



6 MONTH



PROGRESS

REPORT

**CANADA STARTS HERE:
THE BC JOBS PLAN**





**THE BC
JOBS PLAN**

Premier's Message



Nearly six months ago, we launched *Canada Starts Here: The BC Jobs Plan* to protect and create jobs in every community in this province. Our plan builds on British Columbia's multiple strengths, including a multicultural population, world-class infrastructure, sound fiscal fundamentals and a wealth of natural and intellectual capital. Today, I am proud to report on the successes and highlights achieved to date. In the past year, our economy has added 39,900 net new jobs to the province. That's results. Results for families. But we're not done. This report charts our results and our successes, but also where we have more work to do.

We are clearing unnecessary and bureaucratic red tape. In less than six months, four mines have had their permits approved to extend operations, and we've slashed the backlog of notice of work applications for mines.

Encana has entered into an agreement that will see Mitsubishi invest almost \$3 billion for a 40-per-cent interest in the Cutbank Ridge natural-gas partnership in northeastern B.C. The National Energy Board has approved a 20-year export licence for the Kitimat liquefied-natural-gas facility – the first license of its kind in Canada. And land is being cleared for the first of the three LNG lines we've promised will be running by 2020. As well, Rio Tinto Alcan plans to invest approximately \$3.3 billion to modernize its primary aluminum smelter in Kitimat, making it one of the most cost-efficient and environmentally friendly smelters in the world. These are important projects that will provide long-term, high-paying jobs for the families in these communities.

Our government also led the largest jobs and trade mission in British Columbia's history and we came back with real results. Not only have our lumber exports to China surpassed \$1 billion for the first time but our trade mission resulted in 60 business deals and partnership agreements being signed in India and China.

We've established the Major Investments Office, dedicated to working with investors proposing large projects with the potential to create large numbers of jobs. We've worked with municipalities, First Nations, the private sector, and educational representatives across the province, through workforce tables and investment pilots, on community-based training and investment needs. Our Immigration Task Force has toured the province, gathering input and advice, and we committed an additional \$10 million to sector and industry groups so that they can develop industry-specific training programs.

We've released strategies for strengthening two of the eight key sectors identified in our jobs plan as having competitive advantages, and strategies in the six other sectors will be released shortly. We've also put the BC Jobs and Investment Board in place to provide objective analysis and recommendations on our progress.

But above all, we have listened. We have asked for and received input from all areas of B.C., and all sectors of our economy. Because the fact is, government can't do this alone. Thank you to the thousands of British Columbians who have taken time to share their ideas and thoughts. We value your input – and I encourage all of you to engage with us in making British Columbia, and British Columbians, the best we can be.

Honourable Christy Clark
Premier of British Columbia

Overview



As the world slowly begins to recover from the economic turmoil of the last few years, British Columbia is well-placed to be a magnet for global investment. We already have solid fiscal fundamentals, with a triple-A credit rating and a comparatively low debt-to-GDP ratio. But there is more work to be done. This government is committed to ensuring its programs and policies foster economic growth and job creation. The targets we laid out in September were ambitious, but the people of British Columbia should expect nothing less, for that ambition reflects our determination to see this province prosper.

The purpose of this update is to report on the progress we have made to date, to highlight some of the early successes of *Canada Starts Here: The BC Jobs Plan*, and, most importantly, outline in black and white what we have done and where there is more work to do. In the past six months we have made changes to help foster a job-creating environment in B.C. In the next six months we will outline how these changes will lead to greater economic investment in the province, specifically in the eight key sectors, and more well-paying jobs for British Columbians.

Strategic Advantages

British Columbia is well placed geographically to take advantage of economic growth and increasing wealth among the middle classes of the emerging economies in the Asia Pacific. While our cultural and economic relationship with the United States remains strong, new opportunities for long-term growth lie to our west with the booming Asian economies. It is through trade with China that we are diversifying our softwood lumber exports; it is in India that British Columbian companies are establishing new markets for copper.

A key advantage is our hard-earned reputation for fiscal discipline, which has allowed us to remain a safe harbour for investment during these times of economic turmoil. Investors are attracted by our triple-A credit rating, earned over a decade of prudent fiscal management. They see B.C. as a place to get a foothold in North America, which is creating new jobs for B.C. families.

Pillars

Through *Canada Starts Here: The BC Jobs Plan*, we are focusing our efforts in three key activities that build on the natural and earned strengths of the B.C. economy, as well as the province's skilled workforce and fiscal discipline:

- ▶ Working with employers and communities to enable job creation across the province.
- ▶ Strengthening our infrastructure to get our goods to market.
- ▶ Expanding markets for B.C. products and services, particularly in Asia.

As we set a course towards greater economic growth for the province, these pillars guide each and every move. They are a blueprint for all government action. Since launching *Canada Starts Here: The BC Jobs Plan*, we have brought together employers in communities across the province with local leaders and government officials to discuss



barriers to job creation in their respective regions and map out how best to overcome these challenges and seize investment opportunities. We have made strategic investments that make it easier for companies in B.C. to get their goods to market. And we have, through both face-to-face meetings and advertising campaigns, begun to open up new trade opportunities for B.C. products and the services that B.C. companies provide.



Sectors

- ▶ **Forestry** – As one of B.C.'s largest economic drivers, forestry plays a vital role in advancing *the BC Jobs Plan*. Forest product exports **exceeded \$9.9 billion in 2011**, and China has emerged as B.C.'s second-largest market for softwood lumber products. B.C.'s forest sector will continue to blaze the trail in pursuing Asia-Pacific markets.
- ▶ **Mining** – British Columbia has some of the best mining resources in the world, including coal, copper, gold, molybdenum, silver, lead and zinc, and we are well positioned to meet growing global demand. More than **28,000 British Columbians** work in the mining industry today, earning an average salary of \$108,000 a year. The development of just one new major mine could create 300 to 600 high-paying jobs and lead to the creation of another 450 to 900 spinoff jobs in local communities. Preliminary regional estimates for exploration spending come to \$463 million in 2011, up 35 per cent from \$341 million in 2010, and a 1,500 per cent increase from 2001.
- ▶ **Natural gas** – Our natural gas industry has ranked second only to Alberta in production for the last 50 years. This \$7.1-billion industry employs tens of thousands of people, providing the Province with \$1.3 billion in revenue in 2010-11. Global trade in **LNG doubled between 2000 and 2010**, and is expected to increase by another 50 per cent by 2020.
- ▶ **Agrifoods** – British Columbia's agrifoods sector provides more than **63,000 jobs** and generated \$3-billion in gross domestic product in 2009. B.C. has the most diverse agrifoods industry in Canada, with more than 200 agriculture products and 100 seafood species. More than 1,400 processing businesses produce a variety of foods and beverages, from fruit juices and artisan beers to specialty pet foods and wild botanicals.
- ▶ **Tourism** – In 2010, the tourism sector employed **127,000 British Columbians**, generated over \$13.4 billion in revenue for tourism-related businesses and contributed over \$1.2 billion to provincial government revenues. We live in one of the cleanest, safest and most spectacular places in the world. Add to that our cultural diversity, and we have a huge competitive advantage in attracting visitors from around the world.
- ▶ **Transportation (ports, marine and aerospace)** – British Columbia's transportation sector generated \$9.2 billion GDP in 2010 and accounted for more than **124,000 well-paying jobs** in 2011 in road, air, rail, marine and transit sub-sectors. Since 2005, we have committed \$22 billion to transportation infrastructure with other government and industry partners. Further investments will be needed to respond to unprecedented demand for B.C. goods and resources.
- ▶ **International education** – British Columbia's quality education system has been successful in attracting students from other countries: we have the highest number of international students per capita in Canada. In turn, many nations around the world now embrace B.C.-born students taking

classes overseas. With the number of international students worldwide expected to increase, so will opportunities for British Columbia and B.C.-born students. International education created 21,500 jobs in 2010, with students spending an estimated **\$1.8 billion in B.C.**

- ▶ **Technology** – Our provincial technology sector is one of the strongest in the country, accounting for 5.9 per cent of provincial GDP and supporting almost all of the rest. Between 1997 and 2007, the technology sector doubled in terms of GDP and revenues. The sector's share of GDP rose from 4.9 to 5.9 per cent, **jobs in the sector grew by 43 per cent**, and productivity increased by 40 per cent. In total, 84,000 British Columbians worked in the technology sector in 2009. With increasing use of high technology by traditional sectors like mining and forestry, this number is expected to continue to grow.

Fiscal and Economic Targets

While there will be many milestones along the way, including those set out in Appendix C, there are also key measurable targets for *Canada Starts Here: The BC Jobs Plan*. These targets represent the end result of our collective hard work. They are as follows:

- ▶ **British Columbia ranks within the top two Canadian provinces in GDP growth by 2015**
- ▶ **British Columbia ranks within the top two Canadian provinces in new job growth by 2015**

These are ambitious targets that will require a collective effort on the part of British Columbia's government, local government officials, and its employers, but reaching them will bring about a strong and sustainable economy, one that can weather future economic storms and ensure British Columbian families continue to have well-paying jobs.

