



BRITISH  
COLUMBIA

July 30, 2015

Honourable Mary Polak  
Minister of Environment  
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:

- Your efforts to ensure prompt clean-up following the bunker fuel spill by the Marathassa bulk carrier in English Bay
- Your continued efforts on protecting British Columbia from potential oil spills with your work on our provincial land-based spill policy development
- Your efforts following the collapse of the Mount Polley tailings pond facility

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 achieve an overall balanced budget for the province of British Columbia.
2. Work with Emergency Management British Columbia and federal government agencies to review and make recommendations to Cabinet ways to improve oil spill safety and response following the Simushir power failure on the North Coast and Marathassa bunker fuel spill in English Bay.
3. Work with the members of the Climate Leadership Team and develop options for Cabinet on how to move forward with our new Climate Leadership Plan, the BC government's next generation of climate policy leadership.
4. With the Premier's Office, prepare for and position British Columbia to make a meaningful contribution prior to attending the United Nations Climate Change Conference COP 21 in Paris this winter.
5. Working with the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, undertake an analysis of the impact of lower snowpacks and retreating glaciers on the forests of British Columbia and make recommendations to cabinet on strategies to protect our forests from any impacts of climate change.
6. Work with the Ministry of Energy and Mines and Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations to provide options to Cabinet on a wildlife access corridor in southeast British Columbia.
7. Complete the land-based heavy oil spill response studies and consultations and make recommendations to Cabinet on how to ensure our spill response regime requirements are consistent with the Premier's Five Conditions.

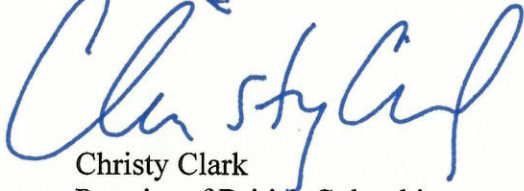


8. Monitor the progress and participate in the Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain Pipeline expansion environmental review conducted by the federal National Energy Board.
9. Work with Parliamentary Secretary Jordan Sturdy and his Roundtable on the Environment and Economy to promote environmentally responsible economic development in British Columbia.

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christy Clark". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Christy" and the last name "Clark" clearly distinguishable.

Christy Clark  
Premier of British Columbia