

Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services

# REPORT ON THE BUDGET 2018 CONSULTATION



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
*of* BRITISH COLUMBIA

**NOVEMBER 2017**

**SECOND SESSION  
OF THE 41<sup>ST</sup> PARLIAMENT**





November 15, 2017

To the Honourable  
Legislative Assembly of the  
Province of British Columbia

Honourable Members:

I have the honour to present herewith the First Report of the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services for the Second Session of the 41st Parliament.

The Report covers the work of the Committee in regard to the Budget 2018 Consultation, and was unanimously approved by the Committee.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Committee,

Bob D'Eith, MLA  
Chair



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# Composition of the Committee

## Members

Bob D'Eith, MLA	Chair	Maple Ridge-Mission
Dan Ashton, MLA	Deputy Chair	Penticton
Jagrup Brar, MLA		Surrey-Fleetwood
Stephanie Cadieux, MLA		Surrey South
Mitzi Dean, MLA		Esquimalt-Metchosin
Ronna-Rae Leonard, MLA		Courtenay-Comox
Peter Milobar, MLA		Kamloops-North Thompson
Adam Olsen, MLA <i>(to October 2, 2017)</i>		Saanich North and the Islands
Tracy Redies, MLA		Surrey-White Rock
Dr. Andrew Weaver, MLA <i>(from October 2, 2017)</i>		Oak Bay-Gordon Head

## Committee Staff

Susan Sourial, Clerk Assistant, Committees and Interparliamentary Relations

Lisa Hill, Karan Riarh, and Jennifer Arril, Committee Research Analysts

# Terms of Reference

On September 14, 2017, the Legislative Assembly agreed that the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services be empowered:

1. To examine, inquire into and make recommendations with respect to the budget consultation paper prepared by the Minister of Finance in accordance with section 2 of the *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act SBC 2000, c.23* and, in particular, to:
  - a. Conduct public consultations across British Columbia on proposals and recommendations regarding the provincial budget and fiscal policy for the coming fiscal year by any means the committee considers appropriate;
  - b. Prepare a report no later than November 15, 2017 on the results of those consultations; and
2. a. To consider and make recommendations on the annual reports, rolling three-year service plans and budgets of the following statutory officers:
  - i. Auditor General
  - ii. Chief Electoral Officer
  - iii. Conflict of Interest Commissioner
  - iv. Information and Privacy Commissioner
  - v. Merit Commissioner
  - vi. Ombudsperson
  - vii. Police Complaint Commissioner
  - viii. Representative for Children and Youth; and
- b. To examine, inquire into and make recommendations with respect to other matters brought to the Committee's attention by any of the Officers listed in 2 (a) above.
3. To be the Committee referred to in the sections 19, 20, 21 and 23 of the *Auditor General Act, SBC 2003, c. 2* and that the performance report in section 22 of the *Auditor General Act, SBC 2003, c. 2*, be referred to the Committee.

In addition to the powers previously conferred upon the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services, the Committee shall be empowered:

- a. to appoint of their number one or more subcommittees and to refer to such subcommittees any of the matters referred to the Committee;
- b. to sit during a period in which the House is adjourned, during the recess after prorogation until the next following Session and during any sitting of the House;



- c. to adjourn from place to place as may be convenient; and
- d. to retain personnel as required to assist the Committee,

and shall report to the House as soon as possible, or following any adjournment, or at the next following Session, as the case may be; to deposit the original of its reports with the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly during a period of adjournment and upon resumption of the sittings of the House, the Chair shall present all reports to the Legislative Assembly.

# Executive Summary

On September 14, 2017, the Legislative Assembly approved a motion instructing the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services (the “Committee”) to conduct public consultations across British Columbia on the provincial government’s budget proposals for the coming fiscal year. Between September 21 and October 16, 2017, the Committee held 12 public hearings in communities throughout the province. The Committee heard 187 presentations, received 292 written, audio and video submissions, and 666 survey responses for a total of 1,145 submissions.

## Wildfires

Of primary concern to Committee Members and many British Columbians was the devastating effects of this year’s unprecedented number of wildfires. Due to the destructive effects experienced in so many communities, the Committee wishes to emphasize the importance of not only providing supports for evacuees during an emergency situation, but also ensuring the rebuilding of businesses and communities.

Committee Members heard from business owners in areas affected by the wildfires who are facing labour shortages due to a number of employees not returning home after evacuation orders were lifted. The Committee also learned about the value of community-based initiatives that focus on building a culture of prevention, preparedness and resiliency in relation to natural disasters.

In regard to forestry practices, the Committee heard about forestry practices related to the remediation and salvaging of burnt timber. Submissions noted that there is a short window of opportunity within which this timber is economically viable, and salvaging needs to be incentivized. Committee Members also wanted to highlight the need for better forest management, including reforestation and oversight of this valuable natural resource.

In light of these concerns, Committee Members wanted to highlight the following recommendations.

The Committee recommends to the Legislative Assembly that the provincial government:

- Increase funding for forest management, including reforestation, public oversight, and fuel treatments to reduce fire hazards and future costs. ([Recommendation 100](#))
- Incentivize the remediation and salvage of burnt timber, including expediting the approval of permits, where appropriate, while taking into account environmental impacts and requirements for ecosystem regeneration. ([Recommendation 101](#))
- Provide funding to increase public awareness and education to develop a culture of prevention, preparedness and resiliency among British Columbians regarding natural

disasters, including wildfires, floods, hazardous material spills, earthquakes and tsunamis. ([Recommendation 111](#))

- Increase funding to Emergency Management BC to improve recovery efforts, especially for communities most adversely affected by this year's wildfires, including appropriate levels of support for evacuees and rebuilding or continuity initiatives for local businesses and communities. ([Recommendation 112](#))

All the presentations and submissions received by the Committee, as well as the survey results, were taken into account during the Committee's deliberations, and are the basis for their final recommendations. The Committee recognizes that their recommendations are not exhaustive in terms of addressing the many diverse issues facing British Columbians. Committee Members wish to thank the large number of British Columbians who participated in their Budget 2018 Consultation, and acknowledge the significant and vital contributions that participants made by sharing their ideas and suggestions with the Committee.

This report summarizes key themes from the Budget 2018 Consultation, and makes 119 recommendations that were unanimously agreed to by the Committee and reflect British Columbian's budget priorities.

In the area of health care, the Committee recommends increased supports for mental health and addiction, including timely, evidence-based coordinated care and "wrap-around" support, particularly for children and youth as well as ensuring the necessary staff and supports are in place to address the opioid crisis. The Committee also recommends identifying strategies to ensure equitable access to health care across the province, including the increased use of interdisciplinary teams, and addressing issues related to the training, retention and recruitment of health care professionals. Ideas are also presented on how best to expand supports and services for seniors and their families, improve access to lower-cost alternative drug therapies, and fund health promotion initiatives.

The Committee makes a number of recommendations regarding advanced education, including literacy programming, operational, program and capital funding to ensure equitable access to post-secondary education, and recommendations to address issues related to a lack of student housing. Accelerated funding to support science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) related areas, as well as expanded opportunities for work-integrated learning should be prioritized, along with financial assistance measures including the implementation of a needs-based grant program and a post-graduate level scholarship program.

The section on fiscal policy focuses on prudent fiscal discipline and management, and contains recommendations in regard to the Carbon Tax, property transfer tax, provincial sales tax, and tax credits.

In the area of social services, the Committee endorses increased investment in child care and access to early childhood intervention services, including speech-language pathologists, and funding and services that support children and youth in care and their caregivers. The income and disability assistance rates and policies should be reviewed, and a comprehensive poverty reduction plan should be implemented. Recommendations in regard to labour, including worker safety and workplace standards, as well as immigration are also included. Housing is another area where the Committee makes recommendations,

including the implementation of an affordable housing strategy and a long-term “Housing First” strategy to address homelessness.

On the topic of K-12 education, specific suggestions are made to build new schools and address required maintenance and seismic upgrades, as well as support the current costs of portables. Other proposals address the need for equitable funding across the regions, supports for special needs children, and adequate resources and supports for teachers.

Incentives for businesses, homeowners, and other individuals to adopt clean and renewable energy as a means to take action on climate change should be created. Other environmental recommendations include increased support for BC Parks, fish and wildlife conservation, and protection against invasive species and noxious weeds. Other recommendations support investments in agriculture and agri-foods, and forestry management. Transportation and transit is another area where the Committee makes recommendations, including support for a provincial active transportation strategy and increased investment in transportation infrastructure and public transit.

Key recommendations in the area of public safety address matters including court services and corrections, domestic or gender-based violence and sexual assault, human rights, legal aid, as well as natural disasters and emergency preparedness. Additional recommendations highlight increased supports for Indigenous people and communities, and address education, arts, culture and libraries, social services and housing, and initiatives that support reconciliation. The Committee also makes recommendations in the area of sport, culture and arts, including increased funding for the BC Arts Council, Creative BC, museums, Indigenous cultural centres, and libraries as well as the promotion of sport for amateur and elite athletes.

# Budget 2018 Consultation Process

## Introduction

In 2017, British Columbia experienced an unprecedented number of natural disasters from which many are still recovering. Snow melt, heavy rain and thunderstorms flooded communities in the BC Interior, forcing many families from their homes. Wildfires burned through over one million hectares since April 1, representing the worst wildfire season in BC's recorded history. In mid-August, approximately 3,900 personnel were on the ground fighting the fires in communities across the province.

Committee Members heard from many British Columbians about the devastating impacts of these disasters on their lives and their communities. The Committee wants to ensure that local businesses are supported in their recovery and continuity efforts and that they are able to retain or attract new employees who may have been affected by evacuation orders. The Committee wishes to thank first responders, volunteers, business owners and other British Columbians who put their lives on hold or in danger to respond to these events. Committee Members also express their sincere appreciation to those who offered their time, energy and support to help community members and evacuees during a time of displacement and crisis.

These disasters and the ongoing recovery efforts are one of several factors that may influence BC's fiscal situation in the coming year. According to the Economic Forecast Council, BC's gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to expand by 3 percent in 2017, and our province continues to lead the country in economic growth. However, the prevalence of natural disasters, as well as the dynamic nature of local real estate markets and concerns about the strength of consumer spending, represent significant risks to BC's economy. Internationally, punitive U.S. duties on softwood lumber exports and continued global economic uncertainty also represent major challenges. While BC's economic outlook is positive, these risks and challenges remain important considerations in planning for the next provincial budget.

## Budget 2018 Consultation Process

Pursuant to Section 2 of the *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act, SBC 2000, c. 2*, the Minister of Finance must publicly release a budget consultation paper by September 15 each year. The paper must present a fiscal forecast, include the key issues that the Minister considers important to be addressed in the next year's budget, and include information on how members of the public may provide their views on those issues. On being made public, the budget consultation paper stands referred to the appropriate Select Standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly. The Committee to which the budget consultation paper is referred to must conduct consultations as it considers appropriate, and must make public a report on the results of those consultations no later than November 15 of that year.

## Budget Consultation Paper

This year's Budget Consultation Paper was released on September 15, 2017, and outlined information in relation to government's Budget 2017 Update Highlights. The paper invited British Columbians to participate in the consultation process by providing input and ideas in response to the following questions:

1. What are your top priorities to help make life more affordable in British Columbia?
2. What service improvements should be given priority?
3. What are your ideas, approaches, and/or priorities for creating good jobs and to build a sustainable economy in every corner of our province?
4. Are there any additional comments or suggestions you would like to share with the Select Standing Committee regarding Budget 2018?

## Minister of Finance Briefing

Appearing before the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services on September 20, 2017, the Minister of Finance, Hon. Carole James, MLA, discussed the Budget 2018 Consultation Paper, including highlights from the Budget 2017 Update, and the three year fiscal plan. The Minister noted that there was a \$2.7 billion surplus in 2016 which, in accordance with balanced budget legislation, was put toward the operating debt. Surpluses are forecast over the upcoming three-year fiscal period, with \$246 million in 2017/18, \$228 million in 2018/19, and \$257 million in 2019/20. Contingency funds are built into the fiscal plan, and the debt-to-GDP ratio remains low.

Minister James stated that BC's economic outlook remains positive; in particular noting that the economy has performed better than expected, consumer spending is stronger than expected, and export activity remains robust. As a result, GDP growth in 2016 was 3.6 percent, higher than the 3 percent level set out in the 2017 Budget that was released in February. The Budget 2017 Update provided for increases to social assistance rates, investments in affordable housing, and reducing MSP and commuting costs.

In conclusion, the Minister identified several risks to the fiscal plan, including: impact of the wildfires; the financial sustainability of the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia (ICBC); rising interest rates; the uncertain outcomes of the softwood lumber dispute and North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) negotiations with the United States; and ongoing global economic uncertainty.

## Consultation Methods

The Committee developed a comprehensive consultation plan to engage British Columbians on Budget 2018, which included a schedule of public hearings, a call for written, audio, or video submissions, and an online survey. A province-wide news release was distributed on September 20, 2017 announcing the Budget 2018 Consultation plan, along with details regarding how British Columbians could participate. Print and online newspaper advertisements were also placed in major provincial and community newspapers to encourage public participation.

New this year, an online consultation portal was created to provide the public with opportunities to register for public hearings, as well as to submit written, audio or video submissions, and provide their survey responses through a centralized website. The Committee also used the Legislative Assembly's social media platforms (Twitter and Facebook) to promote awareness of the consultation, encourage participation, and provide timely updates regarding the public hearings.

### Public Hearing Presentations

All the presentations and submissions received by the Committee, as well as the survey results, were taken into account in the Committee's deliberations, and the recommendations presented within this report are a direct reflection of what the Committee heard during the consultation process.

Over the course of the consultation period, the Committee held 12 public hearings in various locations around the province, with opportunities for presenters to appear before the Committee either in person, through teleconference or using videoconference technology or Skype.

In total, the Committee heard 187 presentations from a variety of organizations and individuals representing interests in various sectors. The list of the presenters is available in Appendix A.

### Written and Video Submissions

The Committee received 292 written, audio and video submissions and the names of all individuals and organizations that made a written, audio or video submission are listed in Appendix B.

### Online Survey Responses

The Budget 2018 Consultation Paper issued by the Minister of Finance invited British Columbians to participate in the consultation process by providing input and ideas related to the following questions:

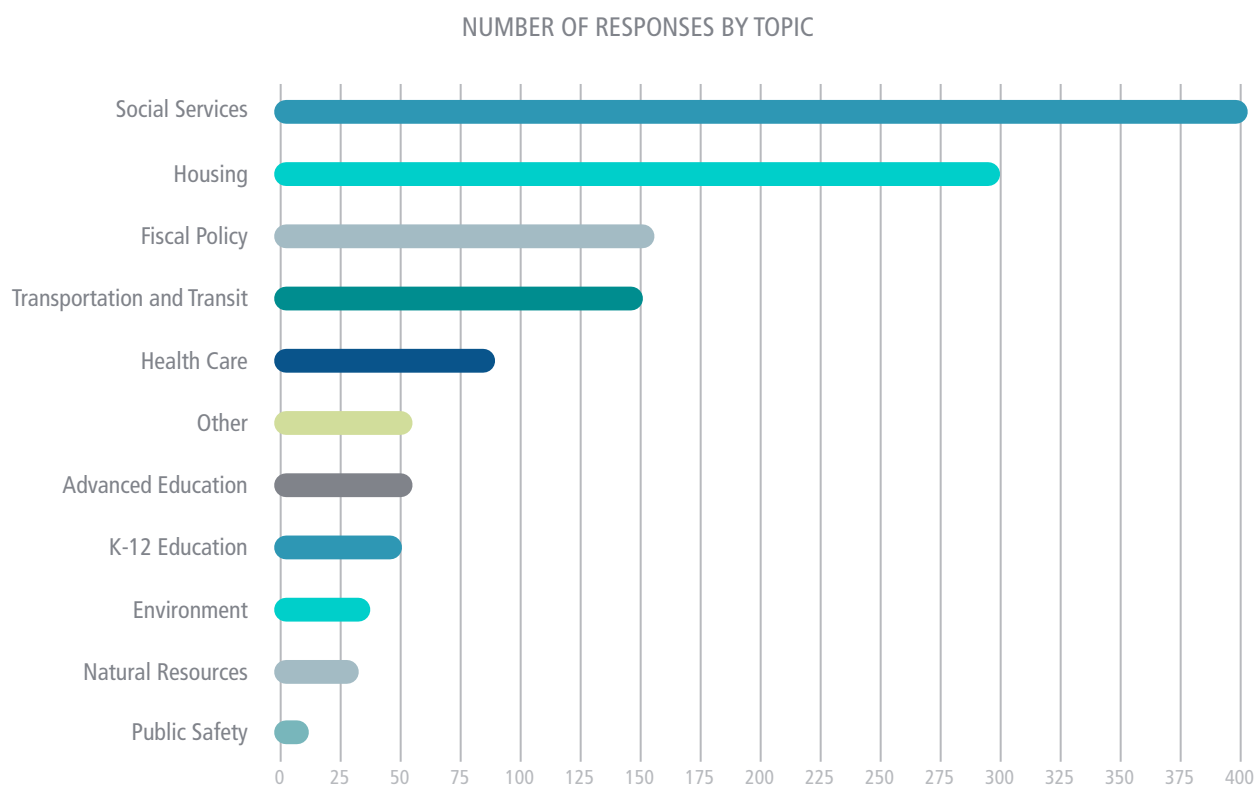
1. What are your top priorities to help make life more affordable in British Columbia?
2. What service improvements should be given priority?
3. What are your ideas, approaches, and/or priorities for creating good jobs and to build a sustainable economy in every corner of our province?
4. Are there any additional comments or suggestions you would like to share with the Select Standing Committee regarding Budget 2018?

In total, 666 individuals and organizations completed the online survey prior to the consultation closing date of October 16, 2017.

The summaries of the responses for each of the four questions are provided on the following pages. All of the online survey respondents are listed in Appendix C.

## Online Survey Responses (cont.)

### Question One: What are your top priorities to help make life more affordable in British Columbia?



Respondents overwhelmingly identified social services and housing as the top priorities to help make life more affordable. The majority of responses related to social services advocated for affordable, high-quality, accessible child care, including implementing the \$10/day child care plan and increasing wages for early childhood educators. Other responses suggested increasing the minimum wage to \$15 an hour or implementing a living wage or basic income.

Various responses also suggested raising income and disability rates to address costs of living, and implementing an evidence-based, poverty reduction plan.

On the topic of housing, respondents advocated for a range of options to address the high cost of home ownership and renting, including increasing the availability and types of affordable housing to suit different types of families, increasing density and re-zoning to allow for secondary suites and small houses, and increasing rent control measures. A number of responses also suggested reducing foreign speculation as a way to cool the housing market. Responses on fiscal policy largely focused on eliminating Medical Services Plan (MSP) premiums, and lowering or limiting the cost of car insurance and hydro.

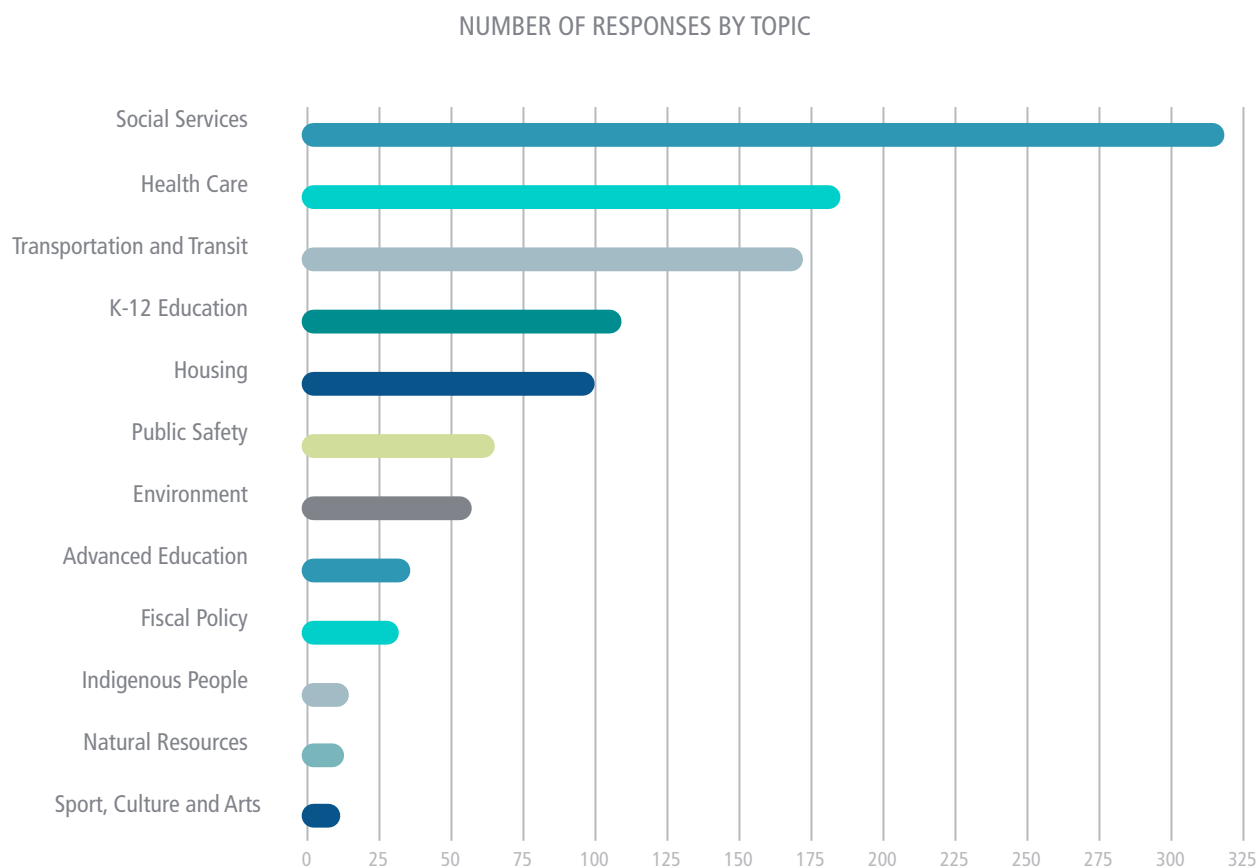


## Online Survey Responses (cont.)

Responses related to transportation and transit, health, education and public safety generally requested increased investments. This included funding for public transit and ferry services, active transportation infrastructure, mental health and addiction supports, post-secondary education, K-12 education and legal aid. These responses also suggested the creation of a universal Pharmacare program, adding preventative dental care to the Medical Services Plan, reducing or eliminating tuition fees and interest on student loans, and restoring funding to the justice system.

