

Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services

REPORT ON THE BUDGET 2020 CONSULTATION



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
of BRITISH COLUMBIA

AUGUST 2019
FOURTH SESSION
OF THE 41ST PARLIAMENT



August 7, 2019

To the Honourable
Legislative Assembly of the
Province of British Columbia

Honourable Members:

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

The Report covers the work of the Committee in regard to the Budget 2020 Consultation, and was unanimously approved by the Committee.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Committee,

Bob D'Eith, MLA
Chair

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Composition of the Committee

Members

Bob D’Eith, MLA	Chair	Maple Ridge-Mission
Dan Ashton, MLA	Deputy Chair	Penticton
Doug Clovechok <i>(from March 6, 2019)</i>		Columbia River-Revelstoke
Rich Coleman, MLA <i>(from March 6, 2019)</i>		Langley East
Mitzi Dean, MLA		Esquimalt-Metchosin
Ronna-Rae Leonard, MLA		Courtenay-Comox
Peter Milobar, MLA <i>(to March 6, 2019)</i>		Kamloops-North Thompson
Tracy Redies, MLA <i>(to March 6, 2019)</i>		Surrey-White Rock
Nicholas Simons, MLA		Powell River-Sunshine Coast

Committee Staff

Susan Sourial, Clerk Assistant, Committees and Interparliamentary Relations

Karan Riarh, Committee Research Analyst

Katey Stickle and Josée Couture, Committee Researchers

Louise Brittain Boisvert, Library Systems Analyst

Jennifer Arril, Committee Clerk

Terms of Reference

On February 21, 2019, 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, 2019 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;
 - ix. Human Right Commissioner; 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.

Executive Summary

Every year, the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services (the “Committee”) conducts a consultation on the upcoming provincial budget. This consultation presents a unique opportunity for British Columbians to directly engage with a parliamentary committee of Members of the Legislative Assembly on the issues that matter most to them. The Committee hears from individuals and organizations representing a range of sectors, interests and perspectives on how to address challenges confronting the province.

While the consultation typically takes place in the fall, this year, the Committee moved the consultation to the summer to enable Members to deliver their report to the Legislative Assembly earlier in the budget process. This change was made in consultation with the Minister of Finance who released the *Budget 2020 Consultation Paper* on June 3. British Columbians were invited to share their ideas and priorities for the next provincial budget throughout the month of June. By the closing deadline of June 28, the Committee had visited 15 communities across the province, heard 276 presentations, and received 496 written and video submissions and 452 responses to an online survey.

The Committee carefully considered all of the thoughtful input provided by British Columbians to make 106 recommendations for the next provincial budget. This report provides a thorough summary of the evidence, ideas and priorities put forward by British Columbians which informed these recommendations. The evidence, rationale and stories were highly informative and Committee Members encourage reviewing the recommendations within the context of this narrative. Please note that the numbering of recommendations does not represent priority; the report is organized thematically and the themes are presented in alphabetical order.

Support for youth formerly in care emerged as a key area for action for Committee Members. They note that the primary source of support when youth formerly in care transition into adulthood is the Agreements with Young Adults program. The program has a number of barriers to access and is insufficient to provide youth with the supports they need to succeed. Committee Members emphasize the unique challenges youth formerly in care face in transitioning to independence, and the need to incorporate youth voices and experiences to inform improvements, in encouraging changes to the program.

The Committee also identifies water sustainability as a critical concern, noting that challenges are exacerbated by climate change. A number of volunteer community-based organizations across the province do an enormous amount of work to protect watersheds and drinking water supply with limited resources. The Committee agrees on a need to better plan and build resilience into our water infrastructure with improved resourcing to these organizations, emphasizing the importance of partnerships with Indigenous communities and local governments.

Invasive species represent a significant threat to the province’s ecosystem and to the economy. Invasive species councils across the province have been drawing attention to gaps and insufficient resources for education, prevention, monitoring, response and enforcement for a number of years. The Committee once again stresses the urgency of addressing this issue.

Sufficient resources are also required for fish and wildlife conservation, management and data collection in order to better support evidence-based decisions. Other recommendations related to the environment include: supporting the CleanBC plan and continued shifts to clean and renewable energy, establishing comprehensive species-at-risk legislation, increasing funding to BC Parks and Recreation Sites and Trails BC, and creating a provincial approach to single-use plastics.

Over the last several years, communities across the province have been severely impacted by these wildfires and floods. Committee Members highlight a need for investments in prevention, adaptation, response and recovery from these disasters, as well as a need for earthquake awareness and preparedness. They note that many British Columbians and local communities are taking action to ensure they are doing their part to prevent, mitigate, prepare for and respond to disasters. Continued provincial investment, leadership and collaboration is needed to support these efforts.

With respect to advanced education, the Committee supports a review of the funding formula to address funding challenges and barriers and inequities with access to post-secondary education, pointing specifically to issues with ever-increasing international student tuition fees and the increasing use of contract faculty. They also highlight a critical need to invest in a range of programs to address current and projected labour market gaps, including ensuring that training opportunities are provided locally. Other areas of interest to Committee Members include: flexibility with accounting policies to enable post-secondary institutions to finance capital projects; improving the provision of on-campus mental health and other student supports; and making targeted investments in research and innovation. The Committee also recommends reviewing student financial grant models and increasing investments in literacy programs.

Natural resource development emerged as a key area of focus for economic development, with the Committee making a number of recommendations in relation to agriculture, fisheries, forestry, liquefied natural gas (LNG) and mining. Committee Members especially acknowledge the critical challenges facing the forestry sector and recommend measures to encourage innovation and adaptation as well as bridging and retraining of workers. Labour market gaps and challenges related to automation and technological advancements are also important issues, with the Committee looking to immigration and supports for all BC workers to adapt, transfer or upgrade their skills as potential solutions. The Committee further encourages investments to bolster tourism as well as continued efforts to strengthen trade relationships and reduce interprovincial trade barriers. Investments in broadband connectivity are also highlighted as key to economic and social development, including access to education and services.

On fiscal policy, Committee Members are of the view that a comprehensive review of the entire provincial taxation system should occur, noting a need to modernize the structure and ensure that policies and practices are fair, consistent and effective. They further emphasize the importance of continued fiscal prudence and investing in services, the economy, reconciliation and social equality. The Committee also makes recommendations related to prompt payment and provincial sales tax (PST) compliance by non-resident companies.

Health care remains a significant topic of interest to all British Columbians, with supports and services to those with chronic and complex diseases emerging as an area for increased attention and investment. The Committee also makes recommendations to increase investments in community care, including addressing staffing challenges, and in supports for palliative and end-of-life care. Additional areas for action include digital health technology, health human resources, pharmacare and mental health and addiction. Committee

Members also identify opportunities to improve public health and wellness and access to contraception, as well as emphasize a need to improve access to services in rural and remote communities.

The Committee recognizes that housing affordability continues to be a priority for British Columbians and focuses on opportunities to work with municipalities and other stakeholders to increase supply and approve new housing construction projects. Committee Members also encourage continued investments in homelessness prevention and solutions to homelessness, noting that youth at risk of or experiencing homelessness may require different supports and services. The need for flexibility in small, rural and remote communities with respect to limited dual agency rules for realtors was another area of interest. The Committee also recommends measures related to short-term rentals and standards for elevators.

While acknowledging that collective bargaining is currently underway, Committee Members recognize the importance of investing in K-12 education, reflecting on suggestions put forward by British Columbians with respect to student supports, programming and curriculum, and recruitment and retention. The Committee focuses their recommendations on two areas: sustaining capital investments in new construction, seismic upgrades and maintenance; and ensuring funding is adequate to meet the province's commitment with respect to reconciliation.

With respect to public safety and justice, a number of solutions are identified to improve justice practices and access to legal services, including increasing funding for legal aid and restorative justice practices, investing in child and youth advocacy centres, and expanding the notary scope of practice. The Committee also recommends addressing barriers and limitations to access to legal aid for those experiencing intimate-partner or gender-based violence, as well as increasing investments in programs and services, including sexual assault crisis response and integrated sexual assault clinics, for people affected by gender-based, intimate-partner, and sexual violence. Other recommendations address mental health supports for individuals incarcerated in the provincial correctional system, and programs and services that promote the safety and security of individuals engaged in sex work.

Committee Members encourage ongoing investments in child care to improve access and affordability, support increased funding for children and youth with special needs and early years mental health services and for Community Living BC, and recommend a review of tax benefit provisions for parents with a child in temporary care. Other areas of focus within social services include: earnings exemptions for income and disability assistance and poverty reduction; investments in the social services sector; and funding and staffing for the Employment Standards Branch and Labour Relations Board.

With respect to sport, arts and culture, Committee Members recommend increased, multi-year funding through the BC Arts Council, as well as funding for capital infrastructure and programs that support Indigenous communities in preserving and interpreting their heritage. They also recommend reviewing the purpose and methodology of the Community Gaming Grants program to ensure it meets the evolving needs of communities. Support for the creative industries through existing tax credits, funding for Creative BC, Amplify BC and the BC Film Commission are also highlighted. The Committee further recommends increased, predictable, multi-year funding for public libraries and the delivery of library services in rural and Indigenous communities, and funding for programs that support physical literacy.

Committee Members make several recommendations with respect to transportation and transit, including increasing and expanding HandyDART services to improve accessible transportation and investing in active transportation (cycling and walking) infrastructure, education and promotion. The Committee further

supports eliminating the PST on electric bicycles as a means to incent their purchase. Recommendations related to public transit focus on exploring new pricing mechanisms to make public transit more accessible for youth and low-income families, addressing gaps in regional transportation services, particularly in rural and remote areas, and prioritizing the development of electric buses.

Consultation Overview

Background

The *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act* (S.B.C. 2000) c. 23 requires the Minister of Finance to make public a budget consultation paper no later than September 15 each year. This paper must outline the province's fiscal forecast, key budget issues and how British Columbians can share their views on those issues. The paper is referred to a select standing committee of the Legislative Assembly who must conduct a consultation and report on the results of the consultation no later than November 15; the Legislative Assembly assigns this responsibility to the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services.

This year, the Committee, in conjunction with the Minister of Finance, adjusted the timeline. The Minister of Finance released the budget consultation paper on June 3, and accordingly, the public consultation took place throughout the month of June. This change enabled the Committee to deliver a final report to the Legislative Assembly earlier in the budget process and will allow more time for government's review and consideration of the Committee's recommendations.

Budget Consultation Paper

The *Budget 2020 Consultation Paper* reflected on progress with respect to key government priorities while acknowledging continued challenges and risks related to ICBC, money laundering, housing, natural disasters and the global economy. The paper also provided updates with respect to policies and initiatives regarding housing, child care, student loans, health care, education, advancing gender equity, reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, and the economy. Input was requested on the following 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 June 10, 2019 to discuss the *Budget 2020 Consultation Paper*. The Minister began by acknowledging that the budget

consultation is taking place earlier this year and stated that this is a positive change as it provides more time for government to consider and review the information from the consultation.

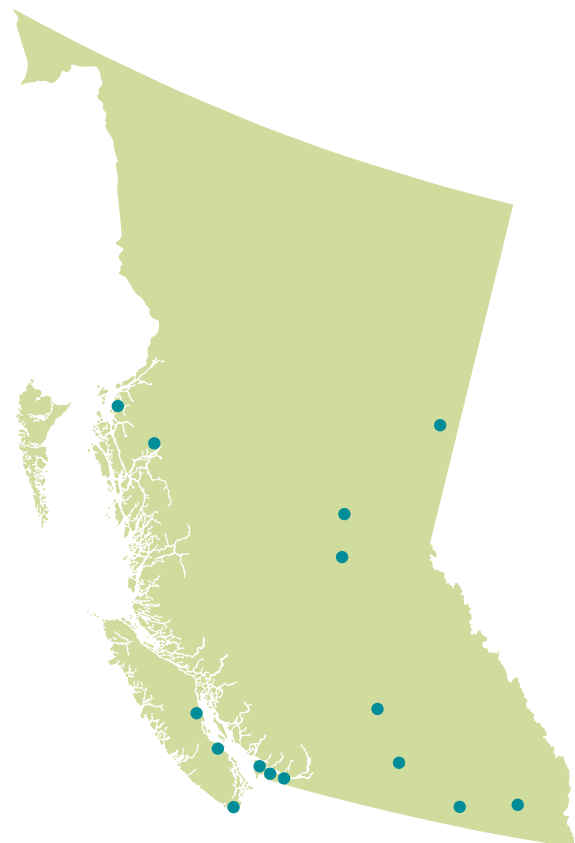
The Minister reiterated government's three priorities: making life more affordable; improving services people depend on; and building a strong, sustainable economy. She noted that BC leads the country in low unemployment numbers and has the strongest annual wage growth over the past ten years. The Minister credited the province's stable economic growth to its diversified economy.

While British Columbia is expected to lead the country in growth, the Minister stated that a slowdown is taking place with the global economy and that moderation is expected. She identified risks related to uncertainty around trade issues and ongoing trade disputes, as well as housing. She noted that over \$2.6 billion of contingencies is built into the budget.

Consultation Process

The Committee continued to build on previous efforts to encourage participation in the consultation. This included: reaching out directly to schools, Indigenous organizations, and community-based groups; promoting the consultation on the Legislative Assembly's social media accounts; distributing posters to community facilities; issuing provincial and regional media releases; and placing advertisements in provincial, local and multicultural newspapers. The Committee also sent emails to over 900 stakeholders to notify them of the change in the consultation timeline.

British Columbians had three options for participating in the consultation: presenting at one of 15 public hearings across the province; making a written, audio or video submission; or filling out an online survey comprised of the questions in the *Budget 2020 Consultation Paper*. In total, the Committee heard 276 presentations, received 496 written and video submissions, and received 452 survey responses. The Committee made every effort to accommodate any individual or organization interested in presenting at a public hearing, including offering interpretive services and teleconference options. Committee Members carefully considered all the input they received during their deliberations. Lists of all participants are available in the appendices.



The Committee held public hearings in the following communities: Colwood, Kimberley, Castlegar, Kelowna, Kamloops, Courtenay, Qualicum Beach, Vancouver, Prince Rupert, Kitimat, Prince George, Fort St. John, Quesnel, Abbotsford and Surrey.

Meetings Schedule

Fourth Session, 41st Parliament

Date	Type	Location(s)
March 6, 2019	Planning	Victoria
April 10, 2019	Planning	Victoria
June 10, 2019	Minister's Briefing Public Hearing	Colwood
June 11, 2019	Public Hearings	Kimberley, Castlegar
June 12, 2019	Public Hearings	Kelowna, Kamloops
June 13, 2019	Public Hearings	Courtenay, Qualicum Beach
June 14, 2019	Public Hearing	Vancouver
June 17, 2019	Public Hearing	Prince Rupert
June 18, 2019	Public Hearings	Kitimat, Prince George
June 19, 2019	Public Hearings	Fort St. John, Quesnel
June 20, 2019	Public Hearing	Abbotsford
June 21, 2019	Public Hearing	Surrey
July 11, 2019	Deliberations	Victoria
July 12, 2019	Deliberations	Victoria
July 18, 2019	Deliberations	Victoria
July 24, 2019	Deliberations Adoption of Report	Victoria

Advanced Education

Access and affordability were key themes in submissions and presentations about advanced education, and in responses to question one in the online survey (see Appendix A). Specific issues related to tuition fees for international students and pay scales for contract faculty were also raised throughout the consultation. The Committee further heard that there is a need for additional investments in capital infrastructure, student supports, research, and literacy. In question four of the survey, regarding what government can do to build a diverse and sustainable economy, increasing opportunities for training and post-secondary education was the third highest selected response.

Adult Education and Literacy

The Committee heard about barriers to adult developmental and adult basic education programs, including cost and availability of programs. The Vancouver Community College Faculty Association stated that educators should be provided the ability to grant students more time to complete courses to better accommodate the complex lives of these learners, which may involve juggling multiple jobs or family responsibilities, as well as poverty, health and other challenges. The need to increase funding and eliminate fees for adult developmental programs was particularly emphasized.

Literacy Quesnel Society and the Smithers Community Services Association stressed the value of literacy outreach coordination and community adult literacy programs, pointing out that adults with limited literacy encounter barriers when they interact with the world and that low literacy leads to poorer health outcomes, fewer employment opportunities, limited social engagement, and low self-esteem. Decoda Literacy Solutions shared that the growing number of applicants for grants has led to less funding for existing programs and that funding has not kept pace with cost and need.

Capital Funding

Several post-secondary institutions and student unions emphasized the need for affordable housing options for students. North Island College stated that students are unable to access post-secondary education and training because they are not able to find affordable, safe and secure housing in their region. Similarly, the Teaching Support Staff Union, Simon Fraser University noted that rising rents, high demand and low vacancy rates make it difficult for students to find adequate and affordable housing in urban centres across BC.

The Graduate Student Society at Simon Fraser University observed that the *Residential Tenancy Act* does not cover university residences; as such, there is no cap on allowable annual residence rental rate increases. They suggested creating protections for university residences, including standardized contracts, dispute resolution mechanisms, and reasonable maximum allowable annual rate increases on residence units that are not tied to ongoing rental agreements.

Committee Members also heard ideas for providing greater flexibility for post-secondary institutions to access retained earnings to finance student housing and other capital priorities. Okanagan College observed that the K-12 educator sector enjoys the ability to use retained earnings for capital infrastructure; however, the

post-secondary sector does not. The B.C. Association of Institutes + Universities shared that these accounting policy restrictions and inconsistencies hamper their ability to use existing financial resources to respond to demand.

A number of post-secondary institutions requested provincial funding to address capital priorities at their respective institutions. Many institutions, including Langara College, Selkirk College, Simon Fraser University and the University of British Columbia, highlighted challenges with aging infrastructure and a need to modernize campus facilities and IT infrastructure. Other institutions, such as the College of New Caledonia, pointed to constraints such as physical space limitations that inhibit their ability to expand programs.

Collective Bargaining and Human Resources

Faculty associations across the province explained that non-regular faculty are paid on secondary salary scales at many post-secondary institutions in BC, often receiving significantly less pay than regular faculty while doing the same amount of work. The associations also noted that contract faculty often do not have access to benefits, retirement plans or professional development. They emphasized that this inequity hurts institutions and communities as the precarious nature of sessional work means an institution lacks a stable employment base, students have no continuity in looking for a mentor or advisor, and contract faculty are unable to put down roots in the local community. Others observed that academic staff in these precarious positions are disproportionately women and equity seeking groups. Highlighting an increase in reliance on contract faculty, some linked the issue to budgetary pressures due to underfunding of the sector. The associations suggested paying contract faculty using the existing mandated provincial salary scale on a prorated basis.

Both the Confederation of University Faculty Associations of British Columbia and the Association of Administrative and Professional Staff at UBC were of the view that research universities should be removed from the Public Sector Employers' Council (PSEC) mandate. The Association of Administrative and Professional Staff at UBC stated that bargaining under PSEC limits each university's ability to attract, compete for and retain global talent. They also noted that while the University of British Columbia receives operational funding from the province, additional resources, including grants and self-generating revenues, directly fund a number of positions, and as such, the University should not be subject to the same bargaining restrictions.

Indigenous Students

Representatives from both the University of British Columbia and the University of British Columbia Okanagan advocated for further support for the Aboriginal Access Studies program. The University of British Columbia noted that in 2018, 56 students were registered in their Aboriginal Access Studies program; however, the program is currently funded for only 18 full-time equivalent students. They stated that supporting this and similar programs at post-secondary institutions across BC would enhance access and create new opportunities for Indigenous students from a variety of educational backgrounds.

Langara College and Okanagan College suggested broadening the Aboriginal Service Plan, which provides additional funding to post-secondary institutions to implement innovative new programs, activities and services for Indigenous learners, to all post-secondary institutions. Langara College, who currently does not receive Aboriginal Service Plan funding, shared that while one-time grants for specific initiatives for Indigenous students have been appreciated, ongoing funding is required to expand programs and services.

A number of other institutions, including Selkirk College, Northern Lights College, Thompson Rivers' University and Kwantlen Polytechnic University, highlighted their efforts to increase the participation of Indigenous learners. They requested additional resources to improve programs and services, particularly with respect to reconciliation initiatives, to support the unique needs of Indigenous learners.

International Students

Many student unions expressed concerns about inequities for international students with respect to substantive and unpredictable increases in their tuition fees, with a view that fee increases should be capped. The Vancouver Island University Students' Union shared data from Statistics Canada which show international tuition fees have increased by 485 percent from 1991 to 2017. They added that international student tuition accounts for almost 50 percent of tuition revenues but international students only represent 19.5 percent of BC university enrollment. The organizations noted that as international student tuition is unregulated, post-secondary institutions rely on increasing these fees to address budgetary pressures.

Student unions emphasized the impact unregulated tuition fee increases have on international students and how they are unable to appropriately plan and pay for their education. The Douglas Students' Union observed that some international students are working in precarious jobs, paid under the table, as they hit work limits under student visa regulations. They also reported that the majority of students using emergency food banks are international students.

Several submissions and presentations also suggested creating an international education strategy that provides better funding to institutions and sufficient support for international students to assist in their cultural, social and economic integration.

Mental Health and Student Supports

The Committee heard from several organizations regarding supports for students in areas of mental health, diversity, inclusion, safety and security. The Research Universities' Council of British Columbia noted that BC universities have a duty to meaningfully address the health challenges often faced by students, particularly those related to mental health. They added that many universities have recruited additional counsellors and investigators, introduced peer mentorship programs, and new integrated health teams to help students in distress; however, additional resources are needed. The Graduate Student Society at Simon Fraser University suggested having provincial and regional health authorities cover health services at post-secondary institutions as a means to address resource pressures.

Operational Funding

Multiple institutions informed the Committee that funding challenges are leading to barriers and inequities in the system. The Okanagan College Students' Union noted that the proportion of public funding to BC colleges and universities has dropped to near 50 percent of total operating costs, down from more than 80 percent in the 1980s. They explained that insufficient funding has resulted in program cuts, waitlists, deteriorating equipment, and antiquated facilities. The Confederation of University Faculty Associations of British Columbia also shared concerns about underfunding of post-secondary institutions, highlighting that BC lags behind other provinces in this regard.

Some institutions were of the view that the funding formula for post-secondary institutions should be reviewed or adjusted. The Vancouver Island University Faculty Association observed that some institutions receive base funding to teach a subject while others receive nothing for delivering the same program. They noted that this inequity leaves their university with a shortfall, and suggested changing the funding model to ensure institutions receive equal base funding for the same work. Several institutions, including Langara College, Selkirk College, and Thompsons Rivers University, advocated for evaluations of and increases to their operating grants. Simon Fraser University and Kwantlen Polytechnic University requested investments to increase the number of full-time equivalent students at their institutions to meet demand south of the Fraser; this request was echoed by a number of business and community organizations.

Addressing Labour Gaps – Program Funding

Throughout the consultation, British Columbians stressed challenges and opportunities with workforce training, recruitment and retention across a number of sectors, highlighting current and projected labour gaps. These sectors include: natural resources, health, science and technology, early childhood education, digital media and film, trades, and engineering. The discussions and issues presented to the Committee are acknowledged across many themes in this report.

Post-secondary institutions, community organizations, businesses, industry organizations and other groups often advocated for funding to expand or introduce new programs to address these gaps. An emphasis was placed on providing local training opportunities in northern, rural and remote communities where gaps are more acute, as well as funding for programs and initiatives that encourage underrepresented populations to explore non-traditional professions.

Research and Innovation

The Committee received several requests for provincial investment in research and innovation, including continued support for Genome BC, to enable the province to remain competitive in national and global economies. The Research Universities' Council of British Columbia noted that BC is behind other provinces in support for research, as well as financial assistance offered to graduate students. TRIUMF, a particle accelerator centre in Vancouver, encouraged investments that leverage funding from other sources and in areas where BC is an innovation leader. Both B.C. Colleges and Okanagan College thought that an innovation fund should be established to encourage colleges to engage in more applied research.

Tuition and Financial Assistance

A number of presentations and submissions discussed challenges with affordability and access to post-secondary education, and the increasing expenses and hardships faced by students. The UBC Students' Union Okanagan, Okanagan College Students' Union and the North Island Students' Union referred to a 2018 graduate survey that found one in two students graduated with debt, and nearly 65 percent of those students owed more than \$20,000.

Several students' unions suggested establishing an upfront, needs-based grants program to address these challenges. According to the British Columbia Federation of Students, upfront costs are key barriers to accessing education, with financial stress having a significant negative impact on student performance. The Thompson Rivers University Students' Union shared that studies show needs-based grants as the most impactful financial aid option with respect to participation and completion. The UBC Alma Mater Society observed that BC remains the only province in Canada that does not have a needs-based grants program to complement the federal Canada Student Grants program.

Some submissions advocated for reducing and freezing tuition fees. Linking increases in tuition fees and ancillary fees to an insufficient level of operating grants, the British Columbia Federation of Students referenced the comparative decrease in public funding of post-secondary institutions between the 1980s and the present, while Tuition Freeze Now noted that tuition makes up a larger proportion of revenues than government funding at some institutions. They acknowledged that reducing tuition fees to provide financial relief to students may require a corresponding increase in provincial grant funding to post-secondary institutions.

Another area of interest was making the B.C. Graduate Scholarship program permanent and expanding it to additional disciplines. Simon Fraser University and the Research Universities Council of British Columbia observed that BC is behind other provinces in graduate student numbers, especially in key disciplines such as engineering and computer sciences, and that increased, ongoing funding is needed to attract and retain graduate student talent. The University of British Columbia noted that attracting graduate students will help to build a skilled labour force and expand the capacity of BC's post-secondary research and innovation ecosystem. They also emphasized that scholarship programs enable students from marginalized, disadvantaged and historically underrepresented backgrounds to have access to graduate education.

Conclusions

The Committee identified funding challenges as leading to barriers and inequities in the post-secondary system. They focused on the implications for international student fees, which are unregulated, and the employment and pay of contract faculty, two areas that institutions appear to be leveraging as a means to address budgetary pressures. They also discussed a need to improve pay for contract faculty and provide a pathway to full-time work. Committee Members were of the view that these issues require a broader system level examination and response, and recommended that the funding formula be reviewed.

The need to provide additional training opportunities across a number of fields to address current and projected labour market demands was a recurring theme. This includes increasing opportunities for work-integrated learning and encouraging underrepresented groups to participate in certain fields (e.g. women in trades and technology, and men in early childhood education). Committee Members emphasized the importance of training locally as a means to address specific challenges in rural and remote communities, as individuals tend to stay in the communities they train in. They also recognized the critical value of community literacy for developing skills to adapt to new economies.

The Committee acknowledged requests from student unions and post-secondary institutions on the need for affordable student housing as well as the need to address aging campus facilities. They reflected on recent changes that enable post-secondary institutions to borrow for student housing, and agreed that policies with respect to accessing retained earnings could be reviewed to provide post-secondary institutions with additional flexibility to finance capital projects.

Committee Members appreciated the ongoing work of the province's universities and colleges to advance reconciliation and support Indigenous learners. They agreed on the importance of ensuring equitable access to funding for all post-secondary institutions in the provision of supports and services for Indigenous students. The Committee also discussed opportunities for collaboration and partnerships with local communities and health authorities to build on and expand the provision of on-campus supports and services for all students while acknowledging recent investments in mental health and addictions care and the prevention of sexual assaults on campus.

With respect to research and innovation, the Committee agreed that additional efforts should be made to ensure BC maximizes federal funding leveraging opportunities. They also emphasized that investments in research need to be strategic and purposeful to address areas of provincial priority.

Returning to the theme of access and affordability, Committee Members found the arguments for shifting to a needs-based grant system compelling. They expressed interest in additional analysis that examines different grant and financial assistance structures to ensure students are well-supported.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Adult Education and Literacy

1. Provide predictable, multi-year funding to literacy outreach coordination, community adult literacy, and similar programs to stabilize literacy work and allow for innovative, long-term approaches to addressing BC's literacy needs.

Capital Funding

2. Examine providing greater flexibility in the ability to access retained earnings for student housing and other capital priorities.

Indigenous Students

3. Review eligibility and practice for the Aboriginal Service Plan and ensure equity in access to this funding across all post-secondary institutions.

Mental Health and Student Supports

4. Increase operating grants and collaborate with local communities and health authorities to expand supports for students in areas of mental health, diversity, inclusion, safety and security.

Operational Funding

5. Review the funding formula for post-secondary institutions to address funding challenges, and barriers and inequities to access.

6. Ensure operational and program funding to post-secondary institutions positions the province to respond to immediate and projected gaps in the labour market, including ensuring local training opportunities and reducing barriers for underrepresented groups; sectors to address include: agriculture, forestry, science, technology, engineering, mathematics, trades, digital media and film, early childhood education, aerospace, physiotherapy, speech-language therapy, laboratory science, and occupational therapy.

Research and Innovation

7. Establish a provincial strategy for targeted investments in research and innovation, including opportunities to leverage matching federal funding.

Tuition and Financial Assistance

8. Review and evaluate grant models to ensure funding is responsive and provides the most impactful support for reducing barriers and inequities to access.

Economic Development

The Committee received a broad range of suggestions for supporting growth and development in the natural resources sector, as well as aerospace, technology, and tourism. The challenges facing the forestry sector and the broader impact of the LNG Canada project were particularly highlighted. The Committee also heard about opportunities to address labour market gaps through immigration and training supports, and a need to further open up interprovincial and international trade.

Agriculture

According to the B.C. Agriculture Council, encouraging farming requires an integrated, multi-faceted approach encompassing land use regulation and tax policy. For example, the sales threshold to receive farm status, and the corresponding property tax breaks, could be increased. Richmond FarmWatch also expressed support for this approach, and further pointed to barriers to land management and growth related to providing farm classification on a one-year lease. They shared that farmers are unable to engage in long-term planning or invest in equipment and infrastructure, and that such a lease feeds into land speculation. Additionally, they suggested government could purchase farmland to lease back to new farmers. Suggestions were also made by British Columbians to restrict the size of homes on agricultural land.

Richmond FarmWatch, along with the Mid Island Farmers Institute, also highlighted the effects of climate change on agriculture. They outlined expected challenges with water demand if local food production continues to increase and recommended providing funding to small-scale farms to build infrastructure, such as water retention, to mitigate these effects. For example, farmers could build dugouts which would capture water running off the farm for use for irrigation or livestock to reduce water usage in dry seasons.

The importance of investing in research was also stressed. The B.C. Fruit Growers' Association described specific issues with stubborn pests and invasive pests, and a need to find solutions. Richmond FarmWatch highlighted the value of ongoing farmer education, and the application of scientific research and knowledge to agricultural perspectives; they suggested increasing funding to disseminate knowledge about new agricultural practices to support the small-scale and organic farming sector.

Several organizations discussed opportunities to expand and enhance a number of programs. The B.C. Association of Farmers' Market advocated for additional funding for the BC Farmers' Market Nutrition Coupon, noting that the program strengthens food security and access to healthy foods. E-B Strategy pointed to opportunities to create stronger relationships between food consumers and products and bioregional food security through an expansion of BuyBC. The B.C. Fruit Growers' Association requested that the AgriStability program, which helps level out farm incomes, be enhanced, and that the Tree Fruit Replant program, which helps growers replace fruit trees with varieties, be extended by four years.

LUSH Valley Food Action Society described challenges with food security. They emphasized that nutritious food, grown locally provides many benefits to society, noting that the housing crisis is contributing to food insecurity as households divert budgets. They offered several suggestions for addressing insecurity, including increasing food literacy, establishing long-term contracts between local food growers and social housing

providers, and providing more local food aggregation and distribution resources. E-B Strategy suggested protecting and expanding the Agricultural Land Reserve, particularly in rural and remote areas, as a means to contribute to food security.

Aerospace

The Aerospace Industries Association of Canada – Pacific shared that every successful aerospace industry follows a model whereby industry works in collaboration with government. Noting that a partnership of \$5 million over five years recently concluded, they requested a renewed provincial investment to deliver on industry priorities with respect to developing a skilled workforce, supporting small- and medium-sized aerospace businesses, and using innovation to capture new opportunities such as carbon neutral flights. They explained that a renewed investment would help create jobs, leverage federal funding for aerospace programs, and generate economic revenue.

The B.C. Chamber of Commerce focused on the severe pilot shortage in Canada and an opportunity to create an innovation centre in the Okanagan to address this issue. They explained that Canadian flight schools do not produce enough pilots with many lost to overseas markets. They particularly highlighted the increase in the move-up rate, where pilots from regional airlines and small operators go to new carriers and larger established airlines, and the impact this has on regional airlines and the communities they serve. Cost of training is also a barrier and leads to attrition in flight programs; financial assistance for those pursuing training would also be helpful.

