

Budget 2020 Consultation



British Columbians share a sense of pride in the place we call home. The desire to protect, improve and celebrate all that British Columbia has to offer is what brings us together.

B.C. is a leader in economic growth, but a truly prosperous province needs to work for everyone. It needs to create opportunities for people now, while meeting the challenges of tomorrow. All British Columbians deserve to succeed, and your government is working hard to make life better and help people reach their full potential in a province filled with opportunities.

We have made significant progress in delivering improved health care, education and child care for your family. And we are putting more money back into the pockets of British Columbians through the new B.C. Child Opportunity benefit, by removing interest from B.C. student loans and by eliminating MSP premiums.

There are also challenges that government needs to plan for, like the problems at ICBC, money laundering and the housing crisis. And we are carefully monitoring and planning for risks on the horizon, such as wildfires and an uncertain global economic outlook.

Budgets are about people and that is why we want to hear about your priorities and how we can work together to build a strong, sustainable future for our province.



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

MAKING YOUR LIFE MORE AFFORDABLE

HOUSING

In British Columbia we have a housing crisis on our hands. Many people are living paycheque to paycheque and are struggling to find an affordable place to call home. Not only does this hurt people, but it negatively impacts B.C.'s business community and our economy overall. The B.C. government is taking strong action to tackle the housing crisis with a 30-point plan that includes:

- » Building 114,000 affordable homes over 10 years;
- » Taxing speculators and vacant homes that drive up housing costs;
- » Increasing the foreign buyers tax rate to 20% and expanding it beyond Metro Vancouver;
- » Strengthening protections for renters, including limiting rent increases to the rate of inflation; and
- » Funding rent banks to help people with immediate, short-term loans to prevent eviction.


OUR HOUSING MEASURES ARE WORKING. THE AVERAGE HOME SALE PRICE IN BRITISH COLUMBIA DROPPED BY 7% YEAR-TO-DATE IN APRIL 2019 COMPARED TO THE SAME PERIOD OF 2018.



Increasing benefits to seniors living independently by an average of \$930 per year, under the Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER) program, will increase security for seniors.

B.C. CHILD OPPORTUNITY BENEFIT

The new B.C. Child Opportunity Benefit puts more dollars back into the pockets of working and middle-class families. Starting in October 2020, families with one child will receive up to \$1,600 per year, those with two children will receive up to \$2,600 and those with three children will receive up to \$3,400.



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 since 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

MADE-IN-B.C. CHILD CARE PLAN

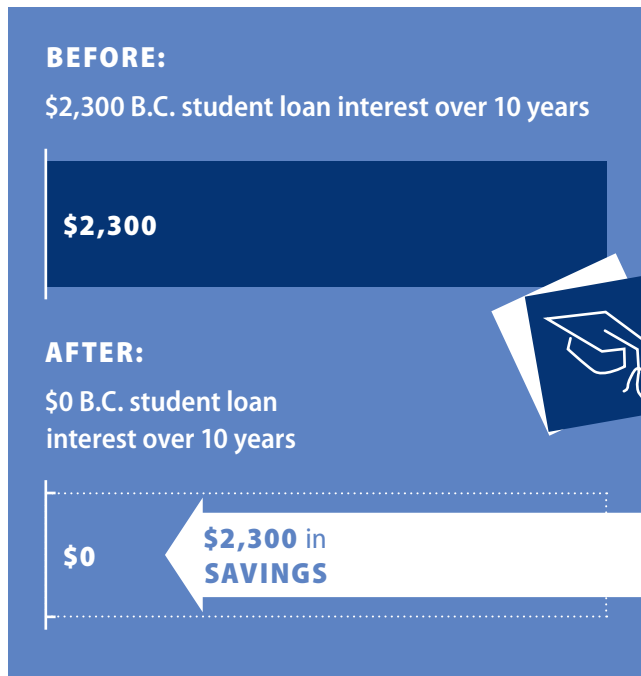
The British Columbia government is making the largest investment in childcare in B.C.'s history. We're providing \$1.3 billion over three years to deliver quality, affordable, accessible child care by:

- » Delivering a fee reduction for parents and with children in licensed care of up to \$4,200 per year, for more than 52,000 child care spaces;
- » Introducing the Affordable Child Care Benefit, available to all eligible families in B.C. earning up to \$111,000 and saving them up to \$15,000 per year, per child; and
- » Supporting the creation of new licensed child care spaces.

TOGETHER, THE B.C. CHILD OPPORTUNITY BENEFIT, THE AFFORDABLE CHILD CARE BENEFIT, AND THE FEE REDUCTION FOR LICENSED CHILD CARE SPACES WILL PUT UP TO \$20,000 BACK INTO THE POCKETS OF B.C. FAMILIES WITH ONE CHILD, AND UP TO \$28,000 WITH TWO CHILDREN, EACH YEAR.

