



BUDGET 2023 CONSULTATION

StrongerBC
for everyone



Over the last two years, British Columbians have faced extraordinary challenges, from the ongoing health crises of the COVID-19 pandemic and poisoned drug supply to powerful climate disasters that saw communities devastated by wildfires, floods and

mudslides. Government acted quickly to get people through the turmoil safely together and protect lives and livelihoods. We adapted quickly to the changing needs of people, businesses and communities by ensuring targeted supports were available to those who needed it most. We're not through it yet, but we're making progress together.

One hundred thousand jobs were created in the province last year, and B.C. continues to be a leader in Canada's economic recovery. While global economic shifts impact the cost of living here at home, we're continuing to look for ways to keep bringing costs down for families and improving the services they rely on.

We're building on the progress made by continuing to cut child-care costs, building more affordable homes than ever before and strengthening health and mental health care services. We're making investments to fight climate change and better protect people and communities from its effects, while creating a sustainable plan for economic growth that works for everyone, not just those at the top. We're facing big challenges in B.C., but we know we make progress by continuing to invest in people.

Making life better for everyone also means investing in our work with Indigenous Peoples to increase access to culturally-appropriate health care, mental health care and justice, as well as a new Declaration Act Secretariat to bring the Province's laws into harmony with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. We know there's more work to do.

The global transition to climate action and a low-carbon future will create new economic opportunities. By making investments now, we can ensure everyone in B.C. benefits and no one is left behind.

As we move forward and identify these opportunities together, we have choices to make. We want to know what matters most to you, socially, environmentally and economically. Your input will help shape the budget we put forward in 2023. This consultation is just one of the ways we are working with people, stakeholder groups, businesses and communities. We want to hear from you.

As the Minister of Finance, I am eager to hear your hopes and expectations for the province, and I look forward to delivering a budget that continues to make life better for people now and in the future.

HONOURABLE SELINA ROBISON
MINISTER OF FINANCE



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Budget 2023 Consultation:
bcleg.ca/FGSbudget

BUILDING A STRONGER SOCIETY BY PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST

As we ask people to help inform the next provincial budget, we want to share an overview of the priorities and initiatives we currently have in place. The province is focused on protecting people's health and livelihoods today, while building a bridge to economic recovery. While some might argue for cutting services like health care, child care and housing that have supported British Columbians through the pandemic and recent climate-related disasters, we know the importance of these services for people, and so we're investing to improve them.

AFFORDABLE, ACCESSIBLE, QUALITY CHILD CARE



We're lowering child-care bills by as much as 50% this year for children aged five and under and doubling \$10-a-day spaces. Since launching the ChildCareBC plan in Budget 2018, we've funded more than 30,500 new child-care spaces to help ensure child care is available to any family that wants it, when they need it, at a price they can afford. Budget 2022 includes funding for:

- » 40,000 new licensed child-care spaces for children under the age of 6 in the next seven years, through an agreement with the federal government.
- » More before- and after-school spaces through the New Spaces Fund and increasing the number of school districts offering the Seamless Day program.
- » Aboriginal Head Start, which provides culturally-based inclusive child care, early learning and family bonding opportunities for Indigenous children.
- » An average 50% reduction in child-care fees for families with children aged five and under by the end of 2022 and a reduction of preschool and before- and after-school care to an average of \$20 a day by September 2023 — on the path to \$10/day child care.
- » A stronger child-care workforce, by expanding training seats to add an additional 390 early childhood educators over the next three years and expanding ECE wage enhancements.

STRENGTHENING HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES



Improving the quality of physical and mental health care services and keeping people safe remains our highest priority, and Budget 2022 invests in:

- » Adding new Urgent and Primary Care Centres in B.C.
- » Supporting up to 15 First Nations Primary Health Care Centres.
- » Reducing wait times for surgery and diagnostic imaging.
- » Speeding up emergency response times by hiring more paramedics and dispatchers.
- » Continuing to invest in the Pathway to Hope, with year two of Budget 2021's \$500 million investment to improve mental health and addictions care.
- » Investing in steps to continue getting through COVID-19 safely together, including vaccinations, personal protective equipment for health-care workers, enhanced measures in care homes, increased mental health supports and funding for the B.C. Centre for Disease Control.

