

BC SOLUTIONS

News & Commentary from the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives' BC Office | JANUARY 2023

**Metro
Vancouver
Living wage
\$24.08**



Housing, food and transportation costs drive living wage increases across BC

BY EMIRA MEARS

Significant increases to food, transportation and housing costs in 2022 resulted in the largest increases to BC living wage rates since we began calculating them in 2008.

The living wage is the hourly wage that two parents working full-time need to earn to support a family of four. While the rates are an important benchmark for measuring the income families require to meet their needs, the living wage is also a tool for policymakers to understand how public programs and services can make life more affordable. For example, policy changes in BC focused on child care affordability offset increases to living wage rates in 2019. Other policy initiatives like the elimination of MSP premiums in 2020 also helped improve affordability.

This year the rising cost of food and transportation alongside the ongoing lack of affordable housing contributed to significant living wage increases around the province. As CCPA-BC senior economists Iglia Ivanova and Alex Hemingway point out in this issue, policies that tackle housing affordability play a critical role in making life more affordable in our province, while also reducing the pressure on wages for employers.

This year's report, released in November, received a lot of media attention—see page 3. And if you're interested in diving deeper into affordability, on page 11 you will find a synopsis and link to a recording from a recent webinar with economist Jim Stanford that looked at inflation, rising interest rates and what a progressive response by governments should look like. [↑](#)

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BC Office

Living wage increases highlight urgent need to expand government efforts on housing affordability

BY IGLIKA IVANOVA & ALEX HEMINGWAY

Affordability has long been a concern for residents of Metro Vancouver—a region notorious for stratospheric housing costs—but with inflation shooting up to a 40-year high this year, the cost of living has become a much more pressing worry for many.



Sticker shock at ever-rising grocery prices is now an all-too-familiar experience, but as prices soar the pain is felt more acutely by those on fixed incomes and workers earning lower wages.

In Metro Vancouver, it now takes an hourly wage of \$24.08 per hour for two parents each working full-time to support a family of four—this is the 2022 living wage for Metro Vancouver. It is \$3.56 higher than last year because of the rapidly rising costs of living, especially for housing and food.

The living wage reflects the income a two-earner family of four needs to meet its basic needs, escape severe financial stress and participate in the social, civic and cultural lives of their community. The BC methodology was collaboratively developed in 2008 with academics and organizations working with low-income families, incorporating feedback from low-income working parents and employers. Since then it has served as the model for living wage calculations across Canada.

While the living wage is a call to employers to pay family-supporting wages (to direct and contract employees alike), the labour market alone cannot solve all problems related to economic insecurity. Our standard of living is a combination of earnings, benefits, government income supports and accessible

public services that reduce the cost of living.

Government policy can make a huge difference to families and reduce the wage pressure facing many employers, and has done so in the recent past.

The 2017 provincial election was won on the promise to make life more affordable across BC. Since then, the provincial government eliminated MSP premiums, brought in a new child benefit and made historic investments in child care. These actions concretely reduced the cost of living for families with young children and actually lowered the Metro Vancouver living wage rate in 2019. The savings were so substantial that they offset increases in the cost of food, housing and other essentials until this year. But they have now been effectively wiped out by ballooning rent and food costs.

The provincial and federal governments have made some important investments in affordable housing in recent years. But the scale of this investment is nowhere near what's needed to make up for two decades of inaction by austerity-minded governments.

