



Honourable Donna Barnett
Minister of State for Rural Economic Development
Parliament Buildings,
Victoria, BC
V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Barnett,

Congratulations on your appointment to the position of Minister of State for Rural Economic Development. You have been a powerful voice for rural British Columbia since your election in 2009 and I look forward to you continuing to advocate for rural economic development at the Cabinet table.

In particular, I would like to commend you for your leadership in successfully leading the Rural Advisory Committee as it made recommendations to government on how to continue to grow the economy in rural British Columbia.

Your mandate for the remainder of our government's mandate is as follows:

1. Working with the Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations,
2. Continue to work with the Rural Advisory Committee to provide advice to government on ways to improve rural economic development by developing a new rural economic development strategy by March 31, 2017.
3. Oversee implementation of the Rural Dividend Program to improve rural economic development and access to capital.
4. Finalize funding announcements for the second intake of the Rural Dividend Program and distribute the first year funding (\$25M) by end of fiscal year.
5. Support the Ministry of Education with the Rural Education Review, which will assess the economic, social and cultural impact rural schools and their closures have on small communities.
6. Continue to work with CSCD and JTST to prepare for and minimize the impact of timber supply reductions caused by the mountain pine beetle. This includes identifying communities that could be impacted by timber supply reductions and developing, with

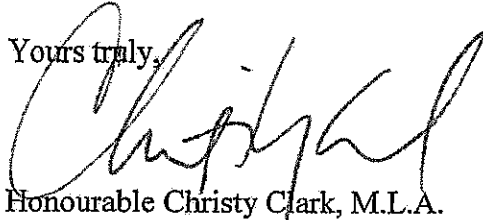
the relevant MLAs, a work plan and schedule, to engage those communities through community outreach sessions.

The Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations with the Minister of State for Rural Economic Development will continue to hold accountability for regular reports to government on the rural development mandate.

The Minister of State for Rural Economic Development will continue to ensure alignment between government programs with a rural economic focus.

Once again, congratulations on your new appointment and I look forward to your contributions to securing economic activity in rural British Columbia.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christy Clark', written over the typed name.

Honourable Christy Clark, M.L.A.
Premier of British Columbia