

Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services
**REPORT ON THE BUDGET 2019
CONSULTATION**



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
of BRITISH COLUMBIA

NOVEMBER 2018
THIRD SESSION
OF THE 41ST PARLIAMENT



November 15, 2018

To the Honourable
Legislative Assembly of the
Province of British Columbia

Honourable Members:

I have the honour to present herewith the First Report of the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services for the Third Session of the 41st Parliament.

The Report covers the work of the Committee in regard to the Budget 2019 Consultation, and was unanimously approved by the Committee.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Committee,

Bob D'Eith, MLA
Chair

Table of Contents

Composition of the Committee	i
Terms of Reference	ii
Foreword by the Committee	1
Executive Summary	2
Advanced Education	8
Economic Development	15
Environment	24
Fiscal Policy	29
Health Care	35
Housing	45
K-12 Education	51
Public Safety and Justice	58
Social Services	63
Sport, Arts and Culture	69
Transportation and Transit	73
Summary of Recommendations	79
Appendix A: Survey Results	89
Appendix B: Public Hearing Participants	94
Appendix C: Written, Video and Audio Submissions	99
Appendix D: Survey Participants	102

Composition of the Committee

Members

Bob D'Eith, MLA	Chair	Maple Ridge-Mission
Dan Ashton, MLA	Deputy Chair	Penticton
Jagrup Brar, MLA <i>(to September 5, 2018)</i>		Surrey-Fleetwood
Stephanie Cadieux, MLA		Surrey South
Mitzi Dean, MLA		Esquimalt-Metchosin
Sonia Furstenau, MLA <i>(from July 26, 2018)</i>		Cowichan Valley
Ronna-Rae Leonard, MLA		Courtenay-Comox
Peter Milobar, MLA		Kamloops-North Thompson
Tracy Redies, MLA		Surrey-White Rock
Nicholas Simons, MLA <i>(from September 5, 2018)</i>		Powell River-Sunshine Coast
Dr. Andrew Weaver, MLA <i>(to July 26, 2018)</i>		Oak Bay-Gordon Head

Committee Staff

Jennifer Arril, Committee Clerk

Karan Riarh, Committee Research Analyst

Nicki Simpson and Willi Fahning, Committee Researchers

Terms of Reference

On February 26, 2018, the Legislative Assembly agreed that the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services be empowered:

1. To examine, inquire into and make recommendations with respect to the budget consultation paper prepared by the Minister of Finance in accordance with section 2 of the *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act*, S.B.C. 2000, c.23 and, in particular, to:
 - a. Conduct public consultations across British Columbia on proposals and recommendations regarding the provincial budget and fiscal policy for the coming fiscal year by any means the committee considers appropriate;
 - b. Prepare a report no later than November 15, 2017 on the results of those consultations; and
2. a. To consider and make recommendations on the annual reports, rolling three-year service plans and budgets of the following statutory officers:
 - i. Auditor General
 - ii. Chief Electoral Officer
 - iii. Conflict of Interest Commissioner
 - iv. Information and Privacy Commissioner
 - v. Merit Commissioner
 - vi. Ombudsperson
 - vii. Police Complaint Commissioner
 - viii. Representative for Children and Youth; and
- b. To examine, inquire into and make recommendations with respect to other matters brought to the Committee's attention by any of the Officers listed in 2 (a) above.
3. To be the Committee referred to in the sections 19, 20, 21 and 23 of the *Auditor General Act*, S.B.C. 2003, c. 2 and that the performance report in section 22 of the *Auditor General Act*, S.B.C. 2003, c. 2, be referred to the Committee.

In addition to the powers previously conferred upon the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services, the Committee shall be empowered:

- a. to appoint of their number one or more subcommittees and to refer to such subcommittees any of the matters referred to the Committee;
- b. to sit during a period in which the House is adjourned, during the recess after prorogation until the next following Session and during any sitting of the House;

- c. to adjourn from place to place as may be convenient; and
- d. to retain personnel as required to assist the Committee,

and shall report to the House as soon as possible, or following any adjournment, or at the next following Session, as the case may be; to deposit the original of its reports with the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly during a period of adjournment and upon resumption of the sittings of the House, the Chair shall present all reports to the Legislative Assembly.

Foreword by the Committee

Every fall, the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services receives valuable input from British Columbians on issues affecting them and what the priorities should be for the next provincial budget. This year, as we reflected on our consultation, we were struck by four key topics that emerged: reconciliation with Indigenous peoples; inequality; climate change; and the economy. These priorities shaped our deliberations and are reflected within many of our recommendations.

Reconciliation with Indigenous peoples is a priority. We acknowledge the continued, structural impact of colonialism, including intergenerational trauma resulting from the residential school system. Taking meaningful steps toward reconciliation with Indigenous people is of utmost importance. A structural and systemic response across all policy areas is required, including resources to advance the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action.

Inequality of other types – income inequality, urban-rural inequality, intergenerational inequality, gender inequality – must also be addressed. We identified inequality as one of the biggest issues facing our province. In addition to the social, health and justice impacts of inequality, we also recognize it as a major driver of populism. Government should thoughtfully and carefully use resources and tools to build a more equal society.

The prevalence of natural disasters has tested the resilience of British Columbians. Over the last several years, natural disasters have escalated in frequency and severity. The 2018 wildfire season surpassed 2017 to become the most devastating season on record. Floods, caused by heavy snowpacks, sudden downpours and unseasonably warm temperatures, have also impacted many communities. We as a Committee were deeply moved by the degree and scope of the impact of these natural disasters.

Inextricably linked to natural disasters is climate change. We recognize that the province is faced with a number of environmental, economic, health and public safety challenges with respect to climate change. There is an urgent need to comprehensively address these real impacts and threats in the next and future budgets.

In order to continue to build a strong province for all British Columbians, we must focus on continuing the process of reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, address the issues of inequality and climate change, and ensure we maintain a healthy and thriving economy that supports the people of BC.

Executive Summary

On February 26, 2018, the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia empowered the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services (the “Committee”) to conduct public consultations on the next provincial budget. Between September 17 and October 15, 2018, British Columbians were invited to share their priorities and ideas on Budget 2019. During the consultation period, Committee Members heard 267 presentations at 14 public hearings in communities across the province, and received 253 written submissions and 473 online survey responses.

The Committee greatly appreciates the detailed, thoughtful and passionate input they received, and thanks British Columbians for taking the time to participate. As they reviewed input during their deliberations, Committee Members reflected on the underlying challenges of climate change and inequality that need to be broadly and comprehensively addressed in the provincial budget. They also discussed the importance of reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, and pursuing a range of measures and investments in this area. The Committee further acknowledged the role of a strong economy that serves all British Columbians in addressing these important, shared challenges.

This report outlines the Committee’s recommendations for the next provincial budget, and provides a comprehensive and detailed account of the priorities put forward by British Columbians during the consultation. The report is organized thematically and is presented in alphabetical order; the numbering of recommendations does not indicate priority.

On advanced education, the Committee supports increasing operational funding to post-secondary institutions in recognition of the demand for training and education. They also recommend the development of Indigenous language programs and support services for Indigenous students, as well as measures to address challenges with respect to international students. Committee Members also make recommendations with respect to student loan interest, open textbooks, the Tuition Fee Limit Policy and grants to address affordability.

The Committee makes several recommendations to support economic development, particularly as it relates to natural resource development. The suggestions include investing in research and innovation, addressing procedural and regulatory challenges, and increasing natural resource ministry staff support. Committee Members also make a recommendation regarding labour and immigration in recognition of opportunities to address labour shortages by supporting workforce participation among equity groups. They further focus on the importance of opening up interprovincial and international trade markets, and support measures that enable strong business growth.

Committee Members highlight the impact of wildfires, floods and other disasters, and recommend significantly expanding prevention, mitigation and adaptation efforts to proactively address climate change, as well as response, recovery and adaptation efforts in the aftermath of natural disasters. They also emphasize the importance of addressing climate change with recommendations to support a transition to clean energy, expand electrification, promote energy efficiency, support the adoption of clean vehicles, and use government procurement to prioritize clean technology.

With respect to the environment, the Committee recognizes the urgency of addressing invasive species. They recommend the province demonstrate leadership by increasing funding for education, prevention, monitoring, response, and enforcement in this area. Other recommendations focus on increased funding for wildlife conservation and management, and BC Parks.

From a budgetary policy perspective, the Committee agrees that government should pursue prudent and careful fiscal discipline, improve efficiencies in the delivery of services, and ensure that all measures advance work towards reconciliation, strengthening the economy and supporting social equality. In other aspects of fiscal policy, the Committee makes recommendations to review the luxury tax, support municipalities, review business exemptions for the provincial sales tax (PST) and address inequities in liquor pricing. They also recommend helping facilitate access for treaty First Nations to borrowing and financing opportunities.

Health care is a priority for many British Columbians. Committee Members make many recommendations covering the full spectrum of health care service delivery, including community care, primary care, mental health and dental care. They particularly recognize the importance of early intervention and the need to address shortages in a number of health occupations. The Committee also acknowledges unique challenges for rural and remote communities, as well as a specific need to expand medical interpreting services for British Columbians who are hearing-impaired. Additional recommendations are made with respect to public health, including sugar-sweetened beverages and tobacco.

The Committee heard a strong message from British Columbians about housing affordability and supply. Committee Members acknowledge the pressing need to address the cost of housing, and recommend increased funding and collaboration to build affordable and supportive housing. The Committee also recommends measures to address homelessness, including the development of a youth homeless strategy, and a review of property transfer tax thresholds.

On K-12 education, Committee Members recommend increasing funding to support students with special needs, identifying investments here as a priority. They also suggest reviewing practices to ensure a high standard of support across the province for vulnerable students and students with special needs. The Committee further recommends increasing capital funding for new classrooms and upgrades, adopting a child-centered funding model, supporting extracurricular and alternative programs, and providing funding to support Indigenous students.

The Committee recognizes challenges with access to justice, and recommends measures to improve access to legal aid, and alternative court and justice processes. They also highlight a need for investments in community support and prevention programs to address gender-based, domestic and sexual violence, as well as human-trafficking. The Committee further suggests providing funding to establish a universal call or online system to provide information about underground infrastructure.

With respect to social services, the Committee highlights the need for increased investment in early childhood development, and especially early intervention services. They recognize the need to recruit professionals in this area to address critical shortages, and reiterate that investing in early childhood development is an investment in the future. The Committee also recommends increasing support for the community social services sector, and in particular, addressing home share costs and compensation issues for foster parents. Other recommendations in social services address income and social assistance, poverty reduction, and supports for youth aging out of care.

In the area of sport, arts and culture, the Committee emphasizes the importance of the creative sector and recommends continued support for the creative industries. Committee Members also recognize the role of public libraries in communities across the province, and recommends increased, multi-year funding to support library services. The Committee further recommends funding for physical literacy for British Columbians of all ages and genders.

On transportation and transit, Committee Members drew attention to the impact of inadequate ferry service on coastal communities. They recommend service be expanded, especially routes servicing Haida Gwaii. The Committee also recommends discounted ferry rates be provided to K-12 students to enable educational and extracurricular opportunities. Increased funding for accessible transportation, and the maintenance and remediation of roads and highways were also of interest to Committee Members. They further recognize challenges with respect to accessing affordable transportation options, public transit and intercity transportation. The Committee also recommends that cycling be considered as part of all infrastructure projects, and that incentives be provided to encourage the use of electric, cargo and adaptive bicycles. Finally, Committee Members recommend investments in clean vehicles and infrastructure in the transportation sector.

Consultation Overview

Background

The *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act*, S.B.C. 2000, c. 23 requires a select standing committee of the Legislative Assembly to hold a budget consultation and report on the results of the consultation by November 15 each year. The Legislative Assembly assigns this task to the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services.

Pursuant to Section 2 of the Act, by September 15, the Minister of Finance must release a budget consultation paper, which is referred to the Committee. The paper outlines the province's fiscal forecast, key budget issues and how British Columbians can share their ideas for the next budget.

Budget Consultation Paper

The *Budget 2019 Consultation Paper* summarized the first quarterly report for 2018-2019 and described challenges putting fiscal pressure on the province. The paper also provided updates with respect to policies and initiatives in a number of areas, including housing, child care, poverty, reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, and the economy. Input was requested on four questions:

1. What are your top three priorities to help make life better for you, your family and your community?
2. If you had one dollar to put toward programs and services across government, how would you choose to divide it?
3. Given the high level of demand for programs and services, how would you pay for new and enhanced programs and services?
4. What can government do to build a diverse and sustainable economy and support businesses and industries across our province?

British Columbians were invited to respond to these questions through an online survey. A summary of the survey results is provided in Appendix A. See *Consultation Process* for more information.

Minister of Finance Briefing

The Minister of Finance, Hon. Carole James, MLA, appeared before the Committee on September 17, 2018 to discuss the *Budget 2019 Consultation Paper*. The Minister began by emphasizing the value of hearing from British Columbians first-hand about what their priorities are, and then discussed the fiscal outlook and first quarterly report.

Minister James explained that the province is in a strong fiscal position, with a higher than projected surplus this year and continued surpluses expected over the next three years. She explained that the surplus increased despite spending on disaster relief efforts, including firefighting and flood costs, and an increase in film industry activity that resulted in a higher than usual level of refundable tax credits. These increased costs

were balanced by higher personal and corporate income tax revenue from 2017, and higher natural resource revenues, particularly forestry.

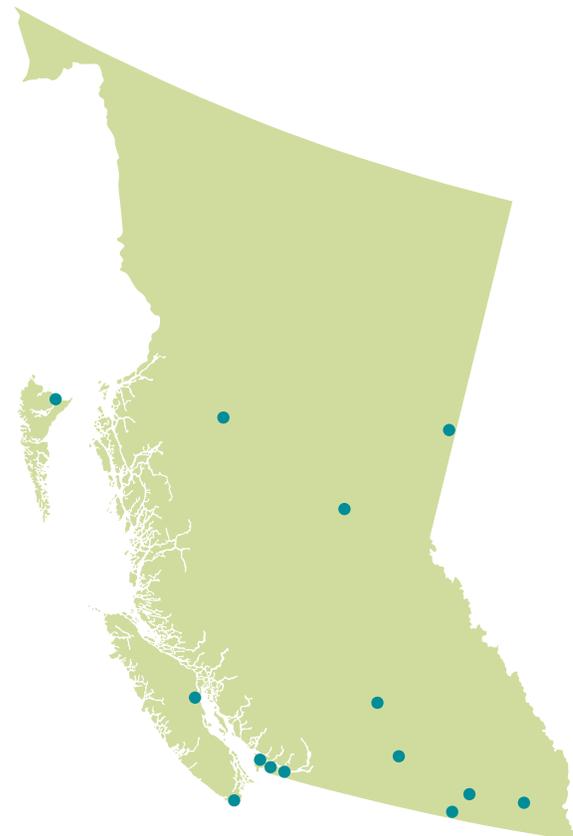
While it is expected that economic growth in BC will be among the highest in the country in 2018-2019, economic growth across the country is expected to become more moderate and sustainable, and housing revenues are expected to drop. While the fiscal outlook remains positive, the Minister identified several risks, including uncertainty around trade agreements, further inflation causing interest rates to rise, and the increasing cost of supporting communities after wildfires. She noted that flexibility and prudence will be built into the budget to account for potential risks.

Consultation Process

This year, the Committee renewed their consultation approach in an effort to encourage more British Columbians to participate. The Committee reached out directly to a number of Indigenous organizations and community-based groups, and refreshed communication and promotion activities. More visually appealing advertisements were placed in major provincial and community newspapers, and posters were distributed to community facilities, such as libraries and recreation centres. The consultation was also heavily promoted on the Legislative Assembly's Twitter and Facebook accounts, including an increased use of video posts to encourage participation. Public hearings were also held in community-oriented spaces, including recreation centres, libraries and universities.

British Columbians had three options for participating in the consultation: presenting at one of 14 public hearings across the province; making a written, audio or video submission; or filling out the online survey comprised of questions set out in the *Budget 2019 Consultation Paper*. In total, the Committee heard 267 presentations, received 253 written submissions and received 472 responses to the online survey. All individuals and organizations interested in presenting to the Committee at a public hearing were accommodated, with tele-conference used to enable individuals and organizations from across the province to participate. Committee Members considered input received from all sources during their deliberations. Lists of all participants are available in the appendices.

The Committee also undertook site visits as a way to learn more about some of the communities they visited during the consultation. The site visits included: Gudangaay Tlaats'gaa Naay Secondary School and Haida Wild in Masset, Haida Gwaii; T-MAR Industries Ltd. in Campbell River; and Teck Resources Ltd. in Trail.



The Committee held public hearings in the following communities: Dawson Creek, Prince George, Smithers, Masset, Campbell River, Vancouver, Cranbrook, Trail, Nelson, Kamloops, Kelowna, Esquimalt, Mission and Surrey.

Meetings Schedule

Date	Type	Location(s)
May 29, 2018	Planning	Victoria
July 13, 2018	Planning	Victoria
September 17, 2018	Minister's Briefing Public Hearing	Victoria Dawson Creek
September 18, 2018	Public Hearing	Prince George, Smithers
September 19, 2018	Public Hearing	Masset
September 20, 2018	Public Hearing	Campbell River
September 24, 2018	Public Hearing	Vancouver
September 25, 2018	Public Hearing	Cranbrook, Trail
September 26, 2018	Public Hearing	Nelson, Kamloops
September 27, 2018	Public Hearing	Kelowna
October 9, 2018	Public Hearing	Esquimalt
October 10, 2018	Public Hearing	Mission
October 11, 2018	Public Hearing	Surrey
October 24, 2018	Deliberations	Victoria
October 29, 2018	Deliberations	Victoria
October 31, 2018	Deliberations	Victoria
November 1, 2018	Deliberations	Victoria
November 5, 2018	Deliberations	Victoria
November 6, 2018	Deliberations	Victoria
November 7, 2018	Deliberations	Victoria
November 8, 2018	Deliberations Adoption of Report	Victoria

Advanced Education

The Committee received many recommendations about a variety of aspects of advanced education, with a focus on addressing challenges with respect to funding, access and affordability. Issues were raised with respect to institutional funding, supports for Indigenous students, student services and financial assistance. Committee Members also received input related to the provision of adult education and literacy services.

In the online survey (see Appendix A), education was the fifth most common theme in response to the first question which asked British Columbians to identify their top three priorities to help make life better. Survey respondents particularly emphasized the need to ensure accessible, affordable post-secondary education. In question four regarding what government can do to build a diverse and sustainable economy, increasing opportunities for training and post-secondary education received the third most number of selections.

Adult Education and Literacy

The Committee heard from faculty associations at several BC post-secondary institutions about reducing remaining barriers to adult basic education, as well as removing tuition from all developmental programs. The Vancouver Community College Faculty Association informed the Committee that while basic education programs are free, students still pay up to \$200 per term in non-tuition related expenses, and often face struggles with mental health, addiction or poverty which require a broader base of support.

Organizations offering literacy programs in communities across the province requested stable, multi-year funding for Decoda Literacy Solutions to support their work. Each of the organizations described the wide range of programs they provide to adults, youth, children, seniors, Indigenous people and newcomers. Dawson Creek Literacy Now and the Smithers Community Services Association emphasized that increased rates of literacy improve a community's ability to build a strong, innovative economy that works for everyone. The Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy pointed out that literacy programs provide people with much needed skills, help build confidence, and address isolation for seniors and new immigrants. The Downtown Eastside Literacy Roundtable shared several success stories, and emphasized that literacy programs open pathways to further learning and employment, and provide people with the possibility of a more stable life.

In Masset, Beng Favreau described funding challenges for Literacy Haida Gwaii. As a catch-all organization, Literacy Haida Gwaii offers literacy, health, financial and educational programs, as well as academic and mental wellness programs for youth. Much of their provincial funding is focused on adult upgrading and education, and Ms. Favreau requested more flexible and additional funding sources to enable the organization to deliver programs and services to meet the needs of the community.

Capital Funding

A number of post-secondary institutions, including the College of New Caledonia, Langara College, the Pacific Academic Institute of Chiropractic, Simon Fraser University, the University of Victoria and the University of British Columbia, presented specific project proposals for capital funding. These projects would

expand programs in engineering and health sciences, maintain existing buildings, and create access to new technologies.

The Committee also received requests with respect to capital funding for student housing. North Island College explained that additional funding and tools are required for colleges in smaller communities. While post-secondary institutions have access to debt-financing for student housing, this tool is more appropriate for universities in large urban centres.

The Graduate Student Society at Simon Fraser University raised the issue of affordable family-friendly student housing. The Society informed the Committee that Simon Fraser University does not currently offer student accommodations appropriate for couples or families, and it is just as difficult to find that type of affordable housing in the Lower Mainland. They recommended investments in the building of family-friendly student housing, noting that this also would free up space for other renters looking for housing in a tight, local rental market. They further recommended capping residence fees and providing students living off-campus with a housing allowance to address the cost of housing for all students. The Society shared that housing costs in Vancouver are some of the least affordable in Canada, and constitute a major portion of living costs.

Indigenous Students

The Committee received a number of recommendations regarding funding to support reconciliation initiatives and the full inclusion of Indigenous learners, in alignment with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action. Several groups recommended targeted funding for support services. In a joint submission, the Research Universities' Council of British Columbia, BC Colleges, and BC Association of Institutes and Universities informed the Committee that Indigenous students remain underrepresented in post-secondary education, and more funding is needed for dedicated counsellors and advisors. Northern Lights College also supported funding in this area, noting investments they have made to support Indigenous students, including inviting First Nation Elders to provide cultural training and development to staff. Kwantlen Polytechnic University likewise highlighted the importance of Indigenous counsellors, advisors and Elders in residence to student success.

The College of the Rockies Faculty Association and Langara College focused on the Aboriginal Service Program. Currently, fourteen post-secondary institutions in BC do not receive Aboriginal Service Program funding. Both organizations emphasized that ongoing funding to support Indigenous students is required in order to expand programs and services, and further, that all institutions should be provided equal funding.

The University of British Columbia promoted the development of Indigenous language programs. They noted that preservation and revitalization of Indigenous languages is a shared and urgent priority of Indigenous communities and organizations. To support this, they recommended working with post-secondary institutions to implement a language fluency degree framework, and funding for new Indigenous language programs the framework may help establish.

International Students

The Committee heard a wide range of recommendations and issues related to international students. Several presenters pointed out an increase in the number of international students in BC has been accompanied by an increased reliance on the tuition revenue generated by international students, which is unregulated. The Kwantlen Faculty Association noted that their international students saw a 15 percent increase in tuition in

2018 and the Camosun College Student Society reported a 20 percent increase at the University of Victoria. The Society recommended a cap be implemented on tuition increases for international students. The Selkirk College Students' Union also recognized challenges with tuition increases for international students and proposed creating a multi-year fee schedule to provide predictability.

The Thompson Rivers University Students' Union discussed the value that international students bring to post-secondary institutions and communities, estimating the economic impact of international students at over \$4.2 billion in 2016. They noted, however, that the province is economically vulnerable as international education is largely unregulated with decisions left to individual institutions. Other presenters shared that post-secondary institutions are also financially vulnerable as they would lose a significant portion of their operating revenue if international enrollment declined. They therefore recommend a comprehensive strategy that creates stability and predictability to ensure international education continues to benefit institutions, communities and the economy.

The Federation of Post-Secondary Educators of BC and the Kwantlen Faculty Association described challenges with the provision of support services for international students, which are overextended, and the impact of international students on class composition and educator workloads. They recommended a fulsome examination of all aspects of international education to ensure international students are appropriately supported and given a fair opportunity to succeed.

North Island College expressed support for continuing the current international education policy that provides opportunities for both international and Canadian students. They explained that the revenues they generate from international students allowed them to enroll 688 additional domestic students in 2017.

Operational Funding

Several post-secondary institutions and student associations expressed concerns about operational funding, and recommended an increase. The Federation of Post-Secondary Educators of BC reported that the percentage of government funding has dropped from 70-80 percent of an institutions' overall budget to below 50 percent at some institutions. As a result, institutions have grown increasingly reliant on tuition revenue, particularly international student tuition and student fees, to generate revenue, which has had a significant impact on the affordability of post-secondary education. They report that this has also meant reductions in service delivery, particularly for rural colleges, and the development of course offerings based on what will generate the most revenue. The Committee also received recommendations for undertaking a broad review of the funding formula to address the issues with respect to the reliance on tuition revenue, and to ensure funding adequately meets the needs and mandates of all institutions.

Other institutions focused on the regional distribution of funding. The Vancouver Island University Faculty Association indicated that current models do not adequately account for geographic dispersion of campuses, and the complexity of different student bodies. Institutions and organizations in Surrey informed the Committee that funding to increase seats south of the Fraser River in the Lower Mainland is needed. Surrey is expected to become the most populous city in BC over the next decade, and one third of the population is under the age of 19. Expanding access to education will allow the city to meet demand and help keep students in the region.

The College of the Rockies discussed a need for increased financial flexibility. For example, access to retained, earned savings would allow post-secondary institutions to save money for long-term projects, such as student

housing, draw on prior surpluses when one-time funding runs out, and support normal ebbs and flows in business cycles. North Island College pointed to inflexibilities in the regulatory and accountability framework that creates limitations for colleges, and requested a review of these restrictions. Colleges must budget for and deliver a balanced budget every year, however amortization expenses, which are non-cash items, must be recorded as a cost, and as a result, cash revenues are funding a non-cash expense.

Mental health services was another common theme with several institutions reporting an increase in the number of students struggling with mental health issues. The Committee learned that a lack of dedicated funding means services vary considerably from institution to institution. The University of Victoria, Northern Lights College, the Research Universities' Council of British Columbia, BC Colleges, and the BC Association of Institutes and Universities all recommended funding to improve supports in this area.

The Alma Mater Society of the University of British Columbia, along with the University of Victoria and the Simon Fraser Student Society, advocated for funding for post-secondary institutions to implement sexual violence and misconduct policies per the requirements set out in the *Sexual Violence and Misconduct Policy Act*. Currently, only five of the twenty-five post-secondary institutions in BC have dedicated offices to support survivors of sexual violence. Funding for institutions that have not been able to implement their sexual violence and misconduct policies would ensure that students are safe wherever they study.

Program Funding

The Committee received several suggestions for investments in science, engineering, technology and mathematics (STEM) programming. The Research Universities' Council of British Columbia recommended the expansion of graduate and undergraduate spaces in STEM disciplines, including the addition of 1,900 graduate spaces over five years, as part of a comprehensive BC technology strategy. The Council noted that the most recent 2018 BC Labour Market Outlook shows demand for university undergraduate and graduate degrees in STEM, as well as art and design. They also noted that BC is behind other provinces in the number of STEM graduates and additional spaces are needed to match demand. Support for funding for STEM programs was also broadly echoed by the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade and the BC Tech Association.

The Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of BC recommended increasing funding for one- and two-year engineering technician and technologist programs in order to increase the number of technologists and technicians. These types of degrees and coursework are diminishing, and it is particularly difficult for anyone outside of the Lower Mainland to pursue these programs. It also impacts immigrants who need to complete competency assessments.

Several organizations supported increased funding and initiatives for trades training. BC Building Trades recommended measures to support training of additional workers, including increasing the per student funding to union training providers, tying the training tax credit for employers to apprentice progression, and expanding the enhanced tax credit to employers of female apprentices. Thompson Rivers University suggested reviewing how Industry Training Association of BC backed programs are funded across the province, and moving to a three-year funding framework that provides certainty and stability.

The importance of work-integrated learning was another common theme. The Chartered Professional Accountants of British Columbia shared that new graduates do not often have the skills and experience required to be ready for the job market. They pointed to the success of co-operative (co-op) programs offered by many BC universities and colleges as an example of how to better equip graduates with work-

ready skills. The organization encouraged government to make work-integrated learning a mandatory part of post-secondary education, including working with businesses and industry to explore different approaches in addition to co-op positions. Kwantlen Polytechnic University and the University of Victoria also expressed support for work-integrated learning, and requested additional funding to expand these opportunities.

The Committee received proposals for two health programs. Physiotherapists for Northern Communities requested funding for a physiotherapy training program at the University of Northern British Columbia to help address a shortfall of physiotherapists in the north. Fifty (50) percent of physiotherapists in Northern Health are approaching retirement, and rural areas have some of the highest prevalence of chronic disease. The organization explained that a training program in the north is a proven recruitment strategy as it helps build networks and encourages students to stay in their communities.

Thompson Rivers University asked for support for a new nurse practitioner program. The University is expecting completion of a new nursing and population health building in 2020, which will provide physical capacity to grow their health care programs and meet local health care needs, however provincial investment is still required to increase the number of nursing seats.

Tuition and Financial Assistance

The Committee heard from student associations across BC that the cost of pursuing post-secondary education is becoming prohibitive. In their presentation in Trail, the Selkirk College Students' Union explained that many students graduate with tens of thousands of dollars in student loans, and as a result, delay life milestones, such as buying a house or car, or starting a family. The British Columbia Federation of Students suggested that the Tuition Fee Limit Policy be strengthened to help address cost challenges. While they recognized that the policy has moderated tuition fee increases, they also noted that institutions have instead implemented new ancillary fees for costs previously included in tuition fees as a way to increase revenue.

A number of student associations recommended eliminating the interest on student loans. The Vancouver Island University Students' Union explained that interest payments mean that "a student who can afford to pay the upfront costs pays only the costs of that education, but a low-income student who needs access to student loans will pay thousands of dollars more in interest," exacerbating existing inequalities. The College of New Caledonia Students' Union suggested reviewing qualification and eligibility requirements for student loans as they do not adequately take into consideration a variety of circumstances, and as a result, some applicants are refused loans.

Students also advocated for a comprehensive system of up-front needs-based grants for low- and middle-income students. The Alliance of BC Students highlighted that BC is the only province in Canada that does not provide grants for low-income students. The Alma Mater Society of the University of British Columbia indicated that 16 percent of undergraduates may need to drop out of university for financial reasons, and that up-front funding would help these students and decrease the debt pressure on new graduates.

Other submissions and presentations from students, institutions and faculty associations proposed reducing costs for students by allocating additional funding to support the development of open access textbooks. The UBC Students' Union Okanagan explained that textbook prices rose by 82 percent between 2002 and 2012, and now typically cost more than \$200 each. This adds to the financial burden faced by students who are increasingly likely to drop courses, share textbooks or not purchase textbooks at all.

Conclusions

The Committee acknowledged challenges with respect to operational funding for post-secondary institutions, and in particular, the need for increasing the availability of seats in high-growth areas, such as south of the Fraser River in the Lower Mainland and in rural areas. In addition to improving access to training to meet growing demand in the labour market, the Committee was of the view that increased operational funding will also ensure students are able to study in their own communities, reducing pressure on housing markets and transportation.

