

PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

# STRATEGIC

# PLAN

2018/19 - 2021/22





We are working for the people of British Columbia to help build a better province for everyone. We're setting a new direction for government, and over the next three years, we will focus on three key priorities:

- ▶ *Making life more affordable.*
- ▶ *Delivering services people count on.*
- ▶ *Building a strong, sustainable economy.*

In conjunction with Budget 2018/19, we look forward to doing even more for the people of B.C.: affordable child care, housing that families can afford, help for people affected by mental health and addictions, health care where and when people need it, and good-paying jobs that last, in every community.

# Making life more affordable

Too many families were left behind for too long. We are working to make life more affordable and increase opportunity for all British Columbians.

## Affordable housing

***We need to step up the delivery of safe, affordable housing for everyone.***

Whether someone is a senior on a fixed income, a young person trying to get started in life, or a parent who needs a place to raise their children, everyone deserves an affordable place to call home. Yet too many people in our province cannot afford housing close to their work, families, friends and support networks.

Every person deserves safe, reliable, affordable housing.

Vacancy rates are at historically low levels and rents are quickly rising. The cost of home ownership is out of reach for many families and first-time homebuyers as prices are disconnected from local incomes. People with stable jobs and incomes are finding it difficult to rent or purchase a home. People with low incomes have even fewer housing options, and homelessness is growing in communities throughout the province.

This has far-reaching implications for our economy. Not only are businesses finding it difficult to expand and help grow the economy, they are challenged to attract and retain workers, due to high housing costs and tight rental markets.

Our first steps to address B.C.'s housing crisis include:

- ▶ *closing legal loopholes that allowed landlords to apply exorbitant rent increases;*
- ▶ *improving support for tenants and landlords through residential tenancy services;*
- ▶ *building 2,000 supportive homes for the homeless, in partnership with communities; and*
- ▶ *funding 1,700 new affordable homes throughout B.C.*

There is much more to do.

The scale and complexity of the problem means we cannot take a piecemeal approach and we cannot expect change to happen overnight. That is precisely why we need to take bold steps today and work in lock-step with governments, the housing sector and other partners to make housing more affordable.

Our government will make the largest housing investments in B.C. history. We will take steps to stabilize the out-of-control real estate market, build homes people need, increase the safety, security and affordability of the rental market, and support our partners to build and protect affordable housing. Government's plan is revealed in the comprehensive housing plan document, Homes for B.C.

## Child care

***Every family deserves accessible, affordable quality child care.***

We know the child-care challenges facing families: long wait lists for care that is more and more expensive, which leads families to stay home and not enter the workforce, hurting businesses and our economy too. Building an affordable, accessible and quality child-care system is finally underway in B.C. as part of our 10-year plan that will result in care for every child whose family wants it.

By bringing fees down for parents, building more licensed spaces and working to ensure there are enough qualified early-childhood educators to take care of young children, we are taking the first steps toward a universal, made-in-B.C. child care program.

Transforming the child-care sector will take time, but done right, it will mean parents will have access to licensed family homes and day-care centres. Parents will be able to afford to send their kids there as rates will be reduced through the biggest investment any government in B.C. has ever made in child care.

## Minimum wage

***Increasing the minimum wage is about helping working people in their everyday struggle to make ends meet.***

Hardworking people who make minimum wage deserve a raise. We are on the path to \$15 an hour by June 2021, with stable and predictable increases to give business confidence, as well as hope to the people who are working two or three jobs to make ends meet.

Government appointed the Fair Wages Commission in 2017 to consult British Columbians on the best path to get to a \$15-an-hour minimum wage. The commission recommended a reasonable, balanced approach to increases over time after visiting communities throughout B.C. and hearing from employers, workers, business organizations, union groups, academics, community stakeholders and low-wage workers. The commission's recommendations are being implemented, with the first of four scheduled increases coming in June 2018.

In the coming months, the commission will return with recommendations on how to deal with alternate minimum wages for some professions, including the liquor server rate and piece rates for harvesters of certain fruits and vegetables. In addition, the commission will engage in further work in the balance of the year to provide government with recommendations on how to address the gap between the minimum wage and a living wage.

Raising the minimum wage in June 2018 will immediately put more money back into the wallets of almost 94,000 people in B.C. and help us compete with wages paid in other provinces, like Ontario and Alberta. By 2021, government's planned increases to the minimum wage will lift about 400,000 workers to \$15 an hour, which will help lift many on to a path out of poverty. These increases are measured, they are reasonable, and they provide the predictability and certainty that businesses need.

