

# Building a Resilient Future:

## Strengthening Food Security and Supply Chains

### **THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC HIGHLIGHTED RISKS TO THE SUPPLY CHAINS THAT SERVE BRITISH COLUMBIANS.**

The pandemic also created risks to our agricultural productivity and food supply. Through the Recovery Plan, our government will invest over \$30 million to develop greater capacity to mitigate the risks of the current pandemic to BC's supply chains, but also build a more resilient economy for the future.

Our government will invest \$10 million to provide grants of up to \$50,000 to support small and medium-sized companies build manufacturing capacity, generate new economic opportunities and enhance supply chain resilience. This includes building the capacity of local companies to make Personal Protective Equipment, helping to protect frontline workers and creating good new manufacturing jobs.

We will also invest \$4 million to help businesses assess economic opportunities emerging from the pandemic through a new Supplier Development Program. This program will provide resources to

support businesses with the desire and ability to pivot their operations or build new manufacturing capacity get the job done.

Through the Recovery Plan, our government will also invest in several initiatives that promote food security. These targeted investments will support the development of local food systems and provide small and new farmers with business supports, including access to capital and the development of an online sales presence.

To foster growth and innovation in BC's food processing sector, we will invest over \$5 million to grow our successful Food Hub network. Seven new hubs across the province will support the sector with improved industry access to processing facilities and business supports.

We will also provide \$3 million in funding to support the growth of high-potential agri-tech companies in BC, increasing our competitiveness in the agriculture sector, generate economic activity, create more jobs, and contribute to the province's food security

# Climate Action and CleanBC

## **OUR GOVERNMENT HAS MADE SIGNIFICANT INVESTMENTS TO SUPPORT CLEANBC—**

British Columbia's pathway to a cleaner, stronger future that benefits everyone. In 2019, we committed \$1.3 billion over four years to help people and businesses use more clean energy to get around, heat our homes, and fuel industry.

That pathway is more important now than ever. The unprecedented challenges we face today—from the economic shock of a global pandemic to threat of a changing climate—also present opportunities. As a leader in clean energy, British Columbia is uniquely placed to seize these opportunities.

The next steps in our recovery plan build on the progress we have made with over \$220 million in new investments to support programs that will help reduce air pollution, tackle climate change while preparing for its impacts, and create good new jobs.

In total, our government will invest more than \$130 million to help people and businesses drive down climate-changing emissions—and make further progress towards meeting our legislated targets. Initiatives in the Recovery Plan to promote the development of new clean technology and emissions reduction in the transportation and buildings sector include:

## ➤ **INCENTIVES FOR ZERO EMISSION VEHICLES:**

We will invest \$61 million to provide the commercial transport sector support to develop and adopt new and existing Zero Emissions Vehicles, including creating a Commercial Vehicle Innovation Challenge that will accelerate the commercialization of new clean heavy-duty vehicles;

## ➤ **A NEW CENTRE FOR INNOVATION AND CLEAN GROWTH:**

With a \$35 million investment, we will establish a new Centre for Innovation and Clean Growth that will support the development and commercialization of clean technology in BC—creating good jobs and supporting technological advancements required to transition to a low-carbon future;

## ➤ **ENCOURAGE CYCLING AND WALKING:**

We will invest \$17 million in active transportation measures that will help more British Columbians get out of their cars and save them money along the way.

## ➤ **BUILDING INNOVATION AND RETROFITS:**

We will add \$8 million to CleanBC's existing Building Innovation Fund and \$2 million to support the development of a Property Assessment Clean Energy financing tool, helping more people and businesses conserve energy and reduce power bills;

➤ **INCREASE THE USE OF RECYCLED CONTENT IN OUR PLASTIC PRODUCTS:**

We will invest \$5 million in new incentives for industry and businesses to increase BC's capacity to use more recycled materials and keep plastics out of landfills and the environment as part of the Plastics Action Plan.