Supporting the full inclusion of Indigenous students was identified as a key priority, with the Committee expressing support for addressing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action for post-secondary education. Committee Members also appreciated the requests for increased funding for student support services, including mental health and sexual violence support services. In their deliberations, they particularly recognized that challenges may be different in rural and remote areas.

Committee Members had a wide ranging discussion with respect to international students. They recognized the value that international students bring to the province, and acknowledged the concerns of student associations and faculty associations regarding international student tuition fees and student supports. They agreed that a broad review of international education should be undertaken.

The Committee reviewed ideas for addressing the cost of post-secondary education for students, and agreed to recommendations on eliminating the interest on provincial student loans, and investing in open education resources, as well as strengthening the Tuition Fee Limit Policy to provide students with better predictability and planning ability. They also discussed the proposal for providing needs-based grants within the context of the current completion grants model. Committee Members agreed that both approaches should be reviewed to ensure students are receiving the most impactful support.

Finally, the Committee expressed their support for the work of various literacy and adult education programs. They reflected on the importance of ensuring access to these programs, and recognized the need for continued attention in this area.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends to the Legislative Assembly that the provincial government:

Indigenous Students

1. Provide funding to support reconciliation at post-secondary institutions through the development of Indigenous language programs, an Indigenous language fluency degree framework, and support services for Indigenous students, including programming and staff to ensure the full inclusion of Indigenous learners.

International Students

2. Form a broad stakeholder group to investigate and discuss all aspects of fairness for international students, and consider a new strategic approach to international education, including access to educational and social supports, the impacts of international education on the post-secondary system, educator workloads, and costs of attending post-secondary for international and domestic students.

Operational Funding

3. Increase operational funding to post-secondary institutions and expand the number of seats available to students, including at Kwantlen Polytechnic University and Simon Fraser University's Surrey campus, to address the increased demand for post-secondary training and education in BC.

Tuition and Financial Assistance

4. Eliminate the interest on provincial student loans.
5. Allocate an additional \$5 million to BCcampus to maintain existing open textbook resources and continue creating new resources.
6. Strengthen the existing Tuition Fee Limit Policy to ensure that institutions are not increasing fees beyond the prescribed limits in the form of new ancillary fees.
7. Review and evaluate "completion grant" and "up-front needs-based grant" models with the aim of ensuring post-secondary students have access to the most beneficial and impactful support.

Economic Development

A number of submissions and presentations highlighted opportunities for supporting economic development. The Committee received recommendations with respect to a range of natural resource sectors, including agriculture and agri-foods, fisheries, forestry, mining, and oil and gas. The visitor economy and ensuring the tourism sector is well-supported was also a common theme. Other submissions discussed ideas for addressing skilled labour shortages, and how immigration could help fill gaps. Committee Members also heard suggestions for expanding interprovincial and international trade.

Agriculture and Agri-Foods

The Committee heard from several organizations with respect to the use of agricultural land. Richmond FarmWatch expressed concern over mega-mansions being built on farmland, and explained that between 2010 and 2016, Richmond lost approximately 40 acres of farmland to residential developments. The Surrey Board of Trade also expressed concern that non-farm commercial and residential uses of farmland are becoming more common, and are being used to take advantage of tax breaks designed to foster farm production without meaningfully contributing to the province's farm cash receipts. They recommended measures to ensure that benefits for agricultural land go to farmers, not speculators. The BC Agriculture Council proposed increasing the threshold required to access reduced property tax rates as a solution to this problem. The current threshold is too low, and allows lifestyle farmer estates to buy up farmland and keep it out of production.

Committee Members also received suggestions for ways to support the industry. Richmond FarmWatch suggested supporting new farmers through mentorship, access to markets and incentives such as matching funds for small scale infrastructure. The BC Chamber of Commerce suggested working with stakeholders to enhance competitiveness. Cargill Limited recommended funding to increase the competitiveness of the industry, including investments in climate sensitive technologies that enable the agriculture and agri-business sector to lessen their impact on the environment.

The BC Fruit Growers' Association identified extending the replant program for fruit tree growers as a mechanism to support the sector. The program has provided stability by helping growers in the region plan the replanting of their orchards many years in advance. The BC Association of Farmers Markets suggested additional funding for the Buy BC program to promote local agriculture and markets to British Columbians.

Business and Regulation

Several submissions discussed measures to support businesses in the province. The Downtown Surrey Business Improvement Association highlighted the need to create an environment that encourages business growth and retention through tax advantages and trade enabling infrastructure. The Greater Vancouver Board of Trade was of the same view and explained the importance of reducing taxes on businesses. They suggested a cost assessment of the cumulative effects of new taxes on small to medium sized businesses that takes into account the impact of all provincial as well as federal and local taxes and fees.

The Committee also heard specific suggestions for supporting small businesses. Ron Hougen suggested ensuring that small business owners can take advantage of income splitting to save for retirement. The Greater Vancouver Board of Trade recommended reducing inter-municipal trade barriers for small- and medium-sized businesses by encouraging the wide scale adoption of multi-jurisdictional business licensing. The Columbia Valley Chamber of Commerce discussed challenges with respect to access to capital in small communities. They recommended adjusting regulations governing investment co-ops by increasing the cap to \$5,000 per investor per year, removing the 12-month membership requirement for purchasing investment shares, and increasing the number of investors allowed in a co-op. This would help small businesses who have trouble securing small loans from big banks.

Other submissions focused on reducing the regulatory burden on businesses. The Canadian Federation of Independent Businesses suggested that the impact of regulatory changes on business could be mitigated if government solicited feedback from small businesses when making policies that impact them. They proposed reducing the regulatory burden by removing one regulation each time a new one is introduced. The Kelowna Chamber of Commerce also advocated for regulatory reform and increased consultation, and suggested working with other levels of government and business before introducing new regulations or modifying existing ones. Philip MacKeller recommended decentralizing governance and delegating responsibility to municipal governments, as this would be more democratic and bring decision-makers closer to people. He also suggested that all regulations should be renewed after 20 to 30 years to ensure that they are still relevant.

Fisheries

The BC Seafood Alliance emphasized fishing as the economic backbone of many coastal communities, noting that the industry has seen significant and growing Indigenous participation. They proposed improving access to loans through a fisheries loan board, modeled on the board in Atlantic Canada, to encourage new entrants and intergenerational transfer. Mike Turner, a sport fisherman, shared that provincial investment in fisheries has declined since the 1990s, and that matters concerning fisheries and oceans are spread across multiple ministries. He recommended centralizing fisheries and oceans staff within a single agency, in alignment with other maritime provinces in Canada, and in recognition of the significance of marine resources to British Columbia.

Several submissions focused on salmon, with the Spruce City Wildlife Association noting that salmon stocks are disappearing, and habitat assessments are showing few return spawners. The BC Centre for Aquatic Health Sciences Society requested funding for a wet lab, a land-based research facility that tests potential environmental or fish health impacts on salmon.

Cargill Limited urged the development of a comprehensive strategy to protect BC wild salmon in conjunction with allowing for the responsible and sustainable advancement of the salmon aquaculture industry. They explained that a science-based approach would allow for sustainable growth while ensuring environmental stewardship of natural resources, as well as generate economic success. The BC Wildlife Federation called for leadership and direction on fisheries management, and urged government to move forward with the wild salmon report to address sustainability issues.

Forestry

The Private Forest Landowners Association provided several recommendations related to trade and training to support the forestry industry. The Association shared that BC is an expensive jurisdiction for forestry, and that providing access to export markets can offset higher costs as the price differential for offshore markets can be 30 to 50 percent more than domestic markets. They also noted that the sector is under pressure from wildfires, climate change and workforce attrition. The Association recommended supporting training opportunities, particularly for Indigenous peoples and rural communities, and emphasized the importance of providing a robust, stable regulatory environment, and reducing trade barriers. They also recommended providing reliable infrastructure to ensure that the industry can continue driving local employment, environmental programs and community stability.

Labour and Immigration

The Committee heard concerns about labour market gaps from a number of different sectors including film, technology, restaurants, education and health, and received several suggestions for addressing demand. The Manufacturing Safety Alliance of BC suggested taking a research-based approach to making investment decisions for post-secondary institutions to ensure that students obtain the right competencies to support their role in the labour market. They also advocated for additional funds for the Canada-B.C. Job Grant training program to allow employers across the province to invest more in their workforce. The Building Owners and Managers Association of British Columbia requested support for a specific sectoral labour market strategy for their industry. They explained that facility operations and maintenance managers are expected to be among the highest in-demand occupations in the province.

Other submissions suggested supporting immigrants and refugees. S.U.C.C.E.S.S. explained that with an aging population and strong labour market demands in the future, immigration will be key to continued positive economic growth. They recommended enhanced investments in immigrant settlement and integration services, such as promoting inclusion, facilitating access to core provincial services and establishing support structures to ensure a smooth settlement process. The Social Planning & Research Council of British Columbia similarly suggested intensifying efforts to help immigrants and refugees adjust to life in BC.

The Business Council of BC identified the Provincial Nominee Program as a mechanism for attracting and retaining a skilled workforce. The program is an effective way to expedite the immigration process, and BC receives a smaller quota than other western provinces in proportion to population size. They shared that employment growth has leveled off due to the lack of skilled workers, and suggested working with the federal government to increase the quota. The Kelowna Chamber of Commerce also pointed to the Provincial Nominee Program as a means to assist businesses, specifically in the digital media sector. Accelerating the immigration process for skilled workers was also supported by Restaurants Canada. They suggested supporting the Small Business Task Force engagement report recommendations to streamline the recognition process, offer longer work terms, and provide special considerations for northern, rural and remote communities.

A number of other submissions discussed community benefits agreements. The Independent Contractors and Businesses Association of BC expressed concerns that community benefits agreements will restrict labour supply and cost more. The British Columbia Construction Association expressed the same opinion, and suggested removing the trade union requirement. They indicated that the requirement increases the likelihood of cost overruns and project delays, and explained that contractors may believe community

benefits agreements projects to be high risk, and therefore charge more or avoid them entirely. The Greater Vancouver Board of Trade suggested delaying the implementation of community benefits agreements until a thorough investigation of potential unintended consequences is completed, while the Progressive Contractors Association of Canada recommended alternative models.

Mining

The Committee received several suggestions to increase investment in the mining sector following several years of decreased commodity prices. The Mining Association of British Columbia expressed concern with permitting timelines and recommended increasing ministry staff and resources to speed up the process. They explained that currently, less than 10 percent of mines that begin the environmental assessment process in BC are constructed.

The Association for Mineral Exploration British Columbia focused on increasing competitiveness, and explained that while BC is fairly competitive, capping tax rates and increasing tax credits would give the province a competitive edge over Quebec and Manitoba. Teck Resources Limited suggested a broad review of the impact of taxes on competitiveness in the mining industry, and also recommended considering caps on corporate income and mineral taxes. They explained that supporting programs that lower transaction costs, improve environmental and social performance, support innovation, and enhance the distribution of resource benefits will help the sector compete.

Northern Confluence discussed the importance of addressing issues with financial assurance for mining to ensure that mining companies can pay for reclamation efforts following a disaster so that the public does not have to cover these costs. They referenced a 2016 report by the Auditor General which found that BC has a \$1.2 billion liability gap, and recommended implementing a fee or tax on mining operations and putting that revenue toward disaster mitigation.

Natural Resource Development

The Committee received several recommendations to support natural resource development generally. As'in'i'wa'chi Ni'yaw Nation (Kelly Lake Cree Nation) recommended including Indigenous peoples in planning for natural resource projects. The Independent Contractors and Businesses Association of BC suggested clearing procedural and regulatory hurdles to speed up project approvals and attract investment as project approval processes are too lengthy.

Teck Resources Limited advocated for increasing provincial staff support in all natural resource ministries to address permitting timelines, and to develop more robust staff training and retention programs. More staff would also allow for a separation of permitting responsibilities from compliance and enforcement. The company further suggested stronger budget transparency and improved communication of both the direct and indirect benefits that natural resource development brings to the province, recognizing that the natural resource industry is not supported by everyone in the province.

The Committee heard proposals for funding specific research projects that support the natural resource sector. Geoscience BC requested a multi-year funding model to support their mineral, energy and water-related projects. They shared that earth science research and data about the province's energy, minerals and water resources improves collective geoscience knowledge, informs natural resources development decisions, catalyzes investment and socio-economic opportunities, and stimulates innovation and geoscience

technologies. This request was supported by Teck Resources Limited, who also advocated for investment in the Canadian Digital Technology Supercluster in support of an innovation agenda in mining.

Geoscience BC further recommended increasing base funding to the British Columbia Geological Survey (BCGS), a branch within the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources. The BCGS carries out the systemic inventory and assessment of BC's geology, conducts research, and provides technical advice and information to a range of stakeholders. They indicated that investments should particularly be made in maintaining, updating and upgrading databases, as well as improving functionality of the web-based delivery portal of geoscience data and information.

Oil, Gas and LNG

The oil and gas industry was the focus of a number of submissions, with a particular emphasis on liquefied natural gas (LNG). Several submissions expressed support for the LNG industry, including ensuring BC is competitive, and able to approve projects quickly. FortisBC indicated that LNG could lower greenhouse gas emissions worldwide by displacing coal. The BC Chamber of Commerce and the City of Dawson Creek explained that adjusting fiscal structures, decreasing permitting timelines, and ensuring electrification would allow the LNG industry to compete internationally. Woodfibre LNG requested more information on how changes to general industrial rates for electricity, PST reforms, the clean growth incentive and carbon tax, and the repeal of the LNG income tax will be implemented. In contrast, the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives recommended that government cease pursuing LNG expansion. They stated that LNG expansion would make it harder for BC to meet emission reduction targets.

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation, BC Chamber of Commerce, and John Twigg discussed conventional oil and gas, and expressed support for the Trans Mountain pipeline. The Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers recommended a clean energy growth program that protects the oil and gas industry, including working to enable upstream electrification, and the use of clean technology to make the BC industry more competitive. The Association explained that while three million people in BC use natural gas, the North American market is oversupplied and investment in natural gas is going to the US and other countries. The industry needs support to attract this investment.

Tourism

The Committee received several submissions that requested dedicated funding to Destination BC to promote the tourism economy. The Tourism Industry Association of BC informed the Committee that tourism is BC's second largest industry. In 2016, the industry generated \$17 billion in revenue, contributed \$7.9 billion to the provincial GDP and employed over 133,000 people. They explained that Destination BC plays a critical role in maximizing long-term industry growth by providing a unified and consistent brand and marketing strategy for the province. The organization also provides leadership for the expansion and strengthening of tourism products and experiences. Committee Members learned that Destination BC is funded through core appropriations, and the effectiveness of this funding erodes over time due to inflation and other budgetary pressures. The Tourism Industry Association of BC, along with Tourism Smithers and Tourism Prince George, suggested a dedicated funding formula for Destination BC that is protected in legislation, to ensure it is stable, reliable and predictable, and enables Destination BC to make long-term, multi-year commitments.

The Committee received several submissions from the tourism industry expressing concerns about recent changes to the municipal and regional district tax (MRDT) that allows the revenue to be directed toward

affordable housing initiatives. Tourism Prince George explained that the MRDT funds community-based tourism marketing and using the tax for other purposes could put the visitor economy at risk. Destination Greater Victoria explained that their organization derives a large portion of its revenues from the tax, and diversion of funds will impact their ability to market the region.

Other recommendations focused more specifically on adventure tourism and the Resort Municipality Initiative. The Adventure Tourism Coalition suggested that their sector should be viewed as on par with resource extraction industries as a business interest. According to the Coalition, economic indicators suggest resource industries are contributing less to the economy than in the past. They supported economic diversification, explaining that resource extraction can occur through a balanced, strategic approach that preserves areas for tourism.

Tourism Smithers recommended expanding eligibility for the Resort Municipality Initiative to include communities that depend on tourism. Smithers is currently ineligible for this funding, and the organization indicated access to this funding would enable them to pursue tourism more effectively. Nelson Kootenay Lake Tourism also recommended changing the Resort Municipality Initiative to allow smaller, rural communities to access it as this would provide support for growing tourism destinations and small communities that rely on tourism.

Trade

The Committee heard from several organizations about the importance of expanding interprovincial and international trade. The Kelowna Chamber of Commerce noted that 20 percent of Canada's GDP is derived from internal trade, and that the majority of this is through human resources rather than actual product. They explained that it is easier to trade wine and spirits internationally than within Canada, and suggested working with other provinces to open up interprovincial trade. The British Columbia Wine Institute was of the same view, and recommended government be proactive in eliminating interprovincial trade barriers related to wine.

The Chartered Professional Accountants of British Columbia highlighted the province's export potential, noting that BC enjoys a location advantage and preferential trade relations with markets throughout the world. They urged the province to explore ways to diversify markets and products by collaborating with governments, exporters and trade associations to establish new trade relations, and maintain existing ones. They also suggested funding research to examine mechanisms by which BC exporters can grow their market influence.

The Kelowna Chamber of Commerce also identified international trade as a priority and indicated that BC-based chambers could work with the provincial government to strengthen ties with current international trade partners. Ron Hougen noted pressures on the forestry industry, and urged the province to conclude the softwood lumber agreement to provide certainty to businesses across the province.

Conclusions

The Committee recognized the value natural resources bring to the province, and reflected on the contributions and challenges for each sector. With respect to agriculture and agri-foods, they recommended support for new farmers, as well as investments in innovation, research and development to help grow the industry. They also recognized the challenges that speculation poses to the ability of farmers to access

land. Committee Members further acknowledged issues with non-farm uses of farmland, and agreed that additional resources are required for enforcement.

On fisheries, the Committee discussed opportunities for better supporting the wild salmon and sustainable aquaculture industries. In regard to forestry, Committee Members considered the need to improve access to international markets, and ensure comprehensive, long-term, sustainable forestry management. With respect to oil and gas, and LNG, Committee Members acknowledged the various perspectives presented, however they disagreed with respect to the management of these resources, and as such, were unable to come to a consensus on any specific recommendations.

Committee Members had a wide-ranging discussion with respect to mining. They recognized the value of the industry and were of the view that if the province prioritizes competitiveness while ensuring accountability, transparency and compliance with a robust environmental framework, BC has the opportunity to be a leader in this global industry. In support of this, Committee Members agreed that mining tax credits should be reviewed with the aim of improving competitiveness, and increasing the return on investment.

On a broader level, Committee Members agreed that procedural and regulatory processes could be improved to facilitate timely and efficient natural resource development. They further emphasized that project approval processes should be comprehensive and robust, including consultation with Indigenous peoples. The Committee also recognized requests for more staff support in natural resource ministries to support the provision of consistent and timely permitting processes.

In regard to research, Committee Members reviewed proposals for funding for Geoscience BC, the British Columbia Geographical Survey, and the Canadian Digital Technology Supercluster. They discussed how research projects can help position the province to be a leader in mining, water energy, and other areas. The Committee agreed that multi-year, sustainable funding should be provided to ensure that projects like these have stability and certainty, and continue to support the natural resources sector.

Committee Members were especially interested in addressing interprovincial and international trade barriers. While recognizing the role of the federal government, the Committee felt strongly that the province should explore opportunities to diversify and find new export markets, including continuing to engage other provinces to open up internal markets.

In terms of labour and immigration, Committee Members identified opportunities to improve the participation of groups that are currently underrepresented in the workforce as part of a broader strategy to address skilled labour shortages. The Committee also discussed concerns with respect to the regulatory and tax structure on small business, and agreed on the importance of continuing to foster an environment that enables small business growth. They acknowledged similar challenges for tourism, and encouraged support for the sector in recognition of its importance to the provincial economy.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends to the Legislative Assembly that the provincial government:

Agriculture and Agri-Foods

8. Support innovation, research and development in the agriculture and agri-business sector.
9. Provide adequate resources to the Agricultural Land Commission to strengthen enforcement action for non-farm uses of farmland.
10. Support new farmers by providing incentives, funding for mentoring and facilitating access to local markets.
11. Extend the replant program for fruit tree growers by four years to 2025.

Business and Regulation

12. Continue to support a taxation and regulatory environment, as well as trade-enabling infrastructure, with the aim of encouraging strong business growth.

Labour and Immigration

13. Fund solutions and invest in programs to address labour shortages, and increase employment readiness and workforce participation among Indigenous peoples, women and other equity groups.

Mining

14. Review the proposal to increase the mining exploration tax credit and the mining flow-through share tax credit for improving competitiveness, and increasing the return on investment.

Natural Resource Development

15. Address procedural and regulatory challenges for natural resource development while ensuring project approval processes are comprehensive, efficient and timely, and include robust oversight and consultation with Indigenous peoples.
16. Increase provincial staff support in natural resource ministries to ensure consistent and timely permitting processes, and separate compliance and enforcement from permitting.

Research

17. Provide long-term, multi-year, sustainable funding for research, including for Geoscience BC, the British Columbia Geographical Survey and the Canadian Digital Technology Supercluster.

Trade

18. Continue to work with other provinces to open up interprovincial trade, and explore ways to diversify markets and products by collaborating with other governments, exporters and trade associations to establish new trade relations and maintain existing ones.

Environment

The environment and climate change were key priorities for British Columbians, with many presentations and submissions sharing ideas related to clean energy, including supporting greater electrification of energy use. The Committee also heard about the urgent need to address invasive species, and received a number of recommendations for funding for BC Parks, and fish and wildlife conservation.

The environment was the fourth most common theme in question one in the online survey (see Appendix A) with respect to top three priorities for making life better. Climate change and environmental protection received the fifth most cents (9.9) in question three with respect to dividing up one dollar for programs and services.

BC Parks

A number of organizations recommended increased investment in BC Parks in recognition of the social, economic and environmental benefits parks provide to British Columbians. The Outdoor Recreation Council of British Columbia highlighted that every dollar invested in parks generates \$8.42 in visitor spending, collectively provides a \$392-million-dollar boost to GDP, and supports over 5,200 full time jobs. They noted that BC Parks manages the third largest parks and protected areas system in North America but receives less funding than other, comparable jurisdictions. According to the B.C. Parks Foundation, BC's budget on parks equates to approximately \$2.80 per hectare whereas Alberta spends \$36 per hectare. When adjusted for inflation, they noted that BC spends less on parks than in 1985 even as the number of parks and visitors has increased substantially since that time.

The Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC and the Elders Council for Parks in British Columbia drew attention to the increased demand for public recreation in BC's provincial parks and protected areas. Increasing operational funding would enable the hiring of additional full time park rangers to manage increased activity in parks, protect parks that are at capacity, and supervise restoration and maintenance of trails and ecosystems.

In addition to more funding for BC Parks, the Prince George Backcountry Recreation Society also requested increased funding for the Recreation, Sites and Trails (RST) division in the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations. Increased funding for both BC Parks and the RST division would help address staffing and capacity challenges as they currently depend on contributions from volunteers, including the Prince George Backcountry Recreation Society and the Caledonia Ramblers Hiking Club, to help maintain trails and facilities.

Leave No Trace Canada recommended funding to educate users about minimizing impacts on natural areas. As tourism increases in the backcountry, more negative impacts are reported because many visitors are unaware of best practices, and resources and proper infrastructure are lacking. The organization informed Committee Members that funding these education, prevention and infrastructure investments is much more cost-effective than funding rehabilitation and remediation.

Climate Change and Clean Energy

British Columbians expressed broad support for increasing investments in a transition to clean energy. Clean Energy Canada discussed opportunities to target investments and support solutions that achieve multiple objectives. For example, clean energy can be used to power clean cars, clean manufacturing and resource production, and more energy-efficient buildings and businesses. This leads to less pollution, healthier communities, lower health care costs, and lower energy bills, all while delivering innovation, better jobs, competitive businesses and industries, and lower emissions.

Clean Energy Canada also encouraged using government procurement to prioritize clean technology and support BC's clean technology providers. As a significant consumer in the BC economy, government can leverage this power to require low-carbon outcomes in alignment with climate objectives while also supporting innovation and economic growth.

Innergex Renewable Energy and Clean Energy BC emphasized the opportunity to make deep cuts to emissions through greater electrification. One third of energy in BC comes from electricity and two-thirds is delivered by fossil fuels, and nearly 100 percent of BC's electricity is renewable. Therefore, one of the best ways to meet climate targets is to transition energy use for homes, vehicles and industry from fossil fuels to clean electricity.

A number of submissions offered specific initiatives and ideas for reducing emissions. The New Car Dealers Association of British Columbia encouraged continuation of the Clean Energy Vehicle program, as well as targeted funding for electric charging systems. Similarly, the BC SCRAP-IT Program requested support for a large-scale scrap-to-electric vehicle program. FortisBC and the Canadian Home Builders' Association of BC recommended increased investments in programs and financial incentives that promote energy-efficiency.

The BC Trucking Association suggested offering a provincial sales tax exemption for model year 2017 and newer heavy-duty commercial vehicles. Heavy-duty commercial vehicles are responsible for approximately 35 percent of greenhouse gas emissions in the road transportation sector and about 14 percent of total emissions in BC. Changes in regulation mean that trucks made after 2017 are more fuel efficient and so incentivizing a switch to these vehicles would reduce emissions substantially. The Cement Association of Canada recommended mandating the use of Portland-limestone cement for public infrastructure projects, as it is a lower carbon intensity cement that is made in BC.

Fish and Wildlife Conservation and Management

Committee Members heard from several organizations about challenges with respect to funding for fish and wildlife conservation and management. The BC Wildlife Federation informed the Committee that BC's Fish and Wildlife branch is understaffed and underfunded, and that BC is one of few jurisdictions without a dedicated funding model for conservation and management. They recommended hunting and angling license and fee revenue be dedicated to fish and wildlife. In addition, they suggested that all natural resource users, such as those involved in ecotourism, wildlife viewing, mining, heli-skiing, oil and gas, and logging, be required to contribute to conservation in recognition of their impact on the environment.

The Committee also heard about issues with planning and management. The Kamloops and District Fish and Game Association expressed concerns regarding the declining steelhead populations in the Thompson and Chilcotin River systems. They recommended increasing funding for fish and wildlife management, and more specifically, adjusting policies and priorities to ensure effective and holistic management of water and land.

Northern Confluence focused on challenges with current land use planning practices. They recommended increased funding for land use planning in line with a mandate to modernize planning and sustainably manage BC's ecosystems, rivers, lakes, watersheds, forests and old growth. The Committee also received a recommendation related to watershed sustainability, with the BC Wildlife Federation suggesting a fund be established to assist in delivering watershed management objectives.

The Guide Outfitters Association of British Columbia spoke about environmental and habitat factors that affect wildlife populations. The Association would like to see the development of population objectives for all species. In his presentation to the Committee in Cranbrook, F.J. Hurtak advocated for improved data collection and analytics. He shared that biologists are using information that is four and five years old, making it difficult to manage wildlife properly.

Invasive Species

Invasive species organizations from across the province strongly urged action with respect to the threat that invasive species pose to BC's lands and waters. According to the Invasive Species Council of British Columbia, invasive species cause millions of dollars of damage to the provincial economy in ranching, forestry, tourism and other industries. They recommended the provision of increased, stable, long-term funding for prevention, monitoring and response. Submissions and presentations on invasive species particularly emphasized the importance of prevention and control, as it saves money over the long-term, and reduces remediation costs.

Several organizations, including the Okanagan and Similkameen Invasive Species Society and the Boundary Invasive Species Society, placed importance on responding to areas that have been disturbed by floods and wildfires. The ecosystems in these areas are especially vulnerable to invasive species.

Another area recommended for action was the regulation of pathways. High risk pathways that can introduce and spread invasive species include pet and aquarium trade, horticulture trade, recreation, rail transportation and tourism. The Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society, the Northwest Invasive Plant Council, the Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society and others recommended closing high risk pathways, or developing rules or regulations for various industries and activities that are pathways for invasive species. The Kelowna Chamber of Commerce referenced invasive mussel species specifically, and ensuring that border stations have trained personal to intercept infested boats and water-based equipment.

Many invasive species organizations also recommended introducing comprehensive legislation that covers all invasive species, and strengthening enforcement and compliance. The East Kootenay Invasive Species Council noted stronger leadership from the province is required in this area as invasive species organizations do not have the legal authority to address this.

Conclusions

Climate change and support for meeting climate goals was at the forefront of many submissions. The Committee appreciated the suggestions put forward by British Columbians for enhancing climate policies and initiatives. They agreed that sufficient funding and investments are required to promote a transition to clean energy and various other areas to address the challenge of climate change going forward.

Committee Members were especially supportive of investing in electrification for energy use as a means to make significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. They further expressed an interest in the continued promotion of energy efficiency, as well as the expansion of electric vehicle charging infrastructure, and the

adoption of clean energy vehicles. Using procurement to support clean energy and technologies was also identified as an excellent opportunity for the province to show leadership on the issue.

The Committee viewed addressing invasive species as an urgent priority. They expressed concern about the potential damage invasive species could inflict on a wide range of industries. Focusing on education, prevention and maintenance, as well as taking appropriate measures in places impacted by wildfires and flooding, were seen to be particularly important to avoid bigger costs and problems in the long-run.

Committee Members also acknowledged the need for more funding and investments in fish and wildlife. They appreciated concerns with respect to conservation and management, including sustainability, population declines, and data collection. They also supported increased funding for BC Parks in recognition of challenges related to staffing, increased demand, and infrastructure needs.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends to the Legislative Assembly that the provincial government:

BC Parks

19. Increase base operational funding for BC Parks to support monitoring and enforcement, public safety, recreational infrastructure, and conservation planning.

Climate Change and Clean Energy

20. Increase funding to promote a transition to clean energy.
21. Invest in and expand electricity production for energy use for homes, vehicles, natural resources and other industry in order to meet climate targets.
22. Promote energy efficiency through the use of various government tools, such as investments in energy efficiency programs and tax credits.
23. Provide additional funding for the Clean Energy Vehicle Program, and targeted funding for electric vehicle charging infrastructure.
24. Leverage government procurement to prioritize clean technology solutions and support BC's clean technology providers.

Fish and Wildlife Conservation and Management

25. Increase funding for fish and wildlife habitat management, conservation, protection and restoration.
26. Increase funding for land use planning in line with the mandate to modernize land use planning, and sustainably manage BC's ecosystems, rivers, lakes, watersheds, forests and old growth.
27. Improve data collection and analytics for wildlife management, distribute wildlife funding on a regional basis and give regions authority over spending.

Invasive Species

28. Provide robust funding and legislative authority to support education, prevention, monitoring, response and enforcement with respect to invasive species throughout BC, and ensure funding is stable, timely and predictable.

