# *Ready to*
# DELIVER

CONSERVATIVE
PARTY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

*Lorne Doerkson's Plan for a*

## STRONGER BC | 2026

**Dear British Columbians,**

David Eby's cynical early election call is all about him. I see this election as an opportunity for you, and for British Columbia, the province that we all love.

This election is about you, and the opportunity to choose strong leadership that brings the change we need in these serious times.

After nearly a decade of the NDP, it is hard to name one thing that's better. Jobs lost, month after month. Young people priced out of home ownership. Over a million people without a family doctor. High and rising taxes. Strangers attacked at random. Opioid overdoses being managed with free hard drugs instead of treatment. Increasing costs for our seniors. Cancelled Long-Term Care beds. People dying on waitlists instead of getting the surgery they need. And the cost of living is growing as incomes are stalled.

If you give me the honour of serving as your Premier, here's my promise to every British Columbian. I'll work to get the economy moving, bring your costs down, and create good jobs. I'll fully fund and protect our health care, and fix the mess David Eby and the NDP have made so that British Columbians aren't dying on waitlists or going to closed ERs when they need help. I'll make our streets safer. I'll get more homes built. That's the job I am asking you to elect me to do. It's about you, and making your life easier and better.

I want you to live in a British Columbia that is the envy of the world. I have a strong team behind me and a plan we're ready to carry out from day one.

David Eby's opportunistic election has given us a chance to turn this province around. Let's take it. But we need your support to do it, and I'm grateful for it.

Together, we can build a new era of hope and growth in BC.

**Lorne Doerkson**
Leader, Conservative Party of BC

**The Conservative Party of British Columbia has a plan for an affordable, prosperous, healthy, safe, and proud BC.**

***Here is how we will do it:***

# AN AFFORDABLE BC:
## *Hard work will pay off*

British Columbia should be a place where hard work gets you ahead, where young people can build a future, families can afford a home, and seniors can remain in their neighbourhoods.

After nine years of the NDP, people are falling further and further behind. Too many families are working harder than ever but not getting ahead. BC has become one of Canada's most expensive places to live while government spending skyrocketed and services got worse.

Food-bank visits increased 79% between 2019 and 2025. Housing remains beyond the reach of too many families. And too many young people wonder whether they will have to leave the province simply to afford a home and build a future somewhere else.

New homes cost more and take longer to build because of the taxes, government fees and red tape piled onto every project. The NDP promised the cheapest child care in Canada and delivered the most expensive: $52 a day in Richmond, over $40 in Vancouver, and $36 in Surrey.

We have a plan to make BC affordable, and we're ready to deliver it, starting with tax relief so you keep more of what you've earned.

## Keep more of what you earn

Conservatives believe if you earn it, you should keep it. We will cut your income tax by raising the provincial personal exemption to the most generous level in the country and we will take the NDP's taxes off your income, your car and your business costs.

- **Cut your income tax immediately.** Provide $1,000 a year in income-tax relief per person, or $2,000 for a couple, by increasing the provincial basic personal exemption to the most generous allowance in the country.

- **Stop TransLink's car tax.** Amend the South Coast British Columbia Transportation Authority Act so TransLink cannot put a tax or levy on owning or registering a car.

- **Protect driver choice**. End the zero-emission vehicle sales quota and you choose the vehicle that works for your family and work.

## Make a new home cheaper to build and buy

Families need affordable homes to rent or own, with room to grow, and close to the services they need. Builders need approvals that are fast and predictable. Right now they get neither.

- **Cut construction taxes and charges.** Tackle the costs and delays that stop new homes and neighbourhoods being built. Scrap unnecessary charges that add to construction costs, and restore choice in energy for home heating and cooking.

- **Approve homes in months, not years.** Bring new family homes to market faster, and work with municipalities so zoning bylaws match official community plans.

- **Give local governments a say in deciding where density goes.** Hold municipal governments to locally developed Official Community Plans that carry appropriate density targets. Where the density goes and what it looks like needs to be a decision of local government and local residents, not bureaucrats in Victoria.

- **Build for families.** We will dramatically shorten approvals for communities seeking family-oriented growth, including in beautiful new neighbourhoods.

- **Growth that comes with services.** Work with municipalities to ensure growth fits local communities and comes with roads, transit, health care, schools and utilities.

- **Fix the Building Code.** Overhaul the step code that has nothing to do with safety and quality construction and simplify and harmonize the building code.

## Help families when it counts

Affordable child care has to be available when and where families need it. Parents who work shifts or live outside the big centres deserve choices that fit their lives. We will support more quality options, recognize the contribution of independent providers, and fix the rules that stop more spaces from opening. We will help multigenerational families take care of children and parents.

- **Open more spaces.** Identify unnecessary regulations, from any level of government, that delay or stop high-quality child care spaces from being opened where they are needed.

- **Fund independent providers fairly.** Every child care provider should be treated equally. Independent providers will be eligible for new $10-a-day spaces as the program expands.

- **$10-a-day spaces first for the kids who need them most.** A place on a waitlist is not child care. As we create more spaces, we will prioritize $10-a-day spaces for the children and families with the fewest alternatives and highest need.

- **24-hour child care.** Create 24-hour spaces for shift workers and first responders, and encourage child care at or near worksites such as hospitals.

- **Put money in parents' hands.** Increase the BC Family Benefit and the Affordable Child Care Benefit so they reflect the cost-of-living pressure on young families, whether they choose child care outside the house, care at home with a parent, or help from family.

- **Multigenerational Home Renovation Tax Credit.** We will match the federal tax credit with provincial tax relief for families creating self-contained living spaces for senior relatives, lowering housing costs and freeing up more homes.

- **Faster credential recognition for child care providers.** We will make it simple for educators, social workers, teachers and others with relevant experience to work as Early Childhood Educator assistants, especially over the summer months.

- **Keep auto insurance affordable** by maintaining ICBC as a public option and preserving no-fault for the vast majority of claims, while giving catastrophically injured victims access to legal representation, with capped legal fees so lawyers' costs don't drive up premiums or reduce what accident victims receive.

## Bring fiscal responsibility back to government

Families make choices to live within their means. Government must take its responsibilities just as seriously.

The BC NDP government has spent nine years burying British Columbians in debt, with nothing to show for it. In fact, services have gotten worse.

Under the NDP, from 2019 to 2026 the private-sector jobs that pay for everything grew by an anemic 3%, compared with 46% growth in the public sector. Under their watch, BC has the worst private sector growth in Canada.

When David Eby and the BC NDP faced voters in 2024, every man, woman, and child in BC was responsible for supporting $22,000 in provincial government debt. Just two years later, that number is up to $27,000. When the NDP took office in 2017, it was just $13,000.

Servicing that debt now consumes billions every year. That's money unavailable for doctors, schools, tax relief or other priorities. In fact, if our debt was a stand-alone ministry, it would be the third largest behind Health and Education.

This debt isn't going away; it's getting worse. Total debt is forecast to reach $180.9 billion in 2026–27, choking the government's ability to provide you with the services you deserve.

We will review recent NDP waste and abuse of tax dollars, restore merit-based hiring across the public sector, end duplication and poor management, and hold agencies accountable for results.

The services you depend on should come first.

- **Budget transparency.** We don't know the true costs of Eby and NDP mismanagement. We will immediately appoint an independent panel of experts to quickly review and report on the government's true fiscal position so that British Columbians know what we are dealing with and we have accurate data.

- **Chart a realistic path to balance.** We will chart a realistic return to balance over time with spending benchmarks and guardrails as we grow the economy. Our plan to supercharge the economy will bring in new revenue without cutting front-line services or raising taxes, and will give struggling taxpayers and businesses needed relief.

- **Turn Metro Vancouver into a lean regional utility.** We will return Metro Vancouver to a regional utility that is lean and accountable with a professional board. This will cut waste and save taxpayers money, while returning other functions to local authorities to avoid waste and duplication.

We will build an affordable British Columbia where people can build a good life without passing on an ever-larger tax bill to their children and grandchildren.

# Build responsibly: review and fix David Eby's capital mess

The NDP's record on major infrastructure projects is the biggest financial mess in provincial history. The Cowichan hospital replacement has climbed from $887 million to $1.45 billion, and the Surrey–Langley SkyTrain has jumped from $3.94 billion to nearly $6 billion.

Despite borrowing billions more, David Eby's government is now pausing critical infrastructure projects, including long-term care facilities in Fort St. John, Abbotsford, Campbell River, Chilliwack and Kelowna.

British Columbians need these projects completed, but they are lacking competent management, realistic budgets and accountability for escalating costs.

The George Massey crossing is perhaps the clearest example of NDP mismanagement. The NDP cancelled a $3.5 billion, 10-lane bridge that could already be carrying traffic, replacing it with a tunnel now estimated to cost $8.5 billion, and growing. Years later, the tunnel still lacks an environmental assessment certificate, the original procurement has been abandoned, and costs are expected to climb beyond $12 billion. There is still no firm completion date. Billions more, years lost, and commuters and businesses remain stuck in traffic.

We will bring discipline, predictability and transparency to capital spending. A Conservative government will:

- **Conduct a thorough, comprehensive review and audit of the provincial capital plan,** establishing clear priorities, realistic budgets, delivery schedules and stronger oversight to ensure taxpayers receive value for money, and report out within six months on its findings and recommendations.

- **Restore broad competitive bidding** for provincial infrastructure.

- **Build a new George Massey Bridge** and abandon the costly tunnel replacement, delivering the transportation capacity families, commuters and businesses need delivered faster than a tunnel and for less money, with more lanes for traffic.

- **Commit to completing the new Surrey hospital** and building a new women's and children's hospital in Surrey, ensuring one of British Columbia's fastest-growing regions has the health infrastructure it needs.

- **Audit SkilledTradesBC.** We don't need more bureaucracy to build a skilled workforce. We will review the Crown Corporation to ensure it is meeting its mandate.

# A PROSPEROUS BC:
## *Supercharge Investment & Create Opportunity*

British Columbia should be the most prosperous province in the country. We have the workers, the timber, the minerals, the gas, the hydro power, the ports, and the knowledge workers to make it happen.

But since David Eby became Premier, economic confidence has collapsed, investment has dried up or fled, and growth has stalled.

Rating agencies have downgraded our province's credit rating five times in five years, which makes the cost of our growing debt even more punishing. After the last downgrade, Moody's said that "latest [BC NDP] budget confirms a deterioration in long-term fiscal management."

The NDP's last two budgets set deficit records, $11.5 billion and $13.8 billion, and piled on debt we can't afford. This debt pushes up borrowing costs and inflation, leaving less money available to fund the services British Columbians rely on, and hurts real people by driving up costs and leaving less money in their pockets.

Despite this spending, David Eby and the NDP keep raising taxes. There isn't a problem they don't think they can fix with higher taxes. One of the worst examples is the PST expansion, which is effectively a tax on the entire economy and on virtually all BC businesses.

On the eve of this election, the NDP cynically announced a pause on the PST expansion. But make no mistake, it is key to their agenda, and it will come right back if they win.

Another four years of David Eby's government will mean higher taxes and higher costs for you and your business, and unsustainable debt for our children.

BC needs a different attitude toward its businesses and entrepreneurs.

