

# NEW DEMOCRAT

BC GOVERNMENT CAUCUS

Your team of New Democrat MLAs in the BC Legislature

## Working For People

*Our New Democrat government has been making choices to make life better for people across the province, unlike Kevin Falcon and the previous BC Liberal government who chose only to help their wealthy friends at the top. Kevin Falcon will do it again.*

*Premier David Eby is in your corner. He and the New Democrat team are working to tackle the cost of living for people, improve the services you count on like health and education, and build a strong, sustainable economy that includes everyone.*

[Affordability and the Cost of Living](#) | [Healthcare, Mental Health and Addictions](#) | [Housing](#) | [Secure Economy](#) | [Climate Action and Environment](#) | [Reconciliation](#) | [Child Care, Children and Families](#) | [Education, Post Secondary and Future Skills](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Public Safety / Safe Communities](#) | [Agriculture and Food](#) | [Arts, Sports, and Tourism](#) | [Equity, Diversity and Human Rights](#) | [Good Government](#) | [Rural Communities](#) | [Poverty Reduction](#) | [Transportation](#) | [Workers' Rights](#)

### Affordability and the Cost of Living

- › Raised [minimum wage to \\$16.75 per hour as of June 1, 2023](#). All future minimum wage increases will be tied to the annual inflation rate.
- › Created the [largest middle-class tax reduction in a generation](#) with the full elimination of MSP premiums and creation of the BC Family Benefit:
  - › As a result, a family of four earning \$60,000 will have their provincial taxes reduced by up to 60% compared to 2016, putting more than \$2,500 back into this family's pocket. A family of four earning \$80,000 will have their provincial taxes reduced by up to 43%.
  - › To help families facing rising costs due to global inflation, the BC Family Benefit will be boosted for the months of January, February and March 2023. An eligible family of four will receive up to \$116 extra per month.
  - › [Increased the climate action tax credit](#) by 70% compared to 2017, to put up to \$500 back into the pockets of BC families by 2021 and then in 2020 boosted this tax credit in order to give an additional [\\$450 back to families](#) to support people during the pandemic.
- › [Removed unfair tolls](#) on the Port Mann Bridge and Golden Ears Bridge, saving commuters in the lower mainland up to \$1,500 a year.
- › Cleaning up the financial mess at ICBC left by the BC Liberals, including [transforming ICBC](#) to deliver lower auto-insurance rates by an average of 20% and dramatically improve care benefits for those injured in a crash. In addition to the significant savings on rates, we have issued [rebates](#) to most drivers.
- › Child care fees for kids under 6 have been [reduced by an average of 50%](#) from 2019 levels.
- › Since summer 2022, BC has provided almost [\\$2.4 billion in cost-of-living benefits](#), including BC affordability credits, increase in BC Family Benefit, ICBC rebates, BC Hydro credit, and enhanced School Affordability Fund.
- › Made [prescription birth control free](#) for everyone in B.C., saving individuals up to \$10,000 over their lifetime.

- › Created a new income tested [renters' tax credit](#) that will put as much as \$400 annually back into the pockets of B.C. renters with moderate and low incomes.
- › [Increased the climate action tax credit](#) by 70% compared to 2017, to put up to \$500 back into the pockets of BC families by 2021 and then in 2020 boosted this tax credit in order to give an additional [\\$450 back to families](#) to support people during the pandemic.
  - › The October 2022 payment will be boosted by up to \$164 for eligible individuals and up to \$41 per child, to help families with global inflation.
- › Gave BC Hydro customers a [\\$100 cost-of-living account credit](#) in December 2022.
- › Made [transit free for kids](#) under 12, saving families up to \$700 per year.
- › [Increased the senior's supplement](#) for the first time since 1987 which will support about 80,000 seniors.
- › Eliminated interest on British Columbia [student loans](#), helping to ensure that students who have to borrow for their education don't end up paying more than those who don't.
- › Starting August 2023, [weekly student loan maximums will be increased from \\$110 to \\$220](#) a week for single students, and from \$140 to \$280 per week for students with dependents.
  - › At the same time, we are easing repayment by raising the income threshold under which a student does not have to repay their loan – from \$25,000 to \$40,000.
- › Took action to lower drug costs by making record investments in [Fair PharmaCare](#), helping to negotiate a new national generics agreement, reducing and eliminating deductibles and expanding the use of [biosimilar drugs](#).
- › [New renters tax credit](#) available to those who need it most, which can provide as much as \$400 annually to people.
- › Providing a [\\$600 month rent supplement](#) to help with rental costs in the private market
- › Expanding [rental assistance](#) for low-income families and seniors,
- › [Introduced tougher rules](#) on cheque-cashing fees and payday loan businesses to better protect consumers.
- › Created access to free menstrual products for [public school students](#) and [vulnerable populations](#) across B.C.
- › Made [live-event ticket sales](#) fairer, by eliminating ticket bots and mass-buying software, and by bringing in consumer protections and fairer processes for people.
- › Launched a [comprehensive two-phased review](#) of BC Hydro to clean up the mess of the previous BC Liberal government and keep rates low, allowing BC Hydro to [reduce rates](#) for the first time in decades.
- › Brought in greater transparency and accountability to how [fuel](#) is priced in B.C.
- › Made changes to [strata insurance](#) regulations to help address the rising cost of strata insurance in B.C. and bring further transparency to the industry.
- › Supported individuals and families to make ends meet during the pandemic with the [B.C. Recovery Benefit](#), \$1,000 for families and \$500 for individuals.
- › [Increased income and disability assistance rates](#) three times since forming government in 2017 for a total of \$325 per month.
- › We launched the Fee Reduction Initiative and the Affordable Child Care Benefit, which since February 2018 have helped parents save up to \$1,600 a month per child on their child care fees.

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## Health Care, Mental Health and Addictions

- › Launched our [BC Health Workforce Strategy](#) to expand training programs and improve recruitment and retention to build a strong and resilient public healthcare system.
- › Budget 2023 takes the next steps to strengthen our health and mental-health-care system since the pandemic, with [\\$6.4 billion in new investments](#) over 3 years.

- › Launched BC's Cancer Care Action Plan with immediate steps to better prevent, detect and treat cancers, delivering improved care for people now and into the future. Includes an initial investment of \$440 million to expand cancer-care teams and attract cancer-care professionals to our province.
- › Introduced a new payment model for family physicians to help more doctors start or continue their practice and ensure people throughout the province have access to primary care. One month after its launch about 45% of current family doctors enrolled in the payment model and 149 new doctors enrolled.
- › Made it easier for internationally educated nurses to work in B.C.'s health-care system with new financial supports and a faster, more efficient assessment pathway.
- › Helping more internationally educated family doctors get licensed to practice in B.C.
- › More prescribing options for pharmacists and a new booking system for appointments to help take pressure off the primary-care providers and our public health-care system as a whole.
- › Bringing critical sectors back into the public health care workforce
- › Invested millions in health research to support B.C.'s world-renowned life science sector as part of the StrongerBC Economic Plan.
- › Became the first jurisdiction in Canada to make prescription contraception free to all residents, saving people as much as \$10,000 over their life time
- › Improved access to maternity care by increasing seats in the University of British Columbia's midwifery program by 70%.
- › Invested more than \$1 billion over three years to improve care for seniors, including investments in primary care, home health, long-term care and assisted living.
- › Building on successful surgical strategy to continue decreasing wait times by increasing operating room hours and hiring more surgeons, nurses and technicians. By December 2022, almost all surgeries postponed by multiple waves of COVID-19 had been completed.
- › Medical Services Commission defends public health care against extra-billing
- › Moving forward on a new medical school at SFU's Surrey Campus, to train more doctors here in B.C.
- › First to establish nurse/patient ratios in Canada
- › Launched our Primary Health Care Strategy, focusing on faster, team-based care, including:
  - › Hiring approximately 660 new full-time equivalent health professionals who will be part of 22 primary care networks throughout the province.
  - › Opening urgent primary care centres and community health centres across B.C.
- › Launch of Health Human Resources strategy – including 602 new nursing seats and 2,800 nurses on path to have credentials recognized
- › Dramatically boosting the number of MRI exams and elective surgeries as part of our Surgical and Diagnostic Imaging Strategy. Since 2016-17, the number of MRI exams has increased by 69% and wait times have been cut by more than half.
- › Launched the first of its kind early detection lung cancer screening program in Canada.
- › Increasing the number of priority surgeries and diagnostic imaging like PET and CT scans, to ensure faster access to these life-saving services.
- › Increasing staffing levels in long-term care homes to make sure seniors are getting the quality care they need and deserve.
- › Scrapped the “first available bed” policy for seniors looking for long-term care, so that families have more choice, and seniors have the option of waiting at home with additional supports.
- › Removed age restrictions on insulin-pump coverage, so that everyone who needs these devices to manage diabetes is able to live their lives to the fullest.

