

APPENDIX

Common Sense Change for BC: Platform Costing

With Budget 2024, David Eby gave BC its largest deficit and debt load in history. Then in the six months since the budget was released, the NDP managed to add \$1.1 billion dollars to the deficit – for a total of \$9 billion dollars. **BC is drowning in a sea of red ink**, even as the NDP government fails to do its job in more and more areas.

In other words, Eby wants to spend \$9 billion dollars more than our budget can afford—that's over 10 percent more than they are taking in. Your household budget could not afford to spend 10% more money than it has, and neither can our province. It's just not sustainable.

Some of that is from their overspending – but a lot of the deficit is created due to the NDP's hostility to economic growth. As a result, **the NDP inherited a \$2.5 billion surplus, and turned it into a \$9 billion deficit in just 7 short years.**

From Budget 24/25 to Budget 26/27 the NDP will:

- Increase total debt from \$123 billion to a historically unprecedented \$165 billion.
- Increase the debt to GDP ratio from 21 to 28 percent. It was 15% before the NDP.
- Increase interest costs paid by government by 60 percent. Every dollar paid in interest is a dollar that can't be spent

And that's before the additional \$1.1 billion they expect to add to the deficit this year. Today, **each man, woman, and child in BC is be responsible for \$22,000 of debt—up by nearly 250%** since the NDP assumed responsibility for our finances.

BC cannot afford another 4 years of the NDP. To get BC's finances back on track, the Conservative Party of BC will:

- **Return the BC Budget to balance in it's second term** by getting our economy growing again, being strategic in new spending, reallocation of wasteful spending to priority areas that enhance the health and productivity of our province.
- **Conduct a Core Review of government spending**, the Taxpayer Respect Audit, to identify and cut or re-allocate resources from NDP pet projects that haven't delivered results for people. All funding for front-line services including health, education, and public safety will be maintained or increased.
- **Launch a full review of the BC Capital Plan** to revise project cost estimates based on open and transparent procurement practices, unlike the NDP's closed-shop approach estimated to add between 7% and 25% to capital project costs.

- **Launch a revenue growth review** to identify the economic growth policies and economic development opportunities most likely to raise incomes for workers and grow net revenues for BC's public finances. We need to get our finances on a sustainable footing, and to do that, our economy needs to get working again.

The time is now to spur investment to help get BC back on track, and in the black.

The Power of Growth: Kick-starting BC's Economy

BC NDP Scenario: 3.1% growth rate	2024	2030
GDP (billions)	424.1	509.35
Revenue (billions)	81.8	94.23
Revenue as % of GDP	18.5%	18.5%

Conservative Plan: 5.4% growth rate	2024	2030
GDP (billions)	424.1	581.45
Revenue (billions)	81.8	104.66
Revenue as % of GDP	18.5%	18%

If BC had a government that took economic growth seriously, we'd have over \$10 billion more per year for the services we need – at no cost to taxpayers.

In fact, under the Conservative Plan, the government's share of the economy would decrease while still generating more revenue for public services.

And the scenario above is generous to the NDP. It assumes a 3.1% average nominal GDP growth rate to 2030 (estimated by RBC for 2025) – which is significantly higher than what they've achieved in recent years. In fact, when accounting for population growth and inflation, Eby has taken BC into a recession for living standards.

Our plan for Common Sense Change contains a series of bold proposals get BC's economy working again. We will Get BC Building – to finally end the housing shortage that artificially constrains so many other sectors of the economy. And instead of tying-up jobs and investment in redundant red tape, we will make BC the best place in Canada to run a small business, while responsibly developing the natural resources that have sustained BC for generations.

Getting the economy working again is hard work, but some decisions will be easy. For example, simply by repealing the NDP's unaffordable 'Clean BC' scheme, BC's economy will be \$28 billion richer in 2030 – and that's according to modelling conducted by the NDP government.

Common Sense Change for BC Platform Commitments

Platform 2024: Major Tax Cuts

Eliminate the BC Carbon Tax:	Est. \$3.0 Billion returned to British Columbians in Budget 2025.
BC Rent and Mortgage Rebate:	Est. \$900 million returned to British Columbians in Budget 2026.
Cut the Small Business Tax to 1%:	Est. \$150 million returned to British Columbians in Budget 2026.

Platform 2024: Estimates of Major Operating Spending Commitments

To fix gaps left by the NDP, Common Sense Change for BC calls for new additions to BC's operating budget that total \$2.3 billion across Budget 2025 and Budget 2026. And unlike the NDP who never plan on returning to a balanced budget, we commit to achieving it in a second term of government.