# Delivering services people count on

## People rely on government to deliver the services they need.

Quality public services are the foundation of a province and an economy that is working for people. Government will continue to make smart investments in public services to make sure they are available, reliable and affordable for everyone.

## Mental health and addictions

### ***We must tackle B.C.'s overdose crisis, and expand mental health and addiction services for those who need them.***

In 2017, we lost 1,422 British Columbians to illicit drug overdoses. Fentanyl was detected in approximately 81% of these deaths. These were mothers and fathers, daughters and sons, friends and co-workers. Most of these people died alone and were not able to ask for help they needed.

This problem has no regard for age, wealth, status or race. We need to stop stigmatizing, start sympathizing and take decisive action. This problem is difficult and complex, and no one should have to fight it alone.

We are expanding treatment, opening rapid-access clinics, stepping up our awareness campaigns to help reduce stigma, and giving police the tools they need to fight fentanyl in our neighbourhoods, communities and cities.

The overdose crisis disproportionately affects Indigenous peoples and First Nations communities. We are working with Indigenous partners, including the First Nations Health Authority and other sectors, to identify actions to save lives and provide better, more culturally appropriate supports.

Real solutions take time, but we are also focused on some early actions that we know can make an immediate difference in the lives of people. These actions will also help form the building blocks of a new mental-health and addictions system. Above all, we are listening to British Columbians, including people with lived experience, so we can design services and supports that better meet people's needs. This is why we created the new Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions: to make a difference in people's lives.

## Improved health-care services

### ***People rely on government to deliver quality health care, where and when they need it.***

No one wants to wait for hours with their child in an emergency department, worry about the care their elderly parents are receiving, be faced with long wait lists for surgery, or struggle with the cost of prescription medication. We believe in the strength of our publicly funded health-care system and its ability to provide the services and care people need when they need it.

Giving people access to the health care and health-care professionals that they need to get better and stay healthy is key to improving health and well-being.

We will work with family doctors, nurse practitioners, nurses and other health-care professionals to bring health-care teams together. By connecting patients to teams of providers, we will better address everyday health issues, reduce hospitalizations and emergency department visits, and improve patient outcomes and experience for people with chronic diseases and support long-term health needs, like home care.

When people need surgical care, they need better information about their surgery and the time it will take to get it. They also need faster access to surgical care with the right followup care and support. We are working with the health authorities to reduce wait times, implement best practices around wait-list management, standardize care and improve patient experience.

By building and expanding hospitals and public health-care facilities, we will start to relieve pressure on our hospitals and make sure every British Columbian can get public health care when they need it. These projects will create jobs and stimulate economic activity, while helping deliver the services people need. Projects include:

- ▶ *Concept planning is underway for a new Surrey hospital.*
- ▶ *The first phase of the Penticton Regional Hospital Patient Care Tower will see people benefit from a surgical services centre, a helipad and space to allow the expansion of the UBC faculty of medicine program. It will be open to patients in spring 2019.*
- ▶ *The Royal Inland Hospital Patient Care Tower in Kamloops involves renovations to the existing hospital building, including expansion of the emergency department. Construction is expected to begin in fall 2018.*
- ▶ *People living in the Cariboo region are one step closer to getting a redeveloped Cariboo Memorial Hospital in Williams Lake as the concept plan has been approved.*

After a lifetime of hard work, seniors deserve respect and quality care. Yet last year, 85% of seniors care homes did not meet the minimum number of hours of care per day, as reported by the Seniors Advocate. Many seniors were left alone without a helping hand or the care they needed.

Government will give seniors caring support and help them live in dignity, whether in care homes or their own homes. We will do this by increasing the time caregivers spend with seniors, providing more supports to family members caring for elderly loved ones and training more people to meet future demands for care.

## Anti-poverty strategy

### ***Lifting people and families out of poverty makes our province stronger.***

British Columbia is one of Canada's wealthiest provinces. It also has the highest poverty rate of any province in our country. We will address this imbalance by developing B.C.'s first Poverty Reduction Strategy; a strategy that will reduce inequality, create opportunity and improve the services people count on.

A comprehensive public consultation process is underway to help shape this strategy, with public meetings in 28 communities throughout the province, a website for people to share their feedback and ideas, and a dedicated Indigenous engagement process. These discussions will help us clearly see the challenges people face, so that we can bring forward meaningful and effective solutions.

