



PREMIER HIGHLIGHTS B.C. GREEN TECH AT GLOBE 2008

The innovation and expertise of British Columbia's environmental and clean energy technology sector is front and centre before the world at the GLOBE 2008 Conference and Trade Fair.

"Like British Columbia, GLOBE 2008 is focused on the business of the environment and reinforcing the idea that a healthy environment and a strong economy are not mutually exclusive," Premier Gordon Campbell said. "As B.C. welcomes business and government leaders from around the world to GLOBE 2008, we are eager and determined to find opportunities to work together to set the world on a new course towards sustainability."

Premier Campbell joined His Royal Highness Prince Philippe, Crown Prince of Belgium, in opening the Plenary Session at GLOBE 2008. Campbell was then joined by Economic Development Minister Colin Hansen to open the B.C. Pavilion at the Trade Fair.

"Clean, sustainable and environmental technologies are the great economic opportunities of our time, and I know both the Province and B.C. companies have realized that there is gold in going green," said Hansen.

Four hundred leading environmental and clean energy technology firms from more than 80 countries in North America, Europe and Asia – including 95 from B.C. – were represented at the Conference and Trade Fair. Taking place every two years in Vancouver, this year marks the 10th edition of GLOBE.

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BRITISH COLUMBIA'S GREEN BUDGET 2008

Balanced Budget 2008 overturns the notion that you have to choose either a strong economy or a healthy environment. It encourages cleaner choices, invests more than \$1 billion in climate action initiatives, lowers taxes to stimulate investment, and increases funding for health care and education to their highest levels ever in British Columbia.

Starting this summer, subject to approval by the legislature, a revenue-neutral carbon tax will apply to virtu-

ally all fossil fuels used in British Columbia. The tax will be phased in to give people and businesses time to adjust to a landscape where higher costs for higher-carbon choices make cleaner options more attractive.

All carbon tax revenue — about \$1.8 billion over three years — will be returned to British Columbians through reductions to income and business taxes. The legislation will require the government to table, annually, a plan to ensure the

carbon tax remains revenue neutral in the years to come.

Separate from and in addition to the tax reductions made possible by the revenue-neutral carbon tax, every British Columbia resident will receive a one-time, \$100 Climate Action Dividend to encourage the transition to a greener lifestyle.

It is the government's hope that British Columbians will apply the funds toward purchases that can help reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and, by doing so, also reduce the amount of carbon tax they would otherwise pay.

To help offset the cost of the carbon tax, lower income households will receive a new Climate Action Credit. They will receive \$100 per adult and \$30 per child per year, paid quarterly with the Goods and Services Tax Credit.

A revenue-neutral carbon tax will allow British Columbia to reduce taxes for individuals, families and businesses. Added to the government's tax reductions since 2001, the changes in Balanced Budget 2008 will give British Columbians, by 2009, the lowest personal taxes in Canada on incomes up to \$111,000. For more information on the green initiatives in budget 2008, go to www.bcbudget.gov.bc.ca.2008/



Finance Minister Carole Taylor presents the Balanced Budget 2008 and the broad selection of green initiatives that are included. British Columbia will be the only jurisdiction in the world to have both a carbon tax and a cap and trade system to address climate change.

MINISTER PENNER SPEAKS AT VANCOUVER GREEN LIVING SHOW

Minister Penner spoke at the Green Living Show in Vancouver at GM Place February 29 to March 2.

The Green Living Show provides a unique opportunity for suppliers, manufacturers, retailers, distributors and cause-related organizations to reach thousands of motivated consumers interested in acquiring practical green solutions they can blend into their daily lives.

Attendees can visit hundreds of eco-friendly exhibits, ranging from energy, transportation, home and garden, foods and beverages, to green building, eco fashion, health and wellness, eco tourism and recreation. A main stage itinerary features list of local, national and international environmental experts, celebrities and entertainers, is also a big draw for the increasing number of Ca-

nadians who want to go green.

The inaugural Green Living Show was launched at the Direct Energy Centre in Toronto, April 27-29, 2007, and was

a huge success. This year, the Green Living Show debuted in Vancouver, at B.C. Place. It will return to the Direct Energy Centre in Toronto, at twice the size, April 25-27.





