

Second Report
Second Session, 43rd Parliament

Report on the
**BUDGET
2027
CONSULTATION**

Select Standing Committee
on Finance and Government Services

August 2026



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
of BRITISH COLUMBIA



August 11, 2026

To the Honourable the
Legislative Assembly of the
Province of British Columbia

Honourable Members:

I have the honour to present herewith the Second Report of the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services for the Second Session of the 43rd Parliament. This report covers the Committee's work in regard to the Budget 2027 Consultation as approved by the Committee.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Committee,

Paul Choi, MLA
Chair

CONTENTS

Composition of the Committee	4
Terms of Reference	5
Executive Summary	6
Consultation Overview	9
Budgetary and Fiscal Policy	12
Children and Youth	17
Culture, Tourism, and Sport	23
Environment and Parks	27
Health Care	34
Housing, Local Government, and Libraries	52
Infrastructure, Economic Growth, and Labour	60
K-12 Education	67
Natural Resources and Energy	73
Post-Secondary Education and Skills Training	80
Public Safety, Justice, and Emergency Preparedness	86
Social Services	95
Transportation and Transit	103
Summary of Recommendations	107
Appendix A: Consultation Participants	111

COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE

MEMBERS

Paul Choi, MLA, [Chair](#)
Burnaby South-Metrotown

Donegal Wilson, MLA, [Deputy Chair](#)
Boundary-Similkameen

Rohini Arora, MLA
Burnaby East

Steve Morissette, MLA (*to March 31, 2026*)
Kootenay-Monashee

Bryan Tepper, MLA
Surrey-Panorama

Qwulti'stunaat / Debra Toporowski, MLA (*from March 31, 2026*)
Cowichan Valley

COMMITTEE STAFF

Darryl Hol, Committee Clerk

Katey Stickle, Senior Research Analyst

Natalie Beaton, Committee Research Analyst

Jared Brown, Committee Research Analyst

Mary Heeg, Committee Research Analyst

Hanna Kim, Committee Researcher

Danielle Migeon, Committee Researcher

Alexa Neufeld, Parliamentary Committees Officer

Sean Morgado, Committees Coordinator

Kayla Wilson, Committees Coordinator

TERMS OF REFERENCE

On February 19, 2026, the Legislative Assembly agreed that the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services be empowered to exercise oversight of each of the following statutory officers: Auditor General, Chief Electoral Officer, Conflict of Interest Commissioner, Human Rights Commissioner, Information and Privacy Commissioner and Registrar of Lobbyists, Merit Commissioner, Ombudsperson, Police Complaint Commissioner, and Representative for Children and Youth. This includes:

1. considering and making recommendations on the annual reports, rolling three-year service plans, budgets, and any other matters respecting the effective and efficient administration of each statutory office;
2. inquiring into and making recommendations with respect to other matters brought to the Committee's attention by a statutory officer; and
3. considering and making decisions regarding the terms and conditions of employment of each statutory officer arising as a request of a statutory officer during their term of appointment.

That the Committee be designated as the Committee referred to in sections 6, 7, 19, 20, 21 and 23 of the *Auditor General Act* (S.B.C. 2003, c. 2) and that the report in section 22 of the Auditor General Act (S.B.C. 2003, c. 2) be referred to the Committee.

That the Committee be designated as the Committee referred to in sections 47.02 and 47.03 of the *Human Rights Code* (R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 210).

That the Committee be designated as the Committee referred to in section 3 of the *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act* (S.B.C. 2000, c. 23).

That the Committee be designated as the Committee referred to in section 21 of the *Economic Stabilization (Tariff Response) Act* (S.B.C. 2025, c. 11).

That, in addition to the powers previously conferred upon the Select Standing Committees of the House, the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services be empowered to:

1. appoint of its number one or more subcommittees and to refer to such subcommittees any of the matters referred to the Committee and to delegate to the subcommittees all or any of its powers except the power to report directly to the House;
2. sit during a period in which the House is adjourned, during the recess after prorogation until the next following Session and during any sitting of the House;
3. conduct consultations by any means the Committee considers appropriate;
4. adjourn from place to place as may be convenient; and
5. retain personnel as required to assist the Committee.

That the Committee report to the House as soon as possible; and that during a period of adjournment, the Committee deposit its reports with the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, and upon resumption of the sittings of the House, or in the next following Session, as the case may be, the Chair present all reports to the House.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services (the Committee) conducts an annual consultation on the upcoming provincial budget. British Columbians were invited to share their priorities for Budget 2027 between June 1 and June 19, 2026. The Committee received written input and held 16 public hearings across the province.

During the consultation period, the Committee received 387 presentations and 1,102 written submissions. The Committee acknowledges the significant input received from British Columbians, which reflected a broad range of priorities and needs across the province. Members extend their appreciation to the many organizations, communities, and individuals who took the time to participate in the consultation process and share their perspectives.

This report includes a comprehensive summary of the input shared by British Columbians during the consultation, the Committee's discussions which led to its recommendations, and the Committee's 81 recommendations. The report is organized by themes which are presented in alphabetical order; the numbering of recommendations does not indicate priority.

The Committee recognizes the challenging fiscal circumstances facing BC and the difficult decisions required to balance growing demands for public services, infrastructure, and affordability supports with responsible financial management. Members reflected on four overarching priorities: planning for the future through strategic and upstream investments, enabling sustainable economic growth, supporting communities and sector capacity through stable long-term investments, and maintaining the core services that British Columbians rely on.

Through its recommendations, the Committee seeks to identify key priorities for the next fiscal year based on the input it received through its consultation. Members anticipate that government will continue to work with the necessary sectors and organizations on how best to implement these recommendations in Budget 2027.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

The Committee recognizes the importance of planning ahead to address future challenges and reduce costs over the long term. Members emphasize the value of strategic and upstream investments, early action, and preventative measures that improve long-term outcomes and help avoid more costly interventions in the future.

Members highlight the importance of forward-looking public infrastructure planning. In particular, the Committee recommends the development of a ten-year infrastructure plan to guide future investments by both government and the private sector. Members also emphasize the importance of investing in transportation and local infrastructure to support future population growth, facilitate the movement of goods and people, and strengthen long-term economic development throughout the province.

In health care, the Committee recommends targeted investments in disease prevention, including expanding access to vaccines and immunization programs. Members also emphasize the importance of helping seniors age at home and accelerating the development of long-term care capacity to address the needs of a growing and aging population.

Members further highlight the importance of long-term planning across a range of sectors, including the development of a strategic plan for BC's arts and culture sector and a multi-year strategy to expand public transit connections between regional hubs and rural and remote communities, helping to improve accessibility, connectivity, and economic opportunities throughout the province. The Committee also identifies opportunities for upstream investments to help prevent youth homelessness and reduce poverty over the long term.

Regarding emergency preparedness, the Committee emphasizes the need to strengthen resilience through preparedness and risk-reduction measures. Members call for the implementation of the BC Flood Strategy, investments to reduce wildfire risks, and the renewal of the Local Government

Climate Action Program, recognizing the importance of mitigating future costs and protecting communities.

ENABLING ECONOMIC GROWTH

The Committee emphasizes the importance of fostering economic growth and attracting investment to support BC's long-term prosperity and economic resilience. Members call for measures to strengthen the province's competitiveness and build greater economic independence by creating conditions that encourage business development, private sector investment, and job creation across a range of industries. The Committee further recognizes that sustained economic growth helps generate government revenues needed to maintain public services, invest in critical infrastructure, and address emerging provincial priorities.

The Committee highlights the importance of maintaining a competitive regulatory and tax environment that supports business growth, investment, and employment while preserving public confidence and accountability. Members recommend measures to improve competitiveness, including a regulatory reduction strategy, a review of certain Provincial Sales Tax policies, and a "Buy BC" procurement approach to support domestic production and local businesses.

Members also identify opportunities to strengthen resource-based economic development by improving permitting and regulatory processes, supporting First Nations' capacity to participate in project reviews, and reviewing forest tenure arrangements to ensure they are meeting their intended objectives. The Committee notes opportunities to support emerging and high-growth industries through investments in sectors such as quantum computing and policies that encourage the growth, retention, and commercialization of technology companies in BC.

Members further emphasize the importance of long-term workforce planning to ensure British Columbians have the skills needed to meet current and future labour market demands. Recommendations include improving alignment between post-secondary education and labour market needs, addressing barriers within immigration and international student systems, and strengthening supports that help immigrants and refugees integrate into BC's workforce.

Finally, the Committee notes the importance of sound fiscal management as a driver of economic growth and investment. Members recommend a disciplined fiscal framework that

includes targeted spending reviews, transparent reporting, clear fiscal objectives, and measures aimed at improving the province's long-term financial sustainability.

SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES AND SECTOR CAPACITY

The Committee acknowledges the importance of supporting communities and building the capacity of different sectors through stable, predictable, multi-year investments that support long-term planning, organizational stability, and effective service delivery.

Members highlight the need to strengthen communities through investments in housing, public infrastructure, and local institutions. Recommendations include supporting the development of attainable housing, increasing funding for public libraries, and strengthening accountability and oversight mechanisms for local governments.

The Committee recognizes the critical services provided by social service and not for profit organizations, and supports multi-year funding agreements that provide greater certainty, reduce administrative burden, and strengthen service delivery. The Committee also highlights the importance of long-term investments in agriculture to support food security, economic development, and the sector's long-term competitiveness and resilience.

To ensure a strong and sustainable post-secondary sector, Members highlight the need to ensure post-secondary institutions, particularly those serving rural and remote communities, have sufficient resources to address rising costs while supporting local and regional workforce needs. The Committee also underscores the importance of maintaining the Tuition Limit Policy to ensure affordability and predictability for domestic students.

The Committee recognizes the importance of strengthening fish and wildlife conservation efforts and addressing the growing threat of invasive species. Members emphasize increasing dedicated conservation funding and directing revenues toward conservation initiatives. The Committee further highlights the need for stable core funding for invasive species operations, education, and awareness, alongside strengthened regulatory oversight, performance measurement, and enforcement.

MAINTAINING CORE SERVICES

The Committee recognizes the importance of maintaining and stabilizing core public services across BC, particularly in a challenging fiscal environment. Members note that requests for additional funding were received across virtually every sector, reflecting growing demands on public services, infrastructure, and community supports throughout the province. The Committee emphasizes the need to prioritize investments that maintain essential services while supporting long-term sustainability and positive outcomes for British Columbians.

In health care, Members emphasize maintaining and expanding access to timely, high-quality care. Recommendations focus on strengthening health services throughout the province, increasing access for seniors and rural communities, addressing capacity pressures, reducing wait times, and supporting both preventative health initiatives and critical infrastructure investments.

The Committee emphasizes the importance of stable, long-term investments in services that support children, youth, and families. Members highlight the need for sustainable operational and capital funding for licensed childcare programs to support families and workforce participation, as well as improved coordination among service providers when responding to cases of child and youth abuse. The Committee also notes ongoing pressures facing the K-12 education system and advocates for revising education funding models to better reflect actual costs, increasing classroom supports, particularly in primary classrooms, and accelerating capital approvals and investments in school infrastructure to ensure safe and functional learning environments for students.

In public safety, the Committee emphasizes the need to address capacity pressures across the justice system to meet growing demand and respond effectively to complex community needs. Members call for measures to strengthen the capacity and effectiveness of public safety and justice institutions through investments in workforce capacity and modernized systems. The Committee also emphasizes the importance of coordinated planning and accountability across housing, justice, health, and community-based services to support integrated responses to intimate partner violence.

CONCLUSION

Despite ongoing fiscal and economic pressures, the Committee recognizes the importance of maintaining essential services while supporting long-term growth and resilience. The input received throughout the consultation process highlighted a broad range of priorities across the province. The Committee's recommendations reflect a shared emphasis on planning for the future through upstream investments, enabling sustainable economic growth, supporting strong and resilient communities, and maintaining the core public services that British Columbians rely on. Members also recognize that sustainable economic growth is critical to generating the revenues needed to support public services, infrastructure, and community wellbeing.

CONSULTATION OVERVIEW

BACKGROUND

The *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act* requires the Minister of Finance to publish an annual budget consultation paper outlining the main issues to be considered in preparing the next provincial budget. The paper must be referred to a select standing committee of the Legislative Assembly, which is responsible for carrying out a consultation and reporting on its results. The Legislative Assembly has assigned this duty to the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services.

BUDGET CONSULTATION PAPER

The *Budget 2027 Consultation Paper* was released on May 11, 2026 and highlighted the provincial government's efforts to strengthen BC's economic independence while addressing current economic uncertainty. The paper identified government's priorities, including safeguarding critical services, investing in BC's future, updating the tax system, building sustainable capital plans, managing government expenses, and making safer communities. The paper also highlighted initiatives tied to these priorities, emphasizing government's ongoing work as well as its planned actions to address identified issues. The paper sought input from British Columbians on priorities for the 2027 provincial budget and how government can build a stronger future.

MINISTER OF FINANCE BRIEFING

On May 26, 2026, the Minister of Finance, the Honourable Brenda Bailey, appeared before the Committee to present the *Budget 2027 Consultation Paper*. In her remarks, the Minister highlighted the importance of the Committee's consultation as a key democratic process for hearing directly from British Columbians regarding the upcoming budget and as a tool for shaping informed and responsive government. The Minister also noted the economic uncertainty the province faces, such as ongoing trade tensions with the United States and geopolitical instability affecting global energy supply chains.

She highlighted the importance of strengthening economic resilience and pursuing new opportunities within BC.

The Minister provided an overview of Budget 2026, stating that major priorities included funding services that people rely on and creating prosperity across BC. She further outlined investments in workforce development, such as increased funding for skilled trades training and support for highly qualified professionals. In addition, the Minister stated that Budget 2026 included a range of supports for business and industry, and funding for infrastructure with a capital plan supporting the construction and expansion of schools, hospitals, transportation systems, and student housing. To address fiscal pressures, the Minister explained that Budget 2026 introduced targeted revenue measures and expenditure management measures, such as reducing the size of the broader public sector workforce.

The Minister ended her presentation with an emphasis that government seeks to balance economic growth with the protection of essential services. She reaffirmed government's commitment to continued investment in core services and encouraged British Columbians to participate in the Committee's consultation to help inform the next provincial budget.

In response to questions from the Committee regarding the focus of the Budget 2027 consultation, the Minister answered that while many people approach government seeking additional funding, current fiscal constraints mean the focus must be on understanding public priorities, identifying tradeoffs, and finding inefficiencies so existing resources can be used more effectively. The Minister highlighted the importance of hearing directly from citizens and underscored the value of the Committee's work, and shared her Ministry's commitment to carefully review the Committee's report.

CONSULTATION PROCESS

The Committee's public consultation was held from June 1 to June 19, 2026. During this time, British Columbians were

invited to provide input by appearing before the Committee at a public hearing or submitting written input. Participants were asked to focus their input on up to three recommendations for the next provincial budget.

Various approaches were used to encourage participation in the consultation, including media releases, radio and podcast advertisements, advertisements in local newspapers, online and social media advertisements, social media outreach, and direct engagement with Members of the Legislative Assembly, constituency offices, and other stakeholders.



The Committee received requests to present from over 500 organizations and individuals and was able to accommodate 387 presentations at its public hearings. Public hearings were held in a hybrid format with presenters appearing via Zoom videoconferencing and in-person in Victoria, Vancouver, Burnaby, Kelowna, Castlegar, Cranbrook, Kamloops, Prince George, Dawson Creek, Smithers, Mission, and Nanaimo. In addition to the presentations, the Committee received 1,102 written submissions.



A list of organizations and individuals that participated in the consultation is available in Appendix A.

MEETING SCHEDULE

2nd Session, 43rd Parliament

February 25, 2026	Planning
April 24, 2026	Planning
May 26, 2026	Presentation of the <i>Budget 2027 Consultation Paper</i>
June 1, 2026	Public Hearing (Victoria)
June 2, 2026	Public Hearing (Victoria)
June 3, 2026	Public Hearing (Victoria)
June 4, 2026	Public Hearing (Victoria)
June 5, 2026	Public Hearing (Victoria)
June 8, 2026	Public Hearing (Vancouver)
June 9, 2026	Public Hearing (Burnaby)
June 15, 2026	Public Hearing (Kelowna)
June 15, 2026	Public Hearing (Castlegar)
June 16, 2026	Public Hearing (Cranbrook)
June 16, 2026	Public Hearing (Kamloops)
June 17, 2026	Public Hearing (Prince George)
June 17, 2026	Public Hearing (Dawson Creek)
June 18, 2026	Public Hearing (Smithers)
June 18, 2026	Public Hearing (Mission)
June 19, 2026	Public Hearing (Nanaimo)
July 14, 2026	Deliberations
July 14, 2026	Deliberations
July 15, 2026	Deliberations
July 22, 2026	Deliberations
July 23, 2026	Deliberations
July 29, 2026	Deliberations
July 30, 2026	Deliberations; Adoption of Report



BUDGETARY AND FISCAL POLICY

BUDGETARY POLICY

The Committee received a large volume of input related to balancing the budget and reducing provincial debt. Many participants recommended reducing government spending, with some advocating for debt reduction over a specific period or reducing discretionary or contingency spending. Other participants recommended increasing revenue, creating jobs, and attracting investment. The Greater Langley Chamber of Commerce emphasized the importance of prioritizing how government spending is managed, and the economic impacts and uncertainty related to a large deficit, noting that debt servicing costs take money away from other initiatives. The BC Chamber of Commerce stated that a predictable, fiscally sustainable government is essential for business confidence. The organization emphasized that fiscal choices should reinforce long-term productivity and economic growth to align with the realities facing local job creators.

With respect to strategies for reducing spending, some participants advocated for comprehensive spending reviews, some indicated specific priority areas, and others urged for more responsive budgets and public consultation. Noting increases in operating and capital spending, the provincial debt, and debt-servicing costs, as well as decreases in the province's credit rating, the Business Council of British Columbia recommended government review operating spending. Participants highlighted spending priorities including health care, education, emergency services, transportation, and climate resilience. Generation Squeeze recommended monitoring the balance of spending across age groups, as well as the ratio of spending on social supports relative to health care, noting that social supports are the building blocks of health and wellbeing. One organization suggested better cross-government collaboration. The Christina Gateway Community Development Association noted that when a funding decision is made within a single ministry, it may create an unwanted negative impact on other areas. The organization emphasized the need for a more coordinated, whole-of-government approach to budgeting, which

evaluates the interconnected impacts, trade-offs, and long-term consequences of funding decisions, especially in rural communities.

Many participants highlighted a need for increased transparency with respect to government spending, with some noting that a lack of transparency contributes to distrust in public institutions. One participant called for a user-friendly public dashboard for all provincial spending that includes all ministry expenditures, procurement contracts, and discretionary grants within 30 days of payment. They stated that increasing transparency would reduce reliance on freedom of information requests. Other participants emphasized major projects, legislated accountability mechanisms, comprehensive evaluation frameworks, and timely reporting as areas for improvement.

PUBLIC SERVICE

The public service was a common theme across input related to fiscal policy, with several participants calling for a reduction in its size. The Committee heard a few recommendations to reduce compensation for both public servants and Members of the Legislative Assembly, with some calling for a wage freeze, and others for lower benefits. Conversely, a couple of participants advocated for an end to the hiring freeze in the public service and for more positions in statutory offices.

The Committee also heard about the need to improve administrative efficiencies within the public service. One participant expressed concern that public spending growth has not translated into improved service delivery, especially in health care. They called for reduced bureaucratic structures in all areas of government including hospital administration. Another participant pointed to duplication and redundancies in IT and software licensing that could be consolidated.

GENERAL TAXATION AND REGULATORY MEASURES

With respect to taxation, the Committee received many recommendations to cut taxes generally, with some participants advocating for reduced taxes for certain demographics including seniors, middle-income earners, and families. Other participants recommended broad tax reform. Highlighting the impact of tax increases on businesses, the Greater Vernon Chamber of Commerce recommended a comprehensive assessment of the cumulative tax impact on housing, construction, and commercial development. Similarly, the Kamloops & District Chamber of Commerce recommended establishing an independent commission to review the provincial taxation system. Noting concerns about affordability and the poverty rate, the BC Society for Policy Solutions recommended a number of tax reforms to reduce income and wealth inequality, increase provincial revenues, and ensure the public and First Nations get a fair return from the profits generated by natural resources, including convening a citizens' assembly on tax reform.

Several participants recommended increased taxes for wealthy individuals, with some outlining specific income or asset thresholds. Disability Action of Canada stated that wealth disparity should be addressed through measures such as tax incentives for wealthy individuals, targeted taxes on corporations, or financial transaction fees that would generate funding to reduce poverty and support disability income assistance. Similarly, East Kootenay Climate Hub noted that a wealth tax would help address increasing disparity by moving a modest share of extreme wealth into the public good.

The Committee also heard about industry specific impacts from taxes and policies. Restaurants Canada stated that labour-related policies have significantly increased restaurant operating costs in BC, where labour already represents a high share of revenues and profit margins are thin. The organization noted that targeted changes to employer-paid sick leave and the Employer Health Tax would give restaurants cost relief, support hiring and workforce participation, and help businesses reinvest in local economies.

Regarding regulations, some participants called for reducing the regulatory burden. Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters stated that manufacturers face a growing and often duplicative regulatory burden. The organization recommended adopting a formal regulatory reduction and competitiveness strategy that sets measurable reduction targets, accelerates

approvals, limits duplication, and requires assessment of the economic impact of new regulations on investment and competitiveness before they are implemented. With respect to the financial industry, Vancity recommended streamlining the regulatory approval processes for credit union mergers, noting that a simplified process for smaller credit unions joining with larger, well-capitalized partners would support the overall health of the credit union sector. Highlighting the negative impact of fragmented regulatory regimes on product offerings and operational efficiencies, Canadian Bankers Association recommended harmonizing key financial-sector requirements across Canada, including privacy obligations, consumer market conduct protections, over-the-counter derivatives participation fees, account transfer frameworks, and rules supporting credit union amalgamations. Fidelity Investments Canada ULC recommended updating securities regulations to make electronic delivery of investment-related information the default method of communication, rather than mail delivery, to improve customer service. The Committee also heard from an individual who recommended conducting a feasibility study on establishing a public bank in BC, similar to those that exist in other countries including France, Norway, and Japan. The individual suggested that this model could generate net benefits annually for the public sector through a combination of lower financing costs, retained earnings, and public purpose lending.

The Committee also received recommendations to expand ICBC's mandate into additional lines of insurance, while conversely receiving recommendations to end its monopoly on vehicle repair.

PROVINCIAL SALES TAX (PST)

The Committee received many recommendations related to the PST. Chartered Professional Accountants of British Columbia stated that the PST places the province at a competitive disadvantage by taxing business inputs without offering broad input tax credits, leading to higher costs, tax cascading, and reduced investment. The organization recommended reforming the sales tax system to a value-added tax model to improve neutrality, simplify administration, enhance competitiveness, and better align with best practices for modern tax systems. Tax Executive Institute specifically recommended replacing the PST with a harmonized sales tax. The organization stated that harmonization would reduce costs for businesses by eliminating tax cascading, lowering the cost of capital investment, and removing interprovincial trade barriers.

Several participants recommended pausing or reversing the expansion of the PST on professional services, with many noting that this will have a negative impact on businesses which are already facing increased costs. The Canadian Federation of Independent Business shared that 80 percent of businesses surveyed by the organization are opposed to this expansion and 72 percent are likely to pass the cost on to customers. Similarly, Building Owners and Managers Association of British Columbia stated that these changes will add significant costs to operating existing commercial buildings and cost increases will be passed on to tenants. The organization also noted that the changes will add administrative complexity and confusion around definitions and unclear expectations, noting that unlike other provinces such as Ontario, BC businesses cannot recover these costs through tax credits. The Electrical Contractors Association of BC stated that applying PST to items like engineering and architectural services will make it more expensive to build projects in BC, including for the public sector. Similarly, BC Real Estate Association stated that applying the PST to commercial real estate services will increase costs at every stage of housing development, reducing project feasibility, leading to project delay or cancellation, and limiting supply. YRB Management Corp. recommended that the expansion should exempt related parties from charging PST on services provided to members of a group under common ownership and who do not offer fee for services to unrelated parties. The organization stated that the expansion doesn't apply to employees who do accounting and payroll work for the company they work for, and that similar work performed by employees whose wages are billed to companies under common ownership is not materially different from that. Further, the organization added that if this exemption is not provided, the accounting and payroll work it does for its companies will become seven percent more costly, but competitors who do this work as a single company will experience no change.

Some participants recommended changes to the PST with respect to car sales and vehicle rentals. The New Car Dealers of British Columbia noted that the luxury tax on new vehicles has remained at \$55,000 for 20 years, while the average vehicle price is now \$66,000. The organization recommended eliminating the luxury tax on vehicles or modernizing the policy to ensure it applies only to true luxury vehicles. Both the Associated Canadian Car Rental Operators and Enterprise Mobility recommended exempting short-term car rentals from the Provincial Sales Tax Bulletin 116, which they stated applies the luxury vehicle tax to these rentals. Turo, a car-sharing

platform where people provide access to their personal vehicles, noted that when a host purchases a vehicle, they pay PST on that purchase, but when a large rental company purchases a vehicle, they do not. The organization stated that closing this loophole would level the playing field between car rental companies and average Canadians and could yield \$100 million in tax revenue.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

With respect to Indigenous Peoples and reconciliation, the Committee heard from a few participants who supported funding related to Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act as well as from others who were opposed to the legislation and related funding. The Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs stated that effective implementation of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act depends on First Nations governments and organizations participating fully in legislative alignment, policy development, governance initiatives, and government-to-government decision-making processes. The organization noted that the Declaration Act Engagement Fund provides important support to First Nations in BC; however, demand exceeds available resources, and without renewed investment, many Nations will continue to face barriers to participating in implementation efforts. Similarly, Kelly Lake Métis Settlement Society stated that without dedicated capacity, Métis communities cannot participate equally in consultation, recognition, or government-to-government processes. The organization stated that a \$3 million investment would support the governance, research, legal, policy, and community capacity it needs for meaningful rights-based dialogue.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

Reflecting on the input received during the consultation, the Committee noted that the recommendations put forward exceed available government resources, highlighting the need for disciplined spending, clear priorities, and a focus on ensuring taxpayers receive value for money. The Committee acknowledged that communities want future spending to prioritize core public services while addressing affordability pressures facing British Columbians. Members discussed the importance of examining the full range of factors that influence the cost of living, exploring sustainable revenue options, and supporting economic growth through measures such as attracting international investment to help maintain service levels and strengthen the province's fiscal capacity.

The Committee highlighted the need for coordination in budgetary policy, discussing the benefits of taking a coordinated approach to budgeting and decision-making across government, including considering both financial and community impacts. Members highlighted the importance of using cross-ministry data to support decisions, planning for long-term costs and benefits, and ensuring programs are delivering the intended results. Members also emphasized the importance of regular spending reviews and implementing mechanisms to ensure investments are achieving intended outcomes. The Committee discussed the need for outcome-based funding models and evaluations of major investments, especially for multi-year funding agreements, to improve accountability, effectiveness, and long-term planning.

Regarding the public service, the Committee acknowledged the importance of the continued reduction of the provincial bureaucracy. Committee Members emphasized that these reductions should not impact positions responsible for core front-line service delivery.

The Committee noted that several participants highlighted a need for greater transparency regarding government spending and decision making. Committee Members suggested that increased transparency could support efforts to reduce spending, improve government efficiency, and optimize the use of public funds. Committee Members acknowledged that some government data is publicly available online but noted that it is not necessarily easy for people to search for specific information within documents. As such, the Committee agreed that a user-friendly single access point would improve the user experience and make it easier for people to search for and find information, including ministry expenditures, procurement contracts, and discretionary grants. Members also emphasized the importance of proactive data sharing to improve transparency, noting that this would help to reduce the need for freedom of information requests.

Turning to taxation and regulatory measures, the Committee emphasized the need to review the provincial taxation system through an independent examination of current tax policies and proposed reforms, with a focus on effectiveness, efficiency, and consultation with affected sectors. Further, the Committee agreed on the need for a strategy to cut red tape that sets measurable reduction targets, accelerates approvals, limits duplication, and requires the economic impact of new regulations on investment and competitiveness to be assessed before they are implemented. Reflecting on input

from financial institutions, the Committee considered the positive impacts of harmonizing financial-sector requirements with other Canadian jurisdictions and removing unnecessary administrative obstacles to business activity, noting that these changes could improve productivity, competitiveness, and economic resilience. Also regarding interprovincial barriers, some Members highlighted the benefits of waiving the out-of-province vehicle inspection requirement for newer passenger vehicle rental cars being re-plated in BC. The Committee also noted the benefits of exploring new ways to fund public projects, including evaluating the feasibility of establishing a provincial public bank.

The Committee acknowledged repeated input from many participants on the expansion of the PST to certain professional services. Members reflected on concerns raised by businesses across several sectors who stated that the expansion would negatively impact them and how increased costs from the expansion would be ultimately passed on to consumers. The Committee also discussed how this may affect the treatment of accounting, bookkeeping, and payroll services provided between related entities. Members highlighted that exempting services provided within groups under common ownership, where the service provider does not offer services to external clients, could reduce administrative burden, simplify tax compliance, and better align tax policy with internal business operations.

Reflecting on input related to taxation on vehicles, the Committee highlighted that the luxury vehicle tax no longer reflects the current market for new vehicles and re-emphasized its recommendation from its *Report on the Budget 2026 Consultation* to raise the threshold of that tax, highlighting that this would help to improve affordability for British Columbians. Further, the Committee discussed the possible benefits of targeting a luxury tax to other luxury consumer items. Regarding rental vehicles, the Committee recognized the need to simplify taxes related to the initial purchase and rental costs, and noted the need to close the tax loophole that exempts car rental agencies from PST on vehicle purchases.

The Committee acknowledged receiving several submissions expressing anti-Indigenous sentiment, including objections related to the uncertainty around implementation of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*. Committee Members reiterated the importance of working together with Indigenous groups to ensure economic prosperity for all British Columbians.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends to the Legislative Assembly that the provincial government:

1. Establish a strong fiscal plan that includes targeted spending reviews, clear deficit reduction targets, a declining debt-to-GDP ratio, and transparent reporting to spur economic growth.
2. Continue to reduce the size of the provincial public service, while maintaining front-line service delivery.
3. Increase transparency by creating a more user-friendly public access point for government data and expanding proactive disclosure of information.
4. Adopt a formal regulatory reduction and competitiveness strategy for BC.
5. Repeal the planned Provincial Sales Tax expansion to professional services to simplify and streamline taxation systems.
6. Raise the threshold of the luxury vehicle tax to better reflect the average price of vehicles.
7. Revise Provincial Sales Tax treatment for vehicle rentals by closing existing tax exemptions and applying a flat seven per cent Provincial Sales Tax based on the rental cost rather than the value of the vehicle.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

CHILD CARE AND EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

The Committee heard about the need for stable, predictable, and long-term funding to improve child care affordability and support the sustainability of the child care system. Many participants recommended increasing both operational and capital funding, maintaining affordability initiatives, supporting workforce recruitment and retention, and reducing financial pressures on child care providers. Core Education and Fine Arts Early Learning recommended providing long-term certainty for the Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative and maintaining equitable access to Early Childhood Educator Wage Enhancement Funding for all licensed providers. The organization noted that the Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative has played an important role in improving affordability for families while providing greater financial stability for operators. Other recommendations included increasing administrative funding flexibility for not for profit child care providers and expanding long-term funding, particularly in rural and high-demand communities.

The Committee also heard calls for continued progress toward a universal child care system that offers affordable fees and broad accessibility. Many organizations and individuals recommended increasing the number of \$10-a-day spaces, expanding access in underserved regions, ensuring sustainable funding, and improving workforce compensation. Proponents such as Huckleberry Coast Child noted that affordable child care generates broader economic benefits through increased employment, higher tax revenues, and higher consumer spending. The Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC and several individuals recommended applying a maximum fee of \$10-a-day for all publicly funded child care spaces and replacing existing funding streams with a single model aligned with the BC Early Learning Framework. Inclusion BC highlighted the importance of reducing waitlists and creating additional supported spaces, noting that many children with disabilities continue to face barriers in accessing \$10-a-day child care despite the long-term benefits of early childhood

development. International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees Local 168 stated that the current child care system is largely designed for families working standard daytime schedules and does not adequately serve workers with evening or weekend hours, and recommended establishing an affordable and comprehensive \$15-a-day child care system that includes access to extended-hour care. The Centre for Family Equity highlighted the need to ensure affordability for low-income families during the transition to a universal child care system and recommended maintaining and expanding the Affordable Child Care Benefit to ensure families living in poverty can access no-fee child care.

Workforce shortages were identified as one of the biggest barriers to expanding the child care system. Input commonly recommended establishing provincial wage standards, implementing wage grids that include benefits and pensions, expanding training capacity, and strengthening recruitment and retention efforts. The Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC argued that a provincial wage grid should replace current wage enhancements and specialization grants, noting that many child care spaces remain closed or operate below capacity because providers are unable to recruit or retain qualified educators. Childcare Leadership Group highlighted the need to expand pathways for immigrant and refugee women to enter and remain in the child care workforce. The organization identified unpaid practicums, limited mentorship opportunities, and barriers to credential recognition for workers trained elsewhere in Canada and internationally as significant challenges to be solved.

Another key theme was the expansion of child care services on school grounds. Multiple organizations and individuals, including BC School Trustees Association and CUPE Local 5101, supported increasing before and after school child care spaces on school property and providing school districts the mandate and sufficient resources to create local plans for the equitable expansion of child care based on community needs. The BC School Trustees Association noted that the costs of maintaining child care facilities in public schools are currently

borne by K-12 operating budgets and emphasized the need for a dedicated funding stream to support school-based child care.

The Committee also received some input supporting a greater role for public and not for profit child care delivery. The Fairfield Gonzales Community Association recommended implementing provincial limits on lease rates charged by school districts to third-party child care providers operating in district-owned facilities, noting it would provide greater cost predictability and support stable operations of child care facilities. Two organizations and two individuals recommended expanding child care through public infrastructure and increasing public and not for profit ownership. One individual explained that public infrastructure offers a cost-effective opportunity to increase child care capacity and recommended prioritizing public and not for profit child care expansion through schools and community facilities.

The Committee also heard about the importance of inclusive child care. Childcare Leadership Group described culturally inclusive child care as an environment that is supportive, welcoming, and responsive to immigrant and newcomer families, and advocated for culturally responsive approaches across the sector. Several individuals recommended additional supports for staff, inclusion training, and program development to improve access for children with disabilities and ensure more inclusive child care environments.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH SUPPORT NEEDS

The Committee received multiple recommendations regarding supports for children and youth with support needs, particularly the need to increase access to timely services, strengthen services for children and families, and reduce waitlists for early intervention programs. Some participants recommended expanding disability-related supports, enhancing family services, and increasing financial assistance for children and youth with support needs. Health Sciences Association of BC emphasized the importance of targeted investments to address workforce shortages and retain specialized professionals. The organization further noted that staffing shortages contribute to significant waitlists and highlighted the critical role of early intervention in improving outcomes. Similarly, BC Disability Collaborative and First Call Child and Youth Advocacy Society recommended increasing funding for early intervention services, with BC Disability Collaborative explaining that many disabled children and

youth continue to face exclusion from child care settings and schools because of insufficient access to staff with appropriate expertise. Fair Autism and Disability Funding BC highlighted barriers faced by rural and remote families, noting that community-based autism services are often unavailable in these communities due to limited programs and infrastructure. The organization recommended creating a dedicated rural funding stream that would include interim direct financial assistance for families alongside long-term investments in local service capacity. Additional recommendations included increasing funding for family support services that provide assistance before families require intensive interventions, and expanding funding for the Supported Child Development Program to eliminate or reduce waitlists.

The Committee also heard concerns regarding the implementation of the new funding approach for Children and Youth with Support Needs (CYSN) and the need to maintain continuity of services during the transition. The Family Support Institute of BC stated that many families continue to face challenges accessing services and expressed concern that some may lose access to supports as the province transitions to the new approach. The organization recommended increased investments to support the implementation of the new funding approach and ensure timely access to early intervention, respite, therapies, behavioural supports, navigation, and family preservation services. Speech and Hearing BC similarly emphasized the importance of preventing service disruptions during the transition period and recommended that speech language pathology and audiology services remain eligible for funding under the new needs-based model. Concerns related to autism funding and individualized funding arrangements were also raised in relation to the new funding approach. Monarch House recommended maintaining current autism funding and services until replacement pathways, assessment processes, and community service capacity are fully operational. Several individuals similarly recommended preserving individualized funding options and providing sufficient funding to Ministry of Children and Family Development to support individualized disability funding through the CYSN Disability Benefit.

Workforce capacity was identified by two organizations as another key area requiring attention. The Committee heard that shortages among professionals who support children and youth with disabilities are limiting access to services across the province. BC Disability Collaborative recommended increasing investments in the recruitment, training, and retention of

professionals who provide services to children, youth, and adults with disabilities. The organization stated that additional funding is needed for BC post-secondary institutions to expand enrolment in programs that prepare professionals in high-demand fields, including speech-language pathology, occupational therapy, physiotherapists, behaviour analysis, and sign language interpretation.

The Committee also received input regarding the need for specialized supports for children and youth with support needs, including mental health services and family supports. BC Disability Collaborative emphasized that mental health services for people with disabilities should be provided by professionals with expertise in disability and neurodiversity informed approaches. BC Complex Kids highlighted the importance of respite services for families raising children with medical complexity and advocated for increased CYSN respite funding to help families manage exhaustion, maintain their own health and wellbeing, and continue providing care. In addition, BC Complex Kids recommended extending eligibility under the Supported Child Development Program to age 19, rather than age 12, to provide greater continuity of services and support for families as children transition into adolescence and young adulthood.

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Multiple organizations and individuals provided input regarding youth mental health, highlighting the need to expand community-based and early intervention services and reduce barriers to accessing care. The Victoria Youth Empowerment Society recommended increasing funding for safe, low-barrier youth spaces that provide integrated access to wraparound services and connect young people to a broader continuum of care. Similarly, Take a Hike Youth Mental Health Foundation advocated for greater investment in community-based youth mental health treatment programs to address the gap between brief early interventions and hospital-based crisis care. The Foundation emphasized that sustained, relationship-based models can help fill this service gap and contribute to improved long-term outcomes, including increased lifetime earnings, reduced homelessness, lower rates of substance use, and reduced demand on the health care system. Similarly, one individual highlighted the potential value of tax relief measures for families to help offset the costs for school-aged children to participate in extra-curricular activities, such as arts, music, science, and sports programs. Additionally, Cornerstone Youth Society highlighted the need

to increase the number of dedicated youth substance use treatment beds, including both voluntary and involuntary care options. The organization highlighted that demand for youth involuntary care spaces exceeds current capacity, leaving many youth and families with limited treatment options.

The Committee also received recommendations related to the expansion and maintenance of existing youth mental health programs. The Canadian Mental Health Association – Cowichan Valley Branch called for increased investment in early intervention mental health services for young people, including enhanced funding for counselling supports at the Mischa Lelum Emergency Shelter and Youth Centre. Dan’s Legacy advocated for funding to support no-barrier youth mental health counselling services, particularly its virtual counselling programs that serve youth in remote and underserved communities. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Victoria Capital Region identified mentoring as an important component of youth mental health and wellbeing strategies and recommended expanding evidence-based mentoring programs throughout British Columbia. Kids Help Phone raised concerns about the increasing exposure of children and youth to harmful online content through social media platforms and emerging generative artificial intelligence tools. The organization recommended establishing an online safety framework to strengthen platform accountability and reduce young people’s exposure to harmful content, exploitation, and misinformation.

Another priority area identified by multiple participants was support for children and youth affected by abuse. Organizations and individuals such as Tree House Vancouver Children Advocacy Centre and Safe Kids and Youth Coordinated Response emphasized the need for a more coordinated response across government services and community agencies, as well as a need for stable and reliable funding. BC Network of Child and Youth Advocacy Centres explained that the current child abuse response system is often fragmented, requiring children to repeatedly recount traumatic experiences while families navigate multiple services with limited coordination. Similarly, the Victoria Child Abuse Prevention and Counselling Centre noted that existing funding is often restricted to cases involving sexual abuse, leaving many children who have experienced other forms of abuse without access to appropriate supports.

HOMELESSNESS AND POVERTY

The Committee received substantial input regarding youth homelessness and poverty, with organizations emphasizing the importance of prevention and early intervention. BGC Okanagan noted that the Upstream Kelowna pilot project is an early intervention model that focuses on identifying risk early and providing targeted supports for young persons before they become homeless. The organization explained that the Upstream project has been successfully operating as a pilot at three schools in Kelowna and recommended funding to expand the project across the entire school district. Threshold Housing Society recommended the development of a provincial youth homelessness prevention strategy, emphasizing that preventing homelessness among youth can have lifelong benefits, as experiencing homelessness during adolescence is a significant risk factor for homelessness in adulthood. Similarly, Family Services of Greater Vancouver highlighted the potential value of a dedicated youth housing plan that would direct BC Housing to expand supportive housing options tailored to young people. The organization suggested that increased access to supportive housing could help youth transition out of homelessness and avoid becoming entrenched in the adult homelessness system. Further, Cornerstone Youth Society advocated for a dedicated transitional and mixed-housing strategy within the Capital Regional District for at-risk youth and unhoused young adults. The organization explained that many young people are transitioning from government care or unstable family circumstances into independent adulthood and require stable housing and supports to do so successfully.

The Committee also heard some recommendations aimed at addressing child and youth poverty through enhanced income supports and targeted interventions. First Call Child and Youth Advocacy Society emphasized the need for targeted poverty reduction efforts for groups experiencing disproportionately high rates of poverty, including lone-parent families, youth leaving government care, Indigenous families, newcomer families, and families affected by disabilities. The organization recommended a range of measures, including direct income supports, higher minimum wages, rent controls, and accessible child care, to help reduce poverty and improve outcomes for children and youth.

Organizations including Inclusion BC and Dan's Legacy emphasized the value of investing in employment opportunities and skills development programs for young

people to prevent poverty and homelessness. Inclusion BC highlighted the importance of dedicated funding to support youth with intellectual disabilities in developing employment skills, building relationships, living independently, and participating fully in their communities. The organization stated that these supports can help young people achieve greater independence and play an active role in preventing poverty over the long term. Dan's Legacy similarly emphasized the importance of employment-related supports for vulnerable youth as part of broader efforts to improve economic stability and to reduce the risk of poverty.

NOT FOR PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Regarding not for profit organizations and community services, some participants noted the need to move away from short-term, project-based funding and toward stable, multi-year funding models that enable organizations to provide prevention and early intervention services, youth outreach programs, and newcomer supports. Multiple organizations emphasized that predictable funding is essential for maintaining service continuity, building organizational capacity, and responding effectively to community needs. Victoria Youth Empowerment Society highlighted the value of investing in youth workers and community-based prevention programs, explaining that these services help build trusted relationships with young people, support them in navigating challenges, and connect them to community resources and aid before issues escalate into crisis. Similarly, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Victoria Capital Region stated that investments in prevention are both fiscally responsible and socially beneficial, as community-based organizations are often able to identify emerging concerns and provide timely supports that improve outcomes for youth and their families. Family Services of Greater Victoria further noted that funding is also needed for administrative functions, cybersecurity, and technology infrastructure to ensure organizations can operate effectively and meet growing service demands.

CHILD PROTECTION

The Committee received input regarding children and youth in care, with multiple organizations emphasizing the need to strengthen supports for caregivers and ensure that financial assistance reflects the costs associated with caring for children and youth. The BC Foster Parents Association recommended

the creation of a Caregiver Support Network model to provide proactive assistance to caregivers and improve coordination across caregiving systems. The organization also emphasized the importance of ensuring equitable supports for kinship and family-based caregivers and recommended increasing maintenance payments for foster, kinship, kith, and out-of-care caregivers. Parent Support Services of BC recommended additional supports for kinship caregivers who are raising children outside the formal foster care system. The organization noted that relatives and other kinship caregivers often play a critical role in maintaining stability and preventing further disruption in children's lives but frequently receive limited financial and practical assistance.

The Committee heard from Fairness for Children Raised by Relatives regarding financial supports available to families caring for children under permanent guardianship arrangements. The organization advocated for greater equity in the treatment of permanent guardian families and highlighted concerns regarding their eligibility for government benefits. The organization explained that permanent guardian families are currently excluded from receiving certain federal and provincial supports, including the Canada Child Benefit. It recommended extending access to the Canada Child Benefit and related programs to both current and future permanent guardian families to ensure that children raised by relatives receive support comparable to that available to children in other caregiving arrangements.

