

Remarks at Globe 2004 Conference
Premier Gordon Campbell
March 31, 2004

Check Against Delivery

It's great to think back on the history of Globe and what you've managed to accomplish. When Globe was first initiated, it was an idea to bring people together and talk about how we can have both a strong economy and a sustainable environment – and the economic opportunities of sustainability.

The ideas that emerge out of events like this are already having a significant impact and we can see that in the world around us today as people's awareness of environmental issues continues to rise.

I'm pleased to be here today with our Minister of Small Business and Economic Development, John Les. He will be continuing to work tirelessly to build an economy that enhances the reputation of our province as a beautiful place to live and as a place that strives to lead the world in environmental technologies.

It's a pleasure to be back with Maurice Strong. Maurice comes every two years to see whether I'm keeping up or not. He said that he will only stop when I actually get it right. So Maurice, I appreciate you coming back and giving me my reports. It's very helpful.

I heard that Maurice ran away from home once at the age of 14, and his father found him here in Vancouver. But you're always welcome back, Maurice, whenever you want to come, and we're glad you're back at home in 2004.

In this morning's plenary discussion, you're going to hear today from some excellent people about building sustainability in the twenty-first century. As we go through our daily lives, it's important for us to occasionally reflect back on the progress that has been made.

Here in British Columbia we are already a leader in green energy. Eighty-five per cent of the energy we use in our province is hydro generated, and 50 per cent of all of our new power generation is going to come from clean power sources. We're achieving that through private-sector investment in innovative approaches like wind technologies, tidal technologies, biomass technologies, and run of river technologies. In the last year, we've announced \$800 million in 16 clean energy projects scattered across the province to help feed the growing energy needs of our economy.

One of the things that British Columbians are proudest of is that we are the centre of an awful lot of research – especially in hydrogen technologies. In fact, we're Canada's leader in that thanks to people like you. Twenty-five years ago, Geoffrey Ballard, Keith Prater and Paul Howard got together and laid the foundation for Ballard Power Systems. Today, because of their work and their ambition, we have a fuel-cell program that is

reaching across the world. One-point-eight billion dollars in private investment has now been generated by our hydrogen industry, providing 1,300 jobs right across our province. They're leaders in hydrogen fuel cells, in hydrogen generation and storage, and in hydrogen transport and fuelling infrastructure.

One of our challenges as we look to the future is how we continue to build on that research and transfer it into the real world. We have a great opportunity to do that here.

If you meet anyone from the British Columbia government, you'll see them wearing the 'Spirit of 2010' pin. For those of you who don't know, British Columbia will be hosting the 2010 Winter Olympics and Paralympic Games right here in Vancouver – you're all invited back to watch Canada win a lot of gold medals.

We've set 2010 as a goalpost for our entire province. One of our goals is to establish a hydrogen highway between Victoria, Vancouver and Whistler by 2010 to start to show the practical uses of that hydrogen technology in transportation.

I want you to imagine what actually could happen with that. You could arrive at the Vancouver Airport. You could be transferred to a hydrogen-driven bus that would take you up to Whistler. It could be refuelled in Whistler and come back, and there would be absolutely no impact on the environment whatsoever. That's the kind of transportation system we're all searching for, and we're confident we can do it here in B.C.

I'm very pleased that our friends from the 2006 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games in Torino are here today. We met with them yesterday and they told us they are looking at how they can take hydrogen technology and maybe use that in 2006.

I don't know how many of you have ever been to Beijing, but in Beijing they could use a little bit of hydrogen technology for 2008. I don't know how many of you have ever been to New Delhi, but New Delhi could sure use a little bit of hydrogen technology for 2010 when they host the Commonwealth Games. In Shanghai they could use the hydrogen technology as they host Expo 2010.

If we take that critical mass of global events that bring people together and show them the new uses of this new energy source in transportation, I think we may find the critical mass of activity that brings that technology through – so we're using hydrogen technology not just in transportation but in everyday life for storage opportunities, for connecting to the Internet, for individual appliances. All of those things are possible if we think big enough, if we work hard enough and if we work together as a global community. We're looking forward to leading that effort in British Columbia, and we're looking forward to finding partners who will help us achieve and accomplish those goals.

It's also important that we think to ourselves about the kind of future we want to leave to the next generation and the kind of environmental health that we want to leave the world in. It means that all of us are going to have to think differently. It means that all of us are going to have to act differently. I won't be what governments tell us to do. It will be what

we decide to do. It will be not how governments tell us to act. It will be how we each, as individuals, decide to act.

One of the critical things that Globe does is it says: let's come together. Let's share ideas. Let's get excited by our imaginations and how we can put those imaginations to work for the global community in a way that's powerful, in a way that generates the kind of commitment to critical mass of activity that will make a real difference in the long term for all of us.

All of us in this world, on this planet, need to find new ways of moving forward. We need to find new ways of developing opportunities to improve our environment and to blend our commitment to the environment with strong and healthy economic activity. I believe that Globe helps us do that – helps us see a future that's different and helps us find new pathways to reach that future.

I want to thank you for coming and being part of this. It's an important event for our province. It's an important event for our country. I'd like to thank our panelists for coming today and sharing with you their thoughts on a sustainable twenty-first century.

We are at the beginning of a century of change. We're at the beginning of a century of improvement. Those improvements will be driven by powerful ideas and people who are committed fully to the implementation of those ideas in communities around the world. That's what Globe is about. That's what you are about, and on behalf of the people of my province, I want to say thank you. Thank you for your contribution. Thank you for your commitment, and welcome to Globe 2004.