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To: "Direct to Mayor and Council"

Date: 2/18/2025 5:05:38 PM

Subject: Summary: BC Speech from the Throne - Feb 18, 2025

Dear Mayor and Council,

Earlier this afternoon, Lieutenant Governor Wendy Cocchia opened the first session of the 43rd Parliament by delivering the Speech from the Throne, outlining the B.C. government's plan to defend British Columbians from the economic impacts of the U.S. presidency and secure a stronger future for the province. The Lieutenant Governor noted that this is the most consequential time for B.C. since the Second World War and reiterated the government's plans to work in partnership with other governments across the country to fight back against threats to the economy.

The provincial budget, which will be tabled on March 4th, will focus on economic security and managing finances to protect front-line public services.

The Speech from the Throne focused on previously announced priorities and preparing for economic uncertainty in U.S.-Canada relations. It provided a high-level outline of actions the provincial government will take over the next few months to strengthen the economy, deliver more middle-class homes faster, remove barriers to expedite approvals and permits in all sectors, tackle the issue of public safety and strengthen public health care and build a cleaner economy.

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

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

Highlights are included below for your information.

Highlights – 2025 BC Speech from the Throne:

- Standing strong for Canada:
 - Prioritizing a tough and thoughtful response to any attack on Canada's economy and sovereignty, as part of a united Team Canada approach.
 - Working to be more agile and durable is the top priority.

- Creating good jobs in a growing economy:
 - New legislation will be introduced to get critical infrastructure projects built faster.
 - Working with industry, labour and post-secondary institutions to create faster pathways to get in demand skills into trades, to strengthen workforce productivity.
 - Supporting emerging industries, increasing manufacturing industries, such as the hard-hit forestry sector.
 - Fast-tracking major private-sector natural resource projects and building on B.C.'s strengths in technology, life sciences and film.
 - Reviewing spending across all ministries will ensure it is thoughtful and tough
 - Speeding up permit and approval processes across all ministries.
 - Upgrading transportation infrastructure and making sure that businesses have ample industrial land.
 - Eliminating red tape and breaking down barriers to growth.
 - Budget 2025 will include tax credits to keep BC a destination of choice for film makers.

- Diversifying where B.C. sells its products:
 - New trade missions to strengthen relationships around the world in regions like Asia, and by breaking down trade barriers within Canada.

- Strengthening access to health care:
 - Attaching more people to a family doctor and building new hospitals throughout the province.
 - Adding more nurses, family doctors, opening more community clinics, continuing to work to connect British Columbians with primary care providers.
 - Working for faster international credential recognition.
 - Working with partners to treat addiction as a health issue.

- Helping with costs:
 - Locking in childcare and car insurance savings and passing new consumer-protection laws.
 - Hiring teachers, building schools, public transit and roads.

- Delivering more homes:
 - Making progress in breaking down barriers to building middle class homes.
 - Delivering more homes people can afford including through the Homes for Peoples Plan – Expected to deliver 300,000 new, middle-class homes.

- Increasing public safety:
 - Adding more police officers and establishing teams of prosecutors and probation officers to stop repeat violent criminals from reoffending.

Best,

Paul

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The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the x m k y m (Musqueam), S wxwú7mesh (Squamish), and s lilw ta (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.