

Premier Gordon Campbell
Opening Remarks at Globe 2002
March 14, 2002

Check Against Delivery

Let me start by saying how pleased I am to have such an exceptional turnout for Globe 2002. This morning we heard from people who have vast experience in coming together to look for solutions to the social, economic and environmental challenges we face.

(Federal Environment) Minister (David) Anderson has taken on the task of making sure Canada is an environmental leader – and of course that means he’s going to be following the lead of British Columbia on a regular basis, since British Columbia will be leading the country.

To have 65 countries represented from around the world and brought to British Columbia for Globe 2002 is certainly something we value. This is an opportunity to come together and to confront the challenges that face us all.

It’s been said that national governments are too small to deal with the big problems of life and too big to deal with the small problems of life. One of the things we want to do in our province and our country is to create a framework that allows every citizen and every enterprise to join with us as we provide for long-term, sustainable husbandry of our incredible resources.

Here in British Columbia we take great pride in our environmental industry and environmental technologies. I invite all delegates to visit our BC Pavilion, where you will learn about a company that has shown leadership in alternative energy production, environmental stewardship, wastewater management and solid waste management.

That leadership says there are solutions to the problems that have confronted us in a world of over six billion people, where each of us as an individual has an impact on the environment. I believe one of the most positive tools we have is to build understanding amongst our citizenry.

There is not a community in this province that does not value our environmental resources and assets. One of our challenges is to celebrate the successes we have – no matter how small they may feel – so we can build momentum. Each of you in your endeavours helps to create an environment and a vehicle to move us toward positive, constructive changes.

In British Columbia we believe we have to encourage research and development. As you go through your meetings over the next three days, you will hear from people from our academic institutions – from Simon Fraser University, from the University of Northern British Columbia, from UBC, from Royal Roads – talking about their undertakings.

As a government we have initiated 20 B.C. leadership chairs. One of the critical research areas for those chairs to focus their endeavours will be environmental stewardship. They will be looking at how we can be part of our environment in a constructive and thoughtful way.

Our province is vast and diverse, and I hope over the next three days you will learn to appreciate the great assets we have. They are assets we cherish; they are assets we intend to improve upon.

In our province we also look toward business as a source of innovation, imagination and improvement. We look at the twin goals of environmental sustainability and a healthy economy to improve the quality of life for every British Columbian.

We face a number of challenges. The first time I spoke to a Globe Conference was 10 years ago today, when I was mayor of Vancouver. I talked of a number of issues we were confronting in Vancouver and in this region. I am proud of the fact that this is one of the most livable places in the world. And I'm even prouder of the fact that each local government in each community is looking for plans and tools and a map that will allow them to make their community even more livable, even more sustainable, even more positive.

I want to thank all the delegates who are here supporting this endeavour as we reach out to learn from one another – to think about what we can do, to imagine a better future and to talk about ways that we can get there.

Thank you very much, welcome to British Columbia, and have a great Global 2002.