources. It will enhance industry productivity and promote exports. It will promote food security and support our greenhouse gas reduction initiatives.

A BC GREEN GOVERNMENT WILL:

✓ CAPITALIZE ON THE OPPORTUNITIES PRESENTED BY A CHANGING CLIMATE

72. Promote investment in clean energy and transportation, and clean/green⁹ initiatives that create jobs and economic activity without increasing greenhouse gas emissions.

✓ GROW THE CLEAN TECHNOLOGY SECTOR

73. Invest \$120 million over four years in partnerships with industry, academic institutions and other levels of government to support research, development and commercialization of climate friendly technologies and implement innovative ways to achieve desired environmental outcomes.
74. Promote innovative collaborations with domestic and international partners; facilitate strategic business mentoring; and invest \$35 million over four years in talent to help create, grow and attract companies.

⁹ "Clean" vs. "green": Clean technology has zero net emissions or no emissions at all. Green technology has very low emissions. For example, an electric car using electricity from Alberta, could be considered green because it has less emissions than vehicles using fossil fuels directly; but not clean, because fossil fuels are used to produce the electricity. Whereas in BC, where electricity production is 93% fossil fuel, an electric car can be considered clean because of the very low emissions associated with the production of electricity. Wood chip and ethanol are green but not clean as they too contribute pollution but not in the quantities of fossils.

✓ UTILIZE ECONOMIC INSTRUMENTS

75. Initiate the use of economic instruments to promote greening of the economy and protect key environmental values that support health and wellbeing.

✓ IMPLEMENT GREEN REGULATIONS

76. Review the environmental legislative framework and its application, to ensure the regulatory environment promotes adoption of green technologies and practices.

✓ MAXIMIZE ECONOMIC BENEFITS FROM WASTE STREAMS

77. Promote the use of clean technology to derive the maximum economic benefit from waste streams.

✓ PROMOTE GREEN BUSINESSES

78. Use government procurement to encourage the greening of businesses, products and processes and allocate \$20 million per year to support the adoption of green technology.

Strategy for BUILDING RESILIENCE

The BC Liberals are risking public safety by failing to adequately address the growing risks associated with climate change and variability. For example, they are still allowing schools to be built in floodplains and are not coordinating plans to address sea level rise in Metro Vancouver. The Ministries strive to mitigate impacts within their mandates, but lack of a funded, coordinated strategy exposes British Columbians to unnecessary hazards.

The challenge moving forward is that the past is no longer a good predictor of the future. Professional associations are grappling with the task of how to factor climate risk management into their planning and design, and professional codes of practice. Many areas of government still lag in their recognition of the need to adapt

their operating practices to a changing climate.

Our plan to build resilience has 3 themes:

1. *Resilient communities* addresses the management of risks to public safety from climate related events;
2. *Resilient management of our natural assets* is a proactive approach that sustainably manages our natural resources in a changing climate so that so that our resource dependent sectors may thrive;
3. *Economic resilience* will support business enterprises in BC to better manage the changing climate risks they face, (e.g. flooding, shorter winter seasons, variable precipitation, infrastructure failure).

RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Floods have made up half of Canada's natural disasters since 1970, and flooding is expected to remain a major concern as such disasters become more frequent. The 2013 flood in southern Alberta caused an estimated \$6 billion worth of damage. For a long time, insurance companies have been concerned about our lack of physical and financial preparedness for natural disasters. Building resilience into our communities is essential to protecting the health and wellbeing of British Columbians. Disasters are emotionally draining and can be financially catastrophic.

There is also a huge risk to the economy if industrial or critical infrastructure facilities are damaged or destroyed. This is particularly relevant for transportation networks in the Lower Mainland. Hurricane Sandy and the floods in Lower Manhattan left thousands of businesses and tens of thousands of residents without power for weeks. The regional economy took a hit estimated at more than \$40 billion.

The risk of flooding in BC comes not only from rivers but also from sea level rise. A large proportion of the Lower Mainland, including Richmond and Delta, is built on a floodplain. Despite the evidence of increased likelihood of flooding in the future, development in floodplains continues. The Ministry of Environment website states: "The risk of catastrophic loss from flood is greatest in in the Lower Mainland because of a large population and significant infrastructure built in the floodplain area."¹⁰ BC's floodplain maps are out of date, and LIDAR¹¹ mapping is required to facilitate planning.

According to the Ministry of Environment website: Estimates of mean sea level rise by 2100 for the BC coast range from 80 centimetres at Nanaimo to 120 centimetres in the Fraser Delta. Potential impacts of sea level rise in British Columbia include:

- More frequent and extreme high water levels in coastal areas
- Increased erosion and flooding
- Increased risk to coastal infrastructure, as well as increased maintenance and repair costs
- Loss of property due to erosion
- Loss of habitat and reduced biodiversity

10 "Lower Mainland Emergency Planning Floodplain Maps" Government of BC (online) <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/water/drought-flooding-dikes-dams/integrated-flood-hazard-management/flood-hazard-land-use-management/floodplain-mapping/emergency-planning> [April 2017]

11 LIDAR, which stands for Light Detection and Ranging, is a remote sensing method that uses light in the form of a pulsed laser to generate precise, three-dimensional information about the shape of the Earth and its surface characteristics. LIDAR data supports activities such as inundation and storm surge modeling, hydrodynamic modeling, shoreline mapping, emergency response, hydrographic surveying, and coastal vulnerability analysis

- Saltwater intrusion into coastal aquifers
- Loss of cultural and historical sites

A 2012 study by the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations estimated that the cost of improvements to the network of dikes protecting Metro Vancouver from rising sea levels could hit \$9.5 billion over the rest of the century. A broader discussion is needed on the potential risks, the alternative strategies to reduce these risks, and then a vigorous coordinated investment program between multiple levels of government.

Wildfire is a natural phenomenon, but fires located close to communities – urban interface fires – pose a risk to public safety. In 2015, 50 structures were destroyed during the BC fire season, and the 2016 wildfires in Fort McMurray, Alberta highlighted the destructive and costly force of forest fires. The incidence of wildfires is forecast to increase with hotter, drier seasons, so proactive wildfire management is essential. In too many communities, subdivisions are constructed among the trees and face a serious risk of loss. Work on wildfire risk management and urban interface fires is complicated by multiple jurisdictions and would benefit from improved coordination and planning.

Well-functioning infrastructure is essential to the BC economy, whether it be roads, water mains, sewers, or power lines. Infrastructure is designed to provide services over its lifetime, which may be anything from 10 to 100 years. Climate change presents a range of challenges for infrastructure design, construction, operation and maintenance. The BC Ministry of Transportation is a leader in Canada in incorporating the consideration of climate risks into transportation infrastructure projects. Nevertheless, provincial and community infrastructure faces significant vulnerabilities, and it is essential that climate risk management becomes an integral part of all infrastructure planning.

Climate risks to health are significant and wide ranging, from extreme heat and extreme weather events that result in heat related mortality; respiratory disease from smoke inhalation, and an increase in smog episodes; contamination of food and water due to runoff from heavy rainfall and coastal algae blooms; infectious diseases due to the faster maturation of pathogens and the migration of disease carrying insects and ticks; to the depletion of stratospheric ozone and increased human exposure to UV radiation. All British Columbians will be affected, but seniors, children and infants, the socially and economically disadvantaged, those with chronic diseases and compromised immune systems, and Indigenous people, will be particularly vulnerable.

A BC GREEN GOVERNMENT WILL:

✓ COORDINATE APPROACH TO CLIMATE ADAPTATION

79. Provide \$31 million to fund climate adaptation initiatives, and work with other levels of government to develop a coordinated approach to disaster risk reduction related to a changing climate.

✓ INVEST IN MAPPING & DATA GATHERING

80. Invest in mapping, modelling and data gathering to facilitate climate risk planning, and strengthen platforms for public access and utilization of new information for planning purposes, particularly for local government and private sector.
81. Establish requirements for climate risk and emergency preparedness planning in government agencies; and report annually on progress.
82. Work with communities to develop climate resilience plans that manage development in floodplains and other high risk areas.
83. Support further research into the health impacts of a changing climate in BC, and accelerate the development of risk mitigation plans.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Natural Resources are an integral component of the livelihoods of British Columbians, and community economies and will be for years to come. However, while the biophysical impacts of climate change on ecosystems, forests, agriculture, fisheries and water are quite well understood, there has been limited integration of these risks into planning.

Natural influences are not the only forces affecting our natural assets, the BC Liberals' economic strategy that emphasizes short term corporate profits, is damaging ecosystems and threatening the longterm sustainability of our forests, our water, and our agricultural land.

If we are to sustain our natural assets and build resilience, we need a fundamentally different approach that is inclusive, all encompassing, prudent and manages risks to our asset base before determining short-term bottom line targets.

Communities must be free from bearing the costs of negative environmental impacts and be assured they are benefitting from the exploitation of nearby resources. Mechanisms do exist to fully protect our environment, however, the BC Liberal government has chosen to tie the hands of the Environmental Assessment Office, and has starved conservation officers and other inspectors of desperately needed resources. Reliance on professional consultants, paid by project proponents, has enhanced the potential for conflict of interest and further undermined the integrity of environmental assessment.

How does “Natural resources” support the maximization of health and wellbeing of British Columbians?