➤ **SUPPORT THE ADOPTION OF MASS TIMBER:**

We will help reduce the carbon footprint of our building sector while supporting good jobs in the forestry sector with an additional \$3 million to support the adoption of mass timber in buildings.

Our government will also invest approximately \$90 million to help BC prepare for and adapt to a changing climate. These initiatives will create jobs in the short-term and provide longer-term benefits by improving the resiliency of our physical and natural assets to the impacts of climate change. These investments kick start our renewed Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy, scheduled to be finalized later this year. Initiatives include:

➤ **CONSERVE WETLANDS AND ECOSYSTEMS:**

We will invest nearly \$50 million to protect BC's beautiful natural spaces while creating over 1,000 jobs targeted to people in the hard-hit tourism and hospitality sector.

➤ **IMPROVE ROADS AND HIGHWAYS:**

A \$20 million investment will support upgrades to provincial highways and roads, making them more resilient to the impacts of climate change—like increased flooding.

➤ **REDUCE THE RISK OF WILDFIRES:**

We will invest another \$20 million on initiatives that will reduce the risk of wildfires on Crown land, which have increased significantly over the last number of years.

➤ **HELP FARMERS ADAPT:**

We will inject funding into the On-Farm Innovation Top Up program that helps build adaptive capacity and encourage the adoption of effective farm practices to help mitigate impacts related to climate change.

**StrongerBC**  
for everyone



# Investing in Tourism for British Columbians

## **COVID-19 HAS HAD A PROFOUND AND DEVASTATING IMPACT ON THE TOURISM SECTOR AND HAS ALTERED BRITISH COLUMBIA'S VISITOR ECONOMY.**

With an immediate focus on protecting public health, travel restrictions were put in place to reduce transmission of the virus. There was no time for tourism-related businesses to pivot business models or seek new replacement markets as the economy shut down and people stayed home. Since our government began gradually and safely restarting the economy in May, many businesses in the hospitality and recreation sector have begun to reopen and people are returning to work. Despite the progress, we know there remain thousands out of work and a lot more to do—particularly in the tourism sector with international borders remaining closed.

To start, our government will directly support small and medium sized businesses in hard-hit sectors—like tourism, recreation and hospitality—with a new \$300 million Small and Medium Business Recovery Grant. The grant amounts will be scalable based on the size and annual pre-COVID revenues of the business, with eligible amounts ranging from \$10,000 to a maximum of \$30,000. Hard-hit tourism operators will be eligible to receive a top-up of up to \$10,000, for a maximum grant of \$40,000 based on overall eligibility criteria. It is estimated that 15,000 small

and medium-sized businesses will benefit from the program that will help protect more than 200,000 jobs provincewide—many of them in the tourism sector.

As economies restart around the world, the demand for travel and consumer behaviour has shifted dramatically. That's why our government is taking steps to help all aspects of this important industry respond, recover and work towards resiliency following COVID-19. Our recovery plan will invest over \$100 million to support tourism-related businesses and communities to be well positioned to re-emerge as a world-class destination in 2021.

- ▶ A new Tourism Task Force will bring together leaders from business, labour, First Nations and not-for-profits to seek innovative and creative ideas on how the tourism in BC can be well positioned for a 2021 tourism season and ideas on envisioning a sustainable future. Our government is allocating \$50 million in the Economic Recovery Plan to facilitate new measures that result from the Tourism Task Force's work.
- ▶ Our government will invest \$19 million to support small, municipalities who are dependent on tourism to build, adapt and diversify their tourism infrastructure. This program will create job opportunities in the communities and prepare for the future.

- Our government will invest nearly \$14 million to support targeted tourism development initiatives in the six tourism regions across BC to help the tourism industry recover from COVID-19.
- Our government is investing \$20 million for tourism infrastructure projects supporting destination development through the new Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program. Local governments, not-for-profits, and Indigenous nations will be able to apply for project funding to help bring back visitors through investments in tourism infrastructure and amenities in communities, including pivoting mountain resorts to all season destinations.