Business and Regulation

The Business Council of British Columbia and Teck Resources Limited expressed concerns about the regulatory environment, and how it contributes to a more costly, complex and uncertain business environment. Teck Resources Limited highlighted that there has been an overlay of rising input costs, and specifically resource development complexities, which impacts competitiveness. The Business Council of British Columbia emphasized that they are not opposed to new regulations and acknowledge that legislation needs to be updated; however, they are of the view that more attention is required regarding the cumulative effects on the overall business and economic climate. On a similar note, the Downtown Surrey Business Improvement Association suggested using tax advantages and trade-enabling infrastructure to create an environment that encourages business and industry growth.

The Canadian Federation of Independent Business and the Convenience Industry Council of Canada highlighted the impacts of regulation on small business. They shared that unnecessary rules hurt productivity and prosperity by forcing owners to spend time dealing with red tape rather than growing their business. They recommended continuing with the one-for-one rule, where for each new regulation created, an equal regulatory burden is removed. The Convenience Industry Council of Canada also suggested working towards red tape reduction and harmonization where possible.

Fisheries

Ecotrust Canada discussed the value of wild salmon and all seafood products, and the importance of working to enhance local, social, cultural and economic benefits for communities and their commercial and recreational fishers. They also highlighted significant demographic challenges facing the sector, and

a need for strategic initiatives and investments to address labour force renewal, including succession and intergenerational transfers for fishing assets.

On the topic of labour, the British Columbia Seafood Alliance recommended establishing loan boards, which provide low-interest long-term loans to purchase licenses and quotas, noting that loan boards exist in every other fishing province in Canada, as well as US fishing regions. They were of the view that a loan board in BC, along with a public registry of licences and quotas, would be a practical means to encourage new fishers and entrants. They also encouraged more strategic cooperation on fisheries matters across all provincial ministries that deal with fish.

The British Columbia Seafood Alliance also highlighted the Northern Shelf Bioregion Marine Protected Area zoning plan. They stated that the plan, which was developed by the federal government, provincial government and Indigenous peoples, proposes to reduce commercial fishing access by 40 percent. According to the British Columbia Seafood Alliance, this would have a significant impact on the provincial economy and fishing families as three-quarters of the total coast-wide value of wild BC seafood is harvested in this area.

The Committee further learned about opportunities with respect to closed containment technology. The David Suzuki Foundation shared that closed containment helps to address challenges such as increases in global demand for seafood, and environmental impacts from open net-pen farming. They stated that BC is well-positioned to become a leading jurisdiction for raising salmon on land using recirculating aquaculture system technology, and suggested the province provide financial incentives for investments in this technology.

Forestry

The Williams Lake and District Chamber of Commerce stressed a number of challenges facing the forestry industry, highlighting the particular impact of recent mill closures, as well as wildfires and uncertainty around softwood lumber. They also stated that competitiveness is an issue as BC is now a high cost producer. The City of Prince George emphasized that these challenges have repercussions for all BC residents, pointing out that forestry is one of the main economic pillars of many communities in the north and a predominant industry in the entire province. The City shared that thousands of employees across the North Central Local Government Association area have been affected by mills curtailing operations. Both the Chamber and the City requested provincial support and action for addressing these challenges in the short- and long-term.

The David Suzuki Foundation also discussed challenges within the forestry industry, linking the challenges to the pine beetle, international pressures on exports, and structural deficits. They suggested dedicated funds to support restructuring, as well as retraining for affected workers.

Labour and Immigration

Several organizations expressed concerns about the BC Building Trades union requirement in community-benefits agreements. The Independent Contractors and Businesses Association shared that non-union and non-affiliated union contractors comprise 85 percent of the construction industry and that in their opinion, these contractors are effectively excluded from these projects. They described issues stemming from this requirement, including cost overruns due to labour cost risks, delays on projects as contractors are not submitting bids under the agreement, and scope reductions to make contracts work under the agreement. The Greater Vancouver Board of Trade shared these concerns, noting that the first project under the model has had significant cost escalation, and that these cost increases will reduce funding for other infrastructure

projects. The Business Council of British Columbia suggested revisiting the agreements and modifying them to restore competition and deliver better value for money.

Labour shortages were at the forefront of many submissions and presentations, with a number of organizations pointing to immigration, in addition to investments in education, as a means to fill gaps. The Kelowna Chamber of Commerce noted that BC's economic future depends on the province's ability to attract and train a skilled workforce, and suggested improving the reach of the Provincial Nominee Program (PNP), particularly for digital media, and better integrating it with federal immigration programs. They also discussed the importance of the Temporary Foreign Worker Program, sharing that the agriculture industry chronically needs to augment its workforce through this program.

The B.C. Tech Association highlighted the success of the PNP Tech Pilot which helps technology firms fill vacancies and noted that BC receives a lower per capita allocation of PNP spots. The Greater Vancouver Board of Trade also discussed the value of the PNP Tech Pilot and suggested making the program permanent. The B.C. Tech Association further pointed to Canadians working abroad as a source of potential labour and suggested looking at ways to encourage them to return.

The Chartered Professionals Accountants of British Columbia and the Manufacturing Safety Alliance of B.C. suggested providing more funds and better promoting the BC Employer Training Grant. The Chartered Professionals Accountants of British Columbia discussed the importance of having a proactive approach to upskilling and reskilling, sharing that both government and industry have a role to play in ensuring workers adapt to meet the needs of an evolving labour market. They emphasized that such investments may be able to offset some of the expected negative impacts of automation.

Several organizations, including the Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of B.C., noted a need to increase and support diversity and gender equity. They requested assistance for projects and programs that enable the entry and retention of equity seeking groups.

Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)

The B.C. Chamber of Commerce described the benefits a responsibly developed LNG industry can bring to communities and businesses. They particularly emphasized the importance of finding new markets, explaining that exporting LNG has the potential to meet the needs of emerging economies for clean, reliable sources of energy while also providing jobs, apprenticeship and business opportunities for British Columbians, and revenues to fund government services. To realize these benefits, the Chamber noted the need to be globally competitive, particularly with respect to fiscal structures and providing stability and certainty of approval processes.

Stability and certainty of processes and ensuring projects can be reviewed and approved in expedient time frames once regulatory conditions are met, were also stressed by the Fort Nelson & District Chamber of Commerce and Enbridge. Enbridge further pointed out that while BC is well positioned to supply natural gas to global markets, the province is falling behind the US because of regulatory uncertainty, layering of climate regulations, jurisdictional challenges, and an inability to get resources to market.

In their submission, Enbridge also discussed the advantages of developing an LNG industry. They noted that low cost gas reduces costs of manufacturing and energy and is a key source of greenhouse gas emission reductions. The Independent Contractors and Businesses Association echoed this point in describing LNG as aiding global efforts to reduce climate change while providing a new economic catalyst for energy sector

growth. They proposed planning ahead to attract another similar sized LNG investment to secure production capacity for BC and Alberta producers, explaining that construction of an additional facility should be sequenced following completion of the LNG Canada project.

The impacts of LNG development on communities in the north were also highlighted in a number of presentations at the public hearing in Kitimat. The North Matters, a Kitimat-based organization comprised of local residents that advocates for BC's north, informed the Committee that the population of Kitimat is poised to double within the next 12 to 18 months as a workforce of 7,000 to 10,000 migrates to the area to help build LNG Canada infrastructure. They shared that this is a significant development requiring ongoing assessment and support from all levels of government to address demand for health care, education and infrastructure to ensure the benefits of the project are realized. Sean Bujtas, a councillor for the City of Terrace, similarly described a need for ongoing funding for Terrace to improve infrastructure and liveability. He noted that Terrace is a regional service centre through which most economic activity in the north flows. The City also provides infrastructure and services in the form of policing, water, sewer, roads and the hospital to industry outside their borders; however, they do not receive any revenue from industry.

Tamitik Status of Women, an organization providing support programs primarily to low- or fixed-income residents in Kitimat, echoed these challenges with respect to pressure on local services and infrastructure. They drew particular attention to the impact on the price of housing, goods and services, and difficulty attracting and retaining frontline staff due to higher industry wages. The organization also indicated that there has been a lack of systemic attention to the complex experiences and diverse needs of women and girls, Indigenous women and the LGBTQ community in northern communities.

The Kitimat Community Development Centre also experienced these challenges in their ability to meet the service needs of children, youth and families in Kitimat. They shared that the LNG Canada investment, combined with the provincial commitment to hire locally, has caused a labour shortage for local businesses and contributed to high housing prices that make it very difficult for those working in low paying positions to access affordable housing. They noted that this is contributing to an increase in the number of individuals unable to meet basic needs such as food and shelter.

Mining

Mineral resources in BC are mined using both surface (e.g. quarry) and underground mining methods. The Mining Association of British Columbia stated that mining is critical to a strong, sustainable economy, and that it benefits both rural and urban areas of the province as companies supply materials, goods and services to mining. They also emphasized that the sector helps advance reconciliation as a major partner to Indigenous business and the largest private sector employer of Indigenous people in Canada, and in sharing revenues from mines in Indigenous territories. They encouraged the implementation of the *Mining Jobs Task Force* report recommendations which identified actions to make mining jobs secure and mines viable, and examined competitiveness and approaches to attract investment. The Association also pointed specifically to low cost electricity as a means to gain a cost advantage, and incent new mines and expand existing mines.

The Association for Mineral Exploration British Columbia advocated for increasing rates for the mining exploration and mining flow-through share tax credits in order to make BC the most attractive jurisdiction for exploration investment. They stated that increasing the mining exploration tax credit to 30 percent over the entire province and increasing the mining flow-through share tax credit to 35 percent will cost an additional \$4 million and \$6.5 million respectively in tax revenue annually; however, these costs would be offset by

the additional exploration expenditures that occur in communities across the province and the tax revenue generated by these expenditures.

Competitiveness was also a focus for Teck Resources Limited, who shared that mining companies operate in a highly-competitive, open global trade environment. They offered a number of suggestions for growing the mining industry, including: relieving the PST on investments along with broadening the scope of relief from PST on production machinery and equipment; dedicating at-scale innovation funding to mining specific projects and the testing and commercialization of new mining technologies; and amending regulations to simplify the criteria for deducting indirect mining operating costs.

The Gingolx Village Government shared their plans to develop a granite rock quarry; the granite is of good quality and useful for a range of products, and the quarry would provide careers and economic opportunities for their community; however, they require assistance securing funding to move forward with the project.

Natural Resource Development

The Committee heard from a number of organizations about challenges with insufficient resourcing, including staffing, in natural resource ministries. A couple of organizations specifically referenced issues with FrontCounter BC. The Cariboo Mining Association explained that timelines for permits to be approved are too long, noting that the implementation of a new system in December caused more delays due to a lack of proper training, and advocated for additional, well-trained staff. The Quesnel Cattlemen's Association shared that not all farmers and ranchers have access to a computer and internet nor are they necessarily comfortable using them. They indicated that FrontCounter BC staff should be better trained to assist individuals with completing the necessary paperwork.

The Professional Employees Association highlighted a lack of capacity with respect to oversight and monitoring. They referenced a recent review which found that some ministries lack sufficient staffing levels to fulfill their mandates and basic levels of oversight, and emphasized a need for in-house licenced professionals. The B.C. Government and Service Employees' Union also supported increased investments in compliance, enforcement and monitoring. They shared that improving the scientific and operational capacity of public agencies will improve public confidence in the ability of these agencies to effectively monitor industry activities.

Several submissions discussed the importance of engaging and supporting local communities and Indigenous communities in planning for and seeing through the benefits of natural resource development. The Fort Nelson & District Chamber of Commerce emphasized a need to ensure communities are involved at the beginning of any project to avoid any unintended consequences or delays. Teck Resources Limited suggested increasing funding for programs that support and promote economic reconciliation, including: joint and community-led planning for resource development, education and training support; capacity-building; access to capital development and business formation; and data-sharing opportunities. The B.C. Chamber of Commerce specifically referenced efforts currently underway with respect to the negotiation of a new funding agreement with local governments in northwest BC to address service and infrastructure deficits.

Committee Members also received suggestions for providing sustainable, multi-year funding for Geoscience BC and the British Columbia Geological Survey. Submissions highlighted the importance of both to the development of natural resources, noting that their research and information helps stimulate investment, and provide knowledge for responsible land and resource management.

Technology

Shaw Communications described persistent gaps with broadband connectivity throughout the province, largely due to insufficient return on investment, noting that this hampers the ability of communities and businesses to compete in a digital world. They shared that broadband connectivity enables economic and social development, and supports access to government services, health and safety. TELUS similarly pointed to connectivity as key to achieving social and digital equity, emphasizing partnerships with both the federal and provincial government as the most effective and efficient way to connect citizens in rural, remote and Indigenous communities. Both companies advocated for continued funding to extend and strengthen broadband connectivity in underserved communities.

The Committee also learned about challenges with scaling up, commercialization and productivity in BC's technology industry. The B.C. Tech Association shared that by global standards, BC's economy structurally underinvests in research and development. They advocated for better support for the innovation economy by: creating a Transformation Fund to support commercialization, equipment, investment and research; increasing Innovate BC's budget to bring it in line with comparable investments in other provinces; and strengthening and extending DataBC's mandate to manage public data as a strategic asset.

Tourism

According to the Tourism Industry Association of B.C., tourism contributes \$9 billion to the provincial GDP and is the third largest industry in the province. They discussed the importance of supporting ongoing activities as well as new destination opportunities, highlighting the potential for tourism to support and transition resource-based communities.

The Association also emphasized the role of Destination BC in providing a unified and consistent brand and marketing strategy. They shared that destination marketing is important because most of the tourism industry is comprised of small- and medium-sized businesses who otherwise do not have the ability to market on their own in a globally competitive environment. To support this work, they recommended providing Destination BC with a stable, predictable funding formula.

Another area of interest to the Tourism Industry Association of B.C. was the Resort Municipality Initiative. The program has been very successful in supporting small, tourism-based municipalities with investments in tourism infrastructure, experiences and products. Noting that only 14 municipalities are currently eligible to participate in this program, they suggested expanding it to support tourism development in additional communities. This request was echoed by the Nelson Kootenay Lake Tourism Society, who emphasized that many small communities could use assistance with basic infrastructure such as signage, shuttles and trails.

Cruise Lines International Association discussed challenges for the BC cruise market to remain competitive, pointing to recent investments in Seattle and Tacoma. They shared that the industry is a key economic driver, contributing in direct and indirect spending as well as jobs, and described opportunities to grow the province's share of the cruise market by accommodating larger ships and attracting additional cruise lines. They emphasized that the province needs to take a leadership role in bringing stakeholders together to develop a plan in this regard.

The Committee also heard about a number of growth opportunities for the sector, particularly with respect to accessible tourism, outdoor and adventure tourism, and cultural tourism. The Spinal Cord Injury Organization of B.C. explained that accessible tourism is a growing market as anywhere between 14 and 24 percent of

people have a disability. The organization is trying to create and find best practices to promote accessible tourism, and requested funding to establish and deliver regional access and inclusion specialists throughout the province.

The Pemberton Dirt Bike Association and Quad Riders ATV Association of B.C. shared that outdoor and adventure tourism supports sustainable tourism growth, and enables communities and users to respect nature and the environment. They further emphasized spin-off business for small towns, including accommodation, camping, food and beverage, and retail. They suggested investing more in outdoor and adventure tourism, including infrastructure and trail networks. With respect to cultural tourism, the Gingolx Village Government requested funding to further develop cultural tourism in their community while the Barkerville Historic Town and Park highlighted challenges with long-term planning, and a need for back-to-back resource and planning frameworks.

The municipal and regional district tax (MRDT) program was an additional point of interest to the Tourism Industry Association of B.C. They explained that the tax was introduced to provide funding for local tourism marketing, programs and projects, and intended to help grow revenues, jobs and visitation. They shared the sector's concerns about allowing MRDT revenue to be used for affordable housing, stating their view that this will affect tourism performance in the long run. They advocated for reverting funds back to marketing initiatives only and suggested using revenue generated from AirBnB and other short-term rental platforms for affordable housing.

Trade

The Kelowna Chamber of Commerce noted that as an export driven economy, BC's prosperity is dependent upon open trade in Canadian and global markets. They emphasized additional work needs to be done to open up provincial borders. While acknowledging that a Canadian Free Trade Agreement on interprovincial trade already exists, they indicated that the agreement lacks concrete timelines or a firm list of priorities. Equally significant challenges exist internationally; the Chamber suggested working with chambers of commerce across the province to strengthen ties with trading partners around the globe.

Conclusions

The Committee reflected on the challenges and opportunities across key sectors in BC's economy. They especially recognized issues within the forestry industry and the impact on workers and communities across the province. Acknowledging this as a very critical time for the industry, they were of the view that measures need to be undertaken to encourage ongoing adaptation and innovation, and to provide transition supports for workers.

Committee Members had a wide-ranging discussion on agriculture, particularly with respect to land use regulations and a need to protect farmland while also ensuring farm families are supported. They acknowledged opportunities to use policies, taxes and other incentives to grow the agriculture industry, and the importance of supporting farmers with mitigating and adapting to climate change and the associated challenges with access to water. Local food and addressing food insecurity were also of interest to the Committee, with Members discussing ways different groups and stakeholders, including supermarkets, social housing providers and food growers, could be brought together to provide healthy food to British Columbians.

Recognizing the significance of fish to coastal and Indigenous communities, the Committee emphasized the importance of maintaining a viable fisheries resource. They also recognized a need to support competitiveness within the mining industry, agreeing that the *Mining Jobs Task Force* report makes comprehensive recommendations which should be implemented. Looking at natural resource development more generally, the Committee emphasized the importance of engaging and consulting with Indigenous peoples, and supported providing additional resources to natural resource ministries to address challenges with oversight, permitting and compliance. They also recommended sustainable, multi-year funding for Geoscience BC and the British Columbia Geographical Survey.

With respect to LNG, Committee Members heard from British Columbians in Kitimat, Terrace and the surrounding communities about the opportunities and challenges the LNG Canada project presents. The implications for local communities, particularly as it relates to migration, recruitment and retention, pressure on infrastructure, and housing affordability, are significant. As such, the Committee recommended ongoing evaluation and support for communities in the northeast to realize the benefits of the project while minimizing adverse impacts.

Committee Members further identified skilled labour shortages and automation as major challenges requiring a complement of solutions. In addition to increasing the number of training seats, the Committee recognized a need to support BC workers, including underrepresented groups, to adapt and reskill to meet the needs of a changing economy. They also supported working with the federal government to ensure BC better benefits from immigration and foreign worker programs.

On the business and regulatory environment, Committee Members reviewed and acknowledged concerns presented by a number of organizations. Noting additional barriers such as housing affordability and the ability to attract workers, they agreed more work could be done to ensure the province's business environment enables growth. The Committee also recognized barriers related to interprovincial and international trade as an important issue and noted opportunities to strengthen ties across the Pacific Northwest.

Investments in broadband connectivity were also supported by Committee Members, emphasizing this as key to economic and social development and highlighting the significant gaps in broadband infrastructure in many communities across the province.

With respect to tourism, Committee Members appreciated ideas to expand products and experiences, and to explore new markets, including potential opportunities for economic development in rural communities. They especially focused on inclusion and accessible tourism as a key area to pursue.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Agriculture

9. Review policies, incentives and taxes, and provincial and municipal land use regulations to encourage and help grow a holistic and sustainable agriculture industry.

10. Continue to review policies and regulations related to housing on agricultural land to provide flexibility for farm families while maintaining the Agriculture Land Reserve's mandate to preserve and protect farmland.
11. Increase support for local food growers and markets, including creating networks and partnerships to address food insecurity and food poverty.
12. Support farmers with mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change and challenges with access to water, including providing funding for infrastructure such as water retention.

Business and Regulation

13. Create a business and regulatory environment that encourages growth and retention of existing businesses and attracts new and emerging businesses, industries and enterprise.

Fisheries

14. Protect and enhance the economic, social and cultural benefits that accrue to BC communities from wild salmon and all fisheries, including cross-ministry cooperation and collaboration on fisheries matters.

Forestry

15. In recognition of evolving economic, global and environmental contexts, adopt policies and measures to encourage adaptation and innovation in the forestry sector, facilitate access to fibre, and support bridging and retraining of workers.

Labour and Immigration

16. Work with the federal government to ensure BC gains global talent and skilled immigrants to address labour market gaps.
17. Ensure adequate support is in place for BC workers, particularly underrepresented groups, who are required to adapt, transfer, or upgrade their skills due to automation, technological advancements and other factors.

Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)

18. Work with federal and local governments to continuously evaluate, assess and support the work in the northwest region to maximize benefits and minimize impacts from LNG projects, including ensuring appropriate investments are made in health care, education, public safety, and infrastructure.

Mining

19. Follow through on the commitment to implement all of the recommendations from the *Mining Jobs Task Force* report for supporting a healthy and diverse workforce, realizing community benefits, enhancing BC's fiscal and regulatory competitiveness, fostering innovation, and building awareness of mining's role in a prosperous BC.

Natural Resource Development

20. Allocate more resources to natural resource ministries, including increasing staffing, in order to improve permitting, compliance and oversight.
21. Ensure thorough oversight and consultation with Indigenous peoples on natural resource development projects.
22. Provide sustainable, multi-year funding for Geoscience BC and the British Columbia Geological Survey to enable long-term programming support and planning.

Technology

23. Continue to fund and maintain dedicated programs to help extend and strengthen broadband connectivity across the province, with an emphasis on rural, remote and Indigenous communities, in recognition of the importance of connectivity to enabling economic and social development, educational opportunities and access to services.

Tourism

24. Invest in infrastructure and new tourism products, experiences and services to bolster BC's visitor economy, particularly in rural communities, including investing in accessible tourism and inclusion, cultural tourism and Indigenous tourism.

Trade

25. Continue to reduce interprovincial trade barriers and strengthen BC's ties with international trade partners, including exploring opportunities to enhance the bilateral movements of goods and labour across the Pacific Northwest.

Environment

Climate change and environmental protection were key themes throughout the consultation, with old-growth forests, water sustainability, and fish and wildlife conservation emerging as specific areas of focus. The Committee also continued to hear concerns about a lack of funding to prevent and respond to invasive species. Other areas of interest to British Columbians included funding to BC Parks and Recreation Sites and Trails BC and addressing issues with waste.

With respect to the online survey (see Appendix A), the environment was the most common theme in response to question one on top three priorities. Responses focused on climate change and transitioning to renewable energy, as well as protecting old-growth forests and improving access to outdoor recreational opportunities. Climate change and environmental protection received the most cents (19.5) in question two regarding dividing up a dollar between programs and services. For question four on how government can build a diverse and sustainable economy, supporting the transition to a cleaner economy and reducing pollution was the highest selected response.

Climate Change and Energy

British Columbians highlighted the urgency of addressing climate change and the need for a stronger commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, with several organizations specifically referencing opportunities to build on and accelerate CleanBC initiatives. The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, B.C. Office suggested investments across a range of areas, including retrofitting buildings, low carbon transportation, renewable energy, and zero waste. Quadra Freestyle focused on diversifying energy sources beyond hydroelectric dams and investing in small-scale production and technology, and suggested exploring projects that input energy into the grid. The B.C. Federation of Labour was of the view that a sustainable jobs plan should be developed as a companion to CleanBC, emphasizing that a transformation of energy systems should not come at the expense of working people or rural communities with resource-sector intensive workforces.

The Clean Energy Association of B.C. advocated for a larger focus on switching from fossil fuels to low-carbon electricity. They suggested designing a strategy to facilitate the electrification of upstream natural gas, LNG and transmission. Investing in infrastructure to enable electrification of the natural resource sector was echoed by the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, who indicated that this represents the largest opportunity to achieve a substantial reduction in upstream emissions. Portable Electric highlighted opportunities for the adoption and scaling of clean portable technologies. The Committee also received specific funding requests from the Gingolx Village Government to install solar panels, Ekona Power to build a pilot Tri-Generation Pyrolysis plant, and a resident of Harrison Mills for a secondary power source to support the community and surrounding area.

The Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, along with the Mining Association of British Columbia and Teck Resources Limited, highlighted specific challenges for the emissions-intensive, trade-exposed (EITE) industries. They explained that EITE industries are subject to carbon leakage, whereby production and investment shifts from jurisdictions with more stringent carbon policies to lower cost jurisdictions with no or lower carbon policies. As the carbon price increases, EITE industries face an increasing disadvantage

compared to domestic and international competitors. They shared that additional measures, such as an industrial incentive program, are needed to maintain competitiveness and stem the outflow of carbon emissions.

A number of submissions pointed to incentives to improve the energy efficiency of homes and buildings as another area for investment, particularly in the community housing sector, older buildings, multi-unit buildings, public buildings, and rental buildings. Others specifically recommended grant funding for the installation of solar panels. FortisBC noted that enabling energy efficiency can also help improve affordability. The B.C. Sustainable Energy Association proposed the province adopt a green screen for infrastructure spending, pointing to the budgetary and spending power of the province as crucial for supporting climate initiatives.

The Committee also received suggestions for supporting investments in electric vehicles. FortisBC noted that the transportation sector accounts for 40 percent of BC's greenhouse gas emissions, the single largest emitter in the province. Both the New Car Dealers Association of B.C. and Global Automakers of Canada referenced the price gap between electric and combustion-engine vehicles in advocating for continued incentives for consumers. The New Car Dealers Association of B.C. further encouraged investments in charging infrastructure, explaining that concerns with respect to the availability and accessibility of charging infrastructure acts as a barrier to electric vehicle ownership. BC Scrap-It Program proposed a large-scale scrap to electric vehicle program as a means to incent the adoption of electric vehicles.

Environmental Protection and Conservation

Many British Columbians highlighted the protection of water and forests as an area of priority. Our Water B.C., Living Lakes Canada, the Elk River Alliance and a number of other community-based organizations focused on challenges with water sustainability. They described the threats posed to drinking water quality and quantity by droughts, floods and wildfires, and a need to plan, prepare and build resilience. They emphasized that local communities and volunteer groups are at the forefront of protection; however, they need access to long-term stable funding to plan and do the work required to protect local watersheds. They also stressed the importance of planning and building supportive partnerships with local Indigenous communities. Suggesting the establishment of a water sustainability fund to fund watershed protection work, they shared that the fund could be established with a one-time endowment. Some pointed to increasing water rental rates as a potential source of funding.

The Committee also received over 200 submissions supporting the Ancient Forest Alliance's request for dedicated funding to purchase land and protect old-growth forests and ecologically sensitive areas; this was also a key theme in a number of survey responses. These submissions shared that old-growth forests provide benefits such as supporting unique and endangered species, stimulating the tourism industry, storing vast amounts of atmospheric carbon, and supplying clean water; old-growth forests are also vital to many Indigenous cultures. They added that many Indigenous communities on Vancouver Island make significant revenues from old-growth logging yet lack a range of alternative economic development opportunities that would support their local economies into the future and allow them to transition away from old-growth logging, should they wish to do so.

Jan Manning spoke about redeveloping the BC Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Education (CORE) course to provide environmental education and address environmental and climate issues. The CORE course was established in the early 1970s and was structured to deliver environmental education in high

schools to teach ecology, species identification, wildlife habitat, avalanche awareness, water demands, bear awareness, airsheds, outdoor safety and survival, critical thinking, and ethical leadership. Each level included a mandatory outdoor component with several conservation topics to draw on. Ms. Manning recommended reviving the CORE course to be delivered as a three-part program with an elementary curriculum, secondary curriculum, and a leadership and perception course.

Fish and Wildlife Conservation and Management

Several organizations expressed concerns about BC's fish and wildlife resources, and funding and capacity to steward those resources. The B.C. Wildlife Federation noted that as the human population increases, more stress is being placed on natural resources. One of their chapters, Region 7B (Peace-Liard), shared that it is difficult to determine expenditures in this area as responsibilities are shared across multiple branches and ministries; they also reported that stakeholders are increasingly paying for activities, such as wildlife inventory and prescribed burns, which should be core government responsibilities. They further highlighted issues with staffing, particularly with filling positions in the northeast and with turnover in the conservation office service.

Another B.C. Wildlife Federation chapter, Region 5 (Cariboo-Chilcotin), observed that fish and wildlife are an integral part of the lifestyle for many residents, pointing out challenges with the decline in a number of species, including mountain cariboo, mule deer, and chilcotin steelhead. They emphasized a need to increase funding for fish and wildlife management, conservation, protection and restoration, as well improving data collection to make well-informed decisions and management plans for all species. Several organizations also specifically identified establishing and funding comprehensive species-at-risk legislation as part of the solution.

The B.C. Wildlife Federation, their regional chapters 5 and 7B, and the Spruce City Wildlife Association, suggested directing fees from hunting and fishing to fund conservation and management. The Spruce City Wildlife Association further recommended requiring all users, including wildlife viewing, ecotourism, forestry and mining, to contribute.

The Committee also learned about the impacts of flood infrastructure and diking infrastructure on local ecology. The Watershed Watch Salmon Society explained that floodgates, pumps and dikes impede the passage of fish, noting that in the Lower Mainland alone, 1,500 kilometres of waterways are impacted by these structures. They suggested adopting fish friendly criteria for infrastructure funding as well as providing incentives for municipalities to carry out comprehensive flood management planning in their communities. The City of Port Coquitlam supported these recommendations, noting that the BC Wild Salmon Advisory Council identified reconnecting waterways impacted by flood infrastructure as an immediate action to improve salmon populations, and that upgrades and improvements require provincial support. The Spruce City Wildlife Association brought a broader provincial lens to the issue, sharing that anywhere from one-third to one-half of the fish stream crossings in the province likely impede fish passage. They highlighted this as a critical issue for sockeye, chinook, trout and kokanee to reach spawning and rearing streams, and encouraged government to provide funding to fix these crossings.

Invasive Species

Invasive species organizations from across the province stressed again this year a need for investments in invasive species prevention, monitoring, response and outreach. They pointed out that invasive species cause

varying degrees of social, environmental and economic impacts, and that resources are inadequate to deal with the issue. They further emphasized that investment in prevention and monitoring nets savings.

The regulation of pathways that may introduce and spread invasive species was a particular concern. The Okanagan and Similkameen Invasive Species Society noted that invasive species do not recognize boundaries, and that areas impacted by floods and wildfires are especially vulnerable. The Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society identified pet and aquarium trade, horticulture trade, boating and water recreation, and other forms of recreation and tourism transport as high-risk pathways that need to be better managed. Many invasive species organizations suggested the implementation of stronger regulatory tools through legislation as a means of addressing and closing these pathways.

The Okanagan Basin Water Board specifically drew attention to invasive mussels, sharing that zebra and quagga mussels substantially alter aquatic food webs, put drinking water at risk, and damage infrastructure. They noted that the impact of invasive mussels in terms of lost revenue and added maintenance for aquatic infrastructure is estimated to exceed \$42 million annually in the Okanagan alone; they recommended increasing the budget for inspections. The Kelowna Chamber of Commerce similarly recommended ensuring all border stations have the trained personnel to intercept infested boats and water-based equipment, as well as expanding monitoring for invasive mussel species.

Parks and Recreation

The Committee heard from a number of recreation and non-motorized trail organizations advocating for increased funding for BC Parks. The Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C. shared that the economic value of parks with respect to the tourism industry and spending by BC residents is substantial: for every dollar invested in BC Parks, \$8.42 is generated in additional spending by park users. They noted, however, challenges with respect to management, aging and hazardous infrastructure, and park facilities such as campsites, outhouses and trails. The organization also observed an insufficient number of full-time rangers to enforce BC Parks policies as well as protect the natural environment from inappropriate use.

The Prince George Backcountry Recreation Society echoed these concerns in recommending funding for BC Parks, stating that BC Parks lacks the staff and resources to properly maintain trails, recreation sites and facilities at a level that would be acceptable to attract tourists. They indicated that this responsibility often falls on volunteers, such as members of their society. In addition to more funding, the organization is of the view that BC Parks should bring back naturalists to provide information for visitors, operate tours and help look after conservation values.

Recreation and non-motorized trail organizations also stressed a need to increase resources and staffing for Recreation Sites and Trails BC. The Prince George Backcountry Recreation Society explained that this division is responsible for managing recreational resources on 80 percent of the province's Crown land; as with BC Parks, there is reliance on volunteers to carry out maintenance work. The Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C. added that the operating budget for Recreation Sites and Trails BC is significantly smaller than BC Parks; however, an estimated 12,000 of 30,000 kilometres of trails in BC fall under their responsibility.