ADOPTION

The Committee received input regarding adoption services and the need for greater financial support for families pursuing adoption. Sunrise Family Services Society highlighted the importance of ensuring that adoption is supported as a viable pathway to family formation and permanency for children in need of stable home and recommended establishing a publicly funded adoption assistance program, similar to the supports for the vitro fertilization program. Additionally, the Society recommended dedicated annual funding for licensed adoption agencies to support the delivery of options counselling for parents and guardians considering adoption, noting that access to impartial information and counselling can help individuals make informed decisions about adoption.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

The Committee acknowledged concerns regarding the accessibility and affordability of child care and discussed the importance of expanding access to licensed child care programs, including school-based spaces, through stable operational and capital funding. The Committee noted how improved access to child care for families enables greater workforce participation by helping parents balance employment with child care responsibilities. Members emphasized providing all forms of affordable and attainable child care programs, including both public and private spaces. Committee Members also considered the benefits of providing school districts the mandate and resources needed to develop local plans for the equitable expansion of child care programs that reflect community needs, including administrators dedicated to child care.

Regarding children and youth with support needs, the Committee discussed the importance of ensuring equitable access to services across the province, particularly in rural and remote communities where access to supports may be more limited. Committee Members acknowledged the need to prevent service gaps during the transition to the new CYSN funding approach and emphasized the importance of ensuring timely access to supports for children with autism and other significant support needs. Members highlighted the need to avoid creating additional barriers or restrictive eligibility criteria while also guaranteeing a baseline level of direct funding for children with a formal diagnosis of autism or other special needs.

On youth mental health and wellbeing, the Committee emphasized the importance of taking proactive measures to help prevent challenges from escalating into more complex and costly issues. Members highlighted the value of early intervention initiatives, early childhood education, recreational opportunities, and mentorship programs that support positive outcomes for children and youth. Committee Members also discussed the potential value of tax relief measures or other financial incentives for families to help offset the costs for school-aged children to participate in extra-curricular activities, such as arts, music, science, and sports programs. The Committee noted that participation in extracurricular activities can support the development of social connections, life skills, and personal wellbeing of children and youth. In addition, Committee Members discussed the value of strengthening coordinated, wraparound services for children

and youth who have experienced child abuse. Members highlighted the importance of collaboration among government agencies, law enforcement, and not for profit organizations to ensure children and families receive comprehensive and timely support, including child safety, mental health care, legal services, and education for affected family members and caregivers. Members further emphasized the significance of adopting a child-centred approach that avoids retraumatizing children by requiring them to repeatedly recount their experiences to multiple agencies and service providers. The Committee also recognized the critical role of Child and Youth Advocacy Centres in supporting children, youth, and families and discussed the need for adequate and sustainable multi-year funding to support the ongoing operation and long-term stability of these centres.

On homelessness and poverty, the Committee highlighted the Upstream Kelowna pilot project as a promising early intervention model aimed at preventing youth homelessness and poverty before young people reach a crisis point. Committee Members discussed potential benefits of expanding the existing pilot project across an entire school district to further assess its effectiveness and inform the potential for provincewide implementation. Members also noted the importance of supporting a youth housing plan that helps prevent and reduce youth homelessness, while improving pathways to stable housing. Additionally, Committee Members discussed concerns related to youth unemployment and opportunities to encourage greater

workforce participation among youth. Members noted the need to increase access to paid work experience and explore incentives, skills development programs, and training opportunities that help youth gain valuable work experience and promote financial stability, which can serve as an important factor in preventing youth homelessness and poverty. In particular, the Committee discussed the potential to expand regional, work-integrated learning programs that connect high school and post-secondary students with local employers. Members also noted the value of strengthening pathways between education and employment through hands-on learning experiences in local workplaces.

Lastly, the Committee discussed supports for children and youth in care and those involved in the adoption system. Members emphasized the importance of helping children maintain connections to their families, communities, cultures, and support networks whenever possible. Particularly, Committee Members highlighted the important role of kinship caregivers, such as close relatives and family members, in providing stable and supportive homes for children and youth. Members discussed the need to review existing supports to ensure kinship caregivers have access to the resources and assistance required to meet their caregiving responsibilities. In regard to adoption, the Committee noted the potential benefits of providing financial assistance to families pursuing adoption through a licensed adoption agency, similar to the funding provided to support in vitro fertilization.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends to the Legislative Assembly that the provincial government:

8. Deliver long-term, stable operational and capital funding for licensed child care programs to expand capacity on and off school grounds.
9. Develop a policy to mandate coordination of services when responding to cases of child and youth abuse.
10. Provide additional funding to expand the Upstream Kelowna pilot project to a district-wide proof-of-concept aimed at preventing youth homelessness.

CULTURE, TOURISM, AND SPORT

ARTS AND CULTURE

The Committee heard from a significant number of participants about funding for the arts and culture sector. Various organizations and individuals highlighted the importance of maintaining adequate funding for the Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport, and increasing funding for the BC Arts Council to \$58 million annually. The BC Alliance for Arts + Culture stated that cuts to the Ministry's budget would have significant consequences for the arts and culture sector, as well as for tourism and creative industries. The Committee also heard recommendations for other funding supports. The Vancouver International Film Festival stated that arts, culture, and film are critical components of BC's cultural infrastructure and highlighted the importance of existing funding in creative sectors, including Creative BC and Community Gaming Grants. Some other participants recommended sustainable, long-term investment in small and medium-sized arts and cultural organizations, and supports for artistic projects such as album production and artist exhibitions.

A large number of participants also called for investments in cultural infrastructure and space retention initiatives. BC Cultural Space Operators Network stated that many cultural space operators provide significant public benefits but lack access to stable operating support. The organization recommended establishing a Cultural Infrastructure and Acquisition Program to support not for profit organizations and communities in acquiring and maintaining cultural spaces. Similarly, the Whistler Arts Council noted that numerous arts and cultural spaces have been lost over the past decade due to redevelopment pressures, rising costs, and aging facilities. The organization emphasized that strategic provincial investments could leverage federal infrastructure funding and attract additional philanthropic and community investment. The Kootenay School of the Arts supported increased infrastructure investment, noting that it was recently forced to close due to challenges affecting arts education and workforce development, particularly in rural and regional communities.

The Committee heard some support for increased funding for community-based arts and cultural programming. Alliance Française Canada Pacific and two individuals recommended expanding grants programs and project-based funding streams that support festivals, cultural events, and community celebrations throughout BC. Alliance Française Canada Pacific noted that festivals and recurring cultural events play a distinct and complementary role in BC's cultural ecosystem.

Other participants recommended developing a provincial arts and culture action plan. Instruments of Change and Castlegar & District Heritage Society noted that a provincial strategy would support the long-term growth and impact of BC's arts, culture, and heritage sector. Similarly, the Vancouver International Film Festival along with a couple of other organizations recommended the development of a cohesive, multi-year, cross-ministry action plan that aligns investments in arts, culture, cultural infrastructure, economic development, tourism, and reconciliation.

Another area of concern was related to arts education and youth access. Little Mountain Gallery recommended expanding provincial workforce development and digital infrastructure programs for independent arts and culture organizations to improve arts education and youth access, including support for youth employment, and training youth on livestreaming, digital communications, and cultural production skills. The AIRS Program emphasized the importance of ensuring access to high-quality and culturally inclusive arts learning opportunities for children and recommended establishing a mandate for arts education within the public school system, accompanied by adequate funding for school districts.

In addition, the Committee received several specific funding requests. With respect to live events, the BC Live Performance Network and one individual recommended restoring the BC Fairs, Festivals and Events Fund, or establishing a comparable program, noting that festivals and live events are facing unprecedented financial pressures. The International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees Local 168 proposed a \$9 million

live entertainment labour tax credit to support and prioritize BC-created productions, stating that such a measure would support workers and small- and medium-sized businesses.

A few organizations advocated on behalf of museums and cultural heritage. The Victoria Chinatown Museum Society noted its role in community engagement and its significance as the oldest Chinatown in North America. The organization requested more funding for the Victoria Chinatown Museum to sustain its annual operations. The Filipino Legacy Society requested support for the establishment of the Filipino Cultural Centre in Vancouver. Additionally, the Museum of Vancouver advocated for a dedicated fund to support Indigenous communities in repatriating cultural belongings and ancestors, noting the absence of dedicated funding for this work.

PUBLISHING AND MEDIA

Regarding the publishing sector, the Magazine Association of BC recommended increased support for magazine publishers through Creative BC, including funding to help publishers innovate, strengthen digital capacity, and adapt to technological change. Books BC recommended increasing the Book Publishers Market Expansion Fund and raising the maximum grant amount available to each publisher in order to expand the international reach of BC-published books.

A couple of organizations noted the importance of investing in BC's media industries. The Magazine Association of BC recommended providing more funding towards local media rather than multinational technology companies to support the domestic media ecosystem and local businesses. Similarly, National Campus and Community Radio Association suggested establishing a BC Community Media Support Fund to help local communities, campus, Indigenous, and other eligible not for profit media organizations. .

MUSIC, FILM, AND DIGITAL MEDIA

The Committee heard from several organizations regarding the media, music, and film sectors. The BC Live Performance Network recommended maintaining and strengthening the provincial government's commitment to Amplify BC. The organization noted that Amplify BC has become an effective investment in the province's music sector, supporting artists, venues, festivals, live music events, and industry development initiatives.

With respect to the film and television industry, Screen BC recommended the provincial government maintain a consistent, long-term partnership with the sector and ensure stability in the provincial tax incentive framework. The organization noted that BC's film and television industry has experienced production growth supported by competitive tax credits. The Canadian Media Producers Association highlighted the importance of independent film and television production in supporting local storytelling, economic activity, and employment, and recommended restoring annual funding to the Creative BC Domestic Motion Picture Fund.

DigiBC emphasized the need to invest in digital media industries in BC. The organization advocated for ongoing support of the Interactive Digital Media IP Funding program and the Interactive Digital Media tax credit, highlighting the role of these incentives in supporting workforce development initiatives, including work placement programs and industry events..

TOURISM

A number of organizations provided input related to tourism investment and development. The Tourism Industry Association of BC and the BC Hotel Association recommended increasing and stabilizing Destination BC funding, noting the value of multi-year funding commitments from Destination BC to tourism organizations. The BC Hotel Association explained that enhanced investment would help BC remain competitive with other jurisdictions, increase visitor spending, and maximize the benefits of major events and year-round tourism. Some organizations advocated for increased support through the Destination Events Program. Dragon Boat BC noted that the program supports tourism, arts, culture, and sport events across BC by providing funding to organizations that helps covering some eligible event costs. The BC Music Festival Collective recommended expanding program eligibility criteria, noting that many smaller rural festivals do not meet the current minimum budget threshold and are therefore ineligible to apply.

The BC Association of Farmers Markets noted that, beginning in 2027, farmers markets will no longer be eligible for Destination BC's cooperative marketing funding program and recommended dedicated investment in the development and implementation of a BC culinary tourism and agritourism strategy. GreenStep advocated for a tourism sector focused on sustainability and climate resilience, recommending the

renewal and expansion of the BC Tourism Climate Resiliency Initiative, including its micro-grant and climate adaptation planning streams.

Tourism infrastructure was also identified as a priority by some organizations. The Tourism Industry Association of BC recommended maintaining funding for resort municipalities and establishing dedicated funding for tourism infrastructure in rural, remote, and Indigenous communities, including trails, transportation routes, and event facilities. The Clayoquot Biosphere Trust requested a one-time capital investment to support construction of the Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Centre in Tofino, highlighting its anticipated contributions to tourism, education, and regional economic development.

The Committee also heard a few recommendations related to workforce development in the tourism sector. Harrison Staffing Inc. noted that tourism employers continue to face labour shortages and recommended targeted investments in workforce development initiatives, including improving commutes to workplaces, and providing industry-relevant training, low-barrier certification programs, and retention supports.

SPORT

The Committee heard from multiple organizations regarding the importance of supporting the sport sector. A few organizations, including Sport BC, recommended increasing core provincial funding for amateur sport to help community sport organizations continue providing affordable, safe, accessible, and sustainable opportunities for participation. Speed Skating BC supported increased investment in amateur sport, emphasizing its role in promoting health and wellbeing, and helping prevent crime and other social costs. Curl BC requested annual funding through Pathways to Sport, citing the need to address aging sport infrastructure across the province.

Some organizations recommended improving access to sport and enhancing participant safety. The BC Snowboard Association recommended increasing investments in sport participation and athlete development opportunities in rural, remote, and northern communities, as well as in workforce recruitment, training, and retention. Special Olympics British Columbia advocated for grant funding to support sport programs for children and youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities, noting that barriers to participation remain significant despite the important role of sport in

healthy youth development. Finally, Sport Safeguarding BC emphasized the need for stable funding to fully implement safeguarding services across the province, which aim to protect sport participants from maltreatment, abuse, harassment, and discrimination. The organization explained that safeguarding services include guidance, reporting, investigation, and public awareness functions and further recommended investing in early intervention measures.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

Regarding arts and culture, the Committee emphasized the need to maintain investments for the arts and culture sectors. Members recognized the sector's contributions to the economy and community wellbeing and highlighted the value of supporting a wide range of groups and activities, including community arts organizations, museums, and other cultural initiatives. The Committee acknowledged the ongoing development of the BC Arts Council's Strategy and Action Plan. In addition, the Committee recommends that government develop a broader provincial arts and culture action plan. Members noted that a formalized plan could help align investments across arts and culture, infrastructure, economic development, and tourism, while supporting workforce development, regional growth, and the long-term sustainability of the sector. Members also recognized the unique needs of museums and cultural heritage sites, and the importance of project-based funding programs that support festivals, cultural events, and community celebrations across BC.

Committee Members reflected on the input they heard on the digital media, music, and film sectors. The Committee emphasized that maintaining a stable and competitive environment is essential for creative industries to grow and succeed. Members recognized the significance that programs and organizations, such as the Amplify BC Music Fund and the BC Film Commission, play in supporting the digital media, music, and film industries. The Committee further highlighted the need to continue these supports to help strengthen BC's creative industries. Additionally, the Committee emphasized the importance of collaboration and partnership with the film sector. Members highlighted the need for a stable and predictable tax incentive framework to support continued investment and growth in the industry. On publishing and media, the Committee discussed the need to strengthen support for BC's media sector by directing a greater share of government advertising expenditures to local media

organizations, as part of a broader effort to encourage BC-focused government procurement practices.

Committee Members also discussed opportunities to strengthen BC's tourism sector. The Committee emphasized the need for multi-year funding commitments from Destination BC to tourism organizations as well as stable funding for Destination BC. In addition, Members highlighted the importance of integrating tourism considerations into other policy areas, such as active transportation (see Transportation and Transit theme) and trail development. They noted that investments in active transportation infrastructure and trails can improve access to tourism destinations and enhance visitor experiences. The Committee also expressed support for film tourism initiatives, such as Cineventure, noting that film tourism can generate economic benefits by attracting visitors to filming locations throughout the province. Lastly, Committee Members highlighted the importance of supporting BC's culinary tourism and agritourism sectors. Noting that these activities can provide additional revenue for farmers while promoting local food, rural communities, and unique visitor experiences across the province, Members reflected on the potential value of developing and implementing a BC culinary and agritourism strategy.

Regarding sport, the Committee discussed the need for a strategy to ensure the sustainability of amateur sport organizations and recreational infrastructure throughout BC. Committee Members noted that predictable, multi-year

funding for amateur sport organizations could improve access to safe, inclusive, and equitable sport opportunities across the province while reducing administrative burdens associated with short-term funding cycles. The Committee also recognized that many municipalities face challenges maintaining aging sport and recreational facilities, and emphasized that a coordinated approach to long-term planning and investment is needed to support the renewal and maintenance of municipal sport infrastructure and ensure its long-term sustainability.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends to the Legislative Assembly that the provincial government:

11. Develop a provincial arts and culture action plan to maintain and encourage the growth of BC's arts, culture, and heritage sector.

ENVIRONMENT AND PARKS

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Several participants emphasized increased investment in environmental protection, ecosystem conservation, wildlife recovery, provincial parks, and climate adaptation, with a common focus on integrating human and environmental wellbeing into government decision-making. Recommendations in this area focus on strengthening climate accountability, supporting nature-based solutions and public science, and protecting recreational and natural areas. West Coast Environment Law recommended making biodiversity and ecosystem health a legal priority in resource management through co-developed legislation with First Nations. Unlikely Allies similarly emphasized cross-government accountability, recommending targeted funding to establish a Chief Ecologist to coordinate work on wildfire risk, watershed protection, and ecosystem health.

Many participants also connected environmental protection to land use planning and protected areas, emphasizing the need for stronger recognition of these areas, increased funding to purchase and conserve land, and better integration into economic development strategies. Canadian Parks and Wilderness BC Chapter recommended that government incorporate protected and conservation areas into its economic development planning to strengthen climate resilience and support more diversified local economies. The organization added that healthy ecosystems can reduce the costs of climate-related disasters, support food security, improve public health outcomes, and sustain resource-based industries. Similarly, Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative emphasized that effective land use planning can provide greater certainty for communities, local governments, and resource industries by establishing clear expectations and reducing future conflicts. It also raised concerns that limited capacity funding could affect the ability to carry out effective land use planning.

A few participants also raised forest-related recommendations, focusing on stronger old-growth forest protection, First

Nations-led conservation funding, full implementation of the Old-Growth Strategic Review, and legislative changes to address the impacts of clearcutting on watersheds and communities.

Beyond forest protection, several participants focused on strengthening conservation and habitat protection through increased funding, better monitoring and enforcement, and more transparent conservation targets. They also emphasized using data to guide habitat planning, restoration investments, and decision-making. The Commercial Bear Viewing Association and Exposed Wildlife Conservancy stated that increasing the capacity of the Natural Resource Officer Service would help implement proactive stewardship, maintain the ecological integrity of fast-tracked projects, and reduce long-term enforcement, restoration, litigation, and reputational costs.

Several participants also emphasized Indigenous-led stewardship as central to conservation, calling for dedicated funding, greater regional coordination, and long-term planning to advance reconciliation, community wellbeing, and environmental protection. Musqueam Indian Band noted that stewardship funding remains fragmented and short-term, relying largely on project-by-project grants that do not match ecological restoration needs. Lower Fraser Fisheries Alliance identified a related coordination gap, noting the absence of a dedicated mechanism to align provincial priorities, First Nations leadership, and local government decision-making around shared watershed outcomes. North Coast-Skeena First Nations Stewardship Society proposed a framework to improve the quality of information used in decision-making, provide greater certainty for industry, and create meaningful pathways for data to inform decisions affecting First Nations territories.

Additionally, several participants linked conservation and restoration to economic development, including through a dedicated conservation economy strategy and support for restoration-related jobs and skills development. Participants

also emphasized addressing regulatory and financial barriers, forecasting restoration demand, and using public and private investment to build a stronger restoration supply chain. Reflecting this focus, World Wildlife Fund Canada noted that BC has limited capacity to meet restoration demand and requires more long-term investment to move restoration beyond ad hoc responses. The organization added that increased investment would support both BC's economy and biodiversity by diversifying the workforce and helping maintain critical watershed infrastructure across the province.

FISH AND WILDLIFE

The Committee received recommendations from several participants related to increased funding and capacity for conservation, enforcement, monitoring, and evidence-based fish and wildlife management. To improve response capacity, enforcement, and community safety, the Commercial Bear Viewing Association and Exposed Wildlife Conservancy recommended increased funding for the BC Conservation Officer Service. The Guide Outfitters Association of BC noted that regulatory certainty and planning could be improved by modernizing the *Wildlife Act* and moving to multi-year harvest quotas. To strengthen conservation capacity and long-term ecosystem resilience, Wildsight proposed increasing hunting, trapping, and angling licensing fees and surcharges, and dedicating this revenue, along with wildlife violation fines, to fish, wildlife, and habitat conservation.

Several participants identified the need to strengthen wild salmon and steelhead recovery through habitat protection and restoration, sustained investment in local stewardship, and the removal of fish farms. They also emphasized adequate resources for the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship to address salmon and steelhead recovery, renewing the BC Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund and prioritizing formal First Nations participation in priority setting. Salt Spring Island Salmon and Stream Enhancement Society stated that wild Pacific salmon are an important ecological, cultural, and economic resource for BC, but have been harmed by overfishing, mismanagement, neglect, and fish farm impacts. The organization recommended working with First Nations to restore salmon populations, protect key habitats, and support jobs in tourism, recreation, and food. At the provincial level, the Pacific Salmon Foundation stated that renewed funding for the BC Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund is required to maintain recovery and habitat restoration efforts. It added that this funding should be paired

with adequate resourcing for the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship to help meet commitments to salmon recovery, conservation, and broader wildlife stewardship.

Turning to wildlife protection, a few participants highlighted the importance of funding WildSafeBC and the Bear Smart Community Program. In particular, Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative stated that revitalizing and expanding the Bear Smart Community Program is one of the most effective ways to reduce human-bear conflict, improve outcomes for people and bears, and lower future costs related to enforcement, emergency response, property damage, and wildlife management. The Commercial Bear Viewing Association also emphasized that prevention-focused education reinforces commitments to environmental stewardship, reduces conflict, lowers costs, and saves wildlife, supporting safer communities and improved coexistence provincewide.

WATER

Regarding the Coastal Marine Strategy, many participants discussed the need for dedicated implementation funding, including through the Clean Coast, Clean Waters Initiative Fund, which supports projects to remove debris and derelict vessels from BC's coastline. Surfrider Foundation Canada noted that the Strategy remains in the early stages of implementation and has limited funding. The Foundation added that without dedicated and sustained support, the Strategy cannot fulfill its intended role as a comprehensive, long-term plan for coastal resilience and ecosystem health. Several participants specifically recommended providing \$15 million to the Clean Coast, Clean Waters Initiative Fund and increasing staffing within the Crown Lands Authorizations Branch to reinstate the expedited permitting process for nature-based shoreline restoration projects. Canadian Parks and Wilderness BC Chapter noted that these measures would remove barriers facing local governments, Indigenous nations, property owners, and community groups seeking to restore critical coastal habitats. Some participants also discussed potential funding models, including specialty licence plates and industry levies, as ways to support long-term implementation.

Several participants emphasized the need to strengthen BC's water resilience through long-term investment in modern water governance, storage and delivery infrastructure, improved monitoring, and stronger risk mitigation related

to drought and climate change. They also called for targeted support for rural and regional communities, regional planning, Indigenous engagement, and community resilience. Multiple participants recommended increasing the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship's operating budget to build capacity for watershed security, monitoring, and compliance. Hornby Water Stewardship recommended incentives for low-income residents to conserve, collect, and store water, as well as upgrade failing septic systems. The organization noted that these measures would help households prepare for dry periods and emergencies, reduce contamination risks, and support safer water systems.

The Committee received a significant volume of input recognizing watersheds as critical infrastructure and recommending long-term investment in watershed security, restoration, planning, monitoring, and compliance. Comox Valley Food Policy Council emphasized that healthy watersheds sustain communities, food systems, and economic development, noting that climate change and drought have contributed to lower reservoir levels and record-low streamflow. The organization identified watershed sustainability plans as a way to strengthen climate adaptation. Redd Fish Restoration Society noted that restoration and watershed security projects are particularly important for supporting long-term workforce development, economic reconciliation, natural infrastructure, and broader economic development in Indigenous and rural communities.

A significant number of recommendations also focused on modernizing BC's industrial water rental rates to better reflect growing pressures on BC's watersheds and generate a dedicated, sustainable revenue stream for protecting watersheds. The need for this reform was underscored by BC Watershed Security Coalition, which stated that industrial water rates in BC are among the lowest in Canada and have not been substantially reviewed in more than a decade, despite increasing industrial demand, drought risk, and competing water needs. In addition, Rivershed Society of BC noted that the existing BC Watershed Security Fund received an initial \$100-million endowment in 2023, with project grants provided from the interest earned. Given the scale of unmet demand, many conservation and restoration organizations supported investing an additional \$75 million into the Fund. A few participants also made recommendations to protect water resources from growing industrial and agricultural pressures while improving agricultural water infrastructure, on-farm

adaptation, and groundwater licensing capacity to support food production and long-term water security.

INVASIVE SPECIES

Several organizations highlighted the importance of providing increased, stable core funding for invasive species management and prevention, while others specified a minimum annual investment of \$15 million across key ministries. The Invasive Species Council of BC stated that most funding for this work has come from provincial ministries' fiscal year-end surpluses, noting that the lack of secure funding makes it challenging for community organizations, First Nations, and local governments to plan and coordinate management efforts over the long term.

To address the need for secure, long-term funding, several organizations proposed establishing an Invasive Species Trust Fund, with some specifying a minimum investment of \$10 million, to protect high-value habitats and provide stable funding for rapid response, eradication, and invasive species management. Invasive Species Council of Metro Vancouver noted that sustained funding is required to respond rapidly and continuously to newly detected invasive species, particularly in the first few years, in order to reduce irreversible economic and environmental losses. Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society added that the Fund could also support education and outreach, which are important tools for prevention.

Beyond concerns about funding and education, several organizations called for modernizing and strengthening BC's legislative framework and enforcement tools for invasive species management and prevention. They noted that the current framework is fragmented across multiple ministries, with many components that are outdated, incomplete, or inadequately enforced, allowing invasive species to evade management or regulation across jurisdictions.

In relation to aquatic invasive species, a few organizations similarly emphasized the need for stronger prevention through long-term funding, mandatory inspections, expanded entry-point decontamination, and targeted education. The Shuswap Watershed Council noted that invasive mussels pose a serious threat to BC watersheds and water security, while Wildsight highlighted the need for dedicated funding for inspection and education programming to prevent damage to water infrastructure, hydro operations, marinas, and tourism. Reflecting broader concerns about program capacity,

Okanagan Basin Water Board noted that the provincial Invasive Mussel Defence Program's \$3.6 million budget is insufficient, with at least 16 new lakes designated high risk, and recommended increasing annual funding to \$10 million.

CLIMATE POLICY

A few participants emphasized that climate policies should be pragmatic, locally responsive, and directed toward measurable emissions reductions, long-term savings, and green economic investment. One individual raised concerns that international frameworks may not adequately account for regional realities and emphasized the importance of balancing environmental protection with local economic sustainability. Other participants focused on the role of targeted public spending, with the BC Humanist Association stating that strategic investments in climate resilience can reduce future liabilities while protecting communities and maintaining economic stability. Another individual emphasized the importance of aligning financial decisions with green economic objectives through the Strategic Investment Fund. Targeted funding for the Youth Climate Corps BC was also identified as a way to expand youth employment and community climate action.

Regarding climate change mitigation, a few participants expressed concerns about the need for increased funding for mitigation initiatives, including those aimed at reducing emissions and addressing wildfires. Unlikely Allies emphasized the need to approach wildfire risk reduction through forest management, prioritizing landscape-level measures such as canopy retention, moisture stability, and watershed function. BC Sustainable Energy Association noted that increased efforts are required to achieve greenhouse gas emission reduction targets and recommended enhanced funding for CleanBC and the Roadmap to 2030.

At the local level, several participants recommended reinstating funding for the Local Government Climate Action Program (LGCAP), with some calling for increased funding, inflation indexing, or specific funding amounts. The City of Salmon Arm stated that LGCAP funding is critical for climate-related programs and has helped build local government capacity and resources to support more resilient communities. The City noted that, without continued funding, local governments may struggle to maintain climate-related policies and meet emissions reduction targets. Community Energy Association suggested reinvesting a portion of revenue from the updated oil and natural gas royalty framework, set

to take effect on January 1, 2027, into the LGCAP so more local governments and Modern Treaty Nations can invest in infrastructure and services that provide long-term savings, translate workforce development into local economic benefits, and increase climate resilience. To further increase disaster prevention, some participants also called for renewed funding for the LGCAP to be paired with restored and expanded funding for the FireSmart BC Program.

RECYCLING AND WASTE

The Committee received several recommendations to reduce waste and pollution, including increasing consistency and strengthening producer responsibility within the recycling system, investing in the circular economy, and phasing out waste incineration. In terms of recycling, the Canadian Beverage Association recommended establishing a national beverage container recycling framework. The Regional District of East Kootenay highlighted the need to expand the provincial stewardship program to include industrial, institutional, and commercial recycling. The district highlighted that this would reduce downloaded costs, protect municipal infrastructure, and reinforce extended producer responsibility. Regarding the circular economy, Zero Waste BC identified the need for a funded provincial zero waste and circular economy strategy, while Surfrider Canada added that provincial investment in circular economy infrastructure would support reuse and refill pilots, expand repair and remanufacturing capacity, and provide grants for nonprofits and social enterprises implementing innovative waste-reduction programs. Zero Waste BC also expressed concerns around the increased emissions and financial and health risks associated with waste incineration and recommended phasing out its use.

PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION

Several participants recommended increased funding for BC Parks, including to address deferred maintenance and integrate new protected areas. More specifically, Canadian Parks and Wilderness BC Chapter proposed a \$35 million increase in operational funding to help BC Parks restore and improve park infrastructure, strengthen staffing and ecological monitoring, and support volunteers and community organizations involved in park stewardship. Northern Confluence similarly stated that any new protected areas must be supported by funding for implementation, park operations, staffing, infrastructure, ecological monitoring, and Indigenous

guardians. Participants also identified specific needs in marine and coastal parks. BC Marine Parks Forever Society and BC Marine Trails Network Association recommended measures to advance sustainable marine recreation, including improved coastal infrastructure, stewardship, public access, and long-term funding for marine trails and protected areas.

With regards to outdoor recreation, many participants discussed the importance of additional funding to improve access to outdoor recreation through the Outdoor Recreation Fund of BC and intergenerational active living programs. In terms of the Outdoor Recreation Fund of BC, both the Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC and the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC noted that currently only around 15 percent of grant requests are funded, with no funding for core operational support. The organizations suggested that increased funding, including support for core operational costs, would help community-based, volunteer-led, and Indigenous-led organizations to meet growing demand, retain capacity, and sustain long-term recreation infrastructure and programming. With regards to intergenerational living programs, several organizations and individuals recommended providing \$1.5 million to expand and sustain the delivery of programming for seniors and youth. The BC Recreation and Parks Association noted that the proposed investment would support healthy aging, mobility, fall prevention, and wellbeing by expanding evidence-based programs, such as Choose to Move and Active Age, across BC. The investment would also fund youth advisory grants to improve access to recreation and parks programming.

Several organizations called for stable operating funding for outdoor recreation organizations. The Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC stated that outdoor recreation is a significant contributor to BC's economy and wellbeing, but trails, parks, campgrounds, and public access infrastructure face underfunding, maintenance backlogs, accessibility gaps, and growing climate-related pressures. The Federation, along with the BC Snowmobile Federation, recommended stable, multi-year funding for both BC Parks and Recreation Sites and Trails BC to maintain and improve outdoor recreation infrastructure and public access that supports tourism, rural economies, community livability, healthy outdoor activity, and diverse, accessible, and inclusive outdoor recreation throughout BC.

The Committee heard from several participants about the need for additional funding for workforce investments to ensure communities can continue to offer essential programs

and services. The BC Recreation and Parks Association stated that the sector is facing a critical worker shortage, which significantly reduces communities' capacities to offer essential programs and services. The organization added that in rural and northern communities, decreasing numbers of trained practitioners and instructors and a lack of facility and trail operators threaten outdoor recreation and tourism. Accordingly, the BC Recreation and Parks Association, along with several other organizations and individuals, recommended providing \$1 million to support coordinated workforce investments to help address these capacity challenges.

Organizations proposed different approaches to address the infrastructure funding deficit in the outdoor recreation sector. To implement the Outdoor Recreation Strategy, the BC Power Sports Coalition and BC Snowmobile Federation recommended creating a dedicated cross-ministry recreation infrastructure fund. Emphasizing the essential role municipal social infrastructure plays in decreasing costs to the health care system and reducing isolation, some participants proposed creating a \$1 billion recreation, parks, sports, and culture-specific social infrastructure fund to start replacing aging municipal facilities.

In terms of specific infrastructure, several organizations raised concerns about the ongoing maintenance of trails and roads and the need for funding to progress new projects. The Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC noted that backcountry access is at risk because there is no consistent process to determine which resource roads should remain open after industrial use ends, leading to road closures or deterioration. The Federation recommended funding to help plan for, maintain, and transition these roads and related recreation access infrastructure before industrial use ends, while protecting public access and supporting rural economies. Similarly, the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC noted that early planning and targeted maintenance can improve safety, extend road life, and avoid more costly repairs. In addition, Fernie Trail Alliance discussed the need for a provincial trail infrastructure program to enable communities to progress shovel-ready projects that improve accessibility, public safety, active transportation, tourism, and climate resilience.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

The Committee expressed support for environmental conservation efforts to steward and protect BC's diverse

ecosystems for future generations. The Committee emphasized the importance of prioritizing environmental conservation and restoration to facilitate tourism and recreation, which Members highlighted as being vital to BC's economy. Members noted that one way to enable this could be to develop a BC conservation economy strategy. The Committee also acknowledged concerns it received regarding insufficient enforcement of BC's natural resource laws. Members highlighted the need to ensure that the BC Compliance and Enforcement Agency, which was launched in July 2026 and includes the BC Conservation Officer Service and the Natural Resource Officer Service, is provided with adequate resources to enhance environmental protection. Committee Members noted their support for the creation of the new agency but reiterated the importance of additional funding for new enforcement positions to enhance field monitoring, regulatory compliance, and habitat protection.

Regarding fish and wildlife, the Committee emphasized that stakeholder groups have expressed a willingness to pay higher fishing, hunting, and trapping licensing fees and surcharges, provided that the revenue goes directly toward funding conservation efforts. Committee Members also recognized the important work done to restore BC's salmon population and their habitat that was made possible because of the BC Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund. Members identified that salmon conservation is an important issue to British Columbians and called on government to renew its agreement with the federal government for an additional five years and provide adequate funding.

The Committee reflected on input received regarding water stewardship and recognized the value that the Clean Coast, Clean Waters Initiative Fund provides to many communities and First Nations through funding for shoreline cleanup, the removal of marine debris and derelict vessels, job creation, and the prevention of future contamination. Members also emphasized the need to review and modernize industrial water rental rates and dedicate sustainable funding toward watershed security.

On invasive species management, Committee Members highlighted that providing stable core funding across relevant ministries would enable a coordinated approach to invasive species operations. Members also noted that establishing a dedicated invasive species fund would provide more resources for community organizations to act early and quickly to prevent the spread of invasive species. The Committee further

noted that participants had expressed concerns about the list of species and enforcement measures and, as such, recommends modernizing the provincial invasive species' legislative and regulatory framework to enable more effective prevention and management. The Committee also emphasized the need to prevent the spread of invasive aquatic species in BC waters and discussed recent changes to the *Wildlife Act*, which require all watercraft to be inspected before entering the province. Members stressed that, to ensure all watercraft entering BC are inspected, inspection stations should operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week at every highway entry point into the province. Members noted that inspection fees could potentially be used to generate revenue to fund additional invasive species management and prevention.

Members also considered opportunities for communities to increase their resiliency to climate change and climate-related extreme weather events. Members highlighted that investing in the Local Government Climate Action Program and FireSmart Community Funding and Supports is a way to empower communities to plan and implement measures best suited to them (see recommendation 72 in the Public Safety, Justice and Emergency Preparedness theme).

The Committee further discussed modernizing and streamlining BC's beverage container recycling system, including the potential of phasing out the deposit-refund program in favour of expanding blue bin curbside collection. Committee Members expressed interest in reducing waste by encouraging methods to maximize the reuse and repair of existing materials. The Committee emphasized the importance of better educating British Columbians to learn how to integrate these practices into their daily lives.

Finally, regarding parks and recreation, Committee Members discussed the importance of the provincial Outdoor Recreation Strategy and identified the need to review and strengthen funding in the sector by allocating dedicated funding towards its implementation. The Committee noted that this should include sustainable funding for BC Parks, Recreation Sites and Trails BC, parks and recreation infrastructure, provincial not-for-profit parks and recreation organizations, and volunteer-led trail management, as well as alignment with BC's Tourism Sector Action Plan. Committee Members emphasized the challenges many municipalities are facing with aging parks and recreation infrastructure and noted the importance of ensuring long-term access to facilities that foster community connection, promote healthy living, and increase tourism.

Members also highlighted the importance of former industry service roads for recreation, tourism, and emergency access and identified that dedicated funding is required to ensure safe, long-term public access to these networks.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends to the Legislative Assembly that the provincial government:

12. Strengthen funding for fish and wildlife conservation by increasing fishing, hunting, and trapping licence fees and dedicating all related licence and violation fine revenues to conservation initiatives.
13. Provide stable core funding for invasive species operations, education, and awareness, and create an invasive species fund to enable early detection, rapid response, outreach, and prevention
14. Modernize the provincial invasive species' legislative and regulatory framework, including by updating the list of species and improving enforcement measures.
15. Invest in climate response and disaster prevention by renewing the Local Government Climate Action Program with long-term, predictable operational funding.
16. Review and strengthen British Columbia's parks and recreation funding model to provide predictable, dedicated funding that supports sector organizations and infrastructure, aligned with tourism priorities.
17. Provide dedicated funding to assess and protect high-value recreation access roads prior to deactivation where recreation, tourism, emergency access, or community value remains.

HEALTH CARE

PRIMARY CARE

During its consultation, the Committee heard a range of ideas for improving health care in BC. With respect to primary care, multiple consultation participants identified a need for greater access to family physicians. The BC College of Family Physicians stated that administrative burden is one of the largest drivers of burnout among family physicians. The College recommended addressing this through digital improvements, including by implementing digital referrals and consults, committing to a provincial electronic medical records consolidation strategy, and aligning with the federal *Connected Care for Canadians Act*. Other participants proposed ideas including providing grants to not for profit societies to open primary care clinics, accounting for time and complexity in family doctor compensation, and working with municipalities and developers to create low-rent office space for family doctors.

Team-based care was also highlighted as an opportunity to enhance access to primary care. The BC Association of Community Health Centres suggested that providing funding for the full staffing complements required to deliver team-based care would improve access, expand prevention services, and meet growing community demand. The BC College of Family Physicians noted that, currently, allied health professionals are assigned to clinics by the health authority, and suggested that allowing physicians to be directly involved in selecting professionals would ensure they have the relevant experience for family medicine.

With respect to relieving pressure on other areas of the primary care system, the BC Pharmacy Association highlighted that allowing pharmacists to prescribe contraception and medications for minor ailments has saved the province \$15.8 million since June 2023. The Association recommended continuing and expanding this program to allow pharmacists to test and prescribe for strep throat and prescribe medications for stable chronic diseases like hypertension and diabetes.

The Committee also heard about hearing, and vision care. Help BC Hear Better noted that BC has a world-renowned early hearing program for children up to five years old, but coverage stops at that point. The organization recommended establishing a provincial healthy hearing program and requested funding to establish a working group related to hearing health care. On vision care, the Committee heard about opportunities to increase Medical Services Plan coverage and support Vision Loss Rehabilitation Canada's hospital-to-home program.

COMMUNITY CARE

Regarding community care, participants highlighted different community-based programs. Bayshore HealthCare supported expanding community-based pediatric and complex care programs, as well as community-based infusion services. BC Complex Kids supported investing \$15 million in the Nursing Support Services program for medically complex children. March of Dimes Canada recommended funding a home modifications program to support low-income seniors and people with disabilities to remain in their homes, promote independence, and reduce health care system pressures. The organization also supported investing in community-based stroke navigation and rehabilitation to ensure stroke survivors receive timely, individualized care. SWAN Vancouver highlighted the importance of peers and outreach workers in providing health services to marginalized communities, such as newcomers, sex workers, and 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals. The Digestive Health Centre of BC noted that many people experience digestive health challenges, which can be managed more effectively through coordinated care. The Centre recommended providing \$10 million in sustainable funding for multidisciplinary digestive health care programs.

With respect to not for profit health organizations, the BC Association of Community Health Centres highlighted that funding has not kept pace with program and administrative costs. The Association recommended providing multi-year operating funding that reflects rising operating expenses.

Both the Digestive Health Centre of BC and the Canadian Men's Health Foundation requested annual funding for their organizations.

LONG-TERM CARE

Investments in long-term care were a significant area of interest for consultation participants. Organizations recommended restoring and accelerating long-term care investments and ensuring long-term care capacity can keep pace with the growing seniors population. The UBC Medical Political Advocacy Committee highlighted that between 12 and 28 percent of people in BC hospital beds no longer need hospital-level care but cannot go home, and many of these individuals are waiting for long-term care. The organization suggested using data to evaluate the costs of using acute care beds as long-term care beds as well as to determine the most impactful placement of new long-term care beds. Participants also recommended making investments to increase the hours of care per resident per day from 3.36 to four, and improving recruitment and retention of long-term care staff.

Several participants shared their views on the funding model for long-term care. Multiple organizations emphasized that the current long-term care funding model does not reflect the actual cost of delivering care, and recommended modernizing the funding model. Some participants, including the Baptist Housing Ministries Society and the Broadway Group, specified that modernization should include the costs of wages and benefits negotiated by the provincial government and the Health Employers Association of BC. The BC Care Providers Association highlighted that work was previously undertaken to modernize the seniors care funding model and recommended that this work continue. The Independent Long-Term Care Councils Association of BC advocated for a comprehensive long-term care funding strategy that increases capacity, implements national standards, strengthens staffing levels, improves workforce recruitment and retention, and enhances public reporting. Turning to the impact of the funding model on long-term care staff, the Hospital Employees' Union noted that many long-term care and assisted living workers still experience a fragmented system where wages, benefits, and protections vary depending on the facility. The Union recommended standardizing wages, benefits, and working conditions.

Long-term care infrastructure was also a significant theme in the Committee's consultation. Multiple participants advocated

for investing in long-term care beds and reactivating long-term care projects that have been paused. The Office of the Seniors Advocate highlighted that BC is at the beginning of a significant demographic shift due to a rapidly growing seniors' population. The Office added that without significant and immediate investment in new long-term care infrastructure, waitlists and wait times will continue to rise to unsustainable levels. The Office supported extending and updating the Long-Term Care Bed Expansion plan beyond 2030-31. The Hospital Employees' Union also suggested creating a capital funding program that supports not for profit and health authority operators to build and renovate long-term care homes. Additionally, both the Broadway Group and the Denomination Health Association recommended establishing a comprehensive capital strategy that includes funding for maintenance, renewal, replacement, and expansion of long-term care facilities. Other ideas shared with the Committee include improving use of regional long-term care facilities to better distribute beds and funding the expansion of the Peace Villa long-term care facility in Fort St. John.

The Committee also received input specific to long-term care pharmacy services and dementia patients. CareRx Pharmacy stated that demand for long-term care pharmacy services has increased, but provincial funding and policy have not kept up. The organization recommended increasing the rate paid to pharmacies contracted to provide services to long-term care facilities from \$65 to \$125 per bed, phased in over three years, and then indexing the rate to inflation. CareRx also proposed implementing a rural remote modifier to ensure equitable access across all regions. Additionally, the Independent Long-Term Care Councils Association of BC advocated for funding so that it can support Resident and Family Councils.

SENIORS

Many consultation participants made recommendations specific to seniors' health care. Some participants recommended enhancing the health human resources strategy for the sector and addressing training, recruitment, and retention. Sienna Senior Living recommended stabilizing and extending wage levelling supports in the sector to prevent labour migration, staffing disruption, and further recruitment instability.

A key theme regarding seniors' health was measures to support seniors to age in their own homes for as long as possible. Several participants highlighted home support as a

crucial part of enabling this, with the Jewish Seniors Alliance of British Columbia highlighting that home support prevents falls, hospitalization, caregiver burnout, and premature admission to long-term care. The Office of the Seniors Advocate highlighted that providing home support costs government less than providing a long-term care bed, and recommended expanding access to publicly subsidized home support. Multiple organizations recommended removing the income-based co-payment for public home support services for all seniors. Other ideas to support seniors aging in place included: funding for community health care; developing a unified cross-ministry mandate to prioritize the home health model; ensuring adequate transportation options; and tax credits for seniors who are paying for their own home care.

CHRONIC DISEASES AND COMPLEX CONDITIONS

A significant theme in the Committee's consultation was input related to chronic diseases and complex conditions. Some participants made general recommendations in this area, including funding multidisciplinary clinics, supporting online health care for complex chronic disease patients, and improving diagnosis and treatment for complex chronic illnesses. Takeda Canada highlighted home-based care models for Immunoglobulin Therapies, which the organization indicated are critical for treating serious and chronic conditions.