Natural resources are the lifeblood of communities outside the Lower Mainland and South Vancouver Island. They are a major source of income and employment, however, development of resources without proper engagement with local communities, including Indigenous People, has been a major source of conflict. The Industrial Permitting and Environmental Assessment processes have been debased by the BC Liberal's 'get to yes' policy and inadequate oversight and inspection cost millions in remediation after incidents like Mount Polley. “Natural resources” focuses on truly sustainable development that happens with the consent of the local communities. Sustainable employment opportunities and the elimination of conflict will be a source of healing, and enhance health and wellbeing in BC's communities

A BC GREEN GOVERNMENT WILL:

✓ IMPLEMENT RESILIENCE PLANNING

84. Make the resilience of our natural asset base a priority and work with industrial sectors that will be impacted by climate change to develop integrated climate risk management and resilience plans to preserve long term economic and environmental sustainability, and promote best practices.

Sectors affected by climate change include forestry, mining, tourism, aquaculture, fisheries, agriculture, and energy. The plans will not only be internal to the industry, but will consider competing interests of the different industries.

✓ ENSURE COMPLIANCE

85. Implement new guidelines for the use of qualified professionals that eliminates the potential for conflict of interest, and work with professional bodies to ensure that codes of conduct for their members are fully enforced.
86. Re-establish the integrity of the Environmental Assessment process and establish clear criteria for decisions that fully factor in sustainability and cumulative impacts.
87. Establish a natural resource sector wide compliance and enforcement (C&E) unit that will be responsible for the continuum of C&E activities from inspections to prosecutions. An additional \$20 million will be allocated to enhance monitoring, compliance and enforcement.
88. Establish a Natural Resource Commissioner who will lead a Natural Resources Board that is responsible for establishing sustainable harvest and extraction levels and reporting on the state of BC's environment and natural assets. The NRB will conducting cumulative impact assessments, and oversee the professional reliance model.
89. Rebuild the scientific and technical capability of the BC Public Service.
90. Reform the governance of the oil and gas sector to remove conflicting interests within the Oil and Gas Commission.

COLLABORATIVE MANAGEMENT WITH FIRST NATIONS

Natural Resource projects in BC are a litany of conflict from which lawyers are the main beneficiaries. Our litigious approach is disrespectful, and a costly deterrent to project development. If we are to successfully and sustainably develop our resources, and resilient First Nations communities, we need a fundamentally different approach that is inclusive, all encompassing, and without a predetermined outcome.

Aboriginal rights and title flow from the Proclamation of 1763 and are affirmed in the 1982 Constitution Act. Aboriginal rights and title, for the most part, have not been resolved by treaty in BC. Successive BC governments have managed resources, often in conflict with First Nation interests, forcing First Nations to fight for their rights in the courts. Courts continue to assert that the obligation to consult with First Nations on resource development is higher than for other British Columbians, even to the point of requiring consent in some circumstances.

Meanwhile, the BC Treaty process, designed to resolve Aboriginal rights and title, has been criticized as too slow and costly when measured against results. Only 6 treaties have been resolved under the process since it was established in the early 1990s. The Nisga'a treaty, a seventh modern treaty negotiated in BC, is technically not included in the BC Treaty Process as negotiations there began before the process was established.

The BC Green Party approach is to build a respectful relationship with Indigenous People that builds true partnership through ongoing dialogue; a commitment to respect court decisions and the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous People; and a commitment to resolve Aboriginal Rights and Title issues. Traditional knowledge will help us shape our response to a changing climate.

A BC GREEN GOVERNMENT WILL:

✓ COMMIT TO COLLABORATIVE STEWARDSHIP OF RESOURCES

91. Recognize First Nations as equals in land management and establish a co-management stewardship model with Indigenous People for the development of provincial resources.

This could include a review of regional resource management structures in cooperation with the First Nations Leadership Council to incorporate First Nations effectively into decision making; and funding to train First Nations people in resource management trades and professions.

92. Collaborate with First Nations and the Federal government to renew and reinvigorate the treaty process.

Ultimately the treaty process will be much more successful once a respectful collaborative relationship is established with First Nations on resource management.

FORESTRY

The BC Green objective is to optimize the value of BC's forests, by recognising multiple values, including carbon sequestration, recreation, soil and water quality, wildlife, biodiversity, Indigenous interests and community health, as well as maximizing the economic contribution of forest fibre, especially for communities and First Nations. We need to use evidence-based approaches to ensure sustainability and resilience of BC's forests and rangelands.

The BC Liberals have largely abdicated responsibility for monitoring, research, oversight, protection, compliance and enforcement to the large forest corporations that control the largest percentage of the annual cut. Forestry experts, environmental organizations, First Nations groups and rural communities are now documenting increasing environmental degradation. BC is now facing a softwood lumber trade dispute alongside a historic shortage of timber supply and resulting employment loss and instability.

A BC GREEN GOVERNMENT WILL:

✓ SUSTAINABLY MANAGE FORESTS AND RANGELANDS LEGISLATION

93. Enact a modern, evidence-based, multi-objective *BC Forest and Range Ecology Act*.

The legislation will implement global best practices in forestry, and be focused on restoring wildlife habitat, improving forest productivity, reforestation, and addressing priority forest health issues. Among other things, it will address First Nations rights, resilience planning and cumulative effects. The legislation will also balance stakeholder interests in the management of rangelands.

✓ PROTECT OLD GROWTH FORESTS FROM FURTHER LOGGING

94. Develop a BC Old-Growth Forest Inventory that will determine reserves and protect BC's old-growth forests.

- Improve the sustainable logging of second-growth forests, which now constitute the majority of forest lands in southern BC.
- Utilize new technologies and the latest science and apply the precautionary principle to timber supply reviews to direct sustainable resource management.

- Develop a comprehensive and updated forest inventory that accommodates changing climate, migration of forest ecosystems, incorporate cumulative effects, and develop future-oriented management strategies to improve productivity and update the comprehensive forest inventory of the province.

✓ CURB THE EXPORT OF RAW LOGS

95. Place further restrictions on the export of raw logs, while recognizing that raw log exports are a symptom of a struggling value-added forest industry and not the cause. Innovative encouragement and enhancement of value-added enterprises and wood processing will be implemented to increase demand in BC for currently exported logs.

✓ PROMOTE VALUE ADDED ENTERPRISES IN THE FOREST INDUSTRY

96. A Green Government will, effective October 1, 2017, remove the PST from purchases of machinery and equipment for modernization, upgrading and new investment in sawmills and other value added wood processing.

✓ MAXIMIZE VALUE FROM OUR FORESTS

97. Establish a Forest Opportunities Panel mandated to identify opportunities for promoting innovation, value added production, independent regional operations and Indigenous enterprises.
98. Invest in a more extensive forest research network to encourage innovation regarding non-traditional uses of wood and the use wood fibre to develop new grades of material for a wide range of products; and to promote advanced wood technologies and building systems.
99. Institute policies to ensure that forest waste is used productively.

✓ MAINTAIN AND EXPAND MARKETS FOR BC FOREST PRODUCTS

100. Promote BC forest products in international markets and support the identification of new markets. We will work cooperatively with the federal government and industry to secure fair, stable and beneficial trade agreements.

✓ MODERNIZE FOREST TENURES

101. Review, collaborate, and modernize forest tenures with a view to promoting innovation, value added, independent regional operations and Indigenous enterprises.

✓ RESILIENT FORESTRY SUPPORTING FIRST NATIONS AND RURAL COMMUNITIES

102. Engage in meaningful consultation and engagement that respects Indigenous resource rights and title, and collaborate with First Nations to build economic, environmental and social opportunities and commercial partnerships in the forest sector; and support more community forests.

103. Support small, rural resource-dependent communities, by building skills and capacity for a future forest industry, promoting investment in economic diversification in rural communities.

Related commitments in other parts of the platform:

A key part of creating resilience is carbon management. From “Climate action”:

125. Implement a forest carbon strategy to take full advantage of the opportunities created by forest sinks.

WATER

Water is essential to life. In most communities in BC, we are accustomed to there being plentiful water for all our needs. In fact, there has always been so much water that we are wasteful in our use of it. But a growing population, climate change, and industrial use are changing the balance. According to POLIS¹², BC is entering an era of water insecurity.

POLIS writes of five unfolding challenges in water management:

1. Building resilience to drought and floods;
2. Sustaining water for nature;
3. Understanding the state of BC's watersheds;
4. Protecting water quality for drinking, swimming and fishing;
5. Reconciling the water-energy nexus.

Water is fundamental to so many aspects of our lives: to agriculture, energy production, transportation, freshwater fisheries, recreation and industrial processes, not to mention drinking and personal use.

In BC, the forecast impacts of climate change on water supply range across the province. Some parts of the province may be subject to extreme rainfall events, while the Southern Interior of BC is at high risk of experiencing extended periods of drought. Each end of the spectrum presents challenges for water infrastructure and quality. Resilient water systems require the infrastructure that channels our storm water, wastewater and drinking water to be capable of withstanding extreme events. Heavy rainfall events can also increase water turbidity and contamination, whereas drought can lead to lower water levels with less dilution, and salination of groundwater in coastal regions.

Growing population and industrial activity place competing pressures on water supplies. The purpose of the 2016 *Water Sustainability Act (WSA)* is, "to ensure a sustainable supply of fresh, clean water that meets the needs of BC residents today and in the future." It is, "the principal law for managing the diversion and use of water resources. The WSA provides important new tools and updates B.C.'s strategy for protecting, managing and using water efficiently throughout the province."¹³

The government is in the process of creating regulations that will implement the Act. Although most agree that the WSA is an improvement on the old *Water Act*, there are some significant gaps,

12 Rosie Sims, Oliver M Brandes (September 2016) POLIS Project on Ecological Governance, Centre for Global Studies, University of Victoria. "Top 5 Water Challenges that will Define British Columbia's Future." (online) <http://poliswaterproject.org/sites/default/files/POLIS-Top5-final-web-v2.pdf> [April 2017]

13 "Water Sustainability Act" Government of BC (online) <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/water/laws-rules/water-sustainability-act> [April 2017]

and the effectiveness of the legislation will be determined by the strength of the accompanying regulations.