PREVENTING AND RESPONDING TO HOMELESSNESS



We're expanding services and improving the ways we prevent and respond to homelessness by shifting from a reactive to proactive, cross-government approach:

- » Addressing the increased risk of homelessness faced by former youth in care by extending our supports for youth in care to age 27.
- » Housing more than 3,000 people through new rent supplements with integrated supports.
- » Helping people with severe mental health or substance use issues, or traumatic brain injuries by expanding the new first-of-its-kind Complex Care housing model to at least 20 more sites.
- » Transitioning up to 3,000 people who were temporarily housed during the COVID-19 pandemic to permanent housing.
- » Government is reversing funding cuts made in 2002 to support services for survivors of sexual assault by restoring core funding to more than 50 sexual assault service centres.

BUILDING A STRONG, SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY FOR EVERYONE

Our government has a vision for British Columbia's economic future: an inclusive, sustainable and innovative economy that works for everyone. Through the StrongerBC: Economic Plan and Budget, government is investing to ensure people across B.C. are able to benefit from sustainable economic and resource development, today and into the future.

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES



Since 2017, the B.C. government has already connected 500 communities to high-speed internet, unlocking new opportunities for people in every corner of British Columbia.

TOGETHER WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, B.C. IS MAKING HISTORIC INVESTMENTS TO ENSURE EVERYONE IN B.C. HAS ACCESS TO HIGH-SPEED INTERNET BY 2027 — THE FIRST PROVINCE IN CANADA WITH A PLAN TO CLOSE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE.

This funding will improve people's access digital health care, educational and employment opportunities, help businesses to reach new markets and support diversified economic opportunities for communities.

INVESTING IN GROWING SECTORS



The StrongerBC Economic Plan: A Plan for Today, A Vision for Tomorrow invests \$50 million to grow British Columbia's life sciences, manufacturing and agricultural sectors, continue our commitment to Environmental, Social and Governance values and support reconciliation through economic development.

\$195 MILLION IN GRANTS TO GENOME BC AND MICHAEL SMITH HEALTH RESEARCH BC WILL CREATE NEW SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERIES, JOBS AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES IN A GROWING LIFE SCIENCES SECTOR THAT NOW INCLUDES MORE THAN 2,000 COMPANIES AND EMPLOYS 18,000 PEOPLE IN B.C.

SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT



The Province continues to support sustainable resource development, including through investment in:

- » A new ministry of Land, Water and Resource Stewardship to support economic activity, environmental sustainability and reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.
- » An expanded Indigenous Forest Bioeconomy Program to include a new Accelerator Program, which will help Indigenous partners commercialize and scale-up innovative forest-based products.
- » Connecting forestry workers, businesses and communities impacted by old growth logging deferrals to skills training and short-term employment opportunities, supporting older workers through investment in the Bridging to Retirement program and working to create jobs through diversified economies and infrastructure projects.
- » Supporting the continued growth of the mining sector, after 2021 saw more than \$600 million in mining exploration. This is a 50% increase over the previous year and the highest level in a decade, with growing demand around the world for the minerals that will play a key role in our low-carbon future.

GROWING THE LABOUR FORCE NOW



The StrongerBC Economic Plan takes action to close B.C.'s skills and talent gap with a generational commitment to accelerate talent and development and skills training across the province. We're ensuring young people have the skills they need to fill the jobs of tomorrow.

BUDGET 2022 INVESTS TO HELP TODAY'S WORKERS UPGRADE THEIR SKILLS AND TRAIN FOR NEW JOBS, WITH NEW SKILLED TRADES CERTIFICATION AND MORE TRAINING SEATS FOR MUCH-NEEDED EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS AND HEALTH CARE ASSISTANTS.

Record infrastructure investments will also deliver jobs and opportunities for local workers and underrepresented groups by expanding opportunities in the construction workforce through community benefit agreements for key capital projects.

SUPPORTING SECTORS THROUGH PANDEMIC RECOVERY



We are supporting the continued recovery of the tourism sector by investing \$25 million to help come back stronger from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Additional funding is also being provided to support non-profit organizations affected by the pandemic and the recovery of the arts, culture and music sectors through the Arts Impacts and Amplify BC programs.

BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE FOR A GROWING PROVINCE



We're investing a total of \$27.4 billion over the next three years to build important infrastructure like schools, hospitals, affordable housing, rapid transit, highways and bridges to help people and communities recover and build B.C.'s economic resilience. A total of 130 school capital projects have been announced since 2017, totaling \$2.7 billion. This record level of capital spending will support 100,000 jobs provincially, including through:

- » The Cowichan, Dawson Creek, Richmond, Terrace, Burnaby and new Surrey hospital projects, now in procurement or underway.
- » More cancer care centres planned for Kamloops and Nanaimo.
- » Major infrastructure projects, including the Highway 99 Tunnel Program, Pattullo Bridge Replacement Project and the Broadway Subway Project underway.
- » New schools, expansions, seismic upgrades and property purchases for future schools, totaling \$3.1 billion over the next three years.

