



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 7, 2011

FINANCE COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES BUDGET 2012 CONSULTATION PROCESS

VICTORIA – The Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services announced today its plans for conducting province-wide budget consultations. The process will be based on the *Budget 2011 Consultation Paper*, which will be presented by the Minister of Finance to the Committee on September 15.

“We encourage interested individuals and organizations to make a contribution to this important process,” said Committee Chair John Les. “The consultation provides excellent opportunities for British Columbians to shape the province’s fiscal priorities.”

This year’s consultation process will include public hearings in 14 communities, and three videoconference hearings covering an additional nine communities. British Columbians are invited to attend the hearings or participate by sending a written or electronic submission, responding to the online survey, or submitting an audio or video file.

“We look forward to hearing the public’s opinions and priorities on the next provincial budget,” said Doug Donaldson, Deputy Chair. The all-party Committee will hold hearings in the following locations:

Vancouver	September 15
Fort Nelson	September 19
Smithers	September 20
Prince George	September 20
Williams Lake	September 21
Kamloops	September 21
Courtenay	September 22
Video-conference sessions	September 22
Terrace, Grand Forks, Nelson and Osoyoos	
Video-conference sessions	October 5
Dawson Creek, Fort St. John, Prince Rupert and Golden	
Victoria	October 7
Surrey	October 11
Chilliwack	October 12
Cranbrook	October 12
Kelowna	October 13
Richmond	October 14

Registration for the public hearings and video-conference sessions opens on Thursday, September 8 at 1:00 p.m. To register, please contact committee staff by phone, 1-877-428-8337, or by e-mail: FinanceCommittee@leg.bc.ca. For more information on the budget consultation process, please visit the Committee’s website at www.leg.bc.ca/budgetconsultations. The deadline for public input is Friday, October 14, and the Committee will release its report by Tuesday, November 15.

The members of the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services are:

Rob Howard, MLA (Richmond Centre), Chair;	Pat Pimm, MLA (Peace River North);
Doug Donaldson, MLA (Stikine), Deputy Chair;	Bruce Ralston, MLA (Surrey-Whalley);
Bill Bennett, MLA (Kootenay East);	Bill Routley, MLA (Cowichan Valley);
Mable Elmore, MLA (Vancouver-Kensington);	Dr. Moira Stilwell, MLA (Vancouver-Langara);
Dave S. Hayer, MLA (Surrey-Tynehead);	Jane Thornthwaite, MLA (North Vancouver-Seymour)

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