The Poverty Reduction Strategy will include targets and timelines that will make clear where we need to go and how we will get there. We will work closely with our partners to deliver on those targets and remove the barriers that keep people trapped in poverty.

## Education, post-secondary and skills training

***From young students eager to learn, to adults training to earn the skills they need to join the workforce, an investment in education is an investment in our future.***

B.C. has one of the top performing education systems in the world and we want to continually make it even better for our students, B.C.'s leaders of the future. We will keep working hard to raise the six-year completion rate and increase the number of students who go on to a post-secondary education. Our vision is to further boost student achievement and grad rates for B.C.'s students, so they can have a bright future. We will continue focusing on supporting those who need it most.

We believe in inclusive education and that all students should have equitable access to learning opportunities. Schools work hard to ensure proper supports are in place for students, and the ministry is committed to supporting school districts, so they can improve services to children. As part of that effort, we are considering how to improve learning conditions for children with diverse learning needs in our review of education funding in B.C.

This is an unprecedented year for K-12 education in B.C., as school districts have funded almost 3,700 new teaching positions in 2017/18, the largest teacher hiring campaign in B.C.'s history. Government has fast tracked funding as districts have worked tirelessly to successfully fill positions and ensure supports are in place for students. Smaller class sizes benefit students' learning.

We are also accelerating the Seismic Mitigation Program to make schools safer for our kids. There are many schools in B.C. still left to be seismically upgraded. We are working to change this as we collaborate with school boards and local municipal officials to meet an ambitious timeline, so we can get schools upgraded quickly so our children will be learning in safer schools. There is a backlog of projects that need to be approved, and we are looking to move projects to approval at a higher rate in our first 18 months. A total of \$1.3 billion is dedicated specifically to the Seismic Mitigation Program.

We are looking hard at how we can improve the approvals process to increase the pace of building schools, from green light to ground breaking. Where new spaces are needed, we will work with school districts and local governments to find ways to speed up funding approvals to address pressures in fast-growing districts, so students can get into new learning environments faster. \$2.0 billion is budgeted for capital spending over the next three years.

Learning doesn't end after high school. As students transition to post-secondary, trades or other skills training, we want to be sure they have the tools and information they need to find the right career path.

The Study North BC campaign in September 2017 was launched to strengthen the public post-secondary education system by encouraging more students to study and live in the region.

Access to post-secondary education and training means it needs to be more affordable for British Columbians, so the Province cut the provincial student loan interest rate by 2.5%, effective Aug. 1, 2017, benefiting about 60,000 B.C. students.

By eliminating tuition fees for Adult Basic Education and English Language Learning programs as of Sept. 1, 2017, we are opening doors previously closed to thousands of people.

Safe campuses are extremely important. That's why we launched a public engagement campaign to raise awareness about sexualized violence prevention and response policies at post-secondary institutions, and to invite feedback to find out what more can be done to prevent sexual violence on campus.

We are connecting more than 10,000 students and 1,000 adults with career information and hands-on experience through the Find Your Fit tour that began in November 2017 and concludes March 2018. It includes more than 70 tour stops in more than 60 communities with an investment of \$1.3 million in the tour.

## Safe communities

### ***Feeling safe in our homes and communities is something all British Columbians deserve.***

In support of work already underway to address the opioid public-health emergency, we have already committed \$31.3 million over three years to address critical public safety initiatives, including:

- ▶ *Disrupting the drug supply line in our neighbourhoods by working through our RCMP and Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit (CFSEU-BC) to provide new dedicated anti-trafficking teams with additional officers and support staff.*
- ▶ *Stemming the flow of fentanyl into our province by increasing financial support for all police agencies for enforcement against organized crime importers and traffickers, through the province's gang unit (CFSEU-BC), including more funding for dedicated enforcement activities that specifically target the high-level traffickers.*
- ▶ *Shielding police officers from exposure and related dangers by increasing their Naloxone training and supply, as well as special equipment, like detection and protective gear.*
- ▶ *Funding to explore the creation of new provincial legislation, such as regulating pill presses and tableting machines to give additional enforcement tools to police.*

We are also providing more than \$7 million over the next three years to the BC Coroners Service, specifically to expand the Drug-Death Investigations Team. This will help to resolve a backlog, address the significant increase in workload and lab testing, and produce timely, accurate data to inform new strategies in this ongoing public health crisis.

The impacts of natural disasters in B.C. and across Canada produce significant economic, social and physical strain on individuals, communities and all levels of government.