Canada Starts Here: The BC Jobs Plan After Six Months

Setting Community-Based Priorities for Jobs and Skills Training

Working with employers and communities to enable job creation across the province is the first pillar of *Canada Starts Here: The BC Jobs Plan*. We're bringing focus to the job creation agenda through common understanding of region-specific economic challenges and opportunities, and through collective priority setting.

"The government wants to help – they want to back the projects that we have that will provide economic stability and growth to the region."

–Bill Humphreys, Mayor of Barriere

Regional Economic Development Pilots

As part of *Canada Starts Here: The BC Jobs Plan*, we are partnering with three individual communities – North Fraser, Campbell River, and the Barriere-McBride Corridor – on regional economic development pilot projects. A First Nations community will be chosen in the coming months as the fourth pilot.

The pilots are aimed at identifying economic and job creation opportunities in each community and focusing the efforts of provincial, regional and municipal governments' economic-development activities, incorporating the ideas of business, industry, First Nations and academia on creating lasting economic benefits. Selected, achievable opportunities will be implemented six to 18 months after agreement is reached among pilot participants.

These pilots will also provide an opportunity for governments to improve their understanding of how to assist and streamline economic development in B.C. communities – large and small; urban, suburban and rural.

- ▶ **North Fraser** – The first meeting of the North Fraser Regional Economic Development Pilot was held Dec. 8, 2011. The pilot identified 67 initiatives, which have since been whittled down to nine prospective projects. On Feb. 17, 2012, the regional steering committee hosted an open house for pilot participants in Pitt Meadows, where the nine projects were showcased, and participants were invited to comment. The steering committee plans to announce the remaining projects this spring.
- ▶ **Campbell River** – The first meeting of the Campbell River Regional Economic Development Pilot was held on Jan. 30, 2012. Campbell River's community project committee identified 12 potential projects from dozens of ideas put forward during the pilot, subsequently narrowing this list to five.
- ▶ **Barriere-McBride Corridor** – The first meeting of the Barriere-McBride Corridor was held Jan. 16, 2012, in Valemount. It included representatives of the Simpcw First Nation, which has joint business ventures with forestry, mining, and hydro power production companies. The corridor steering committee, made up of ministry staff and key community partners, identified 12 projects and expects to complete a detailed evaluation by the end of March with a short list of recommended projects. In a follow-up session scheduled for April, pilot delegates will review the list and decide on the three or four key priorities to be implemented over the next six to 18 months.

Regional Workforce Tables

Just as the economic opportunities differ from region to region, so should the training programs offered by colleges, universities and institutes in these regions. That is why we created regional workforce tables – regionally driven groups with key leaders from industry, labour, employers, First Nations, educators, training service providers and economic-development organizations like regional economic trusts. Regional Workforce Tables will apply local knowledge and expertise to identify economic-development opportunities and help align training programs with demand for jobs in B.C.'s regions.

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“We believe that with our government and the BC Jobs Plan taking this initiative, bringing people together, getting advice and direction as they move to decision making and resource allocation, this is a good way to go.”

– Dave O’Leary VP of Institutional Advancement, Northwest Community College

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B.C.'s northeast and northwest have been designated as pilot locations for regional workforce tables, and knowledge gained in these pilots will be applied in other regions in B.C. To date, stakeholder open house forums have taken place in Terrace and Dawson Creek. These are the starting points for forming formal regional workforce tables in these regions.

Heritage Sites

Our government’s investment in its heritage sites supports economic development in communities. British Columbia’s historic buildings, structures and cultural landscapes attract over 200,000 visitors annually from around the world, creating jobs for British Columbians and supporting sustainable communities.

The provincial budget tabled on Feb. 21, 2012, includes a commitment of \$21 million over the next three years to maintain and operate provincial heritage sites. The allocation for 2012-13 is more than \$7 million, which is expected to create close to 100 direct, full-time jobs. The Barkerville, Fort Steele and Fraser Valley heritage properties alone contribute about \$32 million each year to the province’s GDP, create more than 625 full-time jobs and raise more than \$14 million in taxes for all levels of government.

Significant resource development in northern B.C. is creating challenges for many communities. Housing shortages and inadequate infrastructure could limit our ability to capitalize on job-creation potential. Government will work with communities and business leaders to jointly address these challenges.

Immigration Task Force

The Immigration Task Force is holding meetings across the province to hear from communities and employers about their ongoing support for immigration and the role immigrants will play in filling roughly a third of the forecasted million job openings over the next decade. The task force has focused on capturing input and advice from key business and community stakeholders through regional engagement sessions, as well as from the public through an online engagement process. By the end of February, the task force had visited Prince George, Fort St. John, Nanaimo, Surrey, Richmond, Kitimat, Penticton and Cranbrook.

During the meetings, the task force looked at programs currently in place, including the B.C. Provincial Nominee Program, the federal Skilled Worker Program, the Canadian Experience Class and the federal Immigrant Investor Program, with a view to ensuring these programs are working to bring more skilled workers and more investment to the province.

Economic Development Webinar Series

The Economic Development Webinar Series gives local government staff, elected officials and community leaders in rural and urban B.C. communities access to expert advice on economic development topics like the Provincial Nominee Program, investment readiness, social media for rural business support, and business succession. Through these web-based seminars, British Columbians can exchange ideas, best practices and innovative solutions to problems faced by communities large and small.



Reaching Out to New Investors, Having a Dialogue with Workers

In *Canada Starts Here: The BC Jobs Plan*, we committed to a promotional campaign highlighting B.C. as a safe harbour for investment and job creation. The Province took action by launching an information campaign with three primary goals:

- ▶ **To attract international investors to British Columbia.**
- ▶ **To direct British Columbians to services and tools that can help them find jobs.**
- ▶ **To encourage British Columbians to engage and let the Province know how it can build and evolve *the BC Jobs Plan*.**

The campaign also supports government's broad commitment to openness and citizen engagement. Most of the funding for the information campaign will be spent internationally.

In B.C., the Province is using paid radio, television, print and online advertising. We're focusing on the three pillars of *Canada Starts Here: The BC Jobs Plan*, job skills, small business and the industry sectors of forestry and tourism. All advertising invites British Columbians to share their ideas with government through *the BC Jobs Plan* website at www.bcjobsplan.ca.

Radio and television advertisements have appeared on major stations throughout the province. Print advertisements have run in community newspapers, Aboriginal and business publications across B.C. Online ads ran on major portals and media websites reaching British Columbia.

BC Jobs Plan Online Engagement

In tandem with the September 2011 launch of *Canada Starts Here: The BC Jobs Plan*, we established a website to provide British Columbians with more information about the drive for economic development in the province. The site, www.bcjobsplan.ca, includes the plan, as well as feature articles, videos and short updates to illustrate our progress. In addition, we launched Facebook (www.facebook.com/BCJobsandEconomy) and Twitter ([@bcjobsplan](https://twitter.com/bcjobsplan)) pages to exchange information about news and events, like regional job fairs.

In December 2011, we launched a second website, www.engage.bcjobsplan.ca, to host a moderated public discussion forum on key aspects of *the BC Jobs Plan*. Under the banner Share Your Ideas, people are invited to comment or suggest ideas to help strengthen and develop the plan. We've posted over 500 public comments to date.

All comments are reviewed, and our moderators respond directly to many of them. We plan to start posting response summaries, talking about what we've heard, and taking action where we can. So far we've heard thoughtful ideas about regional job creation and skills training, economic investment and B.C.'s Natural Gas Strategy.

We will continue to invite British Columbians to offer fresh thinking to help with ongoing challenges that affect all sectors of our economy. To enable broader discussion, we are improving our engagement website to make it even more accessible.



Making Connections in Asia

Promoting trade with Asia-Pacific countries and opening new markets are key pieces of *Canada Starts Here: The BC Jobs Plan*. As part of the plan, we embarked on the BC Jobs and Trade Mission to China and India in November. We were joined by 250 delegates representing 150 B.C. companies, organizations and community groups, making it the largest international delegation in B.C. history.

