



2015 **ANNUAL REPORT**

**WHERE LEADERS MEET TO
UNLOCK BC'S FULL POTENTIAL**



Business Council of
British Columbia
Est. 1966

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

As the Business Council of British Columbia celebrates its 50th anniversary milestone and my two-year term as Chair comes to a close, I am reflecting on the history and importance of the work the Council performs every day on behalf of our members, and all British Columbians, to create a more competitive, sustainable and inclusive economy that meets its full potential. As noted by the first Chair of the Council, JE Richardson, this work is complex, sophisticated and rooted in fact-based research – principles which ensure the Council continues to be regarded as the premier source for economic and public policy insights to this day.

The Council continues to build on its reputation as a place of collaboration and leadership. Over the past two years I have been able to witness the Business Council's leadership as a member based organization reaching out and engaging with government, global partners and First Nations to advance economic reconciliation, opportunities and certainty. Upon the arrival of a new and engaged government in Ottawa with an ambitious agenda to advance an innovative economy, the Council has a renewed focus on Federal policy and will continue to promote the importance of the BC economy to the rest of Canada. The Council has also brought together businesses from across our diverse membership and economy to advance growth in the areas of natural resources, energy, transportation, technology & apparel industry and the establishment of international headquarters in our province.

Over the decades, the Council has become the **Place Where Leaders Meet to Unlock BC's Full Potential**. From the Chair's seat, I have had the privilege of seeing the volume and diversity of initiatives the Council drives to ensure that the risks, opportunities and challenges facing the province's economy and largest employers are advanced with key government and community stakeholders. I have also had the opportunity to work with our exceptional members and Board of Governors who are all equally committed to building a strong BC economy and for that I am grateful and pleased with the contribution we have collectively made.

It has been a great pleasure to Chair this leading organization and I look forward to working with incoming Chair, Marcia Smith as she assumes this leadership role.

Jonathan Whitworth
Chair, Business Council of British Columbia



The development of a framework of policy which will offer reliable guidance over succeeding years is never an easy task. For an organization such as this one, which has unique characteristics and goals, which acts on behalf of leaders in the business community – with so many divergent views and interests – policy development becomes a complex and sophisticated exercise.

Where the (council) believes that a public stand should be taken, it will not hesitate to speak out on behalf of the business community. Insofar as possible, the (council)'s position will be established on the basis of hard fact and careful research. This, I believe, is a fundamentally sound policy which will stand up over the longer term.

J.E. RICHARDSON, CHAIR, COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION (CIRF)* AND CEO OF BC TEL; ON THE OCCASION OF THE FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, APRIL 6, 1967

*The Business Council of British Columbia was originally established as the CIRF, and in 1968 changed its name to the Employers Council of British Columbia. It became the Business Council of BC in 1984.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Like many, the loss of David Bowie at the start of the year had me going back to the music of his standards that have spanned the last half century. In doing so, I couldn't help but reflect on the lyrics of his hit Changes as a post script for 2015.

2015 in business terms, like the song, was a pivot point of risk, uncertainty, reinvention, competition, growth and yes change and lots of it. Plummeting commodity prices and currencies, terrorism, slowing global growth, soaring housing prices, trade deals and competitive pressures, technological disruption, and a new government and yet through all this change and apparent turmoil, there remains a sense of optimism.

At the Business Council it meant a year focused on three key themes of change.

1. **Becoming more competitive jurisdiction to attract talent, and capital, and a more innovative and adaptive economy;**
2. **Ensuring we maintain our climate and sustainable energy leadership and leveraging these strengths in the face of growing change in the global economy, attitudes about climate and the need to be more competitive.**
3. **Accelerating reconciliation with First Nations in our society and economy through economic development, greater inclusion and collaboration while moving toward greater clarity and certainty on the land base.**

Looking ahead to 2016, the Business Council's 50th year, we are optimistic for the future of BC and Canada's economies. However, this optimism is rooted in the realization that we need a long term plan for economic growth and the ability to compete as a small open trading economy in the knowledge economy of the future. And so, this year we are travelling the province to engage with business, First Nations and community leaders. These regional consultation sessions, coupled with broad policy and economic research will combine to the develop a clear plan with policies and actions necessary to realize the competitive economy and prosperous society we all seek over the next 20 years.

As an organization BCBC grew and added value across the economy as a thought leader, convener and policy driver to make BC better. This would not be possible without you, our members and the generosity of your support and involvement.

