

Call to Order – 12:31 am, November 27, 2014 | MBC 2294

## 1. Roll Call of Attendance

### Committee Composition

Vice President External Relations ( <i>chair</i> ).....	Darwin Binesh
President ( <i>ex officio</i> ) .....	Chardaye Bueckert
Vice President Student Life.....	Kayode Fatoba
Board of Directors Representative .....	Rebecca Langmead
Board of Directors Representative .....	Brady Wallace ( <i>late</i> )
Councilor .....	Michael Fujiwara
Councilor .....	Kathleen Yang
Councilor .....	Nick Poullos
Councilor .....	Maren Thompson
Board of Governors Representative.....	Devan Azevedo ( <i>late-BOG</i> )
Out On Campus Representative .....	
Women’s Centre Representative.....	Anjali Biju
Senate Representative .....	Shirin Escarcha
Student At-Large.....	Muhsin Suleiman
Student At-Large.....	Arjan Mundy

### Society Staff

Campaigns, Research, and Policy Coordinator .....	Pierre Cassidy
Minute Taker .....	Dion Chong

### Guests

Member .....	Meron Asfaw
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### Regrets

Vice President University Relations .....	Moe Kopahi ( <i>academic</i> )
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## 2. Adoption of the Agenda

### MOTION ADV 2014-11-27:01

Mundy

*Be it resolved to adopt the agenda as presented.*

*Discussion items added on council, protests, and letters.*

### CARRIED AS AMENDED

## 3. Discussion

### a. African Studies Programme

A student trying to pursue the African Studies Certificate indicated that Africa related classes were extremely low. A number of programmes within the Arts and Social Sciences required a regional or continental focus, but Africa was being neglected in any such programming. In speaking to the programme chair, it was indicated that there were not enough professors in political science with a regional concentration to the field. Students have found avenues to continue pursuing the certificate, such as directed readings. However, this has presented issues with completing the certificate, as well as issues around the global nature of the university. The member had engaged with a number of avenues, including a number of related student unions to move the issue forward.

Senate could potential review the viability of the certificate programme through Senate Committee on University Priorities [SCUP] or Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies [SCUS]. The Senate Representative would bring the matter forward to the affected senate Political Science Student Union discussed the issue and recognized the larger issue of course registration within the Political Science. PSSU would be contacting the political science academic advisor, undergraduate chair, and bring up the issue at a departmental curriculum meeting. It was understood that this was a longer term process.

For funding of programming for the continental focus, it may become necessary for the PSSU and ADV and others to submit a joint letter to the SFU VP Academic.

It was expressed that the faculty Director of Advancement may also be an opportunity for engagement, considering that the current faculty funding priorities do not include an African component.

### **Committee Action Items**

Shirin Escarcha – Submitting question to the appropriate senate body.

Kathleen Yang – Approaching Political Science departmental resources.

Meron Asfaw – Writing a joint letter potentially with the ISSA, PSSU, ADV, and African Student Association.

Moe Kopahi and Meron Asfaw – Approaching FASS Director of Advancement

### **b. Summary of Standing Committee on Finance Report**

The report was circulated to the committee. SFSS made a submission around a number of priority areas, and 3 of the 4 recommendations were accepted and reported within the committee recommendations.

Notable recommendations include the following: (pages 25 and 37)

- Formal opposition to continuing planned cuts to higher education
- Funding to address deferred maintenance
- Increased funding to public transit.

Commendations were provided for other student organizations, who advocated for a number of other issues of interest to the SFSS membership, including a reduction to student loan interest rates. It was expressed that steady engagement with the government was creating results for the membership of the SFSS, and provided grounds for the SFSS to follow-up with the government of these key issues.

President Bueckert was commended for their work in preparing and presenting the information to the Standing Committee on Finance.

### **c. GRID Letter**

#### **MOTION ADV 2014-11-27:02**

Langmead/Amended Fatoba

*Be it resolved* to submit the letter to the university as attached to the proposal sent by grid

*Be it further resolved* to task Rebecca Langmead –At-Large Representative, and Moe Kopahi – Vice President University Relations to sign the letter

The At-Large Representative had prepared a factual letter in light of the findings from the townhall. The goal of the letter was to indicate to the university that the SFSS hosted a townhall and explain the reasoning behind the hosting of the letter. A committee member requested a line be included to indicate that SFSS has not taken a formal position on Greek life at present. Questions were raised around the submission time, as GRID may wish to submit the letter as part of the information package. Content may need to change based upon when the letter is submitted (potentially changing based upon the discussions at the SFSS Special General Meeting). If changes were needed, the committee would receive the final copy. The SFSS was to host a Special General Meeting on 2014-01-21, and the board had indicated that a question relating to greek life would be put forth on the agenda. The committee concluded that, given the existing relationship and university tasking, the letter would be addressed to the SFU AVP Students.

### **CARRIED AS AMENDED**

#### **d. Council - Followup on International Student Tuition Fee Discussion**

The last Council meeting had over 100 members in attendance to speak to the SFU AVP Students. Much of the time was spent to discuss the international student tuition fee increases, which had been compounded over the last two years, with a third installment due in January. Additional discussions occurred around the current issues around Louis Riel and SFU residences at large.

It was indicated that members signing into the meeting had provided their emails to be added to a mailing list. Follow-up correspondences and a summary of facts could be provided to members who attended the Council meeting, as well as contact information for the student representative on the Board of Governors. Additionally, a call to action may be desirable to provide options to participate in the greater campaign.

*Azevedo entered at 1:09pm*

The university indicated that they would have a response to the Advocacy Committee letter by the Council meeting. The President would follow-up with President Petter on the issue and potentially consider putting forward an agenda item for the Board of Governors based upon the response. The committee was awaiting the response of the university, as this would inform the continued advocacy and engagement efforts

Council organizers were commended for their success in organizing the meeting.

The Board of Governors Representative updated BOG with feedback from the Council meeting, with positive response. In addition, many members approached the BOG Representative after the Council meeting to discuss the tuition matters.

A director indicated that there were domestic students who were in agreement with the university and thus it was necessary for the international student body to advocate on its own behalf. The committee was reminded that the membership was free to have and express their own opinions on tuition fee increases. On the Board of Governors, it was believed that faculty and staff representatives were more willing to take controversial stances, such as June Francis and Peter Rubin.

The committee identified the following suggested action items:

University and administrator engagement

- Will be asked for a response, with a report back to ADV

- BOG – if a motion or discussion included, a discussion could be conducted with individual BOG members on the position of the Student Society.
- The committee was reminded that any discussion with department heads could be an opportunity to discuss the matter

#### **Potential Members Call to Action Discussed by the Committee**

- Request that members attend Council, ADV, and BOG meetings
  - A BOG budget review session would occur after the January meeting. ADV may wish to have any and all actions completed by that meeting to ensure that its message is heard well in advance of the vote.
- Decorate travelling diaries and have international students share stories within these notebooks.
  - These should be circulated through the SFSS campus liaisons to ensure that international students on other campuses could be engaged.
  - A number of stories had already been received.
- Video stories of international student experiences.
  - Organization capacity may not be available at the moment.
- Letters
  - Could be conducted in a fill-in-the-blank PDF attached to a follow-up email.
    - The committee wished to ensure that letters were unique in their content.
  - Option could be available for members to write their own letter or use the fill-in-the-blank email provided.
  - Different letter could be given out to each BOG member, in order to bolster any student representation at the BOG meeting.
- Following a Facebook page on international student tuition fees – any action items could be circulated through Facebook.
- Online blog posts from members of the student society expressing the impact of these fee increases.

Questions were raised around the potential Peak Feature on international student. The Peak had set up a mechanism to collect stories from international students, after consultation with the SFSS President. The committee was reminded that all students were free to contribute to The Peak. Should they choose not to run the story, the committee members could email the peak requesting such a story or write a story themselves.

**Action Item:** President would follow-up with The Peak features editor.

Questions were raised around the feasibility of collaborating with UBC and other groups to lobby the provincial government on the continued funding cuts.

The At-Large Representative and the Vice President External Relations had attended a Alliance of British Columbia Students meeting in the past. The Alliance of British Columbia Students was hoping to consolidate a letter on a number of shared issues across multiple universities, including international student tuition. The SFSS may wish to consider working with the ABCS on the matter moving forward. In the past, the SFSS attended two “Lobby Days” with the ABCS

in Victoria – another may be hosted around February and the Advocacy Committee may wish to be in attendance.

**Action Item:** Vice President External Relations would contact the ABCS.

**MEETING EXTENDED FOR TEN MINUTES**

Bueckert

**MEETING EXTENDED FOR FIVE MINUTES**

Langmead

Councilor Yang would draft a follow-up email for Council attendees with summary of facts and contact information for BOG. The email would include a clear call to action – Online petition with social media component, and potentially inviting the members to attend an ADV or BOG meeting, and to write a letter to the Board of Governors.

**MOTION ADV 2014-11-27:03**

Bueckert

*Be it resolved to* task Kathleen Yang – Councillor to draft a followup email to those in attendance at the November 26th Council meeting

*Be it further resolved to* task Chardaye Bueckert – President to engage with the Communications Office on an online petition and call to action, with social media component.

*Be it further resolved to* have all action items completed by December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The draft for the followup email would be circulated to the committee. All letter had to be submitted by 2014-01-20 in order for the Board of Governors to consider them.

**CARRIED**

**MEETING EXTENDED FOR FIVE MINUTES**

Bueckert

**e. Support for Protests on Burnaby Mountain**

SFPIRG as well as an SFSS member have requested support for the legal protestors against the Kinder Morgan Pipeline expansion. SFPIRG was hiring a temporary position to support the campaign and requested food, supplies, and signmaking material support.

FARM discussed attending on Monday with hot chocolate and food for the protestors to show support.

**MOTION ADV 2014-11-27:04**

Bueckert

Whereas the SFSS has taken an official opposition stance to the kinder morgan pipeline

Whereas there are ongoing peaceful protest on Burnaby Mountain

Be it resolved to approve up to \$500 for food and supplies to support the peaceful lawful protests on Burnaby Mountain.

Langmead, Escarcha, and Wallace would distribute the supplies, given FARM involvement in the matter.

**CARRIED**

**4. Attachments**

ADVLetterforGreekLife.pdf

Rpt-FGS-40-3-Report-on-Budget-2015-Consultations-2014-NOV-13

**5. Adjournment 1:56pm**

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DC | CUPE 3338

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**Summary of Substantive Motions**

**MOTION ADV 2014-11-27:02**

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Bueckert

Whereas the SFSS has taken an official opposition stance to the kinder morgan pipeline

Whereas there are ongoing peaceful protest on Burnaby Mountain

*Be it resolved to* approve up to \$500 for food and supplies to support the peaceful lawful protests on Burnaby Mountain.

**CARRIED**



# *Report on the Budget 2015 Consultations*

*Select Standing Committee on Finance  
and Government Services*



NOVEMBER 2014







November 13, 2014

To the Honourable  
Legislative Assembly of the  
Province of British Columbia

Honourable Members:

I have the honour to present herewith the First Report of the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services for the Third Session of the 40<sup>th</sup> Parliament.

The Report covers the work of the Committee in regard to the Budget 2015 consultations, and was approved unanimously by the Committee.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Committee,

Dan Ashton, MLA  
Chair



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## Composition of the Committee

### Members

Dan Ashton, MLA	Chair	Penticton
Carole James, MLA*	Deputy Chair	Victoria-Beacon Hill
Mable Elmore, MLA**		Vancouver-Kensington
Mike Farnworth, MLA**		Port Coquitlam
Eric Foster, MLA		Vernon-Monashee
Simon Gibson, MLA*		Abbotsford-Mission
Wm. Scott Hamilton, MLA		Delta North
George Heyman, MLA*		Vancouver-Fairview
Gary Holman, MLA		Saanich North and the Islands
Marvin Hunt, MLA**		Surrey-Panorama
Mike Morris, MLA*		Prince George-Mackenzie
Lana Popham, MLA**		Saanich South
Jane Jae Kyung Shin, MLA*		Burnaby-Lougheed
Jackie Tegart, MLA**		Fraser-Nicola
John Yap, MLA		Richmond-Steveston

\*Committee member from September 5, 2014

\*\*Committee member to September 5, 2014

### Clerk to the Committee

Susan Sourial, Committee Clerk

### Research Staff

Byron Plant, Committee Research Analyst

Aaron Ellingsen and Gordon Robinson, Committee Researchers

## Terms of Reference

On February 25, 2014 and October 6, 2014, the Legislative Assembly agreed that the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services be empowered:

1. To examine, inquire into and make recommendations with respect to the budget consultation paper prepared by the Minister of Finance in accordance with section 2 of the *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act* and, in particular, to:
  - a. Conduct public consultations across British Columbia on proposals and recommendations regarding the provincial budget and fiscal policy for the coming fiscal year by any means the committee considers appropriate, including but not limited to public meetings, telephone and electronic means;
  - b. Prepare a report no later than November 15, 2014 on the results of those consultations.

In addition to the powers previously conferred upon the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services, the committee shall be empowered:

- a. to appoint of their number one or more subcommittees and to refer to such subcommittees any of the matters referred to the Committee;
- b. to sit during a period in which the House is adjourned, during the recess after prorogation until the next following Session and during any sitting of the House;
- c. to adjourn from place to place as may be convenient; and
- d. to retain personnel as required to assist the Committee,

and shall report to the House as soon as possible, or following any adjournment, or at the next following Session, as the case may be; to deposit the original of its reports with the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly during a period of adjournment and upon resumption of the sittings of the House, the Chair shall present all reports to the Legislative Assembly.

## Executive Summary

This year's public consultations on the provincial budget began on September 9, 2014 with the release of "Budget Consultation Paper 2015: Successive Balanced Budgets" by the Minister of Finance. Over an approximately six-week period, the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services (the Committee) held public hearings in 16 BC communities, and videoconference sessions covering an additional four locations. The Committee also invited written, video, and audio submissions, as well as responses to an online survey. In total, 1,782 submissions were received by the October 17, 2014 deadline for public input.

This report summarizes key themes from the consultations, and makes 58 recommendations for the provincial government to consider for Budget 2015. In keeping with the theme of the budget consultation paper, the recommendations strike a balance between revenue generation and program spending, while proposing new expenditures in high priority areas. All of the recommendations were unanimously agreed to by Committee members.

Recommendations in the area of fiscal policy and taxation affirm the overall goal of balanced budgets, and include ways to support BC businesses and generate additional government revenues through taxation improvements. The section on natural resource development proposes measures to promote and enhance BC's natural resource industries, while creating sustainable communities in regions affected by resource development.

Several recommendations are made in the areas of health and education, the two largest areas of public expenditure. They include proposals to expand health care services and build on best practices to improve the health of British Columbians, particularly underserved populations. K-12 and post-secondary recommendations offer suggestions on how to enhance educational outcomes and address institutional needs, while ensuring that students are being prepared for future job opportunities.

On community and social services, the Committee makes recommendations to assist BC families and to target resources towards the most vulnerable. Proposals are also made to support community-based service providers and arts and culture groups, whose submissions demonstrated the important social and economic benefits that these services bring to BC communities.

The last section, transportation, technology, and environment, contains recommendations to enhance provincial infrastructure in accordance with social, economic, and regional priorities. Suggestions are also made to promote BC's technology sector, and to renew efforts to promote clean energy, address climate change, and protect the environment.





## Budget 2015 Consultation Process

Section 2 of the *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act* requires the Minister of Finance to make public a budget consultation paper by September 15 each year. The paper must include a fiscal forecast, key issues to be addressed in the next provincial budget, and information on how members of the public may provide their views on those issues. Upon its release, the paper stands referred to the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services. The Committee then conducts consultations as it considers appropriate and must make public a report on the results of those consultations by November 15.

### Budget Consultation Paper

Released on September 9, 2014, this year's paper, "Budget Consultation Paper 2015: Successive Balanced Budgets" stated that balanced budgets have been forecast for all three years of the current fiscal plan. The paper described how, despite successive forecast surpluses, government must continue to exercise fiscal discipline and maintain its commitment to BC taxpayers to not spend more money than it collects. The province's triple-A credit rating, tax competitiveness, job creation, and health and education outcomes were also discussed. The paper invited British Columbians to participate in the consultations by ranking responses to four questions. The questions and a tally of responses are presented on pages 4 and 5.

### Finance Minister's Briefing

The Finance Minister appeared before the Committee on September 15, 2014, to discuss the budget consultation paper and first quarterly report for 2014/15. During the presentation, the Finance Minister stated that the budget for 2014/15 is forecast to have a surplus of \$226 million, an increase over the \$184 million surplus projected in February. The fiscal plan also includes \$350 million in statutorily-required spending as a result of forest fire suppression. Committee members heard how BC's debt as a percentage of GDP has decreased, and that the provincial debt is \$700 million less than originally anticipated.

On the provincial economic outlook, the Finance Minister reported that BC's real GDP is projected to be 0.1 percent less than that projected in February. Job growth is also forecast to increase by 0.5 percent in 2014. The Finance Minister concluded the presentation with a discussion of other key economic indicators.

### Consultation Methods

Several methods were used to collect public input on the budget, including community public hearings, written, audio, and video submissions, and an online survey. A Committee webpage (<http://www.leg.bc.ca/cmt/finance>) was launched for the consultations, and information on how to participate was publicized a number of different ways.

On August 25, 2014, a province-wide news release was issued announcing the Committee’s consultation plans and the locations of the public hearings. Newspaper advertisements were also placed in major provincial and community newspapers. A second province-wide news release was distributed on September 15, 2014 announcing the start of the consultations and how to participate.

The work of the Committee was also promoted through social media. Regular updates and announcements of Committee activities were posted through Facebook and Twitter. Facebook advertisements were also used to invite submissions and to increase public awareness of the consultations.

### Public Hearing Presentations

During the consultation period, the Committee held 16 public hearings in communities across the province. In addition, one video conference meeting was held in Victoria to hear presentations from four additional communities. In total, the Committee heard 220 oral presentations from individuals and a range of organizations representing business, industry, community service providers, local government, labour, and other sectors. All of the presenters are listed in Appendix A.

### Written, Video, and Audio Submissions

Over the course of the consultations, 298 written submissions were received through the online submission form on the Committee’s website, by lettermail, and by fax. Twenty video and audio submissions were also received. The names of all individuals and organizations that made a written, video, or audio submission are listed in Appendix B.

### Online Survey Responses

A total of 1,264 individuals and organizations completed the online survey containing questions from the budget consultation paper. All of the survey participants are listed in Appendix C.