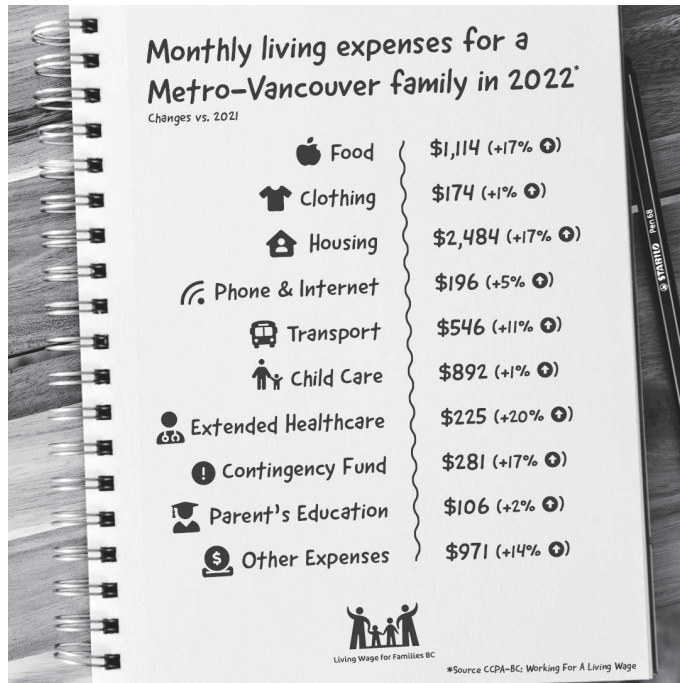
Housing costs will continue straining family budgets to the breaking point unless sky-high rents and the chronic shortage of affordable homes are addressed.

The time is now for BC to step up its game and massively increase investment in dedicated affordable housing. The province can afford to do so, even in the current uncertain economic environment. In the case of rental housing for middle-income earners, the government can structure public housing investments so that projects pay for themselves through the ongoing rental income they generate. To achieve more deeply affordable rents, separate subsidy streams, grants and cross-subsidization can be used. But we need a massive build-out that starts today.

Bringing rents down also requires close attention to the overall supply of housing. Tackling the rental shortage requires, among other things, an end to zoning policies that block the

construction of new apartments on the vast majority of residential land (while allowing the most expensive forms of detached housing virtually everywhere). Premier David Eby has hinted at possible interventions to tackle this problem from the provincial level if cities won't act.

Efforts to ease the underlying housing shortage will take time, however, and they should be complemented by stronger rent controls. When rental homes are vacated, landlords are free to raise rents to whatever market rate they can find a new tenant willing to pay. This creates an enormous gap between the rents that new and long-term tenants are paying. Bringing in a vacancy control policy would mean capping rent increases even when tenants move out and a unit is re-rented. Not only would this help curb spiking rents, it would also reduce the incentive for landlords to evict tenants.



Efforts to ease the underlying housing shortage will take time, however, and they should be complemented by stronger rent controls.

There are a number of other specific actions that governments can take to make life more affordable. Additional investments to further reduce child care fees and provide a dental benefit for young children were due in December and will benefit many families. But housing costs will continue straining family budgets to the breaking point unless sky-high rents and the chronic shortage of affordable homes are addressed.

Iglika Ivanova and Alex Hemingway are senior economists at the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives' BC Office.

Living wage news coverage reaches millions

The *Living Wage* release in November 2022 dominated news media headlines around the province. Anastasia French from the Living Wage for Families Campaign and CCPA-BC Office senior economist Iglika Ivanova were featured on TV, radio, print and online news outlets in communities across BC during the release.

In all, the new living wage rates were mentioned over 1,000 times in BC media, with a combined total reach of over 114 million readers, viewers and listeners.

Iglika appeared on several local CBC Radio News shows on the release day, and the increases in the living wage rates were prominently featured in stories on Global TV, CTV, CHEK TV, The Vancouver Sun, The Tyee, and in regional newspapers and other outlets.



BC private schools to collect \$491 million in public funding this year

BY ALEX HEMINGWAY

Private schools in BC will collect nearly half a billion dollars in public funding from the provincial government this year. This is in addition to further public subsidies—various tax exemptions and credits—to private schools, including elite prep schools.



Provincial operating subsidies to the private school system will rise to \$491 million this year, which is more than double the funding level in 2000/01 in inflation-adjusted terms. This far outstrips the rate of growth in funding to public K-12 education over the same period. Sensibly, half the provinces don't provide this type of public funding to private schools at all.

Repeated public opinion polls show that about two thirds of British Columbians oppose public funding for private schools,

Most BC private school subsidies flow to two major categories: religious schools and high-tuition elite prep schools. Additional public subsidies for private schools include property tax exemptions, tax breaks on donations and tuition and even a child care tax credit on a portion of tuition attributed to recess and lunch, a tax advantage that prep schools like Vancouver's St. George's have promoted to their clientele.

