

# Budget 2019 Consultation



British Columbia is a province rich in people, resources, natural beauty and opportunities. However, opportunities have become further and further out of reach for too many people in our province. It's time for a different approach. Your new government is building a British Columbia that we can all be proud of.

The government of B.C. has made significant progress in its first year to secure a better future for your family. It has taken steps to make life more affordable, improve the services you rely on, and create a strong, sustainable economy throughout the province.

There are also challenges ahead that government needs to plan for, including financial pressures from wildfires, climate change, and instability from previous mismanagement of ICBC and the misuse of BC Hydro's deferral accounts. British Columbia continues to be among the strongest economic growth performers in the country. With prudent fiscal management, your government is working to address these challenges, while investing in you, your family, and your community.

Budgets are about people, and the choices we make today will shape the future of our province. That's why, looking ahead to Budget 2019, we want to hear about your priorities and how we can work together to build a strong, sustainable future for your family and your community.



BRITISH  
COLUMBIA

# HOUSING

Affordable housing benefits people, businesses and our economy, but many British Columbians still can't find an affordable place to call home.

That's why the government of B.C. is taking strong action to tackle the housing crisis by increasing supply, curbing speculative demand, establishing protections for renters and manufactured home owners, and addressing fraud and money laundering in B.C.'s real estate market.

These are the first steps to making housing more affordable; government will continue its work to moderate the housing market and create 114,000 homes over the next 10 years.



# CHILDCARE

Reducing sky-high child care costs helps B.C. families get ahead, and helps businesses attract and retain employees. In Budget 2018, the government of B.C. made the largest investment in child care in the province's history — \$1 billion over three years — to help build a quality child care system that is affordable and accessible, starting with:

- » Enabling two new programs — the Affordable Child Care Benefit and the Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative — that are already reducing the cost of child care for thousands of families.
- » Creating more than 22,000 new licensed child care spaces throughout the province.
- » Providing incentives for licensed service providers to offer child care outside of standard business hours.
- » Boosting support for early childhood educators to meet growing demand and rising quality standards.



**SINGLE PARENT  
WITH AN INFANT**  
*Earning up to \$45,000*

**PAYING: \$1,250/MONTH**

**SAVINGS UNDER CHILD CARE B.C.:**

- » \$350 through Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative
- » \$900 through Affordable Child Care Benefit

**Total benefits under Child Care B.C. \$1,250**

Cost of licensed  
child care beginning  
in September 2018:

**\$0** /month



**TWO-PARENT  
FAMILY WITH AN  
INFANT AND A  
THREE YEAR OLD**  
*Earning \$74,000*

**PAYING: \$2,050/MONTH**

**SAVINGS UNDER CHILD CARE B.C.:**

- » \$450 through Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative
- » \$1,492.40 through Affordable Child Care Benefit

**Total benefits under Child Care B.C. \$1,942.40**

Estimated cost of  
licensed child care  
beginning in 2020:

**\$107.60** /month

## SAVING YOU MONEY EACH AND EVERY DAY

For too long, British Columbians have been burdened with rising costs and fees, from bridge tolls to ferry fares and Medical Services Plan (MSP) fees. Over the past year, government has taken big steps to make life more affordable by:

- » Cutting MSP premiums by 50% as of January 2018 and eliminating them completely by 2020, saving families up to \$1,800 per year and individuals \$900 per year.
- » Eliminating unfair bridge tolls on the Port Mann and Golden Ears bridges.
- » Freezing or reducing ferry fares, and bringing back the 100% seniors' Monday to Thursday passenger discount.
- » Bringing down the costs of prescription drugs by reducing PharmaCare deductibles for people with incomes below \$45,000 annually.
- » Restoring free bus passes for people receiving disability assistance.

## LIFTING PEOPLE OUT OF POVERTY

Everyone deserves the opportunity to lead a stable and successful life. Too many people are working hard, and struggling to get ahead. That is why government is developing a Poverty Reduction Strategy that will lift people up and bring down barriers to opportunity.

This strategy will build on actions government has already taken to address people in the greatest need, including increases to assistance rates, and the creation of a new transportation supplement for people on disability assistance. It will also build on the government's work to address the housing crisis and make child care more accessible and affordable.

As part of government's commitment to take real, lasting and effective action to deliver opportunity and make life better for families, legislation will be introduced in Fall 2018 to support the Poverty Reduction Strategy.