In China, the trade mission made stops in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou. From there we went to India, visiting Delhi, Mumbai, Chandigarh, Amritsar and Bangalore. The trade mission was a success, opening markets for B.C. companies and establishing 60 business deals and partnership agreements across six sectors, including transportation, seafood, liquefied natural gas, mining, post-secondary education and forestry. Here are some of the key successes from China:

- ▶ Subject to approval from Transport Canada, Sichuan Airlines will launch a new direct flight from Chengdu (in Sichuan Province) to Vancouver International Airport, via Sheyang (in Liaoning province), in 2012. This first venture into the North American market for Sichuan Airlines is expected to bring 31,000 more visitors to B.C. annually, add \$3.5 million to B.C.'s GDP every year and contribute \$50 million in tourism-related revenue annually between Canada and China.
- ▶ British Columbia signed two five-year agreements with the province of Guangdong that endorse trade of seafood and agrifood products.
- ▶ Government officials met with representatives of Sinopec, the third-largest oil and gas company in the world; PetroChina, another major player in the LNG business; and Shell China, a subsidiary of Royal Dutch Shell. All three companies expressed interest in the liquefied natural gas that would be shipped out of Kitimat.
- ▶ Canadian Kailuan Dehua Mines Co., Ltd. and Canadian Dehua International Mines Group committed to increase their investment in the Tumbler Ridge Gething underground coal mine project to \$860m, which would generate roughly **800 direct jobs**.
- ▶ Canadian Dehua International Mines Group also signed an agreement with the Shandong Energy Group for another mineral project, worth \$500 million, that will generate **over 400 jobs**.
- ▶ Agreement was reached to establish a new business accelerator program at the New West Partnership's trade and investment representative office in Shanghai.
- ▶ Delegates sold 1.46 million cubic metres of lumber to China during the mission. Forestry trade mission delegates also went to Japan, B.C.'s second-largest offshore market, where the federal government, Province and forest industry announced another \$4.5 million contribution to assist with reconstruction after the March 2011 tsunami. Working with local governments, one or more community facilities will be built with wood to benefit local residents, and showcase the durability of woodframe construction.

Here are some of the key successes from India:

- ▶ B.C. agreed to work with the Government of Canada to open two more trade and investment offices in India – Mumbai and Chandigarh – complementing our presence in Bangalore.
- ▶ B.C. will bid on the **2013 International Indian Film Academy Awards** – the Oscars of Indian film which attracts a world-wide TV audience of 700 million.
- ▶ We reached an agreement with the government of India for co-operation on **mineral exploration and mining**.
- ▶ Ballard Power signed an agreement with India's Delta Power Solutions that expands on the range of clean energy applications under an existing agreement, and builds on Ballard's recent sale of fuel cell backup power systems with Delta.
- ▶ Premier Clark addressed the India Economic Summit of the World Economic Forum, discussing the role provincial governments play in strengthening local economies, and highlighting B.C.'s advantages, including low taxes, AAA credit rating, balanced budgets, stable governments, closest ports in North America to Asia, and a preferred place to work and live.

We set out on the BC Jobs and Trade mission to open doors, strengthen existing relationships and set the stage for future success in China and India. We can say without a doubt that the tour was a tremendous success and something of which we can all be proud.



Ensuring British Columbians Have the Skills to Compete

Through *Canada Starts Here: The BC Jobs Plan*, government is ensuring that, in addition to the \$1.9-billion annual investment in post-secondary education, over \$500 million provided annually for labour market and training programs is targeted to meeting regional and industry labour market needs.

Helping to build and expand a skilled workforce is a key commitment of the plan. In 2011-12, the B.C. government invested over \$100 million in the Industry Training Authority, the provincial Crown agency responsible for overseeing B.C.'s industry training and apprenticeship system.

The ITA is dedicated to providing a skilled workforce for industry and career development opportunities for British Columbians. Its contributions to *the BC Jobs Plan* are having an impact in every region of the province. The ITA continues to make strong progress in meeting two vital commitments of *Canada Starts Here: The BC Jobs Plan*:

Commitment 1: Enhancing access to skills and apprenticeship training throughout the province and refocusing labour market and training investments to meet regional labour market demand.

- ▶ The total number of registered training participants is now over **36,000**.
- ▶ The number of apprenticeship employer sponsors is almost **9,200**.
- ▶ Through the ITA, the Province has increased apprenticeship training seats to just over **22,000** spaces in 2011-12, from 18,098 spaces in 2005-06.
- ▶ In 2011-12, the ITA is investing almost \$9 million in Canada-B.C. Labour Market Agreement funding to increase the participation of women, new immigrants and Aboriginal people in trades training programs. More than 1,400 people are expected to be served through these programs.
- ▶ Waitlists for trades training fell to 1.7 per cent in December 2011; by comparison, they were 11 per cent in 2006-07.
- ▶ In 2010-11, ITA issued more than **7,300 certificates of qualifications** to people who finished an apprenticeship program or completed a challenge exam.

Commitment 2: Hosting a trades training conference by the end of 2011, bringing all partners together to identify ways to enhance the province's trades training programs.

- ▶ The ITA hosted a multi-stakeholder industry training conference on Dec. 5, 2011.
- ▶ The full-day event attracted more than 160 leaders from training and education, business, labour, government and trade organizations.
- ▶ Discussions at the conference were used to help develop the ITA's strategic priorities for the next three years.

A new Aboriginal Post-Secondary Education and Training Policy Framework and Action Plan is also being developed that will help Aboriginal British Columbians take advantage of economic opportunities by increasing their access to relevant and responsive post-secondary education and training programs.

Finally, in addition to the more broadly focused regional workforce tables, we have taken action in specific sectors so that the training received by British Columbians is consistent with what companies need.

- ▶ **Shipbuilding** – We established the B.C. Shipbuilding and Repair Sector Table to identify the skills training needs of the province's shipbuilders. Our government is also supporting B.C.'s shipbuilding industry with a \$550,000 investment to develop training strategies for workers within a new industry-led marine training centre. As well, we introduced a marine training tax credit that provides eligible employers who hire apprentices within the shipbuilding and ship repair industry a refundable tax credit of 20 per cent of wages paid per year up to \$5,250. This is expected to create over 4,000 jobs.
- ▶ **Mining** – In partnership with industry groups, we have committed over \$1 million to the advancement of human-resource strategies aimed at increasing skills training in the mining sector.
- ▶ **Forestry** – In partnership with the Truck Loggers Association, we are working on a Coastal Forest Workforce Strategy that will aim to have the right number of workers, with the right skills, in the right places at the right time.

We recognize that more will need to be done to meet the growing demand for skilled workers, particularly in the north. With the results of the Regional Workforce Tables, and other sector-based consultations that better define the challenge before us, the province will be introducing new ways of approaching skills development in 2012. We are also exploring ways to better connect employers in the north that are having difficulties filling job vacancies with people who are able to work.

Immigration and the recognition of foreign credentials is another source of skilled workers and we will be taking action to target provincial nominee program spaces to those skills most in need. In addition, this spring, we will introduce a new program to address concerns regarding the recognition of foreign professional credentials.



Making Sure Job Creation is a Focus of Government

While these are early days for *the BC Jobs Plan*, important actions have already been taken to ensure government is fostering an environment in which people want to invest and jobs are created.

Accelerating Job Creators

First and foremost, the Province has established a new office dedicated to championing major investments in the province – projects that show promise of providing jobs to large numbers of British Columbians. Since February, the Major Investments Office has been working with investors – as it did to support Seaspan’s successful bid for federal shipbuilding contracts – to bring major projects to the province. The office is the single point of contact for major foreign and domestic economic development projects and investments. Work continues to identify barriers to these projects and find solutions that bring new jobs for British Columbians, focusing on *the BC Jobs Plan*’s eight key sectors.

Our government has also created the BC Jobs and Investment Board, an independent body providing objective analysis and recommendations on the government’s job-creating activities. The new board is engaging directly with industry, Aboriginal communities and labour – groups that can give government timely feedback as it implements *the BC Jobs Plan*. The board’s role is to:

- ▶ Provide regular reports that focus on investment opportunities and identify issues and processes that may be impeding that investment.
- ▶ Benchmark B.C.’s success relative to other jurisdictions in the eight key sectors.
- ▶ Hold government to account by reporting on the success of *the BC Jobs Plan* in creating jobs for British Columbians and investment opportunities for B.C. communities.

Reaching agreements with First Nations on economic-development projects will be critical to the success of both the projects themselves as well as to the way First Nations are able to benefit from economic development. Building a relationship and understanding the perspectives of First Nations are necessary first steps.

To aid in the identification of relationship and business models that work well, the Province is working with Aboriginal people to establish B.C.'s first Aboriginal Business and Investment Council. Bringing together Aboriginal people with the private sector, the council will identify alternative business models that encourage economic development in Aboriginal communities across the province and support greater participation of Aboriginal people in the economy.

Canada Starts Here: The BC Jobs Plan commits to achieving 10 agreements with First Nations by 2015. These agreements will help Aboriginal communities meet social and economic goals, and will create opportunities for other British Columbians by stimulating investment, creating jobs, and promoting economic development.

Since **the BC Jobs Plan** was announced, the Province has reached several agreements with First Nations. These include a reconciliation agreement that promotes economic development opportunities for First Nations and industry on northern Vancouver Island and the mid-Coast, and a land-use plan in the northeast that provides certainty around resource development.