The number and severity of emergencies and disasters that challenge people, communities and all levels of government are increasing due to the diversity of natural and human-caused hazards, climate change and the ongoing expansion of the urban environment. Emergency management requires co-ordinated prevention and mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery efforts to: minimize loss of life and suffering; protect health, property, infrastructure and the environment; limit economic loss; and reduce the potential social impacts of all hazards.

We have listened to the input from 48,951 British Columbians – as well as submissions from 141 local and Indigenous governments and other interested stakeholders – on a range of issues related to the regulation of non-medical cannabis in B.C., including:

- ▶ *minimum age*
- ▶ *personal possession*
- ▶ *public consumption*
- ▶ *drug-impaired driving*
- ▶ *personal cultivation*
- ▶ *wholesale distribution*
- ▶ *retail models*



Our provincial regulatory framework sets the stage for the legal and responsible use of cannabis by British Columbians. British Columbia's top priorities are protecting young people, promoting health and safety, keeping the criminal element out of cannabis, keeping our roads safe, and supporting economic development.

## Electoral reform

### ***British Columbians deserve to have their say on how they elect their representatives.***

We introduced legislation to allow for a referendum on electoral reform in 2018, we engaged British Columbians through a public process to gauge what kind of an electoral system that they want, and we will be holding a referendum on changing the voting system later this year.

British Columbians will get to decide whether it keeps its current voting system (first past the post) or if it moves to a system of proportional representation. As British Columbia is such a diverse province, these are important steps to modernize and shape our democracy, while giving people the power to decide the future of our most fundamental democratic institution.

As of early February 2018, the public engagement process has drawn 84,400 visitors to the How We Vote website, and more than 44,100 British Columbians have completed the questionnaire designed to shape the referendum on B.C.'s voting system. British Columbians were asked about key elements of the referendum, including ballot design, choice of voting systems and public funding distribution during the referendum campaign period.

## Human rights

### ***B.C. is re-establishing its human rights commission.***

Our province is a place where fairness, inclusiveness and respect are essential to our future. Together, we must work to eliminate inequality and prevent discrimination based on race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression. This fall, B.C. will continue on the path to renewing the B.C. human rights commission, because everyone should be made to feel a welcome part of our province's economy, culture and future. The commission will help to build a safer and more inclusive society.

After an eight-week public engagement, government is considering 25 recommendations for establishing a new human rights commission that focuses on education and awareness as key components of dismantling and preventing systemic discrimination. The report recommends a human rights commission that functions independently from government, by reporting directly to the legislature and holds government accountable through research, investigation, policy development and recommendation functions.

# Building a strong, sustainable economy

**We are committed to building a better B.C., where all regions of the province are benefiting from good jobs and investment.**

Your government's vision for a fair and inclusive society will be built from the foundation of a healthy, growing economy and from a clear understanding that we must create wealth in order to share it.

Opportunities for people go hand-in-hand with economic growth. Business success must translate into progress for B.C. families and B.C. workers. And a vibrant, diverse and growing economy supports the services communities count on.

We will grow our economy, and foster prosperity that is sustainable and broadly shared with British Columbians.

A strong economy needs thriving industry, innovative entrepreneurship, flourishing small businesses, a well-educated and diverse workforce, good jobs and sustainable growth. B.C. is already an economic leader in Canada, with the fastest employment growth among all provinces in 2017, and the lowest unemployment rate in Canada. B.C.'s economic growth was strong in 2017, following two consecutive years leading the country in real GDP growth.

We have a balanced budget that shares our province's prosperity with people. We have fiscal stability, competitive tax rates and a triple-A credit rating. Retail sales, housing starts and exports exceeded expectations in 2017. Private-sector forecasters expect B.C. to come in near the top of the provincial rankings in economic growth in 2018 and 2019.

A strong small business sector directly supports new jobs and helps build a sustainable and innovative economy that works for everyone. That's why we have reduced the small business corporate income tax last year by 20% – from 2.5% to 2%, retroactively to April 1, 2017. Small businesses in B.C. now benefit from the second-lowest small business tax rate in Canada.

The Province also cut the PST on non-residential electricity in half and will eliminate it on those purchases by April 1, 2019, which will translate into savings of more than \$150 million annually for B.C. businesses. Industry will also reap considerable savings.

As part of our strategy to continue to grow the economy in every sector and every corner of the province, government has established an Emerging Economy Task Force, Innovation Commissioner and Innovation Commission, and a Small Business Task Force.