The International Mountain Bicycling Association, and many similar local organizations across BC, advocated for increased staff at Recreation Sites and Trails BC, noting that due to insufficient resources, many trail associations have been waiting years to gain legal authorization to build or maintain trails. They also requested funding for non-profit, non-motorized trail associations to maintain trails and trail-

related infrastructure. They explained that BC's 6,400 kilometres of non-motorized single-track trails are largely monitored by non-profit associations who face challenges in accessing secure and steady revenue, emphasizing that trail usage is increasing.

Recycling and Waste

Restaurants Canada discussed challenges with municipal regulations on single-use packaging which can be complex and contradictory. While acknowledging a need to improve environmental sustainability, and highlighting the efforts of their members in this regard, the organization emphasized that restaurants need to be able to maintain the ability to serve guests who would like to consume food and beverages on the go. They referenced the increasing popularity of apps such as Skip the Dishes and increases in takeout and home delivery sales to point out a need for collaborative efforts to reduce waste and address issues associated with reducing plastic single-use packaging. As such, they indicated that an effective single-use plastics reduction strategy is best achieved with a provincial approach, including standardized recycling and waste infrastructure, and comprehensive public education.

Abigail Ververda observed that large amounts of perishables are thrown out every day at stores; this includes food that is deemed not safe or below selling standards, items that are taken off the shelf and put into a cart but not purchased, and any food not eaten in a restaurant. She shared that waste can lead to increased food prices, income loss for businesses, fewer jobs, and increased global greenhouse gas emissions, and urged the province to address food waste.

Conclusions

The Committee agreed with the concerns of many British Columbians that invasive species are a critical issue requiring aggressive, urgent action, and strongly urged government to make this a priority. They shared the view of invasive species organizations about the potentially significant impact on local ecology and the provincial economy if sufficient investments and resources are not provided for prevention and response.

Another area the Committee acknowledged as underfunded is fish and wildlife conservation and management. Committee Members discussed the potential of directing hunting and other fees for this purpose and having all natural resource users contribute equitably. They also considered ideas such as establishing an arms-length agency, accountable to government, with responsibility for conservation and management. While the Committee did not come to a conclusion on the best model, they agreed that increased funding for conservation and management was required. They further supported the development of comprehensive species-at-risk legislation.

Committee Members recognized the passionate and compelling input of local watershed protection agencies and greatly appreciated their critical work in advancing water sustainability. The Committee shared their views about the importance of protecting watersheds and water supply, and recommended the provision of dedicated, annual funding to support this work.

With respect to climate change and renewable energy, the Committee noted potential options to build on existing policies and initiatives, including CleanBC, such as funding for energy retrofits, shifting to renewable energy, and incenting the adoption of electric vehicles. They particularly focused on opportunities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through greater electrification and the use of an environmental lens on provincial infrastructure projects. In reviewing submissions related to recycling and waste, the Committee supported the adoption of a provincial approach to single-use plastics.

Parks and recreation were another focus for Committee Members, once again acknowledging the important work volunteer groups do in this regard. They noted that a need for additional resources was a strong theme in many presentations and submissions and recommended increased funding for BC Parks and Recreation Sites and Trails BC, and additional support for volunteer efforts.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Climate Change and Energy

26. Fully fund and support the CleanBC strategy and increase investments in shifting to clean and renewable energy, including expanding electrification for energy use.
27. Ensure an environmental lens for all infrastructure spending based on criteria consistent with BC's legislated greenhouse gas reduction goals.

Environmental Protection and Conservation

28. Advance water sustainability in British Columbia by providing a dedicated, sustainable, annual funding source for First Nations, local government, local watershed protections agencies and community partnerships.

Fish and Wildlife Conservation and Management

29. Increase funding for fish and wildlife conservation, management and data collection, including exploring potential revenue sources such as fees from hunting, fishing, natural resource and nature-based tourism enterprises for this purpose.
30. Create and fund a comprehensive species-at-risk legislation to protect and recover species, including prioritizing bio-diversity and species preservation, in consultation with communities, Indigenous peoples and the business sector.

Invasive Species

31. Establish a single Invasive Species Act and provide robust funding for education, prevention, monitoring, response and enforcement, including streamlining regulations to better monitor and manage high-risk pathways that introduce and spread invasive species, and ensuring an aggressive remediation process.

Parks and Recreation

32. Increase operational funding for BC Parks and Recreation Sites and Trails BC to support staffing, monitoring and enforcement, maintenance, public safety, and recreational infrastructure and services, including promoting and supporting volunteer efforts.

Recycling and Waste

33. Create a provincial approach to single-use plastic items.

Fiscal Policy

In addition to commentary about approaches to fiscal policy, the Committee received a number of requests to address gaps, inconsistencies and inequities within various taxation tools. Issues related to unintended or unanticipated impacts, fairness, effectiveness, competitiveness and modernization were particularly highlighted.

In the online survey (see Appendix A), question three sought input on how to pay for new and enhanced programs and services. Increasing the corporate income tax and increasing natural resource royalties were the top two selections followed by increasing the personal incomes tax.

Budgetary Policy

Several organizations emphasized the importance of prudently managing the provincial budget to ensure BC continues to enjoy the benefits of a strong, growing economy. The Greater Vancouver Board of Trade expressed concerns about risks to fiscal health, including uncertainty with respect to the global economy, trade tensions and a cooling housing market, and the need to control taxpayer supported debt. Other organizations, including the Business Council of British Columbia, the Canadian Federation of Independent Business and the Canadian Taxpayers Federation, similarly emphasized balancing the budget and reducing debt. At the same time, the Kitimat Community Development Centre noted that budgetary decisions should consider job creation and investment, and the protection and enhancement of social, health and education services.

Some organizations, including the Business Council of British Columbia, suggested a review of the taxation system from the perspective of addressing competitiveness challenges and examining the cumulative impact of various taxes, as well as modernizing the system to better reflect the emerging digital economy. The Canadian Union of Public Employees British Columbia and the B.C. Federation of Labour focused on fairness and inequality, and adopting a progressive lens to assess if tax policies are meeting objectives.

Carbon Tax

In their submission, the David Suzuki Foundation reflected on BC's leadership in introducing the carbon tax. They advocated for continued, predictable increases to the tax to continue to address climate change. They shared that a long-term plan with clearly outlined increases will enable businesses to incorporate the costs into investments decisions and develop strategies to reduce emissions.

Several organizations discussed inequities in the design and application of the carbon tax. The Cement Association of Canada pointed out that imported cement, which makes up approximately 25 percent of the cement used in BC, is not subject to the tax. They noted that BC cement has a comparatively lower greenhouse gas emission footprint, and suggested applying the carbon tax to all cement, regardless of where it is made.

The Cariboo Mining Association requested an exemption for the placer industry, in line with the one provided to the agriculture industry, as they do not have alternatives to using heavy equipment to extract minerals

from the ground. The Fort Nelson & District Chamber of Commerce similarly requested an offset for northern and rural residents and businesses, describing challenges with fuel costs and long travel distances and a lack of alternative options such as public transportation.

The B.C. Chamber of Commerce discussed concerns about the move away from revenue neutrality for the carbon tax. They indicated that differences in implementation methods across provinces are posing challenges for businesses to remain competitive and that an increasing carbon tax that no longer adheres to revenue neutrality further erodes competitiveness. They also shared concerns about potential dependency on carbon tax revenues.

Employer Health Tax

The Committee heard from a number of organizations regarding the impact of the employer health tax on businesses. The Canadian Federation of Independent Business, Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce, and Surrey Board of Trade shared that the threshold is too low with many small businesses subject to the tax. The B.C. Chamber of Commerce described the tax as regressive as it does not account for profitability or ability to pay, highlighting that small businesses have tight margins; they noted that other payroll taxes also require employee contributions. Restaurants Canada and the Fort Nelson & District Chamber of Commerce reported that the tax has added significant costs, and employers are responding by laying off staff, cutting hours or curtailing hiring, eliminating or cutting benefits, and increasing prices. Suggestions for addressing these issues included increasing and indexing the thresholds, providing exemptions for specific groups of employees (e.g. youth) and types of organizations (e.g. not-for-profit organizations), and reviewing and redesigning the tax.

Insurance

The Canadian Life and Health Insurance Association and the Insurance Bureau of Canada suggested reducing or eliminating the insurance premium tax. The Insurance Bureau of Canada indicated that the tax burden on insurance in BC is one of the highest in the country. Both organizations explained that the tax acts as a disincentive and decreases the capacity of employers to obtain financial protection by increasing the costs of insurance. The Canadian Life and Health Insurance Association also cautioned against implementing a retail sales tax on insurance premiums, pointing to other provinces where this is in effect and emphasizing the impact such a tax has on an employers' ability to provide these benefits.

Luxury Tax

The New Car Dealers Association of B.C. highlighted discrepancies in the application of the luxury tax. The tax, which begins at \$55,000, applies to vehicles, cars, and trucks; however, it does not apply to a range of other luxury goods such as recreational vehicles, boats, and jewelry. They particularly emphasized that the tax as currently designed applies to many work trucks. They offered a range of solutions to address this issue including raising the threshold and eliminating it over time, exempting work and pick-up trucks, and expanding the tax to additional items.

Municipalities and Property Taxes

Several submissions described challenges faced by municipalities in generating revenue and their capacity to address the needs of their communities. As the Canadian Union of Public Employees British Columbia

explained, communities have been downloaded many responsibilities and are at the front line of issues such as climate change, inequality and an aging population; however, current revenue sources, namely the property tax, are not designed to address these issues and support the types of services municipalities now provide. Referencing the Union of BC Municipalities report, *Strong Fiscal Futures*, they indicated that improvements in this regard are long overdue.

The B.C. Chamber of Commerce focused specifically on challenges for small, rural and remote municipalities, who have dwindling populations and a small commercial business base, and the need to provide these municipalities with reliable, predictable transfers. Mayor Bob Simpson of the City of Quesnel described the city's transition strategy to address the decline of the traditional forestry industry, including examining taxation structures, investing in amenities, recruiting professionals and residents, and marketing Quesnel as a liveable, affordable community; however, to continue to be able to facilitate and implement their transition, the City requires assistance from the province in the form of flexible funding and dependable, year-to-year funding for infrastructure.

The Committee also heard about issues related to commercial real estate property taxes. The B.C. Chamber of Commerce explained that businesses in BC face high property tax bills as a result of the rapid appreciation of property, and are at risk of closing or relocating. They linked the issue to BC Assessment's valuing of property based on its highest and best use, and how this model does not take into account the current use of the property or the cash-flow or profitability of the current business. While they acknowledged possible solutions at the municipal level, they also pointed to policy options at the provincial level to address the problem, including implementing split property assessments, creating exemptions for long-standing businesses, and creating a business property tax deferral program.

The B.C. Chamber of Commerce also expressed concerns about the gap between non-residential and residential property tax rates. They explained that higher rates, in some cases multiples over the residential rate, affect competitiveness, and that the difference is not aligned with the costs of providing services and can vary from community to community. They noted that prior to 1984, the provincial government regulated ratios between residential and other property classes. They suggested exercising more control and oversight of property taxation and developing a more sustainable structure.

Prompt Payment

The British Columbia Construction Association and the Electrical Contractors Association of British Columbia identified prompt payment as a significant issue in the construction industry. They explained that delays in payments place an undue risk burden on contractors and subcontractors, and negatively impacts cash flow throughout the industry and provincial economy. The Electrical Contractors Association of British Columbia further highlighted that uncertainty about receiving payment forces contractors to build more risk into their bids which increases the cost of construction and artificially limits their growth, reducing the number of journeyperson and apprentices they are able to hire. It also results in a reduced number of bids on a project due to unfavourable contract terms or payment uncertainty, resulting in less competitive bid processes. Both organizations would like to see the introduction of prompt payment legislation to require payment within a set number of days.

Provincial Sales Tax (PST)

The Canadian Federation of Independent Business and the B.C. Chamber of Commerce discussed competitiveness and productivity challenges with respect to the application of the PST on business inputs. The B.C. Chamber of Commerce shared that this inhibits investments in innovation and creates a competitive imbalance as most other provinces do not do this. They suggested working towards the development of a value-added tax (VAT) system, and exempting production machinery, equipment and technology from the PST until there is a VAT.

The Resource Municipalities Coalition referenced issues with non-payment of the PST by non-resident companies, and how BC-based oil and gas service companies, contractors and suppliers are experiencing difficulty competing with these companies as a result. They explained that non-payment adversely impacts the provincial economy in a number of ways, including reducing employment and benefits that flow from local companies, and a direct loss of revenue for provincial and local governments. The Coalition believes amendments to the *Provincial Sales Tax Act*, increased efforts to raise awareness of BC's tax requirements, and increased monitoring and enforcement would reduce the incidence of non-compliance.

The Committee also heard about issues related to the policy for exempting boats from the PST only if the boat is shipped for delivery outside the province. Jones Boys Boats, a family-owned-and-operated small business on Kootenay Lake, has found that more people are purchasing boats in Alberta to avoid paying PST or the out-of-province delivery fee; in some cases, the dealer will cover the delivery fee to make the sale, cutting into margins. This has had a particular impact in their area as a majority of their customers are from Alberta. They shared their view that people who purchase a boat in BC who have a primary out-of-province residence should be PST-exempt as is the case for automobiles and recreational vehicles.

The British Columbia Yacht Brokers Association discussed the implications of this policy for vessels that can only be moved by water. The Association indicated that for non-resident buyers, this policy forces the sale to conclude in the state of Washington, and as a result, the province is missing out on considerable economic stimulus in the form of repairs and modifications. The current tax policy also puts the completion of the sale at risk, as there could be considerable time and distance between the location of the purchase and the location of the delivery in the US and the vessel could become damaged. The association suggested this policy be examined and changed to allow for export after a certain number of days of purchase.

In addition to the above-noted issue, the Boating B.C. Association highlighted discrepancies related to repairs and servicing. If a repair or servicing of a watercraft takes place within the province, the boat owner pays the PST on parts utilized as part of that process; however, if those same parts are shipped to that same owner in their out-of-province home, they do not pay PST on those parts. The Association requested a mechanism to relieve the PST in this circumstance.

The Retail Council of Canada raised an issue with the application of the PST to adult incontinence products. They reported that several stores have been fined for failure to collect and remit the PST on these products following an audit by the Consumer Taxation Branch. This is inconsistent with past practice and with the 2013 document on PST treatment, with the Retail Council of Canada noting that they could find no retail store that was collecting PST on these products. The organization stated that the wording of the PST exemption regulation appears to have been interpreted such that incontinence products are subject to the PST. They shared that no other province in Canada applies a retail sales tax on these products which are purchased by British Columbians for medical reasons.

School Tax and Speculation and Vacancy Tax

The Committee received a number of submissions, led by STEPUP (Society to Encourage Political Understanding & Participation), advocating for the additional school tax to be repealed. They were of the view that the additional school tax is a wealth tax that does not take into consideration owner's costs or ability to pay. The organization shared that over 26,600 British Columbians have signed an online petition asking for this tax to be repealed.

With respect to the speculation and vacancy tax, one individual shared their view that it is an asset tax that is not well-aligned with the objective of cooling the housing market. The British Columbia Real Estate Association similarly indicated that the speculation and vacancy tax has not reduced home sale prices in the province, and recommended setting an end date for the tax based on predefined outcomes. Three organizations would like to see exemptions for the speculation and vacancy tax, while another, the Victoria Real Estate Board, advocated for more transparency regarding the projected and actual outcomes of the tax.

Conclusions

Committee Members appreciated hearing common themes with respect to the importance of exercising fiscal responsibility while also making investments to support economic growth and enhanced public services. They recognized a need to break down silos within government and with external partners to ensure everyone works together to grow the economy and meet the needs of British Columbians.

While reviewing the issues presented with respect to various taxes, the Committee concluded that a broader examination of the entire taxation system is warranted. They discussed the importance of ensuring taxes are effective in accomplishing stated outcomes, addressing unintended or unanticipated impacts, and ensuring fairness and consistency. They observed that taxes also should be reviewed through a lens of maintaining competitiveness, with a particular examination of cumulative impacts, as well as modernization in recognition of changing economies.

The Committee acknowledged challenges that municipalities face with respect to fiscal capacity, especially in smaller communities, and the impacts of industry growth. They recognized the desire for the province to work with municipalities in a predictable, reliable and flexible manner to address needs across the province, especially as it relates to infrastructure.

Two additional areas of interest to Committee Members were prompt payment and PST compliance by non-resident companies. On prompt payment, they agreed that action needs to be taken to ensure all contractors and suppliers within the construction industry are paid in a timely manner. With respect to PST compliance, the Committee recognized this as a major issue in northeast BC, noting how it disadvantages BC businesses who employ local residents.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Budgetary Policy

34. Exercise prudent and careful fiscal discipline, while continuing to invest in services, build the economy, work toward reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, support integrated services and partnerships, and support social equality.
35. Conduct a comprehensive review of the provincial taxation system, including the carbon tax, the employer health tax, the luxury tax, the speculation and vacancy tax, and the PST, with the aim of modernizing the system, addressing unintended or unanticipated impacts, and ensuring taxation structures and policies are fair, consistent and effective.

Prompt Payment

36. Work with stakeholders to implement prompt payment legislation for the construction industry, including ensuring harmonization with prompt payment initiatives nationally.

Provincial Sales Tax (PST)

37. Increase monitoring and enforcement of BC tax laws and consider implementing public reporting for the payment of the PST by non-resident companies working in BC.

Health Care

British Columbians described a number of ongoing challenges with the provision of health care services, including funding, access and health human resources. Many submissions also highlighted opportunities to reduce downstream costs through investments in prevention and wellness, early intervention, disease management, and home and community-based care.

Health care was the second most common theme in response to question one in the online survey (see Appendix A), with responses referencing a need to increase and expand mental health and addiction supports, improve access and reduce wait times, and improve support for and awareness of myalgic encephalomyelitis. It also received the second most cents (12.0) in the second question with respect to dividing up a dollar between programs and services.

Acute Care and Emergency Services

The Canadian Union of Public Employees British Columbia shared that the current funding and staffing model for BC Emergency Health Services is contributing to a lack of timely and effective emergency medical services and precarious work for paramedics. They emphasized that response times throughout the province are not meeting the national standard and suggested that new funding be provided to BC Emergency Health Services. The union also drew attention to the impact of the ongoing opioid overdose crisis on paramedics as frontline providers, and advocated for the provision of a comprehensive benefits package that addresses their physical and mental wellbeing.

The British Columbia Anesthesiologists' Society discussed opportunities to improve operating room efficiency, noting that surgical volumes are not meeting targets. They described the economic impact of British Columbians waiting for medically necessary surgeries, as well as the impact on the individual and their family. The Society proposed basing new budgetary investments in surgical capacity on a comprehensive plan that addresses all necessary health human resources, and tying these investments to the volume of services delivered to promote efficiency and productivity. They particularly drew attention to the shortage of anesthesiologists around the province as a key contributor to wait times.

Chronic and Complex Diseases

The Committee heard from many organizations and individuals about supports and services for a range of chronic and complex diseases. A number of British Columbians advocated for improved support, education and research for individuals with myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME). Also known as chronic fatigue syndrome, ME symptoms include a severe onset of disabling, persistent fatigue, changes in sleep patterns, and cognitive impairments. Submissions and presentations indicated that awareness and understanding of ME is lacking within the health care system, and appropriate supports are therefore not provided.

Diabetes Canada discussed a need to invest in preventing diabetes and improving health outcomes for British Columbians living with the disease. They noted that while type 1 diabetes cannot be prevented, type 2 diabetes, which results from a combination of genetic, environmental and lifestyle factors, can. They also

emphasized that improved management is needed to address unnecessary hospitalizations, explaining that diabetes contributes to 30 percent of strokes, 40 percent of heart attacks, 50 percent of kidney failures requiring dialysis and 70 percent of non-traumatic lower limb amputations.

The Arthritis Society B.C. shared that arthritis is the leading cause of long-term disability and can severely impact a person's ability to sustain productive employment. They also explained that the disease is the leading cause of joint replacement, noting that approximately one in five replacements are not completed with the recommended target of six months. They requested increased access to specialized primary and community care services, including allied health care providers, as well as a reduction in wait times for knee and hip replacements.

According to the IBD Centre of BC, one in every 150 Canadians has inflammatory bowel disease (IBD); however, patients face waitlists to see specialists, and lack access to up-to-date care and treatments. They requested funding to establish a physical facility to provide multidisciplinary care, education and research for and to expand endoscopy capacity. The organization noted that the facility would also connect with health care professionals across the province to enable diagnoses and treatment of IBD in local communities.

The Parkinson Society British Columbia advocated for comprehensive multidisciplinary care for individuals living with Parkinson's Disease, including expanded access to allied health professionals. They explained that this would not only strengthen care and improve quality of life, but it would also reduce the need for inpatient hospital care due to aspirations or fractures.

The Committee received a number of submissions from brain injury organizations regarding a need for ongoing investments in the Brain Injury Fund. These submissions highlighted how the fund enables the delivery of programs and services by local organizations, and the positive impact these services have on individuals living with the effects of brain injury. They also indicated that demand for services is growing.

Cystic Fibrosis Canada explained that funding and resources have not kept pace with the growth in the number of individuals with cystic fibrosis, particularly the number of adults, and their complexity of care. They highlighted the dispersion of individuals with cystic fibrosis across BC and geographical disparities in service, noting that the majority of care is provided by centralized clinics in Vancouver and Victoria, and advocated for the implementation of a provincial cystic fibrosis program.

Referencing BC's diverse population, the Alzheimer Society of B.C. stated that a number of barriers related to language, cultural views and understanding of dementia, limited information and awareness, and stigmatization of the disease lead to challenges connecting with support. They requested funding to deliver culturally specific dementia support through their First Link program. Staff would be hired to support three cultural communities, South Asian, Chinese and Indigenous, to ensure that programs and services are designed, delivered and tailored in a culturally appropriate way.

Community Care and Seniors

Many presentations and submissions addressed gaps and challenges in the continuum of community care services. Several organizations, including the B.C. Care Providers Association, advocated for capital investments to expand long-term care and assisted living facilities, noting that demand will increase as BC's population ages and retirees move to the province. The Hospital Employees' Union, along with the B.C. Health Coalition and SONS (Save Our Northern Seniors), also discussed a need to improve staffing standards and levels in residential care. The union highlighted the importance of continuity of care and their view that

contracting and subcontracting has resulted in recruitment and retention challenges and disruptions in care relationships. Investments in quality of life programming for residential care residents and seniors was another area of interest for the B.C. Care Providers Association, who stated that such programming improves health outcomes.

The Committee also heard about the value of home support programs and how they support British Columbians to age in place and delay or avoid admission to residential care. According to the Office of the Seniors Advocate, 61 percent of residents admitted to long-term care had no home support in the months leading up to their admission, and 15 percent of individuals in long-term care could easily be accommodated at home. They shared that the current co-payment structure for public home support services is unaffordable for many British Columbians and results in individuals moving to long-term care. The Office noted that subsidizing home support is more cost-effective than subsidizing long-term care and recommended developing a more progressive system of payment. The Council of Senior Citizens Organizations of B.C. supported the Office of the Seniors Advocate's findings, and requested funding for more publicly-funded, direct care hours for home support services as well as investments in adult day centres. The United Way of the Lower Mainland specifically recommended additional and multi-year funding for the Better at Home program which assists seniors with day-to-day tasks.

The Vancouver Island Federation of Hospices and the Victoria Hospice Society spoke about shifts in perspectives about dying as many individuals prefer to age and die in place. They were of the view that hospices are uniquely positioned to provide supports and services in this regard, particularly with respect to supporting caregivers. They recommended funding for community hospices to deliver these supports and services, as well as general support for aging and dying in place, noting that such measures will also help reduce hospitalizations. Canuck Place Children's Hospice discussed their work in providing pediatric palliative care, and other specialized services for children with complex medical conditions and disabilities. They requested grant funding, as well as a provincial partnership to build a sustainable funding strategy, to address a number of operational, infrastructure and technology needs.

In their presentation to the Committee, Seniors Advocacy Service suggested funding for seniors advocate offices across the province to provide referral and consultative services. They indicated that such offices had previously been funded by government and are important for enabling community connections and improving quality of life for seniors.

The costs and challenges of dealing with hearing loss were highlighted by Speech and Hearing BC and the Council of Senior Citizens Organizations of B.C. Speech and Hearing BC explained that over 10 percent of British Columbians experience some form of hearing loss; however, less than 25 percent of these individuals seek assistance, largely due to prohibitive cost barriers. They advocated for funding for hearing aids and assistive listening devices. The Council of Senior Citizens Organizations of B.C. highlighted that seniors with hearing loss can become socially isolated and depressed and give the appearance of having dementia. They suggested funding free hearing tests for low- and moderate-income seniors experiencing hearing loss.

The Committee also heard of the need to proactively plan ongoing health investments to meet the needs of an aging population. Merck stated that funding for part of these investments should come from working with the federal government to increase the annual growth rate of the Canada Health Transfer. Scott Harrison, a councillor for the Town of Qualicum Beach, suggested the provincial government advocate for demographics to be included in the Canada Health Transfer formula as the demographic shift will be one of the largest drivers of health care expenditures.

Misty Teteris shared concerns about the lack of safe refuge options available to seniors escaping violence. She stated that shelters often cannot accommodate mobility challenges, and assisted living and residential care facilities have very strict eligibility criteria and are not recognized as emergency solutions to escaping violence.

Dental Care

The British Columbia Dental Association made several recommendations related to improving access to dental care, particularly for low-income British Columbians and seniors. They stated that the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction's dental fees have not kept up with the cost of delivering services, and that the coverage limit of \$1,000 every two years does not adequately address the complex medical needs of persons with disabilities. With respect to seniors, the Association indicated that age related impairments put seniors at risk for severe infection and tooth loss; however, 65 percent of seniors lack extended health benefits. They suggested restructuring the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction's dental program and creating a low-income seniors dental plan.

The Association also highlighted two other issues. First, they reported a growing shortage of certified dental assistants, which is resulting in delayed or cancelled treatments. Second, they requested dentists and dental specialists be included in the Pharmanet program, emphasizing that dentists are the second largest prescribing group in the province and access to Pharmanet is critical for patient safety.

Digital Health

Two submissions highlighted opportunities to improve access to health care and improve health outcomes through the use of digital technology and telehealth. TELUS described some of their initiatives, such as electronic medical and personal health records, virtual health care applications, and mobile health clinics, and how they help reduce unnecessary hospital visits, facilitate access to primary care and improve overall quality of care. They sought continued support for the adoption of digital health care solutions, including pilots and partnerships with stakeholders, and empowering British Columbians with their own personal health records. The Society for the Protection and Care of Seniors (Trail) discussed the benefits of telehealth for British Columbians in smaller communities, particularly with respect to saving time and money travelling to services, and encouraged its continued use and expansion.

Health Human Resources

The Committee repeatedly heard about workforce shortages across the health care sector. The B.C. Health Coalition noted that the provincial workforce strategy identifies health science professions as representing the majority of priority positions with ongoing labour market challenges, and recommended increased funding for comprehensive workforce planning and development. The Health Sciences Association of British Columbia similarly emphasized the importance of ongoing efforts to address shortages and recruitment and retention challenges, and recommended increased funding for expanding training capacity. One submission suggested fast-tracking approvals for internationally trained medical professionals as a means to address workforce shortages.

Several organizations discussed gaps within specific professions. The Canadian Society for Medical Laboratory Science highlighted shortages of medical laboratory technologists, particularly in Interior Health, noting that current supply of graduates is insufficient to offset projected retirement numbers. While post-secondary institutions have the capacity to increase training, they lack the funding to do so. The Canadian Association

of Occupational Therapists identified a training capacity gap for occupational therapists, sharing that BC relies heavily on in-migration from other provinces and countries, and that access to occupational therapists is an issue, particularly in northern BC and the Fraser Valley. Speech and Hearing BC reported high caseloads for speech-language pathologists as contributing to long waitlists, especially for early intervention services. They estimated that BC requires a significant increase in the number of full-time speech-language pathologists, from 165 to 552, to improve access to services.

The Hospital Employees' Union discussed issues with workplace safety and injury rates, referencing challenges in long-term residential care where rates for injuries are four times higher than the provincial average. They identified workload and staffing, as well as inconsistencies in injury prevention programs, as key contributors to injuries. Accordingly, they recommended developing a strategy-wide injury prevention strategy, which includes increased staffing, and standardizing and coordinating injury prevention programs across health authorities, employer types and collective agreements.

Health Services and Pharmaceuticals

Committee Members received several suggestions for expanding essential health services to include dental, optical, community mental health and other extended services. The B.C. Poverty Reduction Coalition and the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, B.C. Office identify such suggestions as a key poverty reduction measure for low-income people, for whom health care costs are a barrier to access. Additional recommendations related to rolling the cost of medical examinations for drivers over 80 into the Medical Services Plan, and examining eligibility for Medical Services Plan coverage for immigrants and refugees.

Several organizations discussed financial barriers to accessing medication, and suggested working with the federal government and other provinces to develop a national pharmacare program. The Canadian Life and Health Insurance Association recommended working with the insurance industry to coordinate efforts to bring costs down through bulk-buying, as well as including private plans in the pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance. On a different note, Aurora Cannabis Inc. drew attention to the application of the PST and excise tax on medical cannabis. They emphasized that a medical cannabis authorization provided by a physician is equivalent to a prescription, and that prescription medications, oral vitamins and dietary supplements are all exempt from the PST.

According to AccessBC Campaign for Free Prescription Contraception, contraception providers identify cost, which falls disproportionately on women and people with uteruses, as the key barrier to contraception access. They indicated that initiatives in other jurisdictions to provide free contraception have been successful in reducing unintended pregnancies and abortion rates and promoting positive health and education outcomes. The organization also noted that free prescription contraception reduces direct health care costs resulting from unintended pregnancies, as well as downstream costs for social services.

Yarrow Intergenerational Society for Justice, an organization that supports low-income Chinese seniors to overcome language and cultural barriers, highlighted that accessing health services can be a stressful experience for the limited English proficient population. They further explained that the reliance on family members to be medical interpreters can have negative impacts on patient health. They suggested providing more resources for health care providers to access professional interpreters.

The B.C. Health Coalition discussed the importance of aligning health program spending with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation

Commission, and the Calls to Justice from the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. They indicated this will help to ensure programs and services are contributing to progress on the province's obligations in this regard.

Mental Health and Addiction

The Committee heard about a number of challenges with access to mental health and addiction services, including system fragmentation, a lack of coordination and capacity, and lengthy waitlists for publicly-funded services. The Canadian Mental Health Association, British Columbia Division noted that mental health issues account for 23 percent of the disease burden but only seven percent of health care spending. They recommended increasing the total proportion of health spending in mental health and substance use services, as well as increasing funding for community-based services that promote mental wellness. The British Columbia Schizophrenia Society similarly recommended investments in a continuum of mental health services, as well as supports for family members and caregivers of individuals with severe mental illness, and funding for public education to reduce stigma.

Several submissions and presentations specifically referenced improving services for children and youth mental health. The YMCA of Northern B.C. explained that 50 percent of mental illness begins before the age of 14, and that early learning and interventions are critical for promoting youth mental health. They recommended funding for their Y Mind program which supports youth to manage their symptoms in a non-clinical setting. The British Columbia School Trustees Association recommended funding to implement an integrated program of services across education, health and social services, sharing that boards of education and school districts have experienced an increasing need for staff and programs to address student mental health.

The B.C. Government and Service Employees' Union advocated for expanding measures to address the opioid crisis with a focus on clinical and social supports, including access to recovery and treatment options and supervised consumption sites. Councillor Val Chiba of the Okanagan Indian Band highlighted her community's challenge with fentanyl, and requested resources to help community members access addiction treatment.

The Committee also heard from service providers about different residential treatment and supportive housing models, including a need to grow capacity and better resource detox and treatment services. The Umbrella Society requested funding to expand their recovery housing model which has no length of stay, encourages employment, education and volunteering as part of the recovery, and provides on-site counselling. The Bridge Youth and Family Services Society explained that Interior Health is comparatively underserved and under-resourced, and sought investments in recovery care in their region, including live-in treatment resources for youth and rapid access treatment beds for adults. The Committee also heard about underfunding of supportive recovery facilities, with the Realistic Success Recovery Society requesting increases to per diems for registered assisted living certified facilities.

Primary Care

Metro Vancouver Alliance, and several other organizations, expressed their support for the development of team-based primary care models. These organizations focused specifically on the community health centre model, which integrates primary care, mental health services, social services and supports, and public health services in one setting. While community health centres are part of the province's primary care strategy, they noted that no dedicated funding stream has been provided for their development. These organizations were

of the view that a separate funding stream covering salary, benefits and overhead costs will better facilitate the development and expansion of these community health centres.