**StrongerBC**  
*for everyone*



# Supporting Businesses

**BUSINESSES HAVE BEEN HIT HARD BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, AS MANY OWNERS DID THEIR PART EARLY ON TO HELP FLATTEN THE CURVE BY TAKING THE DIFFICULT STEP OF CLOSING THEIR DOORS.**

Our government took immediate steps to help these businesses—reducing property tax bills by 25%, deferring many business taxes, forgiving hydro bills for business that had to close, and enhancing the rental relief program.

While many businesses are now fully reopened and have begun to rehire employees, we know others continue to struggle. The tourism, hospitality and retail sectors have been particularly hard hit. That's why the next steps in our recovery plan will make key strategic investments in supporting businesses, including:

## **BC SMALL AND MEDIUM BUSINESS RECOVERY GRANT**

Small and medium sized businesses that have experienced a significant and sustained downturn in sales and revenues due to COVID-19 will have access to a grant that will support business recovery for those that have a recovery plan and the ability to continue operations in a post-COVID economy.

The new Small and Medium Business Recovery Grant program commits up to \$300M to support one-time grants for eligible small businesses that have been hard-hit by COVID-19. Grant amounts will be scalable based on the size and annual

pre-COVID revenues of the business, with eligible amounts ranging from \$10,000 to a maximum of \$30,000. Hard-hit tourism operators will be eligible to receive a top-up of up to \$10,000, for a maximum grant of \$40,000 based on overall eligibility criteria. Eligible businesses will include those with between 2 and 149 employees that have seen a COVID-related revenue reduction of at least 70% and continue to have revenues below 50% of pre-COVID levels. It is estimated that 15,000 small businesses will benefit from the program that will help protect more than 200,000 jobs provincewide.

This is not a loan program to be repaid down the road. Instead, this grant will provide direct support to ensure eligible businesses will have the resources they need to recover and pivot their businesses to be successful within the new normal. Grant funding can be used to support business recovery, whether to help pay for short-term fixed costs, or to support other costs related to business transition in a post-COVID economy – things like advancing business diversification, business re-invention, marketing and advertising.

In addition to recovery grants, this program will also provide valuable support to small businesses to help with recovery planning. Eligible small businesses will be able to access up to \$2,000 in services from professional service business advisory providers to help chart a viable path forward.

## **BC INCREASED EMPLOYMENT INCENTIVE**

The BC Increased Employment Incentive (IEI) will provide much needed support to eligible businesses who continue hiring employees as the economic recovery progresses this fall. One of the things we heard from hard-hit businesses is that the revenue losses due to COVID-19 and the associated uncertainty around the economic recovery is a deterrent to hiring hard working British Columbians who have lost their jobs due to the pandemic. This measure is intended to reduce some of these uncertainties so that businesses have the confidence they need to continue hiring back.

The IEI will be administered as a refundable tax credit based on an employer's payroll. It will be available to employers who increase their employment of low- to middle-income employees in the last quarter of 2020 and to employers who retain employees they hired in August and September.

The IEI will go to businesses who hire back employees or who restore work hours/wages that were reduced as a result of COVID-19. In addition, to ensure the greatest impact on job creation, the benefit is also available to businesses that increase employment even if they may not have been negatively impacted by COVID-19.

The credit is available to all employers in BC, with the exception of public institutions and political parties. This means the credit is available to charities and non-profit employers, too.

The credit will be calculated as 15% of the increase in eligible salaries and wages in the 4th quarter of 2020 (October – December) compared to the previous quarter (July to September).

Eligible salaries and wages include remuneration up to \$1,129.33 per week per employee.

It is anticipated this initiative could support up to 50,000 employers and support 80,000 recently-hired and soon-to-be-hired employees, providing much needed assistance as BC's economic recovery continues.

The application period for the credit will begin in March 2021. Employers will receive their IEI credit through the BC eTax system. Further details on how to apply for the credit will be announced soon.