Strengthening B.C.'s knowledge-based sectors provincewide will help build an innovative economy that works for everyone. Growing B.C.'s already strong technology sector will help create more life-sustaining jobs and further strengthen the province's diverse economy. We are working to establish B.C. as a preferred location for new and emerging technologies by supporting venture-capital investment in B.C. start-ups and taking measures to increase the growth of local tech companies. Supporting B.C. tech and innovation will also benefit B.C.'s resource-based industries, providing opportunities for modernization and improving their sustainability.

## Supporting industry

***Our tourism, resource-based and creative industries are helping drive our economy.***

Tourism is a critical industry to B.C.'s economy, and a significant provider of sustainable jobs, supporting families throughout the province.

B.C.'s film industry is thriving and is a leader in our province's creative, innovative economy. B.C. is the largest hub for visual effects production in North America, and is world-renowned for the calibre of its local production talent. Budgeted motion picture production expenditures in B.C. reached an estimated \$2.6 billion in fiscal year 2016/17, an all-time high for the industry.

Government is committed to expanding the opportunities for British Columbians to join this rapidly growing industry and bringing even more world-class productions to the province.

Forestry is an integral part of government's vision for a sustainable economy that works for all British Columbians. It is one of B.C.'s founding industries and remains a key economic driver today, directly supporting 60,000 families in over 140 communities. We will work with First Nations, communities and industry to create the most value out of every B.C. log.

British Columbia's government is in the process of creating a roadmap for the future of the province's energy sector that will drive innovation, expand energy-efficiency and conservation programs, generate new energy responsibly and sustainably, and create lasting, good jobs around the province.

The potential of a diluted bitumen spill in B.C.'s pristine coastal waters poses a significant risk to our economy and our environment. Government committed to use every tool available to protect B.C.'s interests against the significant harms an oil spill will cause. Our first step was to appear as interveners in a federal Court of Appeal hearing. We also engaged at the National Energy Board to uphold provincial jurisdiction, including powers to oversee permitting and ensure that the environment and public safety is protected. We will continue to explore other ways to protect the interests of British Columbians against the significant harms an oil spill will cause.

British Columbia's agrifood and seafood sectors are more important than ever, both in helping us address our province's food security needs, and as key components of our economy that provide employment and livelihoods to more than 63,000 British Columbians.

The B.C. government is working to support the farmers, ranchers, producers and processors that grow or make the food we enjoy every day, and to increase opportunities for the entrepreneurs, family-owned businesses and larger companies with a B.C. workforce that form the sector.

## Reconciliation with First Nations

***It's imperative that we work toward true, lasting reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.***

Government's commitment to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action and the Tsilhqot'in Supreme Court decision is the foundation of its work with Indigenous peoples. B.C. is pursuing its reconciliation commitments in a manner that is transformative and collaborative, ensuring Indigenous peoples – whether First Nations, Métis or Inuit, on-reserve or off – are deeply and directly involved in all aspects of the development of any strategy, program, policy or legislation that may affect them.

B.C.'s engagement efforts in 2018/19 are laying the foundation for future relationships with Indigenous peoples, supporting a cultural transformation in the way government designs and develops policy, programs and services. Such transformation will increase Indigenous collaboration in decision-making and promote constructive engagement with Indigenous communities, as well as federal, municipal and economic partners.

Indigenous communities contribute to a strong, sustainable, and innovative economy. B.C. is working to ensure Indigenous communities have the capacity to become full partners in the province's economic success. This means addressing systemic barriers, such as health, poverty, access to education, housing, justice, training and revitalization of Indigenous languages and culture. All of these areas are important to achieve a cross-government vision of reconciliation.

Support for campaigns like the Orange Shirt Day campaign help highlight the need to address the effects of inter-generational trauma of residential schools and the Moose Hide campaign highlights the need for men to stand up against violence toward women and children. B.C. has signed a memorandum of understanding with the British Columbia Aboriginal Justice Council toward the development of a B.C. Indigenous Justice Strategy to address key issues that affect Indigenous peoples when interacting with the justice system.

B.C. wants to shift how it negotiates government-to-government agreements with First Nations, exploring new topics and approaches to collaboratively implement rights and title. B.C. is focused on improved participation of Indigenous communities in the process of growing the economy.

B.C. recognizes that transformative change starts from within. In November 2017, B.C. launched its Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan to attract, develop and retain diverse talent to the BC Public Service. By making the BC Public Service a more inclusive and welcoming work place for Indigenous peoples, B.C. can expand the job opportunities available and ensure that Indigenous worldviews become embedded into the fabric of B.C. policy and legislative bodies.