Other suggestions for making life more affordable touched on environmental protection, climate change and natural resources, with several voicing support for alternative energy solutions and green construction, as well as funding and protection for BC Parks. Some responses discussed food security and sustainability, and the need to ensure the Agricultural Land Reserve is used for agricultural purposes.

### Question Two: What service improvements should be given priority?



Social services, specifically the need to provide more licensed child care spaces, once again emerged as the most common topic of discussion among survey respondents. Suggestions included the request that the application process for Persons with Disabilities benefits be simplified, and that the delivery of social services, including those delivered through community-based providers, be reviewed to find opportunities for improvements.

## Online Survey Responses (cont.)

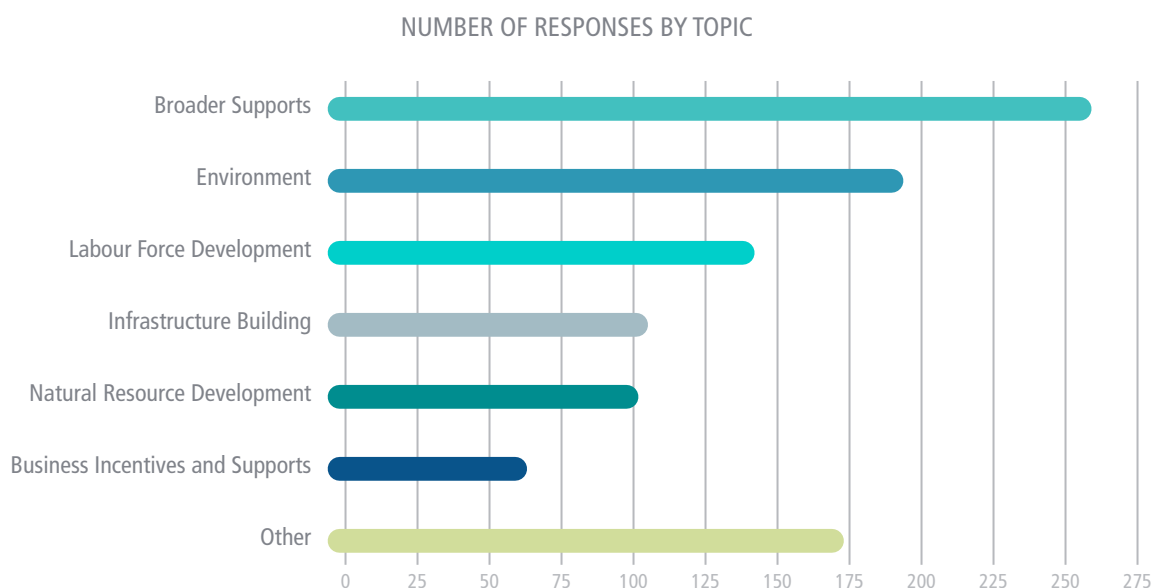
Health care was the second most common topic, with a large number of responses highlighting wait times for accessing specialists and surgeries, and access to family physicians, as priority issues. Responses also requested improvements to health service access in rural areas and better integration of mental health services in the continuum of care, as well as investments in hospital infrastructure.

In reference to the topics of transportation and transit, housing, public safety, and environment, respondents highlighted similar themes to Question One, such as expanding public transit options, increasing cycling and walking infrastructure, providing more affordable housing options, improving access to legal aid, investing in alternative power sources, and increasing funding for provincial parks and environmental protection. Respondents also advocated for replacing outdated transportation infrastructure such as roads and bridges, modernizing the Residential Tenancy Branch, improving enforcement of drunk driving and distracted driving laws, and increasing resources for preventing and fighting wildfires.

Responses in reference to K-12 education focused on the need for mental health and special needs supports for children and youth, as well as more funding for building and seismically upgrading schools. Respondents who referenced advanced education advocated for more grants and forgivable loans to address the high cost of obtaining a post-secondary degree, and suggested increased investments in adult literacy and ESL programs. In reference to Indigenous people, respondents suggested providing more services to empower, educate and promote Indigenous culture. They also advocated for more funding to improve health outcomes for Indigenous people, as well as better access to legal aid services.

Other suggestions for service improvements included reviewing Crown corporations to ensure they are operating efficiently, prioritizing sustainable and green industries over oil and gas development, protecting fresh water and farmland for future generations, and increasing funding for the BC Arts Council and art programs in schools.

### **Question Three: What are your ideas, approaches, and/or priorities for creating good jobs and to build a sustainable economy in every corner of our province?**



## Online Survey Responses (cont.)

Many of the responses to this question outlined the importance of providing broader supports to British Columbians so the province can build a sustainable economy. Suggestions included creating a quality, affordable child care system to enable parents to participate in the workforce, and addressing housing affordability so communities and businesses can attract and retain workers. A large number of responses suggested transitioning to a green economy, including the development of clean and renewable energy, and green technology, as well as funding for BC Parks and developing BC's eco-tourism industry. Other responses placed greater emphasis on climate change mitigation and resilience, and environmental protection.

Respondents also suggested increased investment in K-12 education, post-secondary education, skills training and literacy, and trades programs and apprenticeships in order to develop the labour force. As part of this, some respondents advocated for more information about career planning to be provided in K-12 education, as well as financial assistance for post-secondary students and hiring incentive programs for businesses.

Infrastructure building was another common theme in responses to Question Three. Respondents noted that initiating infrastructure projects could create good jobs while also addressing critical infrastructure needs across the province. The most common infrastructure projects cited include: roads and highways; public transit; schools; health facilities; broadband internet; and housing.

Many responses also discussed developing BC's natural resource sectors including oil and gas, mining, forestry, agriculture, fisheries and hydro with some varied responses related to specific projects.

Some respondents suggested encouraging value-added natural resource projects and stopping raw exports, especially in forestry. Other suggestions for creating good jobs and building a sustainable economy included incentivizing and supporting business development and entrepreneurship by decreasing taxes or providing tax credits, and streamlining and reducing administrative barriers. A number of respondents encouraged government to invest in BC's arts and culture, technology, health, manufacturing and service sectors, as well as the broader tourism sector.

### **Question Four: Are there any additional comments or suggestions you would like to share with the Select Standing Committee regarding Budget 2018?**

Responses to Question Four largely reiterated responses to the first three questions or otherwise thanked the Committee for the opportunity to participate. Creating an affordable child care program and addressing housing availability and affordability were the most commonly reiterated suggestions.

Responses also suggested the amendment of budgetary policy with the aim of increasing or decreasing taxes, looking for opportunities to make the overall tax system fairer, and reviewing various fees and rates. Respondents also repeated requests for investing in K-12 education, BC Parks, health, cycling infrastructure, poverty reduction, and social services.

## Meetings Schedule

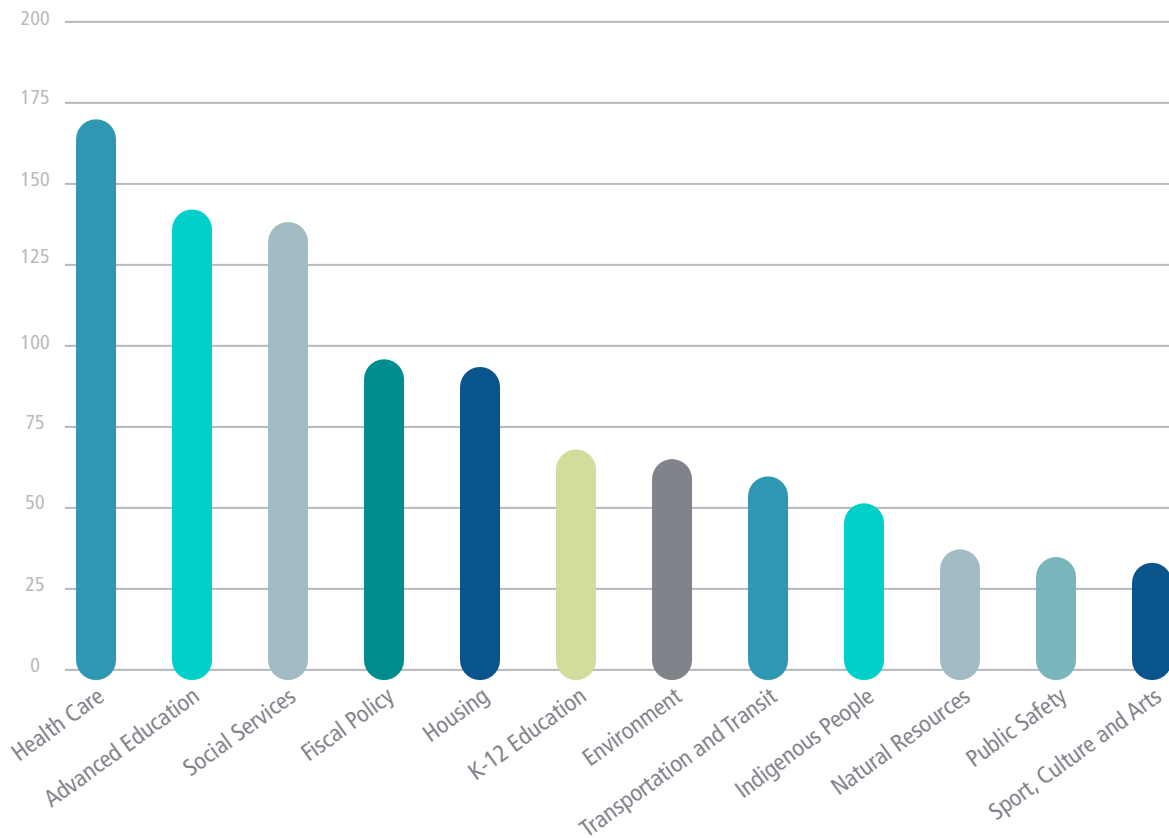
<b>Date</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Location(s)</b>
September 18, 2017	Planning Meeting	Victoria
September 20, 2017	Minister's Briefing; Planning Meeting	Victoria
September 25, 2017	Public Hearing	Vancouver
October 2, 2017	Public Hearing	Victoria
October 4, 2017	Public Hearings (In-person presentations and tele/videoconference opportunities for: Fort St. John, Dawson Creek, Terrace and Smithers)	Victoria
October 6, 2017	Public Hearings	Surrey, Richmond
October 10, 2017	Public Hearing	Prince George
October 11, 2017	Public Hearings	Williams Lake, Castlegar
October 12, 2017	Public Hearings	Cranbrook, Kamloops
October 13, 2017	Public Hearings	Kelowna, Nanaimo
October 25, 2017	Deliberations	Victoria
October 30, 2017	Deliberations	Victoria
November 1, 2017	Deliberations	Victoria
November 6, 2017	Deliberations	Victoria
November 7, 2017	Deliberations	Victoria
November 9, 2017	Deliberations; Adoption of Report	Victoria

## Report Themes

The twelve themes highlighted within this report are presented in order of magnitude to reflect the number of suggestions and ideas provided via public hearings and through written, audio and video submissions received by the Committee, as illustrated in the chart below.

A number of recommendations included in this report are ones that the Committee wishes to reiterate from the Budget 2017 Consultation Report, which was released on November 15, 2016, with references noted in parentheses at the end of each applicable recommendation.

All the presentations and submissions received by the Committee, as well as the survey results, were taken into account in the Committee's deliberations, and the recommendations presented within this report are a direct reflection of what the Committee heard during the consultation process.





# Theme 1: Health Care

Health care continues to be a key area of focus for British Columbians and it was also the second most commonly referenced area in the survey in response to Question Two, which focused on suggestions for service improvements.

Submissions covered a range of issues across the continuum of care, including acute, community, and primary care, as well as mental health and addiction. The Committee also received a number of specific funding requests for services, programs and organizations that support health and wellness. Investments in speech-language pathology services for children emerged as a particularly pressing need.

## Acute Care and Wait Times

Several submissions highlighted the need to build new hospitals or urgent care centres, including in locations such as Kamloops, Richmond, Surrey, Terrace and Williams Lake. Presenters pointed out that many hospitals are operating over capacity and that physical infrastructure is often inadequate or seismically unsafe.

Many survey responses specifically identified wait times for surgeries and diagnostic tests as an area for service improvement, a common theme that carried over in written submissions and presentations. The Health Sciences Association of BC and the BC Health Coalition pointed out that BC has several innovative initiatives and pilots that could be scaled up across the province. Committee Members learned that in some cases operating rooms could be used more efficiently if funding was made available for regular staffing and hours.

## Community Care and Seniors

A number of submissions and presentations spoke to the full continuum of community care services devoted to ensuring that seniors receive care in appropriate settings. Several advocated for more home care services and staffing so more seniors can remain at home. In her presentation to the Committee, BC's Seniors Advocate, Isobel Mackenzie, noted changes that could be made to the Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters cap and home support client copayment waivers to address affordability and help seniors avoid early entry into residential care.

Other submissions highlighted issues in regard to residential care staffing, with many advocating for increased funding to meet the minimum 3.36 hours per resident per day staffing goal. A smaller number of submissions suggested that a review of staffing levels including funding and accountability measures take place. Committee Members also heard about the importance of ensuring staffing standards are implemented, monitored and enforced, including the need to provide funding for training, education and adequate compensation to meet those standards.

Several organizations, such as the North Shore Community Resources and S.U.C.C.E.S.S., advocated for improved supports for family caregivers, describing the emotional stress and financial burdens caregivers often experience while providing countless hours of unpaid care.

The Committee also received submissions calling for an increase to hospice and palliative care services, particularly in rural areas. Both the Canadian Cancer Society and the Castlegar Hospice Society described the unique needs of patients requiring hospice and palliative care, explaining that more capacity and specialized support is needed to provide quality care.

The British Columbia Dental Association reiterated their request from previous years to improve dental care for seniors and suggested the creation of a low-income seniors' dental plan, modeled after the Healthy Kids Program, as well as the integration of dental coordinators into long-term care facilities.

## Funding and Pharmaceuticals

A number of written submissions outlined the challenges smaller communities face accessing health services outside of their community. In addition to time and cost burdens, travelling safely to access services is also a major concern, especially in winter months. Submitters felt that funding should be provided for safe, affordable and reliable transportation options. The Committee also received requests to increase funding for paramedic services.

The Committee received several requests for funding from community health organizations who provide much needed supports, services and programming. Committee Members also received requests for funding for programs and services that target specific diseases and conditions, as well as requests to fund a range of equipment and health services that are not currently provided through public health care. The Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research and the BC Lung Association highlighted the need for funding for health research. They emphasized the key role research has in improving health care, from discovering innovative treatments and modern means of delivering services, to realizing broad-scale system transformations.

A number of survey responses and written submissions felt that BC should adopt a universal PharmaCare program. Respondents also suggested that government should look for ways to streamline and improve the current PharmaCare program. The Committee also received several suggestions requesting expanded access to specific medications.

## Mental Health and Addiction

In British Columbia, there is a wide range of mental health and addiction service models, and the Committee heard of the need to increase funding to expand these models so British Columbians have access to the services they need when they need them. Many organizations, including the Canadian Mental Health Association, British Columbia Division, discussed the importance of providing evidence-based and coordinated care as well as increasing funding for prevention and early intervention. Some submissions advocated for a "Housing First" approach to treatment and recovery.

Several submissions and presentations spoke specifically about the issues related to mental health and addiction services for children, youth and post-secondary students. As representatives from School District 43 (Coquitlam) noted, an increasing number of students are dealing with mental health related challenges, including anxiety, depression and other behavioural challenges, and increased and better coordinated support is needed to help these students.

Presenters urged Committee Members to address the opioid crisis by ensuring front-line and harm reduction resources are widely available, including access to injectable opioid therapy.



## Primary Care

Access to primary care is a challenge for many British Columbians as evidenced by the number of survey respondents identifying family physician attachment as a priority for service improvement. Many written submissions and presentations advocated for team-based, multidisciplinary models as a means of providing comprehensive primary care. The Kamloops Health Coalition suggested that team-based models are a more effective use of funding and can result in timelier access to better quality care than traditional models.

Committee Members also heard about opportunities to improve efficiencies in the primary care system by better integrating nurse practitioners, pharmacists and other health professionals, with increased access to treat patients as their scopes of practice allow.

## Speech-Language Pathology or Therapy

The Committee received many written submissions, presentations and survey responses highlighting the need to increase funding for speech-language pathology services for children, particularly pre-kindergarten children. Speech-language therapists described the importance of speech-language services to early development, and the cost savings which may be realized in the health and education systems due to early intervention.

Parents of children using or requiring speech-language services emphasized the urgency of addressing the need to access these services. Parents shared stories with the Committee describing their struggles when services are inadequate or lost, and they must face the cost of private services.

## Health and Wellness

Submissions related to health and wellness largely focused on increasing the budget for health promotion, including expanding efforts to reduce the harm caused by smoking and applying the PST to sugar-sweetened beverages. The Committee also received submissions to increase funding to the BC School Fruit and Vegetable Nutrition program, which provides students with BC grown fruit and vegetable snacks in the classroom.

## Training, Recruitment and Retention

Several submissions and presentations discussed challenges with training, recruiting and retaining a range of health professionals including physiotherapists and occupational therapists. The Committee received a number of suggestions regarding how to address this challenge, such as increasing the overall provision of post-secondary training seats, facilitating quicker approval of internationally trained professionals, and providing student loan and other incentives.

The issue is particularly urgent in rural and remote areas. Committee Members learned from organizations such as the Bulkley Valley Child Development Centre about the benefits of providing local training opportunities and that generally, those who receive training in a particular community often choose to stay and practice there.

## Conclusions

The Committee recognized that British Columbians desire a number of improvements across the health care system related to capacity, staffing and access issues. Committee Members noted that some improvements do not necessarily require more funding, but may require developing more innovative and efficient service delivery models. The Committee also noted the need for British Columbians to receive the right care at the right time from the right health care professional and expressed a desire to see the current funding and compensation models examined to achieve this goal.

Committee Members held the view that government should prioritize the critical need for speech-language pathology services. For some families, this is a matter of extreme importance - if the need is not addressed now, problems may compound later.

Committee Members also wanted to acknowledge the excellent work of community health organizations which provide support to British Columbians in their recovery processes, as well as work to promote health and wellness, and want to encourage government to leverage this work and expertise. The Committee also discussed a range of issues related to health promotion, including a tax on sugar-sweetened beverages as a potential means to raise revenue for health promotion.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends to the Legislative Assembly that the provincial government:

### Acute Care and Wait Times

1. Ensure equitable funding processes for hospital capital projects throughout BC and continue to provide investment for these projects.
2. Reduce surgical and diagnostic wait times by fully utilizing and expanding public sector capacity, including funding for regular staffing and extending hours where needed, scaling up innovations and best practices province-wide, and optimizing health human resources through the use of multidisciplinary teams.
3. Increase resources to paramedic services to ensure the safety of British Columbians.

### Community Care and Seniors

4. Expand home and residential care staffing and services throughout the entire continuum of care to ensure all seniors have access to affordable, quality care at the right time and at the right place, including investing in new care models.
5. Provide adequate supports to seniors and their family caregivers, including enhanced tax credits, respite care services and funding to community-based organizations for caregiver support programs.
6. Increase hospice and palliative care services, especially in rural BC, including: developing and implementing measurable standards; ensuring sufficient specialists to support the shift of care from facilities to communities and homes; and providing capital and operating funding. [2016: #4]

7. Implement, monitor and enforce staffing standards in residential care, including accelerating the goal of achieving a minimum of 3.36 hours per resident per day, investing in education and training, and improving employee compensation. [2016: #1]
8. Raise the Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER) cap so seniors may remain in their homes more affordably, and exempt seniors in receipt of SAFER and the Guaranteed Income Supplement from the home support co-payment.
9. Create a low-income senior's dental plan, similar to the Healthy Kids Program, and integrate dental coordinator positions into long-term care facilities. [2016: #5]

### Funding and Pharmaceuticals

10. Provide additional assistance for individuals who have to travel from their home community to access health care services, and ensure affordable, safe and extensive transportation options are available for seniors, rural communities and Indigenous communities, including public transportation, HandyDART, medivac and ambulance services.
11. Invest in health research, innovation, and system transformation to improve service provision and efficiencies. [2016: #9]
12. Use public funding to leverage the expertise and services provided by community organizations to support health and wellness.
13. Streamline and improve the PharmaCare system to ensure British Columbians have access to the best medicine available, including options for lower-cost alternatives to currently listed drugs.

### Mental Health and Addiction

14. Provide adequate funding to ensure British Columbians have access to timely, evidence-based, coordinated care for mental health and addiction, including prevention and early intervention, interdisciplinary and holistic approaches, and support for those transitioning back into the workforce. [2016: #17]
15. Expand multidisciplinary, team-based community health centre models throughout the province to provide services and support for mental health and addiction.
16. Increase funding and provide equitable access to coordinated or "wrap-around" support for children and youth with mental health and addiction-related challenges.
17. Address the opioid crisis by ensuring that front-line resources are in place, including access to injectable opioid therapy and harm reduction services and supports.
18. Provide targeted funding for post-secondary institutions to ensure the delivery of front-line mental health services and supports for students on campus.

### Primary Care

19. Identify strategies to reform the primary health care system to ensure British Columbians have timely access to care, including a review of compensation models and scopes of practice for health care professionals, and expansion of interdisciplinary team models.