Protecting water quality and quantity requires good data to be able to determine the quality of the water, how much is available and to identify where there are problems. It also requires ensuring that all water users, and all activities occurring in close proximity to water sources, follow the requirements to keep the water clean; and there must be strict compliance monitoring, and enforcement when regulations are contravened.

In BC, there have been increasing conflicts over water quality:

- Nicola Valley: dumping of bio solids threatens drinking water;
- Spallumcheen: use of manure over aquifer results in contamination;
- Sunshine Coast, Courtenay: industrial logging negatively impacting drinking water;
- Shawnigan: contaminated landfill in watershed;
- Campbell River and Harrison Mills: proposed contaminated landfill sites near drinking water.

The BC Liberals are beholden to industry and are forsaking their responsibilities to protect the environment and communities. They have chosen to take short-term financial benefits for select industries (oil, gas, mining, forestry) that will result in long-term financial hardships for communities and for all of BC.

All communities in BC have a right to have their drinking water protected. Vancouver and Victoria manage their own watersheds using models based on science. Water quality depends on protection of watersheds and industrial activity undermines safety and quality of water.

Both energy and water are essential to the functioning of communities and economies in BC, but major controversies have arisen around large scale hydro, run of river hydro and fracking. The water we use comes from the atmosphere, the snow and ice on our mountains, and the ground beneath us. All of these sources are at risk from changing climate and increased water extraction, and may compromise our ability to meet future growing energy demands, particularly in drought years. A warming planet will also increase energy demands.

Resilient water management is essential to the future health and wellbeing of British Columbians.

A BC GREEN GOVERNMENT WILL:

✓ DEVELOP RESILIENT WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

104. Work with professional associations and local governments to ensure that the design of stormwater, wastewater and drinking water infrastructure fully accounts for the risks of a changing climate.

✓ ENSURE A SUSTAINABLE WATER SUPPLY

105. Review the water allocation and licensing provisions of the Water Sustainability Act to ensure that they fully protect BC's water quality and quantity, so that it is sustainable for future generations.

106. Initiate comprehensive, province-wide water and watershed planning in collaboration with local governments, First Nations, and other government agencies, stewardship organizations, water use sectors and community stakeholders. The plans will address water supply and demand, protecting drinking water quality, integration of land use planning and water and watershed planning, conflicting water use demands.

107. Enhance data gathering and analysis of water quantity and quality to enable science based decision-making.

AGRICULTURE & FOOD SECURITY

BC currently produces less than half of its own food needs. With population growth, we need to increase the area of irrigated farm land significantly just to maintain the current level of self-reliance through to the year 2025.

Data from the 2011 Census of Agriculture show that total farm area in British Columbia decreased 7.9% between 2006 and 2011 to 6.5 million acres.

We seem to be going in the wrong direction.

The changing climate is bringing the security of the supply of food from California and Mexico into question. Nearly 70% of our vegetables come from the US, with half of that coming from California. Add to that a significant increase in the population of California over the next 10 years that will require feeding, and our food supply is becoming increasingly tenuous.

But growing our own food is not just about security of supply, it is about communities and jobs. There were nearly 30,000 farm operators in BC in 2011, but, of significant concern, the average age of farm operators was over 55, and less than 6% were under the age of 35. Many farms report difficulty in getting workers, as young people do not seem to view farming as a viable or desirable career option that will enable them to support a family.

We need to support both large and small farm operations, but should shift emphasis away from grazing and hay, to vegetables. More than 60% of crop land is hay, and only a little over 1% is vegetables.

For too long, the emphasis has been on promoting the expansion of high value crops such as vineyards. The area of wine grapes in BC grew from 4,184 acres in 1999 to 10,260 acres in 2014, a 145% increase. More than 80% of vineyard are in the Okanagan. While this may support economic growth, it does nothing for food security.

On top of this, farmland is under threat from developers and speculators who seek to build on farmland to turn a profit. This must change.

Investing in agriculture presents a major opportunity to create new, and meaningful jobs, to rebuild communities and secure BC's food supply.

Our plan is to make significant investment in BC's agricultural sector:

- Enhance access to farmland and develop new models of farm tenure;
- Increase production of food in BC, and enhance food security;
- Increase the number of British Columbians choosing farming as a career option;
- Address labour shortages;
- Build strong communities.

A BC GREEN GOVERNMENT WILL:

✓ INVEST IN A SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE SECTOR

108. Invest \$30 million to enhance the long-term viability of the agricultural sector so that it will provide an increasing proportion of the food consumed by people in BC. This will include incentives to produce food on Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) land, the establishment of agricultural apprenticeship programs at the secondary and postsecondary levels, and greater advertising and awareness of BC produce and products through expansion of buy-local initiatives.

✓ PROTECT THE AGRICULTURAL LAND RESERVE

109. Introduce new legislation to enhance the protection of agricultural land, and to increase the proportion of ALR land in use for agricultural purposes. The legislation will address property speculation, the use of ALR for non-agricultural uses and the construction of mega-mansions and country estates on ALR.

✓ PROVIDE EXPERTISE TO SUPPORT FARMERS TO ADAPT TO A CHANGING CLIMATE

110. Provide \$40 million to fund research, and establish regional agricultural bureaus to provide expertise and support to local farmers to adapt to a changing climate.

✓ PROMOTE NEW MODELS OF FARMING TENURES

111. Collaborate with Indigenous People, the not-for-profit sector, and other land interests to enhance access to land for farming. Alternative land access models such as cooperatives and agricultural land trusts and land sharing agreements will be explored.

✓ IMPROVE THE ATTRACTIVENESS OF FARMING AS A CAREER IN BC

112. Work with farm operators to introduce measures to address labour shortages in agriculture, including improvements to remuneration for agricultural workers.

Strategy for CLIMATE ACTION

Reducing our greenhouse gas emissions shows genuine leadership, benefits the environment, takes advantage of new business opportunities and increases the efficiency of our traditional resource industries. It is a chance to re-think our towns and cities, building new energy efficient communities. Investments in clean energy, clean transportation as well as building retrofit programs and innovative solid and liquid waste management initiatives reduce emissions and create employment opportunities.

While Christy Clark's Liberals chase 20th century mega projects and hope for economic miracles, they are failing to invest in the opportunities presented by new technology and a changing climate.

The BC Liberals' strategy is fixated on LNG plants that employ very few people when operational, and the unnecessary and destructive Site C project. Their outdated, enthrallment with gigantic, environmentally damaging projects is breath-taking.

Our "Strategy for climate action" is set out in full in "Appendix I". Specific implementation details will be worked out in consultation with experts. The strategy is intimately connected with our green economy and resilience

strategies: together they form the building blocks for a strong, sustainable economy.

The strategy sets out how we will go about meeting targets that are set in legislation for greenhouse gas emissions reductions.

BC established targets for reducing emissions in the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets Act (GGRTA) which set targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 33 percent below 2007 level by 2020, and 80 percent below 2007 levels by 2050. The BC Liberals failed to take the necessary action to ensure we will meet our 2020 target, therefore, it is necessary to set a new target, and to take decisive action to make it happen.

The central pillar of our strategy is putting a price on carbon that maintains the impetus to reduce consumption of fossil fuels. We are also proposing actions for each of four pathways to achieving reductions:

1. Behaviour change;
2. Efficiency;
3. Low carbon fuels and materials;
4. Sinks.

A BC GREEN GOVERNMENT WILL:

✓ SET ACHIEVABLE TARGETS

113. Amend the *Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets Act* to reflect an interim target of 40% reduction below 2007 levels by 2030.
114. Establish an emissions reduction target for carbon neutral government and allow public sector agencies to invest in internal emissions reductions, rather than requiring the purchase of external offsets to achieve carbon neutrality for government.

✓ UPDATE THE CARBON TAX

115. Progressively increase the carbon tax:
 - By \$10 per year for four years beginning January 1, 2018;
 - Starting on January 1, 2018, extend the carbon tax to fugitive and vented emissions. The initial rate will be \$10 per tonne rising to \$50 per tonne by 2021;
 - Starting on January 1, 2020, apply the fugitive rate for the carbon tax at \$36 per tonne to forest slash pile burning.

How does “Climate Leadership” support the health and wellbeing of British Columbians?

Addressing global warming presents multiple opportunities to protect and enhance health and wellbeing. Economic opportunities will be created as we develop technologies to displace fossil fuels; we can expand our agriculture and agrifood industry to increase food security, and benefit from longer growing seasons; we can supply clean and green electricity to British Columbians and others in the Pacific Northwest. Our communities will be enriched as we create complete, compact, energy-efficient neighbourhoods, and air quality will improve as we burn less fossil fuel.

✓ FACILITATE BEHAVIOUR CHANGE

- 116. Expand the provision of public information regarding ways to reduce carbon emissions; and, direct existing communications resources to make information and advice available to support the identification of low carbon options, their costs and benefits.
- 117. Promote choices with a lower carbon footprint.
- 118. Facilitate modal switching.

✓ PROMOTE EFFICIENCY

- 119. Require commercial and industrial operators to ensure the efficient operation of equipment and vehicles.
- 120. Ensure that new buildings are energy efficient; and, introduce measures to ensure that the upfront cost of an energy efficiency upgrade does not form a barrier to retrofitting existing homes and commercial facilities.
- 121. Promote efficient community design by enhancing requirements for integrated regional planning, and the consideration of the cumulative impacts on GHG emissions of regional and local government plans.

