

BUDGET 2022 CONSULTATION



In the last year, COVID-19 has turned our lives upside down. No one could predict the path this pandemic would take, and as government, we have adapted quickly to ensure that people, businesses and communities have the support they need.

British Columbians have made significant progress to keep each other safe, giving us a lot of hope for the days, weeks and months ahead. With more people getting their vaccinations every day, we are protecting ourselves, our friends, families, and communities. Together, we are starting to return to the things we enjoy.

For many people, this summer has been an eagerly anticipated opportunity to enjoy the company of family, visit favourite restaurants and shops and explore our province after a difficult and often isolated year. It is our goal to ensure that British Columbians have what they need now – to protect lives and livelihoods so we can look ahead to an economic recovery that includes everyone.

Our response has been nimble in the changing landscape of the pandemic. We will continue to adapt to the needs of British Columbians and look ahead with hope. B.C.'s recovery won't happen overnight, but by focusing on protecting the services people rely on, creating new opportunities for people and building a more affordable province, we can ensure an economic recovery that doesn't leave anyone behind.

Our government works from these foundational principles:

- » Putting people first
- » Lasting and meaningful reconciliation
- » Equity and anti-racism
- » A better future through addressing climate change
- » A strong, sustainable economy that works for everyone

As we look ahead, we want to ask you how we can continue to create a safe, more affordable British Columbia for everyone. Your input matters – and it will help shape the budget we put forward in 2022.

This consultation is just one of the ways we are working with people, stakeholder groups, businesses and communities. It is one of the opportunities for us to ask, as we move ahead together, what matters most to you and your family.

The last year has shown we are strongest when we work together. We saw people come together throughout the province to protect their loved ones and their communities. I look ahead to B.C.'s future with hope and determination as a witness to the resilience of our communities.

As the Minister of Finance, I am eager to hear your hopes and expectations for the future of British Columbia, and I look forward to delivering a budget that continues to put people first.

HONOURABLE SELINA ROBINSON
MINISTER OF FINANCE

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Budget 2022 Consultation: bcleg.ca/FGSbudget



ECONOMIC RECOVERY

As we ask British Columbians to help inform the next provincial budget, we want to offer a snapshot of government's priorities and the programs we have in place today. The B.C. government is focused on protecting people's health and livelihoods today while building a bridge to economic recovery.

INVESTMENTS OUTLINED IN BUDGET 2021: A STRONGER BC FOR EVERYONE IS HELPING TO ADVANCE OUR RECOVERY, AND NOW WE ARE LOOKING AHEAD AT HOW TO SHAPE BUDGET 2022 TO CONTINUE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR THE PEOPLE, BUSINESSES AND COMMUNITIES THAT NEED IT MOST. AT THE SAME TIME, GOVERNMENT IS COMPLETING AN ECONOMIC RECOVERY CONSULTATION TO HELP INFORM AN ECONOMIC PLAN THIS FALL.

The two consultations will work together to develop a vision for B.C. informed by British Columbians and help ensure that people, our health care system and our economy are never again so impacted by a pandemic. At the foundation of government's approach to economic recovery are three pillars: innovation, sustainability and inclusiveness.

INNOVATION

The pandemic has accelerated the pace of change in the way we work, study, shop and communicate. A strong recovery will require the innovation to pivot to a new normal, and government will be there to help people, businesses and communities through the transition.

We're investing in B.C.'s future by funding new ways to help B.C. businesses with e-commerce and online marketing, as well as grants to support growing companies in areas like agritech and manufacturing scale up production of made-in-B.C. products.

We're delivering targeted opportunities for people to retrain, retool and find new jobs in new sectors as we move into recovery, and help businesses find the workers they need to prosper.

We've also launched a new InBC Investment Fund to leverage investments from private and public sectors to help businesses grow and help B.C. businesses scale up.