ELIMINATING INTEREST ON B.C. STUDENT LOANS

Education should open doors, not make it harder to get ahead. As of February 19, 2019, B.C. student loans are no longer collecting interest, helping young people get off to a good start in life.



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 BETTER SERVICES FOR YOUR FAMILY

HEALTH CARE

People want shorter wait times and better access to primary care. That's why Budget 2019 invested an additional \$1.3 billion in health care spending over three years to hire more doctors and nurses, reduce wait times, and make other improvements to support your health.




Since 2018, we've added more than 800 hours of MRI operating time per week and are on track to provide 37,000 more MRI exams throughout the province than we did last year.

MORE THAN 240,000 B.C. FAMILIES' PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION BECAME MORE AFFORDABLE JANUARY 2019 THANKS TO A THREE-YEAR INVESTMENT OF \$105 MILLION IN THE FAIR PHARMACARE PROGRAM.

FAIR PHARMACARE

The Province is working to make prescription medication more affordable for B.C. families. As of 2019, Fair PharmaCare provides more coverage for lower-income households.

Families earning up to \$30,000 have no deductible — which means they get help right away — and households earning up to \$45,000 in net income are saving between \$300 and \$600 a year thanks to reduced deductibles and co-payments.



A new investment of \$42 million will cover more drug options, including drugs that treat pulmonary arterial hypertension, diabetes, asthma and eye infections.

EDUCATION

Our children are our future, and the B.C. government is working to ensure our schools can provide the quality education they deserve. We are making record investments to support:

- » Smaller class sizes and more support for students with \$550 million in additional funds for our public education system.
- » Safe, seismically sound schools with almost \$1 billion in funding for new schools, expansions, upgrades and property purchases.
- » An increase of \$58 million for the Classroom Enhancement Fund — a fund to help hire more than 4,000 new teachers.

ADVANCING GENDER EQUITY

Gender equity is about eliminating barriers that prevent people from reaching their full potential. That's why we are making gender equity part of government's budgets, policies and programs:

Launching TogetherBC, B.C.'s first-ever poverty reduction strategy, to build a fairer province and reduce poverty by 25% over the next five years.

Supporting good jobs with \$1.8 million invested to support women working in the building trades.

Expanding safe housing by providing \$734 million over the next 10 years through the Women's Transition Housing Fund.

Improving transgender health services with B.C. becoming the first in Western Canada to offer all gender affirming surgeries in province.

Providing support to survivors of sexual and gender-based violence through over 400 programs in every corner of B.C.

Restoring B.C.'s Human Rights Commission to address inequality and discrimination provincially.

WORKING TOWARD TRUE, LASTING RECONCILIATION

TOGETHER WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, WE ARE TAKING CONCRETE ACTION TO SUPPORT HEALTHY COMMUNITIES AND BUILD A BETTER FUTURE FOR EVERYONE IN B.C.

REVENUE SHARING

A new revenue sharing commitment with First Nations communities means stable, long-term funding to invest in self-government, cultural revitalization and services that make life better for families.

The British Columbia government is expected to share over \$3 billion in provincial gaming revenue with First Nations over the next 25 years.

This historic commitment to advance reconciliation builds on the other work we are already doing:



\$550 million over 10 years to support the construction of 1,750 affordable housing units on- and off-reserve.



Implementing Grand Chief Ed John's recommendations to help keep Indigenous children with their families, connected to their culture.



\$50 million towards the work of the First Peoples' Cultural Council and First Nations communities to revitalize Indigenous languages.



A new K-12 curriculum that makes sure all children in British Columbia are taught about Indigenous culture and history.

BUILDING A STRONG, SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

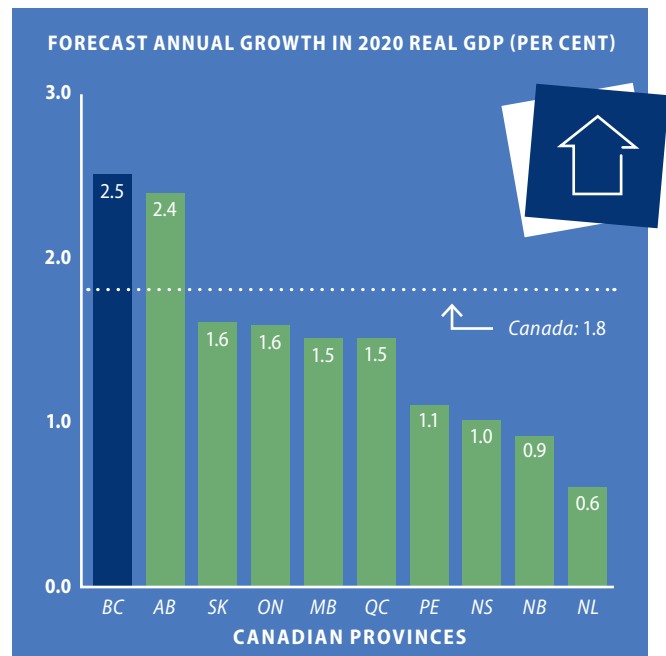
Over the next three years of the fiscal plan, government will continue to run estimated surpluses of \$274 million, \$287 million, and \$585 million in 2019–20, 2020–21, and 2021–22 respectively.

