



## Budget 2024 Consultation

### Template for Public Hearing Participants

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The Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services invites British Columbians to share their ideas and priorities for the next provincial budget. The Committee thanks all British Columbians for their continued participation in the annual budget consultation.

Should you wish to provide written information in support of your presentation, you must use this template.

#### Instructions:

Please provide your comments by filling out this submission form.

You may provide up to **three** recommendations (maximum 50 words each) along with your explanation for each recommendation (maximum 300 words each). Should you include more than three recommendations, additional recommendations will not be considered part of your formal submission and may only be reviewed for informational purposes.

The order of recommendations does not reflect priority.

Please ensure that your recommendations and explanations are captured within the body of the submission. Information provided through links will not be considered to form part of the submission and may only be reviewed for further interest.

If you require assistance or support to make a submission, please contact the Parliamentary Committees Office at 250-356-2933 or 1-877-428-8337 (toll-free in BC).

**Please note, submissions are considered public documents and may be posted on the Committee's website and can be made available upon request to interested parties. Please do not include any personal information within the body of your submission. The Parliamentary Committees Office will remove an individual's personal contact information prior to posting or disclosing any submissions.**

**Additionally, the names of all individuals and organizations who provide input to the Committee are listed in the Committee's final report which is made publicly available at the conclusion of its work.**

#### Contact Information:

First Name\*:

Last Name\*

Anita

Huberman

Organization (if the presentation is on behalf of an organization)

Surrey Board of Trade

## Submission Form

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### Introduction (100-word limit)

Please provide any general background information relevant to your submission (e.g. the work of your organization or relevant personal experience).

The Surrey Board of Trade attracts business to Surrey and supports business in Surrey. We provide businesses and organizations with economic opportunity, workplace development and education, international trade, government advocacy and business connections. We believe that transportation and education are the two economic foundations of building our city.

### Recommendation 1 (50-word limit)

Health care investments in Surrey

### Recommendation 1 Explanation (300-word limit)

*Use this space to provide background information relating to recommendation 1 and to explain why it should be included in the next provincial budget.*

Fast-growing Surrey must receive its fair share of health services for heart attacks, strokes, trauma, and specialized pediatric care. It is disappointing that investment on a per capita basis in Surrey, in specialty services and infrastructure, consistently lags the rest of Canada.

Surrey's population has grown by 9.7% since 2016 and yet it remains the only large city in Canada without an Emergency Department funded to treat the three leading causes of sudden death: heart attack, stroke and trauma. These services are still only available north of the Fraser River.

We agree with and welcome the BC Government's investment in Surrey – but there needs to be more consideration to incorporating services into Surrey's health care eco-system for people who need care for pediatric, heart and trauma services. As it stands, there is no emergency plan that addresses how residents, our workforce, can access these critical healthcare services.

Surrey needs the appropriate investments to be able to save lives and improve our standard of living for our workforce and residents. This leads to vibrant and sustainable economies. The lack of investments in the past have led to congested ERs, overrun pediatric units, and overworked healthcare professionals.

As the BC Government considers investments in healthcare, they should provide funding for both Surrey Memorial Hospital and the new Surrey hospital to ensure there are enough maternity beds, ER beds, pediatric beds, and that there is the ability for healthcare professionals to treat heart attack, stroke, and trauma.

**Recommendation 2 (50-word limit)**

Comprehensive taxation review

**Recommendation 2 Explanation (300-word limit)**

*Use this space to provide background information relating to recommendation 2 and to explain why it should be included in the next provincial budget.*

Many other jurisdictions have laid the groundwork for BC to complete a tax review. Newfoundland and Labrador completed a comprehensive tax review in 2018 that can be replicated in BC. Newfoundland & Labrador created the Independent Tax Review Committee (ITRC) charged with completing a comprehensive independent review of the tax system, including tax expenditures.