Several participants highlighted the prevalence and severity of long COVID, myalgic encephalomyelitis, and other complex, infection-associated chronic diseases. LifeLineBC and multiple individuals identified a need for centralized expertise on these conditions within the Ministry of Health and recommended establishing a dedicated Ministry unit for complex chronic disease patients. Other participants recommended improving health care services and supports for these conditions, establishing guidelines, developing billing codes, and training medical professionals to increase awareness. One individual highlighted the work of the BC Centre for Long Covid, ME/CFS, & Fibromyalgia and supported keeping the clinic open.

Regarding heart disease, one individual highlighted that most patients in BC wait more than a year to access treatments for valvular heart disease, and recommended increasing the availability of facilities and staff to perform these procedures. They also noted that other provinces provide funding for Health Canada-approved devices that treat valvular heart

disease and suggested BC should do the same. Edwards Lifesciences (Canada) Inc. highlighted that demand for transcatheter structural heart procedures is projected to more than triple by 2030, and recommended funding catheterization lab capacity as well as tricuspid and mitral transcatheter therapies. The organization also indicated that caps on transcatheter aortic valve replacements pressure hospitals to delay access to these procedures for budgetary reasons and proposed removing these caps.

A key theme in the input regarding diabetes was supporting patients to access services and manage diabetes. Diabetes Canada and the Institute for Health System Transformation and Sustainability recommended consistent funding for the Institute's Type 2 Diabetes Network, indicating that it delivers resources, supports patients with self-management, and provides supports for caregivers. Diabetes Canada emphasized the importance of centering patients in policy decisions and reducing barriers to care, and further advocated working with the federal government and other partners to establish a federally funded diabetes device and supplies fund. Vision Loss Rehabilitation Canada requested funding for its eye health screening initiative for people with diabetes.

The Committee also heard about multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease and other movement disorders, and brain injuries. Regarding multiple sclerosis, one individual emphasized the importance of ensuring equitable access to multiple sclerosis therapies and ensuring meaningful patient and clinician involvement in policies that affect access to medications. MS Canada and the same individual recommended improving access to all Health Canada-approved multiple sclerosis treatments, including Ocrevus (ocrelizumab) and Kesimpta (ofatumumab). Parkinson Society BC highlighted that wait times for consultation and diagnosis of Parkinson's disease are often two years. The Society recommended increasing access to movement disorder specialist neurologists, including by funding a movement disorder clinic in Northern BC, funding multi-disciplinary teams at movement disorder clinics through agreements with the Society, and doubling the funding allocation for Deep Brain Stimulation surgery. In advocating for better coordination and prevention with respect to brain injuries, the BC Brain Injury Association noted that brain injury is a leading cause of disability in BC and many individuals and families face delays in diagnosis, gaps in rehabilitation, limited community supports, and difficulty navigating support systems. The Association recommended funding brain injury system

coordination, a provincial brain injury strategy, and a levy on select products and activities associated with brain injury risk.

On dementia, multiple participants emphasized the importance of establishing a clinical pathway or strategy to ensure a clear and coordinated approach to care. The Alzheimer Society BC and Yukon supported establishing a clear clinical pathway for dementia that sets out the care and supports people should expect at each stage, indicating this would improve efficiency and lower costs. Participants recommended creating a provincial dementia strategy, with CLEAR Alzheimer's Foundation noting that BC's current action plan is from 2012 and does not include a sufficient focus on research and innovation. Additionally, one individual advocated for funding for caregiver supports and the Alzheimer Society BC and Yukon and CLEAR Alzheimer's Foundation highlighted opportunities to enhance dementia supports through their own programs.

The Committee also heard about access to medications and care for a range of other chronic and complex conditions. Arthritis Society Canada emphasized the importance of timely access to family doctors, specialists, and rehabilitation professionals, as well as new and innovative medicines. The Society recommended investing in arthritis-specific primary and community care and ensuring access to a range of treatment options. Regarding pulmonary hypertension, the Pulmonary Hypertension Association of Canada supported increasing funding for pharmaceutical and non-drug therapies. Takeda Canada highlighted a need to prioritize policies that enable patient and clinician choice regarding therapeutic options for psoriasis and additionally advocated for strengthening care pathways and access for people with narcolepsy. Individuals advocated for improved access to treatments for chronic migraines and low ferritin.

CANCER

The Committee received input related to improving care and screening for cancer. Merck Canada highlighted growing pressures on BC's cancer care system, including rising prevalence and increasing delays in accessing diagnosis and treatment. The company recommended increasing investment and setting specific performance targets in cancer care to improve timeliness, quality of care, and patient outcomes. InspireHealth Society noted that while cancer treatment capacity is expanding in BC, access to supportive care, such as counselling, rehabilitation, and culturally appropriate services, remains insufficient, particularly in rural and underserved

communities. The Society recommended investing in supportive cancer care and establishing a partnership with the Society to leverage its delivery model.

Additionally, the Committee heard about improving breast cancer screening. Breast Density BC noted that approximately 43 percent of women have dense breasts, which can mask cancers on mammograms. The organization recommended funding and implementing a provincial supplemental screening program for women with dense breasts and fully operationalizing automated breast ultrasound and other evidence-based supplemental screening. Breast Density BC further recommended establishing Medical Services Plan reimbursements and better aligning interprovincial billing rates. Also with respect to Medical Services Plan coverage, one individual noted that BC does not have a specific fee for a breast cancer screening ultrasound, which means that radiologists are only allowed to charge for a diagnostic ultrasound, a more limited exam. The individual indicated that the lower reimbursement rate discourages radiologists from offering these services, and proposed raising the fee to \$275.

Additionally, participants highlighted medical travel and fertility preservation for cancer patients. Hope Air and the Canadian Cancer Society advocated for investments in medical travel and accommodation supports. The Society also recommended improving access to fertility preservation services for children, adolescents, and young adults affected by cancer.

SPECIALIZED AND SURGICAL CARE

A key theme in input regarding specialized and surgical care was the Specialist Waitlist Management Proposal developed by Consultant Specialists of BC, Doctors of BC, and the Ministry of Health. The Consultant Specialists of BC noted that currently waitlists do not capture the time between receiving a referral from a family doctor to seeing a specialist for the first time and indicated that the proposal would include the development of a provincewide specialist waitlist database and improvements to the efficiency of the specialty care system and referral consultation process. The organization recommended providing \$170 million in funding for the proposal, while Doctors of BC expressed general support for the proposal.

Regarding surgical care, the BC Anesthesiologists' Society highlighted a backlog that occurs when patients are unable to transfer from the operating room to a Post-Anesthesia Care

Unit. The Society recommended making targeted investments in nursing, patient flow, and bed management to address this challenge. Other participants advocated for increasing funding and reducing wait times for cochlear implant surgeries and joint replacement surgeries.

HEALTH HUMAN RESOURCES

Another issue highlighted during the Committee's consultation was ensuring that the health system has appropriate human resources to be able to meet current and future demands for health care. Several participants made recommendations related to recruitment and retention generally. The Hospital Employees' Union noted that health care workers continue to face staffing shortages, burnout, violence, and unsustainable workloads. The Health Sciences Association stated that one in three of its members are considering leaving their profession within the next two years, due to expanded workloads, longer work hours, and inadequate support. Both of those organizations, as well as multiple individuals, recommended investing in recruitment and retention. In addition to recruitment and retention measures, the Pulmonary Hypertension Association of Canada supported improving workforce planning through better data, reducing practitioners' administrative burden, ensuring all practitioners can work to their full scope of practice, and streamlining credentialing for clinicians from other jurisdictions.

Ensuring that practitioners can work to their full scope of practice was also raised by other participants. The BC Chiropractic Association noted that other jurisdictions permit chiropractors to refer patients to publicly funded diagnostic imaging and to provide intramuscular stimulation, and recommended that they be allowed to do the same in BC. The Canadian Association of Physician Assistants stated that BC is the only province where physician assistant practice remains largely restricted to emergency departments. The Association supported removing funding barriers and establishing sustainable funding mechanisms that allow the expansion of physician assistants in emergency medicine and into other areas of medicine.

Participants also identified opportunities to support recruitment and retention of several specific health care professions. The BC Nurses' Union indicated that addressing violence prevention and nurses' needs like access to housing and child care outside of traditional hours would help support retention. The Union highlighted that minimum

nurse-to-patient ratios improve patient outcomes and recommended renewing the funding commitment to continue implementation. Other participants proposed measures including improving pathways for internationally educated nurses, allowing nursing students to earn money while they complete their practicums, and fully compensating nursing tuition. CAMRT-BC proposed opportunities to address shortages of medical radiation technologists, including allowing all medical radiation technologists to participate in the BC loan forgiveness program, investing in continuing education and ongoing professional development, and providing targeted integration supports for internationally educated medical radiation technologists. Regarding anesthesia assistants, the BC Anesthesiologists' Society noted that BC lacks a formal regulatory framework and that establishing one would support team-based anesthesia care, improve operating room efficiency, and maximize the use of existing surgical infrastructure. The Society further indicated that creating a comprehensive Provincial Anesthesiology Locum Program would stabilize anesthesia services, reduce operating room closures, and improve access care. With respect to improving recruitment of radiologists, the BC Radiological Society noted that one barrier is that after-hours premiums in BC are about 30 percent less than in other provinces. The Society recommended investing \$22 million annually to bring premiums on par with other provinces.

HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE

Several participants emphasized the importance of investments in health care infrastructure, particularly building and expanding hospitals. One project that was highlighted to the Committee was Phase 2 of the Burnaby Hospital redevelopment. The City of Burnaby noted that the Burnaby Hospital project was first identified as a priority because of growing demand for health care services in the city, aging infrastructure, and longstanding capacity challenges. The City added that while Phase 1 of the project has been completed, the project now sits in limbo due to the cancellation of the Phase 2 contract. The City and several other participants recommended proceeding with Phase 2 of the project and providing a clear timeline. Multiple participants also expressed support for proceeding with the Nanaimo Regional General Hospital expansion, including the new patient care tower and the cardiac catheterization lab. The Nanaimo Regional Hospital District noted that the hospital does not have enough beds and Nanaimo is the largest centre in Canada without a

cardiac catheterization lab. Participants also expressed support for hospital and health infrastructure investments in Surrey, Langley, Delta, and White Rock.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES AND SUPPORTS

One common theme related to mental health services and supports was increasing funding for community-based mental health services, with participants highlighting the importance of prevention, early intervention, peer support, crisis response, and treatment and recovery. Regarding investments in the continuum of mental health care, the Canadian Mental Health Association (BC Division) highlighted that funding both upstream mental health services as well as crisis response ensures people access appropriate care and reduces unnecessary reliance on costly systems like policing and emergency departments. The Association also noted that an annual \$82 million in federal funding for mental health and substance use services in BC is currently tied to bilateral agreements that are set to expire at the end of the fiscal year and emphasized that these services should not be interrupted. Mental Health Recovery Partners - South Island noted that not for profit community mental health providers face rising costs and would benefit if 15 percent of each community mental health contract with a health authority were allocated for administration.

Multiple participants discussed the Public Safety Personnel Network (PSPNET) mental health care program for first responders. The Fire Chiefs' Association of British Columbia highlighted that PSPNET offers free, confidential, evidence-based cognitive behavioural therapy designed specifically for public safety personnel, addressing occupational stress injuries and ensuring public safety personnel in BC receive the same level of support available in other provinces. Both the Fire Chiefs' Association of British Columbia and the BC Professional Fire Fighters' Association recommended providing \$233,000 annually to the program and partnering with the University of Regina for its delivery. The National Police Federation also advocated for mental health funding for first responders, highlighting PSPNET as an example.

The Committee also heard about a range of other specific mental health care programs. Multiple participants recommended enhancing mental health services for people with disabilities, with the Clements Centre Society stating that service provision for adults with developmental disabilities remains a significant gap in BC's mental health system.

The Family Support Institute of BC recommended investing an additional \$150 million annually to expand disability-competent mental health services. The BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres advocated for expanded investment in Indigenous led-mental health services, including complex care programs. Coast Mental Health supported investments in pathways to employment, education, and community participation for people living with mental illness, including its peer support training program and transitional employment opportunities. Other highlighted programs include initiatives to prevent and reduce the impacts of poor mental health and chronic disease on men, accessible mental health and trauma supports for women, Mackenzie Community Services' Rest of Us counselling program, and an Early Intervention Blueprint Pilot Fund to scale non-clinical mental wellness infrastructure across BC.

ADDICTIONS AND RECOVERY

Several participants expressed support for increased funding related to mental health and substance use. Canadian Addiction Treatment Centres recommended providing funding to expand virtual substance use disorder and mental health counselling supports. Both the Parent Support Services Society of BC and the Canadian Mental Health Association - Kamloops supported investments in voluntary community mental health and substance use services, highlighting that proactive services help people avoid crisis.

Regarding harm reduction, CUPE Local 5536 suggested providing stable, long-term investments in peer-led, community-based harm reduction programs. The Downtown Victoria Business Association expressed support for the goals of harm reduction but objected to the concentration of harm reduction services in Victoria's downtown, recommending distributing them across the region. Some individuals recommended ending funding for harm reduction programs.

The Committee also heard about opportunities to expand addiction treatment. The Downtown Victoria Business Association supported increased funding for high-barrier detoxification, addiction, and mental health treatment beds. CheckingIn Software Ltd. recommended dedicating sustained funding to care coordination that connects existing treatment, aftercare, and housing, indicating that there are challenges regarding public awareness and the public's ability to navigate existing treatment options. In terms of specific initiatives, Canadian Addiction Treatment Centres recommended

recommended providing \$689,000 in funding to support addiction medicine physicians in 13 underserved communities and BC Building Trades advocated for a construction industry-specific rehabilitation and treatment facility. Regarding Assisted Living Registrar-registered supportive recovery facilities, the Realistic Success Recovery Society and Union Gospel Mission advocated for increasing the per diem rate. Union Gospel Mission also expressed concern that when an individual enters a registered supportive recovery program, they lose eligibility for benefits under the *Employment and Assistance Act* and experience a significant drop in benefits. The Realistic Success Recovery Society added that addiction services should be separated from seniors' care in the *Community Care and Assisted Living Act* and the Assisted Living Regulation.

Participants also highlighted opportunities to improve addiction care for Indigenous people. CheckIn Software Ltd. noted that First Nations people are overrepresented among toxic drug deaths in BC. The organization recommended dedicating multi-year provincial funding to Indigenous-led addictions care-coordination innovation. The Northern First Nations Alliance Society recommended improving timelines and processes for distributing funding to Indigenous-led addiction recovery services, noting that such funding allowed the organization to develop treatment services but that funding processes are often delayed, unpredictable, and administratively complex.

Both Options Community Services Society and Vancouver Coastal Health highlighted programs they administer and recommended providing funding to those programs. Options Community Services Society discussed its home-based detox program. Vancouver Coastal Health noted its work to develop evidence-based clinical protocols to treat patients who use fentanyl, its app that supports patients on treatment, and its prevention campaign that targets young people with messaging about mental health and substance use.

PERINATAL AND FERTILITY-RELATED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Several participants called for increased funding and coverage of perinatal mental health supports. Pacific Post Partum Support Society emphasized that perinatal mental health challenges are common and often go untreated. The Society advocated for increased funding for comprehensive perinatal mental health services, including prevention, early

intervention, and specialized treatment across community, primary care, and hospital settings. The organization further recommended sustained, multi-year funding for peer perinatal mental health support programs, ensuring equitable access for underserved populations. One individual proposed creating a goal that no parent seeking perinatal or postpartum mental health support waits more than 30 days for treatment.

Participants were also highly interested in BC's Perinatal Mental Health Strategy, with many noting that the creation of such a strategy was required by the *Perinatal and Postnatal Mental Health Strategy Act*, passed in 2025. Several participants recommended funding BC's Perinatal Mental Health Strategy, prioritizing maternal suicide prevention and intervention, and tracking and publicly reporting on maternal mortality, suicide, and mental health outcomes. Many participants also advocated for \$5 million in funding to build a specialized mental health unit at BC Women's Hospital where a mother experiencing a mental health crisis can be treated alongside her baby. Participants indicated that there is no such psychiatric unit in BC, but they exist in the United Kingdom and Australia. The organization In Her Circle proposed establishing a Maternal Mental Health Accountability Framework that would require public reporting every five years on maternal mortality, maternal suicide, perinatal mental health outcomes, service access, and performance indicators.

Multiple participants recommended funding mental health programs and support for individuals navigating in-vitro fertilization (IVF) in BC. Butterfly Support Network highlighted the substantial emotional impact of fertility treatments and supported allocating \$320,000 annually to provide related counselling, grief support, and peer support.

Pregnancy and infant loss was also a significant topic raised by consultation participants. Butterfly Support Network noted that approximately one in four pregnancies end in loss, with a serious emotional and psychological toll. Multiple participants recommended developing a provincial bereavement strategy to ensure families navigating infertility, pregnancy loss, termination for medical reasons, stillbirth, and infant loss have access to equitable, evidence-based, and compassionate care. One individual proposed establishing provincial standards for bereavement care, including for pregnancy loss, to ensure families receive a consistent level of care. In terms of supports, multiple participants suggested funding community-based mental health and grief support for individuals and families experiencing miscarriage, pregnancy loss, termination of

pregnancy for medical reasons, stillbirth, and infant loss.

REPRODUCTIVE AND SEXUAL HEALTH

Regarding reproductive and sexual health, the Committee heard about opportunities to enhance funding and provide education. Access BC noted that Intrauterine Devices (IUDs) are among the most effective forms of contraception, but inadequate pain management during insertion is a significant barrier to access. The organization recommended expanding Medical Services Plan coverage to include an inhaled analgesic and topical anesthesia for IUD insertions. Access BC also suggested adjusting billing codes to include the time required for pain medications to take effect and subside during IUD insertions and de-bundling billing codes and creating add-on codes for consultations and secondary procedures like sexually transmitted infection screening.

With respect to IVF and fertility outcomes in BC, organizations advocated for increased funding and better data. The Fertility Coalition of British Columbia suggested that the income thresholds for BC's publicly funded IVF program should be updated to reflect the cost of living. The Coalition also identified a need for independent patient experience research as part of the IVF program, with equity-disaggregated data collection to determine who is accessing the program. The Canadian Fertility and Andrology Society highlighted the federal government's commitment to provide IVF funding and recommended the provincial government advocate on this matter. Further, the Society noted that clinics currently report fertility outcome data to the Canadian Assisted Reproductive Technologies Registrar voluntarily, and suggested that this should be mandatory.

Education was also an area of interest for consultation participants, with individuals highlighting opportunities to enhance parenting-related education for individuals and health care providers. Options for Sexual Health advocated for creating a comprehensive, collaborative sexual health strategy that bridges the gaps between health, education, and community-level delivery.

PUBLIC HEALTH

The Committee also heard about opportunities to improve public health in BC. The Public Health Association of BC highlighted the important upstream effects of public health initiatives and recommended increasing public health funding from three percent to six percent of the health care budget.

With respect to vaccinations generally, Medicines Access Coalition - British Columbia indicated that BC does not provide public coverage of many adult vaccinations covered by other provinces. The Coalition recommended addressing vaccine inequity and Merck Canada proposed strengthening prevention by expanding access to vaccines and immunization programs. Similarly, Moderna Biopharma Canada Corporation supported adopting vaccine innovations recommended by the National Advisory Committee on Immunization and the Canadian Association of Retired Persons proposed funding expert-recommended vaccines for seniors. One individual highlighted several specific vaccinations they indicated should be covered for adults, including for respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), chicken pox, and the combined tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis vaccine.

Multiple participants recommended funding an RSV prevention and immunization program for all infants. The Federation of Medical Women of Canada stated that currently BC only immunizes high-risk infants against RSV; however, 80 to 90 percent of RSV infections occur in previously healthy full-term infants. One individual also proposed expanding RSV immunization access points to a greater range of health care settings to reduce inequities for Indigenous, rural, and remote families. Pfizer Canada ULC suggested that another way to protect infants is to provide the RSV vaccine to pregnant individuals. The company also highlighted the risks faced by older adults, and supported adopting the National Advisory Committee's recommendations in this area.

On shingles, GSK Canada noted that the disease can result in severe pain, repeated health care utilization, and long-term complications, but only one third of adults over 50 in BC are vaccinated against shingles. The organization recommended prioritizing evaluation of publicly funded shingles vaccination for older adults, considering impacts to the broader health care system, and continuing engagement with clinicians, seniors' organizations, and public health stakeholders.

Noting the effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines and that some individuals require a protein-based vaccine, several participants recommended funding COVID-19 vaccines every six months, coordinating procurement of a protein-based vaccine option, and ensure a timely and effective rollout each season. Moderna Biopharma Canada Corporation supported maintaining universal access to updated COVID-19 vaccines and conducting targeted outreach to encourage vaccination. Participants also highlighted the effectiveness of wastewater

surveillance in monitoring levels of communicable diseases, and proposed restoring three times per week wastewater sampling, expanding the number of wastewater treatment plants tested, increasing the types of viruses being monitored, and graphing virus lineages.

The Committee also heard about the public health impacts of air quality and radon. On air quality, participants suggested that ventilation and filtration are among the most cost-effective public health measures. Several participants recommended investing in clean air infrastructure by ensuring new construction is aligned with international air quality standards, implementing a retrofit program for older buildings, and introducing an air quality monitoring program in indoor public spaces. The BC Lung Foundation recommended funding its project to bring improved air quality testing to communities around the province, named after Carter Vigh, a nine-year-old boy from 100 Mile House who died of asthma exacerbation due to wildfire smoke. The Foundation also highlighted the impact of radon, noting that the naturally occurring gas comes from uranium in the soil and is the second leading cause of lung cancer. The Foundation suggested establishing a rebate for radon testing and mitigation in buildings.

Participants also made recommendations regarding smoking, sugary drinks, and other factors that affect public health. The BC Lung Foundation highlighted that BC has 6,000 annual deaths due to tobacco and proposed investing in smoking cessation and enforcement, including clinical cessation programs, and considering approaches to create a smoke-free generation. Multiple participants recommended implementing a tax on all sugary drinks. The BC Alliance for Healthy Living indicated that sugary drinks contribute to heart disease, hypertension, stroke, and multiple forms of cancer. The organization noted that BC applies the Provincial Sales Tax to carbonated sugary drinks, but non-carbonated sugary beverages are exempt. The Heart and Stroke Foundation recommended ending the Provincial Sales Tax exemption and considering a sugar levy of 20 cents per litre. On other public health initiatives, the Public Health Association of BC supported developing a provincial and national response to the current digital environment, highlighting the impacts of algorithms, corporate marketing, targeted wellness trends, and misinformation. The Association also recommended providing \$500,000 in annual funding to the Farm to School BC program to support food literacy and healthy eating.

HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE CARE

The Institute for Health System Transformation and Sustainability highlighted its work with the BC Centre for Palliative Care, which includes providing educational resources, spreading innovation, and using evidence-based, culturally appropriate materials, and recommended continuing funding. Canuck Place Children's Hospice Society emphasized the significant impacts of losing a child and noted that access to bereavement care is inconsistent across the province. The organization indicated that it has developed an evidence-informed provincial bereavement care model and stated that with funding it could continue and expand this work. The Prince George Hospice Palliative Care Society requested \$1.7 million in annual funding for the operating costs of a 12-bed palliative wellness centre.

DENTAL CARE

Regarding dental care, the BC Dental Association highlighted demand for dental services among low-income and vulnerable British Columbians. The Association recommended establishing a coordinated provincial oral health strategy anchored within the Ministry of Health, including transferring responsibility for the dental plans currently administered by the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction to the health system, establishing stable and predictable funding for community-based dental care, and modernizing dental fee schedules. The Canadian Society for Disability and Oral Health highlighted wait times for access to dental care at the Vancouver General Hospital clinic and recommended expanding clinical capacity by funding specialized dental treatment clinics at or near hospitals. The Society also discussed the specific needs of people with disabilities, and proposed mandating specialized training for oral health professionals and coordinating federal and provincial dental benefits for people with disabilities. One individual discussed the impacts of congenital dental and craniofacial birth defects and expressed that current public coverage and funding programs are insufficient. They recommended providing full Medical Services Plan coverage for medically necessary treatments and modernizing the Severe Oligodontia Funding Initiative.

MEDICAL COVERAGE

The Committee heard from several participants regarding the Medical Services Plan supplementary benefits. The

Physiotherapy Association of BC noted that the program provides those eligible with a reimbursement of \$23 per visit for up to 10 appointments with any combination of a physiotherapist, chiropractor, acupuncturist, massage therapist, naturopathic doctor, or non-surgical podiatrist. The Association highlighted that the people who qualify for this program are among BC's most vulnerable residents, including seniors, people with disabilities, and low-income individuals. BC Naturopathic Doctors noted that the program has not been updated in over two decades, leaving reimbursement rates and eligible thresholds out of step with rising costs. Several participants supported raising the reimbursement rate and expanding the number of covered visits, with some proposing specific numbers including \$60 or \$96 per visit and 12 or 15 covered visits per year. The Physiotherapy Association of BC suggested the reimbursement rate should be tied to inflation. Multiple participants supported expanding the eligibility criteria for the program, with BC Naturopathic Doctors identifying a need to increase income thresholds. Organizations also supported mandating a regular review of the program to ensure that it remains relevant and responsive. With respect to specific disciplines, the Canadian Traditional Chinese Medicine Development Alliance suggested removing Traditional Chinese Medicine and acupuncture from the shared annual pool of 10 visits and establishing a separate allocation of 12 visits. The Association also proposed expanding Medical Services Plan service codes to distinguish initial assessment and follow-up treatment. One individual proposed covering the full costs of physiotherapy under the Medical Services Plan.

Regarding BC PharmaCare, Medicines Access Coalition - British Columbia suggested that British Columbians spend more out-of-pocket on prescription medications than any other Canadian jurisdiction. The Coalition supported providing equitable access to medications and maintaining a sustainable PharmaCare budget.

Several participants discussed the processes for approving and covering innovative medicines. Innovative Medicines Canada indicated that patients in BC face inconsistent access to innovative medicines compared to other provinces, with delays and variability in drug coverage. The organization recommended improving the consistency and transparency of coverage of innovative medicines. A common theme in this area was developing and expanding accelerated access pathways for innovative medicines. Lilly Canada supported working with provincial and federal partners to modernize

the pathway from regulatory approval to patient access for innovative medicines; further, it recommended establishing an accelerated access pathway for high-impact medicines, beginning with Alzheimer's disease therapies and select oncology products. With a view to accelerating access to innovative medicines, both Innovative Medicines Canada and Merck Canada supported expanding use of early negotiation mechanisms through the pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance. AbbVie suggested extending acceleration pathways to all therapies Health Canada has selected for its Priority Review process and committing to listing, within a defined timeframe, impactful innovative medicines. Lilly Canada discussed formulary processes, emphasizing that they should be transparent and evidence-based, support access to innovative medicines, and preserve complementary coverage. Innovative Medicines Canada supported working with the federal government to secure targeted funding, suggesting this would mitigate the impacts of the United States' most-favoured nation policy.

Consultation participants also shared their views regarding private health insurance, medical coverage for international visitors, and reducing public coverage for various services. The Canadian Life and Health Insurance Association expressed concern that the federal *Pharmacare Act* may disrupt the coverage that millions of Canadians have through private insurers. The Association recommended maintaining workplace health benefit plans and advocating to the federal government as required. One individual proposed eliminating the threshold for private health insurance premium tax deductions. Two individuals expressed concern about visitors from outside of Canada accessing health care resources in BC. The Association for Reformed Political Action recommended ceasing public funding for abortion, medical assistance in dying, medical gender transitioning, and assisted reproduction.

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AND DEVICES

Regarding medical equipment and devices, multiple participants provided input about different funding programs. Both the Home Medical Providers' Association and Macdonald's Home Health Care discussed the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction program that provides funding for mobility devices and durable medical equipment, with the Association noting how the program provides marginalized populations equipment that supports their human rights, safety needs, and community participation. The organizations supported funding the program and

increasing staffing levels to address delays. Noting that the cost of mobility equipment has risen steadily over the last several years, Motion recommended increasing funding paid by the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction for these purchases. The organization also highlighted limitations of the Home Renovation Tax Credit for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities, and BC Housing's BC Rebate for Accessible Home Adaptations, as well as increased wait times to acquire mobility equipment.

Participants also raised differences in how medical equipment is provided for adults as compared to children. HME Medical Distribution Ltd. noted that BC has a recycling pool for children's medical equipment and supported creating an equivalent program for adults. Macdonald's Home Health Care recommended aligning adult disability equipment funding with the improved approach to children's medical equipment benefits, ensuring adults receiving disability assistance have access to medically necessary equipment based on current market costs rather than outdated caps. Similarly, Disability Alliance BC raised that most financial coverage for adults for assistive devices is only available to people receiving disability assistance. The organization supported establishing an Assistive Devices Program to ensure coverage is available to adults not receiving disability assistance.

The Committee also heard about specific types of medical equipment and devices. Multiple participants recommended providing dedicated public coverage for medically necessary devices and supplies for laryngectomees, people who have had their larynx removed. The Laryngectomy Association of BC noted that to breathe safely, communicate more effectively, and participate in daily life, laryngectomees require specific medical devices, but currently there is no dedicated funding. Regarding scooters and lifts, both Macdonald's Home Health Care and the Home Medical Providers' Association noted that funding caps for these devices have not kept pace with market pricing and suggested they should be removed. National Seating and Mobility highlighted the benefits of power-assist devices for wheelchairs and proposed including them as a funded mobility option, allowing qualified health care professionals to determine when they are clinically appropriate. The BC Cochlear Implant Support Group emphasized that current funding levels for cochlear implant sound processors place a financial burden on patients and noted that these devices require replacement every five years. The organization suggested increasing funding to address both of these challenges. Regarding orthotics and prosthetics,

the Prosthetics and Orthotics Association of BC stated that BC is the only province restricting coverage for adults and has not significantly updated its orthotic and prosthetic program in over 20 years. The Association recommended eliminating the age restriction for coverage and establishing a dedicated Prosthetics and Orthotics Plan within Fair PharmaCare, with a \$500 individual annual deductible indexed to inflation and a negotiated bilateral agreement with the Association governing pricing, eligible devices, and program administration. Catheters for Free BC indicated that approximately 10,000 British Columbians rely on intermittent catheters to manage chronic urinary retention and pay a significant amount out-of-pocket to cover the cost. The organization, alongside Coloplast Canada Corporation, supported introducing BC PharmaCare coverage for medically necessary intermittent catheters based on clinical best-practice guidelines.

DATA AND INNOVATION

Some participants identified possible improvements related to health records and data. The Pulmonary Hypertension Association of Canada shared challenges about the availability of national health data, noting that this particularly affects rare diseases that have small patient populations. The Association supported working with other provinces and territories to harmonize health data, including by establishing standard indicators and protocols for health information. Suggesting that health information in BC is often stored in separate systems that do not easily connect, one individual recommended improving how health records are shared between clinics, hospitals, and labs. SereneMind Consulting Inc. emphasized that Canadian data residency requirements should be enforced for all provincially funded digital health applications.

Isologic discussed the production of imaging devices, recommending supporting new privately financed Positron Emission Tomography and Single-Photon Emission Computed Tomography (SPECT) radiopharmaceutical manufacturing capacity in BC and working collaboratively with the company to relocate in-hospital production of finished-dose SPECT radiotracers from Victoria General Hospital to an external central Vancouver location. Isologic also proposed assessing how per-dose radiotracer supply can add capacity without new public production capital investment.

SPECIFIC REGULATORY MEASURES

The Committee heard about a variety of regulatory measures regarding the health care system. Multiple individuals shared ideas related to private health care, with some supporting allowing more privately delivered health care. One individual suggested generating revenue for the public system by creating a licensing fee for health care professionals that derive revenue from private-pay health care services and establishing a surtax on elective cosmetic medical procedures. Another individual proposed creating a BC independent senior care tax credit to provide childless couples an opportunity to save during their peak earning years for future private specialized senior care or home nursing expenses.

The BC Dental Association recommended prioritizing responsive improvement and efficient implementation of the *Health Professions and Occupations Act*, including by ensuring profession-specific representation in governance, reinstating appeal mechanisms and strengthening procedural fairness, strengthening accountability and oversight of regulatory bodies, and refining public disclosure requirements to ensure proportionality. The Prosthetic and Orthotics Association of BC indicated that prosthetic and orthotic practitioners are not formally regulated under the *Health Professions and Occupations Act*, leaving patients without the protections that come from regulated status. The Association suggested designated prosthetics and orthotics practitioners as regulated health professions under the Act.

Additionally, multiple organizations advocated for implementing a cost-recovery fee on the tobacco industry. The Heart and Stroke Foundation stated that BC spends around \$25 million each year on tobacco control and enforcement, and, alongside the Canadian Cancer Society, proposed that a cost-recovery fee could recoup these expenses. The Heart and Stroke Foundation and BC Alliance for Healthy Living both proposed introducing a tobacco retail authorization permit fee.

Other ideas put forward by participants include: decreasing administration and improving efficiency within the health care system, including by combining health regions; initiating a no-fault compensation system for medically harmed patients; and giving Canadian manufacturers preference in health procurements.

RURAL AND REMOTE COMMUNITIES

The Committee also received input specific to health care in rural and remote communities. The BC Rural Health Network stated that many rural residents lack access to a family doctor, nurse practitioner, or consistent team. The organization supported establishing a permanent rural health equity fund starting at \$50 million annually, which would support medical travel, rural health navigation, community health centres and team-based care development, community-level recruitment, health education, and rural transportation solutions.

Regarding primary care, the BC College of Family Physicians identified opportunities to sustain and strengthen rural family medicine, including by supporting recruitment and retention and expanding rural training, mentorship, and leadership opportunities across medical education. The College also highlighted the impact of real-time virtual support programs that connect rural, remote, and Indigenous health care providers with specialist pediatricians and maternal-newborn experts, specifically the CHARLiE (Child Health Advice in Real-Time Electronically) and MaBAL (Maternity and Babies Advice Line) programs, and recommended sustaining these programs. Kootenay Boundary Patient Advisory Committee and Community noted the importance of preventative services but highlighted they are more difficult to access in rural areas, and supported providing funding for disease prevention and early disease detection in rural communities. Other participants supported hiring more emergency room doctors and nurses, creating moving allowances and bonuses for doctors in rural areas and Northern BC, and ensuring adequate funding to proposed initiatives in Northern Health.

Mental health services in rural communities were also an area of focus for consultation participants. Mackenzie Community Services emphasized that access to mental health services is significantly more limited in rural and northern communities due to recruitment and retention challenges, fewer service providers, long travel distances, poor internet connectivity, and extended wait times. The organization recommended providing sustainable operating funding for not for profit organizations delivering mental health services in these communities. Kids Help Phone also supported investments in mental health promotion programming in rural and remote communities. The City of Trail emphasized that it is important for people in rural communities to be able to access services close to home, including mental health care, detox treatment supports, and supportive housing. The City also supported creating a regional

strategy in Trail, Castlegar, and Nelson for rehabilitation, homelessness, mental health, and addictions.

Multiple participants advocated for improvements in medical travel and urgent medical transport for patients living in rural areas. Doctors of BC stated that rural BC residents face a tenfold higher risk of death following trauma than their urban counterparts, recommending improvements to urgent medical transport and additional funding for local response teams. Other proposals include expanding financial assistance for medical travel and accommodation, increasing use of volunteer driver networks and subsidized inter-city bus routes, and establishing designated medevac landing areas in the Babine Lake area. Participants also supported increasing health care funding in Northeast BC, expanding recruitment and retention initiatives for health science and community social service professionals, and including outcomes in rural areas as part of provincial reporting requirements.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

The Committee carefully reflected on the significant input it received related to health care during its consultation. Regarding primary and specialized care, Committee Members agreed there are opportunities to improve the efficiency and interconnectedness of the health care system for both health care workers and patients. Committee Members identified digital improvements, including implementing digital referrals and consolidating electronic medical records, as an effective method to reduce the administrative burden on family physicians. In terms of the specialized care system, Committee Members highlighted challenges regarding data on and awareness of specialist wait times. They agreed that moving forward with the Specialist Waitlist Management Proposal developed by the Consultant Specialists of BC, Doctors of BC, and Ministry of Health would be an effective response to these challenges.

Members also discussed opportunities to strengthen team-based care. The Committee indicated that there is a need to move team-based care forward, but emphasized that this cannot be done with a one-size-fits-all approach. Members noted that there are challenges with team-based care in smaller communities and rural settings. They expressed concern that in some cases, patients cannot book an appointment with an allied health care professional without going through a doctor first. The Committee agreed that, in team-based care settings, physicians should be allowed

to select allied health professionals to work within their clinics. Reflecting on the primary care system more broadly, the Committee expressed its support for the program that allows pharmacists to prescribe contraception and medication for minor ailments, recognizing its impact in relieving cost pressures on other areas of the health care system. Members also discussed the importance of funding accommodation for patients and families travelling for medical care, especially in rural BC.

Turning to community care, the Committee emphasized the value of coordinated, community-based rehabilitation services for people who have been discharged from the hospital. Committee Members acknowledged input regarding a gap between discharge and community-based services, particularly in terms of wait times and the availability of services. Members observed that this impacts stroke patients as well as those recovering from other conditions.

In terms of long-term care, Committee Members noted the critical importance of long-term care infrastructure. They highlighted a need to continue progress on long-term care infrastructure projects, recommending accelerating the construction of long-term care homes, establishing clear timelines for delayed projects, and creating a capital funding program that supports non-profit and health authority operators. Members highlighted that promoting workforce recruitment and retention in the long-term care sector is tied to establishing timelines for long-term care projects, as sufficient staffing is required for these homes to open. Additionally, the Committee recognized that several organizations identified a need to re-examine how long-term care is funded, especially given the discontinuation of bridge funding that was made available during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Committee recommended modernizing the funding model to better reflect actual service delivery costs, including those associated with the expansion of provincial bargaining within the sector. In terms of other ideas related to long-term care funding, Members highlighted the possibility of establishing a comprehensive long-term care funding strategy that increases capacity, implements national standards, improves workforce recruitment and retention, and enhances public reporting. Members further noted that one element of a funding strategy should be consideration of how pharmacy services for long-term care are funded, recognizing the need to raise the capitation rate to match the economic realities. Committee Members also indicated that this challenge is particularly acute in rural BC.

The Committee emphasized the benefits of supporting seniors to age in their own homes. Members noted that many seniors want to stay in their own homes for as long as possible, and additionally, the supports that enable seniors to do so are typically more cost-effective for government than providing long-term care. Committee Members observed that one element of this is providing seniors the equipment they require to stay safely in their homes. They recommended making strategic investments to support seniors to age in place, including expanding access to publicly subsidized home support, developing a cross-ministry mandate to prioritize the home health model, and establishing a tax credit for seniors who are paying for their own home support.

The Committee also discussed the considerations brought forward regarding chronic diseases and complex conditions. Committee Members highlighted input related to myalgic encephalomyelitis and fatigue-related disorders, prolonged impacts from COVID-19, heart disease, diabetes, multiple sclerosis, brain injury, Parkinson's disease, dementia, chronic migraines, arthritis, pulmonary hypertension, low ferritin, psoriasis, and narcolepsy. Members reflected on input advocating for a dedicated unit within the Ministry of Health for complex chronic disease patients. The Committee considered its recommendation from its Report on the *Budget 2026 Consultation* and agreed that targeted investments related to chronic diseases and complex conditions are still required.

With respect to cancer, the Committee reflected on the importance of timeliness and quality of care for cancer treatment and the role of performance targets in ensuring system efficacy and better patient outcomes. Members suggested that information about timelines helps people make choices about treatment options, including accessing care outside of BC in some cases, if the timelines for care are not adequate. The Committee recommended increasing investments and setting specific performance targets in cancer care. Regarding supportive cancer care services, such as counselling, nutrition support, and exercise therapy, Members noted that one way to improve access is through a mix of in-person and virtual delivery. They highlighted the important role of partnerships with community organizations that deliver these services. Committee Members also reflected on cancer screening, with particular attention to breast cancer screening for women with dense breasts. They acknowledged that one barrier to proper screening is a lack of proper compensation for screening. Committee Members suggested that the

Medical Services Plan ultrasound screening fee should be raised to cover the actual costs of breast cancer screening for women with dense breasts.

Members agreed on the critical importance of health human resources and discussed strategies to improve recruitment and retention across a range of health professions. They supported targeting funding to address shortages in specialized professionals, beginning with the professions facing the most critical gaps. For nurses specifically, the Committee highlighted how minimum nurse-to-patient ratios support nurse retention, and expressed support for funding to continue implementation. Members also highlighted the opportunity to expand the BC Loan Forgiveness Program, which incentivizes professionals in select in-demand occupations to work in underserved communities, to include nurses and other allied health professionals. With respect to the scope of practice of various allied health care professionals, Members noted that there are opportunities to expand different professions' scopes to enhance health care system capacity, including chiropractors, physician assistants, and optometrists. They recommended increasing the involvement and scope of practice of allied health workforce professionals, noting that this should be in line with the broader scopes of practice in other Canadian jurisdictions and in consultation with relevant professional associations.

The Committee acknowledged the need for additional health infrastructure in communities across the province and expressed support for continued investment in regional and community hospitals. Members reflected on projects for which they heard a particularly high volume of input, and recommended advancing the Nanaimo Regional General Hospital expansion, agreeing that the proposed catheterization laboratory and new patient care tower are important investments. Committee Members further expressed their support for restoring a clear construction timeline for the Burnaby Hospital Phase 2 redevelopment, including the BC Cancer – Burnaby McCarthy Centre which was highlighted by some consultation participants.

Members considered opportunities to improve mental health services and supports. The Committee highlighted the prevalence of traumatic events that first responders, including firefighters and police, encounter in their work. Committee Members agreed that the PSPNET mental health program should be provided to all BC public safety personnel and receive ongoing funding indexed to inflation. Committee

Members discussed the value of investing in employment, education, and community participation for people living with mental illness and specifically noted the importance of peer support. Members also raised the importance of mental health supports targeted to men, expressing support for initiatives that mitigate the impacts of poor mental health and chronic disease on men, their families, communities, and the health system. Further, the Committee recognized that a significant amount of mental health funding is associated with bilateral agreements with the federal government. Members noted the impact would be significant if agreements are not renewed, and supported continued cooperation with the federal government to ensure ongoing support for existing programs.

Regarding addictions and recovery, the Committee reflected on input from consultation participants who wanted to redistribute or eliminate supervised consumption sites in support of treatment. Members agreed that high-barrier detoxification, addiction, and mental health treatment beds should be funded and prioritized. Committee Members also expressed support for funding expanded access to addiction medicine physicians in underserved communities across BC and emphasized that people want to be able to access addictions care close to their homes and support networks. They further noted the importance of providing culturally safe mental health care and upstream interventions such as counselling. Additionally, Members reflected on input highlighting how when individuals enter a registered supportive recovery program, they lose eligibility for benefits under the *Employment and Assistance Act*, and emphasized that people should not be financially penalized for entering a recovery program.

Committee Members noted that there was significant interest from consultation participants regarding perinatal and fertility-related mental health services. They discussed the *Perinatal and Postnatal Mental Health Strategy Act* and emphasized the importance of both taking a strategic approach and funding services related to perinatal and postnatal mental health. Members considered the proposal to develop a specialized unit at the BC Women's Hospital where mothers experiencing mental health challenges can stay with their babies and agreed that this is an admirable idea. The Committee also agreed on the importance of funding services for people experiencing perinatal and postnatal mental health challenges, as well as mental health and grief support for families experiencing pregnancy loss, stillbirth, and infant loss. To this end, the Committee recommended providing multi-year

funding to support the delivery of specialized mental health and grief support services for families experiencing pregnancy loss, stillbirth, and infant loss. Committee Members recognized the important work done by the Butterfly Support Network in this area. With respect to the nature of these services, Members emphasized that perinatal mental health requires dedicated services to meet specific and distinct needs. Other Members added the importance of providing services to a whole family and ensuring that seeking supports for perinatal mental health challenges is destigmatized.

Turning to reproductive and sexual health, Committee Members discussed opportunities to improve pain management for IUD insertions, including covering certain pain management options under the Medical Services Plan and adjusting billing codes for sexual and reproductive health providers to reflect the time required for pain medications to take effect and subside. The Committee also supported advocating the federal government to follow through on its commitment to provide IVF funding.

