



A Message from the Premier

I would like to thank all of the members of the Chinese community who attended the special luncheon last March at the Floata Restaurant. It was a great gathering and I was pleased to send responses to the many people who submitted their questions.

Two of the most popular topics in those questions related to the economy and to BC-China relations. I am pleased to give you a summary of those responses for your website.

We are all impacted by the global economic crisis, but we are continuing to make wise fiscal decisions on behalf of all British Columbians.

Infrastructure projects are moving us forward in meeting the challenges as well. We are investing almost \$14 billion in such projects in every region of BC. As we build, we can keep people at work – that is key to restoring confidence in people's lives and to keeping our economy growing. We look forward to the success of our efforts.

In this time of global economic slowdown, the need to build business relationships with Asia is more critical than ever. In 2008, bi-lateral trade between BC and the Asia-Pacific, including India, was worth \$28.2 billion. At the same time, BC's exports to these Asian countries increased by 52 per cent. China is our second largest trade partner, after the USA, and we will continue to nurture this relationship. By 2020, it is estimated that the trade between our province and the Asia-Pacific could be worth \$76 billion, sustaining 255,000 jobs here in British Columbia.

Earlier this year, the new Asia-Pacific Business Centre was opened to establish increased trade, investment, research and development opportunities between BC and markets in Asia. This Centre will assist BC-based companies while welcoming Asian investors. Asia represents a tremendous opportunity for our province and we have been very active in building bi-lateral relationships.

Again, thank you for arranging the luncheon. I was happy to attend and pleased to know it was very successful.

Sincerely,

Gordon Campbell
Premier