The British Columbia Chiropractic Association, advocated for the integration of chiropractors within community-based primary care. They explained that musculoskeletal conditions represent at least 30 percent of all primary care visits to general practitioners and medical doctors, with low back pain being the most common disorder. They highlighted examples of initiatives and studies in BC, as well as pilots in other jurisdictions, which demonstrated the effectiveness of collaboration between family physicians and chiropractors. The Association also advocated for the ability to refer patients for imaging tests and for direct access to the picture archiving and communication system (PACS). They described the current system as inefficient as patients are required to visit a physician to obtain a referral for the imaging test and again to receive the results, noting that only a few health authorities currently grant chiropractors access to PACS.

Public Health

The Childhood Obesity Foundation and the B.C. Alliance for Healthy Living Society discussed the link between sugary drinks and the development of obesity and chronic illnesses such as type 2 diabetes, heart disease and hypertension. They stated that applying the PST will reduce consumption while generating revenue which can be used to fund health promotion.

The Vancouver Infectious Diseases Centre and the Pacific Hepatitis C Network advocated for investments in the education and awareness of and response to hepatitis C. The Pacific Hepatitis C Network referenced data from the BC Centre for Disease Control which shows more than 30,000 British Columbians have been infected but are not linked to care. The Vancouver Infectious Diseases Centre proposed a plan to eliminate the disease in BC through the development of regional strategies and champions, noting that more than 95 percent of individuals with chronic hepatitis C infection can be cured with medication over a period of eight to 12 weeks.

Merck recommended resources to expand public health efforts to improve the vaccination rate for the human papillomavirus (HPV). They explained that vaccines are the most effective way to prevent HPV infection and HPV-related diseases, noting that HPV is responsible for a significant proportion of cervical cancers. They shared that BC currently has an uptake rate of 67 percent, and that an increase to 90 percent would reduce cervical cancer cases by 23 percent.

The Committee also received recommendations related to tobacco and alcohol consumption. One submission highlighted concerns with respect to youth access to vapour products, and recommended the implementation of new measures to curb youth vaping, including stronger enforcement measures and mandatory training for retailers and vendors. The B.C. Alliance for Healthy Living Society noted that alcohol is a key risk factor for chronic disease. They recommended shifting alcohol taxes so they are based on the percentage of absolute alcohol in a standard drink combined with a minimum unit price per standard drink, noting that a 10 percent increase in price correlates with a five percent reduction in drinking and that increases in price are particularly effective with youth.

Rural and Remote Health Care

British Columbians in rural, remote and northern communities described a number of challenges with access to health services. The Fort Nelson & District Chamber of Commerce shared that travel is required to access many health care services which places a financial burden on families. They highlighted the lack of maternity care in Fort Nelson as an example and how families have to travel at their own expense a minimum of three weeks prior to the expected due date to receive care. The Chamber also discussed gaps in the provision of emergency services, and in particular, timely medivac and air ambulance services. They emphasized the distances between rural, remote and northern communities, and the length of time it can take for ambulance services to get to an emergency. Other submissions referenced opportunities, such as mobile clinics, to deliver services in more innovative ways.

Conclusions

The Committee recognized that health care supports and services across the full continuum of services is a priority for British Columbians. They particularly appreciated hearing from different organizations and groups about improving supports and services for British Columbians with chronic and complex diseases, and recognized a need for a clearer pathway to address other potential chronic diseases such as ME.

Committee Members supported ongoing investments to increase the number of residential care spaces and the provision of home support services, focusing on home support as a key area for improvement. They noted that many individuals prefer to stay at home as long as possible, which generates savings for the health care system by delaying entry to residential care. Accordingly, Committee Members supported a proposal to develop a more progressive system of co-payment for home support services. Residential care staffing, supports for palliative and end-of-life care, and safe spaces for seniors in need of being safeguarded from abuse were also of concern. The Committee further suggested advocating to the federal government for increased federal funding for health care.

In reviewing suggestions related to digital health, the Committee discussed potential opportunities to improve access to care in rural and remote communities, and the importance of ensuring British Columbians have access to their own health care information. They also noted that access to consistent and comprehensive information is critical for health care providers to ensure the provision of appropriate care.

Health workforce shortages were also acknowledged, with the Committee including health programs in Recommendation #6 under Advanced Education for areas requiring additional training capacity. Committee Members further identified internationally trained health professionals as a potential source for reducing shortages, recognizing a need to work with regulatory and credentialing bodies on approval processes. The Committee also acknowledged a need to address violence toward health care workers, particularly in the residential care sector, and recommended the development of a sector-wide strategy.

With respect to health services and pharmaceuticals, the Committee discussed opportunities to address affordability and financial barriers. To that end, they supported covering medical examinations under the Medical Services Plan when required by a doctor for a Class 5 licence, noting the particular burden these exams place on seniors, and further supported an exemption from the PST for medical cannabis. Committee Members were also interested in the provision of free contraception, and the potential cost-benefit impact of doing so, and suggested this be rolled out in a targeted manner. They also agreed that the province should continue to work with provincial counterparts and the federal government on the provision of a universal

pharmacare program, and that the province should ensure health program spending is aligned with provincial commitments to reconciliation.

Noting that a number of initiatives are underway, Committee Members supported investments in mental health and addiction services. They particularly emphasized the importance of integrating supports with housing to ensure British Columbians receive comprehensive, wrap-around services for mental health and addiction care needs.

On primary care, the Committee discussed various models for the provision of team-based options, and agreed that there may be opportunities to provide British Columbians with additional choice and to integrate more health professionals into these models. They also noted inconsistencies across health authorities with respect to access to imaging for different providers.

Committee Members strongly urged the province to apply the PST on sugary drinks, emphasizing that this has been a consistent recommendation in provincial budget consultations in recent years. They also expressed concern about youth access to vapour products, and urged additional efforts to curb youth access. The Committee also supported efforts to raise awareness about hepatitis C and connect British Columbians with care, noting that treatment can cure individuals and eliminate the disease.

Recognizing access to health care services for British Columbians in rural, remote and northern communities as a significant issue, the Committee acknowledged that challenges in these communities are distinct from urban centres and require different solutions. They particularly examined opportunities to better address the costs of care-related travel, as well as improve the provision of public transportation, and stressed the importance of access to reliable and timely medivac, air ambulance and emergency services.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Chronic and Complex Diseases

38. Provide appropriate supports and services for British Columbians living with chronic and complex diseases, such as diabetes, arthritis, inflammatory bowel disease, Parkinson's disease, brain injury, dementia and cystic fibrosis, including increasing funding for the Complex Chronic Disease Program at BC Women's Hospital.

Community Care and Seniors

39. Increase investments to expand the continuum of home support to residential care services, including funding for home support programs to enable seniors to age in place and funding to increase the number of residential care spaces.
40. Ensure stable, quality care in residential care facilities by reviewing and establishing minimum staffing levels, equalizing compensation, reviewing sub-contracting of care and services, and addressing recruitment and retention challenges.
41. Develop a more progressive system of payment for home support that is affordable and reflects a reasonable percentage of income to be spent.

42. Improve supports for palliative and end-of-life care, including providing respite, counselling and bereavement services for caregivers and family members.
43. Advocate to the federal government for increased federal funding for health care.
44. Explore a model for creating safe spaces for seniors who are in need of being safeguarded from abuse.

Digital Health

45. Support investments in digital health technology, including increasing the use of telehealth to support health care delivery in rural and remote communities and implementing a single electronic patient medical record.

Health Human Resources

46. Work with regulatory and credentialing bodies to streamline the approval process for internationally trained health professionals.
47. Develop a sector-wide injury prevention strategy to address violence toward health care workers.

Health Services and Pharmacare

48. Include the cost of medical examinations required by a doctor for a Class 5 Driver's Licence in the Medical Services Plan.
49. Continue to explore with the federal, provincial and territorial governments the establishment of a universal pharmacare plan.
50. Explore the provision of free contraception in a targeted and incremental manner.
51. Ensure health program spending demonstrates alignment with—and concrete actions to make progress on—the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and the Calls to Justice from the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.
52. Exempt medical cannabis sales from the PST.

Mental Health and Addiction

53. Ensure investments in the continuum of services for mental health and addiction needs, including funding for integrated, wrap-around support services with housing.

Primary Care

54. Review and consider incorporating a broader range of health professionals and providers, such as chiropractors, in team-based primary care.
55. Ensure consistency in the access to picture archiving and communication systems across all health authorities.

Public Health

- 56. Apply the PST to sugary drinks.
- 57. Provide funding for education, awareness and treatment programs to eliminate hepatitis C in BC.
- 58. Implement stronger regulatory measures to limit youth access to vapour products.

Rural and Remote Health Care

- 59. Provide equitable access to health services in rural and remote communities, including better addressing travel costs and ensuring access to reliable, timely medivac, air ambulance and emergency services and public transportation.

Housing

Housing affordability remains an area of priority for British Columbians, with submissions identifying a range of solutions to increase supply across the continuum of affordable, supportive, rental and market housing. Other areas of interest included the impact of mortgage rules and taxation on affordability and access to home ownership, and the impact of limited dual agency on small communities.

In the online survey (see Appendix A), housing was the third most common theme in question one regarding top three priorities, with responses focused on the provision of affordable options and addressing homelessness. In question two with respect to dividing up a dollar, affordable housing received 8.3 cents and homelessness and poverty reduction received 5.4 cents. Investing in affordable housing and working to stabilize the real estate market was the second highest selected response in question four on how to build a diverse and sustainable economy.

Affordable Housing

Housing Central shared that a lack of affordable housing leads to rising numbers of individuals experiencing homelessness, employers struggling with recruitment and retention of workers, and a declining population of middle-aged individuals and families in large urban centres. Metro Vancouver Alliance noted that affordable housing is the most significant issue for their members and advocated for allotting a proportion of recent investments in housing as affordable spaces for Indigenous peoples, students, seniors and families. Similarly, the Comox Valley Coalition to End Homelessness shared that in the Comox Valley, the minimum housing income limit is not attainable for someone on social assistance; in their view, a rent-geared-to-income model for provincially subsidized housing would be a better fit in smaller communities.

Some submissions referred specifically to Indigenous housing; for example, the Okanagan Indian Band indicated that the Indigenous housing fund application process is difficult and that they would appreciate assistance in navigating that process. The Gingolx Village Government noted a lack of housing and disrepair of existing housing stock in their community and requested funding for 40 new homes and repairs to existing older houses.

Committee Members also received submissions with respect to the development of new co-operative housing, incentives to increase the current rental stock, and access to BC Housing funding and programs during the redevelopment of sites. In particular, the British Columbia Stone, Sand and Gravel Association noted that rising costs of construction are outpacing inflation and leading to increased prices of residential development and community infrastructure, and advocated for a creating a developer incentive program that encourages proactive affordable residential development, including rental housing.

Development, Density and Building Codes

The B.C. Chamber of Commerce identified long permitting times and re-zoning processes as well as Community Amenity Contributions (negotiated amenity contributions agreed to by the developer and local government as part of a rezoning process initiated by the developer) as potential barriers to affordable

housing. They recommended developing legislation on Community Amenity Contributions and detailed best practices in this area. Similarly, the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade highlighted the importance of ensuring transparent and accountable assessment of traditionally hidden municipal taxes that impact housing costs.

The Committee also heard from British Columbians about different strategies, policies and practices for working with municipalities to increase housing density. The British Columbia Real Estate Association shared that gentle densification is a strategic way to increase the capacity of urban spaces while retaining the charm of each unique neighbourhood; they suggested working with local governments to increase the supply of smaller, market homes in lower density neighbourhoods using property transfer tax revenue. Similarly, the Victoria Real Estate Board suggested tying provincial mass transit funding to densification as a means to encourage local governments to ensure that zoning permits densification.

On the issue of housing supply, the B.C. Chamber of Commerce noted that Greater Vancouver's population is expected to grow by over one million people by 2040 which would require over half a million new dwellings. Both the B.C. Chamber of Commerce and the Mortgage and Title Insurance Industry Association of Canada argued that policy changes at the federal level have not kept pace with demand and have contributed to a decline in housing affordability. The Mortgage and Title Insurance Industry Association of Canada was also of the view that government actions undertaken to temper the housing markets have focused on managing demand and suggested exploring ways to enable and support municipal governments to increase housing supply and approve new housing construction projects. The Kelowna Chamber of Commerce also noted the importance of housing affordability in continuing to grow the regional economy and emphasized the need to create more attainable market housing.

The Committee also received submissions with respect to the modernization of public buildings and building codes. The National Elevator and Escalator Association noted that the province is growing more vertical, and that many individuals and families are excluded from housing access due to limited access to proper and safe transportation devices. They suggested creating a framework for traffic analysis legislation to determine the number of elevators required in a building. The Victoria Residential Builders Association specifically discussed flaws in the BC Energy Step Code and how it may lead to unintended consequences and higher costs.

Homelessness

The Comox Valley Coalition to End Homelessness noted that homelessness prevention programming often means the difference between someone becoming homeless or remaining safely housed. Accordingly, they advocated for increased investments in homelessness outreach programs, noting that funding would particularly help in their response to homeless encampments, which are a growing concern in the Comox Valley. Wachiay Friendship Centre Society supported this request, sharing that funding for their homeless outreach and homeless prevention programs have not increased since they were established in 2008 and 2014 respectively.

The Committee also learned about the need to provide specific supports for youth at risk of or experiencing homelessness. Covenant House Vancouver noted that in 2018 only 614 beds that could be classified as transitional, supportive or social housing existed for youth in Metro Vancouver while 681 additional youth remained homeless. They added that the disparity between youth experiencing homelessness and available housing units demonstrates the need for additional youth-specific housing units. A Way Home Kamloops described the development of their youth-specific homelessness action plan, noting that a count revealed 136 young people were experiencing homelessness in the area last year. They indicated that progress on

youth homelessness requires provincial investments and policy changes to coordinate community efforts and advocated for a cross-ministry approach.

Committee Members also received funding requests for specific projects to address homelessness including a partnership with the City of Vancouver for a rapid response to homelessness and establishing a 24-hour-a-day year-round homeless shelter in Kitimat. In addition, the Council of Senior Citizens Organizations of B.C. noted that poverty is an issue for many seniors, and recommended funding appropriately staffed, supportive housing for seniors experiencing homelessness who are recovering from hospital stays.

Real Estate and Mortgages

The ban on limited dual agency, where a realtor represents more than one party in a real estate transaction, was a key area for concern for the British Columbia Real Estate Association. They shared that this ban has negatively impacted both realtors and consumers, especially in small communities and commercial transactions where there are a limited number of buyers, sellers and realtors. The Association indicated that the exemption is very strict, and almost no guidance has been offered to provide consumers and realtors the confidence to use it. A survey they conducted found that 81 percent of respondents who work in communities of less than 5,000 people knew realtors who had given up their licenses as a direct result of the ban.

The Mortgage and Title Insurance Industry Association of Canada noted that private lenders play an important role in helping to facilitate mortgage loans for individuals who are unable to find the solutions they need with other lenders. They added that the size, quality and standards of private lenders can vary significantly, which can make some lenders a more likely and desirable target for fraudsters. They recommended replacing the *Mortgage Broker Act* with an updated statute that regulates all those in the business of mortgage lending, and initiating a study of private lending activity.

The British Columbia Real Estate Association and the Mortgage and Title Insurance Industry Association of Canada, along with the Real Estate Board of Greater Vancouver, also discussed the impact of the federal rules with respect to mortgage stress tests and insurance. They stated that the federal measures have excluded many buyers from the market due to outdated guidelines that do not take into consideration mortgage rate changes since the rule was implemented; they suggested encouraging the federal government to reconsider these measures.

Rental Housing

LandlordBC noted that a major impediment to building affordable purpose-built rental is ensuring that projects are economically feasible for rental developers, highlighting examples of recent rezoning and tax incentives by a handful of municipalities that have generated a modest supply of private sector purpose-built rental housing. They stated that a PST rebate for materials used in the construction of a purpose-built rental building would narrow the disadvantages purpose-built rental faces over market condominiums. The Urban Development Institute noted that providing such a rebate could save developers approximately \$9 per square foot on wood frame construction and \$12 per square foot on concrete construction. The City of Kimberley and B.C. Chamber of Commerce also suggested examining the *Residential Tenancy Act* for opportunities to encourage landlords to rent out existing properties or build new rental properties.

Housing Central described a persistent erosion of older purpose-built rental housing stock in BC over the last decade, and how many of these buildings are owned by small investors who are looking to sell. They noted that in the current tax climate, these owners face sizeable tax liabilities when selling their buildings including capital gains, capital cost allowance recapture, and provincial property transfer tax. They advocated for exploring tax incentives that would help enable the non-profit and co-operative housing sector to obtain these purpose-built rental apartments.

Multiple organizations made recommendations about rent control and renter supports. The B.C. Poverty Reduction Coalition noted that with rent control being based on the renter rather than the unit, when tenants move out, landlords can increase the rent as much as they like. In addition, the Living Wage for Families Campaign argued that tying rent increases to the unit would give both renters and landlords greater security.

Short-term rentals were a topic of interest to the British Columbia Hotel Association. They noted that in many communities, short-term rentals have contributed to loss of housing stock, a rise in rental rates, property damage, and crime. They added that many tourism workers cannot afford to live in certain communities due to the increase in rental rates. The Association observed that local governments do not have any real incentives to address the short-term rental issue with the access to the Online Accommodation Platform fee (OAP), and the Municipal and Regional District Tax (MRDT). Accordingly, they suggested requiring communities to implement a short-term rental regulatory framework to access the OAP and MRDT funds. The Association also noted that PST for short-term rentals is currently only charged on the room rate only which has resulted in a loophole where hosts are charging lower room rates and adding markups in the form of cleaning or management fees which are not subject to the PST.

The B.C. Government and Service Employees' Union stressed issues with resourcing the Residential Tenancy Branch. They shared additional investments in the Branch are required to keep up with demand, pointing out that that renter households have grown by more than 120,000 between 2006 and 2015. They emphasized that compliance and enforcement capacity is crucial for protecting tenant rights. They further noted that Residential Tenancy Branch offices and staff are concentrated in the Lower Mainland which limits accessibility in other parts of the province that are currently underserved.

Taxation

A number of submissions pointed to opportunities to address housing affordability, particularly for first-time home buyers, through changes to the property transfer tax. The B.C. Real Estate Association and the B.C. Chamber of Commerce noted that BC has the highest provincial transfer tax rate in Canada. The Chamber also stated that the majority of this tax burden, which was originally intended apply to a small proportion of buyers, now affects virtually everyone who purchases a home given the escalation in home prices. They, along with several other organizations, would like to see an increase to the various thresholds for the property transfer tax.

Taxation on development lands was another common theme. The Canadian Home Builders' Association of British Columbia shared that they worked with the Ministry of Finance to develop exemptions to the speculation and vacancy tax for properties that were going through the construction and development process. They suggested that this framework could also be applied to the additional school tax. The Urban Development Institute, LandlordBC, and the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade made similar

recommendations regarding exempting development lands from the additional school tax, luxury property transfer tax and property transfer tax to incent the construction of new housing and rental units.

Conclusions

British Columbians continue to give priority to the provision of a continuum of affordable and attainable housing options. While acknowledging that a number of investments and initiatives are currently underway in this regard, Committee Members recognized that efforts in this area will require ongoing, long-term solutions. One option they supported was enabling and working with municipal governments to increase the supply of housing. Committee Members discussed the length of time it can take to get permits, and how this impacts costs and affordability. They also observed that adding density, which can add supply, may be a challenge given that significant proportions of many communities are zoned for single family housing. With increases in density and building heights, the Committee was further interested in ensuring building codes and standards as it relates to elevators are sufficient to address mobility needs and increased traffic in tall buildings.

The Committee also agreed on the importance of working with local communities and organizations on homelessness. They highlighted that youth and young adults have specific and unique needs which may require tailored supports and services. Committee Members also recognized that seniors experiencing homelessness who are recovering from hospital stays also require supportive housing in order to be able to recover.

With respect to real estate and home ownership, the Committee acknowledged concerns about current federal mortgage stress tests and how this impacts the ability of British Columbians to enter the market and mortgage renewals. They were of the view that the province needs to continue working with the federal government to monitor these impacts. Exploring flexibility with respect to limited dual agency was also of interest to Committee Members in recognition of the particular effect restrictions have had on smaller communities.

The Committee appreciated the different proposals put forward by British Columbians to address a need for additional rental stock. They focused specifically on issues related to short-term rentals, and a need to review and update regulatory frameworks provincially and municipally, recognizing that approaches to this are currently inconsistent across the province and that there are loopholes with the application of PST.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Density, Development and Building Codes

60. Explore ways to enable and support municipal governments, including working with various stakeholders, to increase the supply of housing and approve new housing construction projects.
61. Establish a traffic analysis framework and standard to ensure an adequate number of elevators are installed in buildings.

Homelessness

62. In partnership with local and Indigenous communities and organizations, continue to invest in homelessness prevention and encourage creative solutions to homelessness, including specific attention to the provision of supports, services and housing for youth at risk of or experiencing homelessness.

Real Estate and Mortgages

63. Review the regulatory framework with respect to limited dual agency to provide flexibility in small, rural and remote communities.

Rental Housing

64. Encourage and assist local governments to adopt a regulatory framework for short-term rentals, and address loopholes within the provincial regulatory framework with respect to the application of the PST.

K-12 Education

Parents, teachers and school districts drew attention to continued challenges with operational and capital funding for K-12 education. Submissions highlighted issues related to growth and maintenance, the adequacy of the funding formula, funding for student supports, and recruitment and retention, with a particular emphasis placed on students with special needs. The Committee also heard ideas for specific curriculum and partnership investments.

Education was the sixth most common theme in question one of the online survey (see Appendix A), with respondents particularly referencing a need to increase funding for public education. In question two regarding dividing up a dollar between programs and services, K-12 education received 6.7 cents, the fifth highest amount.

Capital Funding

School districts and parent organizations across the province advocated for increased capital funding for new school construction, maintenance, and seismic upgrades. The British Columbia Teachers' Federation stated that the pace for seismic upgrades and new school construction needs to be accelerated to address growth areas across the province with School District No. 30 (Richmond) highlighting that 34 out of 48 schools in their district have been evaluated to be at high seismic risk. School District No. 42 (Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows) noted that deferred maintenance costs are accumulating while the condition of schools continues to deteriorate. School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay) illustrated the challenge with aging infrastructure in advocating for emergency funding for repairing the music and band rooms at Mount Baker Secondary while also noting a need to fully replace the decades-old school.

Growth and costs of portables was another common topic. School District No. 36 (Surrey) stated that the number of portables in the district continues to rise and will reach over 360 portables, representing nearly 9,000 students in the 2019-2020 school year; however, no additional funding is allocated to school districts to cover the cost of acquiring, placing or operating portables. Some submissions suggested funding for portables should come out of the capital budget rather than the operating budget as school districts are currently forced to reallocate funds from other areas, reducing their ability to provide services. Others advocated for the creation a special growth fund to pay for portables.

Several submissions discussed a need to revise ministry area standards. The B.C. Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils and the Parent Advocacy Network for Public Education argued that current standards are based on an outdated model of education delivery and should be updated to support flexible spaces and specialty rooms in alignment with learning principles in the new curriculum. The School District No. 41 (Burnaby) emphasized the importance of ensuring space is provided for the development of gender-neutral washrooms and change rooms.

The Committee also heard about challenges with the requirement for local school district contributions on capital projects. School District No. 43 (Coquitlam) explained this requirement results in funding being diverted from much-needed classroom resources and services, while School District No. 36 (Surrey)

highlighted the particular burden this places on fast growing districts. They suggested eliminating the requirement and having capital projects fully funded by the provincial government.

Operational Funding and Funding Formula

The Committee received a number of requests to increase operational funding to ensure the costs of delivering education are adequately covered, including the costs of negotiated collective agreements, exempt-staff compensation increases, and inflation. Some organizations, including the Parent Advocacy Network for Public Education, expressed concern that operational costs are being downloaded onto districts with other submissions arguing for more flexibility and autonomy in budget setting. The British Columbia School Trustees Association stated that current policies, targeted allocations and other factors restrict the ability of boards to meet the needs of students.

Funding to successfully support the new curriculum was a common theme. School District No. 43 (Coquitlam) explained that successful implementation of the new curriculum requires an increased complement of staff as well as teacher mentoring and professional development while the Canadian Union of Public Employees British Columbia noted the need to increase staffing levels to implement culturally appropriate programming and the commitment to reconciliation. Both School District No. 43 (Coquitlam) and the B.C. Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils emphasized the importance of funding classroom resources and technology for the new curriculum. The reliance on parent advisory councils to fund the purchase of various technologies and equipment was also noted in submissions from the B.C. Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils, the Parent Advocacy Network for Public Education, and Advocates for SD73.

Investments in student supports was another point of emphasis, particularly with respect to students from immigrant and refugee families, Indigenous students, and youth facing mental health and substance-use challenges. The School District No. 41 (Burnaby) explained that refugee families have complex needs and face challenges with mental health, poverty, employment and language barriers, and further, students who have lived in refugee camps may arrive in school having never sat in a classroom or held a pencil.

School District No. 62 (Sooke) suggested targeted, sustained funding for student mental health and wellness, explaining that mental health and illness affects student success, graduation and life success. While the school district has undertaken initiatives in this regard and allocated a portion of their budget toward comprehensive school health, not all districts are able to do so. Take a Hike Foundation, a full-time alternate high school program that works with youths facing challenges with mental health care, advocated for increasing funding for public education programs that integrate early intervention and early prevention mental health supports for vulnerable youth.

With respect to support for Indigenous students, School District No. 39 (Vancouver) shared that the six-year completion rate of Indigenous students in the Vancouver school district has steadily increased in recent years; however, it is still significantly lower than the provincial average. They stated that funding needs to be provided at a provincial level to identify, share and implement best practices and strategies to support Indigenous students and improve the completion rate.

Several submissions discussed the funding formula and funding model review process. Some noted that per-student investments in BC are comparatively lower than the national average. Others, including School District No. 60 (Peace River North), highlighted a need to ensure rural and remote districts are adequately funded given the unique needs and characteristics of these districts.

Programming and Curriculum

The Committee also received suggestions for investing in specific programs, and introducing additional content into the curriculum. The Surrey Board of Trade emphasized how incorporating arts education into student learning helps students become more creative thinkers and improves their performance in other subject areas. The Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of B.C. discussed opportunities to increase interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics across all grades. Another submission wanted to see support for Symbiosis, a BC-based network of people, resources, and technology for all learners which combines science, technology, engineering, art, design, and mathematics.

Committee Members also heard about the importance of sexual health, consent, and digital integrity. The Comox Valley Families for Public Education and the B.C. Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils argued that the current curriculum has three significant deficits: there is no mandatory sexual health education for grade 11 and 12 students; the word "consent" does not appear; and there is no content related to the interplay between sexual health and technology. They advocated adding the issue of consent and digital integrity to the BC curriculum for grades 11 and 12.

Several organizations highlighted partnerships that bring experts into the classroom and encourage underrepresented groups to participate in non-traditional roles. One example proposed by the Resource Municipalities Coalition involves bringing industry experts into classrooms as early as preschool to inform students of all aspects of the energy sector. Another proposal came from the Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of B.C. who suggested developing strategies to virtually connect with on-reserve classrooms and home-schooled individuals, enhancing their math, science and reading skills, and presenting them with opportunities to enter the technology-driven occupations.

Staffing, Recruitment and Retention

Teacher recruitment and retention emerged as a common challenge, with the British Columbia Teachers' Federation highlighting the need for a coordinated plan. Multiple organizations, including the Nanaimo District Teachers' Association, noted difficulties districts across the province are having filling positions, and referenced compensation as a key barrier. Recruitment is a particular challenge in communities in the north and the Interior. The Peace River North Teachers' Association referenced several additional barriers related to this, including cost of living, weather issues for teachers coming from milder climates, and certification from the Teacher Regulation Branch.

School District No. 60 (Peace River North) and the Canadian Union of Public Employees British Columbia emphasized the need to address hours, staffing levels and compensation for library staff, tradespersons, bus drivers, educational assistants and other support staff. School District No. 60 (Peace River North) highlighted that the cost of living in their communities is reflective of energy sector wages and compensation which makes it difficult to be competitive.

The B.C. Principals' and Vice-Principals' Association noted that BC is the only jurisdiction in Canada that does not allow principals and vice-principals to negotiate at the provincial level. They advocated supporting a provincial negotiating process to further the objective of the B.C. Principals' & Vice Principals' Association to serve as the provincial negotiating agent for all principals and vice-principals in BC.

Students with Special Needs

A lack of adequate funding and supports for students with special needs was emphasized as a key issue. School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay) shared that the complexity of students and their needs increases each year, and that the district uses basic allocation funding to supplement student supports. Class size and compositional limits were identified by the Peace River North Teachers' Association and the Nanaimo District Teachers' Association as important factors in supporting students with special needs. The latter noted that smaller class sizes and more support staff ensures classrooms and teachers are better able to support the needs of all learners, including students with special needs. The lack of adequate support was illustrated by First Call: B.C. Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition who reported that many children with special needs are sent home from school due to lack of staff to meet their needs.

Many organizations expressed concerns regarding a proposal to move to a prevalence-based model for special education. The Nanaimo District Teachers' Association and the Prince Rupert District Teachers' Union noted that under a prevalence model, school districts will be provided with funding based on the predicted needs of the student population at large as determined by third-party health and socioeconomic factors, rather than actual, identified needs. They indicated that this model would remove the link to services and information that families and teachers rely on from assessments and diagnostic tools to provide appropriate and consistent care tailored to the actual disability of the child. The SelfDesign Learning Foundation, which develops programs and initiatives focused on personalized and lifelong learning, noted that a prevalence funding model would eliminate their ability to provide individualized, flexible and personalized learning to learners with special needs.

Conclusions

Committee Members recognized the importance and value of K-12 education, and appreciated public input in this regard. They noted requests related to operational funding and the funding formula, classroom and curriculum resources, and recruitment and retention challenges. While the Committee supports investments in public education, they also acknowledged that collective bargaining negotiations are currently underway, and as such, focused their recommendations on two areas – capital funding and supports for Indigenous students and reconciliation.

Recognizing issues with aging facilities, seismic upgrades and deferred maintenance, the Committee recommended sustaining investments in capital projects. Committee Members discussed opportunities for more flexibility in funding envelopes to address the full range of capital needs and emphasized a need to incorporate safe spaces and gender diverse infrastructure.

The Committee also highlighted the importance of supports for Indigenous students. In their discussions, they referenced the Auditor General's recent report, *The Education of Aboriginal Students in the B.C. Public School System*, which found that progress has been made on recommendations to improve outcomes for Indigenous students. Committee Members recommended that government sustain investments to support reconciliation, including the implementation of culturally appropriate programming.

Committee Members also reflected on issues raised with respect to mental health and student supports, noting that the recently announced child and youth mental health strategy may address these issues. They further acknowledged challenges with the provision of supports for students with special needs as an ongoing complex challenge, focusing particularly on identifying and providing early intervention services

before a child enters the school system. They also discussed the importance of introducing children early on in school to different career options and encouraging interests in non-traditional fields (e.g. encouraging girls to pursue trades and boys to pursue early childhood education).

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Capital Funding

65. Sustain capital investments in schools and ensure flexibility in the funding process for new builds, seismic upgrades and maintenance, including leveraging opportunities for modernizing facilities.

Operational Funding and Funding Formula

66. Ensure that K-12 funding is adequate in meeting the province's commitment to reconciliation, including ensuring adequate staffing for implementing culturally appropriate programming in BC schools.

Public Safety and Justice

A number of organizations described ongoing challenges with funding for legal aid and restorative justice, highlighting the impact this has on access. Wildfires, flooding and earthquakes were another area of emphasis, with organizations and communities requesting funding for awareness, prevention, response and recovery. The Committee also heard about a need for investments in supports and services that respond to gender-based violence and sexual assault, as well as measures to address mental health and workplace safety issues in correctional services. Money laundering and illicit tobacco were also key themes.

Access to Justice and Legal Aid

The Committee heard from several organizations, including the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, B.C. Poverty Reduction Coalition, Prisoners' Legal Services, Canadian Bar Association, B.C. Branch and the Law Society of British Columbia, regarding the challenges of providing legal aid within current funding levels. They shared that increased resources are required to ensure the provision of reasonable and meaningful legal advice and representation for those who otherwise could not afford it. The Canadian Bar Association and the Law Society further advocated for increasing tariff rates for services to levels that would allow for the expansion of legal aid, and the recruitment and retention of legal counsel.