Repeated public opinion polls show that about two thirds of British Columbians oppose public funding for private schools,

rising to four in five opposed in the case of elite prep schools.

As subsidies flow to private schools, public school funding has fallen short while educators struggle to do more with less. Inadequate funding for students with special educational needs is one of the most glaring gaps in public schools today. Going back at least two decades, public schools have endured chronic underfunding and until recently BC had among Canada's lowest starting salaries for teachers.

BC's educators have accomplished a remarkable amount under these circumstances, but there is a cost to pay for underfunding. There is an urgent need to reinvest in our public schools now and fix the broken provincial funding formula, especially as it relates to special educational needs.

As subsidies flow to private schools, public school funding has fallen short while educators struggle to do more with less.

Having a strong and inclusive public education system is vital and BC has enough economic and fiscal capacity to increase funding. We're an extremely rich province, but an increasingly unequal one. Taking half a billion dollars in taxpayer funding from private schools and redirecting it to the public system is one measure that could help. An obvious place to start a phase-out of public funding to private schools is with high-tuition prep schools that account for more than 10% of private school subsidies.

Public schools have been underfunded for far too long in this province and students, including those with special educational needs, are not receiving the resources they need. The good news is BC has every ability to close the funding gap and reinvest in public education. Rather than continuing to massively subsidize private schools, these resources should be redirected to building stronger public schools for all.

Alex Hemingway is a senior economist and the public finance policy analyst at the CCPA-BC Office.

The End of This World: New book from the Corporate Mapping Project

The climate crisis is here, and the end of this world—a world built on land theft, resource extraction and colonial genocide—is on the horizon. *The End of This World, Climate Justice in So-Called Canada* is a new book authored by Corporate Mapping Project team members that outlines a compelling roadmap to a livable future where Indigenous sovereignty and climate justice go hand in hand.

Drawing on their work in Indigenous activism, the labour movement, youth climate campaigns, community-engaged scholarship and independent journalism, the authors—Angele Alook, Emily Eaton, David Gray-Donald, Joël Laforest, Crystal Lameman and Bronwen Tucker—challenge toothless proposals and false solutions to show that a just transition from fossil fuels cannot succeed without dismantling settler capitalism in Canada.

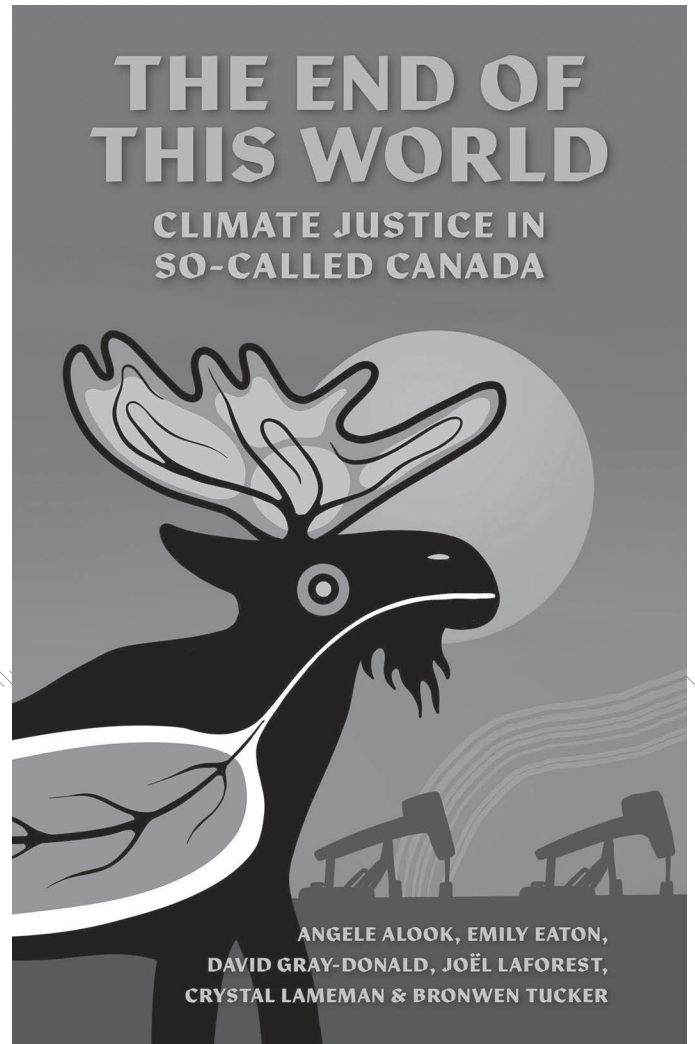
Together, they envision a near future where oil and gas stay in the ground; where a caring economy provides social supports for all; where wealth is redistributed from the bloated billionaire class; and where stolen land is rightfully reclaimed under the jurisdiction and sovereignty of Indigenous peoples.