The budget consultation paper asked British Columbians to rank responses to four questions in order of priority. The questions and tally of responses are provided below:

1) **What is the best way to maintain a balanced budget:**

	1st Priority	2nd Priority	3rd Priority
Reduce spending	179	293	808
Increase revenue through taxes	909	187	184
Maintain current balance	193	799	288

2) What program and spending areas are most important to you:

	1st Priority	2nd Priority	3rd Priority	4th Priority	5th Priority
Health care	251	815	175	31	8
K-12 and post-secondary education	923	241	52	41	23
Income assistance and community social services	57	127	700	223	173
Natural resources and economic development	30	38	179	371	662
Developing infrastructure	19	59	174	613	415

3) If demand for public services grows government should:

	1st Priority	2nd Priority	3rd Priority	4th Priority
Raise taxes	782	198	161	139
Remove barriers and provide support to boost economic opportunities	261	398	381	240
Increase user fees and licences	137	487	439	217
No need to find more revenue because the budget is balanced	99	196	298	687

4) Taxpayer-supported infrastructure spending on hospitals, schools, post-secondary facilities, transit and roads will total \$11.4 billion over three years, financed by \$7.2 billion in provincial borrowing with the remainder funded by partners such as the federal government. Budget surpluses are used to reduce new borrowing needs. Which statement do you agree with the most:

	1st Priority	2nd Priority	3rd Priority	4th Priority	5th Priority
It is important to build needed infrastructure, regardless of how much we need to borrow	316	302	323	225	114
It is important to build needed infrastructure, but we need to limit our borrowing and keep debt affordable	544	408	275	49	4
The government should not borrow any money; instead I am willing to pay higher taxes to build needed infrastructure	327	378	394	110	71
The government should not borrow any money; instead I am willing to postpone or cancel needed infrastructure	79	151	227	764	59
The government should not borrow any money; instead it should cut programs and services to fund needed infrastructure	14	39	59	132	1,036

## Meetings Schedule

<i>Date</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Location</i>
April 10, 2014	Organizational Meeting	Victoria
May 29, 2014	Organizational Meeting	Victoria
September 15, 2014	Minister's Briefing Public Hearing	Victoria
September 16, 2014	Public Hearings	Prince Rupert Terrace
September 17, 2014	Public Hearings	Fort St. John Prince George
September 18, 2014	Public Hearing	Vancouver
September 22, 2014	Public Hearing	Whistler
September 29, 2014	Public Hearing	Cranbrook
September 30, 2014	Public Hearings	Kelowna Kamloops
October 1, 2014	Public Hearings	Williams Lake Campbell River
October 2, 2014	Public Hearing	Courtenay
October 8, 2014	Video conference hearing (Castlegar, Dawson Creek, Quesnel, and Smithers)	Victoria
October 14, 2014	Public Hearing	Surrey
October 15, 2014	Public Hearings	Mission Delta
October 28, 2014	Deliberations	Victoria
November 3, 2014	Deliberations	Victoria
November 4, 2014	Deliberations	Victoria
November 6, 2014	Deliberations	Victoria
November 12, 2014	Deliberations Adoption of Report	Victoria

## Fiscal Policy and Taxation

Provincial fiscal policy and taxation issues were recurrent topics during the public consultations on Budget 2015. Associations representing business, industry, accounting professionals, and other sectors shared their budget priorities for 2015 through oral and written submissions to the Committee. Overall, the general message from these groups was that the provincial government needs to balance the budget and to maintain fiscal responsibility. Specific proposals were made on how to reduce the provincial debt, enhance the PST and carbon tax, and improve taxation affecting real estate and credit unions.

British Columbians provided a range of other suggestions on fiscal policy and taxation in written submissions to the Committee. In addition, the online survey asked the public to rank their budget priorities, including how to best achieve ongoing balanced budgets. The tally of responses to the online survey questions are summarized on pages 4 and 5.

### Balanced budget 2015

The Committee heard a strong message from the business community on the need for government to continue to balance the provincial budget and maintain fiscal restraint amid this period of modest and uneven economic recovery. Groups such as the Business Council of British Columbia and the British Columbia Chamber of Commerce urged the provincial government to meet its balanced budget mandate for 2015, as forecast in “Budget Consultation Paper 2015: Successive Balanced Budgets.” The Committee was also presented with options for future spending priorities. While the BC Chamber stated that its membership expects to see government continue to hold spending increases to no more than population and GDP growth, the Business Council of British Columbia proposed considering, at a time of record low borrowing costs, taking on additional debt to finance high priority infrastructure projects.

Submissions to the Committee affirmed the need for a long-term commitment to ongoing balanced budgets and debt management. Several written submissions from individuals, for example, spoke about the need to bring down the debt and to reduce debt servicing costs. In Whistler, the Canadian Federation of Independent Businesses stated that small- to medium-sized businesses want the government to achieve a debt-free BC through ongoing control of operating spending (e.g. public sector wages) and additional revenue generation through natural resource development (e.g. liquefied natural gas). Other groups, like the Canadian Taxpayers Federation, went further and called on the government to pass a debt reduction act similar to Alberta’s, which would require 75 percent of budget surpluses to go towards paying down the debt.

### Provincial Sales Tax

Business and industry representatives spoke to the Committee about ongoing challenges stemming from the province’s return to the Provincial Sales Tax in 2013. They noted how the loss of input tax credits as a result of the repeal of the HST has had a detrimental impact on BC tax competitiveness,

and likely contributed to the province's modest GDP growth. The written submission by the Chartered Professional Accountants of BC, for instance, stated that the current PST is a challenge to the business sector, and asked for the removal of the tax on business investment. Other associations representing retail, construction, and mining also spoke about the need for PST reform, and proposed the introduction of new exemptions and tax credits to boost industry competitiveness. It was recommended that the provincial government examine the PST issues still facing BC industries, and that it work with industry and stakeholders to enhance the legislation for clarity.

### Carbon tax

Considerable attention was given to the carbon tax, introduced in 2008 as part of the Climate Action Plan, which applies to the purchase or use of fossil fuels in the province. At several public hearings, producers of cement and agricultural products spoke about the impact of the tax on domestic industry, and how it places BC producers at a disadvantage. The Cement Association of Canada, for example, explained how domestic producers are at a disadvantage when cement can be imported from the United States and Asia free of the carbon tax. These groups asked for measures to mitigate the impact of the carbon tax on their businesses, a message echoed by other companies, including Absorbent Products Ltd., Western Canada Biodiesel, and Hillsborough Resources, and by local chambers of commerce.

Other groups spoke to the Committee about the positive impacts of the carbon tax on reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Environmental organizations such as the Pembina Institute, David Suzuki Foundation, and BC Sustainable Energy Association recommended expanding and increasing the carbon tax, which has been frozen at the current rate since 2012. Their recommendations to government were to broaden the carbon tax to cover all sources of measurable carbon pollution, and to schedule additional \$5-per-ton increases to the tax.

### Housing affordability

The rising cost of home ownership was a topic raised by presenters at several public hearings, particularly in the Lower Mainland and some Interior communities. Real estate boards, chambers of commerce, and home builders talked about the high costs of real estate in parts of BC, and the need for new government incentives to increase affordability and mitigate rising home prices, particularly for families and first-time home buyers. The British Columbia Real Estate Association, for example, pointed to the effect of the Property Transfer Tax on market housing affordability. They asked for the 1 percent threshold of the tax to be raised from \$200,000 to \$525,000 with 2 percent applying to the remainder of the fair market value. Suggestions were also made to index the 1 percent threshold and to make adjustments annually to account for rising home prices.

The Committee was also presented with other options to improve housing affordability. The Institute of Chartered Accountants of British Columbia suggested that BC examine the effectiveness of Hong Kong's Stamp Tax, which was introduced for foreign buyers purchasing property that is not their primary residence. The provincial government was encouraged to monitor the effectiveness of Stamp Tax and, if it is found to be effective, to consider introducing a similar policy to lower BC



housing prices. The Kelowna Chamber of Commerce further recommended the introduction of a primary residence grant for first-time home owners buying a primary residence, along with a new rate for non-resident property acquisitions where the home is not being purchased as a primary residence.

### Credit unions

Central 1 Credit Union, the central financial facility and trade association for Credit Unions in BC and Ontario, presented to the Committee in Vancouver. The presentation noted how the 2014 provincial budget called for the *Income Tax Act* to be amended to phase out the provincial preferential income tax treatment for credit unions over five years. The Committee heard how the change will cause the estimated effective tax rate on credit unions to rise from 16.5 percent in 2013 to 22.6 percent in 2020, exceeding the estimated 19.7 percent effective tax rate on banks in Canada. Representatives of Central 1 asked that the Province remedy this situation by making the temporary deferment of the increased tax rate for credit unions permanent.

### Conclusions

In accordance with the main theme of this year's consultation paper, "Budget 2015 Consultation: Successive Balanced Budgets," the Committee concurs that balanced budgets should remain a top priority for government. Accordingly, the Committee recommends that the Province remain committed to balancing Budget 2015 and work towards balanced budgets in the three-year fiscal plan. Committee members also agreed that the government should adopt a comprehensive debt management plan, one that makes a concerted effort to reduce the debt as finances improve.

The Committee acknowledges the ongoing challenges that BC businesses face as a result of the existing tax regime. With respect to the PST, the Committee recommends that the provincial government initiate a public discussion on how to improve the tax to increase the productivity of industry and business, while maintaining taxation fairness to consumers.

On the carbon tax, the Committee recommends government identify options consistent with the purpose of incenting greenhouse gas reduction to mitigate the tax's impact on domestic manufacturers and producers who are at a competitive disadvantage to importers. In further keeping with the intent of the carbon tax to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the Committee also suggests government consider ways in which the carbon tax could be extended in the future to include measurable carbon emissions currently omitted from coverage.

To address the rising costs of housing, the Committee makes a recommendation for government to explore taxation options to assist first-time home buyers and to mitigate the overall effects of property speculation, particularly in regions most susceptible to declining affordability. As well, the government is encouraged to maintain the current provincial income tax rates for BC credit unions, and to make the temporary deferral of the tax increase permanent.

## Recommendations

The Committee recommends to the Legislative Assembly that the provincial government:

### Recommendations

1. Remain committed to balancing Budget 2015.
2. Commit to ongoing balanced budgets and a comprehensive debt management plan.
3. Undertake an open and transparent public discussion on how to improve the provincial sales tax regime to increase the productivity of industry and business while maintaining taxation fairness to consumers.
4. Identify options, consistent with the purpose of incenting GHG reduction, that mitigate the impacts on domestic manufacturers and producers (such as the cement industry and agriculture) who face inequitable competition from imports.
5. Consider a plan to apply the carbon tax to measurable carbon emissions which are currently omitted from coverage.
6. Explore options to change the Property Transfer Tax to assist first-time home buyers, and consider ways to mitigate the effects of property speculation on housing affordability.
7. Continue to maintain the current provincial income tax rates for BC credit unions.

## Natural Resources

Topics relating to natural resource development were raised throughout the consultation period, particularly during the visits to natural resource-rich regions of the province. Presenters from northern and gateway communities spoke about the importance of mining to the provincial economy, including the potential economic benefits of liquefied natural gas. Several local governments also made submissions stressing the need for physical and social infrastructure to accommodate population growth in communities near natural resource developments.

Elsewhere in the province, the Committee received submissions from representatives of forestry, agriculture, food processing, aquaculture, and other sectors. These groups discussed the challenges facing their industries, and suggested ways in which the provincial government can help to create conditions favorable to industry growth and enhanced competitiveness. Overall, the evidence presented to the Committee underscored the importance of natural resource industries to BC communities, as well as the significant economic benefits that they return to the province in the form of royalties and jobs.

### Community/regional infrastructure

A significant number of submissions focused on community and regional infrastructure. For example, associations representing business, industry, and tourism stressed the importance of ensuring that key transportation infrastructure is in place to facilitate the movement of goods and people. Local governments throughout the province also spoke about the “infrastructure deficit,” and how many communities are struggling to replace or upgrade aging sewers, roads, bridges, tunnels, and other physical infrastructure. In addition, the Committee heard about the importance of social infrastructure assets—such as schools, hospitals, community centres, and public transit. With northern communities poised to grow as a result of oil and gas development, the Committee heard how it is imperative for the government to support the creation of livable communities capable of attracting and retaining workers and their families.

A consistent message was heard in the north on the need for community infrastructure to support resource-based development. Officials from the cities of Prince Rupert and Fort St. John spoke about the impact of oil and gas development in the region, and how local governments are struggling to build or replace roads, ferry docks, landfills, and water and sewer systems. The NEBC Resource Municipalities Coalition, whose members include seven northern BC municipalities, proposed working with the provincial government to undertake a comprehensive, cumulative resource development planning process that includes assessment of community and infrastructure development requirements.

In Delta, the Business Council of British Columbia talked about the need for long-term strategic planning that facilitates the coordination of infrastructure needs and planning across different levels of government. They recommended that the Province make infrastructure a top priority in all discussions with the federal government, and that work take place with local governments to explore

infrastructure options. Other associations, including the Association of Consulting Engineering Companies of BC, similarly urged the development of a long-term infrastructure plan. They advised proceeding with infrastructure projects currently under discussion, while engaging with the issue of financing options.

### Revenue sharing agreements

During its visit to northern parts of the province, the Committee learned about the importance of revenue sharing to communities affected by oil and gas developments. These multi-year agreements, which reallocate provincial royalties from resource extraction towards the development of local infrastructure, are vital to facilitating economic growth while ensuring the sustainability of rural communities. The current Fair Share memorandum of understanding between the provincial government and the eight Peace region local governments is one such agreement.

Business, industry, and local government representatives spoke about the need for new revenue-sharing agreements for northern development. For example, in Prince George, Initiatives Prince George, a municipally-owned economic development corporation, asked for the commencement of revenue-sharing discussions with rural-resource communities, especially those in Northwest BC, to help them prepare for future growth. Other regional stakeholders repeated this message, and specifically recommended extending the Fair Share agreement to 2030.

The Committee also heard about the value of revenue-sharing agreements with First Nations impacted by mining and oil and gas developments. The presentation by the Mining Association of British Columbia stated that the future of mining in BC will be shaped, in large part, by the successful creation of long-term, mutually respectful relationships with First Nations communities. Noting that the June 2014 *Tsilhqot'in* Supreme Court decision recognized that First Nations title exists in that specific area of the province, the association recommended that Budget 2015 provides sufficient resources to implement revenue-sharing agreements and to support other consultation activities.

### Environmental assessment

The issue of environmental assessment and the permitting process was raised by associations representing BC mining and mineral exploration. In Mission, the Mining Association of British Columbia spoke about the important role of the BC mining industry, and how member companies represent an \$8.5 billion industry employing more than 10,000 British Columbians. The association stated that the industry has faced challenges as a result of fluctuations in commodity prices, a conservative international investment climate, and a competitive global market.

The association presented five recommendations to support the industry, such as requests for ultimate oversight for the mine permitting process to be vested within the Ministry of Energy and Mines, and for natural resource ministries to be afforded adequate means to support permitting, environmental assessment, and First Nations engagement and consultation. The written submission by Teck Resources, Canada's largest diversified resource company, similarly asked for support for the

industry and that key resource development agencies be given adequate resources and capacity to meet demand.

Other industry representatives forwarded requests for government to facilitate exploration and development of mineral and coal resources in an environmentally safe and timely manner. Presenting in Williams Lake, the Association for Mineral Exploration British Columbia recommended ways to improve land-use and access policies, clarify and improve tax policy, and enhance the permitting and regulatory system. One of their other requests was for the Province to continue working with the federal government to achieve a single, effective, and efficient environmental assessment and decision-making process that is science-based, consistent, and predictable.

### Forestry and land-use planning

Two presentations were made to the Committee regarding forestry and land-use planning. In Williams Lake, the Committee heard from a Vernon-based forest product company, Tolko Industries Ltd. Their presentation stressed the need for government to work to create a competitive operating climate for the BC forest industry. They asked for there to be a review of the timber-pricing system in BC to address diminishing fibre supply over the next five years, and that adequate funding be provided for forest inventories.

The Wilderness Tourism Association, which represents nature-based tourism operators in the province, presented in Campbell River. They explained how forestry and tourism operators in the Johnstone Strait region sometimes have competing interests, and that there currently is a lack of up-to-date natural resource inventory information for government to use when making land-use decisions on such matters. It was requested that the Province dedicate attention and funding towards improving land-use planning processes and inventories, as well as enforcement and monitoring of land users.

### Agrifoods

Covering both food production and processing sectors, BC's agrifoods industry generates more than 61,000 jobs and close to \$10.5 billion a year in provincial revenues. Industry representatives appeared before the Committee at several public hearings to discuss ways in which government support and funding could help to achieve a \$14 billion agrifoods sector by 2017, a target set by the provincial government in *BC Agrifoods: A Strategy for Growth*.

In Surrey, the Committee heard a presentation by the BC Food Processors Association, which represents food, beverage, and nutraceutical processing industries. They advocated for expansion of the Buy Local program, which helps BC producers and processors promote local foods, and for the program to be broadened to include processed foods. Stronger government partnerships with industry was also requested, along with funding to help create a food and beverage processing industry environment that fuels innovation in the sector.

The BC Agriculture Council, which represents BC farmers, ranchers, and farm sector associations, also spoke to the Committee in Mission. One of their requests was for the Province to expand the BC agrifoods sector and work with industry and other stakeholders to develop a long-term holistic vision. The Committee also received presentations by fruit growers, land-based salmon farmers, and representatives of farmers' markets during the public hearings.

### Wine and cider industry

In the Okanagan, the Committee heard about the international success of the BC wine industry, and how room exists for further market growth, particularly for wines produced from 100 percent BC-grown grapes. Terroir BC, a non-profit organization representing 62 BC wineries, proposed several ways to support the wine industry through enhanced labelling, brand recognition, and retail promotion. They also explained that they are in the process of developing a proposal to the federal Ministry of Western Economic Development for a \$1.2 million 12-month program, set to commence January 2015. They requested a provincial contribution of \$300,000, which would be used to leverage \$900,000 in additional funds from the federal government.

The Committee heard a presentation in Kelowna by BC Fruit Trees, a co-operative of 500 tree fruit growers. The Committee learned that BC Fruit Trees is planning to go into the craft cider business, but that the existing Liquor Distribution Branch licencing model disqualifies them from receiving the same quality enhancement rebates that wineries currently receive. They asked the government to direct the Liquor Distribution Branch to treat all 100 percent BC agricultural products that qualify under a winery licence equally, whether fermented from grapes or from other fruits.

### Site C

The Committee received a range of recommendations regarding the proposed Site C hydroelectric generating station on the Peace River in northeast BC. While some environmental groups called on the government to halt the project or to consider alternative power generation options, an association representing consulting engineers and a labour union voiced support for the project and the jobs it will create. Other submissions from northern local governments, including the District of Hudson's Hope and the Peace River Regional District, called for the project to be referred to the British Columbia Utilities Commission for a review of the project's costs and impacts on ratepayers.

## Conclusions

In recognition of the important role that natural resource developments have for the provincial economy, the Committee makes several recommendations to support new and existing industry growth. With respect to infrastructure, the Committee recommends the development of a long-term, comprehensive physical and social infrastructure strategy—one that addresses demographic and economic trends, community and regional needs, and strategic planning across different levels of government. Evidence presented to the Committee indicates that such a strategy is needed to meet the immediate and long-term needs of northern and northwest communities affected by oil and gas and other developments, as well as the province as a whole.

To facilitate natural resource development, the Committee recommends adequate funding for the continued negotiation and implementation of revenue sharing agreements, including Economic and Community Development Agreements with First Nations. In addition, the provincial government is encouraged to continue working with the federal government to achieve a coordinated, effective, and efficient environmental assessment and decision-making process.

Other recommendations are made to assist the forest industry and to improve inventories necessary to making effective land-use decisions. The Committee also proposes ways to promote BC's successful agrifoods sector, specifically through enhanced support for the Buy Local program and for promotion of BC wines and ciders.

The Committee considered the evidence received regarding the proposed Site C project, including the proposal to refer the project for review to the BC Utilities Commission. While the Committee agrees that there needs to be a fiscal and environmental review of the proposed project, they could not arrive at consensus on the preferred method for such a review. Therefore, no recommendation is made on this topic.