The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, B.C. Office noted that lower income women, children and other marginalized populations are often most affected by inadequate legal aid supports. The Canadian Bar Association, B.C. Branch further explained that women are more likely to be economically disadvantaged in relationships and more likely to be victims of abuse or violence. They are often unable to leave an abusive relationship due to a lack of legal advice and legal representation to help obtain protection and financial support orders. They also shared that many individuals seeking legal aid are turned away because eligibility thresholds are restrictive. The Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter suggested that a higher eligibility threshold for women leaving abusive relationships would reduce barriers in obtaining supports.

B.C. Notaries explained to the Committee that notaries currently provide a range of services, including residential and commercial real estate transfers, mortgage refinancing, personal planning, wills, and powers of attorney. They shared that notaries are increasingly being asked by clients for help with probate and other family-related legal services such as prenuptial and co-habitation agreements, marital separation, child custody agreements, and simple uncontested divorces, and that expanding notaries' scope of practice to cover these areas would increase access to justice services.

The Committee also received submissions from several community-based groups regarding the importance and benefits of restorative justice and the need for increased funding. In addition to saving money in the criminal justice system, restorative justice reduces recidivism, strengthens community safety and harmony, alleviates symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder for victims, and increases confidence in the justice system. The South Island Wellness Society highlighted challenges with current funding levels, noting that their organization has one individual devoted to their restorative justice program. The North Shore Restorative Justice Society, North Peace Justice Society and Vancouver Island Restorative Justice Association explained that increased investments in restorative justice would enable community-based organizations to enhance services

and programs, increase awareness of available supports, incorporate education programs in schools, and provide resources for research and development.

The Law Society of British Columbia, along with other organizations, drew attention to the significant role Gladue reports play in reducing incarceration and making progress on the use of restorative justice for Indigenous peoples. The 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 Law Society requested additional resources for training more writers capable of producing Gladue reports.

The B.C. Network of Child and Youth Advocacy Centres informed the Committee that unresolved childhood trauma has a profound lifelong impact on children, families and communities, but when treated early, children have the capacity to heal from abuse. Children and youth advocacy centres provide an integrated response to crimes against children, coordinating the work of police and social workers, connecting victims to services, and navigating children and their families through complex court processes, thereby supporting children and their families to help move forward with their lives in a healthy and productive way. To enable this work to continue, the B.C. Network of Child and Youth Advocacy Centres requested ongoing, dedicated core funding for their six centres operating across the province.

Correctional Services

Prisoners' Legal Services, a program that provides legal aid assistance to federal and provincial prisoners in BC, explained to the Committee that limited care is available for the large proportion of prisoners who suffer from trauma, addiction and other mental health conditions. Instead of receiving proper treatment, they are often put in solitary confinement, resulting in a worsening of their condition. Furthermore, many of Prisoners' Legal Services' provincial clients are released into the community without adequate mental health supports, increasing the risk of recidivism. The organization therefore suggested that funding be provided to increase the availability of proper services, professionals and facilities to ensure a secure therapeutic environment and discharge process for individuals incarcerated in BC prisons who have significant mental health needs.

Representing thousands of workers in corrections, the B.C. Government and Service Employees' Union addressed the growing concerns over safety issues and escalating violence in facilities, linking the issue to high ratios of inmates to officers and overcrowding. Corrections workers face a disproportionate risk of physical and mental injury on the job, a threat that is exacerbated by factors like understaffing, recruitment and retention issues, outdated infrastructure, and inadequate training. The union proposed that an increased number of frontline staff and updated facilities would alleviate a considerable degree of danger for workers and prisoners alike.

Gender-Based Violence and Sexual Assault

The Committee heard from several non-profit organizations regarding a need for coordinated support for survivors of sexual assault. The Victoria Sexual Assault Centre stated that sexual assault rates continue to rise and proper care immediately following an assault can substantially reduce the long-term costs. They noted that in most areas of the province, there is no coordinated crisis support for survivors, and pointed specifically to their own integrated clinic, which provides confidential, secure and safe medical care and crisis support, including space for police reporting, as a model. They advocated for dedicated, predictable funding for sexual assault crisis response and integrated sexual assault clinics. A number of other organizations, including

West Coast LEAF, WAVAW Rape Crisis Centre and Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter similarly supported funding for trauma-informed, community-based and culturally appropriate programs and services. The Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter further suggested that all judgments and cases of violence against women be transcribed and made publicly available.

Living in Community, a multi-stakeholder initiative that works to foster greater understanding about sex work issues such as stigma, poverty and gender-based violence, discussed the necessity to support programs and services that promote and ensure the safety and security of individuals engaged in sex work. They noted that little to no support is available for individuals engaged in sex work who have not been trafficked, but who do experience violence, emphasizing that trafficking and sex work are different and need to be recognized as such. Moreover, not everyone is in a position to or wants to exit sex work, yet they have a fundamental right to safety and security. They argued that focusing on trafficking erases the complexity of these women's experiences, and dangerously reduces the focus of intervention to those who meet the trafficking definition.

Natural Disasters and Emergency Preparedness

The Committee received several submissions that highlighted the ongoing challenges with wildfires, floods and other climate-related natural disasters, and the importance of enhancing systems, capacities and infrastructure to prevent, detect and respond to these disasters. The Insurance Bureau of Canada shared concerns about the financial cost of severe weather events associated with climate change. Their data showed that insured damage caused by severe weather in Canada, a large proportion of which has occurred in BC, has approached or exceeded \$1 billion every year since 2009. The Insurance Bureau of Canada advocated for increased investment in measures to protect British Columbians from severe weather such as improvements to buildings, mapping technologies, and land-use planning. The Bureau would also like to see increased resources to promote awareness of and resilience to earthquake risk.

With respect to specific challenges faced by rural, remote and Indigenous communities, the Okanagan Indian Band explained that many forest service roads on the Okanagan Indian Reserve No. 1 are identified as emergency evacuation routes but are currently impassable due to lack of maintenance which leaves the community vulnerable in the event of wildfire or flood. The Band requested increased resources for road maintenance and to hire an emergency management coordinator to plan and execute emergency functions.

Several submissions highlighted problems with aging flood infrastructure and the lack of capacity for up-to-date flood planning of communities situated next to bodies of water. The Lower Fraser Fisheries Alliance, an organization working to improve capacity and assist with flood mitigation and planning for mainland Coast Salish peoples, sought funding for flood mitigation on Indigenous reserve and title lands, improved regulations that allow for modern, innovative flood mitigation techniques that are rooted in traditional knowledge, and continued support for the establishment of the First Nations emergency planning secretariat.

Emergency Equipment Needs – Nazko First Nation

On June 29, 2019 at the public hearing in Quesnel, Robert Cosma from Nazko First Nation and member of their emergency management team shared with the Committee his community's goals to make their community safer. He described their experiences with wildfires and flooding in 2017 and 2018, highlighting the impact of the weeks' long evacuations on his family, and particularly his grandparents.

Mr. Cosma explained that the nearest municipality is more than an hour and a half away and that the Nazko community lies outside of the fire department's jurisdiction. They have a number of individuals within their community trained as firefighters and first responders; however, they lack the actual firefighting equipment, and have been unable to secure capital funding to purchase it (approximately \$163,000). He emphasized that they have already had three fires this year, and having this equipment is critical to the community being able to protect itself.

Money Laundering

The Mortgage and Title Insurance Industry Association of Canada, B.C. Real Estate Association and Victoria Real Estate Board highlighted the impact of money laundering on housing affordability. These organizations explained that funding was required to help improve processes and systems to assist in preventing illegal activity. They would like to see a commitment of resources to fight money laundering, and suggested coordinated action with the federal government and stakeholders to create a comprehensive, efficient enforcement and regulatory regime. The Law Society of British Columbia also discussed money laundering, and described the rules they have adopted to ensure that lawyers do not inadvertently assist with this criminal activity.

Tobacco

According to Imperial Tobacco Canada Ltd and the Convenience Industry Council of Canada, recent estimates put the percentage of illegal tobacco in BC at 15 percent annually. They stated that this undermines provincial revenue from tobacco taxes, highlighting that revenue levels have remained relatively unchanged despite tax increases in 2013. Both organizations suggested additional enforcement efforts to address illegal tobacco.

Conclusions

The Committee acknowledged the importance of access to justice services and discussed a number of measures to enhance support in this area, including increasing funding for legal aid services. They particularly focused on the financial thresholds that determine eligibility for these services, noting barriers for individuals experiencing intimate-partner violence who may not have access to their own financial resources. Committee Members also expressed an interest in permitting notaries to provide some legal services as this may be particularly helpful in rural and remote communities where access to lawyers may be limited. They noted that not all notaries have received the same level of training in this regard, and as such, ongoing professional development and education will also be required.

Committee Members recognized wildfires and floods, and climate-related natural disasters as pressing issues. Drawing on the presentation by Nazko First Nation and their challenges with obtaining funding for equipment, they encouraged a cooperative effort by the province on emergency management to ensure that trained individuals have access to equipment to respond to disasters. Reflecting on the number of earthquakes on the Pacific Coast in recent weeks, the Committee also supported investments in earthquake awareness and preparedness.

The Committee discussed the work of child and youth advocacy centres, and agreed that these centres provide valuable supports for vulnerable children. Committee Members also recommended funding for community-based restorative justice programs, acknowledging the significant work these programs do in supporting increasing numbers of clients and the savings they generate for the justice system.

With respect to correctional services, the Committee emphasized the critical nature of discharge planning and the provision of appropriate mental health supports for individuals incarcerated in the provincial correctional system.

They also agreed on the need to fund programs and services for people affected by gender-based, intimate-partner and sexual violence, highlighting sexual assault crisis response and integrated sexual clinics as a specific area for investment.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Access to Legal Aid

67. Continue to increase funding for legal aid.
68. Address barriers and limitations to access to legal aid for British Columbians experiencing intimate-partner or gender-based violence.
69. Increase funding for community-based restorative justice practices.
70. Invest in the operational costs for child and youth advocacy centres.
71. Expand the notary scope of practice to non-contentious areas of the law by modernizing the *Notaries Act*, including ensuring ongoing professional development and education.

Correctional Services

72. Provide more in-patient services and supportive housing, access to social workers and counselling, mental health supports, and assistance with discharge planning and transportation for people incarcerated and released from the provincial correctional system.

73. Provide funding to the Forensic Psychiatric Hospital and hire mental health professionals and social workers to provide a secure therapeutic environment for people incarcerated in the provincial correctional system who have high psychiatric and mental health care needs.

Gender-Based Violence and Sexual Assault

74. Increase stable, multi-year funding for trauma-informed, community-based, culturally appropriate programs and services, including sexual assault crisis response and integrated sexual assault clinics, which support people affected by gender-based, intimate-partner and sexual violence.
75. Provide support programs and services that promote the safety and security of all individuals who engage in sex work, regardless of gender, circumstance or type of sex work, without the sole focus being on exiting or human-trafficking services.

Natural Disasters and Emergency Preparedness

76. Continue investing in prevention, mitigation, adaptation, response and recovery for wildfire, flood and climate-related natural disasters, with an emphasis on cooperating, collaborating and partnering with local and Indigenous communities.
77. Develop a culture of preparedness in BC by increasing investment in activities that promote awareness of earthquake risk and the need to be physically and financially prepared.

Social Services

The Agreements for Young Adults program was a key area of focus throughout this year's consultation, with a number of youth appearing before the Committee to share their perspectives on improving the program. Supports for children and families, including child care and access to specialized services for children and youth with special needs, was another theme. The Committee also heard about a need for continued investments in poverty reduction, as well as increased resources for employment and labour standards, and community social services.

In the online survey, social services was the fourth most common theme in response to question one regarding top three priorities. Respondents particularly highlighted a need for investments in child care, poverty reduction and supports for persons receiving income and disability assistance.

Child Care

The Committee heard from a number of organizations about the need for additional investments in child care to address ongoing shortages. The Coalition of Child Care Advocates of B.C. shared that cost of child care can place a financial strain on families and keep parents from participating in the workforce. The B.C. Poverty Reduction Coalition stated that gains from child care are particularly significant for single mothers and those on social assistance. Both organizations, along with the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, B.C. Office, suggested increasing operational funding, as well as creating a dedicated capital budget, to expand child care spaces.

The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, B.C. Office, First Call: B.C. Child and Advocacy Coalition, Living Wage for Families Campaign and the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of B.C. discussed the importance of ensuring care is affordable, and advocated for the expansion of the universal child care fee reduction program, with the goal of moving toward \$10 a day child care. The B.C. Poverty Reduction Coalition also highlighted the need to reduce child care fees, especially for low-income families.

Challenges with respect to staff training, recruitment and retention were also highlighted, with submissions emphasizing that qualified early childhood educators are a key part of a quality child care system. The YMCA of Northern B.C. pointed out that while capital and operational investments are appreciated, without early childhood educators, organizations are limited in their ability to open new centres. The Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce also drew attention to the need to train more staff, describing child care as an economic issue given the low unemployment economy and a need for more workers. A number of organizations, including the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of B.C. and the B.C. Government and Services Employees Union, suggested accelerating wage increase as a way of addressing the issue.

Children and Youth with Special Needs and Mental Health Services

Many organizations described challenges with accessing specialized services for children and youth with special needs. The Health Sciences Association of British Columbia and the B.C. Association for Child Development and Intervention both noted that a lack of funding for early intervention services creates long

waits for children and families trying to access therapies such as speech-language therapy, occupational therapy and physiotherapy. They emphasized that early intervention is critical to success, and that funding should be increased to ensure children do not age out before receiving support. The Shuswap Children's Association and Kitimat Community Development Centre suggested that base funding should be increased for non-profit agencies that provide programs and services to children and youth with special needs and their families.

The Health Sciences Association of British Columbia also identified gaps in the provision of early years mental health programming while the B.C. Association for Child Development and Intervention noted children are presenting with behavioural and mental health co-morbidities. Both organizations suggested that child development centres are well-positioned to support the mental health needs of children and families and advocated for funding and development of an accessible range of programming.

The Quesnel & District Child Development Centre focused on training, and recommended creating strategies to address gaps, as well as incentives to specifically recruit and retain professionals in rural and remote communities. Similarly, Speech and Hearing BC noted that BC has the second-lowest number of speech-language pathologists per capita of all provinces and recommended immediately adding 175 full-time speech-language pathologists to address this gap.

The At Home program was a specific focus of some submissions, with two submissions noting that the program has not been reviewed in many years. They referred to a report prepared by the BC Parents of Complex Kids for information on potential improvements. Inclusion B.C. also observed that there has been little to no investment in the funding structure since the At Home program was established over 30 years ago, and that some parents consider putting their children into care so they can receive the support services they need. They recommended increasing funding for the At Home program by at least 79 percent to match actual costs incurred by families.

Anastasia Butcher and Lenora Spencer, parents of young adults with disabilities, shared their experiences supporting their children with transitioning from youth to adult supports provided through Community Living BC (CLBC). Anastasia Butcher stated that they experienced a reduction in services and that CLBC is inadequately funded to meet the needs of people with developmental disabilities; this in turn affects their ability to be contributing members of society. Inclusion B.C. echoed the need for increased funding to CLBC, particularly the need to increase CLBC's supported living budget which supports CLBC clients in the move to independent living.

Children in Care

West Coast LEAF drew attention to financial challenges for families when a child is temporarily taken into care. They explained that in these situations, families no longer receive provincial and federal child benefits, and children are no longer considered dependents for the purposes of benefits related to income and disability assistance. This makes it difficult for parents to maintain housing, and forces low-income families into poverty; as a result, the length of separation is increased. They advocated for the maintenance of these benefits when a child is temporarily taken into care. West Coast Leaf also suggested reviewing the eligibility criteria for the extended family program to make it more accessible to the majority of kinship caregivers, observing that it applies to less than 20 percent of children living in kinship care arrangements.

Community Social Services

Board Voice Society of B.C. explained that unlike the health and education systems, community social services are delivered through a large collection of small and tenuous contracts which create staggering amounts of paperwork for government and agencies, and result in an uneven patchwork of services across the province. Several other organizations, including Archway Community Services, Vantage Point and My Artist's Corner Society, B.C., agreed that there were challenges with the funding framework, particularly with respect to procurement as current practices are not conducive to long-term sustainability, innovation or effective program delivery. Rob Goffinet also noted the need for dependable funding to enable effective planning and execution of services. Vantage Point suggested investing in existing programs that support the capacity of not-for-profits. The Federation of Community Social Services of B.C. and Board Voice Society of B.C. acknowledged the government round table that was recently set up to examine acute issues affecting the community social services sector, and advocated for funding to support the outcomes of that work.

The Committee also heard about recruitment and retention challenges within the sector. B.C. CEO Network, a network of CEOs of community social services agencies, and Archway Community Services, noted that the low wage redress program has caused inequities as union and non-union employees receive different rates of pay for delivering the same community services. The Canadian Union of Public Employees British Columbia recommended pursuing wage parity, and Inclusion B.C. suggested the development of an equitable recruitment and retention strategy.

In his presentation to the Committee, Gordon Robertson spoke about the benefits of a microboard - a small non-profit society whose sole purpose is to support a single individual with a disability. Mr. Robertson's daughter, Bree-Anna, is 33 and was born with severe cerebral palsy, requiring her to rely on others for support in all aspects of life. Being connected to a microboard has enabled Bree-Anna to lead as independent a life as possible. She is able to receive funding from CLBC and Northern Health for support staff, and the overall cost is cheaper than the cost of residential care facilities. The success of this model, however, is dependent on the ability to recruit and retain staff which remains a challenge.

Employment Standards

Committee Members heard from the B.C. Federation of Labour, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, B.C. Office, B.C. Government and Service Employees' Union and B.C. Poverty Reduction Coalition about the need to increase the budget of the Employment Standards Branch. They shared that increased funding would ensure capacity to hire employment standards officers, expand proactive enforcement and investigate complaints, educate workers and employers on their rights and responsibilities, and enable the development of a strategy to address the changing nature of work and the rise in precarious and insecure work.

The B.C. Federation of Labour suggested also increasing investments in the Labour Relations Board. They shared that the Board lacks sufficient resources to meet their mandate, highlighting their antiquated online presence and chronic understaffing. They indicated new responsibilities following legislative amendments in the spring have caused further strain.

The Association of Administrative Professional Staff at UBC discussed the importance of better supporting workers and providing flexibility to those providing care to family members. They advocated modernizing employment practices, such as legislated days for family care.

Poverty Reduction and Social Assistance

The B.C. Alliance for Healthy Living Society explained that income security is a strong predictor of health outcomes and pointed to poverty reduction as a way to improve health. The B.C. Poverty Reduction Coalition spoke about the connection between expanding education, and reducing poverty and the need to support low-income people in accessing stable, well-paying jobs by supporting meaningful, long-term training and education opportunities. Wachiay Friendship Centre Society suggested that gaming grants be considered for funding food banks, homeless outreach services, and capital investments for non-profit organizations dedicated to fighting poverty. Some organizations expressed support for the poverty reduction strategy and emphasized the need for it to be adequately funded with clear accountability measures.

Several organizations, including First Call: B.C. Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, B.C. Office, B.C. Federation of Labour, Health Sciences Association of British Columbia, Living Wage for Families Campaign and the B.C. Health Coalition, acknowledged recent increases to income and disability assistance rates, but explained that they still remain well below the poverty line. They stressed that further increases are required and should be tied to the Market Basket Measure and indexed to the cost of living. The Committee also received requests for increasing earning exemptions thresholds and removing clawback policies and other arbitrary barriers. B.C. People First and AJ Brown specifically mentioned increased earning exemptions for those receiving disability assistance and suggested this be aligned with increases in minimum wage.

Another poverty reduction measure that was highlighted was the minimum wage. The Living Wage for Families Campaign suggested that the minimum wage should be a floor that keeps workers above poverty, noting that it currently lags behind the cost of basic necessities. They also proposed making the Fair Wage Commission permanent so future increases are proactive and ground in clear rationale, noting that predictable increases would enable employers to plan in advance. The B.C. Chamber of Commerce similarly highlighted the importance of stability and certainty for both workers and owners with respect to the minimum wage, and suggested the minimum wage be indexed. Noting the significant role government plays as an employer and through procurement contracts, the Living Wage for Families Campaign also suggested government implement a living wage for direct and contracted government staff.

Youth

Agreements with Young Adults Program – Youth Perspectives

A number of British Columbians presented at public hearings across the province and sent in written and video submissions to advocate for significant enhancements to the Agreements with Young Adults (AYA) program, the primary source of support for youth formerly in care. Committee Members learned about the fear many youth experience as they approach the age of 19 and the barriers posed by the AYA program's eligibility criteria and administrative requirements, and how less than 30 percent of youth leaving care access program supports within one year. Some of the stories and observations that illustrated the issues and challenges associated with the AYA program are highlighted below.

In Vancouver, Dylan Cohen presented on behalf of Fostering Change, a campaign to support youth aging out of care through policy change and advocacy. He shared that youth aging out

of the child welfare system face inadequate outcomes, including being less likely to have good jobs, less likely to complete school and over-representation in the justice system. He noted limitations with the AYA program in that it supports youth who are already in post-secondary, leaving behind an incredibly large number without any support. He advocated for universal access for all youth who age out of care, emphasizing that investing in a universal program will pay for itself in the same budget cycle and not require additional taxes, and that the costs of adverse outcomes for youth from care are \$222 to \$268 million for every 1,000 youth that age out at 19.

Helen Proskow considers herself lucky to have received support from the AYA program; however, in her presentation on June 14, she described challenges with finding affordable housing and the impact of trauma on the ability of youth to support themselves when they age out, and how youth turn to sex work and drug abuse. She noted that she was still a child at 19 and not ready to go to school, and that many youth go to school in order to get housing through this program. She shared that youth need support to be able to stand on their own two feet - with classes, budgeting, doing taxes, and finding jobs.

At the public hearing in Castlegar, Mika Ishikawa described the challenges a youth transitioning out of care and into adulthood faces, and how this impacts their ability to be independent and access the AYA program and other supports. One challenge she highlighted is the requirement to be attending full-time school or an accredited life skills program, pointing out that only 30 percent of foster kids gain a high school diploma by the age of 19. Mika also noted that incremental investments in improving supports would be offset by savings in costs that result from inadequate support (e.g. health, justice and economic).

In Kimberley, Tif McNaughton drew on her own difficulties managing tuition fees, studies and work as a young adult, and emphasized that this is considerably more challenging for youth who age out of care at 19. While supports such as the AYA program and the tuition waiver program are in place, she stated they require more flexibility. She pointed specifically to potential challenges with financial literacy as the AYA program requires receipts and proof of need, as well as a lack of access to financial supports to address living expenses while in school.

Derek De Biasio noted that large numbers of Indigenous youth have aged out of care without financial or other supports. He added that youth with lower educational credentials and who are not proceeding to post-secondary education or training are the youth most in need of support yet these youth are not eligible for AYA program's financial and other supports.

In a video submission, Braydon Chapelas, a former youth in care, argued that supports given to youth as they age out of care is inadequate. He shared that the maximum \$1,250 a month in funding is barely enough to cover housing costs, let alone food, transportation and communication costs. As someone who has used the AYA program, he suggested changing the funding to reflect the real costs associated with living in BC.

Conclusions

Committee Members would like to thank the youth who shared their input and experiences in advocating for change to supports for youth formerly in care. The Committee highlighted this as a critical area for action, acknowledging the anxiety of turning 19 and the fact that not all youth, whether in care or not in care, are ready to be independent at that age. They discussed a number of barriers and limitations with the AYA program, including the fact youth must be in school full-time to be eligible. They strongly agreed that the AYA program needs to be significantly improved to provide more comprehensive supports to youth formerly in care.

As it relates to children and families, Committee Members noted that improving access to child care requires a comprehensive approach that includes the provision of funding to build and run child care centres, and training and education to ensure a complement of early childhood educators to staff those centres. Accordingly, early childhood education is included in Recommendation #6 under Advanced Education for areas requiring additional training capacity.

The Committee also acknowledged the importance of early intervention services for children and youth with special needs, as well as a need for increased funding for the At Home program and CLBC. Committee Members further agreed that tax benefit provisions for parents with a child in temporary care should be reviewed, noting that if parents are unable to afford to maintain their household while a child is in temporary care, it creates additional hardship that impacts family reunification.

With respect to community social services, the Committee discussed initiatives currently underway with the social services roundtable as well as ongoing work to address recruitment and retention challenges. They expressed an interest in the provision of multi-year funding to provide stability and to enable long-term planning, pointing out that government itself undertakes a three-year budgeting process that could be used as a framework for provincial funding agreements with the sector. Committee Members also supported investments in the Employment Standards Branch and the Labour Relations Board to ensure they are effectively resourced to carry out their mandates.

As it relates to poverty reduction, the Committee agreed on the need to measure and monitor outcomes. They also looked to training and education as a means of enabling low-income individuals to transition to stable, well-paying jobs. Committee Members further examined barriers related to earnings exemption policies for individuals on income and disability assistance, and suggested these policies should be reviewed with the aim of providing more flexibility.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Child Care

78. Continue to make comprehensive investments in child care to improve access and affordability.

Children and Youth with Special Needs and Mental Health Services

79. Increase funding for all early intervention services to ensure timely access to critical services, such as speech-language therapy, occupational therapy and physiotherapy, and to ensure children do not age out of early intervention services before receiving critical support.
80. Provide ongoing and appropriate funding to ensure that children and families in BC can access publicly-funded early years mental health services.
81. Increase funding for the At Home program.
82. Increase Community Living BC's global budget.

Children in Care

83. Review tax benefit provisions for parents with a child in temporary care within the context of supporting family reunification and cultural safety.

Community Social Services

84. Fund adequate training, professional development, compensation, equipment and other incentives to recruit and retain workers in the social services sector.
85. Partner and engage in integrated planning with the community social services sector across relevant ministries, including providing dependable, multi-year funding to enable effective planning and execution, with a focus on measuring and monitoring outcomes.

Employment Standards

86. Ensure adequate funding and staffing for the Employment Standards Branch and Labour Relations Board to enable them to effectively enforce employment law.

Poverty Reduction and Social Assistance

87. Provide long-term training and education to low-income individuals to enable them to transition into stable, well-paying jobs.
88. Invest in accountability measures for the poverty reduction plan that includes a comprehensive framework with cross-ministry responsibilities and investments, a gender-based lens on policy and practice, a commitment to reconciliation, and measures to reduce and prevent poverty.
89. Review the framework for earnings exemptions, including the levels and month-based structure, to remove arbitrary barriers.

Youth

90. Broaden eligibility and adopt a needs-based lens for the Agreements with Young Adults program to provide comprehensive, flexible supports to former youth in care.

Sport, Arts and Culture

British Columbians highlighted BC's creative economy and advocated for sustained investments and supports across the sector, with the Community Gaming Grants program emerging as a key area of interest. Libraries across the province were also strong proponents for their organizations in their campaign for increased funding, emphasizing the critical role libraries play in many communities. The Committee also received funding requests from several sport organizations who sought to expand their programs and facilities to promote physical literacy across the province.

Arts and Culture

Several organizations, including the B.C. Alliance for Arts and Culture and ProArt Alliance of Greater Victoria, highlighted the contributions of the arts and culture sector to the community and the broader provincial economy. In recognition of this, they encouraged a continued commitment to the arts and culture sector by increasing funding for the BC Arts Council. In a joint submission, the Kamloops Art Gallery, Kamloops Symphony and Western Canada Theatre also agreed on the need for additional investments in the arts and focused specifically on need for the BC Arts Council to address regional disparities. They noted that communities such as Kamloops must engage artists from outside the region which results in extra travel, accommodation and per diem expenses.

The Committee also heard from a number of organizations with respect to funding capital improvements for arts and culture organizations, including museums, and heritage and historic places. Heritage B.C. shared that funding in this regard would enable organizations to leverage other sources and safeguard collections, archives and heritage buildings as well as expand public access to the province's history. The Committee also received requests from the City of Vancouver for funding specific projects, including the Britannia Community Centre, a new Sunset Seniors Centre in Vancouver, and the relocation of the Vancouver Art Gallery.

Heritage B.C. also discussed the heritage sector's potential to advance reconciliation with Indigenous peoples and recommended investing in programs that support Indigenous communities in preserving and interpreting their heritage. The Gingolx Village Government noted that only five percent of their population are fluent in the Nisga'a language and requested funding for the development of a community approach to preserving the language.

In their presentation, the Exploration Place explained that many organizations provide critical informal learning opportunities to build minds and develop critical thinking. However, as non-profits, they face continuous challenges with having to constantly secure funds for programs and operations. They recommended providing stable, long-term funding to arts, culture, heritage and science organizations and centres.

Community Gaming Grants

Several arts organizations drew attention to issues with the Community Gaming Grants program. The BC Alliance for Arts and Culture spoke about inconsistencies with how eligibility is assessed and applied,

particularly with respect to the cultural sector. Both the ProArt Alliance of Greater Victoria and the Capitol Theatre Restoration Society similarly stated that the Community Gaming Grant program would benefit from further assessment and evaluation on the structure and purpose of the program to ensure organizations are empowered to provide government supported services. Other organizations advocated for increasing the grant pool for the Community Gaming Grant program and restoring multi-year funding.

Digital Media, Music, and Film

The Motion Picture Production Industry Association of B.C. and the Canadian Media Producers Association, B.C. Producers Branch recommended maintaining existing film and production services tax, explaining that the stability and reliability of the credits have been essential to building the industry. Bradley Dahl was of the view that regional tax credits could be used more strategically to expand the film industry and its benefits beyond Metro Vancouver, referencing a Creative BC report that most of the companies leveraging these credits were companies from Metro Vancouver.

Some organizations advocated for investments in post-secondary training for digital media and film programs. The Canadian Media Producers Association, B.C. Producers Branch noted that many professionals in the industry are coming close to retirement while the B.C. Chamber of Commerce highlighted the need to keep up with continued industry growth.

The Committee also received requests for increased funding for Creative BC and Amplify BC, including the BC Film Commission. The Motion Picture Production Industry Association of B.C., Music B.C., and Canadian Media Producers Association, B.C. Producers Branch noted that additional funding would provide long-term stability and enable the industry to plan ahead. They particularly highlighted the need for additional investment to leverage federal funding opportunities.

The Motion Picture Production Industry Association of B.C. also spoke about the time limits for filming on farmland, sharing that the current limit of 24 hours, ten times per year does not work for their industry and that they are hoping for additional flexibility in this regard.

The Association of Book Publishers of British Columbia recommended extending the book publishing tax credit for five years. They indicated that the value of the tax credits is estimated at \$2.8 million with BC publishers leveraging \$3.1 million in federal support through the Canada Book Fund. They noted that the tax credit has a fluctuating renewal schedule, creating instability for BC publishers and challenges with making longer-term investment and business decisions.

Public Libraries

The Committee received over 40 submissions supporting the campaign organized by the B.C. Public Library Partners to provide \$20 million in funding for public libraries. These submissions highlighted the role of public libraries in providing services for all community members as the only freely accessible public spaces for all British Columbians, and drew particular attention to the lack of funding increases since 2009. Several libraries described their own community programming and reconciliation initiatives, and the positive impact these have on their local communities. For example, Richmond Public Library shared information about the Richmond Indigenous Collaborative Table which builds relationships with Indigenous communities for the purpose of integrating Indigenous arts, artists, and cultural and heritage practices into the activities of Richmond-based community amenities and programs.

Committee Members also heard requests specific to libraries in rural, remote and Indigenous communities. The Grand Forks & District Public Library noted that libraries in urban areas promote access to the latest technology, makerspaces and program offerings; however, in Grand Forks, they struggle to simply buy enough books. They recommended investigating a more equitable funding model that addresses the needs of rural libraries. The Squamish Public Library drew attention to reconciliation initiatives between Indigenous communities and libraries, and how additional support from the province could broaden the scope of these initiatives. They also referenced challenges with access to technology and recommended funding for broadband infrastructure, training, and up-to-date equipment. The Canadian Union of Public Employees British Columbia pointed out that many Indigenous communities have little or no access to library services and recommended specific funding for library services in Indigenous communities.

Sport

According to viaSport, more than 26 percent of youth in BC aged 12 to 17 are overweight or obese, and at least 80 percent of this group will become obese adults, largely as a result of inactivity. They stated that MOVE, a provincially standardized physical activity and sport development capacity-building program, helps to address this issue by imbedding physical activity and sport development best practices across the education, recreation, sport and early-childhood education sectors. viaSport, along with the Pacific Institute for Sport Excellence, suggested providing funding for the MOVE program to enable expansion.