On behalf of the Board and staff, I wish to thank Jonathan Whitworth our out-going Chair. Jonathan's service and leadership over his two year term has been exceptional. We are a better organization as a result of his leadership and challenge to be focused and yet ambitious. In this same tradition we are thrilled to be welcoming Marcia Smith as our incoming chair. Marcia is well known for her insightful, focused, and principled action oriented leadership.

The future is indeed bright but uncertain. However as we head into our next 50 years in the words of Bowie "tomorrow belongs to those who can hear it coming..."

Greg D'Avignon

President and Chief Executive Officer

POLICY PRIORITIES 2015

Last year, the early volatility surrounding the global economy and commodities markets began to take a toll on the Canadian economy with little sign of stable improvement in the near future. Fortunately, British Columbia remained a relative bright spot having experienced 2.6 percent growth in real GDP in 2015, while the national economy saw a mere 1.6 percent growth. BC's circumstances can be attributed in part to our relatively diverse economy and the dropping Canadian dollar. After several years of relative stability, the Canadian dollar saw sharp declines following trend lines seen in the price of oil but benefiting such sectors as tourism, manufacturing, retail sales and the film and digital animation industries while having significant, and continuing impact on many parts of the natural resource sector.

The Council also shifted additional attention to the Federal scene with the election of a new, ambitious government. Early effort was made to reach out to newly elected officials in order to facilitate ongoing conversations about the competitiveness challenges and opportunities facing BC's economy.

Against this backdrop, the Business Council focused our 2015 policy research and advocacy work on ideas, collaboration and changes that advance a competitive and sustainable BC economy.

OUR PRIORITY AREAS OF FOCUS OVER THE PAST YEAR INCLUDE:

- Enhancing BC's competitiveness through an efficient system of taxation and effective, outcome based regulations
- Advancing strategies to build a more innovative and productive economy
- Promoting BC's position as a national and global climate leader and identifying opportunities to support further progress in this area while enhancing BC's economy
- Accelerating First Nations economic reconciliation and capacity building through engagement, partnerships and collaboration
- Advocating for a human capital strategy and immigration policy that enables talent attraction, development and retention
- Enabling access to international markets for Canadian goods and services

FEATURED PUBLICATIONS:

- *Forest Sector Remains a Vital Economic Engine for BC*
- *BC Economic Review and Outlook*
- *Labour Demand and Supply in Canada: The Big Picture*
- *Rethinking Social Licence to Operate - A Concept in Search of Definition and Boundaries*
- *It's Bigger Than You Think: Non-Resource Manufacturing in BC*
- *Some Reflections on the Global Energy Transition*
- *Risk: Perception, Reality and the Policy Process*
- *The Trans-Pacific Partnership - Positioning Canada and British Columbia for the Pacific Century*
- *Federal Election Economic Policy Primer*
- *Winners and Losers from the Slumping Loonie...Through a British Columbia Lens*
- *Submission to the Climate Leadership Plan Discussion Paper*

LEADING THROUGH COLLABORATION

The Council works with partners across the economy and public policy landscape to advance solutions and ideas in support of building a competitive BC economy. Over the course of 2015, the COuncil led several special initiatives, provided presentations to key stakeholder groups, met with international dignitaries interested in the BC business landscape and engaged members in ongoing committee work.

BCBC PRESENTATIONS & OUTREACH

- **Post BC Budget** Member and Stakeholder briefings
- **Host and moderator** at events including the Pacific Finance Summit, the Premier's Resource Forum, the LNG in BC Conference
- **Shared expertise as panelists** and presenters on the BC economy
- **Facilitated industry meetings** on Climate Leadership Plan, international trade, First Nations economic reconciliation, Health Innovation
- **Hosted opening reception** for the Provincial Leaders Gathering
- **Briefed government officials** on matters relevant to the BC economy including the forestry sector, business taxation & economics, environmental policy & carbon tax, First Nations
- **Hosted international dignitaries** from Canadian trading partners including China, India, Chile, United States, Australia

SPECIAL INITIATIVES

- **HQ Vancouver**
Working in partnership with the Federal and Provincial Governments, the Business Council launched HQ Vancouver with a mandate to attract international companies to establish their North American Headquarters in BC (hqvancouver.ca)
- **Apparel Industry Working Group**
With the goal of addressing the human capital challenges facing this growing BC based cluster, the COuncil brought together industry leaders, the manufacturing sector and provincial representatives.