## Recommendations

The Committee recommends to the Legislative Assembly that the provincial government:

### Recommendations

8. Develop an immediate and long-term comprehensive physical and social infrastructure strategy that addresses demographic and economic trends, community and regional needs, and strategic planning across different levels of government.
9. Allocate adequate resources for the continued negotiation and implementation of revenue-sharing agreements with local and First Nations governments, including Economic and Community Development Agreements.
10. Continue working with the federal government to achieve a coordinated, effective, and efficient environmental assessment and decision-making process that is science-based, consistent, and predictable.
11. Develop strategies to sustain the BC forest industry through the mid-term, and provide adequate funding to update inventories for forestry and other land-based users and industries.
12. Work with the agrifood industry and stakeholders to develop a long-term vision for the agrifood sector, and renew funding for the Buy Local agriculture program.
13. Promote the BC wine industry through enhanced labelling, brand recognition, and retail advertising of BC wines, and support Terroir BC's proposal to leverage federal funding to grow the BC wine brand.
14. Revise the BC Liquor Distribution Branch licencing and pricing model to allow cider producers to receive the same benefits as wineries for 100 percent BC products.



## Health

Health professionals, community service providers, healthy living advocates, and concerned citizens participated in the consultations on Budget 2015, sharing a number of ideas on how to improve the public health care system. During the community public hearings, the Committee also learned about the unique health care needs of specific communities, particularly in rural and remote areas. Other groups made presentations stressing the need for funding to treat specific issues, such as youth mental health and acquired brain injury.

The consultations provided an opportunity for the Committee to learn about the importance of prevention in reducing illness. Submissions from physicians, healthy living advocates, and community sport groups called for proactive measures to improve well-being and reduce chronic disease. They stressed how modest investments in healthy living initiatives will result in long term costs savings for the province's health care system.

### Rural/regional health care

The issue of rural health care arose during the Fort St. John public hearing. Presenters from two citizen advocacy groups, Concerned Citizens for Health Care and the Save Our Northern Seniors, spoke about difficulties accessing adequate health care services in rural-remote regions of BC. They stated that there are shortages of medical professionals in the Peace River region, and that this, along with the high cost of living, deters people from coming to work and reside in the area. Both groups called on the government to devote additional resources to encourage recruitment and retention of doctors, nurses, and other medical health professionals.

Other submissions made similar calls to enhance health care services in underserved communities. The Federation of Community Social Services of BC reiterated that there are unique health care needs in communities experiencing rapid growth as a result of resource development. Noting that community social service providers complement the health care system, they stated that the development of social service infrastructure in these communities can go a long way in preventing troubling and costly social conditions.

### Midwives and nurse practitioners

During the consultations, the Committee heard how other health professionals, notably midwives and nurse practitioners, can play a greater role in the delivery of health care services. In Kamloops, the Midwives Association of British Columbia highlighted the benefits of midwifery services, which include pregnancy, birth, and postpartum for both mother and baby. They explained that midwives are continuing to contribute to better health outcomes while simultaneously bringing efficiencies and cost savings to the health care system. The association asked for \$3 million a year to 2020 to expand midwifery services, along with changes to remove barriers for midwifery services in hospitals, rural and remote areas, and to midwives' participation in decision-making processes.

The Canadian Federation of University Women – British Columbia Council similarly advocated for increased utilization of nurse practitioners in primary health care delivery. To this end, they requested the establishment of long-term funding for nurse practitioner positions, new funding models to ensure the autonomy of nurse practitioners within teams of health professionals, and additional spaces to train nurse practitioners in BC universities.

### Child and youth mental health

Several organizations presented to the Committee on the topic of mental health, and recommended ways to improve services to prevent and treat mental health issues. In Victoria, Moms Like Us, a group of parents of adult children with mental health challenges, spoke about the frustrations faced by families trying to navigate the mental health service system. They described problems accessing programs and services, and characterized the system as fragmented and fraught with gaps. Their main recommendation was for the expansion of the international clubhouse model in BC, which provides holistic mental health services to people 18 years and older with severe and persistent mental illness.

Other submissions called for resources to address mental health disorders, specifically among children and youth. The Canadian Mental Health Association, BC Division, requested increased spending for community-based mental health and substance abuse services and supports for vulnerable children and youth. The British Columbia School Trustees Association asked for more school-based support for youth mental health assessment, accessible counselling, and teacher training.

The Committee also heard presentations from representatives of the Inter-Divisional Strategic Council/Child and Youth Mental Health and Substance Use Collaborative. This project, jointly funded through a shared committee of Doctors of BC (formerly BCMA) and the Ministry of Health, is a structured collaborative in the Interior Health Region aimed at increasing the number of children and youth and their families receiving timely access to integrated mental health and substance use services and supports. Both the collaborative and the Cariboo Action Team spoke about the successes of the initiative, and requested a total investment of \$20.25 million in Budget 2015 to enhance the work of the collaborative and local action teams in reducing mental disorders and impairment among children and youth.

### Acquired brain injury

Acquired brain injury service providers appeared in Terrace, Prince George, Kamloops, and Mission. Presenters described how roughly 22,000 British Columbians acquire new brain injuries each year that often result in permanent disability or death. The Committee heard how community-based service providers deliver important support and rehabilitation services, including residential, pre-employment, health maintenance, education, financial, compensatory strategy development, advocacy, and family support.

The written submission from BrainTrust Canada, which provides community rehabilitation to persons with brain injury in the Okanagan, stated that more must be done to prevent this costly and devastating health condition. They called on the government to identify acquired brain injury as a

priority area within the current mandate of provincial injury prevention, and to assign appropriate leadership and resources. Other community-based groups also recommended that dedicated funding be provided for acquired brain injury. The presentation by the Fraser Valley Brain Injury Association/2014 Brain Injury Alliance asked for a new funding mechanism, as flow-through funding has not occurred through the British Columbia Neurotrauma Fund overseen by the Rick Hansen Foundation since 2010. They requested the establishment and administration of a new fund specifically for brain injury.

### Healthy living

Advocates of healthy living and sport made several public hearing presentations and written submissions. Groups such as the BC Healthy Living Alliance, a network of organizations dedicated to advancing physical and mental well-being, noted how treatments for chronic disease consume a significant portion of the health care budget. Investing in policies proven to reduce and prevent chronic disease, they stated, brings a return on investment, while reducing demand for health care services in the long term. Other organizations, including community sport groups and the Canadian Diabetes Association, also linked health promotion and chronic illness management as part of an effective and sustainable health system.

Submissions on this topic proposed a variety of ways to promote healthy living, such as through a progressive tax regime that discourages use of tobacco, sugar sweetened beverages, and sugary and fatty snacks. The Committee also heard support for the continuation and expansion on policies that encourage proper nutrition, provide access to healthy food, and promote involvement in sport and active lifestyles.

### Alcohol harm reduction

Health officials and advocates gave evidence on the impacts of alcohol abuse, including the substantial human and financial costs that it places on the health, social, and criminal justice systems. The written submission by the Health Officers Council of British Columbia, a registered society of public health physicians, described how alcohol abuse leads to acute and chronic diseases, mental and substance use disorders, injuries, and deaths. They estimated that the total direct and indirect costs of alcohol for BC were \$2.22 billion in 2002, and pointed out that the trend for alcohol-associated harms is on an upward trajectory. The council recommended a series of new pricing measures to reduce harms associated with alcohol, such as an overall minimum pricing structure, and pricing of products according to total alcohol content.

Other submissions from the Provincial Health Officer, the UVic Centre for Addictions Research of BC, and the BC Healthy Living Alliance conveyed a similar message. Noting that the 2014 BC Government Review of liquor laws specifically recommended updating and increasing minimum alcohol prices and linking these to beverage strength, submissions called on government to extend these provisions province-wide.

## Lyme disease

A number of individual submitters, as well as presenters from two Lyme disease support groups, spoke to the Committee about Lyme disease, a serious illness which can be spread by the bite of blacklegged ticks. Participants specifically talked about the prevalence and effects of chronic Lyme disease, a controversial diagnosis for symptoms of persistent pain, fatigue, cognitive issues, or a combination of these and other symptoms.

Presenters to the Committee described the personal and financial challenges they have faced obtaining diagnoses and treatment for chronic Lyme disease in BC, and recommended options to improve prevention and treatment. The Victoria Lyme Disease Support Group, for example, stated that a province-wide Lyme disease public awareness program is desperately needed so that citizens can learn how to protect themselves, know what to do if they get a tick bite, and recognize symptoms. Submissions also called for enhanced research and testing, better physician education, and greater support for the Complex Chronic Disease Program, located in the BC Women's Hospital & Health Centre in Vancouver's BC Children's Hospital.

## Conclusions

The Committee makes seven recommendations in the area of health. To improve health care services in rural-remote areas of the province, it recommends that government continue to develop new incentives and programs to recruit and retain doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals in these high-need areas. The Committee also suggests that greater effort be made to expand the use of midwives and nurse practitioners throughout the province, as these health professionals have been demonstrated to improve efficiency and build capacity in the health care system.

The Committee believes that more supports are needed for preventing and treating mental health disorders among children and youth. It therefore recommends that new investments be made in this area, specifically for integrated services initiatives such as the Inter-Divisional Strategic Council/Child and Youth Mental Health and Substance Use Collaborative.

Three recommendations are aimed at chronic disease prevention. The Committee recommends continued efforts to promote healthy living through taxation policies that discourage tobacco use, sugar-sweetened beverages, and other causes of chronic disease. The Committee also calls for the adoption of new pricing measures for alcohol, which have been proven to decrease alcohol-associated illness, injury, disability, and death. Lastly, a recommendation is made for the provision of funding for Lyme disease public awareness, research and testing, physician education, and the Complex Chronic Disease Program.

## Recommendations

The Committee recommends to the Legislative Assembly that the provincial government:

### Recommendations

15. Develop new incentives and programs to encourage recruitment and retention of doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals to rural-remote regions of the province.
16. Expand the use of midwives and nurse practitioners throughout the province to improve efficiency and healthcare system capacity.
17. Provide new investments for prevention and treatment of mental disorders in children and youth, including initiatives that foster cross-sector collaboration and integrated service delivery.
18. Establish a BC brain injury legacy fund that restores dedicated funding to meet the needs of brain injury survivors and their families.
19. Continue efforts to promote healthy living through taxation policies that discourage tobacco use, sugar-sweetened beverages, and other sources of chronic disease.
20. Implement new pricing measures for alcohol (e.g. minimum pricing and pricing based on pure alcohol concentration) to decrease alcohol-associated illness, injury, disability, and death.
21. Provide funding for Lyme disease public awareness, research and testing, physician education, and the Complex Chronic Disease Program.

## Education

Submissions on K-12 and post-secondary education constituted a large portion of the public input on Budget 2015. Furthermore, the most popular response to the online survey question, “What program and spending areas are most important to you?” was K-12 and post-secondary education.

School districts, teachers, and advocacy organizations made submissions stressing the need for a strong elementary and secondary school system, one supported by adequate funding to meet the needs of today’s students. Additional proposals were put forth to improve the K-12 system through changes to programming and curricula, enhancements to in-class resources, and recruitment of more teachers and support staff.

The consultations also provided an opportunity for universities and colleges, faculty associations, and student unions to raise issues about BC’s post-secondary system. Common requests included calls for increased budgeting for operating and capital needs, and changes to the funding formula and accounting practices. In addition, the Committee received a considerable number of submissions on topics relating to post-secondary programming—notably English as a second language and skills training—as well as to student access and affordability.

### K-12

#### Operating funding

As in previous budget consultations, the Committee received numerous submissions on the topic of K-12 funding. Boards of education from Vancouver, Surrey, Richmond, Delta, Prince George, Fort St. John, Williams Lake, and the Central Okanagan presented or sent written submissions to the Committee calling for enhanced core funding. The key message in these submissions was that there needs to be stable, predictable, and adequate funding for public education, particularly to cover mandated increases for salaries, benefits, pension contributions, and Medical Services Plan premiums. Rising costs associated with carbon emission calculations and carbon offset purchases were also mentioned, along with the capital costs of increased maintenance, seismic upgrades, and school replacements.

Teachers, parents, and advocacy groups also made written submissions calling for enhanced resources for public education. The BC Teachers’ Federation, which represents the province’s 41,000 public school teachers, recommended increasing operating grants by \$1,000 per student to bring funding up to the Canadian average. They also asked for funding for special needs students, curriculum changes, collective agreement costs, and capital upgrades. In addition, a large number of written and form letter submissions were received from parents and concerned citizens expressing support for a well-funded and accessible public K-12 education system. Surrey school support workers and education advocacy groups such as the Vancouver-based Public Education Project echoed this message in their submissions to the Committee.

## Capital funding

The Committee heard a number of capital requests for school replacements and upgrades to aging facilities, including specific projects in districts across the province. In Prince George, for example, the Board of Education proposed increasing the annual facility grant over the next five years by \$10 million per year to extend the useful life of schools and facilities. They also requested that the annual capital plan process be reinstated and revised to ensure that the needs of all districts are equitably met.

Funding for seismic upgrades was a recurrent theme in submissions. In Delta, the British Columbia School Trustees Association mentioned that many BC schools are still vulnerable to damage in the event of seismic activity. Noting that progress has been made with over half of the seismic mitigation projects now completed, the association stated that over 130 schools still need significant upgrades to ensure the safety of students and staff. Groups representing teachers and parents also affirmed the need for capital funding and planning for schools, particularly in rapidly growing communities such as Surrey.

## Programming and curriculum

In Delta, the Committee received a joint submission from the Richmond school district and administrators, management and professional staff, teachers, and parents. They explained how the Ministry of Education continues to focus on new personalized learning initiatives, which recognize that students learn differently, bring different experiences and motivations to the classroom, and require different approaches from their teachers. Committee members learned how the district is moving forward with its own version of the concept, but that full implementation will require additional staff, resources, professional development, and infrastructure for technology.

The Committee also heard about the importance of providing trades and technology training in the K-12 system to channel students towards related career paths. The written submission from the Sunshine Coast School District acknowledged the BC Jobs Plan goal of offering more apprenticeships and skills training through school districts, and requested assistance to implement and continue successful carpentry/framing and culinary arts ACE-IT programs.

## Special needs

Presenters in Vancouver told the Committee about the additional supports required for students with special needs and those with minimal English language skills, and how school districts are struggling to meet growing demands. The British Columbia School Trustees Association explained how schools are experiencing an increase in the number of students requiring specialized learning support. The Committee heard that these students require increased time from teachers and teaching assistants.

In Vancouver, Inclusion BC (formerly the BC Association for Community Living) presented the Committee with several ways to ensure that children and youth with special needs have equitable access to public education. The suggestions included increased funding, improved identification and

assessment support services, and additional in-classroom support by qualified resource teachers and other specialist positions in accordance with applicable student ratios.

### Public libraries

A strong message was heard this year from public libraries across the province. Representatives of public libraries in Vancouver, West Vancouver, Prince George, Kaslo and District, and Hazelton presented the Committee with calls for dedicated, stable, and ongoing funding for libraries. The Committee was also asked to repeat a recommendation made in previous years' reports—to restore the separate library line item in the Ministry of Education budget. Reinstating the separate line item, they explained, would recognize public libraries' broader community mandate, while providing transparency and ensuring accountability.

### Post-secondary

#### Operating grants

In Vancouver, the Committee heard from the Research Universities' Council of British Columbia, which represents the interests of the province's six major universities. Their presentation outlined how universities face unfunded cost pressures such as wage increases, non-wage inflation costs, and carbon tax levies. These cost pressures, the council noted, are outstripping universities' ability to achieve efficiencies and hold the line on program spending. Moreover, the Committee was told that reductions to operating grants and the annual capital allowance have resulted in unfunded cost pressures of approximately \$130 million (net of tuition increases).

Going forward, the council recommended a short-term reinvestment of \$25 million in 2015/16, and that government partner with the council, other post-secondary stakeholders, and business and industry to develop a multi-year investment plan that includes clear linkages to economic growth throughout BC. A similar message was conveyed by representatives of other post-secondary institutions, including the BC Association of Institutes and Universities and BC Colleges. Their written submission outlined how the average grant per-student FTE has declined while inflation has increased by 5 percent, a gap that will grow larger with future reductions in operating grants.

Another shared request was for multi-year allotments for operating grants and deferred maintenance grants. Camosun College, Northern Lights College, and Selkirk College all asked for these grants to be provided on a multi-year basis in order to permit greater overall planning capability. Three-year funding arrangements, it was noted, would make it possible for initiatives such as programming rotation and multi-year education planning cycles to be more easily and effectively planned.

#### Annual capital allowance

Post-secondary institutions also requested increases to the annual capital allowance. The BC Association of Institutes and Universities, BC Colleges, and student groups pointed to the annual capital allowance as a critical funding source to address routine building maintenance, minor



renovations, and upgrade projects. Noting that funding has not kept pace with actual need, they called on the provincial government to address reductions to the annual capital allowance to permit greater investment in facilities and instructional equipment improvements.

### Funding formula

Colleges across BC discussed the current funding formula in their submissions, particularly its impact on colleges in rural and remote parts of the province. In Terrace, for example, representatives from Northwest Community College stated that the college faces challenges as a result of its unique social and physical geography. Oil and gas activity in the area and high percentages of First Nations students, they explained, require more resources and support. Other colleges and faculty associations also stated that the current funding formula places smaller regional colleges at a disadvantage. They asked the provincial government to undertake a thorough review of the funding formula to better address regional inequities and institution-specific needs.

### Accounting standards

Colleges and universities talked about the impact of provincial accounting and fiscal policies on their operations. The BC Association of Institutes and Universities explained how the government directive to balance budgets on an annual basis inhibits the use of financial resources on hand for their intended purpose. Cash saved for a purpose, they stated, may not be spent and cash earned must be set aside to fund depreciation on assets that were previously funded, effectively “double funding” the assets.

Other post-secondary institutions pointed out the negative impact that these standards have on institutions’ ability to access reserves and to self-finance needed capital projects. Submissions by the Research Universities’ Council of British Columbia, College of the Rockies, Selkirk College, University of the Fraser Valley, and Okanagan College made a similar request for government to provide greater flexibility within provincial accounting and fiscal policies, and to permit the use of reserves for business-like operations within a multi-year framework.

### English as a second language (English language learning)

A large number of submissions were made regarding anticipated changes to post-secondary programming for English as a second language (ESL) in BC. Associations representing faculty, colleges, ESL teachers, and students expressed concern over the future availability of ESL programming at BC post-secondary institutions. They described how federal changes to funding have resulted in a massive budget shortfall for post-secondary institutions, and that transition funding provided by the Province is expected to run out in 2015.

Presentations by faculty and student representatives at Vancouver Community College, the largest provider of English language training programs in western Canada, stated that these changes will result in cancelled programs affecting 2,200 students, and the loss of 150 faculty positions. Noting the importance of ESL programs to addressing the growing skills shortage and promoting diversity,

they urged the provincial government to invest at least \$22 million in ongoing funding for provincially supported ESL programs, and to develop a long-term sustainable strategy for the delivery of ESL. This message was repeated by seven other university and college faculty associations, the Association of B.C. Teachers of English as an Additional Language, BC Colleges, and numerous individuals.

### Skills training

BC's looming skills shortage was mentioned by a variety of stakeholders representing post-secondary institutions, businesses, and industries. These groups spoke about how the combination of BC's aging population and shrinking workforce will result in skilled labour shortages, particularly in high-skill occupations and high-growth industries. In Terrace, representatives of Northwest Community College estimated that 22,000 to 32,000 people will be needed in northern BC alone, and that their region is already experiencing a shortage. Presenters also noted how the BC Jobs Plan highlights the urgency to plan and invest now for a skilled and educated workforce.

