

**Minister Richard Neufeld**  
**Speech to Vancouver Board of Trade**  
March 26, 2004

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen, and thank you very much, Doug, for that kind introduction.

I'm originally from the Prairies, born and raised in Lethbridge, but now that I live in northeastern British Columbia, I love it. I love Fort St. John.

I just want to start by describing my constituency and who I represent and where it is in the province of British Columbia. Then I want to talk a bit about four things: mining and its importance and the vision that we have for it, oil and gas, oil onshore and oil offshore, and a little bit about electricity.

Let me tell you, in 20 minutes it's pretty hard to talk about everything that happens in all of these areas, because there is great energy in the province of British Columbia. I'm going to approach this from a fairly high viewpoint, so pardon me if I don't touch on some of the things you'd like me to touch on.

Before I do that, I want to welcome two of my colleagues here. Harry Bloy and Ralph Sultan are somewhere in the audience - great supporters of the energy industry and the mining industry in the province of British Columbia.

My constituency is the second largest in the province of British Columbia - 185,000 square kilometres. Let me give you a little sense of what that is in size. If you take Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, PEI and Vancouver Island and tuck them into my constituency, you have a little room left over. That's the landmass. If you take Florida, it's about the same size - in fact, just a little bit bigger than Florida. If you take Washington State - I know there are some American folks here - it's about 15 per cent smaller than Washington State.

You know what? There are only 32,000 people in my constituency. So I can't name them all off by heart, but I can actually have a good meeting when I go to any part of the province or my constituency and talk to people.

It is a huge region, and, as Doug pointed out, it's a region that has been producing oil and gas for the last 40 years. It's an icon in the province of British Columbia, and there are a number of names that it brings to mind - McMahon

and W.A.C. Bennett to name two- both who had visions for the province of British Columbia.

Let me tell you that today we've got a Premier who also has a vision. We have a Premier who was elected in 2001 who has a huge vision for the province of British Columbia, who has a huge vision for mining in British Columbia. My Premier, Gordon Campbell - your Premier - said that we're going to bring mining back to the province of British Columbia, and we're going to do everything we can, even though the last guys kicked the mining industry out. It's going to be tough, we know, but we're bringing them back. We actually want to repatriate those folks. We want to bring those dollars back to the province of British Columbia.

When he appointed me as Minister of Energy and Mines, he gave me quite an undertaking because, let me tell you, when I looked around the room and I started looking at the amount of dollars that were invested in the province of British Columbia in mining, it wasn't very much. In fact, it was hard to say that there was investment in exploration that even touched \$25 million a year.

You know, the mining folks tell me - and there's some of them here today: Dan Jepson and Gary Livingstone - on a regular basis, you need at least \$150 million, minimum, in exploration in the province of British Columbia to actually maintain a mining industry so that as mines close down, as they run out of ore, there's another one coming on stream. Well, \$25 million is pretty shy of \$150 million.

Let me tell you some of the things that the Premier challenged me to do and that we've done for the mining industry. The first thing that we did, under the leadership of our Premier, was to reduce taxes dramatically for everyone, including the mining industry. We eliminated the Corporate Capital Tax. That was a good move. That helped every industry in the province of British Columbia, but certainly, our mining industry. Our corporate tax: we reduced it from 16.5 per cent to 13.5 per cent, and that was another good move. We reduced and removed sales tax, the 7.5 per cent sales tax on all machinery and equipment used in the mining industry and much in the oil and gas industry, to encourage those folks to start investing.

Let me tell you, they started to invest because they started buying new equipment. Some of the bigger mines across the province started to repower some of the older equipment that they had. They started to feel a little bit better.

The other thing the Premier challenged me to do was remove at least one- third, or 33 per cent, of the needless regulation and the needless red tape in my ministry. We're going to meet that target. You know what? We're going to meet that target, and we're meeting that target because I've got a great deputy minister, by the name of Sheila Wynn, who is here today with me, and a team of people that work in this ministry - in my ministry. A team of 254 people work in my ministry. That's it: 254. We're going to meet those targets for the people of the province of British Columbia, and we're going to meet those targets for the mining industry.