Fiscal Policy

British Columbians commented on several areas with respect to fiscal policy, including approaches to the overall fiscal framework. The Committee heard a number of concerns regarding the shift to the employer health tax and its impact on business, as well as a variety of suggestions regarding the carbon tax. Committee Members also heard about challenges experienced by treaty First Nations with respect to accessing borrowing and financing opportunities. Other areas for consideration included the luxury tax, liquor markups and municipalities.

Question three in the online survey (see Appendix A) sought input on how to pay for new and enhanced programs and services. The two most common selections were to increase the corporate income tax and natural resource royalties, followed by increase personal income tax, and reduce or eliminate existing programs.

Budgetary Policy

A number of organizations discussed the province's overall fiscal framework, and emphasized the importance of fiscal discipline and balancing the budget. In their submission, the Business Council of BC acknowledged that the province's finances are in healthy shape with a manageable debt load, however they cautioned against any operating deficits. The Canadian Federation of Independent Business and the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade echoed concerns about budgetary balance within the context of expected increases in public spending commitments, and encouraged planning and spending with the aim of achieving a balanced budget, and ensuring financial health for the BC economy.

The Committee also received recommendations from several organizations on adopting policies and orienting the budget with the aim of reducing inequality. The Public Health Association of BC explained that inequality leads to problems with health and well-being, increased crime and the need for police and court resources, and the erosion of democracy and potential for unrest. The Association, along with the BC Poverty Reduction Coalition, the Social Planning & Research Council of British Columbia and CUPE BC Division, recommended looking for opportunities to make the tax system fairer. Generation Squeeze suggested adopting an intergenerational lens to public finance, and assessing the ability of younger and older British Columbians to pay taxes today compared to prior generations.

Teck Resources Limited discussed issues with BC's tax system as it relates to competitiveness. They reported that the province's competitiveness has been steadily eroding, leading to a shift in the cost of doing business, particularly for natural resource companies. They recommended a broad-based review of factors impacting tax competitiveness with the aim of fostering economic growth and business activity which produces a stable tax revenue base for funding public services.

Carbon Tax

Committee Members heard several different suggestions regarding the design of the carbon tax, with most submissions expressing continued support for the tax as a means to meet climate goals. A number of

organizations requested more information about line item expenditures for carbon tax revenue. At the public hearing in Nelson, the Citizens' Climate Lobby stated that improved and more transparent communication about how revenue is spent would increase public confidence in and ongoing support for the tax.

A number of submissions and presentations shared ideas for how carbon tax revenue should be used. The BC Chamber of Commerce and the Kamloops Chamber of Commerce recommended returning to revenue neutrality. Both organizations expressed concern about losing incentives to decrease emissions, and government potentially becoming reliant on the tax for general revenues. Others, such as the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, suggested carbon tax revenues be spent on clean and renewable energy and green infrastructure.

The Committee also received recommendations regarding offsets and exemptions. The Fort Nelson and District Chamber of Commerce requested an offset for northern and rural British Columbia as options to reduce their carbon footprint do not exist. The David Suzuki Foundation recommended applying the carbon tax to methane emissions.

The Cement Association of Canada, the Business Council of BC, Teck Resources Limited and the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers expressed concerns about the impact of carbon tax on competitiveness for emissions-intensive, trade-exposed industries. They shared that BC companies are at an economic disadvantage when compared with competitors in North American jurisdictions who do not have a carbon tax. The Cement Association of Canada drew specific attention to the increase in cement imports since the introduction of the carbon tax, and the resulting carbon leakage. All four organizations recommended measures be taken to protect BC's emissions-intensive, trade-exposed industries through exemptions, offsets, or other initiatives.

Employer Health Tax

The Committee heard concerns from many sectors across the province about the implementation and structure of the employer health tax, and how it may affect various organizations. Some requested the tax be eliminated. Others, including the Prince George Chamber of Commerce, the Surrey Board of Trade and the Cranbrook Chamber of Commerce, suggested reviewing the tax, and looking for alternatives or a combination of different revenue sources to replace Medical Services Plan premiums.

Most presenters and submissions on this topic offered options for changes to reduce the burden and impact of the tax. One suggestion was to delay the implementation of the tax until after the Medical Services Plan premiums have been fully eliminated. The Chartered Professional Accountants of British Columbia offered a slightly different approach, and recommended delaying the tax to consult with BC businesses, and further assess the impact on productivity.

Another option was to make changes to thresholds. Some presenters expressed concerns that the current threshold would not eliminate the burden on small businesses, and that it may be a disincentive to hire workers or raise wages. The BC Chamber of Commerce suggested increasing the base payroll exemption threshold, as well as applying tax rates marginally, indexing the exemption threshold to inflation, and excluding several items from the calculation of the total payroll. The Canadian Federation of Independent Business, Restaurants Canada, Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce and several others also supported increasing the base payroll exemption.

Jeff Magnolo of Peerless Engineering recommended basing the tax on annual business net income rather than payroll. During his presentation in Surrey, he highlighted that using payroll is regressive to small business as the tax is a fixed annual operating cost, and does not correlate with ability to pay.

The Committee also received several requests for exemptions. For example, the BC Fruit Growers Association and the BC Agriculture Council recommended that seasonal agricultural workers, who are not eligible for the Medical Services Plan, be excluded from the tax. The Board Voice Society of BC asked for the tax to be waived for the community social service sector as the sector relies on fundraising, and does not have the ability to cover additional costs; alternatively, they suggested that the tax be funded in their contracts. The Northern Rockies Regional Municipality recommended that schools, municipalities and service agencies be exempt as the tax poses a significant cost on these organizations, who have a limited ability to increase revenues.

Liquor

Brent Holowaychuk and Tanya Finley, owners of Finley's Bar and Grill, and Sage Tapas and Wine Bar, presented to the Committee in Nelson. They recommended that the province work to level the playing field between pubs and restaurants, and microbreweries with respect to markups on craft and micro-brewed beer. Mr. Holowaychuk and Ms. Finley shared that microbreweries benefit from a markup that was introduced to help them compete in a wholesale environment. As breweries have opened lounges and pubs, the markup gives breweries an advantage, and allows them to sell on tap beer at 25 cents a pint less than pubs and restaurants. They suggested addressing the issue by increasing the markup on craft and micro-brewed beer, or by allowing pubs and restaurants to sell growlers.

Luxury Tax

The New Car Dealers Association of British Columbia requested changes to the luxury tax on vehicles. They reported that the threshold, which begins at \$55,000, has not been raised in a number of years, and now applies to many vehicles that would not be considered luxury items, such as work trucks and pick-up trucks. In addition to raising the threshold, they recommended eliminating the tax on pick-up trucks and work trucks, and expanding the tax to include items, such as recreational boats, recreational vehicles and jewelry.

Municipalities

At the public hearing in Smithers, the Village of Telkwa described funding challenges faced by small, rural municipalities. Telkwa is a bedroom community with no commercial or industrial tax base, where 92 percent of property taxation comes from residents. They reported that the community is struggling to expand infrastructure to attract businesses, and access new funding, particularly with the burden that grant reporting requirements place on a small staff. They recommended changes to funding for municipalities, as well as a capital grant funding mechanism for infrastructure to support municipalities like Telkwa. They also discussed revenue sharing agreements as a potential source of funding to allow municipalities to provide the minimum level of service and infrastructure.

The Columbia Valley Chamber of Commerce encouraged continued funding for the Rural Dividend Program. They shared that funded projects, such as recreation centres and trails, have had a visible impact in communities. The program has also enabled collaboration of local government, Indigenous communities and non-profits, resulting in increased capacity, resilience and growth in the Columbia Valley.

The Committee also heard concerns about property taxes. The Building Owners and Managers Association of British Columbia indicated that property taxes have been rising at unsustainable rates. The Association, as well as Restaurants Canada, recommended working with municipal governments to re-examine property tax policy to address the burden on small business.

Provincial Sales Tax (PST)

A number of organizations made recommendations for changes to the PST, particularly as it relates to administrative inefficiencies. The Chartered Professional Accountants of British Columbia described the current tax regime as hindering investment and productivity. They recommended eliminating the PST on business expenditures and inputs. Several organizations similarly recommended exempting production machinery, equipment, technology and investments. As an alternative, the BC Chamber of Commerce and the Independent Contractors and Businesses Association suggested moving to a value-added tax to enhance competitiveness.

The Resource Municipalities Coalition highlighted an issue with non-resident companies operating in BC, who may be unaware of their PST obligations, or may choose not to comply with required reporting and payment. If non-resident companies, particularly those from Alberta, are not paying the PST, it makes it difficult for BC-based companies to be competitive. Providing education, collecting data, and enhancing the ability of the Ministry of Finance to enforce tax requirements would reduce non-compliance.

In their presentation to the Committee, the Kamloops Chamber of Commerce shared an issue related to PST inconsistencies with real property contractors. The problem stems from the reintroduction of the PST in 2012, and the way it was collected and remitted, and has resulted in businesses paying the tax twice. The Kamloops Chamber of Commerce recommended offering a one-time relief program for real property contractors in this situation.

Treaty First Nations and Borrowing

The First Nations Financial Management Board, the First Nations Finance Authority and the Tsawwassen First Nation informed the Committee about a challenge related to the ability of some First Nations in BC to access pool-borrowing. The First Nations Finance Authority, established under the federal *First Nations Fiscal Management Act*, acts as a borrowing pool for eligible First Nations for the purpose of accessing capital, primarily through long-term debt financing. Treaty First Nations in BC are governed by a provincial statute, the *Treaty First Nation Taxation Act*. The provincial statute does not permit them to access borrowing opportunities under the federal act. As such, it was recommended to the Committee that legislation be amended to enable treaty First Nations in BC to access borrowing pools under the federal act.

Conclusions

Committee Members all agreed on the need for fiscal discipline, and prudent and careful management of both spending and taxation. They discussed how budgets can strengthen the economy and support social equality, and the importance of adopting approaches, mechanisms and policies that contribute to reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. They also encouraged ongoing consideration of efficiencies in the delivery of services.

The Committee acknowledged concerns about BC's taxation structure with respect to competitiveness and productivity, as well as the impact on business. They appreciated hearing from many organizations about the rollout and impact of the employer health tax, including their suggestions for addressing a number of concerns and issues. Committee Members expressed differing perspectives with respect to the shift from Medical Services Plan premiums to the employer health tax, and the impact this may have on British Columbians. The Committee was unable to reach a consensus on this matter.

Committee Members focused specifically on the PST as an opportunity to address competitiveness and productivity concerns, with a recommendation to review business input exemptions. They also recognized issues with respect to PST obligations for non-resident companies working in BC, and encouraged an examination of the issue with the aim of increasing enforcement. They also discussed the specific challenge real property contractors have been experiencing in regard to the collection and remittance of PST, and agreed that this issue needs to be closely reviewed and addressed to ensure fairness and avoid double taxation.

On the carbon tax, Committee Members expressed their continued support, and discussed various facets of how the tax is designed. They agreed on the need for more accountability and transparency on how revenue is used, and how it is helping to meet climate targets. They also recognized the challenges the carbon tax poses for trade-exposed industries, and the burden it places on competitiveness.

In regard to municipalities, the Committee discussed issues with their ability to generate revenue, and how this impacts their capacity to pay for infrastructure and climate adaptation, and how that in turns affects property taxes. They felt a review and consideration of funding sources and funding models is necessary to ensure municipalities can address fiscal challenges, particularly smaller municipalities who do not generate a lot of revenue.

The Committee was particularly interested in the borrowing challenges experienced by treaty First Nations. They reflected on the complexity of the issue, given that it involves the federal government and a number of First Nations, and recommended helping facilitate access to financing and borrowing opportunities.

Finally, Committee Members agreed with the need to re-evaluate the luxury tax. In their discussion, they acknowledged that increased vehicle prices has resulted in the tax applying to a number of vehicles that should not be considered luxury items. The Committee also discussed the markup on craft and micro-brewed beer, noting the differences between breweries, and pubs and restaurants, and agreed that any inequities should be addressed.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends to the Legislative Assembly that the provincial government:

Budgetary Policy

29. Pursue prudent and careful fiscal discipline, and improve efficiencies in the delivery of services while working toward reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, strengthening the economy, and supporting social equality.

Liquor

30. Address inequities between craft breweries and restaurants with respect to the markup on craft and micro-brewed beer.

Luxury Tax

31. Re-evaluate the luxury tax as it applies to pick-up trucks and work trucks.

Municipalities

32. Review recommendations from the Union of B.C. Municipalities to address revenue generation challenges for municipalities.
33. Continue funding the Rural Dividend Program.

Provincial Sales Tax (PST)

34. Examine the feasibility and impact of exempting machinery, equipment and technology from the PST.
35. Increase monitoring and enforcement of BC tax laws for the payment of PST by non-resident companies working in BC, and consider increasing transparency by implementing public reporting.

Treaty First Nations and Borrowing

36. Help facilitate access to equal and fair financing options and borrowing opportunities for treaty First Nations.

Health Care

Health care remains a high priority for British Columbians. Committee Members received many submissions and heard many presentations regarding the provision of acute care, community care, primary care and mental health services. Challenges with respect to the health human resources and the provision of health care services in rural and remote communities were highlighted. The Committee also received recommendations with respect to public health and wellness, as well as a number of specific funding requests.

In the online survey (see Appendix A), health care was the second most common theme in response to the first question on top three priorities for making life better, and received the most cents (14.7) in the second question in regard to dividing up a dollar between programs and services.

Acute Care and Emergency Services

Committee Members heard from a couple of organizations regarding surgical and diagnostic services. The British Columbian Anesthesiologists' Society described challenges with workforce shortages, and how this is resulting in hundreds of surgeries being cancelled every month. They discussed opportunities to improve efficiencies, noting operating rooms are the most expensive resource in the health care system with an estimated \$2 billion spent on surgery every year. Slight changes in efficiencies can result in hundreds of millions of dollars in additional costs or savings. The Society highlighted a need to increase investments in surgical capacity with a comprehensive plan that recognizes interdependent relationships between funding models, human resources, and specialized equipment and space. They further recommended tying investments to the volume of services delivered to promote efficiency and productivity.

To reduce surgical and diagnostic wait times, the BC Health Coalition advocated for the establishment of coordinated improvement teams. They emphasized sustained system improvement through changes to operational processes and system redesign as the key to reducing wait times and optimizing capacity in the long run. The Coalition cited Scotland's success in using centrally coordinated improvement teams to support health authorities and frontline clinicians with implementing changes.

The CUPE BC Division put forward a recommendation to increase resources to paramedic services, describing funding levels as inadequate. In rural or remote areas, stations may be unstaffed and calls redirected to ambulances further away while in urban areas the volume of calls is higher than staffing levels. Paramedics also continue to be at the forefront of the opioid crisis. Robin Gibson from Dawson Creek shared his experience with delayed response times for ambulance services as dispatchers, who may not be from the local area, require an exact address. He recommended allowing dispatchers to track the location of cell phones to improve response times.

Community Care and Seniors

Several organizations emphasized BC's aging population, and the need for additional investments in community care and innovative solutions to ensure British Columbians have access to safe, affordable and appropriate care as they age. S.U.C.C.E.S.S. drew attention to the need for culturally-appropriate community care services that are responsive to the needs of BC's diverse population.

The Committee received several requests specific to residential care. In her presentation in Campbell River, Lisa Schmalcel shared her mother's experience with overcrowding in the hospital system, partly as a result of seniors who are waiting in hospital for long-term residential care. She recommended funding for more residential care spaces so that seniors receive appropriate care in the right setting, and so those in hospital receive more timely attention. The Hospital Employees' Union highlighted issues with staffing levels and turnover, and recommended a review to ensure the provision of quality care. The BC Care Providers Association advocated for dedicated funding to address recruitment and retention challenges as some homes are unable to hire the number of workers required to provide minimum hours of care.

The BC Care Providers Association also requested more resources, training and education for dementia care. The Association noted that dementia affects over 60,000 British Columbians and this number will increase as BC's population ages. Training and education will be particularly important for workers in long-term care as over 60 percent of residents have some level of dementia. The Alzheimer Society of BC recommended funding for a province-wide online dementia education platform that provides information on how to help someone with dementia. This would support British Columbians living with dementia to remain in their community and reduce the stigma of the disease.

The Office of the Seniors Advocate focused on the client co-payment for home support services. Home support services assist seniors to live independently in their homes, and BC is one of few provinces to charge a client contribution or co-payment. According to the Office, seniors may be prematurely entering long-term care because the co-payment makes home support services less affordable than publicly-funded long-term care. However, long-term care costs government more than the co-payment brings in. The Seniors Advocate recommended eliminating the client co-payment to help seniors remain independent and in the community. The Hornby and Denman Community Health Care Society also discussed opportunities to help older adults stay in the community through increased funding to the Better at Home program. The program provides non-medical supports, such as community visitors, housekeeping, yard work and transportation. It reduces social isolation, injury and hospital visits, and provides preventative care to help older adults remain in their own homes longer.

The Committee also received requests to ensure access to palliative care and medical assistance in dying, and to support end-of-life bereavement programs. The Mission Hospice Society shared that while they receive funding for volunteer palliative services, they do not receive funding for bereavement support services. Sustaining funding for these services as a non-profit is a challenge, especially as demand increases.

CARP (formerly known as the Canadian Association of Retired Persons) highlighted the issue of elder abuse and neglect and opportunities to protect and support vulnerable seniors. CARP also discussed the importance of caregivers, noting that informal, unpaid caregivers provide significant savings to the health care system. They advocated for increased funding for respite care, adult day programs, and care in the community to support caregivers.

In a written submission, registered dietician Jenneke Van Hemert described the effect of poor nutrition on frailty among seniors. One in three seniors are at nutritional risk, but signs of aging can mask the symptoms of malnutrition. Ms. Van Hemert recommended funding for screening at point-of-care, and funding to subsidize access to home nutrition care. Addressing malnutrition would reduce visits to the emergency room, re-admission rates and length of stay, and help prevent premature long-term care placement.

Dental Care

The British Columbia Dental Association shared issues regarding access to dental care for seniors. They noted that 65 percent of seniors in BC do not have health benefits, and age-related impairments put seniors at risk of severe infection and tooth loss. The Chilliwack and District Seniors Resources Society reported that many seniors avoid dentists because of a lack of health insurance, and as a result, they avoid certain types of food, experience pain, or have trouble eating, all of which exacerbate other health issues. Both organizations supported extending dental benefits to seniors in some form, such as creating a dental plan for low-income seniors or extending to some seniors the same dental benefits provided to individuals in receipt of income assistance.

The Committee also received requests for changes to government dental programs for individuals on income and disability assistance. The British Columbia Dental Association stated that dental coverage is insufficient, particularly for persons with disabilities who are often medically complex, and require a hospital setting for dental care. Patients may also exceed treatment limits leading to the only the provision of emergency dental care when prevention, early diagnosis and treatment should be the focus.

The Association further recommended a long-term funding model to assist non-for-profit dental clinics who provide care to low-income patients. They noted that 20 not-for-profit clinics provide care with little or no government support, and funding is needed to support access to care for vulnerable patients. They also recommended ongoing funding for the Prosthodontic program at BC Cancer, as well as expanding the Pharmanet program to dentists and dental specialists. Dentists are the second largest prescribing group in the province after physicians, and access to Pharmanet would allow them to better manage their patients with respect to medications.

Health Human Resources

The Health Sciences Association of BC and the BC Health Coalition discussed opportunities for improving comprehensive workplace planning. The Committee heard about shortages in a number of health professions, and how the lack of strategic planning and development affects access to care. Improved workforce planning can also contribute to efficiency by ensuring British Columbians are receiving care from the most appropriate provider and not ending up in hospital.

In their presentation to the Committee in Campbell River, a student from École Ballenas Secondary School in Parksville drew attention to issues with accessing physicians. Tanager Carson-Austin shared his father's experience with waiting to see a physician, and how it affected his quality of care and his family. He suggested looking to immigration and changes to the funding model as ways to address this. The Association of Administrative and Professional Staff at UBC likewise shared the challenges their members have in finding a family doctor, and how it affects general health and the ability to access medical leave. They recommended a significant increase in funding for primary care physicians.

The Committee also heard specifically about the shortage of physiotherapists. Patrick Jadan, co-owner at Thrive Now Physiotherapy and the president of the Physiotherapy Association of British Columbia, informed Committee Members that BC has the largest ratio of physiotherapists per population. The challenge of the physiotherapist shortage is further compounded by geography as approximately 87 percent of physiotherapists work in urban communities. It also has a direct impact on quality of life and health care costs as British Columbians do not receive timely access to physiotherapy services, and end up spending more time in hospital. He noted that demand for physiotherapy services is expected to increase and recommended that the number of physiotherapists trained in BC be increased from 80 to 240.

Medical Interpreting Services

On October 10, 2018 in Mission, Forrest Smith, who is hearing-impaired, shared his experience with the Medical Interpreting Services program. The program, funded by the Provincial Health Services Agency, provides interpreters for medical appointments, hospital stays and emergencies. However, it only covers services under the *Medicare Protection Act* and the *Hospital Insurance Act*. Mr. Smith would like to see the program expanded to provide interpretation for non-Medical Service Plan services, such as physiotherapy and eye exams. He also discussed the shortage of American Sign Language interpreters across the province, and recommended funding for skills training.

Mental Health and Addiction

The Committee heard from many British Columbians on the need to invest in a continuum of mental health and addiction services. According to the Canadian Mental Health Association, Vancouver-Fraser Branch, mental health accounts for 23 percent of the total disease burden, however it receives a much smaller proportion of health service and research funding. The Association emphasized the importance of prevention, early intervention and addressing stigma. Investments in these areas support mental wellness and encourage those with mental illness to get help, improving health outcomes and saving the system money in the long term. They also discussed opportunities for integrating mental health into primary care to better meet the needs of individuals who require mental health and addiction services, and ensure consistency in funding.

The Canadian Mental Health Association, BC Division advocated for a coordinated substance use care system that provides wrap-around, evidence-based therapies to support long-term recovery. These include harm reduction, substitution therapy, detox and recovery beds, and residential treatment. The North Island Supportive Recovery Society and the Realistic Success Recovery Society made specific recommendations for increasing core funding and per diem rates for recovery facilities.

The Maple Ridge Pitt Meadows and Katzie Community Network identified the opioid crisis as a major issue in their community. They recommended more funding and support for community organizations tackling the crisis at the local level. The organization offered a range of suggestions to address the crisis, such as easier access to opioid agnostic therapy and other similar treatment options, stigma reduction and prevention, and safe consumption sites. The British Columbia Pharmacy Association suggested pharmacists be enabled to deliver medications, such as hydromorphone and Suboxone, to those suffering from addiction. According to the Association, pharmacists interact most frequently with people dealing with addiction and are therefore well-positioned to offer care.

Pharmaceuticals

Several organizations identified the rising cost of prescription drugs as a major issue. Some, such as the Canadian Life and Health Insurance Association, and the British Columbia Pharmacy Association, recommended working with stakeholders to bring down the cost of drugs, enhance access to high cost medicines, and transition patients onto less costly but equally appropriate medications. Others, such as the Surrey Board of Trade, encouraged the province to work with the federal government, and other provinces and territories, to combine purchasing power in order to reduce prescription drug costs for citizens, businesses, insurance companies and all levels of government.

Primary Care

Committee Members heard broad-based support for team-based, collaborative care models, and received a number of recommendations for funding to enable expansion of these models across the province. The Health Sciences Association of BC, the BC Health Coalition and the Metro Vancouver Alliance all advocated for a dedicated funding stream for team-based care models. A dedicated funding stream would facilitate expansion, as well as ensure the models are responsive to community needs and include a full range of health services and supports.

Several health professional groups, including physiotherapists, psychologists and chiropractors, requested that they be integrated into the team-based care models. Each explained how they can contribute to providing comprehensive, efficient and cost-effective care to British Columbians in a primary care setting. For example, the Physiotherapy Association of British Columbia described physiotherapists as having a wide scope of practice suited to primary care, including pain management, pediatrics, post-operative care, seniors care, stroke rehabilitation and workplace injury. They reported that physiotherapy has been shown to reduce chronic pain, reduce mortality after a discharge from hospital, improve quality of life and reduce falls for seniors, and help with treatment in many other health care areas.

The BC Psychological Association informed the Committee that over 70 percent of visits to primary care physicians are behavioural, emotional or psychological in nature, and the point of entry for patients with mental health problems is primarily through their family physician. Teams that include registered psychologists are therefore well-positioned to provide assessment, diagnosis and treatment of mental health conditions. Integrating psychologists is also more cost-effective as it reduces demand on family physicians and emergency services.

The BC Chiropractic Association shared that one third of all visits to family doctors are for musculoskeletal conditions. Chiropractors are trained in the diagnosis, management and prevention of musculoskeletal conditions, and integrating them into a collaborative care model would increase capacity in the system to focus on more complex patients, and reduce wait times and duplication of appointments and tests. The Association also requested that chiropractors be permitted to refer patients directly for diagnostic imaging tests. Currently, chiropractors must refer patients to their doctor to get a publicly-funded x-ray. Allowing them to refer patients directly would decrease costs in terms of reduced visits to physicians, and improve patient access.

The Social Planning & Research Council of British Columbia specifically recommended funding for Indigenous community health services, including services for urban Indigenous peoples. They recognized the role of both federal and provincial governments in this area, and reflected on the need to ensure commitments

and funding are guided by the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action.

The Committee also received recommendations for improving the management of chronic disease. In a joint submission, March of Dimes Canada and the Stroke Recovery Association of British Columbia noted that as BC's population ages, the number of people living with disabilities and chronic disease will increase. Investing in community-based programming and increasing access to interdisciplinary care teams, including appropriate linkages with hospital-based services, will help better support people with disabilities and people with chronic disease. This will enable them to stay in their homes and communities, and decrease the burden on hospitals, acute care facilities and long-term care homes.

Public Health and Wellness

The BC Alliance for Healthy Living Society and the Childhood Obesity Foundation encouraged the Committee to recommend adding the PST to all sugar-sweetened beverages. Sugar-sweetened beverages are the single largest contributor of added sugar in the Canadian diet, and are estimated to cost the province about \$130 million each year in direct health care costs. The revenue could be invested in subsidizing fruits and vegetables, and other initiatives that promote health and wellness.

At the public hearing in Surrey, the Canadian Cancer Society recommended that a fee be added to the existing permitting process for a tobacco retail license, and that taxes on tobacco products be increased. According to the Society, tobacco kills one of every two regular users, is the highest preventable cause of death in the province, and results in \$2.3 billion in health care costs for tobacco-related illness. They stated that addressing retail and distribution of tobacco is part of a holistic and coordinated policy approach that uses financial tools to encourage healthy behaviour while also recovering health care costs. On a related note, Art Van Pelt recommended that e-cigarettes and other smoking replacements be regulated in the same manner as tobacco as they also promote nicotine addiction.

The British Columbia Lung Association discussed a number of programs and areas for investment for improving lung health. They recommended continued support for the QuitNow and Wood Stove Exchange programs. These programs have been successful in helping people quit smoking and reducing wood burning stoves inside houses, however more work is needed. They also advocated for wildfire education to dispel myths and raise awareness of the risks of inhaling smoke, and how to prevent it. The Association further encouraged the Committee to recommend funding for radon testing and remediation because radon is the second largest cause of lung cancer after tobacco smoke.

The B.C. Association of Farmers Markets and the Haney Farmers Market Society made recommendations for increased funding for the Farmers Market Nutrition Coupon Program. The program has been very successful in providing low-income families and seniors access to local healthy food while also supporting hundreds of farmers across the province. Additional, multi-year funding would enable the program to expand to every community with farmers markets, and support more British Columbians to improve nutrition literacy and eat well.

Rural and Remote Health Care

Committee Members heard from organizations in northern BC about challenges with accessing health services in rural and remote areas. The Northern Rockies Aboriginal Women Society informed the Committee that pregnant women in Fort Nelson must travel to Fort St. John to have their children, leaving three weeks ahead of time and having limited support as families are not able to follow. The community also has children who are sick or have disabilities who have to be sent out of the community for services as there is no local pediatrician.

The Fort Nelson & District Chamber of Commerce described specific issues with medivac services. When northern British Columbians are sent to hospital in Vancouver, they are often released without support for accommodation or transportation back to their home community. The Chamber requested equitable access to medical services be provided, and that supports upon release from hospital be improved.

The Resource Municipalities Coalition described the social implications of limited health service provision in rural and remote communities, particularly as it relates to mental health and well-being, and community cohesion. Staffing shortages result in northern British Columbians waiting longer for care while the staff that is there may experience burnout, illness and injury as they try to fill the gaps through longer shifts. The Coalition emphasized the expected growth in workforce in the resource sector, and how that may further impact health care delivery in northern BC. They recommended increased funding for improved health service delivery in the region.

Specific Funding Requests

The Committee received several funding requests for specific health services and organizations. In their presentation, the Parkinson Society British Columbia advocated for funding for more surgeons and operating time for deep brain stimulation surgery. The procedure is used to treat a variety of debilitating symptoms of Parkinson's disease, such as tremor, rigidity, stiffness, slowed movement and walking problems. The Society emphasized that it helps improve the quality of life for British Columbians with Parkinson's disease, however it is only effective within a certain time period. BC currently has a five-year waitlist and only one surgeon who can perform the procedure.

The Northern Brain Injury Association requested increased, multi-year funding for the Brain Injury Fund, which is administered by the Brain Injury Alliance. More people are hospitalized with head injuries in northern BC than anywhere else in the province. Additional funding would enable the hiring and training of more staff, provide continuity, and help address a 50 percent increase in caseload over the past year.

Arthritis Research Canada recommended increased funding for arthritis research to help the 700,000 British Columbians with arthritis. According to the organization, arthritis has become the leading cause of long term disability with one in 10 doctors' visits and one in 16 hospitalizations related to arthritis. These numbers are increasing, and the large number of cases poses a financial burden on the health care system.

IVF4BC, an organization made up of British Columbians who have experienced infertility and financial hardship due to in vitro fertilization (IVF) treatment, requested public funding for IVF treatment for low-income families. The organization described infertility as a medical condition that affects one in six BC families. They stated that IVF is an effective treatment for the condition, however it is inaccessible due to cost. Public funding would provide equal access and opportunity for all British Columbians to build a family,

regardless of income or geography. It would also help manage hospital costs and improve hospital utilization by eliminating the use of publicly-funded treatments that are less effective than IVF.

Conclusions

The Committee identified improved workforce planning as a key opportunity for improving access to health care services while generating efficiencies and cost savings. This includes addressing shortages in a number of health professions, expanding training, and exploring different recruitment and retention initiatives. The Committee especially acknowledged the need to address the shortage of family care physicians.