### FULLY ELIMINATING MSP PREMIUMS

Effective Jan. 1, 2020



#### TWO-PARENT FAMILY WITH TWO CHILDREN

**FULL PREMIUMS: \$1,800/PER YEAR**

Cost once **MSP PREMIUMS  
ARE FULLY ELIMINATED**  
(as of Jan. 1, 2020):

**\$0** /month



#### INDIVIDUALS

**FULL PREMIUMS: \$900/PER YEAR**

Cost once **MSP PREMIUMS  
ARE FULLY ELIMINATED**  
(as of Jan. 1, 2020):

**\$0** /month

## DELIVERING THE SERVICES YOU COUNT ON

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From health care for a loved one, to quality schools for our children, to keeping communities safe, British Columbians deserve services they can depend on.

To help patients get better, faster, more efficient health care, government has launched a new primary care strategy. At the heart of the strategy is a new focus on team-based care that will put patients back at the centre of health services.

British Columbia is also continuing to escalate its response to the overdose crisis through the newly established Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions. Working with community partners, government is now moving B.C. from a focus on emergency response, to a proactive, integrated and preventive approach that helps people when and where they need it.

When it comes to education, government is making sure British Columbians have access to the quality training and programs they need to succeed, and to help our province grow. From adding more student spaces and fast-tracking seismic upgrades, to eliminating tuition fees for Adult Basic Education and English Language Learning programs, as well as post-secondary tuition for former children in care, your government knows that investing in people means investing in the future.

## WORKING TOWARD TRUE, LASTING RECONCILIATION

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Underpinning all of our work is a shared commitment to reconciliation with Indigenous peoples and the adoption of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action, and the Tsilhqot'in Supreme Court decision.

## BUILDING A STRONG, SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

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A strong economy should work for everyone, not just the few at the top. Government is building a sustainable and innovative economy that works for you, your family, and your community.

Instead of looking to a singular sector to create jobs, we're building a diverse economy by strengthening resource industries like forestry, energy and mining, in addition to supporting small business, tourism, agriculture, manufacturing, innovation, tech and the digital economy. At the same time, we're building infrastructure to deliver the goods and services people need and that keep our province moving.

The B.C. government is providing businesses with the supports and services they need to help build a sustainable and innovative economy. Government has invested over \$500 million to support B.C. businesses, including lowering the small business corporate income tax from 2.5% to 2% and eliminating the Provincial Sales Tax on non-residential electricity by April 2019.

And to support B.C.'s long-term economic success, government established the Emerging Economy Task Force, expanded the scope of the Innovation Commission, and named B.C.'s first Innovation Commissioner.

Climate change affects us all, and every British Columbian plays a part in building a vibrant, clean economy. We're taking action on climate change and building an economy that works for people today and tomorrow.

B.C. is among the top economic growth leaders in the country and is the only province to maintain a triple-A credit rating with all three international rating agencies.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about the investments made in Budget 2018, please visit:

[www.bcbudget.gov.bc.ca](http://www.bcbudget.gov.bc.ca)



# QUESTIONS

1. What are your top three priorities to help make life better for you, your family, and your community?

a. *Priority One:*

b. *Priority Two:*

c. *Priority Three:*

2. If you had one dollar to put toward programs and services across government, how would you choose to divide it?

- ¢ K-12 education
- ¢ Child care
- ¢ Climate change and environmental protection
- ¢ Economic development
- ¢ Housing
- ¢ Indigenous resources and reconciliation
- ¢ Health care
- ¢ Justice and public safety
- ¢ Post-secondary education and skills training
- ¢ Poverty reduction
- ¢ Roads, highways and bridges
- ¢ Public transportation
- ¢ Debt reduction

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¢ *Total*

3. Given the high level of demand for government programs and services, how would you pay for new and enhanced programs and services?

Choose up to three:

- Increase personal income tax
- Increase corporate income tax
- Increase PST
- Introduce new fees (i.e. licensing fees, recycling fees, etc.)
- Increase natural resource royalties
- Reduce or eliminate existing programs

*Other:*

Questions continued on next page. 

4. What can government do to build a diverse and sustainable economy and support businesses and industries across our province?