In Courtenay, the Committee heard from the British Columbia Construction Association, which represents over 2,000 construction employers across the province involved in industrial, commercial, and institutional projects. The association stated that the solution to the skills shortage will require a realignment of resources, different attitudes about post-secondary education, and changes in immigration policy. It will take a clear and concerted effort by government, industry, and British Columbians, they added, to address this primary issue.

The written submission by Teck Resources also proposed specific measures to address the skills deficit. They recommended continuing support and investment in skills training initiatives, and improving access to technical training, such as the Industry Training Authority and technical schools. They also urged government to explore ways to enhance support for apprentices through programs such as the College of the Rockies' Mining Apprenticeship Program, and to improve the certification process for new Canadians and foreign tradespeople. One change could include allowing applicants to apply for trade certification from outside of Canada.

### Student financial aid

Student unions from six universities and colleges and two umbrella organizations—the Canadian Federation of Students, British Columbia and the Alliance of B.C. Students—made submissions to the Committee calling for enhancements to student access and affordability. These groups cited the negative impacts that tuition increases, rising costs of living, and operating grant freezes have had on students' ability to pursue and obtain post-secondary education.

The Committee was presented with several options to enhance student affordability, including proposals to reduce or freeze tuition fees, eliminate the interest paid on student loans, and introduce new provincial grants and graduate scholarships. Additional suggestions were made to expand public transit and U-Passes, and to increase funding for trades and apprenticeship training.

## Conclusions

Over the course of the consultations, it became clear that a well-funded public education system remains a top priority for British Columbians. The evidence presented to the Committee, however, indicates that increasing operating, maintenance, and capital costs are exceeding current funding allotments.

On K-12, the Committee makes recommendation for the provision of adequate, stable, and predictable funding for operating expenses, as well as for capital funding to permit facility improvements, seismic upgrades, and additional schools in rapidly growing communities.

Recommendations are also made to support proposed new K-12 initiatives such as personalized learning and enhanced trades and technology training, as well as to provide the necessary resources to identify and assist students with special needs. In addition, the Committee repeats its recommendation from last year to restore the separate budget line item for public libraries.

Regarding post-secondary education, the Committee makes recommendations to enhance operating and capital funding, as well as to review the funding formula and accounting standards that continue to restrict post-secondary institutions' ability to self-finance select capital projects.

Two recommendations target programming. The Committee urges government to support provincially-funded ESL programs delivered by BC post-secondary institutions, and to work with institutions to develop a long-term and sustainable strategy for the delivery of ESL. To mitigate the looming skills shortage, it also recommends that the Province collaborate with industry, educational institutions, and First Nations to improve skills training initiatives, apprenticeships, and certification for new Canadians and foreign tradespeople.

Lastly, the Committee recommends three ways to improve student access and affordability. They include the establishment of a student grant program, a reduction of interest charged on BC student loans and review of eligibility requirements, and the creation of a graduate student fellowship program.

## Recommendations

The Committee recommends to the Legislative Assembly that the provincial government:

### Recommendations

#### K-12

22. Provide stable, predictable, and adequate funding to enable school districts to fulfill their responsibility to provide continued equitable access to quality public education, and to meet required repair and maintenance needs.
23. Provide adequate capital funding to school districts for facility improvements, seismic upgrades, and additional schools in rapidly growing communities.

24. Provide support for proposed new K-12 initiatives such as personalized learning and enhanced trades and technology training.
25. Provide resources to identify and address the growing number of students with special needs and those with minimal English language skills.
26. Restore the separate library line item in the Ministry of Education budget for public libraries, and commit to stable, ongoing funding.

#### **Post-secondary**

27. Increase operating grants to post-secondary institutions to address unfunded cost pressures.
28. Move to multi-year allotments for operating grants and deferred maintenance grants to help post-secondary institutions with their financial planning.
29. Increase the annual capital allowance for building maintenance, minor renovations, and upgrade projects.
30. Undertake a comprehensive review of the post-secondary funding formula so that regional inequities and core funding for the system as a whole are adequately addressed.
31. Review accounting standards that limit post-secondary institutions' ability to self-finance selected capital projects, and work with post-secondary institutions and the Auditor General to identify potential solutions.
32. Provide adequate funding to support provincially-funded ESL programs delivered by BC post-secondary institutions, and work with post-secondary institutions to develop a long-term and sustainable strategy for the delivery of ESL.
33. Work with industry, educational institutions, and First Nations to continue to support and invest in skills training initiatives and improve access to technical training, to explore ways to enhance support for apprentices, and to improve the certification process for new Canadians and foreign tradespeople.
34. Establish a student grant program that addresses student needs and provides incentives for completion.
35. Reduce the interest charged on BC student loans and review existing eligibility requirements for student loans.
36. Create a BC graduate fellowship program for master's and doctoral students.

## Community and Social Services

As in previous years' consultations, the Committee received considerable public input on community and social services. Local service providers, non-profits, advocacy groups, professional associations, and individuals talked about the important programs and services provided by accredited agencies, societies, and other community-based groups. Public hearing presentations and written submissions also spoke about social services provided by the provincial government, and requested boosts to income and disability assistance to reduce poverty and improve the welfare of BC's most vulnerable.

The Committee heard a number of recommendations to improve community and social services, including ways to reduce poverty, strengthen child development, ensure equitable access to justice, and address domestic violence. Submissions also called for greater support to for coordinated community literacy across BC. In addition, arts, culture, and media arts organizations presented ideas on how to increase economic growth by enhancing community arts and BC's creative industries.

### Poverty reduction

The impact of poverty on the province was highlighted in both presentations and written submissions to the Committee. Advocacy organizations, educators, faith-based groups, community service providers, and others noted how poverty affects a significant number of BC children and families, and is the root cause of a range of social and economic problems. The submission by First Call: BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition stated that society as a whole bears the costs of poverty, through higher public health care costs, increased policing and crime costs, lost productivity, and foregone economic activity. They estimated that poverty in BC represents a direct cost to government alone of \$2.2 to \$2.3 billion annually.

The Committee was presented with several proposals on how to reduce poverty, the most common of which was for the provincial government to invest in a poverty reduction plan. First Call proposed the adoption of a comprehensive plan with legislated targets and timelines, and the appointment of a cabinet minister to achieve the goal of reducing BC's child poverty rate to 7 percent or lower by 2020. Other submissions called for other measures to reduce poverty through enhancements to income assistance rates and increases to the minimum wage. A number of written submissions also called on government to end the clawback of child support from single parents on income assistance.

The Committee also received submissions on the current persons with disabilities (PWD) rate. Individuals and organizations stated that the current amount provided to an individual, \$906 per month, is insufficient to meet rising costs of living. Groups such as Inclusion BC; West Coast LEAF; BC Poverty Reduction Coalition; Canadian Mental Health Association, BC Division; and Richmond Centre for Disability were among those calling on the government to raise the PWD rate. Most submissions suggested that the monthly rate be increased to a minimum of \$1,200, and indexed to accommodate cost of living increases.

## Early child development

The Committee received submissions from a number of not-for-profit service providers from different areas of the province. Presenters and written submissions described how these accredited agencies provide important community-based services to families across BC. They include services for early child development, children and youth with special needs, women and families in transition, and seniors.

In Kelowna, the Committee heard from the B.C. Association of Child Development and Intervention, which represents agencies across the province that provide child development and therapy services to children and youth with special needs and their families. Their presentation talked about how funding has not kept pace with escalating operating costs since 2009, including rising MSP premiums and collective agreement salaries. Noting that it is not feasible for agencies to continue to absorb these costs without negative impacts to service delivery, the association requested that base contract funding be increased to allow service providers to focus on providing effective and efficient services to BC families.

## Child care

Recommendations were presented to the Committee to increase investments in public child care. In Surrey, the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of British Columbia called for endorsement of their \$10-a-day child care plan, a proposal raised in several previous budget consultations. Developed in partnership with the Early Childhood Educators of BC, the plan was described as the basis for a quality, affordable, and accessible child care system. The coalition said that it is supported by 31 municipal and regional governments, 22 boards of education, banking, labour and business groups, academics, and others.

The economic benefits of a high-quality child care system were also cited by the BC Government and Service Employees' Union. They stated that research consistently shows that public investment in child care results in both short- and long-term net economic benefits. A high-quality child care system, they explained, leads to decreased reliance on social services, while the short-term economic impacts are estimated to be among the highest of all major sectors.

## Social housing

Written submissions to the Committee highlighted the importance of accessible, affordable social housing. Individuals and advocacy groups urged the government to adopt measures to improve housing affordability, particularly for seniors, disabled people, those on low income, and other vulnerable groups. Specific calls were made for the construction of new social housing, and for increases to rental housing subsidies provided to persons on income assistance and to shelter aid provided to elderly renters.

Other submissions pointed out the rising costs of co-op housing, and stated that there is a lack of federal and provincial assistance to address these increases. The Canadian Federation of University

Women – British Columbia Council specifically recommended the continuation of integrated supportive housing for those who are disadvantaged, have mental health and addictions issues, and have been homeless.

### Domestic violence

The issue of domestic violence was raised in a number of public hearing presentations to the Committee. Community service providers from Campbell River, Cranbrook, and Duncan spoke about the prevalence of domestic violence in BC communities, and the traumatic impact of intimate partner abuse, sexual assault, and childhood sexual abuse. The Committee learned about the important supports and services that these groups provide to women, children, and families, and how the funding requested by this sector is a relatively small amount given the overall social and economic costs of domestic violence to the province.

In Vancouver, the Committee heard from the Ending Violence Association of BC, a non-profit organization that supports the work of victim-serving and other anti-violence programs across BC. The association stated that there is a pressing need for enhancements to community-based victim services and that, in a province with 889 communities, there are currently only 230 specialized, non-residential programs for women who are trying to cope with violence. To address this service shortfall, they requested an increase in the number of community-based victim services to make them available in every BC community and to Aboriginal people living on- and off-reserve.

### Access to justice

In Surrey and Delta, the Committee heard presentations stressing the need for equitable access to justice. The presentation by Dr. Mychael Gleeson talked about the challenges that people affected by disabilities or mental disorders have accessing justice, and how increased legal aid funding is needed. The Canadian Bar Association, British Columbia Branch also spoke about the need for legal aid funding. They said that meaningful access to justice should be viewed no differently than health care or education, and that investment in legal aid is critical to increasing the overall effectiveness of the justice system. The association requested an immediate contribution to legal aid funding of \$10 million over the next three years, starting with \$4 million this year, and \$3 million in each of the two years following.

Other submissions suggested ways in which the delivery of justice services could be improved through the greater use of other legal professionals. The presentation by the Society of Notaries Public of British Columbia explained the role of BC notaries public, and how they provide a range of services to the public on non-contentious legal matters. The society told the Committee that they are looking to provide greater access to justice for their clients by expanding these services to include additional non-contentious law—such as wills, probate and corporate matters, including incorporation, and uncontested family law matters. The Committee also heard that the Law Society of BC, which regulates lawyers in BC, is currently studying extending its regulation to include notaries and paralegals.

## BC SPCA

Presenters at public hearings in Fort St. John, Kelowna, and Kamloops talked about the important animal protection services provided by the BC SPCA. The Committee heard how the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act* empowers the BC SPCA to establish and operate public shelters for stray and seized animals, and to appoint specially-trained constables to investigate reports of cruelty against animals. It was also explained that the provincial government provides no funding to the BC SPCA to carry out its statutory mandate.

The submission by the BC SPCA in Kelowna described how ten of their oldest and busiest community facilities are in need of replacement or improvement, at a projected cost of \$50.4 million. The society explained that it expects to raise half of this amount, and requests the remaining \$25.2 million from the Province, phased in over an eight-year period. The Committee was told that, without this assistance, the BC SPCA will not be able undertake needed capital improvements while also maintaining current operating levels.

## Literacy

A strong message was delivered by literacy organizations about the value and benefits of community-based literacy programs and initiatives. In Victoria, the Committee heard from Decoda Literacy Solutions, a non-profit organization that leads a coordinated literacy network of over 400 community task groups across the province. Their presentation described how the network delivers unique literacy promotion programs and services to help underserved populations. Noting the social and economic benefits of literacy, presenters requested multi-year annual funding of \$2.5 million from the provincial government to continue coordinated community literacy work. This recommendation was echoed by community-based affiliates of the network at other public hearings.

## Arts and culture

Organizations from BC's arts and culture sector participated in the consultations, along with several community-based groups representing artist-run centres, art galleries, and theatre and symphony groups. Their oral and written submissions to the Committee highlighted the social and economic benefits of arts and culture activities. The Committee heard how arts organizations employ thousands of people, including many volunteers, and contribute millions of dollars to the economy, much of it leveraged from small but critical investments from the provincial government.

Recommendations were made to increase funding for arts and culture through the BC Arts Council, the independent agency that provides funding and support for arts and cultural activity. The Committee was also asked to recommend an increase to Community Gaming Grants, with a goal of increasing grants steadily in the long term in accordance with the report of the Skip Triplett Community Gaming Grant Review. Another common request was for the provincial government to implement a multi-year funding model similar to the Canada Council for the Arts for the BC Arts Council. Some submissions further called for the development of a capital program to help organizations purchase and maintain presentation venues for arts and culture.



Other submissions were received from representatives of the BC film industry. In Whistler, the Motion Picture Production Industry Association of BC, which represents both film and television production, stated that the sector supports over 25,000 jobs and has contributed, on average, \$1.1 billion in production spending annually for the past decade. Their presentation mentioned initiatives to assist the industry, such as making postproduction work eligible for the Digital Animation or Visual Effects (DAVE) tax credit to encourage further postproduction and digital animation in BC. Noting that regulatory changes are currently being considered, they urged the government to follow through with this change.

Submissions were also received regarding Creative BC (formerly the BC Film Commission and BC Film + Media), the agency that provides programs and services to support the creation, production, and marketing of BC's cultural products. The presentation in Surrey by Created in BC—a group representing Music BC, Canadian Media Production Association – BC Producers' Branch, and Association of Book Publishers of British Columbia—urged the provincial government to ensure that Creative BC is adequately funded to fulfill its mandate. The written submission by BC members of the Independent Media Arts Alliance also stated that Creative BC could foster collaborations between non-profit and for-profit organizations in the media arts sector, and create opportunities for independent media arts organizations to develop new models.

## Conclusions

The number of oral and written submissions regarding community and social services programs clearly indicates that these services remain a high priority for British Columbians. Accordingly, the Committee makes several recommendations to support the valuable services and programs delivered through government and accredited agencies.

To mitigate the impact of poverty on BC families, the Committee recommends the introduction of a comprehensive poverty reduction plan, a recommendation put forth in last year's report. As well, it is recommended that the provincial government review income assistance rates, the minimum wage, rules around the clawback of child support payments, and the persons with disability rate.

Suggestions are also made to enhance community-based services, particularly for early child development, and to improve access to affordable child care. On social and co-op housing, the Committee encourages the Province to work with the federal government to increase access, especially for people with disabilities, and to ensure continuation of operating agreements with existing housing co-operatives.

The Committee believes in ensuring equitable access to justice. It therefore recommends incremental increases to legal aid funding, consideration of expanded use of notaries public and paralegals for the delivery of justice, and expansion of community-based victim services across the province. Other recommendations are made to provide funding for the BC SPCA and multi-year funding for coordinated community literacy work,

The Committee also makes two recommendations to enhance support for arts and culture and BC creative industries, as finances permit. In recognition of the economic benefits and jobs created by a vibrant arts and culture sector, the Committee recommends increasing arts funding through the BC Arts Council and Community Gaming Grants, and implementing a multi-year funding model. It is also recommended that continued funding be provided for Creative BC programs to support the creation, production, and marketing of BC's cultural products.

## Recommendations

The Committee recommends to the Legislative Assembly that the provincial government:

### Recommendations

37. Introduce a comprehensive poverty reduction plan, and review income assistance rates, the minimum wage, and clawback of child support payments.
38. Examine the persons with disability (PWD) rate and consider increases to reflect higher costs of living.
39. Increase base contract funding for non-profit agencies that provide early child development programs and services to children and youth with special needs.
40. Provide funding and support for the development and implementation of a child care plan.
41. Work with the federal government to increase access to affordable social and co-op housing, especially for people with disabilities, and to ensure continuation of operating agreements with existing housing co-operatives.
42. Incrementally increase legal aid funding.
43. Explore cost-effective options for the delivery of justice services by notaries public and paralegals.
44. Increase the number of community-based victim services and work with the federal government to expand services for First Nations living on- and off-reserve.
45. Consider providing capital and operating funding to better enable the BC SPCA to fulfill its provincial statutory requirements.
46. Provide multi-year annual funding of \$2.5 million to continue coordinated community literacy work.
47. Increase arts funding through the BC Arts Council and Community Gaming Grants as finances permit, and implement a multi-year funding model.
48. Continue funding for Creative BC programs to support the creation, production, and marketing of BC's cultural products, as finances permit.

## Transportation, Technology, and Environment

The consultations on Budget 2015 provided British Columbians with the opportunity to raise a variety of other matters for the Committee's consideration, including issues relating to provincial transportation, the technology sector, and the environment.

On transportation, submissions from business, industry, and local government stressed the economic importance of maintaining strong transportation infrastructure and services crucial to the movement of goods and people. Other input focused on BC's technology sector, and how it has the potential to attract and leverage venture funding from outside sources to support growing BC businesses. Environmental topics were also often raised in submissions, including ways to capitalize on clean energy initiatives, and to protect and promote the environment.

### Trade corridors/transportation infrastructure

The importance of trade corridors and transportation infrastructure to the provincial economy was emphasized by organizations representing a wide range of sectors. Port authorities, business associations, industry representatives, tourism promoters, and others talked about the vital role that highway, rail, waterway, and port infrastructure play in facilitating imports and exports. Submissions documented how BC's transportation networks and trade corridors are key to the province's role as a major gateway connecting Canada to Asia and other international markets.

The Committee received several submissions from organizations based in the Lower Mainland regarding development of the Pacific Gateway. Port Metro Vancouver, which operates cargo terminals, cruise terminals, shipyards, tugboats, railways, trucks, and other port services, made a written submission calling on the government to continue supporting and funding strategic infrastructure developments. Their specific requests included projects at Roberts Bank, the George Massey Tunnel replacement, additional Fraser River rail crossing capacity, and other gateway fluidity supporting capital investments, such as road and rail grade separations.

Elsewhere in the province, the Prince Rupert Port Authority discussed northwest gateway initiatives, and similarly called on the provincial government to maintain strategic leadership in the development of trade corridors. Timely policy, strategic investment, and critical infrastructure, they stated, enhance the competitiveness of the Prince Rupert gateway, its associated northern trade corridor, and the BC export industries that depend on it. Other presenters at Interior communities also spoke about the importance of corridor infrastructure. Initiatives Prince George asked for continued infrastructure investment for the Cariboo Connector, upgrades to Highway 97 Pine Pass and Highway 16 West, and expansion of dark fibre optics and telecommunications.

### BC Ferries

Submissions from both coastal and interior communities talked about BC Ferries, and how it serves as an important and essential piece of provincial transportation infrastructure. Local chambers of

commerce, tourism associations, and local governments described how BC Ferries functions as a major corridor for commerce and tourism, and provides a vital link connecting Vancouver Island and the adjacent islands to Lower Mainland and Interior communities.

