

EXCERPTS FROM THE THRONE SPEECH of Interest to Local Government

Of the following excerpts of interest to local government, the sections related to affordable housing and supportive housing are of particular interest as follow-up steps to the Premier's UBCM Address.

FIVE MAJOR ELEMENTS TO THRONE SPEECH

- To lead Canada in partnership with First Nations.
- To tackle the challenges of global warming and unplanned urban sprawl.
- To increase affordable housing, reduce homelessness, and help those who cannot help themselves.
- To improve quality, choice, and accountability in our two most important public services — education and health care.
- To open up Canada's Pacific Gateway and strengthen our economic competitiveness.

These are the elements of the Pacific Leadership Agenda.

AFFORDABLE AND SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Your government believes municipal governments with populations greater than 25,000 should identify and **zone appropriate sites for supportive housing and treatment facilities** for persons with mental illnesses and addictions in official community plans by 2008.

Changes will be developed to existing

funding and transfer payments to ensure **integrated regional transportation and housing planning**.

We will encourage local government to **exempt small-unit, supportive housing projects from development cost charges and levies**.

A new assessment class and new tax

exemptions for small-unit, supportive housing will be developed over the next year for this legislature's consideration.

This government wishes to add to housing stock while reducing housing costs and reducing the environmental **footprint of sprawling communities**.

Urban sprawl puts pressure on our limited land base and increases servicing costs for property taxpayers for new roads, bridges, and rapid transit; for sewage and water services; and for increased energy and transmission.

Larger lots, larger homes, excessive fees, and longer time frames have pushed home prices beyond the economic reach of too many. Economic costs have increased and so have environmental ones.

Working with the Union of British Columbia Municipalities and the private sector the government will **develop new incentives to encourage smaller lot** sizes and smaller, more energy efficient homes that use less land, less energy, less water, and are less expensive to own.

CLIMATE CHANGE

This government will firmly establish British Columbia standards for action on climate change.

It will aim to reduce B.C.'s **greenhouse gas emissions** by at least 33 per cent below current levels by 2020.

This will place British Columbia's greenhouse gas emissions at 10 per cent under 1990 levels by 2020.

Interim targets will be set for 2012 and 2016.

The soon-to-be released new climate action and energy plans will be complemented by an air quality improvement initiative.

Clearly there is a limit to what can be credibly accomplished within any given period of time.

A Climate Action Team will be established. Working with First Nations, other governments, industries, environmental organizations, and the scientific community it will determine the most credible, aggressive, and economically viable sector targets possible for 2012 and 2016. The Climate Action Team will also be asked to identify practicable options and actions for making the government of British Columbia carbon neutral by 2010.

Other Climate Change Measures

Effective immediately, British Columbia will become the first jurisdiction in North America, if not the world, to require 100 per cent carbon sequestration for any **coal-fired project**.

That means no greenhouse gas emissions will be permitted for coal-fired electricity projects anywhere in British Columbia.

Trees infested by the **mountain pine beetle** will be used to create new clean energy. Wood chips and other wood waste will be better utilized to produce clean power.

Beehive burners will be eliminated in

British Columbia.

Legislation will be developed over the next year to phase in new requirements for **methane capture in our landfills**, the source of about nine per cent of B.C.'s greenhouse gas emissions.

That methane can and should be used for clean energy.

Electronic tolls will help restrain traffic growth and transit funding will work in concert with decisions to increase densities, reduce sprawl, and reduce costs.

New measures will be implemented to encourage and dramatically increase **local transit alternatives**.

A new \$25-million **Innovative Clean Energy Fund** will be established to encourage the commercialization of alternative energy solutions and new solutions for clean remote energy that can solve many challenges we face right here in B.C.

Green Building Code

A new unified B.C. Green Building Code will be developed over the next year with industry, professional, and community representatives.

Incentives will be implemented to retrofit existing homes and buildings to make them more energy efficient.

Forest Fire Risk Reduction

Changes will be introduced to strengthen forest stewardship and reduce the **risk of forest fires**.

Other amendments will improve forest health, encourage better utilization of beetle-killed timber and salvage fiber, and strengthen actions against those who damage our forest or range resources.

GREEN CITIES PROJECT

The new Green Cities Project will foster innovations that reduce our imprint on the planet through **sustainable community planning**.

New measures will be developed to promote "urban forestry" and new **community gardens**.

These are just part of the Green Cities Project.

The **Green City Awards** will recognize B.C.'s most environmentally friendly communities.

MINERAL EXPLORATION ACCESS

Several amendments will be introduced this session to enhance mineral exploration and to also **afford private property owners new rights of notice** before any person can enter their land for mineral exploration.

RESORT DEVELOPMENT

New legislation will be tabled to facilitate resort development and establish new resort municipalities that open up our Pacific potential in tourism.