✓ SUPPORT THE TRANSITION TO LOW CARBON FUELS & MATERIALS

- 122. Revisit the mandate of B.C. Hydro to optimise support for clean energy development, including grid storage for community or privately generated power.
- 123. Work with neighbouring jurisdictions to expedite the phase out of thermal electricity generation.
- 124. Introduce progressively more stringent requirements to adopt low carbon fuels.

✓ ENHANCE OUR CARBON SINKS

- 125. Implement a forest carbon strategy to take full advantage of the opportunities created by forest sinks.
- 126. Invest \$29 million over four years to enhance the scientific understanding of the effects of climate change in B.C.; and, to support forest carbon management initiatives as part of the greenhouse gas emissions reduction strategy.

RESETTING THE RELATIONSHIP

Once trust has been broken, rebuilding it is very hard. Successive governments have asked British Columbians to trust them to be different, and then gone back to the same old behaviour.

The BC Greens believe that to reset the relationship, we must shift both the way we do business as government and our attitudes. We need to be honest. If the government is to provide high quality goods and services, there is a cost involved that we will pay one way or another – through taxes, levies or user fees. The BC Liberals have maintained a charade of fiscal prudence, balancing budgets through sleight-of-hand, and choosing tax cuts to corporations and the wealthy over essential services and investment in public infrastructure. We are paying for these decisions now as we deal with homelessness, child poverty, mental health issues, failing transportation systems and decaying public infrastructure.

We need to take back government from vested interests and cynical political calculation, take full ownership of our province and its assets, and manage them as if they were our personal assets.

Strategy for GOVERNMENT YOU CAN TRUST

BC politics is viewed with contempt by many people tired of the adversarial, “you’re either with us or you’re against us” mentality. They feel politicians do not represent or work for them, that they are only concerned about satisfying the wishes of corporate and union donors, and not the needs of ordinary people.

This disconnect leads to low voter turnout and a lack of trust in politicians and the system. The major parties have been far more concerned with scoring points and getting elected than with the health and wellbeing of British Columbians. The BC Liberal government’s calculated use of public resources to promote their own ends has reached new heights: government advertising has ballooned since the new year and 2017 budget handouts are a cynical attempt to buy people’s votes with their own money.

Trust will only be rebuilt by demonstrated trustworthiness, and that may take years. Developing an annual performance scorecard that charts the government’s progress in

transparency, accountability and the management of the assets and business of the province will give the public an independent assessment of how the government is doing and how it can improve its connection with British Columbians.

Democratic reform will enhance representation and encourage collaboration between political parties.

People also do not trust what government is measuring. They are skeptical about growth statistics the BC Liberals and NDP have bandied about for years. They are told the economy is growing, yet feel it is increasingly difficult to pay the bills. They are more likely to be downwardly mobile than upwardly mobile. Part of this situation is due to the focus on gross domestic product (GDP). GDP has severe limitations as it only measures aggregate income growth in dollars. This matters because what we measure we pay attention to. If we are going to enhance the health and wellbeing of British Columbians, we need a measure that reflects the health and wellbeing of British Columbians.

A BC GREEN GOVERNMENT WILL:

✓ REFORM POLITICAL FINANCE LAWS

127. Ban monetary and non-monetary contributions from non-individual entities (including corporations and unions) and non-residents of BC.
128. Place annual limits on individual contributions that are in line with current federal limits.
129. Ban members of the Executive Council (Cabinet) from engaging in partisan fundraising activities while in office and explore similar restrictions for all MLAs.

✓ REIN IN LOBBYING

130. Institute a multi-year prohibition on lobbying for former Senior Public Office Holders (SPOH), similar to federal prohibitions in the Lobbying Act, 2008.
131. Increase penalties for violations of the Lobbyists Registration Act, similar to federal standards in the *Lobbying Act*.
132. Conduct a comprehensive review of the Lobbyists Registration Act, including the Office of the Registrar of Lobbyists' mandate, to ensure that our democratic institutions and the interests of British Columbians are adequately protected from the influence of special interests.

How does “Government you can trust” support the maximization of the health and wellbeing of British Columbians?

Democratic reform will empower people to take control of factors that affect their health and wellbeing. Through engagement in the political process, British Columbians will have greater direct influence over issues which will alleviate the feelings of frustration, alienation and distrust that people have in the system.

✓ INSTITUTE ELECTORAL REFORM

133. Introduce proportional representation, and lower the voting age to 16.

134. Shift the fixed date of the provincial election to October.

✓ ESTABLISH TRANSPARENCY & ACCOUNTABILITY

135. Establish a public watchdog to oversee government advertising and communications.

136. Work with the Auditor General of BC to develop a performance scorecard for Government.

137. Introduce legislation to establish a Provincial Budget Officer to provide independent and objective analysis to the Legislative Assembly on the state of the province's finances, the government's estimates and economic trends and to estimate the financial cost of any proposal for matters within the Legislative Assembly's jurisdiction.

✓ BUILD RELATIONSHIPS WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

138. Engage with Indigenous People to create a positive and collaborative relationship.

139. Develop a plan, in cooperation with the First Nations Leadership Council to implement all relevant recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

✓ EMPOWER LOCAL GOVERNMENT

140. Collaborate with local governments to ensure delivery of key services is delegated to the appropriate level and will allocate \$87 million over four years towards the delivery of community services downloaded on local governments over the past 16 years.

141. Support local governments' greenhouse gas emission reduction initiatives by investing \$80 million over 4 years in green transportation infrastructure, climate adaptation measures, and building efficiency initiatives.

✓ MEASURE REAL PROGRESS

142. Develop a genuine progress indicator for British Columbia covering a range of indicators based on the social determinants of health. The indicators will be developed in consultation with business and industry, communities, not-for-profit organizations and individuals.¹⁴

¹⁴ See Appendix II, "The indicators"

Strategy for PUBLIC ASSETS, INFRASTRUCTURE & TRANSPORTATION

Re-establishing the connection between the people of British Columbia and their public assets is a major objective of the BC Greens. The BC Liberals have tried to drive a wedge between people and their assets. They have characterized investment in public assets as a dead weight on the economy, and convinced many government's role should be to slash services and costs.

The BC Greens see the role of government as steward, to nurture and develop our assets for the benefit of all British Columbians.

The BC Liberals have treated public assets as theirs, "treats" to be given out as a sign of their benevolence. An example: the construction of roads and bridges is highly visible and is usually ramped up just before an election. Note the timing of the commencement of the McKenzie Interchange in Victoria and the Massey Tunnel replacement. It is a cynical use of public assets for political gain and it needs to change.

Several features of current asset management give cause for concern:

- Use of Public Private Partnerships to keep debt off the books may be costing millions more than if the province borrowed the funds directly;
- The sale of Crown land and other

**THINK LIKE AN OWNER, INVEST
IN YOUR ASSETS, AND REAP THE
BENEFITS FOR YEARS TO COME.**

- BC GREENS SUPPORTER

public assets to balance the budget;

- Inadequate investment in maintenance has prematurely depreciated the value of many assets;
- Inadequate investment in public transportation, social assets such as social housing, mental health facilities, and addictions centres, seismic upgrading of schools and maintenance of parks;
- Inadequate funding to operate key facilities;
- Interference in TransLink and financing for the transportation plans for Greater Vancouver.

Managing assets for the benefit of British Columbians rather than short term, political ends is essential to regaining public trust in government. Applying sustainability principles to public assets will provide valuable services to people and ensure the benefits are enjoyed for years to come.

A BC GREEN GOVERNMENT WILL:

✓ INVEST IN FREQUENT, AFFORDABLE PUBLIC TRANSIT

143. Provide an additional \$25 million per year to address frequency of service and affordable fares;

✓ LEVERAGE FEDERAL FUNDING

144. Invest an additional \$152 million in capital expenditures to fully match the federal contribution of \$460 million for the public transit infrastructure.

✓ FUND PUBLIC TRANSIT

145. Work with local governments to address funding for community and regional transportation infrastructure, and will examine tools such as mobility pricing to manage congestion and generate funds for public transportation upgrades.

✓ INVEST IN CLEAN TECHNOLOGY

146. Promote investment in clean transportation initiatives and technology that creates jobs and economic activity without increasing greenhouse gas emissions.

How does “Public assets, infrastructure & transportation” support the maximization of the health and wellbeing of British Columbians?

Public assets cover a wide range – schools, roads, hospitals, courthouses, ferries, crown land, parks and protected areas, as well as publicly owned companies such as BC Hydro, ICBC, and the Liquor Distribution Branch. They include trees, oil and gas, metals and minerals and water. They are also important sources of revenue and employment that enhance the lives of British Columbians.

✓ INTEGRATE SUSTAINABILITY INTO PLANNING

147. Develop sustainability criteria, including consideration of cumulative impacts, that will be applied to all future capital projects including transportation infrastructure investments.

✓ CREATE A NEW 10-YEAR INTEGRATED TRANSPORTATION PLAN

148. Develop a new 10-year, integrated transportation plan focused on affordable, clean transportation for British Columbians.

✓ SUPPORT THE GVRD TRANSPORTATION PLAN

149. Empower Greater Vancouver mayors to implement a regional green transportation plan.

- Support the mayors' 10-year plan to upgrade Metro Vancouver's transportation system;
- Suspend work on the Massey Tunnel replacement pending a comprehensive and transparent review of alternatives, in cooperation with the Mayor's Council;
- Work with Metro Vancouver Mayors to develop and implement a rational tolling system to manage congestion; to amortize the cost of the Port Mann and Golden Ears bridges; and finance the region's share of the mayors' plan; and
- Match Federal funding for the mayors' plan.