We put in place a two-zone system for mining that clarifies where mining is allowed and where it isn't allowed. Guess what? It's not allowed in parks; it's not allowed in ecological reserves and protected areas, - but the rest of the province is open for mining.

We have reduced regulations under the Coal Act. In fact, we're rewriting the Coal Act, as we speak, to encourage investment in the mining industry as we move forward.

This has been a great couple of days for me, because as I've often said to my staff: we have to start getting out and talking about the positive things that are happening in the province of British Columbia and I've had that opportunity. I'm tired of hearing about negative stuff.

Let me tell you, we have done a whole range of positive things under the leadership of our Premier, Mr. Campbell. He has worked relentlessly to make sure that we meet our government's goals on behalf of you folks - not just for the investors, not just for the economy, but most importantly, for families.

We need family-supporting jobs in the province of British Columbia. We need jobs where people can actually afford to raise a family, feel comfortable, know they're going to have a job out into the future so that they can do those great things with their families that they want to do. That's a challenge I also have with my ministry: to make sure that those good things do happen.

Yesterday I stood, for the first time in my life, at a lectern in a university. Now, for a guy that doesn't have a university degree, it was great for me to actually go to UBC, and it's the first time that a Minister of Energy and Mines has gone to a university in British Columbia - the first time. I went to UBC, and their professors

couldn't believe it. They were saying: You actually asked to come here. We usually have to really pull people to get them to come to university and talk to us, but you actually asked to come here.

I said: yes, I did ask, because I want to talk to people, young people who are going to work in the industry that I represent: mining, and oil and gas. I want to tell them how important it is to each and every one of us who live here, because there are those out there that will tell you we don't need these industries.

Carole James is a name that comes to mind. Some of you may not know her name, but as I understand, she's the new leader of the New Democratic Party in the province of British Columbia. She says we don't need any mining. That's interesting. We don't need any oil and gas. That's interesting. We need more taxes in the province of British Columbia. That's what she says. That's interesting.

Let me tell you, folks, when I talk about our Premier and how serious he is and how hard he works for you as a Premier to help move this province forward, the tons of stuff he does on a daily basis, he needs your support. I'd like to see some letters in the newspaper that say...you don't have to pat us on the back; you don't have to do any of that type of thing...where people start talking about the positive things in British Columbia. Let me tell you: the left wing can think about everything that's wrong, and they do a darn good job of making sure that's in the newspaper and in press releases.

And are there some things that have gone wrong? You're darned right. The world would be perfect if they didn't.

But we need some support. Our Premier needs that support. He needs to feel good. Every day he gets up early in the morning and works until late at night, continues to take a trashing for everything, a lot of things that are needless. I'd like to ask you to actually give him a little bit more support. If you're doing that already, I appreciate that. But I'd appreciate hearing a little bit more from people whose lives are actually better or whose outlooks are a lot better.

Getting back to mining. Some of the things we did when we said we wanted to bring mining back to the province of British Columbia. I've said this many times: is our approach perfect? No, it isn't. Would we like to see more investment? Yes, we would. Would we like it done quicker? Yes, we would. But you know, we're on this curve that's moving up. We're not on the curve that we were under the last administration. We're actually moving forward.

As I said, we started out in 2001 with \$25 million a year invested in exploration in mining. The next year we went to \$35 million. Last year, in 2003, about \$50 to 55 million. That's not a bad curve - right. Still a long ways from a hundred. But I understand from the industry and from folks out there that this year, 2004, we're going to hit the \$100-million mark.

You know, in four short years, going from \$25 million and a situation where most of the mining companies wanted to move out of the province of British Columbia, to get to \$100 million in investment in mining exploration is darned good. That's because we're working hard in this province on your behalf to make sure that those things happen. There are so many good things in the province. We've got so much to be thankful for.