With an aging and diverse population, continued investments in the full spectrum of community care and seniors, as well as various social and recreational support services, were encouraged. Committee Members were especially interested in the proposal to eliminate the client co-payment for home support both in terms of better supporting seniors to age-in-place and in terms of reducing costs to government. They also discussed challenges with respect to staffing in community care, including minimum staffing levels, compensation, recruitment and retention, and recommended action to address these challenges. Other areas Committee Members identified as warranting additional investment included palliative and end-of-life care, bereavement programs, caregiver support, dementia education and nutrition.

The Committee recognized mental health and addiction services as a priority for British Columbians, and acknowledged that more has to be done in this regard. Many have been impacted by mental illness and substance use, and investments in prevention, early intervention, stigma reduction and a range of other measures is needed.

Committee Members also supported investments in team-based primary care models, and were pleased to see many health professionals, such as physiotherapists, psychologists and chiropractors, requesting to be included in these models. The importance of designing the models to allow for variation based on community need was emphasized by the Committee. They also agreed on the need to provide funding for Indigenous community health services, as well as better support British Columbians with chronic disease through improved community-based, primary care supports.

The Committee acknowledged access to health care services in rural and remote areas as a critical equity issue. They discussed some of the challenges with respect to the provision of emergency services, rural and remote British Columbians having to leave their communities to receive services without social supports, and recruiting and retaining health care workers to these communities. Committee Members were of the view that a multi-pronged approach was required to address these issues.

On dental care, the Committee discussed the financial barriers faced by low-income seniors, those on income and disability assistance, and other vulnerable British Columbians. They reflected on the various suggestions for addressing these barriers and improving access, and agreed that funding should be provided to not-for-profit dental clinics who do important work providing oral care to vulnerable British Columbians. Committee Members also felt that the request to include dentists and dental specialists in PharmaNet should be examined given their prescribing roles.

Finally, the Committee supported initiatives that promote healthy eating and wellness, such as the BC Farmers Market Nutrition Coupon Program. They also expressed interest in the implementation of taxation and fees that recognize the negative impact of sugar-sweetened beverages and tobacco on public health, as well as initiatives, such as the Woodstove Exchange program, that improve air quality and support lung health.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends to the Legislative Assembly that the provincial government:

Community Care and Seniors

37. Ensure stable, quality care in residential care facilities by reviewing and establishing minimum staffing levels, equalizing compensation, and reviewing sub-contracting of care and support services.
38. Provide additional long-term funding to address community care health human resource recruitment and retention challenges in public, private and non-profit sectors.
39. Eliminate the client co-payment for home support.
40. Increase funding to the Better at Home program.
41. Provide adequate funding for palliative, end-of-life care and bereavement programs.
42. Provide funding for dementia education, resources and training to support individuals and families affected by dementia, and develop dementia-friendly communities.
43. Enhance nutritional supports for seniors, including screening for malnutrition, and providing subsidized home nutrition care and dietician support to identified patients.

Dental Care

44. Provide funding to not-for-profit dental clinics, and incentives to support dentists who provide charitable dentistry.

Health Human Resources

45. Increase funding for ongoing, comprehensive health human resources planning and development, including the expansion of training capacity for priority professions, such as physiotherapists, occupational therapists, speech language pathologists, sonographers, MRI technologists and perfusionists, as well as recruitment and retention in rural and remote areas.
46. Address the shortage of primary care physicians, including exploring opportunities through funding, training, recruitment and retention initiatives, and immigration.

Medical Interpreting Services

47. Expand Medical Interpreting Services to include non-MSP covered services, such as physiotherapy, eye exams and hospice, and improve training and technology.

Mental Health and Addiction

48. Invest in and scale up a continuum of services for mental health and addiction, including prevention, early intervention, stigma and substance use, as well as measures to address the opioid crisis, and ensure supports and services are culturally safe and trauma-informed.

Primary Care

49. Invest in multi-disciplinary team-based care models, such as community health centres, that are flexible, adaptable and responsive to the needs of different communities.
50. Invest in effective linkages between community supports and acute care services for British Columbians with chronic diseases, as well as prevention to reduce the prevalence and impact of chronic diseases and rising obesity rates.
51. Increase funding for First Nations community health services and services for urban Indigenous people.

Public Health and Wellness

52. Apply the PST to sugar-sweetened beverages.
53. Implement an annual fee for tobacco retail authorization permits.
54. Treat e-cigarettes and other smoking replacements the same as tobacco, and create a license system for the sale of e-cigarettes with an annual renewal and license fee.
55. Continue supporting the Woodstove Exchange program.

Rural and Remote Health Care

56. Review different mechanisms to ensure equitable access to health services in remote and rural areas, including recruitment and retention of health care providers, health and social supports for treatments received away from home, and tax deductions for medical travel costs.

Housing

Many British Columbians advocated for increased investments in affordable and social housing, highlighting the affordability crisis in many communities across BC. The Committee also heard concerns about the impact of taxation on the cost of home ownership, including the application of the speculation tax and school tax. Homelessness and the need to take a housing-first approach was another common theme. Other topics discussed in relation to housing include access to real estate data, realtors, and working with municipalities to facilitate construction.

In the online survey (see Appendix A), housing was the third most common theme in question one with respect to the top three priorities to make life better, and received the third most cents (11.1) in question two regarding dividing a dollar between programs and services. In question four with respect to what government can do to build a diverse and sustainable economy, investing in affordable housing and working to stabilize the real estate market received the most selections.

Affordable and Social Housing

The Committee heard from a broad cross-section of organizations on the need for more investments in affordable and social housing. Several organizations, including the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade, Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce, Association of Service Providers for Employability & Career Training, Retail Council of Canada and Kamloops Symphony Society, explained that a lack of affordable housing is a barrier to employment, recruitment and retention. The BC Poverty Reduction Coalition noted the impact on poverty, highlighting that 45 percent of renters spend more than 30 percent of their income on rent, and one in five renters spend more than half of their income on rent. S.U.C.C.E.S.S. drew attention to challenges experienced by immigrant and refugee households who are more likely to be in need of more suitable housing, spend a higher proportion of their income on housing, and live in overcrowded conditions.

Several submissions recommended direct public investments that target a range of housing options, including family units, supportive housing, pet-friendly housing, accessible and adaptable units, and non-market units for low-income British Columbians. The BCGEU noted that investments in affordable non-market housing can reduce inflationary pressures in market housing. The Victoria Residential Builders Association suggested building affordable housing on vacant public land, while the British Columbia Stone, Sand and Gravel Association recommended offering incentives to developers to encourage proactive and affordable residential development. The Cressey Development Group specifically suggested eliminating 'negotiated' or 'voluntary' community amenity contributions for re-zonings as an opportunity to foster private sector construction of new, affordable housing.

Two organizations offered suggestions for approaches to a housing strategy. OneSky Community Resources recommended a clear role for the community non-profit sector. They pointed to the value that the sector provides in the delivery of health and social services, and their ability to leverage government funds to generate innovative and local approaches. The Greater Vancouver Board of Trade suggested addressing broader supply issues, with a focus on increasing and diversifying both market and non-market housing.

Data

The Committee heard from two organizations with respect to the provision of real estate data, which is used by individuals, businesses, industry and government to make important decisions about housing. Mortgage Sandbox discussed issues with the accuracy of data. For example, new listings are presented as erroneously high because they include 'recycled listings' or listings that are dropped and re-entered with no material change to the property. On the other hand, sales and active listings are presented as erroneously low because presales are not being captured accurately. They recommended measures to improve the accuracy and completeness of the real estate market data, including re-introducing guidelines to restrict re-listing properties, and taking reassignments of presales before they are complete into account.

The Appraisal Institute of Canada described challenges regarding access. They reported that real estate data are extracted from a number of public and private sources, and that some providers have placed greater restrictions on access and use, and increased the cost of access. The organization emphasized that appraisers rely on this information to complete appraisal assignments and support individuals and businesses with making informed decisions about property transactions. As such, they recommended ensuring land titles and assessment databases are accessible to appraisers at a reasonable cost.

Homelessness

The Public Health Association of BC, the Canadian Mental Health Association, BC Division and Matthew Theriault from École Ballenas Secondary School advocated for the application of a housing-first principle to address homelessness. They noted the importance of combining housing with wrap-around supports to ensure stability and long-term success, particularly for individuals with mental illness and addiction. This includes health and social services, skills training, and education.

CARP and the Seniors Services Society of BC highlighted concerns about homeless or at-risk seniors. Approximately 100,000 seniors are living below the poverty line in BC, and 23 percent of Metro Vancouver's homeless population are seniors. The Seniors Services Society of BC explained that seniors face challenges with housing security due to health related issues and a lack of finances. Both organizations recommended developing housing supports for seniors, including increasing funding to programs, such as the BC Senior's Society Housing Navigator, Seniors Housing & Information Navigation Ease BC and the Seniors Temporary Housing Program.

A Way Home Kamloops Society recommended developing a provincial plan to end youth homelessness, informed by local communities and implemented at the local level. According to the organization, there is no federal or provincial funding specifically for youth homelessness, noting that youth require distinct programs and services.

Realtors

The British Columbia Real Estate Association requested changes to the ban on limited dual agency to support small communities and commercial transactions. They informed the Committee that the ban on limited dual agency has made it difficult to practice in small communities, which are served by few realtors, and created challenges for commercial transactions, in which very few realtors specialize. They requested the existing exemption be clarified to support consumers in underserved communities, and a new exemption be introduced for commercial transactions.

Rental Housing

The Committee received a number of recommendations to address challenges with the rental market, including insecurity, the increasing cost of rent, and low vacancy rates. To address affordability, the Metro Vancouver Alliance, the Public Health Association of BC and the Living Wage for Families Campaign proposed tying rent control to the unit rather than the tenant. The Canadian Mental Health Association, BC Division suggested the opposite approach – that is of tying rent control to the person rather than the unit to provide for flexibility as an individual’s needs may change.

LandlordBC recommended the maximum rent increase formula be returned to 2 percent plus the consumer price index (CPI) to enable landlords to cover costs and remain in the rental market. The organization noted that between 2009 and 2018, the compound annual maximum allowed rent increase was 3.2 percent while expenses increased 7.6 percent per annum. Generation Squeeze shared concerns about the impact of recent rental control changes on the ability of landlords to address costs, and on the development of new rental construction. They recommended assessing recent changes over the next 12 months for effects on the development of new purpose-built rental.

Several organizations recommended a review of the *Residential Tenancy Act*. The BC Chamber of Commerce and the Surrey Board of Trade discussed a review from the landlord perspective with the aim of ensuring requirements do not discourage British Columbians from renting out units or investing in rental units. The Council of Seniors Citizens’ Organizations of BC, the Canadian Mental Health Association, BC Division and the BC Poverty Reduction Coalition shared the tenant perspective, emphasizing the need for stronger tenant protections and enforcement, particularly for individuals with mental health or substance abuse related issues.

Committee Members also received a range of suggestions for increasing the supply of rental housing. The BC Chamber of Commerce recommended providing tax breaks for developers, while the British Columbia Real Estate Association and the Real Estate Board of Greater Vancouver recommended providing positive incentives to homeowners to make their homes available for long-term rentals. Redbrick Properties Inc. and the Urban Development Institute Pacific Region recommended exempting purpose-built rental housing projects from the property transfer tax to help address construction costs. A couple of development companies suggested consideration of incentives or low cost funding for repairs and upgrades to maintain existing rental housing stock.

Taxation

A number of submissions and presentations recommended changes to the property transfer tax to address the cost of housing, both in terms of the cost to industry during construction and in terms of the direct cost of home ownership for British Columbians. The Canadian Home Builders Association of BC, the British Columbia Real Estate Association and the Real Estate Board of Greater Vancouver discussed the impact of the property transfer tax on the affordability of home ownership. Most homes are now priced well above the \$200,000 threshold and subject to the tax, with revenues to government increasing every year.

They recommended several changes to the structure of the property transfer tax to ensure it accurately reflects the nature of the real estate market and to decrease the tax burden on British Columbians. This includes: increasing the 2 percent threshold to \$525,000; increasing the First-Time Home Buyers’ Program threshold to \$750,000; and indexing all thresholds to the CPI and making adjustments annually. The British Columbia Real Estate Association and the Real Estate Board of Greater Vancouver also suggested expanding

the exemption for the additional 20 percent foreign buyers' tax to include everyone with a work permit in BC, as well as not increasing this tax or expanding it beyond its current geographical scope.

The Committee also received recommendations related to the school tax and the speculation tax, with the most common being to exempt development properties from both taxes. The Canadian Homebuilders Association of BC explained that developers are not always in charge of the construction timeline, and that taxing incomplete homes substantially increases building costs. The Urban Development Institute Pacific Region also discussed the importance of ensuring land is not taxed during construction or development as it can take up to two years to work through the planning process. The British Columbia Real Estate Association highlighted the combined impact of the taxes, and expressed concern that taxes are serving to increase housing prices. Several organizations also requested that the speculation tax be reviewed for its impact on residential construction and that it be eliminated entirely.

Working with Municipalities

Additional suggestions for facilitating construction of more housing related to working with municipalities with respect to the permitting process. The Victoria Residential Builders Association and the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade identified challenges with the length of time the permitting process takes, and the associated direct and indirect costs that this has on construction. They recommended that the process be simplified, accelerated and made more consistent.

The Victoria Residential Builders Association also discussed changes to permit fees and building codes. They described permit fees as functioning more like a tax as they are based on the value of construction and recommended that the fees be changed to reflect a "fee-for-service" model. They further suggested that the province harmonize building codes to provide consistency for the construction industry. The Association also recommended that the BC Energy Step Code standard be reconsidered as it adds significantly to the cost of new homes for an incremental reduction in emissions. They noted that the standard only applies to new homes, and since most emissions come from older homes, retrofit rebates would be more effective.

The Committee also received recommendations for incenting municipalities to increase density as a way to increase supply. Generation Squeeze proposed working with municipalities and directly linking provincial funding to density goals to provide municipal decision-makers with a strong mandate to encourage density. The BC Chamber of Commerce suggested working with local governments to set density requirements for development, pre-zone for transit-oriented development, and implement density bonuses. The Independent Contractors and Businesses Association of BC suggested increasing density near schools, transit and post-secondary institutions, and working with municipalities to change zoning from single to multi-family, particularly in the Lower Mainland. The British Columbia Real Estate Association and the Real Estate Board of Greater Vancouver both referenced increasing gentle density, such as stratifying laneways, infill homes and secondary suites, as a way to address population growth.

Conclusions

The Committee heard a strong message from British Columbians on the need to invest in a range of affordable and supportive housing options. They agreed that more funding should be provided, emphasizing opportunities for collaboration with various sectors to increase supply and address affordability.

The Committee also agreed that steps must be taken to address homelessness, particularly for seniors, youth, and those struggling with mental illness. They recommended taking a housing-first approach that recognizes the relationship between housing, and mental health and addiction, and the importance of providing comprehensive, wrap-around health and support services. Committee Members further agreed that a dedicated provincial plan for youth homelessness should be developed in order to address the unique needs and challenges experienced by youth.

With respect to rental housing, Committee Members reviewed a variety of different options for addressing vacancy rates and rental costs, including rent subsidies and control, and incentives to increase supply. They also discussed supporting both tenants and landlords through the enforcement of housing and tenancy regulations.

The Committee reflected on the input regarding the cost of home ownership. Committee Members acknowledged their differing opinions with respect to the potential impact of the speculation tax on housing affordability. While the Committee was unable to agree on a recommendation with respect to this matter, they agreed that the property transfer tax warranted a review with the aim of making adjustments to better reflect rising home values.

Finally, Committee Members considered suggestions for working with municipalities to build housing, including the proposals to increase density near schools, transit lines and post-secondary institutions, as well as incent construction. They also discussed the challenges the municipal permitting process poses to developers, including the impact on timelines and costs. Committee Members reviewed options for addressing these challenges, recognizing that this is largely a municipal issue.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends to the Legislative Assembly that the provincial government:

Affordable and Social Housing

57. Increase funding to build more social and affordable rental housing units in collaboration with Indigenous partners, municipalities, non-profit and faith-based organizations and the private sector, and maintain the existing affordable housing supply.

Homelessness

58. Address homelessness by applying a housing-first principle, and providing more social housing and wrap-around health and social support services for the homeless, Indigenous people, seniors and youth, as well as those with mental illness and addiction.
59. Develop a provincial youth homelessness plan to prevent, reduce and end youth homelessness.

Taxation

60. Conduct an annual review of the property transfer tax thresholds and make any necessary adjustments to address the challenges related to home ownership due to the dynamic nature of the real estate market.

K-12 Education

Many submissions and presentations highlighted the importance of investing in K-12 education, and shared challenges with respect to capital funding, operational funding, recruitment and retention, and the new curriculum. The needs of Indigenous learners and students with special needs was particularly highlighted. As My Huy Lim, a Grade 10 student from École Ballenas Secondary School shared, “the BC government needs to value and take good care of youth, as they are the next generation that will shape the province’s future.”

Education was the fifth most common theme in response to the first question in the online survey (see Appendix A) on top three priorities to help make life better, with increasing funding for public education a frequent response. In question two, K-12 education received the fourth most cents (10.2) for dividing a dollar between programs and services.

Capital Funding

The Committee heard from school districts, parent groups and teachers across the province about the need to increase capital funding for schools. The Surrey District Parents Advisory Council shared challenges with overcapacity, and how the number of portables are increasing. They noted that portables take away from play space, lack basic facilities and are costly to move. School District No. 60 (Peace River North) informed Committee Members that 20 percent of existing buildings in their district are at the end of their life, and middle and high schools are overcapacity, even following the recent completion of a new school. School District No. 43 (Coquitlam) explained that capital needs have become even more urgent due to class size and composition requirement changes which have minimized available space. Becoming compliant with the 2016 Supreme Court of Canada decision has required the addition of 40 new classroom spaces and 20 portables in their district.

School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay) described similar challenges with overcapacity and the use of portables in Fernie, a city with a growth rate of 18 percent, the fastest in the country. The District highlighted issues at Mount Baker Secondary School in Cranbrook where almost \$400,000 in emergency repairs are required for the music and drama room in order to maintain the structural integrity of the building. They advocated for a full replacement of that school. Robert Holmes, a retired engineer from Cranbrook, suggested using the opportunity provided by replacing Mount Baker Secondary School to update boilers, and use solar energy or in-ground thermal storage, which could reduce the gas bill significantly. Combining the school with housing would also help prepare Cranbrook for a population expansion, and could be accomplished as part of a necessary infrastructure project. Angel Elias requested a new high school for Mission as Mission Secondary School is expected to exceed capacity within the next two years.

With respect to portables, the Surrey District Parents Advisory Council and the Surrey Teachers Association pointed out that districts use operational funds to meet this need, resulting in reduced funding for educational services. They recommended that portables be appropriately and adequately funded as capital. The Surrey District Parents Advisory Council further asked for funding for playgrounds, which are often paid for through fundraising.

The Vancouver School Board and School District No. 38 (Richmond) requested increased investments in seismic upgrades. Vancouver has over 50 schools that are seismically unsafe, with many needing to be rebuilt, while 34 of Richmond's 48 schools are deemed to be at high seismic risk. The Parent Advocacy Network for Education and the BC Teachers' Federation also suggested more capital funding for seismic upgrades to ensure students are learning in safe spaces.

Committee Members also learned about issues with area standards. The Vancouver School Board explained that area standards require new builds to be 40 percent smaller than old schools. This means no dedicated space for art, music or other programs, and also means that within a few years of construction, schools are often too small to accommodate any growth in enrollment. The Board explained that new types of spaces, including breakout rooms for collaborative learning, are required in the new curriculum and should be accommodated in area standards.

School District No. 57 (Prince George) shared that the majority of schools in their district are considered to be in poor condition, according to the Ministry of Education's Facility Condition Index. They discussed the annual facility grant, and how additional funding would help improve conditions and extend the useful life of these schools. The Vancouver School Board highlighted their deferred maintenance costs, and along with School District No. 43 (Coquitlam), requested targeted funding for maintenance.

Indigenous Students

Several submissions advocated for the development and implementation of programs to support Indigenous students. Shane Coutlee indicated that high-school graduation rates are 20 percent lower for Indigenous students. They are also over-represented in alternate learning programs in K-12 and underrepresented in post-secondary programs. He shared that Indigenous students need proactive support programs before they reach high school to increase graduation rates and encourage the transition to higher learning. As such he recommended supporting Indigenous students by funding for programs that start in elementary school. These programs must be delivered early, and target and address the unique needs of Indigenous learners.

The Vancouver School Board recommended funding to identify and implement best practices with respect to the level of achievement for Indigenous students. They noted that their six-year completion rate falls significantly below the provincial average. The school district would like provincial support to identify best practices and strategies in districts where the completion rate is higher in order to support the improvement of educational outcomes for Indigenous students.

Several organizations, including the CUPE BC Division, also referenced the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Call to Action 63, with respect to a commitment to Indigenous education issues. They recommended funding to educate teachers on how to integrate Indigenous knowledge and teaching methods into classrooms.

Operational Funding

The Committee received a significant number of requests from British Columbians working in the school system for funding to address operational challenges. CUPE Local 4990, School District No. 46 (Sunshine Coast), the BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils, CUPE BC Division, the Parent Advocacy Network

for Education, and the BC School Trustees Association advocated for increased sustainable, predictable funding to meet the costs of providing education.

A number of recommendations addressed the funding formula review. CUPE Local 4990, School District No. 38 (Richmond), the BC Teachers Federation, and the Vancouver School Board agreed that any changes to the funding formula should result in stable, predictable and adequate funding. Several organizations, including the BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils, the BC School Trustees Association, School District No. 79 (Cowichan Valley) proposed that funding be allocated to school districts based on the unique needs of each district. This would prevent funding from being diverted from other programs and ensure that learners and educators are adequately supported. School District No. 57 (Prince George) suggested specific consideration for the needs of rural school districts, with School District No. 60 (Peace River North) and School District No. 8 (Kootenay Lake) emphasizing the increased cost of transportation, and recruitment and retention challenges. The Surrey District Parents Advisory Council recommended incorporating the needs of high growth districts, while School District No. 43 (Coquitlam) recommended targeting funding to vulnerable students. The BC School Trustees Association suggested that the new funding distribution model address Indigenous students, students with special needs, and schools with declining enrollment.

The Vancouver School Board, School District No. 79 (Cowichan Valley), and the British Columbia Superintendents Association recommended that government fund the full cost of the Supreme Court recommendations. This includes the full costs of operationalizing the addition of new classrooms, and the recruitment of more teachers, educational assistants and specialized teachers. The Committee was informed that while additional teachers to address class size and composition requirements are funded, a gap in funding for specialized and exempt staff has remained.

The British Columbia School Superintendents Association identified deficiencies in funding for teaching staff across the province, with educational assistants, principals, vice-principals, and other specialized and exempt staff as particularly difficult to recruit. The British Columbia Principals' & Vice-Principals' Association shared the same view, and noted that while more than half of BC's principals and vice-principals have specific teaching assignments in addition to administrative duties, the Memorandum of Agreement stemming from the Supreme Court decision limits principals and vice-principals from holding enrolling teaching positions. They recommended funding to restore principals and vice-principals to non-enrolled positions.

The BC Teachers' Federation further highlighted the need for technology and learning materials which are often replaced or upgraded through fundraising efforts, or paid for out-of-pocket by teachers. The Parent Advocacy Network for Public Education explained that providing supplemental funding to acquire, update and restore necessary technology, equipment and material resources would help address deficits. They informed the Committee that committing to fund a minimum standard for access to resources that are expensive, such as technology, would address cumulated inequities. The School District No. 79 (Cowichan Valley) identified the Learning Improvement Fund, which gave boards the flexibility to provide additional supports where needed, as a solution and suggested restoring funding to that program. The BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils recommended a classroom resource fund to address unique classroom needs.

A number of submissions focused the development of new programming. The Comox Valley Families for Public Education informed the Committee of the importance of developing an age appropriate sexual health curriculum that covers matters of consent and online safety. They recommended funding to train teachers or external educators to deliver this curriculum. The Parent Advocacy Network for Public Education suggested

targeted funding to develop equitable access to arts programs. The BC Teachers' Federation explained that funding is needed to procure and develop a wide range of accurate, up-to-date and culturally appropriate teaching resources that focus on Indigenous and LGBTQ-inclusive content, physical education and health, and French education.

The Committee heard from several organizations who offer extracurricular and alternative curricular programs to students, and recommended funding for additional partnerships. These include: Roots of Empathy, an organization which delivers emotional literacy and empathy programs to school-aged children; the Boys and Girls Clubs, a community organization that provides youth mentorship, as well as work, life, and social skills development programs; Right to Play's Aboriginal Youth program, a life-skills and leadership program delivered in partnership with Indigenous communities; and FIRST Robotics BC, which offers after-school robotics programs and competitions for young people. The Take a Hike Foundation requested multi-year funding for their alternate curricular program which uses the outdoors and adventure to engage students in school and community, and supports mental health. The BC Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation recommended increased funding for the BC School Fruit and Vegetable Nutritional Program which provides students with healthy BC produce.

Professional Development

The Committee heard about a need to fund professional development for teachers to assist them in adapting to the new curriculum. The BC Teachers' Federation explained that the curriculum change is placing new demands on teachers and resources. They believe that professional learning should be offered to all teachers and include additional non-instructional days and a wide variety of teacher-led professional development. A number of organizations, including the British Columbia School Superintendents Association, the BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils, School District No. 46 (Sunshine Coast), the Parent Advocacy Network for Public Education and School District No. 38 (Richmond), all echoed the need for dedicated funding over multiple years to support increased professional development, mentorship and training to ensure that the new curriculum is implemented successfully.

The Greater Vancouver Board of Trade recommended funding professional development specifically for instructors who teach Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and pre-AP or pre-IB, in addition to K-12 instructors who teach advanced courses in sciences and mathematics. They explained that this would help in building human capital, and support the tech sector.

Recruitment and Retention

The Committee received several recommendations to provide incentives to recruit and retain teachers in rural and remote communities. School District No. 60 (Peace River North) highlighted that they started the school year with 22 vacant teaching positions while other school districts shared their difficulties recruiting specialized teachers. The BC Teachers' Federation, the BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils, School District No. 38 (Richmond) and School District No. 60 (Peace River North) informed the Committee that incentives, such as support with housing costs, relocation and transportation allowances, loan forgiveness or mentorship programs, could help recruit teachers to remote areas or specialized positions.

Students with Special Needs

The Committee heard from parents and teachers across BC about insufficient supports for students with special needs. At the public hearing in Surrey, Nicole Kaler discussed her family's experience with the public school system, and explained that her daughter, who has autism, does not receive the same care nor have the same access to an education as a child who does not have autism. She presented a petition, which at the time of the hearing had 5,166 signatures, recommending increased funding for students with special needs, including funding for staff, early identification and appropriate support programs. Early identification to ensure students receive appropriate support was also highlighted by the BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils, who described the long wait times for formal assessments.

BCEdAccess spoke specifically to the need for more education assistants, noting challenges with training, education and hours of work. They also proposed an audit to examine the delivery of service to students with special needs in K-12, including the transition to adult supports, to identify issues and deficiencies and ensure a consistently high standard of service going forward. Linda Kemp and Jennifer Newby were of the same view, and recommended increased accountability and training for teachers and other staff supporting students with special needs.

School District No. 43 (Coquitlam) discussed establishing and funding clear standards for supporting students with special needs, and how this would help ensure consistency from district to district. School District No. 46 (Sunshine Coast) and the Parent Advocacy Network for Public Education recommended supplemental funding for learners with special needs.

Conclusions

The Committee recognized the challenges faced by the education system, including acknowledging the need for more capital funding to address issues, such as deferred maintenance, seismic safety and capacity. While recognizing the funding formula is under review, they reflected on the various concerns and perspectives about the design of the formula, and focused on the importance of having a child-centered approach to funding. Committee Members also acknowledged funding and compensation issues, particularly with respect to exempt staff, principals and vice-principals, and recruitment and retention issues, especially in rural and remote communities.

The Committee emphasized the need to ensure that every child, including children with special needs and vulnerable students, can benefit from the education system. Committee Members discussed the importance of increasing funding for early identification of special needs, the provision of support programs, and training and hiring specialists to work in classrooms. They further agreed on the need to establish clear standards of support for students with special needs in both the public and independent school systems.

Emphasis was also placed on supporting Indigenous students through programs that address the unique needs of Indigenous learners. This includes integrating Indigenous knowledge into the classroom as part of the new curriculum.

The Committee further recognized the importance of partnerships with community-based organizations to engage with students outside of the school system. These programs support vulnerable students, engage children in learning, offer mentorship assistance to students who are not succeeding in the school system, and increase graduation rates.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends to the Legislative Assembly that the provincial government:

Capital Funding

61. Increase capital funding to school districts to build new schools, maintain and upgrade existing facilities, conduct seismic upgrades, and add classroom space and playgrounds.

Indigenous Students

62. Provide funding to develop and implement programs to support Indigenous students that target and address the unique needs of Indigenous learners based on best practice from school districts with good completion rates.
63. Implement the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Call to Action 63.2 by providing the necessary funding to educate teachers on how to integrate Indigenous knowledge and teaching methods into classrooms.

Operational Funding and Funding Formula

64. Provide sustainable, predictable funding based on a child-centered model that allows school districts to cover the costs of delivering education.
65. Fund compensation increases for exempt staff, principals and vice-principals, and provide flexibility at the local level for principals and vice-principals to take on teaching roles, particularly in rural and remote areas facing challenges with recruitment and retention.
66. Fund the provision of an age-appropriate sexual health curriculum for all grades that includes matters of consent and online safety, with the assistance of qualified sexual health educators.
67. Encourage partnerships with, and provide stable, long-term funding to, independent organizations that provide supportive, community-based programming for children and youth, such as the Boys and Girls Club, Roots of Empathy, Right to Play's Aboriginal Youth Program, the BC School Fruit and Vegetable Nutritional Program, and FIRST Robotics; and support alternative curricular programs, such as Take a Hike.

Recruitment and Retention

68. Offer incentives, such as forgivable student loans or supplemental housing compensation, to assist in the recruitment and retention of teachers in rural and remote areas, particularly specialized teachers.

Students with Special Needs

69. Increase funding for students with special needs, including funding for early identification, the provision of appropriate support programs, and the training and recruitment of specialized teachers.
70. Establish clear standards and fully fund appropriate supports for students with special needs in the public and independent school systems.

Public Safety and Justice

Natural disasters continue to be at the forefront for many British Columbians, with another devastating wildfire and flood season. The Committee heard from many organizations about a critical need to increase investments in prevention and mitigation efforts, given the effects of climate change. Funding for response, recovery and adaptation were also emphasized.

The Committee received many recommendations with respect to legal aid, as well as suggestions to explore alternative justice and court processes. Funding to prevent and respond to gender-based violence and human trafficking was highlighted. Committee Members also received specific requests with respect to the provision of underground infrastructure information, and funding for search and rescue organizations.