SUSTAINABILITY & CLEANBC

B.C. is a world leader in clean and renewable energy. As we move toward economic recovery, this government is maximizing this strength by continuing to become a responsible, low-carbon producer of natural resources and manufactured goods. Already, we've seen the largest increase in new electric light duty vehicle sales in North America, and B.C.'s zero-emissions vehicle sector contributes almost \$600 million to our economy.



CleanBC rebates and low-interest financing are making energy-saving building improvements more affordable, and we're working with industry to reduce emissions through cleaner technology and increased energy efficiency.

Budget 2021 provides an additional \$506 million in CleanBC to support cleaner transportation, build better, cleaner buildings and stronger communities, work with industry and cleantech and support climate preparedness. We're working together with partners across sectors and communities to lay a foundation for a better future by rising to the challenge of climate change, protecting our communities, expanding B.C.'s economy and creating new jobs and opportunities for British Columbians. These investments are critical to positioning B.C. for a strong recovery.

INCLUSIVENESS

Government is committed to building an economic recovery for everyone. This means continuing to expand affordable child care options so more parents, especially women, can participate in the workforce, helping young people plan for their future with job opportunities, and taking important steps toward reconciliation. We're working to remove barriers to opportunities for people, because an inclusive recovery depends on having all British Columbians at the table.

B.C.'S PATH TO A BALANCED BUDGET — B.C.'S RECOVERY INCLUDES THE PROVINCE'S EVENTUAL RETURN TO A BALANCED BUDGET. WHILE THE IMPACTS AND UNCERTAINTY OF THE PANDEMIC MAKES IT TOO EARLY TO ACCURATELY FORECAST WHEN THIS WILL HAPPEN, DEVELOPING A SUSTAINABLE PATH FORWARD IS A PRIORITY FOR THIS GOVERNMENT. BUDGET 2022 WILL INCLUDE DETAILS OF HOW WE'LL GET THERE.

SUPPORTING PEOPLE AND FAMILIES

Healthy people mean a healthy economy. The B.C. government is focused on continuing to protect people from COVID-19 and expand the services people rely on.



Budget 2021 provides more than \$4 billion over three years in funding for health and mental health. This funding includes the continued support for the largest ever vaccination program in B.C.'s history and maintains our commitment to building a strong foundation of health care for all British Columbians, including a safe and sustainable long-term care strategy.

INVESTING IN MAKING LIFE MORE AFFORDABLE FOR BRITISH COLUMBIANS HAS ALWAYS BEEN A PRIORITY FOR THIS GOVERNMENT, AND IT'S NOW MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER.

Through investments such as free public transportation for children 12 and under, more child care options and new opportunities for education and training, we're working to make life better for people now and as we move into recovery.

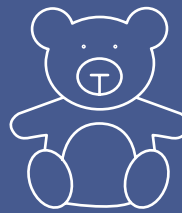
This government will continue to work with the federal government to create a stronger federal and provincial funding partnership and move forward our priorities like affordable and accessible child care for all B.C. families, stronger health services and new infrastructure for our growing communities.

INVESTING IN MORE CHILD CARE OPTIONS

WE'RE INVESTING IN QUALITY, AFFORDABLE AND INCLUSIVE CHILD CARE THAT IS CRITICAL TO FAMILIES, COMMUNITIES AND THE ECONOMY.

Through our Childcare BC plan, we've been working since 2018 to build a strong foundation of child care options for B.C. families. Investments include:

- » Creating nearly 26,000 new child care spaces, with thousands more new spaces each year under the New Spaces Fund.
- » Supporting the workforce behind the workforce with wage increases for Early Childhood Educators.
- » Doubling the number of children who can get care for the \$10 a day or less through the Universal Child Care Prototype Program.
- » Investing in 400 new spaces for the Aboriginal Head Start program, which provides culturally relevant child care for Indigenous families.



We look forward to working with the federal government in developing a universal child care program for British Columbia families.





CREATING JOBS & TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

WHEN COVID-19 HIT B.C., MANY PEOPLE AND FAMILIES EXPERIENCED THE FINANCIAL AND EMOTIONAL STRESS OF UNEXPECTED JOB LOSS. IN SOME SECTORS, EMPLOYMENT HAS RETURNED TO OR SURPASSED PRE-PANDEMIC LEVELS, BUT NOT EVERYONE HAS BEEN AFFECTED IN THE SAME WAY.