### Speech-Language Pathology or Therapy

20. Prioritize and increase funding for speech-language pathology services for children to address the urgent need for access to timely and effective services, and to ensure an appropriate number of speech-language pathologists are available to assist young children prior to starting kindergarten.

### Healthy Living and Wellness

21. Increase funding to promote healthy living and wellness initiatives, and apply the PST on sugar-sweetened beverages as an opportunity to increase initiative funding. (Also see [recommendation #53](#) under Fiscal Policy)

### Training, Recruitment and Retention

22. Develop a comprehensive action plan to address recruitment and retention challenges for health care professionals, including: compensation models or billing practices; workload issues; occupational health and safety; post-secondary training; student loan forgiveness; and incentives to practice in rural or remote communities.

# Theme 2: Advanced Education

The Committee received more than 130 submissions from post-secondary institutions, student and faculty associations, and community literacy groups, many of which focused on the cost of post-secondary education. Several brought forward suggestions including establishing needs-based and graduate level grant programs, eliminating student loan interest, and funding open education resources to assist with the cost of textbooks.

Other issues raised included deferred maintenance and upgrades of infrastructure, on-campus housing for post-secondary students, and the importance of investment in science, technology, engineering and mathematics programs and work-integrated learning.

## Capital Funding

Like many British Columbians throughout the province, post-secondary students face the challenge of securing affordable, accessible housing. In order to address this and relieve some of the pressure on local rental housing markets, many post-secondary institutions, including Northern Lights College, Okanagan College, North Island College, University of the Fraser Valley, and the University of Victoria, as well as several faculty and student associations, sought support for the expansion of on-campus student housing. Recognizing this as an urgent need, the Committee explored possible options, including enabling post-secondary institutions to take on debt or access cash reserves for these purposes as well as the possibility of private partnerships or other direct government funding.

The Committee also heard from a number of post-secondary institutions about the challenges which have arisen due to critical deferred maintenance and upgrades of infrastructure, and agreed on the need to focus on critical issues first, then provide stable funding to avoid any future backlog. Simon Fraser University Surrey and Kwantlen Polytechnic University, and others, advocated for the expansion of their campuses in order to better meet the post-secondary education needs of students in the South Fraser region which is experiencing rapid population growth.

## Literacy

Literacy, including digital literacy, plays an important role in supporting British Columbians to become or remain active and engaged in their communities. It lays the foundation for further learning, employment, and other opportunities, strengthening our economy and society as a whole.

The Committee heard from many community-based literacy groups about the importance of sustainable and reliable access to literacy education, including: Literacy Now Burnaby; Literacy Matters Abbotsford; Downtown Eastside Literacy Roundtable; and Cariboo Chilcotin Partners for Literacy.

## Operational and Program Funding

The Committee heard concerns from several post-secondary institutions about operational and program funding levels. The BC Federation of Students explained that “the proportion of public funding to BC

colleges and universities has dropped to near 50 percent of total operating costs,” and some, such as Langara College, only receive 35 percent of their total operating budget from the government. CUPE BC recommended that funding levels be raised to ensure that post-secondary institutions remain mostly government funded and therefore public institutions over the long term.

Funding is currently provided to post-secondary institutions based on a per-student funding formula, whereby each institution receives funding based on a target number of students set by the province. If an institution attracts more students than the target number, it receives less funding per-student overall, while those institutions that are not able to meet their targets receive more funding per-student. Many submissions called for a review of this formula to address the inequities it creates across post-secondary institutions, and ensure that funding levels reflect support for each institution’s mandate.

## Technology and Skills Training

BC’s post-secondary institutions play a crucial role in building the capacity required to respond to the changing nature of the economy. The Committee heard that the demand for workers in jobs related to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) continues to rise, and meeting this need poses a real challenge. Many post-secondary institutions and other organizations such as Deloitte and the Business Council of British Columbia advocated for increased investment in these critical areas.

The Committee received many specific requests from post-secondary institutions wanting to expand or create certificate, diploma, and degree programs at their facilities. This included: a third and fourth year software, computer and electrical engineering program at Thompson Rivers University; 400 additional spaces in engineering at the University of Victoria; a civil engineering technology diploma program at the College of New Caledonia; and a civil and environmental engineering undergraduate program at the University of Northern BC.

Encouraging partnerships between post-secondary institutions and industry contributes to the success of newly-trained individuals. Kwantlen Polytechnic University explained that “internships, co-op opportunities, apprenticeships, practicums, clinical placements, service learning and volunteer activities offer...students the opportunity to expand their classroom experience into the broader community, putting their education to work and gaining valuable hands-on learning that helps ensure they are workplace-ready when they graduate.”

## Tuition and Financial Assistance

The Committee heard from many post-secondary institutions and student union associations in regard to the cost of pursuing post-secondary education, and learned about proposed strategies devoted to ensuring fair and equitable access for all students. Many students rely on student loans in order to access post-secondary education, and student loan interest creates a disadvantage for students who access this support as they end up paying more overall for their education than those students who are able to afford the cost up-front. It was also noted that BC is one of the only provinces that does not have a needs-based grant program. Student union associations from across the province advocated for a needs-based grant system, explaining that it would improve the ability of low- and middle-income students to pursue post-secondary education, particularly those who may not otherwise do so.

The Graduate Society at Simon Fraser University explained that BC is one of the few provinces that does not currently provide some form of scholarship or fellowship to its graduate students. In order to remain competitive, BC needs to ensure it continues to attract and retain the best and brightest students.

## Conclusions

The Committee was pleased to receive positive feedback about the reinstatement of tuition-free English as a Second Language and Adult Basic Education programs. The Committee recognized the value and importance of the work undertaken by the network of community-based organizations that provide literacy programming, and in order to continue to meet the needs of our diverse population, including those of all age groups and backgrounds, the Committee voiced their support for increased investments in this area.

Understanding that housing poses a challenge for post-secondary students, Committee Members reiterated their support for the construction of on-campus residences, and would like to see all avenues explored to achieve this goal, along with capital investments to address critical maintenance and upgrades as additional priorities.

The Committee acknowledged the need for accessible and affordable post-secondary education, for the establishment of a needs-based grant program, and the elimination of student loan interest. Members also recognized that some areas of the province are under-served by post-secondary institutions, and agreed that new capital and operating funds should be prioritized to address this.

Committee Members discussed the need to ensure the best and brightest students are attracted to and remain in our province. In order to support and sustain the current and future needs of our economy, Committee Members strongly encouraged the creation and expansion of regionally-distributed programming in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, complemented by integrated workplace learning opportunities to ensure job readiness.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends to the Legislative Assembly that the provincial government:

### Capital Funding

23. Explore all avenues to enable post-secondary institutions to address the urgent need to build student housing, including examining the ability to take on debt, run a deficit in order to access cash reserves, private sector partnerships, and other direct government funding. [2016: #20]
24. Address critical deferred maintenance issues at the major campuses and provide funding on an ongoing basis for maintenance and upgrades.
25. Prioritize new capital and operating funds to provide equitable access to post-secondary education for students in under-served regions.

## Literacy

26. Increase funding to local, regional and provincial literacy groups to deliver community-based programming for all age groups. [2016: #19]

## Operational and Program Funding

27. Review funding formulas for post-secondary institutions to ensure that inequities between institutions are addressed, increased funding is provided where appropriate, and funding levels reflect the specific mandates of institutions across the province.
28. Provide a one-time funding increase to BCcampus for the production and enhancement of open education resources, including ancillary resources.
29. Provide funding to enable post-secondary institutions to innovate and adapt programs, credentials, and teaching to meet the educational needs of a rapidly-changing workforce.
30. Provide post-secondary institutions with access to retained-earnings savings accounts to help sustain and respond to changing operational needs.

## Technology and Skills Training

31. Provide accelerated funding to post-secondary institutions which are positioned to provide training in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) related areas to enable them to increase the number of student spaces immediately, in certificate, diploma, or degree programs. [2016: #22]
32. Expand opportunities for co-ops, internships, and apprenticeships to provide post-secondary students with work-integrated learning.

## Tuition and Financial Assistance

33. Eliminate interest on student loans and introduce a comprehensive needs-based grants program for those attending BC post-secondary institutions. [2016: #23]
34. Initiate a competitive post-graduate level scholarship program for BC students.
35. Increase funding to provide training for staff and educators to support the full range of diverse learning needs in the K-12 education sector. [2016: # 50]



# Theme 3: Social Services

Questions One and Two of the online survey asked British Columbians to provide their top priorities to make life more affordable and improve services. The responses overwhelmingly expressed a need for affordable, accessible, and high-quality child care. This was also included as one of the top ways to create jobs and build a sustainable economy, which relates to Question Three of the survey.

In addition to responses to the online survey, the Committee received several submissions referencing child care, as well as early childhood intervention and supports for children with special needs, supports for children in care, income and disability assistance rates and policies, community-based social services, labour and immigration, and the need to develop a poverty reduction plan.

## Child Care and Early Childhood Development

Child care remains a challenge for many families, particularly in regard to infant and toddler programs. Child care advocates and community-based social services groups, business and employment services organizations, union and labour groups, post-secondary institutions, and many individuals highlighted the need for accessible, high-quality, affordable child care. The creation of additional child care spaces, implementation of a plan to reduce cost, and a focus on increased wages for early childhood educators to ensure a living wage and encourage recruitment to this field were some of the suggestions provided to tackle this issue.

The Committee recognized the immense value of the supports provided to special needs children and their families, such as the Supported Child Development program, and the Aboriginal Supported Child Development program which ensure full inclusion in child care programs. Dedicated resources to support this and other programs, particularly in regard to ensuring extensive waitlists are addressed, is an integral part of the funding and implementation of a child care response plan.

Noting the important relationship between early childhood identification and intervention services and improved outcomes, the Committee stressed the urgent need for the availability and accessibility of these critical services. In particular, the Committee heard about the significant unmet needs in pediatric speech-language pathologist services in various regions of BC, and agreed that access to this and other early intervention services should be a priority.

## Community Social Services

Many social services that British Columbians rely on every day are delivered through community-based organizations. Community social services play an integral role in the broader system of care by ensuring that communities across BC remain healthy and that British Columbians receive appropriate supports.

The Committee heard concerns from several organizations including the Federation of Community Social Services of BC, Inclusion BC, Nanaimo Youth Services Association, and Abbotsford Community Services about the level of funding to the sector, and called for increased investment. The Committee heard that the recruitment and retention of skilled staff was one of the key challenges. Workers in this sector earn less than their counterparts in community health, and compared with wages in education and the public service,

the disparity is even more pronounced. One way to improve service delivery is to support and appropriately compensate the people who deliver these services in recognition of the importance of their work.

The government, by contract, entrusts organizations in the non-profit and private sector to deliver these services on their behalf. Concerns were raised about this procurement process, and the Committee heard about the importance of ensuring that organizations that are awarded contracts are embedded in their communities to ensure approaches to service delivery reflect local knowledge, history, culture and geography.

## Income and Disability Assistance

The Committee heard that those British Columbians that rely on income and disability assistance experience difficulty making ends meet; as such, rates should be reviewed to ensure that they reflect the real cost of living. Many expressed particular frustration that benefits received from programs such as Canada Pension Plan Disability, Employment Insurance, Workers Compensation and other programs are considered “unearned income” and are therefore deducted from provincial disability benefits.

## Labour and Immigration

Several submissions, including those made by the British Columbia Employment Standards Coalition, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, BC Poverty Reduction Coalition, CUPE BC, BCGEU, and the BC Federation of Labour, called for increased investment in the Employment Standards Branch to enable more proactive enforcement of workplace safety standards. Specific concerns were raised in regard to vulnerable workers, misclassification of employees, failure to pay overtime, and various barriers to support, including the location of Employment Standard Branch offices, and the limited capacity of non-profit advocacy organizations to assist workers.

The Committee heard about the benefits of funding initiatives related to employment support programming, such as the Canada-BC job fund, and favoured this approach to ensure that BC leverages all available federal funding through this and other joint programs.

S.U.C.C.E.S.S. told the Committee that immigration is one of the key drivers of population and economic growth in British Columbia, and will become even more important in the future. Settlement and integration services are vital to the success of immigrants, particularly in regard to education and employment training. The Committee acknowledged the important role that non-profit organizations play in this regard and appreciated their work in providing these supports.

## Poverty Reduction

The Metro Vancouver Alliance told the Committee that BC has the second highest poverty rate in Canada, and is the only province without a plan to reduce poverty. The BC Poverty Reduction Coalition added that the cost of poverty is \$8-9 billion per year. A number of factors contribute to poverty including wages and assistance rates that do not reflect the cost of living, access to secure, affordable housing and child care, health costs and access to appropriate health services, and marginalization.

## Supports for Children in Care

As the parent of children in care, the government has the responsibility to properly and appropriately support them, as well as other vulnerable children and youth that receive government services. This includes

strengthening supports for Indigenous children and youth as well as those with special needs, and youth aging out of care. Increased supports are also required for the network of individuals who provide care, including guardianship workers, foster parents, kinship care providers and other caregivers who provide these children and youth with the care and support they deserve.

## Conclusions

As in previous years, the Committee received a large number of submissions about the challenges faced by families requiring child care services, especially infant and toddler care, and recognized that a comprehensive approach to addressing these matters is important. Another critical issue that must also be addressed is the availability of early childhood intervention services, given the crucial role they play in determining successful outcomes. Supports for these children, as well as those who are in care and receive government services, is essential.

The Committee discussed income and disability assistance rates, and agreed that a further increase as well as review of clawback policies is required to ensure the necessary supports are available for British Columbians who rely on these benefits. Many other British Columbians also struggle to make ends meet, and the Committee received many calls to address the issue of poverty. Recognizing that poverty is a serious and complex issue that has direct and broader societal impacts, the Committee supported the development, implementation and funding of a poverty reduction plan with the goal of eliminating and preventing poverty in BC.

The Employment Services Branch and the Labour Relations Board play important roles in ensuring workplace and worker safety in BC, and should have the necessary funding required to support their work.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends to the Legislative Assembly that the provincial government:

### Child Care and Early Childhood Development

36. Increase investments in accessible, quality and affordable child care, particularly infant and toddler programs, and address the significant need for supports required to ensure inclusion for children with disabilities. [2016: #34]
37. Increase access to early childhood identification and intervention services, including occupational therapy, physiotherapy and speech and language pathology, with a focus on addressing urgent recruitment and retention challenges of professionals in this sector. [2016: #33]

### Community Social Services

38. Review the funding for community social services agencies to ensure they are adequate and adjusted to inflation, and reflect the real costs of timely delivery of these services to British Columbians where and when they are needed.

### Income and Disability Assistance

39. Increase the rate of income and disability assistance benefits to ensure they reflect the current cost of living, index rates to inflation, and review policies which stipulate earned income to identify additional exclusions. [2016: #40, #41]

### Labour and Immigration

40. Provide additional support for the Labour Relations Board to ensure decisions on certifications are made in a timely fashion.
41. Increase funding to the Employment Standards Branch to enable proactive enforcement of workplace standards and worker safety.
42. Enhance opportunities to leverage federal funding by providing more investments in provincial and federal joint employment programs.
43. Allocate funds to develop a Provincial Immigration Strategy and re-invest in the Welcome BC initiatives, as well as in research and data analysis to support provincial and municipal planning related to immigration.

### Poverty Reduction

44. Develop, implement, and adequately fund a comprehensive poverty reduction plan with clear targets or outcomes, deliverables and timelines. [2016: #42]

### Supports for Children in Care

45. Ensure that ministry funding reflects the complex needs of serving children and youth in care, and enables strengthening of the system of care provided by guardianship workers, foster parents, kinship care providers, and other caregivers.

# Theme 4: Fiscal Policy

In her presentation to the Committee on September 20, 2017, the Minister of Finance provided a fiscal update and spoke about British Columbia's financial and budgetary forecasting for the coming year, and noted that BC's economic outlook remains positive. However, the Minister did identify a number of risks which might affect the fiscal plan (see Finance Minister Briefing section on page 2).

British Columbia continues to build on its strong fiscal position by attracting a diversity of businesses and companies, along with an educated and highly-skilled workforce. However, like other jurisdictions, BC needs to exercise caution in relation to global economic uncertainties.

Various organizations and individuals made presentations and submissions to the Committee that focused on building upon BC's positive economic outlook, but also suggested that an overall review of various fiscal tools, such as taxes and incentives, could uncover improvements that would be beneficial to all British Columbians.

## Budgetary Policy

Many submissions, presentations and survey responses indicated that fiscal prudence and thoughtful budgetary policies, including the value of balanced budgets, were on the minds of British Columbians. The need to address unintentional inequities created by various tax policies was another area of concern noted by a number of presenters. The Downtown Surrey Business Improvement Association, Canadian Taxpayers Federation, and the BC Chamber of Commerce, among others, all provided submissions on this topic.

The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives suggested that government might consider convening a fair tax commission to review the provincial tax system to identify any measures to make the tax system more equitable while ensuring fiscal capacity to address urgent challenges.

## Carbon Tax

A number of presenters including the BC Chamber of Commerce and the Business Council of British Columbia spoke about the effectiveness of the Carbon Tax in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and asked that periodic reviews of the tax be undertaken to ensure that it functions as intended without unduly restricting industries or businesses who contribute to BC's economic growth. Representatives from the David Suzuki Foundation asked for the Carbon Tax to be increased and that the resulting revenue be applied to industrial fugitive emissions and methane pollution. In recognition of the differences in carbon pricing in other jurisdictions, organizations such as the Mining Association of British Columbia, Cement Association of Canada, and the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers suggested that government implement a mechanism to incentivize emissions reductions and address carbon leakage while maintaining the competitiveness of emissions-intensive, trade-exposed industries.

A representative from Cruise Lines International Association (North West and Canada) outlined inconsistencies in the Motor Fuel Tax exemption in regard to marine gas oil. The Committee heard that the exemption has not been reviewed in light of developments in the fuel industry and that this tax policy could be impeding

further growth in the tourism sector. The presenter suggested that an expansion of the Motor Fuel Tax exemption to include marine gas oil used in both gas turbine and internal combustion engines would help eliminate a significant disadvantage in attracting cruise ships to BC's port cities.

## Property Transfer Tax (PTT)

With BC's real estate market being a topic of much discussion among British Columbians due to the rising cost of home ownership, limited inventory, and speculation regarding the long-term economic impacts, the Property Transfer Tax (PTT) was on the minds of many presenters and those who made written submissions to the Committee. The Victoria Real Estate Board and the British Columbia Real Estate Association, among others, stated that the PTT needs to reflect current real estate market conditions and that various thresholds may require adjustment. The Foreign Buyers' Property Transfer Tax was often raised in conjunction with the PTT, and the British Columbia Real Estate Association and the Real Estate Board of Greater Vancouver asked that the exemption for this tax be expanded to everyone with a work permit in BC.

## Provincial Sales Tax (PST)

Representatives from the BC Chamber of Commerce, Chartered Professional Accountants of British Columbia, and Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters requested that a review of the administrative burdens of the Provincial Sales Tax (PST) on businesses be conducted, and that government consider broadening the current suite of exemptions to help ensure BC businesses' competitiveness on a global scale. The Committee heard that the PST on machinery, equipment and other business-related expenditures should be removed to further encourage investment and economic growth. The BC Alliance for Healthy Living re-iterated a suggestion from previous years that the PST be applied to sugar-sweetened beverages and the funds generated be put towards the promotion of healthy living initiatives.

## Tax Credits

Tax credits can provide a valuable incentive to those with disabilities and seniors to improve quality of life and help them remain in their homes. These cost-saving incentives can also be used to promote uptake of energy efficient initiatives in relation to home renovations or improvements. In support of this, the BC Federation of Retired Union Members suggested that the amount of the home renovation tax credit for seniors should be increased and the Victoria Residential Builders Association thought that a renovation tax credit should be developed using a small portion of the revenue from the property transfer tax.

## Conclusions

While submitters presented the Committee with a variety of sometimes conflicting viewpoints surrounding fiscal policy, one common observation made was the value of prudent fiscal management in ensuring the economic future and prosperity of British Columbia. Committee Members were in agreement that government needs to pursue prudent fiscal discipline and management.

The Committee voiced support for the Carbon Tax, but wanted to make sure that the application of the tax does not have an adverse effect on trade-exposed, emissions-intensive industries, and so suggested that periodic reviews of the tax to highlight any inequities is in order. Committee Members discussed the Motor Fuel Tax exemption and wanted to ensure that BC's port cities remain a desired destination for cruise ships.

The Provincial Sales Tax (PST) was another fiscal tool that the Committee would like to see reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that the PST does not cause undue burdens to small businesses or larger companies.

Committee Members heard a number of presentations in relation to the real estate market and discussed various tax incentives and other initiatives currently in place to provide assistance to first-time homebuyers and others looking to invest in real estate purchases.

In light of the dynamic nature of the real estate market and the fact that the Property Transfer Tax (PTT) has not been subject to regular reviews, the Committee felt that tax thresholds related to the PTT should be reviewed on an annual basis.

The Committee Members recognize that tax credits represent a powerful financial tool that can be used to influence and realize positive outcomes among British Columbians and so put forth their recommendations to introduce tax credits to promote the adoption of energy-efficient and accessibility-related initiatives in relation to home renovations.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends to the Legislative Assembly that the provincial government:

### Budgetary Policy

46. Pursue prudent and careful fiscal discipline and management.
47. Convene a fair tax commission to review the provincial tax system and to recommend measures to simplify and increase fairness within the tax system.

### Carbon Tax

48. Continue to review the Carbon Tax to improve fairness and reduce adverse economic impacts, in particular for energy or emissions-intensive export industries. [2016: # 25]
49. To maintain the competitiveness of the cruise ship industry and support growth in BC's tourism sector, expand the Motor Fuel Tax exemption to include marine gas oil used in both gas turbine and internal combustion engines.

### Property Transfer Tax (PTT)

50. Conduct an annual review of the Property Transfer Tax thresholds and make any necessary adjustments to address the challenges related to home ownership due to the dynamic nature of the real estate market. [2016: #28]
51. Expand the exemption for the additional 15 percent Foreign Buyers' Property Transfer Tax to include everyone with a work permit in BC.