B.C. remains the only province with a AAA credit rating from the three major international rating agencies and our debt-to-GDP ratio is projected to be at its lowest point since the 2008 financial crisis.

CAREFUL FISCAL MANAGEMENT ALLOWED THE B.C. GOVERNMENT TO ELIMINATE BRITISH COLUMBIA'S OPERATING DEBT IN Q2 OF THE 2018-19 FISCAL YEAR FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 40 YEARS.

B.C. IS AN ECONOMIC LEADER IN CANADA

British Columbia's economy is strong and is projected to be a leader in growth in 2019 and 2020.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Budget 2019: www.bcbudget.gov.bc.ca

Ministry of Finance: www.gov.bc.ca/fin

SURVEY 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?

- ¢ Affordable child care
- ¢ Affordable housing
- ¢ Arts and culture
- ¢ Children and family development
- ¢ Climate change and environmental protection
- ¢ Debt reduction
- ¢ Economic development
- ¢ Gender equity
- ¢ Health care
- ¢ Homelessness and poverty reduction
- ¢ Indigenous resources and reconciliation
- ¢ Justice and public safety
- ¢ K-12 education
- ¢ Mental health and addictions care
- ¢ Post-secondary education and skills training
- ¢ Public transportation
- ¢ Roads, highways and bridges

- ¢ 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 property-based taxes
- Increase PST
- Introduce new fees (i.e. licensing fees, recycling fees, etc.)
- Increase existing fees
- Increase natural resource royalties
- Reduce or eliminate existing programs
- Other:*

Questions continued on next page. [➔](#)

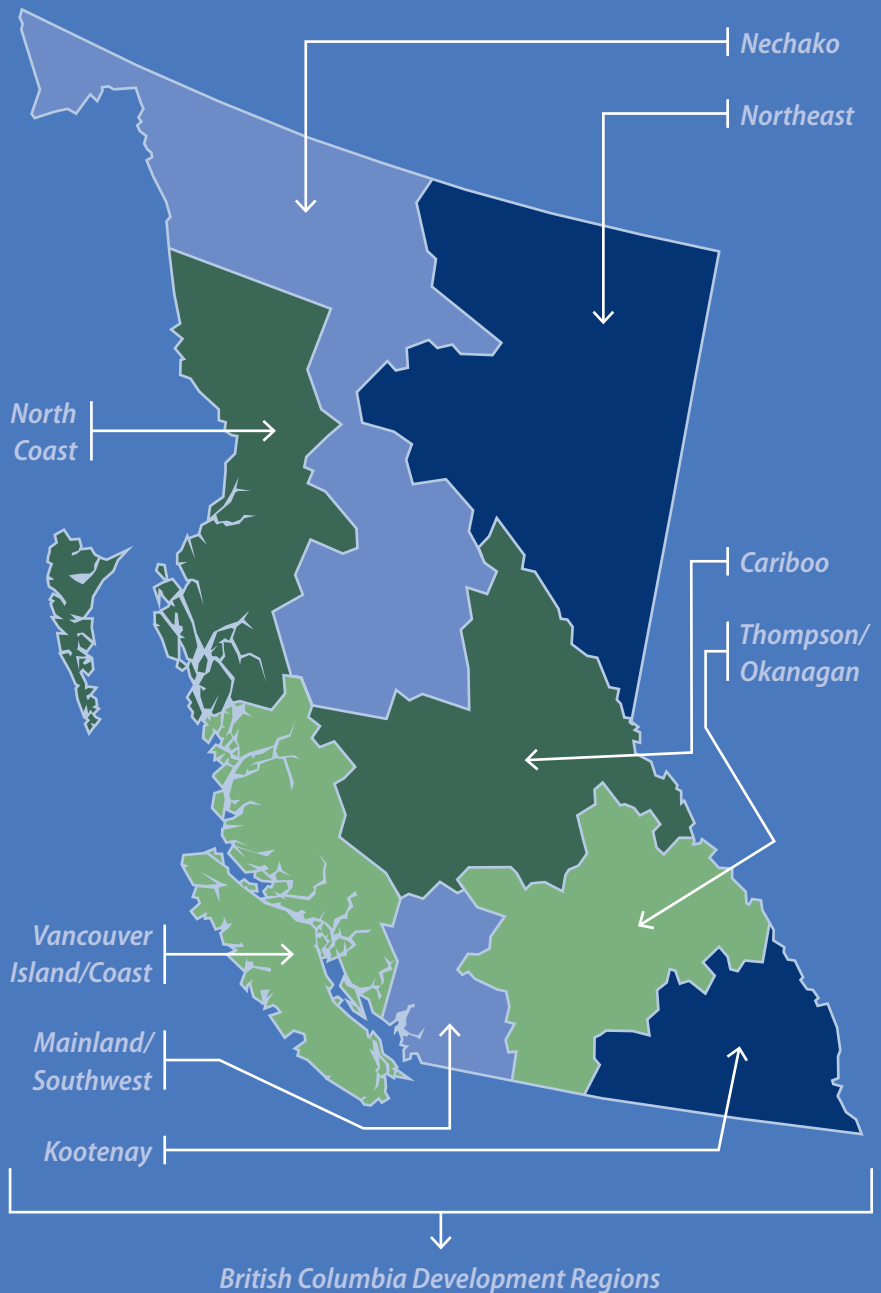
4. What are the top three actions government should take to build a diverse and sustainable economy and support businesses and industries across B.C.?