The Conservative Party of BC knows that it's business revenue that pays for schools, hospitals and roads in every corner of BC, and good jobs wherever thriving businesses are located.

We will:

- **Make BC an energy superpower by expanding natural gas and LNG development,** doubling natural gas production by 2032 and tripling it by 2035.

- **Permanently cancel the NDP's PST expansion** to professional services.

- **Exempt productive capital from PST for three years,** including taxable machinery, equipment and business software purchased or leased.

- **Cut red tape back to 2017 levels** by the end of the first term, introduce a "one-in, two-out" law and legislate firm project approval timelines.

- **Jobs for BC youth.** A First Job Tax Credit that will provide a tax credit to businesses on the first $5,000 in payroll costs. This will provide

opportunities for young British Columbians to find their first job and get their foot on the ladder to success.

- **Tax reform.** We will appoint a blue-ribbon panel to report within the first 180 days with a comprehensive plan to simplify BC's tax system, make it more efficient, and attract more investment.

- **Repeal CleanBC** to remove barriers to investment and growth.

## Make BC a place to build

We will cut red tape, bring certainty to approvals, and make government a constructive partner for people who want to invest in our province.

We will bring more transparency to decisions affecting land and investment.

- **Work with industry in good faith.** We will end the culture of suspicion that treats job creators and the builders of our economy like the bad guys. We will work with the civil service to enact a cultural shift towards working with industry in good faith, with a shared goal of "getting to yes" while upholding the high ethical and environmental standards expected by British Columbians.

- **Streamlining government.** We will cut the costs that the province itself adds to every project. We will trust qualified professionals to do the work they are certified to do, as happened before 2018. And we will impose no PST on the construction of designated major projects until they are in service, so tax arrives with the revenue.

- **A new BC defence industry.** The federal government is increasing defence spending by $88 billion over five years to upgrade our military readiness. BC must seize the opportunity and fight for our share of jobs and economic diversification, including a veterans workforce strategy.

## Put resource communities back to work

Forestry, mining, energy and agriculture are all fundamental to British Columbia's prosperity. We will quickly restore confidence in these industries, cut red tape and speed up permits for vital projects, and support more production and processing here at home.

All British Columbians benefit from the resources produced here, through skilled employment, stronger communities and public revenues that fund essential services. Resource communities are hurting, and they cannot wait.

## Become an energy superpower

The world needs British Columbia to be a reliable supplier of cleaner energy to markets that need it, and Team Canada needs British Columbia's exports to grow and diversify our economy. Our BC Energy Superpower Plan will do just that. We will back our natural gas and LNG industries, expand domestic electricity supply and build the connections that will green light new investment.

We have already announced a detailed BC Energy Superpower plan, highlights of which are:

- **Double natural gas production** by 2032 and triple it by 2035. This will generate tens of thousands of jobs and at least $6 billion a year in revenue for the province, while we displace global emissions from dirtier energy sources with our cleaner natural gas.

- **Expand the port, rail and transportation capacity that connects Canadian producers to the world.** We will increase rail capacity through the Fraser Canyon, advance key rail grade separations in the Lower Mainland in communities such as Maple Ridge and Coquitlam, and support the expansion of Roberts Bank and the Port of Prince Rupert with the road and rail connections they need.

- **Work with First Nations and industry to bring new mines, LNG facilities and other major projects** from proposal to decision faster, with clear standards and dependable timelines.

- **Power up the province** to help make British Columbia more self-sufficient in electricity and address the backlog of requests for job-creating connections to the grid.

- **Make BC the fastest place in North America to permit a mine and an LNG facility,** and report publicly on our progress every year.

## Get our vital forestry sector back to work

Forestry jobs have always been essential to the economic and social fabric of BC, and they still are. As the number one manufacturing export industry in BC, forestry sustains entire communities and regions with family-supporting incomes across the industry value chain.

Our forestry is under a sustained attack from David Eby and the BC NDP at home and a US administration determined to favour its own producers. On the NDP's watch, the industry has shrunk by a staggering 50%, even before Trump's tariff assault added insult to self-inflicted injury.

We will fight for forestry jobs and maximize our natural advantages, so we will be able to say with confidence that BC forestry will be here to stay for our children, and our children's children.

- **Provide predictable access to fibre.** Under the NDP, the harvest has consistently run well below the allowable annual cut. Permits will increase sustainable access to fibre with a floor of 45 million cubic metres. Where the Crown reallocates tenure, licensees and Bill 13 contractors will be compensated fairly and on time.

- **Speed up permits.** We will immediately simplify harvest approvals while protecting the environment. We will establish a provincial major-project-style process for forestry permits, approvals and investment. Decisions will take months, not years, with a single-window consultation hub giving First Nations one door for referrals and proponents one clock.

- **Cut costs.** BC used to be one of the most efficient lumber producers in North America, but today it is among the highest-cost jurisdictions. In 2025, BC's softwood lumber exports were 57% below 2016 by volume and more than 15,000 forestry jobs have been lost since 2022. We will review and eliminate unnecessary permitting costs so BC mills can get back to work.

- **First Nations participation.** We will encourage Indigenous participation in the forestry industry by investing in skills training, and we will ensure First Nations benefit fully from any federal funding to support the industry and to compensate for trade-related and other threats to forestry communities.

- **Resolve the old growth deferrals,** which have dragged on under the NDP. We will protect original old growth and the most endangered and rarest ecosystems and return remaining land to the working forest.

- **Value-added industry.** We will create competitive tax conditions for BC's value-added wood manufacturers to create more jobs, revitalize communities, and extract more return from our forest sector.

- **Bring back common-sense forest management,** reflecting the unique ecology of each region, restore forest health, and reduce wildfire risk.

- **Bioenergy.** We will develop a provincial biomass and bioenergy strategy focused on converting forestry residuals, mill waste, harvest slash and other underutilized biomass into renewable fuels and low-carbon energy products while creating new high-value jobs, starting with Clean Fuels Hubs in Prince George and Kamloops.

- **Job support.** We will extend the BC Manufacturing Jobs Fund.

- **Softwood solutions.** We will make softwood lumber a first-rank Canadian priority in every negotiation with the US, alongside autos, steel and aluminum, with BC at the table fighting for our jobs.

- **Put BC forestry products first at home.** We will showcase and prioritize the use of BC wood in government-funded housing and infrastructure projects wherever possible.

## Farming and food security

Under David Eby and the NDP, farm employment has fallen 6.4% a year since 2019, the steepest drop of any goods-producing industry in BC. Our realistic food production plan will set a measurable target, starting with 10% less reliance on imported food by 2030. To do this, and to support farming families, we will:

- **Modernize the 50/50 on-farm processing rule.** Farmers will have greater freedom to process and sell products year-round, keeping more food processing in BC.

- **Keep farmland farming.** We will update farm-class revenue thresholds, restore merit-based Agricultural Land Commission decisions and reduce barriers facing young farmers and ranchers.

- **Modernize the Agricultural Land Reserve.** We will use modern soil and mapping technology to remap the ALR and reform the ALR Act to put food security first. Governance will also be strengthened to address misuse and non-compliance.

- **Help farmers diversify their income,** including allowing secondary uses that strengthen farm businesses and limited short-term rentals supporting agri-tourism.

- **Make on-farm housing work for agriculture,** prioritizing worker housing permits.

- **Cut agricultural red tape to lower grocery bills and unleash our farmers.** To keep those jobs here, we will immediately cut burdensome red tape to repatriate billions in private investment, build a world-class food economy and lower grocery bills for every British Columbian.

- **Protect farm water.** We will protect existing allocations, enable more storage, accelerate groundwater licensing, provide earlier warnings of water problems and conduct evidence-based triage of the most affected crops, with farmers at the table from the beginning of watershed planning.

- **Make BC a world leader in food processing.** We will encourage advanced food processing and manufacturing for domestic and export markets so we add more value to the food we already produce.

## Mining and critical minerals

Mining is in the frontier DNA of BC's history, and will be a major part of our future prosperity. Mining contributes tens of billions of dollars of indirect GDP and economic output for the province. We can do more, and we can do it better and faster.

Conservatives will make mining the growth engine it should be. Keeping mines open and opening new mines to access the materials and critical minerals the world needs is imperative for BC, for Canada, and for the free world.

We will set the conditions for BC to be a critical minerals and energy transition hub with investment forums that secure investments into the province including from Canadian pension plans, Canadian private equity, and non-hostile sovereign wealth funds.

- **Legislate permitting and approval certainty,** with fixed timelines, "one project, one review" approvals, and quarterly reporting of progress on each project. Exploration permits will operate on the same principle, with timelines matching or beating competing Canadian jurisdictions.

- **Defend BC mines against US aggression,** including working with Ottawa to defend Rio Tinto's Kitimat aluminum operations.

- **Support great Canadian steel made with great BC steel-making coal.** We will work with Ottawa to designate BC steel-making coal as a strategic mineral, strengthen domestic supply chains and local capabilities and use more Canadian steel.

- **Bring headquarters and corporate activity home** by encouraging global mining companies and exploration operations to locate in British Columbia.

- **Develop a Future Mining Jobs Blueprint** with industry so secondary schools, colleges and universities train British Columbians for the jobs mines will need.

- **Expand the Mining Exploration Tax Credit** and press Ottawa to make federal exploration credits permanent and extend flow-through eligibility into engineering and feasibility work.

- **Map for growth.** We will identify where exploration is welcome and keep it open, with land-use planning enabling responsible exploration.

- **Value-add in mining.** Explore the business case for more value-added processing and, where there is investor interest, fast track permits and provide incentives to encourage more value-added projects.

- **Define provincially significant infrastructure.** Treat roads, rail and port access serving mineral districts as provincially significant infrastructure.

- **Expand First Nations participation.** We will engage with First Nations and Indigenous resource groups to help build administrative and technical capacity so consultation is done properly and on time.

- **Upgrade mining communities,** exploring joint public-private investment in electrical grids and roads, particularly in remote regions.

- **Provide competitive power for mining.** Existing mines and smelters will have competitive industrial power rates, competitive carbon costs and fixed timelines for operating permits and life-of-mine extensions.

- **Encourage junior-mining partnerships** with global miners, major companies, incubators and accelerators.

- **Support geoscience innovation** by making BC the first place our mining innovators prove and deploy technology. We will reinvest $5 million annually for five years in Geoscience BC, where mineral research alone has generated a seven-times return on investment.

- **Maintain high environmental, safety and reclamation standards.** Faster decisions do not mean weaker rules. You build it, you clean it.

## Natural gas, LNG, and resource exports

BC is building LNG plants while, on David Eby and the NDP's watch, northeast drilling fell by a third in a year. On that path, our LNG plants will run on Alberta gas instead of maximizing the jobs and revenue that gas would bring BC.

- **Produce the gas here.** We will establish service-standard timelines for low-impact development, scale requirements to project footprints and develop long-term plans with Treaty 8 nations so drilling can return to the levels the coast requires. We will approve LNG projects and their pipelines, get BC resources to tidewater at world prices and make British Columbia

the Pacific Basin's most trusted energy partner by 2035.

- **Make BC gas work twice.** More natural-gas production also produces condensate needed by Canada's oil industry, creating additional Canadian energy and provincial revenue.