In Victoria, the Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce expressed concern over current ferry fares, and stated that rates are now high enough to discourage travel. They also noted the varying profitability of different routes, and said that it is essential that ridership on the Swartz Bay-Tsawwassen crossing be increased to sustain other routes in the system. The written submission by the Islands Trust, which represents islands and waters between southern Vancouver Island and the mainland, requested funding from the Province to reduce ferry fares to 2003 levels plus cost of living increases. They also asked the provincial government to fund future costs, including capital expenses and fare increases, in accordance with increases to the consumer price index.

Chambers of commerce and tourism groups from Williams Lake and the West Chilcotin also recommended enhancements to the BC ferry system to facilitate access to Interior communities. For example, upgrades to the docking facilities in Bella Coola were requested in order to accommodate larger vessels, such as large ferries and cargo ships. The Committee also heard requests for the provincial government to develop and implement a long-term strategy for the coastal ferry system, one to ensure the sustainability of coastal communities, tourism, and the ferry service.

### Public transit

Public transit issues and infrastructure were mentioned during the consultations, particularly in submissions from the Lower Mainland. Vancouver-based groups such as the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives – BC Office, stated that current funding models for municipalities and for TransLink do not meet the modern needs of communities and businesses. They called for Budget 2015 to address the urgent need for rapid transit investment in Surrey and Vancouver. Student groups from UBC and Vancouver Community College also asked for Lower Mainland transit improvements, such as higher service levels and a below-grade rail system for the Broadway corridor, as well as additional support for U-Passes.

Other environmental groups spoke more generally about the need for expanded public transportation infrastructure across the province. The David Suzuki Foundation recommended that a secure, long-term, and stable funding source be provided for transit and transportation infrastructure identified in the Provincial Transit Plan and regional plans. The Urban Development Institute, a national non-profit association representing land developers and related professions, called for continued investment of new funds for BC transportation infrastructure and a framework to ensure that investments in transit infrastructure are coordinated with municipal and regional land-use planning.

### Venture capital

The submissions by the B.C. Technology Industry Association and the Institute of Chartered Accountants of British Columbia spoke about the importance of venture capital, and how it is vital to a healthy and growing provincial technology sector. The Committee heard how there is a need to

revitalize venture capital access in the province, and that the number of BC-based venture capital firms making new investments has declined from 11 in 2007 to only five today. To address this gap, it was recommended that the Province partner with the federal government to provide \$100 million in a regional “fund of funds,” which invests in venture capital firms as opposed to directly in any companies.

The B.C. Technology Industry Association further recommended that the provincial government increase and enhance the small business venture capital program to \$50 million in Budget 2015. The Committee was told that this will allow angel investors as well as retail venture capital corporations to make larger investments, and fill a near-term funding gap that is hampering the growth of early-stage technology companies.

### Genome BC

The Delta public hearing included an appearance by Genome British Columbia, a non-profit organization that invests in and manages large-scale genomic research projects in areas such as human health, forestry, fisheries, agriculture, and the environment. The presentation provided an overview of Genome BC’s role in supporting world-class innovation relevant to the BC economy across a range of areas, and in attracting co-investment and engagement from local and global partners.

The Committee learned that Genome BC has a new strategic plan for 2015-2020, which will attract \$350 million in research and development to ensure BC’s continued capability for world-class scientific and technical excellence in genomics. The plan also features two new programs, including a new entrepreneurship partnership program and a new Industry Innovation Program. A provincial commitment of \$85 million up-front for the five-year plan (\$17 million per year) was requested, which would enable Genome BC to leverage additional funds from the private sector, international sources, and the federal government.

### Electric vehicles

The Committee received a significant number of written and form letter submissions on the topic of electric vehicles. Electric Mobility Canada, a national not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting electric mobility, stated that increased adoption of electric vehicles in BC is important to achieving greenhouse gas reduction targets, improving urban air quality, and stimulating economic growth. Other groups, including electric vehicle companies and the Vancouver Electric Vehicle Association, similarly stated that the environmental benefits of electric vehicles can be instrumental in achieving *Clean Energy Act* goals. Submitters stated that, despite the proven successes of previous government programs and incentives, the last provincial budget reduced support for electric vehicles and infrastructure

A number of recommendations were made to provide incentives for greater use of electric vehicles in Budget 2015, including purchase rebates, provincial sales tax exemptions, and financial support for the installation of chargers in homes and businesses. The BC Sustainable Energy Association also recommended providing additional resources for staff in the Electricity and Alternative Energy

Division of the Ministry of Energy and Mines to determine an appropriate regulatory model for electric vehicle charging, and to support the rapid development of charging infrastructure in BC.

### Clean energy/climate action

Representatives of BC's clean energy industry and environmental groups voiced strong support for clean energy initiatives to fulfill the provincial government's commitments on climate action. Clean Energy BC, which represents private sector electricity developers and operators in wind, small hydro, biomass, biogas, and natural gas generation called on the Province to embrace a clean energy strategy, one that builds on the success of their sector and includes a prominent role for First Nations. Other renewable energy producers, such as Innergex and Marine Renewables, conveyed a similar message on the positive social, economic, and environmental benefits of renewable energy projects.

Environmental organizations such as the Pembina Institute were equally supportive of further development of BC's clean energy sector, and proposed actions to further energy conservation in the province. Noting the successes of energy conservation initiatives such as the LiveSmart BC program and the Innovative Clean Energy Fund, Pembina advocated for Budget 2015 to be used as one of the building blocks for "climate action plan 2.0."

### South Okanagan Similkameen National Park

Support was expressed during the consultations for the creation of a National Park Reserve in the South Okanagan-Lower Similkameen region, which has been described as one of the most important ecosystems in the world and home to nearly 60 federally-listed endangered species. The proposed national park, which is supported by the federal government and requires provincial support to proceed, has been the subject of feasibility studies and local consultations.

Several groups, including the South Okanagan Similkameen National Park Network, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society – BC Chapter, and the Greater Westside Board of Trade and South Okanagan Chamber of Commerce, voiced support for the project in their submissions to the Committee. The potential economic benefits of the proposed park were cited as including new jobs, tourism, First Nations opportunities, and economic diversification. They also stated that the cost of establishing the park would be borne by the federal government.

### Invasive weed control

Three submissions to the Committee spoke about the damaging impact of invasive species and noxious weeds. In Cranbrook, the Meadowbrook Community Association told the Committee about the importance and urgency of controlling noxious weeds for economic, social, and environmental reasons. Noting how noxious weeds can impair the success of provincial initiatives to promote agriculture and tourism, the association called for a significant increase in current funding for education, treatment, and enforcement in the fight to combat the spread of noxious weeds. They also pointed out the provincial government's responsibility to control noxious weeds on Crown lands and highways.

Two written submissions from regional invasive plant councils also requested more resources to combat the spread of invasive plants. The East Kootenay Invasive Plant Council and the Northwest Invasive Plant Council put forth recommendations for greater financial support to keep pace with invasive plant control, and more effective and reliable income sources to enable delivery of management plans. They also called on the provincial government to implement a government-directed alien invasive species program with enhanced legislation, regulations, and sufficient compliance and enforcement staff, and to develop a province-wide invasive species education and awareness campaign.

### Urban deer

At the Cranbrook public hearing, the issue of urban deer was discussed by the City of Cranbrook. Mayor Wayne Stetski explained how several municipalities are spending financial and staff resources on urban deer management without compensation from the provincial government. He stated that discussions have taken place between the Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and mayors from affected municipalities across BC, all of whom want more options and financial support to deal with urban deer.

A presenter in Victoria also linked overpopulation of deer in urban areas to increased risk of Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses. He recommended that the Province consider instructing municipalities to support deer culls in high-deer density tick-endemic areas, and to provide partial financing.

### Conclusions

The Committee agrees that transportation infrastructure is key to provincial economic development, as well as corridor and gateway initiatives that link BC to external markets. Accordingly, it recommends that the provincial government maintain strategic leadership in this area through continued transportation infrastructure improvements. Recommendations are also presented to develop and implement a long-term strategy for the coastal ferry system, and for the Province to secure a long-term, stable funding source for public transit.

To capitalize on the economic potential of BC's technology sector, recommendations are made to review the small business venture capital program budget, and to work with Genome BC and the federal government to identify ways to leverage and attract funding from the private sector and international sources for the next five-year plan.

On the environment, the Committee makes four recommendations, starting with a call for government to embrace a clean energy and energy conservation strategy. This strategy could build upon the success of the clean energy sector and programs to enable BC economic development, with prominent participation by First Nations. The Committee also makes recommendations to promote the use of electric vehicles, establish a new national park, and improve management of invasive species and urban deer.

## Recommendations

The Committee recommends to the Legislative Assembly that the provincial government:

### Recommendations

49. Maintain strategic leadership in the development of trade corridors for the BC economy through transportation infrastructure improvements.
50. Work with coastal communities and stakeholders on the development and implementation of a long-term strategy for the coastal ferry system that will ensure the sustainability of coastal communities, tourism, and the ferry service.
51. Secure long-term, stable funding for public transit and transportation infrastructure identified in the Provincial Transit Plan and regional plans.
52. Review the small business venture capital program budget to promote greater venture capital investment in early-stage tech companies, and seek a partnership with the federal government to help support the expansion of the technology sector by leveraging private investment to enhance necessary venture capital.
53. Work with Genome BC and the federal government to identify ways to leverage and attract funding from the private sector and international sources necessary to support a five year genomics research and development program.
54. Embrace a clean energy and energy conservation strategy and build upon the success of the clean energy sector and programs (e.g. LiveSmart BC and Innovative Clean Energy Fund) to enable BC economic development, with prominent participation by First Nations.
55. Provide incentives for greater use of electric vehicles, including purchase rebates, provincial sales tax exemptions, and financial support for the installation of chargers in homes and businesses.
56. Work with the federal government and local stakeholders to assess the feasibility of and support for the establishment of a new national park in the South Okanagan-Similkameen.
57. Allocate sufficient funding for the proactive prevention and management of invasive species, including noxious weeds.
58. Work with local governments to develop a long-term strategy for urban deer control.



## Summary of Recommendations

The Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services recommends to the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia that the provincial government:

### Fiscal Policy and Taxation

1. Remain committed to balancing Budget 2015.
2. Commit to ongoing balanced budgets and a comprehensive debt management plan.
3. Undertake an open and transparent public discussion on how to improve the provincial sales tax regime to increase the productivity of industry and business while maintaining taxation fairness to consumers.
4. Identify options, consistent with the purpose of incenting GHG reduction, that mitigate the impacts on domestic manufacturers and producers (such as the cement industry and agriculture) who face inequitable competition from imports.
5. Consider a plan to apply the carbon tax to measurable carbon emissions which are currently omitted from coverage.
6. Explore options to change the Property Transfer Tax to assist first-time home buyers, and consider ways to mitigate the effects of property speculation on housing affordability.
7. Continue to maintain the current provincial income tax rates for BC credit unions.

### Natural Resources

8. Develop an immediate and long-term comprehensive physical and social infrastructure strategy that addresses demographic and economic trends, community and regional needs, and strategic planning across different levels of government.
9. Allocate adequate resources for the continued negotiation and implementation of revenue-sharing agreements with local and First Nations governments, including Economic and Community Development Agreements.
10. Continue working with the federal government to achieve a coordinated, effective, and efficient environmental assessment and decision-making process that is science-based, consistent, and predictable.
11. Develop strategies to sustain the BC forest industry through the mid-term, and provide adequate funding to update inventories for forestry and other land-based users and industries.
12. Work with the agrifood industry and stakeholders to develop a long-term vision for the agrifood sector, and renew funding for the Buy Local agriculture program.
13. Promote the BC wine industry through enhanced labelling, brand recognition, and retail advertising of BC wines, and support Terroir BC's proposal to leverage federal funding to grow the BC wine brand.

14. Revise the BC Liquor Distribution Branch licencing and pricing model to allow cider producers to receive the same benefits as wineries for 100 percent BC products.

## Health

15. Develop new incentives and programs to encourage recruitment and retention of doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals to rural-remote regions of the province.
16. Expand the use of midwives and nurse practitioners throughout the province to improve efficiency and healthcare system capacity.
17. Provide new investments for prevention and treatment of mental disorders in children and youth, including initiatives that foster cross-sector collaboration and integrated service delivery.
18. Establish a BC brain injury legacy fund that restores dedicated funding to meet the needs of brain injury survivors and their families.
19. Continue efforts to promote healthy living through taxation policies that discourage tobacco use, sugar-sweetened beverages, and other sources of chronic disease.
20. Implement new pricing measures for alcohol (e.g. minimum pricing and pricing based on pure alcohol concentration) to decrease alcohol-associated illness, injury, disability, and death.
21. Provide funding for Lyme disease public awareness, research and testing, physician education, and the Complex Chronic Disease Program.

## Education

### K-12

22. Provide stable, predictable, and adequate funding to enable school districts to fulfill their responsibility to provide continued equitable access to quality public education, and to meet required repair and maintenance needs.
23. Provide adequate capital funding to school districts for facility improvements, seismic upgrades, and additional schools in rapidly growing communities.
24. Provide support for proposed new K-12 initiatives such as personalized learning and enhanced trades and technology training.
25. Provide resources to identify and address the growing number of students with special needs and those with minimal English language skills.
26. Restore the separate library line item in the Ministry of Education budget for public libraries, and commit to stable, ongoing funding.

### Post-secondary

27. Increase operating grants to post-secondary institutions to address unfunded cost pressures.
28. Move to multi-year allotments for operating grants and deferred maintenance grants to help post-secondary institutions with their financial planning.

29. Increase the annual capital allowance for building maintenance, minor renovations, and upgrade projects.
30. Undertake a comprehensive review of the post-secondary funding formula so that regional inequities and core funding for the system as a whole are adequately addressed.
31. Review accounting standards that limit post-secondary institutions' ability to self-finance selected capital projects, and work with post-secondary institutions and the Auditor General to identify potential solutions.
32. Provide adequate funding to support provincially-funded ESL programs delivered by BC post-secondary institutions, and work with post-secondary institutions to develop a long-term and sustainable strategy for the delivery of ESL.
33. Work with industry, educational institutions, and First Nations to continue to support and invest in skills training initiatives and improve access to technical training, to explore ways to enhance support for apprentices, and to improve the certification process for new Canadians and foreign tradespeople.
34. Establish a student grant program that addresses student needs and provides incentives for completion.
35. Reduce the interest charged on BC student loans and review existing eligibility requirements for student loans.
36. Create a BC graduate fellowship program for master's and doctoral students.

### Community and Social Services

37. Introduce a comprehensive poverty reduction plan, and review income assistance rates, the minimum wage, and clawback of child support payments.
38. Examine the persons with disability (PWD) rate and consider increases to reflect higher costs of living.
39. Increase base contract funding for non-profit agencies that provide early child development programs and services to children and youth with special needs.
40. Provide funding and support for the development and implementation of a child care plan.
41. Work with the federal government to increase access to affordable social and co-op housing, especially for people with disabilities, and to ensure continuation of operating agreements with existing housing co-operatives.
42. Incrementally increase legal aid funding.
43. Explore cost-effective options for the delivery of justice services by notaries public and paralegals.
44. Increase the number of community-based victim services and work with the federal government to expand services for First Nations living on- and off-reserve.
45. Consider providing capital and operating funding to better enable the BC SPCA to fulfill its provincial statutory requirements.

46. Provide multi-year annual funding of \$2.5 million to continue coordinated community literacy work.
47. Increase arts funding through the BC Arts Council and Community Gaming Grants as finances permit, and implement a multi-year funding model.
48. Continue funding for Creative BC programs to support the creation, production, and marketing of BC's cultural products, as finances permit.

### Transportation, Technology, and Environment

49. Maintain strategic leadership in the development of trade corridors for the BC economy through transportation infrastructure improvements.
50. Work with coastal communities and stakeholders on the development and implementation of a long-term strategy for the coastal ferry system that will ensure the sustainability of coastal communities, tourism, and the ferry service.
51. Secure long-term, stable funding for public transit and transportation infrastructure identified in the Provincial Transit Plan and regional plans.
52. Review the small business venture capital program budget to promote greater venture capital investment in early-stage tech companies, and seek a partnership with the federal government to help support the expansion of the technology sector by leveraging private investment to enhance necessary venture capital.
53. Work with Genome BC and the federal government to identify ways to leverage and attract funding from the private sector and international sources necessary to support a five year genomics research and development program.
54. Embrace a clean energy and energy conservation strategy and build upon the success of the clean energy sector and programs (e.g. LiveSmart BC and Innovative Clean Energy Fund) to enable BC economic development, with prominent participation by First Nations.
55. Provide incentives for greater use of electric vehicles, including purchase rebates, provincial sales tax exemptions, and financial support for the installation of chargers in homes and businesses.
56. Work with the federal government and local stakeholders to assess the feasibility of and support for the establishment of a new national park in the South Okanagan-Similkameen.
57. Allocate sufficient funding for the proactive prevention and management of invasive species, including noxious weeds.
58. Work with local governments to develop a long-term strategy for urban deer control.