Packed with clear-eyed analysis of both short- and long-term strategies for radical social change, *The End of This World* promises that the next world is within reach and worth fighting for. *The End of This World* will be available for purchase at your local bookseller on January 17, 2023.

You can learn more at an upcoming online book launch event hosted by Clifford Atleo (Kam'ayaam/Chachim'multhnii). Cliff is a Tsimshian (Kitselas/Kitsumkalum) and Nuu-chah-nulth



This book is part of the Corporate Mapping Project, a research and public engagement project investigating the power of the fossil fuel industry in Western Canada, led by the University of Victoria, the CCPA's BC and Saskatchewan offices and the Parkland Institute. This project was supported by the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada.



(Ahousaht) scholar, a member of the Corporate Mapping Project team member and an Assistant Professor at Simon Fraser University.

Online book launch: January 31

Please join us for a free online book launch event with the authors. If you are not able to join us, a video recording will also be available after the event at policynote.ca/end-of-this-world.

TUESDAY JANUARY 31, 2023

4:00-5:30 pm PT

FREE

Register at: policynote.ca/end-of-this-world



A climate reckoning

BY MARC LEE & BEN PARFITT

At the end of 2022, we released a new report, *A Climate Reckoning*, which provides a first-ever estimate of the total economic costs associated with BC's 2021 back-to-back extreme weather events, specifically the heat dome, wildfires, flooding and landslides. The study pegs those costs at \$10.6–\$17.1 billion. Much of that burden is carried by households and businesses.

The report brings a climate justice lens to the economics of extreme weather disasters and concludes that many billions of dollars in upgrades to infrastructure will need to be invested to better handle tomorrow's extreme weather events and therefore better protect all residents, in particular the most vulnerable.

Estimating the full cost of a disaster is not a straightforward exercise. In the immediate aftermath, the first (and often only) estimates are of insured damages to property. But our research goes deeper, considering lost income for workers due to business closures, lost productivity and specific impacts on communities, particularly on the vulnerable and marginalized.

The report includes interviews with people on the front lines

of 2021's extreme weather events, including one with owners of a cherry orchard that follows this article.

June: The heat dome

The heat dome that unfolded over four days in late June shattered temperature records and led to 619 heat-related deaths. Based on historical data, this was estimated to be a one-in-1,000-year event, but with a warming planet we have to assume such extreme heat will happen with growing frequency.

The closures of workplaces, as well as impacts on those who work directly outside or inside non-air-conditioned spaces, resulted in income loss for those workers. Farm workers, including

large numbers of migrant workers, are particularly vulnerable to the heat which intersects with long work days, difficult working conditions and substandard accommodations. Additionally, crop failures impacted farmers and worker income.

Due to their impact on traditional economic activities like fishing, hunting and trapping, uncontrolled wildfires have greater direct consequences for Indigenous communities.

Across the most affected sectors, such as food services, construction, agriculture and manufacturing, we estimate that \$205–\$328 million in income was lost. Heat waves are also associated with general productivity declines which, over the four days of maximum temperature, amount to an additional \$34–\$84 million in lost productivity.