Access to Justice and Legal Aid

The Committee received several submissions about the need to improve access to legal aid. According to the Law Society of British Columbia, legal aid tariffs are largely unchanged from 1991, and legislative changes and funding reductions have eliminated coverage for clients with poverty law issues, and resulted in cuts in family law services. Fewer lawyers are also entering legal aid as the tariffs do not provide reasonable compensation, especially for young lawyers with student debt. The Law Society, along with the Canadian Bar Association, British Columbia Branch, recommended increased funding for legal aid, including an increase to tariff rates.

Both organizations also recommended that the province pursue alternative justice and court processes. The Canadian Bar Association, British Columbia Branch focused on working with the federal government to establish a Unified Family Court, a model that is in place in other provinces. They explained that the Supreme Court and the Provincial Court divide jurisdiction over family matters. A unified court establishes one level of court for all family matters with simplified rules and procedures, a specialized bench, a cooperative resolution focus, and services for families and children.

The Law Society of British Columbia advocated for increased funding for and use of restorative justice, as well as the production of Gladue reports. Gladue reports document the intergenerational impacts of residential schools for judges presiding over criminal cases involving Indigenous offenders in an effort to find alternatives to imprisonment. The Society explained that this would help address the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action with respect to the over-representation of Indigenous people in the prison system. Investments in restorative justice were echoed by the Comox Valley Community Justice Centre, who noted that it is considered an effective, meaningful alternative to the court process.

The Law Society of British Columbia also suggested the province investigate the potential for regulated alternate legal services providers to help meet demand for legal services. These providers could deliver a range of legal services under the supervision of a lawyer, and help people understand their legal options, particularly outside of court processes, and potentially play a limited role in court proceedings. BC Notaries recommended expanding the services that notaries are permitted to provide to increase access to legal services.

Ground Disturbance

The BC Common Ground Alliance advocated for a single One Call system for the province with respect to the provision of information about underground infrastructure. They explained that currently, excavators must contact multiple sources to locate underground infrastructure and indicated that there are over 2,000 documented hits to underground infrastructure every year, disrupting water and sewer, telecommunications, electric power and more. The organization shared that their industry consultation demonstrated support for both mandatory enrollment of underground utilities in a single, universal system, as well as mandatory identification of underground utilities before digging. They requested funding for their organization to support this initiative.

Gender-Based Violence and Sexual Assault

The Ending Violence Association of BC recommended increased, multi-year funding for programs that support victims of sexual violence. In their presentation to the Committee in Surrey, they described the psychological and mental health issues experienced by victims, including depression, suicide attempts, and the use of alcohol and drugs. Increased investments in sexual assault centres, victim services for Indigenous women, bystander and anti-violence training programs, and interagency case assessment teams would help better support victims of sexual violence, and help improve response to cases of sexual assault, domestic violence, child abuse, and criminal and sexual harassment.

The Nanaimo Women's Centre focused specifically on women's centres. The Committee heard that women's centres have been losing funding since 2006, leaving only 10 remaining, most of which serve the Lower Mainland. The Nanaimo Women's Resource Centre advocated for the restoration of core operational funding to all women's centres in the province. This would allow for stable, long-term planning, and make it possible to support women across the province.

Committee Members also heard about the need to address human trafficking through improved education, support services and enforcement. Dr. Michael Markwick, a professor in the School of Communication at Capilano University, advocated for more investments for victims of human trafficking, including exiting, counselling, physical and mental health services. In a written submission, Cathy Peters shared that BC is an entry point for human trafficking with major port cities, and that enforcement of existing laws is inadequate.

Natural Disasters and Emergency Preparedness

A number of presentations and written submissions discussed the need to increase investments in prevention, response and recovery to natural disasters. The Insurance Bureau of Canada informed the Committee that since 2009, there have been eight consecutive years of insured payouts for severe weather at or above \$1 billion. Climate change is increasing the number and severity of extreme weather events, as well as wildfires and floods, and as such, they recommended investments in resiliency and education.

The Insurance Bureau of Canada also made several recommendations specific to earthquakes. These include increasing investments to promote awareness of the earthquake risk and develop a culture of awareness, as well as supporting the creation of a national earthquake resiliency strategy. In their submission, they noted that there is 30 percent chance of a large earthquake hitting southwestern BC in the next 50 years, however most British Columbians do not believe a major earthquake will occur in their lifetime, and overestimate their financial readiness for such an event.

With respect to wildfires, Committee Members received many suggestions for preventative measures, particularly as it relates to fuel management. The Canada West Ski Areas Association estimates a backlog of fuel management treatments in BC of \$3.5 billion. Some organizations, such as the Prince George Chamber of Commerce and the District of Vanderhoof, recommended examining prescribed burning and smoke management as changes to policies for broadcast burning has resulted in debris and fibre being left in the bush, providing added fuel for fires. The Rocky Mountain Trench Ecosystem Restoration Program suggested examining ecosystem restoration, and ongoing monitoring and adaptive management to reduce wildfires. In their presentation to the Committee, the Witset First Nation highlighted how wildfires have affected Indigenous communities in BC, and requested that a firebreak be built around their village as a protective measure.

The Committee also heard recommendations for increased investments in flood mitigation activities, as well as wastewater and stormwater infrastructure, to improve resiliency to extreme weather. The Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen advocated for increased funding to manage flooding in the region, and for a review of how stormwater drainage systems are managed and maintained in rural areas throughout the province. They expressed concerns about inadequate planning and cohesion for stormwater drainage systems, particularly in unincorporated areas.

The City of Prince George and the Prince George Chamber of Commerce shared issues regarding the province's approach and tools for emergency preparedness and response. The Committee heard specifically about challenges with Emergency Management BC's registration system and how it is antiquated, and takes a significant amount of time for volunteers and staff to register each evacuee. The City recommended it be updated and automated. The City also recommended funding to support Prince George as a regional emergency response centre as wildfires are viewed as the City treats wildfires as an annual event for which they now prepare for.

Search and Rescue

The Committee heard from dozens of search and rescue organizations and volunteers regarding funding for search and rescue. BC has 80 recognized search and rescue groups with 2,500 volunteers who rescue and help thousands of people every year. The submissions explained that these organizations do not currently have sustainable, predictable funding, and referenced a proposed Alternative Support Model as a possible funding solution.

Conclusions

In their discussions, the Committee placed a high priority on the need to significantly increase investments for prevention, response and recovery to natural disasters. They reflected on the number of wildfires and floods BC has experienced in recent years and the expected impacts of climate change. Committee Members appreciated ideas shared by British Columbians on measures that can be taken to better manage fire, flood and earthquake risks, and also discussed the recent release of wildfire mitigation and prevention plans. They particularly recognized that action in this area requires a multi-ministry approach, with a focus on prevention, mitigation and adaptation.

The Committee agreed that challenges with access to legal aid need to be addressed, and particularly recognized tariffs as a key issue. They also recognized that rural, remote and Indigenous communities face unique challenges in this regard. Committee Members were especially interested in proposals for alternative

justice and court processes, such as a Unified Family Court and restorative justice programs, and agreed that these should be pursued. They further supported funding to facilitate the production of Gladue reports. Opportunities to expand access to legal services through the use of alternate legal services providers were also discussed.

Committee Members expressed support for increasing funding for domestic violence and sexual violence support and prevention programs, especially for services that support Indigenous women. They also expressed concerns about the prevalence of human trafficking in BC, and explored options for better addressing the issue and supporting victims.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends to the Legislative Assembly that the provincial government:

Access to Justice and Legal Aid

71. Improve access to legal aid services across the province by increasing tariff rates to the level necessary to attract and retain legal counsel, and to restore and expand coverage for family law and criminal law legal aid services, particularly in rural, remote and Indigenous communities.
72. Provide alternative justice and court processes, including expanding restorative justice programs and working with the federal government to implement a Unified Family Court for all family law matters.
73. Facilitate the production of Gladue reports.

Gender-Based Violence and Sexual Assault

74. Increase funding to address human trafficking, including resources and supports for policing initiatives, counselling and victim services, education, and other community-based programs.
75. Invest in community support and prevention programs that address gender-based and domestic violence, including providing stable, multi-year funding for the women-serving sector, and funding to facilitate the development of programs run by Indigenous women for Indigenous women.

Ground Disturbance

76. Provide funding to establish a universal call or online system to provide information about underground infrastructure before digging.

Natural Disasters and Emergency Preparedness

77. Recognizing the impact of climate-related disasters, and with particular attention given to the needs of remote and Indigenous communities, significantly increase investments in proactive measures to prevent, mitigate, adapt and prepare for natural disasters, such as fuel management, firebreaks, storm drainage and tsunami towers; and increase funding for improving response, recovery and adaptation to these disasters.

Social Services

The Committee heard from many organizations about the importance child care and early childhood development, with charities and non-profit organizations highlighting opportunities to partner with their sector to build new child care spaces. Recruitment and retention of early childhood educators and pediatric specialists was another common theme. Committee Members also received recommendations to improve income and disability assistance, as well as better engage with the broader community social service sector in the provision of social services. Costs and compensation issues were particularly highlighted for home share providers and foster parents. The Committee also received recommendations related to youth, poverty, pay equity and employment standards.

In the online survey (see Appendix A), social services was the most common theme in question one regarding top three priorities for making life better, with child care the most frequently reported response within that theme. Child care received the second most cents (13.4) in question two regarding dividing up a dollar between programs and services, and improving access to child care received the second most selections in question four about how to building a diverse and sustainable economy.

Child Care and Early Childhood Development

Many presentations and written submissions placed importance on improving access to affordable, quality child care services. Several organizations, including First Call: BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition and the Social Planning & Research Council of British Columbia, presented increased investments in child care as a poverty reduction measure and a means to reduce costs for families. The Association of Service Providers for Employability and Career Training and the Surrey Board of Trade noted that a lack of access to child care services can be a barrier to employment. West Coast LEAF highlighted that women are disproportionately affected, and ensuring universal access to child care enables them to work and increase their earning capacity.

Committee Members also received requests for capital funding to create new spaces. The YMCA of Okanagan highlighted that the YMCA is the largest provider of licensed child care in the province, with spaces for more than 5,000 children. They recommended charities and non-profit organizations be eligible for the same child care infrastructure funding as municipalities and the public sector. This would enable the non-profit sector to assist the province in addressing the shortage of child care spaces. The BCGEU encouraged an increase in capital support for child care spaces co-located in new affordable housing and school construction. The Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC recommended the bulk purchase of quality modular child care facilities as they can be quickly located on public grounds across the province.

A key challenge to improving access to child care is the recruitment and retention of early childhood educators. In their presentation to the Committee in Esquimalt, the Greater Victoria Regional Child Care Council explained that there are not enough qualified educators to work in child care. They suggested increasing wages and offering bursaries to increase and retain qualified early childhood educators. The Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce suggested looking at creative opportunities through immigration to

grow the child care workforce, while OneSky Community Resources drew attention to the need for accessible early childhood educator training in rural communities.

Several organizations spoke to the importance of investing in increased access to early childhood intervention services and pediatric therapists. The BC Association of Child Development and Intervention shared that early intervention therapies have the longest wait times of programs delivered by their member agencies. The OSNS Child + Youth Development Centre drew attention to the need for more support for delivering services to Indigenous children in their own communities, while the Health Sciences Association of BC and the Shuswap Children's Association specifically highlighted gaps in access for children with special needs. Elysia Saundry, a speech-language pathologist at a private treatment centre, advocated for increased funding to enable families to access autism services.

Communication Matters and Speech and Hearing BC highlighted the immediate need for more full-time speech-language pathologists for preschool-age children, noting that BC has the second lowest number of speech-language pathologists per 100,000 people in Canada. Language and communication development in early years is linked to cognitive development, social skills, self-regulation and academic learning, and can affect the trajectory of a child's lifetime. They emphasized that investments in early childhood health and development, and early intervention, saves future health, social and justice costs.

A number of organizations, such as the BC Council of the Canadian Federation of University Women and the Living Wage for Families Campaign, proposed redesigning the Early Childhood Tax Benefit into a BC Child Benefit to better assist children-supporting households. They suggested increasing the maximum benefit to \$1,320 per year, indexing it to the cost of inflation, and covering all children under the age of 18. They also proposed that such a benefit be provided in full to households with an annual net income of up to \$80,000 and phased out for households with annual net incomes above \$100,000.

Community Social Services and Social Policy

In their presentation, the Board Voice Society of BC recommended a provincial social policy planning framework to guide, measure and sustain the province's social health system. According to the Society, successful programs are cut because funding is precarious, uneven and incomplete. The Canadian Mental Health Association, BC Division, emphasized the need for improved coordination and integration of health and social supports to improve efficiency, and ensure everyone is working toward common objectives.

Non-profit organizations and charities asked to be recognized and funded as strategic partners. The YMCA of Northern BC pointed out that charities and non-profit organizations are already engaged in delivering a range of health and social services. Their expertise and resources could be better leveraged to roll out programs and services across the province if they were provided sufficient and direct funding.

Several community social service organizations shared concerns with respect to their funding formulas, and the associated challenges for financial sustainability and service delivery. The Maple Ridge Pitt Meadows and Katzie Community Network expressed a desire for a more fair, flexible, transparent, and data-based model to allocate funding, including better consideration of administrative support and accommodation costs. The Federation of Community Social Services of BC pointed to the recruitment and retention of staff as a key issue. They noted that many positions in the sector require post-secondary education, however compensation is low, and year-to-year contracts create precarious positions.

A number of submissions recommended increases in funding to Community Living British Columbia to support adult services. Anastasia Butcher and Lenora Spencer expressed concerns about access to supports as children approach adulthood. Inclusion BC noted that Community Living British Columbia's caseload increases every year, and further, that 70 percent of adults with intellectual disabilities live with their parents, an overwhelming majority of whom are over the age of 65. Committee Members also received written submissions from many long-time home share providers asking for increased funding. They explained that their contract rates have not kept up with increasing costs and responsibilities.

Committee Members heard from a number of foster parents as well about the need to increase their compensation. One foster parent shared that the monthly cost of living grant for foster children has not increased, and that inflation and increasing rents have driven up costs. Others noted that increasing compensation will demonstrate that caregivers are valued, and lead to improved care, address recruitment challenges, and create opportunities for appropriate matches for children needing care.

Employment Standards

The BC Federation of Labour, BC Building Trades and several other organizations recommended increased funding to the Employment Standards Branch and the Labour Relations Board. The Committee heard that increased funding would enable proactive enforcement, improve the application of employment standards, and ensure both bodies have the capacity to carry out their mandates. The BC Federation of Labour, BC Building Trades and the BC Employment Standards Coalition also recommended reviewing and updating the *Employment Standards Act* to reflect the changing nature of workplaces.

Committee Members also received recommendations specific to minimum wage. The BC Poverty Reduction Coalition suggested increasing the minimum wage to \$15 per hour and indexing it to the cost of inflation. The Coalition, along with the Living Wage for Families Campaign and the Social Planning & Research Council of British Columbia, further recommended all direct and contracted staff of the provincial government be provided a living wage.

Income and Disability Assistance

A range of health and service organizations urged increases to income and disability assistance rates. The Poverty Reduction Coalition explained that current levels of assistance are insufficient to meet the cost of living, and are a leading cause of homelessness. AJ Brown, an individual who receives disability assistance, and her mother, Barbara Brown, highlighted this challenge in their presentations to the Committee on September 24. The Committee heard that after paying for subsidized rent, AJ is left with very little monthly income, and further, that the low earned income exemption threshold makes it difficult to get off of social assistance. In addition to improving disability assistance benefits and increasing the exemptions threshold, they also recommended Canada Pension Plan disability benefits be recognized as earned income, as these are currently clawed back.

The BC Alliance for Healthy Living Society also supported improvements to income and disability assistance, including the Single Parent Employment Initiative. They recognized the success of the initiative, and recommended continuing to enhance and build on it, and using lessons from the model to inform the development of transition supports for other populations.

The Canadian Mental Health Association, BC Division discussed barriers to accessing assistance. They described access as burdensome with unnecessary eligibility criteria, and lengthy and complex application processes. The organization emphasized the need to ensure services are trauma and violence-informed, and culturally safe with supports to navigate the system. In his presentation in Esquimalt, Finn Canadensis described issues with accessing empathetic and understanding staff, and the need for more frontline workers to assist British Columbians.

Pay Equity

West Coast LEAF recommended that the provincial government prioritize investments in gender equality, and in particular, the gender wage gap. According to the organization, women in BC earn 22.6 percent less than men, while Indigenous and racialized women experience even greater discrepancies. They explained that this gap has significant implications for older women who experience inequalities in pension and retirement benefits due to a lifetime of lower pay. The organization recommended a number of measures to address pay equity, including enacting pay transparency legislation that requires anonymous reporting about the composition of the workforce, recognizes equal pay for work of equal value as a human right, and establishes independent oversight to ensure effective implementation and accountability of pay equity legislation.

Poverty Reduction

The Committee heard from many health, education and social service organizations about prioritizing poverty reduction, including ensuring any strategy is comprehensive, accountable, fully-funded and implemented across relevant ministries. The Social Planning & Research Council of British Columbia specifically referenced the importance of consulting and collaborating with Indigenous communities and organizations on the development of a poverty reduction strategy. Submissions described addressing poverty reduction as an economic investment. Socioeconomic inequities increase health costs, and lead to increased use of police and court resources. Investing in poverty reduction costs less when these consequences, along with lost tax revenue, are taken into account.

In addition to general support for poverty reduction, Committee Members also received specific ideas for addressing poverty. The BC Alliance for Healthy Living Society suggested using various provincial tax credits and benefits as targeted measures to lift British Columbians out of poverty. Trent Derrick from Prince George recommended a healthy food program for K-12 students, noting that 20 percent of students are below the poverty line. The Central Okanagan Community Food Bank similarly asked for support for healthy food programs which improve wellness and food security for vulnerable people, and connects them with services and supports to reduce poverty. S.U.C.C.E.S.S. encouraged investments in research and innovative programming that take a whole systems approach. The BC Poverty Reduction Coalition recommended requiring all ministries to apply a poverty and inequality lens when considering changes to policies, programs and services.

Youth

Most submissions and presentations regarding youth focused on mental health. At the public hearing in Mission, Foundry informed the Committee that 75 percent of all lifetime cases of mental health begin by age 24, and 80 percent of substance use problems by age 20, however investments in children and youth mental health are lacking. The Bridge Youth & Family Services shared that youth treatment is a preventative strategy

that leads to downstream savings to government. They emphasized the importance of providing children and youth with skills and resources to support mental health while their brains are developing and receptive to new tools and ideas. Both organizations urged investments in child and youth mental health services.

The Committee also received recommendations with respect to youth aging out of care. First Call: BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition noted that over 50 percent of youth leaving government care at age 19 are on income assistance within six months of aging out of the system. They recommended enhancing supports with the aim of ensuring supports are comprehensive, and provide adequate and accessible financial, social, emotional and community resources.

Conclusions

The Committee recognized that access to child care, and in particular, access to early intervention services, is very important to British Columbians. They noted that the province has a major shortage in many early childhood occupations, and agreed that a significant increase in investment is required to address gaps in demand and service provision, with a focus on challenges related to recruitment and retention. They also acknowledged that charities and non-profit organizations have the expertise to build and provide a number of child care spaces. Committee Members suggested consideration be given to increasing the level of capital funding grant eligibility for these organizations.

Committee Members discussed the role of the broader community social services sector to social service delivery. They identified outcomes-based approaches to contract deliverables, in addition to increased funding, as a way to ensure organizations in this sector have flexibility and appropriate resources to be effective. Committee Members also supported requests for increased funding for Community Living British Columbia. They especially recognized the need to address the funding and cost pressures experienced by home share providers who provide compassionate care for many British Columbians. The Committee further acknowledged compensation issues brought forward by foster parents and recommended this be urgently addressed.

Committee Members reviewed the various proposals with respect to income and disability assistance, and agreed that rates and earnings exemptions need to be increased. They specifically identified the recognition of Canada Pension Plan disability benefits as earned income as important. The Committee also acknowledged barriers to accessing assistance, and encouraged efforts to improve fairness and reduce complexity. Committee Members reflected on the success of the Single Parent Employment Initiative, and discussed how that initiative could be used as a model to support other population groups.

With respect to youth, the Committee recognized that ongoing improvements are required in the provision of supports for youth aging out of care, as well as investments in specialized services for child and youth mental health and supports. On poverty reduction, the Committee recognized that a poverty reduction plan has recently been developed, and appreciated hearing from many British Columbians about their support for a comprehensive strategy, as well as the need to improve integration and coordination of health and social service supports. They also had discussions about the benefits of proactive policies that promote pay equity, and the importance of increased investments in employment standards.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends to the Legislative Assembly that the provincial government:

Child Care and Early Childhood Development

78. Consider increasing the capital funding grant that charities and non-profits are eligible for from \$500,000 to \$1 million in line with municipalities.
79. Significantly increase investment in early childhood development, especially early intervention and services in Indigenous communities, including the training, recruitment and retention of pediatric therapists, such as occupational therapists, physiotherapists, speech language pathologists and behavioural therapists, as well as increased funding for autism intervention services and therapies.

Community Social Services and Social Policy

80. Recognize the contribution of the community social services sector in delivering social services, and addressing complex social and health issues by increasing funding and adopting a flexible, outcomes-based approach in contract deliverables.
81. Increase funding to Community Living British Columbia, with a focus on ensuring home share funding adequately addresses living costs and inflation.
82. Urgently address compensation issues for foster parents in recognition of the valuable service and care they provide to children in British Columbia.

Income and Disability Assistance

83. Increase income and disability assistance rates, index rates to inflation, and increase the earnings exemption, including recognizing Canada Pension Plan disability benefits as earned income.
84. Continue to enhance and build on the Single Parent Employment Initiative.

Poverty Reduction

85. Ensure all provincial social services, and particularly those relied on by people living in poverty, are trauma-informed, culturally safe and adhere to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Youth

86. Continue to improve upon the range of supports provided to youth aging out of care and transitioning into the community, including housing, health, education, training and income supports.
87. Fund specialized child and youth mental health and substance use services and supports, including collaborative programs, such as Foundry.

Sport, Arts and Culture

The Committee heard from many British Columbians about the value of arts, culture and the creative industries to the province, and received a number of recommendations for increased investment in this sector. Committee Members also heard from many libraries and library boards about their challenges with respect to funding and digital infrastructure. Several organizations focused on the importance of sport and requested funding to promote physical literacy.

Arts and Culture

The Committee received a number of recommendations for funding for the arts and culture sector. Several organizations, including the BC Alliance for Arts & Culture, the Kamloops Symphony Society, Western Canada Theatre and the ProArt Alliance of Greater Victoria, requested increased funding for the B.C. Arts Council. In their presentation to the Committee, the BC Alliance for Arts & Culture emphasized that “arts make us feel healthier, happier and more connected to each other.” They explained that teaching people creative skills can help give them the tools to lift themselves out of poverty, and further, that increased funding will allow for enhanced engagement with Indigenous arts and culture which is important to reconciliation. The Kamloops Symphony Society and Western Canada Theatre indicated that art is an important driver of tourism and that the B.C. Arts Council supports initiatives and organizations across the province. In a written submission, Cydney Lyons also supported increased investment, explaining that BC has more working artists per capita than any other province, and that the creative sector contributed \$7.2 billion to the provincial economy in 2016.

The Canadian Media Producers Association, BC Producers Branch and the Motion Picture Production Industry Association of BC recommended increased funding for Creative B.C. The Motion Picture Production Industry Association of BC informed the Committee that additional funding would allow the industry to leverage federal funding, and meet the challenges associated with rapid growth. The Music BC Industry Association focused specifically on Amplify B.C., a music fund delivered through Creative B.C. The Association informed the Committee that approximately 5,800 musicians and singers involved in 280 businesses directly contribute \$400 million to the provincial economy. They suggested continued stable and long-term funding for the Amplify B.C. fund to ensure projects across the province are supported and that organizations can leverage private sector funding.

In addition to supporting increased funding for Creative B.C., the Association of Book Publishers of BC, requested that the book publishing tax credit be extended and the sunset clause be eliminated to provide publishers with stability and continuity. They explained that this would allow businesses to project more reliable cash flows when valuing their business for prospective buyers. It will also keep local authors and publishers in the province, and allow BC to compete with Ontario, where there are greater support mechanisms.

Adeana Young, the Deputy Chief Councillor for Old Massett Village Council, recommended funding for the teaching of Haida language and culture. She described the importance of practicing language and culture, and how there are individuals in the community who can share and pass on their knowledge, however they also need a livelihood and should be paid for teaching.

Committee Members also received a recommendation from the ProArt Alliance of Greater Victoria and the BC Alliance for Arts & Culture to establish an arts infrastructure fund. The ProArt Alliance of Greater Victoria explained that a fund would help provide space for BC artists who live, work and play in every community in the province.

Digital Media and Film

The Canadian Media Producers Association, BC Branch informed the Committee that BC's film industry is growing, and now employs over 90,000 full-time workers in direct and indirect jobs, contributing \$6 billion annually to the provincial economy. They recommended that film industry's tax credit program be maintained. This recommendation was also supported by the Motion Picture Production Industry Association of BC, who shared that reliable and stable support from the province has helped grow the industry, as well as NBCUniversal. Bradley Dahl, an industry consultant, explained that production and location decision-making in the film industry is almost entirely driven by budget, so incentives are critical. He explained that tax credits could be used strategically to expand the film industry and its benefits beyond Metro Vancouver. He shared that only four to six percent of film spending currently occurs in regions outside of Metro Vancouver.

The Committee also heard about the growing digital media industry that supports the film industry, including animation, digital effects and post production. DigiBC – The Interactive & Digital Media Industry Association of British Columbia discussed the importance of this work, and recommended an increase to the interactive digital media tax credit to ensure BC remains competitive. They highlighted the fact that provincial governments across Canada have been investing in the interactive digital media industry, and urged increased investment by BC, particularly in rural areas of the province.

Committee Members further learned that as the film industry grows, demand for skilled workers increases, and that publicly-funded institutions are not producing enough graduates for the industry. The Canadian Media Producers Association, BC Producers Branch explained that while several private institutions provide training and additional labour is available through immigration, this has not been sufficient to meet demand. To address this, they encouraged increased support in secondary schools and publicly-funded post-secondary institutions, including program funding and initiatives that encourage young people to enter the industry.

Public Libraries

The Committee heard from many libraries from across the province about the important role they play in fostering community connectedness. Surrey Libraries explained that just having a library card in the family is associated with better learning outcomes for children, and the West Vancouver Memorial Library told the Committee that public libraries are the only place in the community where everyone has access to the internet. The Burns Lake Public Library Board of Trustees informed the Committee that their staff "help patrons with everything from filing tax returns to setting up a Facebook account so they can keep in touch with the grandchildren."

Public libraries and library boards requested stable, long-term funding indexed to inflation to enable long-term planning. The Burns Lake Public Library Board of Trustees explained that libraries must engage in fundraising in order to cover rising costs and supplement budgets, while the Burnaby Public Library told the Committee that they are struggling to cover operational costs. The Vancouver Public Library informed the Committee that the current provincial per capita grant to public libraries is one of the lowest across all provinces. Many of the public libraries and library boards explained that funding for libraries has not increased

since 2010, and while libraries have received stable funding since 2010, the lack of indexing to inflation means libraries are falling behind in their ability to provide information and services that people count on.

The Nelson Public Library shared that funding is also needed to meet new and increasing demand, including expanding digital literacy training, increasing digital collections and offering access to computers with up-to-date software. They noted that many services are now available exclusively online, and libraries provide access to these services for vulnerable populations. They shared that in 2017, there were over 60 million in-person and virtual visits to libraries across the province.

Given the increasing use of digital resources, several submissions focused on broadband connectivity and the lack of affordable, high-speed internet in many communities. The Vancouver Public Library shared that connectivity is critical in the digital age, and the lack of access inhibits equity in rural and urban centres. Burnaby Public Library pointed out that libraries are key connection points for the community as they provide computers and access to free WiFi.

The BC Library Trustees Association also emphasized that Indigenous communities are underserved by libraries, and the Vancouver Public Library further expressed concerns about the lack of sustainable, non-charitable public library services for people living in First Nations communities. Libraries across BC recommended that providing resources and funding to work with Indigenous communities on defining, developing and delivering public library services in Indigenous communities.

Sport

The Committee heard requests for funding for specific programs that promote sport and physical activity for people of all ages, and about the need for sports and recreation infrastructure. viaSport explained that increasing activity and physical literacy is a key part of investing in preventative health to improve outcomes and reduce health care costs. The organization, along with PacificSport Vancouver Island, Engage Sport North and other organizations part of the viaSport Regional Alliance, recommended funding for the MOVE program, which builds local capacity to deliver physical literacy across recreation, sport, education and early childhood education. PacificSport Vancouver Island also described the potential impact of the program on the participation rates of girls and women, who are less likely than boys to continue participating in sports as they become teenagers.

The BC Seniors Games Society, the organization that stages the annual 55-Plus B.C. Games, recommended an increase in funding to their Society and the communities that host the games. They emphasized the importance of improving the health, lifestyle and image of BC's 55-plus population, and shared that funding has not increased with inflation and is lower than what the Society used to receive prior to 2009. Increased funding not only supports the games and keeps people over the age of 55 active, it also brings economic value to the host communities.

The Canadian Sport Institute Pacific, an organization that provides Olympic and Paralympic-level training environments to elite athletes and coaches in BC, requested funds to build a new facility to train their athletes as they have outgrown their current campus in Victoria. They also requested funding for applied sport research projects and Indigenous sport pathways. Freda Davis, a Councillor for the Old Massett Village Council, shared the challenges experienced by residents of Haida Gwaii with respect to their attempts to fundraise for a new swimming pool, and recommended investments in recreation infrastructure for youth.

Conclusions

Recognizing the contributions of the creative sector to the province's economy, Committee Members highlighted that investing in the arts creates jobs and wealth, and generates a return on investment. The Committee discussed the importance of supporting the creative sector and enabling it to thrive, and made several recommendations to support the continued success of the sector.

The Committee recognized libraries as an essential part of a community, and agreed that stable, reliable, long-term funding should be provided to enable libraries to plan and meet the needs of their communities. They identified support for the delivery of library services in Indigenous communities as an area requiring particular attention. Committee Members also discussed challenges with the provision of broadband connectivity, and the importance of this in a digital age. They agreed that more needs to be done to ensure that all British Columbians have access to adequate broadband.