## Appendix A: Public Hearing Witnesses

- Abbotsford Community Services, Rod Santiago, Nadine Power (14-Oct-14, Surrey)
- Absorbent Products Ltd., Peter Aylen (30-Sep-14, Kamloops)
- Alliance for Arts and Culture, Rob Gloor (14-Oct-14, Surrey)
- Alliance of B.C. Students, Jessica Lar-Son (30-Sep-14, Kelowna)
- Alma Mater Society of UBC Vancouver, Tanner Bokor (15-Sep-14, Victoria)
- Alzheimer Society of B.C., Maria Howard (15-Oct-14, Delta)
- Association for Mineral Exploration British Columbia, Glen Wonders (1-Oct-14, Williams Lake)
- Association of Consulting Engineering Companies of BC, Keith Sashaw, Catherine Fritter (18-Sep-14, Vancouver)
- Automotive Retailers Association, Ken McCormack (14-Oct-14, Surrey)
- B.C. Association of Child Development and Intervention, Jason Gordon (30-Sep-14, Kelowna)
- B.C. Association of Farmers Markets, Peter Leblanc (15-Oct-14, Delta)
- B.C. Chamber of Commerce, John Winter, Jon Garson, Ian Tait (15-Oct-14, Delta)
- B.C. Dental Association, David Baird, Jocelyn Johnston (15-Oct-14, Delta)
- B.C. Salmon Farmers Association, Jeremy Dunn (1-Oct-14, Campbell River)
- B.C. Technology Industry Association, Bill Tam (18-Sep-14, Vancouver)
- Arthur Baker (16-Sep-14, Prince Rupert)
- BC Agriculture Council, Stan Vander Waal, Reg Ens (15-Oct-14, Mission)
- BC Bioenergy Network, Marnie Plant, Michael Weedon (22-Sep-14, Whistler)
- BC Chiropractic Association, Jay Robinson, Rick Nickelchok (14-Oct-14, Surrey)
- BC Food Processors Association, James Donaldson, Rick Gagner (14-Oct-14, Surrey)
- BC Government and Service Employees Union, Stephanie Smith, Megan Scott, Simon Kelly (14-Oct-14, Surrey)
- BC Lung Association, Scott McDonald (18-Sep-14, Vancouver)
- BC SPCA, Craig Daniell (30-Sep-14, Kelowna)
- BC Tree Fruits, Michael Daley, Rick Austin (30-Sep-14, Kelowna)
- Gregory Bell (15-Sep-14, Victoria)
- Board of Education School District No. 34 (Abbotsford), Cindy Schafer, Shirley Wilson, Ray Velestuk (15-Oct-14, Mission)
- Board of Education, School District No. 38 (Richmond) and others, Donna Sargent, Monica Pamer (15-Oct-14, Delta)
- Board of Education, School District No. 27 (Cariboo-Chilcotin), Tanya Guenther (1-Oct-14, Williams Lake)
- Board of Education, School District No. 39 (Vancouver), Patti Bacchus (18-Sep-14, Vancouver)
- Board of Education, School District No. 57 (Prince George), Tim Bennett, Sharel Warrington, Allan Reed (17-Sep-14, Prince George)
- Board of Education, School District No. 60 (Peace River North), Jaret Thompson, Doug Boyd (17-Sep-14, Fort St. John)
- Rob Botterell (2-Oct-14, Courtenay)
- Nicole Bottles, Christine Powell (15-Sep-14, Victoria)
- British Columbia Construction Association, Manley McLachlan (2-Oct-14, Courtenay)
- British Columbia Fruit Growers Association, Fred Steele, Glen Lucas (30-Sep-14, Kelowna)
- British Columbia School Trustees Association, Teresa Rezansoff (15-Oct-14, Delta)
- Business Council of British Columbia, Ken Peacock (15-Oct-14, Delta)
- Camosun College, Peter Lockie (15-Sep-14, Victoria)
- Camosun College Faculty Association, Darryl Ainsley (15-Sep-14, Victoria)
- Camosun College Student Society, Rachael Grant (15-Sep-14, Victoria)
- Campbell River Family Services, Gloria Jackson (1-Oct-14, Campbell River)
- Campbell River Literacy Now, Kat Eddy, Anne Boyd (1-Oct-14, Campbell River)
- Canada's Research-Based Pharmaceutical Companies (Rx&D), John Willow, Jo-Ann Stuart Chatterley (14-Oct-14, Surrey)
- Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, Ben Brunnen (15-Oct-14, Delta)
- Canadian Bar Association, British Columbia Branch, Alex Shorten (15-Oct-14, Delta)
- Canadian Diabetes Association, Serge Corbeil, Ellen Stensholt (15-Sep-14, Victoria)
- Canadian Federation of Independent Businesses, Richard Truscott (22-Sep-14, Whistler)
- Canadian Federation of Students, British Columbia, Zachary Crispin, Jennelle Davies (18-Sep-14, Vancouver)
- Canadian Men's Health Foundation, Wayne Hartrick (18-Sep-14, Vancouver)
- Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - BC Chapter, Peter Wood (18-Sep-14, Vancouver)

Canadian Sport Institute Pacific, Wendy Pattenden (18-Sep-14, Vancouver)

Canadian Taxpayers Federation, Jordan Bateman (15-Oct-14, Mission)

Capilano Students Union, Brittany Barnes (14-Oct-14, Surrey)

CARFAC British Columbia; Authentic Indigenous Arts, Lou-Ann Ika'wega Neel (15-Sep-14, Victoria)

Cariboo Action Team, Glenn Fedor (1-Oct-14, Williams Lake)

Cariboo Chilcotin Coast Tourism Association, Amy Thacker (1-Oct-14, Williams Lake)

Cariboo-Chilcotin Partners for Literacy, Bruce Mack, Janette Moller (1-Oct-14, Williams Lake)

Bill Carruthers (1-Oct-14, Williams Lake)

Cement Association of Canada, Ken Carrusca, TJ Parhar (18-Sep-14, Vancouver)

Central 1 Credit Union, Donald Wright, Helmut Pastrick (18-Sep-14, Vancouver)

Child Development Centre of Prince George and District, Les Smith, Darrell Roze (17-Sep-14, Prince George)

City of Cranbrook, Wayne Stetski (29-Sep-14, Cranbrook)

City of Fort St. John, Byron Stewart, Dianne Hunter, Mindy Smith (17-Sep-14, Fort St. John)

City of Prince Rupert, Corinne Bomben (16-Sep-14, Prince Rupert)

CLAC, Jim Oostenbrink (30-Sep-14, Kelowna)

David Clarkson (17-Sep-14, Prince George)

Clean Energy BC, Paul Kariya (14-Oct-14, Surrey)

Coalition of Child Care Advocates of British Columbia, Sharon Gregson (14-Oct-14, Surrey)

Coast to Cascades Grizzly Bear Initiative, Johnny Mikes (22-Sep-14, Whistler)

College of New Caledonia, Keith Playfair, Henry Reiser (17-Sep-14, Prince George)

College of New Caledonia Students' Union, Leila Abubakar, Kaila Poore (8-Oct-14, Victoria)

College of the Rockies, David Walls, Dianne Teslak (29-Sep-14, Cranbrook)

College of the Rockies Faculty Association, Leslie Molnar (29-Sep-14, Cranbrook)

Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy, Katherine Hough (29-Sep-14, Cranbrook)

Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy, Castlegar Branch, Desneiges Profili, Lani Green (8-Oct-14, Victoria)

Communitas Supportive Care Society, Karyn Santiago, Gillian Viljoen (15-Oct-14, Mission)

Comox Valley Chamber of Commerce, Andrew Gower, Dianne Hawkins (2-Oct-14, Courtenay)

Comox Valley Lifelong Learning Association, Martin Petter, Danielle Hoogland (2-Oct-14, Courtenay)

Concerned Citizens for Health Care, Lorraine Isenbecker, Twila Soule (17-Sep-14, Fort St. John)

Confederation of University Faculty Associations of British Columbia, Doug Baer (14-Oct-14, Surrey)

Corporation of Delta, Lois Jackson, George Harvie (15-Oct-14, Delta)

Bonnie Cowan (30-Sep-14, Kamloops)

Cowichan Women Against Violence Society, Jane Sterk, Cathy Welch (15-Sep-14, Victoria)

Created in BC, Bob D'Eith, Liz Shorten, Margaret Reynolds (14-Oct-14, Surrey)

David Suzuki Foundation, Ian Bruce (14-Oct-14, Surrey)

Dawson Creek Literacy Now, Michelle Mobley (8-Oct-14, Victoria)

Decoda Literacy Solutions, Brenda Le Clair (15-Sep-14, Victoria)

Dietitians of Canada, BC Region, Sonya Kupka (15-Oct-14, Delta)

District of Hudson's Hope, Gwen Johansson (8-Oct-14, Victoria)

Doctors of BC, Bill Cavers (15-Oct-14, Delta)

Donors Rights Society, John Block (14-Oct-14, Surrey)

Douglas Students; Union, Ruab Waraich, Tracy Ho (18-Sep-14, Vancouver)

Dr. E. Murakami Centre for Lyme Research, Education & Assistance Society, Ernie Murakami (15-Oct-14, Mission)

DTES Adult Literacy Roundtable, William Booth, Sharnelle Jenkins-Thompson, Zinnia Clark (18-Sep-14, Vancouver)

Myson Effa (22-Sep-14, Whistler)

Emily Carr Students' Union, Gloria Han, Lori MacDonald, Salguero Kiernan (18-Sep-14, Vancouver)

Ending Violence Association of B.C., Tracy Porteous (18-Sep-14, Vancouver)

Faculty Association of the College of New Caledonia, Jan Mastromatteo, David Rourke (17-Sep-14, Prince George)

Family Services of Greater Vancouver, Board Voice, Caroline Bonesky, Micheal Davis (14-Oct-14, Surrey)

Federation of Post-Secondary Educators of BC, Cindy Oliver, George Davison (18-Sep-14, Vancouver)

FIOSA-MIOSA Safety Alliance of BC, Lisa McGuire (18-Sep-14, Vancouver)

First Call: BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition, Adrienne Montani (18-Sep-14, Vancouver)

FortisBC, Vanessa Connolly, Brent Graham (30-Sep-14, Kelowna)

Fraser Basin Council, Colin Hansen, David Marshall (14-Oct-14, Surrey)

Fraser Valley Brain Injury Association; 2014 Brain Injury Alliance, Carol Paetkau (15-Oct-14, Mission)

Gastrointestinal Society of British Columbia, Gail Attara (14-Oct-14, Surrey)

Genome British Columbia, Alan Winter, Suzanne Gill (15-Oct-14, Delta)

Geoscience BC, Robin Archdekin, Dan Jepsen, Carlos Salas, Bruce Madu, Andrea Clifford (18-Sep-14, Vancouver)

Mychael Gleeson (14-Oct-14, Surrey)

Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce, Bruce Carter, Janet Crocker (15-Sep-14, Victoria)

Greater Victoria Harbour Authority, Curtis Grad (15-Sep-14, Victoria)

Greater Westside Board of Trade; South Okanagan Chamber of Commerce, Holly Plante, Glenn Mandziuk (30-Sep-14, Kelowna)

Hills Health and Guest Ranch, Patrick Corbett (1-Oct-14, Williams Lake)

Hillsborough Resources, Gary Gould (1-Oct-14, Campbell River)

Inclusion BC, Faith Bodnar, Annette Delaplace, Sky Hendsbee (18-Sep-14, Vancouver)

Initiatives Prince George, Heather Oland (17-Sep-14, Prince George)

Innergex Renewable Energy, Colleen Giroux-Schmidt (22-Sep-14, Whistler)

Institute of Chartered Accountants of British Columbia, Simon Philp (15-Sep-14, Victoria)

Inter-Divisional Strategic Council / Child and Youth Mental Health and Substance Use Collaborative, Valerie Tregillus, Susan Stovel (15-Sep-14, Victoria)

ISAAC Canada, Anne MacCallum, Jeffrey Riley (18-Sep-14, Vancouver)

Island Coastal Economic Trust, Phil Kent, Line Robert (1-Oct-14, Campbell River)

iTendr, Patrick Malone (18-Sep-14, Vancouver)

Kaien Anti Poverty Society, Simona Ionita, Tammy Luciw (16-Sep-14, Prince Rupert)

Rosolynn Kalb (17-Sep-14, Fort St. John)

Kamloops Brain Injury Association, John Olynick (30-Sep-14, Kamloops)

Kamloops Chamber of Commerce, Jeremy Heighton (30-Sep-14, Kamloops)

Kelowna Chamber of Commerce, Ken Carmichael (30-Sep-14, Kelowna)

Kuterra LP, Garry Ullstrom (1-Oct-14, Campbell River)

Kwantlen Faculty Association, Gillian Dearle, Bob Davis (14-Oct-14, Surrey)

Langara College, Dr. Ian Humphreys (22-Sep-14, Whistler)

Sandi Lavery, Jamie Beaupre (29-Sep-14, Cranbrook)

Light Rail Links Coalition, Scott Olson (14-Oct-14, Surrey)

Literacy in Kamloops, Fiona Clare (30-Sep-14, Kamloops)

Literacy Prince George, Helen Domshy (17-Sep-14, Prince George)

Literacy Quesnel, Rebecca Beuschel, Beverlee Barr (8-Oct-14, Victoria)

Marine Renewables Canada, Chris Campbell (2-Oct-14, Courtenay)

Meadowbrook Community Association, Bob Johnstone, Sandra Loewen (29-Sep-14, Cranbrook)

Merck Canada, Bonnie Swan (14-Oct-14, Surrey)

Midwives Association of BC, Kelly Hayes (30-Sep-14, Kamloops)

Bill Miller (1-Oct-14, Campbell River)

Mining Association of British Columbia, Bryan Cox (15-Oct-14, Mission)

Mission Literacy in Motion, Candie Thorne (15-Oct-14, Mission)

Moms Like Us, Beth Danskin, Jackie Powell (15-Sep-14, Victoria)

Motion Picture Production Industry Association of BC, Peter Leitch, Suzanne Thompson, Paul Klassen (22-Sep-14, Whistler)

Fred Muzin (2-Oct-14, Courtenay)

NEBC Resource Municipalities Coalition, Dale Bumstead, Colin Griffith (17-Sep-14, Fort St. John)

Nelson Committee on Homelessness, Phyllis Nash (8-Oct-14, Victoria)

Nelson Regional Sports Council, Kim Palfenier (8-Oct-14, Victoria)

New Car Dealers Association of BC, Blair Qualey (14-Oct-14, Surrey)

North Coast Literacy Now, Elizabeth Wilson (16-Sep-14, Prince Rupert)

North Island College, John Bowman (2-Oct-14, Courtenay)

North Island College Faculty Association, Shirley Ackland (1-Oct-14, Campbell River)

Northern Brain Injury Association, Cynthia Heslop (16-Sep-14, Terrace)

Northern British Columbia Graduate Students' Society, Matt Partyka (17-Sep-14, Prince George)

Northern Lights College, Anndra Graff (17-Sep-14, Fort St. John)

Northwest Community College, Denis Caron, Cathy Souza (16-Sep-14, Terrace)

Northwest Community College Students' Union, Mikael Jensen (16-Sep-14, Terrace)

Northwest Watch, Brenda Wesley, May Latvonen, Susanne Boor (16-Sep-14, Terrace)

Okanagan College Students Union, Chelsea Grisch (30-Sep-14, Kelowna)

Susan Owen (14-Oct-14, Surrey)

Pacific Association of Artist Run Centres, Mariane Bourcheix-Laporte (14-Oct-14, Surrey)

Pacific Hepatitis C Network, Daryl Luster (15-Oct-14, Delta)

Pacific Spine Research and Education Foundation, Don Nixdorf (14-Oct-14, Surrey)

PacificSport Fraser Valley, Linda Palm (15-Oct-14, Mission)



PacificSport Interior BC, Ron McColl,Carolynn Boomer (30-Sep-14, Kamloops)

PacificSport Regional Sport Centre Okanagan Society, Jim Gabriel, Doug Nicholas (30-Sep-14, Kelowna)

PacificSport Vancouver Island, Drew Cooper (2-Oct-14, Courtenay)

Parksville-Qualicum Lyme Disease Support Group, Sue Aldous (2-Oct-14, Courtenay)

Fran Pattison, Heather Treleven (15-Oct-14, Mission)

Peace River North Teachers Association, Michele Wiebe, Mary Tremain (17-Sep-14, Fort St. John)

Peace Valley Environment Association, Ken Boon (8-Oct-14, Victoria)

Pembina Institute, Matt Horne (18-Sep-14, Vancouver)

Clarice Perkins (2-Oct-14, Courtenay)

Lynn Perrin (15-Oct-14, Mission)

PISE (Pacific Institute of Sport Excellence), Robert Bettauer (15-Sep-14, Victoria)

Prince George Brain Injured Group, Alison Hagreen, Doug Jones (17-Sep-14, Prince George)

Prince George Chamber of Commerce, Ranjit Gill, Cindi Pohl, Christie Ray (17-Sep-14, Prince George)

Prince George Mental Health Consumer Council, Pennie-Lynn Davidson, Emily Moliere, Sandy Ramsay (17-Sep-14, Prince George)

Prince George Public Library, Dr. Anne George, Janet Marren, Albert Koehler (17-Sep-14, Prince George)

Prince Rupert Port Authority, Ken Veldman (16-Sep-14, Prince Rupert)

Private Forest Land Owners Association, Rod Bealing (2-Oct-14, Courtenay)

Professional Arts Alliance of Greater Victoria, Doug Jarvis, Heather Lindsay (15-Sep-14, Victoria)

Project Literacy Kelowna Society, Diana Groffen (30-Sep-14, Kelowna)

Pulp, Paper and Woodworkers of Canada (PPWC) Local 26, Rod Fayant (8-Oct-14, Victoria)

READ Surrey/White Rock Society, Lornell Ridley, Avi Kay, Shanti Ang (14-Oct-14, Surrey)

Real Estate Board of Greater Vancouver, Harriet Permut, Jim Woolsey (15-Oct-14, Delta)

Retail Council of Canada, Greg Wilson (18-Sep-14, Vancouver)

Richmond Society for Community Living, Janice Barr (15-Oct-14, Delta)

Rick Hansen Institute, Bill Barrable, Pamela Berg (18-Sep-14, Vancouver)

Save Our Northern Seniors, Jean Leahy, Jim Collins (17-Sep-14, Fort St. John)

Selkirk College, Angus Graeme, Gary Leier (8-Oct-14, Victoria)

Simon Fraser Student Society, Chardayne Bueckert (14-Oct-14, Surrey)

Skeena-Queen Charlotte Regional District (Electoral Area 'A'), Des Nobels (16-Sep-14, Prince Rupert)

Smithers Community Services Association, Jo-Ann Nugent (8-Oct-14, Victoria)

Students' Union of Vancouver Community College, Christian Avendano (18-Sep-14, Vancouver)

Summit Community Services Society, Cassie James (29-Sep-14, Cranbrook)

Sun Peaks Mountain Resort Municipality, Al Raine (30-Sep-14, Kamloops)

Robin Tavender (14-Oct-14, Surrey)

Terroir BC, John Skinner, Kim Pullen, Tony Holler (30-Sep-14, Kelowna)

The Research Universities' Council of British Columbia, Robin Ciceri (18-Sep-14, Vancouver)

The Society of Notaries Public of British Columbia, Akash Sablok, Tammy Morin Nakashima (15-Oct-14, Delta)

Thompson Rivers University, Alan Shaver, Bob Holden (30-Sep-14, Kamloops)

Thompson Rivers University Faculty Association, Thomas Friedman (30-Sep-14, Kamloops)

Thompson Rivers University Students Union, Leif Douglass, Lahanah Ghosh, Jillian Griffin (30-Sep-14, Kamloops)

Tolko Industries Ltd., Tom Hoffman (1-Oct-14, Williams Lake)

Tri-Cities Chamber of Commerce, Bryan Hyndman, Aaron Robinson (15-Oct-14, Mission)

Two Rivers Gallery, Peter Thompson (17-Sep-14, Prince George)

University of Northern British Columbia, Dr. Daniel Weeks, Angela Kehler (17-Sep-14, Prince George)

University of the Fraser Valley, Jackie Hogan (15-Oct-14, Mission)

Vancouver Community College Faculty Association, Karen Shortt (18-Sep-14, Vancouver)

Vancouver Island University Students Union, Sherry McCarthy, Patrick Barbosa (2-Oct-14, Courtenay)

Victoria Lyme Disease Support Group, Merina Brisdon (15-Sep-14, Victoria)

West Chilcotin Tourism Association, Petrus Rykes (1-Oct-14, Williams Lake)

Western Convenience Stores Association, Andrew Klukas (30-Sep-14, Kamloops)

Paul Weyer, Tara Parkinson (15-Sep-14, Victoria)

Whistler Sport Legacies, Patricia Leslie, Lucinda Jagger (22-Sep-14, Whistler)

Wilderness Tourism Association, Breanne Quesnel (1-Oct-14, Campbell River)

Williams Lake and District Chamber of Commerce, Jason Ryll (1-Oct-14, Williams Lake)

Romola Wright (15-Sep-14, Victoria)

Elizabeth Zubek (15-Oct-14, Mission)