A key labour aspect of the government response is emergency services. During the peak days of the heat dome, emergency services were overwhelmed, resulting in significant physical and mental health tolls on those workers.

We estimate British Columbians spent an additional \$8–\$14 million on electricity for cooling homes and offices during the heat dome.

July to September: Summer wildfires

2021 is now the third-worst wildfire season in BC’s history and those wildfires generated about 122 million tonnes (Mt) of CO₂, nearly double BC’s official greenhouse gas tally of 64.6 Mt in 2020.

The wildfire starting June 30 that destroyed the town of Lytton caused \$102 million in insured damages, while the White Rock Lake wildfire destroyed the community of Monte Lake, with insured damages estimated at \$77 million. Based on typical gaps in insurance industry coverage, we estimate non-insured damages at \$179–\$501 million.

Fires and smoke evacuations displaced almost 33,000 people, resulting in \$33–\$99 million in lost income.

The fires affected both CN Railway and Canadian Pacific Railway networks stranding thousands of rail cars and causing a backlog of freight deliveries. Workers were also affected by supply-related closures created by backlogs of shipping containers through the Port of Vancouver, and some shipments were rerouted outside Vancouver.

These labour market impacts are significant and we estimate \$281–\$463 million in losses due to work slowdowns in key affected sectors.

A record \$719 million was spent on firefighting compared to a budgeted allocation of \$136 million. Going back to 2008, the average cost of fighting fires in BC is \$301 million per year.

Table: Summary of economic costs

	Low	High
Heat dome		
millions of dollars		
General productivity	\$34	\$84
Income losses	\$205	\$328
Incremental electricity consumption	\$8	\$14
Wildfires		
Insured damages	\$179	\$215
Non-insured damages	\$179	\$501
Income losses	\$314	\$562
Public expenditures	\$1,023	\$1,216
Atmospheric river flooding & landslides		
Insured damages	\$675	\$675
Non-insured damages	\$1,575	\$4,950
Income losses	\$897	\$1,531
Public expenditures	\$5,520	\$7,020
Total economic costs	\$10,609	\$17,097
Source: Author’s calculations		

Indigenous communities are particularly at risk from wildfires. Several First Nations reported inadequate communications on the part of the province. Due to their impact on traditional economic activities like fishing, hunting and trapping, uncontrolled wildfires have greater direct consequences for Indigenous communities. In situations where rapid evacuation is needed, low-income households, people without vehicles or those who are unable to drive are made more vulnerable in areas affected by wildfire.

Smoke from the fires spread throughout BC affecting air quality hundreds of kilometres away. Particulate matter in wildfire smoke is bad for human health and has important economic ramifications: smoke adversely impacts outside workers and undermines productivity.

November: Atmospheric rivers and the big flood

Double the normal precipitation in September and October set the stage for a tragic November. The atmospheric river beginning November 13 unleashed massive amounts of rain over the next two days, with some places getting up to 300 mm. The result was extensive flooding in the Fraser Valley near Abbotsford as well as in Princeton and Merritt in the Interior. →

Public costs are still being tallied and will run into the billions of dollars. The most notable public infrastructure impacts include:

- Failure of dikes in the Fraser Valley, Merritt and Princeton areas.
- 24 highways at peak flooding.
- Landslides on Highway 7 which stranded drivers, and on Highway 99 where five people were killed.
- Damage to five bridges and closure of 20 sections of the Coquihalla Highway 5, loss of bridges and large sections of roadway in 25 locations of Highway 8.
- Damage to the Malahat Highway and other flooding near Duncan on Vancouver Island.
- Damage to an unspecified number of secondary roads and highways.

In 2021/22, an additional \$522 million was spent on disaster and emergency assistance related to the floods. BC Budget 2022 has committed \$400 million in 2022/23 and another \$1.1 billion over three years in contingencies for flood recovery. The federal government has promised \$5 billion for flood relief.

Insured damages are reported at \$675 million as of June 2022. The insurance industry pays about 12 cents per dollar of damage from overland flooding, implying about \$4.7 billion in non-insured damages. Even if we assume that private insurance covered a higher 30% of total damages, non-insured damages would be approximately \$1.5 billion.