## **BC PST REBATE ON MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT**

As BC businesses work to transition to a post-COVID economy, many require significant investments in new capital, in particular machinery and equipment (M&E). Removing the PST on select new machinery and equipment purchases was a common request among the business community and will provide much needed support as businesses continue to adjust to the economic impacts of COVID-19.

Effective September 17, 2020, eligible businesses will receive a 100% PST Rebate on select M&E purchases. This program will run for one year, ending on September 30, 2021. That means eligible businesses can recover 100 per cent of the PST they pay on select purchases and leases of machinery and equipment over that period. To be eligible, a business must be incorporated.

Most M&E will be eligible for the rebate, with some exceptions including non-zero-emission vehicles. Eligible M&E will be defined based on the CCA classes found in Schedule II to the federal Income Tax Regulations.

**StrongerBC**  
for everyone



Items covered by the CCA classes eligible for the Rebate include, but are not limited to:

- most machinery, equipment, appliances, tools and furniture;
- computer hardware and software;
- electric vehicle charging stations; and
- zero-emission vehicles.

It is estimated the PST rebate on machinery and equipment will provide about 110,000 BC businesses with almost half a billion in tax savings over the coming year. Savings that will support much needed investments in new capital to assist businesses in transitioning to a post-COVID economy.

## **OTHER TOOLS AND SUPPORTS FOR BUSINESSES**

Businesses recognize in this new reality they need tools and supports to build consumer confidence and help them navigate through our economic recovery. A Restoring Confidence App will help businesses keep consumers updated about public health and safety protocols that businesses are following. Further supports to businesses to improve their e-commerce operations and leverage e-commerce growth opportunities are seeing investments. Direct supports to eligible business to build online shops or improve e-commerce operation will be provided. More Digital Marketing Bootcamps will be offered to businesses to learn how they can improve e-commerce operations. Further details on these supports will be provided soon.

**StrongerBC**  
*for everyone*



# Investing in Technology and Innovation

**TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION WILL PLAY KEY ROLES IN REBUILDING BC'S ECONOMY SO THAT IT'S MORE PRODUCTIVE, SELF-RELIANT, AND RESILIENT AS WE RECOVER FROM COVID-19.** They will be the source of new industries and create good new jobs for British Columbians, while helping businesses connect to their customers.

Thankfully, we are starting from a strong place in BC. Our government invests more than \$700 million each year on the growth and development of British Columbia's technology and innovation sectors – including diverse fields such as life sciences, quantum computing, augmented and virtual reality, environmental technologies, precision or advanced manufacturing, fin-tech, e commerce, digital media and more.

Our Recovery Plan builds on these investments, supports tech-enabled economic recovery and growth across other sectors of our economy, and brings a new emphasis on supporting the scale-up of BC tech companies and keeping made-in-BC intellectual property here rather than see it migrate to other parts of the world.

In addition to the \$300 million that has been allocated to small business recovery, our government is investing \$14 million to help businesses make the transition to online sales

and \$2 million in digital tools that will support restaurants, retail outlets and other businesses build consumer confidence. We are also investing in innovation supports for other high-potential economic sectors – including over \$20 million in advanced manufacturing, agritech and mass timber design and construction and \$35 million in clean energy and other technologies that will reduce climate pollution.

As the COVID-19 pandemic forced many British Columbians to work and study from home, it exposed gaps in existing access to high-speed, reliable internet for many people and communities. That's why our government's Recovery Plan will be investing \$90 million in expanding the "Connecting British Columbia" program, which will support connectivity projects that can be implemented quickly in rural and Indigenous communities and along BC's highways. This funding will help accelerate capital investments by internet service providers. The investment will bring high-speed internet connectivity to 50,000 households in 200 communities including 75 indigenous communities, create 720 jobs in construction. Funding will also establish an additional 140 kilometres of highway cellular, Wi-Fi at rest stops, which could include inland ferry terminals, and emergency satellite call boxes.