## Appendix B: Written, Video, and Audio Submissions

Marian Allingham	Board of Education, School District	Canadian Life and Health Insurance
Melissa Allingham	No. 36 (Surrey), Jordan Tinney,	Association, Noeline Simon, Frank
Charles Andrews	Shawn Wilson	Swedlove
Wilma Appleby-Millette	Board of Education, School District	Canadian Mental Health Association,
Briony Argue	No. 46 (Sunshine Coast), Betty	BC Division, Jonny Morris
Linda Asgeirsson	Baxter	Bill Carruthers
Dana Asher	Mark Boden	Paul Carter
Balraj Atwal	Rebecca Bodo	Alfred Cassidy
Charlotte Austin	Martina Boyd	Castlegar Hospice Society, Suzanne
Jonathan Baylis	BrainTrust Canada Association,	Lehbauer
BC Association of Institutes &	Maribeth Friesen	Brad Cavanagh
Universities, Ruth Wittenberg	Ken Bramble	Lucy Cayuela
BC Care Providers Association	Margaret Bramble	Central Okanagan Board of
(BCCPA), Daniel Fontaine	Chris Brand	Education, Larry Paul, Moyra
BC Colleges, Jim Reed	Joyce Brinkerhoff	Baxter
BC Co-operative Association, Kevin	British Columbia Cattlemen's	Central Okanagan Partners for
Harding, John Kay, Carol Murray	Association, Kevin Boon	Literacy, Laura Smith
BC Games, Byron McCorkell, Kelly	British Columbia Pharmacy	Centre for Addictions Research of
Mann	Association, Letlotlo Lefoka	BC, Timothy Stockwell, Dan
BC Healthy Living Alliance, Rita	British Columbia Real Estate	Reist, Kara Thompson
Koutsodimos	Association, Robert Laing, Norma	Chartered Professional Accountants
BC Members of the Independent	Miller	of BC, Kerri Wilcox
Media Arts Alliance, Emma	British Columbia Teachers'	Margo Christie
Hendrix	Federation, Jim Iker, Moira	Heather Clarry
BC Poverty Reduction Coalition,	Mackenzie	Lenore Clemens
Trish Garner	British Columbia Wine Institute	Doug Cline
BC Sustainable Energy Association,	Society, Miles Prodan	Comox Valley Family Services
Thomas Hackney	Alice Lorraine Brown	Association, Isabel McKinnon
BC Teachers of English as an	Sue Brown	David Conn
Additional Language, Lisa	Tina Brown	Tammy Corness
Robertson, Shawna Williams	Helmut Buhl	Dione Costanco
BC Trucking Association, Louise	Laurie Campbell	Susan Cottell
Yako	Canadian Centre for Policy	Stephen Crozier
Edward Beck	Alternatives - BC Office, Iglia	Mark Cunnington
Kathryn Bell	Ivanova	CUPE 409, Marcel Marsolais
Chad Bester	Canadian Federation of Independent	CUPE 728, Janice Meehan
Kamal Bhuller	Businesses, Richard Truscott	Bernard Daniels
Anne Blunt	Canadian Federation of University	Lisa Davis
Board of Education, School District	Women – British Columbia	Susan Davis
No. 33 (Chilliwack), Walt Krahn,	Council, Jeannette Mergens	Daw Holdings Ltd., William
Silvia Dyck	Canadian Home Builders'	Pekonen
	Association of BC, Neil Moody	

Dawson Creek Chamber of Commerce, Kathleen Connolly, Jeremy Earl	Graduate Student Society at Simon Fraser University, Devon Cass	Joanne Johnson
Paul Dayson	Graduate Student Society of UBC, Colúm Connolly	Lisa Johnson
Geoff Dean	Sallie Graham	Heike Johrden
Rev. Dr. Shaun Delage	William Grayson	Grace Jones
Jannis Delisle	Cecelia Griffiths	Hillar Kalmar
Delta Community Literacy Committee, Lynda Brummitt	David Grove	Kamloops Art Gallery, Western Canada Theatre and Kamloops Symphony, Jann LM Bailey
Denominational Health Association, Susan House	Garry Haas	Daniela Karpun
Faizel Desai	Elaine Haddad	Kaslo and District Public Library, Stephen Johnston
Catherine Dextrase	Arthur Hadland	Sair Killy
Anne Maria Di Lorenzo	Erik Hansen	Cory Kinney
Donna Doerkson	Julie Harris	Fiona Kitt
Michelle Douglas	Melanie Harris	Marilyn Koyanagi
John Drescher	Phil Harrison	Hanrick Kumar
East Kootenay Invasive Plant Council, Pam Turyk, Todd Larsen	Dilia Hasanova	Stephanie Kurylo
Thomas Edwards	Hazelton District Public Library, Debbie Sullivan	Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Natalie Walker, Alan Davis
Wendie Edwards-Koroscil	Health Officers Council of BC, Stacy Hake, Charl Badenhorst	Labatt Breweries of Canada, Jeffrey Ryan
Electric Mobility Canada, Chantal Guimont	D Hernon	Belinda Lacombe
Susan Elliott	Susan Heuman	Ladner Sediment Group, John Roscoe
Karl Emde	Jane Heyman	Anne Ladouceur
Ending Violence Association of BC and Valley Community Services Society, Beverley Rowley	Douglas Hockley	Heather Lang
Jan Engstrom	Bob Holmes	Lori Lavigne
Arthur Entlich	Sherry Holmgren	Vincent Law
Karen Erdem	Alan Horne	Ron Lawton
Faith in Action, Sheila Moss	Roberta Hosegood	Joelle Lazar
Faith in Action, Peggy Wilmot	Howe Sound Women's Centre Society, Sheila Allen	Christopher David LeBlanc
Robert Farbridge, Gerry Farbridge	Inclusion BC, Karen DeLong, Faith Bodnar	Christi Livingstone
Lynne Fedora	Insurance Bureau of Canada, Aaron Sutherland	Mike Lucich
First Call: BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition, Adrienne Montani	Islands Trust, Sheila Malcolmson	Dale Lutz
William Fraser	Mary James	Annabelle MacDonald
Sharon Freeman	Suzanne James	Jackie MacDonald
Friends of the Vancouver Public Library, Judith Neamtan	Jeremy Janzen	Jillian Maguire
Gail Ghinis	Joseph Jeffery	Lisa Malone
Lorenzo Girottoitszog	Carole Jeffries	Ezra Mandel
Angela Gomez	Bob Jeffs	Aniko Martin
	Sharnelle Jenkins-Thompson, William Booth, Andrea Krombein, Zinnia Clark	Sergio Massarelli
	Gertrude Jocksch	Carmen Massey
	Anne Johnson	Wayne Masters
		Carol McAndrew
		Mary McAvoy
		Brian McDermott

Patrick McGuire	Politics, Re-Spun, Stephen Elliott-	Social Responsibility Coalition of
Alexandros Michailides	Buckley	First Unitarian Church of Victoria,
Helen Middleditch	Port Metro Vancouver, Taylor Briggs	Philip Symons
Peter Miller	Sian Prytherch	Society for Canadians Studying
Onni Milne	Public Education Project, Elizabeth	Medicine Abroad, Rosemary
Soulmaz Montazeri	Jane Bouey	Pawliuk
Jamie Montgomery	Michael Purves	Ujjagar Sohi
Michelle Moore	Colleen Ray	South Okanagan Similkameen
Judi Morin	Cathy Reimer	National Park Network, Chloe
Anne Moss	Kathy Reimer	OLoughlin
Jennifer Moss	Karen Reppin	Katharine Stewart
Nanaimo Brain Injury Society, Mark	Richmond Addiction Services	Sun Country Highway Ltd., Rob
Busby	Society, Richard Dubras	MacGregor
Gail Neufeld	Richmond Centre for Disability, Ella	Surrey District Parent Advisory
Diane Newton	Huang	Council, Linda Stromberg
H. M. Newton	Richmond Chamber of Commerce,	Scott Susin
North Island Students' Union, Jessica	Craig Jones	Randy Taylor
Sandy	Richmond Poverty Response	Teck Resources Limited, Marcia
Northwest Invasive Plant Council,	Committee, Lynda Brummitt,	Smith
Mike Trepanier	Colin Dring De Whalen	The Animal Defence and Anti-
Deborah Nostdal	Lisa Robertson	Vivisection Society of BC, Anne
Alika Notzel	Julia Robinson	Birtheistle
Office of the Provincial Health	Marlene Rodgers	The Federation of Community Social
Officer, Perry Kendall	Phyllis Ruthven	Services of BC, Richard FitzZaland
Okanagan College, Allan Coyle, Tom	Mae Sagar	The Realistic Success Recovery
Styffe	Salmo Community Resource Society,	Society REAL Recovery for Men,
Okanagan College Faculty	Theresa Swan	Susan Sanderson
Association, Tim Walters	Salt Spring and Southern Gulf	Crystal Truscott
Omineca Safe Home Society, Lynne	Islands Community Services	Amy Turton
Stuart	Society, Katie Watters	Jim Underhill
Wayne Pacey	Chen Saraf	University of Victoria Students'
Pacific Association of Artist Run	Don Sartin	Society (UVSS), Ben Johnson
Centres, Mariane Bourcheix-	Madeleine Sauve	Urban Development Institute, Anne
Laporte	Mireille Sauve	McMullin
Nicholas Page	Marie Seibel	Minoo Vahid
Jason Palmer	Endrene Shepherd	Kylie Vallée
Niovi Patsicakis	Shuswap Children's Association, June	Vancouver Electric Vehicle
Peace River Regional District, Karen	Stewart	Association, Don Chandler, Bruce
Goodings	Annie Simard	Stout
Diane Pearson	Simon Fraser University, Nicole	Vancouver Island North Teachers'
Jan Penner	Rogers	Association, Shawn Gough
Naomi Perks	Sisters of St. Ann Social Justice	Vancouver Public Library, Mary
Bill Phelps	Committee, Joyce Harris	Lynn Baum
Judi Pickett	Kelly Slade-Kerr	Margaret Varga
Pivot Legal Society, Katrina Pacey	Marina Smith	Mark Vee
Jane Player	Suzanne Smythe	Kris von Schalburg

West Coast LEAF, Laura Track  
West Vancouver Memorial Library,  
Kirsty Farquharson  
Western Canada Biodiesel  
Association, Doug Hooper, Ian  
Thomson

Sarah Westwick  
Kirstin Whitford  
Michael Wicks  
Amanda Willems  
Susan Wilson

Women Transforming Cities, Ellen  
Woodsworth  
Sabra Woodworth  
Corinne Wright  
Cindy Zakland

## Appendix C: Online Survey Respondents

Christine Abrams	Jef Baerg	Darrell Bethune	Hannah Brooker
Lisa Agius	Rosamund Bailey	Andrew Beuzer	Leaha Broome
Alison Ailles	Navjot Bains	Sukhjit Bhattal	Dana Brown
Chris Alemany	Colleen Baird	Devinder Biln	Harold Brown
Sue Alfawicki	James Baker	Darren Birch	Leanne Brown
Sally Allan	Janice Baker	Jared Birkeland	Linda Brown
Virginia Allard	Chantel Balback	Marnie Birkeland	Tracy Brown
Kristi Alm	Nicole Baldwin	Roberta Birks	Carla Bruce
George Alston	Llowyn Ball	Harold Bishop	Peter Bruckmann
Jen Andersen	Sabina Ball	Wendy Blackford	Bobbi-Lynne Brush
Christine Anderson	Amanda Ballard	Katrina Blain	Laura Buechler
John Anderson	Sheryl Balleweg	Opal Blair	Clint Buhr
Roald Anderson	Mike Balsler	Colleen Blatz	John Buist
Sandra Anderson	Darren Banting	Nicole Blom	Marja Bulmer
Joyce Andeson	Dawn Banville	Deirdre Blomkvist	Michael Burdeniuk
Alexander Andor	Christa Barberis	Randall Blundell-	Carolien Burke
Jane Andrew	Chelan Barclay	Dunkerley	Grace Burns
Charles Andrews	Christine Baribeau	Coleen Bohlen	Terry Burton
Holly Anonby	Chad Barrick	Stephanie Boileau	Karin Bury
Bryan Anthony	Carol Barton	Alain Bolen	Erika Butcher
Sheneal Anthony	Wendy Basisty	Sherri Boljuncic	Caroline Butler
Carrie Antoniazzi	Deanna Beach	Lilliana Bolton	Debbie Byman
Melanie Antweiler	Melanie Beaulieu	Gini Bonner	Linley Byrne
Wade Appenheimer	Karen Beck	Andrea Boomars	Meghan Byrne
Megan Aprim	Ken Beck	Darcie Booth	Corrie Bzowy
Shauna Aranas	Erin Beckett	Elizabeth Borhi	Jay Cadieux
Joanne Archer	Sharon Beedle	Jane Bouey	Cort Caldwell
Bruce Archibald	Dawn Begin	Jody Bougerolle	Sonja Callaghan
Briony Argue	Ricki Beisel	Nicholas Bourdeau	Beverly Campbell
Leanne Armstrong	Nicola Belezny	Alixandria Bourgeault	Kerry Campbell
Molly Armstrong	Harland Bell	Paul Boyd	Lianne Carley
Christine Arnold	Catherine Belliveau	Diane Boyle	Steve Carley
Alexandria Arvais	Kyla Belvedere	Daniel Braidwood	Marcia Carmichael
Janice Ascroft	Mark Bendall	Jaki Braidwood	Mellissa Carroll
Jessica Ashley	Jo-Anne Bennett	Tani Brain	Bill Carruthers
Eileen Askew	Karen Bennett	Ken Bramble	Brent Carson
Tania Assen	Mara Benson	Koreen Branden	Bert Carswell
Rene Aubin	Heng-zi Berczki	Monica Braun	Jerry Carter
Greg Awai	Michelle Bergen	Vanessa Brcic	Roger Carter
Elaine Azad	Matilde Bernabei	Gioia Breda	Brycon Casey
Elena Baboi	James Berrow	Kevan Brewer	Linda Castley
Paola Baca	Sandra Berry	Beverly Brigham	Kevin Cattell
Tyler Bacon	Heather Best	Kaelin Brons	Traci Cave

Sarah Cawston-Stewart	Heidi Cogan	Anita Davidson	Erin Duff
Lucia Cayuela	Jennifer Coghlan	Brian Davidson	Barbara Dumont
Lisa Cesario	David Cole	Eric Davidson	Victoria Duncan
Cindy Chalut	Patricia Cole	Jacque Davidson	Audrey Dunkley
Robyn Chambers	James Colpitts	Heidi Davis	Kim Dupont
Arthur Chan	Phil Colvin	Courtney de Boer	Linda Dyck
Jesse Chan	Carol Comfort	Geoff Dean	Sonja Dyck
Dina Chase	Brittany Comrie	Sandra Dean	Jason Elder
Shawne Chastko	Ari Con	Jack Debad	Susan Ellard
Mandy Chen	Mike Cooke	Pam December	Janette Elliott
Tammie Chernoff	Jenn Cooney	Margaret Mary Deck	Melissa Elliott
Kathleen Cherry	Breton Coons	Tamara DeFord	Stephanie Elliott
Child Development	Heather Cooper	Cara DeMare	Catherine Ellis
Centre Society of Fort	Gale Corder	Shawna Denman	John Elzinga
St. John and District,	Chris Cordoni	Kevin Dent	Patricia Enair
Penny Gagnon	Denise Cormier	K Der	Karen Erdem
Mike Chittenden	Tanisha Cormier	Katie DeReus	Maegen Erickson
Sheila Chmilar	Shelley Cornell	Faizel Desai	Tyler Ernst
Alyson Cho	Tracey Costescu	Dave Devaney	Sarah Eves
Ryan Cho	Eric Cottrell	Scott Dewis	Carole Eyles
Margaret Choinski	Cameron Courtney	Amanjot Dhaliwal	Gerry Farbridge
Dale Chorney	Ashlie Coutts	Reagen Dhillon	Veronika Farnell
Peg Christian	Monika Coutts	Kirsten Dibblee	Rick Farrow
Ramona Chu	Andrea Coutu	Wayne Dick	Christina Fast
Stephen Church	Vanessa Cowley	Colleen Dickie	Jean-Paul Faubert
Oana-Corina Ciortan	Deanna Cox	Jennifer Dickie	Jennifer Faulks
Lorraine Clair	Genevieve Crane	Susan Dickinson	Michael Fawcett
Denise Clark	Trisha Crawford	Cosimo Digeso	Phyllis Fawcett
Diana Clark	Jessica Crean	Liz Dobbin	Karen Fediuk
Donna Clark	Neal Crocker	Pat Dobie	Judith Fenner
Frances Clark	Kailie Crosby	Polly Dobie	Lynda Fenner
Janet Clark	Stephen Crozier	Timothy Doble	Jessica Ferguson
Kelly Clark	Gail Crumley	Dana Docherty	Denise Ferreira
William Clarke	Jodie Cuervo	Alex Dodic	Karla Ferster
Jana Clattenburg	Lisa Cunnian	Howard Doerkson	Bonny Fett
Carol Cleland	CUPE 728, Janice	Michelle Dorman	Jenn Filek
Lenore Clemens	Meehan	Karen Doughty	Kimball Finigan
Clements Centre Society,	Norman Curtis	Jennifer Dow Salinas	Catherine Fisher
Dominic Rockall	Melissa Da Silva	Dawn-Marie Dowling	Lisa Fisher
Joan Clements	Yvette Dabbs	Ellisa Drake	Susan Fitzgerald
Cathy Clemis	Barbara Dahlberg	Jol Drake	Reg Fleming
Tanya Clift	Gina Daneliuk	Steve Drapala	Kathy Flood
Doug Cline	Brian Daniel	Dawna Drapeau	Christina Forbes
Cheryl Clostio	Tim Daniel	Sandra Dube	Robert Ford
Tara Clowers	Erin Daum	Shalom Dueck	Carl Forde
Angie Clowry	Barry Davids	Dale Dueckman	Amanda Foreman

Jolene Foreman	Pamela Goldsack	Kim Hancock	Monica Hoffort
Pat Forrester	Marilyn Goode	Shannon Handel	Carrie Hokanson
Jennifer Fort	Bob Goos	Jennifer Hanson	Linda Holder
Maureen Foss	Michelle Goos	Melissa Hanson	Julia Holland
Deb Foster	Colin Gordon	Sheryl Hare	Kim Holland
G Foster	Karen Goreas	Lori Hargreaves	Susan Hollier
Jason Foster	Glen Gough	Margaret Harriman	Peter Hollmann
Lizanne Foster	Sheila Graham	Barbara Joan Harris	Ryan Holly
Ashley Fowler	David Grant	Wyatt Harris	Wendy Holly
Cindy Fraiberg	John Grant	Nicola Harrop	Linden Holmen
Charity Franczak	Liza Grant	Shirley Harshenin	Angela Holmes
Margaret Fraser	Sarah Grant	Dayna Hart	Michelle Honeysett
Margaret Frederickson	Donna Graves	Heather Hart	Natalie Hoodikoff
Arlis French	Kyle Graves	Jennifer Hastings	Richard Hoole
Reg Frey	Cheryl Gravkin	Chris Hatfield	Mary Hope
Frances Friend	Corinne Gray	Sarah Haugen	Miriam Hornby
Danielle Friesen	Liana Gray	Kimi Hawkes	Nicole Horodyski
Genevieve Friesen	Travis Gredley	Genevieve Hawtree	Jennifer Horsley
Megan Fulgueras	Tracy Green	Ian Hayes	Michael Hoven
Carol Funk	Brenda Greene	David Haynes	Brettney Howard
Heather Fyfe	Talitha Greenwood	Carol Hayter	Jenny Howard-Judd
Carmen Gaisford	Rebecca Gregoris	Louise Hazemi	Leona Huggins
Barbara Gale	Maureen Greive	Dianne Heal	Cathy Hughes
Danae Gale	Ramona Grenier	Jacquie Hebert	Chris Humeston
Monique Gamel	Gurdev Grewal-Glups	Tasha Heck	Kara Hunt
Blaise Garbet	Angela Griffin	Patrick Heide	Jen Hunter
Linda Garland	Rob Griffith	Jennifer Heiden	Monique Hunter
Rembrandt Garland	Cecelia Griffiths	Oli Helm	Brian Hurcheson
Cariad Garratt	Connie Griffiths	Bianca Henderson	Peter Hurst
Daniel Gawthrop	Jason Gross	Gregory Henderson	Nicole Hurtubise
Judy Gaylord	Malayna Gross	Joelle Henderson	Leigh Husieff
Rosanne Gerritsen	Susan Grossman	John Henderson	Amelia Hutchinson
Michelle Gervais	Cheryl Groves	Marilyn Henderson	Eileen Hutson
Duncan Gibson	Vicki Gruden	Vicki Henderson	Oana Hyatt
Jennifer Gibson	Loren Guerin	Bill Hepburn	Kyle Hyndman
Emilie Giguere	Michelle Guerin	Lisa Hermant	Nancy Ingersoll
Dean Gilbert	Peter Guzzo	Lisa Hetman	Adam Inglis
Paula Gill	Suzanne Gwin	Jane Heyman	Kelly Inglis
Susan Gillen	Garry Haas	Kevin Hiebert	Linnea Inskip
Kate Gillespie	Alice Haberlin	Jennifer Hill	David Inwood
David Gillham	Elaine Haddad	Amanda Hillis	Shannon Isernia
Jessica Gilmore	Eric Haffenden	Tessa Hilton	Kim Ito
Mike Gismond	Peter Halim	Lindsey Hine	Ed Ivanisko
Marina Glass	Catherine Hall	Rolf Hirschhorn	Iglika Ivanova
Jennifer Goerzen	Yvonne Hammond	Sandra Hochstein	Jenny Jackson
Susan Goldie	Keith Hampe	Judith Hoffman	Nadeane Jackson