✓ BUILD A NEW BC FERRIES CROWN CORPORATION

150. Bring BC Ferries back into government as a Crown Corporation, and will conduct a full review of BC Ferries operations focused on providing an efficient, public service for British Columbians, and the role of ferries in BC's transportation network.

✓ ENSURE VALUE FOR MONEY

151. Request a full audit of projects carried out as Public Private Partnerships to determine whether they are cost effective.

✓ REVIEW PLANNED CONSTRUCTION

152. Revisit the current capital investment plan and determine whether the current plan meets the priorities of the BC Greens, including those for construction of schools,

seismic upgrading, investment in long term care beds and affordable housing.

✓ ENHANCE OUR NATURAL ASSETS

153. Invest up to \$28 million over four years for recreation and tourism facilities in BC's parks and on public land.
154. Invest \$52 million over four years to maintain the productivity and usability of land, including: conservation, reclamation, agriculture and range and dykes.

THE FISCAL PLAN

The BC Greens believe a fundamental overhaul of taxation is required. Over the past 16 years there has been a steady growth in regressive taxation that harms the less well-off to the benefit of the wealthy. This is compounded as per capita government spending in real terms has fallen, causing cuts to social supports and adequate investment in education and healthcare.

In addition, the tax “system” was built piecemeal over many years with new measures layered over old. There are conflicting objectives, market distortions and perverse incentives, and ultimately the system is inefficient, cumbersome and unfair.

The much-vaunted tax cuts brought in by the BC Liberals have disproportionately benefited the richest British Columbians. Households with incomes over \$400,000 – the richest 1% – have been the biggest beneficiaries, with an average tax cut of \$39,000 per year, while those in the bottom 50% have saved only an average of \$53 once all taxes including income, sales, MSP, fuel, carbon and property taxes are added up. Hundreds of thousands of lower-income families with household incomes between \$20,000 and \$43,500 have seen their taxes increase since 2000.¹⁵ Worse still, regressive taxes are taking an increasing share of the poorest people’s income.

An overhaul of the tax system will be a multi-year project and will require extensive consultation and collaboration with other levels of government and the public.

The BC Liberals have not been honest with British Columbians. Cutting spending does not always save money. It costs more money to put things right when they have gone wrong than to avoid the damage in the first place. Rising crime, the inability to bring criminals to justice, the fentanyl crisis, homelessness, increasing mental illness and decaying infrastructure could all have been mitigated if the government had been prepared to invest in the health and wellbeing of British Columbians. The cost of these cuts will burden British Columbians for years to come. If BC had kept the ratio of spending to GDP at 2001 levels instead of cutting taxes and programs, BC would have an additional \$8.6 billion to spend in 2016/17.

A new approach to fiscal responsibility is required.

¹⁵ Alex Hemingway, Iglia Ivanova (February 2017) Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. “Tax fairness in BC? Hardly” (online) <http://www.policynote.ca/unfair/> [April 2017]

A BC GREEN GOVERNMENT WILL:

✓ REFORM THE TAX CODE

155. Establish a working group to develop proposals for an overhaul of the tax system that will reverse the trend to regressive taxation, streamline and simplify the tax system, and remove perverse incentives and distortionary effects. The working group will present its preliminary report by June 2018, to inform the 2019 budget process.
156. Begin the transition to tax fairness by increasing the share of taxation contributed by those earning over \$108,460 per year over four years by 1% in 2017/18, rising to 3% in 2020/21.
157. Increase the general corporate tax rate to 12%.

✓ INTRODUCE A TAX SHIFT

158. Develop options to shift taxes in order to incentivize choices that benefit society and disincentivize choices that are harmful and costly.

✓ ELIMINATE BOUTIQUE TAX CREDITS

159. Eliminate boutique tax credits that are ineffective in achieving their stated policy ends.

✓ INTRODUCE A FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT

160. Introduce a *Fiscal Responsibility Act* that requires the BC Budget to be balanced on average, over a government's term of office to accommodate a downturn in revenue without cuts to programs.¹⁶
161. Require retailers and other sellers to display the tax-included price of products and services to support consumer decision-making.

¹⁶ The *Balanced Budget and Ministerial Accountability Act* will be repealed.

Related commitments in other parts of the platform:

From “Covering the basics”:

27. Roll MSP payments into the payroll tax and personal income tax to ensure that they are administered in a more equitable and progressive manner.

From “Sustainable enterprise”:

15. Work with the federal government to streamline business and consumption taxes to avoid distorting effects on business investment decisions and to promote risk taking and innovation.

From “Climate action”:

115. Progressively increase the carbon tax:
 - By \$10 per year for four years beginning January 1, 2018;
 - Starting on January 1, 2018, extend the carbon tax to fugitive and vented emissions. The initial rate will be \$10 per tonne rising to \$50 per tonne by 2021;
 - Starting on January 1, 2020, apply the fugitive rate for the carbon tax at \$36 per tonne to forest slash pile burning.

From “Affordable homes”:

30. Discourage speculation by:
 - Enhancing the progressive nature of the Property Transfer Tax (PTT) by introducing a sliding scale of rates from 0% on properties under \$200,000 to 12% on properties over \$3.0 million (see below);
 - Applying the PTT to the transfer of beneficial ownership;
 - Introducing a “speculation” PTT to discourage flipping of property;
 - Expanding the foreign buyers tax to apply across the province, and increase the rate to 30% in addition to the PTT payable;
 - Introducing measures to tax lifetime capital gains in excess of \$750,000 on principal residences;
 - Working with financial institutions and the federal government to develop protections for recent homebuyers who are negatively affected by market cooling initiatives.

33. Expand the carbon tax to cover non-combustion sources and implement sustained, annual increases to the carbon tax as part of a comprehensive plan to meet BC’s greenhouse gas reduction targets.

THE BOTTOM LINE

We have calculated the costs of our platform commitments over the four years of our mandate. Table 3 lays out the estimated costs, and identifies the estimated revenues and their sources.

After 16 years of program cuts by the BC Liberals, many programs are underfunded to the point of failing to meet their objectives. Building effective programs to meet the needs of the 21st century will take time.

We estimate that our proposed initiatives would result in an average annual increase in expenditure over and above Budget 2017 introduced by the BC Liberal government in February 2017, of less than 6%.

Even with this additional expenditure, BC will continue to have the lowest public sector funding of any province. Statistics Canada data¹⁷ shows that spending would have to increase by \$4.9 billion from the 2015/16 level to match the level of the next lowest spending province, Ontario, and \$11.9 billion to match funding in Alberta. Our proposals will add an average of \$3.2 billion per year, and have us spending the least of any Canadian province per capita.

Our revenue plan covers the full four years of the mandate. Additional proposed expenditures will be funded through a combination of measures directed at various sources of revenue. Throughout this platform, we have identified many actions related to government revenue sources, such as personal and corporate taxes, tax shift, carbon tax, and tax restructuring initiatives. These changes will take effect over several years, as we shift to a more progressive tax system.

We will balance the budget over the course of our four-year mandate.

Our revenue estimates are based on information from the government's *Budget and Fiscal Plan 2017/18 - 2019/20*. We have built our budget using 2017/18 as the base year. Estimates for 2020/21 are based on government projections and assumptions regarding growth rates.

¹⁷ "Canadian Government Finance Statistics (CGFS), statement of operations and balance sheet for consolidated governments (Table 385-0042)" Statistics Canada (online) <http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/cansim/a26?lang=eng&id=3850042> [April 2017]

Estimated costs	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Lifelong learning	787	2,091	2,768	2,897
Emerging economy	45	90	90	90
Income security	109	533	690	848
Affordable homes	30	100	100	100
Healthy lives	61	128	128	98
Public safety	5	15	20	25
Natural resources	15	88	88	90
Green economy	45	125	125	140
Resetting the relationship	40	40	40	47
Climate action	5	7	7	10
Transportation	12	25	25	25
Assets & infrastructure	20	20	20	20
Total estimated costs	1,174	3,262	4,101	4,390

Estimated revenue	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Carbon tax annual increases of \$10/tonne	50	265	530	865
Revenue to replace MSP premiums	210	810	780	810
Personal tax measures to increase the share of taxes paid by those earning over \$100,000/year	60	200	250	275
Corporate tax increase by 1%	125	250	275	275
Housing measures to combat speculation	250	500	500	500
Room within existing fiscal plan (based on government estimates for revenue growth and contingency)	345	500	825	800
Tax shift, tax reform and adjustments to tax credits	-	150	325	450
Natural resource rents, fees, licenses	-	100	125	150
Internal repurposing	155	340	420	460
Total estimated revenue	1,195	3,115	4,030	4,585
Balance	21	-146	-71	195

*Totals do not add due to rounding.

CAPITAL

Our capital commitments are modest:

Capital plan (\$ millions)				
	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Affordable housing	-	620	620	620
Long-term care	-	40	40	40
Public transit	50	51	51	-
Total	50	711	711	660

We have committed to reviewing the current government's capital plan and to determine whether all planned capital expenditures align with our priorities. This will dictate how much additional borrowing will be required, if any, for capital purposes.

APPENDIX I: CLIMATE ACTION STRATEGY

In 2007, BC became a global leader in climate action. The province developed a bold climate action plan to meet ambitious targets, guided by experts. It was grounded in science, based on reliable evidence and included a suite of measures that were estimated to take BC well over halfway to meeting its targets.

Under Christy Clark, BC's climate leadership position has evaporated as the BC Liberals have failed to fund energy efficiency programs and transit expansions, have halted the progress of the carbon tax, and have committed her government to a high-emissions, low-job strategy of natural gas exports.

In April 2015, a new Climate Leadership Team (CLT) consisting of leaders from BC businesses, First Nations, local governments, academia, and the environmental sector was assembled to provide advice and recommendations to government on a new Climate Action Plan.