An estimated breakdown of operating budget implications in each major spending area is provided below.

BC Safe and Secure: Est. \$55MM from FY 2025/2026 and 2026/2027

- Increase the number of Sheriffs and Judges
- Hire more front-line officers
- Expand addictions treatment in jails
- Establish a rapid trial court for minor offenses

Common Sense Childcare: Est. \$37MM from FY 2025/2026 and 2026/2027

- Real access to \$10/day childcare
- Increase the Affordable Childcare Benefit
- Provide 24-hour childcare spaces

Economic Reconciliation, Healthy Communities: Est. \$10MM from FY 2025/2026

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| • Invest in First Nations capacity building | Est. \$10MM in Budget 2026 |
| • Clean water and housing on reserve | To be recouped from Ottawa |

Get BC Building: Est. \$1.1BN from FY 2026/2027

- Civic Infrastructure Renewal Fund
- MURB Tax Incentive Program
- BC Development Tribunal

Get BC Moving: Est. \$610MM from FY 2026/2027

- Capital Projects (capital plan)
- Fully fund TransLink for 2 years Est. \$580MM in each Budget 26 and 27
- BC Transit service improvements
- Transport 2050 bus expansion priorities

Grown in BC: Est. \$90MM from FY 2025/2026 and 2026/2027

- Invest in Agricultural Research and Development
- Provide Financial Crop Productivity Incentives
- Improve Crop Disaster Replant Relief
- Expand Buy BC Program
- Local Food Processing Tax Incentives
- Agricultural Micro-loan Program and incentives for new farmers
- Renew BC's Flood Mitigation Protection
- Invest in Large-Scale Water Storage

Igniting BC's Tech Future: Est. \$10MM from FY 2026/2027

- Boost Access to Capital for Early Stage Firms

Learning First-Education: Est. \$60MM from FY 2025/2026 and 2026/2027

- Phase-out portables and build new schools (Capital Plan)
- Recruit additional autism support workers
- Reverse cuts to independent distributed learning schools
- Expand access to academic excellence programs
- Reducing barriers to home schooling

Patients First Healthcare

Our Patients First Plan for healthcare will maintain or increase current spending levels, as outlined in the government's September 2024 fiscal update.

Government Numbers (2024 First Quarterly Report) - Healthcare Spending			
	2024/2025 Est.	2025/2026 Plan	2026/2027 Plan
Operating Funding	\$36.6 Billion	\$37.5 Billion	\$38.0 Billion
YOY increase		\$900MM	\$500MM

Powering BC

- BC Hydro capital projects (capital plan)

Standing Up for Seniors: Est. \$142MM from FY 2025/2026 and 2026/2027

- Increase Family Caregiver Tax Credits
- Eliminate User Fees on Home Support
- Expand Home Care
- Expand Long Term Care Beds by 5000 by 2030 (capital plan)
- Improved access to medical devices and vaccines
- Double the Renovation Tax Credit:
- Expand HandyDart
- Removal of daily fees for palliative care

BC Recovers: Est. \$38MM from FY 2025/2026 and 2026/2027

- Cut Wait Time to Voluntary Treatment:
- Remove Barriers to Detox and Treatment
- Recovery Communities and Specialized Housing (capital plan)
- Appoint an Addictions Specialist
- Virtual opioid dependency program

BC Wildlife: Est. \$5MM from FY 2025/2026

- Increase Funding for Conservation Officers

Real Support for Mental Wellness: Est. \$23MM from FY 2025/2026 and 2026/2027

- Expand Peer Assisted Care Teams
- Independent Representative for Mental Health
- Early mental health interventions in schools
- Expanded mental healthcare for rural BC

Affordability and Fairness for Drivers: Est. \$60MM from FY 2026/2027

- Remove PST from affordable used vehicles
- Index 'Luxury Tax' to above the median price of a new car
- Eliminate inspections on cars from other provinces

Post-Secondary Education for BC's Future: Est. \$35MM from FY 2025/2026 and 2026/2027

- Put BC at the forefront of research
- Invest skills trade training
- Expand opportunities for high school students to learn trades

Dignity and Opportunity for PWD: Est. \$18MM from FY 2025/2026 and 2026/2027

- Double the home renovation tax credit to \$2,000
- Improve healthcare accessibility
- Review disability assistance rates

Next Generation Reproductive Health: Est. \$55MM from FY 2025/2026 and 2026/2027

- Fund 2nd-round IVF treatments
- Cervical and ovarian cancer research and treatment
- Reduce financial barriers to adoption
- Establish midwife training program in Surrey