- › Took action to lower drug costs by making record investments in Fair PharmaCare, helping to negotiate a new national generics agreement and expanding the use of biosimilar drugs.
- › Introduced the most comprehensive regulations in the country on vaping products to protect youth.
- › Moving forward with a first-of-its-kind children's complex care transition facility in B.C., to fill gaps in much-needed services and supports for children and young people with complex care needs.
- › Took action to improve ambulance responses times and better support paramedics and dispatchers so that when British Columbians call for help, they know it's on its way, quickly.
- › Addressing systemic racism in B.C.'s health care system through training and education, and prioritizing the hiring of a health-care workforce that better represents B.C.'s diverse communities.
- › Created a stand-alone Ministry for Mental Health and Addictions to take province-wide action to combat the overdose crisis and help people living with mental illness and addictions.
  - › Since 2017, we have been building a continuum of care for mental-health and substance use services, including more than 360 new adult and youth substance-use beds, and doubling the number of clinicians prescribing medication assisted treatment.
- › Budget 2023 included the biggest investment in mental health in B.C.'s history with more than \$1 billion in funding over the fiscal plan to ensure people living with mental health or addiction can find and stay connected to the care they need.
  - › Includes adding more treatment and recovery services using the successful Red Fish Health Centre as a model.
- › Between the 2017 Budget Update through to 2021/22 this government has provided \$608 million, including an additional \$30 million in Budget 2019, to combat the overdose crisis, including:
  - › Expanding access to life-saving naloxone kits
  - › Funding pilot programs to help meet the increased demand for paramedics in rural and remote areas of B.C.
  - › Funding 35 Community Action Teams (CAT) to provide on-the-ground support in response to the overdose crisis in the hardest-hit communities.
  - › Supporting First Nations organizations and Indigenous Peoples in addressing the ongoing impacts of the overdose crisis in their communities.
- › Took action to end the shame and stigma that prevents people with substance-use challenges from reaching out for lifesaving help by decriminalizing the simple possession of small amounts of illicit drugs for personal use.
- › Launched A Pathway to Hope, which lays out the BC government's 10-year vision for mental health and addiction care that gets people the services they need in order to tackle problems early on and support their well-being.
- › Added 33 new and expanded substance-use programs specifically for young people.
- › Adding complex-care housing spaces for up to 500 people throughout BC to support people who are facing overlapping mental-health and substance-use challenges, or trauma or brain injuries.
- › Launched a class action lawsuit against opioid drug companies, whose marketing practices have had devastating impacts on the lives of thousands of British Columbians. In summer 2022, the federal, provincial and territorial governments made a settlement agreement with Purdue Canada of \$150 million. Further litigation is ongoing with other drug companies.
- › Expanded Foundry centres, with a total of 23 centres planned along with the Foundry App, giving young people and their families across B.C. access to a one-stop-shop to support their mental health and wellness.
- › Taking the lead in Canada by expanding access to safer supply, which will separate more people from the poisoned drug supply and help save lives.
- › Building a better network of mental health supports for youth including mental health programs in school and expanding the number of integrated child and youth teams. A total of 20 integrated child and youth teams will be implemented across the province by 2024.
- › Created 10 Community Transition Teams to offer support services for people leaving correctional centres with mental-health and substance-use supports as they transition back into the community.
- › Invested in each regional health authority to support evidence-based suicide prevention strategies that address unique priorities and gaps in care for people who may be suicidal.
- › Created culturally informed mental-wellness supports for Indigenous families through virtual parent and caregiver coaching.

- › [Doubling](#) the number of treatment beds for youth struggling with addictions in BC.
- › Improving access and quality of [eating disorder care](#) and better access to suicide prevention services and early psychosis intervention.
- › Provided \$14 million for the First Nation Health Authority to deliver [mental health and addictions services to Indigenous peoples](#).
- › Invested \$4.7 million in a [therapeutic recovery community](#) in Greater Victoria for men who have repeat experiences with incarceration, homelessness and addiction, which if successful may be expanded to other parts of the province.
- › Increased access to community-based [low- and no-cost mental health and substance use supports](#) as part millions in grants awarded to community counselling programs throughout the province. Since 2019, nearly [25,000 people have had access to counselling services](#) as a result.
- › Launched [Here2Talk](#), a new free mental-health counselling and referral service for post-secondary students, available online or by phone 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Created a [digital mental health resource hub for workers](#) in the tourism, hospitality and social services sectors that have been hard hit by the pandemic.

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## Housing

- › Implementing an ambitious [30-point housing plan](#) to tackle the housing crisis and make the largest investment in housing affordability in B.C. history – more than \$7 billion over 10 years – so that all British Columbians can find an affordable place to live:
  - › › As of June 2021, there are [76,000 new or completed](#) or underway in every corner of the province.
    - › Supporting seniors, families, and low- and middle-income earners by funding [8,800 homes](#) through the Building BC: Community Housing Fund – the part of 14,000 homes to be built over 10 years.
    - › Investing \$2 billion into the HousingHub program to finance the construction of [9,000 new homes for middle-income families](#).
    - › Funding [4,900 supportive housing units](#) for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness, with more than 2,800 of these homes already open in communities across B.C.
    - › Helping women and children leaving violence by funding [700 units of transition housing](#) – the first of 1,500 units and the first major investment in transition housing in more than two decades.
    - › Making a historic investment in housing for Indigenous peoples by funding more than [1,100 homes](#) both on and off reserve, the first stage in 1,750 new units of Indigenous social housing over 10 years. Became the first province to fund on-reserve housing for indigenous peoples.
    - › Paving the way for new student housing at [Thompson River University](#), [College of New Caledonia](#), [University of Victoria](#), [UBC-Okanagan](#), [College of the Rockies](#), [Terrace's Coast Mountain College](#), and [Simon Fraser University](#).
- › Introduced the **Housing Supply Act**, to help deliver more good homes for people, where they're needed most. The Act will help increase the supply of housing in B.C. by establishing housing targets for specified municipalities to meet the critical housing needs of their communities.
- › Taking action to help stabilize B.C.'s overheated real estate market, including:
  - › › Introduced the [speculation and vacancy tax](#) to target foreign and domestic speculators who own homes in B.C. but do not pay tax here, turn empty homes into available housing for people and raise revenue that will go to supporting affordable housing. This has turned 20,000 vacant units into new homes
  - › Increasing the foreign buyers tax to 20% and expanding it to other urban areas.
  - › [Cracking down on tax fraud and closing real estate loopholes](#) to make sure people are paying their fair share of taxes. This includes creating Canada's first-ever pre-sale condo registry to crack down on flipping.