The Committee carefully considered the input it received regarding public health. The Committee agreed on the importance of ensuring access to vaccination broadly, and recommended expanding access to vaccines, including for shingles, RSV, and COVID-19. Additionally, the Committee discussed opportunities to reduce the consumption of drinks with added sugar, and recommended introducing financial disincentives. Members highlighted eliminating the Provincial Sales Tax exemption on some non-carbonated drinks and establishing a per-litre sugar levy as possible options. The Committee specified that fruit juice should be exempt from these disincentives, including juices like cranberry and grapefruit that often have added sugar, noting the importance of supporting BC fruit producers and ensuring that any policy does not negatively affect them. Committee Members expressed support for establishing a rebate for radon testing and mitigation, noting that some people may not be testing for radon because they are concerned about the potential costs.

With respect to hospice and palliative care, the Committee recognized that this is an area with ongoing need and should receive appropriate provincial support. Members also noted the connection between palliative care and the long-term care system. They reflected on input regarding in-home palliative care and broader ideas around aging in place, and expressed support for enabling people to receive palliative and hospice

care in their homes.

Moving to dental care, Members discussed the importance of ensuring that people with disabilities have access to appropriate dental services, including anesthesia and sedation when required, delivered by professionals with the training and expertise necessary to safely support patients with diverse communication, behavioural, and care needs. They also highlighted there may be opportunities to ensure that federal and provincial benefits in this area are aligned.

The Committee reflected on the input it received regarding medical coverage. In terms of innovative medicines, Members observed that BC's approval processes are often slower than in other provinces and lead to access issues. They highlighted the importance of transparency as related to medications access. Committee Members supported the potential use of expedited pathways, such as the pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance-expedited pricing negotiation mechanism, as one means to reduce time for patient access. The Committee noted that in its report last year it recommended expediting approval and providing predictable coverage for Health Canada-approved new medicines, and indicated that it heard consistently during its consultation that this is still a priority. Members also reflected on concerns raised about the Medical Services Plan supplementary benefits program, noting that it could be beneficial to increase the number of visits, dollar amount of coverage per visit, and eligibility threshold. Committee Members suggested that a regular review of the program's criteria is one way to ensure that it is kept up to date.

With respect to the provision of medical equipment, Members agreed there are opportunities to improve efficiency, cost savings, and benefits for both patients and government programs. They noted that a recycling program exists for children's medical equipment and suggested this idea could be adapted for adults. The Committee also agreed that funding power-assist devices for wheelchairs is a possible cost-saving measure, noting the benefits of having a funded option available between a manual wheelchair and a power wheelchair. Additionally, Committee Members reflected on input received from people who have had their larynx removed and people who rely on intermittent catheters. They recommended introducing dedicated public coverage for medically necessary devices and supplies, including for these individuals. The Committee also highlighted opportunities to improve access to orthotics and prosthetics, noting challenges related to current age restrictions on Fair PharmaCare coverage as well as access issues in rural communities.

Regarding research, data, and innovation related to health care, Committee Members recognized that there are opportunities to improve how health records are shared between different health care settings and regions of the province. They further observed similar challenges exist across the country, and it may be beneficial to work with other provinces and territories to harmonize health data. The Committee also noted input highlighting opportunities to develop health imaging devices within BC. Members emphasized that having private sector leadership in capital investments in the health sector is a valuable opportunity to promote the possibilities of scientific discovery and financial gain for the people of BC. Members also suggested that British Columbian and Canadian manufacturers should receive preference in health procurements.

The Committee discussed opportunities to ensure that regulatory measures within the health system are working effectively. Members expressed concern about inefficiencies and silos with health care administration, as well as reflected on concerns about duplication and a lack of standardized systems between health authorities. They agreed that the size of health care administration should be reduced by combining health regions, in order to spend more on direct services. Additionally, Committee Members agreed that there are opportunities to recover costs associated with tobacco from the industry itself. They indicated that cost recovery efforts should be focused on manufacturers rather than retailers, and emphasized that these efforts should be connected to work to mitigate the impact of illicit tobacco.

The Committee discussed the delivery of health care in rural and remote communities in BC, emphasizing the importance of having access to care close to home. Regarding health human resources in rural and remote communities, Members discussed the Provincial Rural Retention Initiative and the Rural and Remote Recruitment Initiative and agreed upon a need to ensure these programs receive predictable, consistent funding. Members also emphasized the need to sustain and strengthen rural family medicine and mental health care. They identified recruitment and retention as important pieces of this work, and also highlighted programs like CHARLIE for pediatrics and MaBAL for maternity care that provide real time virtual support for physicians in rural areas. Members indicated that while this form of virtual support for physicians providing specialist care is important, rural patients require in-person access to health care services.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends to the Legislative Assembly that the provincial government:

18. Implement the Specialist Waitlist Management Proposal and develop a centralized database to support data collection.
19. Allow physicians to select allied health professionals to work within their clinics in team-based care settings.
20. Accelerate the construction of long-term care homes by establishing clear timelines for delayed projects and creating a capital funding program that supports non-profit and health authority operators to build and renovate long-term care homes.
21. Modernize the long-term care funding model to better reflect actual service delivery costs, including the increased costs associated with the expansion of provincial bargaining within the sector.
22. Invest strategically to support seniors to age at home safely by:
 - a. Expanding access to publicly subsidized home support;
 - b. Developing a cross-ministry mandate to prioritize the home health model, expanding workforce training, and integrating the equipment needed to keep seniors safe; and,
 - c. Establishing a tax credit for seniors who are paying for their own home support.
23. Increase targeted investments in the prevention, early diagnosis, and effective treatment of chronic diseases and complex conditions.
24. Increase investments and set specific performance targets in cancer care to improve timeliness, quality of care, and patient outcomes.
25. Increase the involvement and scope of practice of allied health workforce professionals.
26. Advance the Nanaimo Regional General Hospital expansion.
27. Restore a clear construction timeline for the Burnaby Hospital Phase 2 redevelopment.
28. Provide funding to make the Public Safety Personnel Network mental health program available to all BC public safety personnel, and index ongoing funding to inflation.
29. Fund and prioritize high-barrier detoxification, addiction, and mental health treatment beds.
30. Provide multi-year funding to support the delivery of specialized mental health and grief support services for families experiencing pregnancy loss, stillbirth, and infant loss.
31. Strengthen disease prevention by expanding access to vaccines and immunization programs, including for shingles, RSV, and COVID-19.
32. Introduce financial disincentives to reduce the consumption of drinks with added sugar, except for fruit juice.
33. Expedite approval and prioritize a predictable timeline of coverage under BC PharmaCare for new medicines approved by Health Canada.

34. Review the funding model for medical equipment and devices to ensure it is meeting the needs of those who use the program, and make improvements including:
 - a. Creating an adult medical equipment recycling and refurbishment pool, similar to the program that exists for pediatric equipment, and
 - b. Including power-assist devices for wheelchairs as a funded mobility option.
35. Introduce dedicated public coverage for medically necessary devices and supplies, including for laryngectomees and people who require intermittent catheters.
36. Reduce the size of health care administration by combining health regions to spend more on direct services.
37. Provide long-term, consistent funding for the Provincial Rural Retention Initiative and the Rural and Remote Recruitment Initiative.

HOUSING, LOCAL GOVERNMENT, AND LIBRARIES

HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

Several participants discussed ways to improve housing development through stronger policy coordination, planning, infrastructure investment, and oversight. The Appraisal Institute of Canada recommended establishing a permanent provincial housing policy roundtable to provide government with evidence-based input from organizations working directly in housing markets across the province. It added that using existing stakeholder networks could help identify implementation challenges early and support more effective policy at limited additional cost. In addition to stronger coordination, the Canadian Home Builders' Association of BC stated that a comprehensive strategy should also support attainable market-rate housing through expanded incentives, financing programs, and building code reforms.

Participants also emphasized that municipal governments need adequate funding, accountability tools, and infrastructure support to meet housing targets. The City of Burnaby noted that, although it has implemented measures to meet housing targets, the current funding framework—which relies heavily on developer contributions and municipal property taxes—makes it difficult to sustain that progress without additional funding. A few participants noted that housing development must be coordinated with sustainable investments in municipal infrastructure and services, including sewer systems, roads, transit, schools, parks, child care, and community facilities. Several local governments also highlighted the issue of aging municipal infrastructure, with the City of Nelson stating that small municipalities cannot meet growing infrastructure and regulatory expectations without stable support. At the regional level, the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen highlighted its growing inventory of aging underground assets and noted the need for predictable, long-term provincial funding and higher cost-share ratios for renewal and replacement of aging water and wastewater infrastructure in rural and regional communities. These recommendations reflected broader concerns that small and rural systems often lack funding for major replacements and

face fragmented, resource-intensive application-based funding models. The Prince Rupert Port Authority also emphasized the essential role of reliable wastewater infrastructure in supporting workforce stability, future housing development, community readiness, and continued economic growth. Lastly, an individual also raised concerns about asbestos cement water pipes and recommended stronger inspection, enforcement, reporting, mapping of toxic waste sites from abandoned pipes, and a funded ten-year provincial strategy to remove asbestos cement water pipes, including abandoned ones.

In addition to infrastructure coordination, a few participants emphasized the need to reduce costs and delays in the development and construction process, with some organizations identifying rising development cost charges as a particular concern. K-Country Homes highlighted the higher costs associated with public sector housing developments as compared to private sector ones and recommended creating a task force to identify ways to decrease this difference. The Urban Development Institute pointed to building code reform as a potential way to address cumulative costs and delays, noting that the federal government has committed over \$40 million to streamline building codes and modernize construction rules. DIGITAL stated that further investment in its Housing Growth Innovation Program would accelerate the adoption of digital technologies such as prefabrication and offsite construction technologies, 3D generative design tools, and AI-driven building inspections that improve construction productivity, grow housing production capacity, and deliver more homes faster. To address rising development cost charges on new housing, the Urban Development Institute recommended that BC reach a funding agreement with the federal government similar to the one reached with the Government of Ontario, while Small Housing BC proposed a provincial development cost charge offset fund.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Several participants highlighted the need to expand and

preserve affordable housing through dedicated funding, financing tools, and support for shovel-ready projects and small-scale multi-unit housing. The Squamish Community Housing Society recommended providing capital grants for affordable housing, noting that these are strategic investments in the long-term sustainability of not for profit housing providers because they reduce reliance on ongoing government operating support, lower debt costs, and enable more affordable rents. The Carnegie Housing Project recommended creating a dedicated acquisition and renewal fund to provide capital grants and low-interest loans to preserve existing deeply affordable housing such as Single Room Occupancy hotels in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. Vancity Community Foundation noted that 70 percent of surveyed not for profit housing builders said lack of pre-development funding prevented them from starting a project. It recommended government partner on the Vancity Affordable Community Housing Program to expand pre-development financing for not for profit, co-operative, and Indigenous housing projects across BC.

Many organizations noted that the pause of the Community Housing Fund created uncertainty for not for profit and community housing providers advancing affordable rental projects and recommended restoring the fund and establishing interim support. Some organizations recommended prioritizing or restoring funding for projects cancelled during the July 2025 intake of the fund. A couple of participants also emphasized the need to reinstate both the Community Housing Fund and the Indigenous Housing Fund. The Aboriginal Housing Management Association noted that cancelling the funds had destabilized the sector, delayed urgently needed housing development, and created significant sunk costs for Indigenous housing providers. To rebuild the housing pipeline at scale, CUPE Metro Vancouver District Council and CUPE Local 391 recommended investing \$1.4 billion to reinstate both funds. They noted that CUPE workers see the impacts of the housing crisis every day through their work in libraries, schools, and social service organizations, and stated that developing thousands of affordable housing units would help reduce homelessness and housing insecurity.

A few participants highlighted region-specific projects affected by funding uncertainty. The Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako stated that at least five projects, representing twelve percent of the region's projected five-year housing needs, were affected by cuts to the Community Housing Fund. The Regional District recommended targeted funding to advance shovel-

ready affordable housing projects in Northern BC and recoup pre-development costs already incurred by housing partners.

A few participants raised concerns about seniors' housing affordability, including the need for more seniors' residences, stronger rental supports, and clarity around retirement-home fees. The Community Based Seniors Services Leaders Council highlighted that current rental costs far exceed what many low-income seniors can afford, contributing to rising homelessness amongst seniors. To address this gap, the organization recommended updating the Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters subsidy to better reflect actual housing costs and improve affordability for seniors. The Committee also heard about the distinct needs of 2SLGBTQIA+ seniors. Living with Pride Foundation noted that this group experiences higher rates of poverty, social isolation, and discrimination than their peers and recommended aligning provincial housing supports with federal and municipal funding to advance Nelly's House as an inclusive, affordable, mixed-income housing project for aging 2SLGBTQIA+ seniors. Regarding fees in retirement-home settings, Sienna Senior Living stated that, because retirement homes provide both accommodation and services, operators are unable to increase bundled service fees beyond the annual rent cap outlined under the *Rental Tenancy Act* and recommended revising the treatment of these fees.

The Committee also heard about unique affordability and supply challenges for post-secondary students. The College of the Rockies and its Faculty Association identified housing availability as one of the greatest barriers to post-secondary participation. The organizations suggested government leverage the federal Build Communities Strong Fund to match contributions toward student housing. The Students' Union of UBC Okanagan stated that additional student housing would improve access to campus and support enrolment growth by reducing commutes, improving safety and wellbeing, and helping students participate more fully in academic, research, and campus life.

The Committee additionally received input from Builders Without Borders about ways to encourage municipalities to partner with not for profit organizations to help advance affordable intergenerational housing projects. The organization recommended dedicated technical assistance from BC Housing, alongside provincial incentives for municipalities to provide donated or discounted land, reduce development costs, waive fees, and expedite approvals.

SOCIAL AND SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Several organizations framed investments in social and supportive housing as a way to improve health, reduce homelessness, and prevent longer-term social and economic costs. The BC Non-Profit Housing Association stated that BC will need 500 new supportive housing homes each year over the next decade, and emphasized that new units must be paired with stable operating funding, adequate staffing, and on-site access to health care and community partners to reduce homelessness, hospital use, and justice system pressures. The City of Nelson noted that municipalities are facing increasing pressure from the housing and homelessness crises, while bearing costs without the jurisdiction or funding tools needed to address root causes. It recommended expanding housing investments, including supportive housing, and providing direct, sustainable funding for municipal homelessness and emergency response.

The Committee also heard about the need for investment in shelters, with several recommendations focused on stable, predictable operating funding. Other recommendations highlighted the need for supports for people experiencing homelessness and integrated models that help people transition out of homelessness. The District of Kitimat stated that predictable operating funding would enable year-round shelter operations with consistent staffing, reliable services, strong outreach and housing partnerships, and flexibility during emergencies. Surrey Urban Mission Place Society highlighted that while its programs demonstrate strong outcomes in supporting stability and pathways out of homelessness, funding gaps are limiting their sustainability and capacity to meet growing demand, and requested funding for transition supports, including pre-employment life skills and peer support.

A few participants advocated for increased investment in women's transition housing, second-stage housing, and wraparound supports for women and children leaving violence. YWCA BC stated that second-stage housing provides safe, secure, temporary homes for women and their children leaving violence, serving as a bridge between emergency shelters and permanent housing. Both the YWCA BC and the BC Society of Transition Houses recommended funding for BC Housing's Women's Transition Housing Fund to expand access to long-term safe and affordable housing. The Elizabeth Fry Society of Greater Vancouver recommended investing in wraparound housing stability supports for women and their

families, including expanding affordable housing designated for women-led households as well as transitional and second-stage housing for women fleeing violence.

Also emphasized by a few organizations was the need for dedicated Indigenous housing investments that support new supply, culturally appropriate wraparound services, and the long-term sustainability of Indigenous housing providers as well as address the distinct barriers facing rural, remote, and Métis communities. Musqueam Indian Band highlighted the need for Indigenous-led and Elder-focused housing to address housing shortages, reduce homelessness, and meet the growing housing and support needs of Indigenous communities across BC. The Aboriginal Housing Management Association recommended investing \$9.5 million to renew existing operating agreements and subsidies set to expire in 2028, noting that this would support more than 7,600 Indigenous households. The association added that this investment should be paired with a provincial urban native housing stabilization fund to ensure Indigenous housing providers can sustain staffing and service levels. Kelly Lake Métis Settlement Society stated that rural, remote, and Métis communities face significant barriers to housing development, including limited infrastructure, high construction and transportation costs, aging housing stock, limited rental options, and few dedicated capital programs for Métis-led housing.

RENTAL HOUSING

Several participants raised concerns about rental affordability and availability, with recommendations focused on increasing supply, strengthening renter supports, and sustaining homelessness-prevention programs. Landlord BC recommended integrating rental housing operations and new rental supply into economic development and major project planning frameworks. To help people transition out of homelessness, recovery, and supportive housing, Pacifica Housing Advisory Association recommended reinstating and expanding funding for the Supported Rent Supplement Program. Similarly, Vancity Community Foundation recommended sustained, multi-year funding for the BC Rent Bank to enable it to become a permanent part of the provincial homelessness-prevention strategy.

The Committee also heard concerns around tenant protections and the need to address specific barriers affecting renters. A few participants made recommendations relating to increased

funding for the Residential Tenancy Branch and the Tenant Resource and Advisory Centre, as well as policy and legislative change. The BC SPCA called for policies to improve the availability and affordability of pet-friendly rental housing, while other recommendations focused on protecting renters during extreme heat events.

A few rental housing recommendations also extended to financing opportunities for landlords. To better enable reinvestment in long-term housing, Landlord BC recommended revising the Additional Rent Increase framework to streamline approval processes, enable pre-approvals, integrate formula-based rent increases, and include sustained operating cost escalation. Urban Climate Leadership raised similar concerns regarding financing for owners of low-rise multi-unit residential buildings and made recommendations focused on scaling climate-resilient retrofits through heat pumps, dedicated financing, and stronger project delivery systems to ensure residents are protected from extreme heat, reducing long-term public costs, and supporting a made-in-BC retrofit economy.

FINANCING AND INSURANCE

With respect to financing, the Committee heard from a few participants about the need to improve access to financing for housing development as well as mortgage services for individuals. Vancity recommended bringing credit unions, government, municipal housing cooperations, and community housing providers together to pool capital, share risk through targeted guarantees, and finance portfolios of shovel-ready housing projects across the province. The organization noted that a credit union-led housing finance platform could be more agile in working to accelerate housing construction on underutilized public, community-held, and Indigenous lands. The Canadian Mortgage Brokers Association made recommendations to increase access to local mortgage services by reexamining the *Mortgage Services Act* branch office licensing fee structure, and to reduce unnecessary licensing complexity by allowing Personal Mortgage Corporations to employ appropriately supervised licensed assistants.

In terms of insurance, Mortgage Professionals Canada raised concerns around access to mortgage insurance and amending licensing regulations. To increase consumer choice and improve access to financial protection, the organization recommended reversing a 2015 decision of the BC Financial

Services Authority to enable British Columbians to access mortgage insurance when obtaining a mortgage through a broker. In addition, the organization recommended expanding the restricted insurance agent licensing regulations for mortgage brokers to include mortgage protection, life, and health insurance.

STRATA CORPORATIONS

A few organizations noted the importance of oversight, accountability, and awareness with regards to the *Strata Property Act*. Recommendations called for a comprehensive review or reform of the Act and its regulations to strengthen governance, financial planning, affordability, and consumer confidence. To support such a review, the Association of Interior Realtors emphasized that the Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs would require dedicated funding and resources. The Appraisal Institute of Canada – British Columbia recommended that government invest in education and support for strata councils to enable strata communities to plan proactively, prevent costly repairs and special levies, preserve existing housing stock, and reduce financial pressure on home owners.

TAXATION

The Committee heard differing views on how property taxation could be used to address housing affordability, local government revenue needs, and taxpayer pressures. One approach proposed increasing property taxes on multiple-property owners to encourage sales and expand housing supply. In contrast, other participants, including the RDN Taxpayers Alliance, called for limits on annual property tax increases to better reflect inflation, population growth, and taxpayers' ability to pay.

Participants expressed differing views on the BC home owner grant, a taxpayer relief measure that reduces annual property taxes on principal residences. Several participants focused on the upcoming elimination of the \$200 supplement for northern and rural property owners, recommending that the Northern and Rural Home Owner Benefit be reinstated to ensure equitable support for northern and rural communities. The City of Prince George emphasized the need to account for regional challenges such as higher transportation costs, longer supply chains, increased heating expenses, and limited access to services. Conversely, one individual recommended phasing

out the BC home owner grant entirely to reduce the deficit by \$1 billion.

Several participants also raised concerns about recent changes to BC's property tax deferment program, stating that the new interest rate will increase costs for homeowners who rely on the program, particularly seniors on fixed incomes. They noted that, beginning in 2026, the rate changed from prime minus two percent simple interest to prime plus two percent compound interest. The Canadian Association of Retired Persons noted that home equity often represents seniors' housing security, primary asset, and retirement plan, and warned that higher deferred tax costs could reduce equity, undermine aging in place, and increase pressure on hospitals, public housing, and long-term care systems. For these reasons, the association and several individuals recommended reversing the changes. Echoing this concern, the City of Kimberley urged the province to reconsider the changes and ensure any future reforms target misuse of the program, rather than people who legitimately need support.

The Committee also heard several recommendations about how property tax exemptions and tax relief should be targeted and modernized. The BC Humanist Association recommended ending automatic property tax exemptions for places of worship. In contrast, two veterans' organizations called for a more consistent, province-wide approach to property tax relief in recognition of the role of these organizations within communities.

A couple of organizations raised concerns about BC's property transfer tax framework. The Canadian Mortgage Brokers Association-BC stated that the tax remains one of the largest upfront costs for homebuyers and recommended aligning the framework with current housing market conditions to improve affordability, access to home ownership, transparency, and predictability. The BC Real Estate Association recommended reforms to the additional property transfer tax for foreign buyers, proposing that it be eliminated on presales and newly constructed housing but maintained on the sale of existing homes.

Several participants identified additional ways to improve housing affordability, including market-responsive housing policy, municipal fiscal sustainability, and Goods and Services Tax relief for new housing. CUPE Local 374 noted that municipal governments across BC are facing increasingly difficult financial decisions because property taxes remain their primary revenue source and are often insufficient to

meet growing needs. As such, the organization recommended additional financial support for municipalities through new revenue-generating tools and higher federal transfer payments. The Urban Development Institute and the Canadian Home Builders' Association of BC recommended a federal-provincial agreement on GST relief for new homes, while Mortgage Professionals Canada recommended eliminating GST on all new homes under \$1 million and increasing the property transfer tax exemption on existing homes up to \$1.1 million.

Other recommendations received by the Committee included extending the speculation and vacancy tax to vacant or minimally occupied commercial properties, introducing a land value tax, and levying vacant or undeveloped land until it is occupied and serviced, all with the aim of improving affordability, and increasing supply and public revenue.

PRIVATE PROPERTY

Several individuals expressed concerns about the 2025 *Cowichan Tribe v. Canada (Attorney General)* BC Supreme Court decision and the potential implications for private property rights. These individuals called for government to defend private property rights.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Several participants emphasized that municipalities need more predictable and flexible provincial funding to meet expanding responsibilities in areas such as infrastructure, housing, climate action, emergency preparedness, and major community projects. More specifically, organizations recommended building local capacity through regional and Indigenous partnerships, creating stable formula-based infrastructure funding, reducing administrative burden, and supporting development approvals. The Kamloops & District Chamber of Commerce noted that municipalities are increasingly expected to address issues connected to provincial responsibilities, including homelessness, mental health, public safety, and housing growth, without sufficient funding or fiscal tools. As such, the organization called for stronger accountability through fiscal impact statements, long-term funding plans, and public reporting to ensure that new provincial legislation, regulations, or policy changes do not transfer costs to local governments without sustainable support. The District of Hudson's Hope called for the modernization of the grant in lieu of taxes program so that payments to local governments

better reflect the impacts of major government projects in their communities, including those undertaken by BC Hydro.

The Committee also heard about challenges related to municipal governance, accountability, and enforcement. With respect to accountability, the RDN Taxpayers Alliance highlighted that sustainable municipal spending is essential to sustaining strong communities, a healthy economy, and public confidence in local government. The organization recommended reestablishing an independent oversight body to review municipal spending efficiency and efficacy as well as developing provincewide performance benchmarks to ensure that spending increases are connected to measurable service outcomes. Relating to enforcement, the Regional District of East Kootenay noted that regional districts are unable to leverage the property tax system and stated that allowing specific unpaid fines or property-related enforcement charges to be added to the tax roll would improve enforcement and compliance, reduce administrative burden, and create a fairer system for taxpayers.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES

The Committee heard about the critical role public libraries play in communities across the province including by serving as community hubs, cooling and warming centres, and access points for social services. The Committee received a significant volume of input about the need to increase core funding for public libraries. The BC Library Association noted that provincial funding has remained at approximately \$14 million annually since 2009, while libraries have significantly expanded the services and programs they offer. The BC Libraries Cooperative added that BC's population has grown by 28 per cent over the same period, increasing demand for library services, while wages have fallen further behind, leading to staffing challenges, reduced hours, and risks to community programs. To address these pressures, organizations recommended increasing annual core funding to \$30 million, with some also recommending that this amount be indexed to inflation, as part of a call for a more sustainable provincial funding approach.

Reflecting this broader funding concern, two organizations called for the *Library Act* and provincial funding framework to be reviewed and modernized. The Board of Vancouver Public Library stated that a ministerial advisory body under the Act would support proactive engagement and help steward long-term provincial investments in BC's public libraries. Also

focused on strengthening the sector's long-term sustainability, the Prince George Public Library recommended developing a provincial framework to encourage public-private partnerships and community investment in library services through matching grants and sector-wide fundraising initiatives.

In addition to changes to the overall funding framework, a few public libraries emphasized the need for dedicated capital funding and new revenue tools to support facility renewal, service expansion, and community-responsive programming. The Board of Vancouver Public Library and Vancouver Island Regional Library recommended establishing a dedicated capital funding program for local libraries, noting that sustainable capital tools are critical for the future growth and renewal of libraries. The Prince George Public Library stated that a dedicated BC Library Innovation and Community Resilience Fund would help libraries develop and expand programs that respond to changing community needs without increasing pressure on municipal budgets.

A few participants also identified targeted funding opportunities to expand access to library services, local publications, and literacy initiatives. The Magazine Association of BC recommended allocating a portion of existing public library acquisition funding to support BC publications, along with investing in a Read Local BC campaign, noting this would expand public access to local stories while helping publishers reach new readers. One participant also emphasized opportunities to reduce costs for smaller public library systems by exploring joint purchasing agreements for physical and digital library materials.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

Regarding housing development, the Committee recognized that housing affordability was a major concern for many participants and discussed opportunities to prioritize investments to make housing more attainable for British Columbians. Members agreed on the need to prioritize investment in attainable housing by streamlining rules and building codes and expanding financing programs, including access to low-cost construction financing. Committee Members also discussed the need to review the cumulative costs of policy decisions and requirements to facilitate the delivery of attainable housing. In particular, Members acknowledged that freezing the BC Energy Step Code at Level 3 would increase consistency for builders across the province.

To better enable municipalities to meet provincial housing targets and developers to deliver more attainable housing, the Committee reflected on the importance of lowering the cost of building new housing, including development cost charges for municipal infrastructure. Committee Members acknowledged the agreement reached with the federal government in June 2026 to lower development cost charges for multi-unit housing and urged the provincial government to continue to find ways to further reduce these charges. The Committee also recommended increasing funding for regional and municipal infrastructure such as water, sewers, roads, transit, schools, and parks in both rural and urban communities. The Committee further discussed the need to provide predictable, long-term funding and review cost-sharing for the renewal and replacement of aging water and wastewater infrastructure in rural and regional communities, including to address safety concerns related to asbestos-cement water pipes.

Members recognized that reducing systemic barriers to affordable, adequate, and suitable housing and housing supports prevents negative health and social outcomes. The Committee reflected on the significant number of submissions received regarding affordable, social, and supportive housing and Members affirmed the need to include diverse housing options including sheltering, transitional housing, culturally safe housing, and housing for students and seniors, as part of the province's overall housing strategy. Committee Members also acknowledged the concerns expressed by business associations and communities around the impacts of some social and supportive housing on community safety and security. The Committee further acknowledged provincewide calls to reinstate funding for both the Community Housing Fund and the Indigenous Housing Fund. Members expressed concerns about the significant financial impacts felt by many organizations that had already invested in housing projects prior to the programs' cancellation. They noted that many of these projects were halted as a result and emphasized that affected organizations should not be further penalized by having to reapply for funding.

The Committee reflected on the importance of ensuring that residents in rental housing units are adequately protected from extreme temperatures and weather events. Members also expressed concerns about affordability and discussed the need for mechanisms such as low interest or long-term loans to finance rental building upgrades to enable air conditioning or hybrid heating systems in older buildings. The Committee recognized that financing and insurance costs

are becoming increasingly significant barriers to attainable housing and reflected on the need for innovative approaches to improve affordability. Members also discussed how the cost of mortgages is increasingly becoming a barrier to home ownership for British Columbians, particularly in urban areas, and noted the gap between assessed property values and mortgage principals in some cases.

In terms of Strata Corporations, Committee Members noted that strata housing represents a significant share of BC's housing market and highlighted the value of conducting a comprehensive review of the *Strata Property Act* to ensure it meets the needs of British Columbians. Members added that this review should examine financial planning requirements, governance standards, and accountability mechanisms. More specifically, the Committee discussed the need for both strata owners and council members to better understand their rights and responsibilities under the Act and recommended integrating mandatory training within the Act.

The Committee also considered how taxation policies could affect housing affordability. The Committee acknowledged that many participants expressed concerns about the changes to the property tax deferment program and recommended that government revise these changes to ensure that vulnerable individuals, such as low-income seniors, are not disproportionately affected. In addition, Members discussed concerns raised by veterans' organizations about the need for property tax relief for their facilities. While the Committee noted that this is a municipal responsibility, Committee Members wished to recognize veterans' service, sacrifice, and important contributions to Canadian society. The Committee also acknowledged how veterans' organizations and facilities support many BC communities by serving as community hubs, hosting social events, supporting local charities, and assisting veterans and vulnerable residents during times of crisis. The Committee also discussed the need to review the property transfer tax framework and its thresholds in relation to the current housing market to ensure that the tax does not act as a barrier to entry for first time home buyers or impede BC's attainable housing goals. In addition to reviewing provincial tax measures, Members indicated that government should consider pursuing an agreement with the federal government on Goods and Services Tax relief on all new homes, similar to the agreement reached with the Government of Ontario.

Regarding local governments, Committee Members considered how provincial decisions affect local government finances,

including through the grant-in-lieu of tax program, and identified the need to undertake a comprehensive review of the program to determine if the model is adequate and fairly compensates local governments. In addition, Members identified the importance of consulting local governments when introducing new legislation, regulations, or policy changes that may have direct financial impact on them. Members added that an assessment should also be required to determine which branch of government will be responsible for new costs, noting that local property tax increases must be sustainable. The Committee also discussed the distinct challenges that small rural communities are facing with regards to homelessness response, noting that without sustainable provincial funding small communities are unable to provide full-time homeless shelters or mental health supports. Members also identified that this lack of in-community supports often leads people to move where the services are located, centralizing vulnerable populations in regional centres like Prince George, Kelowna, and Kamloops. Members additionally emphasized the importance

of accountability, oversight, and transparency for local government and expressed support for reestablishing the Office of the Auditor General for Local Government.

Regarding public libraries, the Committee recognized their role as essential community hubs and safe third spaces particularly for seniors, youth, and those living in poverty. The Committee emphasized the need for consistent, sustainable funding to support staffing, planning, and service delivery and acknowledged the request to increase annual funding for public libraries to \$30 million. In addition to funding, Members also considered the need to modernize the *Library Act* to ensure public libraries are able to respond to growing demand for digital materials, update their systems, and maintain accessible services for all clients.

Finally, the Committee recognized that many participants are concerned about fee-simple property rights following the recent BC Supreme Court decision and acknowledge that government should continue to seek a timely solution to this issue.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends to the Legislative Assembly that the provincial government:

38. Prioritize investment in attainable housing by expanding financing programs, including access to low-cost construction financing, and temporarily freezing the BC Energy Step Code at Level 3 throughout the province to encourage new housing development.
39. Provide increased funding for local infrastructure and community amenities necessary to enable and accelerate housing development, including water and sewer systems, transportation networks, schools, parks, and community facilities.
40. Reinststate the Community Housing Fund and the Indigenous Housing Fund and prioritize applicants from the cancelled 2025 intakes.
41. Conduct a comprehensive review of the *Strata Property Act* and amend the Act to mandate training for strata owners and council members.
42. Revise recent changes to the property tax deferment program and ensure that any changes target those abusing the program.
43. Increase local government and regional district oversight and accountability by reestablishing the Office of the Auditor General for Local Government.
44. Increase core annual funding for public libraries and index it to inflation.

INFRASTRUCTURE, ECONOMIC GROWTH, AND LABOUR

INFRASTRUCTURE

The Committee heard that predictable, sustained investment in public infrastructure is needed to support economic growth, project delivery, workforce capacity, community wellbeing, and equitable access to services. The Association of Consulting Engineering Companies BC recommended stabilizing infrastructure funding and delivery conditions through predictable, reasonable, and informed policy development. Participants also raised concerns about recent reductions and delays in capital projects. The Electrical Contractors Association of BC stated that cancelled public infrastructure projects have negatively affected the construction sector. The BC Federation of Labour advocated for increased investment in public infrastructure, including schools, public transit, and long-term care facilities, rather than directing resources toward private infrastructure projects.

Multiple participants also recommended improving infrastructure planning, coordination, and delivery. Association of Consulting Engineering Companies BC stated that unclear project timelines, sequencing, and funding create uncertainty across the market, reducing workforce capacity and contributing to project delivery delays. The organization recommended publishing and regularly updating a ten-year infrastructure plan, including information such as new capital and capital maintenance and funding status, to improve visibility and support efficient project delivery. The BC Construction Association similarly recommended a transparent, rolling five-year capital plan that identifies priority projects, anticipated procurement timelines, and regular project status updates. The organization stated that this would support planning in the construction industry and post-secondary institutions. It also recommended improving infrastructure delivery productivity through standardized designs, repeatable project templates, and streamlined permitting and approvals. CIL Global Capital Corp proposed a Provincial Major Projects Acceleration Program to advance priority infrastructure projects and improve collaboration with

private-sector investors, local governments, First Nations, and industry partners.

The Committee also heard about strengthening workforce standards on publicly funded infrastructure and major projects. BC Federation of Labour advocated for expanding the use of Community Benefit Agreements and the BC Infrastructure Benefits model to ensure major projects create stable, well-paid local employment while reducing inefficiencies in subcontracting. BC Building Trades similarly highlighted that Project Labour Agreements can support economic development and help ensure public infrastructure investments benefit workers, communities, and taxpayers. The organization recommended expanding the designated list of projects covered under such agreements. CWB Group recommended embedding compliance with Canadian Standards Association welding standards in procurement processes and funding agreements, stating that this would improve quality, safety, and consistency while supporting efficient project delivery and long-term asset performance.

Co-operators and ARC8 LDA recommended accelerating investment in climate-resilient infrastructure. Co-operators emphasized the need for government to partner with private investors, including insurers, to support major projects, adaptation efforts, and the construction of climate-resilient homes and infrastructure. ARC8 LDA recommended developing a BC Resilience Infrastructure Initiative to support distributed energy systems, water security technologies, climate adaptation projects, and community-scale resource solutions.

Several participants also recommended investments in regional and municipal infrastructure. MakeSpace North Park recommended creating a Community Wealth Reinvestment Pilot that would leverage public, philanthropic, community, and private capital to support economic participation infrastructure, neighbourhood-scale economic development, and Indigenous-led economic initiatives. The pilot could support community workshops, production spaces, mentorship networks, and other community assets that help translate

local capabilities into economic participation. Participants also called for targeted investments in key employment and industrial lands, including Campbell Heights and South Campbell Heights in Surrey and the 256 Street Industrial Lands in Maple Ridge, to expand industrial capacity, support supply chains, diversify trade, and create jobs.

Concrete BC, the Cement Association of Canada, and the Canadian Institute of Steel Construction - BC Region recommended prioritizing made-in-BC and Canadian materials in public infrastructure and housing projects, including concrete, cement, steel, aluminum, and forestry products. Cement Association of Canada noted the need to stimulate demand for locally produced cement by accelerating public infrastructure projects and adopting procurement policies that prioritize low-carbon materials. The organization suggested implementing a “Buy BC” approach by setting environmental performance standards that indirectly favour BC-made cement, supporting local industry while remaining compliant with trade agreements. Additionally, the Canadian Institute of Steel Construction - BC Region specifically recommended requiring the use of BC and Canadian fabricated steel on provincially funded infrastructure projects.

BC Common Ground Alliance requested three-year core funding of \$150,000 for the organization to support underground infrastructure safety, including education and prevention campaigns, workforce training, public awareness, digital education systems, and regional outreach. The organization also recommended establishing a cross-ministry task force with industry stakeholders from the infrastructure, energy, municipal affairs, public safety, and transportation sectors. It stated that protecting underground infrastructure is important for safety, economic stability, and growth, as damage to utilities and communications networks can cause project delays, higher costs, and safety risks.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Another theme in the Committee’s input was support for community-led economic development and long-term economic resilience. MakeSpace North Park recommended establishing an Urban Community Economic Development Fund to support neighbourhood-scale initiatives in underserved urban communities. The organization stated that investments in neighbourhood-scale economic development can activate local talent, strengthen small business ecosystems, support local production, increase

workforce participation, and create more resilient local economies. The organization also recommended an Economic Participation Infrastructure Fund to support shared spaces, tools, mentorship, and community assets that help people translate skills, training, and ideas into entrepreneurship, employment, local production, and meaningful participation in British Columbia’s economy. Additionally, the Canadian Community Economic Development Network recommended increased support for community-led economic development initiatives that strengthen livelihoods, address local priorities, and build long-term resilience. It also recommended investing in local data, research, and decision-making capacity, including development of a Community Economic Development Data Portal to improve access to community-level indicators and support evidence-based planning, noting that many communities lack access to timely, local-level economic and social data needed to make informed decisions.

Multiple participants also requested support for specific industries and regional economic development. The Craft Cannabis Association of BC noted that cannabis farm cash receipts reached \$667 million in BC and highlighted the impact of taxes and regulations on small-scale legal producers. The Association requested \$150,000 annually for three years to support small-scale cannabis producers through accreditation, educational resources, outreach, and ongoing industry support. Other requests included continued funding for Invest Vancouver and long-term investment for the Island Coastal Economic Trust.

SMALL BUSINESS

Multiple organizations recommended measures to support small businesses through investment, financing, and tax reform. Tru Co-operative Bank noted that small- and medium-sized enterprises account for 63 percent of private sector employment and often operate on thin margins, where access to modest financing can have a significant impact. It recommended a loan guarantee program similar to Nova Scotia’s model, which enables small- and medium-sized businesses to borrow up to \$500,000 for up to 10 years. The Canadian Federation of Independent Business recommended lowering BC’s small business tax rate, stating that this would help entrepreneurs pay staff, withstand economic shocks, and offset disadvantages compared to larger corporations. Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters highlighted the tax and regulatory burdens facing manufacturers and small businesses, noting that cumulative

taxes, duplicative requirements, and increasing compliance costs can limit growth and investment for smaller businesses. It recommended a full review of BC's business tax system, including property taxes and payroll-related costs, to improve competitiveness and support investment.

The Committee also heard about the need to support small- and medium-sized businesses affected by factors outside the businesses' control. The Kelowna Chamber of Commerce stated that US tariffs have created uncertainty for export-dependent sectors and recommended the creation of a tariff impact fund to provide bridge financing and working capital to support businesses with between five and 100 employees in directly affected sectors. In addition, the Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce recommended ensuring that public sector workforce policies support a strong, active downtown by restoring a consistent presence in office-based roles.

TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

Technology and innovation were significant themes in the input received by the Committee. Some organizations recommended increased support for innovation and entrepreneurship through improved funding and procurement policies. The Victoria Innovation, Advanced Technology and Entrepreneurship Council recommended core funding for technology associations, stating that stable support would help strengthen innovation and entrepreneurship across the province. The Council of Canadian Innovators recommended using government procurement policies to support Canadian technology firms and domestically owned companies that develop and retain intellectual property, noting that this approach would help strengthen the local innovation ecosystem. Participants also recommended targeted investments to support the commercialization and deployment of emerging technologies. ARC8 LDA stated that many promising technologies stall at the prototype or pilot stage because organizations are often unable to absorb the risks associated with first-of-kind commercial projects. The organization noted that technologies developed in BC can struggle to secure validation, attract capital, and scale into viable businesses, and recommended establishing a BC Regenerative Innovation Deployment Fund to support the deployment and validation of emerging technologies.

Additionally, BC Tech recommended establishing a Premier's technology council and a technology procurement task force to support government decision-making on technology policy,

procurement, skills, artificial intelligence (AI), and innovation. The organization stated that a Premier's technology council would provide a non-partisan and confidential forum to help ensure decisions are informed by relevant expertise. It noted that other jurisdictions have adopted similar models, including Ontario's Digital and Data Task Force, Alberta's Technology and Innovation Advisory Council, and the federal government's AI Advisory Council. The Committee also received input related to concerns about AI adoption including water and electricity usage, with some individuals recommending the need to create comprehensive regulations.

Multiple organizations recommended tax measures to support the growth of Canadian technology companies and encourage the development and retention of intellectual property. The Council of Canadian Innovators recommended implementing a scale-up tax credit to encourage Canadian technology companies to acquire other firms, including their intangible assets, and accelerate the accumulation of domestic intellectual property and assets that support economic growth. BC Tech recommended implementing a BC patent box, which would reduce the tax rate on income derived from patents, at an estimated cost of \$30 million per year. BC Tech stated that patent boxes are used to help retain intellectual property in the jurisdiction where it was developed. The organization added that a patent box is most useful when valuable intellectual property already exists and that additional measures are needed to support earlier-stage intellectual property development. It also advocated for implementation of the federal government's promised flow-through shares regime, which would allow early-stage company losses to flow through to investors and help attract more capital to innovation sectors.

Lastly, several organizations made recommendations related to specific sectors and programs. InkWell Solutions recommended earlier market engagement, "buy or build" assessments, and pilot-first approaches before major public sector technology implementations. The organization stated that these measures would support more user-centred and cost-effective procurement decisions while creating opportunities for BC-based technology providers. The Council of Canadian Innovators recommended exempting software engineers from unnecessary licensing requirements. Photonic recommended creating structured pathways for ministries, Crown corporations, and public agencies to pilot and adopt quantum computing technologies. Lastly, NorthX Climate

Tech also advocated for investment to recapitalize NorthX, a climate hard tech investment platform.

HEALTH CARE RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Several organizations highlighted the importance of continued investment in health and life sciences research. Life Sciences BC stated that continued investment in life sciences capital, talent, infrastructure, intellectual property, data, and innovation is needed to strengthen BC's position as a global life sciences hub and support work to address challenges in the health care system. It also recommended competitive policies to attract and retain life sciences talent, protect intellectual property, and enable health data to be used for innovation and patient care. Michael Smith Health Research BC recommended continued investment in health research and the life sciences sector, stating that BC researchers have delivered life-changing innovations during major health challenges, including SARS and COVID-19. The organization noted that sustained support for health research contributes to both human health and economic health.

Other organizations recommended actions to strengthen BC's competitiveness for clinical research investment. AbbVie stated that clinical trials create high-value jobs, attract leading researchers and clinicians, support BC's universities and biotechnology companies, and help health care professionals gain early access to emerging medical knowledge. Moderna Biopharma Canada Corporation recommended making rapid clinical trial activation a core pillar of BC's mRNA and lipid nanoparticle hub. Genome BC noted that it had requested \$66 million in provincial funding over three years, of which \$15 million had already been received. The organization recommended allocating the remaining \$51 million committed through March 2029, stating that genomics has contributed to advancements in health care, environmental management, and economic development.

INTERPROVINCIAL TRADE AND MARKET ACCESS

Some organizations advocated for continued work to remove interprovincial trade barriers. The Kamloops North Shore BIA noted that businesses continue to face uncertainty related to supply chains, tariffs, inflationary pressures, and international market instability. The organization stated that Canada's domestic marketplace is an important opportunity to improve economic resilience, and recommended continuing

to remove interprovincial trade barriers while expanding internal initiatives such as "Buy BC" and supporting local procurement. On interprovincial barriers, the Canadian Life and Health Insurance Association expressed support for reducing barriers and emphasized that there should be consistency in rules governing the insurance business. Similarly, the Canadian Credit Union Association noted that provincially regulated credit unions cannot do business outside of their province, unlike federally regulated credit unions. The Association indicated that BC should sign an extra-provincial agreement with Ontario to allow provincially regulated credit unions to grow into other provinces to avoid large credit unions eventually choosing to become federally regulated. The Association also stated that maintaining a provincially regulated credit sector allows the provincial government to tailor lending to fit BC priorities and advocated for a strategy to retain and grow provincially regulated credit unions.