### Provincial Sales Tax (PST)

52. Conduct a review of the administrative burdens of the Provincial Sales Tax on businesses, and consider broadening the existing suite of exemptions to stimulate capital investment, maintain competitiveness, and drive productivity for economic growth.

53. Apply the Provincial Sales Tax to sugar-sweetened beverages, and use the funds to promote healthy living initiatives. (Also see [recommendation #21](#) under Health Care) [2016: #14]

#### Tax Credits

54. Introduce tax credits to promote the adoption of energy efficient initiatives in relation to home renovations. (Also see [recommendation #76](#) under Environment)
55. Provide incentives for accessibility-related home renovations to allow persons with disabilities and seniors to remain in their homes.



# Theme 5: Housing

A number of submissions and presentations addressed the lack of affordable housing in BC, and the ongoing issue of homelessness in urban and rural centres. As is common in other jurisdictions, the lack of affordable housing is causing considerable strain on the social safety net.

Shelter or housing is a basic human need and many presenters noted the interconnectedness of housing to other aspects of everyday life, including physical and mental health, financial security, community or family support, and emotional well-being. A number of presenters suggested that the creation of a provincial task force to look at affordable housing and homelessness might be the best way to bring together representatives from various government, private and non-profit sectors to address these issues collaboratively.

## Affordable Housing

Numerous submissions wanted to see government develop an affordable housing strategy and expedite the construction of accessible, affordable, secure and liveable housing. Additionally, the *Residential Tenancy Act, SBC 2002*, should be reviewed and strengthened to ensure that renters are adequately protected from renovation-related evictions.

Representatives from a diverse selection of organizations such as Metro Vancouver Alliance, Inclusion BC, First Call: BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition, Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce and Canadian Home Builders' Association of BC highlighted the need for affordable housing and offered a number of creative housing solutions or models to help solve this complex issue. Suggestions put forth included co-op or non-profit housing, social housing, purpose-built rental stock, co-housing, as well as options to allow gentle density, such as laneway housing, secondary suites, and modular or tiny homes.

A common thread was that initiatives and strategies need to be developed with input and advice from individual communities to ensure that solutions meet local needs. The Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER) program was brought forward as a model that could be adapted for other groups, including people with disabilities, to enable them to access rental market housing or co-op units through the use of portable rental subsidies.

## Homelessness

Chronic or episodic homelessness is a complex issue, and individuals often find themselves without a home for a number of reasons. Poverty and homelessness are often inextricably linked, and while solutions need to focus on a "Housing First" strategy, there needs to be better collaboration across government in order to deliver a seamless suite of services to aid British Columbians who are in danger of becoming homeless or who currently face life without dedicated shelter.

Organizations such as The Federation of Community Social Services of BC and the BC Non-Profit Housing Association suggested that government should work to improve integration within government services and form external partnerships with community service providers, and municipal and federal governments to develop a clear strategy to address homelessness. Several presenters noted that vulnerability assessments

could be expanded or further developed within the current suite of services provided by government or social service agencies.

Representatives from A Way Home Kamloops and Canadian Mental Health Association, Kelowna noted that any strategies to address homelessness must incorporate specific strategies geared towards youth and those who are considered hardest to house, including those deeply entrenched in street life.

## Conclusions

The Committee discussed the federal government's National Housing Strategy and wanted to ensure that any funding allocated through this initiative comes with enough flexibility for communities to meet their own unique needs.

The need for a provincial housing strategy and increased investments in the construction of accessible, affordable and secure permanent housing was a clear priority outlined by the Committee Members, and they acknowledged that affordable housing and homelessness are linked. Committee Members noted their appreciation for the important work being done by a wide variety of organizations and non-profit or volunteer groups in communities throughout BC to address homelessness and provide assistance to those who face multiple barriers to securing safe and affordable housing.

Committee Members expressed interest in a "Housing First" approach, which is an evidence-based approach that has been adopted in many jurisdictions. The "Housing First" model focuses on the provision of permanent housing, including onsite supports to suit a variety of client needs, as the cornerstone required for individuals to stabilize their lives away from living on the street or accessing shelter through emergency or temporary housing facilities.

The Committee discussed the need for all levels of government to work together to ensure that every funding opportunity to build or repurpose affordable, safe and permanent housing is utilized to its full extent. Committee Members would like to see more cooperation between governments and non-profit organizations who specialize in addressing homelessness or who offer housing support as part of a full suite of services. The success of the Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER) program was discussed and Committee Members agreed that this program could be used as a model for other groups.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends to the Legislative Assembly that the provincial government:

### Affordable Housing

56. Implement a provincial affordable housing strategy and provide investment to expedite the construction of accessible, affordable and secure housing (including co-op, non-profit, social housing and rental units) for families, seniors, persons with disabilities and vulnerable groups, by leveraging federal funding and ensuring collaboration between all levels of government, the private sector, and the non-profit housing sector. (Also see [recommendation #93](#) under Indigenous People) [2016: #65, #66]

57. Expand the Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER) program to create a portable rental subsidy or renter's grant to allow those receiving disability benefits or those in lower income ranges to access market rentals or co-op housing. [2016: #67]
58. Work with the federal government to ensure that the National Housing Strategy, and the budget allocations that accompany it, has enough flexibility to meet local needs and demands.

### Homelessness

59. In collaboration with local and federal governments, and using an approach that understands the factors that create poverty, create a long-term "Housing First" strategy to address homelessness, including the construction of affordable housing, to facilitate seamless service delivery for the chronically or episodically homeless, including vulnerable youth.



# Theme 6: K-12 Education

As in previous years, many submissions on the topic of K-12 education focused on increased investment in capital funding to build new schools, and undertake necessary maintenance and seismic upgrades. The submissions also raised the current per-pupil funding formula, and suggested that it does not reflect the diverse challenges of individual school districts, and therefore does not meet the real costs of delivering public education across the province.

Other issues included supports for special needs students, provision of adequate learning resources and technology, and programming and partnerships that prepare students for the future. K-12 education was also the fourth most common theme for Question Two of the survey where respondents recommended increased capital investment, as well as more services for mental health and special needs students.

## Capital Funding

Committee Members heard from school boards across the province as well as the BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils and other advocacy groups about the need for increased funding for capital investments. Many schools, particularly in rapidly-growing districts, are overcrowded, and as a result a reliance on portables has developed. Understanding the challenges of districts who currently fund the cost of portables out of their operating budgets, the Committee heard how special bridge funding might be used to cover the cost of this expense until the reliance on portables is eliminated. Committee Members also noted the importance of developing a strategy for new school construction to proactively address needs in order to avoid the complex issues that arise from overcrowding.

School boards in Richmond and Surrey also requested that some existing processes be streamlined and made more cost efficient. Others felt that government should consider improving and expediting the approval process for new school construction as well as undertaking non-seismic maintenance work as part of a larger seismic project.

## Operational Funding

As in previous years, many school boards, the BC Teachers Federation, and the BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils, expressed concern about the current funding formula. Districts across the province each face their own set of challenges based on the unique needs of their communities including rapidly increasing or declining enrollment, regional differences, transportation requirements, maintenance and custodial services, and energy costs. The varying needs for programs and other support services for vulnerable children and youth, including special needs students was also highlighted. A review of the formula based on the real needs of students and communities throughout BC, should be undertaken to ensure equitable access to funding.

BC's economy is rapidly changing, and our education system must keep pace to ensure success of our future generations. Access to adequate learning resources in all of our schools, including appropriate equipment and technology, is essential. The new economy will also require creative minds. In order to develop and support

students in this regard, creative endeavours including art education, graphic design, music and theatre should be encouraged.

Key to supporting the successful implementation of the new curriculum, including increased Indigenous content, LGBTQ inclusive sexual health, and mental health and addiction education, is professional development, training, and appropriate materials for teachers, support staff and administrators.

## Partnership and Career Engagement

The Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of BC, the Interactive & Digital Media Industry Association of British Columbia and the BC Federation of Labour emphasized the need to connect K-12 learners with equipment and resources to build essential workplace skills. Specifically, the Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of BC stressed the importance of growing a science and technology culture in order to grow and sustain our society, and suggested the introduction of technology programming and work placements.

## Special Needs

The Committee heard that there is a need to train and recruit more educational assistant specialists to ensure adequate supports for children and youth with special needs and their teachers. While a significant number of new teachers were hired in September 2017, this recruitment did not include special needs and educational support staff. As a result, the gap in resources in this critical area has become even more pronounced.

## Conclusions

Committee Members emphasized the importance of equity and fairness within the K-12 system in order to ensure that the diverse needs of communities across the province are met, and that all students, including those with special needs, receive a high-quality public education. Government should review the overall per-pupil funding formula to ensure it reflects the real costs of providing education in each school district.

Supports for special needs and other vulnerable students, including early identification, designation and programming for these learners was discussed by the Committee who acknowledged a current gap in these resources. Committee Members supported calls for increased funding to ensure that all children in the public education system receive the supports they need to be successful.

The education system plays a crucial role in preparing students for the future, and must be reflective of our society. Appropriate learning materials that teach students about Indigenous history and culture, sexual health including LGBTQ issues, and mental health and addiction are important, as is technology and arts programming that prepare students to contribute to our economy based in technology and creativity. Increased access to the necessary resources, supports, and opportunities in this regard is recommended.

The Committee recognized challenges posed by aging facilities requiring critical maintenance and other repairs as well as overcrowding, and supported funding to address these and other capital issues, including seismic upgrades. The Committee discussed the value of streamlining existing processes in regard to developing plans for future capital investments.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends to the Legislative Assembly that the provincial government:

### Capital Funding

60. Develop a strategy and proactively fund the construction of new schools at elementary, middle and high school levels to meet demand in geographical areas of current and anticipated population growth, and to address issues such as overcapacity and reliance on portables. [2016: #45]
61. Increase the annual facility grant for capital maintenance to ensure proper repair, maintenance and upgrades of aging school facilities.
62. Provide adequate funding for seismic upgrades, accelerate the Seismic Mitigation Program, and allow concurrent non-seismic upgrades to take place where appropriate. [2016: #45]
63. Provide bridge funding to cover the cost of portables while new schools are being constructed.
64. Streamline the process by which school districts access capital funding from concept to completion.

### Operational Funding

65. Review the salary compression of exempt staff to ensure that migration into administration positions remains attractive. [2016: #48]
66. With broad stakeholder input, review the per-pupil funding formula to develop a new needs-based, stable and sustainable model to fund actual costs, resource needs, and professional development requirements of each school district. [2016: #48]
67. Increase funding to Community LINK and the Vulnerable Student Supplement, and provide a more equitable allocation process of these initiatives among school districts. [2016: #50]
68. Increase learning resources to school districts so that students have equitable access to books, equipment, technology and other resources necessary to provide a quality learning environment.
69. Provide funding for new materials, training and supports for the new K-12 curriculum, for LGBTQ inclusive sexual health education, as well as information about mental health and addiction. (Also see [recommendation #95](#) under Indigenous People) [2016: #51]
70. Fund innovative and creative endeavours within the K-12 system, including the arts, graphic design, music and theatre in order to support the new creative economy.

## Partnership and Career Engagement

71. Create opportunities to link the technology sector with the curriculum or after-school activities in order to encourage children and youth to become engaged and interested in this sector.

## Special Needs

72. Ensure that teachers are well supported to implement inclusion, equity, and quality learning opportunities for all students, including diverse learners, by increasing funding to allow schools to hire more trained educational assistants and specialists.
73. Provide funding to enable early identification of students with special needs, and to provide appropriate support programs, as required. [2016: # 50]



# Theme 7: Environment

The Committee received a number of submissions and presentations that touched on the environment and highlighted BC Parks, fish and wildlife management, the clean and renewable energy industry, climate change, and invasive species and noxious weeds.

## BC Parks

Across submissions, presentations and survey responses, British Columbians again requested a significant increase in funding for BC Parks. Many organizations and individuals explained that park infrastructure is lacking and deteriorating, and that staffing is often insufficient, particularly in back-country areas and for conservation and enforcement. In some places, local and regional non-government organizations have been raising funds and filling gaps to address critical infrastructure and safety issues.

In addition to the recreational opportunities parks provide British Columbians, the Outdoor Recreation Council of British Columbia reminded the Committee that provincial parks are an important part of BC's tourism industry. Parks are only increasing in popularity, putting pressure on an already strained system. They requested increased investment in BC Parks in Budget 2018 and future budgets to ensure responsible management and maintenance on an on-going basis.

## Clean and Renewable Energy

British Columbians clearly care about clean and renewable energy. Several submissions and survey responses advocated for direct government investment in alternative power sources such as wind, solar, geothermal and tidal energy. Others referenced mechanisms and incentives such as regulations, taxes and subsidies as a means to enable the growth of the clean and renewable industry, and encourage energy efficiency.

A number of organizations, including the David Suzuki Foundation, the New Car Dealers Association of BC, and Clean Energy Canada, discussed electric vehicles, pointing out that transportation is a significant generator of carbon emissions and electric vehicles use a largely renewable energy supply. They felt that the adoption of electric vehicles could be encouraged or enabled through the provision of incentives and increased infrastructure, such as accessible charging stations situated in strategic locations.

## Climate Change

The Committee received a number of submissions related to climate change from individuals as well as businesses, industry and other organizations, some of which placed particular emphasis on climate change mitigation and resilience. Others discussed options for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and shifting to a low carbon economy. Moving toward electrification of the economy would be an effective means of cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

Committee Members also received suggestions for encouraging individuals and businesses to take action on climate change, and working with other levels of government and industry to identify and implement solutions. Several submissions discussed the importance of government setting an example by ensuring

schools, hospitals, transportation and other public infrastructure are built using climate friendly practices and materials.

## Fish and Wildlife Conservation and Management

Several submissions and presentations focused on fish and wildlife conservation and management, including increased funding for conservation officers and enforcement. The BC Wildlife Federation suggested dedicating hunting and angling revenue to fund conservation and management as well as implementing a surcharge on natural resource use and extraction. The Guide Outfitters Association of BC, in their presentation on October 6, made suggestions related to wildlife populations, including ensuring wildlife values are incorporated in forest and fire management practices.

## Invasive Species and Noxious Weeds

Invasive species and noxious weeds pose a significant threat to BC. Several submissions from local and regional organizations described the negative effects on ecosystems and natural resource industries. The Kelowna Chamber of Commerce drew particular attention to aquatic invasive species, such as quagga and zebra mussels, and their impact on salmon populations, hydro power stations and pipe infrastructure.

Many submissions and presentations commented on the need to strengthen enforcement and regulation. A new area of emphasis this year was the need to take action in natural disaster areas. The Northwest Invasive Plant Council explained that forest fires and floods create disturbances that allow the establishment of invasive species. Prompt action must be taken in these situations to prevent and control their spread.

## Conclusions

Committee Members recognized that BC Parks faces a number of challenges with capacity, infrastructure and staffing, and support increased funding to address these challenges. They also support dedicated funding for fish and wildlife conservation and management, and a science and ecosystem-based approach to conservation and management.

The Committee discussed BC's role as a green technology leader, how the province can build on that success, and the importance of partnering with Indigenous and other communities on clean energy projects. Committee Members also agreed on the benefits of adopting electric vehicles and would like to see the expansion of charging infrastructure.

The Committee felt that electrification of energy and transportation systems would be an effective means of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and that government should take the lead in modelling action on climate change while also encouraging British Columbians to do the same.

Committee Members reflected on the progress made with the Invasive Species Strategy and recognized the challenges presented by invasive species and noxious weeds across the province. They discussed the opportunity to save money and avoid further issues in the future with investment in prevention and eradication now.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends to the Legislative Assembly that the provincial government:

### BC Parks

74. Increase investment in BC Parks to improve infrastructure and maintenance, and to increase staffing and build public awareness. [2016: #52]

### Clean and Renewable Energy

75. Create incentives for the development of clean and renewable energy, including partnerships with Indigenous and local communities.
76. Encourage businesses and homeowners to adopt clean and renewable energy, and become more energy efficient, through initiatives such as regulatory changes, and tax or rebate incentives. (Also see [recommendation #54](#) under Fiscal Policy)
77. Provide funds to enable expansion of accessible electric vehicle charging infrastructure strategically located along major thoroughfares across the province. [2016: #57]

### Climate Change

78. Encourage and incentivize British Columbians to take action on climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and demonstrate leadership within government by identifying new sources of renewable energy to meet demand, greening public infrastructure, and committing to electrification as a pathway towards addressing climate change. [2016: #56]

### Fish and Wildlife Conservation and Management

79. Provide dedicated funding for fish and wildlife conservation, management and enforcement, incorporating local and Indigenous knowledge, to sustain or increase populations and to address issues with habitat encroachment and pollution.

### Invasive Species and Noxious Weeds

80. Increase coordination with local and regional organizations, and provide increased, stable funding for the prevention, control and eradication of invasive species and noxious weeds. [2016: #64]



# Theme 8: Transportation and Transit

Many of the submissions and presentations received on transportation and transit re-iterated support from previous years for increased investment in this area. Transportation and transit was also a common topic in survey responses, with many respondents identifying it as a priority area for service improvements and making life more affordable. While quite a few focused specifically on active transportation and public transit, the Committee also received suggestions for improving critical transportation and transit infrastructure projects, including highways, tunnels, bridges, railways, ferries and ports.

## Active Transportation (Cycling and Walking)

Most submissions on the topic of active transportation discussed the need for increasing and improving cycling and walking infrastructure. Some submissions, as well as a number of survey respondents, requested funding be directed specifically for improved safety measures and education. As the BC Healthy Living Alliance explained, increased investments in active transportation provide a number of benefits including improved health and wellness, reduced reliance on private vehicles, reduced traffic fatalities and injuries, and new tourism opportunities.

Active transportation proponents, such as HUB Cycling, noted that provincial and municipal spending in this area is small and inadequate to meet demand, while the return on investment is high as governments save on health care, pollution and congestion, insurance and public safety costs. Several submissions requested specific funding levels and mechanisms including significantly increasing multi-year dollar investments, allocating a certain percentage of total transportation funding, and increasing the provincial cost share portion of active transportation projects.

## Infrastructure

Many survey respondents discussed investing in transportation infrastructure (including highways, tunnels, bridges, railways, ferries and ports), as well as public transit, as a means to create jobs and build a sustainable economy while also addressing infrastructure needs across the province. Several submissions and presentations shared with the Committee how transportation is a key contributor to economic growth as it facilitates the movement of goods and services. The Independent Contractors and Businesses Association pointed out the key role BC has in linking the province and the rest of the country to Asia Pacific markets. They advocated for more investments in a range of transportation infrastructure projects, including port infrastructure, rapid transit and highway capacity.

## Public Transit

Several organizations and individuals requested more funding for public transit and HandyDART services in both urban and rural communities to address capacity and infrastructure challenges. In addition to funding specific projects, such as rapid transit in Metro Vancouver, the Committee also heard that TransLink and BC Transit should be provided with new mechanisms or taxes for funding public transit infrastructure.

Organizations such as the Columbia Valley Chamber of Commerce and the Association of Service Providers for Employability and Career Training (ASPECT BC) described the lack of options in smaller communities and

the limitations created by existing rules on the delivery of public transit. They shared how this can negatively affect employment, and access to health care and other services for British Columbians living in smaller communities.

Student unions in Metro Vancouver once again shared with the Committee the importance of ensuring the U-Pass BC program, which provides post-secondary students with unlimited transit services at a reduced monthly cost, continues. The student unions advocated for shifting the program from a cyclical to a long-term, standardized contract indexed to inflation in order to provide continuity and predictability.

## Conclusions

The Committee agreed that increased provincial investment and support is needed in active transportation and public transit, including the U-Pass BC program, while being cognizant of the fact that small, rural and remote communities have unique characteristics that require flexibility in the design and implementation of transit solutions. The Committee also agreed on the need for increased investment in other transportation infrastructure, especially ports which are a critical part of BC's transport system.

Committee Members highlighted the opportunities available through federal funding for transportation projects. They called on government to ensure adequate provincial contributions are provided to transportation infrastructure projects so federal funding can be leveraged.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends to the Legislative Assembly that the provincial government:

### Active Transportation (Cycling and Walking)

81. Create a provincial active transportation strategy, including increased investment in active transportation infrastructure, education and promotion, as well as safety initiatives. [2016: #94]

### Infrastructure

82. In cooperation with the federal government and to continue to ensure business competitiveness, increase investment in critical transportation and transit infrastructure projects (including highways, tunnels, bridges, railways, ferries and ports) to enable the movement of people, goods and services.

### Public Transit

83. Increase investment in public transit infrastructure and services, including HandyDART, and provide flexibility to rural and remote communities to implement transit solutions that are customized to meet their needs. [2016: #93 and #95]
84. Provide the minimum 40 percent provincial contribution for transit infrastructure in order to leverage federal funding in relation to the Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation's 10-Year Plan.
85. Continue to support the U-Pass BC program beyond April 2018, and consider ending cyclical contract expiry in order to develop a long-term, standardized and affordable program indexed to inflation. [2016: #96]

# Theme 9: Indigenous People

The Committee heard from Indigenous organizations and other organizations that support Indigenous people on a range of topics including education, arts, culture and libraries, supports for victims of violence, health, housing, employment and other services. An over-arching theme focused on reconciliation and the importance of the Calls to Action within the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's report.

## Advanced Education and Training

Many post-secondary institutions expressed a desire to implement education-related Calls to Action within the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's report, including indigenizing campuses by ensuring strong Indigenous student services. Increased, targeted funding is required for further program and service development, such as additional student advisors, more mentors and Elders in residence, and more emergency funds for student issues.

## Arts and Culture, Libraries

Noting the important role that public libraries play as community hubs and places to share knowledge and ideas, many public library boards advocated for investments in Indigenous communities. Many Indigenous communities have little or no library services, which inhibits opportunities to learn, discover, and create. In some cases, without specific agreements in place, residents of Indigenous reserve communities may be unable to access nearby municipal libraries, due to taxation and residency issues.

