

Business Council of British Columbia Principles and Core Policy Positions

What we do and who we are:

- We are non-partisan and seek public policy and economic outcomes that help to realize the full potential of the province, the country and its citizens.
- The Business Council's mission is to produce timely and exceptional public policy research and advice on issues relevant to B.C.'s and Canada's competitiveness and prosperity.
- We are committed to convening the right people and organizations, inclusive of governments and Indigenous peoples, to address opportunities and challenges.
- We believe we are most effective when focusing on policy, not politics. BCBC's reputation for quality, integrity and non-partisanship is its chief asset.
- Our members work closely with policy experts, elected officials and government decision-makers to tackle problems and develop solutions to effect positive change on public policy issues that support economic growth and foster opportunity for all British Columbians.

Principles and policy positions we embrace:

On Trade, Markets and Business Environment

- We support open trade and the mobility of people, ideas and capital.
- We support open competition, not managed markets.
- We believe in fair taxation and prudent fiscal management by all levels of government.
- We are advocates for efficient regulation and the elimination of delays, redundancy and unnecessary administrative burdens as barriers to job creation and economic growth.
- We do not believe governments should be picking winners and losers among firms, nor directing the technology or other prescriptive solutions to business practices. Instead, governments should focus on creating the policies and other supports necessary to realize desired policy outcomes within the context of a competitive marketplace.

On People, Education and Personal Prosperity

- We support policies and programs that develop, attract and retain talent and skills from the rest of Canada and around the world.
- We believe access to and excellence in public and post-secondary education is fundamental to the province's success and well-being.
- Moving to work-integrated-learning in the face of a changing demographics and the disruption that is accelerating with the emerging digital economy is necessary to ensure both individual and broader economic success.
- We believe the state has an important role in protecting those who are vulnerable or significantly disadvantaged economically and socially.
- We believe in freedom of association in all its forms that is respectful of and adheres to the Constitution and the rule of law.



On Land and Environment

- We believe Canada and B.C. should responsibly develop and use our natural, geographic and other resources and assets to compete in the global economy to the benefit of all Canadians.
- We support the development of the infrastructure necessary to enable Canadian businesses to do business globally.
- We believe that business in Canada, concurrent with other jurisdictions, has an obligation to take steps to reduce its carbon footprint and leave the world a better place for the next generation.
- We support leveraging our natural resources and harnessing innovation to help satisfy growing global demand for energy, agri-food products and other materials. In doing so Canada can be a secure lower-carbon supplier of choice to global markets.

On Democracy and Values

- We believe government, supported by an efficient and adequately resourced non-partisan and professional public service, can be a facilitator of economic prosperity at the individual and business levels.
- We believe in strong and effective public institutions. This includes ensuring that public institutions are committed to abiding by the rule of law, the principles of equality and fairness, making decisions based on the greater good, and practicing fiscal responsibility.
- We believe the corporate sector is instrumental in allowing small businesses to prosper and that we must scale firms while creating local wealth in communities.
- We believe in the importance of private sector investments in research and development and other elements of innovation.
- The United Nations has adopted the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous peoples. It includes specific reference to the free, prior and informed consent of Indigenous peoples as a prerequisite for activities on the land base. The Business Council embraces this Declaration. Making it work requires business to maintain and develop skills and processes that enable trust and actions that, in the past, were not necessarily part of how many companies may have operated. It is the responsibility of Indigenous peoples and the Crown to create governance and accountable decision-making structures that eliminate uncertainty to enable Indigenous peoples and their communities to fully participate in Canada's economy and society.
- We believe in a society where freedom is valued and a competitive market economy prevails. But we also recognize the importance of equality. Too much emphasis on markets alone can threaten social cohesion and produce extreme levels of inequality which exclude too many from full participation in the economy.
- Lastly, we believe that business has an obligation to think beyond the bottom line and serve a broader purpose that contributes to society as a whole and the communities in which companies and entrepreneurs operate.