- › Taking action to end hidden ownership by requiring more information on beneficial owners and passing legislation to establish a publicly accessible registry of beneficial ownership.
- › Launching a public inquiry on money laundering in BC, after three independent reviews revealed that each year billions of dollars are laundered through our real estate market and other sectors of the economy.
- › Became the first province to fund on-reserve housing for Indigenous peoples
- › Made the first significant investment in housing for women and children fleeing violence in two decades
- › Took action to end hidden ownership with a new land-owner transparency registry.
- › Improved transparency with new Condo and Strata Assignment Integrity Registry.
- › Launched the Housing Hub to partner with non-profits and developers to deliver middle-income homes
- › Developed new complex care housing for people with complex support needs
- › Introduced the Homebuyer Protection Period to protect buyers
- › Permitting Strategy for Housing to speed up provincial permitting
- › Partnered on Downtown Eastside Response Plan
- › New Unexplained Wealth Orders to crack down on criminal activity in real estate
- › Taking action to support renters
  - › We capped rent increases in 2023 below inflation to 2%, providing significant savings for renters – more than \$800 per year for a renter paying \$2,000 a month, stopped illegal renovations, and improved the dispute resolution process for tenant and landlords.
  - › To further protect renters, the Province banned illegal renovations (evictions to complete renovations to a property) by requiring landlords to apply to the Residential Tenancy Branch (RTB) for pre-approval before ending a tenancy for this purpose.
  - › BC Housing helped a total of 32,800 households maintain their homes last year through rent subsidy programs such as the Rental Assistance Program, Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters and other provincial rent supplements.
  - › In November 2021, B.C. became the first Canadian jurisdiction to offer provincewide rent bank services. Rent banks provide interest-free loans for tenants in urgent circumstances so they do not lose their housing.
- › › Closed the fixed-term lease loophole and the geographic rent increase loophole.
  - › Making sure renters receive their security and pet deposits back in a fair and timely manner
  - › **Improved tenancy rights for manufactured home park tenants**
  - › **Built thousands of units of student housing**
  - › Giving local governments a new rental zoning tool to give them the power to protect and encourage the building of rentals.
  - › Provided support to local governments to develop housing needs reports.
  - › Established of the Compliance and Enforcement Unit to ensure landlords and tenants abide to residential tenancy rules.
- › Creating opportunities for municipalities to be early adopters of innovative, sustainable mass timber building technologies.
- › Improved compensation for tenants of manufactured home parks
- › Took action to end hidden ownership with a new land-owner transparency registry
- › Taking action on homelessness:
  - › › Since 2017, over 4,800 people who were homeless, or at risk of being homeless, have moved into new supportive housing units we've opened in more than 30 communities across the province.
  - › In addition, nearly 2,300 supportive homes are underway, including over 700 homes coming to Vancouver, and more than 390 in Victoria.

- › Our government has invested in new initiatives aimed at helping prevent and reduce homelessness in the province. These investments include:
  - › › › funding to build and operate more supportive housing for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness
    - › new complex-care housing units, as well operating funding that will support complex-care services such as enhanced health, mental-health and substance-use services for people who need additional support beyond traditional supportive housing
    - › regional multidisciplinary teams and temporary spaces to support rapid response for communities with substantive encampments in their area
    - › expanding access to temporary modular supportive housing and provide more on-site support for people living in encampments, such as fire prevention, safety and sanitation, while housing gets built
    - › expanding shelter and low-income assistance programs, including emergency shelters so that more people can access these essential supports
    - › for people in temporary leased spaces as part of the Province's pandemic response, funding to help provide continuing support, and a pathway to permanent housing.
  - › › Our Government is implementing [Belonging in B.C.](#), a plan to prevent and reduce homelessness. The plan adds 3,900 new supportive housing units and 240 complex-care spaces province-wide, and creates multidisciplinary regional response teams designed to rapidly respond to encampments to better support people sheltering outdoors move inside.

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## Secure Economy

- › Created the [Emerging Economy Task Force](#) that was tasked with charting a long-term economic vision for B.C. The Task Force identified five key strategic priorities:
  - › embracing technology and innovation
  - › leveraging B.C.'s green economy
  - › building a highly skilled and adaptable workforce
  - › ensuring an effective enabling ecosystem
  - › demonstrating public sector leadership
- › Created the [StrongerBC Economic Plan](#), laying out how we'll foster clean and inclusive growth for our economy while making life better for people.
- › [Eliminated B.C.'s operating debt](#) for the first time in 40 years, while delivering some of the strongest economic growth in the country.
- › [Restored the tax benefit](#) and lifted the cap on lending for credit unions.
- › Kept our commitment to [fight for B.C. forestry jobs](#) in the U.S and to advance B.C.'s interests in the ongoing [softwood lumber dispute](#).
- › Supported the launch of the [Centre of Excellence in First Nations Economic Development](#), with the BC Assembly of First Nations.
- › Created the [Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program](#), investing \$33 million to diversify rural economies to support good, stable jobs for people.
- › Launched the [Trade Diversification Strategy](#) and also strengthened relationships and expanded economic ties with [India, South Korea and Japan](#), as well as the [United Kingdom, France and the Netherlands](#).
- › Introduced a [new, simplified procurement strategy](#) to take advantage of the BC government's buying power to help grow local economies, create jobs throughout the province, and make good use of made-in-B.C. innovation.
- › Exploring the feasibility of [ultra-high-speed rail](#) service between British Columbia, Washington and Oregon, which could have huge economic benefits, drawing new companies to the region, creating an estimated \$355 billion in economic growth and up to 200,000 new jobs.

- › Created the [Food Security Task Force](#) to find new ways to use technology and innovation to strengthen B.C.'s agriculture sector and grow the economy by helping farmers farm and processors become more productive, now and in the future.
- › Created the annual Buy BC: [Eat Drink Local](#) campaign, which connects local farmers, ranchers and growers with restaurateurs and chefs who develop feature menus highlighting locally grown and processed food and drinks, creating interest and growth in BC's local food and beverage industry.
- › Established a new B.C. [Centre for Agritech Innovation](#) at SFU's Surrey campus. The centre will create more productive, diverse and resilient food supply chains.
- › Launched BC's [COVID-19 Action Plan](#): over [\\$8.25 billion](#) in income supports, tax relief and direct funding for people, businesses and services affected by the pandemic.
- › Supporting local economic recovery through a 10 year/\$6 billion joint federal-provincial investment in community infrastructure through the [Investing in Canada Infrastructure Plan](#).
- › [Eliminated PST on select machinery and equipment](#) so businesses, providing up to half-billion in rebates so businesses can grow back bigger and stronger following the pandemic.
- › Created the first-of-its-kind [\\$500-million strategic investment fund, InBC](#), to provide B.C.-based businesses to support startups, help companies scale up, and attract world-class investment, positioning our province as a front-runner in the post-pandemic economy.
- › Launched the [Small and Medium Sized Business Recovery Grant program](#) to provide relief to people recovering from the pandemic.
- › Helping the hospitality sector recover from the pandemic by allowing [restaurants and bars to purchase beer, wine, and spirits at wholesale prices](#), sell [cocktails-to-go](#), the BC Vaccine Card, and [temporary patios being made permanent](#).
- › Secured the largest private sector investment in Canadian history, [LNG Canada](#), and also saw approval of the [Cedar LNG Environmental Assessment](#).
- › Implemented recommendations of the [Mining Jobs Task Force](#) to find ways to strengthen and modernize mining in British Columbia.
- › Launched the [Life Sciences and Biomanufacturing Strategy](#) to help make B.C. a global leader in the life sciences sector.
- › Introduced [Skilled Trades Certification](#) to improve our skilled trades training programs and prepare people for the jobs of the future.
- › Introduced [single-step certification](#) to help protect workers who want to unionize as we build a stronger economy that works for everyone.
- › Expanded [connectivity to communities across BC](#) so that more people can access services, work remotely, and stay safe in rural British Columbia.
- › Launched the [B.C. Manufacturing Jobs Fund](#) so that manufacturing companies can innovate, modernize and grow.
- › Launched the [Maritime Industry Strategy](#) to build a strong and prosperous maritime sector.
- › Launched the [Future Ready Action Plan](#) to help people get training to address British Columbia's skills gap and help people prepare for a projected one million job openings in the next decade. This includes:
  - › New Future Skills Grant
  - › Increasing student financial aid
  - › Expanding skills training for people facing barriers
  - › Creating 6,000 new seats in technology programs since 2017
  - › Expanding graduate scholarships and internships