The BC Museums Association explained the importance of recognizing the unique histories and experiences of Indigenous people in BC, and advocated for investments that encourage museums and Indigenous communities to work together, as an important step to support and advance reconciliation.

## Gender-Based Violence

The Ending Violence Association of BC and the Dzelkant Friendship Centre highlighted an urgent need for support programs for Indigenous victims of sexual, domestic and other violence, or those who may be at risk of experiencing violence. Suggestions to establish Aboriginal Survivor Support Services programs as well as support programs delivered through Friendship Centres were put forward.

## Health, Social Services and Housing

Friendship Centres, along with other non-profit organizations, provide a wide range of Indigenous programs, including skills training and employment services, mental health and addiction services, as well as other programs targeting youth and Elders.

The Committee heard from several groups, including the Social Planning and Research Council of BC, the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre Society, the BC Poverty Reduction Coalition, the Urban Native Youth Association, and the City of Vancouver about the complex needs of Indigenous people living off-reserve, particularly in regard to housing. The Committee was particularly interested in the Urban Native Youth Centre

project in Vancouver, which relies on provincial investment to leverage federal and municipal funds to provide housing as well as onsite wrap-around supports for vulnerable Indigenous youth.

Recognizing that the Indigenous population in BC is rapidly growing and young, with nearly half of the population under the age of 25, the needs for child care and early childhood development are significant. As such, additional supports are required for child care and early childhood development that meet the needs of Indigenous children, families and communities.

## K-12 Education

The Committee received submissions about the importance of integrating Indigenous education into the broader public education system and the increasing desire to appropriately do so. In addition to the new K-12 curriculum that incorporates Indigenous history and culture, the Committee also heard about the value of establishing local curriculums that provide opportunities to celebrate local Indigenous culture and language. The Vancouver School District raised the idea of identifying, sharing, and funding the implementation of best practices across the province.

## Conclusions

The Committee recognized that advancing reconciliation in this province must be a priority, and as such, voiced their support for adoption of the Calls to Action within the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's report.

Preserving Indigenous history and providing avenues to share Indigenous culture are key components in advancing reconciliation, and as such, government must engage and collaborate with Indigenous communities to develop public education initiatives. The Committee also supports full inclusion at all levels of education, and the implementation of targeted programming and supports to achieve this.

The Committee acknowledges the need to increase funding to ensure community-based, accessible supports for Indigenous people both on and off reserve, and supports the provision of resources to further the efforts of Friendship Centres and other organizations in coordinating and providing a wide range of support services. Recognizing that Indigenous youth living off reserve may be particularly vulnerable, the Committee supports innovative projects that provide affordable housing and integrated, wrap-around support services, and discussed the Urban Native Youth Centre project proposal in Vancouver as an example of this.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends to the Legislative Assembly that the provincial government:

### Advanced Education and Training

86. Increase funding to post-secondary institutions for further program and service development for Indigenous students, including additional student advisers, emergency funds for student help centres, as well as more mentors and Elders in residence. [2016: #69]
87. Provide targeted funding for Aboriginal Technologist and Technician bridging, certificate and diploma of technology programs.



88. Provide funding for post-secondary institutions to implement applicable Calls to Action within the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's report. [[2016: #69](#)]

### Arts and Culture, Libraries

89. Invest in infrastructure to enable the delivery of public library services in Indigenous communities, with additional investments targeted at providing training for Indigenous communities to deliver these services themselves. (Also see [recommendation #117](#) under Sport, Culture & Arts) [[2016: #73](#)]
90. Provide funding for public education initiatives at museums and other memory institutions to engage with Indigenous communities to advance reconciliation through programming.

### Gender-Based Violence

91. Increase funding to enhance the work of established and effective community-based Indigenous domestic violence and victim services or awareness programs. (Also see [recommendation #106](#) under Public Safety)

### Health, Social Services and Housing

92. Provide resources for programs administered through Friendship Centres and other appropriate organizations to support Indigenous youth and Elders, via the provision of skills training and employment services, as well as mental health and addiction services. [[2016: #78](#)]
93. In partnership with Indigenous non-profit organizations or service providers, invest in affordable, innovative housing initiatives; for example, the Urban Native Youth Centre project proposal. (Also see [recommendation #56](#) under Housing) [[2016: #78](#)]
94. Provide additional supports in the areas of child care and early childhood development for Indigenous children and families. [[2016: #76](#)]

### K-12 Education

95. Provide opportunities for school districts to share best practices related to the implementation of the Calls to Action within the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's report in regards to curriculum development. (Also see [recommendation #69](#) under K-12 Education) [[2016: #75](#)]



# Theme 10: Natural Resources

Several submissions and presentations touched on BC's natural resources, with agriculture and forestry being two of the more common sectors referenced. Survey respondents frequently referenced developing BC's natural resources, including oil and gas, and fisheries, as a means to create good jobs and build a sustainable economy. Committee Members also received varied suggestions for specific projects such as the Site C dam, the Kinder Morgan TransMountain pipeline expansion, and liquefied natural gas.

## Agriculture and Agri-foods

The Committee heard a number of concerns regarding the decimation of farmland due to the BC wildfires this summer. Committee Members also heard about the need to ensure that farmland is protected and used for agricultural purposes. Several submissions and survey responses noted the importance of farmland to ensure food security and sustainability, and suggested measures to incentivize active farming.

Committee Members also heard support for farmers' markets. In their presentation to the Committee, the BC Association of Farmers' Markets described the economic and social contributions farmers' markets make to communities across BC. They also explained how farmers' markets improve food security, referencing the Quesnel Farmers' Market, which was the only source of local food when Highway 97 was cut off due to wildfires this summer.

The British Columbia Fruit Growers' Association directed attention to programs that support the tree fruit sector. In support of this, they requested continued funding for the Tree Fruit Replant Program to help renew orchards, and an expansion in scope of the Sterile Insect Release Program.

Cargill Canada discussed growth and export opportunities for the agriculture sector, and advocated for increased government investments in research, development and innovation, as well as partnerships with industry to boost national and international competitiveness.

## Forestry

In light of the unprecedented wildfires in BC this year, many of the submissions related to forestry discussed the remediation and salvaging of burnt timber. Submissions noted that there is a short window of opportunity within which this timber is economically viable, and salvaging needs to be incentivized. Other submissions highlighted the need for better forest management. Committee Members received requests for more funding in this area, including reforestation and oversight. The Committee also received suggestions for improved wildlife protection.

## Natural Resource Development

While some submissions and survey responses expressed the need for continued support and investment in natural resources, others expressed a preference for major natural resource projects to be cancelled. A number of submissions highlighted the mining sector, including the financial assurances framework, mineral

exploration, and jobs. The Committee also received requests for additional funding from Geoscience BC and Genome BC, organizations which support research and development.

Committee Members heard about the value of the BC Rural Dividend program, which provides funding to communities with a population of 25,000 or less to diversify their economies. The Columbia Valley Economic Development Commission explained how the program has helped communities in their region, and how the program aids local communities to become economically strong and resilient.

## Conclusions

The Committee discussed BC's competitive advantage in agriculture, and agreed that the sector can be better supported, especially as it relates to the development of new export markets. The Committee also shared the concerns raised regarding farmland and farming, and discussed the impact of high land prices on farmland. Committee Members were supportive of continued growth of farmers' markets and recognized the value of the Tree Replant and Sterile Insect Programs.

Committee Members wanted to highlight the challenges associated with wildfire response and recovery, and given the short window of opportunity, understood the urgency associated with harvesting burnt timber. At the same time, they acknowledged that harvesting burnt timber may not be the most appropriate response for all areas depending on environmental and ecosystem needs.

Overall, the Committee agreed that natural resources are a valuable part of BC's economy, and that exploration and development should be continued, including investments in organizations such as Geoscience BC and Genome BC. However, they also agreed public confidence is key for natural resource development, and that includes ensuring trust in development, compliance and enforcement processes.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends to the Legislative Assembly that the provincial government:

### Agriculture and Agri-foods

96. Consider policies, incentives and other measures to target and encourage active farming and to ensure greater food security for British Columbians.
97. Invest in agricultural research, innovation and technology, and provide funding to enhance national and international competitiveness for growth and export.
98. Invest in resources, services and programs that support and strengthen the viability and competitiveness of farmers' markets. [2016: #84]
99. Continue to provide financial support for the Tree Fruit Replant Program, and increase the scope of the Sterile Insect Release Program.

### Forestry

100. Increase funding for forest management, including reforestation, public oversight, and fuel treatments to reduce fire hazards and future costs.

101. Incentivize the remediation and salvage of burnt timber, including expediting the approval of permits, where appropriate, while taking into account environmental impacts and requirements for ecosystem regeneration.

### Natural Resource Development

102. Enhance compliance and enforcement measures to build public confidence in natural resource development.
103. Continue to provide predictable and ongoing stable funding to Geoscience BC and Genome BC to invest in various projects, research initiatives, and emerging technologies. [2016: #90]



# Theme 11: Public Safety

Given the number of natural disasters this year, including wildfires and floods, the Committee heard about the need to focus on education and prevention, to develop resiliency in our communities, and to look for ways to enable recovery and rebuilding. They heard that government should provide ongoing investment in order to study and learn from these catastrophic events. Provincial emergency preparedness plans and response efforts should be adapted accordingly.

Also within the theme of public safety, the Committee received a number of submissions and heard from a number of presenters who highlighted issues with access to legal aid services and the need for an increased focus on domestic or gender-based violence and sexual assault.

## Court Services and Corrections

The Committee heard from representatives from the Canadian Bar Association (BC Branch) regarding the need to provide increased funding for legal aid and alternative or restorative justice programs to ensure the ongoing provision of these services. The presentation also focused on the need to provide more funding to corrections and court services to address shortfalls of sheriff, clerk and other staff to move those charged with criminal offences through the justice system more efficiently – which was a common theme echoed by other presenters.

Committee Members heard concerns about the treatment of individuals with mental health issues in prison, and the need to ensure that high-needs prisoners are given the support and treatment they may require. In their written submission, West Coast LEAF suggested that funding be provided to explore alternatives for prisoner housing or cells for vulnerable inmates which could incorporate additional supports, rather than relegating these individuals to solitary confinement.

## Domestic or Gender-based Violence and Sexual Assault

Organizations such as the Ending Violence Association of British Columbia, West Coast LEAF, and First Call: BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition highlighted the need to ensure funding for their coordinated approach to providing support for those affected by domestic or gender-based violence and sexual assault. Presenters requested additional funding to increase the capacity of transition housing services for individuals and families leaving situations that involve domestic violence, and to provide appropriate legal aid. Presenters noted that dedicated funding would help provide more community-based victim and family services, including counselling, for those affected by these crimes.

A number of presenters focused on the gender-based violence and sexual assaults that take place on campus in post-secondary institutions. Organizations such as the Alma Mater Society of UBC and the Research Universities' Council of British Columbia asked that government provide dedicated funding to ensure that appropriate supports are in place for the implementation of sexual misconduct policies at all BC public post-secondary institutions.

## Human Rights

Concerns about human rights, including human trafficking, were raised by a number of organizations, including West Coast LEAF, who wanted to ensure that adequate funding is provided to protect vulnerable citizens, as well as to provide more public education on BC's Human Rights Code. While a number of presenters expressed optimism regarding the newly-formed Human Rights Commission, presenters noted that the Commission must be appropriately funded to ensure it will be able to fulfill its mandate.

## Legal Aid

The Pacific Legal Education and Outreach Society and North Shore Community Resources asked that the budget provide increased funding to address the demand for legal aid services and provide representation for those who require these services to navigate the complexities of the justice system, including some particularly vulnerable groups. Many organizations highlighted the need to provide more funding for alternative or restorative justice programs, including options such as restitution, counselling, apology letters, or community service.

Committee Members were interested to learn that the Legal Aid Services Society (commonly referred to as Legal Aid BC) no longer has the ability to provide support for cases that relate to family law, poverty law or domestic violence, and would like to see what solutions might be explored to address this issue.

## Natural Disasters and Emergency Preparedness

The Georgia Strait Alliance, Insurance Bureau of Canada, as well as representatives from many regional communities, expressed the need to increase funding to Emergency Management BC to ensure appropriate levels of support for natural disasters and emergency preparedness. Along with government initiatives and supports, British Columbians must take personal responsibility to be prepared for a range of natural disasters or emergencies, including wildfires, earthquakes and floods.

The Committee heard about community-based initiatives that focus on building resiliency, including flood mitigation activities, such as storm water infrastructure, and ideas to limit wildfire risk such as the implementation of fire-smart initiatives such as fire guards for those who have property located near forests. Committee Members were pleased to hear positive stories of community rebuilding efforts that had taken place, and would like to see increased funding to ensure ongoing revitalization in the communities affected by wildfires and floods.

## Conclusions

Appropriate supports must be in place for those who are evacuated from their communities – both during evacuation and upon returning home. Additionally, the necessary supports must be in place for small businesses, who often serve as a vital link in these communities, and which may struggle to stay in business after evacuations are lifted.

Committee Members expressed concern for those who are incarcerated and face mental health issues, and want to ensure that the proper care, support and services for these individuals are provided. Additionally, the Committee discussed the need for timely access to the justice system for those charged with criminal



offences, and would like to see hiring initiatives within the court services branch to address the current shortages.

Domestic or gender-based violence and sexual assault can have a devastating effect on victims, their families and our communities. The transgender community in particular is seeing an increase in the instances of this type of assault. Appropriate supports and services need to be in place to help anyone who faces this type of violence to find better lives free from fear, pain or shame – regardless of gender or socio-economic background.

The Committee expressed their hope that an increased awareness of gender-based violence or sexual assault will help address what has become a systemic issue on campuses across BC and in other jurisdictions. Committee Members further noted that post-secondary institutions have been instructed to implement in a timely manner the policies that are consistent with the requirements set out in the *Sexual Violence and Misconduct Policy Act (2016)*, *SBC 2016*, for public institutions.

The Committee heard about the need in communities for additional funding for legal aid services and alternate dispute resolution or alternative justice programs specifically focused on the areas of family or poverty law and domestic violence, and that these services may not be available in smaller communities. A number of presenters raised concerns regarding the fact that the Legal Services Society (Legal Aid BC) no longer has lawyers that practice family law, poverty law, or domestic violence cases. The Committee would like to see development of these resources to enhance existing services provided through the Law Foundation of BC for those who qualify.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends to the Legislative Assembly that the provincial government:

### Court Services and Corrections

104. To ensure those charged with criminal offences can progress through the judicial process in a timely fashion, increase funding for court services to address shortages of sheriffs, clerks and other staff.
105. Provide dedicated funding for community-based restorative or alternative justice initiatives, as well as programs that provide rehabilitation, psychiatric care, and reintegration into society for those incarcerated in correctional facilities.

### Domestic or Gender-based Violence and Sexual Assault

106. Increase funding to ensure a coordinated approach to support those affected by domestic or gender-based violence and sexual assault, including transition houses, and services for victims and families. (Also see [recommendation #91](#) under Indigenous People)

### Human Rights

107. Provide the funding required to help address systemic human trafficking and to ensure that those engaged in prostitution can access supports and services to extricate themselves from the system.

108. Properly fund the new Human Rights Commission to ensure that it can fulfill its mandate.

### Legal Aid

109. Increase funding to the Legal Services Society to ensure that advice and representation can be provided to British Columbians who require and qualify for legal aid services. [2016: #101]
110. Work with the Law Foundation of BC to create opportunities to provide subsidized legal assistance in relation to family or poverty law, and domestic violence cases.

### Natural Disasters and Emergency Preparedness

111. Provide funding to increase public awareness and education to develop a culture of prevention, preparedness and resiliency among British Columbians regarding natural disasters, including wildfires, floods, hazardous material spills, earthquakes and tsunamis.
112. Increase funding to Emergency Management BC to improve recovery efforts, especially for communities most adversely affected by this year's wildfires, including appropriate levels of support for evacuees and rebuilding or continuity initiatives for local businesses and communities.

# Theme 12: Sport, Culture and Arts

Participation in sports, culture and the arts adds vibrancy to our lives and can provide many benefits to our mental, physical and emotional well-being. Additionally, our rich and diverse offerings in recreational sports, culture, and the arts attract many visitors to our province. British Columbia is fortunate to have a wealth of creative talent to showcase and BC acts as a magnet for many international artists who come here to collaborate with others in our vibrant and diverse creative environment.

British Columbia is home to a number of vibrant creative industries, including the highly-successful film, television, digital, music, magazine, and book publishing sectors, which ensures that BC is well-positioned to exploit opportunities within the global creative economy.

In the interest of promoting healthy lifestyles, we need to continue to build on local initiatives that encourage engagement in sports, arts and culture for British Columbians in urban and rural communities, no matter what their status, ability, or age.

## Arts and Culture

A number of organizations presented the Committee with a unified request to increase funding to both the BC Arts Council and Creative BC. Increased funding for the BC Arts Council would allow the organization to provide more grants to arts organizations or individuals, as well increase programming and core operational funding to non-profit arts groups. Many presenters stressed the need to ensure increased budgetary support for Creative BC to provide grants, programs, services and support for BC's domestic creative industries. Organizations such as the Music BC Industry Association and the Motion Picture Production Industry Association of BC, as well as a number of regionally-focused arts and culture organizations, highlighted the value in providing support for local artists and those in the creative sector so that they can thrive and prosper close to home, while adding to the cultural vibrancy of their communities.

Representatives from Heritage BC and the BC Museums Association stressed the importance of continued funding for the heritage sector, including museums and cultural centres. Presenters noted the importance of preserving BC's rich cultural history, and explained that these institutions can add value to communities by acting as teaching centres that contribute to reconciliation initiatives.

## Infrastructure

A number of organisations, including the Professional Arts Alliance of Greater Victoria, Kamloops Art Gallery, and the BC Alliance for Arts and Culture, suggested the development of a capital arts infrastructure fund. Representatives from these organizations outlined the need for dedicated funding to build or maintain cultural facilities, including galleries, museums and community arts hubs in communities throughout the province. The establishment of such a fund could also aid arts and culture organizations to leverage funding opportunities offered by the federal government or through private sector supporters to build new facilities or upgrade existing infrastructure.

## Public Libraries

The Vancouver Public Library Board, Association of British Columbia Public Library Directors, as well as representatives from local libraries from a number of urban and rural communities, put forth a unified request for increased funding for public libraries. Many of these presenters asked that the budget line item for library funding be reinstated in the Ministry of Education's budget in the interest of accountability and public transparency.

The growth of technology has had a profound effect on libraries and as a result, these organizations have had to shift and adapt their focus in order to maintain relevancy in the digital age. Many libraries offer internet and computer access, as well as training and support, to help bridge the digital divide and to act as a gateway to access arts and culture, online courses or training, and employment opportunities. A number of presenters noted that broadband access can be cost-prohibitive in many remote and rural communities and therefore the cost of internet access should be considered as part of ongoing funding for public libraries.

## Sports

British Columbia's diverse climate, natural beauty and rugged landscape provide a wealth of opportunities to participate in water or land-based recreational sports. Participation in sports can have many positive outcomes from socio-economic, as well as from mental and physical health perspectives, which can contribute to cost savings in other sectors. Committee Members heard from a broad range of sports organizations that outlined the importance and benefits of physical activity, no matter one's status, age, or ability.

Presenters such as Canadian Sport Institute Pacific, viaSport, the Pacific Institute for Sport Excellence (PISE), PacificSport Vancouver Island, and Engage Sport North Society promoted continued investment in the sports sector to benefit BC's elite and amateur athletes. There are substantive costs associated with being an elite athlete, including the cost of training or coaching, and the requirement to travel in order to compete provincially or internationally. While some funding is provided federally or through privately-funded organizations, more needs to be done in order to continue to provide sufficient support for BC's elite and amateur athletes, and future prospects.

## Conclusions

Committee Members expressed appreciation of the intrinsic value of arts and culture and how these aspects enhance our communities and daily lives. To affirm their support, the Committee recommended increased funding to the arts and culture sector and creative industries through the various funding mechanisms outlined by presenters. Museums and cultural centres play a unique role in preserving BC's cultural heritage and history. These institutions also have the opportunity to play an educational role in reconciliation initiatives and the Committee would like to see this continue through the provision of ongoing funding.

The Committee also noted the important work that sports organizations do in promoting participation in physical activity and sport at all levels, and want to ensure that British Columbians can continue to enjoy the many benefits of amateur sports participation through stable funding to these organizations. Committee Members expressed pride in our province's elite athletes who strive toward excellence and represent British Columbia, both at a national level and on the world stage. This level of dedication requires financial support for training, coaching, and travel, and the Committee would like to ensure adequate funding is provided to support BC's elite athletes. On a local level, Committee Members believe in leveraging community strengths

to support and promote physical activity and equitable access to participate in sports, regardless of age, ability, or socio-economic background.

Committee Members acknowledged the importance of public libraries in the digital age and the many important services and connections that libraries provide, often acting as a community gathering place in urban or rural centres, and supported this with their recommendation for increased funding for libraries.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends to the Legislative Assembly that the provincial government:

### Arts and Culture

113. Double investment in the BC Arts Council over four years to ensure that funding for core operations and programming is provided across the province.
114. Increase funding to Creative BC in order to expand the BC Film Commission's capacity, renew the BC Music fund, and provide programs to support BC's domestic film, television, digital and other creative industries.
115. Increase funding to small museums, Indigenous cultural centres, and organizations in the heritage sector throughout the province in order to protect and conserve BC's historical and cultural legacies.

### Infrastructure

116. Create a capital arts infrastructure fund to provide cultural facilities and museums throughout the province, and to enable communities to leverage investment opportunities offered by federal and municipal governments, and private sector supporters.