I'll tell you, when Doug talked about how flat Alberta is, Alberta would love to have some of our mountains. They'd love to have some of our scenery. It's pretty hard to convince someone to come to Alberta to look at the Prairies.

I was born there, and I do like the Prairies to a degree. But you know what? When you come to Vancouver or you go to Whistler or you go anywhere along the coast of British Columbia or anywhere through most of British Columbia, and you have a good look, let me tell you that it has tourism potential like you wouldn't believe. We can draw visitors from all over the world to actually come here and look at that.

You know what? Tourism and mining can share the same land base. Let's remember that mining only directly affects about one-tenth of 1 per cent of the whole province of British Columbia's land mass. That's about the same size as the clearcut in Surrey.

You know, that's not very much land, and it has produced billions upon billions of dollars in gross revenue and tax dollars for the province and, most importantly, family-supporting jobs. Some of the highest-paid jobs in British Columbia are mining jobs.

We have the second-largest coalmine in the world. Wow! The second-largest coalmine in the world right in southeastern British Columbia. When Fording and Teck Cominco put those five mines together, that's what we got.

You know what? That affects Vancouver big time. Wendy, you know that. You know how much it affects your business, where you live, how you live. You know as well as I do that the rail lines that bring it from the Kootenays to Roberts Banks.... We wouldn't have a Roberts Bank if we didn't have coal; we wouldn't. Think about the Port of Vancouver. Think about all the things that come into the Port of Vancouver.

I often wonder, people in the Lower Mainland will tell me what a beautiful, pristine country we have, that we shouldn't mine close to parks, and we shouldn't drill for oil and gas close to parks. They'll tell me that we've got to leave that last pristine valley alone.

Well, I ask them to go down to Stanley Park. Is that a nice park? Yeah, it is. Have you taken a walk around on the wall lately? Yeah, I have. Well, I say: when you get just past where the Lions Gate Bridge is, take a look off to your left. Look across the water, and what do you see? There's a big pile of sulphur there. That comes from Duke; that comes from the ground; that comes from natural gas. It's shipped all over the world. And guess what? It's shipped from the Port of Vancouver.

Or you look at the copper concentrate that comes from all the copper mines. It comes from all the copper mines around the province of British Columbia, and it's actually centered right in downtown Vancouver, right across the water.

I think: my God, how do you figure it? In the northern part of British Columbia you can't mine within five miles of a park, but in Vancouver, just a stone's throw across the water, you can have all the industrial activity you want, and everybody thinks it's fine. You know why? Because people do understand, to a degree, how important this industrial activity is to their community, how important it is to the city of Vancouver, and how many jobs it creates. Well, let me tell you, where I live, it is the same.

That's all we want to do. We're not there to destroy the environment. We're not there to wreck the environment. In fact, the environment is looked after much better today than it was ten years ago by the oil and gas industry and by the mining industry. We want to be able to continue to protect our environment and to continue to provide those important services to the province of British Columbia.

I talked about my ministry with about 250-some people and a budget in '03-'04 of \$37 million; in '04-'05 I will have \$42 million to spend in my ministry to promote mining and to promote oil and gas activity all over the province of British Columbia. That's what my ministry does. We facilitate; and work on behalf of the industry and people of the province.

You know what these industries generate for the province of British Columbia? Two billion dollars. Two billion dollars comes out of northeast B.C. and out of the mining industry across the province of British Columbia in direct royalties and lease fees and land sales. You know, that's pretty significant: \$2 billion. That pays for health care and education. It goes to the bottom line. It goes to the bottom line for each and every one of us.

And you know what? We've got a Premier who wants to continue to build on that, who wants to continue to promote that, who wants that to continue to move forward in an environmentally sensitive, smart way. We can do that. It's done around the world. Why can't we? We've got so much to be thankful for in the province of British Columbia.