Investing in post-secondary education and skills training opportunities are an important part of B.C.'s recovery. Current investments include:

- » New funding to support post-secondary education, including new spaces to build training capacity in the health care sector.
- » Continued funding in partnership with organizations and Indigenous communities to expand access to skills training.
- » Thirty new micro-credential courses to help thousands of people quickly shift direction and land jobs in high-demand fields like construction, health care and child care.
- » \$10 million for work-integrated learning opportunities and short-term skills training.
- » Investments in youth employment initiatives to create over 5,000 jobs to support young people disproportionately hit by job losses in the last year with new jobs, internships and co-ops.

BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE WHILE CREATING JOBS

We're building on historic capital investments and creating more than 85,000 jobs over the next three years through a record \$26.4 billion dollar capital plan to continue to build transportation, health and education, and green infrastructure throughout the province.

HELPING B.C. BUSINESSES

A strong economic recovery needs strong B.C. businesses. As we safely reopen our economy, we see positive economic signs in employment levels and increased retail spending.

WHILE WE LOOK AHEAD WITH HOPE, WE KNOW THAT SOME BUSINESSES ARE STILL STRUGGLING. OUR GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO WORK WITH B.C. BUSINESSES TO SUPPORT THEIR SUSTAINABILITY AND HELP THEM ADAPT AND GROW.

We have continued to adapt our response as the landscape of the pandemic shifts and the needs of businesses change. When the pandemic hit, we acted immediately to ensure businesses had the support they needed by extending taxation deadlines and significantly lowering property tax bills.

We then developed more targeted supports and services to help B.C. businesses – especially in sectors like tourism and hospitality, which were hit hardest by the pandemic. The Small- and Medium-sized Business Grant program provided businesses throughout B.C. with funds to keep them going through the height of the pandemic.

Government has worked closely with the tourism and hospitality sectors to ensure they are receiving the support they need through a difficult time.



Supports targeted at these sectors include the Major Anchor Attractions Program and the Circuit Breaker Business Relief grant, and government is prepared to continue to adapt and deliver supports for however long the pandemic continues to affect businesses.





Other investments for B.C. businesses have included:

- » The Circuit Breaker Business Relief Grant supported hospitality and accommodation businesses affected by the health orders lifted in June 2021.
- » The Major Anchor Attractions Program is supporting B.C.'s anchor attractions and tour bus companies through one-time grants of up to \$1 million.
- » A temporary PST rebate on select machinery and equipment to help businesses make investments that will allow them to grow and become more productive.
- » The Increased Employment Incentive that helped encourage businesses to hire in late 2020 as businesses opened back up.
- » The Agritech Grant program to support B.C. agritech, agriculture and technology companies scale up, expand and develop technologies to help increase sustainable and regenerative food production in B.C.
- » The Accelerating Manufacturing Scale-Up Grant Program to support businesses with funding to pivot, retool or scale-up production, commercialise products close to being market-ready more quickly and help build a supply chain for critical B.C.-made goods.
- » Investing in the Digital Marketing Bootcamp program to support small and medium-sized businesses learn the tools they need to succeed online.
- » The Launch Online Grant program to help small businesses build and strengthen their digital commerce capabilities.

SUBMIT YOUR IDEAS

The Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services is one of ten permanent parliamentary committees of the Legislative Assembly of B.C.

EACH YEAR, THE COMMITTEE HOLDS PROVINCE-WIDE CONSULTATIONS TO SEEK THE VIEWS OF BRITISH COLUMBIANS ON PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT PROVINCIAL BUDGET AND PRESENTS A FINAL REPORT WITH RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.



You can share your views by completing the survey, sending in written comments, or presenting to the Committee.

Presentations will take place in late August through September, and are expected to be a mix of in-person and virtual meetings. Organizations and individuals interested in presenting must complete a request form by July 16.

