



BUDGET 2023

Last week was exciting in the House as the budget was announced. This year I have been hearing from people who are facing challenges with the cost of living, are concerned about keeping health care public, and need affordable places to live. The budget demonstrates the commitment this government has to the issues facing British Columbian, through massively investing in affordability, health care, housing for all, a sustainable economy, and supporting our growing communities.



StrongerBC
for everyone

**Focused on
what matters
most with
Budget 2023**

Health Care

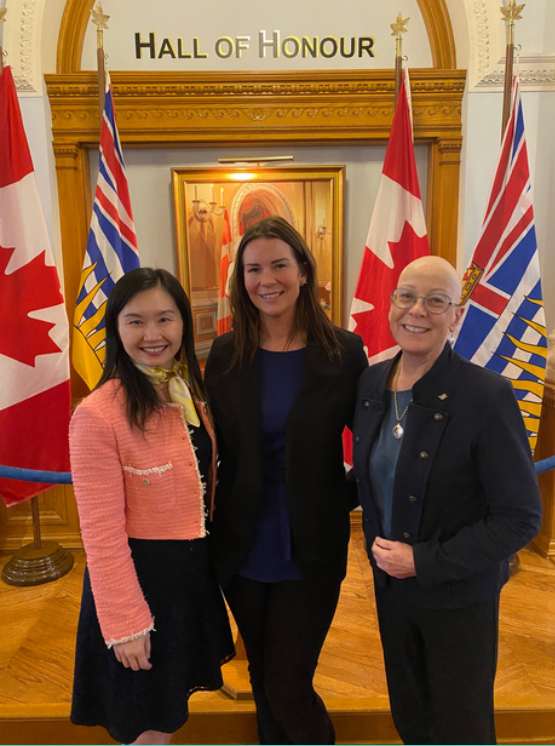
- We're making record-breaking investments towards strengthening our public health care system, helping people find and stay connected to the care and services that they need
- starting April 1, prescription contraceptives will be free for people in B.C. who need them
- almost \$6.4 billion in new investments over 3 years to help train nurses doctors, and training new health care workers. This includes \$1 billion in new funding to expand mental health addictions services

Affordability

- Following the almost \$2.4 billion worth of temporary cost-of-living supports since the summer of 2022, we're now investing \$4.5 billion over the next three years to help people (via tax credits, and new spending measures) with the effects of rising costs.
- Taking action to expand K-12 school food programs, and provide more financial supports for post-secondary students.
- People receiving income and disability assistance, and foster families/care-givers will also benefit from the 2023 Budget
- Approximately 64% of families with children are eligible for the BC Family Benefit (increase of 10% in monthly payments). And single parents will receive as much as an additional \$500 per year.
- The Climate Action tax Credit will be expanded to help people with low and moderate incomes offset the carbon tax, which increases in April 2023

Housing

- More homes built for middle income families, renters and new actions to address homelessness.
- Supports a refreshed housing plan with \$4.2 billion in operating and capital funding over the next three years to build thousands of new homes for renters, people with middle incomes, Indigenous people, and students
- Funding for transit-oriented development and more complex care and supportive housing.
- Income-tested renter tax credit - as much as \$400 annually - expected to reach more than 80% of renter households, including people who receive income and disability assistance or Rental Support Program / Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters.



Funding for our growing communities

- It was so exciting for me to be able to share the news with Courtenay and Comox Mayors and Chair of the Comox Valley Regional District that a historic investment of almost \$17 million in infrastructure and amenities grant funding is being made for the Comox Valley. (Close to \$20 million when Cumberland's share is included.) We are investing in local governments so they have the resources they need to keep our communities vibrant and thriving.

Building a stronger, more sustainable economy

- With our Future Ready plan to fill the jobs of tomorrow and take action on the biggest challenge we hear from businesses - PEOPLE.
- Managing BC's resources to support economic prosperity in a way that aligns with environmental, social and cultural objectives
- New funding to help communities develop safe, accessible and convenient modes of active transportation and prepare for climate-related emergencies.
- Making post-secondary and skills training more accessible and affordable.

Making Communities safer

- Includes boosting funding by \$462 million over the fiscal plan for policing, enforcement, intervention services and access to justice throughout the province.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Would you like to lend your voice on important topics in BC? There are many topics on which the government of BC would like to hear from you. Take some time to lend your voice: [EngageBC](#)

CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES

Is someone in your life, your workplace, or your church celebrating a Milestone birthday or anniversary? Make sure to put in a request for a letter from your MLA.

Get in touch

As always, if you have any questions or concerns about any provincial issue, please don't hesitate to reach out. We are here to help you. My office can be reached at 250.703.2410 or Ronna-Rae.Leonard.MLA@leg.bc.ca Our Office hours are Monday to Thursday 10am-4pm. If the door is locked, simply knock or call 250.703.2410 to get our attention. Fridays are by appointment only.

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of BRITISH COLUMBIA