You know what? The last thing I'm going to say about mining. The Premier takes it seriously enough that he appointed a Minister of State for Mining, someone by the name of Pat Bell, the MLA for Prince George North. Pat and I have worked together now for a number of years. Pat will do a very good job in actually bringing forward mining issues to the table, to make sure that they're resolved and looked after. That's, again, what our Premier is committed to doing in the province of British Columbia. He said: "I'm going to appoint someone whose sole responsibility is mining." That helps me, by the way, because it lessens my workload a bit.

But as I said to Pat when he got the job. I said: "Pat, remember you're Minister of State. That means when the good news comes, you get the pat on the back. But when something goes wrong, it's me that's going to get the kick." So anyhow, it's great.

You know the reason why we have a great mining and smelting industry in British Columbia and other great industries and people want to live in the province? It's because of our electricity.

I want to tell you here, loud and clear: BC Hydro; we own it. That's you. That's the ratepayers, the people in province of British Columbia. They own it today

and will continue to own it into the future regardless of what Joy MacPhail tells you or Jim Sinclair or Marjorie Griffin Cohen about how we're selling it. We're not.

We've got a world-class reservoir system and hydroelectric system in BC. We generate about 11,000 megawatts. I mean, that's small compared to some U.S. systems, but let me tell you: it's the second largest in Canada. And we have some of the lowest hydro rates in North America.

I live close to Alberta. My brother-in-law and his sister and my sister live in Grand Prairie. Their electricity bill is just a little more than double of mine. Why? It's because we own B.C. Hydro and because it's cost-based, not market-driven.

We're changing the face of B.C. Hydro a little bit. We're implementing the energy plan that I introduced in 2002, to move B.C. Hydro forward. We have split B.C. Hydro, and we have created the B.C. Transmission Corporation, a company wholly owned by the people of the province of British Columbia, to facilitate independent power production and transmission.

If independent power producers want to build plants in British Columbia, they can now do one of two things. They can either build them and sell them, long-term, to B.C. Hydro, who will redistribute the energy to us at a very reasonable rate. Or they can put that energy through the transmission system and sell it wherever they want. That's two options that they didn't have before. You know, that's vision. That's thinking of how we have to move into the future in British Columbia and now we've done those things.

Now, we get some criticism for it. No doubt about it. But, you know we need to keep in mind, things can't stay the same as they always were.

How does this compare with the NDP's vision? The NDP's vision for B.C. Hydro was not to build anything in British Columbia, to freeze the rates, to decide what the rates would be and what B.C. Hydro would do, instruct them from the cabinet room, because, as you can well imagine, everyone in that cabinet room under the NDP was very bright. And they knew everything about electricity, didn't they?

You know what? They built a plant. They built it in Pakistan. Well, I'm telling you: that's really great, isn't it? Building a power plant in Pakistan, instructing a Crown Corporation to do that. As I've said many times, we're still trying to



figure out how to get that electricity back to British Columbia. But that's what happens under the NDP.

We took that responsibility away from government direction because we know that the individuals at the Cabinet table can't be expected to really understand all the intricacies of generation of electricity, transmission of electricity, how you move it around. Let me tell you: it's a big deal. It's not something you learn on the back of a cigarette package on a Friday afternoon.

What you need is the Utilities Commission. We put the Utilities Commission back in charge of B.C. Hydro and BCTC. We beefed up the B.C. Utilities Commission. We put people on the B.C. Utilities Commission that actually understand it, that actually understand electricity, that have had things to do with electricity in their lives. What they're challenged with is making sure that British Columbians continue to receive electricity and continue to receive some of the cheapest electricity in North America. That is a bright move, that's a good move, and that's what our Premier instructed me to do.

There's huge opportunity in electricity, in independent power production. You know, last year over \$800 million worth of ideas came forward - \$800 million. That's not bad: to come forward at one time in the province of British Columbia about energy operations all over the province - whether they're small, run of the river, or wind. All those kind of new ideas and projects, are coming forward.