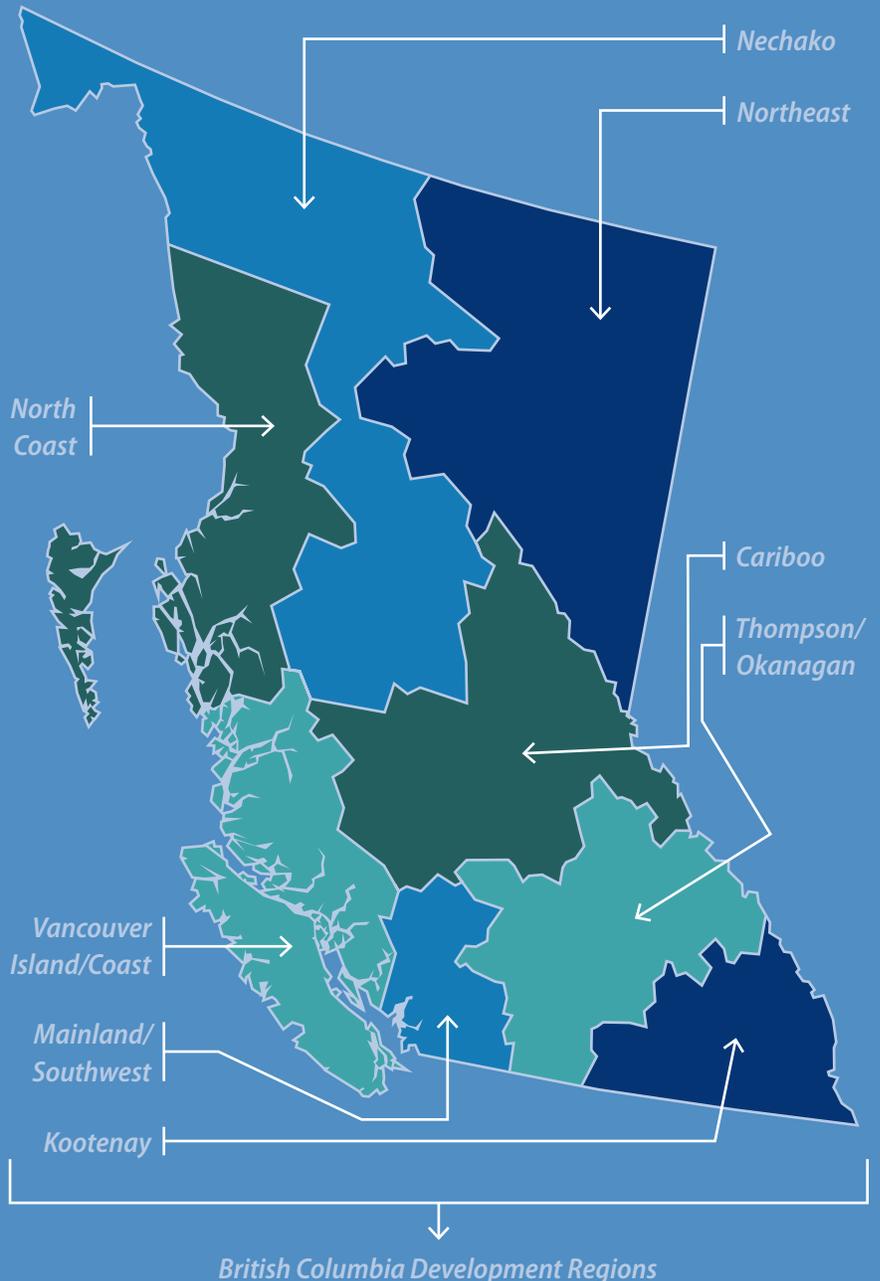
Choose all that apply:

- Streamline government processes and regulations.
- Reduce trade barriers and advocate across borders for B.C. industries.
- Improve regulations in B.C.'s financial and securities markets.
- Increase opportunities for training and post-secondary education.
- Increase programs and employment training for women, LGBTQ+ people, Indigenous peoples and others who face systemic barriers.
- Improve physical and mental health supports and programs for all workers.
- Improve access to child care.
- Invest in affordable housing and work to stabilize the real estate market.

Other:

5. Please identify your region:

- |   |                                      |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vancouver Island/Coast   | <input type="checkbox"/> Cariboo     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lower Mainland/Southwest | <input type="checkbox"/> North Coast |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Thompson/Okanagan        | <input type="checkbox"/> Nechako     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kootenay                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Northeast   |



# FIRST QUARTERLY REPORT UPDATE

(\$ millions)	Actual 2017/18	Forecast 2018/19	Plan 2019/20	Plan 2020/21
Revenue	52,020	55,815	58,684	59,246
Expense	(51,719)	(54,796)	(57,374)	(58,462)
Forecast allowance	-	(350)	(500)	(600)
Surplus	301	669	810	184

