

# Carole Taylor's Community Update

Carole Taylor, MLA Vancouver - Langara

March 2007

Dear Friends,

What an exciting month it has been.

As the Minister of Finance, I had the privilege to table recently the third balanced budget of five in this mandate, Balanced Budget 2007: Building a Housing Legacy. 2006 was a very good year for BC, our economy is thriving, and government is proud to have the opportunity to invest in people, our communities and our future. Budget 2007 invests in supports for housing for British Columbians from all walks of life.

A week before Budget 2007, the government laid out its plans for the next year in the Speech from the Throne, and called for bold action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The environment is an important issue for all of us. We can all be proud of our government's recently announced B.C. Energy Plan, which establishes aggressive targets for zero net greenhouse gas emissions and new investments in innovation. Clean, renewable sources of energy are a priority for this government, which is committed to leading the world in sustainable environmental management.

At the local level, I was pleased to be a part of some significant announcements for our community of Vancouver-Langara. Recently the provincial government provided over \$233,000 for our school district to support innovative literacy programs to help improve students' reading, writing and math skills. And I also had the opportunity to present \$15,000 on behalf of the Province of British Columbia to the second annual Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival, which celebrates the spectacular beauty of Vancouver's over 36,000 cherry trees in our parks and along our streets.

I am continuously inspired by the many individuals and organizations that make Vancouver-Langara such a wonderful place to live and work. I encourage you to visit my website at [www.caroletaylormla.bc.ca](http://www.caroletaylormla.bc.ca) for my latest local news, photos and information that affects our community.

Sincerely,

*Carole Taylor*  
Vancouver-Langara MLA



## What's New

### Tax Relief To Help Every Taxpayer With Their Housing Costs

Our strong economy allowed the province to cut income taxes by 10% on the first \$100,000 of income. When combined with our previous tax cuts, 250,000 British Columbians now pay no provincial income tax and others have seen a reduction of up to 70% in the tax they pay. As of Budget 2007, an individual earning up to \$108,000 in BC will pay the lowest income taxes of anywhere in Canada.

### 2010 Business Opportunities Workshops

Would you like to learn about business opportunities the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games will offer? Three upcoming workshops will explain how you can participate in these opportunities:

Date: Thursday, March 29, 2007  
Time: 7:00 - 9:30 pm  
Location: Fraserview Hall  
8240 Fraser Street, Vancouver

Date: Saturday, March 31, 2007  
Time: 10:00 am - 12:30 pm  
Location: SUCCESS Dorothy Lam Building  
Choi Hall  
28 West Pender Street, Vancouver  
(Chinatown)

Date: Thursday, April 12, 2007  
Time: 9:00 am - noon  
Location: Park Theatre -3440 Cambie Street,  
Vancouver

At these workshops, you will learn:

- How to identify 2010 business opportunities
- How to interpret and respond to bid opportunities
- Where to go for information and support

All three workshops are free. For more information or to register, please call 604.664.0115.

## Carole Supports the Cherry Blossom Festival



Recently, Carole presented \$15,000 on behalf of the Province of British Columbia to the second annual Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival.

"I look forward to seeing the pink blossoms of Vancouver's cherry trees every spring," said Taylor. "This is a wonderful festival that brings the community together and celebrates a feature of Vancouver that makes this city such a fantastic place to live."

The first event of the festival is the Cherry Jam Downtown under the cherry trees at Burrard Skytrain Station on March 22, 2007. For more information, please visit [www.vcbf.ca](http://www.vcbf.ca)

## You're Invited to Join the Conversation on Health

A Regional Forum will be held on July 7, 2007 at the Vancouver Marriott Pinnacle Downtown, 1128 West Hastings Street. The deadline for registration is May 25, 2007. For more information, please visit [www.caroletaylormla.bc.ca](http://www.caroletaylormla.bc.ca)

## Balanced Budget 2007 ~ Building a Housing Legacy

On February 20, the Government of British Columbia introduced its 4th consecutive balanced budget, with a comprehensive range of new supports for British Columbians, including a \$250 million Housing Endowment Fund, which will help address the housing challenges created by a growing economy.

Balanced Budget 2007 provides a comprehensive range of supports for everyone from the homeless to the homeowner, including:

- An additional \$27 million over three years to increase the number of year-round shelter beds by almost 30 per cent and provide related support services
- \$38 million for housing and support for people who

are homeless, or at risk of being homeless

- An additional \$6 million over three years to strengthen support for transition houses for women and children fleeing domestic violence
- The First Time Home Buyers' Program is enhanced to exempt first-time buyers across B.C. from paying the Property Transfer Tax on homes valued up to \$375,000. This will save first-time buyers up to \$5,500
- Extending eligibility for the Home Owner Grant to low-income seniors, regardless of their home's assessed value
- Introducing legislation to allow people to start deferring their property taxes at age 55 rather than age 60.

## Vaisakhi Celebration

I am looking forward to celebrating Vaisakhi with the Sikh community on Saturday, April 14 in Vancouver. This festival symbolizes renewal and regeneration, ripening and fruition, and is one of the most important celebrations in India and around the world.



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