



Throne Speech 2011

The Fourth Session, 39th Parliament of the Government of British Columbia was opened earlier today with the Speech from the Throne delivered by the Hon. Steven L. Point, Lieutenant Governor.

The following excerpts reference topics of interest to local governments in BC:

Municipal Auditor General

Openness and transparency is important for all levels of government. Your government will be introducing legislation to create an office of the Municipal Auditor General.

The Municipal Auditor General will support existing open and transparent processes, be a resource for local government and ensure the public knows they are getting value for their tax dollars.

RCMP Contract Negotiations

And the government is committed to good faith negotiations with the federal government with respect to the RCMP contract in British Columbia.

Ferry Commissioner Report

We also await a report on the operations of B.C. Ferries from the Ferry Commissioner. The government's response to the Commissioner's report will be informed by consultations and engagement with coastal communities.

\$30 Million for Community Recreational Infrastructure

B.C.'s recreational facilities are important to families and healthy lifestyles. The government is making a \$30 million investment to communities around B.C. to improve their recreational infrastructure. Recreational facilities are more than just bricks and mortar — they are where communities come together.

Commitment to Evergreen Line Funding

Transit is also fundamental to connecting our citizens. Communities north of the Fraser River have been waiting too long for the development of the Evergreen Line SkyTrain extension.

Your government is committing \$583 million to funding the Evergreen Line, which will relieve congestion, improve air quality and link Port Moody and Coquitlam to the SkyTrain system. Over 8,000 direct and indirect jobs will be created during construction.

B.C. is ready to build and we await the decision of the Mayors' Council to confirm its share of the funding.

Local Government Role in Pacific Gateway

The second pillar of The BC Jobs Plan is making sure the right connections are in place through investments in smart infrastructure. Building Canada's Pacific Gateway will continue to be a massive project performed hand-in-hand with local governments and with the federal government.

Building Canada Partnership

We will sustain our partnership through continued investment with the federal government's Building Canada Fund, and work with them to design future infrastructure improvement programs.

Off Reserve Aboriginal Action Plan

The government will work with Aboriginal partners, the federal government and local governments to develop an off-reserve Aboriginal action plan to achieve better education and job training, healthier family life, and strengthened cultures and traditions.