The CLT's mandate was to provide advice and recommendations on:

- How to maintain BC's climate leadership;
- Updates to the current Climate Action Plan as well as new programs and policies required to achieve British Columbia's greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets within the context of economic growth, B.C.'s LNG Strategy and the B.C. Jobs Plan;
- Actions to achieve GHG reductions required across the industrial sector, transportation sector and built environment;
- How to further the province's government-to-government relationships with First Nations while constructively finding climate solutions;
- How to further the Province's collaboration with local governments within the context of mutually-beneficial climate actions.

One of the key recommendations from the CLT was to increase the carbon tax. In 2016, when the BC Liberals introduced a new climate action plan, this recommendation was completely rejected. They claim their plan will result in 25 million tonnes in carbon dioxide equivalent reductions, although it contains no baseline or business-as-usual scenario to indicate whether they are meeting their targets. At the same time, the plan touts an LNG industry that would (if it ever came to fruition) almost double BC's emissions.

Many of the initiatives recommended by the CLT are reflected in our Climate Action Strategy (CAS), and their recommendations will be considered in developing the implementation plan for our strategy.

Our CAS is focused on emissions reductions, with a goal of meeting or beating legislated emission reduction targets.

OUR APPROACH

For change to occur, we need to leverage low carbon options that are:

- Available, i.e. a viable, low or lower carbon substitute currently exists;
- Affordable, i.e. the cost of the substitute is not a barrier to its use;
- Acceptable, i.e. the user sees the substitute as an equally acceptable product or service, and the social costs of the action are not borne by the most vulnerable in society;

while taking advantage of the economic opportunities created by responding to climate change.

Awareness is key to ensuring that government policies to affect availability, affordability and acceptability are effective. The emissions reduction strategy (ERS) employs progressively more stringent public policy prescriptions ranging from information and advice, incentives, and penalties, to regulations and economic instruments such as the carbon tax.

Our strategy is focused on 4 pathways to greenhouse gas reductions:

1. Behaviour change (demand);
2. Efficiency;
3. Low-carbon fuels and materials;
4. Sinks.

THE TARGETS

The *Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets Act* (GGRTA) which came into force in January 2008, set aggressive legislated targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Under the act, BC's GHG emissions were to be reduced by at least 33 per cent below 2007 levels by 2020 and, 80 per cent below 2007 levels by 2050.

Interim reduction targets of six per cent by 2012, and 18 per cent by 2016 were also set. BC would likely have exceeded the 2012 target had it not been for the economic crash in 2008/2009. As it was, the government claimed to have met the target, but in order to do so had to include

offsets purchased to achieve carbon neutrality in public sector operations in the accounting.

The purpose of interim targets is to provide a check point to assess the effectiveness of policies, and whether they need fine-tuning or ramping up in order to meet the next milestone. The government responded to meeting the 2012 target with indifference and inaction, even though it was already known at that time that emissions were rising. Although data for 2016 emissions will not be available until 2018, we know that the 2016 target was not met²², although we do not know by how much.

The Climate Leadership Team acknowledged that it is not possible to meet the 2020 target, and recommended the establishment of an interim target of a 40 per cent reduction below 2007 levels by 2030. The BC Greens believe this is a realistic target that can be met with immediate and decisive action.

- 113. Amend the *Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets Act* (GGRTA) to reflect an interim target of a 40 per cent reduction below 2007 levels by 2030.

Our Emissions Reduction Strategy (ERS) is designed to meet the legislated reduction of 80 per cent below 2007 levels by 2050, with an interim target of 40 per cent by 2030. Table 1 indicates what this means in terms of actual reductions from 2014 levels:

Year	Target	Actual emissions (MT) ²	Permitted emissions (MT)	Emission reductions required based on last actual (MT)
2007	Base year	66.3	-	-
2012	-6%	63.7	62.3	4.0
2014	N/A	64.5	N/A	N/A
2030	-40%	N/A	39.8	24.7 ³
2050	-80%	N/A	13.3	26.5

To meet the 2030 target, we must reduce emissions of greenhouse gases by 24.7MT, or by an average of 1.9MT per year.

Measuring GHG emissions is something of an art. The science has, however, come a long way over the last 10 years and techniques to estimate emissions are improving, especially for fugitive emissions, and forest carbon sources and sinks. Recalibrating the provincial emissions inventory to include other land use, including forest management, is an important step towards better emissions management.

The ERS is focused on meeting the 2030 emission reduction target. That does not mean

²² Emissions in 2014, the last date for which GHG emissions data are available, had increased above 2012 levels. See <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/climate-change/data/provincial-inventory> for details of 2014 emissions.

²³ MT = megatonne. A Megatonne is equal to one million metric tonnes.

²⁴ Reduction required from 2014 level, which was higher than 2012.

it is business as usual until 2029, then we turn everything off for a year and proudly claim victory. It is important to understand that the impacts of carbon on the atmosphere are cumulative. Carbon emitted today will affect the climate for hundreds of years to come.

Meeting the 2030 target can only be considered a success if it is part of a declining trend in emissions that sets us up for successfully meeting the 2050 target and the future low carbon economy.

TECHNOLOGY

Technology is an enabler for each of the four paths. It is the big unknown in planning for GHG reductions. Development, in terms of new processes, materials and energy sources, as well as the potential for reductions from efficiency gains in existing technology, are hard to forecast. Technological research, development and commercialization offer great business opportunities for BC companies. Major areas of opportunity include: new materials, energy production, biofuels development, and carbon capture and storage.

The BC Greens plan to provide additional funding to promote research into technologies that will support greenhouse gas reduction initiatives.

13. Invest \$120 million over four years for partnerships with industry, academic institutions and other levels of government to support research, development and commercialization of climate friendly technologies and implement innovative ways to achieve desired environmental outcomes.

The BC Greens take the position that, while new technology may ultimately be useful in reducing emissions, it cannot be guaranteed to be adopted fast enough to save the planet from catastrophic warming, therefore, immediate action is required.

We recognise that action by BC alone will not save the world, but, by acting now, we will be in control of our own destiny and will be able to manage the transition to a low carbon economy. We can inspire action by other jurisdictions and address intergenerational equity. We will also be able to take advantage of the opportunities the shift presents, including opportunities to develop and commercialise climate friendly technologies.

CARBON TAX

It is widely acknowledged that a carbon tax is the prime tool for promoting reduced carbon emissions. The BC carbon tax was very successful in bringing about behavioural change during the first five years

of its existence, when the rate was increasing annually. However, since Christy Clark froze the tax in 2013, the effectiveness of the tax has been eroded by inflation, such that the Liberals are now treating the carbon tax as a source of revenue rather than a policy instrument designed to reduce emissions.

If the carbon tax is working properly, then revenue from the tax should go down as less carbon is emitted. This gives a short-term gain in revenues, which should be invested to facilitate the low carbon economy. The current carbon tax is theoretically revenue neutral, meaning that the revenue is returned to businesses and consumers in the form of reduced tax rates. Recent studies have shown that the BC carbon tax is not all being returned in the form of reductions and can no longer be considered revenue neutral.

Recognizing the temporary nature of the revenue from a carbon tax, a BC Green government will formally end the commitment to revenue neutrality, and will, instead, focus on short term investments that will facilitate low carbon options.

115. Progressively increase the carbon tax:

- By \$10 per year for four years beginning January 1, 2018;
- Starting on January 1, 2018, extend the carbon tax to fugitive and vented emissions. The initial rate will be \$10 per tonne rising to \$50 per tonne by 2021;
- Starting on January 1, 2020, apply the fugitive rate for the carbon tax at \$36 per tonne to forest slash pile burning.

	Combustion \$/tonne	Fugitive \$/tonne
2017 (current)	30	0
2018	40	10
2019	50	23
2020	60	36
2021	70	50

A BC Green government will also act to protect those on low incomes from any adverse effects of the carbon tax increases.

OTHER CARBON PRICING MECHANISMS

Emissions trading was envisaged as a key mechanism for reducing emissions from large emitters in the 2008 Climate Action Plan. The Greenhouse Gas Reduction (Cap and Trade) Act was repealed in 2014, and the BC Liberals have no plans to implement cap and trade. Given the mixed success of cap and trade systems across the world, and the proposed increases in the BC Carbon tax, it is not clear that additional pricing initiatives are necessary. Carbon pricing, along with all other initiatives, will be reviewed on an ongoing basis to determine effectiveness and whether additional initiatives are required.

CARBON-NEUTRAL GOVERNMENT

A key initiative under the 2008 climate action plan was carbon neutral government. It was designed to show leadership, as well as to reduce the carbon footprint of government. Core government ministries, as well as school districts, health authorities and other public sector agencies are required to minimise their emissions, and to purchase offsets for any emissions that occur. The combination of the carbon tax and the requirement to purchase offsets put pressure on public sector budgets, which caused much concern. Government took action to provide funding to reduce this burden, however, the BC Greens consider the requirement to purchase offsets to be counter-productive when the funding that would be used to purchase the offsets could be invested in emissions reductions in public sector facilities or operations.

- 114. Establish an emissions reduction target for carbon neutral government and allow public sector agencies to invest in internal emissions reductions, rather than requiring the purchase of external offsets to achieve carbon neutrality for government.

PATHWAYS TO GHG EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS

It should be noted that we have identified many examples of actions that could be taken in order to move along the reduction pathways. It is not intended that all of these initiatives will be employed. In implementing this strategy, we will employ those mechanisms that will deliver the lowest cost reductions first. The effectiveness of actions will be monitored and assessed on an annual basis, and policies adjusted accordingly in order to keep us on track to meeting our targets.