Promoting Physical Literacy – Right to Play’s Promoting Life-skills in Aboriginal Youth Program

On June 12, 2019 at the public hearing in Kamloops, Right to Play appeared before the Committee to request funding for the Promoting Life-skills in Aboriginal Youth program. Their presentation featured two youth, Lila Zabolot Gott and Roxanne Etienne, who participated in the program. The youth discussed the value of being able to learn from elders and knowledge keepers and how the program engaged them in new and traditional activities. They shared that the program helps young people step out of their comfort zones, make new friends, overcome shyness and learn about their culture, while providing a safe space.

Committee Members also received funding requests from: the Play Beyond Expectations Association for a pilot project to provide sport and other programming for young adults with disabilities in the Greater Victoria area; the Canadian Sport Institute Pacific for a new purpose built facility and for an Indigenous Sport School pilot project; and the Pacific Institute for Sport Excellence for improvements to their existing facility.

Conclusions

The Committee acknowledged that arts and culture and other community-based organizations face administrative challenges with having to regularly seek out and apply for funding and to budget without multi-year commitments. They encouraged the provision of multi-year funding through the B.C. Arts Council to provide this stability and predictability, while also noting a need to address disparities in the regional

distribution of grants to ensure smaller communities have access to this funding. Committee Members focused specifically on opportunities to support the preservation of Indigenous heritage, emphasizing that such initiatives must be led by Indigenous communities. They also supported infrastructure funding to address the capital needs of arts, culture and Indigenous heritage organizations.

On Community Gaming Grants, the Committee observed challenges with adjudication and decision-making when it comes to assessing and issuing grants, as well as broader challenges related to changing community needs and whether the program is designed to meet those needs. Accordingly, they agreed a review of the program should be undertaken, and in alignment with the previous discussion, they emphasized the importance of moving to multi-year grants.

The Committee supported the maintenance of existing tax credits for the creative industries, noting their contributions to the success of the sector, as well as ongoing, multi-year funding for Amplify BC, Creative BC and the BC Film Commission. They particularly noted opportunities to increase support for domestic production and the potential ability to leverage federal funding in this regard. Committee Members were also interested in restrictions with respect to filming on farmland and discussed different perspectives in terms of preserving and protecting farmland on one hand and providing flexibility to enable longer-term productions for the television and film industry.

With respect to libraries, Committee Members recognized their value and growth as community hubs that provide a range of services, and supported increased, multi-year funding. They noted the important role that libraries play in rural and Indigenous communities, particularly with respect to providing access to technology, committing to reconciliation, and providing opportunities for life-long learning. They also acknowledged that a lack of broadband connectivity in many communities hinders the ability of libraries to provide services, returning to Recommendation #23 under Economic Development to increase investments in this regard.

The Committee also supported continued investments in physical literacy, noting specific gaps and challenges with the participation of underrepresented groups. They were particularly impressed and encouraged by presenters who shared the impact and success of a number of innovative initiatives underway across the province.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Arts and Culture

91. Provide increased, predictable, multi-year funding to arts and culture organizations through the B.C. Arts Council, including addressing regional disparity issues and identifying opportunities to leverage partnerships and federal funding.
92. Increase infrastructure funding to help meet the capital needs of arts, culture and Indigenous heritage organizations to enable leveraging of other sources of funding while expanding public access to arts, culture and history.
93. Invest in funding programs that support Indigenous communities in preserving and interpreting their heritage.

Community Gaming Grants

94. Review the purpose and methodology of the Community Gaming Grants program to ensure it meets the needs of communities, including moving toward the provision of multi-year grants for community organizations.

Digital Media, Music and Film

95. Maintain existing creative industries tax credits, including the production services tax credit, the film incentive tax credit, the digital animation, visual effects and post-production tax credit, the interactive digital media tax credit and the book publishing tax credit.
96. Provide ongoing, multi-year funding for Amplify BC.
97. Invest in Creative BC and the BC Film Commission to build the industry and leverage federal funding, including funding for domestic production.
98. Review potential flexibility in the time limits for filming on farmland.

Public Libraries

99. Provide increased, predictable, transparent, multi-year funding to public libraries and support the delivery of library services in rural and Indigenous communities, including collaborating on reconciliation initiatives.

Sport

100. Provide funding for programs that support the development of physical literacy for all British Columbians, including underrepresented populations such as seniors, women, girls, and Indigenous peoples.

Transportation and Transit

Submissions and presentations emphasized the importance of transportation and transit infrastructure in ensuring choice and mobility for all British Columbians and for enabling trade and economic growth. The need for investments to address population growth, industry growth and congestion were key themes. Requests for funding spanned the full range of transportation and transit options, including HandyDART, active transportation, public transit, regional transportation, roads and highways, ports, and ferries.

In the online survey (see Appendix A), transportation and transit was the fifth most common theme in response to question one about top three priorities, with investments in active transportation and public transit frequently referenced. In question two with respect to dividing a dollar between programs and services, public transportation received 5.8 cents, and roads, highways and bridges received 3.6 cents.

Accessible Transportation

The Amalgamated Transit Union, Local 1724 shared that HandyDART is essential for many seniors to be able to live independently. Metro Vancouver Alliance similarly noted that access to safe and reliable transportation is essential for anyone with mobility challenges, and that insufficient HandyDART services result in missed medical appointments and can lead to social isolation. At the public hearing in Vancouver, Nathan Davidowicz drew the Committee's attention to recommendations made by the Office of the Seniors Advocate for improving transportation for seniors, including increasing the availability of HandyDART, and providing taxi-saver vouchers and bus buddies programs. All three pointed out that demand for accessible services is expected to increase as the population of seniors increases, and increased investments in HandyDART should be made.

Active Transportation

A number of British Columbians expressed support for the new provincial strategy on active transportation, and advocated for investments in active transportation infrastructure, education and safety. HUB Cycling stated that cycling is the fastest growing mode of transportation across the province and that cycling infrastructure is more affordable than motor vehicle or public transit infrastructure. They also reported that for every dollar invested in cycling, government receives eight dollars of savings in terms of economic, health and social impacts. The British Columbia Cycling Coalition shared that additional work is required to make active transportation universally accessible, noting challenges for those in rural communities, people with disabilities and those in poverty. They highlighted that cycling and walking are popular activities, and that investments in active transportation creates jobs, reduces traffic fatalities, increase tourism, reduces health care costs, reduces greenhouse gas emissions, increases workplace productivity, and attracts talented workers.

Several organizations and individuals focused specifically on electric bicycles and providing incentives for their purchase. Fiona Walsh highlighted that electric bicycles enable seniors and others with physical challenges to cycle and travel longer distances than they would otherwise be able to; however, the cost can be prohibitive. She suggested eliminating the PST on electric bicycles or instituting an incentive similar to that provided for electric vehicles. These suggestions were echoed by several businesses as well as cycling

advocacy organizations who further highlighted environmental and public health benefits that accrue from encouraging a shift from vehicles to electric bicycles.

BC Ferries

The Southern Sunshine Coast Ferry Advisory Committee discussed challenges with current service levels for BC Ferries, highlighting the social and economic importance of the ferry system to coastal communities. They shared that residents on the Sunshine Coast deal with regular overloads on many sailings and that waits can be between two to four hours long, particularly in the summer. They noted that this is especially problematic for those accessing medical supports and services. The organization recommended re-evaluating current service contracts and providing additional funds to BC Ferries to improve service levels.

The Victoria Real Estate Board indicated that BC Ferries is exploring potential foot passenger services between downtown Victoria and outlying communities. They suggested the province assist with this study as such a project will help to alleviate traffic congestion while opening up access to additional, affordable real estate options for those working in the downtown core.

ICBC

The Insurance Bureau of Canada noted that BC is one of only three provinces where a Crown monopoly provides auto insurance. They discussed an MNP report they commissioned with respect to increasing competition in the auto insurance industry which found that allowing private insurers to compete with ICBC would provide savings to drivers. The Insurance Bureau of Canada pointed to public polling as well as endorsements from the Canadian Federation of Independent Business and the B.C. Chamber of Commerce to lend support to their recommendation for opening auto insurance to competition. The Canadian Taxpayers Federation similarly suggested transitioning ICBC into a co-op and then opening up auto insurance to competition.

Public Transit

A number of organizations recommended providing free public transit to children and youth under 19, and free or reduced fares for low-income families. Metro Vancouver Alliance shared that fares for children impose a financial burden on families, and that youth in care are disproportionately impacted by fare evasion tickets. The B.C. Poverty Reduction Coalition and First Call: B.C. Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition stated that transit fares act as barriers to accessing education, employment opportunities and community services.

Other submissions focused on public transit infrastructure investments. The Association of Administrative and Professional Staff at UBC shared that improving public transit reduces congestion and commute times while Quadra Freestyle stressed public transit as a low carbon option that enables a growing population to get around efficiently. Eric Doherty similarly discussed shifting to lower-emitting types of transportation such as public transit as a means to address greenhouse gas emissions. The David Suzuki Foundation noted opportunities to reduce carbon emissions in the sector by prioritizing the adoption of electric buses, sharing that TransLink and BC Transit lag behind other North American cities in this regard.

The Committee also received requests for provincial funding for several projects in Metro Vancouver, including an urban gondola to Burnaby Mountain and the Broadway SkyTrain extension, as well as a general request to improve transit service in Kelowna. The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, B.C. Office noted that

public transit issues extend beyond urban areas, citing the withdrawal of Greyhound services. They stressed an urgent need for regional and long-haul transit services throughout the province and suggested supporting such services through BC Transit.

Ridesharing

The B.C. Chamber of Commerce and the Surrey Board of Trade expressed concerns with respect to ridesharing legislation and emphasized that regulations should be focused on enabling this transportation option, drawing particular attention to driver licencing requirements. They highlighted that ridesharing will provide British Columbians with additional choices for transportation while also providing income opportunities.

Roads and Highways

The Committee heard about a number of issues and challenges with road infrastructure and maintenance, particularly in rural, remote and northern communities, and received requests for funding several specific projects. The Resource Municipalities Coalition stated that remote areas of the province face unique challenges as communities often only have one major corridor of transportation. They highlighted that this infrastructure is negatively impacted by age, industrial activity and weather, drawing particular attention to increased traffic loads. The Coalition noted that these impacts will increase as industrial activity and employment grows as a result of natural resource projects in the area.

The North Peace Rural Roads Initiative also shared concerns about the state and maintenance of roads, pointing out that the region's clay terrain makes for poor road-building. They indicated this is especially problematic given the volume and weight of equipment transferred along the roads. They also stated that road bans are a problem in the area as they lose the use of road to industry for 90 days in the spring. They made a number of recommendations related to hard surfacing of key corridors, identifying roads for repair before they are destroyed, and adding pullouts.

The Meadowbrook Community Association described their efforts to address issues related to highways and side roads in their community. They made recommendations to ensure decisions are made locally and with the involvement of residents, and to review the adequacy and appropriateness of the funding allocation to the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure. They also recommended the province provide liability insurance for organizations who participate in the Adopt A Highway program, as is provided for the management of trails, as the need for insurance acts as a barrier to those wishing to volunteer their services.

Innergex recognized that the planning and cost of resource roads is the responsibility of designated users; however, they were of the view that resource roads are a provincial resource, pointing to economic benefits generated by road users. They also stated that public safety is an issue as recreational use is growing and requested public funding for these roads.

Transportation Infrastructure

Sustaining investments in transportation infrastructure is critical to address population growth and to enable trade and economic growth. The B.C. Road Builders and Heavy Construction Association highlighted that the province's transportation network not only supports the collective economic and social wellbeing of British Columbians, but also all Canadians who rely on BC ports to ship their products to global markets.

The Independent Contractors and Businesses Association drew specific attention to several priorities for multi-year funding, including creating additional container capacity at ports in Metro Vancouver and Prince Rupert. They also noted opportunities to build more fluid supply chains in the interior and north to enable responsible resource development and two-way trade with Asia.

The B.C. Trucking Association drew attention to traffic congestion and how it delays the movement of both goods and people, as well as contributes to increased greenhouse gas emissions, and advocated for investments in road infrastructure improvements. Several other submissions also discussed the link between congestion and greenhouse gas emissions, with the David Suzuki Foundation suggesting looking to best practices from other jurisdictions to implement congestion management schemes which could then be used to fund public transit.

Committee Members also received a specific request from the Gingolx Village Government for funding to improve and expand their existing harbour. They shared that they are one of the few communities with direct road access to a natural deep-sea port that is ice free year-round, and that the harbour could serve as regional marine facility and benefit surrounding communities, as well as the whole northwest, by attracting shipping and offering more marine activities for tourism and fisheries.

The Clear Seas Centre for Responsible Marine Shipping Society, an independent not-for-profit research centre that promotes safe and sustainable marine shipping, requested funding for their operations. They highlighted their contributions with respect to providing evidence-based information on the human, environmental and economic impacts of marine shipping.

Conclusions

Committee Members were impressed with the enthusiasm for investment in active transportation, noting a need to provide alternative options and encourage British Columbians to shift away from single-occupancy vehicles. They specifically identified removing the PST on the purchase of electric bicycles as an opportunity to encourage this shift. They also acknowledged the importance of HandyDART for increasing accessibility and supporting inclusion, and recommended increased funding be provided to expand services.

The Committee expressed interest in transit fares and how they could be made more affordable and accessible for youth and low-income families, suggesting that new pricing mechanisms could be explored and piloted. They also encouraged the adoption and deployment of electric buses. Committee Members further identified challenges with the provision of transportation services in rural and remote areas, and the impact this has on mobility for residents in those communities, emphasizing that solutions require partnerships and collaboration between public and private operators.

With respect to other transportation infrastructure, Committee Members recognized road and highway maintenance as a significant issue, particularly in the north where roads are impacted by industry loads, vehicles and weather. They also discussed the importance of BC Ferries to coastal communities, and the importance of the ports, marine shipping and other trade-enabling transportation infrastructure to economic growth and the movement of goods and people.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Accessible Transportation

101. Increase and expand HandyDART service.

Active Transportation

102. Invest in active transportation infrastructure, education and promotion.
103. Eliminate the PST on electric bicycles.

Public Transit

104. Work with local governments and transit authorities to explore new pricing mechanisms to help make public transit more accessible for youth and low-income families.
105. Work with public and private operators to address gaps in the provision of regional transportation services, particularly in rural and remote areas.
106. Prioritize accelerated deployment of electric buses in cities throughout the province, including the necessary charging infrastructure.

Summary of Recommendations

Advanced Education

Adult Education and Literacy

1. Provide predictable, multi-year funding to literacy outreach coordination, community adult literacy, and similar programs to stabilize literacy work and allow for innovative, long-term approaches to addressing BC's literacy needs.

Capital Funding

2. Examine providing greater flexibility in the ability to access retained earnings for student housing and other capital priorities.

Indigenous Students

3. Review eligibility and practice for the Aboriginal Service Plan and ensure equity in access to this funding across all post-secondary institutions.

Mental Health and Student Supports

4. Increase operating grants and collaborate with local communities and health authorities to expand supports for students in areas of mental health, diversity, inclusion, safety and security.

Operational Funding

5. Review the funding formula for post-secondary institutions to address funding challenges, and barriers and inequities to access.
6. Ensure operational and program funding to post-secondary institutions positions the province to respond to immediate and projected gaps in the labour market, including ensuring local training opportunities and reducing barriers for underrepresented groups; sectors to address include: agriculture, forestry, science, technology, engineering, mathematics, trades, digital media and film, early childhood education, aerospace, physiotherapy, speech-language therapy, laboratory science, and occupational therapy.

Research and Innovation

7. Establish a provincial strategy for targeted investments in research and innovation, including opportunities to leverage matching federal funding.

Tuition and Financial Assistance

8. Review and evaluate grant models to ensure funding is responsive and provides the most impactful support for reducing barriers and inequities to access.

Economic Development

Agriculture

9. Review policies, incentives and taxes, and provincial and municipal land use regulations to encourage and help grow a holistic and sustainable agriculture industry.
10. Continue to review policies and regulations related to housing on agricultural land to provide flexibility for farm families while maintaining the Agriculture Land Reserve's mandate to preserve and protect farmland.
11. Increase support for local food growers and markets, including creating networks and partnerships to address food insecurity and food poverty.
12. Support farmers with mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change and challenges with access to water, including providing funding for infrastructure such as water retention.

Business and Regulation

13. Create a business and regulatory environment that encourages growth and retention of existing businesses and attracts new and emerging businesses, industries and enterprise.

Fisheries

14. Protect and enhance the economic, social and cultural benefits that accrue to BC communities from wild salmon and all fisheries, including cross-ministry cooperation and collaboration on fisheries matters.

Forestry

15. In recognition of evolving economic, global and environmental contexts, adopt policies and measures to encourage adaptation and innovation in the forestry sector, facilitate access to fibre, and support bridging and retraining of workers.

Labour and Immigration

16. Work with the federal government to ensure BC gains global talent and skilled immigrants to address labour market gaps.
17. Ensure adequate support is in place for BC workers, particularly underrepresented groups, who are required to adapt, transfer, or upgrade their skills due to automation, technological advancements and other factors.

Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)

18. Work with federal and local governments to continuously evaluate, assess and support the work in the northwest region to maximize benefits and minimize impacts from LNG projects, including ensuring appropriate investments are made in health care, education, public safety, and infrastructure.

Mining

19. Follow through on the commitment to implement all of the recommendations from the *Mining Jobs Task Force* report for supporting a healthy and diverse workforce, realizing community benefits, enhancing BC's fiscal and regulatory competitiveness, fostering innovation, and building awareness of mining's role in a prosperous BC.

Natural Resource Development

20. Allocate more resources to natural resource ministries, including increasing staffing, in order to improve permitting, compliance and oversight.
21. Ensure thorough oversight and consultation with Indigenous peoples on natural resource development projects.
22. Provide sustainable, multi-year funding for Geoscience BC and the British Columbia Geological Survey to enable long-term programming support and planning.

Technology

23. Continue to fund and maintain dedicated programs to help extend and strengthen broadband connectivity across the province, with an emphasis on rural, remote and Indigenous communities, in recognition of the importance of connectivity to enabling economic and social development, educational opportunities and access to services.

Tourism

24. Invest in infrastructure and new tourism products, experiences and services to bolster BC's visitor economy, particularly in rural communities, including investing in accessible tourism and inclusion, cultural tourism and Indigenous tourism.

Trade

25. Continue to reduce interprovincial trade barriers and strengthen BC's ties with international trade partners, including exploring opportunities to enhance the bilateral movements of goods and labour across the Pacific Northwest.

Environment

Climate Change and Energy

26. Fully fund and support the CleanBC strategy and increase investments in shifting to clean and renewable energy, including expanding electrification for energy use.
27. Ensure an environmental lens for all infrastructure spending based on criteria consistent with BC's legislated greenhouse gas reduction goals.

Environmental Protection and Conservation

28. Advance water sustainability in British Columbia by providing a dedicated, sustainable, annual funding source for First Nations, local government, local watershed protections agencies and community partnerships.

Fish and Wildlife Conservation and Management

29. Increase funding for fish and wildlife conservation, management and data collection, including exploring potential revenue sources such as fees from hunting, fishing, natural resource and nature-based tourism enterprises for this purpose.
30. Create and fund a comprehensive species-at-risk legislation to protect and recover species, including prioritizing bio-diversity and species preservation, in consultation with communities, Indigenous peoples and the business sector.

Invasive Species

31. Establish a single Invasive Species Act and provide robust funding for education, prevention, monitoring, response and enforcement, including streamlining regulations to better monitor and manage high-risk pathways that introduce and spread invasive species, and ensuring an aggressive remediation process.

Parks and Recreation

32. Increase operational funding for BC Parks and Recreation Sites and Trails BC to support staffing, monitoring and enforcement, maintenance, public safety, and recreational infrastructure and services, including promoting and supporting volunteer efforts.

Recycling and Waste

33. Create a provincial approach to single-use plastic items.

Fiscal Policy

Budgetary Policy

34. Exercise prudent and careful fiscal discipline, while continuing to invest in services, build the economy, work toward reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, support integrated services and partnerships, and support social equality.
35. Conduct a comprehensive review of the provincial taxation system, including the carbon tax, the employer health tax, the luxury tax, the speculation and vacancy tax, and the PST, with the aim of modernizing the system, addressing unintended or unanticipated impacts, and ensuring taxation structures and policies are fair, consistent and effective.

Prompt Payment

36. Work with stakeholders to implement prompt payment legislation for the construction industry, including ensuring harmonization with prompt payment initiatives nationally.

Provincial Sales Tax (PST)

37. Increase monitoring and enforcement of BC tax laws and consider implementing public reporting for the payment of the PST by non-resident companies working in BC.

Health Care

Chronic and Complex Diseases

38. Provide appropriate supports and services for British Columbians living with chronic and complex diseases, such as diabetes, arthritis, inflammatory bowel disease, Parkinson's disease, brain injury, dementia and cystic fibrosis, including increasing funding for the Complex Chronic Disease Program at BC Women's Hospital.

Community Care and Seniors

39. Increase investments to expand the continuum of home support to residential care services, including funding for home support programs to enable seniors to age in place and funding to increase the number of residential care spaces.
40. Ensure stable, quality care in residential care facilities by reviewing and establishing minimum staffing levels, equalizing compensation, reviewing sub-contracting of care and services, and addressing recruitment and retention challenges.
41. Develop a more progressive system of payment for home support that is affordable and reflects a reasonable percentage of income to be spent.
42. Improve supports for palliative and end-of-life care, including providing respite, counselling and bereavement services for caregivers and family members.
43. Advocate to the federal government for increased federal funding for health care.
44. Explore a model for creating safe spaces for seniors who are in need of being safeguarded from abuse.

Digital Health

45. Support investments in digital health technology, including increasing the use of telehealth to support health care delivery in rural and remote communities and implementing a single electronic patient medical record.

Health Human Resources

46. Work with regulatory and credentialing bodies to streamline the approval process for internationally trained health professionals.
47. Develop a sector-wide injury prevention strategy to address violence toward health care workers.

Health Services and Pharmacare

48. Include the cost of medical examinations required by a doctor for a Class 5 Driver's Licence in the Medical Services Plan.

49. Continue to explore with the federal, provincial and territorial governments the establishment of a universal pharmacare plan.
50. Explore the provision of free contraception in a targeted and incremental manner.
51. Ensure health program spending demonstrates alignment with—and concrete actions to make progress on—the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and the Calls to Justice from the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.
52. Exempt medical cannabis sales from the PST.

Mental Health and Addiction

53. Ensure investments in the continuum of services for mental health and addiction needs, including funding for integrated, wrap-around support services with housing.

Primary Care

54. Review and consider incorporating a broader range of health professionals and providers, such as chiropractors, in team-based primary care.
55. Ensure consistency in the access to picture archiving and communication systems across all health authorities.

Public Health

56. Apply the PST to sugary drinks.
57. Provide funding for education, awareness and treatment programs to eliminate hepatitis C in BC.
58. Implement stronger regulatory measures to limit youth access to vapour products.

Rural and Remote Health Care

59. Provide equitable access to health services in rural and remote communities, including better addressing travel costs and ensuring access to reliable, timely medivac, air ambulance and emergency services and public transportation.

Housing

Density, Development and Building Codes

60. Explore ways to enable and support municipal governments, including working with various stakeholders, to increase the supply of housing and approve new housing construction projects.
61. Establish a traffic analysis framework and standard to ensure an adequate number of elevators are installed in buildings.

Homelessness

62. In partnership with local and Indigenous communities and organizations, continue to invest in homelessness prevention and encourage creative solutions to homelessness, including specific attention to the provision of supports, services and housing for youth at risk of or experiencing homelessness.

Real Estate and Mortgages

63. Review the regulatory framework with respect to limited dual agency to provide flexibility in small, rural and remote communities.

Rental Housing

64. Encourage and assist local governments to adopt a regulatory framework for short-term rentals, and address loopholes within the provincial regulatory framework with respect to the application of the PST.

K-12 Education

Capital Funding

65. Sustain capital investments in schools and ensure flexibility in the funding process for new builds, seismic upgrades and maintenance, including leveraging opportunities for modernizing facilities.

Operational Funding and Funding Formula

66. Ensure that K-12 funding is adequate in meeting the province's commitment to reconciliation, including ensuring adequate staffing for implementing culturally appropriate programming in BC schools.

Public Safety and Justice

Access to Legal Aid

67. Continue to increase funding for legal aid.
68. Address barriers and limitations to access to legal aid for British Columbians experiencing intimate-partner or gender-based violence.
69. Increase funding for community-based restorative justice practices.
70. Invest in the operational costs for child and youth advocacy centres.
71. Expand the notary scope of practice to non-contentious areas of the law by modernizing the *Notaries Act*, including ensuring ongoing professional development and education.
72. Provide more in-patient services and supportive housing, access to social workers and counselling, mental health supports, and assistance with discharge planning and transportation for people incarcerated and released from the provincial correctional system.

73. Provide funding to the Forensic Psychiatric Hospital and hire mental health professionals and social workers to provide a secure therapeutic environment for people incarcerated in the provincial correctional system who have high psychiatric and mental health care needs.

Gender-Based Violence and Sexual Assault

74. Increase stable, multi-year funding for trauma-informed, community-based, culturally appropriate programs and services, including sexual assault crisis response and integrated sexual assault clinics, which support people affected by gender-based, intimate-partner and sexual violence.
75. Provide support programs and services that promote the safety and security of all individuals who engage in sex work, regardless of gender, circumstance or type of sex work, without the sole focus being on exiting or human-trafficking services.

Natural Disasters and Emergency Preparedness

76. Continue investing in prevention, mitigation, adaptation, response and recovery for wildfire, flood and climate-related natural disasters, with an emphasis on cooperating, collaborating and partnering with local and Indigenous communities.
77. Develop a culture of preparedness in BC by increasing investment in activities that promote awareness of earthquake risk and the need to be physically and financially prepared.

Social Services

Child Care

78. Continue to make comprehensive investments in child care to improve access and affordability.

Children and Youth with Special Needs and Mental Health Services

79. Increase funding for all early intervention services to ensure timely access to critical services, such as speech-language therapy, occupational therapy and physiotherapy, and to ensure children do not age out of early intervention services before receiving critical support.
80. Provide ongoing and appropriate funding to ensure that children and families in BC can access publicly-funded early years mental health services.
81. Increase funding for the At Home program.
82. Increase Community Living BC's global budget.

Children in Care

83. Review tax benefit provisions for parents with a child in temporary care within the context of supporting family reunification and cultural safety.

Community Social Services

84. Fund adequate training, professional development, compensation, equipment and other incentives to recruit and retain workers in the social services sector.
85. Partner and engage in integrated planning with the community social services sector across relevant ministries, including providing dependable, multi-year funding to enable effective planning and execution, with a focus on measuring and monitoring outcomes.

Employment Standards

86. Ensure adequate funding and staffing for the Employment Standards Branch and Labour Relations Board to enable them to effectively enforce employment law.

Poverty Reduction and Social Assistance

87. Provide long-term training and education to low-income individuals to enable them to transition into stable, well-paying jobs.
88. Invest in accountability measures for the poverty reduction plan that includes a comprehensive framework with cross-ministry responsibilities and investments, a gender-based lens on policy and practice, a commitment to reconciliation, and measures to reduce and prevent poverty.
89. Review the framework for earnings exemptions, including the levels and month-based structure, to remove arbitrary barriers.

Youth

90. Broaden eligibility and adopt a needs-based lens for the Agreements with Young Adults program to provide comprehensive, flexible supports to former youth in care.

Sport, Arts and Culture

Arts and Culture

91. Provide increased, predictable, multi-year funding to arts and culture organizations through the B.C. Arts Council, including addressing regional disparity issues and identifying opportunities to leverage partnerships and federal funding.
92. Increase infrastructure funding to help meet the capital needs of arts, culture and Indigenous heritage organizations to enable leveraging of other sources of funding while expanding public access to arts, culture and history.
93. Invest in funding programs that support Indigenous communities in preserving and interpreting their heritage.

Community Gaming Grants

94. Review the purpose and methodology of the Community Gaming Grants program to ensure it meets the needs of communities, including moving toward the provision of multi-year grants for community organizations.

Digital Media, Music and Film

95. Maintain existing creative industries tax credits, including the production services tax credit, the film incentive tax credit, the digital animation, visual effects and post-production tax credit, the interactive digital media tax credit and the book publishing tax credit.
96. Provide ongoing, multi-year funding for Amplify BC.
97. Invest in Creative BC and the BC Film Commission to build the industry and leverage federal funding, including funding for domestic production.
98. Review potential flexibility in the time limits for filming on farmland.

Public Libraries

99. Provide increased, predictable, transparent, multi-year funding to public libraries and support the delivery of library services in rural and Indigenous communities, including collaborating on reconciliation initiatives.

Sport

100. Provide funding for programs that support the development of physical literacy for all British Columbians, including underrepresented populations such as seniors, women, girls, and Indigenous peoples.

Transportation and Transit

Accessible Transportation

101. Increase and expand HandyDART service.

Active Transportation

102. Invest in active transportation infrastructure, education and promotion.
103. Eliminate the PST on electric bicycles.

Public Transit

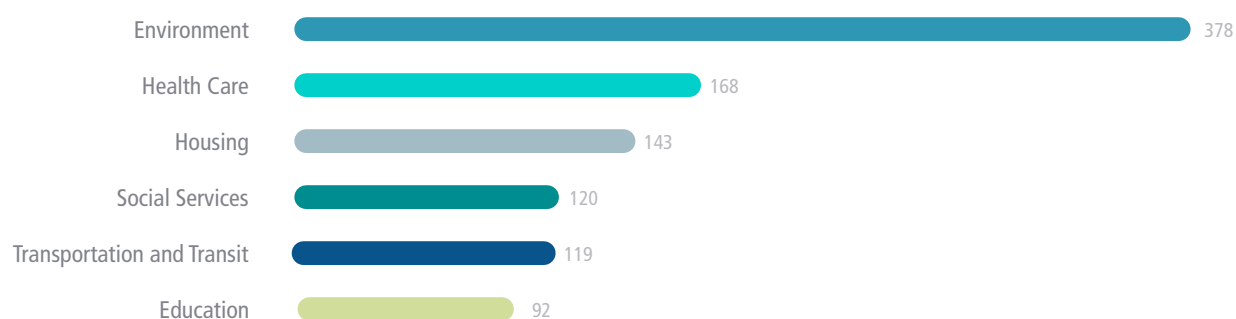
104. Work with local governments and transit authorities to explore new pricing mechanisms to help make public transit more accessible for youth and low-income families.
105. Work with public and private operators to address gaps in the provision of regional transportation services, particularly in rural and remote areas.
106. Prioritize accelerated deployment of electric buses in cities throughout the province, including the necessary charging infrastructure.

Appendix A: Survey Results

Question 1

What are your top three priorities to help make life better for you, your family and your community? (440 responses)

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



Environment was the most common theme in responses to this question. Within this theme, addressing climate change and protecting the environment, specifically old growth forests, were identified as the most significant priorities. Other priority areas included increasing funding for and access to outdoor recreational opportunities such as BC Parks, hiking and mountain bike trails, and local green spaces; and transitioning to a green economy by supporting renewable energy as well as environmental initiatives and incentives.

Health care was identified as the second priority by respondents with a focus on increasing and expanding mental health and addictions supports. Other respondents emphasized providing more funding and investing in health human resources to improve access and reduce wait times. Several respondents also recommended support for and awareness of myalgic encephalomyelitis.