B.C. is the first province in Canada to directly share mining revenues with First Nations. Over the coming months, B.C. will achieve further agreements that secure First Nations support for mining projects. B.C. continues to reach milestones in treaty negotiations with the aim of providing certainty over rights to land and resources. In 2009, a leading independent accounting firm estimated that achieving treaties could boost B.C.'s economy by \$10 billion.

Providing the Right Tax Environment

Our government believes in maintaining a low-tax environment to attract investment and create jobs. Our tax measures in Budget 2012 will encourage further investment in the province and increase the skills of B.C.'s labour force.

To ensure greater economic certainty for B.C.'s ports, often the gateways for the province's record-setting trade with Asia, Budget 2012 includes an extension of the property tax relief for major industrial ports like Port Metro Vancouver and the Port of Prince Rupert.

Our government also extended the **apprenticeship training tax credit program through 2014**. Through about \$31 million in annual funding, the apprenticeship training tax credit program encourages employers and apprentices to participate in apprenticeship programs offered in British Columbia.

Our commitment to ensuring B.C.'s workforce has the skills training it needs to support growth in the ship-building industry continues with the announcement of a refundable tax credit of 20 per cent of wages paid per year up to \$5,250. These tax credits are enhanced by 50 per cent for apprentices who are First Nations individuals or people with disabilities.

Budget 2012 also increased the Small Business Venture Capital Program by \$3 million. This program provides tax credits of 30 per cent for direct investments in eligible new corporations up to an annual limit of \$60,000. The additional \$3 million will boost the current \$30-million annual tax credit budget for venture capital programs for small businesses and the program currently supports up to \$100 million annually in total investments.



Building Momentum in Key Sectors

While overarching changes are being made to promote greater investment that will create jobs, specific actions are also being taken in the eight key sectors of *Canada Starts Here: The BC Jobs Plan*. In two of these sectors, natural gas and tourism, strategies have already been released that outline what is being done to increase employment in these areas. Strategies for the other six sectors will be released in the coming weeks. Meanwhile, we have made strategic investments and seen successes in all sectors since releasing *Canada Starts Here: The BC Jobs Plan* in September.

Forestry

The Forest Sector Strategy will build on the natural advantages of B.C.'s forests, including previous marketing successes in China and Japan, B.C.'s two largest offshore markets for wood products.

In 2011, B.C. forest companies were expected to invest over **\$550 million in capital upgrades**. In September, Western Forest Products announced it was going to invest \$200 million in its Vancouver Island mills. In February, Interfor announced that \$24 million in upgrades to its Grand Forks and Castlegar mills were proceeding ahead of schedule.

The Mountain Pine Beetle has ravaged much of the Interior pine forests in the province. We are working with stakeholders to explore solutions to mid-term timber supply issues and investing in reforestation. In 2011, we provided \$3 million each to the Southern Interior Beetle Action Coalition, Omineca Beetle Action Coalition, and Cariboo-Chilcotin Beetle Action Coalition.

The forest sector strategy will build on recommendations from the recent MLA committee's report on Bio-economy. By 2015, the bioproducts sector is expected to be worth more than \$200 billion and B.C., with its abundance of natural, renewable bio-based resources, is well-positioned to benefit from this growing trend. The MLA Committee recommendations were:

- ▶ Establish a clear, long-term bio-economy vision.
- ▶ Improve access to fibre and feedstock.
- ▶ Establish a technology development strategy.
- ▶ Develop markets for B.C. bioproducts and aggressively market B.C.'s advantages.
- ▶ Integrate the bio-economy's infrastructure needs into provincial initiatives.
- ▶ Establish a bio-economy team that will formulate and articulate the bio-economy vision for B.C.

Mining

Our goal is to have **eight new mines in operation by 2015**, and to see the expansion of at least nine that are currently operating in B.C. We are well on our way to meeting those targets with the following achievements:

- ▶ On Jan. 3, 2012, Imperial Metals Corp. announced it will extend the Huckleberry copper and molybdenum mine's life by another seven years. That means 230 full-time jobs and 30 contract positions are being preserved in the central Interior.

- ▶ The Quinsam underground coal mine on central Vancouver Island has received a permit to extend its mining operations, protecting 500 direct and indirect jobs in the Campbell River area.
- ▶ Highland Valley Copper – the largest open pit copper mine in Canada – employs nearly 1,300 people. The expansion will add 572,000 metric tonnes of copper over a 15-year production schedule.
- ▶ Elkview Mine produces coal used primarily for high-quality steelmaking. The mine employs about 950 people, many of whom live in southeastern B.C. The expansion will boost production starting this year by about 900,000 tonnes to 6.5 million tonnes of coal annually.
- ▶ The New Afton copper-gold-silver mine is under construction and is projected to begin operations in the second half of 2012. This mine will provide full-time jobs for about 250 people in the Kamloops area.

We plan to reduce the backlog of mining permits by 80 per cent by Aug. 31, 2012, and are on track to meet that commitment. Last September, 229 permits had to be reviewed. As of Jan. 31, 2012, there were 75, with the goal to be at 46 by September 2012.

Natural Gas

Canada Starts Here: The BC Jobs Plan has set an aggressive target – **to bring at least one LNG pipeline and terminal online by 2015**. We have moved a step closer with the National Energy Board approving a 20-year export licence for the proposed Kitimat LNG facility on Oct. 13, 2011. It's the first federal licence ever granted for LNG exports.

In October 2011, Royal Dutch Shell bought a marine terminal at Kitimat as a possible site for an LNG export terminal. Shell's partners in buying the site are Korea Gas Corp., Mitsubishi Corp. and China National Petroleum Corp.

In early February 2012, BG Group PLC announced it had entered into an agreement with the Prince Rupert Port Authority to consider the feasibility of an LNG operation. Also in February, as part of a deal between EnCana and Mitsubishi Corp, Mitsubishi indicated it would accelerate its feasibility studies for LNG development to access Asian markets.

Based on our current estimates, reaching our goal of three LNG facilities by 2020 will create 800 long-term, first-dollar jobs, as many as 9,000 new construction jobs, and thousands of spinoff jobs in areas like transportation, engineering, and environmental management.

B.C. currently produces 1.1 trillion cubic feet of natural gas annually. Meeting LNG development goals will see annual natural gas production approach three trillion cubic feet by 2020.

Agrifood

In **Canada Starts Here: The BC Jobs Plan** we made a pledge to release a report on the greenhouse industry by Dec. 31, 2011. This report is now published on **the BC Jobs Plan** website. It provides the foundation on which the greenhouse industry, in partnership with government, can improve its long-term competitiveness.

Budget 2012 outlines government's commitment to working further with the greenhouse industry to provide relief to offset the cost of the B.C. Carbon Tax.

As part of **the BC Jobs Plan**, the Province is working to expand markets for our foods, including continuing to work with the federal government to find new overseas markets. As a result, B.C.-raised beef and beef byproducts like tallow can now be sold in China and South Korea. B.C.'s seafood, wine and total agrifoods exports to China have never been higher. The Province is working with the federal governments of Canada and China so fresh B.C. cherries will be sold in China. These are just a few examples of what we're doing so more and more British Columbians can find jobs in our agrifoods sector, which exports \$2.5 billion worth of products per year to more than 135 countries.

Tourism

We are building on the tourism sector to attract, sustain and promote our export markets. After extensive work with the tourism industry, on Oct. 25, 2011 we released *Gaining the Edge: A Five-Year Strategy for Tourism* in British Columbia. This strategy will:

- ▶ Target key markets with emerging middle classes (such as China and India) over the next five years, while maintaining traditional markets like Ontario, the U.S., the U.K., Germany, Australia and Japan.
- ▶ Advance key tourism products that motivate people to visit B.C. – for example, Aboriginal tourism, adventure and eco-tourism, city experiences, meetings and conventions, skiing and snowboarding, and touring vacations.
- ▶ Facilitate world-class visitor experiences by providing planning tools and programs to tourism businesses, local governments and communities.
- ▶ Implement stable and predictable funding and move forward with plans for a new multi-faceted tourism marketing partnership including provincial, regional and community marketing organizations.
- ▶ Remove barriers to industry growth by working with the federal government on challenges around air access, and on timely access to air, ocean and land borders. The Province will work with the tourism sector to ensure labour market strategies are in place that identify and address the sector's unique labour market pressures.

Transportation

New and emerging markets in Asia are giving us an exciting chance to create jobs and opportunities right across our province and to establish a thriving future economy for British Columbia.

The Pacific Gateway is a cornerstone of *Canada Starts Here: The BC Jobs Plan's* goals of strengthening our infrastructure through investment and expanding our markets in Asia. We're working with our partners to build and enhance B.C.'s port, rail, road and air corridors that move people and goods to and from global markets.