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- › Invested over \$1.5-billion in [CleanBC](#), B.C.'s plan to tackle climate change, putting B.C. on the path to a cleaner, brighter, low-carbon future, while creating more jobs and economic opportunities for people, businesses and communities.
- › Signed a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) with the federal government to affirm a joint commitment to power British Columbia's natural gas production and liquefied natural gas (LNG) sectors with clean electricity.
- › Launched [Move. Commute. Connect.](#): B.C.'s new strategy for cleaner, more active transportation, which aims to double the percentage of trips taken with active transportation by 2030.
- › Requiring the sale of all new light-duty cars and trucks in B.C. to be zero-emission vehicles [by the year 2040](#), removing a major source of air pollution and climate change.
- › Providing [rebates for electric vehicles](#) to make it more affordable for British Columbians to make the switch to an EV.
- › Created [CleanBC Better Homes, Better Buildings](#), a home and commercial retrofit program that saves households and businesses money by reducing energy bills and increasing energy efficiency.
- › Introduced "[Right to Charge](#)" [legislation](#) help remove barriers to EV charging in stratas
- › Requiring all new buildings in B.C. to be [net-zero-energy ready](#) by 2032, and all new government facilities to use 100% clean energy beginning 2022.
- › Retrofitting [B.C.'s social housing stock](#) and [government buildings](#) to make them more energy-efficient, safer for residents, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- › [Took action](#) to protect our environment, economy, and our coast from the drastic consequence of a diluted bitumen spill.
- › Created the [Clean Coast, Cleans Waters Initiative](#) and invested more than \$13 million to fund the largest shoreline and coastal cleanup in BC's history, removing more than 100 derelict vessels and over 127 tonnes of plastic waste from our natural environment.
- › Increasing the [Climate Action Tax Credit](#) by 14%, putting more money back in the pockets of low and middle-income families.
- › Introduced a new [Oil & Gas royalty system](#), ending inefficient subsidies.
- › Created the [CleanBC Industry Fund](#) to invest carbon tax revenues in initiatives that will reduce emissions and support good jobs for people throughout British Columbia.
- › Passed a [Zero Emissions Vehicles Act](#) requiring all cars and trucks sold in BC to be to be zero emission by 2040
- › Eliminated [PST on electric bikes](#) and issued rebates for purchases
- › In partnership with the federal government and BC Transit, invested in [new buses](#) to replace older, higher-emission buses, and meet the growing demand for public transit in BC.
- › Protected some of the province's [largest trees](#) as the first step in a new approach to old-growth management.
- › Put an end to the [grizzly bear hunt](#), ensuring the protection of one of B.C.'s most iconic species.
- › Took action to help ensure that disasters like the Mount Polley Mine tailings pond spill never happen again, by implementing science-based [public oversight](#) in the management of B.C.'s natural resources.
- › Modernized [environmental assessment](#) process to ensure that good projects that respect B.C.'s environment and the public are approved and that First Nations are involved meaningfully through the entire process.
- › Created the Wild Salmon Advisory Council which developed a made-in-B.C. [Wild Salmon Strategy](#), as part of our government's commitment to support restoring healthy and abundant wild salmon stocks in B.C. and are partnering with the federal government to fund projects to restore fish habitat and protect vulnerable wild Pacific salmon through the BC Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund.
- › Mandated better accountability, transparency and more detailed targets for climate action under a new [Climate Change Accountability Act](#) – the first of its kind in Canada – to make sure our province is on track for long-term emission reductions.
- › Engaged with British Columbians to seek feedback on how the Province can [reduce and recycle more plastics](#), including those that would otherwise end up in our landfills, environment and water systems.

- › Appointed an independent [Climate Solutions Council](#) to advise government and track progress on CleanBC initiatives to reduce pollution and create new opportunities for people around the province.
- › Created [Together for Wildlife](#), a plan for the conservation and stewardship of B.C.'s wildlife, with a governing council to oversee the strategy.
- › Partnered with the federal and local governments on a new [Organics Infrastructure Program](#), which will help communities divert organic waste away from landfills.
- › Rolled out a new [heavy-duty vehicle efficiency program](#) that will help lower greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and help commercial truck drivers spend less money on fuel.
- › Released a new [Hydrogen Strategy](#).
- › Invested \$10 million for the construction and operation of 10 [hydrogen fuelling stations](#) in the province, as well as three years of support for Hydrogen BC.
- › Taking action to prevent plastic waste pollution by laying the groundwork to allow local governments to ban certain types of [plastic products](#), such as shopping bags, plastic straws and polystyrene foam take-out containers.
- › [Promoting access and protecting nature](#) with a historic investment of over \$83 million in BC Parks for new campsites, expanded trails and strengthened management of the park system.
- › Invested in creating more than 1,600 new campsites since 2017 to increase access to the outdoors for British Columbians.
- › Invested [\\$100-million](#) in the Watershed Security Fund

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## Reconciliation

- › Made Reconciliation a cross-government priority by mandating all ministries to fully adopt and implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), and the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.
- › Led B.C. to become the first province in Canada to enshrine the human rights of Indigenous peoples in law, through legislation that establishes the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) as the foundational framework for reconciliation in B.C.
- › Made an historic agreement to [share gaming revenue](#) with B.C. First Nations starting in 2019, to ensure Indigenous peoples have the funding they need to invest in their communities.
- › Ensured Indigenous children and their families have [better access to culturally enriched early learning](#) with more than 600 new, free licensed child care spaces and expanded Aboriginal Head Start (AHS) programs in over 30 communities across the province.
- › Worked to [transform treaty negotiations](#) in B.C., to get results in a shorter timeframe that lead to prosperous, healthy and self-determining Indigenous communities.
- › Together with the federal government, recognized [Wet'suwet'en rights and title](#) and set out a process to negotiate an agreement on how to implement them, working towards resolving matters of rights and title outstanding for decades.
- › Partnered with the First Nations Justice Council to develop an [Indigenous Justice Strategy](#) and create [Indigenous justice centres](#) throughout B.C., to reduce the over-representation of Indigenous peoples in B.C.'s justice system.
- › Added a [new professional standard](#) that requires teachers to commit to truth, reconciliation and healing to ensure Indigenous students in British Columbia will be better supported and be more connected in school.
- › Approved curriculum for 18 First Nations languages to be taught in B.C. schools, with more in development.
- › Renamed four provincial parks and one watershed protected area to include a [traditional Indigenous name](#), to reflect their historic and cultural significance.
- › Supported the revitalization and preservation of [Indigenous languages](#) through a \$50 million grant to the First Peoples' Cultural Council.

- › Provided \$40 million to build and revitalize culturally safe, First Nations-run mental health and addictions treatment centres throughout British Columbia.
- › Provided dedicated funding to Aboriginal friendship centres for the first time, ensuring the continuity of these critical services for urban Indigenous peoples.
- › Led a ground-breaking government-to-government process to chart a path forward in the Broughton Archipelago, ensuring the safety of wild salmon and economic opportunities for First Nations and local communities.
- › Partnered with UBCM to create the Urban Communities Partnering for Reconciliation (UCPR) initiative, which funds projects that support urban reconciliation efforts.
- › Working with Indigenous communities to establish Indigenous courts throughout British Columbia, which offer alternative sentencing options that honour traditional cultural practices, support rehabilitation and acknowledge the impact the person's actions have had on others.
- › Supporting the return of ancestral remains and cultural objects to First Nations through \$2.5 million in grants and other repatriation activities.
- › Changing legislation and social work practice to keep families together and reduce the number of Indigenous children and youth in care, including:
  - › Making changes to the *Child, Family and Community Service Act* to allow for greater information sharing and involvement by Indigenous communities in child welfare matters;
  - › Ensured that family members receive equal pay to foster parents to help keep children in their communities and connected to their culture;
  - › Ended the discriminatory practice of "birth alerts".
- › Working with First Nations and the federal government to sign agreements that will ultimately see the Nations exercise their jurisdiction over child and family services.
- › Ensured Indigenous representation on the board of every public post-secondary institution as of July 2018.
- › Providing complete cell service along the 'Highway of Tears' to improve safety for everyone traveling along this corridor and honour the memory of the Indigenous women and girls that have gone missing along this route.
- › Addressing systemic racism in B.C.'s health care system through training and education, and through prioritizing the hiring of a health-care workforce that better represents B.C.'s diverse communities.
- › Supporting First Nations throughout BC with investigative work at former residential school sites through \$12 million in funding. This investment will also cover cultural and wellness supports for communities and members experiencing trauma from residential school site findings.
- › Created the Action Plan to implement the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, with specific actions for each government Ministry to take to work towards the goals of Reconciliation.
- › Established the Declaration Act Secretariat, a dedicated group to help support and coordinate government bodies as they work to align B.C.'s laws with the UN Declaration
- › Co-developed a Shared Priorities Framework with the Alliance of BC Modern Treaty Nations to advance treaty implementation in B.C.
- › Supported Indigenous learners through providing financial support to Indigenous students facing financial pressures and emergencies, funding operations, capacity building, and development for First-Nations led educational institutes, and offering more secondary school credits for students completing First Nations language and culture programs
- › Invested in the creation of the National Centre for Indigenous Laws at the University of Victoria, the first law program in the world to offer joint study of Indigenous law and Canadian common law
- › Implemented a new K-12 curriculum and resources shared with teachers to integrate Indigenous knowledge, perspective, and content into B.C. classrooms, and added a graduation requirement for students to complete Indigenous-focussed coursework before achieving their B.C. certificate of graduation.
- › Launched TogetherBC, the province's first ever poverty reduction strategy that addresses the disproportionate rate of poverty among Indigenous Peoples
- › Affirmed and lay out a path to upholding First Nations jurisdiction over children, youth, and families including through amendments child welfare laws, as well as an MOU recognizing Secwépemc jurisdiction over child and family

services, and a [community agreement with the Simpcw First Nation](#) to support the well-being of families