- **Honour existing First Nations agreements** on LNG, pipelines and transmission and rebuild BC's equity-financing program using the Alberta and Saskatchewan models.

- **Build resource infrastructure.** We will expand gas transmission and hydrogen infrastructure, keep natural gas available in every community and stop municipal bans on gas connections and mandatory heating technologies.

## Electricity and energy

We need to add reliability to BC's current legislated energy objectives, alongside affordability, rate stability, self-sufficiency and environmental sustainability, to ensure that BC always has the energy it needs, when it needs it, and can accommodate growth without increasing energy costs on consumers.

- **BC energy for BC.** British Columbia imported $2.1 billion of electricity over the last three years. We will expand domestic generation from every available source and reduce unnecessary dependence on imported electricity.

- **Build the grid.** Transmission into the northwest, northeast and southern Interior will be provincially significant infrastructure with fixed in-service dates so mines, LNG, manufacturing, and communities have new power rather than competing for existing household supply.

- **Unlock private off-grid power.** Private producers will be able to sell electricity directly to off-grid projects such as mines, with investors carrying the financial risk and existing environmental, safety and Indigenous consultation requirements remaining intact.

- **Restore energy choice.** Along with the Step Code reforms elsewhere in this platform, we will end prescriptive power rules and allow industry to choose appropriate supply, including self-generation.

## Renewables

Hydro is the backbone of BC's energy supply. Our dams already provide much of our clean, affordable, renewable power, and a Conservative government will keep backing the sector.

As we expand supply, we also have to manage emissions. Every renewable technology gets a fair look for a place on the grid, as long as it can be shown to be as reliable and affordable and environmentally friendly as the alternatives.

- **Hydroelectricity:** Support BC Hydro capital upgrades that increase capacity and extend the life of existing dams.

- **Geothermal:** Support projects where the business case demonstrates reliable and economic generation.

- **Wind, solar and run-of-river hydro:** Support development where economics and reliability make sense for BC

- **Hydrogen:** Support expanded production and refuelling capacity where taxpayers can realize a return.

We will consider every viable source on an even playing field to build a clean, affordable and energy-strong British Columbia.

# Fisheries

We will manage fisheries based on evidence, including predator pressure and habitat loss, and invest in the habitat restoration that returns salmon to BC rivers.

- **Restore salmon stocks** through evidence-based consideration of all contributing factors, including predator imbalance.
- **Listen to fishing communities,** including coastal and Indigenous communities, commercial harvesters and tourism operators.
- **Follow the science on aquaculture.** We will ask Ottawa to recognize responsibly raised and harvested coastal food as part of BC's food security and permit responsible aquaculture where evidence demonstrates it does not harm wild salmon.

# Environment, wildfire and conservation

Conservation is a conservative value. BC has the most beautiful wild landscape anywhere on earth and we want to keep it that way for future generations. The need to develop our natural resources must always be weighed against the need to conserve our bounty through responsible resource management.

The Conservative Party of BC takes seriously the need to reduce global emissions. That is why every climate decision we make will pass three tests: Does it protect people from fires, floods, heat and drought? Does it cut emissions rather than just move them, and the jobs that go with them, overseas to somewhere dirtier? And what are the measurable results?

- **Forest fire budgeting.** As part of our Wildfire Action Plan (see A Safer BC), we will budget for wildfire at what it costs and move money upstream

towards prevention. This includes active forest management, prescribed and cultural burning, more fuel breaks around communities, predictable FireSmart funding for municipalities and rapid initial attack, with hectares treated reported every year.

- **Flood, drought and heat.** The same goes for flood, drought and heat: dikes, drainage and water storage for the Fraser Valley, the Interior and the coast.

- **Tracking emissions accurately.** We will count emissions where they occur and report BC's emissions alongside emissions avoided through cleaner BC exports. Gas replacing coal overseas reduces global emissions; moving a BC mill to a dirtier jurisdiction does not. The full value of our forests will be counted in our favour as emissions offsets. BC can be a significant part of the global solution through cleaner energy exports.

- **Manage wildlife responsibly.** Wildlife management will be science-based, with hunters, anglers and First Nations at the table. We will establish sustainable fish and wildlife population objectives; dedicate licence and tag revenue to an independent fish and wildlife commission; put more conservation officers in the field; and enact a made-in-BC species-at-risk law so BC habitat decisions are made here rather than imposed by Ottawa.

- **Pride in our parks.** Our natural landscape is one of our greatest assets and it must be preserved for all British Columbians. We will increase enforcement to keep parks and wilderness pristine and crack down on illegal dumping, graffiti and vandalism.

- **Sustainable environmental protections.** We will establish one set of outcome-based rules, scaled to a project's footprint and decided on published timelines. Where affected First Nations hold an ownership stake, their agreement will be on the record and the assessment will proceed on that basis.

## Connect British Columbia to opportunity

Our province's population growth has outpaced transportation infrastructure, critical projects have been delayed under the BC NDP, and important transit corridors remain vulnerable to floods, fires and severe weather that disrupt commutes, industry and emergency services, costing us hundreds of millions or even billions of dollars a year and threatening lives.

We will move key projects forward with real accountability for cost and delivery. Our ports, resource industries and skilled workforce can strengthen our whole country. We will open new markets, end over-reliance on one market, and reduce trade and labour barriers within Canada.

- **BC Future Corridors.** We will build the roads, bridges, bypasses, lane expansions, rail and public transit a growing economy needs to keep people and goods moving.

- **Make trucking safety a priority.** We will investigate companies that break the rules or employ unqualified commercial drivers and impose the strictest available penalties. Mandate dash cams in alignment with Government of Canada standards.

- **Expand transit where it makes sense.** We will support SkyTrain, BRT/RapidBus, bus, and ferry expansion where population and ridership demonstrate the need.

## Main Street and small business will have a voice again

A Conservative Party of BC government will undo the damage David Eby and the NDP have done to our small businesses. We will provide the services and relief businesses need so that we can protect business, repair our downtowns, and reduce the cost of doing business.

We will make BC the best place to start and grow a business, as it used to be.

- **Re-establish the Small Business Roundtable** so small businesses have a direct and meaningful voice in legislation, regulation and policy affecting their livelihoods.

- **Raise the Employer Health Tax exemption** indexed to inflation.

- **Review WorkSafeBC** rules to modernize policies and accommodate changing workforces and business environments.

- **Modernize BC Registry Services.** With modern technology, checking a business name and registering a company should take minutes or hours, not days or weeks.

- **Ensure liquor, cannabis, wine, and beer regulation supports economic development.** Move regulation into the Ministry of Economic Development and work with industry on economic-development and job-creation strategies, while maintaining common-sense regulation and consumer safety, particularly for youth.

- **Lower the small-business tax rate** as growth allows, and as we return to fiscal balance.

- **Pass the Home-Based Craft Food Act** to bring common sense to the regulation of small home producers and allow small sellers to sell more products tax free.

## Make tourism a growth industry in every corner of British Columbia

We will work with industry, First Nations and resort municipalities on an integrated plan to make it easier to invest and create jobs in rural and outdoor tourism and eco-tourism, bringing land access, permits, road maintenance, workforce needs, destination development, festivals, arts, and film and television partnerships together to show off all of beautiful British Columbia.

- **Support our film, television and digital industry.** We will compete aggressively for the work, ensure we train the creative workforce of the future, and encourage home-grown BC productions and IP.

- **Aviation fuel targets.** We will align BC's aviation fuel targets with the Canadian federal framework to make air travel in BC cheaper for passengers and provide regulatory certainty. Preserving affordable flights and reliable regional service allows BC tourism, industry and regional communities to thrive.

- **Develop a Resort Municipality Strategy.** Work in consultation with the municipalities on a plan to help ensure they can expand their tourism opportunities.

# BC Ferries: Reliable, Affordable and Accountable

BC Ferries is an essential transportation service and British Columbians deserve reliable sailings, affordable fares, clear communication and a ferry system that puts passengers first.

The NDP allowed BC Ferries to send four major shipbuilding contracts and hundreds of jobs to a Chinese state-owned shipyard, strengthening a foreign competitor instead of rebuilding our industrial capacity. That must never happen again.

A Conservative government will strengthen accountability, improve service and demand a fairer federal contribution to our coastal transportation network.

- **Review current fleet renewal contracts.** We should not be building ships in China. We will launch a BC Ferry Fleet Renewal Strategy designed to reshore more current and future ferry and vessel-production work to BC.
- **Establish a BC Ferries Passenger Charter of Rights** with clear standards for reliability, on-time performance, capacity, affordability and customer service, and hold leadership accountable and reduce board-level redundancy.
- **Fight for BC's fair share of federal ferry funding.** Renegotiate ferry funding agreement with the federal government to secure funding levels comparable to Atlantic ferry services.
- **Deliver Reliable Wi-Fi on BC Ferries.** Major routes and terminals will have dependable high-speed Wi-Fi using competitive private-sector procurement.

# Drive technology innovation safely

British Columbia has the talent, ingenuity and potential to become a global leader in technology and innovation. We will build an economy where an invention here becomes a thriving business headquartered here.

We will grow our technology sector, support homegrown companies, keep intellectual property and economic opportunities in BC, and ensure emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, are developed and used safely, responsibly and in the public interest.

- **Create better access to investment and fair opportunities in public procurement.** Stronger connections between research and industry will allow British Columbia companies to reach more customers and grow here.

- **Keep BC inventions and jobs in BC.** We will ensure that our provincial tax code incentivizes intellectual property developed and commercialized here, including patents and software, to stay here and for their developers to grow and hire here.

- **Unlock private investment in breakthrough technology.** We will work with Ottawa to extend flow-through investment incentives to capital-intensive technology sectors and advanced manufacturing.

- **Premier's Technology Council.** The BC NDP shut it down without explanation. We will restore it to receive advice on economic development, government efficiency and strengthening conditions for technology jobs.

- **A Responsible AI strategy.** The NDP has failed to do so after 14 months, and despite a dedicated Minister of State for AI. Our strategy will balance enormous opportunities for economic growth, environmental stewardship and government savings with appropriate privacy protections and safeguards for youth, seniors, vulnerable people and workers.

# A HEALTHY BC:
## *Care when and where you need it*

We will fully fund and protect our universal public health care system and fix what the NDP has broken. And you will access health care with your BC Health Card, not your credit card, every time.

British Columbia should be the healthiest place in Canada to live, raise a family and age with dignity. Instead, after nine years of the NDP, too many of the systems British Columbians depend on are failing them. 1.2 million British Columbians don't have a doctor. Nearly 2,400 temporary emergency-room closures were recorded between 2023 and 2025. In 2024-25, 141,961 patients went to an emergency room and left without ever being seen.

Publicly funded autism assessments now take approximately 18 months. More than 7,000 seniors are waiting for long-term care, with average waits approaching 10 months.

David Eby and the NDP have responded to too many of these challenges the same way: spend more, grow government bureaucracy, waste more tax dollars, announce another program and hope for a different result. British Columbians deserve better.

A Conservative government will focus on what actually makes people and communities healthier: timely health care, strong families, active children, support for people with disabilities and diverse needs, treatment and recovery for mental illness and addiction, dignity and independence for seniors.