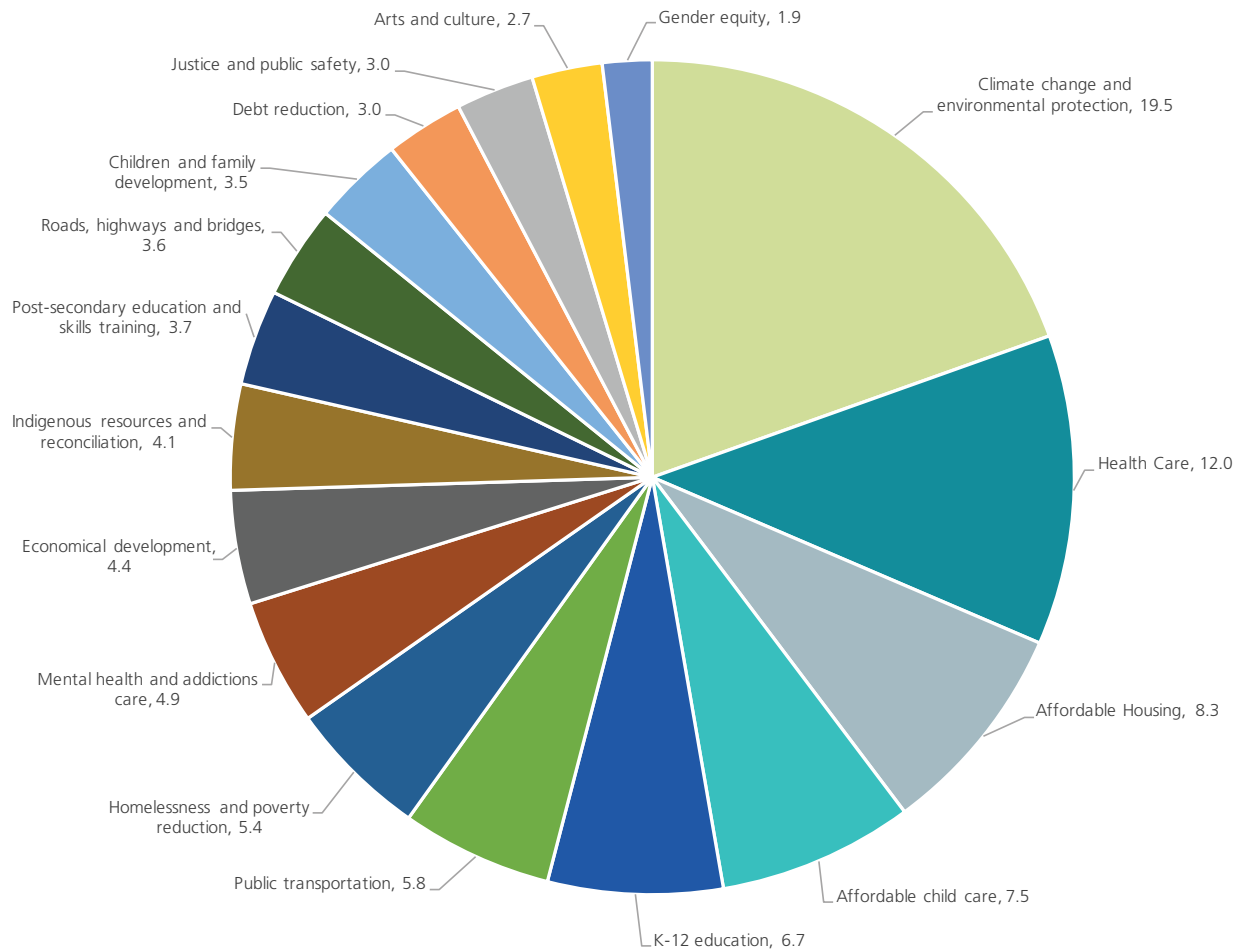
The third priority was housing with respondents specifically referencing a need for more affordable housing options for rental and home ownership, including more cooperative and low-income housing. Addressing homelessness was also identified as a priority within this theme.

Social services and transportation and transit closely followed housing as priority areas. Regarding social services, respondents focused on: increasing access to affordable, high-quality child care; implementing a poverty reduction plan; increasing support for persons with disabilities and raising income and disability assistance rates; and addressing the high cost of living by increasing wages. Within the transportation and transit category, respondents supported active transportation infrastructure such as bike lanes; and investing in public transit in both urban and rural areas. There were also several responses regarding increased funding for public education and ensuring accessible and affordable post-secondary education.

Other themes, including fiscal policy, public safety and justice, economic development, and sport, arts and culture, received less than 40 responses.

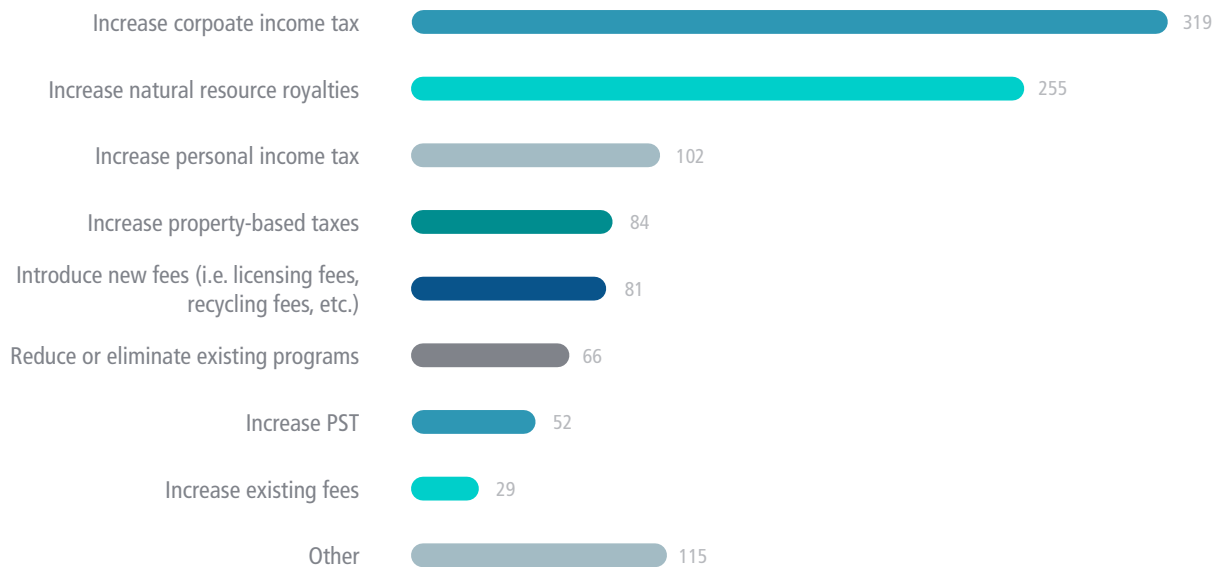
Question 2

If you had one dollar to put toward programs and services across government, how would you choose to divide it? (432 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? (434 responses)

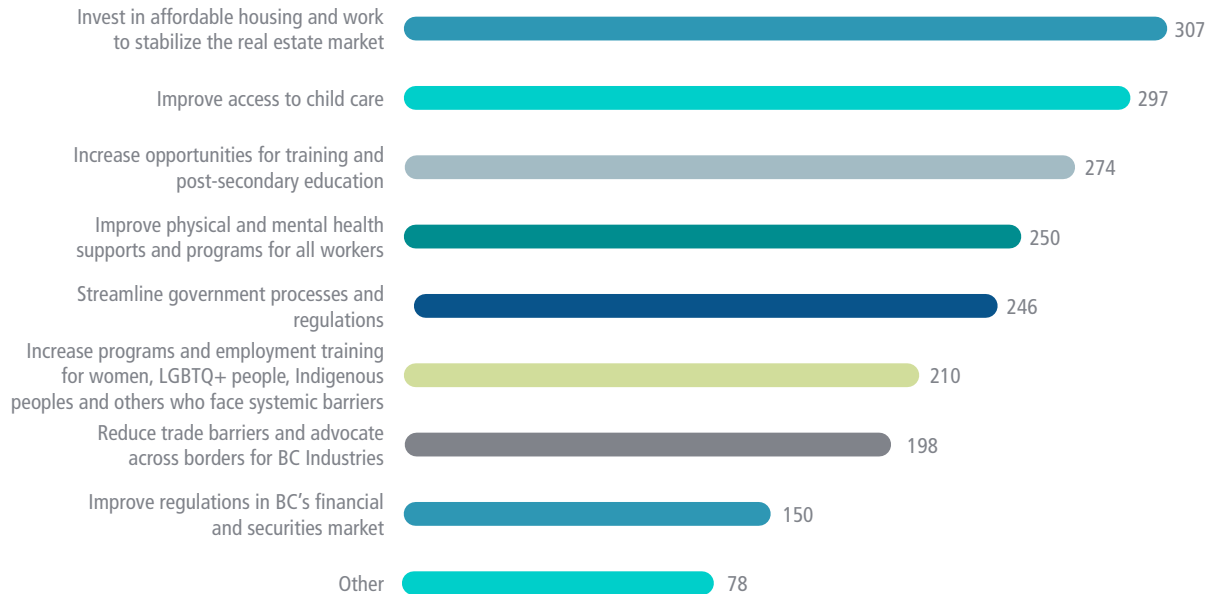


Increasing the corporate income tax and increasing natural resource royalties were the top two selected measures to pay for new and enhanced programs and services. This was followed by 'other', increasing the personal income tax, increasing property-based taxes and introducing new fees.

The 'other' category offered an opportunity for respondents to provide their own ideas for paying for new and enhanced programs and services. Many respondents suggested increasing the carbon tax and foreign-buyers tax followed closely by increasing taxation on high income earners and eliminating tax evasion; and creating a leaner, more efficient government to better manage the current budget. Other suggestions included cutting back on salaries, benefits and travel expenses in the public sector; and reducing corporate subsidies.

Question 4

What can government do to build a diverse and sustainable economy and support businesses and industries across BC? (433 responses)

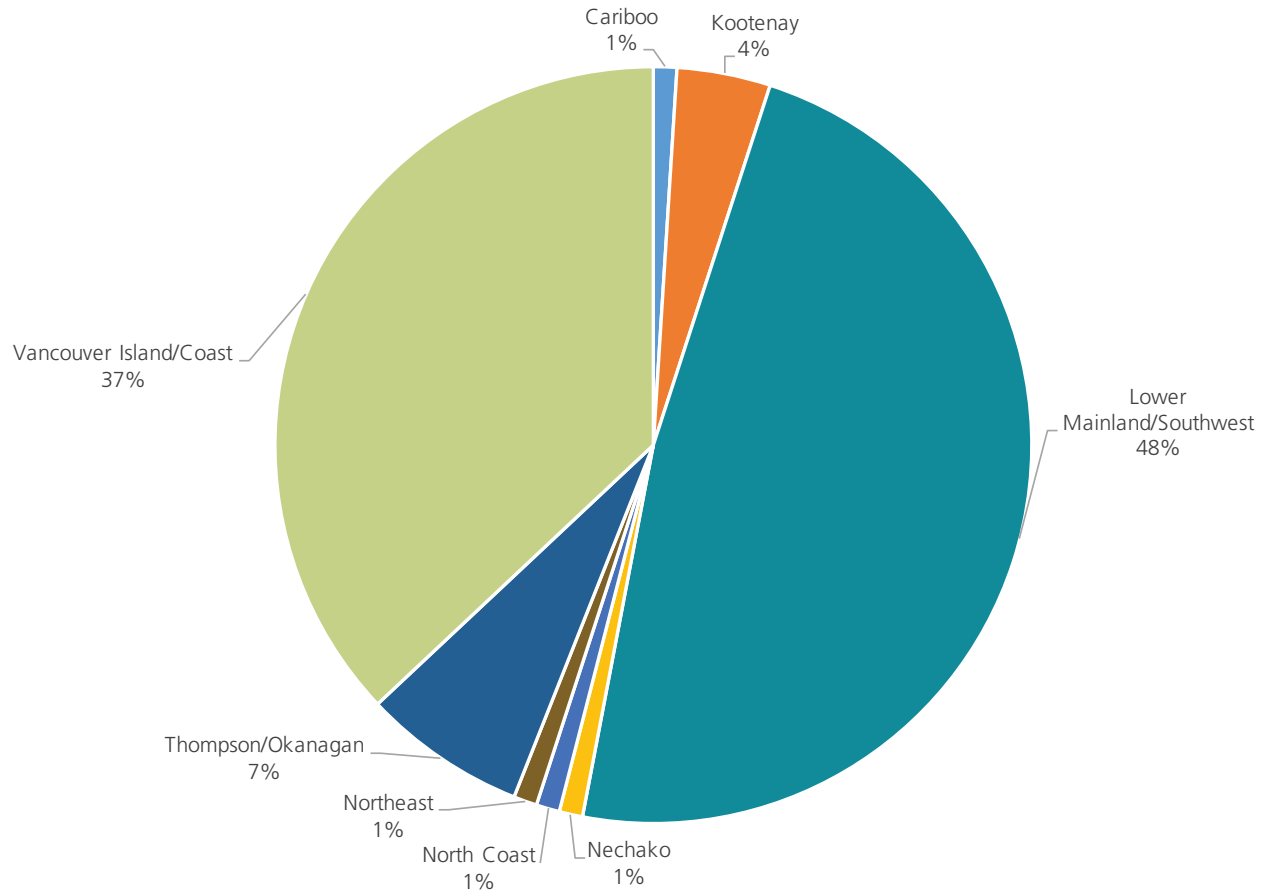


The top two selections for what government can do to build a diverse and sustainable economy and support businesses and industries were support the transition to a cleaner economy and reduce pollution, and invest in affordable housing and work to stabilize the real estate market. This was followed by increase opportunities for training and post-secondary education and improve access to child care. Less support was expressed for the remaining options.

In the “other” category, the most common suggestion was to invest in transportation, including public transit and active transportation. Other ideas included protecting the environment, specifically old growth forests, and investing in renewable energy and ecotourism, and increasing funding for health care and education.

Question 5

Please identify your region. (433 responses)



Appendix B: Public Hearing Participants

- A Way Home Kamloops, Fred Ford, Katherine McParland (12-Jun-19, Kamloops)
- AccessBC Campaign for Free Prescription Contraception, Dr. Teale Phelps Bondaroff (10-Jun-19, Colwood)
- Advocates for SD73, Julie Dormer, Chris Ponti, Kerri Schill (12-Jun-19, Kamloops)
- Alliance of B.C. Students, Gurvir Gill (20-Jun-19, Abbotsford)
- Alzheimer Society of B.C., Maria Howard, Jennifer Stewart (21-Jun-19, Surrey)
- Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of B.C., Theresa McCurry (21-Jun-19, Surrey)
- Appraisal Institute of Canada, British Columbia, Steve Blacklock (13-Jun-19, Courtenay)
- Archway Community Services, Christina Bhalla, Najib Raie (20-Jun-19, Abbotsford)
- Association for Mineral Exploration British Columbia, Jonathan Buchanan, Dr. Rob Stevens (20-Jun-19, Abbotsford)
- Association of Administrative and Professional Staff at UBC, Joey Hansen, Sarah Muff (12-Jun-19, Kelowna)
- B.C. Alliance for Arts and Culture, Brenda Leadlay (14-Jun-19, Vancouver)
- B.C. Association of Farmers' Markets, Heather O'Hara (21-Jun-19, Surrey)
- B.C. Care Providers Association, Daniel Fontaine, Mike Klassen (20-Jun-19, Abbotsford)
- B.C. Common Ground Alliance, M.J. Whitemarsh (10-Jun-19, Colwood)
- B.C. Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils, Andrea Sinclair (21-Jun-19, Surrey)
- B.C. Family Hearing Resource Society, Lisa Cable (20-Jun-19, Abbotsford)
- B.C. Federation of Labour, Laird Cronk (18-Jun-19, Prince George)
- B.C. Fruit Growers' Association, Glen Lucas (11-Jun-19, Castlegar)
- B.C. Gaming Industry Association, Peter Goudron, Chuck Keeling (21-Jun-19, Surrey)
- B.C. Government and Service Employees' Union, Robert Duffy, Simon Kelly, Stephanie Smith (14-Jun-19, Vancouver)
- B.C. LNG Alliance, Bryan Cox (14-Jun-19, Vancouver)
- B.C. Network of Child and Youth Advocacy Centres, Sandra Bryce, Brooke McLardy, Leah Zille (14-Jun-19, Vancouver)
- B.C. Notaries, Rimpdy Sadhra (20-Jun-19, Abbotsford)
- B.C. People First, Michael McLellan (13-Jun-19, Courtenay)
- B.C. Road Builders and Heavy Construction Association, Kelly Scott (20-Jun-19, Abbotsford)
- B.C. Sustainable Energy Association, Tom Hackney (10-Jun-19, Colwood)
- B.C. Wildlife Federation, Alan Martin (13-Jun-19, Courtenay)
- B.C. Wildlife Federation, Region 2 (Lower Mainland), Chuck Zuckerman (14-Jun-19, Vancouver)
- B.C. Wildlife Federation, Region 5 (Cariboo-Chilcotin), Kenneth Last (19-Jun-19, Quesnel)
- B.C. Wildlife Federation, Region 7B (Peace-Liard), Gerry Paille (19-Jun-19, Fort St. John)
- Barkerville Historic Town and Park, Ed Coleman (19-Jun-19, Quesnel)
- BC SCRAP-IT Program, Dennis Rogoza (10-Jun-19, Colwood)
- BC SPCA, Craig Daniell (21-Jun-19, Surrey)
- bc211, Danalee Baker, Rob Conley, Louise Ghoussoub (12-Jun-19, Kamloops)
- BCEdAccess Society, Tracy Humphreys (10-Jun-19, Colwood)
- BCIT Student Association, Stewart McGillivray, Steven Palfrey (21-Jun-19, Surrey)
- Board Voice Society of B.C., Jody Paterson (10-Jun-19, Colwood)
- Boating B.C. Association, Lisa Geddes, Don Prittie (10-Jun-19, Colwood)
- Bridge Youth and Family Services Society, Celine Thompson, John Yarschenko (12-Jun-19, Kelowna)
- British Columbia Anesthesiologists' Society, Dr. Brad Merriman (21-Jun-19, Surrey)
- British Columbia Chiropractic Association, Angie Knott, Clark Koncza (20-Jun-19, Abbotsford)
- British Columbia Construction Association, Chris Atchison (13-Jun-19, Courtenay)
- British Columbia Cycling Coalition, Richard Campbell (20-Jun-19, Abbotsford)
- British Columbia Dental Association, Jocelyn Johnston, Dr. James Singer (11-Jun-19, Castlegar)
- British Columbia Federation of Students, Tanysha Klassen, Michael Olson (13-Jun-19, Qualicum Beach)
- British Columbia Hotel Association, Tyson Andrykew (12-Jun-19, Kamloops)
- British Columbia Real Estate Association, Trevor Hargreaves, Sheila Love (17-Jun-19, Prince Rupert)
- British Columbia Schizophrenia Society, Andrew Stewart (19-Jun-19, Fort St. John)
- British Columbia School Trustees Association, Stephanie Higginson (13-Jun-19, Qualicum Beach)
- British Columbia Seafood Alliance, Christina Burrridge (17-Jun-19, Prince Rupert)

British Columbia Stone, Sand and Gravel Association, Tyson Craiggs (20-Jun-19, Abbotsford)

British Columbia Teachers' Federation, Glen Hansman (21-Jun-19, Surrey)

British Columbia Yacht Brokers Association, Paul Shield, Rom Van Stolk (13-Jun-19, Qualicum Beach)

AJ Brown, Cindy Haner (interpreter) (14-Jun-19, Vancouver)

Sean Bujtas (18-Jun-19, Kitimat)

Anastasia Butcher (17-Jun-19, Prince Rupert)

Camosun College Faculty Association, Chris Ayles (10-Jun-19, Colwood)

Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists, Sarah Charles (13-Jun-19, Courtenay)

Canadian Bar Association, B.C. Branch, Margaret A. Mereigh (10-Jun-19, Colwood)

Canadian Cancer Society, B.C. and Yukon, Jenny Byford, Alison Clancey, Dr. Sandra Krueckl (14-Jun-19, Vancouver)

Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, B.C. Office, Iglia Ivanova (14-Jun-19, Vancouver)

Canadian Freshwater Alliance, Danielle Paydli (13-Jun-19, Courtenay)

Canadian Home Builders' Association of British Columbia, Alycia Coulter (14-Jun-19, Vancouver)

Canadian Media Producers Association, B.C. Producers Branch, Kim Roberts, Liz Shorten (21-Jun-19, Surrey)

Canadian Mental Health Association, British Columbia Division, Canon Fung, Kendra Milne, Jonny Morris (20-Jun-19, Abbotsford)

Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, British Columbia Chapter, Sarah McNeil (12-Jun-19, Kamloops)

Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, British Columbia Chapter, Savannah Eidse (12-Jun-19, Kelowna)

Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, British Columbia Chapter, Victoria Ball (21-Jun-19, Surrey)

Canadian Society for Medical Laboratory Science, Maria Klement (11-Jun-19, Castlegar)

Canadian Taxpayers Federation, Kris Sims (19-Jun-19, Quesnel)

Canadian Union of Public Employees British Columbia, Paul Faoro, Karen Ranalleta (12-Jun-19, Kelowna)

Canuck Place Children's Hospice, Denise Prail (12-Jun-19, Kamloops)

Capilano Students' Union, Harpreet Singh, Josh Thomas (21-Jun-19, Surrey)

Cariboo Mining Association, Jackie Sarginson, Rick Wittner (19-Jun-19, Quesnel)

Cement Association of Canada, Ken Carrusca (21-Jun-19, Surrey)

Chartered Professionals in Human Resources of British Columbia and Yukon, Susan Ryan, Kristi Searle (20-Jun-19, Abbotsford)

Child Development Centre of Prince George and District, Tanya Klassen, Darrell Roze (18-Jun-19, Prince George)

Childhood Obesity Foundation, Dr. Tom Warshawski (12-Jun-19, Kelowna)

Sarah Chown (20-Jun-19, Abbotsford)

Chute Lake Lodge and Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association, Patrick Field, Mike Overend (12-Jun-19, Kelowna)

City of Kimberley, Don McCormick (11-Jun-19, Kimberley)

City of Port Coquitlam, Laura Dupont (14-Jun-19, Vancouver)

City of Prince George, Kris Dalio, Mayor Lyn Hall (18-Jun-19, Prince George)

City of Quesnel, Mayor Bob Simpson (19-Jun-19, Quesnel)

City of Terrace, Mayor Carol Leclerc (18-Jun-19, Kitimat)

Coalition of Child Care Advocates of B.C., Sharon Gregson (11-Jun-19, Kimberley)

College of New Caledonia, Henry Reiser, Tara Szerencsi (18-Jun-19, Prince George)

College of the Rockies, Dianne Teslak, David Walls (11-Jun-19, Kimberley)

College of the Rockies Faculty Association, Joan Kaun (11-Jun-19, Kimberley)

Ken Collier (20-Jun-19, Abbotsford)

Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy, Andra Louie (11-Jun-19, Kimberley)

Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society, Robyn Hooper (12-Jun-19, Kamloops)

Comox Valley Coalition to End Homelessness, Andrea Cupelli (13-Jun-19, Courtenay)

Comox Valley Families for Public Education, Shannon Aldinger (13-Jun-19, Courtenay)

Confederation of University Faculty Associations of British Columbia, Annabree Fairweather, Dr. Jacqueline Holler (18-Jun-19, Prince George)

Convenience Industry Council of Canada, Victor Vrsnik (12-Jun-19, Kelowna)

Cowichan Watershed Board, Chair Ian Morrison, Tom Rutherford, Chief William Seymour (10-Jun-19, Colwood)

Cridge Centre for the Family, Brain Injury Services, Geoff Sing (10-Jun-19, Colwood)

Cruise Lines International Association, Donna Spalding (10-Jun-19, Colwood)

Bradley Dahl (12-Jun-19, Kelowna)

Nathan Davidowicz (14-Jun-19, Vancouver)

Geoff Dean (21-Jun-19, Surrey)

Deloitte, Jamie Sawchuk (10-Jun-19, Colwood)

Destination Greater Victoria, Paul Nursey (10-Jun-19, Colwood)

District of Kitimat, Rob Goffinet (18-Jun-19, Kitimat)

Douglas Students' Union, Mitchel Gamayo, Abigail Mitro (21-Jun-19, Surrey)

Brian Downie (18-Jun-19, Kitimat)

DTES Literacy Roundtable, William Booth, Lucy Alderson (14-Jun-19, Vancouver)

East Kootenay Invasive Species Council, Kendal Benesh (11-Jun-19, Kimberley)

Ecotrust Canada, Tasha Sutcliffe (17-Jun-19, Prince Rupert)

Ekona Power, Chris Reid, Gary Schubak (20-Jun-19, Abbotsford)

Elders Council for Parks in British Columbia, Colin Campbell (10-Jun-19, Colwood)

Elk River Alliance, Paul von Wittgenstein (11-Jun-19, Kimberley)

Emily Carr Students' Union, Selina Huang (20-Jun-19, Abbotsford)

The Exploration Place, Tracy Calogheros (18-Jun-19, Prince George)

The Federation of Community Social Services of B.C., Richard FitzZaland (10-Jun-19, Colwood)

Federation of Post-Secondary Educators of British Columbia, Sean Parkinson, Terri Van Steinburg (21-Jun-19, Surrey)

First Call: B.C. Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition, Adrienne Montani (14-Jun-19, Vancouver)

Fostering Change, Dylan Cohen (14-Jun-19, Vancouver)

Fostering Change, Gretchen Robinson (21-Jun-19, Surrey)

Friendship House Association of Prince Rupert, Anna Zanella (17-Jun-19, Prince Rupert)

Genome BC, Dr. Pascal Spothelfer (14-Jun-19, Vancouver)

Geoscience BC, Gavin Dirom, Carlos Salas (21-Jun-19, Surrey)

Gingolx Village Government, Claude Barton, Steven Doolan, Chief George Moore, John Moore, Gloria Murdock-Smith, Gwen Nelson, Henry Stephens (18-Jun-19, Kitimat)

Graduate Student Society at Simon Fraser University, Matthew McDonald (21-Jun-19, Surrey)

Greater Vancouver Association of the Deaf, Forrest Smith, Jessica Siegers (interpreter) (21-Jun-19, Surrey)

The IBD Centre of BC, Dr. Greg Rosenfeld (14-Jun-19, Vancouver)

Imperial Tobacco Canada Ltd, Sébastien Charbonneau (12-Jun-19, Kamloops)

Innergex Renewable Energy, Julia Balabanowicz (14-Jun-19, Vancouver)

Insurance Bureau of Canada, Aaron Sutherland (12-Jun-19, Kelowna)

International Mountain Bicycling Association, AJ Strawson (14-Jun-19, Vancouver)

Mika Ishikawa (11-Jun-19, Castlegar)

Jones Boys Boats, Casey McKinnon (11-Jun-19, Castlegar)

Kamloops and District Fish and Game Association, Thomas Koester (12-Jun-19, Kamloops)

Kamloops Art Gallery, Kamloops Symphony and Western Canada Theatre, Kathy Humphreys, Evan Klassen, Charo Neville (12-Jun-19, Kamloops)

Kamloops Society for Alcohol and Drug Services, Phoenix Centre, Sian Lewis (12-Jun-19, Kamloops)

Kelowna Chamber of Commerce, Jeff Robinson (12-Jun-19, Kelowna)

Jody Kennett (14-Jun-19, Vancouver)

Kitimat Community Development Centre, Marianne Hemmy (18-Jun-19, Kitimat)

Kwantlen Faculty Association - Local 5 FPSE, Bob Davis, Romy Kozak (21-Jun-19, Surrey)

Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Dr. Salvador Ferreras, Marlyn Graziano (21-Jun-19, Surrey)

Kwantlen Student Association, David Piraquive (20-Jun-19, Abbotsford)

Lake Windermere Ambassadors, Shannon McGinty (11-Jun-19, Kimberley)

Langara College, Lisa Fisher, Viktor Sokha (14-Jun-19, Vancouver)

Langley Teachers Association, Tanya Kerr (11-Jun-19, Kimberley)

Law Society of British Columbia, Jason Kuzminski, Elizabeth Rowbotham (10-Jun-19, Colwood)

Lana LeBlanc (10-Jun-19, Colwood)

Literacy Quesnel Society, Rebecca Beuschel (19-Jun-19, Quesnel)

Living Lakes Canada, Avery Deboer-Smith (11-Jun-19, Castlegar)

Lower Fraser Fisheries Alliance, Gillian Fuss (20-Jun-19, Abbotsford)

LUSH Valley Food Action Society, Maurita Prato (13-Jun-19, Courtenay)

Jan Manning (18-Jun-19, Prince George)

Manufacturing Safety Alliance of B.C., Lisa McGuire (14-Jun-19, Vancouver)

Tif McNaughton (11-Jun-19, Kimberley)

ME/FM Society of BC, Brian Murland, Sheila Murland (19-Jun-19, Quesnel)

Meadowbrook Community Association, Robert Johnstone (11-Jun-19, Kimberley)

Merck, Leslie Foord, Lee Swift (21-Jun-19, Surrey)

Mid Island Farmers Institute, Arzeena Hamir (13-Jun-19, Courtenay)

Mining Association of British Columbia, Michael Goehring, Lindsay Kislock (20-Jun-19, Abbotsford)

Savita Mitra, Sheri Wood (12-Jun-19, Kelowna)

Motion Picture Production Industry Association of B.C., Peter Leitch (20-Jun-19, Abbotsford)

Music B.C., Rob Calder, Lindsay MacPherson (20-Jun-19, Abbotsford)

Nanaimo District Teachers' Association, Denise Wood (13-Jun-19, Courtenay)

National Elevator and Escalator Association, Hilary Cole, Christian von Donat (14-Jun-19, Vancouver)

Nazko First Nation, Emergency Management Team, Robert Cosma (18-Jun-19, Kitimat)

Nechako Environment and Water Stewardship Society, Wayne Salewski (18-Jun-19, Prince George)

Nechako Watershed Roundtable, Dr. Margot Parkes (18-Jun-19, Prince George)

New Car Dealers Association of B.C., Blair Qualey (20-Jun-19, Abbotsford)

Andrea Nicki (14-Jun-19, Vancouver)

North Island College, Dr. Lisa Domae, Colin Fowler (13-Jun-19, Courtenay)

North Island College Faculty Association, Shirley Ackland, Janis Almond, Erin McConomy (13-Jun-19, Courtenay)

North Island Students' Union, Carissa Wilson (13-Jun-19, Courtenay)

The North Matters, John Borgens (18-Jun-19, Kitimat)

North Peace Rural Roads Initiative, Karen Goodings, Jackie Kjos (19-Jun-19, Fort St. John)

North Shore Restorative Justice Society, Dr. Brenda Morrison (14-Jun-19, Vancouver)

Northern Lights College, Anndra Graff (19-Jun-19, Fort St. John)

Office of the Seniors Advocate, Isobel Mackenzie (20-Jun-19, Abbotsford)

Okanagan and Similkameen Invasive Species Society, Lisa Scott, Barb Stewart (12-Jun-19, Kelowna)

Okanagan College Faculty Association, Sharon Mansiere (12-Jun-19, Kelowna)

Okanagan Indian Band, Val Chiba (12-Jun-19, Kelowna)

Okanagan Regional Library, Don Nettleton (12-Jun-19, Kelowna)

Pacific Hepatitis C Network, Alicia Kobeck, Daryl Luster (20-Jun-19, Abbotsford)

Pacific Institute for Sport Excellence (PISE), Robert Bettauer, Stacey Lund (13-Jun-19, Qualicum Beach)

Pacific Legal Education and Outreach Society, Martha Rans (14-Jun-19, Vancouver)

Parent Advocacy Network for Public Education (PAN), Galen Hutcheson, Maggie Milne Martens (21-Jun-19, Surrey)

Parkinson Society British Columbia, Jean Blake, Gail Soliski (13-Jun-19, Courtenay)

Peace River North Teachers' Association, Mary Tremain, Michele Wiebe (19-Jun-19, Fort St. John)

Peachland Watershed Protection Alliance, Patricia Dunn (12-Jun-19, Kelowna)

Pearson College UWC, Désirée McGraw, Carly Milloy (10-Jun-19, Colwood)

Physiotherapists for Northern Communities, Christina Conrad, Hilary Crowley (18-Jun-19, Prince George)

Wes Pidgeon (20-Jun-19, Abbotsford)

Prince George Backcountry Recreation Society, Dave King (18-Jun-19, Prince George)

Prince George Chamber of Commerce, Todd Corrigan (18-Jun-19, Prince George)

Prince Rupert District Teachers' Union, Raegan Sawka (17-Jun-19, Prince Rupert)

Prince Rupert Unemployed Action Centre, Paul Lagace, Dave Smith (17-Jun-19, Prince Rupert)

Professional Employees Association, Scott McCannell (10-Jun-19, Colwood)

Helen Proskow (14-Jun-19, Vancouver)

Quesnel & District Child Development Centre, Lynn Mathiesen (19-Jun-19, Quesnel)

Quesnel Cattlemen's Association, Sage Gordon, Jennifer Roberts (19-Jun-19, Quesnel)

Tina Rader (12-Jun-19, Kelowna)

Real Estate Board of Greater Vancouver, Harriet Permut (21-Jun-19, Surrey)

Realistic Success Recovery Society, Susan Sanderson (21-Jun-19, Surrey)

Regional District Central Kootenay, Paris Marshall Smith, Nelson Wight (11-Jun-19, Castlegar)

Regional District of East Kootenay, Rob Gay (11-Jun-19, Kimberley)

Research Universities' Council of British Columbia, Blair Littler (20-Jun-19, Abbotsford)

