

**Premier Gordon Campbell
Achieve BC Launch
September 19, 2003**

Check Against Delivery

Let me thank you all for coming here today for what is a fairly special announcement. We have some students here from King George School, I want to say welcome to them. I want to say welcome to the culinary students from Vancouver Community College – I appreciate you being here.

We are also joined today by a number of MLAs and a number of significant achievers in British Columbia and I want to say thanks to all of them for coming as well. This is an incredible building, our library, the centre of knowledge, of learning.

It's a place where people can come and pursue their own goals, their own objectives, their own interests, and can build on their dreams individually, by themselves. It's a great treasure trove of knowledge and it's a tribute to human achievement.

It's a fitting place for us to launch Achieve BC. Achieve BC is about British Columbians being the best that they can possibly be. It's about connecting the interests of individuals with the tools that we develop in public life.

It's important that we remind ourselves of the great achievers that we've had in our province. It's important that we celebrate the inspiration that they give us all.

Just think back to Sir James Douglas, Nancy Greene Raine, Terry Fox, Rick Hansen, Jimmy Pattison, Bill Reid, Dr. Michael Smith, all of them great British Columbians who had their own dreams.

Each of those great British Columbian achievers would tell you that without the support of a great mentor, a great coach, a great teacher, they may not have been able to achieve all that they have on our behalf.

These halls are filled with the histories and the legacies of countless British Columbians who have left their mark not just on our province, but on humankind, that have left their mark on the history of the world.

Each of their contributions was unique. Each of their contributions was built out of their own goals, their own commitments, their own dreams, their own personal inspiration.

Whether it's a coach or a teacher, or your mother or father, each of you has someone who is a special inspiration to you. Achieve BC wants to be sure that we can allow you as a citizen to fulfill your goals.

For the first time, we're bringing together all of the tools for that in one open window of opportunity. It's our effort to try and provide parents with the tools that they require.

As a young parent, I can recall wanting to know what I would have to do and what I would have to learn to make sure that my children could be the best that they could possibly be.

In Achieve BC, you're going to see the connections between early childhood development. You're going to see the tools that parents can use, and we're going to try and make sure that we convert the new knowledge that is being created about young children's development and give it to people so they can use it in their day-to-day lives.

Through this new, innovative and integrated website, Achieve BC is available for all British Columbians, it's available for people across the country and around the world. It's there to deliver to parents the tools that they need.

Many parents say to us today, "Tell us about our schools, tell us what's taking place, tell us what we can do to help our children in those schools." If you go to the Achieve BC website, you'll find new tools that show you what's taking place in your school, what's going on in your curriculum, what your children are learning, and what you can do to help our young people as they strive to achieve their dreams.

Students have said to us they want to know what we offer. They want to know where the programs are that can connect them with their dreams – the training programs, the academic bursaries, the opportunities in region after region of the province, and this for the first time brings those all together.

There is a broad range of educational resources and tips and tools in one window, its one click away from a student's desires to discover what opportunities exist.

Early childhood development, children from K-12, advanced education, skills development and career planning can all be found in the Achieve BC opportunity. We hope these will be useful tools.

We have created an e-newsletter which we hope people will subscribe to. We want people to subscribe to it for this reason: we are doing our best to connect the information that's developed using your public resources with your needs.

If we can do better, if you need more, if you think that there are ways that we can connect in a more progressive and positive way, we want you to tell us. The e-newsletter will give you the opportunity to do that.

Over the next number of months the Achieve BC Pavilion will be travelling throughout our province. As it travels through our province, we're going to be asking the special achievers in communities all over British Columbia to talk to our young people, to talk to their communities about what they did, about what they learned. About what their

inspiration was in the hopes that it will help inspire others to reach for heights that are greater perhaps than they have in the past. It will feature great achievers from local communities that will inspire our young people and will inspire all of us as British Columbians.

There are free publications that are available for parents and students alike that will provide practical and useful information – not just through the website but through the pavilion.

There will be a 1-800 number to answer questions and provide information that people may request. I hope British Columbians will take advantage of this new initiative. It's an initiative that spans across government.

It's an initiative that says we recognize that the key resource that we have in this province is the people that live here. Our future will be built on the dreams of British Columbians. Our future will be built on our ability to provide them with the resources and the tools that they need to progress – to create the kind of world that they want, whether it's in their town, in their region, in their province or in our country.

As we celebrate great achievers remember that you are a great achiever in your own right. Remember that you can strive to achieve things that others may say are not in their realm. Remember that as you do that you carry us all forward. All British Columbians will be carried forward on the dreams that you have.

This is about who we are as a province. It's about what we can accomplish as a province. It's recognizing that as a province we are as strong as the people that live here. Our future is as broad and as bright as the one that you can dream about.

Whether you are going to be a groundbreaking scientist, whether you're going to be an architect or a chef, whether you're going to be someone who builds homes that are safe and secure and environmentally sustainable. However you decide to make your mark, whether it's in sports or the arts, in business, in culture, that will be your choice. Our goal is to try and connect you with those choices. To connect you with the tools that you need to accomplish your objectives.

I hope that you will join me in celebrating the achievements of British Columbians because we will join you in helping you reach your goals. Remember the threat to us is not that we set our sights to high, it's that we set our sights to low.

Let's reach together. Let's reach together to set the example for our country and for our province. Let's reach together to learn from one another and let's be sure that you as British Columbians know that Achieve BC is here to help you.

Achieve BC is here to make sure that you reach your goals and your objectives. I want to thank you for being here. I want to thank all the achievement ambassadors for being here.

They will be going across British Columbia over the next little while to share Achieve BC with people in 40 different communities across the province.

Danielle, Jordan, Taylor, Sharon, Scott, Devon, Blake, these are the people that are going to celebrate achievement all over British Columbia and I want us all to give them a very warm kick off. Thank you all very much.

Let me say thank you to all of you for being here. Thank you for the achievements you've had in the past, thank you to the great achievers that we've had that have set the example for each of us to follow.

Thank you to the young people of the province for dreaming their dreams, and thank you for being here today as we launch Achieve BC.