



MEDIA RELEASE

August 21, 2020

Finance Committee releases report on Budget 2021 Consultation

VICTORIA – The Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services released its unanimous report on the Budget 2021 Consultation today. The report provides a summary of the concerns and ideas shared by British Columbians, including the committee’s 124 recommendations for the next provincial budget.

“This year, we saw the highest level of participation in nearly 10 years with British Columbians describing how the COVID-19 pandemic exposed gaps in supports and services and impacted groups differently,” said committee chair Bob D’Eith. “The committee recognizes that the next budget is an opportunity to address these gaps and inequities and to continue to make progress on reconciliation, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility.”

“Another central theme that shaped the report is digital connectivity,” added deputy chair Doug Clovechok. “Committee members heard about the need to address significant gaps with access and affordability as the pandemic accelerated the shift to a digital environment.”

The budget consultation ran from June 1, 2020 to June 26, 2020. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, all public hearings were conducted by video and teleconference.

During the consultation, the committee heard 281 presentations, received 1,362 written and video submissions and 3,625 responses to an online survey which was based on questions in the *Budget 2021 Consultation Paper* released by the Minister of Finance on June 1, 2020.

Mr. D’Eith further noted: “The committee would like to thank all British Columbians who brought forward their views on the challenges and opportunities facing the province as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to have an impact on all of us.”

The report is available at: www.leg.bc.ca/cmt/finance

The members of the committee are:

Bob D’Eith, MLA Maple Ridge-Mission (chair);

Doug Clovechok, MLA Columbia River-Revelstoke (deputy chair);

Donna Barnett, MLA Cariboo-Chilcotin

Rich Coleman, MLA Langley East;

Mitzi Dean, MLA Esquimalt-Metchosin;

Ronna-Rae Leonard, MLA Courtenay-Comox;

Nicholas Simons, MLA Powell River-Sunshine Coast

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