Capital spending				
Taxpayer-supported capital spending	3,908	5,579	5,439	5,625
Self-supported capital spending	2,729	4,078	3,015	3,333
	6,637	9,657	8,454	8,958

Provincial debt				
Total taxpayer-supported debt	43,607	44,717	46,698	50,072
Total self-supported debt	21,312	23,447	24,410	25,518
Total debt (including forecast allowance)	64,919	68,514	71,608	76,190

Taxpayer-supported debt-to-GDP ratio	15.5%	15.3%	15.3%	15.8%
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Taxpayer-supported debt-to-revenue ratio	82.5%	82.0%	82.3%	87.5%
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(per cent)	2017	2018	2019	2020
Economic forecast (calendar year)				
Real GDP growth	3.6%	2.2%	1.8%	2.0%
Nominal GDP growth	6.3%	4.5%	3.9%	3.9%
Population growth	1.3%	1.0%	1.1%	1.2%

\*Further details supporting the 2018–19 to 2020–21 forecasts are available in the First Quarterly Report for 2018–19. Other fiscal and economic information can be found at [www.fin.gov.bc.ca/pubs.htm](http://www.fin.gov.bc.ca/pubs.htm) and [www.bcbudget.gov.bc.ca](http://www.bcbudget.gov.bc.ca)

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# SUBMIT YOUR IDEAS

The Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services is a permanent all-party committee of the Legislative Assembly of B.C. Each fall, the committee holds province-wide consultations to seek the views of people in B.C., and presents a final report with recommendations to the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia for the Minister of Finance's consideration in preparation for the annual budget and fiscal plan.

Join one of the public consultation meetings listed below, or send a written submission, including contact information, to:

## Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services

Room 224, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4

Email: [financecommittee@leg.bc.ca](mailto:financecommittee@leg.bc.ca)

Phone: 1 (877) 428-8337 (toll-free)

Phone (250) 356-2933 (collect)

Date	Community	Address	Time
<b>Week 1</b>			
Monday, Sept 17	Dawson Creek	Kiwanis Performing Arts Centre 10401-10 Street, Dawson Creek, B.C. V1G 3T8	3pm–7pm
Tuesday, Sept 18	Prince George	Prince George Conference and Civic Centre (Room 201-203) 808 Canada Games Way, Prince George, B.C. V2L 5T6	8am–12pm
Tuesday, Sept 18	Smithers	Coast Mountain College – Smithers Campus 3966 Second Ave, Smithers, B.C. V0J 2N0	4pm–8pm
Wednesday, Sept 19	Masset	The Old Massett Community Hall 348 Eagle Avenue, Massett, B.C. V0T 1M0	1pm–4pm
Thursday, Sept 20	Campbell River	Wei Wei Kum First Nation's Thunderbird Hall 1400 Weiweikum Road, Campbell River, B.C. V9W 5W8	1pm–5pm
<b>Week 2</b>			
Monday, Sept 24	Vancouver	UBC Robson Square (Room C150) 800 Robson Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6Z 3B7	9am–6pm
Tuesday, Sept 25	Cranbrook	Prestige Rocky Mountain Resort Cranbrook (Fernie Salon) 209 Van Horne St S, Cranbrook, B.C. V1C 6R9	8am–12pm
Tuesday, Sept 25	Trail	Trail Memorial Centre (McIntyre Room) 1051 Victoria Avenue, Trail, B.C. V1R 3T3	4pm–8pm
Wednesday, Sept 26	Nelson	Nelson Curling Centre (Upstairs Lounge) 302 Cedar Street, Nelson, B.C. V1L 5R2	8am–11am
Wednesday, Sept 26	Kamloops	Thompson Rivers University (Alpine Room) 805 TRU Way, Kamloops, B.C. V2C 0C8	4pm–8pm
Thursday, Sept 27	Kelowna	Rotary Centre for the Arts (Salloum Rehearsal Hall) 421 Cawston Ave, Kelowna, B.C. V1Y 6Z1	9am–5pm
<b>Week 3</b>			
Tuesday, Oct 9	Esquimalt	Songhees Wellness Centre (Boardroom) 1100 Admirals Rd, Victoria, B.C. V9A 2P6	8am–4pm
Wednesday, Oct 10	Mission	Mission Library (Meeting Room) 33247 2 <sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Mission, B.C. V2V 1J9	9am–5pm
Thursday, Oct 11	Surrey	Sheraton Vancouver Guildford Hotel (Barnston B Room) 15269 104 Avenue, Surrey, B.C. V3R 1N5	9am–5pm