With respect to sport, the Committee discussed how engaging children in physical activity and ensuring that people remain active throughout adulthood can improve health outcomes and reduce the incidence of chronic disease. They agreed that investments should be made to support physical literacy at all ages to help encourage lifelong physical activity, with a particular emphasis on the participation of women, girls, and Indigenous peoples.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends to the Legislative Assembly that the provincial government:

Arts, Culture, Digital Media and Film

88. Continue to increase funding to the B.C. Arts Council.
89. Support BC's creative industries by increasing funding to Creative B.C., including a multi-year commitment to the Amplify B.C. program; by maintaining existing tax credits for production and post-production services, film, digital animation, visual effects, digital media and book publishing; and by targeting initiatives at all levels of education to grow the sector.

Public Libraries

90. Provide increased, predictable, transparent multi-year funding to public libraries, and support the delivery of library services in Indigenous communities.
91. Commit to providing adequate broadband across BC, including in rural, remote and Indigenous communities.

Sport

92. Provide funding for programs that support the development of physical literacy for all British Columbians, including seniors, women, girls, and Indigenous peoples.

Transportation and Transit

Many submissions and presentations with respect to transportation and transit advocated for increased investment in a number of areas, including HandyDART, cycling, public transit, intercity transportation and ride share. Increasing ferry service, particularly in Haida Gwaii, was also highlighted. The Committee also heard about specific transportation challenges in remote and rural areas, as well as challenges with meeting demand in rapidly growing urban centres.

Modes of transportation that reduce emissions was another area of focus. This included switching to cycling or using e-bikes, investing in electric busses, or considering low carbon transportation options in trucking or ports. Committee Members also received recommendations for ensuring transportation systems facilitate the movement of goods and services in support of the tourism sector, business and trade.

Accessible Transportation

The Committee heard from Metro Vancouver Alliance with respect to the provision of accessible transportation services across the province. The organization outlined gaps with accessing safe, reliable services, and shared the importance of ensuring British Columbians with mobility challenges are able to work, participate in community life, access medical care, and avoid social isolation. They recommended making improvements to HandyDART, including a steady increase in annual funding, to address access issues, noting the need for accessible transportation services will increase as the population ages.

Active Transportation (Walking and Cycling)

The British Columbia Cycling Coalition and HUB Cycling recommended increased investment in cycling infrastructure, including the creation of complete cycling networks in communities across the province. Both organizations explained that a lack of a connected network of safe cycling infrastructure presents a barrier to cycling, and that cycling has been shown to increase significantly when investments are made. This barrier was also identified by cycling advocate Fiona Walsh who suggested creating cycling highways to reduce interactions with cars and speed up commutes for people who bike to work. She noted that expanding cycling infrastructure would have the added benefit of encouraging British Columbians to transition away from vehicles.

The Greater Victoria Cycling Coalition described challenges with current grant funding processes, and requested increased funding, as well as targeted mechanisms to ensure smaller municipalities have access to funds. HUB Cycling shared that cycling provides a return on investment by delivering savings in health care, pollution and congestion related costs, insurance, and police and ambulance related services. The British Columbia Cycling Coalition also noted these benefits, and further emphasized that an expanded cycling network could provide tourism opportunities.

The British Columbia Cycling Coalition further identified opportunities to extend cycling as a transportation option for more people with the use of electric, cargo and adaptive bicycles. Electric bicycles can increase the number and length of cycling trips, and enable people with physical challenges to cycle for transportation.

Cargo bicycles, on the other hand, help people to carry children or larger loads on their bicycles, and can be used by businesses for deliveries. They recommended exempting these bicycles from the PST to encourage their adoption and use.

The Committee also received requests for funding cycling education at all ages. The British Columbia Cycling Coalition recommended skills training, funding for bike-to-work weeks, and the integration of driver and cycling training. They explained that access to training will make cyclists more confident and enable them to interact safely with people in cars. HUB Cycling suggested targeting cycling education to elementary-aged children as part of a broader active transportation strategy to increase the number of British Columbians who grow up with strong cycling skills.

The BC Alliance for Healthy Living Society also supported funding for an active transportation strategy. They drew a connection between built environments and healthy communities, and explained how community planning and design can influence whether individuals are regularly active. The organization pointed to successes in Vancouver and Victoria where investments in active transportation infrastructure have led to a move toward active modes of travel.

BC Ferries

At the public hearing in Masset, the Committee was informed of the urgent need to increase ferry service in the region. This request was echoed by a number of written submissions from residents of Haida Gwaii. They all shared the impact that service reductions in 2014 on routes running between Prince Rupert and Graham Island (Route 11) and Moresby Island and Skidegate (Route 26) have had on every facet of community life, with Sandspit particularly hard hit by changes.

The Mayor of Queen Charlotte explained that Sandspit relies on the services in Queen Charlotte as the Route 26 ferry connects the two communities. The route has gone from two eight-hour shift crews to a single twelve-hour crew, and as a result, Sandspit effectively has a 6:00 p.m. curfew. High school students who travel to Queen Charlotte for school are shut out of extracurricular activities, and kids and other local residents are unable to connect often – something that has a significant impact on small, isolated communities. As well, Transport Canada and WorkSafe BC require a certain number of hours of rest, and with a single crew, there is no one available for necessary transfers. If someone on the crew is sick or does not show up, the ferry shuts down. He highlighted the impact of insufficient ferry service by sharing, “we are a little less of a community because of this” and further that ferries are “absolutely vital here. It’s our lifeline. We’re being strangled, and it’s not getting better.”

The Mayor further explained that challenges with ferry service also extend to the sailings to and from Prince Rupert. The number of winter sailings is down from three to two per week, and summer sailings are down from six to five, even though the original number of sailings was not enough to begin with. The problem is compounded by the summer construction season, and also has impacts on tourism and economic development as visitors may opt not to come to Haida Gwaii if they are on the standby list. Concerns with respect to tourism were shared by Brandon Kallio, who also noted that while tourists bring value to Haida Gwaii, residents are the ones working in and sustaining the community.

Joni Fraser, a Sandspit resident and a long-time advocate for the restoration of ferry service on Haida Gwaii, described the health impacts. She shared that since ferry service is limited, and alternatives, such as the BC Ambulance or Coast Guard, are unpleasant, residents delay accessing medical attention until they can

catch a ferry. Ms. Fraser also reported that doctors and other medical professionals have noticed shorter or accelerated care as patients ask for quick service so they can catch the next ferry. She further noted that individuals may be admitted to hospital overnight because they cannot get a ferry to return home, and health care providers may miss home visits. She informed the Committee that some residents have moved away from Sandspit because of concerns about access to care.

Ms. Fraser also described the challenges that the 6:00 p.m. curfew poses to those who live and work on either side of the ferry. Individuals may miss appointments, meetings and work because the ferry is at capacity, or they may get stuck on either side of a route. The infrequency of service also means some residents have to leave their jobs early to catch the ferry so they can spend time with their family. The current schedule also results in teachers and students being late to work and class on a regular basis.

Adeana Young echoed these challenges with respect to ferry service between Haida Gwaii and Prince Rupert. She shared that people are often put on a first-come, first-served standby list and can end up waiting up to three days to return home. If travelling for medical purposes, the Travel Assistance Program, which is a subsidy program, does not cover the extra expenses (eg. accommodation and meals) incurred as a result of ferry issues. This presents a particular challenge for local residents who are trying to return home to their families and jobs.

The Committee also heard from Astrid Egger and Beng Favreau about how the ferry schedules affect the arts community. Prior to 2014, Sandspit residents were active participants and attendees at arts events in Queen Charlotte; this is no longer possible with the 6:00 p.m. curfew. They noted that the Arts Council has considered holding events in Sandspit but grants require attendance and Sandspit is a smaller community. They also acknowledge that funding is available for Islanders traveling from Sandspit, however there are no evening sailings. As well, the ferry schedule coupled with airport costs also makes it challenging to bring artists, especially groups, to Haida Gwaii.

Committee Members also heard about the need to address ferry costs for K-12 students in ferry-dependent communities. Leonhard Appelt, a Grade 10 student from École Ballenas Secondary School, shared that bringing an entire class to the mainland for the day can cost \$800. He proposed discounted rates for students to make class trips more feasible, as well as expand access to extracurricular activities and educational opportunities.

Public Transit

The Committee received a number of recommendations with respect to affordable public transit and expanding transit networks. The Association of Service Providers for Employability & Career Training indicated that a lack of access to transit is a barrier to employment, while the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade suggested that expanding the transit network will open up more housing options for many British Columbians. First Call: BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition, the Metro Vancouver Alliance, and the BC Poverty Reduction Coalition shared that families around the province, especially low-income families with children, find public transportation inaccessible. This lack of access prevents them from reaching doctor appointments and public services or attending school or job interviews. The organizations recommended working with local governments and transit authorities to provide free public transit for minors until the age of 18, and free or reduced transit access for low-income families. They noted that this would also support work that is being done to decrease poverty, and expand housing and employment options for low-income families who are struggling to access transportation.

In addition to general support for expanding public transit, several submissions focused on the need for public transit in remote and rural areas. The Northern Rockies Aboriginal Women Society told the Committee that in areas without public transit, those without cars must rely on taxis, which can be cost prohibitive when covering large areas. Nelson Kootenay Lake Tourism explained that transit options were already limited and with Greyhound no longer providing intercity bus service in BC, some parts of the province have been left with no alternatives. Tourism Prince George suggested that a subsidized bus service would provide seasonal workers with affordable and accessible transportation to enable them to fulfill their job commitments, as well as provide visitors with access to smaller communities.

Committee Members also heard several requests for specific infrastructure initiatives, such as rapid transit in the Lower Mainland, rail infrastructure in the Greater Victoria area and bus service south of the Fraser River. The David Suzuki Foundation recommended investing in electric buses and charging infrastructure to help further decrease emissions. The Columbia Valley Chamber of Commerce discussed issues with the Passenger Transportation Board application timelines and BC Transit regulations which can limit options in small communities. They suggested enabling local governments to provide alternative transit options. The Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce called for regional solutions and suggested the creation of a regional transportation commission to deal with challenges with respect to transit across the Greater Victoria area.

Rideshare and Taxis

The Greater Vancouver Board of Trade urged the Committee to accelerate the work that is underway to implement a provincial regulatory framework to introduce ridesharing. They indicated this would help provide residents with expanded access to safe and reliable passenger transportation options. They also recommended reviewing taxi regulations to enable the industry to compete with new ridesharing services when they are introduced, as well as foster a more competitive ride-for-hire market. These measures would alleviate bottlenecks, improve customer choice, and bring BC in line with other jurisdictions in North America.

Roads and Highways

The Committee learned that many communities in northern British Columbia are dependent on one corridor or highway for access to their community. The Resource Municipalities Coalition highlighted the critical importance of road maintenance, particularly with respect to ensuring access to communities and the transportation of goods, as well as for supporting industry and quality of life. They identified traffic load, the freeze-thaw cycle, and increased industrial activity as contributing to damaged roads, and advocated for increased funding for road and highway maintenance.

The North Peace Rural Roads Initiative also noted the toll that heavy industry use and rain take on roads, and the importance of construction, maintenance, and remediation. The organization informed the Committee that a road infrastructure deficit exists and suggested addressing it through the royalty credit program, which encourages the oil and gas industry to invest in roads. They recommended expanding the program to focus on the construction of permanent high-grade roads that provide long-term benefits to communities.

With respect to urban areas, the BC Trucking Association urged investment in infrastructure to improve the safety and efficiency of BC's road network, reduce traffic congestion, and stop and go traffic movements, and encourage the most direct routing possible. The Independent Contractors and Businesses Association of BC also discussed congestion, and noted the importance of identifying and alleviating roads, bridges

and highways that act as bottlenecks to trade. The David Suzuki Foundation suggested drawing from best practices around the world and considering measures, such as mobility pricing, to deal with congestion.

Transportation Infrastructure

The importance of transportation infrastructure to the efficient movement of goods and services was emphasized by several presenters. The Independent Contractors and Businesses Association of BC highlighted the role of BC's ports in enabling reciprocal international trade, particularly with Asian and US heartland markets. They recommended advancing the role of the port of Prince Rupert and the Port of Metro Vancouver in this regard by working to reduce bottlenecks. Cargill Limited, the Downtown Surrey Business Improvement Association, the British Columbia Stone, Sand and Gravel Association, and the Business Council of BC urged the Committee to invest in developing and maintaining transportation networks, particularly highways, rail, and port infrastructure to increase efficiencies and expand market opportunities that impact BC and the broader Canadian economy. The Committee also heard that investing in a robust transportation network will enhance tourism with Tourism Prince George explaining that investment in the improvement of highways, bridges, tunnels and airports benefits both residents and visitors. The Committee also received a number of specific bridge, highway, port and airport proposals for improving the transportation network.

The David Suzuki Foundation suggested partnering with municipalities to invest in clean new transportation systems. They also suggested switching to electric vehicles wherever possible and offering financial and non-monetary incentives to help increase demand for electric and other low-emission vehicles. FortisBC proposed increasing investments in both low- and zero-carbon vehicles and infrastructure in the transportation sector. They particularly identified the possibility of converting 1,700 drayage trucks and vessels that go through BC ports to electric or natural gas.

Conclusions

Committee Members greatly appreciated hearing from community members in Haida Gwaii and reflected on the critical role ferries play in community life, particularly in coastal, ferry-bound areas. They agreed that ferry service needs to be expanded in Haida Gwaii to improve quality of life and access to services, as well as enable economic growth. Having heard from high school students about how the cost and scheduling of ferry travel limits extracurricular activities, Committee Members further determined that increased ferry service is needed in all ferry-dependent communities, with additional financial support for K-12 students.

The Committee expressed their continued support for the development of transportation solutions across the province, acknowledging the particular challenge in rural and remote areas which has been exacerbated with an end to Greyhound service. They recommended improving access to affordable transportation in these areas, including public transit and intercity transportation. Committee Members also indicated their support for HandyDART services to ensure that accessible transportation services are available to all British Columbians.

With respect to roads and highways, Committee Members acknowledged that maintenance and remediation of roads, as well as culverts and drainage, are particularly important in rural and remote parts of the province where roads are more vulnerable to being washed out by flooding. These conditions are worsening each year with climate change, and more funding is needed to ensure continued and reliable access in remote areas of the province. The Committee recommended that the government work with industry and provide funding for maintenance and remediation.

Committee Members highlighted the importance of investment in core infrastructure projects and an integrated transportation network to support the movement of goods and services, particularly through ports. Incorporating the use of low- and zero-carbon vehicles in the transportation network was also discussed, with a recommendation to increase investments in encouraging the transportation sector to adopt these vehicles along with supporting infrastructure.

Recognizing the importance of encouraging cycling, the Committee supported eliminating the PST on electric assist bicycles as an incentive. Committee Members also recognized requests for improving and expanding cycling infrastructure, and recommended that cycling infrastructure be considered as part of all major transportation infrastructure projects.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends to the Legislative Assembly that the provincial government:

Accessible Transportation

93. Provide increased and sustained funding for HandyDART services.

Active Transportation (Cycling and Walking)

94. Consider cycling as part of all major infrastructure projects.
95. Encourage the use of electric, cargo and adaptive bicycles by eliminating the PST on electric assist bicycles.

BC Ferries

96. Offer discounted ferry fares to K-12 school classes and school-based clubs and sport teams to enable expanded educational and team-based extracurricular opportunities.
97. Fund the expansion of ferry service for ferry-dependent communities, including BC Ferries Route 11 (Alliford Bay) and Route 26 (Prince Rupert) servicing Haida Gwaii.

Public Transit

98. Provide access to affordable transportation in rural and remote areas, including public transit and intercity transportation.

Roads and Highways

99. Increase funding for maintenance and remediation of roads and highways, including culverts and drainage, especially in northern and remote communities, and engage industry to address impacts of heavy use and climate change and ensure a lasting legacy of permanent, high-grade roads.

Transportation Infrastructure

100. Increase investments in both low- and zero-carbon vehicles and infrastructure in the transportation sector.

Summary of Recommendations

Advanced Education

Indigenous Students

1. Provide funding to support reconciliation at post-secondary institutions through the development of Indigenous language programs, an Indigenous language fluency degree framework, and support services for Indigenous students, including programming and staff to ensure the full inclusion of Indigenous learners.

International Students

2. Form a broad stakeholder group to investigate and discuss all aspects of fairness for international students, and consider a new strategic approach to international education, including access to educational and social supports, the impacts of international education on the post-secondary system, educator workloads, and costs of attending post-secondary for international and domestic students.

Operational Funding

3. Increase operational funding to post-secondary institutions and expand the number of seats available to students, including at Kwantlen Polytechnic University and Simon Fraser University's Surrey campus, to address the increased demand for post-secondary training and education in BC.

Tuition and Financial Assistance

4. Eliminate the interest on provincial student loans.
5. Allocate an additional \$5 million to BCcampus to maintain existing open textbook resources and continue creating new resources.
6. Strengthen the existing Tuition Fee Limit Policy to ensure that institutions are not increasing fees beyond the prescribed limits in the form of new ancillary fees.
7. Review and evaluate "completion grant" and "up-front needs-based grant" models with the aim of ensuring post-secondary students have access to the most beneficial and impactful support.

Economic Development

Agriculture and Agri-Foods

8. Support innovation, research and development in the agriculture and agri-business sector.

9. Provide adequate resources to the Agricultural Land Commission to strengthen enforcement action for non-farm uses of farmland.
10. Support new farmers by providing incentives, funding for mentoring and facilitating access to local markets.
11. Extend the replant program for fruit tree growers by four years to 2025.

Business and Regulation

12. Continue to support a taxation and regulatory environment, as well as trade-enabling infrastructure, with the aim of encouraging strong business growth.

Labour and Immigration

13. Fund solutions and invest in programs to address labour shortages, and increase employment readiness and workforce participation among Indigenous peoples, women and other equity groups.

Mining

14. Review the proposal to increase the mining exploration tax credit and the mining flow-through share tax credit for improving competitiveness, and increasing the return on investment.

Natural Resource Development

15. Address procedural and regulatory challenges for natural resource development while ensuring project approval processes are comprehensive, efficient and timely, and include robust oversight and consultation with Indigenous peoples.
16. Increase provincial staff support in natural resource ministries to ensure consistent and timely permitting processes, and separate compliance and enforcement from permitting.

Research

17. Provide long-term, multi-year, sustainable funding for research, including for Geoscience BC, the British Columbia Geographical Survey and the Canadian Digital Technology Supercluster.

Trade

18. Continue to work with other provinces to open up interprovincial trade, and explore ways to diversify markets and products by collaborating with other governments, exporters and trade associations to establish new trade relations and maintain existing ones.

Environment

BC Parks

19. Increase base operational funding for BC Parks to support monitoring and enforcement, public safety, recreational infrastructure, and conservation planning.

Climate Change and Clean Energy

20. Increase funding to promote a transition to clean energy.
21. Invest in and expand electricity production for energy use for homes, vehicles, natural resources and other industry in order to meet climate targets.
22. Promote energy efficiency through the use of various government tools, such as investments in energy efficiency programs and tax credits.
23. Provide additional funding for the Clean Energy Vehicle Program, and targeted funding for electric vehicle charging infrastructure.
24. Leverage government procurement to prioritize clean technology solutions and support BC's clean technology providers.

Fish and Wildlife Conservation and Management

25. Increase funding for fish and wildlife habitat management, conservation, protection and restoration.
26. Increase funding for land use planning in line with the mandate to modernize land use planning, and sustainably manage BC's ecosystems, rivers, lakes, watersheds, forests and old growth.
27. Improve data collection and analytics for wildlife management, distribute wildlife funding on a regional basis and give regions authority over spending.

Invasive Species

28. Provide robust funding and legislative authority to support education, prevention, monitoring, response and enforcement with respect to invasive species throughout BC, and ensure funding is stable, timely and predictable.

Fiscal Policy

Budgetary Policy

29. Pursue prudent and careful fiscal discipline, and improve efficiencies in the delivery of services while working toward reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, strengthening the economy, and supporting social equality.

Liquor

30. Address inequities between craft breweries and restaurants with respect to the markup on craft and micro-brewed beer.

Luxury Tax

31. Re-evaluate the luxury tax as it applies to pick-up trucks and work trucks.

Municipalities

32. Review recommendations from the Union of B.C. Municipalities to address revenue generation challenges for municipalities.
33. Continue funding the Rural Dividend Program.

Provincial Sales Tax (PST)

34. Examine the feasibility and impact of exempting machinery, equipment and technology from the PST.
35. Increase monitoring and enforcement of BC tax laws for the payment of PST by non-resident companies working in BC, and consider increasing transparency by implementing public reporting.

Treaty First Nations and Borrowing

36. Help facilitate access to equal and fair financing options and borrowing opportunities for treaty First Nations.

Health Care

Community Care and Seniors

37. Ensure stable, quality care in residential care facilities by reviewing and establishing minimum staffing levels, equalizing compensation, and reviewing sub-contracting of care and support services.
38. Provide additional long-term funding to address community care health human resource recruitment and retention challenges in public, private and non-profit sectors.
39. Eliminate the client co-payment for home support.
40. Increase funding to the Better at Home program.
41. Provide adequate funding for palliative, end-of-life care and bereavement programs.
42. Provide funding for dementia education, resources and training to support individuals and families affected by dementia, and develop dementia-friendly communities.
43. Enhance nutritional supports for seniors, including screening for malnutrition, and providing subsidized home nutrition care and dietician support to identified patients.

Dental Care

44. Provide funding to not-for-profit dental clinics, and incentives to support dentists who provide charitable dentistry.

Health Human Resources

45. Increase funding for ongoing, comprehensive health human resources planning and development, including the expansion of training capacity for priority professions, such as physiotherapists, occupational therapists, speech language pathologists, sonographers, MRI technologists and perfusionists, as well as recruitment and retention in rural and remote areas.
46. Address the shortage of primary care physicians, including exploring opportunities through funding, training, recruitment and retention initiatives, and immigration.

Medical Interpreting Services

47. Expand Medical Interpreting Services to include non-MSP covered services, such as physiotherapy, eye exams and hospice, and improve training and technology.

Mental Health and Addiction

48. Invest in and scale up a continuum of services for mental health and addiction, including prevention, early intervention, stigma and substance use, as well as measures to address the opioid crisis, and ensure supports and services are culturally safe and trauma-informed.

Primary Care

49. Invest in multi-disciplinary team-based care models, such as community health centres, that are flexible, adaptable and responsive to the needs of different communities.
50. Invest in effective linkages between community supports and acute care services for British Columbians with chronic diseases, as well as prevention to reduce the prevalence and impact of chronic diseases and rising obesity rates.
51. Increase funding for First Nations community health services and services for urban Indigenous people.

Public Health and Wellness

52. Apply the PST to sugar-sweetened beverages.
53. Implement an annual fee for tobacco retail authorization permits.
54. Treat e-cigarettes and other smoking replacements the same as tobacco, and create a license system for the sale of e-cigarettes with an annual renewal and license fee.
55. Continue supporting the Woodstove Exchange program.

Rural and Remote Health Care

56. Review different mechanisms to ensure equitable access to health services in remote and rural areas, including recruitment and retention of health care providers, health and social supports for treatments received away from home, and tax deductions for medical travel costs.

Housing

Affordable and Social Housing

57. Increase funding to build more social and affordable rental housing units in collaboration with Indigenous partners, municipalities, non-profit and faith-based organizations and the private sector, and maintain the existing affordable housing supply.

Homelessness

58. Address homelessness by applying a housing-first principle, and providing more social housing and wrap-around health and social support services for the homeless, Indigenous people, seniors and youth, as well as those with mental illness and addiction.
59. Develop a provincial youth homelessness plan to prevent, reduce and end youth homelessness.

Taxation

60. Conduct an annual review of the property transfer tax thresholds and make any necessary adjustments to address the challenges related to home ownership due to the dynamic nature of the real estate market.

K-12 Education

Capital Funding

61. Increase capital funding to school districts to build new schools, maintain and upgrade existing facilities, conduct seismic upgrades, and add classroom space and playgrounds.

Indigenous Students

62. Provide funding to develop and implement programs to support Indigenous students that target and address the unique needs of Indigenous learners based on best practice from school districts with good completion rates.
63. Implement the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Call to Action 63.2 by providing the necessary funding to educate teachers on how to integrate Indigenous knowledge and teaching methods into classrooms.

Operational Funding and Funding Formula

64. Provide sustainable, predictable funding based on a child-centered model that allows school districts to cover the costs of delivering education.
65. Fund compensation increases for exempt staff, principals and vice-principals, and provide flexibility at the local level for principals and vice-principals to take on teaching roles, particularly in rural and remote areas facing challenges with recruitment and retention.

66. Fund the provision of an age-appropriate sexual health curriculum for all grades that includes matters of consent and online safety, with the assistance of qualified sexual health educators.
67. Encourage partnerships with, and provide stable, long-term funding to, independent organizations that provide supportive, community-based programming for children and youth, such as the Boys and Girls Club, Roots of Empathy, Right to Play's Aboriginal Youth Program, the BC School Fruit and Vegetable Nutritional Program, and FIRST Robotics; and support alternative curricular programs, such as Take a Hike.

Recruitment and Retention

68. Offer incentives, such as forgivable student loans or supplemental housing compensation, to assist in the recruitment and retention of teachers in rural and remote areas, particularly specialized teachers.

Students with Special Needs

69. Increase funding for students with special needs, including funding for early identification, the provision of appropriate support programs, and the training and recruitment of specialized teachers.
70. Establish clear standards and fully fund appropriate supports for students with special needs in the public and independent school systems.

Public Safety and Justice

Access to Justice and Legal Aid

71. Improve access to legal aid services across the province by increasing tariff rates to the level necessary to attract and retain legal counsel, and to restore and expand coverage for family law and criminal law legal aid services, particularly in rural, remote and Indigenous communities.
72. Provide alternative justice and court processes, including expanding restorative justice programs and working with the federal government to implement a Unified Family Court for all family law matters.
73. Facilitate the production of Gladue reports.

Gender-Based Violence and Sexual Assault

74. Increase funding to address human trafficking, including resources and supports for policing initiatives, counselling and victim services, education, and other community-based programs.
75. Invest in community support and prevention programs that address gender-based and domestic violence, including providing stable, multi-year funding for the women-serving sector, and funding to facilitate the development of programs run by Indigenous women for Indigenous women.

Ground Disturbance

76. Provide funding to establish a universal call or online system to provide information about underground infrastructure before digging.

Natural Disasters and Emergency Preparedness

77. Recognizing the impact of climate-related disasters, and with particular attention given to the needs of remote and Indigenous communities, significantly increase investments in proactive measures to prevent, mitigate, adapt and prepare for natural disasters, such as fuel management, firebreaks, storm drainage and tsunami towers; and increase funding for improving response, recovery and adaptation to these disasters.

Social Services

Child Care and Early Childhood Development

78. Consider increasing the capital funding grant that charities and non-profits are eligible for from \$500,000 to \$1 million in line with municipalities.
79. Significantly increase investment in early childhood development, especially early intervention and services in Indigenous communities, including the training, recruitment and retention of pediatric therapists, such as occupational therapists, physiotherapists, speech language pathologists and behavioural therapists, as well as increased funding for autism intervention services and therapies.

Community Social Services and Social Policy

80. Recognize the contribution of the community social services sector in delivering social services, and addressing complex social and health issues by increasing funding and adopting a flexible, outcomes-based approach in contract deliverables.
81. Increase funding to Community Living British Columbia, with a focus on ensuring home share funding adequately addresses living costs and inflation.
82. Urgently address compensation issues for foster parents in recognition of the valuable service and care they provide to children in British Columbia.

Income and Disability Assistance

83. Increase income and disability assistance rates, index rates to inflation, and increase the earnings exemption, including recognizing Canada Pension Plan disability benefits as earned income.
84. Continue to enhance and build on the Single Parent Employment Initiative.

Poverty Reduction

85. Ensure all provincial social services, and particularly those relied on by people living in poverty, are trauma-informed, culturally safe and adhere to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Youth

86. Continue to improve upon the range of supports provided to youth aging out of care and transitioning into the community, including housing, health, education, training and income supports.
87. Fund specialized child and youth mental health and substance use services and supports, including collaborative programs, such as Foundry.

Sport, Arts and Culture

Arts, Culture, Digital Media and Film

88. Continue to increase funding to the B.C. Arts Council.
89. Support BC's creative industries by increasing funding to Creative B.C., including a multi-year commitment to the Amplify B.C. program; by maintaining existing tax credits for production and post-production services, film, digital animation, visual effects, digital media and book publishing; and by targeting initiatives at all levels of education to grow the sector.

Public Libraries

90. Provide increased, predictable, transparent multi-year funding to public libraries, and support the delivery of library services in Indigenous communities.
91. Commit to providing adequate broadband across BC, including in rural, remote and Indigenous communities.

Sport

92. Provide funding for programs that support the development of physical literacy for all British Columbians, including seniors, women, girls, and Indigenous peoples.

Transportation and Transit

Accessible Transportation

93. Provide increased and sustained funding for HandyDART services.

Active Transportation (Cycling and Walking)

94. Consider cycling as part of all major infrastructure projects.
95. Encourage the use of electric, cargo and adaptive bicycles by eliminating the PST on electric assist bicycles.

BC Ferries

96. Offer discounted ferry fares to K-12 school classes and school-based clubs and sport teams to enable expanded educational and team-based extracurricular opportunities.

97. Fund the expansion of ferry service for ferry-dependent communities, including BC Ferries Route 11 (Alliford Bay) and Route 26 (Prince Rupert) servicing Haida Gwaii.

Public Transit

98. Provide access to affordable transportation in rural and remote areas, including public transit and intercity transportation.

Roads and Highways

99. Increase funding for maintenance and remediation of roads and highways, including culverts and drainage, especially in northern and remote communities, and engage industry to address impacts of heavy use and climate change and ensure a lasting legacy of permanent, high-grade roads.

Transportation Infrastructure

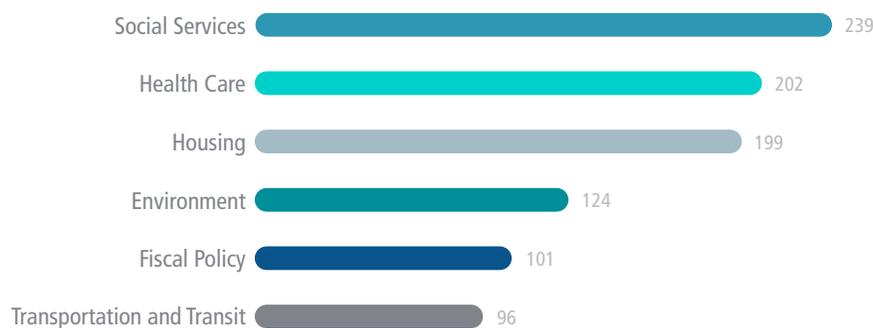
100. Increase investments in both low- and zero-carbon vehicles and infrastructure in the transportation sector.