BROWNFIELD RENEWAL CREATES GREENER B.C. COMMUNITIES

Agriculture and Lands Minister Pat Bell outlined an innovative solution to revitalize abandoned and underutilized lands known as brownfields so that British Columbians can get the most value out of the land in their communities.

“A \$10-million remediation fund will be established to create green opportunities for communities as they revitalize inactive or unused lands. These funds will allow the redevelopment of both Crown and private sites,” said Minister Bell. “Our goal is to strongly support projects that create efficient, revitalized, green communities that are sustainable for future generations.”

Minister Bell announced the strategy at Docksider Green, a new Victoria housing development that is a prime example of brownfield revitalization.

“The new Brownfield Renewal Strategy will turn abandoned brownfield sites throughout British Columbia into assets that can be redeveloped or sold, instead of allowing them to remain as liabilities,” said Minister Barry Penner, who was at Docksider Green for the announcement. “This becomes a win-win situation for everyone – the new owner, the old owner, the neighbourhood, and city hall.”

Minister Penner joined Minister Bell; Joe Van Belleghem, owner/partner Docksider Green and Windmill West; Community Services Minister Ida Chong; Jim Cox; CEO Van City Enterprises; and Maureen Enser, executive director of the Urban Development Institute to announce the remediation fund which will help revitalize abandoned lands known as brownfields.

Brownfields are abandoned, vacant, derelict, or underutilized commercial and industrial properties where past actions have resulted in actual or perceived contamination. They are different from other contaminated sites in that they hold active potential for redevelopment. Progress has already been made on three pilot brownfield projects at Ladysmith Harbour, New Westminster Gasworks and Millstream Meadows (District of Highlands).



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5 NEW CONSERVATION OFFICERS TO INCREASE ENFORCEMENT

Five new conservation officers are being hired to enhance the capacity of the Conservation Officer Service (COS) to participate in collaborative compliance projects with external partners, and engage in additional compliance activities throughout the province. These officers will be placed in Fort St. John, Golden, Vernon, Nanaimo and Surrey.

The Fort St. John field officer will increase compliance capacity in the area in relation to the oil and gas and mining sectors, the transport and storage of hazardous waste, and the Water Act and Integrated Pest Management Act.

The ministry is placing a conservation officer in Golden, and creating a new operational zone, the North Kootenay. This will include the COS offices in Revelstoke, Invermere and Golden. The officer in Golden will serve as the zone supervisor. The creation of this zone will better serve the needs of the people of this geographic area.

The Vernon field officer will be added to the existing Vernon office to increase coverage of the Shuswap and Okanagan regions.

The additional field officer in Nanaimo will address protection of freshwater habitat and riparian areas on Southern Vancouver Island.

An additional field officer will be added to the Surrey office to increase capacity for compliance activities directed at the protection of human health and the environment, particularly in relation to the transportation, storage and treatment of hazardous wastes, the storage and use of pesticides, and improper disposal of commercial wastes.

Additionally, in early April, two full-time conservation officers currently stationed at the Surrey office will be redeployed to a new office in Maple Ridge. This move will improve service to communities located on the north side of the Fraser River, enabling conservation officers to respond to environmental and public safety issues in a more timely manner.

The process to staff the new positions is underway and expected to be completed by the end of March, resulting in a list of qualified candidates.

The ministry is also investing \$1 million this year in the COS' Commercial Environmental Investigations Unit (CEIU). The CEIU focuses on environmental compliance primarily related to commercial and industrial activities. The CEIU has eight senior investigators and a manager located in five key areas of the province – Prince George, Kamloops, Nelson, Surrey and Nanaimo – and became operational in February 2007.

HONOURING THE MEMORY OF A PIONEER CONSERVATIONIST

Celia Haig-Brown, daughter of Roderick and Ann Haig-Brown, assisted Jim Van Tine and Minister Barry Penner, unveil a reproduction of the cover of the new Freshwater Fishing Regulation Synopsis at a ceremony in Victoria on Feb. 21. Van Tine is the co-chair of the Roderick Haig-Brown Centenary Committee. The cover of

the synopsis features a colour photo of Roderick Haig-Brown a pioneering conservationist, writer of some 25 books, magistrate and fly fisher whose collections of essays and broadcasts concerning, in part, fly fishing and the natural world, made him a strong voice of conscience in British Columbia and internationally.