Over the last 10 years, the high school completion rate for Indigenous students has increased by 19%. This is a step in the right direction, but there is more work to be done to ensure Indigenous students can reach their full potential. To engage Indigenous learners, we're implementing the First Nations history curriculum, and developing more full-course offerings in Indigenous languages.

We are also working, at all levels, to reduce the disproportionate number of Indigenous children in the child-welfare system. We will work to fully implement the recommendations from Grand Chief Ed John's report and shift our focus to prevention and early years, supporting families to stay together, providing culturally appropriate services and strengthening cultural connections.

We are focusing on renewable, modern energy sources like wind, solar and other clean energy projects for our province's future needs, and we will ensure First Nations and local communities benefit. British Columbia's Innovative Clean Energy Fund will be reinvigorated to boost investments in ground-breaking new energy technologies, climate change solutions, and community-focussed energy projects.

## Transportation and Infrastructure

***Government can get people moving by working on new transit and transportation projects.***

The communities we live in, roads we drive on, hospitals for patients and schools for our kids all depend on a sustained investment in transportation and infrastructure. Government is making smart investments to grow B.C. and create opportunities for people.

To make life more affordable for Lower Mainland drivers, we eliminated unfair tolls on the Port Mann and Golden Ears bridges, which went into effect on Sept. 1, 2017. A driver who commutes to and from work each day on the Port Mann Bridge is saving up to \$1,500 a year, and a commercial truck driver who makes one round trip a day is saving over \$4,500 a year.

We're also committed to making ferry travel more affordable. Government is working with BC Ferries to freeze fares on the major routes connecting Vancouver Island to the mainland, roll back fares on the minor routes by 15%, and reinstate the 100% discount on the passenger fare for seniors travelling from Monday to Thursday. We have begun a comprehensive review of the coastal ferry service, to make sure our ferry system is working as efficiently and effectively as possible.

In addition to upgrading our schools and hospitals, we're also committed to rehabilitating highways and bridges throughout British Columbia, and to building new infrastructure where it is needed. We will continue to invest in transportation infrastructure for the safe, reliable and efficient movement of people and goods.

We have an incredible opportunity to make sure all people in our province can fully participate in new economic opportunities and services by connecting rural communities to faster and better digital services.

The people of British Columbia depend on a reliable broadband connection to conduct business, and access health care, education and public services, no matter where they live in the province. Connectivity is the foundation to several government priorities, including those for rural, First Nations and Indigenous communities.

We are working collaboratively with other levels of government and the private sector to expand high-speed internet coverage throughout the province.

## Climate strategy

***We will take meaningful steps to protect our environment and invest in an innovative economy.***

Climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our generation and touches on almost every decision government makes about B.C.'s future. We need to get to work on reducing emissions and ensuring the province is on track to meet the legislated requirement of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80% from 2007 levels by 2050.

Recent data has shown a trend toward rising emissions, which is why government is setting legislated targets to provide benchmarks on the way to that 2050 target.

A carbon tax increase of \$5 per tonne per year, beginning April 1, 2018, will ensure B.C. meets the federal requirement of a \$50-per-tonne carbon by 2022. To offset this increase, low- and modest-income families will receive climate-action tax credits, meaning those British Columbians will end up with more money in their pockets. As the price goes up, government will take steps to help

families, and ensure emissions-intensive industries remain competitive and protect jobs, while reducing their emissions.

As part of B.C.'s climate action strategy, the Province is building a low-carbon economy, creating thousands of new jobs for British Columbians. We are also working with both the federal government and industry to address emissions-intensive trade-exposed industries.

By supporting innovation, we are helping these industries to adapt and thrive in a modern economy as they reduce emissions. Additionally, by investing in transit, clean tech and energy efficiency, we can fight climate pollution and make life more affordable for families.

The new Climate Solutions and Clean Growth Advisory Council will advise government on how to achieve our climate objectives efficiently and effectively, while growing our clean economy and helping British Columbians come out ahead.

## A better future, together

We have set some ambitious goals over the next three years that put people first. Government can transform lives, creating a better future for everyone.

This is a government that listens, that cares, but that also gets working on the issues that matter most to its citizens. By making life more affordable, delivering services people count on, and building a strong, sustainable economy, we will enhance the everyday lives of British Columbians.

We will work hard to get the results for British Columbians that will make a positive difference in their lives.



