

INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITIES

After more than a year of zoom meetings and calls, it has been a welcome change to engage in person, and on-site in every corner of our region. The chart below shows some of the infrastructure investments throughout our region over the last two years, and the images represent some of the highlights in our community from summer 2021.



Announcing funding through the Enabling Accessibility Fund for the Sunshine Coast Association for Community Living. Photo credit: Connie Jordison, Coast Reporter



With Deputy Prime Minister & Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland on our way to visit West Vancouver small businesses



Announcing a \$1.3 million investment for Pemberton-based Sea to Sky Soils that will increase organics processing in order to produce more high-quality compost.



Touring One Straw Society, a Sunshine Coast organization that helps people access and engage in a local, resilient, sustainable food system

Budget 2021 makes over \$18 billion in investments that support measures that will help close the infrastructure and service gap that Indigenous communities face. This includes \$6 billion to support shovel ready Indigenous-prioritized community infrastructure, the creation of an Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care Framework with \$2.5 billion in funding, and \$275 million to revitalize Indigenous languages over the next five years. There is more than \$1 billion more in funding under the First Nations Child and Family Services Program to support legislation passed in 2019 to enable Indigenous-led child welfare systems. The Economic and Fiscal Update budgeted a further \$40 billion to compensate for harms by the First Nations Child and Family Services program, and to support long-term program reforms to make sure communities have the support they need to keep families together. In early January, we announced that historic Agreements-in-Principle have been reached to deliver this compensation and the reforms that will ensure that no child faces discrimination again.

Investments included in Budget 2021 build upon other infrastructure projects already underway in Indigenous communities in our region. Last summer, I had the opportunity to announce funding to upgrade two local health care centres in the communities of Lil'wat Nation and N'Quatqua Nation. The Lil'wat Nation will upgrade its Health and Healing Centre to accommodate growing demand, make the building more energy efficient, and provide food service to community members. The N'Quatqua First Nation will retrofit the community's Health Centre to include a rooftop solar power system and components to provide reliable energy to the facility, especially during the winter months. Through these upgrades, the community will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, save money, build resiliency and improve the overall safety and comfort of the community.



Talking with residents in Sechelt about reconciliation on Canada Day 2021



Top: Lions Bay Emergency Building infrastructure announcement

Bottom: Visiting environmental building company, Nexii, in Squamish



ADVANCING RECONCILIATION

The discovery of unmarked graves at Kamloops Indian Residential School served notice to the country and the world of what survivors of residential schools across Canada had long said but were never heard or widely understood.

Further shocking discoveries have put a spotlight on the systemic and shameful acts that were perpetrated against First Nations children, families, culture, language and way of life, and the continuing trauma and inter-generational impact that it continues to have today. Fellow constituents attended the Kamloops Indian Residential School, and residential schools operated in BC into the 1980s and indeed on the Sunshine Coast until 1975.

I ask that you take the time to listen and learn from survivors of residential schools to understand this history and to participate in the powerful work being done by organizations such as the Siyiyaya Reconciliation Movement on the Sunshine Coast, and the Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre in Whistler, which provides help to heal and chart a better path forward.

The Government of Canada has a roadmap to redress the legacy of residential schools and advance the process of reconciliation through the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action. To date, 80% of the Calls to Action that fall under the Government of Canada's responsibility are completed or well underway.

There is perhaps no more transformational measure than the passage into law of Bill C-15, which affirms that the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) has application in Canadian law and requires a timebound action plan to ensure that existing and future laws and policies are consistent with it.

The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation is a time for somber reflection, learning, and contemplation about the injustices of the past and present. I spent Canada's first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation at the Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre, hearing stories from Residential School Survivors, participating in a traditional smudging ceremony, and learning more about the vibrant culture, language, art, and history of Indigenous Peoples in our region. (photos right)



Access to safe drinking water is a basic human right, but some Indigenous communities in Canada still do not have this access despite determined efforts in recent years. In the last six years, \$5.2 billion has been invested into projects, lifting 119 long-term drinking water advisories, including all in British Columbia.

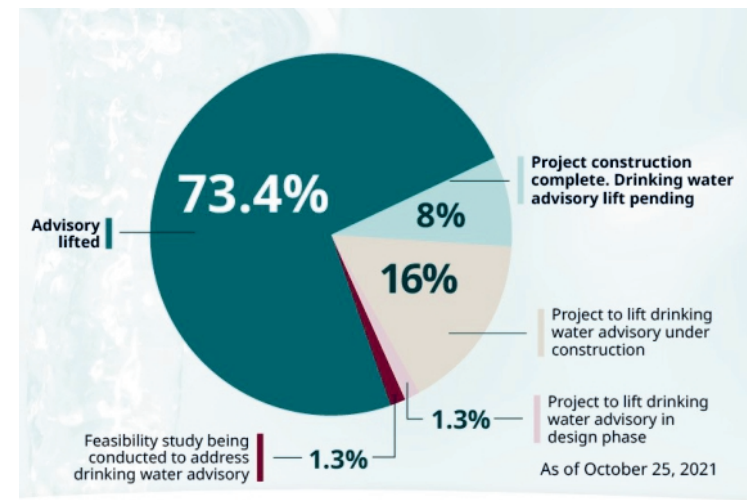
See the charts below for an update on the government's progress. We will continue this critical work until all long-term drinking water advisories are lifted across the country, while

preventing new boil water advisories from taking shape.

Locally, in June of 2021, a class action settlement was reached to compensate the survivors and descendants of those that attended residential schools during the day only (also known as the "Day Scholars"). The shishálh nation were among the numerous First Nations that attended such schools.

One month later, the Squamish Nation was able to add 20 acres to its reserve

land by Totem Hall in Squamish after this process was simplified with clear guidelines. This follows significant changes made to treaty negotiations back in 2019 to recognize a rights-based approach that is consistent with United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and to forgive or reimburse legal costs from prior treaty negotiations. Both local agreements mark important steps in delivering justice for Indigenous Peoples and creating a foundation for reconciliation.



Canada