That's what happens when you say to BC Hydro, "you're not going to build the new electrical generation anymore, unless it is a project like Site C or some of the plants you already have in place. We're going to buy from the independent power producers. We're going to look to the entrepreneur, the person out there that wants to go out and build a 5-megawatt, a 20-megawatt, a 30-megawatt plant and sign a long-term contract to sell it to B.C. Hydro or export it.

You know what? We believe in the private sector. We believe in private-sector investment. Our Premier believes in the creation of jobs from the private sector.

And you know what? He also believes you ought to be able to make a profit. That's a novel idea in British Columbia in the last while, isn't it? The last group didn't think you should make a profit. Well, we think you should, because we want those family-paying jobs in the province of British Columbia. We want that coming forward, and we want that driven by the private sector.

Last, and briefly, I'm going to talk about oil and gas and the opportunities that we have for oil and gas in the province of British Columbia. We're babes in the woods when it comes to this sector, compared with Alberta. Alberta's got 50 years experience on us.

We didn't start drilling in the northeast part of the province until some time in the 50s. That's when the big plants that Duke Energy talks about were built, that Westcoast Transmission built in Fort Nelson, Fort St. John, and Pine River - huge world-class plants.

You know what? We now produce about 1.1 trillion cubic feet of natural gas a year in the province. We export about 65 per cent of that, and consume the balance within the province of British Columbia in industry or at your home. Most of you probably heat your homes or your hot water with natural gas. It's the cleanest fuel that we know.

It often amazes me when I hear Carole James talk about how we don't want any more of that kind of resource development. Or you hear David Suzuki saying we shouldn't have any more of that. I'm wondering how they're going to brush their teeth in the morning and have a shower. I haven't figured that out yet. Some of you may remember having to heat water on a stove to have a bath once a week. I don't want to go back there. Not me. Carole James and Mr. Suzuki can, but not me.

So there's huge opportunity in the province of British Columbia in gas and oil.

You know, we also produce about 14 million barrels of oil and consume 55 million barrels of oil. British Columbians burn five billion litres of gasoline, diesel fuel and jet fuel every year. These fuels are a bi-product of oil. You probably used some of those fuels to get here today and you'll use some of it to go home.

We actually need to beef up our oil production here in BC, and we have the opportunity to do that. We have great potential in some on-shore basins that are untouched. In the Nechako Basin between Prince George and Quesnel, according to the Geological Survey of Canada, there are some five billion barrels of oil and about nine trillion cubic feet of natural gas - some pretty large reserves.

No one's tapped into it yet. Why? Because no one's actually pushed the industry to get there, because there have been more convenient places to go. Money's fluid; it can always be invested in some other country or some other place.

Well, you know what? We believe you've got to go out and talk to our customers. Our customers are the people that want to come into British Columbia and actually invest in British Columbia and develop those resources on behalf of all of us.

My ministry has put in place some programs to actually encourage drilling in the province of British Columbia, to encourage directional drilling, horizontal drilling, deep-well drilling, to encourage summer drilling, to encourage that industry to use our service sector that's grown in northeastern British Columbia and in Vancouver. We want to actually make that happen.

There are the people that say we're going to run out of oil and gas, that we shouldn't be using it. Well I find that view interesting.

Let me give you some statistics. In British Columbia we have about 110 trillion cubic feet - 110 trillion cubic feet - of natural gas yet to be discovered, and we produce 1.1 trillion cubic feet a year today. Well, we've got a little ways to go. We have 90 trillion cubic feet of coalbed methane, coalbed gas. None of it's commercial yet, but we're actually getting people out there drilling for it - in the southeast, on Vancouver Island, in the central Interior, in northeastern British Columbia - because there's coal all over the province of British Columbia. In fact, 23 billion tons of coal in the province of British Columbia.