Andrea James	Jane-Ann Kay	Karl Larsen	Michelle Lueck
Monica James	Carla Kazemi	Janet Lau	Erin Lumley
Linda Jantz	Estelle Keeler	Kristi Lauridsen	Greg Lundahl
Kirsten Janzen	Lisa Keeler	Susan Lazar	Anders Lunde
Linda Jensen	Dustin Keller	Geoff Leader	Cynthia Lussier
Susan Jensen	Joy Kelly-Bratt	Kim Leary	Annabelle MacDonald
Fiona Job	Helen Kelsey	Genevieve LeBel	Heather MacDonald
Darin Johaneson	Stacey Kemp	Jason Lebleu	Jen MacDonald
Adrienne Johnson	Sandra Kempf	Juliana Lee	Kathleen Macfarlane
Greg Johnson	Lorn Kennedy	Kelly Lee	Lou Machado
Steve Johnson	Shannon Kennedy	Martin Lee	Judith MacInnes
Brenda Johnston	Lynne Kent	Mary Lee	Matt MacInnis
Cole Johnston	Rebecca Kiesewetter	Nathan Lee	Cathy Macintosh
Leslie Johnstone	Karen Kilbride	Heather Legal	Ruth Macintosh
Katherine Joly	Amanda Kilburn	Kiel Lemmen	Tanya Mack
Carol Jones	Barbara Killy	Ashley Lesage	Tom Mackesy
Grace Jones	Colleen Kimberley	Sharon Lethbridge	Cynthia MacKinnon
Jennifer Jones	Scott Kimler	Kristine Letourneau	Janet MacLeay
Joshua Jones	Sheri Kinney	Sophie Levesque	Jean Macleod le Cheminant
Laura Jones	Michelle Kirby	Teh Sung Lian	Alison MacNamara
Leah Jones	Sandra Kirkegaard	Jessica Liew	Julia MacRae
Shawn Jones	Alanna Kirkham	Cheryl Lightowlers	Ruth Madge
Carol Jost	Naomi Kleinschmidt	Andra Lincke	Desiree Maher-Schley
Julie Joyal	Denise Klynsoon	Casey Lindquist	Heather Malcolm
Katie Julseth-White	Barb Kobabe	Katrina Ling	Caroline Malm
Renata Jurica	Bruce Konrad	Janet Lirenman	Pamela Manson
Norm Kaethler	Christiner Koppensteiner	Margaret Little	Louise Manton
G Kaiser	Dixie Kotylak	Keri-Anne Livingstone	Darren Manweiler
Jodi Kalley	Eric Kovits	Brad Lloyd	Tamara Manweiler
Karin Kalyn	Darya Kowalski	Elizabeth Lo	Taryn Marble
Kamloops Art Gallery, Kamloops Symphony, Western Canada Theatre, Jann LM Bailey	Andre Kozak	Vincent Lo	Christina Maretz
Kamloops Self Advocate Newsletter, Krystian Shaw	Debora Krueger	Mary Loblaw	Dorothy Margerison
Gavin Karey-McKenna	Dora Kwok	Marian Lochrie	Caitlin Marquis
David Karkut	Lynn Laberge	Mary Lock	Amber Marsh
Wendy Karpuik	Lara Lacharite	Kimberly Logan	Carolyn Marsh
Daniela Karpun	DW Laidlaw	Suzie Logan	Sandy Marshall
Gerri Karr	Dominique Lalande	Victoria Loh	Desiree Marshall-Peer
Stephen Karr	Martha Lamarche	Cara London	Selena Martens
Laura Karsenti	Lauren Lan	Dean Long	Tanja Martens
Kaylie Kauko	Reg LaPlante	Kim Longstaff	Aniko Martin
	Lyonoor Lardein	Stephanie Lord	Carol Martin
	Julie Lariviere	Tracey Lorensen	Daniel Martin
	Terry Larkin	Joelene Loudon	Fiona Martin
	Nathalie LaRoche	Gregory Lowes	Michelle Martin
	Allen Larose	Natalie Lubenow	Samantha Martin
	Jennifer Larsen	Mike Lucich	

Murray Martindale	Cathryn McPhee	Colin Morton	Gina Orchard
Sergio Massarelli	Kelly McQuillan	Kelly Moscrip	Carolyn Orth
Adrian Mathieu	William Mcwhinnie	Shane Moscrip	Greg Osborn
Sharla Mauger	Maxine Medhurst	Jennifer Moss	Susan Ottewell
Jonathan Mauro	Anthony Mehnert	Joanna Moss	Patricia Outram
Susan Mavor	Ramona Melanson	Susan Mowbray	Ted Owens
Tanis Maxfield	Sarah Melanson	William Mugford	Nathan Pagan
Kelly Maxwell	Mona Mendel	Eileen Mumford	Nicholas Page
Sue Maxwell	Miriam Menzies	Blair Murray	Sacha Page
Colleen McAdam	Wendy Meston	Susan Murray	Ryan Painter
Kathy McAdam	Don Meyer	Jessica Mussell	Franco Pante
Coreena McBurnie	Sherri Meyer	Petina Musselman	Rick Papineau
Linda McCallum	Elizabeth Midyette	Eileen Muzzin	Barbara Parkin
Dennis McCann	Kathy Mikkelsen	Bruna Myers	Barb Parrott
Patricia McCarter	Santina Milia	Mark Nakada	Lisa Parsonson
Dale McCartney	Christine Miller	Travis Nakken	Doris Paterson
Nicole McCartney	Jennifer Milne	Rhyannon Neff	Tine Paterson
Stacy McCrick	Onni Milne	Bryden Nelmes	Alan Patola Moosmann
Patricia McCullough	Leila Milonas	Lisa Nerpio	Kelly Patrick
Shelley McDade	Isamu Minami	Shona Neufeld	Danica Payette
Katherine McDonald	Colleen Minyard	Ruth Newlove	Terrence Payette
Risa McDonell	Don Miskiman	Craig Newson	Isabelle Payne
Michelle McElroy	Hanna Miskiman	Sarah Nicholls	Janine Payne
D McFarland	Ryan Miskiman	Carey Nickerson	Robert Paynter
Glenys McFarlane	Mission Self Advocacy	Mariantonietta Nicolosi	Jim Pearce
Anne McGeachy	Group, Bryce	Tevely	Sharla Pearce
Teresa McGee	Schaufelberger	Tanis Nielsen-Rhoads	Lisa Pedersen-Skene
Alexandra McGladrey	David Mitten	Deanna Nilson	Jason Peil
John McGowan	Rebecca Moeller	John Michael Northcote	Andy Pelletier
Gail McGraw	S Moist	Ken Nunes	Barbara Pelman
Derek McGregor	Ryan Monchalin	Alyssa Nuyens	Tristan Pengilly
Jenny McKay	Brenda Monroe	Janet Oakes	Janice Penner
Clayton McKee	Denise Montess	Michelle Obedzinski	Clarice Perkins
Ken McKee	Carlene Montgomery	Kara Obojski	Chris Perry
Ian McKendrick	Karen Moon	Sarah Obojski	Douglas Perry
Leeann McKenzie	Ashley Moore	Charlene O'Brien	Jodie Perry
Marjorie McKenzie	Cathy Moore	Brooke O'Byrne	Louise Perry
Doug McKnight	Heather Moore	Eve Ojea	Richard Pesik
Deni McLaughlin	Jamie Moore	Barb Oke	Bonnie Peters
David McLean	Michelle Moore	Brian Oke	Karrie Peters
Chris McLeod	Sarah Moore	Daniel Olsen	Shelley Petrunia
Erin McLeod	Sean Moores	Irene Olson	Charles Phelps
Kathleen McLeod	Henry Morgan	Maria Omega	Celia Pidduck
Carly McMahan	Kalindi Morgan	Elaine Ong	Constanze Pietrek
Linda McMullan	Casey Mork	Lori Opper	Heather Pinske
Carri McMullen	Barry Morris	Amber O'Quinn	Kelly Pitman

Leann Pitman	K Reilly	Analise Saelly	Tammy Shilvock
Kimberly Plant	Vicki Rempel	Lisa Sahli Graham	Sarah Shipley
Kim Poirier	Lindsay Reynolds	Derek Sahota	Kami Shkooratoff
Politics, Re-Spun, Stephen Elliott-Buckley	Mary Reynolds	Tanveer Sahota	Elizabeth Shook
Karen Pollock	Courtney Reynoldson	Kirsten Saikaly	Christopher Short
Alan Polster	Jason Richard	Charity Sakakibara	Tanya Shymko
Christina Pook	Christopher Richardson	Maureen Sanders	Bryan Sim
Joseph Pook	Shelley Richardson	Arthur Sanderson	Jennifer Simmons
Geri Pope	Lorrie Ann Riedel	Hilary Sandford	Valery Simonds
Elizabeth Poppe	Stephanie Riedstra	David Sandquist	Darlene Simonetto
Christine Potter-Smith	Adam Ripoli	Mike Sapic	Maryann Simpson
Liz Powell	Sarah Ritchie	Shelagh Saprunoff	Rolynda Simpson
Isaac Powrie	Torbjorn Rive	Chen Saraf	Laurie Sinclair
Jackie Poynter	Scott Riznek	I Sarama	Manu Singh
Susan Praud	George Roberts	John Sarte	Terry Sisk
Travis Preston	Theresa Roberts	Mireille Sauve	Mark Skanks
Susan Price	Jackie Robinson	Monique Sauve	Eleanor Skelton
William Price	Krista Robinson	Michael Scales	Andrew Skipsey
Maria Primavera	Maria Robinson	Jocelyn Scaletta	Danuta Skrzypinski
Laurelei Primeau	Donna Robson	Paulo Scaletta	Jennifer Slack
Brynn Prince	Judith Robson	Samantha Schaap	C Sladden
Rob Printz	Kent Rockwell	Carmen Schalles	Gail Sloback
Lori Prodan	Jennifer Rodger	Marion Schlatter	Sunny Slykerman
Erin Pugh	Bradley Edward Rodgers	Stefan Schmitt	Jill Smalley
Miila Pullan	Marlene Rodgers	Stephen Schofield	Kathryn Smith
Jeff Quan	El Roff	David Schroeder	Tara Smith
Lorien Quattrocchi	Susan Rogerson	Diana Schroeder	Todd Smith
Gina Queiroga	Angela Roguski	Judith Schwarz	Tracy Smith
Richard Quinn	Marilyn Rombough	David Searle	Amanda Smith-Weston
Jody Raabe	Tim Ross	Jessica Seens	Lochlan Smyth
Robert Ramsay	Corinne Rossi	Renuka Senaratne	Michelle Smyth
Maureen Randell	Jenny Roussel	Laura Sewid	Cari Snell
Rita Rasti	Jennifer Roy	Kathy Seymour	Gail Snider
Hanne Ratzburg	Kyla Royle	Ashley Shannik	Society for Children and Youth of BC, Andrea Lemire
Marlene Raymond	Allyson Rozell	Sheila Joan Shannon Jung	
Megan Read	Elisabeth Ruitter	vern Shanoss	Jillian Solaczek
Zoe Read	Rachelle Ruitter	Patrick Sharkey	Kathleen Somerville
Realistic Success Recovery Society, Susan Sanderson	Robin Rumsby	William Sharkey	Elisabeth Sones
Don Redgwll	Lori Rurka	Catherine Shaw	Megan Southerby
Nigel Reedman	Craig Ruschkowski	Fiona Shaw	Adrian Southin
Megan Regnier	Susan Russell	Ian Shepherd	Jane Spalding-Jamieson
Rosemary Reichlin	Wendy Ryall	Sharon Shepherd	Kirsten Speer
Mark Reid	Megan Ryan	Irene Sheppard	T. James Spensley
	Anne Saar	Rajveen Shergill	Leah Sprintzios
	Raja Sabbagha	Debra Sherman	Jo Stafford
	David Sabourin	Helen Shilladay	

Geneva Standbridge	Gurkaran Thiara	Leeann Vigar	Harmony Widing
Leelan Stanjek	Peter Thiel	Hilary Villeneuve	Pat Wilband
David Stanley	Alexandra Thiesson	Aleicia Vincent	Ryan Wilcox
Jessica Stanley	Shannon Thio	Tammy Vlieg	Linda Wilke
Erin Steel	Melissa Thomas	Kailey Vogt	Lyn Wilkinson
Joyce Steeves	Suzanne Thomas	Marc Volkamer	Caleb Wilkison
Tracey Steeves	Karla Thompson	Pam Vollrath	Jared Wilkison
Aeron Sterner	Mary Thompson	C Von Einsiedel	Martina Wilkison
Beat Steuri	Donna Thomson	S Von Einsiedel	Allison Willcock
Graeme Stevens	Vicky Thomson	Melanie Voulgaris	Amanda Willems
Jennifer Stevens	Alexis Thuillier	Sonya Wachowski	Nicole Williams
Charles Stewart	William Tilland	Caroline Wakelin	Lezah Williamson
Jenni Stewart	Sheri Titus	Kristine Walker	Vicki Willis
Lynda Stewart	David Tod	Scott Walker	William Willson
Mary Ellen Stewart	Lucinda Tooker	John Wall	Elizabeth Wilson
Michelle Stewart	Shannon Toronitz	Kim Wall	Katie Wilson
Robert Stewart	Teresa Toth	Angela Wallenius	Ron Wilton
Renee Stieda	Christie Totten	Karen Walsh	Russ Wiltsie
Danielle Stokes	Debbie Towers	Larry Walske	S. Wiltsie
Kyler Storm	Andrew Towsley	Kim Walters	Sarah Winkler
Cassandra Strachan	Katherine Trepanier	Lisa Wan	Jeanne Wiseman
Lia Strain	Jennifer Trew	Patrick Ward	Tracey Wispinski
Deborah Strong	Erik Trounce	Tanya Wardle	Reshma Withers
Sylvie Sturgess	Jack Trovato	Leanna Warkentin	Michael Woelders
Paula Sturn	Jennifer Trumpour	Bill Warriner	Christine Wong
Drew Sturrock	Rochelle Turenne	Alana Wassing	Lili Wong
Deniece Sulyma	Roger Turner	Michael Watkins	Mark Wong
Brian Summers	Amy Turton	Marnie Watson	Nicole Wong
Rafe Sunshine	Katerina Ulrich	Roxanne Watson	CJ Wood
Joel Sutcliffe	Jim Underhill	Jennifer Waughtal	Jodi Wood
Ann Sutherland	Corena Usher	Denise Webb	Katherine Wood
Ornella Svaestuen	Harry Van Beest	Tawnya Weber	Laura Wood
Sooz Svensson	Robin Van Gessel	Sandra Websterworthy	Reilly Wood
Cynthia Syms	Dianne Van Nostrand	Cheriee Weichel	Mike Woode
Chrystal Tagmann	Shawna Van Nuys	Andrea Weidmann	Angela Woolf
Sarena Talbot	Nicole Van Vliet	Kerry Weisner	Shelley Worthington
Jessica Tan	Erin Van Zytveld	Diana Weld	Nicole Wretham
Joseph Tan	Kirsten Vance	Heather Wells	Corinne Wright
Karen Taplin	Vancouver Aboriginal	Keiran Wells	Norm Wright
Brent Taylor	Friendship Centre	Nigel Wells	Amy Wrihy
Kathy Teague	Society, Susan Tatoosh	Mark Wereley	Tracy Wu
Susan Telfer	Beverly Vander Baaren	Sarah Westwick	John Yano
Jessica Temple	Casper Gus Vandermeulen	Tracey Westwood	Sandra Yeast
Heidi Tester	Shelley Vernon	Tarn White	Melanie Young
Misty Teteris	P Veto	Ian Wickett	Rudy Young
Katherine Tevaarwerk	Naomi Vierstra	Lynne Wickett	Sara Yuen

Andrew Zado  
Deannie Zahara  
Cindy Zaklan

Alena Zamorano  
Dina Zanet Costa  
Kelly Zazzara

Nancy Zegarchuk  
Darlene Zerr  
Sara Zieleman

Melanie Zimmer  
Sophie Zimmermann





In 2008 the Simon Fraser Student Society (SFSS) asked its membership whether they were in favour of Simon Fraser University (SFU) rescinding its ban on fraternities and sororities. The membership voted in favour of this non-binding plebiscite. While the question was somewhat confused, given that there is no formal ban on Greek societies at SFU, it did lead to the establishment of the Greek Representation and Interest Development (GRID) club within as an SFSS club structure with the mandate

to provide a forum for open discussion on matters pertaining to Greek societies, to be a source of information to currently unaffiliated students expressing an interest in joining a Greek society, to coordinate and prevent interference amongst Greek societies, and to assist those interested in the formation of a new Greek society.

By 2011 GRID had come to act on behalf of five different Greek Letter Organizations (GLO). As a result of an eye catching poster for one of the organization's events, the activities of those organizations operating informally within the SFSS club structure revealed themselves as problematic given that the SFSS was not adequately insured for such activities.

On August 26th, 2014, following an inquiry into the nature and scope of GLO activities, as well as into the organizational capacity of the SFSS to support them, the SFSS and GRID signed a Letter of Agreement (LOA) clearly defining their working relationship and the term of that relationship. Since signing the LOA, GRID has worked closely with the SFSS to ensure adherence to the terms of that agreement. Additionally, in November of 2014, the SFSS hosted a town hall meeting to provide GLOs the opportunity to engage the SFSS membership and SFU representatives.

At this juncture, we would invite representative from the the GLOs and SFU to sit down and clearly identify the necessary conditions of a formal and mutually beneficial relationship between the two groups. Meanwhile, the SFSS will proceed to reassess the scope of student support for the presence of Greek life at SFU.