Appendix A: Survey Results

Question 1

What are your top three priorities to help make life better for you, your family and your community? (462 responses)

The response option to this question was open-ended. All responses were reviewed and coded according to theme.



The top priority identified by survey respondents to help make life better was social services. Within the category of social services, respondents overwhelmingly identified high-quality, affordable and accessible childcare as significant. Other areas within social services that were identified as priorities include: reducing poverty; addressing rising costs of living by ensuring a living wage or offering a basic income; increasing income and disability assistance rates; and ensuring early intervention and access to early childhood development services.

The second priority identified by survey respondents was health care, followed closely by housing. Priorities within health care included increasing support for mental health and addiction, and expanding community care. A number of respondents also identified reducing wait times and addressing staffing shortages by funding more family doctors, nurse practitioners, specialists and other professionals as a priority.

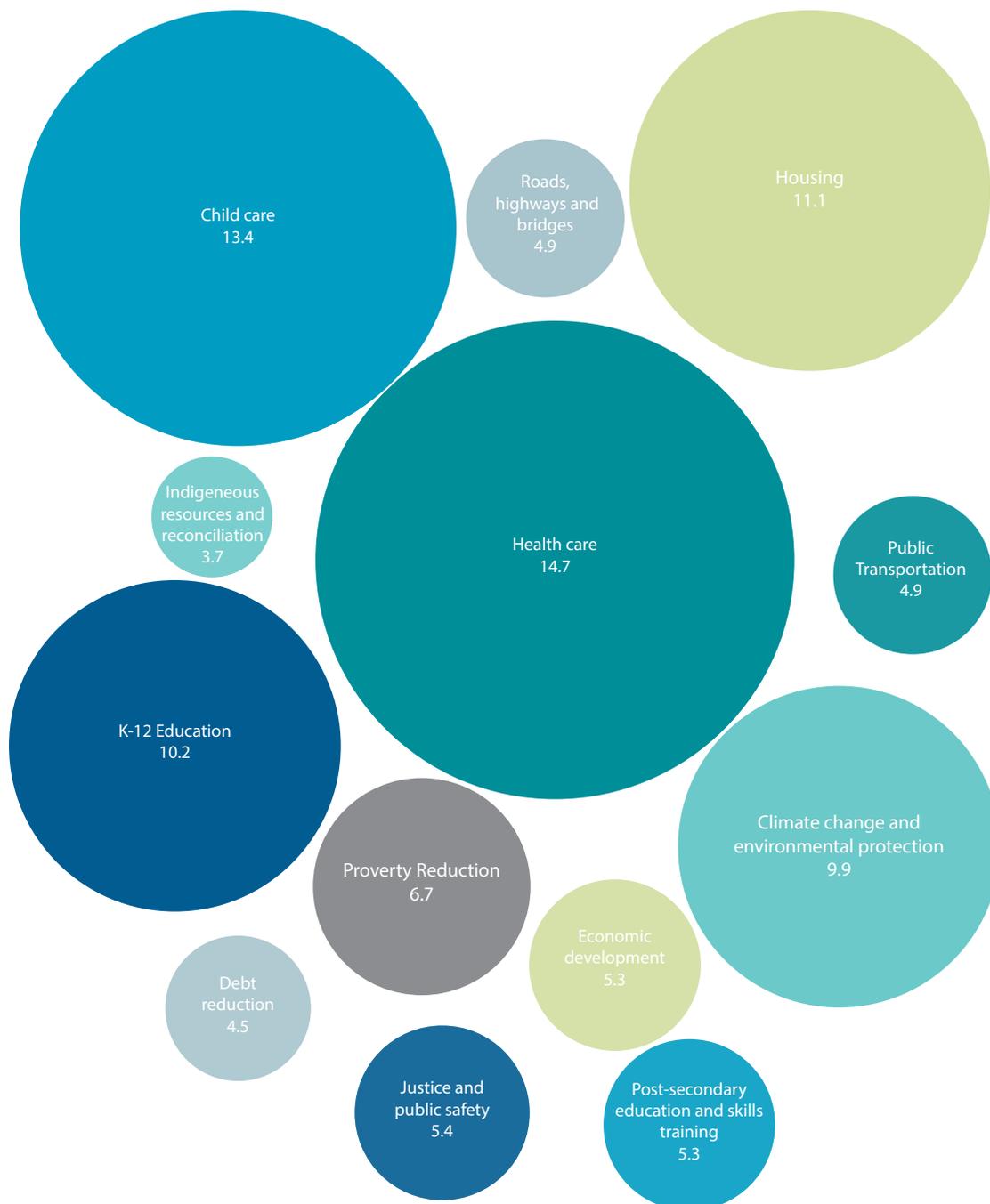
Responses on the topic of housing covered both market housing and social housing. Respondents advocated for more affordable housing options for rental and home ownership through rent-to-own initiatives or renters rebates. Others put forward supporting low-income families and addressing homelessness by constructing social housing and offering subsidized rents linked to income.

Respondents who identified the environment as a priority suggested addressing climate change and protecting the environment by supporting renewable energy, investing in fish and wildlife conservation and management, and protecting parks and green spaces for recreation. Responses covering education, and transportation and transit focused on increasing funding to provide affordable access to these services. Specific suggestions included support for students with special needs, ensuring affordable post-secondary education, adequate ferry service, and building protected walking paths and cycling lanes.

Responses identifying fiscal policy as a priority were mixed; many recommended lowering taxes while others advocated for increased taxation, particularly for high income earners, polluters and corporations. Other options received 50 responses or less per topic, and include economic development, public safety and justice, natural resources, sport, culture and arts, and Indigenous peoples.

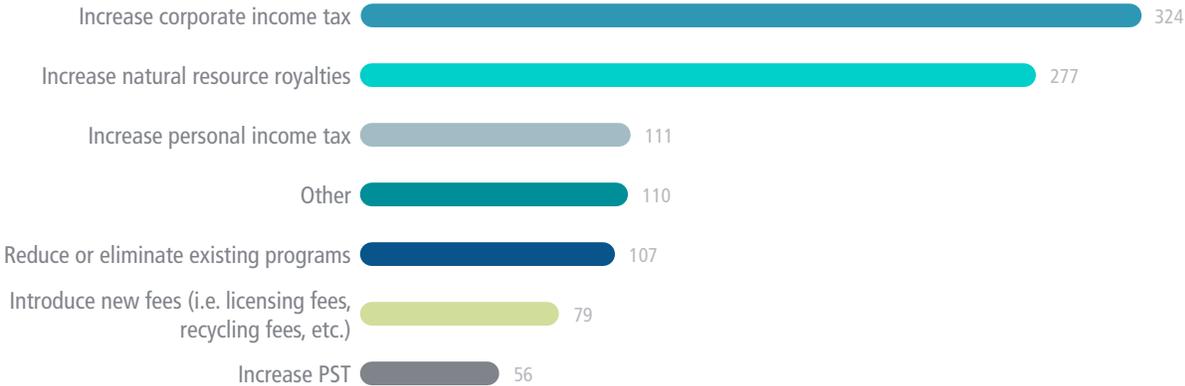
Question 2

If you had one dollar to put toward programs and services across government, how would you choose to divide it? (444 responses)



Question 3

Given the high level of demand for government programs and services, how would you pay for new and enhanced programs and services? (444 responses)



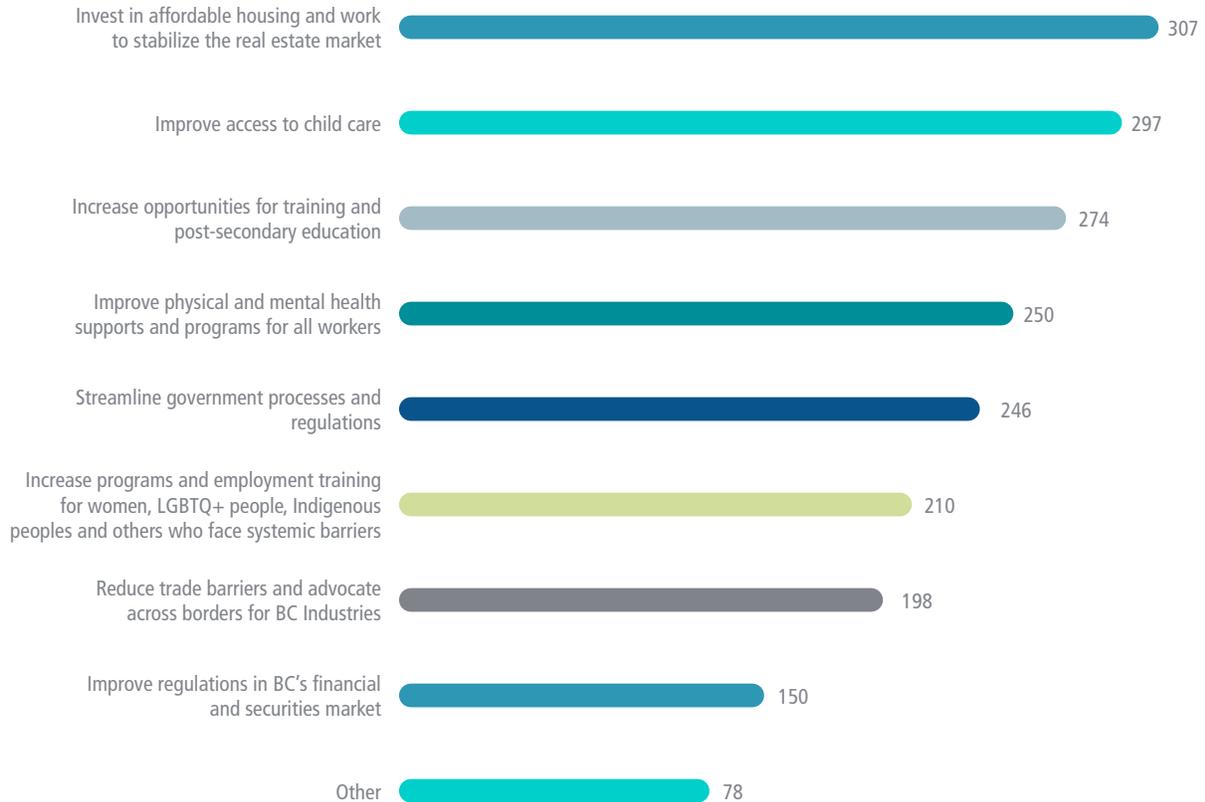
Survey respondents identified increasing the corporate income tax and increasing natural resource royalties as the top two measures to pay for new and enhanced programs and services, with these two options receiving 166 more responses than the next highest choice. This was followed by increasing personal income tax, reducing or eliminating existing programs, and 'other', all grouped closely together.

The 'other' category offered an opportunity for respondents to provide ideas, and included a variety of suggestions aimed at cutting costs and increasing revenue. Suggestions to cut costs included creating a leaner more efficient government, reducing salaries, benefits and travel expenses of politicians and government employees, removing duplication, decreasing services, or moving to a user pays model for some services.

Suggestions to increase revenues include increasing taxation on high income earners, increasing a number of other taxes, working to eliminate tax evasion, decreasing subsidies and tax exemptions for corporations and religious organizations, increasing fines for traffic violations, and attracting new investment. The final suggestions identified by respondents included introducing new fees and increasing the PST.

Question 4

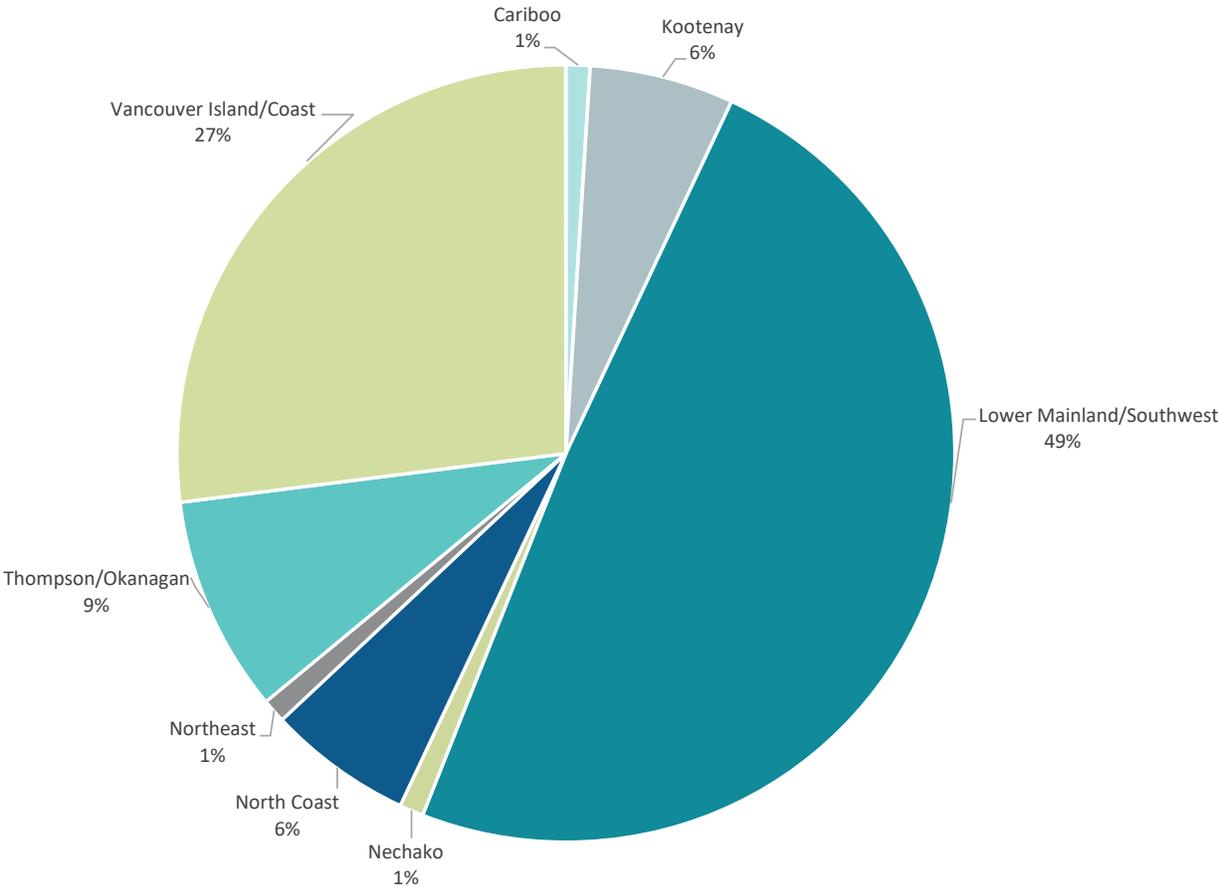
What can government do to build a diverse and sustainable economy and support businesses and industries across our province? (439 responses)



When asked what government can do to build a diverse and sustainable economy and support businesses and industry, investing in affordable housing and working to stabilize the real estate market, improving access to childcare, and increasing opportunities for training and access to post-secondary education were the top three selections. Survey respondents expressed fairly strong support for the five other measures to build a diverse and sustainable economy, and also contributed suggestions under 'other'. These included investing in arts, culture, public libraries and renewable energy, and providing support for small businesses and sustainable industries. They also included a number of other measures, such as decreasing regulation, eliminating money laundering, decreasing government involvement in business, and providing a living wage or basic income.

Question 5

Please identify your region (440 responses)



Appendix B: Public Hearing Participants

- A Way Home Kamloops Society, Fred Ford, Katherine McParland (26-Sep-18, Kamloops)
- Abbotsford Community Services, Shairose Jinnah, Rod Santiago (10-Oct-18, Mission)
- Adventure Tourism Coalition, Brad Harrison (27-Sep-18, Kelowna)
- Alliance of BC Students, Noah Berson, Patrick Meehan (10-Oct-18, Mission)
- Alma Mater Society of the University of British Columbia, Christina Innitchi, Jason Tockman (25-Sep-18, Trail)
- Alzheimer Society of B.C., Maria Howard, Barbara Lindsay (11-Oct-18, Surrey)
- Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of BC, Theresa McCurry (11-Oct-18, Surrey)
- Appraisal Institute of Canada - British Columbia, Terry Dowle (24-Sep-18, Vancouver)
- As'in'i'wa'chi Ni'yaw Nation (Kelly Lake Cree Nation), Chief Kwarakwante (Cliff Calliou) (17-Sep-18, Dawson Creek)
- Association for Mineral Exploration British Columbia, Dr. Robert Stevens, Edie Thome (11-Oct-18, Surrey)
- Association of Administrative and Professional Staff at UBC, Joey Hansen, Sarah Muff (27-Sep-18, Kelowna)
- Association of Service Providers for Employability & Career Training, Janet Morris-Reade (09-Oct-18, Esquimalt)
- Atlantic Pacific Spaceline Enterprise Incorporated, Keith William Steeves (24-Sep-18, Vancouver)
- Tunya Audain (24-Sep-18, Vancouver)
- BC Agriculture Council, Jared DeJong, Reg Ens, Stan Vander Waal (10-Oct-18, Mission)
- BC Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation, Sydney Massey, Pat Tonn (10-Oct-18, Mission)
- BC Alliance for Arts & Culture, Brenda Leadlay (24-Sep-18, Vancouver)
- BC Association of Community Response Networks, Sherry Baker, Ward Bertram (10-Oct-18, Mission)
- BC Association of Farmers' Markets, Heather O'Hara (11-Oct-18, Surrey)
- BC Care Providers Association, Mike Klassen (24-Sep-18, Vancouver)
- BC Centre for Aquatic Health Sciences Society, Dr. James Powell (20-Sep-18, Campbell River)
- BC Chiropractic Association, Dr. Jay Robinson (10-Oct-18, Mission)
- BC Common Ground Alliance, Dave Baspaly, M.J. Whitemarsh (09-Oct-18, Esquimalt)
- BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils, Andrea Sinclair (11-Oct-18, Surrey)
- BC Federation of Labour, Irene Lanzinger (24-Sep-18, Vancouver)
- BC Fruit Growers' Association, Pinder Dhaliwal, Glen Lucas (26-Sep-18, Nelson)
- BC Gaming Industry Association, Peter Goudron, Shiera Stuart (24-Sep-18, Vancouver)
- BC Notaries, Daniel Boisvert, Rhoda Witherly (10-Oct-18, Mission)
- BC Parks Foundation, Dr. Andy Day (20-Sep-18, Campbell River)
- BC Provincial Network of Child and Youth Advocacy Centres, Sandra Bryce, Brooke McLardy, Leah Zille (09-Oct-18, Esquimalt)
- BC School Trustees Association, Gord Swan (26-Sep-18, Kamloops)
- BC SCRAP-IT Program, Dennis Rogoza (10-Oct-18, Mission)
- BC Seniors Games Society, Gordon Oates (09-Oct-18, Esquimalt)
- BC SPCA, Craig Daniell, Marcie Moriarty (11-Oct-18, Surrey)
- BC Spinal Cord Injury Community Services Network, Sian Blyth, Gail Hamamoto (11-Oct-18, Surrey)
- BC Teachers' Federation, Terri Mooring, Michal Rozworski (11-Oct-18, Surrey)
- BC Wildlife Federation, Alan Martin (09-Oct-18, Esquimalt)
- BCEdAccess, Tracy Humphreys (09-Oct-18, Esquimalt)
- BCGEU, Robert Duffy, Stephanie Smith (10-Oct-18, Mission)
- Beaton Arm Crossing Association, Earl Frerichs, Sandi Frerichs (26-Sep-18, Nelson)
- Board Voice Society of BC, Jody Paterson (09-Oct-18, Esquimalt)
- British Columbia Anesthesiologists' Society, Roland Orfaly (11-Oct-18, Surrey)
- British Columbia Construction Association, Chris Atchison (25-Sep-18, Cranbrook)
- British Columbia Dental Association, Raymon Grewal, Jocelyn Johnston (11-Oct-18, Surrey)
- British Columbia Federation of Students, Aran Armutlu, Michael Olson (10-Oct-18, Mission)
- British Columbia Lung Association, Chris Lam (10-Oct-18, Mission)
- British Columbia Principals' and Vice-Principals' Association, David DeRosa (25-Sep-18, Trail)

British Columbia Real Estate Association, Corinne Caldwell, Ray Harris (10-Oct-18, Mission)

British Columbia Schizophrenia Society, Thomas Conway, Andrew Stewart (24-Sep-18, Vancouver)

British Columbia Stone, Sand and Gravel Association, Derek Holmes (10-Oct-18, Mission)

British Columbia Wine Institute, Miles Prodan (27-Sep-18, Kelowna)

AJ Brown (24-Sep-18, Vancouver)

Barbara Brown (24-Sep-18, Vancouver)

Building Owners and Managers Association of British Columbia, Damian Stathonikos (24-Sep-18, Vancouver)

Melody Burns (10-Oct-18, Mission)

Burns Lake Public Library Board of Trustees, Hilda Earl (18-Sep-18, Smithers)

Business Council of BC, Ken Peacock (11-Oct-18, Surrey)

Anastasia Butcher (09-Oct-18, Esquimalt)

Camosun College Student Society, Michel Turcotte (09-Oct-18, Esquimalt)

Campbell River Community Literacy Association, Kat Eddy (20-Sep-18, Campbell River)

Canada West Ski Areas Association, Christopher Nicolson (10-Oct-18, Mission)

Finn Canadensis (09-Oct-18, Esquimalt)

Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, Chris Montgomery, Geoff Morrison (09-Oct-18, Esquimalt)

Canadian Bar Association, British Columbia Branch, Margaret Mereigh (24-Sep-18, Vancouver)

Canadian Cancer Society, British Columbia and Yukon, Jenny Byford (11-Oct-18, Surrey)

Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, Iglia Ivanova (11-Oct-18, Surrey)

Canadian Home Builders' Association, Central Okanagan, Les Bellamy (27-Sep-18, Kelowna)

Canadian Home Builders' Association of BC, Alycia Coulter, Neil Moody (11-Oct-18, Surrey)

Canadian Media Producers Association, BC Producers Branch, Liz Shorten, Rob Simmons (24-Sep-18, Vancouver)

Canadian Mental Health Association, Vancouver-Fraser Branch, Michael Anhorn (17-Sep-18, Dawson Creek)

Canadian Taxpayers Federation, Kris Sims (18-Sep-18, Prince George)

Capilano University, School of Communication, Dr. Michael Markwick (18-Sep-18, Smithers)

Cement Association of Canada, Ken Carrusca (24-Sep-18, Vancouver)

Chartered Professional Accountants of British Columbia, Lori Mathison (24-Sep-18, Vancouver)

Child Development Centre of Prince George and District, Joan Beck, Pat Hamilton, Fabiola Toyata (18-Sep-18, Prince George)

Childhood Obesity Foundation, Dr. Tom Warshawski (27-Sep-18, Kelowna)

Chilliwack & District Seniors' Resources Society, Coletta Holmes (10-Oct-18, Mission)

Citizens' Climate Lobby, Judy O'Leary, Laura Sacks (26-Sep-18, Nelson)

City of Dawson Creek, Mayor Dale Bumstead (17-Sep-18, Dawson Creek)

City of Prince George, Garth Frizell, Mayor Lyn Hall (18-Sep-18, Prince George)

Clean Energy BC, Jae Mather (10-Oct-18, Mission)

Clean Energy Canada, Dan Woynillowicz (09-Oct-18, Esquimalt)

Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC, Sharon Gregson (10-Oct-18, Mission)

College of New Caledonia Students' Union, Harman Dandiwal, Michelle Frechette (18-Sep-18, Prince George)

College of New Caledonia, Alyson Gourley-Cramer, Henry Reiser (18-Sep-18, Prince George)

College of the Rockies Faculty Association, Joan Kaun (25-Sep-18, Cranbrook)

College of the Rockies, Dianne Teslak, David Walls (25-Sep-18, Cranbrook)

Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy, Carolyn Amantea, Kyoko Smith (25-Sep-18, Trail)

Columbia Valley Chamber of Commerce, Susan Clovechok (25-Sep-18, Cranbrook)

Comox Valley Community Justice Centre, Bruce Curtis (20-Sep-18, Campbell River)

Comox Valley Families for Public Education, Shannon Aldinger (20-Sep-18, Campbell River)

Confederation of University Faculty Associations of British Columbia, Dr. Michael Conlon (11-Oct-18, Surrey)

Cranbrook Chamber of Commerce, Jason Fast (25-Sep-18, Cranbrook)

CUPE BC Division, Jordana Feist, Justin Schmid (24-Sep-18, Vancouver)

CUPE, Local 4990, Denice Bardua, Laurie Spooner (18-Sep-18, Prince George)

David Suzuki Foundation, Tom Green, Patricia Lightburn (10-Oct-18, Mission)

Freda Davis (19-Sep-18, Masset)

Dawson Creek Literacy Now, Michele Mobley (17-Sep-18, Dawson Creek)

Destination Greater Victoria, Darlene Hollstein, Graham Wallace (09-Oct-18, Esquimalt)

DigiBC – The Interactive & Digital Media Industry Association of British Columbia, Brenda Bailey, Sarah Frost, Peter Greenwood (24-Sep-18, Vancouver)

District of Mission, Mayor Randy Hawes (10-Oct-18, Mission)

District of Vanderhoof, Mayor Gerry Thiessen (18-Sep-18, Prince George)

Douglas Students' Union, Andrew Dalton, McKenzie Hutchison (11-Oct-18, Surrey)

Downtown Eastside Literacy Roundtable, William Booth, Namorsh Reddy (24-Sep-18, Vancouver)

East Kootenay Invasive Species Council, BJ Randall Harris (25-Sep-18, Cranbrook)

École Ballenas Secondary School, Olivia Hill's class, Olivia Hill, Leonhard Appelt, Tanager Carson-Austin, Emma Harvey, My Huy Lim, Matthew Theriault (20-Sep-18, Campbell River)

Astrid Egger (19-Sep-18, Masset)

Elders Council for Parks in British Columbia, Nancy Wilkin (09-Oct-18, Esquimalt)

Emily Carr Students' Union, Lori MacDonald, Joshua Ralph (11-Oct-18, Surrey)

Ending Violence Association of BC, Tracy Porteous (11-Oct-18, Surrey)

Engage Sport North, Mandi Graham (18-Sep-18, Prince George)

Dennis Evans (20-Sep-18, Campbell River)

Family Services of the North Shore, Julia Staub-French, Laurie Kohl (11-Oct-18, Surrey)

Beng Favreau (19-Sep-18, Masset)

Federation of Community Social Services of BC, Richard FitzZaland (20-Sep-18, Campbell River)

Federation of Post-Secondary Educators of BC, Dr. George Davison (24-Sep-18, Vancouver)

Finley's Bar & Grill and Sage Tapas & Wine Bar, Tanya Finley, Brent Holowaychuk (26-Sep-18, Nelson)

First Call: BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition, Adrienne Montani (24-Sep-18, Vancouver)

First Nations Finance Authority, Ernie Daniels (27-Sep-18, Kelowna)

First Nations Financial Management Board, Brian Titus (24-Sep-18, Vancouver)

John Fisher (18-Sep-18, Smithers)

Fort Nelson & District Chamber of Commerce, Bev Vandersteen (10-Oct-18, Mission)

FortisBC, Dave Bennett (27-Sep-18, Kelowna)

Foundry, Krista Gerty, Pamela Liversidge (10-Oct-18, Mission)

Joni Fraser (19-Sep-18, Masset)

Colleen and Greg Garbe (24-Sep-18, Vancouver)

Geoscience BC, Gavin Dirom, Carlos Salas (24-Sep-18, Vancouver)

Robin Gibson (17-Sep-18, Dawson Creek)

Graduate Student Society at Simon Fraser University, Pierre Cenerelli, Noortje De Weers (24-Sep-18, Vancouver)

Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce, Catherine Holt (09-Oct-18, Esquimalt)

Greater Victoria Cycling Coalition, Corey Burger (09-Oct-18, Esquimalt)

Greater Victoria Regional Child Care Council, Danielle Davis, Dr. Enid Elliot (09-Oct-18, Esquimalt)

Guide Outfitters Association of British Columbia, Scott Ellis (10-Oct-18, Mission)

Health Sciences Association of BC, Val Avery, Andy Longhurst (10-Oct-18, Mission)

Robert Holmes (25-Sep-18, Cranbrook)

F.J. Hurtak (25-Sep-18, Cranbrook)

Gina Huylenbroeck (09-Oct-18, Esquimalt)

Imperial Tobacco Canada, Sebastien Charbonneau (09-Oct-18, Esquimalt)

Inclusion BC, Karla Verschoor (24-Sep-18, Vancouver)

Innergex Renewable Energy Inc., Colleen Giroux Schmidt (24-Sep-18, Vancouver)

Insurance Bureau of Canada, Aaron Sutherland (27-Sep-18, Kelowna)

Invasive Species Council of British Columbia, Dr. Brian Heise (26-Sep-18, Kamloops)

Island Coastal Economic Trust, John Jack, Mayor Josie Osborne, Line Robert (24-Sep-18, Vancouver)

IVF4BC, Nicole Nouch (10-Oct-18, Mission)

Patrick Jadan (09-Oct-18, Esquimalt)

Nicole Kaler (11-Oct-18, Surrey)

Brandon Kallio (19-Sep-18, Masset)

Kamloops and District Fish and Game Association, Gordon Bacon, Thomas Koester (26-Sep-18, Kamloops)

Kamloops Chamber of Commerce, Brant Hasanen, Joshua Knaak (26-Sep-18, Kamloops)

Kamloops Community YMCA-YWCA, Colin Reid (26-Sep-18, Kamloops)

Kamloops Society for Alcohol and Drug Services (Phoenix Centre), Sian Lewis (26-Sep-18, Kamloops)

Kamloops Symphony Society; Western Canada Theatre, Kathy Humphreys, James MacDonald (26-Sep-18, Kamloops)

Kelowna Chamber of Commerce, Ron Cannan, Caroline Miller (27-Sep-18, Kelowna)

Kwantlen Faculty Association, Federation of Post-Secondary Educators, Local 5, Bob Davis, Suzanne Pearce (17-Sep-18, Dawson Creek)

Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Dr. Alan Davis, Marlyn Graziano, Jon Harding (11-Oct-18, Surrey)

LandlordBC, David Hutniak (24-Sep-18, Vancouver)

Langara College, Ajay Patel, Viktor Sokha, Lane Trotter (24-Sep-18, Vancouver)

Law Society of British Columbia, Don Avison, Dean Lawton, QC (09-Oct-18, Esquimalt)

Literacy in Kamloops, Fiona Clare (26-Sep-18, Kamloops)

Cynthia Lockrey (09-Oct-18, Esquimalt)

Make Children First-Interior Community Services, Valerie Janz, Sue Lissel (26-Sep-18, Kamloops)

