



## CLIMATE ACTION, RECONCILIATION, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - A NEW WAY

Some people want us to say "no" to all development - regardless of the cost on people, jobs and livelihood. Others say, any development should just go forward - even at the expense of abandoning action to reduce pollution that threatens a viable future. We see a better way with the new Energy Action Framework that creates a clean energy economy - that works for people and includes participation from First Nations. The new Energy Framework is a cross-ministerial plan and includes the following:

- requires all proposed LNG facilities in or entering the environmental assessment (EA) process to pass an emissions test with a credible plan to be net zero by 2030;
- puts in place a regulatory emissions cap for the oil and gas industry to ensure B.C. meets its 2030 emissions reduction target for the sector;
- establishes a Clean Energy and Major Projects office to fast track investment in clean energy and technology and create good, sustainable jobs in the transition to a cleaner economy;
- creates a BC Hydro task force to accelerate the electrification of B.C.'s economy by powering more homes, businesses, and industries with renewable electricity.

Even as industry is currently on track to reach their 2030 climate action goals, this new framework sets a multi-ministry-backed course for strong emissions reduction requirements while also investing in electrifying our energy economy, and supporting First Nations in self-determination. The recently announced Cedar LNG project, will be the first Indigenous-owned LNG export facility in Canada located on Haisla Nation territory. This new energy frameworks supports and incorporates BCs actualization of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.



## Working with First Nations, Blackwater Mine (with lowest greenhouse gasses in the world) is approved

First Nations have been engaged in all aspects of the Artemis Gold project from the early stages of exploration to permitting, development etc. Their work has paid off in the creation of a low-emissions mining project that will benefit local people and economies. The Lhoosk'uz Dené and Ulkatcho First Nations have worked collaboratively with Artemis Gold to create opportunities surrounding the creation of a silver and gold mine in Northern BC.



## Blackwater Mine moves forward, creating jobs, economic opportunities

BC Hydro also plays a key role in connecting the project to the grid, thereby ensuring a sustainable source of low-carbon hydroelectricity for Artemis gold and silver extraction, making it one of the lowest greenhouse gas emissions open pit mines in the world. This is yet another example of how environmental protections, reconciliation and economic development can work together.

## Island Rail Corridor update

Courtenay-Comox constituents have voiced many different options for the Island Rail Corridor. This government is committed to working with First Nations and local government to develop and advance a shared vision for the rail line. One thing is absolutely clear - we must take a reconciliation-based approach when considering the future of the Island Rail Corridor.





In the past, when trains were running along the corridor, they went straight through reserve land and contributed nothing to the quality of life to the First Nations. This is not how we do reconciliation in the 21st Century.

As we see the Island population grow, so does the importance of this corridor. This means that whether the future involves rail restoration or not, the process must involve indigenous participation and perspectives. We are therefore committing \$18 million to allow for maintenance and future corridor planning that involves First Nations and Regional Districts. Only together can we move forward.

## School Upgrades in the Comox Valley

As part of Budget 2023, the province is providing funding for school maintenance. Here in the Comox Valley, Highland, Glacier View, and Vanier are receiving a total of \$1,488,500 for electrical, HVAC, and interior construction. As a result of these energy efficient upgrades, the place where our kids learn will have a smaller impact on climate change.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

## CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES

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 - with EngageBC.

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](mailto: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.

If you do not wish to receive these updates please reply to this email with: UNSUBSCRIBE



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
of BRITISH COLUMBIA