BCBC COMMITTEES

- **Aboriginal Affairs Committee**
- **Energy Committee**
- **Environment Committee**
- **Employee Relations Committee**
- **Federal Engagement Task Force**
- **Long Range Policy Committee**
- **NEXT Leaders Council**
- **Task Force on Innovation and Productivity**

bcbc.com/committees



EVENTS 2015

In 2015, the Business Council hosted 32 Senior Executive Roundtables, Member Forums, conferences and other events which afford members the opportunity to connect directly with policy, economic, business and thought leaders on current and pressing developments.

2015 SPEAKERS INCLUDED

- **Honourable Christy Clark**
- **Federal Cabinet Ministers**
- **Provincial Cabinet Ministers**
- **John Horgan**, Leader Of The Opposition
- **Chief Shane Gottfriedson**, Regional Chief, BC Assembly of First Nations
- **Elyse Allan**, President And Ceo, Ge Canada
- **Alf Barrios**, Chief Executive, Aluminum Rio Tinto
- **George Cope**, President And Ceo, Bce & Bell Canada
- **David Dodge, O.c.**
- **Robert Johnston**, Ceo And Director, Global Energy and Natural Resources, Eurasia Group
- **Kathy Kinloch**, President, Bcit
- **David Mackey, President & Ceo, Rbc**
- **Louise Turner**, President, Premier'S Technology Council
- **Media Panel Feat. Keith Baldrey** (Global Bc), **Wendy Cox** (Globe And Mail), **Harold Munro** (Vancouver Sun) **And Les Leyne** (Times Colonist)



NEW MEMBERS & SPONSORS 2015

The continued engagement, growth and diversification of our membership ensures the long term vitality and relevancy of the Business Council. We would like to welcome the following organizations who have joined in the past year:

2015/2016 NEW MEMBERS

- **Advantage Bc** (2016)
- **Ashcroft Terminals**
- **Association Of Major Power Users Of BC** (2016)
- **Canpotex Terminals Ltd**
- **Cassels Brock LLP**
- **Catalyst Paper** (2016)
- **Chartered Professional Accountants Of BC**
- **Cims Ltd.**
- **Civeo** (2016)
- **DS Lawyers Canada Ltd** (2016)
- **FCV Interactive** (2016)
- **Gateway Casinos**
- **Global Container Terminals**
- **Kerr, Wood & Liedel** (2016)
- **Kirmac Collision**
- **Ledcor**
- **Ridley Terminals Inc.**
- **Spartan Controls**
- **Steelhead LNG**
- **Surrey Board Of Trade** (2016)
- **Transportation Investment Corp.**
- **Veresen Inc.**
- **Wazuku** (2016)
- **Woodside Energy**

Thank you to our 2015 Event Sponsors.

The support of our sponsors ensures we continue to deliver meaningful and successful events.

2015 SPONSORS

- **Agricultural Bank of China**
- **Air Canada**
- **BC Hydro**
- **BC Marine Terminal Operators**
- **BC Maritime Employers**
- **BCIT**
- **Bennett Jones**
- **Blackcomb Aviation**
- **BNSF**
- **CAPP**
- **CEPA**
- **CIBC**
- **Coast Capital Savings**
- **CPA BC**
- **Deloitte**
- **Devon**
- **Encana**
- **Ernst & Young**
- **Genome BC**
- **HSBC**
- **Korn/Ferry**
- **KPMG**
- **Lawson Lundell**
- **Marine Harvest**
- **MEG Energy**
- **Merck**
- **Mountain Equipment Co-op**
- **Pacific Northern Gas**
- **Pacific NorthWest LNG**
- **Port Metro Vancouver**
- **Progressive Waste**
- **RBC**
- **Rio Tinto**
- **Rogers Communications**
- **Seaspan**
- **Stantec**
- **Teck Resources Ltd.**
- **Telus**
- **Translink**
- **Vancouver Island University**
- **West Fraser Timber**

BCBC BY THE NUMBERS 2015



28

PUBLICATIONS,
REPORTS &
SUBMISSIONS



45

BLOG
POSTINGS



24

COLUMNS AND
OP-EDS



152+

MEDIA ARTICLES



65

STAFF PRESENTATIONS &
PANEL APPEARANCES



32

ROUNDTABLES,
FORUMS AND EVENTS

250

MEMBER
ORGANIZATIONS

47%

INCREASE IN
TWITTER FOLLOWERS



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