### Public Libraries

117. Increase funding to public libraries, including dedicated funding for improved connectivity and technology infrastructure, and ensure that libraries are reinstated as a budget line item in the Ministry of Education budget in the interest of transparency and accountability. (Also see [recommendation #89](#) under Indigenous People) [[2016: #82](#)]

### Sports

118. Promote physical activity as part of healthy living by building on local initiatives to increase investment in sports to ensure equitable access for all British Columbians.
119. Increase funding for BC's elite athletes to ensure they have the training, coaching and support required.



# Summary of Recommendations

The twelve themes highlighted within this report are presented in order of magnitude to reflect the number of suggestions and ideas provided via public hearings and through written, audio and video submissions received by the Committee.

All the presentations and submissions received by the Committee, as well as the survey results, were taken into account in the Committee's deliberations, and the recommendations presented within this report are a direct reflection of what the Committee heard during the consultation process.

A number of recommendations included in this report are ones that the Committee wishes to reiterate from the Budget 2017 Consultation Report, which was released on November 15, 2016, with references noted in parentheses at the end of each applicable recommendation.

The Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services recommends to the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia that the provincial government:

## Theme 1: Health Care

### Acute Care and Wait Times

1. Ensure equitable funding processes for hospital capital projects throughout BC and continue to provide investment for these projects.
2. Reduce surgical and diagnostic wait times by fully utilizing and expanding public sector capacity, including funding for regular staffing and extending hours where needed, scaling up innovations and best practices province-wide, and optimizing health human resources through the use of multidisciplinary teams.
3. Increase resources to paramedic services to ensure the safety of British Columbians.

### Community Care and Seniors

4. Expand home and residential care staffing and services throughout the entire continuum of care to ensure all seniors have access to affordable, quality care at the right time and at the right place, including investing in new care models.
5. Provide adequate supports to seniors and their family caregivers, including enhanced tax credits, respite care services and funding to community-based organizations for caregiver support programs.
6. Increase hospice and palliative care services, especially in rural BC, including: developing and implementing measurable standards; ensuring sufficient

specialists to support the shift of care from facilities to communities and homes; and providing capital and operating funding. [2016: #4]

7. Implement, monitor and enforce staffing standards in residential care, including accelerating the goal of achieving a minimum of 3.36 hours per resident per day, investing in education and training, and improving employee compensation. [2016: #1]
8. Raise the Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER) cap so seniors may remain in their homes more affordably, and exempt seniors in receipt of SAFER and the Guaranteed Income Supplement from the home support co-payment.
9. Create a low-income senior's dental plan, similar to the Healthy Kids Program, and integrate dental coordinator positions into long-term care facilities. [2016: #5]

### Funding and Pharmaceuticals

10. Provide additional assistance for individuals who have to travel from their home community to access health care services, and ensure affordable, safe and extensive transportation options are available for seniors, rural communities and Indigenous communities, including public transportation, HandyDART, medivac and ambulance services.
11. Invest in health research, innovation, and system transformation to improve service provision and efficiencies. [2016: #9]
12. Use public funding to leverage the expertise and services provided by community organizations to support health and wellness.
13. Streamline and improve the PharmaCare system to ensure British Columbians have access to the best medicine available, including options for lower-cost alternatives to currently listed drugs.

### Mental Health and Addiction

14. Provide adequate funding to ensure British Columbians have access to timely, evidence-based, coordinated care for mental health and addiction, including prevention and early intervention, interdisciplinary and holistic approaches, and support for those transitioning back into the workforce. [2016: #17]
15. Expand multidisciplinary, team-based community health centre models throughout the province to provide services and support for mental health and addiction.
16. Increase funding and provide equitable access to coordinated or "wrap-around" support for children and youth with mental health and addiction-related challenges.



17. Address the opioid crisis by ensuring that front-line resources are in place, including access to injectable opioid therapy and harm reduction services and supports.
18. Provide targeted funding for post-secondary institutions to ensure the delivery of front-line mental health services and supports for students on campus.

### Primary Care

19. Identify strategies to reform the primary health care system to ensure British Columbians have timely access to care, including a review of compensation models and scopes of practice for health care professionals, and expansion of interdisciplinary team models.

### Speech-Language Pathology or Therapy

20. Prioritize and increase funding for speech-language pathology services for children to address the urgent need for access to timely and effective services, and to ensure an appropriate number of speech-language pathologists are available to assist young children prior to starting kindergarten.

### Healthy Living and Wellness

21. Increase funding to promote healthy living and wellness initiatives, and apply the PST on sugar-sweetened beverages as an opportunity to increase initiative funding. (Also see [recommendation #53](#) under Fiscal Policy)

### Training, Recruitment and Retention

22. Develop a comprehensive action plan to address recruitment and retention challenges for health care professionals, including: compensation models or billing practices; workload issues; occupational health and safety; post-secondary training; student loan forgiveness; and incentives to practice in rural or remote communities.

## Theme 2: Advanced Education

### Capital Funding

23. Explore all avenues to enable post-secondary institutions to address the urgent need to build student housing, including examining the ability to take on debt, run a deficit in order to access cash reserves, private sector partnerships, and other direct government funding. [[2016: #20](#)]
24. Address critical deferred maintenance issues at the major campuses and provide funding on an ongoing basis for maintenance and upgrades.

25. Prioritize new capital and operating funds to provide equitable access to post-secondary education for students in under-served regions.

### Literacy

26. Increase funding to local, regional and provincial literacy groups to deliver community-based programming for all age groups. [2016: #19]

### Operational and Program Funding

27. Review funding formulas for post-secondary institutions to ensure that inequities between institutions are addressed, increased funding is provided where appropriate, and funding levels reflect the specific mandates of institutions across the province.
28. Provide a one-time funding increase to BCcampus for the production and enhancement of open education resources, including ancillary resources.
29. Provide funding to enable post-secondary institutions to innovate and adapt programs, credentials, and teaching to meet the educational needs of a rapidly-changing workforce.
30. Provide post-secondary institutions with access to retained-earnings savings accounts to help sustain and respond to changing operational needs.

### Technology and Skills Training

31. Provide accelerated funding to post-secondary institutions which are positioned to provide training in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) related areas to enable them to increase the number of student spaces immediately, in certificate, diploma, or degree programs. [2016: #22]
32. Expand opportunities for co-ops, internships, and apprenticeships to provide post-secondary students with work-integrated learning.

### Tuition and Financial Assistance

33. Eliminate interest on student loans and introduce a comprehensive needs-based grants program for those attending BC post-secondary institutions. [2016: #23]
34. Initiate a competitive post-graduate level scholarship program for BC students.
35. Increase funding to provide training for staff and educators to support the full range of diverse learning needs in the K-12 education sector. [2016: #50]

## Theme 3: Social Services

### Child Care and Early Childhood Development

36. Increase investments in accessible, quality and affordable child care, particularly infant and toddler programs, and address the significant need for supports required to ensure inclusion for children with disabilities. [2016: #34]
37. Increase access to early childhood identification and intervention services, including occupational therapy, physiotherapy and speech and language pathology, with a focus on addressing urgent recruitment and retention challenges of professionals in this sector. [2016: #33]

### Community Social Services

38. Review the funding for community social services agencies to ensure they are adequate and adjusted to inflation, and reflect the real costs of timely delivery of these services to British Columbians where and when they are needed.

### Income and Disability Assistance

39. Increase the rate of income and disability assistance benefits to ensure they reflect the current cost of living, index rates to inflation, and review policies which stipulate earned income to identify additional exclusions. [2016: #40, #41]

### Labour and Immigration

40. Provide additional support for the Labour Relations Board to ensure decisions on certifications are made in a timely fashion.
41. Increase funding to the Employment Standards Branch to enable proactive enforcement of workplace standards and worker safety.
42. Enhance opportunities to leverage federal funding by providing more investments in provincial and federal joint employment programs.
43. Allocate funds to develop a Provincial Immigration Strategy and re-invest in the Welcome BC initiatives, as well as in research and data analysis to support provincial and municipal planning related to immigration.

### Poverty Reduction

44. Develop, implement, and adequately fund a comprehensive poverty reduction plan with clear targets or outcomes, deliverables and timelines. [2016: #42]

### Supports for Children in Care

45. Ensure that ministry funding reflects the complex needs of serving children and youth in care, and enables strengthening of the system of care provided by guardianship workers, foster parents, kinship care providers, and other caregivers.

## Theme 4: Fiscal Policy

### Budgetary Policy

46. Pursue prudent and careful fiscal discipline and management.
47. Convene a fair tax commission to review the provincial tax system and to recommend measures to simplify and increase fairness within the tax system.

### Carbon Tax

48. Continue to review the Carbon Tax to improve fairness and reduce adverse economic impacts, in particular for energy or emissions-intensive export industries. [2016: #25]
49. To maintain the competitiveness of the cruise ship industry and support growth in BC's tourism sector, expand the Motor Fuel Tax exemption to include marine gas oil used in both gas turbine and internal combustion engines.

### Property Transfer Tax (PTT)

50. Conduct an annual review of the Property Transfer Tax thresholds and make any necessary adjustments to address the challenges related to home ownership due to the dynamic nature of the real estate market. [2016: #28]
51. Expand the exemption for the additional 15 percent Foreign Buyers' Property Transfer Tax to include everyone with a work permit in BC.

### Provincial Sales Tax (PST)

52. Conduct a review of the administrative burdens of the Provincial Sales Tax on businesses, and consider broadening the existing suite of exemptions to stimulate capital investment, maintain competitiveness, and drive productivity for economic growth.
53. Apply the Provincial Sales Tax to sugar-sweetened beverages, and use the funds to promote healthy living initiatives. (Also see [recommendation #21](#) under Health Care) [2016: #14]

## Tax Credits

54. Introduce tax credits to promote the adoption of energy efficient initiatives in relation to home renovations. (Also see [recommendation #76](#) under Environment)
55. Provide incentives for accessibility-related home renovations to allow persons with disabilities and seniors to remain in their homes.

## Theme 5: Housing

### Affordable Housing

56. Implement a provincial affordable housing strategy and provide investment to expedite the construction of accessible, affordable and secure housing (including co-op, non-profit, social housing and rental units) for families, seniors, persons with disabilities and vulnerable groups, by leveraging federal funding and ensuring collaboration between all levels of government, the private sector, and the non-profit housing sector. (Also see [recommendation #93](#) under Indigenous People) [2016: #65, #66]
57. Expand the Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER) program to create a portable rental subsidy or renter's grant to allow those receiving disability benefits or those in lower income ranges to access market rentals or co-op housing. [2016: #67]
58. Work with the federal government to ensure that the National Housing Strategy, and the budget allocations that accompany it, has enough flexibility to meet local needs and demands.

### Homelessness

59. In collaboration with local and federal governments, and using an approach that understands the factors that create poverty, create a long-term "Housing First" strategy to address homelessness, including the construction of affordable housing, to facilitate seamless service delivery for the chronically or episodically homeless, including vulnerable youth.

## Theme 6: K-12 Education

### Capital Funding

60. Develop a strategy and proactively fund the construction of new schools at elementary, middle and high school levels to meet demand in geographical areas of current and anticipated population growth, and to address issues such as overcapacity and reliance on portables. [2016: #45]

61. Increase the annual facility grant for capital maintenance to ensure proper repair, maintenance and upgrades of aging school facilities.
62. Provide adequate funding for seismic upgrades, accelerate the Seismic Mitigation Program, and allow concurrent non-seismic upgrades to take place where appropriate. [2016: #45]
63. Provide bridge funding to cover the cost of portables while new schools are being constructed.
64. Streamline the process by which school districts access capital funding from concept to completion.

### Operational Funding

65. Review the salary compression of exempt staff to ensure that migration into administration positions remains attractive. [2016: #48]
66. With broad stakeholder input, review the per-pupil funding formula to develop a new needs-based, stable and sustainable model to fund actual costs, resource needs, and professional development requirements of each school district. [2016: #48]
67. Increase funding to Community LINK and the Vulnerable Student Supplement, and provide a more equitable allocation process of these initiatives among school districts. [2016: #50]
68. Increase learning resources to school districts so that students have equitable access to books, equipment, technology and other resources necessary to provide a quality learning environment.
69. Provide funding for new materials, training and supports for the new K-12 curriculum, for LGBTQ inclusive sexual health education, as well as information about mental health and addiction. (Also see [recommendation #95](#) under Indigenous People) [2016: #51]
70. Fund innovative and creative endeavours within the K-12 system, including the arts, graphic design, music and theatre in order to support the new creative economy.

### Partnership and Career Engagement

71. Create opportunities to link the technology sector with the curriculum or after-school activities in order to encourage children and youth to become engaged and interested in this sector.

### Special Needs

72. Ensure that teachers are well supported to implement inclusion, equity, and quality learning opportunities for all students, including diverse learners, by increasing funding to allow schools to hire more trained educational assistants and specialists.
73. Provide funding to enable early identification of students with special needs, and to provide appropriate support programs, as required. [2016: #50]

## Theme 7: Environment

### BC Parks

74. Increase investment in BC Parks to improve infrastructure and maintenance, and to increase staffing and build public awareness. [2016: #52]

### Clean and Renewable Energy

75. Create incentives for the development of clean and renewable energy, including partnerships with Indigenous and local communities.
76. Encourage businesses and homeowners to adopt clean and renewable energy, and become more energy efficient, through initiatives such as regulatory changes, and tax or rebate incentives. (Also see [recommendation #54](#) under Fiscal Policy)
77. Provide funds to enable expansion of accessible electric vehicle charging infrastructure strategically located along major thoroughfares across the province. [2016: #57]

### Climate Change

78. Encourage and incentivize British Columbians to take action on climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and demonstrate leadership within government by identifying new sources of renewable energy to meet demand, greening public infrastructure, and committing to electrification as a pathway towards addressing climate change. [2016: #56]

### Fish and Wildlife Conservation and Management

79. Provide dedicated funding for fish and wildlife conservation, management and enforcement, incorporating local and Indigenous knowledge, to sustain or increase populations and to address issues with habitat encroachment and pollution.

## Invasive Species and Noxious Weeds

80. Increase coordination with local and regional organizations, and provide increased, stable funding for the prevention, control and eradication of invasive species and noxious weeds. [2016: #64]

## Theme 8: Transportation and Transit

### Active Transportation (Cycling and Walking)

81. Create a provincial active transportation strategy, including increased investment in active transportation infrastructure, education and promotion, as well as safety initiatives. [2016: #94]

### Infrastructure

82. In cooperation with the federal government and to continue to ensure business competitiveness, increase investment in critical transportation and transit infrastructure projects (including highways, tunnels, bridges, railways, ferries and ports) to enable the movement of people, goods and services.

### Public Transit

83. Increase investment in public transit infrastructure and services, including HandyDART, and provide flexibility to rural and remote communities to implement transit solutions that are customized to meet their needs. [2016: #93 and #95]
84. Provide the minimum 40 percent provincial contribution for transit infrastructure in order to leverage federal funding in relation to the Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation's 10-Year Plan.
85. Continue to support the U-Pass BC program beyond April 2018, and consider ending cyclical contract expiry in order to develop a long-term, standardized and affordable program indexed to inflation. [2016: #96]

## Theme 9: Indigenous People

### Advanced Education and Training

86. Increase funding to post-secondary institutions for further program and service development for Indigenous students, including additional student advisers, emergency funds for student help centres, as well as more mentors and Elders in residence. [2016: #69]
87. Provide targeted funding for Aboriginal Technologist and Technician bridging, certificate and diploma of technology programs.



88. Provide funding for post-secondary institutions to implement applicable Calls to Action within the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's report. [[2016: #69](#)]

### Arts and Culture, Libraries

89. Invest in infrastructure to enable the delivery of public library services in Indigenous communities, with additional investments targeted at providing training for Indigenous communities to deliver these services themselves. (Also see [recommendation #117](#) under Sport, Culture & Arts) [[2016: #73](#)]
90. Provide funding for public education initiatives at museums and other memory institutions to engage with Indigenous communities to advance reconciliation through programming.

### Gender-Based Violence

91. Increase funding to enhance the work of established and effective community-based Indigenous domestic violence and victim services or awareness programs. (Also see [recommendation #106](#) under Public Safety)

### Health, Social Services and Housing

92. Provide resources for programs administered through Friendship Centres and other appropriate organizations to support Indigenous youth and Elders, via the provision of skills training and employment services, as well as mental health and addiction services. [[2016: #78](#)]
93. In partnership with Indigenous non-profit organizations or service providers, invest in affordable, innovative housing initiatives; for example, the Urban Native Youth Centre project proposal. (Also see [recommendation #56](#) under Housing) [[2016: #78](#)]
94. Provide additional supports in the areas of child care and early childhood development for Indigenous children and families. [[2016: #76](#)]

### K-12 Education

95. Provide opportunities for school districts to share best practices related to the implementation of the Calls to Action within the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's report in regards to curriculum development. (Also see [recommendation #69](#) under K-12 Education) [[2016: # 75](#)]

## Theme 10: Natural Resources

### Agriculture and Agri-foods

96. Consider policies, incentives and other measures to target and encourage active farming and to ensure greater food security for British Columbians.
97. Invest in agricultural research, innovation and technology, and provide funding to enhance national and international competitiveness for growth and export.
98. Invest in resources, services and programs that support and strengthen the viability and competitiveness of farmers' markets. [2016: #84]
99. Continue to provide financial support for the Tree Fruit Replant Program, and increase the scope of the Sterile Insect Release Program.

### Forestry

100. Increase funding for forest management, including reforestation, public oversight, and fuel treatments to reduce fire hazards and future costs.
101. Incentivize the remediation and salvage of burnt timber, including expediting the approval of permits, where appropriate, while taking into account environmental impacts and requirements for ecosystem regeneration.

### Natural Resource Development

102. Enhance compliance and enforcement measures to build public confidence in natural resource development.
103. Continue to provide predictable and ongoing stable funding to Geoscience BC and Genome BC to invest in various projects, research initiatives, and emerging technologies. [2016: #90]

## Theme 11: Public Safety

### Court Services and Corrections

104. To ensure those charged with criminal offences can progress through the judicial process in a timely fashion, increase funding for court services to address shortages of sheriffs, clerks and other staff.
105. Provide dedicated funding for community-based restorative or alternative justice initiatives, as well as programs that provide rehabilitation, psychiatric care, and reintegration into society for those incarcerated in correctional facilities.

## Domestic or Gender-based Violence and Sexual Assault

106. Increase funding to ensure a coordinated approach to support those affected by domestic or gender-based violence and sexual assault, including transition houses, and services for victims and families. (Also see [recommendation #91](#) under Indigenous People)

## Human Rights

107. Provide the funding required to help address systemic human trafficking and to ensure that those engaged in prostitution can access supports and services to extricate themselves from the system.
108. Properly fund the new Human Rights Commission to ensure that it can fulfill its mandate.

## Legal Aid

109. Increase funding to the Legal Services Society to ensure that advice and representation can be provided to British Columbians who require and qualify for legal aid services. [[2016: #101](#)]
110. Work with the Law Foundation of BC to create opportunities to provide subsidized legal assistance in relation to family or poverty law, and domestic violence cases.

## Natural Disasters and Emergency Preparedness

111. Provide funding to increase public awareness and education to develop a culture of prevention, preparedness and resiliency among British Columbians regarding natural disasters, including wildfires, floods, hazardous material spills, earthquakes and tsunamis.
112. Increase funding to Emergency Management BC to improve recovery efforts, especially for communities most adversely affected by this year's wildfires, including appropriate levels of support for evacuees and rebuilding or continuity initiatives for local businesses and communities.

## Theme 12: Sport, Culture and Arts

### Arts and Culture

113. Double investment in the BC Arts Council over four years to ensure that funding for core operations and programming is provided across the province.
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### Infrastructure

116. Create a capital arts infrastructure fund to provide cultural facilities and museums throughout the province, and to enable communities to leverage investment opportunities offered by federal and municipal governments, and private sector supporters.

### Public Libraries

117. Increase funding to public libraries, including dedicated funding for improved connectivity and technology infrastructure, and ensure that libraries are reinstated as a budget line item in the Ministry of Education budget in the interest of transparency and accountability. (Also see [recommendation #89](#) under Indigenous People) [[2016: #82](#)]

### Sports

118. Promote physical activity as part of healthy living by building on local initiatives to increase investment in sports to ensure equitable access for all British Columbians.
119. Increase funding for BC's elite athletes to ensure they have the training, coaching and support required.