CONSTRUCTION AND MANUFACTURING

Regarding the *Construction Prompt Payment Act*, the BC Construction Association stated that accelerated implementation of the Act will directly improve cash flow through the construction supply chain, support workforce stability, and confidence in BC's construction economy, and allow businesses to plan more effectively. Similarly, the Mechanical Contractors Association of BC noted the need to continue meaningful consultation with the mechanical contracting industry on prompt payment regulations to ensure fairness, certainty, and efficiency throughout the construction payment chain.

Other organizations noted additional regulatory and investment measures for the construction industry. Surety Association of Canada suggested mandating bonding in construction projects, as the cost of bonding represents a small fraction of total project value while protecting the full public investment. Regarding tax incentives for equipment use in construction prefabrication, including advanced welding systems, pipe profiling technology and fabrication equipment, the Mechanical Contractors Association of BC said this would help contractors build faster, safer, and more cost-effectively while improving certainty and supporting the province's infrastructure objectives. Lastly, one individual advocated for all construction contracts to include late and over-budget penalties, as well as incentives to be under- or on-budget and on time.

Regarding the manufacturing industry, Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters noted challenges for this industry, including access to industrial lands and tax burdens. The organization stated that manufacturers face a growing and often duplicative regulatory burden. Its recommendations in this area included action to improve the availability and suitability of industrial land and expanding targeted investments to support industry innovation and competitiveness.

LABOUR

Another theme in the input received by the Committee was strengthening workforce supports and improving access to employment. The BC Federation of Labour highlighted opportunities to improve affordability and workforce participation through targeted investments, particularly in accessible public child care and programs that support women in the skilled trades. The organization noted that many tradeswomen face child care challenges due to irregular and shift-based work schedules. It also called for increased funding for the Employment Standards Branch and permanent funding for recent increases to the Labour Relations Board to strengthen labour system capacity and ensure timely enforcement and reliable dispute resolution for workers and employers.

Regarding the need for better coordination in workforce development, the Association of Service Providers for Employability and Career Training (ASPECT) stated that community-based employment service providers operate at the intersection of workforce development, employment, employer engagement, and community resilience, and should be included in workforce planning. ASPECT also highlighted the role of these providers in helping workers gain new skills and transition into growing industries, while supporting employers with recruitment, retention, and workforce development. Its recommendations included recognizing workforce partnerships and employment services as essential workforce infrastructure, funding a cross-ministry workforce development table, and creating a community workforce partnership initiative.

Regarding unions and major projects, Ironworkers Local 97 stated that BC's Critical Minerals Strategy depends on building a reliable domestic workforce through sustained investment in apprenticeships, training, and local community participation rather than relying on temporary labour solutions. The union noted that strong labour standards and project labour

agreements can help reduce risks on major critical minerals projects by improving safety, reliability, scheduling, and cost predictability. It recommended linking provincial incentives to union labour agreements, co-investing in community-based apprenticeships tied to critical minerals projects, recognizing unionized skilled trades as a workforce delivery partner, and requiring provincially supported projects to submit certified workforce plans.

The Committee also heard some recommendations related to living-wage requirements. Living Wage BC noted that a living wage is the hourly rate required to cover basic living costs, such as housing, food, child care, and transportation. The organization recommended embedding living-wage requirements in all government contracts and funding agreements, beginning with new contracts, and expanding to existing agreements over time. The organization stated that this approach would ensure workers involved in provincially procured or funded public services are paid at least the local living wage. The organization further recommended developing a phased rollout for the provincial government to become a certified living-wage employer.

Lastly, the Committee received a recommendation to provide \$4 million annually to the Youth Climate Corps, a job training program designed to equip young people with the skills needed to secure jobs that support climate action.

IMMIGRATION

Immigration and workforce attraction was another theme in the Committee's input, particularly related to sectors experiencing labour shortages and competition for specialized talent. Photonic stated that other jurisdictions are investing heavily in quantum technologies and bases of operations and advocated for BC to strengthen immigration pathways with targeted graduate funding and develop research partnerships to attract and retain global quantum computing and AI talent. Life Sciences BC recommended expanding the Provincial Nominee Program to ensure BC has professionals with the necessary skills in data science, biometric analysis, and quality and regulatory systems. Additionally, BC Hotel Association noted that labour shortages are acute in rural BC, and are worsened by ongoing restrictions and uncertainty surrounding the Temporary Foreign Worker Program, combined with the elimination of the Entry Level and Semi-Skilled Provincial

Nominee Program. The Association recommended adopting a new labour and immigration framework that better reflects the shortage of labour in rural BC. Pacific Immigrant Resources Society highlighted the need to invest in programs that support the labour market integration of immigrant and refugee women by recognizing them as a priority within BC's workforce and skills development strategies. The organization noted that these investments help address labour shortages in key sectors such as health care, child care, and community services while strengthening economic participation.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

Regarding infrastructure planning, Committee Members noted that a ten-year infrastructure plan could improve transparency and support more efficient project delivery. The Committee discussed how increased awareness of future infrastructure projects would help businesses and government plan, invest, and staff appropriately, while enabling workforce and skills training programs to better align with anticipated labour market needs. Additionally, the Committee noted that a ten-year infrastructure plan should be supported by measures to improve project delivery including standardized designs, repeatable project templates, and the use of a variety of contracting approaches. Members emphasized that these measures could help ensure projects are completed efficiently and on schedule. The Committee also suggested that business-case reviews should be conducted before any major infrastructure projects are cancelled.

Committee Members also considered how procurement, regulation, and business supports could strengthen economic growth across the province, including the implementation of a "Buy BC" procurement policy. The Committee discussed the role of procurement and industrial investment policies in supporting BC industries, strengthening competitiveness, and maximizing the economic benefits of public infrastructure spending. In addition, the Committee discussed the importance of streamlining permitting and regulatory processes, especially between different ministries, to improve the business environment and support economic growth. Members also discussed the value of economic development and workforce planning strategies that include measurable outcomes and accountability mechanisms to help government and industry address current labour market needs and anticipate future demand. Regarding the business environment, the Committee identified pressures facing small- and medium-sized businesses, including crime, tariffs, and

PST expansion, and highlighted reducing the small business tax rate as a potential support measure. Committee Members further highlighted the cumulative impact of taxes and regulations on businesses and the need to consider how these pressures affect competitiveness and economic growth.

Regarding technology and innovation, the Committee discussed opportunities to strengthen BC's competitiveness in emerging sectors. Noting that BC was an early leader in quantum computing but is now falling behind other jurisdictions, Committee Members discussed the importance of investing in BC's quantum industry to maintain competitiveness. The Committee also acknowledged the input it received regarding concerns about AI and discussed the need for a strategy to understand and prepare for its impacts on BC's economy and electricity needs. Related to public sector decision-making, the Committee discussed the importance of conducting "buy or build" assessments to inform technology procurement decisions and ensure funds are being used efficiently. Committee Members also discussed the importance of using tax incentives, such as a patent box, and research and development supports to help BC-based technology companies retain intellectual property, promote commercialization, and strengthen innovation and competitiveness.

Workforce planning was another area of focus for the Committee, particularly in relation to coordination, participation, and labour market inclusion. The Committee discussed the importance of cross-ministry coordination to better support workforce planning. In considering broader workforce and community impacts, the Committee acknowledged input it received regarding the need for public sector workforce policies, such as in-person attendance in offices, to support downtown areas across the province. The Committee also discussed the importance of supporting immigrants and refugees in joining BC's workforce through initiatives such as employment-focused language training, bridging programs, credential recognition in high-demand sectors, and culturally responsive supports, recognizing their potential to help address labour shortages, improve workforce participation, and support economic growth throughout the province. In particular, the Committee highlighted the unique challenges and barriers faced by immigrant and refugee women and discussed the need for targeted supports to improve workforce participation and economic inclusion.

The Committee also discussed measures to improve certainty and efficiency in construction and trade. The Committee noted

the input it received regarding prompt payment and discussed the importance of effectively implementing ongoing efforts to address these issues and achieve intended outcomes. Additionally, the Committee expressed interest in exploring the use of penalties for late or over-budget construction projects. The Committee highlighted the importance of removing interprovincial trade barriers to strengthen BC's economic competitiveness and resilience. Members emphasized the need to accelerate ongoing efforts and pursue all available opportunities to expedite the removal of barriers, noting the expectation that this work be completed before the release of Budget 2027.

Finally, the Committee highlighted the importance of retaining and growing BC-based credit unions and discussed options to expand their operations beyond British Columbia. The Committee discussed the need to address regulatory barriers that limit the ability of BC-based credit unions to expand outside of the province, noting that doing so could help retain capital, investment, and locally based financial institutions within the province.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends to the Legislative Assembly that the provincial government:

45. Publish and regularly update a ten-year infrastructure plan, including information on new capital projects, capital maintenance projects, and funding status.
46. Implement a "Buy BC" procurement policy to support domestically manufactured products and services.
47. Review BC's business tax and regulatory framework, and reduce the small business tax rate to improve the competitiveness of small- and medium-sized enterprises relative to other jurisdictions.
48. Invest in BC quantum computing companies and support the adoption of quantum technologies.
49. Support BC-based technology companies by implementing a patent box and strengthening research and development incentives.
50. Increase funding for programs that support the integration of immigrants and refugees into BC's workforce to help address provincial labour market needs.

K-12 EDUCATION

CAPITAL FUNDING

Multiple school districts and individuals emphasized that safe, modern schools are essential learning environments and indicated that significant deferred maintenance and new construction needs remain unaddressed. School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay) stated that school districts are facing urgent challenges related to aging infrastructure, rising maintenance costs, outdated systems, and safety risks. The district called for accelerated investments in modern school facilities to ensure safe and functional learning environments and highlighted Mount Baker Secondary School as an example of a school requiring significant upgrades. Similarly, the District Parent Advisory Council from School District No. 73 (Kamloops-Thompson) noted that school facilities across the province are aging, overcrowded, and increasingly unable to meet the needs of growing communities. It recommended the development of a five-year plan to address the province's capital funding gap. Similarly, School District No. 39 (Vancouver) highlighted the need to accelerate capital approvals and increase investment, deferred maintenance, accessibility improvements, and climate-resilient school infrastructure.

Multiple participants also raised concerns about the growing reliance on portable classrooms. They explained that portables are increasingly being used as long-term learning spaces, while many associated costs continue to be absorbed through operating budgets. The District Parent Advisory Council from School District No. 73 (Kamloops-Thompson) recommended funding portables as capital expenditures, noting that although portables are intended as temporary structures, they often remain in service for extended periods and can involve substantial costs related to acquisition and maintenance.

Several participants noted that many schools remain at high seismic risk and emphasized the need for continued investment in seismic upgrades and high-priority projects. School District No. 38 (Richmond) recommended accelerating investment in the School Seismic Mitigation Program through

predictable project approvals and funding and completing remaining high-risk upgrades by 2030. The district stated that accelerating seismic mitigation efforts would improve student safety, reduce long-term costs, and strengthen community resilience.

In addition to province-wide priorities, some districts identified local infrastructure needs. School District No. 38 (Richmond) requested capital funding for the new Richmond City Centre School to accommodate anticipated population growth and urban densification. The Nanaimo Ladysmith Public School Board outlined the urgent need to replace Nanaimo District Secondary School, noting that the facility no longer meets modern safety, capacity, or educational standards and faces structural and seismic risks.

OPERATIONAL FUNDING

The Committee also received extensive input regarding operational funding. Multiple participants indicated that operating funding has not kept pace with inflation, enrolment growth, negotiated wage settlements, and increasingly complex student needs. School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan) and School District No. 62 (Sooke) noted that districts are experiencing significant cost increases across all areas of operation, often requiring resources to be redirected from classrooms and student supports to address inflationary pressures. School District No. 6 (Rocky Mountain) and School District No. 42 (Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows) recommended dedicated funding for technology infrastructure and cybersecurity to support digital learning, protect student information, and meet provincial information security requirements. In addition, several participants called for increased core funding, so that districts are not reliant on fundraising and external grants to deliver essential services.

Closely related to these concerns, the Committee received several recommendations regarding the base per-student funding model. The BC School Trustees Association noted that the base per-student funding should reflect the full cost of

delivering education, including wage increases, technology needs, cybersecurity requirements, and facility maintenance. CUPE Local 606 recommended supplementing the per-student funding model with a block funding component to address structural funding challenges and fixed operational costs. The organization noted that a funding model based primarily on enrolment does not adequately account for aging infrastructure, inflationary pressures, and ongoing operating expenses.

Several organizations also called for reforms to the inclusive education funding model, including placement of one education assistant or support worker in every primary classroom, timely student assessments, and increased staffing levels. CUPE Local 723 noted that increasing demands on education assistants have been accompanied by higher rates of workplace violence, underscoring the need for additional staffing supports. School District No. 62 (Sooke) recommended modernizing the inclusive education funding model to recognize students requiring significant supports before formal diagnoses are obtained and to better reflect the number and complexity of students served. School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay) indicated that it currently supplements special education funding using general operating funds and recommended increased targeted funding for supports and services such as counselling, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, school psychology, speech language therapy.

Some participants also discussed legislative measures aimed at improving funding transparency, accountability, and predictability. One individual recommended establishing a legislated formula for determining the actual cost of educating each student, explaining that currently per-student funding allocations are announced before final enrolment figures are confirmed. Similarly, the District Parent Advisory Council from School District No. 41 (Burnaby) recommended legislating annual district-by-district reporting of per-student funding calculations to strengthen public accountability and transparency. Two individuals recommended establishing a legislated inflationary floor for operating funding increases to ensure annual funding adjustments keep pace with the Consumer Price Index.

The Committee also received some input on the impacts of federal immigration policy changes on school district finances. Multiple individuals noted that declines in international student revenue have affected programs and services such as counselling, arts programming, and other educational

supports. They argued that the volatility of international student revenue makes it an unreliable source of funding for core services and recommended establishing a provincial stabilization fund. School District No. 39 (Vancouver) similarly recommended temporary stabilization funding for districts experiencing revenue losses due to enrolment declines and reduced international student enrolment.

Several participants further discussed funding associated with collective agreements. School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan), School District No. 41 (Burnaby), and two individuals recommended fully funding all costs arising from negotiated collective agreements, including salary and benefit increases. School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan) noted that while funding has been provided for wage settlements, districts continue to experience significant increases in benefit costs, including extended health, dental, pension and related expenses.

Multiple organizations also highlighted the need to review special-purpose funding models. School District No. 42 (Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows) recommended reviewing the CommunityLINK funding formula to establish a more equitable, needs-based allocational model for students requiring additional supports. The BC Community Schools Alliance Society emphasized the role of Community School Coordinators in connecting schools with community services and recommended recognizing these positions as an eligible use of CommunityLINK funding to strengthen service integration and community partnerships.

Regarding rural and remote communities, some organizations emphasized that rural districts face unique challenges related to transportation, staffing, mental health service delivery, and fluctuating enrolment. School District No. 60 (Peace River North) highlighted persistent funding gaps affecting rural and remote districts, particularly in education and mental health supports. The district pointed to staffing shortages, inadequate transportation funding, limited access to mental health services, and the need for sustainable early learning funding, and called for increased and stabilized funding for rural and remote districts. School District No. 6 (Rocky Mountain) similarly noted that growing reporting, accountability, and compliance requirements place significant administrative demands on rural districts without corresponding funding increases. The district recommended providing funding to support compliance activities alongside core student support.

The Committee also received a number of area-specific and program-specific funding requests. Burnaby Neighborhood Works Society recommended increasing sustainable operating funding to support adequate staffing levels, student services, and school capacity in growing communities such as Burnaby. The Queensborough Residents Association requested a permanent provincial funding grant for the New Westminster Secondary School bus service, which currently relies on temporary provincial support. Conseil Scolaire Francophone de la Colombie-Britannique highlighted a gap between demand for French-language education and available funding and recommended creating a dedicated start-up fund to support the expansion of francophone educational services into underserved communities. School District No. 41 (Burnaby) highlighted the importance of provincially funded full-time custodial staff in every school, noting their role in maintaining the safety, cleanliness, and security of school facilities and emphasized that access to these services should not depend on local budget decisions.

STUDENT SUPPORT

Several recommendations highlighted the importance of student supports and the need to increase investments in mental health, accessibility, transportation, food security, and other supports that enable students to participate fully in education. The BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils raised concerns about growing economic barriers affecting students' access to education, including food insecurity, inadequate transportation, digital inequities, and the rising costs associated with extracurricular activities. The organization stated that these challenges disproportionately affect students from lower-income households, as well as those living in rural, remote, Indigenous and other underserved communities and recommended maintaining support for programs and infrastructure related to food security, transportation, technology, and extracurricular activities. Breakfast Club of Canada recommended strengthening school nutrition programs through expanded collaboration with existing student nutrition organizations. The organization suggested improving procurement efficiencies, increasing school district capacity, and developing mechanisms to assess the origins of food served in schools, including tracking the use of food produced in BC.

Some organizations discussed infrastructure and technology needs that support student learning and wellbeing. School District No. 39 (Vancouver) highlighted the need for significant

investments in digital learning infrastructure, including assistive technologies, classroom technology renewal, and professional learning opportunities related to emerging digital tools. Pearson Canada recommended expanding funding for evidence-based digital literacy screening and interventions tools, including AI-enabled technologies, to support early reading success. The organization noted growing demand for psychoeducational, behavioural, and mental health assessments and suggested that digital tools could improve access, early identification, and operational efficiency. In addition, the BC Education Facilities Committee raised concerns about inadequate ventilation and poor indoor air quality in schools, noting potential impacts on student health. The organization recommended targeted investment in ventilation upgrades and low-cost filtration systems to improve learning conditions.

The Committee also heard recommendations relating to specific programs. One individual advocated for enhanced supports for Deaf and Hard of Hearing students and recommended establishing a Provincial Educational Language Access Fund for students who rely on American Sign Language (ASL) to access education. The individual also called for investments in intensive early language access services and measures to recruit and retain specialist educational interpreter positions. The English Language Learners Consortium (ELLC) and one individual provided input regarding supports for English language learners and newcomers. ELLC recommended removing the current five-year funding cap for English language learners, arguing that many students require longer than five years to fully access the curriculum. The organization also recommended supporting newcomer settlement services by making schools who participate in Settlement Workers in School (SWIS) programs eligible for provincial settlement grants, noting that SWIS programs have experienced recent reductions in federal funding.

EDUCATOR RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

The Committee heard from multiple organizations and individuals about educator recruitment and retention. Participants generally emphasized the need to expand teacher and educational assistant training opportunities, improve recruitment incentives, increase staffing levels, and support employee retention through safer workplaces. Federation of Independent Schools Associations in BC (FISA) noted that teacher shortages are affecting schools across

the province and recommended expanding capacity within post-secondary teacher education programs and increasing incentives for teacher certification, especially in rural and remote communities. The Institute for Public Education BC recommended increasing funding for staffing in public schools, including expanding teacher education and educational assistant training programs, especially through pathways serving rural, remote, northern, and Indigenous communities. Similarly, First Call Child and Youth Advocacy Society supported investments in recruiting teachers, education assistants, psychologists, and other support staff. The organization stated that schools are facing growing challenges in supporting students with diverse learning and mental health needs.

CUPE Local 5101 raised concerns about increasing incidents of violence in schools and noted that education workers are frequently exposed to physical incidents due to insufficient supports and advocated for investments in staffing and services. Similarly, CUPE Local 1260 explained that staff are facing increased safety risks, and recommended a more comprehensive response, including standardized post-incident supports and mental health services.

PROGRAMMING AND CURRICULUM

Participants emphasized the importance of preserving and enhancing educational programming and curriculum opportunities, with several individuals highlighting the value of a comprehensive education that supports creativity, leadership, and critical thinking. One individual also noted that many students face challenges transitioning from secondary school to post-secondary education and employment and recommended expanding regional work integrated learning opportunities involving schools, post-secondary institutions, and local employers.

Funding for arts and music education was frequently identified as priorities by participants. ArtStarts in Schools recommended reinvesting in arts education, describing it as a low cost, high impact investment that supports child development, mental health, cultural participation, and academic achievement. The BC Live Performance Network similarly emphasized the value of arts education and noted that previous funding delivered through ArtStarts has been paused.

The Committee additionally received some recommendations related to specialized programming. The Family Network for Deaf Children recommended investing in centralized, deaf-led secondary school ASL courses available across

the province through online and blended delivery models, local school supports, and dual-credit opportunities with Vancouver Community College. The organization stated that such programs would provide opportunities for students to learn a new language, understand deaf culture, and explore related career pathways. The Science Fair Foundation of BC requested funding to develop a professional development course that would provide teachers with lesson plans, templates, practical tools, and resources to support science fair programming. The organization noted that science fair participation requires significant teacher time and there is currently limited curriculum support. Other recommendations included addressing artificial intelligence usage in schools, and incorporating digital literacy education focused on online harms, legal literacy education, climate change education, and maritime careers education into the K-12 curriculum.

PUBLIC SCHOOL ALTERNATIVES

The Committee received differing views regarding public funding for independent and private schools. Some, such as the BC Humanist Association advocated for a reduction or phasing out of funds to independent and private schools. The Vancouver Island North Teachers' Association and Mission Literacy in Motion argued that public funds could be better invested in strengthening the public education system while the Institute for Public Education BC stated that any redirected funds should be reinvested in staffing, inclusive education, mental health supports, arts and music programs, and trades education for the public school system. Regarding private schools, the BC Humanist Association and multiple individuals recommended phasing out public funding for elite and faith-based private schools. The Vancouver Island North Teachers' Association and Mission Literacy in Motion argued that public funds could be better invested in strengthening the public education system, and two individuals suggested gradually reducing or minimizing public funding for private schools.

In contrast, the Association for Reformed Political Action supported maintaining public funding for Group 1 independent schools, including schools with religious affiliations, arguing that this approach is cost-effective and reduces pressure on public education system. FISA similarly noted that students attending independent schools experience many of the same challenges as those in public schools, including learning disabilities, mental health concerns, and other inclusive education needs. The organization recommended continued

operational funding and proportional access for independent schools to special purpose grants indexed to inflation.

The SelfDesign Learning Foundation suggested maintaining or increasing the funding rate for online schools, stating that this could strengthen the delivery of high-quality and inclusive learning environments. The organization shared that independent online schools receive lower levels of funding than public online schools despite meeting the same educational standards, supporting vulnerable students, and maintaining secure digital infrastructure.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

The Committee heard from Métis Nation British Columbia and the First Nations Education Steering Committee regarding the importance of investing in Indigenous education. Métis Nation British Columbia stated that pan-Indigenous approaches can overlook the distinct culture, language, and history of the Métis Nation, contributing to the continued marginalization of Métis students. The organization recommended increased funding to improve Métis-specific representation and supports within K-12 education, expanded data collection to inform evidence-based policy and programming, and improved learning outcomes through investments in early education and workforce development. The First Nations Education Steering Committee highlighted ongoing challenges facing First Nations students, including declining numeracy and literacy outcomes, low completion rates, and high levels of chronic absenteeism. The organization emphasized the importance of investing in Indigenous Education Councils and the First Nations Education Steering Committee to support improved educational outcomes for First Nations students.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

The Committee discussed the need for a five-year plan and continued investment in school infrastructure to address aging facilities and deferred maintenance, while also enhancing seismic mitigation, accessibility, and climate-resilience across BC. Members also acknowledged concerns around local school infrastructure and noted the need to prioritize schools requiring immediate attention and investment. Members recognized input received regarding several schools that were identified as priorities for replacement or significant upgrades, including Mount Baker Secondary School in School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay) and Nanaimo District Secondary School in School District No. 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith).

The Committee acknowledged the financial pressures facing school districts and discussed the need for increased operational funding for K-12 schools. Members noted cost pressures facing school districts related to enrolment growth, early learning and child care initiatives, negotiated collective agreements, and maintaining school infrastructure, including libraries and gyms. Committee Members also acknowledged concerns that per-student funding allocations are announced before final enrolment figures are confirmed, creating uncertainty and financial pressures for school districts when enrolment levels or student support needs change during the school year. In response, Members discussed the potential value of reviewing the current funding process and legislative framework to better align funding allocations with actual enrolment and operational costs. Additionally, Members recognized the unique challenges faced by rural and remote areas and emphasized the importance of ensuring funding models provide equitable support across the province. Furthermore, the Committee discussed the impacts of immigration policies on BC's education system. While acknowledging that immigration falls primarily within federal jurisdiction, Members noted its effects on K-12 education, particularly in communities where international student enrolment contributes significantly to student populations and school revenues.

Regarding inclusive education, the Committee emphasized the importance of ensuring all students have equitable access to learning opportunities and educational supports and discussed the need to modernize the inclusive education funding model to support that goal. Members noted the importance of supporting students who require assistance before a formal diagnosis is obtained and ensuring that funding reflects the actual number and complexity of students and families being served by school districts. Committee Members also emphasized the importance of ensuring adequate staffing levels to support diverse learning needs and discussed measures such as providing one education assistant or support worker per primary classroom. Members further discussed the need to provide ongoing supports for Indigenous students to ensure educational programs and services respond to their unique needs and priorities. The Committee also acknowledged the value of targeted supports for specific student populations, including deaf and hard-of-hearing students, international students, and students requiring specialized educational supports. For example, Members noted that the Provincial Educational Language Access Fund

can support deaf and hard-of-hearing students who rely on American Sign Language to access education. Finally, the Committee acknowledged the input that school districts who support SWIS programs should be eligible for provincial settlement grants. unique needs and priorities. The Committee also acknowledged the value of targeted supports for specific student populations, including deaf and hard-of-hearing students, international students, and students requiring specialized educational supports. For example, Members noted that the Provincial Educational Language Access Fund can support deaf and hard-of-hearing students who rely on American Sign Language to access education. Finally, the Committee acknowledged the input that school districts who support SWIS programs should be eligible for provincial settlement grants.

The Committee reflected on educator recruitment and retention, including workforce challenges in the education sector. Committee Members discussed the need to support the recruitment and retention of education staff across the province noting the immediate need for more educational assistants. The Committee emphasized the importance of investing in the wellbeing of education workers, including access to post-incident supports and mental health services to help improve recruitment, retention, and overall workforce sustainability. Members also discussed the value of expanding capacity in post-secondary teacher education programs and

increasing incentives that encourage individuals to pursue teacher certification, particularly to address staffing shortages in rural and remote communities.

Regarding programming and curriculum, Committee Members deliberated on the growing role of AI in education. Members acknowledged concerns about potential risks and impacts, emphasized the importance of teaching students about how to use AI responsibly, and recognized opportunities to utilize AI as a learning tool. Members noted the importance of ongoing consideration, planning, and evaluation to support the effective and responsible use of AI in educational settings.

Finally, the Committee reflected on public funding for independent and private schools. Members noted there was a range of views regarding the matter, including support for increased funding for these schools, and support to reduce or eliminate funding. Committee Members recognized the importance of parental choice in education and acknowledged that independent, public, private, and home-schooling options all contribute to BC's broader educational landscape. Members also acknowledged concerns that students attending independent schools may face challenges accessing special-purpose funding and support services. The Committee emphasized the importance of ensuring that all students can access appropriate supports based on their needs, regardless of the educational setting they attend.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends to the Legislative Assembly that the provincial government:

51. Accelerate capital approvals within a predictable timeline and increase investment in school infrastructure to ensure safe and functional spaces for students.
52. Revise the K-12 funding model to better reflect the actual costs incurred by school districts.
53. Provide one education assistant or support worker per primary classroom.

NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY

GENERAL INVESTMENT AND REGULATORY MEASURES

During the consultation, the Committee heard strong support for increasing access to BC's natural resources. Resource Works Society stated that natural resources underpin the province's fiscal health and fund social services. The organization recommended investing in skills training aligned with resource careers and expanded, practical Indigenous economic participation models that deliver tangible benefits.

Another area of interest for consultation participants was BC's regulatory measures. Multiple participants advocated for updating regulatory measures to ensure BC's economic competitiveness. Resource Works Society recommended ensuring that royalties, taxes, and regulations allow BC to remain attractive for investment relative to other jurisdictions. The Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers discussed BC's climate policy framework, indicating that BC must support emissions reductions while remaining competitive for trade-exposed investment. The Association recommended reviewing and assessing the competitiveness of BC's climate policy framework, including the output-based pricing system. The Cement Association of Canada also recommended reviewing the output-based pricing system to ensure consistent and transparent treatment of alternative fuels, including waste-based, low-carbon biogenic fuel sources. One individual suggested that natural resource royalties should be restructured to account for the costs associated with their extraction.

Multiple participants made recommendations regarding natural resources in rural and remote communities. The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George highlighted that Central Interior BC will play a critical role in future economic development through natural resource projects, and recommended establishing a resource benefit agreement for the region to ensure that the benefits of this economic activity are shared with the local community. Several individuals advocated for investment outside of the Lower Mainland and

Vancouver Island, in recognition of the role of small towns in supporting mining and forestry, and investment in products and ecological practices that support sustainable resource development.

CLEAN, RENEWABLE, AND EFFICIENT ENERGY

A significant theme in the input received by the Committee was supporting clean, renewable, and efficient energy. My Sea to Sky suggested that investing in climate solutions including renewable energy may reduce energy costs and create jobs. Participants highlighted a range of projects, including rooftop and community solar energy storage, agrivoltaics for farms, wind projects, and batteries that do not require critical minerals.

In terms of mechanisms to support clean energy development, Innergex Renewable Energy supported strengthening BC Hydro's tariff and tax-credit adjustment mechanism for clean energy projects to address tariffs and uncertainty. Advanced Biofuels Canada supported working through the national Biofuels Working Group to address the competitiveness gap facing Canadian producers. Some participants supported initiatives that could generate energy using waste products.

Clean Energy BC noted that as of October 2026, there will be a seven percent Provincial Sales Tax applied to 30 percent of the cost of engineering and geoscience professional services, which it stated will increase development costs. The organization recommended ensuring that clean energy and transmission projects are exempt from expanding tax measures (see Recommendation 5 in the Budgetary and Fiscal Policy theme).

Regarding the approach to clean energy production, Wildsight Invermere emphasized that BC should not sacrifice environmental oversight, Indigenous rights, or community participation, and recommended measures to ensure clean energy development respects communities and ecosystems. The Pembina Institute supported full implementation of the CleanBC Remote Community Energy Strategy, noting that

long-term and consistent funding is required to reduce diesel consumption for generating electricity and heating in remote communities.

Several participants supported expanded investment in electricity-generating infrastructure. The Kelowna Chamber of Commerce noted that access to power is required for housing, industrial, and commercial development. Reflecting on BC's growing electricity needs, MoveUP suggested that providing BC Hydro with the capital authority to directly develop new electricity generation access would allow the province to build and own electricity assets directly, keeping long-term value within the public system. The organization specified that this should be done in partnership with First Nations, a theme that other participants also highlighted. Clean Energy BC stated that the success of the 2024 and 2025 calls for power proved that industry and First Nations are ready to deliver clean energy investment and advocated for measures that would support First Nations participation, including expanding the First Nations Equity Financing Program and developing a long-term renewable procurement roadmap. Other participants discussed how BC Hydro transmission and grid expansion is necessary for other industrial projects, with both Moon River Moly Ltd. and the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers highlighting investments in Northern BC.

Regarding geothermal energy, Geothermal Rising Canada stated that BC has significant untapped geothermal potential. The organization noted that no geothermal projects were selected in either the 2024 or 2025 calls for power, and recommended that BC Hydro establish a procurement pathway for firm, dispatchable clean energy generation and negotiate bilateral electricity purchase agreements with viable geothermal projects. To streamline permitting capacity, Geothermal Rising Canada supported accelerating the development of geothermal-specific regulations under the *Renewable Energy Projects (Streamlined Permitting) Act*, noting that currently streamlined permitting is only available to wind and solar. The organization also supported establishing a geothermal exploration tax credit, modelled on BC's mining exploration tax credit, and making standalone geothermal projects eligible for the Clean Industry Fund.

A significant area of interest for consultation participants was incentive programs that support updating residential buildings to be more energy efficient, like adding heat pumps and solar panels. Organizations advocated for funding programs including the CleanBC Energy Savings Program and building

retrofit accelerators, exploring new incentive programs, and creating provincial standards for energy reporting and benchmarking. Some participants advocated for incentive programs other than rebates, suggesting that rebates have not been effective in lowering the costs of energy efficiency upgrades. First Things First Okanagan proposed an on-bill financing program, where BC Hydro or FortisBC would purchase heat pumps and air handlers, which would then be paid off by homeowners over time through their electricity bills. The organization also advocated for property-assessed clean energy (PACE) financing, where property owners receive a loan to fund the full cost of energy-efficient upgrades and then repay the loan through their property tax bills. Similarly, the Pembina Institute advocated for applying this idea to multi-unit housing stock by implementing a commercial property-assessed clean energy (C-PACE) program, where the financing would be tied to the property instead of an individual and paid down over a longer period of time. Others advocated for accelerating the adoption of the Zero Carbon Step Code, which sets emission reduction targets for new buildings. FortisBC advocated for expanding hybrid heating systems, including through providing incentives provincewide and reducing policy barriers.

Multiple organizations proposed adjustments to BC's Low Carbon Fuel Standard. WestJet indicated that there is not enough sustainable aviation fuel available to meet the carbon-intensity requirements coming into force for jet fuel. The company recommended reducing the carbon intensity reduction requirement to begin at one percent in 2028 and increasing to 10 percent by 2038. The Canadian Council for Sustainable Aviation Fuels recommended eliminating the provincial fuel tax on aviation fuel and gasoline and extending the duration and increasing the amount of the BC Low Carbon Jet Fuel Incentive Program. Participants further supported measures to enhance Sustainable Aviation Fuel production, including introducing a producers' tax credit and providing funding to feedstock plants.

AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOODS

With respect to agriculture, multiple organizations emphasized a need for increased supports for producers. The BC Agriculture Council indicated that BC is the only major agricultural province without a coordinated capital infrastructure program for the farming sector, and recommended developing a data-driven, coordinated capital infrastructure program. The BC Cattlemen's Association addressed water storage

infrastructure specifically, advocating for \$5 million in annual funding for water storage infrastructure associated with food production. Both the Association, as well as BC Dairy, recommended increasing the funding of the Agriculture Wildlife Program to restore its previous compensation levels. BC Dairy indicated that compensation levels were recently reduced to approximately 50 percent of the claim amount, down from 80 percent, despite ongoing pressures related to wildlife damage.

Another area where consultation participants identified a need for increased support was regarding emergency planning and preparedness in the agriculture sector. The Comox Valley Food Policy Council highlighted the impact of climate change and extreme weather events. The BC Agriculture Council supported creating a disaster loss and adaptation program for farmers and the BC Fruit Growers' Association recommended increasing the budget of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food to support agricultural risk management programs. The BC Grain Producers Association echoed the need for infrastructure and risk management supports, and also recommended increased research in the agriculture sector.

Another theme in the consultation was the designation of agricultural land. The BC Agriculture Council highlighted that the revenue thresholds for farm classification have not been updated in more than 30 years, leaving farmers to compete with wealthy estates for land. The Council recommended reviewing these thresholds. Two individuals raised related considerations, including expediting permitting related to the Agricultural Land Reserve and reviewing the property tax framework applied to agricultural land. The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George emphasized the importance of protecting agricultural land, and recommended investments in agriculture and food security, particularly in rural and northern regions.

The Committee also heard about opportunities to enhance processing capacity, support farmers' markets, and promote animal health and protection. The Small-Scale Meat Producers Association stated that there is unprecedented demand for local meat, but producers cannot meet it due to a lack of processing capacity. The Association recommended investing in this area, including by establishing a dedicated provincial fund for small-scale and mobile abattoirs, regional butcher hubs, and shared cut-and-wrap infrastructure. The Fort St. John Seed Cleaning Co-op recommended investing in value-added grain and oil seed processing infrastructure. Regarding farmers' markets, the BC Association of Farmers' Markets recommended

investing in operating capacity and infrastructure, noting that farmers' markets play an important role in promoting food security and responding to emergencies. Regarding animal health and protection, the BC Poultry Association advocated for closer collaboration between the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food as well as increased funding to prevent the spread of avian influenza. The BC SPCA indicated that the Ministry of Agriculture and Food should be funded and empowered to inspect, investigate, and enforce the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act* regarding farmed animals.

Consultation participants also identified opportunities to support the aquaculture and seafood sectors. The BC Salmon Farmers Association stated that increased supports for the aquaculture sector are required to increase seafood production, food security, exports, and jobs. Both the Deep Sea Trawlers Association of BC and the Canadian Groundfish Research and Conservation Society advocated for exempting seafood harvesters and producers from the motor fuel tax, noting that BC is the only province that does not provide some level of fuel tax exemption for commercial seafood harvesters. The North-Coast Skeena First Nations Stewardship Society recommended establishing an Indigenous Seafood Value Chain and Market Development Fund, indicating that greater First Nations participation in seafood would increase economic returns, strengthen processing capacity, and support trade diversification.

FORESTRY

A key theme regarding forestry was opportunities to modernize the sector and consider its environmental impact. Multiple participants advocated for investments in value-added, second-growth forestry. Ancient Forest Alliance suggested this should be paired with a BC Conservation Economy Strategy while Arrowmaker Advisory & Accounting LLP supported establishing a smart forestry incentive program using rebates funded through log export fees in lieu and Provincial Sales Tax relief. Nature United suggested that, as the forestry sector faces pressures from declining timber supply, climate impacts, and market volatility, diversifying how value is generated from forests is increasingly important. The organization recommended unlocking new revenue opportunities such as forest carbon and ecosystem services.

Another area of interest was increasing the harvest of the forest sector. The BC Council of Forest Industries suggested

that raising yearly harvest would help retain skilled workers, protect forest sector infrastructure, generate additional revenue, support economic reconciliation with First Nations, and improve forest management; the Council highlighted 45 million cubic metres as a target. The Council also identified a need to review and adjust tenure obligations, suggesting that in recent years BC's regulatory environment has become more complex and onerous.

Participants also highlighted the importance of cooperating with First Nations. The BC Council of Forest Industries advocated for a new model to share forestry revenue with First Nations that would provide greater flexibility, transparency, alignment with First Nations priorities, and support the broader public interest of a working forest economy. Both Ancient Forest Alliance and Arrowmaker Advisory & Accounting LLP highlighted the economic costs facing First Nations if old growth logging is paused, and recommended providing \$120 million in funding to First Nations to offset these lost profits.

MINING

Regarding mining, a significant theme in the input received by the Committee was streamlining permitting processes. The Mining Association of BC stated that lengthy and complex permitting processes continue to be the primary barrier to new mine development, delaying investment, job creation, and government revenue. Multiple participants, including Resource Works Society, recommended accelerating mining and critical minerals permitting. The Association for Mineral Exploration suggested that due to conservation initiatives and other restrictions, 52 percent of BC's landmass has restrictions on mineral exploration, and recommended considering which of these restrictions could be rolled back to promote exploration. Organizations also advocated for providing more funding to support First Nations' capacity to respond to referrals related to permitting decisions. In particular, FPX Nickel Corp. recommended establishing a program similar to Natural Resources Canada's Indigenous Natural Resource Partnerships.

The Committee also heard about opportunities to support the mining industry, including through tax measures. Moon River Moly Ltd. highlighted that tax measures are a tool that can be used to attract mining investment, and recommended implemented targeted relief for engineering, processing, and mine development expenditures. FPX Nickel Corp. highlighted the effectiveness of the mining exploration tax credit and

recommended broadening the list of eligible expenses. Other topics raised in the Committee's consultation include adjusting BC's mineral compensation regime to support conservation and accelerating the development of made-in-BC technologies across the sector.

FOSSIL FUELS

Participants expressed varying views on proceeding with Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) development. The Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers advocated for a faster, more coordinated permitting system. FortisBC recommended supporting investment in its Tilbury LNG facility in Delta, highlighting that LNG from the facility is being used to refuel ships in place of heavy oil or diesel. Some participants expressed opposition to LNG development, noting concerns about provision of grid-connected electricity to LNG terminals, subsidies, and exports from the Kitimat Port. The Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment as well as one individual recommended funding an independent, comprehensive, cumulative health impact assessment of the LNG and fracking industry.

Multiple individuals and organizations shared their views on the fossil fuel industry generally. Some expressed support for investing in fossil fuel projects, including building an oil pipeline from Alberta. Others expressed their opposition, calling for an end to investment in fossil fuel projects. Some participants highlighted that this funding should be reallocated to sustainable energy projects with Organizing for Change proposing strengthening BC's output-based pricing system for industrial polluters and ending oil and gas subsidies. The Union of BC Indian Chiefs supported investing in First Nations-led conservation economies and other initiatives to reduce reliance on fossil fuel development. The Committee additionally heard support for changing or increasing taxation of the fossil fuel industry. Participants, including the BC Climate Emergency Campaign, suggested implementing a windfall tax on the oil and gas sector. My Sea to Sky suggested that reforming industrial carbon pricing and increasing resource royalties could be used to finance climate solutions.

The Committee also received input specific to propane production. The Canadian Propane Association stated that BC can strengthen energy security, affordability, and resilience by preserving energy choice and supporting cleaner fuels that can be deployed immediately without major infrastructure investments. The Association recommended ensuring the

provincial policy supports propane's role in reducing diesel where electrification is not yet feasible. The Association also suggested introducing a provincial tax credit to support renewable propane production and eliminating the provincial motor fuel tax of 2.7 cents per litre that is applied to propane. Regarding the motor fuel tax, the Tax Executives Institute stated that BC's tax framework creates unnecessary financial and administrative burden for propane producers by taxing transactions that are ultimately exempt, particularly for exports. The Institute recommended exempting wholesale propane transactions from motor fuel tax treatment so that the tax is applied at the point of use, rather than requiring complex refund processes.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

In reflecting on the input received about natural resources and energy, the Committee agreed that increasing access to BC's natural resources will promote economic growth and provide jobs. Committee Members emphasized that to increase access to resources and attract investment, BC's royalties, taxes, and regulations need to be competitive relative to other jurisdictions. Members identified that streamlining regulatory and permit processes and reviewing the Output-Based Pricing System may assist with this goal. They further highlighted a need to support businesses in the natural resources and energy sectors. The Committee recommended expediting regulatory and permitting processes across all BC natural resource sectors, while maintaining strong environmental protections.

Members noted that First Nations may receive several overlapping requests or referrals related to natural resource projects. As such, the Committee recommends funding to support their capacity to respond in a timely manner, with Members highlighting the value of establishing a provincial program modeled on the federal Indigenous Natural Resource Partnerships program. Committee Members indicated that, while recommendation 55 highlights natural resource projects, the need to support First Nations' capacity to respond to government referrals extends across sectors, including water licences, dock management, and land lease and tenure.

The Committee supported proactively investing in BC's long-term energy security, including through renewable energy. Committee Members supported increasing BC's electrical power generating capacity, noting that doing so is required to support housing, industrial, and commercial development. They

recognized that to be able to adequately plan and respond to calls for power, it is helpful for businesses to have a sense of the provincial government's plan with respect to electrical power generation. Committee Members expressed support for establishing a long-term procurement roadmap for electrical projects. Additionally, Members reflected on input regarding how to make homes and other buildings more energy efficient. They observed that, while rebate programs are one incentive that can encourage homeowners to make energy efficiency upgrades, the requirement to pay for renovations up front can be a barrier. The Committee supported exploring alternative incentive programs, such as low-interest financing, on-bill financing, and types of property-assessed clean energy (PACE) financing. Members highlighted input suggesting that on-bill financing could be used for BC Hydro or FortisBC to bulk purchase heat pumps and air handlers, allowing for savings in per-unit costs which would then be paid off by homeowners over time through their electricity bills. Additionally, Committee Members supported PACE financing, where property owners receive a loan to fund the full cost of energy-efficient upgrades which is then repaid through property tax bills, and agreed that this idea could be extended to the province's multi-unit housing stock through commercial property-assessed clean energy (C-PACE) financing. Members also discussed BC's Low Carbon Fuel Standard and indicated it could be strengthened to better support fuel affordability and economic resilience.