So far, we have committed up to \$50 million towards the planned investment of about \$280 million in terminal, road and rail improvements, to increase capacity at the Deltaport container facility from 1.8 million to 2.4 million TEUs. These upgrades are expected to be complete and operational by late 2014.

We have also invested \$15 million to help expand road and rail utility infrastructure at the Port of Prince Rupert. This will support bulk, break-bulk and general cargo expansion on Ridley Island. CN and Prince Rupert Port Authority each committed \$30 million in September to this project. In February 2012, Canada announced the final \$15-million portion of the \$90-million first phase.

The 41B rail overpass in Tsawwassen – the first of nine projects completed in the \$307-million Roberts Bank Rail Corridor program – was completed in December 2011. Local commuters, farmers and truckers now have a safer, more reliable route to cross Deltaport Way at 41B Street, without being delayed by long trains and truck traffic. During construction, more than 150 jobs were created.

U-Sea colonsay, a Canpotex potash ship, made its maiden voyage to Neptune Terminals in North Vancouver in November 2011. The bigger ship allows Canpotex to export more potash to Asia and other international markets. Neptune Terminals anticipates 90 new jobs for its potash division as a result of \$75 million in related terminal investments.

Ramsey Machine Works in Sidney anticipates doubling its workforce to build new loading equipment that will handle the growing demand for coal exports. A \$20-million contract to build a stacker-reclaimer is expected to create 20-25 new jobs on Vancouver Island.

Our government has also committed to investing \$5 million in border infrastructure and information systems. Seven projects to improve border crossing efficiency, including new Advance Traveller Information Systems

and NEXUS and FAST lane improvements, are expected to be complete by March 31, 2012. Site construction and sign installation is underway.

We're also continuing to deliver \$22 billion in Pacific Gateway infrastructure commitments. For example, since September 2011:

- ▶ Progress continues on the \$1.26-billion South Fraser Perimeter Road. About a third of the project will be open by December 2012, which is expected to reduce traffic congestion in North Surrey immediately.
- ▶ The \$3.3-billion Port Mann Bridge project will be completed and open to traffic by December 2012. The Port Mann/Highway 1 Improvement Project includes a new 10-lane Port Mann Bridge and improvements to about 37 kilometres of Highway 1 from the McGill Street Interchange in Vancouver to 216th Street in Langley. The rest of the Highway 1 projects will be completed through 2013. These projects will improve traffic movement, access and safety.

Private-sector partners have announced the following investments:

- ▶ \$1.8 billion in airport improvements by Vancouver International Airport.
- ▶ \$1.1 billion to \$1.2 billion in rail system infrastructure in 2012 by CP.
- ▶ \$1.75 million in rail system infrastructure in 2012 by CN, part of which will support the Pacific Gateway.
- ▶ About \$200 million in coal capacity expansion at Ridley Terminals.

Our government also announced two key policy/legislative changes to support Pacific Gateway investment and activity:

- ▶ The aviation fuel tax on jet fuel used for international flights will be eliminated on April 1, 2012, and will save airlines over \$12 million in 2012-13. Eliminating the two-cents-per-litre tax will generate new and expanded air services that will create jobs, providing more options and improving connections for air travellers throughout British Columbia.
- ▶ The Port Property Tax Act will be amended so existing caps on municipal property tax rates for designated ports become permanent. This will provide long-term tax certainty for port operators and investors, and is expected to attract over \$2 billion in future port investments needed to carry Canadian products and resources to expanding Asian markets.

International Education

International education is the two-way flow of students, educators and ideas between countries, and its expansion helps to create new relationships between British Columbia and other countries. We expect many students who come to study in B.C. will stay and work here, helping to offset our aging population and contributing to a highly skilled workforce.

Aside from the social and cultural benefits of hosting international students in our communities and sending B.C. born students abroad, international students also contribute to B.C.'s economy. In 2010 alone, they spent more than \$1.8 billion in B.C. ***Canada Starts Here: The BC Jobs Plan*** has set a target to increase the number of international students in B.C. by 50 per cent over the next four years. This will mean 47,000 more students living, studying and contributing in British Columbia.

The BC Jobs and Trade Mission in November helped solidify relationships and learning opportunities for students on both sides of the Pacific. More than 30 agreements were signed, which will help bring 2,500 new students to B.C. post-secondary institutions over the next five years. In India, the University of British Columbia has opened an office in New Delhi, and its Sauder School of Business has also established an office in Bangalore. Thompson Rivers University has also opened an office in Bangalore, complementing a Canada Starts Here social media campaign to recruit students from India.

An international education strategy is currently being developed, with input from members of the new International Education Project Council. Comprising representatives from B.C.'s education sector, business, students and government, the project council has been seeking feedback from stakeholder groups as the strategy is developed, and will continue to do so as it is implemented.

Technology, Clean-Tech and Green Economy

The technology sector is recovering more quickly than expected from the global economic downturn. In its 2012 TechTalentBC Labour Demand Study, the B.C. Technology Industry Association predicts the industry will create **between 3,000 and 4,000 new jobs** around the province in the year ending September 2012. This return of the B.C. technology industry to its pre-downturn employment peak underscores the resilience of knowledge-based industries, and also reflects support from the provincial government. In the past six months:

- ▶ B.C. consumers have been given access to \$17 million by our government to help get them into clean-energy vehicles and support the green-tech sector in British Columbia.
- ▶ Our government has committed almost \$6 million from the Innovative Clean Energy Fund to six new projects, supporting the development of new clean energy technologies. These projects will create jobs and local investment in Vancouver, Delta, Burnaby and Sooke.
- ▶ We announced \$700,000 investment in FPInnovations to help forest companies create jobs by turning their waste wood into high-value bio-products.
- ▶ Microsoft has opened a major game design studio in downtown Victoria that could employ as many as 60 people.
- ▶ A research team led by scientists from TRIUMF, Canada's national laboratory for particle and nuclear physics, announced it has developed a method for hospitals to make critical medical isotopes without reactors, a major milestone for diagnostic imaging for patients in Canada and around the world that is expected to create jobs at hospitals in B.C. and elsewhere. The team included the BC Cancer Agency, which – like TRIUMF – has received millions of dollars in support from our government.
- ▶ British Columbia will be home to the world's first LNG export facilities that use clean energy. BC LNG Douglas Channel and Kitimat LNG will access clean energy from the Province's existing grid. As new infrastructure is built and the industry expands, future energy needs will be served by local, clean energy, with B.C.'s natural gas used to support energy reliability if required.
- ▶ Our government has granted an environmental assessment certificate to Nomis Power for the proposed Nahwitti Windfarm Project on Vancouver Island.
- ▶ B.C.'s small business venture capital tax credit programs have helped technology businesses raise \$38.5 million, including \$9.4 million for 31 clean tech firms, between the start of *Canada Starts Here: The BC Jobs Plan* in September 2011 and the end of February 2012. The budget for these programs is being expanded by \$3 million under *the BC Jobs Plan* to provide greater access for startups under two years old.
- ▶ The B.C. Renaissance Capital Fund has been instrumental in raising \$10 million for technology firm Recon Instruments and \$14.2 million for Endurance Wind Power since *Canada Starts Here: The BC Jobs Plan* was introduced. Recon Instruments provides 30 jobs and Endurance Wind Power employs 58 people in British Columbia.



Early Signs of Success

One of the three pillars that supports *Canada Starts Here: The BC Jobs Plan* is expanding markets for B.C. products and services, particularly in Asia. Export figures from 2011 prove that the Asia strategy was the right course to set.

In 2011, the share of exports destined for the Pacific Rim eclipsed those to the United States for the first time in the province's history. While the U.S. received close to 70 per cent of all B.C. exports in 2001, that figure had shrunk to 42.7 per cent last year. By comparison, Pacific Rim countries, which accounted for less than 21 per cent of B.C. exports in 2001, rose to 43.1 per cent in 2011. ***That means that \$14.1 billion worth of exports shipped from the province's ports and airports were bound for China, Japan, South Korea and other economies to our west.***

In total, B.C.'s exports grew 14.2 per cent to \$32.8 billion in 2011, with sales to China largely to thank for that surge. Since 2001, exports to China have leapt 442 per cent. Last year, B.C.'s exports to China reached \$5.1 billion, an increase of 24 per cent. An outstanding example of this success is the province's softwood lumber export story. The value of B.C.'s softwood lumber exports to China jumped 60 per cent in 2011, surpassing the \$1 billion mark for the first time. Since 2003, lumber exports to China have risen by more than 1,500 per cent. China now accounts for 32 per cent of B.C.'s total volume of exports of softwood lumber. In spite of the global economic slowdown, B.C. exports of softwood lumber to China are expected to continue growing in 2012 as the Chinese government pursues its aggressive housing strategy.

