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[NEWS](#) > [CAMPAIGN NEWS](#) > [Controlling spending secures tomorrow for our children](#)

Controlling spending secures tomorrow for our children

BC Liberal Party

April 25, 2013

VANCOUVER – Speaking to the Women’s Executive Network today, Premier Christy Clark detailed how controlling spending and eliminating B.C.’s debt is the strongest way to protect the values we all share.

“There are core values our parents taught us like caring for those who cared for us and making sure the next generation can do better than us,” said Premier Clark. “Protecting these values requires a strong economy protected by controlling spending. It means taking action today to give our kids the opportunity to live in a Debt-Free B.C.”

Today’s BC Liberals plan to control spending secures further investments in health care, education and social programs that British Columbians rely on. In the 1990’s, B.C. experienced eight consecutive deficit budgets and \$7.8 billion in over spending. Paying for it meant 70 new taxes and fee increases.

Premier Christy Clark also announced Today’s BC Liberals will create a new Premier’s Women’s Economic Advisory Council. This council will provide feedback on how government can accelerate women’s business opportunities. Today more than 37% of self-employed British Columbians are women, the second highest number of female small business owners in Canada.

“At a time when families are challenged by household debt accumulated during the recession, they simply can’t afford unpredictable tax increases,” said Premier Clark. “Because we are controlling spending, we can give families a break and make life more affordable by freezing personal taxes, lowering small business taxes by 40 per cent and taking the corporate tax rate down a point to make life.”

During her visit, Premier Clark posed a clear choice: Do we move forward to a Debt-Free B.C. or do we go backwards to out of control spending and a Debt-Ridden B.C.?

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Backgrounder to follow.

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Backgrounder 1: Controlling spending secures tomorrow for our children

The Premier highlighted **Strong Economy. Secure Tomorrow** commitments that control spending and make life affordable for families:

Eliminating debt:

- Committing 50 per cent of surpluses to debt elimination.
- Dedicating all revenues from the Prosperity Fund towards debt until it is paid off.

Controlling spending:

- capping government spending below the rate that our economy is growing.
- strengthening the Balanced Budget legislation.

Growing the economy:

- Lowering small business taxes by 40%.
- Taking the corporate tax rate down a point.

Making life more affordable for families

- freezing personal taxes and the carbon tax.

Women and business in B.C.:

- Today's BC Liberals committed in **Strong Economy. Secure Tomorrow** to create a new Premier's Women's Economic Advisory Council. This council will provide feedback on how government can accelerate women's business opportunities.
- Today more than 37% of self-employed British Columbians are women, the second highest number of female small business owners in the country.
- Today's BC Liberals have invested \$100,000 with the Women's Enterprise Centre to encourage new women entrepreneurs in the province.
- In partnership with the BC Chamber of Commerce, Today's BC Liberals launched the Micro-Business Training program.

Small business in B.C. facts:

- Under Today's BC Liberals, B.C. received Canada's only "A" grade by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business because we've cut red tape.
- Across B.C., small businesses keep more than a million people working.
- Small businesses drive almost 55 per cent of B.C. exports and represent 98 per cent of all our business.

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