



DOUG CLOVECHOK, MLA COLUMBIA RIVER - REVELSTOKE

APRIL 2018



SOME EVENTS & MEETINGS IN THE RIDING - ATTENDED

- Attended Columbia Valley Community Investment Co-op Session
- Met with Northern Silica, MOTI and CSRD re: Road Access
- Met with Paper Excellence, around Forestry Issues
- Met with MOTI (road concerns and contractor obligations)
- Met with Columbia Valley Realtors
- Met with the Golden Rod & Gun Club
- Attended discussion with BC Heart & Stroke Foundation Presentation
- Met with Cdn. Assoc. of Medical Cannabis Dispensaries
- Met with front line health care workers regarding opioid use in the riding
- Opening Ceremony for Pee Wee Hockey Championships
- Revelstoke Snowmobile Club's 50th Anniversary Banquet
- Attended KIJHL CV Rockies vs. Dynamiters game
- Discussion with RDEK and Broadband
- Met with RDEK regarding Agriculture Land Commission

FROM THE LEGISLATURE

The first part of 2018 has been very busy. I've been travelling between Revelstoke, Golden, Invermere and Kimberley to meet with Constituents and Community groups. As always I am grateful to hear from you; some of the best insight comes directly from those of you who are on the front-line in our communities.

Trans Mountain Pipeline: This is an extremely polarizing topic in our Province and in our Nation. Thank you to those of you who have already voiced your opinion; I am always eager to hear from my Constituents.

I remain steadfast in supporting this project, for several reasons.

- 1) This project was approved by the previous Provincial Government and the Federal Government. We must respect due process; it is the foundation of our democracy. Kinder Morgan (KM) has met all 5 of the stringent conditions to protect British Columbians these were laid out by the Provincial and Federal Governments. Approval for projects of this magnitude are not taken lightly; these approvals were issued after years of research and consultation.
- 2) BC has worked hard for a reputation of stability. The hard-earned success of our Province has been attained by thoughtful consideration, consultation, and adhering to Provincial and Federal laws.
- 3) We need this project for a strong economy. The recent actions of our Government are scaring off investors. 'Affordability' is the buzzword for this BCNDP Government, but without investments like this, how can we grow our economy?
- 4) To be pro-pipeline does not mean you are against a clean environment. The pipeline is a more environmentally friendly option for rural BC. Moving the oil by train will result in increased rail traffic which travels over our and next to our rivers and land throughout Columbia River-Revelstoke.
- 5) Highway safety is one of the biggest concerns in the Columbia River - Revelstoke. Increased pressure on the railway translates into overflow freight being diverted on our highways. More semi-trailers on our highways is not what BC voted for.

The winter session started in February with the introduction of the BCNDP Budget, at which time the Minister of Finance announced a "more affordable life for us and our families". This was the headline right before the Government introduced us to \$5.5 billion in increased or new taxes.

Carbon Tax: This tax was raised on April 1, 2018 and will continue to increase into 2021. We have immediately felt its effects by paying more at the pump. Of note, these additional monies were previously revenue neutral (the carbon tax went to projects associated with our environment under the BC Liberal Government). This has now been changed, the extra carbon tax is no longer revenue neutral, meaning

that the Government can divert this tax into general revenue. These funds can now be used for any project that the Government chooses (ie: maintaining lower mainland bridges). Yet again, rural BC is paying more with no promise of any local benefit.

Speculation Tax: This new tax was introduced by the BCNDP to curb the speculation buying in the Lower Mainland. Our constituency offices have heard from hundreds of homeowners from across BC and Canada; they have expressed a decreased confidence in doing business in our riding. Largely because of the way this tax has been introduced. Large projects have been put on hold in our communities; many of these projects had construction-related jobs supporting families in our communities, now these jobs are at risk. I have been a vocal opponent of this tax towards the Minister of Finance, and will continue to speak up against it. Canadians should be able to invest in Canada. Even though this tax has not been introduced in our constituency yet, we are still feeling the negative effects of the uncertainty that it has caused.



When the Hwy 1 gets shut down, Revelstoke is at a standstill due to hours of grid lock. How can we alleviate this?

Employers Health Tax: We can all agree that the reduction of MSP Premiums by 50% is a great development. Under the BC Liberal Government, this reduction was to be funded by the provincial surplus that had been created from the strongest economy in Canada. Unfortunately this is not the case with our current Government- they have created another tax to pay for this reduction, based on a percentage of a company's payroll. We know that the size of the payroll does not reflect the margin of profit for businesses or organizations. This punitive tax approach has caused a lot of concern for small businesses, charities, not-for-profits and school districts. One business here in the Columbia Valley called me to report that this new tax will cost him an additional \$22,000 per year. This cost will be impossible to absorb without laying off some workers.

Capital Regional District Fuel Tax: This is another tax that is driving up the price of fuel. We used to pay 3.5 cents per litre to this tax, but it's being raised to 5.5 cents per litre.

Other Tax Increases: Tobacco and alcohol taxes have also increased, and property transfer taxes have increased in several areas of the province.

Childcare Plan: We continue to hear from our constituents about several issues that were part of the 2017 BCNDP Campaign, including the whereabouts of the \$10/day Daycare promise. We've now learned the \$10/day plan will take 10 years to deliver. Instead the Government has introduced the Childcare Fee Reduction Initiative. The initiative is to help reduce the daycare fees for parents whose children are in licensed daycare centres. Unfortunately, the initiative was rolled out in such an incomplete way that only 23% of BC Childcare Providers opted-in to this initiative, to date. Daycares have a number of critical issues, shortage of staff being one of their largest concerns. This childcare plan could have been streamlined with less confusion had there been some meaningful consultation with front-line childcare workers and daycares.

BACK HOME IN COLUMBIA RIVER - REVELSTOKE



MOTI staff meeting with Kimberley/Wasa constituents to address concerns & expectations

I've been continuing to push for answers regarding the state of our highways. The Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure has promised to address some questions that I have raised in the House. I've been told that a pilot project to install safety netting in the Three Valley Gap area will begin this summer. This week I am meeting with Hon. Claire Trevena (Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure 'MOTI'), and Mark McKee (Mayor of Revelstoke) about the Trans-Canada Highway. We will continue to apply pressure to this Government until the TCH is upgraded to a level of safety that we deserve.

IN THE CONSTITUENCY OFFICES

Our Kimberley office is open 5 days/week, and the Revelstoke office is open 4 days/week. The role of our offices is to assist constituents with Provincial matters. Here are some of the issues that you've been bringing to our attention:

Entire Region: Pipeline Expansion, Speculation Tax, Payroll Tax, Realtor Dual Agency changes, Raising Minimum Wage, Highway Conditions, Abolishing the Time Change, Landlord Tenancy Act changes, Class 'E' Slaughter Licenses

- **Kimberley:** Assisted Living, Ungulate Population, Highway debris removal
- **Columbia Valley:** Variance Applications, Co-Housing Funding, Speed Limits
- **Golden:** Boundary Expansions, Land Designation application, ICBC Online Booking
- **Revelstoke:** Access to Heritage Site, Homecare worker shortage, WorkSafe BC issues



Enjoying a great game with one of our riding's many talented KIJHL teams, the Kimberley Dynamiters!



Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Revelstoke Snowmobile Club

WOW!



We can't beat the views in this unique riding of Columbia River – Revelstoke
Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve you.

Trying very hard to drive safe and make it to Golden's Rod & Gun Club banquet...Mother Nature is nothing to mess with!



Interviewing and catching up with the Columbia Valley Pioneer's, Lorene Keitch

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