## **InBC – A STRATEGIC INVESTMENT FUND**

Every year the province invests hundreds of millions of public dollars into the technology and innovation sectors. While this funding has helped to foster an exciting set of companies, there have been challenges ensuring that the full range of benefits and gains from this public investment accrue to all British Columbians.

Too often, early stage businesses that have been supported by provincial funding either fail to successfully scale up or are bought up by companies from outside British Columbia. When control moves outside the province, some or all of the jobs and the government revenues from corporate and personal income taxes move with it, meaning that British Columbians don't realize fair value for their investments.

World-scale companies that are "anchored" in BC – companies that maintain their head offices and senior decision makers here, pay taxes and develop the skills and capacity of their BC workforce – are integral to building a dynamic innovation ecosystem that can develop great ideas, provide mentoring for spin-off companies and a role model for other local start-ups, and that can lead to tech-enabled growth across other sectors of our economy.

A key initiative in addressing this challenge will be establishing British Columbia's own strategic investment fund – InBC – with the mandate to take direct investments in promising ventures. These investments would be complementary to private investment and would be on the same terms as the private investment. Having an additional source of financing will reduce the likelihood that these companies would need to sell out to a larger organization controlled outside British Columbia.

Initially capitalized at \$500 million, InBC will have a "double bottom line" mandate – with investments made on the basis of sound business criteria, but also configured to support key elements of the inclusive economy we are building for the future. This includes industries that provide good quality, high-paying jobs for British Columbians in all parts of the province, advance reconciliation with Indigenous communities, generate significant net government revenue to fund the services British Columbians rely on, and support the decarbonization of our economy as identified in the CleanBC plan and our legislated greenhouse gas targets.

InBC will help to anchor high-growth firms and their investment and intellectual property in BC, drive business confidence, improve supply chains and benefit all British Columbians into the future.

**StrongerBC**  
for everyone



# Investing in Community Infrastructure

## **COMMUNITIES ACROSS BC HAVE BEEN SIGNIFICANTLY IMPACTED BY COVID-19.**

Even before the pandemic, our government was working with local governments and delivering a record capital commitment of \$22.9 billion in investment over the three years of the fiscal plan. These investments are ensuring the necessary infrastructure is in place to deliver the services people count on, build a sustainable economy and support the economic recovery efforts across BC communities.

The next steps in our economic recovery plan build on the progress we have made. Through the plan, our government will invest \$418 million to revitalize community infrastructure, enhance connections between communities and get people back to work.

As part of the plan, we will invest \$100 million in infrastructure grants for shovel-ready projects in a new Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program. This includes a \$30 million stream for community economic resilience, \$20 million to develop tourism infrastructure to help communities attract visitors, and investments of \$20 million to support economic recovery for rural communities.

The Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program provides \$20 million for unique heritage infrastructure including Indigenous cultural

heritage. In addition, the Aboriginal Head Start program will receive \$10 million in new funding for outdoor play spaces to support land-based learning programs in Indigenous communities. These investments in community infrastructure will create new jobs and stimulate local economies to support recovery.

Our government will continue to work closely with our federal partners by investing \$27 million over the next three years to cost-match federal funding available under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program. Funding will allow BC to access a federal contribution of up to \$109 million for a new COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure program. This program will support projects to provide retrofits, repairs and upgrades to public buildings, support development of active transportation networks, and allow communities to improve their COVID-19 infrastructure, such as protective screens and physical distancing in public facilities. A portion of this program will also be available for disaster mitigation and adaptation infrastructure projects.

Throughout BC, many communities are dependent on tourism. That's why, through the plan, our government is investing \$19 million to support small, tourism-dependent municipalities build and diversify their tourism infrastructure. This program will help these communities create jobs and new or expanded tourism offerings.