We have some of the finest doctors, nurses and health professionals in the world. We will fix the NDP's Health Professions and Occupations Act which intrudes on their independence and let them do the job they trained for. We will put patients and families at the centre of the system.

A healthier British Columbia isn't beyond our reach. It requires a government determined to deliver it.

We will:

- **Protect universal public health care and introduce a Universal Health-Care Guarantee:** publicly funded treatment through another qualified provider when medically recommended surgical wait benchmarks are exceeded.

- **Launch the 100-day Patients First review** to identify reforms from other universal public systems that cut waits, expand capacity, keep ERs open, and strengthen rural services, without user fees.

- **Keep rural ERs and maternity wards open,** backed by flexible staffing and a $50-million Rural Health Emergency Fund.

- **Expand long-term care and help seniors age at home,** including consumer-directed, publicly funded home-care choices from accredited providers.

- **Make treatment and recovery accessible,** including appropriate mandatory care for people unable to protect themselves or facing serious risk of harm.

- **Rural health care transport.** Increase access to rural medical transport capabilities to save lives and improve health outcomes.

- **Strengthen disability and autism support:** increase disability assistance by $100 monthly with annual reviews; raise the single-person earnings exemption to $30,000.

## Protect universal care and improve access

We will defend universal public health care and improve the way it is delivered, learning from the best of other universal public systems.

- **We will invest and reform to cut wait times,** build up rural services and keep essential care open and available in all communities.

- **We will work with doctors, nurses and other health professionals to improve patient care,** train and recruit more doctors, nurses, and staff, remove barriers that prevent qualified professionals from using their full skills, and enforce safety and drug laws in hospitals and clinics to reduce burnout.

- **Proven technology can reduce paperwork and give professionals more time with patients.** We will direct resources towards care and publish clear information about access and outcomes so you can judge what works and what doesn't.

# Protect our seniors

Seniors deserve dignity and greater control over the lives they have built and the care they receive. We will increase spaces and choice in home care and in long-term care. We will also provide better preventive services and practical support that can help seniors remain active, connected and secure in their homes longer.

- **Restore the seniors' property tax deferral.** Restore the tax deferral terms so seniors are not taxed out of their homes and can remain in the communities where they are secure.

- **More long-term care beds.** We will work with care providers, residents, families and builders to review design requirements, protect safety and quality of care, and deliver more affordable beds sooner.

- **Choice for seniors.** We will provide portable public funding for long-term care for the 7,200 people waiting, so eligible seniors and their families have a choice among qualified providers, including public, non-profit and private options.

- **HandyDART.** We will expand HandyDART services to areas of greatest demand, ensuring seniors have access to affordable, reliable transportation, and we will enforce service quality standards for HandyDART contractors to improve transportation reliability for seniors.

- **Free shingles vaccination for seniors.** A free shingles vaccine program will reduce doctor visits, emergency room trips, hospital stays, and long-term pain for older adults in British Columbia, saving money over time by preventing avoidable care.

## Support children and families who need our help

Children should have access to healthy food, opportunities to be active and timely developmental support.

- **Extend the existing Autism Funding Program.** The transition of autism support to the Disability Benefit and Disability Supplement will be reviewed to ensure that no families lose access to the financial support they need.

- **Ensure families retain access to independent support providers** of their choice. We will never compel families to transition to a centralized care model.

- **Strengthen support for families in rural BC,** with measures including travel assistance, mobile therapy, outreach, virtual care options, and flexible direct funding.

- **Increase disability assistance and review it every year.** We will increase provincial disability-assistance rates by $100 per month and establish an annual review of rates.

- **Let people with disabilities earn more without losing their benefits.** We will increase the annual earnings exemption for a single person receiving

PWD assistance from $16,200 to $30,000, allowing people to earn substantially more before their disability assistance is reduced.

- **Protect the financial independence of people with disabilities** by ending reductions to disability assistance based on a spouse's income.

## Make treatment and recovery accessible

People living with severe mental illness or addiction need care and a clear path to recovery. We will strengthen prevention, crisis response, treatment, and help them rebuild.

- **Improve access to mental health care.** We will expand timely access to psychiatric services, community mental health care, crisis response and appropriate residential treatment, with stronger early interventions.

- **Conduct an independent review of the Mental Health Act** to address a broad range of issues including brain injuries, schizophrenia and dementia.

- **Implement a recovery-oriented system of care.** We will restore an evidence-based approach to addiction focused on prevention, treatment, and recovery.

- **We will expand detoxification, clinical treatment, recovery housing and aftercare across British Columbia,** including regional capacity for rural and northern communities. Treatment will connect vulnerable people with housing, employment, primary care and family support.

- **We will strengthen upstream intervention for vulnerable children and youth,** particularly those already receiving provincial services or at risk of falling through gaps between systems. We will improve coordination between child and family services, anti-drug education in schools, mental health and addiction services, education and housing so young people do not lose critical supports as they transition into adulthood.

- **Help, not waiting lists.** People who ask for help should not simply be put on another waiting list. We will work toward treatment on demand, with immediate access to detox, evidence-based medications, residential treatment and outpatient programs as required.

- **Mandatory treatment.** For people whose severe addiction, mental health challenges, or acquired brain injury leaves them incapable of caring for themselves or at immediate risk of serious harm, we will provide mandatory care. It is not safe or respectful to leave these individuals to suffer on the streets. They should be off the street and in care until they no longer pose a threat to themselves or others.

## Active, creative, and healthy kids

An active society makes for a healthier one. All of us need the opportunity to live as healthy a life as possible.

- **Create a refundable BC Children's Activity Credit** that covers up to $500 per child each year for eligible sports, recreation, music, arts and camps.

- **Expand school meal programs** in high-need communities. No child in British Columbia should have to go hungry at school, ever.

- **Double the Playground Equipment Program to $10 million a year,** to help 50 schools replace aging playground equipment each year. Children deserve places to play, and parents should not have to spend years fundraising for them.

- **Recreational facilities.** Every child should have a chance to play sports and be active. We will create a matching funding program to encourage municipalities to build more fields, arenas, pools, and recreation facilities so families and children have more opportunities to get off the couch and into physical activity.

# A SAFER BC:
## *Restore confidence in our communities*

Everyone should feel safe going to work, riding transit, visiting a park or opening a business. Parents should feel confident about the neighbourhoods where their children grow up. Frontline workers should be protected as they care for others. And when disaster threatens, communities should be ready for it before it arrives.

After nine years of the NDP, the feeling of public safety has been eroded. Repeat and violent offenders go through a revolving door. Streets, transit, hospitals, shelters and supportive housing have become unsafe for the people who use them and the people who work there. Drug-friendly facilities have been forced on communities that did not want them. Businesses and families are being targeted by street crime, retail theft, and extortion.

The Conservative Party of BC will bring safety back to BC's streets. We will enforce mandatory treatment for people who have lost control of their lives and are in the grip of severe addiction and mental illness for whom treatment is compassion. We will move funding from free drugs to drug prevention, treatment and recovery.

We will get crime and chaos off the streets so normal, law-abiding British Columbians can feel safe and secure again. The time for indulgence is over. We will fund and empower police, prosecutors and courts so they have the tools to do their jobs and justice moves faster.

We will restore confidence in our communities.

## Give public safety the resources it needs

We will increase enforcement by 1,000 new law enforcement officers, including police, prosecutors, sheriffs, judges, and support staff and increase peace officer authorities to enforce the law strictly from street crime to organized gangs and money laundering.

We will keep repeat and violent offenders off the streets longer and monitor them more closely when released. Our anti-extortion task force will defend businesses and families from extortion.

We will focus specialized enforcement on organized crime, illegal guns, drug trafficking and the networks behind organized theft. We will work with the federal government to remove non-citizen criminals from Canada.

We will:

- **Stop the revolving door for repeat and violent offenders:** strengthen bail and warrant enforcement, establish a dedicated repeat-offender court stream and expand electronic monitoring.
- **Add police capacity:** 250 more police recruits, 500 more RCMP, 30 sheriffs, and 150 civilian staff over five years.
- **Implement an Anti-Extortion Action Plan** with specialized investigators and clear reporting and protection pathways for threatened businesses and families.

- **End the existing "safe supply"** approach and redirect the focus to prevention, treatment and recovery; enforce safety and drug rules in hospitals, shelters and supportive housing, and expand the use of drug courts.

- **Speed up justice:** hire 50 Crown prosecutors, pursue 20 additional trial judges and deploy to high-need target communities, and launch the Seven-Day Trial Pilot to speed up straightforward criminal cases.

- **Target illegal guns, not lawful hunters, farmers and gun owners.**

- **Protect communities from wildfire:** invest $400 million in aircraft expansion and $100 million in wildfire innovation, alongside Community Protection Forestry, controlled burns and stronger mutual aid.

## Make public spaces safe for everyone

Streets, transit, hospitals, shelters and supportive housing must be safe for the people who use them and the people who work there.

- **We will stop forcing drug-friendly facilities on communities.**

- **We will end the public disorder** on our streets and in our public spaces.

- **Conduct a review and reform of OPSes and injection/inhalation sites** in consultation with local communities, with the goal of fewer and better-situated options that effectively provide a path to treatment and recovery.

- **Expand security funding for vulnerable religious communities.**

## Respond to crisis with care and protection

Compassion requires action when people are in serious distress. We will strengthen coordinated responses involving police and mental health professionals, alongside clinical teams.

- **We will move from "safe supply" to care and recovery,** connecting people to treatment and support, with public safety and care working together on the response.

- **Recovery must be supported beyond the initial intervention.** People leaving treatment or corrections will have appropriate plans for care, housing and follow-up.

# Protect communities before disaster strikes

We will invest in wildfire prevention, early detection and community protection, improve readiness for floods and drought, and support responsible stewardship of forests, wildlife and watersheds.

Better forest management, community protection, firefighting capacity, including new aircraft, and new technology will reduce the risk to homes, evacuation routes and local economies.

Prevention must be a continuing responsibility, supported by coordination with municipalities, First Nations and emergency responders.

We have already announced a detailed BC Wildfire Action Plan, highlights of which are:

- **Wildfire Response Cabinet Committee:** To coordinate government resources and prepare for Summer 2027, chaired by the Premier, with a mandate to implement the BC Wildfire Action Plan and coordinate quickly and nimbly with local municipal leaders and emergency responders fighting large and out-of-control wildfires.

- **$400M Wildfire Aircraft Fleet Expansion:** Secure delivery of new aerial firefighting capabilities, including waterbombers to create a BC-based fire-fighting fleet to supplement existing contracted services.

- **$100M Wildfire Innovation Fund:** To fund the development and procurement of technology here in BC for the early detection, monitoring, suppression and prevention of wildfires, which will reduce long-term damage and cost.

- **Community Protection Forestry:** A set share of timber allocation will go into a dedicated pool to clear out high-risk areas. The resource will pay for the work, the work will create local jobs, and the jobs will protect the community.

# A STRONG & PROUD BC:

*Build confidence in our shared future.*

British Columbia was built by all of us: people who worked, contributed and made a home here. We didn't become one of the most incredible places in the world by accident. We got here through the hard work and sacrifice of British Columbians, and we will tell that story with pride.

