

The Honourable Stan Hagen, Minister of Sustainable
Resource Management, October 17, 2002

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2 MINISTER OF SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

3 OPENING REMARKS

4 October 17, 2002

5 Strategies for Public Sector Transformation 2002

6 Good morning and what a privilege it is for me to
7 be here with you this morning. You know when you're in
8 politics, you have no idea that things like this go on,
9 and I know that somebody has to do the work, so it's
10 great to see you all here this morning.

11 I just want to talk a bit about strategies for
12 public sector transformation. And this makes
13 government more effective, more efficient in delivering
14 the necessary services while reducing the costs of
15 those services, which is something we struggle with as
16 Ministers every day. This is, indeed, a very timely
17 and important topic.

18 On behalf of the Government of British Columbia, I
19 would like to congratulate last night's public sector
20 information technology award winners, who were
21 recognized for excellence in developing IT systems.

22 Information is unique among resources, in that,
23 after you use it, you still have it. And it is not at
24 risk of depletion, as you email in-baskets will
25 testify. Your in-baskets also remind you that there is

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1 only value and information if it is managed, organized,
2 accurate, and available. Of course, we must manage the
3 cost of information systems, being careful not to spend
4 more than the potential benefit the information system
5 will provide. And there must be sensible constraints
6 on the use of information so that we can protect
7 individual privacy.

8 I want to talk a bit about the Premier's
9 technology council. In August of last year, Premier
10 Gordon Campbell announced the formation of a Premier's
11 technology council. The council's mandate is to
12 provide advice to the Premier on all technology related
13 issues facing British Columbia. The council has
14 released three reports identifying strategies and
15 recommendations to further British Columbia's
16 technology industry. The Premier's technology council
17 believes that beyond simply using technology, British
18 Columbia is capable of moving towards a leadership
19 position in the ongoing technology revolution.

20 Information systems, such as those honoured at
21 last night's award ceremony, can both improve
22 government services and reduce government costs. Some
23 of the government initiatives we are now seeing will be
24 sustainable resources for the future. Platforms on
25 which we can build new, effective, efficient services.

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1 For example, let's look at last night's award winners.
2 The Ministry of Human Resources, Electronic Services
3 Initiative, will help the ministry move from a
4 traditional service delivery model to alternative and
5 electronic models. The Ministry of Competition,
6 Science and Enterprise, Small Business Branch, One-stop
7 Business Registration System, will streamline the
8 business registration process at all levels of
9 government from many days and weeks to less than one
10 hour. JUSTIN, the Justice Information System,
11 developed by the Ministry of the Attorney General, Cost
12 Services Division and IT Services Division, will allow
13 justice system workers to process and manage cases
14 using a common approach. The B.C. Ferries Corporate,
15 Financials and Maintenance Management Project, will
16 help streamline financial document management. The
17 Vital Information Statistics Project developed by the
18 Ministry of Health Planning, information management
19 group, provides a single support system for provincial
20 statistical data. And the B.C. Centre for Disease
21 Control's Public Health Information System is a web
22 based system designed to provide useful health
23 information to British Columbians. It will be rolled
24 out across British Columbia and Canada.

25 These six very different projects all represent

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1 the kind of innovation that we are going to need to
2 make British Columbia a leader in technology innovation
3 and effective use of information.

4 My Ministry, the Ministry of Sustainable Resource
5 Management, is responsible for providing leadership for
6 sustainable economic development of the Province's land
7 and water and resources. Many British Columbians need
8 access to registry, resource and geographic information
9 to make critical business decisions. So my Ministry,
10 in partnership with other agencies, is undertaking a
11 number of information system projects that will
12 streamline and make the information more accessible to
13 British Columbians.

14 The Integrated Registries Project will create a
15 central registry for all tenures and other encumbrances
16 on Crown Land and resources to make it easier for
17 businesses to provide development, and acquire land and
18 resource rights in British Columbia. The Integrated
19 Pedestrial (PHONETIC) Information Society Project is a
20 non-profit, public/private partnership that will allow
21 members to access integrated private parcel and utility
22 information that is accurate and integrated. The
23 Integrated Land and Resources Data Warehouse will
24 provide web-based access to integrated land and
25 resource information for other government agencies,

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1 industry, and the public for many applications. The
2 proposed applications will be available over the
3 Internet and will use a map based geographic framework
4 to navigate the land and resource information and
5 related services. The Land Titles Office is automating
6 the submission and filing of change in private land
7 titles through the electronic filing project.
8 Documents will be exchanged electronically using
9 electronic signatures, with the computer version being
10 given original status. Technology checks and balances
11 will ensure the validity of both the electronic
12 instrument and the signature. The Provincial Base Line
13 Atlas Project will provide a geographic reference map
14 against which all environmental, social and economic
15 information can be referenced by its location. The
16 project will allow the use of satellite geographic
17 positioning systems, or GPS, and the road network data
18 to support critical services, including 911 emergency
19 response. It will allow enhanced delivery of web based
20 government services by integrating social, economic and
21 environmental data to geographic location, critically
22 important for industries or businesses planning to
23 locate in this province.

24 All of you attending today's conference,
25 government end users and executives, government

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1 information technology experts, and private sector
2 suppliers of tools and expertise represent the partners
3 that are needed to build effective information systems.
4 The One-stop Business Registration System I mentioned
5 earlier and information system projects in my Ministry
6 represent public and private partnerships and related
7 opportunities. The JUSTIN Project required an
8 unprecedented interagency effort to produce business
9 standards, protocols, and agreements. The Vital
10 Information Statistics Project required some innovative
11 approaches to team building and skills development.
12 Partnerships are what we need to build powerful,
13 effective and efficient information systems.

14 In conclusion, I'd like to say that I'm pleased to
15 see you getting together today to listen to
16 inspirational ideas and to get to meet one another.
17 And again, I congratulate this year's public sector
18 information technology awards recipients. Thank you
19 very much and please enjoy the rest of the conference.

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21 (PRESENTATION ENDS)

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