Apart from softwood, China's appetite for raw materials has helped the export of energy products rise by 25 per cent to \$10 billion and that of metallic mineral products to \$3.5 billion. China is also boosting tourism: while total overseas visitor numbers rose 3.3 per cent, visits from China were up 15.3 per cent. Those numbers are likely to increase further after China's Sichuan Airlines and the Vancouver Airport Authority signed a letter of intent during the trade mission with the goal of starting a three-flights-a-week service between Chengdu and Vancouver this year.

South Korea is another rapidly growing market for BC exports. In 2011, a record \$2.7 billion worth of B.C. goods were exported to South Korea, representing a 45-per-cent increase over 2010 and an almost four-fold increase over 2001. Coal exports to South Korea rose by almost 70 per cent last year to \$1.7 billion. Strong growth was also seen in copper exports to South Korea, which rose 73 per cent in 2011 to \$250 million.

In a stuttering global market, virtually all economic growth has been concentrated in emerging economies like these. *Canada Starts Here: The BC Jobs Plan*, therefore, is based on the growing importance of Asian markets. The province is committed to opening and expanding markets for B.C. goods in key markets like China, Japan, South Korea and India, and making smart investments in the infrastructure that will help get B.C. goods to market. Through *Canada Starts Here: The BC Jobs Plan*, we have also doubled B.C.'s international trade presence, and have recently opened offices in Mumbai and Chandigarh.

Jobs

Canada Starts Here: The BC Jobs Plan is aimed at creating new, long-term jobs that families can count on. To this end, and despite economic uncertainty throughout much of the world, B.C.'s unemployment rate is much lower than it was a year ago and is well below the national average. In the past 12 months we have recorded Canada's best percentage point decrease—going from 8.1 per cent to 6.9 per cent, a 1.2 percentage point decrease. During this time **we have added 39,900 net new jobs**.

We are still living in turbulent economic times, but B.C. is well-positioned to weather the storm. Prudent fiscal management has made B.C. a safe harbour for investors and business, and, when combined with other economic and educational advantages, a secure one.





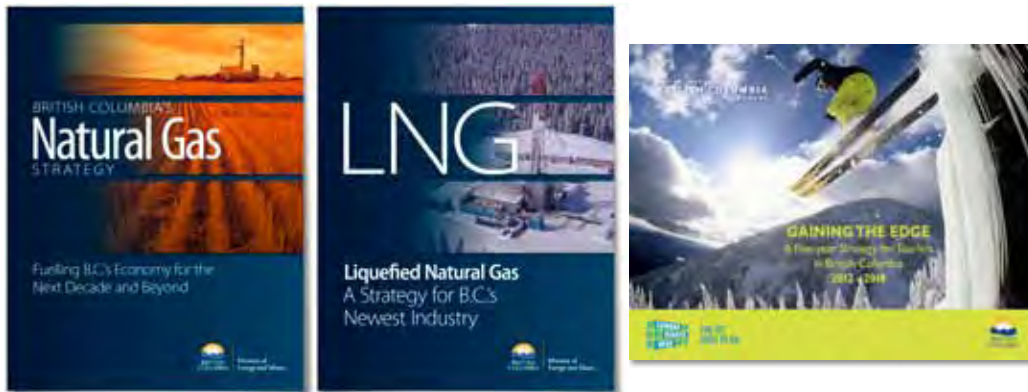
B.C. Success Stories

1. Seaspan Marine Corporation – Building on a long-tradition of quality ship-building, Seaspan was recently awarded an \$8-billion contract to build non-combat vessels for the Canadian Coast Guard and the Royal Canadian Navy at their shipyards in North Vancouver and Esquimalt. This contract will provide long-standing jobs, both directly and indirectly, for roughly **4,000 British Columbians**.
2. Mercedes-Benz – B.C.'s fuel-cell sector is among the best in the world and is home to the world's third-largest clean technology cluster. Capitalizing on this concentration, Mercedes-Benz is locating an international fuel cell stack production facility in Burnaby.
3. Rio Tinto Alcan – In a \$3.3-billion modernization to its primary aluminum smelter in Kitimat, Rio Tinto Alcan is making this facility one of the most cost-effective and environmentally-friendly smelters in the world. The upgrade will increase the overall productivity of the smelter while at the same time reducing greenhouse gas emissions by roughly 40 per cent. In so doing, 1,000 temporary construction jobs will be created and **1,000 long-term jobs** will be maintained.

Maintaining Momentum

Trade Mission

This spring, we will be visiting Japan, South Korea and the Philippines to reinforce our trade and cultural ties. Japan has been a strong trading partner of ours for many years and we hope and expect that this relationship will continue. As Canada's Pacific Gateway, B.C. already has long-standing relationships with these three nations. Through visits to established economic centres like Tokyo and Seoul, as well as to others such as Manila in the Philippines and Suwon in South Korea, a partnership of government and business representatives will look for new markets for B.C. goods and services. The mission will reinforce B.C.'s reputation as a stable, welcoming, world-class business destination. It will also highlight B.C. as Asia's fastest and most efficient gateway to North America, and open markets for priority sectors under *Canada Starts Here: The BC Jobs Plan*.



Sector Strategies

Much work has been completed over the last six months to orient government towards job creation. By creating new offices and boards, we have brought more focus to jobs; by implementing tax and training credits we have improved the investment environment.

With these steps completed, we will now turn our attention to the six remaining sectors. These sector strategies, along with the two previously announced (tourism and natural gas), represent the channel through which we will achieve greater growth in the province, realize the targets we set out for ourselves, and use our strategic advantages to ensure British Columbians have jobs that they and their families can count on.



The First Step on the Path to the Future

In the six months since *Canada Starts Here: The BC Jobs Plan* was released, we have made changes within government to orient ourselves further towards job creation. The Major Investments Office, BC Jobs and Investment Board, economic investment pilots, and Immigration Task Force are prime examples. We have also made changes to the broader tax environment to ensure businesses, small and large, are investing in the province and creating jobs for British Columbians.

In September, we released a plan with concrete commitments. This report is the first accounting of how we are doing, identifying where we are succeeding and where we have more work to do. There are clearly some achievements of which, as British Columbians, we can all be proud. Some commitments require more work. However, there is no doubt that, with the competitive advantages we have as a province and a people, we will achieve the goals we have set for ourselves.

Appendix A: BC Jobs Plan High-level Commitments

Promoting a Skilled Workforce

Commitment	Status	Details
Host a trades training conference by the end of 2011	<i>Accomplished</i>	\$10M committed to trades training programs
Enhance access to skills and apprenticeship training throughout the province	<i>Accomplished</i>	<p>Oct. 28, 2011—B.C. government formed a partnership with the United Steelworkers Union to pilot new skills training for its members in the north. \$2.9M is invested in the Northern Skills Training Pilot over 18 months, provided through the Canada BC Labour Market Agreement.</p> <p>Dec. 2, 2011—\$1M in funding for the Association for Mineral Exploration BC for industry specific training, education and promotional needs.</p> <p>Dec. 2, 2011—New online job tools, the BC Job Trend Tracker, the Build a Career Smartphone app and Career Explorers, were launched.</p> <p>Dec. 5, 2011- \$10M in skills-training funding for B.C. sector and industry groups over three years. Funding provided through the Canada/B.C. LMA.</p> <p>Dec. 8, 2011 – Camosun College received \$3.4M in funding to start a new island medical radiography program, in addition to \$591,000 in annual operating costs when the new program underway.</p> <p>Dec.13, 2011—Over \$13M invested in new employment skills training programs in regions throughout B.C. Funded through the Canada/B.C. LMA.</p> <p>Dec. 12, 2011—Okanagan College officially opened its Jim Pattison Centre of Excellence in Sustainable Building Technologies and Renewable Energy Conservation. It was built with \$22.65M from the province and federal government and \$5M from community and industry donors.</p> <p>Jan. 10, 2012—\$2.4 million to help 8,000 B.C. adults improve their literacy skills through the Community Adult Literacy Program.</p> <p>Jan. 11, 2012—\$1.5 million to give over 450 people across B.C. this year access to Essential Skills training in their workplace through the SkillsPlus program.</p> <p>Jan. 30, 2012—\$4M investment for Aboriginal learners through the Aboriginal Training for Employment Program (ATEP) to help participants pursue further studies and employment opportunities such as health-care assistants, chefs, construction workers and entrepreneurs.</p> <p>Feb. 11, 2012 –a new \$2 million bursary program—the Aboriginal Teacher Education Award Program—announced to support Aboriginal students studying to become teachers.</p>
Extend the Apprenticeship Training Tax Credit for Employers	<i>Accomplished</i>	The program has been extended to 2014.