/// The costs of the devastating climate events sum to \$10.6–\$17.1 billion, equivalent to 3-5% of provincial GDP.

Damages to private rail lines impacted CN Railway and Canadian Pacific Railway services, which didn't see a return to pre-flood productivity and capacity until more than a month after the washouts.

We estimate labour market impacts arising from the flooding based on known disruptions ranging from \$0.8 to \$1.4 billion, and only count BC workers, not potential supply chain impacts outside the province. Additionally, the flood-related displacement of 17,000 people translated to \$68–\$153 million in lost income.

Agriculture impacts were extensive to the more than 1,100 farms over 15,000 hectares in the Sumas Prairie in Abbotsford. About 200 farm workers from Mexico were displaced to

Abbotsford and Chilliwack.

Part of this story is the failure of the BC government to invest in dike upgrades in spite of warnings, which could cost several billion. Dikes are currently a municipal responsibility and local governments are hard-pressed to raise such large amounts of funding for dike upgrades.

Summary of economic costs

The costs of the devastating climate events discussed in the full report sum to \$10.6–\$17.1 billion, equivalent to 3-5% of provincial GDP. The commonly reported statistic of insured damages sums to \$854 million, or only 5–8% of the total costs. Based on industry statements about coverage, we estimate non-insured damages of \$1.7–\$5.1 billion—costs borne almost exclusively by households and businesses.

The BC government has spent a huge amount of public funds on fighting fires and other emergency responses. A large share of costs are government expenditures for replacement of infrastructure. Combined, these costs sum to \$6.1–\$7.6 billion or 46–60% of total economic costs. Our research also points to large labour market costs that are typically overlooked when damage reports are made, including lost income for workers and businesses. Totalling the estimates made above, we get a total labour market impact of \$1.5–\$2.6 billion or 15% of total economic costs.

Ideally, both the federal and BC governments will step up to commit substantial fiscal resources commensurate with the damages we have seen—from upgrading dikes to wildfire control to ensuring cooling systems are widespread. The fiscal implications are stark but doable: many billions of dollars in upgrades to infrastructure are needed so that they can better handle tomorrow's extreme weather events, and better systems can be developed to minimize adverse impacts during disasters and accelerate rebuilding in the aftermath.

Just as extreme weather disasters are an outcome of our collective failure to limit emissions at a global level, the solution lies in collective action, solidarity and quickly ending the reign of fossil fuels.

Marc Lee is a senior economist and Ben Parfitt is the resource policy analyst at the CCPA-BC. Their report, A Climate Reckoning: The economic costs of BC's extreme weather in 2021, can be downloaded at policyalternatives.ca/climate-reckoning. This research was undertaken by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives' BC Office in partnership with Vancity. The CCPA-BC thanks Vancity for their financial support of this research.

The 2021 heat dome: When fruit cooked on the trees and there were no cherries at No's orchard

BY BEN PARFITT & MARC LEE

When Don and Mary Nowoselski moved from Dawson Creek in northeast British Columbia to the Creston valley, they were looking for four distinct seasons, a little less winter and a bit more summer. A slice of land tucked near the US border in a fertile valley in the province's East Kootenay region seemed to fit the bill.

Don had landed a job teaching mechanics at the local school and the couple opted to purchase a house on three acres of land with hundreds of fruit trees on it. Don recalls they liked the idea of having a small patch of land but didn't think then that they'd become full-time orchardists.

"I don't know what happened," Don recalls. "It just kind of grew on us. We were not intending to get big, but it ended up being that."

Over the years, the couple amassed 23 acres of fruit trees which is relatively small by orchard standards but still amounts to 14,000 trees, most of which are four varieties of cherry: early season bings and lapins, and later season staccatos and sentenials. They called it No's Orchard. At school the students called him Mr. No instead of Nowoselski, so No's it was.

Over the decades, Don says there were challenging years when a preponderance of rain and cooler temperatures or its opposite resulted in lower crop yields. But he and Mary could handle that. Then came 2021 and the heat dome that changed everything.