The BC Government implemented many programs that served to alleviate some cost pressures that were felt by businesses during the pandemic. Now, we find ourselves buried in provincial debt, with rising inflation and an even higher cost of living. Without spending more, we must find ways to drive down the debt, and provide unique and innovative solutions to the skyrocketing cost of living. A comprehensive tax review could do that.

We need to determine what works and what doesn't. A review of the tax system could find and provide recommendations to eliminate redundancies and find where simplification can occur. With simplicity, efficiency, and certainty comes international competitiveness. Businesses in BC have been burdened with rising costs, limited ability to expand, and red tape for years. The COVID-19 pandemic, which has lasting impacts to many communities and sectors today, exacerbated these burdens. The BC Government implemented many programs that served to alleviate some cost pressures that were felt by businesses during the pandemic. Now, we find ourselves buried in provincial debt, with rising inflation and an even higher cost of living. Without spending more, we must find ways to drive down the debt, and provide unique and innovative solutions to the skyrocketing cost of living. A comprehensive tax review could do that.

Benefits of a tax review:

Reduce rising cost of living; Drive down debt; Create economic growth; Improve international competitiveness, and; Improve efficiency.

**Recommendation 3** (50-word limit)

**CONNECTING INCENTIVES TO VEHICLE BATTERY RECYCLING PROGRAMS**

Recommendation 3 Explanation (300-word limit)

*Use this space to provide background information relating to recommendation 3 and to explain why it should be included in the next provincial budget.*

BC has made significant commitments to electrification of passenger and some light-industrial vehicles. Canada has also proposed regulations that indicate one-fifth of all passenger cars, SUVs and trucks sold in Canada in 2026 will need to operate on electricity.

Battery lifespans are estimated to last between 10-20 years. Electric vehicles have been on the market for close to 10 years already, and some already require battery recycling. The batteries will then need to be recycled. The issue remains that there is limited battery recycling facilities across Canada.<sup>1</sup> As a result, the Provincial and Federal Government should investigate how many more recycling facilities will be needed, and determine which communities to target.

According to market analysts, a combined total of over 180,000 tonnes of lithium, cobalt, nickel, and manganese could be recovered by 2030 through Li-ion recycling, a value which is forecast to grow by approximately 10x by 2042 worldwide.<sup>2</sup>

While Canada hasn't pledged federal funding for recycling EV batteries, the U.S. is spending hundreds of millions of dollars on recycling projects. The U.S. Senate also just passed a bill to increase EV battery recycling, which could soon be signed into law.<sup>3</sup>

The provincial government should:

1. Commission a study and action plan for the implementation of electric vehicle battery recycling plants we will need per region<sup>4</sup>; and,
2. Invest in innovating current electric vehicle battery recycling plants to increase their capacity.

We require your acknowledgement that you have read our [privacy policy](#) (required in order to formally receive your submission).

I have read and agreed to the Privacy Policy of the Parliamentary Committees Office.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cbc.ca/news/business/electric-vehicle-battery-recycling-1.6695010>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.mining.com/how-much-could-battery-recycling-actually-aid-cobalt-lithium-supply-shortages/#:~:text=According%20to%20the%20market%20analyst,by%20approximately%2010x%20by%202042.>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.utilitydive.com/news/ev-battery-recycling-senate-romney-ndaa/639317/>

<sup>4</sup> The geographical regions of Canada are groupings of provinces and territories established for the purpose of statistical reporting. The six geographical regions of Canada are: Atlantic, Quebec, Ontario, Prairies, British Columbia, and Territories

We also seek your permission to post your submission on the Committee's website following the release of the Budget 2024 Consultation Report. Please note that we only post submissions on the website where consent has been received; however, any submission may be provided to interested parties upon request as submissions are considered public documents.

I consent to having my submission posted on the Legislative Assembly website.

**Upon completion, please save this document with your last name and first name or organization name (if applicable), and email to [financecommittee@leg.bc.ca](mailto:financecommittee@leg.bc.ca).**

Thank you for taking the time to participate in the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services' Budget 2024 Consultation.

To learn more about the consultation and the work of the Committee, visit the [Committee's website](#).