

From: **"Mochrie, Paul"**

To: **"Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"**

Date: 2/20/2024 4:05:19 PM

Subject: Summary: BC Speech from the Throne - Feb 20, 2024

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Dear Mayor and Council,

Earlier this afternoon, Lieutenant Governor Janet Austin opened the final session of the 42nd Parliament by delivering the Speech from the Throne, laying out the B.C. government's vision for a stronger province that works better for people. The provincial budget, which will be tabled on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, will give more details on the implementation of the government's Speech from the Throne commitments.

The Speech from the Throne focused mainly on previously announced priorities and actions. It did provide a high-level outline of actions the provincial government will take over the next few months to deliver more middle-class homes faster, help working families and small businesses with costs, strengthen public health care and services, and build a cleaner economy. It also committed to expanding actions to protect children from harm at schools, in their communities, and online.

Highlights from the Speech from the Throne include:

**Delivering more homes for people:**

- Highlighting the recent launch of [BC Builds](#), which uses government, community and non-profit owned land, low-cost financing, and grants to lower construction costs, speed up timelines, and deliver more homes that middle-income British Columbians can afford.
- Implementing new initiatives to safeguard renters against unjust evictions and support individuals purchasing homes for the first time, although specific measures were not delineated.

**Strengthening public health care:**

- Continuing to attract more family doctors while investing new resources into cancer care and long-term care for seniors.
- Investing in long-term care services for seniors.

**Mental Health and Addictions:**

- Adding to the 3,600 publicly-funded treatment and recovery beds currently available throughout the province.

**Building an economy that works better for people:**

- Leveraging B.C.'s strength in natural resources, and training people for the good clean jobs of today and tomorrow.
- Tackling the root causes that make life more expensive through new measures coming in Budget 2024.

**Protecting B.C. from climate emergencies:**

- Including year-round wildfire-fighting resources and new actions to reduce pollution from big industrial emitters.
- Taking new actions to reduce carbon pollution from big industrial emitters, which is driving climate change.

## Supporting Safe and Inclusive Communities:

- Introducing new legislation to:
  - protect schools and kids from disruptive protests.
  - shed light on bullying, cyber bullying and online safety and to hold big social media companies accountable.
- Proposing additional anti-racism laws, expanding upon provincial government initiatives mandating Holocaust education for secondary students.

## Indigenous Reconciliation:

- Taking steps to recognize and better support First Nations-mandated post-secondary institutes as a key pillar of B.C.'s advanced education system.

## Social spending:

- Indications that the 2024 budget is expected to be heavy on social spending.

The full speech can be found [here](#).

The news release can be found [here](#).

Best,  
Paul

**Paul Mochrie** (he/him)  
City Manager  
City of Vancouver



The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθ̱ŌĀĀ̱Ā̱ (Musqueam), ṼṛṚĀ̱wú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.