I. BEHAVIOUR CHANGE

If we are to meet our targets, we must:

1. Make an absolute reduction in emissions from current levels;
2. Avoid any further increases in emissions associated with population or economic growth.

How individuals behave – their personal choices, and the perspective they bring to the workplace in terms of business philosophy and decision-making, and the values that public servants bring to their jobs in government will be fundamentally essential to meeting reduction targets. The reality is, that without commitment and action we will not succeed.

There are four major categories of behaviour change that will lead to GHG reductions:

1. Reduced consumption. This may be as simple as driving less, turning down a thermostat, or producing less waste.
2. Energy efficient choices. This might mean buying a more fuel-efficient vehicle such as a smaller car, hybrid or an electric car.
3. Modal switching. This could involve using public transit, walking or going by bicycle rather than using a car.
4. Carbon-aware corporate culture. This involves ensuring that GHG implications are considered in every decision with a view to choosing the lowest carbon option.

Knowledge and awareness are critical to behaviour change. However, social and cultural factors also play a key role. Information campaigns such as “Power Smart” are very effective in reducing consumption of electricity. Such campaigns need to be expanded and to include initiatives to facilitate carbon friendly decisions.

116. Expand the provision of public information regarding ways to reduce carbon emissions, and direct existing communications resources to make information and advice available to support the identification of low carbon options, their costs and benefits.

Energy efficient choices will only be made if there are other viable options available. In many cases market forces are still not leading to a ready supply of alternatives. Continued government action is required to address this, and to provide incentives for the adoption of low-carbon options:

117. Act to promote choices with a lower carbon footprint.

How will a BC Green government promote choices with a lower carbon footprint?

Examples of possible initiatives include:

- Introduce a Zero Emissions Vehicle (ZEV) mandate to ensure a growing supply of electric vehicles in BC;
- Continue to provide incentives to purchase low or no emission vehicles;
- Introduce distance-based insurance; and transferable licence plates, where the second vehicle is zero emissions vehicle;
- Implement congestion and road pricing policies, and other initiatives that favour low or zero emission vehicles; examples of initiatives that may be considered include: tolls for gasoline or diesel vehicles; free parking for electric vehicles; half price ferry fares for electric vehicles;
- Expand the network of charging facilities to enable long distance travel;
- Introduce Energy Performance Certification for residential properties, that verifies the GHG footprint of the property. Home buyers would then be able to assess the energy efficiency of a home as part of their purchase decision.

118. Act to facilitate modal switching.

How will a BC Green government facilitate modal switching?

Examples of possible initiatives include:

- Increasing investment, and providing more predictable funding for public transportation;
- Ensuring public transit fares are affordable;
- Ensuring the frequency of public transit service meets passenger needs;
- Increasing investment in walking and biking infrastructure;
- Facilitating ride sharing, car sharing and other cooperative transportation initiatives;
- Ensuring there are charging and safe storage facilities for electric bicycles;
- Ensuring road configurations and commuter routes are friendly for pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists.

CO-BENEFITS

Behaviour change will not only reduce GHG emissions, it will also reduce lifecycle costs to businesses and consumers, and create economic activity through investments in public transport and alternative transportation infrastructure.

II. EFFICIENCY

Efficiency gains can be realised in several areas including:

- Employing more energy efficient machinery and appliances;
- Building efficiency;
- Management of fugitive emissions, especially oil and gas;
- Energy efficient communities;
- Enhanced efficiency of waste management.

About 30 per cent of GHG emissions are from “stationary combustion” sources, i.e. emissions from stationary devices that combust solid, liquid or gaseous fuel to generate useful heat or

electricity. Sources include: boilers; combustion turbines; engines; incinerators; and process heaters. The majority of stationary combustion emissions are from manufacturing; mining and upstream oil and gas production; and commercial, institutional and residential buildings.

Industry adoption of more energy efficient machinery and practices is driven by the associated cost savings. Increasing the carbon tax will further incent the use of more carbon efficient technology. However, where corporate culture has not embraced choosing the energy efficient option, further action by government is required.

119. Require commercial and industrial operators to ensure the efficient operation of equipment and vehicles.

How will a BC Green government require the efficient operation of equipment and vehicles?

Examples of possible initiatives include:

- Introduce mandatory emissions testing for heavy-duty and commercial vehicles;
- Introduce maintenance requirements for pipelines and enhance compliance and enforcement;
- Require the adoption of international efficiency standards.

Promoting building efficiency in the residential and commercial buildings sector is more challenging since the up-front capital costs can be a major disincentive for both new builds and retrofits. In addition, in the commercial sector there are split incentives to reduce emissions between owners and lessees.

120. Ensure that new buildings are energy efficient and introduce measures to ensure that the up-front cost of an energy efficiency upgrade does not form a barrier to retrofitting existing homes and commercial facilities.

How will a BC Green Government promote energy efficiency in residential properties?

Examples of possible initiatives include:

- Work with local governments to require that GHG emissions from new construction and major renovations are minimized in a manner that takes account of regional variations;
- Provide funding for independent energy efficiency audits of private dwellings, that include an analysis of the viability of alternative energy solutions to inform home owners of the options available to them for reducing the GHG footprint from their dwelling;
- Facilitate the amortisation of the costs of renovations that reduce the GHG footprint of a home through mechanisms such as on-bill financing, and repayment through property taxes;
- Implement a home retrofit program;
- Introduce standards for commercial building GHG emissions;
- Establish an incentive program for retrofits of commercial buildings.

Fugitive emissions made up approximately eight per cent of total GHG emissions in 2014. Fugitive sources are unintentional emissions from the production, processing, transmission, storage and delivery of fossil fuels, as well as the intentional combustion of fossil fuels not used to generate useful heat or electricity. Oil and natural gas production and transmission, and coal mining are the emitting sectors.

Efficiency gains through improved leak detection and reduced venting of emissions can contribute significantly to emission reductions in the natural gas sector. Expanding the carbon tax to fugitive sources provides a significant incentive to conduct enhanced maintenance.

Energy efficient community design can also play a major role in reducing emissions. Sprawl has been a feature of development in many cities across BC, as people move out of urban centres in search of affordable accommodation. This creates headaches for transportation planning, especially the provision of cost efficient public transit. It is not possible to reverse existing sprawl; however, action can be taken to reduce or eliminate further expansion of the built-up area. An efficient public transit system requires population density along major routes to be a key consideration in community planning.

Efficient community design will also facilitate opportunities to implement district heating. Heat from natural sources such as geothermal resources, heat generated using landfill methane emissions, or waste heat from industrial sources, are potential alternatives to reduce fossil fuel use.

121. Promote efficient community design by enhancing requirements for integrated regional planning and the consideration of the cumulative impacts on GHG emissions of regional and local government plans.

How will a BC Green Government promote efficient community design?

Examples of possible initiatives include:

- Introducing a requirement for community and regional urban containment areas;
- Requiring a full analysis of GHG implications and mitigation strategies in development applications;
- Requiring Official Community Plans to include a GHG emissions reduction plan;
- Providing expertise and support to communities for the implementation of district heating initiatives.

Linked initiatives that support efficient community design:

- Develop a new 10-year transportation plan focused on affordable, clean transportation for British Columbians;
- Support local governments' greenhouse gas emissions reduction and adaptation initiatives by investing \$80 million over four years in green transportation infrastructure, building efficiency initiatives and other qualifying initiatives.

A further nine per cent of BC's GHG emissions are from waste – the vast majority is made up of methane emissions from landfills. The burning of forest waste in slash piles adds roughly an equal amount again to GHG emissions. Significant progress has been made in landfill gas management, although the potential for electricity generation, district heating and other beneficial uses has not yet been explored. Expanding the carbon tax to slash pile burning should greatly reduce this source of emissions.

Enhanced efficiency of light and heavy duty vehicles offers significant emissions reductions. In 2008, the province introduced the Greenhouse Gas Reduction (Vehicle Emissions Standards) Act. The law would have been brought into force by regulation, however, BC opted not to introduce its own standards, and to await the implementation of national vehicle emission standards, which were to align with US standards. Given the position of the Trump administration on climate change, it is not clear how the Government of Canada will proceed.

In the event that national standards are not forthcoming, a Green Government would revert to implementing vehicle emissions standards that are coordinated with Quebec and California.

CO-BENEFITS

Life-cycle cost savings are a major co-benefit of efficiency gains, whether it is reduced fuel costs to industry, lower heating costs for residential properties or decreased commuting time and costs.

Efficiency gains in the natural gas sector will benefit the bottom line of companies by increasing the volume of natural gas reaching the market.

Urban densification will not only promote reduced GHG emissions, it will also lead to an increase in the supply of housing and the availability of low cost accommodation. Expansion of the urban containment area will increase the availability of non-ALR land to be available for agricultural use.

Reduced slash burning will increase supply of residual fibre to secondary facilities e.g. pellet plant which will increase employment and GDP, as well as improving air quality.

Co-benefits of improved vehicle efficiency include reduced operating costs and improved air quality.

III. LOW CARBON FUELS & MATERIALS

There are two major areas of opportunity for GHG reductions from the use of low-carbon fuels and materials, electrification and fuel switching.

Electrification involves the replacement of fossil fuel energy with clean electricity.²⁵ BC's electricity is currently mandated to be 93 per cent fossil fuel free. The fossil fuel component primarily consists of base load natural gas plants operating in Campbell River and Taylor, and BC Hydro on-grid plants in Prince Rupert and Fort Nelson, these emissions could be eliminated by replacing natural gas electricity generating plants with renewables. There is potential for off-grid communities to use alternatives to diesel generators including biofuels, solar, wind or geothermal power. However, it is likely that backup diesel generators will be required in many cases for the foreseeable future.

