

From: ["Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca)
To: ["Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"](#)
Date: 2/8/2022 5:29:31 PM
Subject: [Summary of Provincial Speech from the Throne](#)

Dear Mayor and Council,

Today, Lieutenant Governor Janet Austin delivered the Speech from the Throne on behalf of the Government of British Columbia – two weeks ahead of the Provincial 2022 Budget to be unveiled on February 22nd.

The Lieutenant Governor acknowledged the difficult year British Columbians have had as a result of extreme weather events coupled to the ongoing challenges laid bare by the pandemic. There were notes of optimism as the provincial economy rebounds and the latest COVID-19 wave subsides. In addition to commitments to major investments in government services and green infrastructure, the government announced it will work to expand universal childcare, tackle the mental health and opioid crisis, and launch an action plan to advance reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.

Detailed commitments mentioned in the Throne Speech are outlined below.

Health Response:

- Rolling out more COVID vaccination boosters and ensuring more children age five to eleven are registered for a safe pediatric dose.
- Via the Council of the Federation, pushing for a renewed partnership with Ottawa on the Canada Health Transfer and investments to protect and strengthen universal health care.

Mental Health, Addictions, and the Opioid Crisis:

- Continuing the expansion and support for the safe supply of prescription drugs and addressing the stigma associated with drug-use and addiction.
- Pressing for action from the federal Ministry of Health to decriminalize the personal possession of drugs.
- Addressing the housing challenges faced by people with complex mental health and addiction issues whose needs have not historically been met.

Economy:

- Tying minimum wage increases to the rate of inflation.
- Developing, recruiting and training BC talent over the next 10 years to close an expected skills gap.
- Releasing a new vision for building a strong economy with a purpose - B.C.'s new Economic Plan

Affordable Housing:

- Working with local governments to address housing supply and speeding up development approvals.
- Introducing a cooling-off period on home purchases.

Advancing Reconciliation:

- Implementing the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act through the release of an action plan drafted in collaboration with Indigenous Peoples.
- Creating a new stand-alone ministry for managing BC's lands and resources in order to better support reconciliation, economic development and environmental protection.
- Bringing B.C.'s commitment to reconciliation to life through the consultation, collaboration and co-management of land and resources envisioned in the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act.

Anti-Racism and Inclusivity:

- Introducing anti-racism data legislation crucial to modernizing public health, education, and policing.
- Establishing the first Chinese Canadian Museum in Canada, to be located in Vancouver's Chinatown.
- Removing barriers to accessibility and inclusion for people with disabilities.

Universal Child Care:

- Doubling \$10/a day child care spaces and reducing fees by 50%, while moving childcare responsibility to the Ministry of Education.
- Creating new regional child care offices to better address local needs.

CleanBC, Transit and Infrastructure:

- Working with local governments to rebuild infrastructure damaged from extreme weather events to be more climate resilient.
- Upgrading rapid transit and roads across the province, specifically, building a Skytrain to Langley, completing the Broadway Skytrain and replacing the Massey Tunnel and the Pattullo Bridge.
- Continuing the march to meeting the targets set in CleanBC and the 2030 Roadmap towards net zero

- emissions by 2050, including focusing on a low-carbon hydrogen economy.
- Completing a comprehensive review of the oil and gas royalty system to ensure it is modernized and aligned with the government's climate goals.

For additional details, please see the full text of the [Throne Speech](#) and the BC Government's [press release](#) marking the occasion.

Best,
Paul

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The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.