After nine years of the NDP, too much of it has been put in question. Despite our dedicated teachers, we are slipping in education. Letter grades are gone from Grades 4 to 9, shop classes have left our schools, and parents have lost a clear view of what their children are taught.

We will get education and teaching back to basics, empower parents to better participate in their children's education, and give families greater choice, and better support, for diverse needs. We will bring back the singing of O Canada at the beginning of the school day and proudly fly our Canadian and BC flags at every school.

We will:

- **Restore academic standards:** focus on evidence-based literacy and mathematics, restore letter grades for grades 4 to 9 and bring back consistent, supervised, curriculum-based provincial examinations to raise standards.

- **Increase parental transparency and choice,** including access to curriculum materials, appropriate notification and opt-out rights, and repeal of SOGI 123.

- **Restore pathways into trades and work:** bring back shop classes, expand apprenticeships, dual-credit programs and paid work experience

- **Pass a Respect Local Democracy Act.** We will pass a law that will permanently separate the election calendars of provincial and municipal elections  and bar provincial elections from being held within 60 days of municipal elections.

## Put learning first

British Columbia has some of the best educators, schools, colleges, polytechnic institutes and universities in Canada. We will build on that strength by putting students and learning first, supporting our teachers, raising academic standards and ensuring every child has the opportunity to succeed. From kindergarten through post-secondary and skills training, we will focus on delivering a knowledge-rich curriculum and the skills our students need to build successful careers and contribute to a prosperous province.

Every child should leave school with strong academic foundations and a clear path into employment, trades, or further academic education.

- **We will get education back to basics and teach** literacy, mathematics and subject knowledge, support teachers in complex classrooms, further limit phone use in schools, and give parents clear information about their children's curriculum and progress.

- **Schools should be safe places to learn,** with clear expectations and respect for every child. We will make it easier for educators to establish order, and we will enable School Liaison Officer programs.

- **We will repeal SOGI 123** and instead address bullying directly. We will protect students on an ongoing basis from any harassment based on personal characteristics.

- **Prepare students for life.** Before graduation, students will learn financial literacy—budgeting, saving, interest and credit—alongside civics, citizenship and digital and AI safety. Students will also complete a Holocaust-education unit.

## Post-Secondary Education

- **Connect high school education to trades, careers and opportunity.** Give students more opportunities to begin career training and qualifications before graduation. We will bring back shop classes and build shop facilities in new schools.

- **Expand dual-credit programs,** apprenticeships and paid work experience with post-secondary institutions and employers. We will make it easier for schools to hire qualified Red Seal tradespeople, musicians, athletes and other experts.

- **We will make it easier for apprentices to stay employed** during technical training and work with employers to expand training in skilled trades and other occupations where BC needs workers.

# Protect Private Property Rights

The NDP has created unnecessary uncertainty in its approach to Aboriginal title litigation. British Columbians shouldn't need a constitutional lawyer to know whether they own their home.

- **Protect private property rights:**
  - Repeal DRIPA
  - Repeal section 8.1 of the Interpretation Act and NDP litigation directives.
  - Restore the section 35 constitutional framework.

- **Property Rights Defence Act.** We will protect private-property rights by upholding the validity of the Land Title Act on all fee-simple properties in BC.

- **Aboriginal Title Transparency Act.** We will publish maps and information about active claims, negotiations, legal actions and agreements affecting public or private land before they become binding.

- **Restore equal access to Crown land and provincial parks:** guarantee public access to Crown land, beaches and backcountry for all British Columbians in law, subject only to legitimate conservation and safety requirements.

# Build lasting relationships with First Nations

The NDP have divided us and conducted dealings in secret. They have forfeited the trust of British Columbians and set back reconciliation.

Conservative Party of BC believes that reconciliation should create greater opportunity and prosperity, not greater uncertainty and division. It requires mutual respect, transparency and responsibilities and duties that are understood and fulfilled.

Strong relationships with First Nations are also essential to our economic future. We will honour constitutional rights and respect the duty to consult and accommodate where required.

We will pursue reconciliation through practical cooperation, clear and fair treaty agreements and economic opportunities that benefit First Nations communities and the province. Revenue sharing, ownership and meaningful participation will help us work toward real reconciliation by helping communities shape development and share in growing prosperity.

## Stand up for British Columbia

We have a shared responsibility to leave the province stronger for those who follow us.

- **We will seek British Columbia's fair share** of national infrastructure and defence investment and support the businesses and workers who can deliver it.

- **Promote arts and culture as drivers of tourism across BC.** We will support and market festivals, music, arts, exhibitions and ethnic and cultural events, bringing economic activity to communities throughout BC. We will give young people more opportunities to work and learn more about different regions of our province.

- **We will celebrate BC's rich history** and the stories of the people who built BC in our museums and institutions and celebrate the great and positive stories of the men and women of all backgrounds who built our province.

Standing up for British Columbia means making our case beyond our borders.

- **We will appoint a BC rep in Washington, D.C.,** joining Saskatchewan, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec in defending our interests against attempts to punish BC products, including softwood lumber.

- **Appoint a Premier's Advisory Council on Investment.** BC business experts will provide practical advice from people who actually build and grow businesses here.

- **Hold a "BC Open for Business" Investment Summit.** We will bring global investors, Canadian pension plans and private equity funds to BC to showcase opportunities created by a consistently pro-business, pro-growth government.

We will build a British Columbia its people are proud of, and proud to raise their children in. That means schools that teach the basics and tell parents what is happening in the classroom. It means property rights that are respected, and Crown land and parks that are open to the people who live here. It means reconciliation built on practical cooperation and shared opportunity. And it means a province that gets its fair share in Ottawa and tells its story with confidence.

# STRONG LEADERSHIP *for* SERIOUS TIMES

CONSERVATIVE
PARTY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

# APPENDIX A

*Ready to Deliver | A Plan for a Stronger BC: Platform Costing*

**PART 1 · THE RECORD**

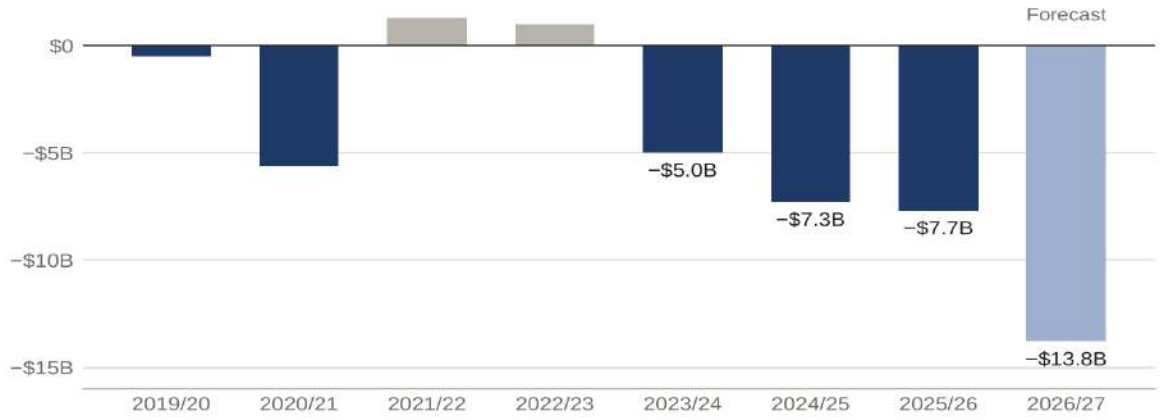
## Four years of deficits, each bigger than the last

The NDP's own numbers show where BC's finances are heading.

When the BC NDP last faced voters in 2024, its pre-election budget forecast what was then the largest deficit in BC history: $7.9 billion. Two years later, David Eby's government forecasts $13.8 billion for this year. Appendix B sets out where we expect it to land – higher still.

Even at face value, the deficit has grown four years running, from a surplus of almost $1 billion in 2022/23, while revenue grew by almost $6 billion over the past three years to this year's budget. Last year's would have been about $10.3 billion without a one-time $2.6-billion tobacco settlement. This year's is about 16 per cent of everything the government expects to collect – from a government that inherited a $2.7-billion surplus in 2016/17.

## The deficit has grown four years running

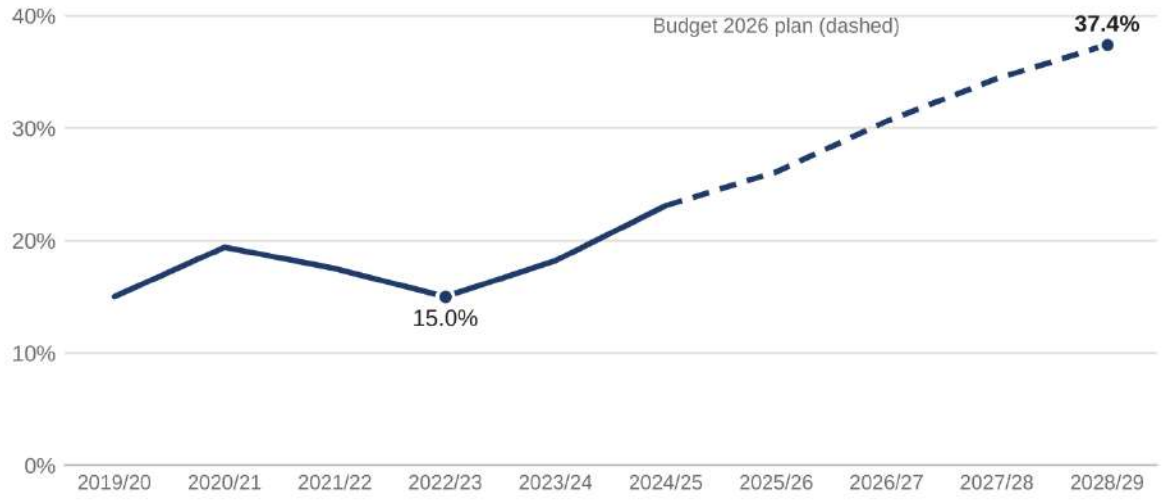



Surplus or deficit, $ billions. 2025/26 is the final result, including a one-time $2.6-billion tobacco settlement; 2026/27 is the First Quarterly Report forecast. Sources: Budget 2026, Table A8; Public Accounts 2025/26; 2026/27 First Quarterly Report.

## Debt is growing faster than the economy

- **Total debt.** $133.9 billion at March 31, 2025, rising to $234.6 billion by 2028/29 under the NDP's plan – a 75 per cent increase in four years. Under the budget, that is $32,473 for every British Columbian this year and $40,935 by 2028/29.
- **Debt against the economy.** Taxpayer-supported debt was 15 per cent of BC's GDP in 2022/23. The NDP's plan takes it to 37.4 per cent by 2028/29, higher in every year.
- **Interest.** Debt service costs $6.4 billion this year – more than any ministry except Health and Education – rising to $8.7 billion by 2028/29. Interest on taxpayer-supported debt took 2.5 cents of every revenue dollar in 2022/23; by 2028/29 it takes 8.2 cents.

**Debt against the economy, rising every year of the NDP's plan**




Taxpayer-supported debt as a share of nominal GDP. Solid line actual; dashed line Budget 2026 forecast and plan. Source: Budget 2026, Table A18.