BC's clean and cheap electricity is both a blessing and a curse. There is plentiful opportunity to develop a thriving alternative energy sector; however, the current grid system and BC Hydro's mandate are stifling its growth. BC can play a role in the reduction of Canadian emissions through integration of the grid, but this requires the construction of a transmission line to Alberta and

25 "Clean" vs "green": Clean technology has zero net emissions or no emissions at all. Green technology has very low emissions. For example, an electric car using electricity from Alberta, could be considered green because it has less emissions than vehicles using fossil fuels directly, but not clean, because fossil fuels are used to produce the electricity. Whereas in BC, where electricity production is 93 per cent fossil free, an electric car can be considered clean because of the very low emissions associated with the production of electricity. Wood chip and ethanol are green, but not clean, as they too, contribute pollution but not in the quantities of fossils.

the ability to export excess green power from BC to replace coal fired generation in Alberta.

- 122. Revisit the mandate of BC Hydro to optimise support for clean energy development, including grid storage for community or privately generated power.
- 123. Work with neighbouring jurisdictions to expedite the phase out of thermal electricity generation.

Fuel switching from fossil fuels to electricity has the potential to significantly decrease emissions in the residential and commercial sectors and manufacturing. In addition, electrification of motive power and compressor stations for natural gas production and transmission provides a significant opportunity for reduction, providing a connection to the grid is available.

Switching to biofuels and renewables has significant potential in reducing emissions from transportation, manufacturing, coal mining and minerals, and pulp and paper. Although some biofuels are currently available, much work still needs to be done on biofuel development and its full benefit may not be available for several years.

As part of our clean technology strategy, the BC Greens have committed to invest \$120 million over four years in partnerships with industry, academic institutions and other levels of government to support research, development and commercialization of climate friendly technologies and implement innovative ways to achieve desired environmental outcomes. This funding could be applied to support the development of biofuels and other renewable energy sources.

BC's Renewable and Low Carbon Fuel Requirements Regulation is designed to reduce the carbon intensity of fuel and encourage the development of alternative fuels. The BC Greens support the reinforcement of this regulation as a major incentive for decarbonizing fuels. Increases to the carbon tax will also incent fuel switching. However, incentives will only go so far in bringing about reductions.

- 124. Introduce progressively more stringent requirements to adopt low carbon fuels.

How will a BC Green Government require the adoption of low carbon fuels?

Examples of possible initiatives include:

- Requiring large emitters to submit GHG mitigation plans;
- Phasing out the use of diesel and gasoline powered urban delivery vehicles, beginning with a moratorium on the registration of new vehicles in 2025.

CO-BENEFITS

The economic benefits of developing biofuels and alternative sources of electricity are significant. Distributed electricity production provides long-term jobs in communities. In May 2016, Canfor Pulp Products Inc. and Licella Fibre Fuels PTY Ltd. entered into a joint venture to develop bio-crude from biomass including wood residue in Prince George. This type of initiative presents regional economic development opportunities for the province.

IV. SINKS

A carbon sink can be anything that stores, or sequesters, more carbon than it releases. Natural sinks are plants and forests, oceans and soil.

Carbon capture and storage (CCS) is about the creation of artificial sinks. CCS technology is available, however, for many applications is prohibitively expensive, so much development work still needs to be done. CCS is particularly applicable to the oil and gas sector and Alberta has invested heavily in developing technology; however, the results have been disappointing. The reinjection of CO₂ with hydrogen sulphite (H₂S) into rock formations is common practice at natural gas plants; however, this sequesters relatively small amounts of carbon. CCS is unlikely to be economically viable in the foreseeable future without a significant increase in the price of carbon. Even our proposed increase in the carbon tax is unlikely to completely overcome the cost barrier.

BC has a global leadership opportunity in forest carbon management. Forests are a natural sink; however, due to the mountain pine beetle infestation, fires and over-harvesting, BC's forests are currently net emitters of carbon. A forest carbon management strategy is a key part of GHG management. Carbon is stored in standing live and dead trees, roots, non-tree plants, dead wood and litter from the forest floor. Carbon can also be sequestered in harvested wood products such as buildings, furniture and other manufactured products and paper. Harvested wood products play three important roles in climate change mitigation: storage of carbon, a substitute for more energy-intensive materials, and

a renewable material for energy generation (as discussed in the section on low carbon fuels).

- 125. Implement a forest carbon strategy to take full advantage of the opportunities created by forest sinks.

Effective forest carbon management that supports sustainable harvesting and the carbon storage value of long-term harvested wood products, forest conservation and reforestation is essential if BC is to meet its targets. Forest offsets have been used extensively by the BC Government to meet its carbon neutral requirements, as well as by private entities seeking to be carbon neutral.

- 126. Invest \$29 million over four years to enhance the scientific understanding of the effects of climate change in BC and to support forest carbon management initiatives as part of the greenhouse gas emissions reduction strategy.

CO-BENEFITS

Investment in forest carbon management will create jobs in communities, value added processing and construction.

APPENDIX II: THE INDICATORS

There are many genuine progress indicators that have been developed in various jurisdictions today, but few are used to guide policy development and implementation.¹⁸ British Columbians must be a part of a process to identify what is important to us to measure to see how well we are doing at both the provincial level, and the community level. We must set targets and government must be held to account for progress towards those targets.

We have used six, high-level preliminary indicators to guide our platform development. Some of these measures already exist, others will require the development of new measures and collection of new data to track progress.

1. **Economic activity.** This indicator will represent the aggregate performance of the economy, as well as the success of the economy in bringing economic wellbeing to all.

It will include the GDP, jobs, imports and exports, business start-ups/bankruptcies, patents, etc. However, it will also include distribution measures like the Gini coefficient, which measures income distribution. We will expand this indicator to include activity that is often invisible in our economy such as child and seniors care. We will also net out those activities that increase GDP, but do not enhance wellbeing such as toxic spill clean up and repairs necessitated by vandalism etc.

2. **Education.** This indicator will show not just academic performance, but will also connect education and training to the ability to earn a living, and to transition between jobs and make good choices in personal and civic lives.

Traditional measures of educational achievement may not be as relevant as we move forward into the 21st century. New methods of assessment are required, pertinent to the needs of the time. When technology and the nature of work are changing rapidly, it is essential that there is a culture of adaptability, lifelong learning, and that there is upgrading and training available to people. Nevertheless, education in the broadest sense is critical to the future health and wellbeing of British Columbians.

3. **Income security.** The income security indicator will show how many people face challenges meeting the basic needs of life. However, this measure goes beyond addressing the marginalized in society. It measures the threat to income security for the population posed by technological change, economic disruption, a changing climate, and natural disasters.

Income security is the overarching solution to many welfare problems. Where there is income security, there is food security and housing security. The most vulnerable in our population, including children, seniors and those with physical and mental health conditions

¹⁸ The BC Liberals under Gordon Campbell set up the “Progress Board” in 2001, which used a relatively wide range of indicators to chart progress and make recommendations. However, their recommendations were not always in line with what the government wanted to hear, and it was deep sixed by Christie Clark in 2011, in favour of the “Jobs and Investment Board”. This too failed to support the government narrative, and was axed.

can afford the necessities of life, which are essential to our health and wellbeing. However, during the 21st century, income insecurity has affected an increasing proportion of the population as full-time, well-paying jobs with benefits become increasingly scarce, young people find it hard to secure a first job, and many families struggle with the affordability of accommodation, transportation and child care despite working one or even two jobs. Many are in precarious employment, as whole classes of workers are displaced by changing technologies. Income insecurity is no longer the exclusive domain of the marginalized.

4. **Healthy people.** Healthy people are those who view their physical and mental health as good or very good, and do not perceive that they have any health or activity based limitations.

There are many indicators that can be used for health, including longevity, obesity, smoking, infant mortality, access to health care services, as well as our own assessment of our physical and mental health. Health outcomes are key indicators of how we are doing economically and socially. The Canadian Medical Association (CMA) “believes the social determinants of health can have a larger impact on individual and population health than the health care system. The CMA also believes that any actions to improve health and tackle health inequity must address the social determinants and their impact on daily life.”¹⁹ Their research shows that 50% of health outcomes are driven by people’s life circumstances, with a further 10%, by environmental factors such as clean air and civic infrastructure.

5. **Environment.** By measuring our ecological footprint we can target policies to ensure that we are only using as many resources as the environment can sustainably provide. Greenhouse gas emissions are a major component of our ecological footprint and require special attention.

The Province publishes comprehensive reports on environmental indicators²⁰: air, climate change, land and forests, plants and animals, sustainability and water. However, successive governments have failed to use this information to set targets and craft policies to meet those targets.

6. **Democratic engagement.** This measures the level of participation in the democratic process, and the satisfaction of British Columbians with the workings of democracy in the province.

“A society that enjoys a high-level of democratic engagement is one where citizens freely participate in political activities, express their political views, and share political knowledge; where governments build relationships, trust, and encourage citizen participation; and, where democratic values are promoted by citizens, civic organizations, and all levels of government. A healthy democracy means more than voting in elections; it requires ongoing democratic engagement both during and between elections.”²¹

19 “Health equity and the social determinants of health” Canadian Medical Association (online) <https://www.cma.ca/En/Pages/health-equity.aspx> [April 2017]

20 “Environmental Reporting BC” Government of BC (online) <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/research-monitoring-reporting/reporting/environmental-reporting-bc> [April 2017]

21 “Democratic Engagement domain components” Canadian Index of Wellbeing (online) <https://uwaterloo.ca/canadian-index-wellbeing/what-we-do/domains-and-indicators/democratic-engagement-domain-components> [April 2017]

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