Communities are not just supported by infrastructure they also exist with the natural environment around them. That's why our government is providing \$37 million for projects to support sensitive species, ecosystem conservation and watershed restoration. These projects will create new jobs in ecosystem data analysis and habitat restoration, which includes wetlands and watersheds which are critical to help BC communities adapt to the effects of climate change.

The next steps in our plan will also provide funding to enhance community connections and transportation infrastructure. Remote and rural communities will benefit from a new \$26 million program to upgrade provincial side roads and forest service roads. To help the highway network adapt to the challenges of climate change, \$21 million will be provided for projects that increase culvert sizes, manage creek channels and protect highways against erosion. These are important elements to improve the reliability of highway infrastructure threatened by flood risks. The Huu-ay-aht community of Anacla and the nearby village of Bamfield will see \$26 million in safety improvements to the access road that connects these communities to Port Alberni and beyond.

Communities have seen increased use of their local paths and rail trails as British Columbians seek more active recreation opportunities closer to home. That's why our government will provide \$17 million for projects to improve the safety of these active transportation networks. These investments will improve safety at key crossings, enhance connections for Indigenous communities, and help to repair and restore critical infrastructure in the province's rail trail network.

Transportation investments extend beyond highways and land-based connections. Nearly \$16 million will be available to improve small, rural airports through air access grants. Our government will also invest \$40 million to support improvements at the Ports of Prince Rupert and Nanaimo. These projects will help to increase import and export capacity, and address demand at these busy and growing ports.

Increasingly, connections are not only physical they are also digital. Recognizing the importance of digital connections, our government will be investing \$75 million to expand high speed internet services for rural communities. An additional \$15 million is also being provided to improve wi-fi and cellular connectivity along major highways and at key rests stops. These investments will help to strengthen the bonds connecting communities across the province and improve safety for highway travellers.

**StrongerBC**  
for everyone



# Investing in Jobs and Training for British Columbians

**IN MARCH AND APRIL, THOUSANDS OF BUSINESSES MADE THE DIFFICULT DECISION TO CLOSE THEIR DOORS TO HELP US FIGHT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19.**

As a result, tens of thousands of British Columbians found themselves suddenly out of work. Since our government began gradually and safely restarting the economy in May, B.C. has now recovered 246,900 jobs.

While we are encouraged and cautiously optimistic with what we have seen over the last few months, we know many British Columbians are still out of work and there is much more to do. That's why our government will be investing \$417 million in the next phase of our economic development plan to support job creation and more training and retraining programs to help people upskill and be ready and qualified for new jobs. Various recovery measures will focus on restoring jobs that were lost during the pandemic as well as creating new opportunities.

These measures will build on and complement the supports our government will provide businesses in this plan to help them grow and rehire – including the 15% tax credit to support businesses that increase their payroll and directly support approximately 15,000 businesses and 200,000 jobs in hard-hit industries that have a good chance to thrive in the long term.

As part of the \$417 million, the plan includes \$300 million from the health sector plan to create more than 5,800 new positions to help those who

have been affected from the pandemic in hard hit sectors, such as the hospitality and tourism sectors, to enter the health profession. This includes new job opportunities for contact tracers, screening staff at long-term or assisted living facilities, screening staff at health authority sites and other health sector capacity growth.

Our government will invest \$20 million for short-term training for in-demand jobs to support both workers and employers. Training will help an estimated 2,800 people in sectors where there are skills shortages, to increase the chances that training will lead to employment opportunities. This includes training for positions in trades and construction, transportation and warehousing, technology, health and education, mining and forestry.

The plan also invests over \$10 million for targeted training in health and human services, including one-time seats for 600 health care assistants, 180 early childhood educators, and 80 community mental health workers. This builds on and supports other provincial strategies to expand the capacity of the child-care sector, healthcare and mental health system.

Our government will also be introducing micro-credentials in B.C. as part of the plan to help accelerate economic recovery. Micro-credentials are targeted, short-term, formally recognized courses outside of traditional certification or diploma programs that are specially designed to

be responsive to labour market needs and target high-demand areas. This will provide up to 2,000 British Columbians with quick, cost-effective and efficient access to high quality education and good jobs within the first year of implementation.