- › Provided funding support to the B.C. Assembly of First Nations to launch the new [Centre of Excellence in First Nation Economic Development](#)
- › [Doubled the amount of revenues from forestry](#) that First Nations will receive, with further work on creating a new revenue-sharing model underway
- › Worked with First Nations across B.C. to [defer logging of 2.6 million hectares of old growth forests](#), and [supported First Nations to develop management plans](#) for their old growth forests
- › Launched an [Anti-Racism Action Plan for K-12 schools](#) to identify and take action against racism in school communities
- › Passed the [Anti-Racism Data Act](#) to identify and eliminate systemic racism and advance anti-racism in B.C.
- › Entered into a [decision-making agreement with the Tahltan Nation](#) to recognize jurisdiction over land management, title, and rights within their territory
- › Reached a [historic agreement with the Blueberry River First Nations](#) to exercise their rights over their territory and industry action within their territory
- › Came to a [consensus agreement with the Treaty 8 Nations](#) on land and resource planning and for regional solutions
- › Worked alongside First Nations to create [the Indigenous Guardians pilot program](#) to collaboratively manage, and share enforcement and compliance responsibilities within Provincial protected areas
- › Enshrined the [National Day for Truth and Reconciliation into law](#) to mark it as a provincial holiday to honour the residential school survivors, and all those who did not come home from residential schools
- › Started to reach [settlements with First Nations on Treaty Land Entitlement claims](#).
- › Introduced [legislation](#) that supports the Haida Nation's inherent right of governance by recognizing the Council of the Haida Nation (CHN) as the government of the Haida Nation in provincial law.
- › Introduced [new funding](#) to support First Nations participation in implementing the Declaration Act.
- › Supporting Indigenous communities to strengthen their food systems through the [Indigenous Food Systems and Agriculture Partnership Program](#)

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## Child Care, Children and Families

- › Since the launch of Childcare BC in 2018, we've invested [\\$2.7 billion in child care](#) to build a strong foundation for the inclusive, universal child care system B.C. families need.
- › We have funded more than [30,500 new licensed child care spaces](#) across BC since July 2018, and more than 10,500 of these spaces are providing care for children right now.
- › We launched the Fee Reduction Initiative and the Affordable Child Care Benefit, which since February 2018 have helped parents save up to \$1,600 a month per child on their child care fees.
- › This year, we are bringing in fee reductions for school-age children starting September 2023.
- › We have expanded the number of [\\$10 a Day child care sites](#) across BC. As of February 2023, there are 12,700 \$10 a Day spaces.
- › Investing in [Early Childhood Educators](#) to train, recruit and retain these professionals. This includes:
  - › Enhancing compensation by \$4 per hour, bringing the median ECE wage to \$25 per hour.
  - › Providing bursaries of up to \$5000 per semester to students completing ECE programs.
  - › Creating 151 student spaces in ECE work-integrated programs, so people can obtain or upgrade their qualifications while working.
  - › Prioritizing ECEs on the path towards permanent residency through the provincial nominee program.
- › Expanded a [dual-credit program](#) that allows Grade 11 and 12 students to earn both high school and post-secondary credits while they start their training as ECEs.

- › Created more than 640 new, free licensed child care spaces in Aboriginal Head Start (AHS) programs that will benefit Indigenous families in over 30 communities throughout the province. Through Budget 2021 we will be supporting an additional 400 Aboriginal Head Start child care spaces.
- › Amended the School Act to allow school boards to directly operate before and after school care on school grounds. Having child care on school grounds means smoother pick-ups and drop-offs for parents, and an easier transition for kids.
- › Introduced legislation that recognizes the value of the child care workforce by creating a stand-alone statute for Early Childhood Educators and provides more transparency and accountability as we continue building on our progress towards an inclusive, universal child care system.
- › Gave foster parents and other caregivers a boost in support payments – the first increase in a decade – to provide more support to some of B.C.’s most vulnerable children and adults.
- › Ensured family members get equal pay to foster parents when they care for children through the Extended Family Program so that Indigenous children can be cared for in their communities.
- › Increased funding and supports for youth from government care transitioning to adulthood by:
  - › Providing a \$600 month rent supplement to help with rental costs in the private market
  - › Creating a new no-limit earnings exemption that means youth from care will not see a reduction in their benefits for working, gaining skills and earning income.
  - › Hiring Youth Transition Support Workers who will support youth in care starting at age 14 and guide them in accessing services until they are 25.
  - › Providing smartphones to 4,000+ youth in government care, increasing access to online services, resources, and opportunities
  - › Removing barriers to post-secondary studies by expanding tuition waivers for public post-secondary institutions.
  - › Increasing the needs-based monthly support rate by up to \$250, to a maximum of \$1,250.
  - › Allowing for year-round financial support, so young people can continue to receive supports during school program breaks.
- › Ended the discriminatory practice of hospital ‘birth alerts’.
- › Improving services for children and youth with support needs and their families by:
  - › Increasing the medical equipment funding for children with complex care needs by \$10 million annually – the first increase in 20 years – so that families aren’t having to pay out of pocket for crucial items like wheelchairs and lifts.
  - › Expanding the province’s program of respite care for families with children who have support needs, benefiting more than 1,300 additional families.

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## Education, Post Secondary and Future Skills

- › In 2022-23 we invested \$7.4 billion in learning for K-12 students, which is \$1.8 billion more than the previous government committed in 2016-17. This includes:
  - › More EAs in classrooms
  - › More funding for students with special needs
  - › Targeted funding to support Indigenous and rural students
- › Budget 2023 commits \$3.4 billion for capital school projects over the next three years – this includes:
  - › New and expanded schools
  - › Seismic upgrades to keep kids safe
  - › Maintenance
  - › Playgrounds
  - › Property purchases for future schools

- › Invested \$214 million to create and expand local school food programs across the province through Budget 2023. This will help make sure students are fed and ready to learn, and ease inflation pressures on families.
- › The Student and Family Affordability Fund provided \$60 million for the 2022/23 year to help families deal with the rising cost of living. The fund will make sure students have access to meals and have the supplies they need, as well as helping with the cost of field trips and other fees.
- › Funded 231 new playgrounds at schools across the province since 2017 through an annual fund designed to relieve the fundraising burden on parents.
- › Negotiated a BC Tripartite Education Agreement (BCTEA) with Indigenous education rights-holders that commits the federal government to provide an additional \$100 million over 5 years and guarantees equal per-pupil funding of on-reserve Indigenous students with local school district students – the first and only such agreement of its kind in Canada.
- › To support a safe return to school for fall 2021, our government provided \$43.6 million for enhanced cleaning measures, support for First Nations and Métis students, mental health services, and rapid response teams.
- › Launched a K-12 Anti-Racism Action Plan to empower students and teachers to identify racism and discrimination and take action.
- › Became the first jurisdiction in Canada to require all public schools to provide students with equitable, stigma-free access to free menstrual products in school washrooms.
- › Approved a curriculum for 18 First Nations languages to be taught in B.C. schools, with more in development.
- › Introduced a new high school graduation requirement focused on Indigenous perspectives, histories and cultures.
- › Reestablished needs-based student grants, which were cancelled by the BC Liberals, to make post-secondary education and training more affordable for thousands of students throughout B.C.
- › Restored tuition-free Adult Basic Education and English Language Learning, removing roadblocks set up by the BC Liberals for people wanting to upgrade and pursue their dreams.
- › Eliminated interest on British Columbia student loans, helping to ensure that students who have to borrow for their education don't end up paying more than those who don't.
- › Funded 27,000+ apprenticeship and foundation training seats in public and private institutes in Budget 2019 to ensure B.C. has the skilled workers we need.
- › Launched a new \$20 million training program so people can get the skills they need to help them find good jobs as the economy recovers.
- › Provided emergency funding so students have access to assistance to help them cope with the financial pressures caused by COVID-19.
- › As part of our commitment to add 2,900 tech seats by 2023 at public post-secondary institutions, we funded 1,900 tech seats in 2020-21 throughout the province.
- › Eliminated post-secondary tuition and provided additional funding for living expenses for former youth in care, up to age 27. As of March 2021, 1,565 former youth in care have been able to attend post-secondary and work towards their dreams.
- › Invested nearly \$14 million to help thousands of youth, women and under-represented groups to get apprenticeships and employment in the skilled trades.
- › Investing in more programs for health care workers so people can begin rewarding careers and so that the health care system has the skilled work force it needs to provide care.
- › Funded the first Indigenous law degree program in all of Canada at UVic – answering Article 50 of TRC.
- › Invested \$12 million to support graduate degree scholarships for Masters and Doctoral degree students.
- › Adding 2,900 new tech-related seats at public colleges and universities in new and expanded programs across the province.
- › Eliminated post-secondary tuition and provided additional funding for living expenses for former youth in care, up to age 27. With this elimination of fees, so far over 1119 former youth in care have been able to attend post-secondary and work towards their dreams.