By building environmental, social and economic goals directly into capital investments, we're strengthening B.C.'s economic recovery and supporting jobs, future opportunities and economic growth for everyone.

Whether it means more affordable child-care spaces, cleaner transportation options, demonstrating the opportunities of mass timber construction or equal opportunities for employment, investments into B.C. infrastructure are working to build a stronger British Columbia. Our capital plan grows our province's strengths and sets B.C. up to work through the challenges and build our economic resilience.

BUILDING MORE AFFORDABLE HOMES



British Columbia saw the highest migration in 60 years with more than 100,000 people moving here in 2021. To keep up with our growing population, make sure people can find affordable homes and ensure businesses can find the workers they need, we need to keep working with all levels of government to build even more homes people can afford to rent or buy. Addressing housing affordability in B.C.'s market is a top priority.

FIVE YEARS INTO THE 10-YEAR HOMES FOR BC PLAN, MORE THAN 33,000 HOMES ARE COMPLETE OR UNDER WAY IN COMMUNITIES THROUGH THE PROVINCE. THE ANNUAL FUNDING FOR HOUSING AFFORDABILITY AND HOMELESSNESS SUPPORTS IS MORE THAN \$1.2 BILLION ANNUALLY, NEARLY THREE TIMES WHAT IT WAS IN FISCAL YEAR 2017/18.

We're building on these investments with funding to accelerate the construction of mixed-income housing through BC Housing's Community Housing Fund, and with new resources for the HousingHub to keep up with demand for the \$2 billion low-cost financing program to give middle-income British Columbians more affordable rental and homeownership opportunities.

BUILDING A STRONGER ENVIRONMENT FOR OUR FUTURE

Climate-related disasters, including wildfires, floods and extreme heat, have challenged communities in recent years. These events have reinforced the need for collective action to secure a low-carbon future for British Columbia.

The Province is making strong investments to fight climate change, build back better from climate disasters and make sure people and communities across B.C. are protected from future climate-related disasters.

FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE WITH CLEANBC



CleanBC is the most progressive climate plan in North America. Budget 2022 builds on the \$2.3 billion in funding allocated for CleanBC to date and invests in the fight against climate change with over \$1 billion in new funding for CleanBC and the Roadmap to 2030, including investment in:

- » **Clean Transportation:** By removing the PST on used Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEV), increasing the passenger vehicle surtax threshold on new ZEVs and providing rebates for ZEV charging infrastructure and ZEVs. We are also providing grants to build more bike lanes, multi-use pathways and other transportation infrastructure, alongside a fuel tax exemption for use of hydrogen in internal combustion engines.
- » **Clean Industry:** By enhancing the CleanBC Program for Industry and increasing the budget for the equity tax credit to improve access to venture capital for small business cleantech investments. We're supporting Low Carbon Energy by expanding the Low Carbon Fuel Standard and developing a new emissions cap on natural gas utilities.
- » **Clean Buildings:** By providing a PST exemption for heat pumps, increasing the PST for fossil fuel heating equipment and making heat pumps more affordable for rural and northern communities. We are also introducing a 5% Clean Buildings Tax Credit for multi-unit residential and commercial buildings.

WE'RE HELPING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TAKE ACTION TO REDUCE THEIR EMISSIONS WITH A NEW LOCAL GOVERNMENT CLIMATE ACTION PROGRAM. WE'RE ALSO INVESTING IN SUSTAINABILITY UPGRADES FOR FARMS, STRENGTHENING B.C.'S FORESTS AND EXPANDING THE INDIGENOUS FOREST BIOECONOMY PROGRAM.

PROTECTING PEOPLE FROM CLIMATE-RELATED DISASTERS



\$2.1 billion will help communities recover from fires and floods and to protect people and communities from future climate-related disasters. This is in addition to \$5 billion allocated by the federal government for its share of flood recovery costs and other recent natural disasters in B.C.

The investment includes over \$1.5 billion in funding to respond to and rebuild from last year's floods and wildfires, and more than \$600 million to strengthen our readiness and respond to future wildfires, floods and extreme weather events. We have also invested in new facilities and equipment to respond to disasters and create a pro-active, year-round service model for the BC Wildfire Service.

\$210 million will help local governments and First Nations plan for and reduce disaster risk, including through investments in the FireSmart program, the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund and support for Indigenous-led emergency management priorities.

To ensure we are ready for the effects of the changing climate, Budget 2022 also invests to implement B.C.'s Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy.

SHARE YOUR IDEAS

The Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services is one of 10 permanent parliamentary committees of the Legislative Assembly of B.C.

