

Kickstarting the BC Economy: The ICBA Plan

For months, ICBA has been calling for the provincial government to think big, be bold, and act fast in the effort to restart BC's economy after the pandemic shutdown. Under John Horgan and the NDP, recovery has been agonizingly slow, and has fallen short of what needs to be done. BC's unemployment rate is 10.7% -- two full points higher than Quebec, and higher than Ontario, Saskatchewan and all but two other provinces.

Just before John Horgan broke his word to British Columbians and called this election, his government laid out a \$1.5 billion economic recovery plan that was underwhelming and generally panned by most observers.

Here is ICBA's plan on how the provincial government can get BC's economy going again.



COVID-19: Safe Communities, Safe Workplaces

- a. Continue successful COVID-19 protocols to ensure worker safety
- b. Assist with the procurement of personal protective equipment



Review BC's Tax and Regulatory Burden

- a. Undertake a third-party review to modernize BC's tax system
- b. Undertake a thorough review of BC regulation, with highest priority given to areas which will help expedite BC's economic recovery
- c. Restore balance to and ensure the future financial stability of WorkSafeBC



Responsible Resource Development

- a. Review regulations affecting natural resource and infrastructure projects to speed up approval and permitting timelines, especially the Environmental Assessment Act
- b. Ensure Indigenous Nations are partners in economic development on the land base by providing capacity funding and sharing "best practice" Impact Benefit Agreements models
- c. Work with Indigenous communities and LNG proponents to build-out BC's LNG and value-added natural gas opportunity for the economic benefit of all British Columbians and to assist with global climate action
- d. Review and reduce the administrative burden for BC's hard-hit forest sector
- e. Invest more in silviculture and reforestation to replenish BC's commercial timber stock



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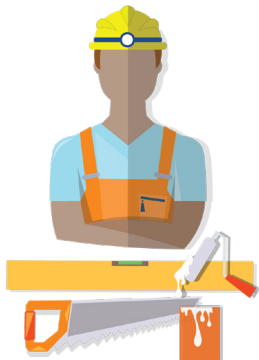
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Infrastructure



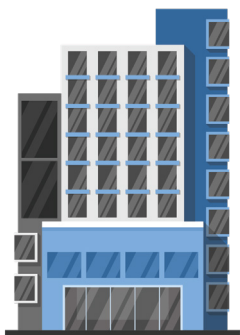
- a. Immediately repeal the union-only Community Benefits Agreement policy, and restore fairness to tendering and government procurement
- b. Focus immediately on stimulus spending for projects in the \$5 to \$50 Million range to provide jobs now for workers throughout the province
- c. Undertake substantial infrastructure spending focused on growth enabling gateway projects; Skytrain infrastructure improvements (e.g. extension to Langley and planning for North Shore); Highway improvements (e.g. Massey Tunnel replacement; Hwy 1 expanding Langley to Chilliwack and Kamloops to the Alberta border; Hwy 97 Cariboo Connector additional four-laning; safety and technical improvements to the Pine Pass; Taylor Bridge replacement; and Hwy 3 and Hwy 16 safety and technical improvements)
- d. Partner wherever possible with the federal government to leverage infrastructure spending
- e. Extend broadband and wireless infrastructure throughout BC

Skills Development and Worker Training



- a. Undertake apprenticeship training as, and where, needed throughout BC
- b. Broaden credential recognition and support multiple pathways for apprenticeship training and skills acquisition
- c. Transition displaced workers into trades and apprenticeship training
- d. Work with the entire construction sector to provide opportunities for more women and Indigenous participation in the workforce
- e. Continue to advance, wherever practicable, online and distributed methods of apprenticeship and technical training within, and for, the construction sector

Housing



- a. Reduce delays and remove hurdles within municipalities to increase affordable housing and rental stock throughout BC, especially in Metro Vancouver
- b. Use provincial and municipal land to enable the building of non-market and cooperative housing
- c. Provide incentives for the private sector to build affordable market and rental housing
- d. Ensure that Metro Vancouver's Regional Growth Strategy is aligned with the broader provincial interest in ensuring that the region grows sustainably to accommodate one million additional residents expected by 2040
- e. Work with the local government to reduce the taxes and fees on new housing

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