"We lost 100 per cent of our crop. We didn't pick anything. It was just cooking, is what it was. The berries just cooked. I've never lost a complete crop ever in the 30 years we've been doing it. We just had to walk away from it. It was pretty devastating," Don recalls.

And then there were all the *trees* that died. Successful commercial orchardists constantly invest in new trees to replace aging stock. They also carefully select what trees they plant with an eye to the competition and markets. For BC cherry producers in the Okanagan and Kootenay regions, the big competition is across the border in the US. By having more BC cherry trees producing fruit later in the season, BC cherry growers gain some marketing advantage when US production starts to fall off.

"They overload the market with a whole bunch of fruit, and we just hope to go later and later and later from them so that we have a place to market our cherries," Don says. But the heat dome ended some of that hope. Not only was an entire crop wiped out, but half of the trees in the orchard were young. And of those young trees, half were killed.

Adding to the woes of the Creston valley's cherry growers,



great numbers of the best-producing older trees sustained major damage to their buds due to heat stress. So when 2022's crop came on, many orchards in the region had yields that were far below normal. Don and Mary got off comparatively easy. "We were probably down 20 per cent this year. But that's not bad compared to what others were down."

The sudden, near-total collapse of the 2021 BC cherry harvest also had a serious economic impact on the legion of seasonal farm laborers, many of whom travel to BC each year from Québec to treeplant on logging sites before turning to picking fruit.

At No's Orchard, picking starts in mid-July before ramping up to an intense month-long harvest throughout August. At its peak, a crew that typically rotates through several of Creston's smaller orchards might number between 50 and 100 pickers. On a given day, the more experienced pickers earn \$300 to \$400 per day or more, Don says. But good pickers can only make that kind of money if there's plentiful fruit to pick. And according to Don, one brutal season followed by another not so great one is taking a wider toll on the orchard industry.

Climate change is manifesting itself in labour shortages.

"Pickers are really hard to find now. It's temporary labour. It's hard to fill. And it's worse with the heat."

Our recommendations for the 2023 BC Budget

BY ALEX HEMINGWAY

I presented the CCPA-BC's recommendations for Budget 2023 to BC's Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services in June, as the government invited British Columbians to share their priorities for public investment. Given the major challenges facing our province today, we didn't shy away from shining a light on the big picture.



RECOMMENDATION: For the economic and social good, the government should take a mission-driven approach that can help meet the huge challenges of our time, including increasing public spending as a percentage of GDP and funding this through both borrowing and inequality-reducing taxes on the rich and corporations.

Evidence tells us that long-term underinvestment in key public services and infrastructure is both economically and socially destructive. Increased spending on public services, social supports and physical and social infrastructure comes with major economic benefits.

Yet, BC Budget 2022 planned for a continued decline in provincial operating spending as a share of GDP, which is projected to be 19.4% in 2022/23 and to fall to 18.6% by 2024/25. This is a significant drop from BC's spending levels two decades ago.

If we instead returned spending to 1999/00 levels, the provincial government would have about \$10 billion more available in this fiscal year alone (and rising in future years) to spend on urgent social and environmental priorities, compared to the currently planned operating budgets

RECOMMENDATION: Within this more expansive fiscal framework, the government should increase operating spending to address urgent social needs, recognizing that failing to invest adequately comes at a steep long-term economic cost.

BC faces urgent social needs in health and seniors' care, K-12 and post-secondary education, child care, public health including COVID-19, poverty, housing and ending toxic drug deaths. Using our fiscal capacity to increase spending in these areas is not only the right thing to do but also makes economic sense. Our research shows that spending on public services and social supports comes with major economic benefits, including higher

RECOMMENDATION: The government should increase badly needed capital investments in physical and social infrastructure.

productivity, spurring private investment and adding jobs.

The case for increased capital investment is strong. An analysis by economists from the International Monetary Fund finds that public investment "raises output in both the short and long term, crowds in private investment and reduces unemployment, with limited effect on the public debt ratio."