Restaurants Canada, Mark von Schellwitz (20-Jun-19, Abbotsford)

Retail Council of Canada, Greg Wilson (21-Jun-19, Surrey)

Rhayne Retieff (21-Jun-19, Surrey)

Right To Play, Rozanne Etienne, Emily Gibson, Lila Zabotel Gott, Lisa McColl (12-Jun-19, Kamloops)

Bree-Anna Robertson, Gordon Robertson (18-Jun-19, Prince George)

Deborah Rutman (10-Jun-19, Colwood)

Kerri Schill (12-Jun-19, Kamloops)

School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay), Chris Johns (11-Jun-19, Kimberley)

School District No. 36 (Surrey), Greg Frank, Shawn Wilson (20-Jun-19, Abbotsford)

School District No. 38 (Richmond), Kenneth Hamaguchi, Scott Robinson, Debbie Tablotney, Roy Uyeno (21-Jun-19, Surrey)

School District No. 39 (Vancouver), Janet Fraser, Estrellita Gonzalez (14-Jun-19, Vancouver)

School District No. 41 (Burnaby), Jen Mezei (20-Jun-19, Abbotsford)

School District No. 43 (Coquitlam), Barb Hobson (21-Jun-19, Surrey)

School District No. 60 (Peace River North), Erin Evans (19-Jun-19, Fort St. John)

School District No. 62 (Sooke), Margot Swinburnson, Scott Stinson (10-Jun-19, Colwood)

SelfDesign Learning Foundation, Amber Papou (12-Jun-19, Kamloops)

Selkirk College, Angus Graeme (11-Jun-19, Castlegar)

Selkirk College Faculty Association, Dr. Lui Marinelli (11-Jun-19, Castlegar)

Seniors Advocacy Service, Susan MacNeill, Ruth Scoullar (19-Jun-19, Quesnel)

Simon Fraser University, Sobhana Jaya Madhavan, Dr. Andrew Petter (21-Jun-19, Surrey)

Jessie Smith (14-Jun-19, Vancouver)

SONS (Save Our Northern Seniors), Margaret Little, Mavis Nelson (19-Jun-19, Fort St. John)

South Island Wellness Society, Lila Underwood (10-Jun-19, Colwood)

Speech and Hearing BC, Sherri Zelazny (21-Jun-19, Surrey)

Spinal Cord Injury Organization of B.C., Nancy Harris, Pat Harris, Heather Lamb (19-Jun-19, Quesnel)

Spruce City Wildlife Association, Dustin Snyder (18-Jun-19, Prince George)

Standing Water Nation, Robin Tavender (14-Jun-19, Vancouver)

Gale Stewart (20-Jun-19, Abbotsford)

Surrey Board of Trade, Anita Huberman (20-Jun-19, Abbotsford)

Surrey Teachers' Association, Julia MacRae (21-Jun-19, Surrey)

Take a Hike Foundation, Deb Abma-Sluggett, Gordon Matchett (14-Jun-19, Vancouver)

Tamitik Status of Women, Michelle Martins (18-Jun-19, Kitimat)

Bud Taylor (13-Jun-19, Courtenay)

Thompson Rivers University, Brett Fairbairn, Jim Thomson (12-Jun-19, Kamloops)

Thompson Rivers University Faculty Association, Dr. Thomas Friedman (12-Jun-19, Kamloops)

Thompson Rivers University Students' Union, Manuela Ceballos, Leif Douglass, Kole Lawrence (12-Jun-19, Kamloops)

Tourism Industry Association of B.C., Walt Judas (20-Jun-19, Abbotsford)

Town of Qualicum Beach, Scott Harrison (13-Jun-19, Qualicum Beach)

Tuition Freeze Now, Annie Bhuiyan, Kayla Phillips (20-Jun-19, Abbotsford)

UBC Alma Mater Society, Cristina Ilnitchi, Patrick Meehan (14-Jun-19, Vancouver)

UBC Students' Union Okanagan, Taylor Dotto, Sarah Furgason, Ali Poostizadeh (12-Jun-19, Kelowna)

Umbrella Society, Evan James, Sharlene Law (10-Jun-19, Colwood)

Unifor, Local 514, Don Vye (13-Jun-19, Courtenay)

United Way Northern British Columbia, Trista Spencer, Sarrah Storey (18-Jun-19, Prince George)

United Way of the Lower Mainland, Kahir Lalji (20-Jun-19, Abbotsford)

University of British Columbia Okanagan, Deborah Buszard (12-Jun-19, Kelowna)

University of the Fraser Valley Faculty and Staff Association, Sean Parkinson (20-Jun-19, Abbotsford)

University of Victoria, Carmen Charette (10-Jun-19, Colwood)

Vancouver Community College Faculty Association, Taryn Thomson (13-Jun-19, Qualicum Beach)

Vancouver Infectious Diseases Centre, Dr. Brian Conway (21-Jun-19, Surrey)

Vancouver Island Federation of Hospices, Terri Odeneal (13-Jun-19, Courtenay)

Vancouver Island Restorative Justice Association, Bruce Curtis (13-Jun-19, Qualicum Beach)

Vancouver Island University Faculty Association, Chris Jaeger (13-Jun-19, Courtenay)

Vancouver Island University Students' Union, Brynn Joyce, Sarah Segal (13-Jun-19, Courtenay)

Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter, Karla Gjini (14-Jun-19, Vancouver)

Vantage Point, Alison Brewin, Mark Friesen (21-Jun-19, Surrey)

viaSport, Trisha Davison (11-Jun-19, Castlegar)

Victoria Hospice Society, Tom Arnold, Kevin Harter (10-Jun-19, Colwood)

Victoria Residential Builders Association, Casey Edge (10-Jun-19, Colwood)

Victoria Sexual Assault Centre, Integrated Sexual Assault Clinic, Grace Lore (10-Jun-19, Colwood)

Village of Chase, Alison Lauzon (12-Jun-19, Kamloops)

Wachiay Friendship Centre Society, Michael Colclough, Roger Kishi (13-Jun-19, Courtenay)

Fiona Walsh (14-Jun-19, Vancouver)

Watershed Watch Salmon Society, Lina Azeez (20-Jun-19, Abbotsford)

West Coast Environmental Law, Andrew Gage (10-Jun-19, Colwood)

Wildsight, John Bergenske (11-Jun-19, Kimberley)

Williams Lake and District Chamber of Commerce, Paul French (19-Jun-19, Quesnel)

Doug Wright (20-Jun-19, Abbotsford)

YMCA of Northern B.C., Amanda Alexander (18-Jun-19, Prince George)

Dr. Michael Zlotnik (14-Jun-19, Vancouver)

Appendix C: Written and Video Submissions

Michael Abernethy	B.C. Federation of Fly Fishers, Jessie Blake	Michael Cambridge
Rachel Ablack	B.C. Health Coalition, Nadine Nakagawa	Elizabeth Campbell
Colleen Adrian	B.C. Humanist Association, Ian Bushfield	Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, Aaron Miller
Aerospace Industries Association of Canada - Pacific, Taylor Briggs	B.C. Lodging and Campgrounds Association, Joss Penny	Canadian Federation of Independent Business, Richard Truscott
Cassandra Aguado-Wallis	B.C. Poverty Reduction Coalition, Trish Garner	Canadian Life and Health Insurance Association, Sarah Hobbs
Elaine Allen	B.C. Principals' and Vice-Principals' Association, David DeRosa	Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society and West Coast Environmental Law, Kate MacMillan and Linda Nowlan
Louise Alvarez	B.C. Public Library Partners, Babs Kelly	Canadian Sport Institute Pacific, Wendy Pattenden
Amalgamated Transit Union, Local 1724, Mark Beeching	B.C. Tech Association, Jill Tipping	Capital Regional Housing Corporation, Robert Lapham
Ancient Forest Alliance, Olaf Lokken	B.C. Trucking Association, Dave Earle	Capitol Theatre Restoration Society, Stephanie Fischer
Ancient Forest Alliance, Loren Greig-Green	Premica Baines	Cariboo-Chilcotin Partners for Literacy Society, Shelly Joyner
Ancient Forest Alliance, Andrea Inness	Craig Banks	Judy Carlson
Robert Angus	Charlotte Bell	Michael Carpenter
Bill Appledorf	Marion Bergevin	Daniel Carriere
Archer Adventure Company Inc., Matthew Trotter	Peter Bibbings	Jessica Carson
Megan Ardyche	Susan Bibbings	David Carter
Angus Argyle	Nicole Bichard	Castlegar & District Public Library, Kimberly Partanen
Jason Arnold	Bike Abbotsford, James Evans	Braydon Chapelas
Arthritis Research Canada, Patti Nakatsu	Alexandra Biliske	Emma Chart
The Arthritis Society B.C., Christine Basque	Kimberly Bitensky	Chartered Professional Accountants of British Columbia, Vivian Tse
Association of Book Publishers of British Columbia, Heidi Waechter	Deborah Bledsoe	Daija Chartrand
Mitra Atma	Amanda Blied	William Chase
Aurora Cannabis Inc., Bryan MacLeod	Sheila Bonny	Maranda Cherry
Aurora Industrial Machines Inc., Carlos Carvalheiro-Nunes	Boundary Invasive Species Society, Debbie Bhattacharya	Chetwynd Public Library, Meliss Millsap
B.C. Agriculture Council, Reg Ens	Raymond James Bradbury	Chad Christie
B.C. Alliance for Healthy Living Society, Rita Koutsodimos	Lisa Bramson	City of Richmond, Malcolm Brodie
B.C. Association for Child Development and Intervention, Jason Gordon	Nathan Brine	City of Rossland, Kathy Moore
B.C. Association of Institutes + Universities, Ruth Wittenberg	Lynne Brookes	City of Surrey, Doug McCallum
B.C. Brain Injury Alliance, Don Anderson	Barbara Brown	City of Vancouver, Liz Jones
B.C. CEO Network, Brenda Gillette	Building Owners and Managers Association of British Columbia, Damian Stathonikos	City of West Kelowna, Rebecca Narinesingh
B.C. Chamber of Commerce, Dan Baxter	Burnaby Public Library, Lorraine Shore	Axel Clarke
B.C. Colleges, Jack Bowman	Dejah Busch	R Clarke
	Business Council of British Columbia, Jock Finlayson	Arianna Clarke-Watts
	Dr. Kathy Cadenhead	

Clean Energy Association of B.C., Martin Mullany	Per Doner	Sandra E. Foss
Clear Seas Centre for Responsible Marine Shipping Society, Peter Ellis	Nadia Doucet	Roman Francisty
CloserCommutes.org, Bruce Batchelor	Downtown Surrey Business Improvement Association, Elizabeth Model	Fraser Basin Council, Mike Simpson
Coast Mountain Bike Trail Association, Mike Fischer	Marie Ducharme	Fraser Valley Brain Injury Association, Carol Paetkau
Community Legal Assistance Society, Laura Johnston	Amanda Dueck	Fraser Valley Mountain Bikers Association, Rocky Blondin
Greg Cook	William Duguid	Fraser Valley Regional Library, Gayle Martin
Council of Senior Citizens Organizations of B.C., Gudrun Langolf	Michael Dunlop	Dr. Barbara Freitas
Covenant House Vancouver, Krista Thompson	Dan Durston	Friends of the Grand Forks and District Public Library, Della Mallette
Al Cowan	Liz Earle	Friendship House Association of Prince Rupert, William Gye
Cranbrook Public Library Board of Trustees, David Clark	Easter Seals B.C. and Yukon, Tracy Lakeman	Anselm Garbe
Creston Valley Public Library Board, Joan Hedstrom	E-B Strategy, Stephen Elliott-Buckley	Geoff Gardner
Crisis Intervention and Suicide Prevention Centre of B.C., Stacy Ashton	Ecopath Planning, Eric Doherty	Talia Garner-Smith
Emma Cross	Shelby Edgington	Marria Gauley
Rachel Cruse	Kemp Edmonds	John Geddes
Nikolas Cuff	Bruce Edwards	Steve Giltrow
Cystic Fibrosis Canada, Ian Waters	Electrical Contractors Association of British Columbia, Deborah Cahill	Global Automakers of Canada, David C. Adams
Doug Darlington	Elkford Public Library, Sandra Takenaka	Vahini Govender
Florence Daurelle	Seth Ellerbeck	Renee Grahame
Greg Davey	Jack Emberly	Grand Forks & District Public Library, Cari Lynn Gawletz
David Suzuki Foundation, Ian Bruce	Enbridge, Amanda Affonso	Steve Grant
Caspar Davis	Kyla Epstein	Greater Vancouver Board of Trade, David Van Hemmen
Derek De Biasio	Esquimalt Neighbourhood House Society, Mary Lynn McKenna	Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce, Jim Zeeben
Deborah Deacon	Amanda Evans	Greater Victoria Public Library Board, Deborah Begoray
Penny Deck	Carl Evers	Greenwood Public Library, Anne Rayner-Gould
Decoda Literacy Solutions, Margaret Sutherland	Kim and Dwight Evoy	Derrick Grimmer
Marc DeGagne	Faculty Association of the College of New Caledonia, Jan Mastromatteo	Philip Groves
Peter Dent	Tina Farmilo	Bonnie Guan
Patrick Devine	Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C., Barry Janyk	Evan Guengerich
Tiara Dhenin	Colleen Finley	Sandra Guilbert
Diabetes Canada, Joan King	Finning International Inc., Elisha McCallum	Robert Haist
Dietitians of Canada, Lisa McKellar	First Nations Fisheries Council of British Columbia, Susi Porter-Bopp	Beverley Hall
Marquis Diment	Alix Flavelle	Jack Hall
Robert Dingle	Eileen Floody	Patrick Hall
Dirty Girlz Bike Club, Hazel Prince	Fort Nelson & District Chamber of Commerce, Bev Vandersteen	Kathryn Hardy
District of Sooke, Maja Tait	Fort Nelson Community Literacy Society, Seanah Roper	Beverly Harper
Zoe-Rae Dixon	Fort St. John Public Library Association, Karlene Duncan	Drea Harrison
Nancy Dolan	FortisBC, Jordan Bell	Rob Hasenwinkle
		Elisabeth Hazell

Health Sciences Association of British Columbia, Karen-Marie Perry	Sarah Labadie	Andrew Millen
Daryl Henderson	Land Trust Alliance of British Columbia, Paul McNair	Ryan Moase
Juliet Henderson-Rahbar	LandlordBC, David Hutniak	Alan Moran
Jackie Hendrix	Courtney Lang	Leah Morgan
Heritage B.C., Paul Gravett	D. Langevin	Mortgage and Title Insurance Industry Association of Canada, Ed Steel
Darcy Higgs	Sara Langlois	Michael Mouat
Hunter Hill	Lee Larkin	Eric Mulholland
Teresa Hitch	Marnie Latour	Tristan Musick-Miller
Eric Hoffman	Jim Lauder	My Artist's Corner Society, B.C., Ruth MacLennan
Jesse Holth	Mary Lavin	Nakusp Public Library, Paula Rogers
Rainey Hopewell	Scott Lawrance	Nanaimo Women's Resource Centre, Chantelle Spicer
Natexa Horpestad	Terry Lawrence	Levi Nelitz
Hospital Employees' Union, Lou Black	Michael Layland	Nelson and District Museum, Archives, Art Gallery and Historic Society, Anna Purcell
Housing Central, Jill Atkey	Michelle Lebeau	Nelson Kootenay Lake Tourism Society, Dianna Ducs
Marie-Claire Howard	Jun Sian Lee	Mike Nelson Pedde
HUB Cycling, Erin O'Melinn	Hilary Leighton	Nelson Public Library, Tracey Therrien
Inclusion B.C., Karla Verschoor	Brenda Lenahan	Joan Nesbitt
Independent Contractors and Businesses Association, Chris Gardner	Eddie Li	New Westminster Public Library, Julie Spurrell
Alex Inselberg	Christopher E Lightfoot	Cary Newfeldt
Invasive Species Council of B.C., David Bennett	Lillooet Area Library Association, Jane Duber	Brian Ngan
Roz Isaac	Lujia Liu	North Vancouver City Library, Stephen Smith
Laura Isaacs	Living Wage for Families Campaign, Halena Seiferling	North Vancouver District Public Library, Kristine Mactaggart Wrigt
Karen Iwachow	Kate Macdonald	Martha O'Brien
Tristan Jack	Dirk MacKenzie	Tim O'Hearn
Bob Jacobs	Colin Mackintosh	Okanagan Basin Water Board, Anna Warwick Sears
Michael Jacobson	Susan Mackintosh	Okanagan College, Allan Coyle
Steven Jones	Mathew Maddaloni	Okanagan College Students' Union, Brianne Berchowit
JDRF, Abidah Shamji	Paula Maisonville	Graciela Orlando
Andi Johansen	Jennifer Maksymetz	Mary Lou Oswald
Patricia Johnston	Chad Manley	Bruce Ott
Colleen Joseph	Jordan Manley	Our Water B.C., Danielle Paydli
Houman Kabiri Parvizi	Maple Ridge Pitt Meadows and Katzie Community Network, Sunny Schiller	Outdoor Recreation Council of B.C., Louise Pedersen
A Kalbun	Michael Marcoux	Pacific Autism Family Network, Sergio Cocchia
Susan Karamessines	Donna Marentette	Marianna Padolsky
Kaslo & District Public Library Association, Eva Kelemen	Krysta Mazure	Jordan Palmer
Roberta Keith	Lisa McAllister	Millan Patel
Michael Kennedy	McBride & District Public Library, Naomi Balla-Boudreau	
Samantha Killick	Catherine McQuaid	
Katherine Kofler	Tanja McQueen	
Stephanie Korolyk	William McQueen	
(Gerald) Paul Krainer	Deraek Menard	
John Kramer	Metro Vancouver Alliance, Tracey Maynard	
Frederick Kwong		

Alana Paxa	Resort Municipality of Whistler, Acting Mayor Ralph Forsyth	The Shuswap Trail Alliance, Phil McIntyre-Paul
J. Pearson		
Pedego Electric Bikes Canada, Leith Paganoni	Resource Municipalities Coalition, Michael Whalley	Silva Forest Foundation, Herb Hammond
Pedego Electric Bikes Oyama, Sheila Fraser	Melissa Ricci	Bill Sirett
Barbara Pedrick	Judy Richardson	Lotte Sloan
Pemberton Dirt Bike Association, Bryn Hughes	Richmond FarmWatch, Laura Gillanders	Linda Smart
Penticton Public Library, Linda King	Richmond Public Library, Susan Walters	John Smith
Stuart Phillips	Ruth Riddell	Matthew Smith
Play Beyond Expectations Association, Brian Gray	Dana Riester	Smithers Community Services Association, Caroline Bastable
PMV (Project Management Volunteers), Shawn Hawkins	Helen Ritts	Nancy Snyder
Rod Polden	Rolling Justice Bus, Steve Gray	Social Environmental Alliance, Larry Wartels
POLIS Water Sustainability Project, Rosie Simms	Jade Rosen	Society for the Protection and Care of Seniors (Trail), Margaret Crawford
Port Moody Public Library, Marc Saunders	Jeffrey Rosnau	Sooke Family Resource Society, Nicky Logins
Portable Electric, Julie Strilesky	Shannon Rosnau	South Island Mountain Bike Society, Alan Soraya
Eri Pow	Rossland Public Library Board, Catherine Spence	Southern Sunshine Coast Ferry Advisory Committee, Diana Mumford
Powell River Brain Injury Society, Deborah Dee	Robin Round	Julian Spencer
Sheila Pratt	Trina Rowles	Lenora Spencer
Prince George Brain Injured Group Society, Alison Hagreen	Sonja Ruffell	Pieter Spyker
Prince George Public Library, Mike Gagel	Joan Rush	Rachel Spyker
Prisoners' Legal Services, Jennifer Metcalfe	Salmo Valley Public Library, Valene Foster	Squamish Off-Road Cycling Association, Helen Beynon
ProArt Alliance of Greater Victoria, Doug Jarvis	Salt Spring Island Public Library, Karen Hudson	Squamish Public Library, David Gayton
D. Matthew Proctor	Shirley Samples	Gail Star
Prostate Cancer Canada, Larissa Moniz	Liza Schmalcel	STEPUP, Jonathan Rubenstein
Graham Proulx	Susan Schoenhals	Ray Stevenson
Quad Riders ATV Association of B.C., Kim Smith	School District No. 42 (Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows), Korleen Carreras	Thomas Stewart
Quadra Freestyle, Michelle Marcus	School District No. 93 (Francophone School Board), Sylvain Allison	Sunshine Coast Regional District, Tracey Hincks
Nima Rabbani	Darlene Schopman	Surfrider Foundation, Gillian Montgomery
Roy Radu	Katherine Schult	Surrey District Parent Advisory Council, Anissa Rimer Ly
Jenn Raffler	Robert Schwob	Surrey Public Library, Surinder Bhogal
Sally Ramsay	Sechelt Public Library Association Board, Susan Egerman	Brian Tattrie
READ Surrey/White Rock Society, Allan Quigley	David Segal	Tax Executives Institute, Chantal Groulx
Heike Reher	Stefan Seller	Grant Taylor
Bruce Reid	Andrea Sevilla	Teaching Support Staff Union, Simon Fraser University, Scott Yano
Hilary Reid	Robin Shackleton	Teck Resources Limited, Tom Syer
Charles Reif	Shaw Communications, Kiersten Enemark	TELUS, Kyle Marsh
Michael Reilly	Scott Sheoherd	Misty Teteris
	Michele Sherstan	Susan Thiele
	Erin Shewchuk	
	Yvonne Shewfelt	
	Shuswap Children's Association, June Stewart	

Robert Thompson	West Vancouver Memorial Library, Jenny Benedict
Thompson Rivers University Open Learning Faculty Association, Mark Salopek	Lynn Westcott Lynne Wheeler
Julie Thomson	Whistler Public Library, Bevin Heath Ansley
Ariane Tisseur	Laurel Wiebe
Carole Tootill	Andrew Wilczynski
Hedwidge Toupin	Wildhorse Cycling Club, Ryan Hamilton
Town of Creston, Mayor Ron Toyota	Roberta Williams
Trails Society of B.C., Ciel Sander	Douglas Wilson
TRIUMF, Sean Lee	Karen Wonders
Todd Turik	Lucia Wong
Stephen Tyler	William Woods
UBC School of Social Work, Richard Sullivan	Katherine Wright
University of British Columbia, Eerik Ilves	Christopher Wu
Urban Development Institute, Pacific Region, Mary Anne McMullin	Stuart Wylie
Diane Van Oostdam	Yarrow Intergenerational Society for Justice, Chanel Ly
Vancouver Island North Training and Attraction Society and the Regional District of Mt. Waddington, Pat English	Hans Yodzis
Vancouver Island Water Watch Coalition, June Ross	Vanessa Yuen
Vancouver Public Library, John Schaub	Bernhard Zender
Vancouver Public Library, Champlain and Collingwood Branches, Alexis Greenwood	
Krista Vander Griend	
Abigail Ververda	
Victoria Electric Bikes, Linda Pucci	
Victoria Real Estate Board, Cheryl Woolley	
David Volkert	
Carol Vonk	
Moira Walker	
Pamela Walker	
Dan Wall	
Hugh Waller	
Thomas Warden	
Taylor Watson	
WAWAW Rape Crisis Centre, Dalya Israel	
Andrew Webb	
Janet Webster	
Nakulah Webster	
West Coast LEAF, Elba Bendo	

Appendix D: Survey Participants

Michael Achuff	Lindsay Blair	Wanda Coxon	Stephanie Fischer
Ellen Agger	Dave Blake	Jeremy Cragg	Melodie Flook
John Alexander	Alison Bledsoe	Nancy Craig	Saeedeh Foghani
Jim Alix	Rocky Blondin	Andrew Cripps	Benjamin Foster
George Allen	William Boham	Blake Crouch	Amber Fox
Darlene Anderson	Virginia Bonner	Sharon Crowley	Rob Fuller
Lynell Anderson	Michelle Bowlen	Andrew Cuthbert	Karen Funk
Gwen Andres	Landon Bradshaw	Davina Davies	Richelle Funk
Matt Aquin	Isabel Brenzinger	Caspar Davis	Lynda Gagne
Megan Ardyche	Chris Brower	Terry Davis	Andy Gallacher
Mike Armstrong	Bill Brown	Denise de Montreuil	Mario Garcia
Jason Arnold	Phil Brownhill	Penny Deck	David Garrison
Yuri Artibise	Danielle Brufatto	Trevor Demerse	Denis Gautier
Keely Arychuk	Allan Buium	Jason Ocean Dennie	John Geddes
Truls Asdal	Amanda Burnett	Ian Dennis	Monique Genton
Crystal Ashe	Ian Bushfield	Agnes d'Entremont	Marla Gerein
Michael Atkinson	Shayna Bussey	Jessica Derynck	Lani Gibson
Hilary Avis	Thomas Cameron	Mel Dick	Lesley Gibson
Noor Azeez	Elizabeth Campbell	Katerina Dimitriadis	Eleanor Gill
Tyler Bacon	Jackie Campbell	Michelle Dixon	Dominic Girard
Adam Bailey	Richard Campbell	Gwendolyn Donaldson	Dino Giurissevik
Friday Bailey	Ben Cardoen	Alexander Dove	Andrew Godon
Janice Baker	Neal Carman	Kegan Doyle	Brent Goodman
John Baldwin	Susan Cathcart	Darren Draper	Barbara Gordon
Evelyn Bally	Maranda Cherry	Cian Dudley	William Graham
Vik Banerjee	Eric Chi	Corinne Dulberg	Brian Gray
Alan Bardsley	Ellen Chiu	Jason Duncan	Parker Gray
Katie Barthel	Brandon Chow	David Dunne	Darren Gregory
Jordan Barton	Ben Chudnovsky	Corinne Durin	Lizzy gregson
Carolyn Bateman	Rita Chudnovsky	Bruce Edwards	Sharon Gregson
Ted Battiston	Mark Churchill	Susan Ellard	Maksym Grenkov
Candace Batycki	Nick Clark	Seth Ellerbeck	Daman Grewal
Lara Beckett	Karen Coelho	Dale Englemark	Kelsey Grmek
Erik Beerepoot	Rena Cohen	Michael English	Philip Groves
Jan Beintema	Rachel Collard	Ron Erdman	Patricia Gudlaugson
Patrick Belliveau	Frans Compeer	Pooya Esfandiar	Frank Gundermann
Curtis Belsham	Delorus Cooper	Janet Fairbanks	Rebecca Haber
Tessa Bendig	Shawn Corrado	Tina Farmilo	Alexadner Hall
Roland Benesocky	Darcelle Cottons	Martin Feuchtwanger	Jack Hall
Alexandra Biliske	John Courtney	Jay Fiddler	Sarah Hanson
Jason Blackman	Al Cowan	Stephanie Fischer	Susan Harney

Jane Harper	Cynthia King	Mar MartÁñez de Saavedra	Natalie Ord
Frank Harris	Sheri Kinney	Álvarez	Graciela Orlando
Margaret Harris	Siv Klausen	Michelle Martin	Tanya Osborne
Chris Herbert	Sherry Klepsch	Keiran Maskell	Kirby Ottenbreit
Adam Highway	Michelle Knowles	John Mattatall	Maryann Ouellet
Janice Hiles	Nadja Komnenic	Kathleen Maxwell	Jay Page
edna Hobbs	John Kramer	Lisa McAllister	Kayla Papalia
Linda Hof	Roy Kregosky	Gabriela McBee	Gabrielle Parent
Danielle Hollander	Dr. Frederick Kwong	Clayton McCann	Roy Parkinson
Margaret Holm	Anja Lacombe	Jessica McKeil	Barb Parrott
Rita Holmes	Peter Lake	Mary Lynn McKenna	Kindle Parsons
Darrel Holubowich	Kenneth Lane	Neil McNeill	Shreyas Patankar
William Hood	Kees Langereis	Carey McPherson	Dharti Patel
Tom Howie	John Langrish	Derek Menard	Sheila Paul
Jacky Hughes	Nicholas Lauga	Yvonne Mendel	Evan Pearcy
Douglas and Catherine Hull	Leona Lebrun	Alison Merton	Angela Persaud
Dennis Humes	Jun Sian Lee	Beat Mertz	Jenna Peters
Eric Michael Hundere	Vanessa Lefebvre	Barb Mikkelsen	Dan Petersen
Evelyn Hunter	Cecile Leung	Onni Milne	Roberta Petrusa
Melanie Hyde	Patrick Leung	Ken Mitchell	Teale Phelps Bondaroff
James Inkster	Wilson Li	Sue Moen	Daniel H. Phelps
Andrea Inness	Adrienne Lindsay	Stephanie Molina	Jo Phillips
Mohammad Ismail	Michael Linehan	Catherine Mounsteven	Cedar Pidgeon
Benson Izunwanne	Katrina Ling	John Mullane	Lisa Pillott
Justin Jackson	Gwen Litchfield	Cheryl Munro	Adrian Piloto
Nancy Jackson	Todd Litman	Pam Munroe	Lauren Pinkerton
Patricia Jacobson	Cynthia Lockrey	Terra Murdoch	Bob Plummer
Bill James	Sarah Louie	Peter Nadler	Rodney Polden
Sarah James	Lorna Louise	Sharon Newman	George Popp
Ben Jamir	Greg Louttit	V. Ng	Erin Porter
Neal Jennings	Adrian Low	Brian Ngan	James Porter
Glenn johnson	Jessica Lowe	Scott Noble	Adrian Powell
Rory Johnston	Jessica Lu	Jennifer Nordahl	Hazel Prince
Chris Jones	Shannon Luttmer	Ryan Norrish	Graham Proulx
Julia Jungwirth	Quinn MacDonald	Marlowe Northcott	Nima Rabbani
A. Kalbun	Jocelyn Maccougall	Gemma Norton-Wilks	Sarah Raiser
Leona Kampman	Sandra Macievich	Mitchell Nurse	Debbie Rampersad
Sahar Kanani	Bob MacKie	Steve Oates	Frederick Rathje
Adam Kanczula	Ruth MacLennan	Dan O'Connell	Frances Rautenbach
Roberta Keith	Richard Mahler	Kate O'Donoghue	Alyson Rawes
Roslind Kellett	Kristina Manson	Christine O'Fallon	Brock Rawstron
Bobbi Kennedy	Yanhong Mao	Kristin Ohm-Pedersen	Derek Read
Alyssa Kennelly	Michelle Marcus	Mab Oloman	Bob Reardon
Lynda Kerr	Yvonne Marcus	Erin O'Melinn	Nadene Rehnby
Hyacinthe Khodja	Richard Mari	Stephen O'Neill	Debbie Reid
Lane Killick	James Marshall	Akiko Onuma	Sherry Rhodenizer

Andrew Riddehough	Wes Spooner
Lucia Rincon	Alana Spragg
Shauna Robertson	Donald Springford
Krista Robinson	Genny Stancheva
Jana Ronne	Leelan Stanjek
Brian Rooney	Morgan Stewart
Stanley Rosen	Paul Stewart
Joan Rosenberg	Darren Stone
Jeffrey Rosnau	John Strathearn
Kathryn Rosnau	Deborah Sundberg
Shannon Rosnau	Mike Teed
Kyle Ross	Kay Teschke
Elise Rozander	Heidi Tester
Joan Rush	Andrea Thompson
Katherine Ryan	Marc Thorup
Rajeeta Samala	Tom Tiedje
Shirley Samples	Danielle Tilley
Ciel Sander	Carole Tootill
Sunny Schiller	Katalin Toreky Paziuk
Martyn Schmoll	Stephen Tyler
Susan Schoenhals	Vivian Vaillant
Darlene Schopman	Marilyn Van Imschoot
Diana Schroeder	Joan Vance
Emily Sergent	Lawrence Vea
Lisa Severn	Heidi Vien
Eva Sharell	Sunny Virk
Garry Shearer	Vanessa Waechtler
Adam Shelley	Dan Wall
B Lynn Shepherd	Jonathan Waller
Ian Shepherd	A. Watson
Michele Sherstan	Andreas Weaver
Sarah Shipley	Jane Welton
Jeannine Silvestrone	Hope West
Alanna Simms	William West
Daamiann Skelton	Alexi White
Lisa Slakov	Rowena Wi
Shaun Smakal	Tyler Wilkes
Amy Smith	Janet Will
Craig Smith	Trevor Williams
Justin Smith	Tyler Wilson
Matthew Smith	Ian Wish
Tom Soloshy	Mark Wood
Judy Spearing	Tara Wren
Katherine Spence	Cyra Yunkws
Julian Spencer	Ehsan Zahedinejad
Chantelle Spicer	Chris Ziebarth