So there's a lot of coalbed gas out there. That doesn't mean that there's coalbed gas in all that coal, but there's a good chance there's a lot of it.

So I think we've got a lot to look forward to. We've got about 18 billion barrels of oil in the province of British Columbia. That includes offshore. The numbers I gave you earlier are about conventional natural gas also including offshore. Those are huge opportunities, folks. They're waiting for us to actually go out there and grab them.

We've got a government in place, a leader in place that wants to encourage private sector development and job creation in the province of British Columbia.

Everybody wants tourism, and I want tourism as much as anyone else. So how do the tourists get here? How do tourists arrive, let's say, in Vancouver? Generally, in an airplane - right?

Well, it's interesting. You need aluminum for most airplanes, last I checked. You need jet fuel to make the turbines run. Well, there's the mining industry, and there's the oil and gas industry right there.

A 747 will use about 800 or 900 litres of jet fuel just taxiing from the gate to the runway and another 4,000 litres taking off. If we want to encourage more tourism - guess what? - we're going to have to fill those airplanes with something. We have to go out there and get that product so we can fill those airplanes because right now we're in a deficit position with oil and gas. The Port of Vancouver uses 2.6 million litres of bunker C every day, seven days a week. The airport in Vancouver uses 3.5 million litres of jet fuel every day, seven days a week, 365 days a year, on average. Hell, that's a fair amount of fuel.

And you know what? We have to go out and find that natural resource someplace - contrary to what some people might tell you. We have to go out and find that natural resource someplace, and there's lots of it in the province of British Columbia that we can go out and find so that we can actually fuel our economy well into the future. That's what we want to develop, and that's what we want to move forward with. That's what we want to have B.C. do.

Now, some people will also tell you we're running the country over; we're just annihilating it. Let me give you some more numbers to put things in perspective. In 2002 we drilled about 850 wells in northeastern B.C. In 2003 we drilled about 1,100 wells. Next year we hope to drill 1,400 wells. We've got about 3,500 gas wells that produce in the province of British Columbia and 1,000 oil wells. That's what brings you \$2 billion dollars, 4,500 wells.

Let me tell you what Alberta drills on an average on a yearly basis: anywhere from 13,000 to 15,000 wells per year. Guess why they don't have any doubts about their industry? It doesn't take long to figure out.

Offshore there are huge opportunities to develop our oil and gas in the province of British Columbia.

There are people that live in Vancouver part-time who have businesses in Vancouver and Victoria that already service the offshore industry. They go to the Sakalin Islands in Russia, they go to the Gulf of Mexico, they go all over the world to be able to do what they are trained and equipped to do and what their businesses are known for. These companies are already here.

It's the same in the mining industry. How many miners actually live in Vancouver, yet work around the world? Wouldn't it be nice to repatriate some of those folks back to British Columbia, to actually bring them back here, with their children, so they can actually invest and have jobs and a secure future in a province that's as great as the one that we have right here? It would be wonderful. I'm excited about it. Folks, I'm excited about these kinds of things. We should be excited about these kinds of things because it's great; it's good stuff. We have a tremendous opportunity.

The offshore team. I have a deputy minister, Jack Ebbels, and ten people who work with him. Their job is to eat, sleep, and breath offshore oil and gas so that we can get it happening. There's currently a moratorium in place but we've been working hard at getting some movement toward lifting that moratorium.

Some will say: why don't you just lift that moratorium today? Well, that would be the quickest way to keep it in place for another 20 years, because after you lift the moratorium, what do you do?

There are a number of things we have to do first. We have to get a regulatory system in place so that you can actually deal with offshore oil and gas issues. We don't have that. That's part of the team's job. We don't have deals made with the First Nations or the communities along the coast. That's another job the team has to do; it's a huge job. We also have to work with the federal government. Let me tell you: that's a huge job in itself and a bit of a challenge at times, too, but we have to work with them. Actually, they're working with us pretty well right now. So those are three things the offshore team has to do.