Regarding agriculture, Committee Members highlighted challenges with the classification of agricultural land, noting that there are issues with the thresholds where individuals who are not actually farming take advantage of the designation while others are farming but do not have enough property to generate the income required for farm classification. They observed that this can particularly impact people growing crops that need to be rotated, as they may only be producing on a small part of their land at any one time. Members noted the significance of this issue, given the taxation benefits that farm classification provides. Committee Members also noted the connection to Agricultural Land Commission funding. With respect to supports for farmers, the Committee highlighted the benefits of providing adequate funding for the Agriculture Wildlife Program, recommending the program receive operating funding that enables proper management of wildlife on privately owned agricultural land. Members also discussed the need to invest in agricultural water infrastructure, including storage, regional systems, and long-term water planning, to ensure a sustainable and reliable

water supply and help the industry face extreme climate events. The Committee supported providing annual funding dedicated to water storage infrastructure associated with food production, including for engineering inspections, maintenance, and upgrades.

Committee Members expressed concern that BC's agriculture funding has not kept pace with other jurisdictions. They highlighted the importance of adequate agriculture funding to promote BC's sovereignty, food security, and economic strength. In particular, Members identified a need for ongoing investment in risk management programs. The Committee recommended significantly increasing the budget of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food to ensure BC's agriculture funding is in line with other Canadian jurisdictions and provides sufficient capacity to respond to the sector's needs. Committee Members also highlighted opportunities to invest in value-added grain and oil seed processing infrastructure in BC, noting this is connected to broader efforts to support BC manufacturing. The Committee discussed how crucial it is to get youth involved in agriculture, emphasizing that youth are BC's future, and supported opportunities such as 4H clubs and ensuring the environmental sustainability of farming practices.

Regarding aquaculture and seafood, the Committee reflected on input received during the consultation and agreed that its recommendation from the *Report on the Budget 2026 Consultation* regarding reinstating fuel tax exemptions for seafood harvesters and commercial fishers remains an important issue. Committee Members emphasized that this is a crucial step to ensure that aquaculture is treated as agriculture. Members also identified opportunities to improve Indigenous involvement in and benefits from the seafood industry, highlighting the idea of creating programs that support Indigenous participation.

The Committee expressed its support for the forestry sector and discussed opportunities to unlock the sector's immediate economic potential. Members agreed on a need to review and adjust forest tenures to see if they are working as intended, including access to tenures and the obligations associated with them. They emphasized the importance of maximizing the number of forestry jobs and the value of wood. Members indicated that the sector's goal for harvest should be at least 45 million cubic metres, agreeing with input from consultation participants that suggested this would help retain skilled workers, generate significant revenue, support economic reconciliation with First Nations, and improve ecosystem

health through better forest management. Committee Members identified opportunities to prioritize sustainable forestry, including by supporting a smaller, value-added forest economy, smaller mills, and more skilled jobs, rather than focusing on the export of raw logs. With respect to old growth, Members suggested determining which old growth is worth harvesting to improve forest health. Additionally, Members supported continued efforts to work with the federal government to secure a softwood lumber agreement with the United States. The Committee also identified opportunities to improve forestry revenue sharing with First Nations to provide greater flexibility, transparency, and alignment with First Nations priorities.

Turning to mining, the Committee expressed support for enhancing access to land for mineral exploration and streamlining mining permitting. In particular, Members highlighted the importance of access to land for mineral exploration, indicating that while mining projects are accelerating, BC is falling behind on mineral exploration. On permitting, they emphasized the need for fixed enforceable timelines, digital modernization, and coordinated one-project one-review processes.

The Committee observed that it received input both in support of and opposed to fossil fuel development, including LNG. Members noted the important role of BC's ports in getting LNG to market and promoting refining capacity within BC. The Committee agreed that BC should be using fossil fuel development for future growth, economic potential, and sustained jobs in the province. Members further emphasized the importance of creating pathways to employment for fossil fuel workers to the renewable energy sector as the province transitions toward a lower-carbon economy in the future. Committee Members also highlighted the importance of ensuring that BC's tax and regulatory measures allow BC's natural resource industries, including propane, to remain competitive with other provinces. They also highlighted that taxes on propane should only be paid by the end user, and indicated that this is a policy change that would not require additional funding.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends to the Legislative Assembly that the provincial government:

54. Expedite regulatory and permitting processes across all BC natural resource sectors to support economic growth.
55. Provide funding to First Nations to support their capacity to respond to referrals related to natural resource projects.
56. Explore incentive programs other than rebates that can encourage energy efficient building retrofits, including low-interest financing, on-bill financing, property-assessed clean energy (PACE) financing, and commercial property-assessed clean energy (C-PACE) financing.
57. Provide operating funding for the Agriculture Wildlife Program and ensure that the funding is available to properly manage the populations and impact of wildlife on privately owned agricultural land.
58. Provide annual funding dedicated to water storage infrastructure associated with food production, including engineering inspections, maintenance, and upgrades.
59. Significantly increase the budget of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food to ensure BC's agriculture funding is in line with other Canadian jurisdictions and provides sufficient capacity to respond to the sector's needs.
60. Reinstate fuel tax exemptions for seafood harvesters and commercial fishers.
61. Review and adjust forest tenures to see if they are working as intended, can be simplified, or can be made more responsive to local and industry needs.

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION AND SKILLS TRAINING

ADMINISTRATION AND GOVERNANCE

The Committee heard about the need to strengthen system-wide governance, planning, and accountability in BC's post-secondary sector. Several organizations discussed the need for clearer institutional mandates, better coordination across institutions, and a more stable planning environment. The University of Victoria stated that distinctions between institutional mandates have weakened, while Thompson Rivers University noted that the current post-secondary policy review provides an opportunity to clarify institutional roles, align policy with mandate, and create a stable planning environment. Similarly, CUPE Local 4879 emphasized that a more coordinated, provincial approach to public post-secondary education funding would avoid duplication, fill gaps, and ensure equitable access across the province while respecting the different roles played by different types of institutions as part of an interconnected system.

OPERATIONAL FUNDING

The Committee received significant input regarding the need for stable and predictable operating funding for BC's post-secondary institutions, in part due to a decrease in the number of international students following changes to federal immigration policy in 2024. The Confederation of University Faculty Associations of British Columbia identified that greater funding certainty is required to break the cycle of over-reliance on international student revenue, adding that increased funding would provide the ability to retain and attract faculty, increase capacity to deliver academic programs, as well as replace aging infrastructure. Echoing these concerns, the Research Universities Council of BC highlighted that universities are facing increasing pressures from inflation, rising operating costs, and the growing expense of delivering high-demand and specialized programs in areas such as health care, engineering, technology, and the sciences. BC Colleges similarly noted that stable funding is essential to meet workforce needs and support economic and regional development across the province.

In addition to raising concerns about funding certainty, participants indicated that current provincial funding levels are insufficient to meet sector needs. Several organizations described how public investment in post-secondary education has gradually been declining, with the Alliance of BC Students noting that this has led to lower quality education and costs being passed on to students through ancillary fees and cuts to programs and student services. Multiple organizations, including both student unions and faculty associations, specified that restoring provincial funding to 75 percent of public post-secondary institutions' operating budgets is necessary to ensure the sector's long-term viability.

Beyond the overall level of investment, the Committee also heard that BC's post-secondary education funding formula may no longer be serving the sector and requires review and modernization. Several organizations raised concerns about the transparency, stability, and predictability of funding distribution. The College of the Rockies stated that funding allocations do not reflect institutional activity levels, enrolment, regional demand, or operating support in a transparent or consistent way. Highlighting that a stable and modern funding model would strengthen sustainability and affordability, the Pacific Association of Canadian Institutes and Universities noted that a new model would also enable institutions to meet demands for education, future skills, and labour market pressures. Douglas Students' Union added that the funding formula should be directly linked to the individual needs of post-secondary institutions to stimulate regional and local economies, support access for domestic students, and ensure operational grants reflect the programming and accreditations offered.

Several organizations noted concerns about the recent review of sector sustainability. The Camosun College Student Society noted that the review proceeded with the assumption that no new public funding would be considered, despite a 2022 independent review of the post-secondary sector identifying a need for at least \$200 million in additional annual funding. The Society indicated that, in the immediate term, emergency

bridge funding is required to ensure institutions can withstand existing financial pressures and that, in the long-term, the sustainability review must be empowered to examine new funding solutions and develop a stable, equitable model that supports the sector's future. Similarly, Thompson Rivers University Students Union noted that the sector-wide review did not investigate how the post-secondary education system is being funded and whether that funding model is working as intended. The organization highlighted that a better understanding of how funding is currently distributed, and how effective the existing model is, would provide the information needed to discuss future operational funding needs. In addition to concerns about the review's scope, the BC Federation of Students stated that the review could significantly reshape post-secondary education in BC and emphasized that more consultation with students is necessary to ensure that it does not lead to reduced access or costs being shifted to students and their families.

Multiple organizations advocated for stabilization funding to ensure the sector's long-term viability. As an immediate solution, the Federation of Post-Secondary Educators of BC proposed allowing institutions with operating surpluses to access those funds to ameliorate layoffs and sustain current levels of programming. Another solution proposed by both the Federation and BCIT Faculty and Staff Association was stabilization funding to assist institutions in financial distress. The Association further recommended that the funding be supported by clear accountability measures to address structural shortfalls to protect core programs, student access, workforce-training capacity, and regional economic development until new permanent solutions can be implemented.

Several organizations and institutions emphasized the need for increased post-secondary education funding to help the province achieve its economic goals, address workforce shortages, and provide training in key sectors such as technology, skilled trades, and nursing. With regards to the need for coordinated planning, CUPE BC stated that dedicated strategic funding will ensure institutions are investing in the programs needed to strengthen local economies under a coordinated provincial plan, produce the graduates the economy needs, and connect students with good jobs and rewarding careers. University of the Fraser Valley Student Union Society similarly connected post-secondary investment to workforce outcomes, noting that access to experiential learning opportunities remains uneven due to capacity

limitations and funding constraints, and argued that investing in experiential learning would strengthen workforce readiness, improve graduate employment outcomes, and support BC's long-term economic growth.

CAPITAL FUNDING

The Committee heard about the need for capital investment in the post-secondary sector with several recommendations focused on improving capital planning and coordination. The Research Universities Council of BC noted that a coordinated federal-provincial capital strategy that aligns infrastructure planning with shared economic priorities would support capital renewal and expansion. Capilano University proposed establishing a framework governing leasing, partnerships, and development activities by post-secondary institutions, while the University of Victoria supported creating a permanent long-term capital renewal strategy. These planning proposals were complemented by calls to address aging infrastructure, with several organizations stating that sustained investment is needed to ensure campuses remain modern, safe, and capable of supporting contemporary teaching, learning, and training needs.

The Committee also heard proposals related to institutional financial flexibility and access to capital funding. The University of the Fraser Valley noted that current rules require post-secondary institutions to use operating revenue to cover non-cash amortization costs for internally funded capital assets, which reduces the funding available for programming and student supports. The University recommended amending legislation to allow these institutions to run deficits, enabling them to use existing cash reserves more effectively. With respect to access to capital asset funding the Confederation of University Faculty Associations of BC proposed expanding eligibility of the BC Knowledge Development Fund, which provides capital funding for assets supporting research infrastructure, to also include assets supporting social sciences, humanities, and the arts.

RESEARCH, TECHNOLOGY, AND INNOVATION

Several organizations recommended increased support for research, technology and innovation in BC's post-secondary sector. Recommendations focused on strengthening the broader innovation ecosystem. Simon Fraser University called for investment to create new ideas, attract investment, and support high-quality jobs. Others emphasized the role of

applied research in connecting students, institutions, and regional economies. Kwantlen Polytechnic University stated that applied research at colleges, institutes, and polytechnics creates direct pathways for students to build professional skills and transition into meaningful employment, while CUPE BC added that broader access to research funding for these institutions would enable them to deliver innovation directly tied to regional industry needs and local economic development priorities. Several institutions also highlighted how research and innovation can support provincial economic priorities and public-sector needs. The University of British Columbia recommended partnering on strategies and initiatives in areas that drive economic growth including AI, life sciences, critical minerals, and advanced manufacturing, while Thompson Rivers University discussed its partnership with the BC Wildfire Service and the need for training modernization, wildfire research, drone technology, and innovation. In addition to research-focused innovation, Royal Roads University emphasized that funding incentives and increased flexibility around tuition could enable greater program innovation and meet the needs of learners who are increasingly seeking flexible, career relevant modular pathways including micro-credentials and workplace learning. The University added that enabling a post-secondary system which accelerates pathways from education to employment through upskilling and reskilling and meaningfully recognizes prior learning and lived experience will be vital to sustaining a resilient economy.

TRADES AND SKILLS TRAINING

Many organizations recognized the need to expand trades and vocational training capacity so BC can better meet both existing and future workforce, infrastructure, and economic development needs. To support this expansion, organizations identified both funding and access considerations. CUPE BC highlighted that trades, vocational, and applied technical programs are more expensive to deliver than lecture-based instruction and require specialized facilities, equipment, and higher staffing ratios. Other organizations focused on creating more entry points into the trades, with the Victoria Residential Builders Association recommending broadening access to the trades by enabling university students to take skilled-trade elective courses, noting this would help reduce youth unemployment and fill trades shortages. Western Community College also emphasized the importance of aligning training with industry needs, recommending stronger partnerships

between employers and private post-secondary institutions through targeted funding and closer connections between industry needs and curriculum development.

In addition to these broader capacity concerns, many participants identified current or projected skilled workforce shortages across essential sectors, including construction, transportation, agri-food, and ASL-related professions. They linked these shortages to broader consequences, including constrained service delivery, risks to supply chains, limits on housing and infrastructure goals, and reduced competitiveness. Several organizations emphasized that existing training programs are insufficient to meet workforce demand, particularly in rural, remote, and northern communities and for individuals facing financial, cultural, or systemic barriers. To improve access and help people enter and progress in high-demand occupations, specific recommendations included expanded training capacity, reskilling opportunities, tuition and financial assistance for students, paid practicums, and employer supports.

Access barriers in the trades also led several participants to emphasize that workforce development strategies must address inclusive recruitment, retention, and advancement within high-demand occupations. The BC Centre for Women in the Trades noted that despite ongoing efforts, women still only represent six percent of the trades workforce and that attrition rates are high. The organization argued that improving retention and advancement of women and gender-diverse workers in the trades builds capacity that accelerates housing and infrastructure construction, reduces systemic labour gaps, and contributes to increased economic stability.

The Committee also heard recommendations focused on broader skills development and ensuring learners are prepared to integrate into BC's evolving workforce. DIGITAL noted that digital skills programs can support immediate economic resilience and foster long-term, inclusive growth by preparing individuals for in-demand roles, strengthening small and medium-sized enterprises, fostering innovation, and contributing to regional economic growth. Building on the theme of labour market alignment, Pearson Canada suggested that there is a gap between BC's labour market needs and awareness of individual applicants' skills, and advocated for a provincial skills data infrastructure that would integrate skills and competency data from K-12, post-secondary, and workforce training, alongside digital credentials aligned to labour market needs.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Several organizations recommended action to support international students and stabilize BC's post-secondary sector following recent federal immigration policy changes. Some recommendations focused on maintaining sector stability while institutions adapt to the federal cap on international student enrolment. The University of British Columbia urged the province to maintain its collaborative approach to helping public post-secondary institutions welcome international students under the federal cap, while Royal Roads University recommended advocating for a strategic and sustainable immigration approach aligned with the province's labour market priorities.

Other recommendations focused on federal policy measures that could reduce uncertainty for institutions and students. The Confederation of University Faculty Associations of BC called for fair federal funding transfers and reasonable international student enrolment caps, and the University of Victoria recommended advocating to improve visa processing timelines and increase flexibility around Provincial Attestation Letters. Several organizations also emphasized that international student policy has implications for BC's broader workforce and economic goals. Simon Fraser University recommended strengthening BC's immigration pathways to attract and retain talent and research partnerships in support of the Look West Strategy, while the Pacific Association of Canadian Institutes and Universities called for continued collaboration on federal immigration policy improvements to support labour force development and stabilize institutional revenue.

The Committee also heard that stronger student protections are needed alongside system-level immigration and funding advocacy. The Capilano Students' Union emphasized the importance of stronger oversight and enforcement of the International Student Enrolment Guidelines to increase transparency and prevent unexpected mid-program tuition increases. Similarly, the UBC Graduate Student Society called for binding enforcement mechanisms, audit capacity, and clear penalties to ensure international students can rely on disclosed fee schedules for the duration of their studies.

TUITION AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Many organizations described the Tuition Limit Policy, which restricts domestic post-secondary student tuition increases to a maximum of two percent per year, as the most effective affordability protection available to BC

students and recommended maintaining and strengthening this policy. Several student unions called for the policy to be maintained and for the end of fee circumvention. Other recommendations focused on expanding affordability protections to more students. The VCC Faculty Association and CNC Students' Union recommended extending the tuition cap to international students to provide the same predictability that domestic students already receive. Several organizations also emphasized that affordability protections should not be weakened to address institutional revenue pressures. Selkirk College Student Union highlighted the importance of maintaining the cap unconditionally and addressing institutional revenue shortfalls through increased provincial operating funding, highlighting that any erosion of the cap falls disproportionately on rural and low-income students.

Beyond tuition policy, the Committee heard about other financial assistance measures to improve affordability for students. The Alma Mater Society of the University of British Columbia recommended expanding the BC Access Grant and Camosun College Faculty Association suggested replacing provincial student loans with an expanded grant-based system. The Committee also heard support for targeted award funding, with Terry Fox Humanitarian Awards Inc. and several individuals emphasizing the importance of increased funding for the Terry Fox Humanitarian Awards.

STUDENT SUPPORTS

Several organizations recommended a range of student supports to improve success, wellbeing, and access within public post-secondary institutions. Recommendations focused on the foundational services students rely on to navigate and complete their education. CUPE Locals 1858 and 4879 recommended funding to increase access to core student services such as advising, IT services, and financial aid. Some organizations also emphasized supports that address student wellbeing. Justice Institute Students' Union called for increased investment in student wellbeing, highlighting that the institution's mandatory student support fees do not include counselling support, contributing to increased stress as students prepare for frontline public safety roles. Other recommendations focused on helping learners move more efficiently from education to employment. Kwantlen Polytechnic University recommended investing in evaluating learning gained through work experience, informal education, and foreign credentials to help learners complete credentials more quickly, reduce barriers to workforce

entry, and better match existing skills and experience to employment opportunities. Finally, several organizations identified specialized supports that address specific barriers to student success, including services to prevent and respond to sexualized and gender-based violence on campuses and student union food bank operations.

INSTITUTIONS IN RURAL AND REMOTE COMMUNITIES

Input related to post-secondary institutions serving rural, remote, and northern communities called for an updated funding model that reflects higher delivery costs, regional access needs, specialized programming, and their broader role in community sustainability and workforce development. For participants in rural and remote communities, this issue was closely tied to local access. Members heard that once students leave their communities to pursue post-secondary education in larger urban centres, they often remain there, particularly if there are more employment opportunities. Vernon Students' Association - Okanagan College described BC's regional campuses as vital educational lifelines for learners unable or unwilling to relocate, noting that local access makes post-secondary education possible and losing a program can end a student's educational journey. Participants also emphasized the need for specialized training programs to be offered in resource-based regions to help attract and retain the skilled workers local communities and industries rely on. To address these access challenges, several organizations recommended providing more sustainable, predictable, and equitable funding that recognizes the realities of delivering post-secondary education in rural and remote communities, including the higher per-student cost of delivering programming across distributed campuses and ensuring programs respond to regional labour market and economic priorities.

Organizations also emphasized the broader regional role of rural institutions, with the University of Northern British Columbia calling for continued investment in research, innovation, infrastructure, and campus renewal across Northern BC, and Selkirk College Student Union recommending targeted funding to reopen suspended programs, expand waitlisted programs, and restore workforce pipelines. The Committee also heard that federal immigration policy changes had disproportionate impacts on rural and remote communities, with North Island College Faculty

Association recommending federal-provincial collaboration on international student policy changes.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

The Committee emphasized the importance of stable and predictable operating funding to ensure an efficient, sustainable, and thriving future for BC's post-secondary institutions. Regarding the ongoing sector sustainability review, Members noted that the Committee heard consistently from student organizations that they wish to be meaningfully included in future consultations. Members added that, as part of the review, government should also consider reviewing overlapping mandates and duplication between institutions. The Committee also expressed concern about the post-secondary sector's reliance on international student tuition fees and emphasized the need for a more sustainable operating model. Committee Members further acknowledged that in recent years many post-secondary institutions have been forced to make difficult decisions such as program cuts and staff layoffs, particularly in rural areas, and recognized the need for stabilization measures to avoid additional cuts.

Committee Members highlighted the vital role that BC's post-secondary institutions play in meeting local and regional workforce development priorities, including in sectors such as health care, natural resources, and tourism. In this context, Members reiterated the importance of a recommendation from the *Report on the Budget 2026 Consultation* to prioritize funding to support post-secondary institutions to meet these needs. The Committee appreciated that some institutions have already found innovative ways to adapt and respond to community needs. Members highlighted examples such as the establishment of a wildfire centre at Thompson Rivers University and collaboration among post-secondary institutions to establish the John Horgan Campus in Langford. The Committee recognized these initiatives as examples of how institutions can leverage innovation and partnership to align programming with regional needs while expanding access to post-secondary education.

In terms of trades and skills training, the Committee identified the need for long-term workforce projections developed in partnership with employers to better align labour market needs with post-secondary program design and capacity. Committee Members highlighted that this would help identify high-priority training needs based on projected labour market demand, reduce supply gaps, and guide investments

toward trades and vocational training programs at public post-secondary institutions. Members further noted that training in high-priority areas such as health care, energy, and transportation could be facilitated by expanding flexible training models and regional program delivery, enabling learners to gain qualifications without leaving their communities.

To strengthen pathways to employment, Committee Members expressed interest in work-integrated learning as a way for more high school students to enter the trades and to provide more predictable class size estimates for post-secondary programs. Members highlighted incentives for businesses to take on apprentices as another way to help bridge the gap between training and the workforce. The Committee further reflected on opportunities for upskilling and micro-credentialing, particularly by reducing access barriers for individuals already working full-time. Members also emphasized the need to reduce barriers to participation in skills training and the trades, particularly for women, single parents, and other underrepresented groups, including through child care supports (see Children and Youth chapter). The Committee added that these barriers are more pronounced in rural and remote areas and highlighted the potential to use technology, including language supports.

The Committee noted that it heard consistently from institutions, students, and faculty that changes to federal immigration policy in 2024 have affected both the finances and cultural fabric of post-secondary institutions across the province. To ensure that BC's post-secondary institutions can

continue to produce the graduates required to meet labour shortages in high-priority sectors, Committee Members recommended that the province advocate for faster visa processing times and greater flexibility for Provincial Attestation Letters. Members emphasized that this would help reestablish BC as a desirable destination for international students. The Committee further recognized the importance of affordable post-secondary education for BC students, emphasizing that maintaining the two percent Tuition Limit Policy would ensure that tuition increases remain predictable and that post-secondary education remains accessible. Members also expressed concern that the Committee heard institutions are increasing ancillary fees to circumvent the policy in some cases.

Committee Members recognized the additional challenges associated with delivering post-secondary education in rural and remote areas. Members highlighted that operating funding for institutions in these areas should reflect this distinct reality, including the importance of funding for satellite campuses to improve accessibility in smaller communities. Members further discussed that students in rural and remote areas often need to leave their communities to access post-secondary education and may not return if local employment pathways are limited. The Committee noted that this is particularly challenging in resource-based regions, where training programs may not be offered locally despite strong industry demand. Members emphasized that regional program delivery should better align education with local industries, support workforce retention, and help rural communities benefit more directly from regional economic activity.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends to the Legislative Assembly that the provincial government:

62. Prioritize funding to support post-secondary institutions to meet local and regional workforce development priorities.
63. Advocate to the federal government to accelerate visa processing times and provide greater flexibility regarding Provincial Attestation Letters to help address labour shortages in high-priority sectors across the province.
64. Maintain the Tuition Limit Policy of two percent for domestic post-secondary education students and end fee circumvention.
65. Provide equitable operating funding to reflect the increased costs of delivering post-secondary education in rural and remote communities.

PUBLIC SAFETY, JUSTICE, AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Several organizations advocated for support to address community safety concerns, including improving community safety and reducing crime affecting downtowns, businesses, and neighbourhoods. Cloverdale District Chamber of Commerce stated that crimes such as theft, vandalism, and break-ins all create direct costs for businesses and indirect costs through lost staff time, higher insurance and security expenses, lower employee morale, reduced customer confidence, and delayed investment. The Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce, the Prince George Downtown Business Improvement Association, the Greater Nanaimo Chamber of Commerce, and the Kelowna Chamber of Commerce advocated for funding to help downtowns and small businesses address and recover from issues related to crime and property damage. Similarly, Prince George Chamber of Commerce explained that the Chronic Property Offending Intervention Initiative (C-POII) was implemented as a pilot project in Nelson, Nanaimo and Kelowna, but would be beneficial to be expanded to Prince George. The organization noted that this may provide more permanent, long-term assistance for businesses that deal with public safety disturbances.

Regarding policing, National Police Federation noted that while 2022 provincial funding restored RCMP staffing to 2012 levels, authorized strength has remained unchanged since 2012 despite increasing demands associated with mental health-related calls, repeat violent offenders, and more complex administrative requirements. The Federation also noted the need to modernize policing tools and equipment, including air services, marine units, and fleet renewals, and to advance a national public safety broadband network to improve information sharing, coordination, and communication between fire, police, and paramedics. To address their concerns, the Federation recommended funding for additional RCMP officers, modernized policing infrastructure, first responder mental health supports, and improved emergency communications. Additionally, Retail

Council of Canada advocated for increased funding to fill policing, Crown prosecution, and court staffing gaps to improve throughput and reduce case backlogs, and suggested that a joint force operation on retail crime would improve coordination and consistency. Other recommendations focused on addressing financial crimes and improving policing technologies. The Canadian Bankers Association recommended strengthening responses to financial crimes by enabling centralized reporting between the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre and law enforcement and investing in specialized financial-crimes expertise. Axon Canada emphasized the need to equip police with modern technology that delivers measurable public safety outcomes, such as automatic licence plate reader systems.

The Committee heard some concerns about the impacts of repeat offending and retail crime on public safety, businesses, employees, and communities. Business Improvement Areas of BC reported rising incidents of retail theft, vandalism, and property damage, while Prince George Downtown Business Improvement Association noted that its members reported more than \$4.5 million in damage in 2025, with ripple effects through the economy. The Convenience Industry Council of Canada described the risks faced by employees and customers, noted that repeat offences often involve the same offenders, and stated that police do not have adequate tools to address them. To address these concerns, recommendations included reducing repeat offending and retail crime through coordinated justice, policing, and community-based responses, including dedicated funding for bail and sentencing reforms, provincewide repeat-offender intervention programs, stronger collaboration among justice, health, municipal, and community partners, expanded restorative justice and diversion options, and a provincial joint force operation to target organized retail crime and chronic repeat offenders.

Two organizations made recommendations to improve mental health crisis response by shifting more calls away from police, emergency rooms, and ambulance services toward community-based care. Canadian Mental Health Association - Kamloops

highlighted that community-led crisis response teams across BC have resolved thousands of calls without emergency services and noted the need for sustained local capacity in Kamloops as encampments, extreme weather, the toxic drug supply, and complex mental health needs continue to pressure emergency systems. Crisis Centre BC noted that provincial crisis lines receive much lower funding than federal 9-8-8 services and lack funding for chat/text service, ethno-cultural support, and First Nations crisis support. Recommendations included dedicated funding for mobile outreach and crisis response, stable and comparable funding for crisis lines and related supports, and creating a fourth mental health option through 9-1-1 connected to crisis-trained responders and community services.

Lastly, the Committee heard about pressures arising from intersecting mental health, addiction, and public safety issues, with some participants advocating for involuntary treatment. The Downtown Victoria Business Association argued that involuntary care has become necessary due to the ineffectiveness of low-barrier solutions and the ongoing strain on community safety, police resources, and public wellbeing. The Association emphasized that a clear process is needed to determine when involuntary orders are made and that the provincial government must provide funding for treatment.

JUSTICE SYSTEM

The Committee heard about the need to improve access to justice by strengthening legal aid and public legal education. The Advocates' Society stated that well-funded legal aid programs support the efficiency, speed, and fairness of the justice system and help protect individual rights and the rule of law. It also noted that Legal Aid BC needs funding to support its expansion to handle more complex and multi-layered legal presentations that overlap between family, criminal, and immigration law. Justice Education Society of BC noted that insufficient funding for public legal education creates structural problems and recommended moving away from project funding toward stable core government funding, noting that unresolved legal problems increase health care and legal costs. The Society also highlighted concerns about unguided AI, particularly for self-represented litigants, and emphasized the need for reliable, accountable legal information, including through verified AI tools.

Additionally, the Advocates' Society noted that a lack of judicial resources is a major cause of delay in the justice

system. Similarly, Canadian Bar Association BC Branch highlighted concerns regarding delays in courts, which delay resolutions, increase legal and employment costs, and negatively impact financial stability for those using court services. To address this issue, the organizations' suggestions included modernizing court services and reducing delays through better resourcing and technology, as well as investment in Supreme Court data infrastructure, additional funding for judicial officers and court registry staff, and broader technology improvements across the justice system to improve performance tracking, service delivery, and efficiency.

The Committee received input from multiple organizations in support of restorative justice programs. Restorative Justice Program Sunshine Coast noted that its work addresses public safety and justice issues before they require RCMP involvement, creating policing and social cost savings. qathet Community Justice noted that restorative justice programs have relied on one-time grant funding rather than stable, ongoing funding, placing programs in a funding crisis. The organizations' recommendations included stable and ongoing funding for restorative justice programs across BC, including annual community-based funding, increases over time, a per-capita funding model, and dedicated support for restorative justice in K–12 schools.

CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

Regarding correctional services, the Committee heard about the need to improve reintegration and education supports for people in correctional custody. Coast Mental Health recognized the provincial government's investment in community transition teams but noted that these teams do not have dedicated housing specialists, despite access to housing being a significant barrier for people upon release. Maple Ridge Pitt Meadows Katzie Community Literacy Committee stated that correctional education serves some of British Columbia's most vulnerable learners, including people with low literacy, interrupted schooling, learning disabilities, mental health challenges, addictions, trauma, and negative prior educational experiences. The organization noted that correctional education is funded through a course-completion model that does not reflect operational reality, as student populations in correctional centres are highly transient and educators often provide extensive instruction and relationship-building that is not fully captured under current funding rules. It stated that correctional education is one of the few public investments that simultaneously improves educational attainment,

workforce participation, public safety, rehabilitation outcomes, and long-term fiscal sustainability.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT

The Committee heard recommendations aimed at strengthening the provincial response to gender-based violence through prevention, coordination, and frontline supports. Archway Society for Domestic Peace recommended ongoing provincial support for collaborative mechanisms that address gender-based violence, including violence against women in relationships tables, interagency case assessment teams, domestic violence units, and community coordination initiatives that support survivor safety. Additionally, Kamloops Sexual Assault Counselling Centre stated that frontline anti-violence workers receive few of the occupational supports available to other professions regularly exposed to trauma and are placed at risk of vicarious trauma, burnout, compassion fatigue, and other mental health challenges, and advocated for investment in dedicated wellness, mental health, and occupational support programs for frontline anti-violence workers.

Several organizations highlighted the need to strengthen supports for survivors of sexual, intimate partner, gender-based, and family violence. Ishtar Women's Resource Society noted that women who leave violent relationships are more likely to be in poverty. BC Society of Transition Houses identified that domestic violence is the primary cause of women's homelessness in BC and that without long-term safe and affordable housing, 75 percent of women who come to transition houses remain temporarily sheltered or return to their abusive partner. The Society recommended a targeted income and wraparound support program to stabilize the lives of women, children, and youth fleeing violence. Salal Sexual Violence Support Centre emphasized that sexual assault clinics and community-based sexual assault services are essential public safety and justice infrastructure. The Centre stated that stable, ongoing funding is needed for BC's sexual assault clinics, emergency response teams, and community-based sexual assault services so survivors across the province can access coordinated medical, forensic, crisis, reporting, counselling, advocacy, accompaniment, victim services, and prevention support. Additionally, Shelter Movers Vancouver noted the need to recognize safe relocation supports,

including moving, storage, and related logistics, as essential infrastructure in response to gender-based and family violence.

Regarding the justice system's response to gender-based violence, Victoria Women's Transitional House Society noted that coercive control is a well-documented pattern of behaviour but remains insufficiently recognized within the legal framework, meaning law enforcement cannot charge it directly and survivors' experiences may be dismissed without visible evidence or a single defining incident. The organization recommended amending the *Family Law Act* to explicitly recognize coercive control, alongside enhanced training and public education. Salal Sexual Violence Support Centre stated that survivor-centred, voluntary, well-resourced restorative justice and transformative accountability pathways, grounded in specialized sexual violence expertise, can provide meaningful options and help reduce future violence. It recommended investment in restorative justice and transformative accountability infrastructure for sexual violence, including survivor-centred program development, mentorship, practitioner training, community partnerships, and long-term supports for people who have caused harm.

Regarding public education and prevention programs, the Committee heard about the need for stable core funding for prevention services and increased operating support for community organizations delivering violence prevention and survivor supports. White Ribbon recommended dedicated provincial funding to expand evidence-based violence prevention and healthy relationship initiatives for youth, post-secondary institutions, workplaces, unions, and other sectors. Specifically, BC Society of Transition Houses noted that Prevention, Education, Advocacy, Counselling and Empowerment (PEACE) programs deliver an important education program called Violence is Preventable, which connects children and youth with experience of violence in the home and refers them to free and confidential counselling. Additionally, Archway Society for Domestic Peace stated that Violence is Preventable presentations in schools and education around healthy relationships, consent, and sexting are key prevention strategies. Both organizations requested support for their programs.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The Committee heard about the need to respond to the issue of human trafficking. Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women Canada stated that British Columbia currently lacks reliable

data on human trafficking, limiting government's ability to assess the scope and nature of the issue and to allocate resources effectively. Similarly, Canadian Centre to End Human Trafficking noted that until 2016, BC had a dedicated anti-human trafficking strategy, but since then anti-human trafficking efforts have become fragmented and largely incorporated into broader gender-based violence initiatives, which cannot fully address issues such as labour trafficking, cross-jurisdictional victim movement, specialized survivor services, and complex investigative needs. To respond to these issues, the organizations recommended strengthening BC's response to human trafficking through a dedicated provincial strategy, survivor-informed policy, better data and evaluation, expanded public awareness and training, specialized supports for sex and labour trafficking survivors, and sustained funding for trusted grassroots organizations with direct community expertise.

SEX WORK

Regarding sex work, multiple organizations noted the need for funding for sex work support organizations. SWAN Vancouver stated that providing funding to sex work support organizations would strengthen their capacity to deliver life-saving services, expand outreach efforts, and implement long-term safety initiatives. Some organizations recommended including sex workers in cross-government strategies and developing an outcomes framework to identify gaps, reduce duplication, improve coordination between ministries, and direct funding toward effective approaches. PACE Society also recommended improving supports for sex workers through stronger cross-government coordination, stable funding, and evidence-based service delivery, stating that investing in prevention rather than crisis response is more cost-effective and better for individuals.

ANTI-RACISM

The Committee heard calls to expand anti-racism initiatives through education, prevention, and stable community-based supports. B'nai Brith Canada noted that the federal government's anti-racism strategy uses the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance Working Definition of Antisemitism and recommended that it be incorporated into BC's anti-racism work. The organization also recommended funding a five-year antisemitism literacy program for secondary and post-secondary students, and developing

mandatory antisemitism training for public servants to help ensure a better understanding of contemporary antisemitism. Additionally, Vancouver Island Human Rights Coalition recommended stable, flexible, multi-year funding for the Coalition and other Black-led, anti-racism and community-based human rights organizations to strengthen advocacy, outreach, public education, staffing, leadership retention, and supports for communities affected by anti-Black racism and discrimination. The organization stated that sustainable funding would improve continuity, service quality, and community trust. Lastly, the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs advocated for increasing the maximum grant amount for the anti-hate stream of the Civil Forfeiture Grant Program to \$40,000 to align with other streams within the program.

TOBACCO, ALCOHOL, AND CANNABIS

The Committee heard about the need to address contraband tobacco. JTI Macdonald Corp. stated that 32.1 percent of BC's tobacco market is now illegal, costing the province up to \$591 million in foregone tax revenue. Rothmans, Benson and Hedges Inc. also highlighted that contraband tobacco is a national issue driven by criminal networks that exploit jurisdictional gaps, resulting in lost tax revenue, public health risks, and broader criminal activity. To address these concerns, organizations recommended strengthening BC's response through aligning with Alberta, Ontario, and Saskatchewan and working with the federal government to create a coordinated national strategy against contraband tobacco. The organization argued that the strategy can lead to stronger enforcement and penalties, dedicated investigative and policing resources, improved intelligence sharing, public awareness, and measures to reduce the price gap between legal and illegal tobacco products. In particular, National Coalition Against Contraband Tobacco stated that a specialized policing unit, dedicated resources, and stronger enforcement tools would help disrupt illegal supply chains, target organized crime networks, and ensure stricter adherence to tobacco regulations.

Regarding cannabis, Kindred advocated for ways to address the illicit cannabis market and youth use. Kindred stated that the illicit market still accounts for about 40 percent of cannabis consumed in BC, while also noting that vaping taxes do not improve youth protection in the strictly controlled adult-only cannabis system and make legal vapes less competitive against illicit products. The organization recommended continuing enforcement investments, lowering legal cannabis prices through reduced BC Liquor Distribution

Branch markups, and removing the Provincial Sales Tax surtax on cannabis vapes to make regulated products more competitive.

With respect to the alcohol industry, the Committee received recommendations to modernize BC's beer markup structure to improve fairness, competitiveness, and sustainability. The Convenience Industry Council of Canada noted that convenience stores have the capacity to responsibly sell alcohol and recommended expanding alcohol sales to convenience stores to increase licensing revenue and support the sector.

GAMBLING

The Committee heard some concerns about gambling regulations in BC. Canadian Online Gaming Alliance stated that the current monopoly model for online gaming in BC leaves a significant portion of activity occurring in unregulated markets outside of government oversight. Similarly, Canadian Lottery Corporation stated that illegal gambling undermines the integrity of the regulated system, exposes consumers to weaker protections, and creates revenue streams for organized criminal activity while reducing government revenues. To address these concerns, recommendations included strengthening online gaming regulation and enforcement, including creating a regulatory framework and promoting public education. Canadian Gaming Association also suggested reviewing BC's gaming framework to strengthen safeguards, oversight, and accountability, better understand the growth of online gaming, and assess the long-term viability of land-based gaming facilities as consumers increasingly shift to online platforms.

Other recommendations focused on stabilizing gaming-related funding by indexing Community Gaming Grants to inflation, restoring a higher baseline, introducing multi-year grant funding, reviewing the relationship between BC Lottery Corporation revenues and grant allocations, and increasing commission support for the gaming industry.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Several organizations emphasized the need for stronger provincial investment in natural disaster readiness, climate adaptation, and community resilience. Insurance Bureau of Canada noted the importance of contingency funding for communities in the event of a major disaster, referencing recent wildfires and flooding in Lytton, West Kelowna, and

the 2022 atmospheric river, as well as increasing costs and damage from severe weather. The organization also highlighted the federal government's commitment to addressing financial systemic risks from a major earthquake and emphasized the importance of BC supporting this work, including by ensuring BC-based insurers are part of the federal solution. Similarly, Georgia Strait Alliance noted that proactive climate adaptation investment remains insufficient, inconsistently prioritized, and lacking in transparency. The organization emphasized the need for sustained investment, including dedicating revenues from fossil fuel companies to local climate change adaptation efforts. Vancity Community Foundation recommended investment in community climate preparedness by funding climate resilience planning and preparation for nonprofit social service organizations in advance of emergencies. It noted that this could build on the foundation's Climate Resilience Roadmap pilots in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside.

Several organizations called for stronger wildfire preparedness and response. Recommendations included investment in BC Wildfire Service facilities and frontline equipment, improved emergency response capacity and working conditions, sustained multi-year wildfire management funding, expanded FireSmart and fuel management initiatives, and localized mitigation measures such as firebreaks in high-risk areas. Friends of Babine Lake Association emphasized the need for practical, community-supported wildfire mitigation measures that balance safety and environmental values. Similarly, the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen noted that volunteer and small fire departments face rising costs, limited capacity, and short-term funding that hinders long-term planning. It recommended stable, multi-year funding to support staffing, training, operational readiness, capital needs, and proactive wildfire mitigation programs, including supports for FireSmart.

The Committee also heard about the need for long-term, cost-shared investment in flood mitigation and resilience, including recommendations for infrastructure to protect the Sumas Prairie, funding to implement the BC Flood Strategy, improved flood mapping tools, and a ten-year Fraser River flood resilience program supported by provincial and federal governments. Lower Fraser Flood Plains Coalition acknowledged that BC has developed a Flood Strategy to move toward long-term, integrated, nature-based flood resilience, but noted that it remains unfunded. The organization stated that \$20 million per year should

be invested in provincial and local capacity, collaborative processes, and advancing the strategy, emphasizing that mitigation investment would help unlock federal funding. It also noted that flood hazard mapping across BC is outdated, incomplete, or inadequate for decision-making, creating growing liability when development approvals are made without accurate risk information. The Coalition stated that local governments and First Nations need sustained, coordinated investment to move beyond piecemeal project funding and work together on integrated, nature-based, climate-resilient floodplain management solutions.

Participants also noted the need for other emergency response supports. Recommendations included developing a real-time emergency accommodation booking platform in collaboration with the hospitality and tourism sectors, as well as providing dedicated funding for First Nations emergency programs, including support for Mainland Coast Salish communities.

The Committee also heard about the role of airshed planning in supporting environmental resilience, public health, and industrial development. Kitimat Airshed Group stated that airshed groups play an important role, but that funding opportunities and grants for airshed planning and management are limited. The Group noted that supporting airshed programs helps the province advance economic growth and healthy communities and environments. It recommended increasing provincial support for airshed planning and air quality management by providing more funding for airshed groups, supporting their role in managing cumulative air emissions in industrializing regions, and expanding grant opportunities for air quality initiatives, including community wood smoke reduction programs.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND COMMUNICATIONS

The Committee heard about the need for a more coordinated and sustainable provincial approach to funding emergency communication systems. Emergency Communications Professionals of BC noted that emergency communication services are currently fragmented, with inconsistent service standards and limited oversight. The organization added that declining funding sources, population growth, and increased reliance on mobile technology are placing significant strain on service providers. It stated that emergency communication systems will require substantial investment in infrastructure, workforce capacity, and coordination. Recommendations

focused on improving long-term funding stability and accountability. These included ongoing provincial cost-sharing with local governments, a provincewide 9-1-1 levy on cell phones, clear service standards, annual funding increases to reflect population growth and technology needs, and safeguards to ensure dedicated funding is not diverted into general revenue.

Regarding search and rescue, Air Rescue One Heli Winch Society recommended stabilization funding to preserve specialized helicopter winch rescue capacity. The Society stated that its specialized year-round helicopter rescue service is at risk because mission-based funding does not cover the fixed costs of maintaining emergency readiness, including aircraft, equipment, training, and staffing. The Society also recommended a long-term readiness funding model, noting that existing grant programs are not scaled to high-cost emergency readiness capabilities and that preserving existing capacity would cost less than creating a government-run specialized rescue aircraft program. It further recommended improved activation and reimbursement pathways so specialized helicopter winch rescue can be considered earlier in emergency responses, saving time, improving patient outcomes, and reducing risk to ground responders.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

The Committee discussed the need for additional investments in policing, crown prosecution, and the courts to address staffing shortages and caseload pressures that limit proactive enforcement and timely response to retail crime and violent incidents. Members noted that specific measures may include hiring additional RCMP officers, prosecutors, and court staff, as well as modernizing police equipment and infrastructure.

Members discussed the need to improve community safety and reduce crime impacting downtown businesses and neighbourhoods, reflecting on recommendations received from several municipalities across the province. The Committee also acknowledged the ongoing implementation of the Chronic Property Offending Intervention Initiative (C-POII) and emphasized the need for continuing supports for these initiatives to address chronic repeat offending. More broadly, Members highlighted public safety concerns and the need for appropriate responses to violent offences.

Committee Members also discussed the rise in financial crimes and emphasized the importance of strengthening prevention, investigation, and enforcement efforts to better respond to

these offences. Members noted that these measures could include working with the federal government to enable communication between law enforcement, the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre, and the Financial Transaction and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada and further investing in specialized financial-crimes expertise. In addition, Members highlighted the potential benefits of adopting technologies that improve operational efficiency for law enforcement, including the use of automatic license plate reader systems by municipal police services and RCMP detachments.