- › Invested in open education resources including more [open textbooks](#) for students and instructors, reducing the burden of cost and levelling the playing field for students at post-secondary institutions across the province.
- › Invested funding for new skills training and employment programs for [survivors of violence and abuse](#), older workers, adult learners and people facing multiple barriers to employment to empower people to achieve their educational and professional goals.
- › Expanded program spaces and bursary funding for those wanting to pursue a career in child care as an [early childhood educator \(ECE\)](#), as part of the Province's commitment to create a universal child care system in B.C.
- › Created the first [nursing degree program](#) in the Northeast and increased funding to create a number of additional seats in programs such as: [occupational and physical therapy](#), and trades.
- › More than doubled the number of [specialty nurse training opportunities](#) in the province by funding 1,000 seats each year at the British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT).
- › The first province in Canada to develop an [Electric Vehicle Maintenance Training Program](#) to make sure the province's workforce has the skills and training needed to support more electric vehicles on the road.
- › Opened new state-of-the-art facilities to support [SFU sustainable energy engineering](#) students, students preparing for careers in the health and social services sectors at Camosun College with the Alex & Jo Campbell [Centre for Health and Wellness](#) and [Selkirk College](#) trades students.
- › Launched a [sexual violence prevention campaign](#) at all of British Columbia's public post-secondary campuses to educate students, faculty, staff and the broader public about consent, because people deserve to feel safe and free from potential sexual violence.
- › Provided \$9 million to [expand co-op and work-integrated learning](#) at post-secondary institutions so students will have more opportunities to gain real-life, relevant work experience that will give them a leg-up in their careers.
- › Launched a made-in-B.C. [certification system to support higher-paying, more stable work for trades workers](#) and to help build the foundation of a strong economic recovery.

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## Jobs

- › Creating tens of thousands of jobs in communities around B.C. with more than \$20 billion building hospitals, schools, and transportation projects — the [largest infrastructure investment in B.C.'s history](#).
- › Ensured good-paying jobs, better training and apprenticeships, and more trades opportunities for Indigenous peoples, women and youth in key public-sector infrastructure projects in B.C. through [Community Benefits Agreements](#).
- › Building an [innovation corridor](#) that will drive economic growth and create good jobs and opportunities for people in Surrey and the Fraser Valley, including establishing a Quantum Algorithms Institute at Simon Fraser University's Surrey campus which will position B.C. as a world leader in this emerging field.
- › Supported job creators by [cutting the small business tax rate](#) by 20 per cent.
- › Ensuring that [more B.C. logs are processed in B.C.](#), creating jobs for British Columbians by applying a new, targeted fee-in-lieu of manufacturing for exported logs harvested from a coastal BC Timber Sales license.
- › Investing in the development of B.C.'s [clean energy vehicle \(CEV\) sector](#), creating good jobs and supporting low-carbon innovation through the CleanBC Advanced Research and Commercialization (ARC) program.
- › Providing [5,000 jobs for youth and young adults](#) in the growing tech sector, environment and natural resource fields through almost \$45 million StrongerBC Future Leaders Program.
- › Secured new shipbuilding contract to support the industry and a strong economy recovery by bringing [1,400 professional and skilled jobs](#) to BC.

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## Public Safety / Safe Communities

- › Took action to keep at-risk youth out of gangs by:
  - › Expanding the [ERASE anti-bullying program](#) that trains teachers and parents to identify and stop harmful behaviours.
  - › Doubling funding for the [Surrey WRAP program](#).
- › Addressed nearly all of the recommendations in the Abbott-Chapman report to improve how BC prevents, prepares for, responds to, and recovers from [wildfires and floods](#).
- › Added \$31 million—a funding increase of nearly 45% — to the [Community Emergency Preparedness Fund](#) to support community resiliency in the face of wildfires, floods, and other emergencies.
- › Modernized the [Emergency Support Services](#) (ESS) system to allow for digital applications by evacuees.
- › Allocated \$300,000 in funding to community organizations for prevention and intervention programs for perpetrators of [domestic violence](#).
- › Started the process of modernizing BC’s [Emergency Program Act](#), to improve the ways we work with other levels of government to better protect and support British Columbians before, during, and after natural disasters.
- › Invested \$18.6 million in [BC Search and Rescue](#) organizations to help with training, equipment and administration—the biggest single investment in SAR in BC history.
- › Took action against money laundering by moving the Province’s gambling regulator to the new [independent gambling control office](#) (IGCO), and provided it with greater independence to set and enforce regulatory gambling policy.
- › Enhanced regulations and increased fines to improve passenger safety in the [party bus industry](#).
- › Brought in new [regulations on vaping](#) products and advertising to protect youth from risks associated with vaping.
- › Tasked an all-party legislative committee to [review the Police Act](#), and make recommendations on how it can be modernized to reflect today’s challenges and opportunities for delivering police services with a specific focus on systemic racism.
- › Significantly expanded [cell phone coverage](#) in rural and remote parts of BC.
- › Established the [Provincial Forensic Firearms Lab](#).
- › Expanded and increased the capacity of [Community Transition Teams](#).
- › Worked with communities to combat racism through the [Resilience BC Anti-Racism network](#).
- › Passed the [Firearm Violence Prevention Act](#).
- › [Guns & Gangs Strategy](#), [Witness Security Program](#).
- › Established the [Repeat Violent Offender Intervention Initiative \(ReVOII\)](#) with 12 regional hubs. This is supported by the new Special Investigation and Targeted Enforcement (SITE) program.
- › Funded a record number of RCMP officers – filling vacancies across the province and allowing the [Provincial Police Service to reach its full strength](#).
- › Passed [Unexplained Wealth Order Legislation](#).
- › Implemented the Safer Communities Action Plan, which included a new [Virtual Bail Processes](#) and expanded [Situation Tables](#) in communities across the province.
- › Pushed for [federal amendments](#) to criminal code.
- › Passed the [Intimate Images Protection Act](#).
- › Funding to support transition to [NextGen 911](#).

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## Agriculture and Food

- › Boosted B.C.’s agriculture industry and connected people to products grown and made in B.C. by [relaunching Buy BC](#), and expanded the program to include [Grow BC](#) and [Feed BC](#).



- › Committed \$8.3 million over three years to develop the [B.C. Food Hub Network](#), linking food producers and processors with shared technology, research and development, production equipment, expertise and services.
- › Launched a [Regenerative Agriculture and Agritech Network \(RAAN\)](#) that will help farmers adopt the latest technology to increase profitability and environmental sustainability, while strengthening the provincial food system.
- › Created the [Extreme Weather Preparedness for Agriculture](#) program to help farmers reduce their risks from extreme heat, flooding, and wildfires.
- › Supporting farmers and ranchers through B.C.'s new [AgriStability Enhancement Program](#) to help producers recover from tough times.
- › Helped BC farmers [recover from the November 2021 floods](#) with \$228 million in joint federal-provincial support.
- › Invested in [doubling the subsidized seats reserved for B.C. students](#) at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine, to train more British Columbian veterinarians.
- › Created a [new meat licensing system](#) that supports farm businesses and makes it easier for B.C. families to buy, serve and enjoy meat raised in their own communities.
- › [Increased housing flexibility on ALR land](#) by allowing farmers to have small secondary homes.
- › Supported access to affordable farmland for young farmers through the [B.C. Land Matching Program](#).