The credit agencies have noticed. In March, Moody's downgraded the province, citing "a marked deterioration in the province's credit fundamentals." In April, S&P cut BC from A+ to A with a negative outlook – its fifth downgrade of BC since 2021.

**PART 2 · WHERE DID THE MONEY GO**

## Spending has outrun the province

### Government has grown far faster than the population it serves.

- **Spending.** Operating spending has risen from $59.0 billion in 2019/20 to $98.8 billion budgeted for this year – up 67 per cent, against 46 per cent for revenue and 10 per cent for population. Had it grown only with population and inflation, it would be about $80.3 billion – $18.5 billion less.

- **The public sector.** The broader public sector employs about 438,000 full-time equivalents, up 54 per cent since 2015/16 while the population grew 19.6 per cent; staffing in ministries and special offices is up 37.8 per cent since 2016/17. Since 2019, public-sector jobs have grown 5.4 per cent a year and private-sector jobs 1.1 per cent, the third-weakest in Canada.
- **The slush fund.** The budget raised its contingencies – money set aside before anyone says what it is for – from $4 billion to $5 billion a year.
- **Revenue that wasn't there.** On Sept. 1 the government confirmed its budget overstated natural gas royalties by $1.46 billion over five years. Correcting it helped push this year's deficit up by $450 million at the first quarterly report.

**PART 3 · THE ECONOMY BEHIND THE NUMBERS**

## British Columbians haven't grown richer

British Columbia has seen population growth and bigger government, not increased prosperity.

BC's economy kept growing after 2017 – 2.7 per cent a year from 2017 to 2025, not far off its pace of about 3 per cent in the decade to 2019 – but the population grew faster, so each British Columbian's share grew much more slowly.

- **Real GDP per person** grew 1.6 per cent a year from 1997 to 2017 and 0.9 per cent a year from 2017 to 2025. It stalled in 2023 and fell 1.7 per cent in 2024.
- **Growth leaned on government, and investment fell.** Public-sector output grew 6.6 per cent a year from 2022 to 2024, while private-sector output per person has grown about 0.4 per cent a year since 2017. Business investment, which grew 3.4 per cent a year from 1997 to 2017, fell 5.2 per cent a year from 2022 to 2024 as the last major projects wound down.
- **CleanBC's cost.** The government's own modelling shows CleanBC leaving BC's economy $28.1 billion smaller in 2030 than under the policies in place

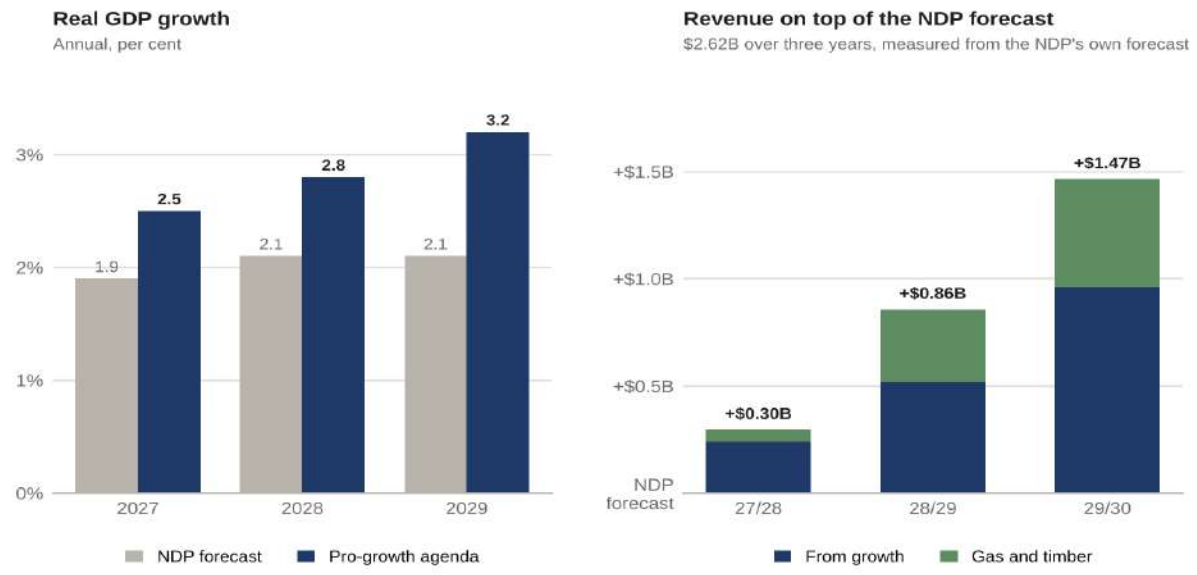
in 2017. The consumer carbon tax is gone; the rest of the program remains.

**What a pro-growth agenda can achieve**

If BC's economy grows 2.5 per cent in 2027, 2.8 per cent in 2028 and 3.2 per cent in 2029, the province collects $2.62 billion more over three years than the NDP's own forecast expects – $1.72 billion from a bigger economy and $0.90 billion from natural gas and timber – without raising a single tax. It does not count the $730 million a year from major projects that the NDP's costing books.

By 2029, growth is back to the pace BC achieved from 2014 to 2017. Getting there means approving projects in months, not years, putting the Crown harvest back to work, doubling natural gas production and repealing CleanBC.

**What faster growth is worth**




Real GDP growth, per cent, and added provincial revenue, $ billions, above the NDP's own forecast (the zero line). Figures may not add due to rounding. Sources: Budget 2026, Tables 1.12, 1.5.1 and A5; 2026/27 First Quarterly Report; Conservative Party of BC calculations.

### Net new revenue from unleashing growth

| $ millions | 2027/28 | 2028/29 | 2029/30 | Three years |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Real GDP growth, NDP forecast (calendar year, %) | 1.9 | 2.1 | 2.1 | |
| Real GDP growth, pro-growth (calendar year, %) | 2.5 | 2.8 | 3.2 | |
| **Revenue from a bigger economy** | **240** | **520** | **960** | **1,720** |
| **Natural gas and liquids royalties** | **-** | **219** | **328** | **547** |
| **Stumpage from a higher Crown harvest** | **56** | **118** | **177** | **351** |
| **Net new revenue from growth** | **296** | **857** | **1,465** | **2,618** |
| Assumptions | | | | |
| Gas production above forecast (%) | **-** | **10** | **15** | |
| Extra Crown harvest (million $m^3$) | **4** | **8** | **12** | |

Fiscal years run April to March. Revenue from a bigger economy builds each year because each year's extra growth – 0.6, 0.7 and 1.1 points – adds to the last. Gas production rises toward the platform's target of doubling by 2032; the Crown harvest rises toward the platform's floor of 45 million cubic metres, from the 29 million the budget assumes.

**PART 4 · OUR APPROACH**

# Getting BC back on track

## Grow the economy, run government at the size the province can afford and tell British Columbians the truth about the books.

To get BC's finances back on track, a Conservative government will:

- **Supercharge BC's economy.** Get BC Building, make BC the best place in Canada to run a small business and responsibly develop the natural resources that have sustained BC for generations.
- **Tell British Columbians the truth about the books:** an independent panel of experts will review the province's true fiscal position and report publicly before our first budget.

- **Bring government back in line with the population it serves:** restore merit-based hiring, end duplication and return administrative and management staffing to the level it would have reached had it grown with BC's population since 2016/17. Frontline workers are protected.
- **Budget for wildfire** in ministry budgets and move money upstream.
- **Audit the provincial capital plan** within six months and restore broad competitive bidding (Part 5).
- **Turn Metro Vancouver back into a lean regional utility** with a professional board, returning the savings to the region's ratepayers.
- **Repeal CleanBC** to remove barriers to investment and growth, keeping a carbon price on large industrial emitters and the revenue it raises.

**PART 5 · BUILD RESPONSIBLY**

## Review and fix David Eby's capital mess

The NDP is borrowing more to build less, on budgets that keep moving. We will finish what BC needs at a price BC can afford and show the cost of every major project in public.

Capital spending is not expensed up front, but it is financed largely by borrowing, and the interest is paid from the operating budget.

**The NDP's record**

- **Capital spending has nearly tripled.** Taxpayer-supported capital spending was $4.8 billion in 2019/20. This year the NDP budgeted $13.7 billion, and $37.7 billion over the three years to 2028/29.
- **Budgets that keep moving.** The Fraser River Tunnel has gone from $4.15 billion to $8.5 billion, and from 2030 to 2031. The new Surrey Hospital and BC Cancer Centre went from about $1.7 billion and 2027 to $2.88 billion, finishing in 2029 with patients in 2030. The Surrey–Langley SkyTrain went

from $3.94 billion to $6.0 billion, and the Cowichan District Hospital from $887 million to $1.45 billion.

- **Projects shelved.** Budget 2026 moved seven approved long-term care homes worth $1.43 billion to "TBC," along with the $1.8-billion second phase of Burnaby Hospital and its cancer centre.
- **Borrowing for day-to-day bills now rivals borrowing to build.** In 2022/23 the province had no operating debt. By 2028/29 it will owe $69.0 billion to cover deficits – nearly as much as the $69.3 billion it will owe directly for schools, hospitals and other government capital.

**The George Massey crossing**

In 2017 the province was in the final stage of procurement for a 10-lane bridge, budgeted at $3.5 billion and due to open in 2022. The NDP cancelled it and in 2021 announced an eight-lane tunnel priced at $4.15 billion. That price is now $8.5 billion – more than twice the bridge – the design-build contract has been cancelled, the project still lacks its environmental assessment certificate and it will not open before 2031. A Conservative government will build the 10-lane bridge within the money already set aside for the crossing, publish its budget and schedule before construction begins and ask Ottawa to apply its announced contribution of up to $3 billion to the bridge.

**Surrey's hospitals**

We will finish the new Surrey Hospital and BC Cancer Centre in Cloverdale on its $2.88-billion budget and schedule, and build a new women's and children's hospital in Surrey so families are not sent into Vancouver for specialized care. In our first term we will secure the site, complete the concept plan and approve the business case; the construction budget will be published when the business case is approved.

**Our capital commitments**

Each capital commitment is listed with its cost, whether it is already in the NDP's capital plan and how it will be paid for. Operating costs are in Part 8 and Appendix B.

| Commitment | Capital cost | In the NDP's plan? | How it is paid for |
|---|---|---|---|
| **New 10-lane George Massey Bridge, replacing the Fraser River Tunnel** | Within the $8.5 billion now set aside for the crossing | Yes, as the tunnel | Replaces the tunnel in the capital plan; Ottawa's contribution of up to $3 billion sought for the bridge |
| **Finish the new Surrey Hospital and BC Cancer Centre** | $2.88 billion | Yes | Already budgeted; held to budget and schedule |
| **New women's and children's hospital in Surrey** | Site, concept plan and business case: $25 million in the first term (Conservative estimate) | No | Health capital plan; construction budget set when the business case is approved |
| **Restart the long-term care homes the NDP shelved, redesigned to cost less per bed** | $1.43 billion for the seven homes at current estimates | Yes, but with completion dates "TBC" | Already in the capital plan's project list; restarting brings forward spending the NDP deferred |
| **Provincial wildfire aircraft fleet** | $400 million over the first term | No | New capital; operating costs in Part 8 |
| **Future Corridors, rail capacity and grade separations, port connections, flood protection, shop facilities in new schools** | Set project by project through business cases | In part | Within the capital plan as reprioritized by the audit, with federal, municipal and private cost-sharing |

Sources: Budget 2026, Table 1.8; 2026/27 First Quarterly Report; Global News, July 6, 2026.

