

Transcript: Minister Hansen Media Scrum Legislation Introduced to Maintain Strong Economy

Hansen: I've done a lot of traveling around the province in the last five weeks, into the East Kootenays, Revelstoke area, and the North end of Vancouver Island, up through the Northwest, Prince George, since the Premier made his announcements on October the 22nd and I can tell you the small business community is pretty excited about these measures.

Every indication that I've got, really, back to me, is that they think the Premier's 10-point plan was exactly the kind of measures that were needed to stimulate the economy at this time.

Reporter: You're describing it as 'B.C.'s strong economy. Would you really describe the economy right now as strong?

Hansen: Relative to just about every other jurisdiction in North America, British Columbia is doing remarkably well.

It's not to say that we're not being buffeted by the international economic challenges that the world is facing, we are a jurisdiction that relies on international trade for our basic standard of living.

And clearly when you see our growth in GDP start to come down as we indicated in the September economic update and think some of you have also seen some of the private sector forecasters bring those numbers down even further.

So next week, when I present the Q[2] I will present as well a summary of some of the economists' projections for the economy.

But what is important when you look at those numbers is that British Columbia, according to all the leading economists, can still anticipate positive economic growth in this very difficult time. So our economy is strong compared to just about every other jurisdiction in North America.