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## Arts, Sports, and Tourism

- › Invested \$20 million in [Science World](#) to support key infrastructure repairs and keep it a vibrant destination for tourists and B.C. families.
- › Invested \$30 million to [enhance tourism infrastructure around the province](#), including climate adaptations and accessibility upgrades for attractions and campgrounds.
- › Supporting a strong recovery for our [vibrant arts and culture economy](#) with more than \$47.5 million in funding for artists and art organizations since the beginning of the pandemic.
- › Providing [more stability for people working in film, TV, music, publishing and video game industries](#) with a contribution of \$42 million for skills training, innovation, and recruitment.
- › Establishing Canada's first [Chinese Canadian Museum](#) in Vancouver's Chinatown, which is preparing for its public opening on July 1, 2023.
- › [Revitalizing Chinatown](#) with over \$2 million to restore storefronts, historic neon signs, and make lighting upgrades to this neighbourhood.
- › Helped ensure over [1100 fairs, festivals, and events](#) could recover from the pandemic and continue to bring people together, with over \$30 million in funding for events in 2023 and 2024.
  - › This is on top of the 680 events supported in 2021 with the [Fairs, Festivals and Events Recovery Grant](#).
- › Supported the development of a new, expanded home for the [Vancouver Art Gallery](#), with \$50 million towards the project.
- › Protecting priceless historical artifacts and artwork for future generations with a new [collections and research facility](#) for the Royal BC Museum.
- › Helping [welcome athletes and spectators to B.C. competitions](#) with \$1 million in funding for local, provincial, national and international sports events.
- › [Getting more kids into sports](#) with funding for KidSport. This organization offers up to \$400 per year, per child, so low-income families can sign their children up for activities.
  - › The \$3.6 million [RISE Grant Program](#) also helps youth who are in (or are from) government care to participate in sport and cultural activities.
- › Provided [\\$15 million in pandemic relief for amateur sport](#) so people can continue to have access to these opportunities.

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## Equity, Diversity and Human Rights

- › Appointed B.C.'s first [Parliamentary Secretary for Gender Equity](#), and first [Parliamentary Secretary for Anti-Racism Initiatives](#).
- › Used Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) to ensure gender equality is reflected in all budgets, policies, and programs.
- › Re-established a B.C. [human rights commission](#) after it was dismantled by the BC Liberals in 2002.
- › Passed the [Anti-Racism Data Act](#) to ensure Indigenous, Black, and People of Colour have equal access to government programs and services without systemic barriers.
- › Provided \$20 million to support [community-based emergency sexual assault response services](#) in 2020 and 2021, and \$10 million in stable, annual funding beginning in 2023.
- › Introduced an [X gender option](#) on B.C.-issued identity documents for British Columbians who do not identify as male or female.
- › [Co-developed legislation](#) with B.C. First Nations to establish UNDRIP as the framework for reconciliation in British Columbia.
- › Released an 89-point [Action Plan](#) for the implementation of UNDRIP in B.C.
- › All of B.C.'s schools now have SOGI-inclusive codes of conduct in place, ensuring schools are safe and inclusive for students of all sexual orientations and gender identities.
- › Made [period products free and available](#) to students in every school district.
- › Revamped BC's [Multiculturalism Grants](#) program to help organizations working to improve cultural interactions, reduce barriers and remove discrimination to create a more inclusive province.
- › Launched [Resilience BC](#), a provincewide, anti-racism network, which will provide greater focus and leadership in identifying and challenging racism across BC.
- › Invested \$10 million to establish the [Chinese Canadian Museum](#) in Vancouver – the first in Canada.
- › Provided \$100 million for new community programs focused on seniors' health, culture and education as part of [redressing the internment of Japanese Canadians during the Second World War](#).
- › Introduced legislation to develop [accessibility standards](#) in order to identify, remove and prevent barriers in workplaces, government buildings, and the built environment to ensure all British Columbians can participate more fully in their communities.
- › Changed [hard hat rules](#) to make workplaces more inclusive for people who wear religious head coverings without compromising workplace safety.
- › Introduced a [new high school graduation requirement](#) focused on Indigenous perspectives, histories and cultures.

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## Good Government

- › [New proposed amendments to the Election Act](#) will make it easier for voters in BC to cast their ballot, and will also combat disinformation, increase transparency and strengthen third-party advertising rules in the provincial electoral process.
  - › [Amendments to Election Act brought into force are part of the most significant changes to BCs voting process in more than 25 years.](#) They will allow Elections BC to use machines to count paper ballots more quickly and accurately and will speed up the process for people who vote in person.
- › Banned big money in [provincial, municipal, and recall campaigns](#), ensuring all people are at the centre of democracy, not just the wealthy and well-connected.
- › Funding boost of [\\$4.5 million per year for the Human Rights Tribunal](#) to make justice more accessible.

- › More employees at BC agencies, boards, commissions, and a number of Crown corporations are now protected by the Public Interest Disclosure Act.
  - › The act allows current and former employees to confidentially share information about a serious wrongdoing that affects the public interest with designated officers within their organizations or to the Office of the Ombudsperson.
- › Passed Anti-racism data legislation to improve access to government programs and services for Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour.
- › New Court of Appeals rule will soon make the appeal procedures in civil matters easier to understand and more efficient for lawyers and people who represent themselves.
- › To promote transparency and fairness for renters and landlords, BC Residential Tenancy Branch will record audio of all dispute resolution hearings.
- › Budget 2022 committed \$8.19 million in new, ongoing annual funding for legal aid services, helping people get the timely legal services they need.
- › Made British Columbia the most transparent lobbying regime in Canada.
- › Provided legislative drafting services to opposition members of the Legislative Assembly so all MLAs can better serve British Columbians.
- › Cracked down on dirty money in B.C. casinos, real estate and other sectors.
- › Helped ensure families across the country can celebrate together by moving Family Day to the third week in February.
- › Created the B.C. financial services authority, a new crown corporation that will more effectively protect people when they use financial services and boost oversight of the sector to support a strong, sustainable economy and make life better for people.
- › Providing more agency and independence to the electoral boundaries commission so they can recommend an electoral map that considers demographic changes, helping ensure every vote is equal.
- › Provided flexibility to local governments and made it easier for people to fully participate in their communities by making the temporary tools made available during the pandemic, like virtual meetings and public hearings, permanent.

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## Rural Communities and Forestry

- › Working with the federal government to invest nearly \$230 million to build arenas, community centres, and other infrastructure projects in communities across rural and northern BC.
- › Increasing the value of each log we take out of the forest, by processing more B.C. logs on the coast and redirecting wood waste to B.C.'s pulp and paper mills, as part of the Coast Forest Sector Revitalization Initiative.
- › Launched a regionally driven renewal of the province's Interior forest industry, aimed at developing a competitive, sustainable future for forest companies, workers and communities.
- › Allocated \$69 million to fund a new series of measures aimed at supporting British Columbia forest workers impacted by mill closures and shift reductions in several B.C. Interior communities.
- › Creating more jobs across BC with over \$27 million in project grants to support 38 projects that will help increase the use of wood fibre that otherwise would have been burned as slash.
- › Made changes to the Forest Act to make sure that British Columbians are first in line to benefit from our publicly owned forests, increase wood processing at BC saw mills, and ensure that the First Nations, workers and communities have more say in how our forests are managed.
- › Taking a new, holistic approach to protecting B.C.'s old-growth forests by implementing the recommendations of the old-growth report, deferring 2.1 million hectares of old-growth forest harvesting in ten areas through the province, including Fairy Creek, protecting up to 1,500 exceptionally large, individual trees under the Special Tree Protection Regulation, and transforming B.C.'s forestry industry.
- › Expanded high-speed internet for people living in over 500 rural and remote communities, including 87 Indigenous communities through our Connecting British Columbia program – helping to diversify economic opportunities in rural communities.

- › Introduced a COVID-19 intake to the Connecting British Columbia program for rapid projects to immediately increase connectivity to underserved rural and indigenous communities. Between April and June, 47 projects increased internet capacity to 123 communities. Increased jobs and opportunity for BC's forest communities by proactively adopting [building code changes](#) allowing the safe construction of taller wood buildings.
- › [Reinvesting in the northwest](#) with a \$100 million grant to address long-standing infrastructure needs in four regional districts (Fraser Fort George, Bulkley Nechako, Kitimat Stikine and North Coast) and their 22 municipalities.
- › Signed a [bilateral agreement](#) with the federal government to provide up to \$6 billion in funding through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Plan over the next decade for infrastructure projects in BC.
- › Provided over \$675,000 to the [Cannabis Business Transition Initiative](#) to help cannabis producers in the Kootenays transition to the legal market.
- › Encouraging more food and beverage processing in B.C. through 6 [regional food hubs](#) that will provide local food producers and processors access to the expertise and equipment needed to grow their business
- › Expanded the [Export Navigator initiative](#) to help more rural business owners in B.C. get their goods to international and interprovincial markets.
- › Working in collaboration with Indigenous peoples to seize new clean energy and economic development opportunities, such as a [geothermal energy project](#) permit to the Fort Nelson First Nation.
- › Collaborating with the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) to provide [temporary housing near medical facilities](#) in Prince George and Fort St. John for those who are travelling from remote communities.