EACH YEAR, THE COMMITTEE HOLDS PROVINCE-WIDE CONSULTATIONS TO SEEK THE VIEWS OF BRITISH COLUMBIANS ON PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT PROVINCIAL BUDGET AND PRESENTS A FINAL REPORT WITH RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

You can share your views by completing the survey or sending in written comments.

For full details on how to participate, contact:

SELECT STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT SERVICES

Room 224, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4

Email: financecommittee@leg.bc.ca

Phone: 1 (877) 428-8337 (toll-free)

Phone (250) 356-2933 (collect)

Web: bcleg.ca/FGSbudget

The consultation closes Friday, June 24, 2022 at 3 p.m.

HELPING REDUCE COSTS FOR BRITISH COLUMBIANS

A CENTRAL COMMITMENT OF GOVERNMENT IS TO HELP PEOPLE WITH COSTS.

As the cost of living rises nationally, many British Columbian families and individuals continue to benefit from much-needed ongoing savings as a result of measures introduced in 2022, as well as others put in place over the last five years.

Additional savings will continue to be implemented in the coming year, like the 50% reduction of child-care fees for children aged five and under coming in December 2022.



	FAMILY OF FOUR IN VANCOUVER EARNING \$100K <i>Child 1 (Age 12) Child 2 (Age 5 in Daycare)</i>	FAMILY OF FOUR (ONE ADULT STUDENT) IN PRINCE GEORGE EARNING \$80K <i>Child 1 (Age 12) Child 2 (Age 5 in Daycare)</i>	SINGLE PARENT IN VANCOUVER EARNING \$60K <i>With One Child (Age 5 in Daycare)</i>	UNATTACHED STUDENT IN SURREY EARNING \$30K
<i>New B.C. Access Grant for Students</i>	–	2,667	–	4,000
<i>MSP Elimination</i>	1,800	1,800	1,800	900
<i>Eliminating Student Loan Interest</i>	230	230	230	230
<i>Affordable Child Care Benefit</i>	2,313	4,800	4,800	–
<i>Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative</i>	1,440* **	1,440* **	1,440* **	–
<i>Eliminating Port Mann and Golden Ears Tolls</i>	–	–	–	1,500
<i>B.C. Child Opportunity Benefit</i>	598	1,380	700	–
<i>Transforming ICBC</i>	490	490	490	490
<i>Free Transit for Kids</i>	1,344	600	672	–

*Includes a provider payment to help offset costs associated with participating in the Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative, such as administrative costs.

**Together with federal investments, further reduction for families with children aged five and under by the end of 2022.

ADDITIONAL POTENTIAL SAVINGS

One-time cost saving/rebate measures:

- » 2021 BC Recovery Benefit \$500
- » 2021 ICBC COVID-19 Rebates, averaging \$310
- » 2021 ICBC Enhanced Care Refund, averaging \$150
- » 2022 ICBC Relief Rebate \$110
- » Save up to \$3,000 on a zero-emission vehicle, and an average of \$2,100* from PST exemption on used ZEVs. (*Based on a \$30,000 sale at a dealership.)
- » Save up to \$3,300 on a heat pump, plus additional rebates for residents of rural and northern communities.
- » PST exemption on e-bikes can save you an average of \$280.

SURVEY QUESTIONS

1. The cost of living is rising nationally as a result of global challenges linked to Russia's attack on Ukraine and the continuing impacts of COVID-19. What further actions do you think the province should take to support people facing challenges from the rising cost of living?

2. What actions do you think the province should take to improve your and your family's quality of life?

3. Would you be interested in seeing more funding for actions that address climate change and help proactively prevent climate disasters?

- Yes No

4. Which areas do you think should receive more, the same or less funding?

More Same Less

- | More | Same | Less | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Affordable housing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Access to child care |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | K-12 education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | More opportunities in skills training & post-secondary education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Support the transition to a cleaner economy & reduce pollution |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Increase programs for Indigenous people, women, 2SLGBTQ+, and people facing systemic barriers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Anti-racism measures |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Access to mental health services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Job-creating infrastructure projects |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Economic development |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Indigenous resources and reconciliation actions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Health care |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Justice and public safety |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Poverty reduction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Roads, highways and bridges |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Public transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Debt reduction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other |

5. How important is it to you to have a balanced budget?

- Very important. I value balancing the budget in the immediate term even if it requires reductions to spending and/or higher taxes.
- Somewhat important. I would like it to be balanced over the years ahead even if it requires reduced growth in government spending, minor reductions in services, and/or minor increases to taxes.
- Not important. I value more government services and projects even if it means the budget is not balanced in the near term.