Manufacturing Safety Alliance of BC, Lisa McGuire (10-Oct-18, Mission)

Mayor Greg Martin (19-Sep-18, Masset)

Bruce McGuigan (09-Oct-18, Esquimalt)

Richard A. McWhinney (10-Oct-18, Mission)

Mining Association of British Columbia, Bryan Cox (09-Oct-18, Esquimalt)

Mission Hospice Society, Angel Elias (10-Oct-18, Mission)

Mortgage Sandbox, David Stroud (11-Oct-18, Surrey)

Motion Picture Production Industry Association of BC, Phil Klapwyk, Peter Leitch (10-Oct-18, Mission)

Music BC Industry Association, Nick Blasko, Alex Grigg, Scott Johnson (09-Oct-18, Esquimalt)

National Elevator and Escalator Association, Michael Hutchison, Christian von Donat (09-Oct-18, Esquimalt)

Nelson Interfaith Climate Action Collaborative, Barry Nelson, Julia Roberts (26-Sep-18, Nelson)

Nelson Kootenay Lake Tourism, Dianna Ducs (26-Sep-18, Nelson)

New Car Dealers Association of British Columbia, Blair Qualey (10-Oct-18, Mission)

North Island College, Dr. Lisa Domae, Colin Fowler (20-Sep-18, Campbell River)

North Island Students' Union, Mary Rickinson, Carissa Wilson (20-Sep-18, Campbell River)

North Peace Rural Roads Initiative, Karen Goodings, Jackie Kjos (17-Sep-18, Dawson Creek)

Northern Brain Injury Association, Ryan Challen (17-Sep-18, Dawson Creek)

Northern Confluence, Nikki Skuce, (18-Sep-18, Smithers)

Northern Lights College, Anndra Graff (17-Sep-18, Dawson Creek)

Northern Rockies Aboriginal Women Society, Vina Behn (18-Sep-18, Prince George)

Office of the Seniors Advocate, Isobel Mackenzie (09-Oct-18, Esquimalt)

Okanagan and Similkameen Invasive Species Society (OASISS); Boundary Invasive Species Society (BISS), Jaymie Atkinson, Erin Kitchen, Lisa Scott, Barb Stewart (27-Sep-18, Kelowna)

Okanagan College Students' Union, Mark Fellhauer, Jennifer Meyer (27-Sep-18, Kelowna)

Okanagan College, Allan Coyle, Gloria Morgan (27-Sep-18, Kelowna)

OSNS Child + Youth Development Centre, Kate Smith, Manisha Willms (27-Sep-18, Kelowna)

Pacific Academic Institute of Chiropractic, Dr. Howard Green, Dr. Don Nixdorf (10-Oct-18, Mission)

Pacific Legal Education and Outreach Society, Martha Rans (11-Oct-18, Surrey)

PacificSport Fraser Valley, Jared Kope (10-Oct-18, Mission)

PacificSport Interior BC, Ron McColl, Linda Stride (26-Sep-18, Kamloops)

PacificSport Vancouver Island, Drew Cooper (20-Sep-18, Campbell River)

Parent Advocacy Network for Public Education, Galen Hutcheson, Maggie Milne Martens (11-Oct-18, Surrey)

Parkinson Society British Columbia, Jean Blake, Richard Mayede (24-Sep-18, Vancouver)

Peerless Engineering, Jeff Magnolo (11-Oct-18, Surrey)

Physiotherapists for Northern Communities, Hillary Crowley, Terry Fedorkiw, Elizabeth Macritchie (18-Sep-18, Prince George)

Physiotherapy Association of British Columbia, Christine Bradstock, Janet Lundie, Alex Scott (24-Sep-18, Vancouver)

Wes Pidgeon (10-Oct-18, Mission)

PISE (Pacific Institute for Sport Excellence), Robert Bettauer, Lindsay Player, Alethea Wilson (09-Oct-18, Esquimalt)

Prince George Backcountry Recreation Society, Dave King (18-Sep-18, Prince George)

Prince George Chamber of Commerce, Todd Corrigan, Bill Quinn, Lorna Wendling (18-Sep-18, Prince George)

Private Forest Landowners Association, Megan Hanacek (09-Oct-18, Esquimalt)

Public Education Network Society, Dr. Michael Zlotnik (24-Sep-18, Vancouver)

Public Health Association of BC, John Millar, Shannon Turner (25-Sep-18, Cranbrook)

Devin Rachar (19-Sep-18, Masset)

Real Estate Board of Greater Vancouver, Harriet Permut (11-Oct-18, Surrey)

Realistic Success Recovery Society, Susan Sanderson (11-Oct-18, Surrey)

Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen, Lyle Armour, Karla Kozakevich (27-Sep-18, Kelowna)

Research Universities' Council of British Columbia, Robin Ciceri, Blair Littler (09-Oct-18, Esquimalt)

Restaurants Canada, Mark von Schellwitz (10-Oct-18, Mission)

Retail Council of Canada, Greg Wilson, Avery Bruenjes (10-Oct-18, Mission)

Richmond FarmWatch, Laura Gillanders (11-Oct-18, Surrey)

Rocky Mountain Trench Ecosystem Restoration Program, Ian Adams (25-Sep-18, Cranbrook)

Elysia Saundry (24-Sep-18, Vancouver)

Save Our Northern Seniors, Jim Collins, Mavis Nelson (17-Sep-18, Dawson Creek)

Liza Schmalcel (20-Sep-18, Campbell River)

School District No. 38 (Richmond), Richmond District Parents Association, Richmond Teachers Association, CUPE Local 716, Richmond Association of School

Administrators, and Richmond Management and Professional Staff, Debbie Tablotney, Donna Sargent, Dr. Eric Yung (11-Oct-18, Surrey)

School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay), Chris Johns (25-Sep-18, Cranbrook)

School District No. 60 (Peace River North), Brenda Hooker, Erin Evans (17-Sep-18, Dawson Creek)

School District No. 8 (Kootenay Lake), Lenora Trenaman (26-Sep-18, Nelson)

School District No.57 (Prince George), Tim Bennet, Bruce Wiebe (18-Sep-18, Prince George)

Selkirk College Faculty Association, Lui Marinelli (26-Sep-18, Nelson)

Selkirk College Students' Union, David Blackwell, Santanna Hernandez (25-Sep-18, Trail)

SHARE Family & Community Services Society, Claire MacLean (11-Oct-18, Surrey)

Simon Fraser Student Society, Sarah Edmunds, Jasdeep Gill, Amrita Mohar (09-Oct-18, Esquimalt)

Simon Fraser University, Joanne Curry, Andrew Petter (11-Oct-18, Surrey)

Forrest Smith (10-Oct-18, Mission)

South Island Prosperity Project, Emilie de Rosenroll, Bruce Williams (09-Oct-18, Esquimalt)

Speech and Hearing BC, Dr. Kate Chase (24-Sep-18, Vancouver)

Spruce City Wildlife Association, Dustin Snyder (18-Sep-18, Prince George)

Students' Union of Vancouver Community College, Sydney Sullivan (24-Sep-18, Vancouver)

Surrey Board of Trade, Anita Huberman (11-Oct-18, Surrey)

Surrey Teachers' Association, Julia McRae (11-Oct-18, Surrey)

Susan's Battle, Art Van Pelt (27-Sep-18, Kelowna)

Take a Hike Foundation, Deb Abma-Sluggett, Gordon Matchett (11-Oct-18, Surrey)

Robin Tavender (11-Oct-18, Surrey)

The Bridge Youth & Family Services, Celine Thompson (27-Sep-18, Kelowna)

Thompson Rivers University Faculty Association, Dr. Tom Friedman (26-Sep-18, Kamloops)

Thompson Rivers University Students' Union, Leif Douglass, Cole Hickson, Nicholas Warner (26-Sep-18, Kamloops)

Thompson Rivers University, Barbara Berger, Christine Bovis-Cnossen (26-Sep-18, Kamloops)

Tourism Industry Association of BC, Walt Judas (10-Oct-18, Mission)

Tourism Prince George, Erica Hummel (18-Sep-18, Prince George)

Tourism Smithers, Gladys Atrill (18-Sep-18, Smithers)

Town of Port McNeill, Shirley Ackland (20-Sep-18, Campbell River)

TRIUMF Innovations, Kathryn Hayashi (11-Oct-18, Surrey)

Tsawwassen First Nation, Chief Bryce Williams (11-Oct-18, Surrey)

John Twigg (20-Sep-18, Campbell River)

UBC Okanagan, Phil Barker (27-Sep-18, Kelowna)

UBC Students' Union Okanagan, Amal Alhuwayshil, Sarah Ferguson, Paula Tran (27-Sep-18, Kelowna)

University of Northern British Columbia, Robert Knight (18-Sep-18, Prince George)

Urban Development Institute Pacific Region, Jeff Fisher, Anne McMullin (11-Oct-18, Surrey)

Vancouver Community College Faculty Association, Taryn Thomson (24-Sep-18, Vancouver)

Vancouver Island University Faculty Association, Christopher Jaeger (20-Sep-18, Campbell River)

Vancouver Island University Students' Union, Avery Bonner (09-Oct-18, Esquimalt)

Vancouver School Board, Joy Alexander, Janet Fraser (24-Sep-18, Vancouver)

viaSport, Ninu Gill, Jennifer Heil (24-Sep-18, Vancouver)

Victoria Residential Builders Association, Casey Edge (09-Oct-18, Esquimalt)

Village of Telkwa, Mayor Darcy Repen (18-Sep-18, Smithers)

Fiona E. Walsh (24-Sep-18, Vancouver)

West Coast Kids Cancer Foundation, Colin Worth (10-Oct-18, Mission)

WISE Math BC, Tara Houle (09-Oct-18, Esquimalt)

Witset First Nation, Gary Naziel (18-Sep-18, Smithers)

Woodfibre LNG, Byng Giraud (17-Sep-18, Dawson Creek)

Yellowhead Community Services Society, Jack Keough, Joanne Stokes (26-Sep-18, Kamloops)

YMCA of Northern BC, Amanda Alexander (18-Sep-18, Prince George)

YMCA of Okanagan, Sharon Peterson (27-Sep-18, Kelowna)

Yorkville University, Daren Hancott (24-Sep-18, Vancouver)

Adeana Young (19-Sep-18, Masset)

Appendix C: Written, Video and Audio Submissions

Martin Aalders
Heidi Archer
Jason Arnold
Arthritis Research Canada, Patti Nakatsu
Tyler Bacon
Scott Baldwin
Catherine Baran
Dennis Baran
Mysti Bateham
Sheila Bates
BC AdventureSmart, Emma Courtney
BC Alliance for Healthy Living Society, Rita Koutsodimos
BC Association for Child Development and Intervention, Jason Gordon
BC Building Trades, Tom Sigurdson
BC Chamber of Commerce, Val Litwin
BC Council of the Canadian Federation of University Women, Barbara DuMoulin
BC Employment Standards Coalition, David Fairey
BC Health Coalition, Adam Lynes-Ford
BC Humanist Association, Ian Bushfield
BC Library Trustees Association, Babs Kelly
BC Poverty Reduction Coalition, Trish Garner
BC Psychological Association, Marilyn Chotem
BC Restaurant & Food Services Association, Ian Tostenson
BC Road Builders & Heavy Construction Association, Kelly Scott
BC Seafood Alliance, Christina Burridge
BC Search and Rescue Association and BC AdventureSmart, Sandra Riches
BC Tech Association, Jill Tipping
BC Trucking Association, Dave Earle
Boys and Girls Clubs, Carrie Wagner-Miller
Peter Bradley
Bridgeview Marine, Charlotte Wesley
British Columbia Pharmacy Association, Geraldine Vance
British Columbia Cycling Coalition, Richard Campbell
British Columbia School Superintendents Association, Claire Guy
Frank Brunt
Jack Buchanan
Burnaby Public Library, Lorraine Shore Ivy Cameron
Canadian Beverage Association, Jim Goetz
Canadian Life and Health Insurance Association, Sarah Hobbs
Canadian Mental Health Association - BC Division, Kendra Milne
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - BC Chapter, Tori Ball
Canadian Sport Institute Pacific, Wendy Pattenden
Elizabeth Cardell
Cargill Limited, Jim Smolik
CARP, Wanda Morris
Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society, Jennifer Vogel
Central Okanagan Community Food Bank, Lenetta Parry
Melissa Chappel
City of Fernie, Mary Giuliano
City of Kamloops, Kathy Humphrey
Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society, Hamish Kassa
Communication Matters, Sarah Frumento
Council of Senior Citizens' Organizations of BC, Gudrun Langolf
Cowichan Search & Rescue, Irene Janssen
Cowichan Search & Rescue, David Olsen
Cowichan Search & Rescue, Janice Frueh
Cowichan Search & Rescue, Evan Lachmanec
Cowichan Search & Rescue, Sharon McGregor
Cowichan Search & Rescue, Robert Smith
Cowichan Search & Rescue, Mitch Wright
Brandon Coxon
Cressey Development Group, Hani Lamam
Bradley Dahl
Josina Davis
Trent Derrick
Penny Dickson
Downtown Surrey Business Improvement Association, Elizabeth Model
Karen Drysdale
Colin Eckstrand
End2End Media, Kimberly Burge
Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC, Barry Janyk
FIRST Robotics BC, Susan Stevenson Brown
Nadine Gagne
Neil Gardner
Generation Squeeze, Paul Kershaw
Genome British Columbia, Pascal Spothelfer
George & Bell Consulting, Greg Heise
Alexis Gilchrist
Scotty Girling
Matthew Glade
Katrina Glass
Dona Grace-Campbell
Paul Grace-Campbell
Brenda Gracia
Greater Vancouver Board of Trade, Iain Black
Judith Groberman
Halalt First Nation, Jack Smith

Tina Hamlin	Living Wage for Families Campaign, Halena Seiferling	Clare O'Kelly
Haney Farmers Market Society, Eileen Dwillies	Roderick Louis	Obesity Canada, Brad Hussey
Dave S. Hayer	Cydney Lyons	Emmy O'Gorman
Cindy Hayward	Philip MacKellar	Clare O'Kelly
Tracy Heldt	Mackenzie Search and Rescue, Lucky McDonough	Oliver/Osoyoos Search and Rescue, Kyle Fossett
Adam Highway	Mackenzie Search and Rescue, Dale Parker	Dean Olson
Patricia Hogan	Ezra Mandel	OneSky Community Resources, Lesley Dyck
Hollyburn Properties Limited, David Sander	Maple Ridge, Pitt Meadows and Katzie Community Network, Sunny Schiller	Our Place, Erin Grant
Carla Holowaychuk	March of Dimes Canada and Stroke Recovery Association of British Columbia, Zinnia Batliwalla	Outdoor Recreation Council of British Columbia, Dave Wharton
Andrew Hone	Connie Masson	Barbara Parser
Hornby and Denman Community Health Care Society, Kris Anderson	Sarah McIntosh	Anna Paulus
Lynn Horvat	Tammera Merkens	PBI Actuarial Consultants, Adam Rennison
Hospital Employees' Union, Lou Black	Wayne Merry	Peninsula Emergency Measures Organization Search and Rescue, Jeannie Nielsen
Gail Hoss	Metro Vancouver Alliance, Tracey Maynard	Michael Perrault
Ron Hougen	Mid-Island Métis Nation Association, Joy Bremner	Cathy Peters
HUB Cycling, Navdeep Chhina	Kelly Milotay	Willem Piket
Alan Hunt	Elisa Morrison	Simon Piney
Independent Contractors and Businesses Association of BC, Chris Gardner	Brenda Muliner	Scott Pittendreigh
Invasive Species Council of Metro Vancouver, Melinda Yong	Dianne Mumm	Greg Powell
Jessica Jarrett	Scott Munro	ProArt Alliance of Greater Victoria, Doug Jarvis
Loretta Jeffers	Andrea Murland	Progressive Contractors Association of Canada, Rieghardt van Enter
Monica Jones	Chris Mushumanski	Barbara Qualley
Steven Jones	Nanaimo Search and Rescue, Colin Miller	Stew Qualley
Dana Jordan	Nanaimo Women's Centre, Chantelle Spicer	Angela Rechwan
Linda Kemp	National Association of Japanese Canadians, Lorene Oikawa	Redbrick Properties Inc., Aly Jiwan
Hilmar Krocke	NBCUniversal, Brian J. O'Leary	Resource Municipalities Coalition, Michael Whalley
Tanya Krueger	Nelson Public Library, Christine Deynaka	Right to Play, Emily Gibson
Peter Lake	Jennifer Newby	Roots of Empathy, Mary Gordon
Jerad Langille	North Island Supportive Recovery Society, Robyn Ellsworth	Randy Rorvik
Heather Lavers	Janine North	Gail Russ
Kristine and Ralph Leach	Northern Rockies Regional Municipality, Toni Pike	S.U.C.C.E.S.S., Queenie Choo
Leave No Trace Canada, Steven Jones	Northwest Invasive Plant Council, Penelope Adams	Salmo Valley Public Library, Valene Foster
Linda Leese	Novo Nordisk Canada Inc., Brian Hilberdink	Salt Spring Island Search and Rescue Society, Derek Capitaine
Paul Leese		Salt Spring Search & Rescue, Jason Grindler
Linda Leippi		Bruce Scafe
Fred Lerner		Val Scafe
Jonathan Levitt		Paul Schachter
Jeff Lewis		
Judith Liebholz		
Lillooet Regional Invasive Species Society, Jacquie Rasmussen		

Allison Schein	Trustees of the United Food & Commercial Workers Pension Plan, Stephanie Griffith
Dawn-Ann Schneider	Mike Turner
School District No. 43 (Coquitlam), Kerri Palmer Isaak	University of British Columbia, Eerik Ilves
School District No. 46 (Sunshine Coast), Lori Pratt	University of Victoria, Jamie Cassels
School District No. 79 (Cowichan Valley), Candace Spilsbury	Gordon Usher
Sea To Sky Invasive Species Council, Clare Greenberg	Kyle Van Delft
Seniors Services Society of BC, Kara-Leigh Bloch	Derrick van Heek
Shane Coutlee Consulting Services, Shane Coutlee	Jenneke van Hemert
Shuswap Children's Association, June Stewart	Vancouver Island Regional Library, Barry Avis
Cheryl Skelly	Vancouver Public Library, Lianne Watt
Smithers Community Services Association, Caroline Bastable	Vantage Point, Alison Brewin
Social Planning & Research Council of British Columbia, Hugh Kellas	Marcel Vesti
South Cariboo Search & Rescue, Cameron Jensen	Glenn Wagner
South Peace Search and rescue, Marcel Woodill	Ron Waldron
Lenora Spencer	Andrew Wallwork
Adriana Spighi	Thomas Warden
Jenn Stahn	West Coast Environmental Law, Andrew Gage
Surrey District Parents Advisory Council, Anissa Rimer Ly	West Coast LEAF, Kasari Govender
Surrey Libraries, Surinder Bhogal	West Vancouver Memorial Library, David Carter
Brad Tanner	Western Convenience Stores Association, Andrew Klukas
Teck Resources Limited, Marcia Smith	Gitte Wilson
TELUS, Johanne Senecal	William Wingerak
The Association of Book Publishers of BC, Heidi Waechter	Rick Worrall
The Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB), Muriel Protzer	YMCAs and YMCA-YWCAs of BC, Brenda Kent
The Research Universities' Council of British Columbia, BC Colleges, and BC Association of Institutes and Universities, Anna Rozario	MIke Zupan
The Salient Group, Robert Fung	
William Thompson	
Mark Tiu Lim	
Allen Tonn	
Tri-Cities Literacy Committee, Ann Johannes	

Appendix D: Survey Participants

James Aitken	Cailin Bittman	Joyce Cheng	Nicolas Dragojlovic
Elizabeth Allan	Alison Bledsoe	Childhood Connections	Dawna Drapeau
Harv Allison	Deborah Bledsoe	Okanagan Family, Melissa Hunt	Morgan Dunn
Uri Alonim	Larissa Blokhuis	Lerato Chondoma	Lesley Dyck
Rachel Altman	Anna Bonga	Beverly Christian	Trevor Dyck
Christine Ambrose	Jessica Boon	Yao Nan Chu	Early Childhood Educators Of Bc, Friday Bailey
Nelly Amenyogbe	Denise Bostwick	Rita Chudnovsky	Elkford Arts Council, Katherine Russell
Claire Anderson	Louis Bourcet	Lionel Cloutier	Catherine Ellis
Lynell Anderson	Ian Bowie	Coalition Of Child Care Advocates Of Bc, Gyda Chud	Robyn Ellsworth
Ev Anderton	Brent Bowker	Columbia Valley Early Years Coalition, Greta Correll	Edward Enfield
Appledale Children'S Centre, Huguetttte Marr	Lee Boyko	Danielle Connelly	Kim Engele
Jason Arnold	Patrick Brady	Darcelle Cottons	Epic Story Interactive, Jennifer Bradshaw
Arts Council Of New Westminster, Stephen O'Shea	Jubilee Briscoe	Peter Courtney	Natasha Ermer
As We Grow Preschool/Daycare, Kathleen Gmeinwesor	British Columbia Foster Parent Association, Heather Garrioch	Kimberly Coutts	Bianca Eskelson
Anna Babluck	British Columbia Search and Rescue Association, Jim Mcallister	Cowichan Search & Rescue, Robert Smith	Aaron Fair
Tyler Bacon	Lis Britten	Reg Crewe	Amber Faktor
Maureen Bailey	Angelika Brunner	Patrick Culbert	Giulia Falchetti
Kody Baker	Frank Brunt	Frank Dalziel	Family Dynamix Association, Pat Cope
Claudiu Balciza	Jack Buchanan	David Davidson	Donna Faulkes
David Bancroft	Darren Buhr	Eric Davidson	Paddie Ferraro
Marylee Banyard	Sophie Burrill	Josina Davis	Lee Ferreira
Carol Barbon	Sacia Burton	Sharmen Dawson	Ingrid Fisher
Lauren Bard	Ian Bushfield	Pamela Day	Joan Fisher
Christa Barnes	Jeffrey Butcher	Dea De Jarisco	Kristeen Fisher
C. Barone	Jane Butters	Larry Dea	Zoe Fisher
Brad Barrett	Daleen Bybee	Lucia Dellarosa	Aird Flavelle
Kelsie Barrett	Tami Bye	Owen Demarce	Karen Foerter
Katie Barthel	Linda Campbell	Verna Demerchant	Foster Parent Support Services Society, Eva Vowles
Key Bastion	Richard Campbell	Nancy Denham	Eronne Foster
Sharon Batcheller	Sandra Carpino	Greg Dennis	John Foster
Mysti Bateham	Catalyst Agri-Innovations Society, Christopher Bush	Eri A Dentinger	Candy Francis
Melanie Bedard	Neil Chahal	Lana Deruyter	Liv Fredricksen
Bruce Bell	Lakshmi Prasanna Challagulla	Maria Dewar	Friends Of Children, Sheila Hall
Corisa Bell	Norris Chan	Marcie Dewitt	Daniel Fritz
Chie Belza	Ateesh Chand	Jean Dickinson	Pat Frouws
Daniel Berladyn	Andrea Charles	Karren Donald	
Ayasha Bhimji		Michelle Douglas	

Ken Fuhr	Maureen Hyham	Iris Lefevre	Erich Meyers
Colleen Fuller	Indigenous Perspectives Society, Marie Rachelle Dallaire	Raymond Lewans	Suzan Meyers
L. Gagnier		Julie Linkletter	Erin Millie
Mariana Gatzeva	Linnea Inskip	Margaret Little	Rebecca Moffet
Leslie Gaudette	Kristopher Irving	Elaine Loasby	Cyrus Molavi
Cassandra Geddes	Bryan Jackson	Dean Lott	Diana Monks
Alexis Gilchrist	Kim Jameson	Trellia Loveless	Jennie Monuik
Eagle Glassheim	Roen Janyk	Gidget Lowther	Angela Moore
Dianne Goldberg	Alberto Jaramillo	Sonja Luehrmann	Pete Moore
Ronald Gordon	Neal Jennings	Donald Lum	Vikki Moore
Mirela-Anca Gorjanu	Greg Jensen	Anders Lunde	Evelyn Morris
Doug Gould	Carolyn Jerome	Cydney Lyons	Elisa Morrison
Grand Forks Public Library, Cari Gawletz	Ameliya Jetha	Philip Mackellar	Nadene Morton
Grand Forks Search & Rescue, Lawrence Radford	Lisa Johannesen	Erin Macmillan	Brenda Muliner
John Grant	James Johnson	Kirk Madison	Tiffany Muller Myrdahl
Richard Green	Erin Johnstone	Wendy Magahay	Pam Munroe
Sharon Gregson	David Jones	Jin Foong Malm	Damaris Mwangi
Meghan Grist	Keith Jones	Michelle Man	Eileen Myrdahl
David Guilbault	Just Jen Consulting, Jennifer Nichol	Maple Ridge Pitt Meadows and Katzie Community Network, Sunny Schiller	Sian Nalleweg
Darcy Guillemaud	Nataliya Karpenko		Nanaimo Women's Centre, Chantelle Spicer
Lauren Hafey	Cory Karpinsky	Jason Margolis	Natural Advantage Environmental, Jefferson Whetter
Darryl Hamilton	Greg Keller	Marine Printers Inc., Matt Mckenzie	
Tina Hamlin	Linda Kemp	Sonia Marino	Roberta Neilson
Haney Farmers Market Society, Eileen Dwillies	Stephanie Kemp	Maria Marsh	Gaul Nelson
Tanya Hanham	Brenda Kent	Shelby Marshall	Jennifer Newby
Michael Hansen	Bruce Kerr	Crystal Martin	Michael Newby
Erika Haraguchi	Bryan Kinney	Selena Martin	Sharon Newell
Laurel Hart	Justin Kinvig	Kavita Mathu-Muju	Lee Nicholson
Nicola Harte	Darryl Klassen	Irene Mattson	Donald Ogden
Margo Hearne	Hilmar Krocke	Chris Maxwell	Clare O'Kelly
Dave Heshka	Ursel Krzykowski	Shannon Mcaleese	Oliver Osoyoos Search and Rescue, Kyle Fossett
Daniel Higa	Valã©Rie Labillois	Jordan Mcalpine	Mab Oloman
Katrina Hilliard	Peter R. Lake	Dan Mcbeath	Patricia O'Neill
Jo-Anne Hilton	Tara Lamothe	Jim Mccormick	Cornelia Opdenkelder
Jim Hockey	Julia Lane	Kate Mcdermott	Dimitri Ossinsky
Zsuzsanna Hollander	Rika Lange	Alyse Mcdonald	Seyi Oyajumo
Carly Honeyman	Sara Langlois	Jane Mcelligott	Pacific Community Resources Society, Alexis Vargas
William Hood	G. Langolf	Sarah Mcguffie	
Ron Hougen	Jane Langton	Sasha Mcinnes	Diane Paterson
Denise Houle	Heather Lavers	Jodi Mcintosh	Christopher Pequin
Peter Houston	Duane Lawrence	Rosemary Mckinnell	Richard Pesik
Kathleen Hume	Natalie Lec	David Mclean	Bret Petersen
Kathy Humphrey	Shawn Leclair	Diane Mcnally	Evan Petka
Tracy Humphreys	Erica Lee	Penny Mears	Don Phillips
	Frances A Lefevre	Ian Merner	

Pitt Meadows Museum and Archives, Leslie Norman	Seniors Services Society, Kyoko Takahashi	Joanne Thibault	Melinda Worfolk
Jody Plant	Seniors Services Society, Neviin Thomas	Andrea Thompson	Christine Wosilius
Janice Plante	Vanessa Sequeira	Tara Thompson	Shelagh Wyborn
Frieda Plumpton	Eva Sharell	Karina Thygesen	Zhicheng Xia
Valerie Pomerleau	Mara Shnay	Nancy Tibbles	Fahimeh Yazdan Panah
Christopher Porter	Stephanie Simmons	Tiffany-Anne Timbers	Carol Ann Young
Niomi Pritchard	Jennifer Simpson	Mark Tiu Lim	Moreno Zanotto
Javiera Pumarino	Nancy Sine	Christy Tones	Leah Zeviar
Susanna Quail	Meehae Song	Charlotte Toole	Shuyan Zha
Queen Charlotte City Dental Clinic, Dean Nomura	South Cariboo Search and Rescue, Cameron Jensen	Julianna Torjek	Tingqiao Zhang
Karleigh Ratchford	South Okanagan Similkameen Volunteer Centre Society, Wendy Weisner	Tri-Cities Literacy Committee, Ann Johannes	Lee Zhou
Alyssa Rennie	Anthony Spence	Anestis Tzanidis	
Duncan Rice	Kate Spence	Shellene Van Der Beke	
Richmond Museum, Sarah Carlson	Wayne Spencer	Ryan Vandecasteyen	
Pia Ritch	Adriana Spighi	Vanderhoof Public Library, Jennifer Barg	
Wendy A. Robb	Jocelyn Stacey	Ron Vanstone	
Michael Roberts	Matthew Starr	Angela Vass	
Rocky Mountain Trench Natural Resources Society, Marc Trudeau	Brent Start	Ilya Vinkovetsky	
Carolyn Rogers	Yvonne Stauble	Harpreet Virk	
Linda Rollins	Cathy Stephen	Heather Vopni	
Jeremy Roodzant	Cheryl Stephens	Wachiay Friendship Centre, Lisa Wood	
Yvonne Roslin-White	G. Barry Stewart	Carol Wagner	
Kris Ross	Jessica Stewart	Thea Walker	
Jeff Rueger	Holly Stibbs	Stewart Wallach	
Christena Rusnak	Sharla Stolhandske	Nicholas Waller	
Shereen Russell	Bruce Stout	Andrew Wallwork	
Katherine Ryan	Roberta Stuart	Gregory Warner	
Bernard Ryu	Rebecca Sung	Andy Watson	
Freyja Sankey	Kalifa Sunter	Trish Watson	
Kenneth Sawdon	Carli Sussman	Annette Westra	
Roy Scafe	Sweet Sleep Consulting, Sierra Dante	Patricia Whalley	
Michael Schmitt	Mark Swetz	Gordon White	
Janice Schulz	Janna Sylvest	Tracy White	
Claudia Schwan	R.M. Tait	Charlotte Whitney	
Juliano Schwartz	Timothy Tam	Lynn Whittle	
Kathleen Schweitzer	Alexander Tamo	Gina Wiebe	
Andrew Scott	Karen Tan	Lori Wiedeman	
Sue Scott	Elaine Teichgraber	Heron Wier	
Ronald Jr Sears	The School House Early Care and Learning Centre, Veronica Maclean	Robert Wildgrube	
Desiree Seib		Frank Williams	
Semiahmoo House Society, Jillian Glennie		Gitte Wilson	
		Patrick Wise	
		Wyanet Wong	