The Committee also deliberated on opportunities to improve the justice system. Committee Members agreed on the need for further investments in court data infrastructure for the Supreme Court of BC to enable performance tracking and analysis, reduce delays, improve services, and lower costs of court services. Members noted that the data infrastructure should be aligned with what has been implemented by the Provincial Court. While discussing ways to improve access to justice services, Committee Members recognized the need to expand access to Legal Aid BC to support individuals with increasingly complex legal matters as many cases involve overlapping family, criminal, and immigration law issues. Members also discussed concerns that AI tools may provide inaccurate or misleading legal information, potentially affecting individuals' understanding of their legal rights and creating additional pressures on the justice system. Committee Members noted the potential value in investing in and recognizing AI assisted, verified legal information.

The Committee also considered measures to support rehabilitation and reduce future involvement with the justice system. Members acknowledged the role of restorative justice programs in addressing harm, promoting accountability, and reducing recidivism. With respect to correctional services, the Committee noted the need to support successful reintegration for individuals leaving correctional facilities through transition planning and access to wraparound supports, including housing, education, and skills training.

The Committee discussed opportunities to strengthen responses to intimate partner violence through a more coordinated system of support. The Committee acknowledged the value of requiring coordinated cross-sector planning and accountability to ensure that housing, justice, health, and community-based violence response services integrate initial supports for survivors. Particularly, Members noted that a provincial emergency fund, employment supports, and income

stabilization programs could help survivors of intimate partner violence access immediate financial assistance during times of crisis as well as support their long-term economic stability. Additionally, Members recognized the importance of gender-based violence prevention and education programs, including PEACE, in preventing gender-based violence and promoting healthier relationships. The Committee also considered opportunities to strengthen justice system responses to intimate partner violence and support frontline anti-violence workers. Members acknowledged the potential benefits in enhanced training for justice system professionals and the use of gender-based violence screening in family court proceedings. Further, Members discussed the need to invest in wellness, mental health, and occupational support programs for frontline anti-violence workers across the province.

The Committee also deliberated on ways to address human trafficking. Members highlighted the importance of data collection, research, and evidence-based policy development to better understand and respond to human trafficking. Committee Members also recommended developing an outcomes framework to assess and improve the effectiveness and accountability of provincial investments for programs and services aimed at human trafficking. On anti-racism, Committee Members acknowledged the importance of addressing discrimination and racism through public education and community-based supports. The Committee agreed with input it received about aligning the maximum grant amount for the anti-hate stream of the Civil Forfeiture Grant Program with the funding limits available under the program's other streams.

Regarding Cannabis, Tobacco, and Liquor, the Committee agreed on the importance of working with Alberta, Ontario, and Saskatchewan and the federal government to establish a national strategy against contraband tobacco. Members noted that a coordinated strategy could strengthen enforcement efforts and help address the impacts of contraband tobacco on public health, public safety, and government revenues. Committee Members also noted the need to collaborate with the federal government for stronger enforcement and coordination to disrupt illegal tobacco trafficking and organized crime networks operating in BC. Further, Committee Members discussed the potential benefit of modernizing liquor licensing regulations to allow BC produced beer, wine, and spirits to be sold in convenience stores. The Committee also discussed the need for stronger regulation of online gambling

to protect consumers and local employment, support land-based gaming facilities, and ensure that gaming revenues remain in BC. Members considered approaches to better integrate online gambling operations with local, land-based facilities and highlighted the importance of an online gaming framework that prioritizes economic benefits for the province while preventing unregulated online gambling activities. Members also noted the potential value in establishing funding to identify illegal gambling operators, support complex investigations, strengthen intelligence collection, and disrupt unregulated online gambling activity. Additionally, the Committee acknowledged the need to increase the amount of community gaming grant funding to support local organizations and services and build vibrant communities. Members discussed the potential value of restoring the annual Community Gaming Grant funding baseline to \$140 million and indexing it to inflation.

On emergency preparedness, the Committee discussed the importance of a proactive and preventative approach to disaster management, highlighting the need for continued investment in risk reduction, mitigation, preparedness, land-use planning, climate adaptation efforts, and emergency response measures. Members acknowledged the importance of wildfire preparedness and response measures, including supports for FireSmart, wildfire fuel management, and wildfire response facilities that can reduce the impacts of natural disasters and improve emergency response capacity. Similarly, the Committee reflected on the significant input it received from participants on the BC Flood Strategy and supported long-term funding for flood prevention, preparedness and mitigation. Committee Members highlighted the importance of implementing existing natural disaster and emergency preparedness strategies and programs such as these, noting that timely implementation can help reduce future costs and improve community preparedness.

Lastly, regarding emergency response and communications, the Committee highlighted the significance of establishing a sustainable and reliable funding model for emergency communications systems. Members noted that traditional funding mechanisms tied to landline telephone services are becoming less viable and discussed the need for funding approaches that reflect current communication technologies, such as a levy on cell phones, and service demands. Committee Members also discussed the need to establish consistent emergency communications service standards across the province. They acknowledged that access to 911 services can vary among communities, particularly in some rural and northern regions, and stated that ensuring reliable and timely emergency communications for all residents is crucial. Additionally, the Committee recognized the significance of mental health crisis response services and the potential value of establishing a mental health response “fourth option” for the 9-1-1 system. Committee Members noted that such an option could connect callers directly to crisis line responders and appropriate community-based mental health supports. Furthermore, Members recognized the need for long-term, multi-year funding for search and rescue organizations, noting that predictable funding can support operational stability and service continuity.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends to the Legislative Assembly that the provincial government:

66. Increase funding to address staffing shortages in policing, Crown prosecution services, and the courts by accelerating hiring, training, and onboarding to ensure adequate staffing levels.
67. Provide funding to modernize data infrastructure within the Supreme Court of British Columbia, consistent with investments made in the Provincial Court, to improve efficiency and reduce delays.
68. Require coordinated planning and accountability across housing, justice, health, and community-based violence response services to support an integrated and timely response for people experiencing intimate partner violence.
69. Increase the maximum grant amount for the anti-hate stream of the Civil Forfeiture Grant Program to align with the other streams within the same program.
70. Align with Alberta, Ontario, and Saskatchewan to champion a coordinated national strategy against contraband tobacco.
71. Restore the Community Gaming Grant to a minimum baseline of \$140 million and index it to inflation moving forward.
72. Implement BC's flood and wildfire response strategies by investing in risk reduction, preparedness, response, and recovery measures that help protect communities from natural disasters.
73. Implement a BC-wide emergency communication system by providing ongoing funding and developing a provincial framework with clear service standards.

SOCIAL SERVICES

NOT FOR PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Many participants advocated for not for profit organizations and community services, with a couple of organizations emphasizing the need for investment in services and systems that prioritize prevention. Federation of Community Social Services noted that community organizations are often the first place people turn to before challenges escalate into crisis. The organization highlighted the importance of building a social services sector that focuses on prevention and care rather than crisis response. Similarly, Archway Community Services argued that prioritizing upstream investments in prevention would reduce long-term demand and costs on public services, while strengthening community resilience and long-term system sustainability.

Some organizations highlighted challenges associated with increased costs of delivering community services. Board Voice Society of BC identified that the complexity and cost of running a not for profit community social service organization have increased significantly, but funding for administration has not kept pace with new technology and compliance requirements. Similarly, Federation of Community Social Services cited rising costs tied to inflation, cybersecurity, insurance, digital infrastructure, records management, and compliance requirements. The organization recommended modernizing funding contracts to reflect real operational costs.

The Committee also heard about the importance of predictable funding for the sector. Pacific Immigrant Resources Society highlighted the importance of stable multi-year funding frameworks to reduce uncertainty and prevent service disruptions. Both Archway Community Services and Cariboo Brain Injury Association linked multi-year funding to workforce stability and staff retention, along with other benefits like supporting service integration across sectors and optimizing facility management. Yellowhead Community Services highlighted the need for stable funding for not for profit organizations in rural communities, noting the importance of

maintaining and strengthening locally delivered services, while Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society advocated for multi-year funding in regions where population growth and increasing diversity outpace available resources.

Many organizations specifically highlighted administrative cost allowances within their recommendations for predictable funding. Options for Sexual Health noted that project-based funding often restricts administrative cost recovery, forcing organizations to absorb the true overhead costs of compliance, data collection, and staffing. They recommended raising allowable administrative cost allocations to 20 percent for project-based funding, as well as embedding inflationary increases into multi-year agreements. A few participants, including Central Okanagan Foundation and the Sunshine Coast Foundation, recommended raising the administration ceiling above 10 percent.

Noting challenges with recruitment and retention in the sector, multiple organizations called for investment in this area. Vantage Point referenced challenges including wage competition from other sectors, burnout, and difficulties attracting workers to rural communities. The organization highlighted the need to develop a dedicated labour force strategy that addresses recruitment and retention challenges. Similarly, Federation of Community Social Services recommended providing more targeted training, paid practicums, paid supervision, and early career pathways into community social services for recent graduates and young workers. CUPE Local 1936 noted that employees in community social services are often subjected to traumatic experiences, which can lead to mental health issues, frequently worsened by insufficient support systems caused by funding limitations and staffing deficits. The organization recommended providing ongoing funding to community social services to support adequate staffing levels; eliminate lone work in high-risk roles; invest in violence prevention, training, and safety infrastructure; and ensure fair wages to improve recruitment and retention.

Multiple community foundations specifically referenced the Community Prosperity Fund in their recommendations. Vancouver Foundation stated that the previous \$25 million investment in the Community Prosperity Fund supported over 450 organizations with on-the-ground local knowledge about their communities' needs. The North Thompson Communities Foundation shared that the fund has been an effective mechanism for addressing localized crises and recommended investing an additional \$25 million in the fund. Further, Nanaimo Community Foundation noted that expanding this investment would strengthen local organizations, prevent service disruptions, and increase the long-term wellbeing of communities across the region.

Two organizations advocated for increased capital funding for not for profit organizations. YCMAs of BC noted that the BC Capital Project Grants stream for not for profits is limited to \$5 million while Alberta allocates almost seven times this amount of funding for community organizations and community infrastructure. The organization recommended significantly increasing funding for this stream. Cariboo Brain Injury Association recommended dedicated infrastructure and facility grants to help local chapters acquire, upgrade, or secure permanent community facilities and staff housing resources, noting this would help reduce vulnerability to commercial real estate shifts.

The Committee also heard about alternate approaches to support the sector. United Way British Columbia recommended piloting grant programs in which government funding is contingent on being matched by community or corporate contributions. The Salvation Army noted that reducing or waiving provincial service costs, such as those for ICBC, WorkSafe BC, or BC Ferries, could potentially provide meaningful relief to social service providers and make government investment in these organizations go even further.

Regarding cultural services and inclusion, Elizabeth Fry Society of Greater Vancouver shared that many women and families, particularly newcomers, are overwhelmed when navigating housing systems, immigration processes, health care, and social services. The organization stated that funding for culturally specific community-based navigation programs would help vulnerable women and newcomer families receive early coordinated support. Similarly, Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society recommended continued support for initiatives that strengthen social cohesion and full participation in community life such as programs that support language learning, employment readiness, youth engagement,

cultural awareness, and anti-racism efforts. The organization noted that when newcomers have access to these programs, they are better positioned to contribute their skills and become active members of their communities. The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs advocated for funding for culturally appropriate services for the Jewish community, noting that some individuals may not feel comfortable accessing broader services or supports. The Filipino Legacy Society noted that while many racialized and ethnocultural communities have developed culturally appropriate services, the Filipino community is only beginning to build institutional capacity and relies on a patchwork of not for profit and grassroots organizations, which require financial assistance to scale up to meet demand.

The Committee also heard about funding for organizations that support employment readiness. Dress for Success Vancouver noted that their organization helps to prepare clients referred from publicly funded programs, like WorkBC Centres, for employment; however, its own operations are entirely funded by charitable donations and grants. The organization stated that \$150,000 in funding would support 1,000 clients. It also advocated for flow-through funding within existing service delivery contracts to compensate the organization directly for services. Pacific Immigrant Resources Society highlighted the need to invest in programs that support the labour market integration of immigrant and refugee women by recognizing them as a workforce priority within BC's workforce and skills development strategies. The organization noted that these investments help address labour shortages in key sectors such as health care, child care, and community services while strengthening economic participation and benefiting both employers and communities.

Some organizations made requests for specific programs and services. The Centre for Epilepsy highlighted that only two small organizations serve people with epilepsy and that as demand for services continues to grow, stable provincial funding would allow these organizations to expand programs, strengthen mental health supports, reduce staff burnout, and ensure that people living with epilepsy are not left without access to essential community-based services.

The Committee also heard about the need for more oversight and coordination of social service programs. The Prince George Downtown Business Improvement Association noted that increased accountability and oversight for publicly funded social programs would help to ensure efforts to improve collaboration between sectors are coordinated

and produce measurable outcomes. Similarly, Vantage Point recommended establishing a dedicated secretariat to support the Parliamentary Secretary for Community Development and Non-Profits, noting this would provide increased capacity to coordinate work across governments, improve grant and contracting practices, streamline reporting requirements, strengthen engagement with the sector, and identify opportunities to reduce unnecessary administrative burden.

PEOPLE WITH SUPPORT NEEDS

Two organizations made recommendations related to support for people with autism. Mainland Speech Language Pathology Inc. stated that the move away from the previous Autism Funding Program, under which families had direct control over how funding was allocated to meet their child's individual needs, has created significant gaps in support for families across the province, particularly those in rural and remote communities. The organization recommended restoring and expanding individualized, needs-based autism funding for children and adults. Canucks Autism Network advocated for funding for their organization to develop and deliver autism-informed mental health and health care training for staff across all five BC Health Authorities, noting that people with autism face significant barriers when accessing health care and mental health services, in part due to a lack of training on autism for health care professionals. The organization also advocated for funding to expand its community-based programming across BC.

The Committee also heard about support for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities including with respect to employment, caregiver support, and purpose-built infrastructure for specialized care. British Columbia Employment Network stated that the declining employment rate of 17.45 percent among people eligible for Community Living BC services signals the need for a renewed provincial focus on employment inclusion. The organization recommended adopting a provincial target to increase employment participation for people with intellectual and development disabilities through early employment interventions. Similarly, March of Dimes Canada stated that while provincial figures vary, the employment gap between persons with and without disabilities remains substantial, underscoring the need for targeted programs and investments to close the gap and create inclusive employment opportunities. BC People First Society noted that existing employment programs support people with disabilities to work

for someone else, and there is a lack of funding for those who want to start their own business and create jobs for others. The Society emphasized that entrepreneurs with disabilities need grants, not loans, as many live on low incomes and face extra disability-related costs.

Regarding Community Living BC, the Committee heard about a need for increased funding to reduce caseloads and waitlists and improve the quality of supports. BC CEO Network and Inclusion BC advocated for additional annual funding to reduce caseload ratios in the home sharing program, noting that lower caseloads would strengthen safety and oversight and support more effective person-centred planning. Down Syndrome Society of BC also commented on the home sharing program, stating that policy generally prevents parents from being home share providers for their adult children and as a result people are often placed with unrelated providers who may be underpaid or overextended. The organization noted that allowing immediate family members to serve as home share providers, when that is the preferred living arrangement of the individual, would increase stability, continuity and accountability. The Down Syndrome Resource Foundation stated that Community Living BC has recently decreased the support it provides to people with Down syndrome and other disabilities. The organization recommended increasing funding to Community Living BC to support the wellbeing of adults with Down syndrome.

The Committee also heard about recruitment challenges with respect to speech-language pathologists and social workers. Mainland Speech Language Pathology Inc. recommended providing dedicated funding to create and fill speech-language pathology and audiology positions in health care and school districts as well as expanding training capacity to address workforce shortages. A registered social worker noted that existing positions across BC are not being filled with available qualified professionals. They stated that employers should review unnecessary credential requirements or internal policies that limit Master of Social Work and Registered Social Worker participation.

ACCESSIBILITY

BC People First Society emphasized that accessibility upgrades are required for people with disabilities to get into buildings and use services, enabling them to work, shop, volunteer, and information technology and security costs. Reflecting on recruitment and retention challenges in this sector, Committee

take part in community life. The organization recommended funding and mandating accessibility upgrades in all communities, including automatic doors, ramps, accessible debit machines, non-fluorescent lighting, and accessible washrooms.

A few participants highlighted the need for funding to improve support for individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind, and deafblind. Family Network for Deaf Children stated that due to a shortage of qualified workers, deaf, hard of hearing and deafblind children miss learning opportunities and adults must delay access to medical care, education, or employment. The organization recommended funding a coordinated, cross-ministerial strategy to address communication, education, and accessibility barriers affecting deaf, hard of hearing and deafblind individuals and families. CNIB Deafblind Community Services noted that current provincial funding allows the organization to provide only six hours a week of intervener services for 46 clients. The organization stated that increased funding would allow it to increase service hours to existing clients, support the 50 individuals on the waitlist as well as prevent isolation, reduce reliance on emergency services, and uphold the human rights of people who are deafblind.

POVERTY REDUCTION

Several participants made recommendations to increase both social assistance and disability assistance, with some calling for more frequent payments, and others advocating for specific amounts with indexing to inflation. The Committee also heard about eligibility criteria and annual earnings exemption limits as well as issues with the Canada Pension Plan and Employment Insurance benefits for individuals receiving Person with Disabilities assistance. Parent Support Services Society of BC stated that for families already coping with disability, trauma, caregiving responsibilities, or child welfare involvement, current income and disability assistance rates are not enough to provide stability. Disability Action of Canada stated that current disability income support in BC is below the poverty line and that many persons with disabilities face housing insecurity or must use most of their support for rent. The organization recommended increasing monthly support to approximately \$2,200 through a combination of federal and provincial programs along with simplifying administrative requirements. Disability Alliance BC stated that disability assistance rates have not kept pace with inflation and recommended considering inflation indexing and income

exemptions, including changes to how spousal income and Employment Insurance are treated.

The Committee also heard about affordability challenges related to funerals. The BC Funeral Services Association noted that BC remains the province with the lowest funding for funeral services and the fewest services covered, which creates a critical gap where low-income British Columbians are denied access to funeral and memorial services. The organization recommended increased funding for the Provincial Burial Program and to include an annual mechanism for inflationary review.

FOOD SECURITY

A few organizations highlighted the need for cross-ministry efforts with respect to food security. The Cranbrook Food Bank noted that food security responsibilities are currently spread across multiple ministries, making long-term planning and accountability challenging. Friends in Need Food Bank Society recommended establishing a food security secretariat or a parliamentary secretary with a cross-ministry mandate, annual public reporting, and a food insecurity reduction target.

Many food security organizations advocated for increased operational funding, with some calling for multi-year funding and others recommending specific amounts. The Committee also heard about the need for investment in community-based food security initiatives, and for rural, remote, and Indigenous-led food sovereignty initiatives. The Alberni Valley Food Security Society noted that community food security programs support food literacy, healthy eating, mental health, social connection, emergency preparedness, local economic development, and community resilience. The organization added that community organizations are experiencing increasing demand for services while facing rising operational costs, staffing challenges, and funding uncertainty. Island Food Hubs discussed the challenges of accessing healthy food in rural and remote communities, which include extremely high costs and transportation barriers. The organization added that Indigenous communities across BC are leading important work in food sovereignty, land stewardship, cultural food practices and intergenerational knowledge-sharing. LUSH Valley Food Action Society recommended increased investments in community-based food security investments through the Community Food Action Initiative, noting that this funding allows communities to respond locally and creatively to rising food insecurity. The organization stated that this funding

supports food literacy programs, community kitchens, school food initiatives, emergency response capacity, seed-saving, growing projects, and culturally appropriate food programs.

A couple of organizations highlighted the need for capital funding for food distribution centres and community food hubs. The Cranbrook Food Bank stated that shared warehousing, refrigerated storage, and freight partnerships would reduce costs, strengthen local food systems, decrease food waste, and improve access to nourishing food. It recommended investing in regional food aggregation and distribution hubs that allow communities to coordinate purchasing, storage, and transportation more efficiently. Food Banks BC highlighted the Loaves and Fishes Community Food Bank in Nanaimo, which received provincial funding to support over 100 charities on Vancouver Island. It recommended providing capital funding to establish regional food distribution centres in the South Central Okanagan and Northern BC.

Several organizations also advocated for funding for specific programs or projects including the Central Okanagan Food Bank's Food Rescue Transformation Centre, Surrey Urban Mission Society's meal program, and BC Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation's Fresh for Kids Program. BC Association of Farmers' Markets recommended stable, multi-year funding for the BC Farmers' Market Nutrition Coupon Program, which strengthens food security and supports farmers' markets, noting that it typically has to wait for end of year funding, which causes uncertainty for community partners.

LITERACY

Regarding literacy strategies and policies, a few participants recommended developing a BC Literacy Strategy to recognize literacy as a foundation for economic growth, social inclusion, and community resilience. Decoda Literacy Solutions highlighted that a coordinated, cross-sector literacy strategy involving government, community partners, and multiple sectors would help address service gaps, expand access, and strengthen outcomes. Similarly, Cariboo Chilcotin Partners for Literacy recommended integrating literacy into broader social policy through cross sector collaboration.

With respect to literacy for young children, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library emphasized the importance of investing in early literacy, particularly before children enter the school system. It recommended establishing a provincial early literacy partnership that enables every child in BC to access

the program from birth to age five. The organization further noted that access to books remains uneven across BC and requested funding to restore and expand provincial support for the organization in Indigenous and remote communities to address this gap.

Several organizations recommended funding for community adult literacy programs, literacy outreach coordination, and digital literacy. Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy emphasized that investments in community-based literacy programs lead to a stronger, more skilled workforce, healthier families, more resilient communities, and stronger economies. With respect to literacy outreach coordination, Literacy Society of the North Okanagan noted that additional funding would enable literacy organizations to hire full-time coordinators and add more volunteers to their programs. READ Surrey/White Rock Society noted that increasing literacy can improve individuals' ability to participate fully in the workforce, learn new skills, and adapt to changing job demands, which boosts productivity and earnings. The organization recommended funding to create a Work Force Literacy Fund to support adult literacy.

SENIORS

Regarding seniors, the Committee heard about the need for a coordinated strategy for seniors' support as well as increased funding for related programs and services. Entente Education Canada noted that work is needed to strengthen a unified, province-wide approach on aging which integrates health, housing, and social supports. Similarly, Council of Senior Citizens' Organizations BC noted that appointing a Minister of Seniors to develop a seniors' strategy would help reduce gaps and overlaps across government departments in this area. YMCAs of BC highlighted the need for services and support to help healthy aging stating that, by 2030, the number adults over the age of 55 in BC is projected to be over two million people. The organization recommended increased funding for community-based, not for profit-operated, healthy aging services focused on seniors. Seniors Services Society of BC recommended investing in the Senior Housing Information and Navigation Ease program which they stated keeps seniors housed, provides quality of life and reduces pressure on hospitals, emergency departments, and long-term care.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

The Committee also heard recommendations related to

Indigenous services and organizations. Two organizations recommended increased funding for Aboriginal Friendship Centres. BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres highlighted that while centres are expected to operate as full-service community hubs, they are funded through short-term, restrictive agreements that make long-term planning nearly impossible and force staff to shift resources between programs. The organization recommended increasing core operational funding to reflect the real cost of delivery of culturally safe Indigenous services. Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association noted that in Surrey, there is currently no Indigenous cultural hub, no dedicated Indigenous gathering space, and no model that brings together Indigenous services, housing, primary care, and cultural programming in one place. The organization recommended funding an Indigenous Village Hub in Surrey to address this gap. The First Nations Summit advocated for funding to support programming for the First Nations Public Service Secretariat which they stated is a First Nations led initiative with a mandate to strengthen BC First Nation government administrations in the core areas of public administration.

DEMOCRACY AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

A couple of organizations made recommendations related to democracy and civic engagement. CityHive Youth Engagement Society recommended strengthening youth engagement across government, noting that meaningful engagement is inconsistent across ministries. The organization also recommended establishing a non-partisan civic engagement fund to support year-round civic education and democratic participation across BC. Similarly, the Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue recommended establishing a non-partisan centre of excellence for democratic engagement. The organization stated that global democracy has been in decline and democratic instability is being driven by factors such as mis- and disinformation, electoral interference and political polarization.

SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Several organizations emphasized that social infrastructure is essential to healthy, inclusive, and resilient communities. The BC Alliance for Healthy Living noted that community spaces, recreation facilities, parks, active transportation networks, child care, newcomer services, and seniors' programs strengthen social connection, improve population health, support healthy aging, and contribute to climate resilience. The

BC Society for Policy Solutions recommended investment in social and physical infrastructure to reduce rural-urban gaps in access to health care, transit, child care, and other key services.

SPECIFIC REGULATORY MEASURES

A few participants recommended specific regulatory measures related to social services including establishing cross-ministerial working groups and reviewing legislation and grant criteria. Vancouver Foundation recommended amending the *Unclaimed Property Act* to ensure more funds can be reinvested into the charitable sector. Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada, Unit 284 noted that veterans' organizations often fall between different funding categories which can lead them to be ineligible for grants, tax relief, or infrastructure support. The organization recommended reviewing legislation, tax policy, and grant eligibility criteria to ensure not for profit veterans' organizations are consistently recognized as public-benefit organizations eligible for appropriate tax relief, operating support, and community infrastructure funding.

SPECIFIC TAXATION MEASURES

The Committee heard from a few participants about specific taxation measures related to social services including with respect to tax credits for religious charities and emergency disaster services volunteers, as well as changes to the Employer Health Tax. Board Voice Society of BC recommended introducing a targeted personal income tax credit for volunteer board members serving not for profit community organizations to recognize their public service while helping to reduce financial barriers to participation. District 69 Society of Organized Services recommended a higher Employer Health Tax exemption threshold specifically for registered charities and not for profit organizations that deliver essential public services on behalf of communities and governments.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

Regarding not for profit organizations, the Committee highlighted that longer-term funding agreements would provide greater predictability for these organizations but also noted the need for accountability measures to ensure funding meets intended outcomes. Committee Members also agreed that the administrative cost ceiling in funding contracts for these organizations should be reviewed, noting that the caps may be too restrictive, particularly given increasing

Members highlighted the need to strengthen career pathways into community social services, including through post-secondary partnerships, targeted training, paid practicums, paid supervision, and supports for recent graduates and young workers (see recommendation 62 in the Post-Secondary Education theme). With respect to the services provided by not for profit organizations, the Committee discussed the importance of supporting initiatives that promote inclusion, participation, and strong communities across BC including language learning, employment readiness, youth engagement, community connections, cultural awareness, and anti-racism programs. Committee Members also supported capacity building for Indigenous social services organizations to strengthen service delivery and improve outcomes for Indigenous communities. In addition, the Committee discussed the importance of recognizing and encouraging volunteerism, noting the possibility of utilizing tax incentives to encourage volunteerism. Members noted the need to ensure any recognition program or tax measure is simple to administer and does not create an undue burden for organizations.

Reflecting on the input they heard regarding people with support needs, Committee Members noted that parents who care for their grown children at home are not eligible for Community Living BC home share funding, while other family members or non-family caregivers may be eligible. The Committee highlighted that parents often have a better understanding of their child's care needs and support should be provided to help keep grown children at home. Members also discussed input they heard regarding the importance of programs that support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and expressed their support for inclusive pathways to education, employment, and community participation. The Committee further noted the input it received about shortages of speech-language pathologists and audiologists, and that not receiving these services can affect reading comprehension, dyslexia supports, and student success, with particular challenges in rural and remote communities. Committee Members agreed that there is a need for increased training capacity and funding to fill these positions and thereby improve access.

Continuing on the theme of accessibility and inclusion, the Committee highlighted input on barriers affecting individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind, and their families, and discussed the need for coordinated supports, clear qualifications and standards, increased access to education and training for support professionals, and long-

term investment. Committee Members also acknowledged the importance of improving access to intervenor services for deafblind individuals, including by reducing wait lists and expanding service hours for existing clients, noting that these are essential accessibility supports.

With respect to poverty reduction, the Committee recognized that, given the rising costs of living, there was a significant volume of input calling for an increase to disability assistance rates. The Committee noted that current claw back policies can discourage workforce participation and discussed the importance of allowing people receiving disability assistance, including couples, to work without being penalized. Committee Members also agreed on the need to increase the threshold for earnings exemptions to better reflect current economic realities.

To improve food security, Committee Members discussed strategies including implementing a coordinated, cross-ministry approach, as well as identifying opportunities to strengthen existing programs and supports. The Committee noted that the current food distribution model is not meeting community needs and discussed the value of regional food distribution centres to improve coordination and distribute food more efficiently to people in need. Committee Members also emphasized the need to increase agricultural production, and highlighted the BC Farmers' Market Nutrition Coupon Program, which plays a role in improving access to healthy food while also supporting local farmers. The Committee also discussed the importance of measures to improve food security for K-12 and post-secondary students and recognized the need to support the work of school lunch programs and student union food bank operations.

The Committee also discussed the importance of both literacy and civic engagement. Committee Members highlighted the significant amount of input on the importance of literacy programs, such as Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, and recognized that literacy, including digital literacy for seniors and youth, plays an important role in supporting economic participation, social inclusion, community resilience, and digital safety. Committee Members discussed how a provincial literacy strategy could help to bring together government and community partners to address service gaps and expand access to programs that improve literacy for all ages. With respect to democracy and civic engagement, the Committee noted the importance of strengthening youth engagement capacity across government to ensure youth are meaningfully involved in policy development.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends to the Legislative Assembly that the provincial government:

74. Provide three- to five-year funding agreements for not for profit organizations, and review administrative cost restrictions in these agreements, to improve funding predictability and support long-term planning.
75. Allow immediate family members, including parents, to serve as Community Living BC home-share providers and receive corresponding supports.
76. Increase training capacity and provide dedicated funding to create, fill, and protect speech-language pathology and audiology positions in health and education settings, with a focus on addressing workforce shortages and improving access to services.
77. Fund a coordinated, cross-ministerial strategy to improve access to interpreters, intervenors, ASL-fluent educators, and trained support workers for deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind children and adults.
78. Review earnings exemptions and benefit reduction rules for disability assistance to better support workforce participation, including by replacing dollar-for-dollar claw backs with a progressive sliding-scale model and indexing exemptions to inflation.
79. Provide predictable, multi-year funding to expand the BC Farmers' Market Nutrition Coupon Program.

TRANSPORTATION AND TRANSIT

TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

Throughout the consultation, the Committee heard the repeated need for both system-wide and regional investment into the province's transportation infrastructure. In promoting province-wide investment, the BC Road Builders and Heavy Construction Association emphasized the importance of reassessing how BC's roads are built due to increased usage and the need for climate adaptability, and further added it is necessary to upgrade, rehabilitate or rebuild aging infrastructure such as bridges and ports.

Input related to Northern BC included the need for improvements to rural roads, rail infrastructure, and highways to improve safety and to facilitate economic activity in the region. The Chamber of Shipping of British Columbia stated that improved project cargo corridors in Northern BC would support the transportation of goods for clean energy and other major projects in Western Canada, while improving supply chain resilience, attracting investment, strengthening northern ports, and benefiting local communities. The BC Grain Producers Association, as well as multiple other organizations and individuals, advocated for a replacement for the Taylor Bridge in the Peace Region. Participants noted its importance in facilitating a high volume of vehicle traffic, including farmers transporting goods and a high proportion of heavy-industrial traffic essential to BC's energy economy.

Regarding the Lower Mainland, Fraser Valley, and Vancouver Island, the Committee heard from many participants who advocated for increased funding to address congestion and improve access to communities. Some specific projects that were highlighted include improved river crossings, new infrastructure to facilitate access to industrial lands and residential neighborhoods, as well as the need for a new overpass in North Vancouver, and the benefits of an alternative route between the Alberni Valley and the Inland Island Highway on Vancouver Island. Multiple organizations and individuals also emphasized support for the timely and cost-effective completion of a new Highway 99 Fraser River

crossing, while the Cloverdale District Chamber of Commerce advocated for transportation infrastructure investment in East Surrey to improve access to neighbourhoods, the new Surrey hospital, and future Surrey-Langley SkyTrain Stations.

The Committee also received submissions recommending improvements and upgrades to transportation infrastructure in BC's Interior. The Committee heard from several participants who highlighted the need for stable and equitable investment, as well as upgrades to bridges and highways in the region. The City of Kelowna stated that while the city continues to grow, transportation and transit investment has not kept pace. The City of Kamloops and Tk'emlu'ps te Secwe'pemc advocated for a replacement of the Red Bridge, noting it serves as a critical piece of provincial infrastructure supporting safety, regional mobility, and economic activity in Kamloops and surrounding communities. The Quesnel Downtown Association highlighted its support for the necessary repairs and continued investment in the Highway 97 North Quesnel River Bridge corridor and in broader transportation infrastructure, noting the importance of ensuring communities in the region can stay connected with the rest of the province. Some participants also stated the importance of the four-laning project of Highway 1 between Kamloops and Alberta to improve safety and reduce traffic bottlenecks, as well as the benefits of wildlife crossing structures and fencing along Highway 3 to reduce collisions with animals.

PORTS, MARINE SHIPPING, AND FERRIES

Multiple organizations emphasized the important role marine ports play in BC's economy, and advocated for measures that support investment and stability for ports and marine terminals. The Prince Rupert Port Authority highlighted that strategic infrastructure investments at the Port of Prince Rupert and across the Prince Rupert Gateway would help to advance BC's export diversification, northern development, and regional economic growth objectives. The Port Authority further stated that streamlining regulatory and permitting processes impacting port-related development in BC would

decrease project costs, expedite investment, and strengthen BC's ability to compete for private capital.

Regarding ferries, the BC Ferry and Marine Workers Union noted that a review of publicly funded ferry services would identify where bringing or returning services into public operation could improve value, accountability, and service delivery. The Union further stated that creating more opportunities for ferry construction, refit, maintenance, and recycling work in BC would strengthen supply chains, support coastal communities, and increase the long-term value of public investment into ferries.

PUBLIC TRANSIT

The Committee received considerable input regarding the importance of increased investments in public transit. The Victoria Transit Riders Union stated that increased funding for public transit would enable expanded service in both urban and rural areas, leading to improved health outcomes, and reduced congestion and emissions. West Kootenay Transit Action shared that transit services are often insufficient in areas outside of the Lower Mainland and called for the provincial government to provide a larger share of funding to municipalities to expand transit. The organization stated that the formula used by BC Transit requires local governments to contribute 40 to 50 percent of funding which is very challenging. Multiple individuals called for increased investments in intracity public transportation and stated that such funding would strengthen connections across the province. Better Island Transit noted that a lack of interregional public transit reduces non-drivers' economic opportunities and hampers rural economic development. The Committee also received multiple recommendations to fund passenger rail services. Restore the Vancouver Island Railway stated that the Vancouver Island Railway Corridor is critical infrastructure for transportation, economic development, food security, climate resilience, and emergency response. The organization further stated that rehabilitating the Island Rail Corridor would reconnect communities, support freight and passenger service, and reduce highway congestion.

Input regarding general transit expansion in BC included recommendations to create additional funding streams for public transportation, increase service and funding for BC Transit and TransLink, and introduce alternative transit options such as light rail to make transit more easily accessible. Advocating for the reallocation of funds and road space

toward public transit, Ecopath Planning stated that converting some road space from private vehicle use to dedicated rapid-transit bus lanes could help traffic move more smoothly, improve travel reliability, and reduce carbon pollution. BC Climate Emergency Campaign further called for reallocation of funding from highway expansion to public transit, noting that given climate change and rising gas prices, public transit is becoming more important as an alternative to driving. The Committee also received several recommendations regarding specific funding requests for transit expansion, including: funding for BC Transit's Yard 3 expansion in Victoria; improving service to the Glenmore and Lower Mission neighbourhoods in Kelowna; expanding investment in Fraser Valley public transportation infrastructure and service capacity; dedicating funding to support the gondola project between the Production Way Skytrain Station and Simon Fraser University; and prioritizing funding the UBC Skytrain Extension.

The Committee received many recommendations to reduce or eliminate transit fares, with a focus on youth, seniors, and individuals on income assistance and disability. The Monkey Rebel Society argued that free public transit for people aged 18 and under would increase access and use of public transit, resulting in lower personal vehicle emissions. Disability Alliance BC stated that a more inclusive public transportation system would involve bringing HandyDART into the BC Bus Pass Program so that low-income people with disabilities who are unable to navigate conventional public transit would be able to access this service.

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

The Committee received several recommendations regarding increased operational and capital funding for active transportation networks. Submissions highlighted the positive health, safety, and environmental changes that increased operational and capital funding would bring. For example, one individual stated that protected cycling networks and safe pedestrian infrastructure reduce traffic congestion, lower household transportation costs, improve population health outcomes, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Multiple organizations supported increased investment in the Active Transportation Capital Grant Program. Connect the Coast Society noted that the program removes barriers for developing active transportation infrastructure in unincorporated electoral areas, and ensures that rural communities can have greater access to safe active transportation.

Many participants advocated for the revival of and increased investment for the BC Active Transportation Infrastructure Grant Program. Better Environmentally Sound Transportation (BEST) stated that reinstating the program would help advance ready-to-build and community-supported projects that improve safety, mobility, and community connectivity. The British Columbia Cycling Coalition added that a lack of sustained or predictable funding constrains local governments and makes it difficult to support energy and climate strategies, road safety and greater mode shift in communities across the province.

Participants highlighted the benefits of increased safety and education programs to go alongside active transportation infrastructure. Multiple individuals advocated for increased funding for education programs that support adoption strategies related to new infrastructure, and the policies, regulatory frameworks, and laws that accompany active transportation growth. HUB Cycling stated that investing in active transportation education and safety would enable the expansion of safe cycling education in schools and provide youth with a foundation of lifelong physical health. The organization noted that for older adults and underserved communities, targeted mobility education unlocks safe, low-cost access to public services, medical appointments, and economic opportunities.

Additional input highlighted the need for increased funding for active transportation in rural and remote areas of the province. Wildsight Invermere stated that rural residents need more transportation choices, rather than more highways. The organization stated that active transportation infrastructure would reduce costs and emissions. Some individuals advocated for increased investment in active transportation along BC's rural transportation corridors, specifically to support destination access as part of the province's new Outdoor Recreation Strategy and Tourism Sector Action Plan. School District No. 46 (Sunshine Coast) noted that many schools in rural and semi-rural communities are located next to provincial roads that are designed to rural highway standards, not to meet the needs of children walking or cycling to school. The School District stated that improving active transportation infrastructure near rural schools would enhance student safety, support healthy lifestyles, and help ensure students in rural and semi-rural communities have access to safe and reliable routes to and from school.

Some participants also highlighted the benefits of rail trails for furthering active transportation opportunities. Friends of Rail Trails Vancouver Island advocated to preserve the Vancouver Island Rail Corridor for active transportation uses, and noted that the Rail Corridor presents great economic development opportunities by connecting existing trails to each other and by connecting communities.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

The Committee discussed the importance of long-term planning for transportation infrastructure, noting that a strategic approach could help coordinate future investments, improve regional connectivity, support economic growth, and ensure transportation networks are equipped to meet future demand. Committee Members identified several priority projects, including the Taylor Bridge in the Peace region, the Quesnel River Bridge, and a new Fraser River crossing between Richmond and Delta. With respect to a new Fraser River crossing, the Committee noted that some input it received suggested that a bridge is the preferred option. Members also recognized that they heard about the need to replace the Red Bridge in Kamloops, given its importance to the community. In addition, the Committee emphasized the importance of transportation infrastructure improvements to strengthen economic corridors and facilitate the movement of goods and people throughout the province, including the importance of maintaining existing rail infrastructure. The Committee also discussed several regional priorities, including twinning Highway 1 between Kamloops and the Alberta border, enhancing road and rail connections to the ports of Prince Rupert and Stewart, and developing an alternative route between the Alberni Valley and the Inland Island Highway.

Regarding ports and marine shipping, the Committee highlighted the importance of establishing streamlined regulatory and permitting processes for port and marine infrastructure projects, and noted that this could be achieved by reducing duplication, improving coordination across government, and providing clear, predictable approval timelines. The Committee further emphasized the need to avoid adding new regulatory requirements, fees, or administrative burdens for ports and marine terminals to enable economic growth, trade diversification, and supply chain resilience. Turning to public transit, the Committee acknowledged significant support for improved services across BC. Members highlighted that participants from both urban and rural communities indicated that existing transit systems

are not consistently meeting the needs of residents. Members further noted that improved public transit can enhance access to jobs, education, health care, and other essential services. The Committee discussed how improving transit service levels and interoperability will require coordinated efforts between the provincial government and local governments to better integrate transit networks and services. In terms of funding, Committee Members noted they heard input that local governments cannot sustain their share of funding for public transit under current funding models. As such, Members highlighted the importance of exploring sustainable funding models, including potential partnerships with the federal government and other parties, to support future transit expansion and service improvements. Members emphasized that these efforts should enhance accessibility and affordability for youth, seniors, and low-income individuals. With respect to passenger rail, the Committee underscored the importance of maintaining existing rail infrastructure to preserve opportunities for future passenger transportation services, and alternative travel options.

The Committee recognized the importance of sustained investment in active transportation infrastructure and programs that create connected cycling and pedestrian networks between communities. Members noted that maintaining and enhancing active transportation corridors and trails can improve opportunities for recreation and tourism, strengthen connections between communities, and support local economic activity while providing safe and accessible transportation options for both residents and visitors, and emphasized the unique benefits in rural areas of the province.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends to the Legislative Assembly that the provincial government:

80. Accelerate the delivery of critical transportation infrastructure, including the Taylor Bridge, the Quesnel River Bridge, and a new Fraser River crossing between Richmond and Delta.
81. Create a multi-year strategy to expand public transit connections between regional hubs and rural, remote, and underserved communities.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

BUDGETARY AND FISCAL POLICY

1. Establish a strong fiscal plan that includes targeted spending reviews, clear deficit reduction targets, a declining debt-to-GDP ratio, and transparent reporting to spur economic growth.
2. Continue to reduce the size of the provincial public service, while maintaining front-line service delivery.
3. Increase transparency by creating a more user-friendly public access point for government data and expanding proactive disclosure of information.
4. Adopt a formal regulatory reduction and competitiveness strategy for BC.
5. Repeal the planned Provincial Sales Tax expansion to professional services to simplify and streamline taxation systems.
6. Raise the threshold of the luxury vehicle tax to better reflect the average price of vehicles.
7. Revise Provincial Sales Tax treatment for vehicle rentals by closing existing tax exemptions and applying a flat seven per cent Provincial Sales Tax based on the rental cost rather than the value of the vehicle.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

8. Deliver long-term, stable operational and capital funding for licensed child care programs to expand capacity on and off school grounds.
9. Develop a policy to mandate coordination of services when responding to cases of child and youth abuse.
10. Provide additional funding to expand the Upstream Kelowna pilot project to a district-wide proof-of-concept aimed at preventing youth homelessness.

CULTURE, TOURISM, AND SPORT

11. Develop a provincial arts and culture action plan to maintain and encourage the growth of BC's arts, culture, and heritage sector.

ENVIRONMENT AND PARKS

12. Strengthen funding for fish and wildlife conservation by increasing fishing, hunting, and trapping licence fees and dedicating all related licence and violation fine revenues to conservation initiatives.
13. Provide stable core funding for invasive species operations, education, and awareness and create an invasive species fund to enable early detection, rapid response, outreach, and prevention.
14. Modernize the provincial invasive species' legislative and regulatory framework, including by updating the list of species and improving enforcement measures.
15. Invest in climate response and disaster prevention by renewing the Local Government Climate Action Program with long-term, predictable operational funding.
16. Review and strengthen British Columbia's parks and recreation funding model to provide predictable, dedicated funding that supports sector organizations and infrastructure, aligned with tourism priorities.
17. Provide dedicated funding to assess and protect high-value recreation access roads prior to deactivation where recreation, tourism, emergency access, or community value remains.

HEALTH CARE

18. Implement the Specialist Waitlist Management Proposal and develop a centralized database to support data collection.
19. Allow physicians to select allied health professionals to work within their clinics in team-based care settings.

