



July 30, 2015

Honourable Amrik Virk
Minister of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, British Columbia
V8V 1X4

Dear Minister:

On behalf of the people of British Columbia, I would like to thank you for the contributions made by you and your ministry over the past 12 months to make our province stronger.

You have been part of a government that has continued to deliver on the promises we made in our election platform, Strong Economy, Secure Tomorrow during the past 24 months. Balancing the budget for a third time, having our triple A credit rating confirmed and re-confirmed as stable by Moody's Investors Service, and continuing to support the growth of a diverse economy are all accomplishments of which we collectively and you individually can be rightly proud.

I am very pleased to note that you and each of your colleagues were again able to live within your voted legislative budgets. The people of our province elect us to work on their behalf—to control spending.

Living within our means is demonstrating our respect for the people of our province and the tax dollars they send to Victoria. By keeping government lean and reducing the cost of administration, we can make significant investments in people and the infrastructure on which they depend to succeed in a strong and growing economy.

As a result of our strong fiscal position, we have been able to provide new assistance to single parents as they return to the workforce, greater income exemptions for single parents on income assistance and continued record investments in funding for public health care, education and transportation—services on which families depend.

Our government is resolute in our desire to grow the economy as a way to enable more British Columbians to participate in the economy and obtain meaningful, family-supporting work. The work your ministry does each and every day to contribute to these efforts are noticed and valued.

In particular, I would like to congratulate you and your ministry for:

- Investing \$6 million in the BC Innovation Council's Tech Works program to provide funds to BC technology start-up companies to hire undergraduate or graduate students in the province
- Implementing the BC Co-op Grant program to enable technology companies to access grants to offset the cost of student training and job readiness
- The extension of the Small Business Venture Tax Credit program

As you know, the annual mandate letter you receive is designed to be an ongoing workplan for your ministry that is updated on an annual basis. You will undoubtedly notice some changes since last June.

Your mandate for the following year is as follows:

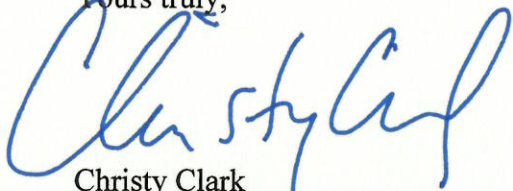
1. Balance your ministerial budget in order to control spending and ensure an overall balanced budget for the province of British Columbia.
2. Support diversification of the BC economy by delivering a Technology and Innovation Strategy that identifies and addresses barriers to growth of the technology sector in B.C. with public release by December 31, 2015.
3. Work with the Ministries of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training and Advanced Education on the development of a 10-year skills plan for BC's Technology Sector.
4. Deliver the Developers Exchange (DevX) pilot in cooperation with DataBC and report outcomes and findings.
5. Review regulations within your ministry to continue to reduce the red tape and regulatory burden for BC businesses and individuals.
6. Continue to implement the BC Services Card and report to Cabinet on the potential to expand its use.
7. Work with the Ministry of Finance to expand the BC Training Tax Credit program to include co-op placements in small technology firms as committed in Strong Economy, Secure Tomorrow for the 2016/17 budget.
8. Work with the Ministry of Finance to make permanent the \$3 million increase in the value of the Small Business Venture Tax Program for BC companies and add an additional \$2 million to the program to fulfill our commitment in Strong Economy, Secure Tomorrow.

9. Work with the Ministries of Advanced Education and International Trade to develop and present options to Cabinet on ways to improve the availability of venture capital funding in British Columbia.
10. Work with the Ministries of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Development and Health to make recommendations to Cabinet on how to ensure the Life Sciences industry continues to grow and thrive in British Columbia.
11. Work with the Ministry of Education on the upgrading of the Provincial Learning Network and its conversion from copper to fibre optic circuits in schools across British Columbia as part of the TELUS Strategic Investment Fund.
12. Work with the federal government to continue to improve access for high-speed internet connectivity for residents of BC's rural communities.
13. Work with the Minister of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction, to develop a strategy to encourage provincial ministries, crown corporations and agencies to more fully open procurement to BC technology companies.

In addition, as discussed and approved by Cabinet, our government is committed to ensuring British Columbia government services are easily accessed by our citizens and businesses. Minister Coralee Oakes will be leading this initiative on my behalf and over the following 12 months she will be reaching out to all ministries to assist in reducing unnecessary red tape and regulation.

It is hard to believe but it has been two years since the people of British Columbia put their faith in us to lead their province. We have accomplished much in those two years, but much work remains to deliver the promise of a strong economy and secure tomorrow for our citizens. I look forward to working with you over the coming year.

Yours truly,



Christy Clark
Premier of British Columbia