New capital – the aircraft fleet and planning for the Surrey women's and children's hospital – comes to about $425 million, about 1 per cent of the $37.7 billion the NDP has budgeted for capital in the next three years. We will find the room within the capital plan through the audit, competitive bidding and a bridge that costs less than the tunnel. Outside BC's fire season, we will lease the aircraft to fire services in the Southern Hemisphere to recover part of their cost; that revenue is not counted in this costing.

### PART 6 · REVERSING THE TREND LINE

## Reversing the damage to BC's economy will take time, commitment and transparency

The NDP's plan adds debt every year. Ours sets a new course, and we will report on it in public.

From our first budget, the government will be held to four fiscal anchors:

1. **The deficit falls every year** after our first budget, adjusted for inflation.
2. **The deficit shrinks as a share of the economy** every year.
3. **Operating spending grows more slowly than the economy,** so government takes a smaller share of what British Columbians earn. The NDP are using operating dollars that we do not have for capital investments. The government has poor budgetary discipline and is borrowing to fund daily spending. This is not sustainable. The Independent Fiscal Review Panel will evaluate costs to daily cash requirements.
4. **Every quarterly report measures progress against these anchors,** in public. If one is missed, the Finance Minister will say why and how it will be corrected. The Independent Fiscal Review Panel will additionally recommend anchors for red tape reduction and affordability that each quarterly report will measure progress against.

**PART 7 · OUR COMMITMENT TO TAX RELIEF**

## Tax relief for BC

The NDP wants to increase the tax rate. We will grow the tax base, starting with targeted tax cuts that get the economy moving and keep more money in your pocket.

Workers, families and businesses need immediate relief after the NDP imposed or raised more than 40 taxes. Each measure is costed below; Appendix B sets out the cost by year.

- **Income tax cut of $1,000.** Raising the provincial basic personal amount from $13,216 to $32,000, the most generous in the country, cuts income tax by $1,000 or a little more for people who owe at least that much – $2,000 or more for a two-earner couple. Est. $2.9 billion a year, effective for the 2027

tax year. Because the tax year starts Jan. 1, 2027, about $725 million of the first year's cost falls in 2026/27.

- **PST exemption on productive capital.** No PST for three years on taxable machinery, equipment and business software, bought or leased. Vehicles are not included at the start; we will use the year before the exemption takes effect to make room to add commercial work vehicles (not included in this costing). Est. $500 million a year for three years.
- **No PST on major-project construction until in service.** PST on designated major projects is deferred until they are operating, so tax arrives with the revenue. Est. $60 million to $95 million a year deferred during construction, depending on the projects designated, and recovered when they enter service; we book $80 million a year.
- **First Job Tax Credit.** A credit for businesses on the first $5,000 of payroll for a young British Columbian's first job. Est. $75 million a year, starting in 2028/29.
- **Permanently cancel the NDP's PST expansion to professional services,** which Budget 2026 counted on for $534 million in 2027/28 and $563 million in 2028/29. It is not shown as a cost, because the NDP has already paused it; cancelling it keeps that money with British Columbians for good.

**PART 8 · INVESTING IN BRITISH COLUMBIANS**

## New operating spending

A strong economy is what pays for the services British Columbians count on. Our new commitments are paid for by growth and phased in as the economy grows.

A Plan for a Stronger BC adds new operating spending of est. $1.425 billion a year at full cost, including time-limited funds for Geoscience BC and wildfire innovation, phased in over our first term. In every year, growth revenue (Part 3) exceeds the new spending, even at the low end of the Ministry of Finance's range; Appendix B shows the phasing.

## AN AFFORDABLE BC $150 million

### Help families when it counts · $150 million

- 24-hour child care spaces for shift workers and first responders · Increase the BC Family Benefit and the Affordable Child Care Benefit · Multigenerational Home Renovation Tax Credit · Independent providers eligible for new $10-a-day spaces as the program expands, within existing funding

## A PROSPEROUS BC $72 million

### Get our vital forestry sector back to work · $30 million

- Extend the BC Manufacturing Jobs Fund

### Mining and critical minerals · $10 million

- Expand the Mining Exploration Tax Credit · Reinvest in Geoscience BC for five years

### Environment, wildfire and conservation · $7 million

- Pride in our parks: more enforcement against illegal dumping, graffiti and vandalism · Manage wildlife responsibly, with more conservation officers in the field

### Drive technology innovation safely · $25 million

- Keep BC intellectual property and jobs in BC · Flow-through incentives for advanced manufacturing and technology · Restore the Premier's Technology Council

## A HEALTHY BC $975 million

### Protect universal care and improve access · $205 million

- Universal Health-Care Guarantee · Keep rural ERs and maternity wards open, with a Rural Health Emergency Fund · Rural health care transport · Train and recruit more doctors, nurses and staff

### Protect our seniors · $350 million

- Restore the seniors' property tax deferral · More long-term care beds and choice for seniors waiting for care · Expand home care choice and support · Expand HandyDART · Free shingles vaccine for seniors

**Support children and families who need our help · $200 million**

- Extend the existing Autism Funding Program · Stronger support for families in rural BC · Increase disability assistance by $100 a month, reviewed every year · Raise the single-person earnings exemption to $30,000 and end reductions based on a spouse's income

**Make treatment and recovery accessible · $95 million**

- Improve access to mental health care · A recovery-oriented system of care: detox, clinical treatment, recovery housing and aftercare · Upstream intervention for vulnerable children and youth · Help, not waiting lists, and mandatory care for those who cannot protect themselves

**Active, creative and healthy kids · $125 million**

- Refundable BC Children's Activity Credit of up to $500 per child · Expand school meal programs in high-need communities · Double the Playground Equipment Program · Recreation facilities matching fund

## A SAFER BC $223 million

**Give public safety the resources it needs · $178 million**

- Stop the revolving door for repeat and violent offenders · Add police capacity: 250 police recruits, 500 RCMP, 30 sheriffs and 150 civilian staff over five years · Anti-Extortion Action Plan · Speed up justice: 50 Crown prosecutors, a push for 20 more trial judges and a Seven-Day Trial Pilot

**Make public spaces safe for everyone · $2 million**

- Expand security funding for vulnerable religious communities

**Protect communities before disaster strikes · $43 million**

- $100-million Wildfire Innovation Fund over four years · Operating costs of the new provincial wildfire aircraft fleet (capital cost in Part 5)

## A STRONG AND PROUD BC $5 million

**Stand up for British Columbia · $5 million**

- Promote BC arts and culture · Appoint a BC representative in Washington, D.C. · Appoint a Premier's Advisory Council on Investment

**Total new operating spending at full cost: $1.425 billion a year.**

# APPENDIX B

*Ready to Deliver | A Plan for a Stronger BC: Costing Tables*

## New investments, paid for by growth

Our new spending phases in over the term and stays below the new revenue a growing economy brings in, in every year.

Table B1 phases in the new spending in Appendix A, Part 8, over four years – a tenth of full cost in 2027/28, 45 per cent in 2028/29, three-quarters in 2029/30 (full cost from 2030/31) – and sets it against growth revenue from Part 3. Growth revenue exceeds the new spending in every year, even at the low end of the Ministry of Finance's range ($236 million against $173 million in 2027/28, the tightest year).

### Table B1 · New operating spending, phased in against growth revenue

| $ millions | Full cost | 2027/28 | 2028/29 | 2029/30 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **AN AFFORDABLE BC** | **150** | | | |
| Help families when it counts | 150 | 15 | 68 | 113 |
| **A PROSPEROUS BC** | **72** | | | |
| Get our vital forestry sector back to work | 30 | 3 | 14 | 23 |
| Mining and critical minerals | 10 | 6 | 7 | 9 |
| Environment, wildfire and conservation | 7 | 1 | 3 | 5 |
| Drive technology innovation safely | 25 | 3 | 11 | 19 |
| **A HEALTHY BC** | **975** | | | |
| Protect universal care and improve access | 205 | 21 | 92 | 154 |
| Protect our seniors | 350 | 35 | 158 | 263 |
| Support children and families who need our help | 200 | 20 | 90 | 150 |

| $ millions | Full cost | 2027/28 | 2028/29 | 2029/30 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Make treatment and recovery accessible | 95 | 10 | 43 | 71 |
| Active, creative and healthy kids | 125 | 13 | 56 | 94 |
| **A SAFER BC** | **223** | | | |
| Give public safety the resources it needs | 178 | 18 | 80 | 134 |
| Make public spaces safe for everyone | 2 | – | 1 | 2 |
| Protect communities before disaster strikes | 43 | 27 | 33 | 39 |
| **A STRONG AND PROUD BC** | **5** | | | |
| Stand up for British Columbia | 5 | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| **Total new operating spending** | **1,425** | **173** | **658** | **1,080** |
| Net new revenue from growth (Appendix A, Part 3) | | 296 | 857 | 1,465 |
| **Growth revenue left after new spending** | | **123** | **199** | **385** |

Full cost is each section's annual cost in Appendix A, Part 8, reached in 2030/31. Rounded to the nearest $1 million; totals are the sum of the rounded figures. No new operating spending is booked in 2026/27. Exceptions to the phase-in: Geoscience BC receives $5 million a year for five years; the $100-million Wildfire Innovation Fund is drawn at $25 million a year for four years.

## Tax relief

Money left with working families is spent and invested at home. Canada's Department of Finance estimates that each dollar of personal income tax relief adds about a dollar to the economy by the end of its second year. U.S. research finds that cuts for low- and middle-income earners do the most for jobs. The strongest long-run evidence is for relief on taxes that fall on business investment – hence the PST exemption on productive capital.

One measure reaches this fiscal year: the first three months of the income tax cut, about $725 million.

## Table B2 · Tax relief by fiscal year

| $ millions | 2026/27 | 2027/28 | 2028/29 | 2029/30 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| $1,000 income tax cut ($32,000 basic personal amount) | 725 | 2,900 | 2,900 | 2,900 |
| PST exemption on productive capital (three years) | – | 500 | 500 | 500 |
| First Job Tax Credit | – | – | 75 | 75 |
| **Total tax relief** | **725** | **3,400** | **3,475** | **3,475** |
| PST deferred on major projects under construction | – | 80 | 80 | 80 |
| **Affordability measures** | **725** | **3,480** | **3,555** | **3,555** |

The income tax cut is booked as the province books its own tax-year changes (Budget 2026 booked $118 million of its Jan. 1, 2026 rate increase in 2025/26, against $476 million in a full year). Cancelling the NDP's paused PST expansion is not shown as a cost. The PST deferral on designated major projects is booked at about the midpoint of its estimated range; the tax is recovered when projects enter service, but none is assumed before 2029/30.