For full details on how to participate, contact:

SELECT STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT SERVICES

Room 224, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4

Email: financecommittee@leg.bc.ca

Phone: 1 (877) 428-8337 (toll-free)

Phone (250) 356-2933 (collect)

Web: bcleg.ca/FGSbudget

The consultation closes Thursday, September 30 at 5 pm.



SURVEY QUESTIONS

1. The B.C. government is committed to making life more affordable, delivering the services people count on and building a resilient, sustainable economy. Please select three priorities to help make life better for you, your family and your community as we move through recovery?

- Affordable housing
- Access to child care
- K-12 education
- More opportunities in skills training and post secondary education
- Support the transition to a cleaner economy and reduce pollution
- Increase programs for Indigenous people, women, LGBTQ+, and people facing systemic barriers
- Anti-racism measures
- Access to mental health services
- Job-creating infrastructure projects
- Economic development
- Indigenous resources and reconciliation actions
- Health care
- Justice and public safety
- Poverty reduction
- Roads, highways and bridges
- Public transportation
- Debt reduction
- Other

2. Part of B.C.'s economic recovery includes a sustainable path back to a balanced provincial budget. Early projections of a return to balance are seven to nine years, and a more detailed timeline will be outlined in Budget 2022. Which statement below best matches your views about returning to balance?

- Government needs to balance quickly even if that means substantial service cuts (1-5 years).
- Government needs to balance over the medium term even if that means small cuts (6-9 years).
- Government needs to balance over the long term with minimal cuts (10+ years).

3. The pandemic has required unprecedented spending to help people, businesses and communities. The British Columbia government has various tools it can use to reduce provincial debt over time. Check the options you can support.

- Increase personal income tax
- Increase corporate income tax
- Increase property-based taxes
- Increased consumption taxes, including PST and Carbon Tax
- Reduce provincial programs and services
- Reduce infrastructure spending
- Other ideas:

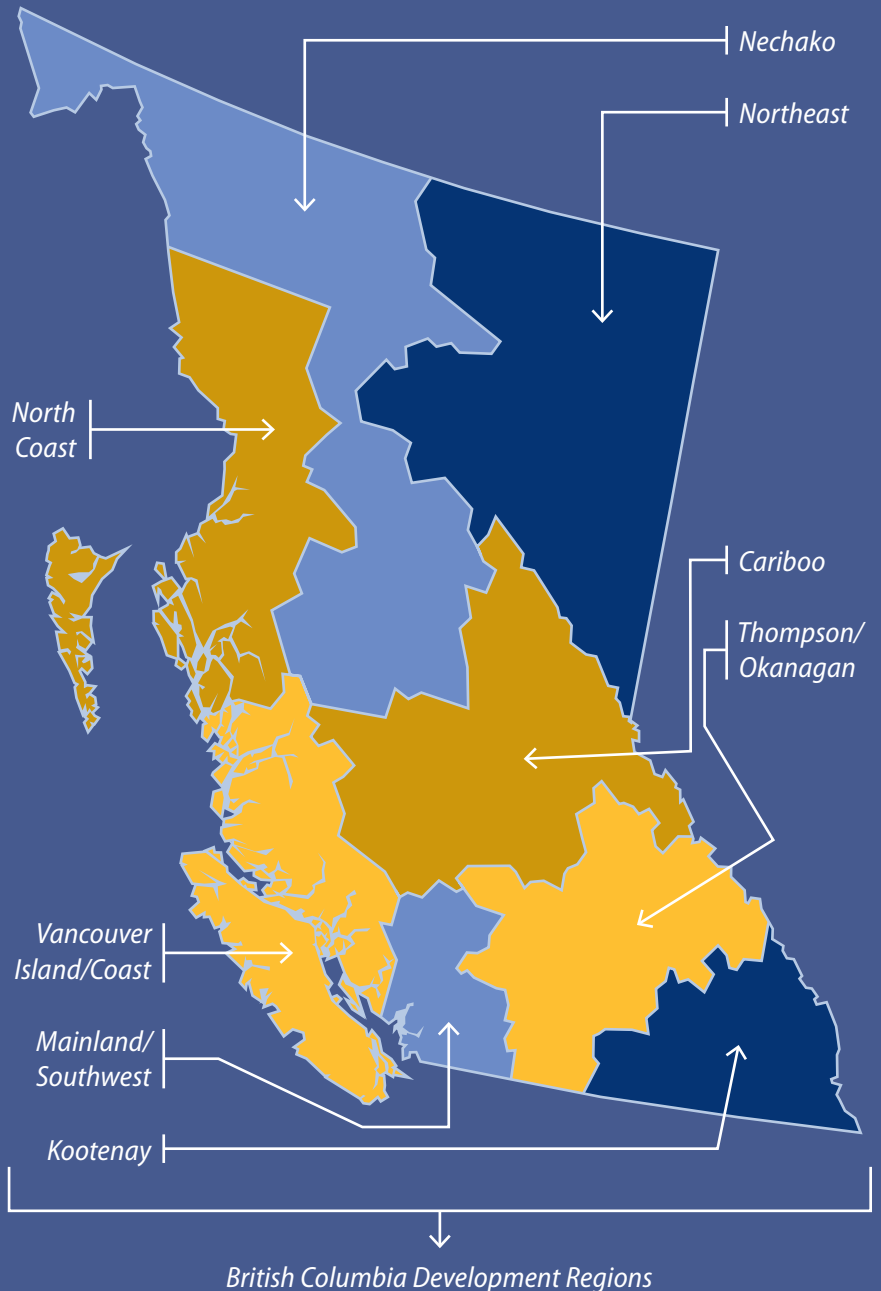
Questions continued on next page.