Commitment	Status	Details
Attract more entrepreneurs and skilled workers from other countries win partnership with the deferral government through the skilled worker program and PNP.	<i>Accomplished</i>	<p>Oct. 7, 2011—\$5.5 million towards settlement-focused language training under the English Language Services for Adults (ELSA) program</p> <p>Oct. 14, 2011—Creation of a new online investment matching service linking potential business immigrants with business opportunities in BC.</p> <p>Oct. 14, 2011—BC PNP program amended to allow BC PNP business immigrants to meet their employment commitments by maintaining existing jobs.</p> <p>Oct. 14, 2011—Entry level and semi-skilled pilot category of the BC PNP program made permanent.</p> <p>Oct. 14, 2011—Reduced minimum size for eligible employers located outside the GVRD from five employees to three.</p> <p>Dec. 8, 2011 – Immigration Task Force created. 9 meetings were held throughout the province with the last one in Penticton on Feb 9th. Task Force will release a report on their findings in March.</p>
Work with post-secondary institutions to promote entrepreneurship education	<i>Ongoing w/ one accomplishment</i>	Youth Skills BC – Entrepreneurship Pilot Program launched with \$1.65M investment through the Labour Market Agreement – Sept. 27, 2011
Provide up to \$6M/year to industry sector partnerships to help them identify their skill and workforce needs	<i>Ongoing</i>	Funding announced as part of the release of the Jobs Plan, with multiple industry sector partnerships (e.g. shipbuilding, mining, forestry, clean technology).
Extend by 3 years the \$31 million annual funding for the BC Training Tax Credit	<i>Accomplished</i>	Included in Budget 2012

Enabling Job Creation

Commitment	Status	Details
Establish the B.C. shipbuilding and Repair Sector Table	<i>Accomplished</i>	The first meetings of the table took place in November, 2011 with regular meetings taking place since then.
Regulatory Reporting Act enacted in 2012	<i>Accomplished</i>	Legislation announced by Minister Falcon, with assent received on Nov. 24. Reports will be made public on June 30 of each year
Advance and conclude agreements with First Nations	<i>Ongoing with Accomplishment</i>	<p>Huu-ay-aht FN signed the first-ever First Nations' woodland license with the Province of BC. This license provides the Huu-ay-aht FN with the ability to harvest approximately 70,000 cubic metres of timber/year – Dec. 2, 2011</p> <p>The government signed a strategic land use planning agreement with the Kaska Dena First Nations. The agreement is the second phase of the Dease-Liard Sustainable Resource Management Plan reached between the government and the Kaska Dena in 2001, which concluded in 2005</p> <p>Mount Polley Mining Corp. and the Williams Lake Indian Band have signed a five-year agreement to settle issues of rights and title to the land where the mine has operated for 15 years and to lands where it hopes to expand in the near future.</p> <p>A participation agreement was signed between the New Afton Mine, the Skeetchestn and the Tk'emlups Indian Band on Dec. 1, 2011.</p>
Create investment attraction strategies for reach region	<i>Ongoing with accomplishments from Dec-March</i>	Regional economic development pilot forums, launched on Dec. 8, were held in Campbell River, the Barriere-McBride corridor and the North Fraser region. A fourth pilot in a First Nations community expected to take place in March.

Commitment	Status	Details
Improve and expand the existing Small Business Venture Capital Program tax credit by 2012	<i>Accomplished</i>	Additional \$3M invested into Small business Venture Capital Program tax credit in Budget 2012.
Create regional workforce tables	<i>Ongoing</i>	Forums held in Terrace and Dawson Creek
Creation of the Major Investments Office	<i>Ongoing</i>	Office began operation in February upon the appointment of the Associate Deputy Minister responsible for the day-to-day running of the office
Creation of the Jobs and Investment Board by Nov. 21, 2011	<i>Ongoing</i>	First meeting held on February 24, 2012
Creation of the Aboriginal Business and Investment Council	<i>Ongoing</i>	Chair announced Dec. 16
Follow through with smart business de-regulation	<i>To come</i>	
10 new non-treaty agreements in place with B.C. First Nations by 2015 to improve economic certainty	<i>Ongoing-2015</i>	<p>Huu-ay-aht FN signed the first-ever First Nations' woodland license with the Province of BC. This license provides the Huu-ay-aht FN with the ability to harvest approximately 70,000 cubic metres of timber/year – Dec. 2, 2011</p> <p>Nanwakolas Reconciliation Protocol (announced November 2011)</p> <p>Wei Wai Kum (formerly Campbell River) First Nation joins the Nanwakolas Strategic Engagement Agreement (November 2011)</p> <p>Haisla Nation joins the Coastal Reconciliation Protocol (November 2011)</p> <p>Kaska land-use plan (January 2012)</p>
Border Technology and Information systems in place by March 31, 2012	<i>Ongoing- March 2012</i>	
Promote and defend BC's interests aggressively by reducing or eliminating protectionist measures in other jurisdictions through engagement and, where necessary, more formal means.	<i>Ongoing with Accomplishments</i>	<p>Feb 13 – Under the national Agreement on Internal Trade, BC and the western provinces (AB, SK, MAN) successfully challenged Ontario's measures discriminating against Certified General Accountants, resulting in expanded business opportunities for BC CGAs (Feb. 13).</p> <p>BC is co-leading with Saskatchewan a trade dispute against Quebec's discriminatory measures negatively affecting BC producers of dairy substitute products (e.g., edible oils).</p> <p>BC is collaborating with the federal government to advance BC's interests in trade and investment negotiations with Asian economies as well as other markets (e.g., European Union).</p>

Opening Markets

Commitment	Status	Details
Implement promotional campaign for B.C.	<i>Accomplished</i>	Radio/T.V. ads launched late Dec. 2011
Create new Hosting Program so visiting investors have a good experience in B.C.	<i>To come</i>	
Examine the feasibility of setting up an International Trade Zone to attract new investment.	<i>Accomplishment</i>	Oct. 26 – B.C. released a public study, conducted by InterVistas, providing options related to enhancing the province’s competitiveness through Foreign Trade Zones. BC has communicated with the Government of Canada seeking improvements to existing federal FTZ programs that would create business and investment opportunities in BC.
Double international presence	<i>Ongoing w/ a couple accomplishments</i>	<p>Nov. 12 – Premier announced the opening of two additional BC trade and investment offices in India – Mumbai and Chandigarh – complementing our existing presence in Bangalore</p> <p>Nov. 8 – Premier announces business accelerator program at the New West Partnership’s trade and investment representative office in Shanghai</p> <p>Nov. 21 – Premier concluded successful BC Jobs and Trade mission to China and India, including approximately 70 events and meetings with business and political leaders, and resulting in 60 business deals and partnership agreements valued at over \$1.4 billion</p>

Appendix B: BC Jobs Plan Sector-based Commitments

Natural Gas

Target	Status	Details
Bring at least one LNG pipeline and terminal online by 2015 and have three in operation by 2020.	<i>Ongoing</i>	National Energy Board approved a 20-year export license for the Kitimat LNG facility on Oct 13, 2011

Natural Resource Sectors

Target	Status	Details
80% reduction in the backlog of Mining Permits by Aug 31, 2012	<i>Ongoing</i>	As of Jan. 31, 2012, the backlog had been reduced by 67 per cent. Progress is reported monthly at www.bcjobsplan.ca .
Maintain 60-day turnaround for all new Notice of Work applications from 2013 onwards	<i>To come, 2013 onwards</i>	As of Jan. 31, 2012, the average turnaround time had been reduced from 110 days to 99 days.
Eight new mines in operation by 2015 and the expansion of at least nine that are currently operating in BC.	<i>Ongoing-2015</i>	<p>On Jan. 3, 2012, Imperial Metals Corp. announced it will extend the Huckleberry copper and molybdenum mine's life by another seven years. That means the preservation of 230 full-time jobs and 30 contract positions.</p> <p>The Quinsam Mine, an underground coal mine on central Vancouver Island has been handed a permit to extend its mining operations.</p> <p>The New Afton copper-gold-silver mine is currently under construction and is projected to begin operations in the second half of 2012. This mine will provide full-time employment for around 250 people.</p> <p>A Mines Act permit was issued to Barkerville Gold Mines Ltd. on Nov. 29, 2011. It will have a four-year lifespan and will provide 30 direct jobs at Bonanza Ridge and a further 40 jobs at the QR Mine where the ore will be processed.</p> <p>Construction is underway on the Mt. Milligan gold and copper mine near Fort St. James. It's scheduled to be operating in 2013.</p>
Reduce backlog of Water and Land Act tenures by 50% by Dec 31, 2012	<i>Ongoing-Dec. 2012</i>	As of Jan. 31, 2012, the backlog in Water Act tenures had been reduced by 8.2 per cent and the backlog in Land Act tenures had been reduced by 5.7 per cent. Progress is updated monthly at www.bcjobsplan.ca