The plan also contains targeted job creation and training investments to support populations that have traditionally faced barriers to the labour market, which were exacerbated by Covid-19. This includes \$15 million for a one-time expansion to the Indigenous Community Skills Training Program opportunities, which will benefit up to 1,250 unemployed Indigenous people based on priorities identified by Indigenous communities. Skills training funding is available to 203 First Nations, Métis Nation BC, and BC's Aboriginal Friendship Centre network. We will also invest \$20 million to support people with disabilities or multiple persistent barriers with temporary work placements and additional employment counsellors.

Our government is also providing over \$49 million to support job creation opportunities and rural economic development, including in the forestry sector. This includes:

- Expanding and adapting the regional business liaison program to help rural economic development;
- Providing additional funding to the Community Resiliency Investment program to reduce wildfire risk while creating over 500 jobs in rural communities;
- Expanding the Early Retirement Bridging Program and the Forest Employment Program (FEP) to the coastal forest region which will create up to 785 new jobs by helping to transition near-retirement workers and generating new forest projects – both of which help to create new job opportunities for younger workers; and,
- Creation of approximately 60 youth employment opportunities to help maintain outdoor spaces at BC Parks and provincial recreation sites and trails.

Our government recognizes that many of the recovery measures – particularly ones focused on training – will need sustained investment to be effective. Therefore, jobs and training will remain a high priority for Budget 2021 with anticipated funding to continue to help people get ready and upskill for new jobs.

These job creation and recruitment measures complement the government's existing record infrastructure plan, which continues to create opportunities throughout the province. Projects in health care, education and advanced education, housing and the transportation sectors create jobs in construction and professional planning fields and also in emerging areas of the economy. This will include opportunities related to mass timber and energy efficiency in new and retrofitted schools, hospitals, and student housing projects. It is estimated that the Province's 10-year capital plan has the potential to stimulate an estimated 100,000 direct and indirect jobs over the life of the projects.

**StrongerBC**  
for everyone



# Safe Restart funding for Local Governments

Our government is providing \$270 million in matching funding towards a total \$540 million in federal/ provincial funding to help B.C. communities address local challenges impacted by COVID-19.

This funding will support local governments as they deal with increased operating costs and lower revenue due to COVID-19 and will ensure they can continue to deliver the services people depend on in their communities. Throughout the pandemic response, Premier John Horgan and Selina Robinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, have been in regular communication with representatives of all 189 local governments in B.C. Based on concerns raised by communities during these conversations, our government advocated strongly for funding to support the needs of local communities in discussions with the federal government.

The resulting Canada-BC Safe Restart Agreement is designed to support local governments in providing the services people count on, including new projects to address the impacts on communities of homelessness and take advantage of opportunities to improve the development approval process. Funding will be made available by early 2021, in three categories:

- ▶ **\$425 MILLION FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS** – to address local government facility reopening and operating costs, emergency response costs, lost revenues and other COVID-related impacts;
- ▶ **\$100 MILLION FOR STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES** – to support local governments in addressing the needs of vulnerable populations, the challenges posed in local communities by homelessness, and community concerns with street disorder and safety; and
- ▶ **\$15 MILLION FOR DEVELOPMENT SERVICES** – to continue the work identified through the Development Approvals Process Review (DAPR) and support innovative local government efforts to improve the efficiency of development approval processes.

The funding streams for Development Services and Strengthening Communities will be application-based. All local governments will be eligible to apply, and further details about the application process and eligible costs will be provided this fall.

There is no need for communities to apply for the Local Government funding stream as this money will be directly allocated by the Province based on an adjusted per-capita formula, similar to the Northern Capital and Planning Grant, designed to ensure that funding is sufficient to support smaller local governments as well as those with larger populations.