4. How has the pandemic affected your financial well-being?

- a. Significantly
- b. Somewhat
- c. Not much
- d. Not at all
- e. Not sure

5. Please identify your region:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vancouver Island/Coast | <input type="checkbox"/> Cariboo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lower Mainland/Southwest | <input type="checkbox"/> North Coast |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Thompson/Okanagan | <input type="checkbox"/> Nechako |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kootenay | <input type="checkbox"/> Northeast |



HELPING TO MAKE LIFE MORE AFFORDABLE

A central commitment of government is to make life more affordable for people.

Many families and individuals are seeing ongoing savings as a result of measures introduced in Budget 2021, as well as others put in place over the last four years.

POTENTIAL ONGOING SAVINGS

	FAMILY OF FOUR IN VANCOUVER EARNING \$100K <i>Child 1 (Age 12) Child 2 (Age 5 in Daycare)</i>	FAMILY OF FOUR IN VANCOUVER EARNING \$80K <i>Child 1 (Age 12) Child 2 (Age 5 in Daycare)</i>	SINGLE PARENT IN VANCOUVER EARNING \$60K <i>With One Child (Age 5 in Daycare)</i>	UNATTACHED INDIVIDUAL IN VANCOUVER EARNING \$30K
<i>New B.C. Access Grant for Students</i>	1,333	2,667	-	4,000
<i>MSP Elimination</i>	1,800	1,800	1,800	900
<i>Eliminating Student Loan Interest</i>	230	230	230	230
<i>Affordable Child Care Benefit</i>	2,316	4,800	4,800	-
<i>Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative</i>	1,440	1,440	1,440	-
<i>Eliminating Port Mann and Golden Ears Tolls</i>	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
B.C. Child Opportunity Benefit	598	1,380	700	-
Transforming ICBC	400	400	400	400
Free Transit for Kids	1,344	1,344	672	-

ADDITIONAL POTENTIAL SAVINGS

ONE-TIME REBATES

Save up to \$3,000 on a zero-emission vehicle.

Save up to \$3,000 on a heat pump.

PST exemption on e-bikes can save you an avg. of \$280.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Budget 2022 Consultation:
bcleg.ca/FGSbudget



BRITISH COLUMBIA