There are those out there who say: well, the industry isn't saying they want to come here and do it, and you need the oil and gas industry leading it. I say they're wrong. Governments have to lead it. Our Premier said we would do it only if we could do it in an environmentally sound and scientifically safe way. That's what he said, and that's what we're living up to.

We've got three scientific reports now. Jaques Whitford's report from when I first came into office. We asked an environmental firm to go out, gather all the available information (and at present there's not a lot of available information off the coast about offshore oil and gas drilling) and bring it forward to us and tell us what they think. They told us that we could probably safely move ahead with offshore oil and gas development with the information that we already had.

Secondly, my ministry appointed three scientists, three well-known scientists, from the province of British Columbia to undertake another study, to take all that information and tell us what we need to have to move forward. I constantly hear the naysayers telling us: "Well, you don't have enough science."

This second group of scientists came back with 15 recommendations, and they said there are no scientific gaps that exist today that would prevent you from going out and undertaking offshore development provided that you have a good regulatory system in place. Interesting. Those are independent scientists telling us that.

Thirdly, the federal government has gone out and have done a number of things related to offshore development. They appointed a scientific panel under the Royal Society from across Canada, and said: "You go out and gather the information and see what you think." Guess what they came back with? With the proper regulatory system in place, there's no reason why you can't drill for offshore oil and gas off the coast of British Columbia.

These three independent scientific studies all tell us a lot of the science around offshore is already in place. And guess what? David Suzuki goes out there and trashes the scientists. I think he's a scientist. He says he's a scientist. But he goes out and trashes them because they came forward with realistic views about what we could actually do.

A few federal ministers even came forward and trashed their own Royal Society report. Interesting approach. You ask the experts to go out there and give you a report, and when you don't like it, you trash them. Well, that's not what we're doing. We actually respect those people. Our Premier respects those people. You know, there's some huge opportunities offshore British Columbia. Offshore oil and gas development is done safely all around the world.

You might be interested to know the reason BC has a moratorium in the first place. It dates back a while, but one of the big reasons that's always brought forward is oil spills and the Exxon Valdez. Well, that was a shipping accident. That wasn't because of offshore development. That was oil that came from an onshore well that went through a pipeline at Valdez and then was put into a ship and was going down to the US. It had nothing to do with offshore drilling.

On a regular basis two to three oil tankers travel along the coast of British Columbia every day. They carry anywhere from 250,000 to 350,000 deadweight

tones on a daily basis, coming from Alaska to the lower forty- eight states. A lot of these tankers are bound for Cherry Point in Washington State. Here they can actually refine their crude and send it back as gasoline and diesel fuel. That happens every day. One ship goes through the Strait of Juan de Fuca every day.

So things have changed. They've changed in everything that we do. Technology takes us from an internal combustion engine that was pretty simple back in the thirties to something that is pretty complicated today.

I love old cars, so when I look under the hood of my '36 Ford pickup I can almost fix it. But I'll tell you, when I look under the hood of my wife's Explorer today, I can't fix it. In fact, I can barely find where you check the oil. Things have changed dramatically.

The technology's also changed significantly in how we refine oil and gas. The refining is changed entirely from how it was done 20 or even ten years ago. It's technological change that will take us forward.

That's what we need those young people in university to learn. We need them to learn more about our industry here in the province, to be able to go out there and be part of changing and building that industry.

We have just the most unbelievable opportunities in the province of British Columbia with everything that God has given us.

I thank you very much for inviting me here today. I appreciate it very much.

I'm going to ask you one more time. We have a Premier that works 24- hours- a- day, seven-days-a -week, for each and every one of you. I'd like to have you folks start writing some letters in support of some of the things that gentleman is doing on our behalf in the province of British Columbia, so we can continue to enjoy the great lifestyle that we have in B.C.

Thank you very much, folks. I appreciate it.