While BC's capital budget is more ambitious than its operating budget, the 1% of GDP increase in the capital budget promised in the fall of 2020 has not materialized. Levels of investment still fall short of what's necessary to address the backlog of badly needed and highly productive infrastructure projects, including in areas such as affordable housing, public and non-profit child care facilities, schools, hospitals, public transportation and climate action.

Alex Hemingway is a senior economist and the public finance policy analyst at the CCPA BC Office.

Farewell and thank you to outgoing Associate Director Emira Mears

BY SHANNON DAUB

It is with reluctance that we say goodbye to outgoing CCPA-BC Associate Director Emira Mears. Emira joined us in 2019 and over the past four years has made a tremendous contribution to the organization.

Emira is a profoundly kind and gracious person whose leadership unfailingly models these qualities. Once hired, she quickly gained the respect and trust of her staff colleagues and helped CCPA-BC successfully weather the significant pressures of recent years (including a leadership change following the departure of the founding Director and a global pandemic, to name just two). She is the kind of person who rolls up her sleeves and digs into work alongside team members while providing direction and guidance that ensures all the moving parts and pieces come together smoothly.

Everyone who's worked with Emira recognized her sharp strategic mind and extensive knowledge in areas like public communications, fundraising, digital engagement, event planning and group facilitation. Among many accomplishments, she leaves us with much stronger communications and donor support systems and has substantially increased the public profile



of our research and ideas.

Emira is among the many staff whose work happens largely behind the scenes but whose commitment to the CCPA-BC's values and drive for root-cause social change is tireless. We know that won't end even as she steps away from her role as Associate Director.

From all the staff and board at the CCPA-BC, Emira, *thank you!* We wish you a restful break and all the very best in whatever you take on next.

Pick your poison: Inflation, recession...or both

JIM STANFORD IN CONVERSATION WITH SHANNON DAUB & ALEX HEMINGWAY

On November 2nd of last year we held a virtual event with progressive economist and CCPA National steering committee member Jim Stanford to unpack the current state of the Canadian economy.

Titled "Pick your poison: inflation, recession...or both," Jim's talk looked at the current state of our economy as we weather the realities of inflation and a looming recession. With his trademark engaging wit, Jim broke down the factors that have led to current levels of inflation and also zeroed in on the pitfalls of economic policies that rely too heavily on raising interest rates and why, by doing so, the Bank of Canada may in fact deepen a coming recession.

CCPA-BC director Shannon Daub and senior economist Alex Hemingway joined Jim to delve deeper into a discussion of the economic outlook and what a more progressive policy response could be. Shannon, Alex and Jim were joined by over 300 people who attended the webinar.

You can watch a recording of the event at vimeo.com/ccpa. Sign up for our email newsletter to find out about future online events and recordings by visiting policynote.ca/subscribe.



Why becoming a CCPA–BC monthly donor matters

BY RAV KAMBO

When you sign up to become a CCPA-BC monthly donor you join an important group of supporters who care about the future of our province. Support from monthly donors provides stable funding that enables us to focus on our core research and public engagement efforts.

Monthly giving is affordable and convenient. As little as 34 cents a day (\$10/month) can make a difference. You can donate by automatic credit card (VISA or Mastercard) payments or automatic withdrawal from your bank account.

We are stronger together. With your support we can continue to push for the solutions needed to meaningfully address the climate crisis, tackle inequality and achieve economic and social justice.

Signing up is easy

There are three ways you can sign up to become a monthly donor:

1. Complete the donation slip provided and mail it back to us in the postage-paid envelope.
2. Sign up online at policyalternatives.ca/bc-give.
3. Call us at 604-801-5121 ext. 231 and we can set up your monthly gift.

If you have any questions about becoming a monthly donor, please contact me at rav@policyalternatives.ca or 604-801-5121 ext. 225.

Thank you for making the CCPA's work possible!

BC SOLUTIONS

News and commentary from the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives' BC Office

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The CCPA-BC is located on unceded Coast Salish territory, including the lands belonging to the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səliwətaʔ/Səlilwítlh (Tseil-Waututh) Nations.

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