# Appendix A: Public Hearing Witnesses

- A Way Home Kamloops, Traci Anderson, Katherine McParland, (12-Oct-17, Kamloops)
- Abbotsford Community Services, Rod Santiago, Bobbie Thompson, (11-Oct-17, Williams Lake)
- Alliance of BC Students Caitlin McCutchen, Nicki Simpson (25-Sep-17, Vancouver)
- Allied Golf Association of British Columbia Trevor Smith, (12-Oct-17, Kamloops)
- Alzheimer Society of B.C., Maria Howard, Barbara Lindsay, (06-Oct-17, Richmond)
- AMS of UBC Vancouver, Sally Lin, (06-Oct-17, Surrey)
- ANYDOS, Anastasia Oraegbunem, (12-Oct-17, Cranbrook)
- Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of BC, John Leech, (11-Oct-17, Castlegar)
- Association for Mineral Exploration, Jonathan Buchanan (13-Oct-17, Kelowna)
- Association of Administrative and Professional Staff at UBC, Joey Hansen, Sarah Muff (13-Oct-17, Kelowna)
- Association of British Columbia Public Library Directors, Jenny Benedict, (25-Sep-17, Vancouver)
- Association of Service Providers for Employability and Career Training (ASPECT BC), Janet Morris-Read, (04-Oct-17, Victoria)
- Lauren Bard; Brittany Gyte (02-Oct-17, Victoria)
- Bardel Entertainment, Brad Dahl, (13-Oct-17, Kelowna)
- BC Agriculture Council, Reg Ens, Stan Vander Waal, (06-Oct-17, Richmond)
- BC Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation - BC School Fruit and Vegetable Nutritional Program, Patricia Tonn, (11-Oct-17, Castlegar)
- BC Alliance for Arts and Culture, Brenda Leadlay, (04-Oct-17, Victoria)
- BC Alliance for Healthy Living, Mary Collins, (04-Oct-17, Victoria)
- BC Association for Child Development and Intervention, Jason Gordon (BCACDI) (13-Oct-17, Kelowna)
- BC Association of Farmers' Markets, Heather O'Hara (06-Oct-17, Surrey)
- BC Cattlemen's Association, Kevin Boon (12-Oct-17, Kamloops)
- BC Chiropractic Association, Dr. Jay Robinson (12-Oct-17, Cranbrook)
- BC Colleges, Colin Ewart, Lane Trotter(06-Oct-17, Richmond)
- BC Cycling Coalition, Richard Campbell (25-Sep-17, Vancouver)
- BC Fruit Growers' Association, Pinder Dhaliwal, Glen Lucas (13-Oct-17, Kelowna)
- BC Gaming Industry Association, Peter Goudron, Chuck Keeling, Shiera Stuart (06-Oct-17, Surrey)
- BC Lung Association, Scott McDonald (06-Oct-17, Richmond)
- BC Principals and Vice-Principals Association, David DeRosa (11-Oct-17, Castlegar)
- BC School Trustees Association, Gordon Swan (12-Oct-17, Kamloops)
- BC SPCA, Craig Daniell, Marcie Moriarty (06-Oct-17, Richmond)
- BC Teachers' Federation, Glen Hansman (04-Oct-17, Victoria)
- British Columbia Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils, Jen Mezei, Andrea Sinclair (06-Oct-17, Surrey)
- Board of Education, School District No. 38 (Richmond), Sandra Nixon, David Sadler, Debbie Tablotney, (06-Oct-17, Richmond)
- Board of Education, School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay), Chris Johns (12-Oct-17, Cranbrook)
- Board Voice Society of BC, Doug Hayman (02-Oct-17, Victoria)
- Robert Botterell (13-Oct-17, Nanaimo)
- British Columbia Dental Association, Jocelyn Johnston, Dr. K.K. Wan (13-Oct-17, Nanaimo)
- British Columbia Federation of Students, Simka Marshall, Michael Olson (25-Sep-17, Vancouver)
- British Columbia Real Estate Association, Brenda Jackman, Damian Stathonikos (04-Oct-17, Victoria)
- British Columbia Schizophrenia Society, Kim Dixon, David Halikowski, Jerry Joseph (10-Oct-17, Prince George)
- AJ Brown; Barbara Brown (25-Sep-17, Vancouver)
- Tony Brumell (12-Oct-17, Kamloops)
- Camosun College Student Society, Michel Turcotte (04-Oct-17, Victoria)
- Canadian Bar Association - BC Branch, Bill Veenstra (06-Oct-17, Richmond)
- Canadian Cancer Society, Jenny Byford (06-Oct-17, Richmond)
- Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, Alex Hemingway (12-Oct-17, Cranbrook)

Canadian Federation of the Blind, Mary Ellen Gabias (13-Oct-17, Kelowna)

Canadian Homebuilders Association of British Columbia, Neil Moody (11-Oct-17, Williams Lake)

Canadian Mental Health Association, British Columbia Division, Bev Gutray, Kendra Milne (02-Oct-17, Victoria)

Canadian Mental Health Association, Kelowna, Shelagh Turner (13-Oct-17, Kelowna)

Canadian Sport Institute Pacific, Wendy Pattenden (13-Oct-17, Nanaimo)

Canadian Taxpayers Federation, Kris Sims (12-Oct-17, Cranbrook)

Capilano Students' Union, Noah Berson, Patrick Meehan (25-Sep-17, Vancouver)

School of Communication, Capilano University, Dr. Michael Markwick (25-Sep-17, Vancouver)

Dave Carter (11-Oct-17, Castlegar)

Castlegar Hospice Society, Suzanne Lehbauer (11-Oct-17, Castlegar)

Cement Association of Canada, Ken Carrusca, Michael McSweeney (25-Sep-17, Vancouver)

Child Development Centre of Prince George and District Association, Candis Johson, Christy Kubert (10-Oct-17, Prince George)

Childhood Obesity Foundation, Dr. Tom Warshawski (13-Oct-17, Kelowna)

City of Williams Lake, Mayor Walt Cobb (11-Oct-17, Williams Lake)

Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC, Sharon Gregson (13-Oct-17, Kelowna)

College of New Caledonia, Alyson Gourley-Cramer, Henry Reiser (10-Oct-17, Prince George)

College of the Rockies, Dianne Teslak, David Walls (12-Oct-17, Cranbrook)

College of the Rockies Faculty Association, Joan Kaun (12-Oct-17, Cranbrook)

Columbia Valley Chamber of Commerce, Susan Clovechok (12-Oct-17, Cranbrook)

Communication Matters BC, Laurie Scott (12-Oct-17, Cranbrook)

Confederation of University Faculty Associations of BC, Dr. Michael Conlon, Dr. James Johnson (25-Sep-17, Vancouver)

David Crawford (13-Oct-17, Kelowna)

Cruise Lines International Association, North West and Canada, (13-Oct-17, Nanaimo)

CUPE BC, Paul Faoro, Justin Schmid (10-Oct-17, Prince George)

Cyrus Centre Ministries, Maren Kroeker, Les Talvio (12-Oct-17, Kamloops)

David Suzuki Foundation, Ian Bruce, Alisha Clancy (06-Oct-17, Surrey)

Jim de Bolebec (12-Oct-17, Cranbrook)

Deloitte, Jamie Sawchuk (02-Oct-17, Victoria)

Douglas Students Union, Steven Beasley, Tanysha Klassen (13-Oct-17, Nanaimo)

Downtown Surrey Business Improvement Association, Elizabeth Model (06-Oct-17, Richmond)

Dzelkant Friendship Centre, Annette Morgan (04-Oct-17, Victoria)

Emily Carr Students' Union, Stephanie Broder, Lori MacDonald, Roan Reimer (06-Oct-17, Richmond)

Ending Violence Association of British Columbia, Tracy Porteous (25-Sep-17, Vancouver)

Engage Sport North Society, Mandi Graham, Leslie Wirth (10-Oct-17, Prince George)

Federation of Community Social Services of BC, Richard FitzZaland (02-Oct-17, Victoria)

Federation of Post-Secondary Educators of BC, Dr. George Davison (25-Sep-17, Vancouver)

First Call: BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition, Adrienne Montani (04-Oct-17, Victoria)

FortisBC, Dave Bennett (13-Oct-17, Kelowna)

Foundry, Steve Mathias, Pamela Liversidge (13-Oct-17, Nanaimo)

Fraser Valley Brain Injury Association, Carol Paetkau (06-Oct-17, Surrey)

Genome BC, Suzanne Gill, Pascal Spothelfer (25-Sep-17, Vancouver)

Geoscience BC, Bruce Madu, Carlos Salas, Richard Truman (10-Oct-17, Prince George)

Graduate Student Society at Simon Fraser University, Heather Baroody, Pierre Cenerelli (12-Oct-17, Cranbrook)

Greater Victoria Regional Child Care Council, Enid Elliot, Jessica Hrechka Fee (02-Oct-17, Victoria)

Guide Outfitters Association of BC, Scott Ellis (06-Oct-17, Surrey)

Habitat for Humanity Southeast BC, Bob Huff (11-Oct-17, Castlegar)

John Harvey (06-Oct-17, Surrey)

Dave S. Hayer (06-Oct-17, Surrey)

Hear-Say Unlimited, Joanna Neilson (13-Oct-17, Nanaimo)

Heritage BC, Paul Gravett (25-Sep-17, Vancouver)

Hospital Employees' Union, Lou Black, Chris Kinkaid (12-Oct-17, Cranbrook)

HUB Cycling, Laura Jane (25-Sep-17, Vancouver)

Inclusion BC, Faith Bodnar, Karla Verschoor (25-Sep-17, Vancouver)

Innergex Renewable Energy Inc., Colleen Giroux-Schmidt, Patricia Lightburn (13-Oct-17, Nanaimo)

Insurance Bureau of Canada, Aaron Sutherland (13-Oct-17, Kelowna)

Interactive & Digital Media Industry Association of British Columbia (DigiBC), James Hursthouse, Jon Lutz (25-Sep-17, Vancouver)

Invasive Species Council of BC, Gail Wallin (11-Oct-17, Williams Lake)

Steven Jones (11-Oct-17, Williams Lake)

Kamloops Art Gallery, Western Canada Theatre, Kamloops Symphony, Margaret Chrumka, Kathy Humphreys, Lori Marchand (12-Oct-17, Kamloops)

Kamloops Brain Injury Association, David Johnson (12-Oct-17, Kamloops)

Kamloops Health Coalition, Rick Turner (12-Oct-17, Kamloops)

Kwantlen Faculty Association, Suzanne Pearce (10-Oct-17, Prince George)

Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Alan Davis, Salvador Ferreras (06-Oct-17, Surrey)

Kwantlen Student Association, Caitlin McCutchen, Nicki Simpson (06-Oct-17, Surrey)

Langara College, Dr. Ian Humphreys, Viktor Sokha (06-Oct-17, Richmond)

Manufacturing Safety Alliance of BC, Lisa McGuire (06-Oct-17, Surrey)

Merck, Kirby Smith, Leslie Foord (13-Oct-17, Kelowna)

Metro Vancouver Alliance, James Cavalluzzo, Deborah Littman (25-Sep-17, Vancouver)

Mining Association of British Columbia, Bryan Cox, Lindsay Kislock (06-Oct-17, Surrey)

Motion Picture Production Industry Association of BC, Phil Klapwyk, Pete Mitchell (06-Oct-17, Surrey)

Music BC Industry Association, Patrick Aldous, Scott Johnson (25-Sep-17, Vancouver)

Music Canada, Nick Blasko, Amy Terrill (02-Oct-17, Victoria)

Nanaimo Youth Services Association, Steve Arnett, Mike Bonkowski (13-Oct-17, Nanaimo)

NEBC Resource Municipalities Coalition, Mayor Lori Ackerman (Fort St. John), Colin Griffith (04-Oct-17, Victoria)

New Car Dealers Association of BC, Blair Qualey (06-Oct-17, Richmond)

New Voice Speech and Language, Adrienne Yates (12-Oct-17, Kamloops)

North Island College, John Bowman (13-Oct-17, Nanaimo)

North Island Students' Union, Andrew Dalton (13-Oct-17, Nanaimo)

North Shore Community Resources, Murray Mollard (25-Sep-17, Vancouver)

Northern Brain Injury Association, Will Lewis (04-Oct-17, Victoria)

Northern Confluence Initiative, Nikki Skuce (04-Oct-17, Victoria)

Northern Development Initiative Trust, Brenda Gendron, Joel McKay (10-Oct-17, Prince George)

Northern Lights College, Anndra Graff (04-Oct-17, Victoria)

Northern Technology and Engineering Society of BC, Albert Koehler, Heather Robertson (10-Oct-17, Prince George)

Office of the Seniors Advocate, Isobel Mackenzie (11-Oct-17, Williams Lake)

Okanagan and Similkameen Invasive Species Society, Lisa Scott, Barb Stewart (13-Oct-17, Kelowna)

Okanagan College, Allan Coyle, Connie Denesiuk, Jim Hamilton (13-Oct-17, Kelowna)

Okanagan College Students' Union, Brianne Berchowitz, Courtney Kindlein (13-Oct-17, Kelowna)

Okanagan Water Basin, James Littlely (13-Oct-17, Kelowna)

Scott Olson (06-Oct-17, Surrey)

Pacific Institute for Sport Excellence (PISE), Robert Bettauer, Stacey Lund (04-Oct-17, Victoria)

Pacific Legal Education and Outreach Society, Martha Rans (12-Oct-17, Cranbrook)

PacificSport Vancouver Island, Drew Cooper (02-Oct-17, Victoria)

Parent Advocacy Network for Public Education, Heather Legal, Maggie Milne Martens (06-Oct-17, Surrey)

Physiotherapists for Northern Communities, Hilary Crowley, Terry Fedorkiw, Elisabeth MacRitchie, Nikolina Nikolic (10-Oct-17, Prince George)

Judy Pollard (11-Oct-17, Castlegar)

Prince George Backcountry Recreation Society, Dave King (10-Oct-17, Prince George)

Prince George Brain Injured Group Society, Les Budskin, Bob Dewhirst, Alison Hagreen, (10-Oct-17, Prince George)

Professional Arts Alliance of Greater Victoria, Doug Jarvis (02-Oct-17, Victoria)

Real Estate Board of Greater Vancouver, Harriet Permut (06-Oct-17, Richmond)

Research Universities' Council of British Columbia, Robin Ciceri, Blair Littler (10-Oct-17, Prince George)

Retail Council of Canada, Greg Wilson (06-Oct-17, Surrey)

Richmond Chamber of Commerce, Rob Akimow, Matthew Pitcairn (06-Oct-17, Richmond)

Richmond Hospital Foundation, Kyle Shury, Natalie Meixner (11-Oct-17, Williams Lake)

Rick Hansen Institute, Bill Barrable, Penny Clarke-Richardson (06-Oct-17, Richmond)

Terry Robertson (10-Oct-17, Prince George)

Royal Roads University, Allan Cahoon, Katharine Harrold (02-Oct-17, Victoria)

Vincent Salvo (11-Oct-17, Castlegar)



Save our Northern Seniors, Sheila Barker, Jean Leahy (04-Oct-17, Victoria)

School District No. 43 (Coquitlam), Kerri Palmer Isaak (06-Oct-17, Richmond)

School District No. 60 (Peace River North), Ida Campbell, Brenda Hooker (04-Oct-17, Victoria)

Selkirk College Faculty Association, Rebecca Jacobson, Dr. Duff Sutherland (11-Oct-17, Castlegar)

Selkirk College Students' Union, Gabrielle Faludi, Hally Gugliotta, Santanna Hernandez (11-Oct-17, Castlegar)

Share the Cariboo-Chilcotin Resources Society, Bill Carruthers (11-Oct-17, Williams Lake)

Simon Fraser Lodge, Liz Catarino, Jerry Joseph (10-Oct-17, Prince George)

Simon Fraser Student Society, Prabjit Bassi, Hangu Kim (25-Sep-17, Vancouver)

Simon Fraser University, Andrew Petter (11-Oct-17, Williams Lake)

Smithers Wellness Local Action Team, Greg Brown, Cheryl Hofweber (12-Oct-17, Cranbrook)

Society of Notaries Public of BC, Jacqui Mendes, David Watts (06-Oct-17, Richmond)

Society for the Protection and Care of Seniors, Janice Androsoff, Margaret Crawford (11-Oct-17, Castlegar)

Special Olympics BC, Dan Howe (12-Oct-17, Cranbrook)

Bonnie Spence-Vinge (12-Oct-17, Cranbrook)

Students' Union of Vancouver Community College, Jenelle Davies, Zahra Hashemi (06-Oct-17, Surrey)

Robin Tavender (25-Sep-17, Vancouver)

Thompson Rivers University, Alan Shaver, Jim Thomson (12-Oct-17, Kamloops)

Thompson Rivers University Faculty Association, Star Mahara (12-Oct-17, Kamloops)

Thompson Rivers University Students' Union, Leif Douglass, Brandon Hayashi, Cole Hickson (12-Oct-17, Kamloops)

Tolko Industries Ltd., Thomas Hoffman (11-Oct-17, Williams Lake)

TRIUMF, Dr. Jonathan Bagger, Sean Lee (06-Oct-17, Surrey)

United Way Thompson Nicola Cariboo, Danalee Baker (12-Oct-17, Kamloops)

University of Northern British Columbia, Robert Knight (10-Oct-17, Prince George)

University of Victoria Students' Society, Anmol Swaich (04-Oct-17, Victoria)

Vancouver Island University Students' Union, Avery Bonner, Sarah Segal (13-Oct-17, Nanaimo)

Vancouver Public Library Board, Carellin Brooks, Kyla Epstein (25-Sep-17, Vancouver)

viaSport, Jennifer Heil, Michelle Tice (25-Sep-17, Vancouver)

Victoria Residential Builders Association, Casey Edge (04-Oct-17, Victoria)

Fiona E. Walsh (06-Oct-17, Richmond)

Wavefront, James Maynard, Michelle Sklar (02-Oct-17, Victoria)

Williams Lake & District Chamber of Commerce, Mark Doratti, Roger Solly (11-Oct-17, Williams Lake)

Karl Wolfe (12-Oct-17, Kamloops)

Yorkville University, Dr. Darren Hancott (25-Sep-17, Vancouver)



# Appendix B: Written, Audio and Video Submissions

Mutasem Abu-Remaileh  
Sage Acer  
Advocis (Financial Advisors Association of Canada), Andrew Kimber  
Edna Aguinaga  
Alliance of BC Students, Hassan Merali  
Ampri Real Estate Development Group, Amit Sandhu, Paramjit Sandhu  
Aaron Ander  
Appraisal Institute of Canada - BC, David Aberdeen, Dr. Christina Dhesi, Graham Held  
Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, Jon Tupper  
Arthritis Research Canada, Dr. John Esdaile, Patti Nakatsu  
Association of Book Publishers of British Columbia, Heidi Waechtler  
Autumn Services-Society for Senior Support, Elaine Storey  
Back Country Horsemen Society of BC, Rose Schroeder  
Tyler Bacon  
Victoria Ball  
Mary Ballon  
Tracy Barkman  
Claire Battershill  
BC Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists, Dr. Kate Chase  
BC Care Providers Association, Mike Klassen  
BC Chamber of Commerce, Val Litwin  
BC EITE Working Group, Benjamin Maynard  
BC Federation of Labour, Irene Lanzinger  
BC Federation of Retired Union Members (BC FORUM), Diane Wood  
BC Food Processors Association, James Donaldson  
BC Games Society, Jamey Paterson  
BC Health Coalition, Adam Lynes-Ford  
BC Museums Association, Erica Mattson  
BC Non-Profit Housing Association, Brian Clifford, Diana Dilworth  
BC Pharmacy Association, Geraldine Vance  
BC Poverty Reduction Coalition, Trish Garner  
BC Seniors Living Association, Tony Baena  
BC Wildlife Federation, Alan Martin  
BCGEU, Stephanie Smith  
Chafia Belarbia  
Bowen Early Childhood Development Table, Lynda Phillips, Ann Silberman  
Boys and Girls Clubs, Carrie Wagner Miller  
Aisling Brady  
Brain Injury Alliance, Dr. Henry Harder  
Phil Brienesse  
British Columbia Employment Standards Coalition, David Fairey  
Bulkley Valley Child Development Centre, Kerri Bassett  
Perry Bulwer  
Burnaby Neighbourhood House Society, Antonia Beck  
Burnaby Public Library, Lorraine Shore  
Mae Burrows  
Business Council of British Columbia, Greg D'Avignon  
Campbell River Head Injury Support Society, Shelley Howard  
Campbell River North Citizens for Quality Health Care, Lois Jarvis  
Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, Terry Abel  
Canadian Association of Physician Assistants, Patrick Nelson, Natalie St-Pierre  
Canadian Beverage Association, Jim Goetz  
Canadian Federation of Independent Businesses, Richard Truscott  
Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters, Andrew Wynn-Williams  
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - B.C. Chapter, Tori Ball, Jessie Corey  
Cargill Limited, Jim Smolik  
Cariboo Chilcotin Partners for Literacy, Carla Bullinger  
Carly Carson  
Central 1 Credit Union/B.C. Credit Unions, Derek Moryson  
Stephanie Chamut  
Nelson Chan  
Chartered Professional Accountants of British Columbia, Vivian Tse  
City of Prince George, Garth Frizzell  
City of Richmond, Malcolm Brodie  
City of Vancouver, Sadhu Aufochs Johnston  
Clean Energy Canada - Centre for Dialogue - Simon Fraser University, Dan Woynillowicz  
Comox Valley Elders Take Action, Jennifer Pass  
Country Bears Child Care Centre Inc - Surrey/Abbotsford, Kimberly Davis  
Cowichan Valley School District, Candace Spilsbury  
CUPE 454, John Gibson  
CUPE BC, Ken Vaughan-Evans  
D. Cornish & Associates, Donald Cornish  
Danielle Davis  
Geoff Dean  
Faizel Desai  
Diabetes Canada, Sheila Kern, Joan King, Ellen Stensholt  
Mary Dolan  
E Lisbeth Donaldson  
Dorset Realty Group Canada Ltd., Kim Schuss  
Larry Dorskoch  
Downtown Eastside Literacy Roundtable, William Booth  
Early Childhood Educators of British Columbia, Heather Hazel

E-B Strategy, Stephen Elliott-Buckley  
Anita Ebenezer  
ECEBC, Leola Mcmillan  
Diana Ellis  
David Elstone  
Emily Carr University of Art and Design Faculty Association, Rita Wong  
Bryon Enns  
Arthur Entlich  
Marion Erickson  
Miki Eslake  
Ethos Law Group LLP, Mary Childs  
Mike Evans  
JoAnne Fahr  
Anita Fahrenbruch  
Families Against Cuts to Education, Jennifer Stewart  
Farmland Advantage, Dave Zehnder  
Andrew Feltham  
Barb Flink  
Fort Nelson & District Chamber of Commerce, Bev Vandersteen  
Friends of Cypress Provincial Park Society, Lynette Grants  
Sarah Frumento  
Zarah Gale  
Bob Garnett  
Judy Gaylord  
Georgia Strait Alliance, Christianne Wilhelmson  
Tunde Getaneh  
Michael Goldberg  
Tammie Gordley  
Mike Grant  
Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce, City of Victoria, Catherine Holt  
Eve Grenon-Lafontaine  
Rebecca Haber  
Habitat for Humanity, Bill Robinson  
Habitat for Humanity Mid-Vancouver Island, Dave Hitchcock  
Habitat for Humanity Society of Greater Vancouver, Steph Baker, Dennis Coutts, Suzanne Fruson  
Habitat for Humanity Sunshine Coast, Cori Lynn Germiquet, Luanne St Louis  
Habitat for Humanity Vancouver Island North, Patrick McKenna  
David Haley  
Greg Halsey-Brandt