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## Poverty Reduction

- › [Historic investment in food security](#) of more than \$200 million to ensure people have better access to an increased supply of affordable, local food.
  - › [Budget 2023 invests \\$214 million over three years to expand existing school food programs](#) and increase capacity to address student hunger in all school districts.
- › Increased the minimum wage to \$16.75/hour beginning June 1, 2023, benefitting around 400,000 workers – the majority of whom are women, immigrants or youth – and their families.
  - › The minimum wage is now tied to B.C.'s annual inflation rate.
- › Increased [earnings exemptions](#) for people on income and disability assistance, so they can earn more without having their assistance payments reduced.
- › For the first time since 2007, [the shelter rate will increase by \\$125 per month](#) starting July 2023. This increase will help approximately 160,000 people, including 33,000 children, throughout BC.
- › BC provided [financial supports for Ukrainian families](#) arriving in BC.
- › New provincial grants of \$16.2 million to [help youth train for jobs in the health and social services sector](#) as youth peer support workers through Foundry BC.
- › In 2019, BC made [menstrual products free for students](#) in school washrooms.
- › Launched [TogetherBC](#), British Columbia's first poverty reduction strategy, which sets a path to reduce overall poverty in B.C. by 25% and child poverty by 50% by 2024.
- › Invested \$26 million in [income and disability assistance enhancements](#) to the B.C. Employment Assistance program to help remove barriers to accessing support.
- › Updated [income and disability assistance policies](#) to remove barriers and make it easier for people to get help when they need it most. These simple and supportive changes are a move away from the mean-spirited policies of the past and will allow people to access essential services and keep them from falling further and further behind.
- › Introduced the [Disability Transportation Supplement](#), which can be used for a BC Bus Pass – a program cruelly taken away by the BC Liberals.
- › [Increased income and disability assistance rates](#) three times since forming government in 2017 for a total of \$325 per month.

- › As part of TogetherBC, provided \$5 million to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) for the [Poverty Reduction Planning & Action program](#) to help municipalities and community organizations identify their most pressing local issues and develop local solutions in the fight against poverty.
- › Increased the [daily rates](#) for eligible income assistance clients living at registered or licensed residences for the first time in 10 years.
- › Provided \$6 million to create the [Homelessness Community Action grant](#) to help prevent homelessness and support organizations on the ground address homelessness in their communities.
- › Contributed \$10 million to the Vancity Community Foundation to develop a sustainable, province-wide [rent bank](#) system to support renters facing financial difficulties to avoid evictions and prevent homelessness.
- › Provided support for the [community social services sector](#), with \$10 million in one-time funding to support recruitment, retention and occupational health and safety training programs for staff.
- › [Provided over \\$8.4 million to advance reconciliation in the BC community social services sector.](#)

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## Transportation

- › [Removed unfair tolls](#) on the Port Mann Bridge and Golden Ears Bridge, saving commuters in the lower mainland up to \$1,500 a year.
- › [Froze ferry fares](#) on all major BC Ferries routes, reduced fares on smaller routes, and restored the 100% Mon-Thurs seniors discount.
- › [Restored service to 10 ferry routes](#) that were cut by the BC Liberals in 2014.
- › Amended the [Coastal Ferries Act](#) to put people at the centre of BC Ferries' decision-making.
- › Launched a [new BC Bus North service](#) in response to Greyhound's decision to eliminate service on routes in northern B.C., ensuring people in the North have access to safe, reliable and affordable transportation.
- › Retained over 83% of Greyhound's [long-haul bus routes](#) by working with local service providers and fast-tracking applications. And we're continuing to work on addressing service gaps across B.C.
- › Put [ride-hailing regulations](#) in place that will focus on passenger, driver and company safety, and will allow companies to apply to the Passenger Transportation Board in September 2019, with companies expected to be operating by the end of the year.
- › Funding 40% of the capital costs of the [Mayors' Council 10-Year Vision](#) to ensure we're investing in a modern, integrated and affordable transit system that is crucial as Metro Vancouver grows, including:
  - › Five new [RapidBus](#) routes to serve 11 communities, beginning in January 2020. Two additional RapidBus routes are expected to launch in 2021 to serve Surrey, Delta and Richmond, with five more routes planned for Phase Three.
  - › [200 new SkyTrain cars](#) to replace 150 ageing cars and increase capacity, 40,000 additional bus service hours, and 10-minute SeaBus sailings increasing capacity by 50% during peak hours.
- › Committing \$1.82 billion in provincial funding for the [Broadway Subway project](#) to reduce congestion in Metro Vancouver.
- › Fully funded the [Pattullo Bridge](#) replacement, bringing commuters one step closer to a modern, safer crossing. Building with a CBA to provide good-paying jobs to local people and address the skilled trades shortage.
- › Six-laning Highway 1 from 216<sup>th</sup> to 264<sup>th</sup> St, with new HOV lanes connecting commuters from Aldergrove to Burnaby.
- › Launched [Move. Commute. Connect.](#): B.C.'s new strategy for cleaner, more active transportation, which aims to double the percentage of trips taken with active transportation by 2030.
- › [Changing the Motor Vehicle Act](#) to allow for the launch of mobility technology pilot projects, like e-scooters, electric unicycles or e-skateboards.

- › Made it more convenient to drive electric vehicles by adding a total of [83 new Level 2 EV charging stations](#) across B.C. in partnership with the federal government.
- › Provided \$1 billion in partnership with the federal government to TransLink, BC Transit, and BC Ferries to ensure people continue to have access to [safe, reliable and affordable public transportation](#) options despite the decrease in ridership due to the pandemic.
- › Invested [\\$2.4 billion](#) in TransLink
- › [Launched BC Bus North in 2018](#) and secured the [continuation of service in 2021](#), ensuring people in the North have access to safe and reliable service along this crucial route.

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## Workers' Rights

- › Created a [Temporary Foreign Worker Registry](#) to better protect temporary foreign workers against exploitation and abuse.
- › Introduced government [licensing requirements](#) for foreign worker recruiters.
- › Amended the Workers Compensation Act to allow firefighters, wildfire firefighters, fire investigators, and firefighters working for First Nations and other Indigenous organizations [easier access to workers' compensation](#).
- › Improved and simplified the process by which workers can make complaints to the [Employment Standards Branch](#), and got rid of the BC Liberals' "self-help kits".
- › Made the most significant improvements to the [Workers Compensation Act](#) in more than two decades.
- › [Improved BC's Employment Standards Act](#) to:
  - › better protect children and youth from dangerous work;
  - › make it easier for workers to get help when they feel their rights have been violated;
  - › provide more job protection to people dealing with difficult personal circumstances; and
  - › ensure people are paid the wages they are owed — and that those that violate the law do not have an unfair advantage.
- › Made changes to support the long-term sustainability of [defined benefit pension plans](#) that British Columbians depend on.
- › Introduced [paid leave for people to get their COVID-19 Vaccine](#) so workers who miss shifts to protect themselves and their community can do so with peace of mind that their wages and employment are protected.
- › Introduced [paid sick leave](#) to support workers to stay home when they are sick during the pandemic, and introducing permanent paid leave come 2022.

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**We're going to keep working for you to fix problems, get results for people, and together, build a better future for everyone in British Columbia.**

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[Affordability and the Cost of Living](#) | [Healthcare, Mental Health and Addictions](#) | [Housing](#) | [Secure Economy](#) | [Climate Action and Environment](#) | [Reconciliation](#) | [Child Care, Children and Families](#) | [Education, Post Secondary and Future Skills](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Public Safety / Safe Communities](#) | [Agriculture and Food](#) | [Arts, Sports, and Tourism](#) | [Equity, Diversity and Human Rights](#) | [Good Government](#) | [Rural Communities](#) | [Poverty Reduction](#) | [Transportation](#) | [Workers' Rights](#)

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