20. Accelerate the construction of long-term care homes by establishing clear timelines for delayed projects and creating a capital funding program that supports non-profit and health authority operators to build and renovate long-term care homes.
21. Modernize the long-term care funding model to better reflect actual service delivery costs, including the increased costs associated with the expansion of provincial bargaining within the sector.
22. Invest strategically to support seniors to age at home safely by:
 - a. Expanding access to publicly subsidized home support;
 - b. Developing a cross-ministry mandate to prioritize the home health model, expanding workforce training, and integrating the equipment needed to keep seniors safe; and,
 - c. Establishing a tax credit for seniors who are paying for their own home support.
23. Increase targeted investments in the prevention, early diagnosis, and effective treatment of chronic diseases and complex conditions.
24. Increase investments and set specific performance targets in cancer care to improve timeliness, quality of care, and patient outcomes.
25. Increase the involvement and scope of practice of allied health workforce professionals.
26. Advance the Nanaimo Regional General Hospital expansion.
27. Restore a clear construction timeline for the Burnaby Hospital Phase 2 redevelopment.
28. Provide funding to make the Public Safety Personnel Network mental health program available to all BC public safety personnel, and index ongoing funding to inflation.
29. Fund and prioritize high-barrier detoxification, addiction, and mental health treatment beds.
30. Provide multi-year funding to support the delivery of specialized mental health and grief support services for families experiencing pregnancy loss, stillbirth, and infant loss.
31. Strengthen disease prevention by expanding access to vaccines and immunization programs, including for shingles, RSV, and COVID-19.
32. Introduce financial disincentives to reduce the consumption of drinks with added sugar, except for fruit juice.
33. Expedite approval and prioritize a predictable timeline of coverage under BC PharmaCare for new medicines approved by Health Canada.
34. Review the funding model for medical equipment and devices to ensure it is meeting the needs of those who use the program, and make improvements including:
 - a. Creating an adult medical equipment recycling and refurbishment pool, similar to the program that exists for pediatric equipment, and
 - b. Including power-assist devices for wheelchairs as a funded mobility option.
35. Introduce dedicated public coverage for medically necessary devices and supplies, including for laryngectomees and people who require intermittent catheters.
36. Reduce the size of health care administration by combining health regions to spend more on direct services.
37. Provide long-term, consistent funding for the Provincial Rural Retention Initiative and the Rural and Remote Recruitment Initiative.

HOUSING, LOCAL GOVERNMENT, AND LIBRARIES

38. Prioritize investment in attainable housing by expanding financing programs, including access to low-cost construction financing, and temporarily freezing the BC Energy Step Code at Level 3 throughout the province to encourage new housing development.
39. Provide increased funding for local infrastructure and community amenities necessary to enable and accelerate housing development, including water and sewer systems, transportation networks, schools, parks, and community facilities.
40. Reinststate the Community Housing Fund and the Indigenous Housing Fund and prioritize applicants from the cancelled 2025 intakes.

41. Conduct a comprehensive review of the *Strata Property Act* and amend the Act to mandate training for strata owners and council members.
42. Revise recent changes to the property tax deferment program and ensure that any changes target those abusing the program.
43. Increase local government and regional district oversight and accountability by reestablishing the Office of the Auditor General for Local Government.
44. Increase core annual funding for public libraries and index it to inflation.

INFRASTRUCTURE, ECONOMIC GROWTH, AND LABOUR

45. Publish and regularly update a ten-year infrastructure plan, including information on new capital projects, capital maintenance projects, and funding status.
46. Implement a “Buy BC” procurement policy to support domestically manufactured products and services.
47. Review BC’s business tax and regulatory framework, and reduce the small business tax rate to improve the competitiveness of small- and medium-sized enterprises relative to other jurisdictions.
48. Invest in BC quantum computing companies and support the adoption of quantum technologies.
49. Support BC-based technology companies by implementing a patent box and strengthening research and development incentives.
50. Increase funding for programs that support the integration of immigrants and refugees into BC’s workforce to help address provincial labour market needs.

K-12 EDUCATION

51. Accelerate capital approvals within a predictable timeline and increase investment in school infrastructure to ensure safe and functional spaces for students.
52. Revise the K-12 funding model to better reflect the actual costs incurred by school districts.
53. Provide one education assistant or support worker per primary classroom.

NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY

54. Expedite regulatory and permitting processes across all BC natural resource sectors to support economic growth.
55. Provide funding to First Nations to support their capacity to respond to referrals related to natural resource projects.
56. Explore incentive programs other than rebates that can encourage energy efficient building retrofits, including low-interest financing, on-bill financing, property-assessed clean energy (PACE) financing, and commercial property-assessed clean energy (C-PACE) financing.
57. Provide operating funding for the Agriculture Wildlife Program and ensure that the funding is available to properly manage the populations and impact of wildlife on privately owned agricultural land.
58. Provide annual funding dedicated to water storage infrastructure associated with food production, including engineering inspections, maintenance, and upgrades.
59. Significantly increase the budget of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food to ensure BC’s agriculture funding is in line with other Canadian jurisdictions and provides sufficient capacity to respond to the sector’s needs.
60. Reinstate fuel tax exemptions for seafood harvesters and commercial fishers.
61. Review and adjust forest tenures to see if they are working as intended, can be simplified, or can be made more responsive to local and industry needs.

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION AND SKILLS TRAINING

62. Prioritize funding to support post-secondary institutions to meet local and regional workforce development priorities.
63. Advocate to the federal government to accelerate visa processing times and provide greater flexibility regarding Provincial Attestation Letters to help address labour shortages in high-priority sectors across the province.

- 64. Maintain the Tuition Limit Policy of two percent for domestic post-secondary education students and end fee circumvention.
- 65. Provide equitable operating funding to reflect the increased costs of delivering post-secondary education in rural and remote communities.

PUBLIC SAFETY, JUSTICE, AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

- 66. Increase funding to address staffing shortages in policing, Crown prosecution services, and the courts by accelerating hiring, training, and onboarding to ensure adequate staffing levels.
- 67. Provide funding to modernize data infrastructure within the Supreme Court of British Columbia, consistent with investments made in the Provincial Court, to improve efficiency and reduce delays.
- 68. Require coordinated planning and accountability across housing, justice, health, and community-based violence response services to support an integrated and timely response for people experiencing intimate partner violence.
- 69. Increase the maximum grant amount for the anti-hate stream of the Civil Forfeiture Grant Program to align with the other streams within the same program.
- 70. Align with Alberta, Ontario, and Saskatchewan to champion a coordinated national strategy against contraband tobacco.
- 71. Restore the Community Gaming Grant to a minimum baseline of \$140 million and index it to inflation moving forward.
- 72. Implement BC's flood and wildfire response strategies by investing in risk reduction, preparedness, response, and recovery measures that help protect communities from natural disasters.
- 73. Implement a BC-wide emergency communication system by providing ongoing funding and developing a provincial framework with clear service standards.

SOCIAL SERVICES

- 74. Provide three- to five-year funding agreements for not for profit organizations, and review administrative cost restrictions in these agreements, to improve funding predictability and support long-term planning.
- 75. Allow immediate family members, including parents, to serve as Community Living BC home-share providers and receive corresponding supports.
- 76. Increase training capacity and provide dedicated funding to create, fill, and protect speech-language pathology and audiology positions in health and education settings, with a focus on addressing workforce shortages and improving access to services.
- 77. Fund a coordinated, cross-ministerial strategy to improve access to interpreters, intervenors, ASL-fluent educators, and trained support workers for deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind children and adults.
- 78. Review earnings exemptions and benefit reduction rules for disability assistance to better support workforce participation, including by replacing dollar-for-dollar claw backs with a progressive sliding-scale model and indexing exemptions to inflation.
- 79. Provide predictable, multi-year funding to expand the BC Famers' Market Nutrition Coupon Program.

TRANSPORTATION AND TRANSIT

- 80. Accelerate the delivery of critical transportation infrastructure, including the Taylor Bridge, the Quesnel River Bridge, and a new Fraser River crossing between Richmond and Delta.
- 81. Create a multi-year strategy to expand public transit connections between regional hubs and rural, remote, and underserved communities.

APPENDIX A:

CONSULTATION PARTICIPANTS

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Association for Mineral Exploration
Association for Reformed Political Action (ARPA)
Association of Administrative and Professional Staff at UBC
Association of BC Public Library Directors
Association of Interior Realtors
Association of Service Providers for Employability and Career Training
Atos Medical Canada
Audrey Plé
Aurelie Houta
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Axon Canada
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Ballet BC
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Barb Choit
Barbara Anderson
Barbara De Leebeeck
Barbara Heller
Bayshore HealthCare
BC Agriculture Council

BC Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation	BC Library Trustees Association	Better Environmentally Sound Transportation (BEST)
BC Alliance for Arts + Culture	BC Live Performance Network	Better Island Transit
BC Alliance for Healthy Living	BC Lung Foundation	Better Transit YYJ
BC Anesthesiologists' Society	BC Marine Parks Forever Society	Beverly Colthorp
BC Association for Charitable Gaming	BC Marine Terminal Operators Association	Beyond the Verdict
BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres	BC Marine Trails Network Association	BGC Okanagan
BC Association of Community Health Centres	BC Museums Association	Big Bear Child & Youth Advocacy Centre
BC Association of Farmers' Markets	BC Music Festival Collective	Big Brothers Big Sisters of Victoria Capital Region
BC Association of School Business Officials	BC Naturopathic Doctors	Bill England
BC Brain Injury Association	BC Network of Child and Youth Advocacy Centres	Bill Grant
BC Building Trades	BC Non-Profit Housing Association	Bill Irving
BC Care Providers Association	BC Nurses' Union	Blake Crouch
BC Cattlemen's Association	BC People First Society	B'nai Brith Canada
BC Centre for Women in the Trades	BC Pharmacy Association	Board of Education of School District No. 39 (Vancouver)
BC CEO Network	BC Poultry Association	Board of Vancouver Public Library
BC Chamber of Commerce	BC Poverty Reduction Coalition	Board Voice
BC Chiropractic Association	BC Power Sports Coalition	Bobbi Wick
BC Climate Emergency Campaign	BC Professional Fire Fighters' Association	Bongani Praise Hondo
BC Cochlear Implant Support Group	BC Radiological Society	Books BC
BC College of Family Physicians	BC Real Estate Association	Brady Patterson
BC Colleges	BC Recreation and Parks Association	Brandi's Place
BC Common Ground Alliance	BC Recreation and Parks Association	Breakfast Club of Canada
BC Community Schools Alliance Society	BC Road Builders and Heavy Construction Association	Breast Density British Columbia
BC Complex Kids	BC Rural Health Network	Brenda Beath
BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils	BC Salmon Farmers Association	Brenda Nesdoly
BC Construction Association	BC School Trustees Association	Brenden Vissers
BC Council of Forest Industries	BC Snowboard Association	Brent Brougham
BC Craft Brewers Guild	BC Snowmobile Federation	Brent Dozzi
BC Cultural Space Operators Network	BC Society for Policy Solutions	Brent Kartz
BC Dairy	BC Society of Transition Houses	Brent King
BC Dental Association	BC SPCA	Brentwood Park Elementary Parent Advisory Committee
BC Disability Collaborative	BC Sustainable Energy Association	Brian Farrant
BC Education Facilities Committee	BC Teachers Federation	Brian Wiebe
BC Federation of Labour	BC Tech	British Columbia Association of Traditional Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture Practitioners
BC Federation of Students	BC Water Legacy	British Columbia Employment Network
BC Ferry and Marine Workers' Union	BC Watershed Security Coalition	British Columbia Funeral Association
BC Foster Parents Association	BCIT Faculty and Staff Association	British Properties & Area Homeowners Association
BC Fruit Growers' Association	Becky Dand	Bruce Brandhorst
BC Gaming Industry Association	Becky Grimsrud	Bruce Carson
BC General Employees' Union	Becky Hachey	Bruce Dayman
BC Grain Producers Association	Bekka Favelle	Bryony Ollier
BC Hotel Association	Ben Rolph	Bud Oujla
BC Humanist Association	Berni Porrati	Builders Without Borders
BC Libraries Cooperative	Beth Gallup	
BC Library Association	Bethany Ricker	

Building Owners and Managers Association of British Columbia	Canadian Mortgage Brokers Association - BC	Chamber of Shipping of British Columbia
Burnaby Neighbourhood Works Society	Canadian Online Gaming Association	Charles Hill
Burt Deeter	Canadian Propane Association	Charlotte Crowley
Business Council of British Columbia	Canadian Society for Disability and Oral Health	Chartered Professional Accountants of British Columbia
Business Improvement Areas of BC	Canadian Taxpayers Federation	CheckingIn Software Ltd.
Butterfly Support Network	Canadian Traditional Chinese Medicine Development Alliance	Chelsea Lake
Cameron Confortin	Canuck Place Children's Hospice Society	Chemainus Theatre Festival Society
Camosun College Faculty Association	Canucks Autism Network	Cheryl Fontaine
Camosun College Student Society	Capilano Students' Union	Child and Youth Advocacy Centre of Kelowna
CAMRT-BC	Capilano University	Childcare Leadership Group
Canadian Addiction Treatment Centres	CareRx Pharmacy	Childhood Healthy Living Foundation
Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers	Cariboo Brain Injury Association	Chris Diers
Canadian Association of Physician Assistants	Cariboo Chilcotin Partners for Literacy	Chris Leeson
Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment	Carine De Kock	Chris Lemon
Canadian Bankers Association	Carlson Pottery	Christeah Dupont
Canadian Bar Association (BC Branch)	Carlyn Quiban	Christian Steckler
Canadian Beverage Association	Carnegie Housing Project	Christina Gateway Community Development Association
Canadian Cancer Society	Carol Auld	Christina Hunt
Canadian Community Economic Development Network	Carol Borghesi	Christine Henry
Canadian Council for Sustainable Aviation Fuels	CaroleAnn Leishman	Christine Quintana
Canadian Credit Union Association	Caroline Liu	Christine Tomori
Canadian Federation of Independent Business	Carolyn Mackie	Christopher Pedersen
Canadian Fertility and Andrology Society	Carolyn Stoppard	Christopher Shepherd
Canadian Gaming Association	Carousel Theatre for Young People	CIIA
Canadian Groundfish Research and Conservation Society	Carrie Oliver	CIL Global Capital Corp.
Canadian Home Builders' Association of BC	Casey Stepaniuk	Cindy Evans
Canadian Institute of Steel Construction - BC Region	Cassandra Nieman	Cindy Romphf
Canadian Life and Health Insurance Association	Castlegar & District Heritage Society	Citizens Environment Network in Colwood
Canadian Live Music Association	Castlegar & District Heritage Society	City of Burnaby
Canadian Lottery Coalition	Catherine Ballachey	City of Cranbrook
Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters	Catherine Lafontaine	City of Delta
Canadian Media Producers Association	Catherine Macleod	City of Kamloops
Canadian Men's Health Foundation	Catheters For Free BC	City of Kelowna
Canadian Mental Health Association - Cowichan Valley Branch	Catriona Hippman	City of Kimberley
Canadian Mental Health Association - Kamloops	Cayley Benjamin	City of Maple Ridge
Canadian Mental Health Association (BC Division)	Cece Gardiner	City of Mission
	Cecile McVittie	City of Nelson
	Cement Association of Canada	City of Prince George
	Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society	City of Salmon Arm
	Central Okanagan Food Bank	City of Surrey - Parks Division
	Central Okanagan Foundation	City of Trail
	Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society	CityHive Youth Engagement Society
	Centre for Family Equity	Claire Parrish
	Ceon Zohrabian	Classic LifeCare
		Claudia Mar

Claudiu Balciza	Council of Senior Citizens' Organizations of BC	Darryl Turner
Clayoquot Biosphere Trust	Cowichan Lake Elder Care Society	Daryl Townsend
Clayton Sehn	Cowichan Watershed Board	David Arnott
Clean Energy BC	Cowichan Women Against Violence Society	David Brown
CLEAR Alzheimer's Foundation	CPAWS-BC	David Culos
Clements Centre Society	Craft Cannabis Association of BC	David Dickie
Cloverdale District Chamber of Commerce	Craig McCracken	David Fraser
CNC Students' Union	Craig Rodrigues	David Heinimann
CNIB Deafblind Community Services	Craig Rondestvedt	David Inwood
Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC	Cranbrook Food Bank Society	David Peters
Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC	Creston Valley Public Library	David Shaw
Coast Mental Health	Crisis Centre BC	David Xie
Coast Mountain School District Trustee	CUPE Local 1123	Dawson Creek Literacy Society
Coastal Invasive Species Committee	CUPE Local 2278	Daynah Notting
Colin MacKenzie	CUPE Local 391	Deanna Livesey
College of the Rockies	CUPE Local 5101	Deborah Webb
College of the Rockies Faculty Association	CUPE Local 847	Debra Field
Coloplast Canada Corporation	CUPE BC	Debra Herst
Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy	CUPE Local 1260	Debra Thorne
Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society	CUPE Local 1760	Debra Toms
Commercial Bear Viewing Association	CUPE Local 1858	Decoda Literacy Solutions
Community Based Seniors Services Leaders Council	CUPE Local 1936	Deep Sea Trawlers Association of BC
Community Energy Association	CUPE Local 374	Delta Stageworks Theatre Society
Comox Valley Food Policy Council	CUPE Local 4879	Denise Dalphy
Company 605 Dance Society	CUPE Local 5536	Dennis Tarr
Concrete BC	CUPE Local 606	Denominational Health Association
Confederation of University Faculty Associations of BC	CUPE Local 723	Derek Etherton
Connect the Coast Society	CUPE Local 951	Derek Simmons
Conor Casey	CUPE Metro Vancouver District Council	Diabetes Canada
Conseil culturel et artistique de la Colombie-Britannique	CUPE Northern Area District Council	Diane Souvie
Conseil scolaire francophone de la Colombie-Britannique	Curl BC	Digestive Health Centre of BC
Consultant Specialists of BC	Curt Crego	DigiBC
Convenience Industry Council of Canada	Curtis Moody	DIGITAL
Co-operators	CWB Group	Disability Action of Canada
Core Education and Fine Arts Early Learning	Cynthia Reid	Disability Alliance BC
Corinne Knuth	Dale Haig	District 69 Society of Organized Services
Cornerstone Youth Society	Dana Sipos	District of Chetwynd
Cory Cyr	Dance West Network	District of Hudson's Hope
Council of Canadian Innovators	Danica Poje	District of Kitimat
Council of Canadians	Daniel Mitchell	District of Saanich
Council of Canadians, South Okanagan Chapter	Daniel Tetrault	District of Summerland
	Danielle Gauld	DMCL LLP (Entertainment Group)
	Dann Priebe	Do Olsen
	Dan's Legacy	Doctors of BC
	Danyelle Green	Dolly Parton's Imagination Library
	Darcelle Cottons	Dominique Rochefort
	Darlene Unger	Don Babineau
	Darrell Doan	Donald Forsgren
		Donald Myers

Donald Sandberg
 Donna Twemlow
 Donnie Tejani
 DoNoHarm BC
 Doreen Gee
 Doug Drescher
 Doug Leard
 Doug MacQuarrie
 Doug Magnuson
 Douglas Baer
 Douglas Students' Union
 Down Syndrome Resource Foundation
 Down Syndrome Society of BC
 Downtown Victoria Business Association
 Dragon Boat BC
 Dress for Success Vancouver
 Duncan Baird
 EA Barrett
 Early Childhood Educators of BC
 East Kootenay Climate Hub
 Ecopath Planning
 Ecotrust Canada
 Edward Glassel
 Edward Knowles
 Edward Mayer
 Edwards Lifesciences (Canada) Inc.
 Eileen Stephens
 Electrical Contractors Association of BC
 Elise Ginsburg
 Elizabeth Skinner
 Elizabeth Borek
 Elizabeth Mushumanski
 Emergency Communications Professionals of BC
 Emergency Planning Secretariat
 Emily Carbonneau
 Emily Carr Students' Union
 Emily Jurgens
 Emily McCance
 Emin Zohrabian
 Emma de Blois
 Empire of Dirt Residency Association
 Encompass Support Services Society
 Ending Violence Association of BC
 English Language Learners Consortium
 Entente Education Canada
 Enterprise Mobility
 Eric Sundgaard
 Eric Swanson
 Erin Arnold

Erin Bell
 Erin Sowerby Greene
 Erroll Hastings
 Erwann Michel
 Eva David
 Eva Marcy
 Evan Holmgren
 Exposed Wildlife Conservancy
 Fair Autism & Disability Funding BC
 Fairfield Gonzales Community Association
 Fairness for Children Raised by Relatives
 Family Doctors for Saanich
 Family Network for Deaf Children
 Family Services of Greater Vancouver
 Family Support Institute of BC
 Fartun Hassan
 Federation of Community Social Services of BC
 Federation of Independent School Associations in BC
 Federation of Medical Women of Canada
 Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC
 Federation of Post-Secondary Educators of BC
 Fernie Trails Alliance
 Fidelity Investments Canada ULC
 Filipino Legacy Society
 Fiona Hephner
 Fiona Lehn
 Fiona Rayher
 Fire Chiefs' Association of British Columbia
 First Call Child and Youth Advocacy Society
 First Nations Education Steering Committee
 First Nations Summit
 First Things First Okanagan
 Flutter Entertainment
 Foghead Charley
 Food Banks BC
 Fort St John Literacy Society
 Fort St John Public Library Association
 Fort St. John Public Library
 Fort St. John Seed Cleaning Co-op
 FortisBC
 FPX Nickel Corp.
 Francine McGuinty

Frank Towler
 Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association
 Fraser Valley Invasive Species Society
 Fredrik Halldorson
 Friends In Need Food Bank Society
 Friends of Babine Lake Association
 Friends of Rails to Trails Vancouver Island
 Friends of the Creston Public Library
 Ga Fra
 Gabriela Anton
 Gabriela Cervantes
 Gabriella Velasco
 Gabrielle Ple
 Gabriola Island Chamber of Commerce
 Gail Gin
 Gail Westerman
 Gail Willson
 Gala Podgornik
 Garret Lane
 Garret Lund
 Generation Squeeze
 Genome BC
 George J A Angus
 Georgia Strait Alliance
 Georgina Macleod
 Geothermal Rising Canada
 GG D Niel
 Gillian Anderson
 Gio Verd
 Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women Canada
 Glover-Drennan Inc.
 Golden District Arts Council
 Gord Hamill
 Grae Salibury
 Graeme Silvera
 Grand Forks Public Library Association
 Greater Langley Chamber of Commerce
 Greater Nanaimo Chamber of Commerce
 Greater Vancouver Board of Trade
 Greater Vernon Chamber of Commerce
 Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce
 GreenStep
 Greg Doner
 Greg Larsen
 Gregory Lord
 GSK Canada

Guide Outfitters Association of BC
 Guilherme Rosales
 Guy Dauncey
 Gyda Chud
 Habitat for Humanity Victoria
 Hailey Findlay
 Haley Argen
 Hannah Brown
 Hannah Nicoll
 Hannah Toms
 Harrison Staffing Inc.
 Hayley Shade
 Health Sciences Association of BC
 Heart and Stroke Foundation
 Heather Fleck
 Heather Keep
 Heather Lindsay
 Heather Schreiner
 Heinie Faesen
 Help BC Hear Better
 Hila Behar
 Hilary Walton-Brown
 HME Medical Distribution Ltd.
 Home Medical Provider's Association
 Hope Air
 Hornby Water Stewardship
 Hospital Employees' Union
 Howe Sound Biosphere Region Initiative
 Society
 Huaiyu Yang
 HUB Cycling
 Huckleberry Coast Child Care Society
 Hugh Brown
 Hugh Trask
 Ian Brown
 Ian Gartshore
 Ian Nickerson
 Illuminating Counselling Services
 In Her Circle
 Inclusion BC
 Independent Long-Term Care Councils
 Association of BC
 Indigenous Resurgence Project
 InkWell Solutions
 Innergex Renewable Energy
 Innovative Medicines Canada
 InspireHealth Society
 Institute for Health System
 Transformation and Sustainability
 Institute for Public Education BC

Instruments of Change
 Insurance Bureau of Canada
 International Alliance of Theatrical Stage
 Employees Local 168
 Invasive Species Council of BC
 Invasive Species Council of Metro
 Vancouver
 Ioan Gheorghiu
 Irene Sipila
 Irma De Visser
 Ironworkers Local 97
 Ishtar Women's Resource Society
 Island Coastal Economic Trust
 Island Community Mental Health
 Island Food Hubs
 Isologic
 Israt Jahan
 Jacinta Hutchinson
 Jady Pizzigrilli
 Jai Djwa
 James Hagerty
 James Fletcher
 James Gapp
 James Le
 James Schultz
 Jana Ronne
 Jana Schulz
 Jane Burford
 Janet Irvine
 Janine Forster
 Janine Morgan
 Jason Newcomb
 Jason Wale
 Jean McClure
 Jeff Bateman
 Jeffery Briggs
 Jeffrey McQuiggan
 Jenn Teefy
 Jenna Bind
 Jennifer MacKenzie
 Jennifer Mc
 Jennifer Pistor
 Jenny Abramzik
 Jenny Burgess
 Jenny McDonald
 Jeremy Berkman
 Jerrold Perrott
 Jess Dahl
 Jesse Chilton
 Jessica Schmidt-Bouffatd

Jessica Carson
 Jessica Duncan
 Jette Helin
 Jewish Seniors Alliance of British
 Columbia
 Jillian Stewart-Szak
 Jim Bauman
 Joan Jaccard
 Joanna Lord
 Joanna Varley
 Joanne Fox
 Joanne Gawler
 Jocelyn Barr
 Jocelyn Brown
 Joe Backus
 Joe Jansen
 Joe Kinrade
 Joerg Wagner
 Joey Liu
 John Titus
 John Alden
 John Becker
 John Hooker
 John Morris
 John Pite
 John Richmond
 John Shepherd
 John Summers
 John Truran
 John Wiebe
 John Wood
 Jolan Bailey
 Jolene Jackson
 Jonathan Vidalin
 Joseph Kerr
 Josie Price
 Jovanka Myers
 Joy Dance
 Joy Ollen
 JT Tan
 JTI Macdonald Corp.
 Jude Pan
 Judith Harper
 Judith Loukras
 Judy Richardson
 Judy Smith
 Julia Lane
 Julie Lebel
 Junwen Xu
 Justice Education Society of BC

Justice Institute Students' Union Society
 Justine Correia
 Kaila Wegner
 Kam Brar
 Kamloops & District Chamber of
 Commerce
 Kamloops North Shore BIA
 Kamloops Sexual Assault Counselling
 Centre
 Kamloops Symphony Society
 Karavan Consulting
 Karen Anderson
 Karen Berezon
 Karen Clark
 Karen Connolly
 Karen Fung
 Karen Henry
 Karmen Doucette
 Karolien Soylu
 Kate Ellison
 Kate Fenton
 Kate Spence
 Katherine O'Driscoll
 Kathleen Westergaard
 Kathleen Whipp
 Kathryn Fairfield
 Kathy Ferns
 K-Country Homes
 Kelly Halvorsen
 Kelly Lake Métis Settlement Society
 Kelly Smith
 Kelowna Chamber of Commerce
 Kelsea Rudy
 Kelsey Johnson
 Kelsey Streiling
 Ken Brookes
 Ken Brown
 Ken Connolly
 Ken Flannagan
 Ken Gillis
 Ken Stewart
 Kerry Ellingboe
 Kevan Hudson
 Kevin Burris
 Kidd Pivot Performing Arts Society
 Kids First Parent Association of Canada
 Kids Help Phone
 Kimberly Keene
 Kindred
 Kip Gibbet
 Kiran Sharma

Kirsten Kleeband
 Kitimat Airshed Group
 Kitimat Valley Housing Society
 Kjeld Spearing
 Kobe Li
 Kootenay Boundary Patient Advisory
 Committee and Community
 Kootenay Columbia Home Medical
 Equipment
 Kootenay School of the Arts Society
 Kory Clark
 KP Tennant
 Krista Macaulay
 Kristel Boyd
 Kristen Rawlings
 Kristin Rondeau
 Kristina Lao Tutlewski
 Kristina Michaud
 Kristy Whitehurst
 Kurtis Sprague
 Kwantlen Polytechnic University
 Kyle Merritt
 Laboratorio Arts Society
 Lana Kolsanoff
 Lance Elliott
 LandlordBC
 Langley Community Health & Hospital
 Foundation
 Larry Hannant
 Larry Ransom
 Laryngectomee Association of BC
 Laura Cranmer
 Laura Kaminker
 Laura Spencer
 Lauren Couture
 Lauren Tietze
 Laurie Taylor
 Leona Adams
 Levis Veilleux
 Lewis Jones
 Liam Clark
 Liam Pimlott
 Liana Sammartino
 Life Sciences BC
 LifeLineBC
 Lillooet Regional Invasive Species
 Society
 Lilly Canada
 Lin Wang

Linda Bevan
 Linda Inkster
 Linda Murray
 Linda Perron
 Lisa Brideau
 Lisa Dickie
 Lisa Gemino
 Lisa Huth
 Lisa Mennell
 Lisa Phillips
 Literacy in Kamloops
 Literacy Society of the North Okanagan
 Little Mountain Gallery
 Living Wage BC
 Living with Pride Foundation
 Liz Ruest
 Lizanne Ward
 Lori Goldman
 Louise Harrison
 Lower Fraser Fisheries Alliance
 Luc Latulippe
 Lucille Lewis
 Lucinda Prevost
 LUSH Valley Food Action Society
 Lyle Faulks
 Lyle Fishbrook
 Lynell Anderson
 Lynn Fels
 Lynn Kruszewski
 Maartje Wouters
 Macdonald's Home Health Care
 Mackenzie Community Services
 Madeleine Koch
 Magazine Association of BC
 Mainland Speech Language Pathology
 Inc.
 Maira de Avila Wilton
 MakeSpace North Park
 Manulife Financial
 Maple Ridge Community Foundation
 Maple Ridget Pitt Meadows Katzie
 Community Literacy Committee
 Mara Dickie
 March of Dimes Canada
 Marcus Peterson
 Margaret Little
 Margaret St-Hilaire
 Maria McGowan
 Marie Westby
 Marina Penner

Marion Brydon	Monkey Rebel Society	New Car Dealers of British Columbia
Marion Nundal	Moon River Moly Ltd.	New Performance Works Society
Mark Johnston	Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue	Newworld Theatre
Mark Lister	Morten Rand-Hendriksen	Nicholas Read
Mark MacKenzie	Mortgage Professionals Canada	Nick Thomas
Mark McFadyen	Motion	Nicole Beauregard
Mark Silvester	Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region	Nicole Gladish
Martin Roger	Mount Pleasant Child Care Association	Nicole Unger
Mary Ellen MacCallum	Mount Pleasant Child Care Association	Nina Coverdale
Mary Mcdonald	Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House	Nina Houle
Matt Fowler	Mountain Biking BC	NJB Artist Management
Matt Kurowski	Movement: Metro Vancouver Transit Riders	Nootka Sound Watershed Society
Maureen Orchard	MoveUP	Noris Buriac
Maureen Simpson	Moving Images Distribution	Norm Keller
Meagan Wilson	MS Canada	Norman Michel
Meara Brown	Murray Jacobs	North Island College Faculty Association
Mechanical Contractors Association of BC	Museum of Vancouver	North Island Students' Union
Medicines Access Coalition - British Columbia	Music BC Industry Association	North Thompson Arts Council
Meg Larsen	Musqueam Indian Band	North Thompson Communities Foundation
Megan Nelson	My Sea to Sky	North-Coast Skeena First Nations Stewardship Society
Melanie Millar	Nadezda Fedortsova	Northern Confluence Initiative
Melanie Semlacher	Nanaimo Community Foundation	Northern First Nations Alliance Society
Melissa Bannister	Nanaimo Ladysmith Public School Board	Northern Lights Choral Society
Melissa Goodchild	Nanaimo Regional Hospital District	NorthX Climate Tech
Melissa Wibowo	Nancy Ho	Office of the Seniors Advocate
Mental Health Recovery Partners - South Island	Nancy Hogan	Okanagan Basin Water Board
Merck Canada	Nancy MacPherson	Okanagan College Students' Union
Metis Nation British Columbia	Nancy Miller	Oleksandr Oborotov
Metro Vancouver	Nancy Poole	Onni Milne
Michael Brown	Naomi Kavka	Options Community Services Society
Michael Cheevers	Natalie Buchmann	Options for Sexual Health
Michael Hepher	Natalie Hirt	Organizing for Change
Michael Smith Health Research BC	Natalie Moore	Orion Winkelmeyer
Michelle Gordon	Natalie Woods	Osprey Community Foundation
Michelle Winter	Natasha Darc	Otto Schulte
Mike Brown	National Campus and Community Radio Association	Outdoor Recreation Council of BC
Mike Robinson	National Coalition Against Contraband Tobacco	Oxygen Art Centre
Mining Association of BC	National Police Federation	PACE Society
Miranda Harvey	National Seating and Mobility	Pacific Association of Canadian Institutes and Universities
Mission Literacy in Motion	Nature United	Pacific Immigrant Resources Society
Moderna Biopharma Canada Corporation	Nazma Lee	Pacific Opera Victoria
Molly Steeves	Neelam Prasad	Pacific Post Partum Support Society
Monarch House	Neil Brierley	Pacific Salmon Foundation
Moncia Finn	Neil Evans	Pacific Housing Advisory Association
Monica Ashwell	Neil Hardy	Paige Pettinger
Monika Sanft	Neil McRae	Paola Fairey
	Nelson and District Arts Council	Parent Support Services Society of BC

Parkinson Society BC
 Pat Farrant
 Patricia Henman
 Patrick Dance
 Patrick Lauro
 Patrick Lee
 Patrick Mak
 Paul Beswetherick
 Paul Doherty
 Paul Forseth
 Paul Kwon
 Paul Parker
 Paul Peterson
 Paul Romein
 Paul Sahota
 Paula Craig
 Paula Gordon
 Pearson Canada
 Pembina Institute
 Penny Crawford
 Penny Leclair
 Perry Charlton
 Peter Cawsey
 Peter Chowne
 Peter Creech
 Peter Leckie
 Peter Legun
 Peter Rehmer
 Pfizer Canada ULC
 Phil Strange
 Philip Trueman
 Photonic
 PHS Community Services Society
 Physiotherapy Association of BC
 Pi Theatre
 Praxus Health
 Preet Pall
 Presentation House Cultural Society
 Prince George Chamber of Commerce
 Prince George Community Foundation
 Prince George Downtown Business
 Improvement Association
 Prince George Hospice Palliative Care
 Society
 Prince George Public Library
 Prince Rupert Port Authority
 Priya Sami-Jin
 ProArt Alliance of Greater Victoria
 Prosthetic and Orthotics Association of
 BC

Public Health Association of BC
 Pulmonary Hypertension Association of
 Canada
 qathet Community Justice
 Queensborough Residents Association
 Quesnel Downtown Association
 R R
 Rachel Chuang
 Rachel Taylor
 Rachel Witt
 Raelene Stevenson
 Rahul Kumaar
 Raj Jain
 Ralph Baker
 Randi Parsons
 Randy McLean
 Ranya Dube
 RDN Taxpayers Alliance
 READ Surrey/White Rock Society
 Rebecca De Souza
 Redd Fish Restoration Society
 Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako
 Regional District of East Kootenay
 Regional District of Fraser-Fort George
 Regional District of Okanagan-
 Similkameen
 Renée Lukacs
 Research Universities Council of BC
 Resource Works Society
 Restaurants Canada
 Restorative Justice Program of the
 Sunshine Coast
 Restorative Justice Victoria
 Restore Island Rail Society
 Restore the Vancouver Island Railway
 Retail Council of Canada
 Revelstoke Visual Arts Society
 Richard Bell
 Richard Chiap Fatt Chern
 Richard Finney
 Rick Walker
 Rita Chudnovsky
 Rivershed Society of British Columbia
 Rob Jones
 Robert Aikman
 Robert Boone
 Robert Hanna
 Robert Lee
 Robert Payne
 Robert Sherwood

Roberta Olenick
 Robin Dickey
 Robin Fan
 Robin Modesto
 Robyn Goldsmith
 Robyn Jacob
 Rocky Blondin
 Rod Larden
 Roger Bryenton
 Ron Armstrong
 Ron Grenier
 Rory Polson
 Rose Stremick
 Rothmans, Benson & Hedges Inc
 Roy Pat
 Royal Roads University
 RS Jeffery
 Rummit Laul
 Runaway Moon Theatre Arts Society
 Russ Etherington
 Ruth Lloyd
 Ryan Cope
 Ryan Gurney
 Ryan Holliday
 Ryan Mruk
 Saba Rancier
 Sabrina Yang
 Saeed Atashband
 Safe Kids & Youth Coordinated Response
 - Kootenay Boundary Community
 Services Co-operative
 Salal Sexual Violence Support Centre
 Sally Emmerson
 Salt Spring Arts Council
 Salt Spring Island Salmon and Stream
 Enhancement Society
 Sandra Neher
 Sandra O'Connor
 Sara Lindberg
 Sarah Burris
 Sarah LeSage
 Sarah Natrass
 Sarah Pickering
 Sarah Smith
 Sareeta Lopez
 Savage Society
 Save Our Northern Seniors
 Saverio Colasanto
 School District No. 23 (Central
 Okanagan)

School District No. 38 (Richmond)
 School District No. 41 (Burnaby)
 School District No. 41 DPAC (Burnaby)
 School District No. 42 (Maple Ridge - Pitt Meadows)
 School District No. 46 Board of Education (Sunshine Coast)
 School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay)
 School District No. 59 (Peace River South)
 School District No. 6 (Rocky Mountain)
 School District No. 60 (Peace River North)
 School District No. 62 (Sooke)
 School District No. 63 (Saanich)
 School District No. 73 DPAC
 School District No. 79 (Cowichan Valley)
 Science Fair Foundation of BC
 Scott Cadillac
 Scott Guffey
 Scott Willis
 Screen BC (MPPIA)
 Sea to Sky Invasive Species Council
 Sean Andernacht
 Sean Sallis-Lyon
 Sean Zimmer
 Sebastian Kallos
 Seismic Shift Arts Society
 SelfDesign Learning Foundation
 Selkirk College Student Union
 Seniors Services Society of BC
 SereneMind Consulting Inc.
 Shaina Gleicher
 Sharon Clark
 Shauna MacKay
 Shawn Bzowy
 Shawn May
 Sheila Harrington
 Sheila Pratt
 Shela Perreault Newcomb
 Shelley Graffunder
 Shelley Zhao
 Shelley Zhao
 Shelly Baker
 Shelter Movers Vancouver
 Sheri Walker
 Sherry Durnford
 Sheryl Smith
 Shoutout BC News Society

Shuswap Watershed Council
 Sibéal Clinton
 Sienna Senior Living
 Simon Fraser Student Society
 Simon Fraser University
 Simon Wu
 Slocan Lake Arts Council
 Small Housing BC
 Small-Scale Meat Producers Association
 Society for the Protection and Care of Seniors, Trail
 Society of Richmond Children's Centres
 Sooke Arts Council
 Sophi Sanford
 Sophia Wasylinko
 Special Olympics British Columbia
 Speech and Hearing BC
 Speed Skating British Columbia
 Sport BC
 Sport Safeguarding BC
 Spruce City Wildlife Association
 Squamish Community Housing Society
 Squamish Streamkeepers
 Stan Chung
 Stan Hutchings
 Stand.earth
 Stanislav Riha
 Steph Nelson
 Stephanie Friesen-Johnson
 Stephanie Ko
 Stephanie Moore
 Stephanie Varasteh
 Steve Bain
 Steve Forseth
 Steve Kellock
 Steve Knoke
 Steven Jones
 Steven King
 Storytellers' Society
 Stuart Duncan
 Stuart Maxwell
 Students' Union of University of British Columbia Okanagan
 Students' Union of Vancouver Community College
 Sue Cairns
 Summerland Community Arts Council
 SUMS
 Sunrise Family Services Society
 Sunshine Coast Foundation

Surety Association of Canada
 Surfrider Foundation Canada
 Surrey & White Rock Board of Trade
 Surrey Women's Centre
 Susan Blacklin
 Susan Eyre
 Susan Rankin
 Susan Roth
 Susan Tucker
 Susanna Shanagr
 Susie Saunders
 Suzanne Crawley
 SWAN Vancouver
 Take a Hike Youth Mental Health Foundation
 Takeda Canada
 Tamar Delorme
 Tammi Tsang
 Tannis Baker
 Taryn Greig
 Tash Cheong
 Tasha Orchiston
 Tax Executives Institute
 Teng Fan
 Terence Chandler
 Teresa Brown
 Teresa Deak
 Teri McGrath
 Terrence Ho
 Terry Fellows
 Terry Fox Humanitarian Awards Inc.
 Terry Martens
 Teruko Walker
 Tessa Taylor
 Thalia Malcolm
 The Advocates' Society
 The Belfry Theatre
 The British Columbia Cycling Coalition
 The Broadway Group
 The Canadian Association of Retired Persons
 The Canadian Centre to End Human Trafficking
 The Capitol Theatre Restoration Society
 The Centre for Epilepsy and Seizure Education in British Columbia
 The Elizabeth Fry Society of Greater Vancouver
 The Fertility Coalition of British Columbia

The Lower Fraser Floodplains Coalition
 The Old School House Arts Centre
 The Ragman Billiards Ltd.
 The Realistic Success Recovery Society
 The Royal Canadian Theatre Company
 The Salvation Army
 The Standing Committee on
 Environment and Economy
 The Treehouse Vancouver Child and
 Youth Advocacy Centre
 The Victoria Youth Empowerment
 Society
 Theatre Conspiracy
 Théâtre la Seizième
 Theatre Replacement Society
 Theatre SKAM Association
 Theatre Terrific
 Theresa Unger
 Thomas Pater
 Thompson Rivers University
 Thompson Rivers University Students'
 Union
 Threshold Housing Society
 Tidemark Theatre
 Tim Franko
 Tim McCloskey
 Timothy Garrish
 Tina Camara
 Tk'emlu'ps te Secwe'pemc
 Todd Patola
 Tom Major
 Tom Williams
 Tony Van Bergen
 Tony Watson
 Torill Gillespie
 Tourism Industry Association of BC
 Town of Smithers
 Trails Society of British Columbia
 Transition Kamloops
 Traysea Stelmack
 Trevor Mustatia
 Trevor Wilson
 Triathlon BC
 Tru Cooperative Bank
 Tunya Audain
 Turo
 Twyla Monasch
 Tyler Bacon
 Tyler Kronebusch
 UBC Division of Otolaryngology

UBC Graduate Student Society
 UBC Medicine Political Advocacy
 Committee (PAC)
 Union Gospel Mission
 Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs
 United Way British Columbia
 University of British Columbia
 University of Northern British Columbia
 University of the Fraser Valley
 University of the Fraser Valley Student
 Union Society
 University of Victoria
 Unlikely Allies
 Urban Climate Leadership
 Urban Development Institute
 Val Martinick
 Valerie O'Donnell
 Vancity
 Vancity Community Foundation
 Vancouver Coastal Health
 Vancouver Foundation
 Vancouver Fringe Theatre Society
 Vancouver Inter-Cultural Orchestra
 Society
 Vancouver International Film Festival
 Vancouver Island Human Rights
 Coalition
 Vancouver Island North Teachers'
 Association
 Vancouver Island Regional Library
 Vancouver Island Strata Owners
 Association
 Vancouver Island University Students'
 Union
 Vancouver Island Water Watch Coalition
 Vancouver Musicians' Association
 Vancouver New Music
 Vanderhoof Public Library
 Vanessa Vandergaag
 Vantage Point
 VCC Faculty Association
 Venson Wang
 Vera Mirhady
 Vernon Student's Association -
 Okanagan College
 viaSport
 Victoria Andrews
 Victoria Arts Council
 Victoria Child Abuse Prevention &
 Counselling Centre
 Victoria Chinatown Museum Society

Victoria Enns-Lowes
 Victoria Foundation
 Victoria Innovation, Advanced
 Technology & Entrepreneurship
 Council
 Victoria Residential Builders Association
 Victoria Transit Riders Union
 Victoria Women's Transition House
 Society
 Vin Beauchamp-Walkey
 Vision Loss Rehabilitation Canada
 Vivien Gomes-Pollon
 Wan Ting Law
 Wanyi Lin
 Warren Craig
 Watershed Watch Salmon Society
 Wayne Peace
 Wendy Graves
 Wesley Edwards
 West Coast Environmental Law
 West Kootenay Climate Hub
 West Kootenay Cycling Coalition
 West Kootenay Regional Arts Council
 West Kootenay Transit Action
 Western Community College
 Western Marine Community Coalition
 WestJet
 Whistler Arts Council
 Whistler Writing Society
 White Ribbon
 Wilderness Tourism Association BC
 Wildsight
 Wildsight Invermere
 Will Ch
 William Stannix
 WISH Drop-In Centre Society
 World Wildlife Fund Canada
 Yellowhead Community Services
 Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation
 Initiative
 Yi Zhou
 YMCAs of BC
 Youth Climate Corps BC
 YRB Management Corp.
 YWCA BC
 Zachary Wilson
 Zaraya Brook
 Zbigniew Markowicz
 Zero Emissions Innovation Centre
 Zero Waste BC



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
of BRITISH COLUMBIA