Stan Haner  
Randene Hardy and Cathy Peters  
Julie Hauville  
Natalie Hayden  
Health Sciences Association of BC, Andrew Longhurst  
Jon Hicke  
Norman Hill  
Andy Hobbs  
Hospital Employees' Union, Chris Kinkaid  
Bill Humphries  
IBD Centre of BC, Dr. Brian Bressler, Dr. Kevan Jacobson, Dr. Gregory Rosenfeld  
Independent Contractors and Businesses Association, Tim McEwan  
India Cultural Centre of Canada, Balwant Sanghera  
IVF4BC, Nicole Nouch  
Joey Jack  
Rahim Jiwani  
Art Johnson  
Sara Johnson  
Shirlee Johnson  
Myna lee Johnstone  
Just Like Home Child Care, Leann Maveety  
Shawna Kalke  
Kaslo Early Childhood Coalition (KECC), Kathy Allaire, Barb Cyr  
Kelowna Chamber of Commerce, Dan Rogers  
Zeb King  
Shanu Kotwal  
Dwayne Kress  
Richard Kudra  
Kuterra Limited Partnership, Garry Ullstrom  
Janet Lacroix  
Joseph Lacuna  
Ladner Sediment Group, John Roscoe  
LandlordBC, David Hutniak  
Shaun Lang  
Patrice Langins  
Michelle Laslo  
Carol Leclerc  
Lillooet Regional Invasive Species Society, Jacquie Rasmussen  
Ho Ma Lin  
Lincoln Health and Tech, Borna Misirlis

Literacy Matters Abbotsford, Sharon Crowley  
Literacy Now Burnaby, Beth Davies  
Margaret Little  
James Little  
Karin Litzcke  
Loblaw/Shoppers Drug Mart, Mike Motz  
Linda Locke  
Heather Logan  
Anders Lunde  
Dale Lutes  
Jay MacArthur  
Kirsty Macdonald  
Mackeno Ventures, James Little  
Josef and Josephine Malakieh  
Sidne Marat  
John Maximenko  
Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation, Michael Buda  
McBride and District Public Library, Glenn Foster  
Laura McCaffrey  
Janet McInnes  
Meaghan McLeod  
Meadowbrook Community Association, Bob Johnstone  
Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Council, Kevin Barlow  
Linda Meyer  
Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research, Bev Holmes  
Joe Mitchell  
Modern Monetary Theory in Canada, Larry Kazdan  
Romain Morize-Robb  
Amanda Muench  
Brenda Muliner  
Music Canada Live, Erin Benjamin  
Suzette Narbonne  
Gail Neufeld  
Robyn Newton  
John Nicolson  
North Okanagan-Shuswap Brain Injury Society (NOSBIS), Carlene Duczek  
Northwest Invasive Plant Council, Penelope Adams  
OHM Cycles Ltd., Michael DeVisser  
Nima Omid-Fard  
Outdoor Recreation Council of British Columbia, Jeremy McCall  
Pacific Hepatitis C Network, Daryl Luster  
Parkinson Society BC, Jean Blake

Lynne Patrick  
Kaylee Patrick  
Sandra Paulsen  
Cleo Pawson  
Pearson College UWC, Dan Hurley  
Peregrine House School, Nadin Elkhalil  
Judy Pollard  
Pam Preston  
Prince George Public Library, Carolynne Burkholder-James  
Tom Rankin  
Realistic Success Recovery Society, Susan Sanderson  
Erik Rehtlane  
Debbie Reid  
Lynne Reside  
Richmond Centre for Disability, Ella Huang  
Richmond Chinese Community Society, Henry Beh  
Richmond Firefighters Association, Cory Parker  
Richmond Hospital, David Li  
Richmond Hospital Medical Staff Association, Gordon Mackie  
Richmond Poverty Response Committee, Deirdre Whalen  
Royle Ross  
Lloyd Rushton  
S.U.C.C.E.S.S., Queenie Choo  
Salvation Army Rotary Hospice House, Juan Burry  
School District No. 36 (Surrey), Karen Botsford  
School District No. 39 (Vancouver), Chona Caparas  
School District No. 42 (Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows), Mike Murray  
School District No. 46 (Sunshine Coast), Erica Reimer  
Beryl Scott  
Sea to Sky Invasive Species Council, Clare Greenberg  
Selkirk College Students' Union, Santanna Hernandez  
Shari Shabits  
Terri Shea  
Oren Shir  
Leslie Shumka  
Shuswap Children's Association, June Stewart  
Jessie Smith

Sooke Family Resource Society, Meghan Dovell  
South Island Prosperity Project, Emilie de Rosenroll  
South Okanagan Similkameen Brain Injury Society, Linda Sankey  
Social Planning and Research Council of BC (SPARC BC), Lorraine Copas  
Kelly McFadyen and Katherine Spence  
Colette Squires  
Ilana Stanger-Ross  
Katharine Steig  
Neil Stephenson  
Shirley Sterlinger  
SUCCESS Multi-Level Care Society, Sinder Kaur  
Britt Sundberg  
Sunshine Coast Community Services Society, Catherine Leach  
Sunrise Village, Muriel Upham, Sunvilla Society  
Surrey District Parents Advisory Council, Karen Tan  
Surrey Board of Trade, Anita Huberman  
Surrey Public Library, Karen Reid Sidhu  
Surrey Schools Coalition, Karen Tan  
Edward Szefer  
Isabelle Szykulski  
TELUS, Japman Bajaj  
Rebecca Tinsley  
Trauma Recovery Blog-Volunteer, Darren Gregory  
Lawrence Uhlin  
University of the Fraser Valley, Betty Poettcker  
University of British Columbia Varsity Outdoor Club, Heather Filyk  
University of Victoria, Jamie Cassels  
University of Victoria School of Child and Youth Care, Connie Antonsen  
Urban Development Institute, Anne McMullin  
Urban Native Youth Association, Denise Williams  
Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre Society, Susan Tatoosh  
Vancouver Coastal Health, Cathryn Mainman  
Vancouver Committee for Domestic Workers and Caregivers Rights

(CDWCR), Cenen Bagon, Julie Diesta  
Vancouver Community College Faculty Association, Karen Shortt  
Vancouver en Francais, Sarah Marty  
Victoria Brain Injury Society, Krissi Spinoza  
Victoria Real Estate Board, David Corey, Denise Hogue  
Voices for Good Air, Dr. Raymond Chipeniuk  
Brenda Wagner  
Alison Ward  
West Coast LEAF, Zahra H. Jimale  
West Kootenay Brain Injury Association, Danielle Armstrong  
West Vancouver Memorial Library Board, David Carter  
Western Convenience Stores Association, Andrew Klukas  
Dayna White  
John Winford  
Anny Wong  
John Wong  
Rita Wong  
Laurie Yellenik  
Michael Young  
Moreno Zanotto



# Appendix C: Online Survey Respondents

Abbotsford School District, Lee Gouttin	Barbeau Evans LLP, Paul Barbeau	Jeremy Braacx	Ursula Clark
Liza Aboud	Allison Barber	Aisling Brady	Coalition of child Care Advocates, BC, Gyda Chud
Mutasem Abu-Remaileh	Elise Barber	Katherine Brandt	Annelize Coetzee
Sage Acer	Patricia Barkaskas	Susan Brennan	Collingwood Neighbourhood House, Crecien Bencio
AFCC, John Roden	Laura Barker	Phil Briennesse	Collingwood Neighbourhood House, Yoko Tomita
Edna Aguinaga	Jeff Barkley	Su-Laine Brodsky	Carrie Collins
James Aitken	Tracy Barkman	Tony Brumell	Phil Colvin
Alberni Valley Transition Town Society, Dan Schubart	Linda Barry	Mariana Brussoni	Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union of Canada (now Unifor), retired, Gene Mcguckin
Virginia Allard	Andrew Baskin	Jeff Burgess	Comox Valley Children's Day Care Society, Charlene Gray
Deb Alore	Claire Battershill	John Burgess	Nancy Cooley
Catherine Alpha	Shaelyn Bayduza	Olivia Burgon	Laura Cornish
Nelson Ames	BC Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists, Julia Hodder	Burns, Fitzpatrick, LLP, Stephen Schwartz	Stefano Corradini
Aaron Ander	BC Research and Development Orchard Inc., Glen Lucas	Clayton Bussey	Penelope Coupland
Lynell Anderson	BC Retired Teachers' Assn, Margaret Sutton	Bryce Campbell	Donna Couturier
Melanie Anderson	BC Retired Teachers Association, Steve Bailey	Cran Campbell	Trevor Craddock
Sam Anderson	BCFGA, Allan Patton	Richard Campbell	Matt Craig
Nicole Anger	BCMC, Frederick Sheppard	Canada Bikes, Arne Elias	Nancy Craig
ANYDOS, Annastasia Oraegbunem	Dolores Beattie	Canadian Federation of University Women, Beatrice Shumey	Creative Cove, Cauvery Sawant
Arbutus Medical, Michael Cancilla	Courtney Beeson	Maria Cargnelli	Cridge Centre for the Family, Christine Wosilius
Arcadian Early Learning, Cheryl Cameron	Meg Belanger	Cariboo Child Care Society, Marian Hardy	Eryne Croquet
Arc-en-ciel/Rainbow Child Enrichment Centre, Sylvie Fersch	Lauren Bell	Morgan Carlson	Michelle Cunningham
Margaret Archibald	Brianne Berchowitz	Tasha Carmichael	CUPE 454, John Gibson
Brent Arentsen	Sandra Berman	Andre Carrel	Kim Currie
Erin Arnold	Renuka Bhardwaj	Carly Carson	Cycle Chilliwack, Dan Douglas
Danial Asadolahi	Caitlin Bittman	Melissa Caswell	Dan's Legacy Foundation, Barbara Coates
Asante Centre, Allison Pooley	Julia Black	James Cavalluzzo	Eric Davidson
Association of Neighbourhood Houses BC, Deb Bryant	Mari Black	CFUW, Marilyn Bowker	Danielle Davis
Atira Women's Resource Society, Janice Abbott	Constance Blundy	CFUW Parksville / Qualicum, Eva Hilborn	Emma Davis
Tyler Bacon	Melissa Boardman	Bharat Chandramouli	Michelle Davis
Friday Bailey	Peter Boddy	Gordy Charles	Dan De Lench
Laurie Baldwin	Jodi-Lynn Bolduc	Richard Chase	
Victoria Ball	Anna Bonga	Kathy Chen	
Mary Ballon	Tracy Bosch	Richard Chernoff	
Sabrina Bantog	Toni Botham	Rachel Chernoff	
	Bowen Island Municipality, Melanie Mason	Lana Cherris	
		Christopher Chiavatti	
		Child Care Resource, Sue Irwin	
		Jim Chorostecki	
		Jackie Chow	
		CHQ, Devon Downie	
		Rita Chudnovsky	
		J Churcher	

Mary De Zwart	Jason Farmer	Golden Community	Maria Howard
Geoff Dean	Deb Fayle	Resources Society,	Catherine Huitson
Christine Debruin	Andrew Feltham	Shelley Zajsek	Jess Hunt
Decoda Literacy	Brian Ferguson	Jayne Goldie	Kevin Hunt
Solutions, Jacquie	Gaye Ferguson	Amanda Goodison	Melanie Hyde
Taylor	Eric Fergusson	Tammie Gordley	Lani Image
Courtney Dejong	Denise Ferreira	Pamela Graham	Interior Health, Kerri
Erica Delisle	Kailee Ferreira	Mike Grant	Wall
Toby Dent	Lee Ferreira	Jennifer Gray-Grant	Island Health, Amy
Faizel Desai	Martin Feuchtwanger	Aileen Green	Kazeil
E Lisbeth Donaldson	Dorothy Field	Art Green	Island Health, Randal
Summer Dong	Kimball Finigan	Monique Green	Nichol
Hannah D'Souza	Tanya Fink	Richelle Green	Island Health, Catherine
Barbara Dumoulin	Edie Fishlock	Donalda Greenwell-	Slater
Ada Duperron	FitSafe Solutions Inc,	Baker	Island Pathways, Brenda
Jennifer Durst	Selkirk College, Delia	Eve Grenon-Lafontaine	Guiled
Marilyn Dylke	Roberts	Moira Griffith	Saara Itkonen
Chelsea Eagles	Rachel Fitzzaland	Growing Together	Mary Ives
Early Childhood	Donald Flintoff	Children's Centre,	Monica Jacobs
Educators Campbell	Food Banks BC, Laura	Wanda Cole	Jeanneth Jacome
River Branch, Cally	Lansink	Gulf Islands Early	Joanna Jagger
Overton	Ford Road Coop, Troy	Learning Society,	James Harrison, James
Early Childhood	Machan	Jaylene D'Amboise	Harrison
Educators of British	Daniel Fornika	Randi Gurholt-Seary	Julia Jennex
Columbia, Heather	Candace Francis	Garry Haas	Brian Jepsen
Hazel	Elyse Freeborn	Rebecca Haber	Yayuk Joffres
Jason Easton	Friends of The Grove,	Habitat for Humanity	Lisa Johannesen
Cheylne Eccles	Cedar Bark Poets,	Greater Vancouver,	Susan Johnsen
ECE, Britt Sundberg	Katheren Szabo	Stephani Baker	Douglas Johnson
ECE BC, Theresa Walker	Colleen Friendship	Habitat for Humanity	Robert Johnson
ECEBC, Violet Jessen	Greg Funk	Society of Greater	Glen Jolly
ECEBC, Leola Mcmillan	Tara Gallen	Vancouver, Dennis	Allen Jones
ECEBC, Dawn Way	Dave Gallie	Coutts	Andrea Jones
Ecopath Planning, Eric	Gambier Island	Geneva Hagen	David Jones
Doherty	conservancy, Peter	Alexander Hall	H. T. Jones
Educating a Deaf	Scholefield	Meghan Hall	Julie Jones
Daughter, Neil Sproule	Bob Garnett	Shirley Handley	Yasmin Kanani
Douglas Edwards	Jacqueline Gaudet	HandyDART Riders'	Yanna Kang
John Edworthy	Judy Gaylord	Alliance, Beth Mckellar	Monika Karciarz
Susan Ellard	Carrie Gelson	Dave Harper	Micheal Karlstrom
Diana Ellis	Tunde Getaneh	F Harris	Kaslo Early Childhood
Allison Emanuel Arato	David Gibbons	Bev Harrison	Coalition, Kathy Allaire
Alicia Embree	Pascale Gibeau	Brad Haugan	Erin Kastner
Emergency Food Action	Gibsons Seniors Society,	Julie Hauville	Heather Kauer
Network, Joanna	Leeann Johnson	M Hawkins	Connie Kaweesi
Rainer	Amy Giddens	Amanda Hawkshaw	Bernadette Keenan
Bryon Enns	Tim Gijzen	Natalie Hayden	Shannon Kelly
Tanya Erb	Amy Girard	Paul Helston	Sarah Kesselring
Marion Erickson	Cat Girczyc	Suzanne Helston	Eduard Khudaiberdin
Miki Eslake	Julie Gleadow	Javier Herrera	Albert Kirkley
Mike Evans	Ann Godderis	Caitlin Hertzman	Ken Klassen
Ruth Fahlman	Dianne Goldberg	Jennifer Hiebert	Robert Klei
Family Network for	Michael Goldberg	Patricia Hiscox	Sheldon Klein
Deaf Children, Cecelia		Laurel Hodgins	Shanna Knights
Klassen		Masgaretha Hogeling	



Ingrid Kolsteren	Magica Pacifica Child	Romain Morize-Robb	Niovi Patsicakis
Kootenay Family Place, Gent Harrison	Care Inc., Sally Christiansson-Tannar	Morneau Shepell, Paula Provost	Janet Pattinson
Kootenay Mountainering Club, Alpine Club of Canada, C L Hunter	Mirjam Mai	Tracey Morrison	Kaylee Pattrick
Maria Koroneos	Leah Main	D'Arcy Morrow	Sandra Paulsen
Wendy Krahn	Jin Foong Malm	Marlena Morton	Peace Valley Environment Associaltion, Ken Forest
Nadia Krebs	Mireille Malouin	Scott Motley	Kate Peatfield
Dwayne Kress	Farzana Manki	Kathryn Mudie	Pembina Institute, Dylan Heerema
Vee Krisp	Amir Mansoori	Pamela Munroe	Pender Island Community Support, Andrea Mills
Richard Kudra	Kevin Marat	Susan Murphy	People In Pain Network Society, Gerald Johnson
Visakha Kuehn	Sidne Marat	Amrita Narciso	Anne Perzow
Paul Kusch	Patrick Mark	Julie Narciso	Kurtis Peters
Janet Lacroix	Diane Mar-Nicolle	D. Gail Nasadyk	Susan Phillips Metzger
Heather Laing	Pearl Marr	Nature Vancouver, Donald Burton	Jo Phillips
Andrea Lalic	Richard Marr	Nestworks, Hilary Henegar	Janet Philpott
Peter Lang	Sarah Martin Sittrop	Olga Netchaeva	Rodger Poole
Shaun Lang	Carolyn Matyjanka	Liz Nguyen	George Popp
Langara College, Stephen Phillips	June Maynard	Liz Nguyen	Sara Pour
Rika Lange	Vicki Mccabe	David Nickoli	Brian Powell
Elena Lanteigne	Laura Mccaffrey	John Nicolson	Derece Powell
Christian Larmer	Marilyn Mcclelland	NLPS SD 68, Amy Fleming	Jennifer Powers
Lynn Lashuk	MCFD, Karen Kellett	Penelope Norman	PPWC, Local, Rod Fayant
Vincent Law	Maureen Mcguire	North Cove Technical Services, Dave Macmurchie	Pam Preston
Kim Lawson	Janet Mcinnes	North Island Employment, Valerie Meaney	Mary Price
Wendy Lebreton	Lawrence Mckimmie	North Island Powell River Greens, Sue Moen	Peter Prontzos
Janine Lehmann	Linda Mckinlay	Kathryn Nurse	George Pugh
Brenda Leiren	Tayah Mclaren	Mitchell Nurse	Christina Pulice-Smith
Andrea Lemire	Amy Mclay Paterson	John O'Connor	Kaitlin Purdy
Alice Li	Dennis Mcmillan	Terry Oh	Susanna Quail
Candice Li	Elaine McMurray	OHM Cycles Ltd., Michael Devisser	Kristin Quigley
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Christie Little	Kelly Megyesi	Joel Ornoy	Shannon Rasmussen
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Roberta Long	Heather Melendez	Carolina Palacios	Gilda Rayburn
Edward Lord	Ruth Mellor	Rosa A Palacios	Kristina Rea
Mellisa Lowery	Joe Melton	Jocelyn Palmer	Reach Child and Youth Development society, Denise Sheridan
Anders Lunde	Jeannette Mergens	Laura Parkes	Caitlan Read
Dale Lutes	Tania Millen	Parksville Qualicum Retired Teachers Association, Cathy Van Herwarden	Mairin Reading
Antony Lyttle	John Miller	Nathalie Patel	Real Estate Institute of British Columbia, Patricia Eng
Irene Lyttle	Sarah Miller	Duck Paterson	Nadene Rehnby
Katherine Maas	Jennie Milligan	Alan Patola Moosmann	Sharon Renneberg
Denise Macdonald	Lynne Milnes		
Diana Macdonald	Mina BC, Tina Strehlke		
Mackeno Ventures, James Little	Frank Mitchell		
Alison Maddaugh	Kathy Mitten		
	Margaret Moffat		
	Virginia Monk		
	More Than a Roof Housing, Jim Loney		
	Melissa Morize-Robb		

Louise Richards	Jo-Anna Singleton	Annelies Tjebbes	Paula Verhoeven
Judy Riddell	Adrian Siqueiros	Anne Todd	Vernon Christian
Janice Riley	Lloyd Skaalen	Marcia Toms	Preschool, Tania
Dylan Robinson	Lisa Slouffman	Gail Townsley	Driediger
Ellen Robson	Barbara Smith	Toxik Design Lab, Harald	Chris Vernon
Charlene Ross	Jim Smith	Strasser	Victoria Brain Injury
Rossland Child Care	Julia Smith	Hayden Trattner	Society, Krissi Spinoza
Society o/a Golden	Justine Smoke	Mary Trentadue	Victoria-Beacon
Bear Children's Centre,	Katherine Snowden	Darcy Trevelyan	Hill Constituency
Ketna Makwana	Caitlin Sousa	triciabraun.com, Tricia	Association, Mr. Rafe
Christina Rowan	South Peace Building	Braun	Sunshine
Lloyd Rushton	Learning Together	William Turnbull	Lee Vincent
Griffin Russell	(BLT) Society, Gloria	Al Turra	Stephen Von Sychowski
Barb Ryeburn	Cleve	S. Martene Turra	Robin Vuilleumier
Lauren Sabine	Southpoint Children's	Betty-Jean Tyner	Wendy Waidson
Salima Samnani Law	Centre, Karolyn	Ross Tyner	Christie Wall
Corporation, Salima	Hendra	UBC, Chin Sun	Linda Wall
Samnani	Andrea Spakowski	UBC/VCH, Angus Cherry	Nancy Walsh
Vincent Salvo	SPARC BC (Social	Flavio Uemura	Andrea Wardrop
Ciel Sander	Planning and Research	Lawrence Uhlin	Dan Warner
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Kerry Shaw	Kathryn Sutton	Health, Sonya Powell	Jim Wright
Pam Shaw	Susan Swanson	Vancouver Coastal	Arianne Wulfhorst
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PAC, Ingrid Fisher	Alex Thumm	Vancouver Rape Relief	
Simon Fraser University,	Rebecca Tinsley	and Women's Shelter,	
Genevieve Brisson	Veryl Tipliski	Maria Wong	
Sing and Smile Childcare	Doug Titchkosky	Ildi Varga	
Ltd., Harjeet Kahlon		Ruth Veiner	
		Jens Vent-Schmidt	