Tourism

Target	Status	Details
Generate strategy for Tourism sector	<i>Accomplished</i>	Gaining the Edge: A Five-Year Strategy for Tourism in British Columbia released on Oct. 25, 2011
YVR to attract one new international carrier per year for the next two years to further develop trade and tourism between B.C. and the Asia Pacific.	<i>Ongoing-2014</i>	China's Sichuan Airlines signed a letter of intent for three new flights a week to and from YVR in 2012- announced Nov. 6, 2011

Agrifood

Target	Status	Details
Report on the greenhouse industry completed and released by Dec 31, 2011	<i>Accomplished</i>	Posted to the BC Jobs Plan site

Transportation

Target	Status	Details
Commit up to \$50M to improve capacity at Deltaport	<i>Ongoing</i>	Funding announced as part of the release of the Jobs Plan. \$50M in provincial funding was committed to support the \$205 million expansion of the Deltaport Intermodal Yard.
Deltaport and Ridley Island terminal upgrades complete and operational by 2014	<i>Ongoing-2014</i>	
Invest in Road Rail Utility Corridor Project at Ridley Island	<i>Ongoing</i>	Funding announced as part of the release of the Jobs Plan. \$15M in provincial funding was committed to support Road, Rail Utility Infrastructure expansion at the Port of Prince Rupert.
Invest \$5M in border infrastructure and information systems	<i>Ongoing to March 31, 2012</i>	Funding announced as part of the release of the Jobs Plan. Seven projects to improve border crossing efficiency (valued at \$5.6M) will be complete by March 31, 2012.
YVR to attract one new international carrier per year for the next two years to further develop trade and tourism between B.C. and the Asia Pacific.	<i>Ongoing-2014</i>	China's Sichuan Airlines signed a letter of intent for three new flights a week to and from YVR in 2012- announced Nov. 6, 2011

International Education

Target	Status	Details
Target: Increase the # of international students in BC by 50% over the next four years	<i>Ongoing-2015</i>	<p>B.C. signed more than 30 agreements on the Premier's November 2011 trade mission to help bring 2,500 new students to B.C. post-secondary institutions over next five years.</p> <p>Three international offices were opened on the B.C. Jobs and Trade Mission: UBC opened offices in New Delhi and in Bangalore.</p> <p>TRU opened a regional student recruitment office in Bangalore and launched a Canada Starts Here-branded social media campaign to recruit students from India.</p> <p>An International Education Strategy is being developed. It is being informed from the input of a newly formed International Education Project Council, comprised of representatives from B.C.'s education sector, business, students and government, obtained feedback from stakeholder groups.</p>

Appendix C: Targets on the Path to Success

Fiscal and Economic

Target	Status
Top two GDP growth in Canada by 2015	<i>Ongoing</i>
Top two in new job growth in Canada by 2015	<i>Ongoing</i>

International Education

Target	Status
Increase the number of international students in B.C. by 50 per cent over the next four years.	<i>Ongoing</i>
Strict new quality assurance system in place by 2012	<i>Ongoing</i>

Natural Resources

Target	Status
Eight new mines in operation by 2015	<i>Ongoing</i>
Nine upgrades and expansions to currently operating mines by 2015	<i>Ongoing</i>
At least one LNG pipeline and terminal in operation in Kitimat by 2015 and three in operation by 2020	<i>Ongoing</i>
Mining permit (Notices of Work) backlog reduced by 80 per cent by August 31, 2012	<i>Ongoing</i> <i>Backlog reduced 67 per cent</i>
Water and land Act permit backlog reduction of 50 per cent by December 31, 2012	<i>Ongoing</i> <i>Water Act backlog reduced 8.2 per cent</i> <i>Land Act backlog reduced 5.7 per cent</i>

Transportation

Target	Status
Deltaport and Ridley Island Terminal upgrades completed and operational by 2014	<i>Ongoing</i>
Border Technology and Information Systems in place by March 31, 2012	<i>Ongoing</i>

Aviation

Target	Status
YVR to attract one new international carrier per year for the next two years to further develop trade and tourism between B.C. and the Asia Pacific.	<i>Ongoing</i> <i>Sichuan Airlines signed a letter of intent for three new flights a week to and from YVR in 2012</i>

Aboriginal Relations

Target	Status
10 new non-treaty agreements in place with B.C. First Nations by 2015 to improve economic certainty	<i>Ongoing</i> <i>Four have been signed since Nov. 2011</i>

Tax and Regulation

Target	Status
Small Business Venture Capital Program tax credit enhanced by 2012	<i>Accomplished</i>
Extension of the Apprentice Training Tax Credit program for an additional three years	<i>Accomplished</i>
Business tax competitiveness review to inform Budget 2012	<i>Accomplished</i>
Commitment to net zero regulatory gain through 2015	<i>Ongoing</i>
Regulatory Reporting Act enacted in 2012	<i>Accomplished</i>

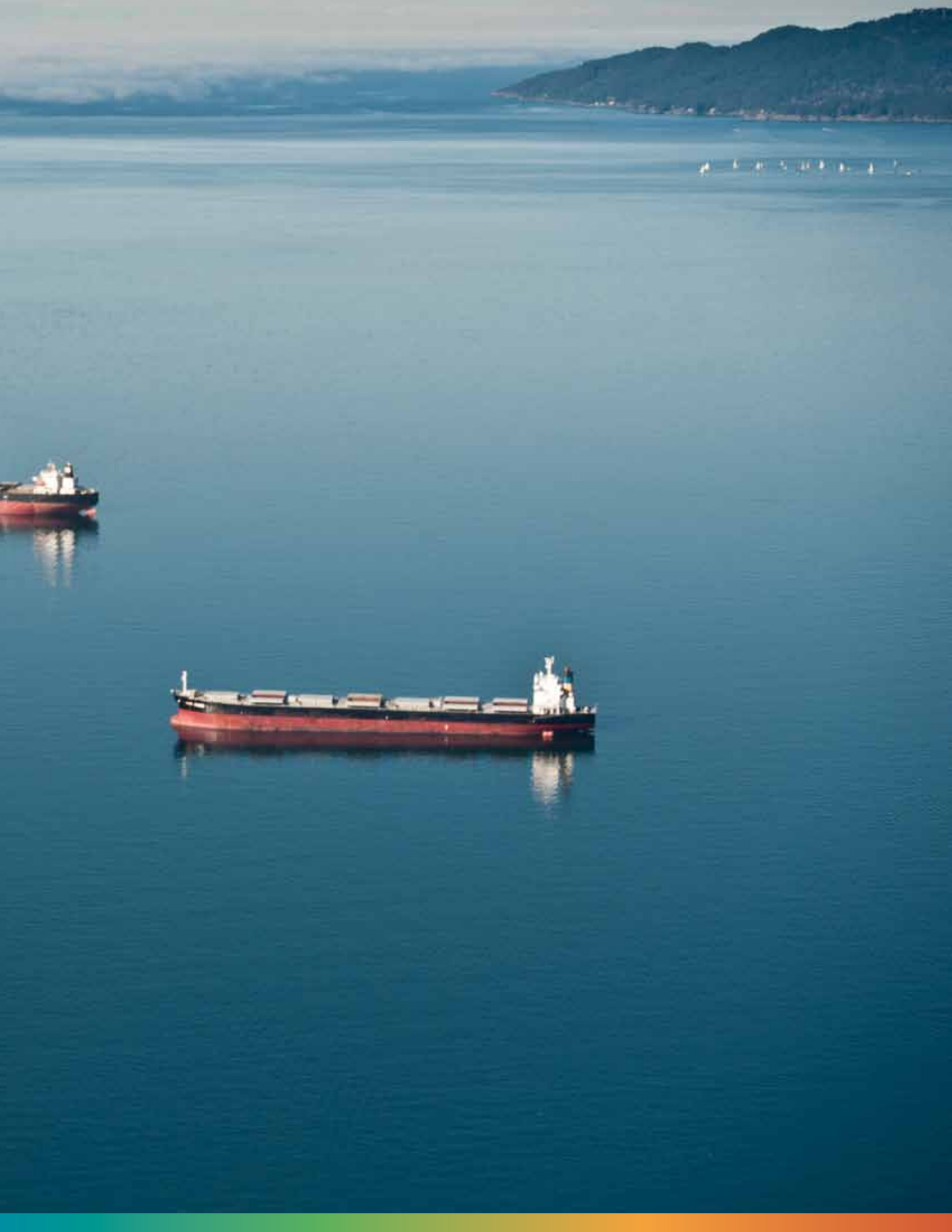
Agrifoods

Target	Status
Report on the greenhouse industry completed and released by December 31, 2011	<i>Accomplished</i>



“Government can’t do this alone. Thank you to the thousands of British Columbians who have taken time to share their ideas and thoughts. We value your input – and I encourage all of you to engage with us in making British Columbia, and British Columbians, the best we can be.”

- Honourable Christy Clark, Premier of British Columbia





THE BC JOBS PLAN

We invite you to share your ideas



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