## Putting the brakes on spending

The NDP's budget already counts on $2.85 billion over three years from cutting 15,000 public-sector positions and $3.5 billion from other expenditure management – savings the NDP has booked but not yet shown. Our restraint comes on top, protects front-line workers and books four measures:

- **Cut the slush fund.** Cut the Contingencies Vote from $5 billion to $4 billion to $3 billion – ultimately, $1 billion below what the NDP budgeted last year – moving the expected cost of wildfire and signed wage settlements into ministry base budgets, where British Columbians can see them, and reporting every draw on what remains. $2 billion a year from 2027/28. As of the First Quarterly Report, the NDP government had not reported on the utilization of the contingency fund for the current fiscal year.
- **Freeze hiring outside the front line.** Freeze administrative and management hiring and leave positions unfilled as people retire or move on. No frontline worker is laid off. $1.03 billion a year by 2029/30.

- **Review every line of government.** A core review of every ministry outside health, education and child care, social development, children and family development, the Attorney General and public safety.

- **Cut outside consultants and contracts.** Cut spending on outside consultants and professional-services contracts by 20 per cent in ministries, and hold health authorities, school districts, universities, colleges and Crown Corporations to the same target. $50 million this year and $275 million a year from 2027/28 in ministries alone; savings in the broader public sector, which does not publish what it spends on consultants, are not counted.

### Table B3 · Spending restraint

| $ millions | 2026/27 | 2027/28 | 2028/29 | 2029/30 | Four years |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Contingencies: $1 billion held back this year, then cut to $3 billion | 1,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 7,000 |
| Hiring freeze and attrition outside the front line | – | 309 | 670 | 1,030 | 2,009 |
| Core review of ministry spending | – | 436 | 654 | 763 | 1,853 |
| Consultants and contracts | 50 | 275 | 275 | 275 | 875 |
| **Total spending restraint** | **1,050** | **3,020** | **3,599** | **4,068** | **11,737** |

Measured against the province's current fiscal plan, on top of the savings the NDP's budget already books. The hiring freeze and the cut to consultants and contracts start on day one; only the first months of the consultant saving are booked in 2026/27.

**Restraint starts on day one.** Holding back $1 billion – one dollar in five – of this year's $5-billion Contingencies Vote leaves $4 billion, the same amount the NDP budgeted for all of last year, and more than covers this year's tax relief.

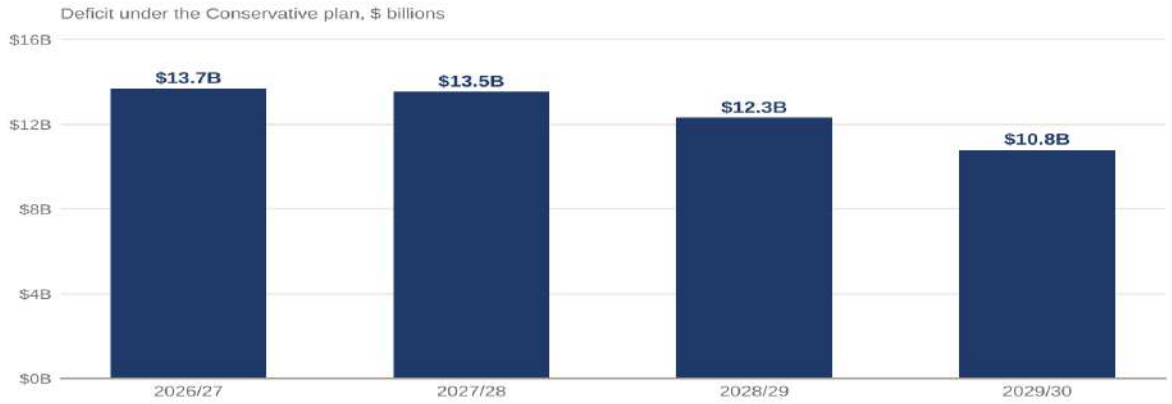
### The bottom line

Comparing any plan with the NDP's starts with a problem: which NDP plan? Budget 2026 forecast a $13.3-billion deficit this year; by the First Quarterly Report it was $13.8 billion. Four days later the premier paused the budget's own PST expansion, without saying whether it is gone for good. The NDP's platform then reversed three more budget decisions, added $1.26 billion a year in new spending by 2028/29 – a third of it under "Measures To Be Announced" – and counted on $730 million a year from "targeted economic

growth." Even on its own numbers, its deficit in 2028/29 would be about $12 billion – more than it forecast in February – with no date for balance and no debt forecast.

Our costing starts from the one fixed point available: the First Quarterly Report adjusted for the PST pause, the NDP's own starting point. Applied to it, our plan brings the deficit to $13.7 billion this year. It then falls every year – even in 2027/28, as the full-year income tax cut and the PST exemption on productive capital take effect – to $10.8 billion in 2029/30, while British Columbians get $11.1 billion in tax relief. Each year applies Tables B1 to B3, with interest at 3.9 per cent.

### Bending the deficit curve



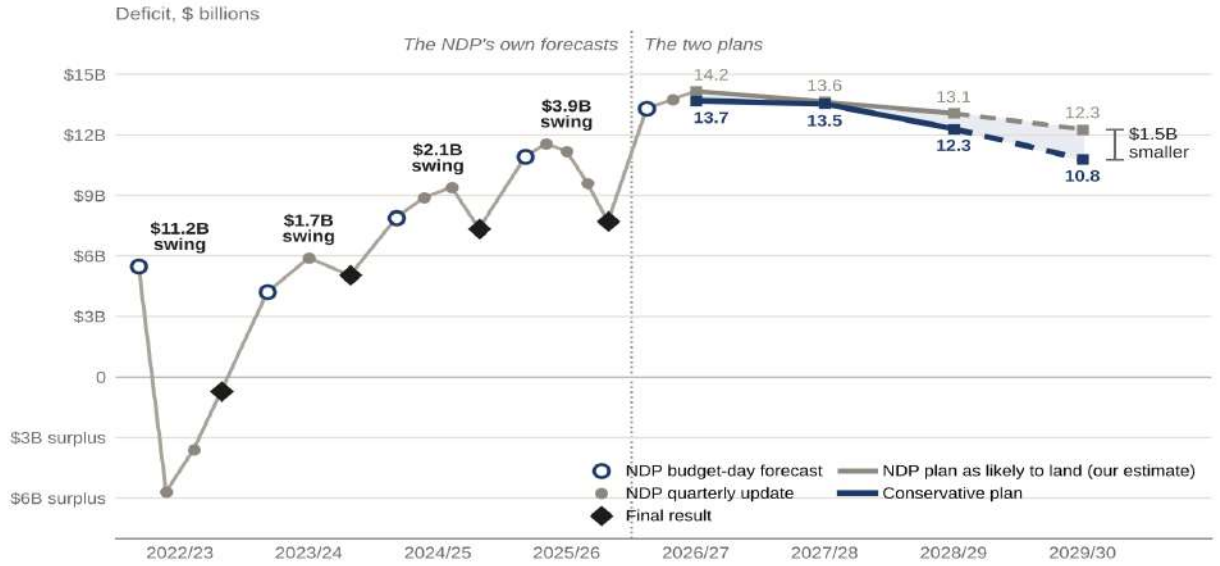

Deficit under the Conservative plan, $ billions. 2026/27: the First Quarterly Report's $13.8 billion, plus the $261-million PST pause and $725 million in tax relief this year, less the $1-billion contingency holdback and $50 million from cutting consultants and contracts, with interest. Later years apply Tables B1 to B3 to the province's forecast, extended to 2029/30 on Budget 2026 trends (revenue up 3.6 per cent and spending up 2.4 per cent).

### A deficit the NDP cannot pin down

The NDP does not know where its own deficit will land. In each of the last four years its forecast swung by more than $1.5 billion within the year. In 2022/23 a $5.5-billion deficit became a $5.7-billion surplus by November and ended as a $704-million surplus as first reported. Last year the forecast rose to $11.6 billion before the final result came in at $7.7 billion, helped by a one-time $2.6-billion

tobacco settlement. Separately, about $4 billion in capital work slipped to later years.

### Moving targets, and where the two plans land




Deficit, $ billions. Left: the NDP's deficit forecasts for each year, on budget day, at selected quarterly updates and the final result. Right: the NDP line is our estimate from Table B4, the NDP's own costed deficit plus the two adjustments described below; 2029/30 (dashed) extends both plans on Budget 2026 trends. Sources: forecasts as in the first note to this section; BC NDP, BC Strong Fiscal & Costing Plan; 2026/27 First Quarterly Report; Conservative Party of BC calculations.

Table B4 therefore makes no allowance for which way the NDP's next forecast will miss. It starts from the NDP's platform as the NDP costed it and makes two adjustments, each grounded in the NDP's own costing:

- **Major-project revenue that hasn't arrived.** The NDP counts on $345 million this year, rising to $730 million a year, from "targeted economic growth" – revenue that is not in the government's forecast, with no method given. Table B4 leaves it out.
- **High earners respond to higher taxes.** The NDP books $1 billion a year from its tax on the top 3.88 per cent of earners, with no allowance for how they respond by shifting, deferring or moving income and investment. Studies of provincial top-rate increases find the response erases 29 per cent

to almost 80 per cent of the expected revenue; Table B4 takes the low end.

On that basis, the NDP would run a deficit of about $14.2 billion this year, $13.6 billion next year, and $12.3 billion in 2029/30. Ours is smaller in every year – by $0.5 billion this year and $1.5 billion by 2029/30 – and over four years it adds about $2.8 billion less to the province's debt from operating deficits.

### Table B4 · Our plan against the NDP's plan as it is likely to land

| $ millions | 2026/27 | 2027/28 | 2028/29 | 2029/30 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| NDP deficit as costed in its platform | 13,752 | 12,654 | 11,970 | 11,143 |
| Major-project revenue not counted | 345 | 680 | 730 | 730 |
| Top-earner tax lost to high earners' response | 65 | 268 | 290 | 290 |
| Interest on the extra borrowing | 8 | 35 | 75 | 117 |
| NDP deficit as likely to land | 14,170 | 13,637 | 13,065 | 12,280 |
| Conservative deficit | 13,689 | 13,536 | 12,303 | 10,799 |
| **Conservative deficit smaller by** | **481** | **101** | **762** | **1,481** |

Deficits shown as positive figures. NDP platform figures rounded to the nearest $1 million and extended to 2029/30 on Budget 2026 trends; interest at 3.9 per cent on the cumulative adjustments. The same economic risks apply to any forecast; our fiscal anchors, restraint and quarterly reporting are designed to manage them.

## Reasonable and achievable

This is restraint, not austerity. Operating spending is held essentially flat in our first full budget – about $97.9 billion in 2027/28, against the $98.8 billion the NDP budgeted for this year – then rises, to about $103 billion in 2029/30. Restraint is less than 4 per cent of what the province spends; the hiring freeze touches less than 2 per cent of a public sector of about 438,000; the core review asks 7 per cent of a $10.9-billion slice of ministry spending, less than half what Ottawa asked of most federal departments in 2025.

These tables are deliberately conservative: they book restraint only in administration and management, and none of what the review of the books and the capital-plan audit will find – money we aim to put back in British Columbians' pockets.

**Affordability starts with government**

It comes from a government that takes less out of your pocket – this year $6.4 billion goes to interest alone. More relief will come once the books are cleaned up, such as indexing the Employer Health Tax exemption to inflation (not included in Table B2).