Choose all that apply:

- Invest in affordable housing and work to stabilize the real estate market
- Improve access to child care
- Increase opportunities for training and post-secondary education
- Support the transition to a cleaner economy and reduce pollution
- Increase programs for women, LGBTQ2S+ people, Indigenous people and others who face systemic barriers
- Improve physical and mental health supports and programs for all workers
- 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
- Other:

5. Please identify your region:

- Vancouver Island/Coast
- Cariboo
- Lower Mainland/Southwest
- North Coast
- Thompson/Okanagan
- Nechako
- Kootenay
- Northeast



SUBMIT YOUR IDEAS

The Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services is one of ten permanent parliamentary committees of the Legislative Assembly of B.C. Each year, the committee holds province-wide consultations to seek the views of British Columbians on priorities for the next provincial budget and presents a final report with recommendations to the Legislative Assembly.

You can share your views by speaking with the Committee in-person or by teleconference at one of the public hearings below, completing the survey, or making a written, audio or video submission.

For full details on how to participate, including registration for a public hearing, and opportunities to make a submission or fill out the survey, contact:

Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services

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

Email: financecommittee@leg.bc.ca

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

Phone (250) 356-2933 (collect)

Web: bcleg.ca/FGSbudget

The consultation closes Friday, June 28, 2019 at 5 pm.

Date	Community/Time	Address
Monday, June 10	Colwood 8:45 am – 4:00 pm	City of Colwood (Council Chambers) 3300 Wishart Road
Tuesday, June 11	Kimberley 8:30 am – 11:30 am	Hotel Kimberley (Alpine Room) 300 Wallinger Avenue
Tuesday, June 11	Castlegar 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Sandman Hotel Castlegar (Kootenay Room) 1944 Columbia Avenue
Wednesday, June 12	Kelowna 8:00 am – 12:00 pm	Best Western Plus Kelowna Hotel & Suites (North Ballroom) 2402 Hwy 97 North
Wednesday, June 12	Kamloops 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Thompson Rivers University Conference Centre (Alpine Room) 805 TRU Way
Thursday, June 13	Courtenay 8:00 am – 12:00 pm	The Westerly Hotel (Courtenay Room) 1590 Cliffe Avenue
Thursday, June 13	Qualicum Beach 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Qualicum Beach Civic Centre (Windsor Room) 747 Jones Street
Friday, June 14	Vancouver 9:00 am – 5:00 pm	Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue (Strategy Room 420) 580 West Hastings Street
Monday, June 17	Prince Rupert 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Highliner Plaza Hotel and Conference Centre (Tsimshian Ballroom) 815 1 st Avenue West
Tuesday, June 18	Kitimat 8:00 am – 11:00 am	Riverlodge Recreation Centre (Activity Room) 654 Columbia Avenue West
Tuesday, June 18	Prince George 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Prince George Conference and Civic Centre (Room 208) 808 Canada Games Way
Wednesday, June 19	Fort St. John 8:00 am – 11:00 am	Best Western Plus Chateau Fort St. John (Meeting Room) 8322 86 Street
Wednesday, June 19	Quesnel 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm	West Fraser Centre (Dunkley Room) 330 Vaughan Street
Thursday, June 20	Abbotsford 9:00 am – 5:00 pm	Quality Hotel and Conference Centre (Mt. Baker Room) 36035 North Parallel Road
Friday, June 21	Surrey 9:00 am – 5:00 pm	Sheraton Vancouver Guildford Hotel (Fraser Room) 15269 104 Avenue