



December 7, 2022

Honourable Mike Farnworth
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General and Deputy Premier
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Farnworth:

Thank you for agreeing to continue to serve as Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General as well as serving as Deputy Premier. I trust in your leadership at this critical time to deliver results for the people of British Columbia.

British Columbians continue to recover from and respond to the upheaval caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and climate related natural disasters, while global inflation is driving up costs for more households and the world's economic outlook is concerning. Now more than ever, we need to focus on building a secure, low emission, sustainable economy, and a province where everyone can find a good home – whether you live in a rural area, in a city, or in an Indigenous community. We will continue working toward true and meaningful reconciliation by supporting opportunities for Indigenous Peoples to be full partners in the inclusive and sustainable province we are building together.

Our government is committed to delivering on the mandate British Columbians gave us in 2020. Together we can make life better for people in B.C., improve the services we all rely on, and ensure a sustainable province for future generations.

As we renew our work, my priority as Premier is to deliver results that people can see and feel in four key areas:

- **Attainable and affordable housing:** In the wake of soaring prices and record migration to B.C., we will take on the important work of building new homes that are actually attainable for the middle class, while continuing our work to address the housing crisis for those in distress on our streets.

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- **Safer communities:** To address concerns about public safety, both for the people struggling with mental health and addiction on our streets, as well as the feeling that downtown centres are not as safe as they were before the pandemic, we will work with our partners at all levels of government, the justice and health care systems, the non-profit sector, and community leaders to find solutions for this complex challenge facing our province, and work overtime to seize the assets of high-level criminals.
- **Improved health care:** Amid unprecedented pressures we will continue to work to strengthen our public health care system, from family doctors to new hospitals, so care is there for each of us when we need it.
- **A sustainable, clean, secure, and fair economy:** We will continue our work investing in British Columbians, fighting racism and promoting equity, and building a clean economy that addresses our obligations to combat climate change by driving down emissions, while creating good, family supporting jobs.

Public safety is front of mind for many British Columbians who feel that their city centres and downtowns are not as safe as they were before the pandemic. No one agency can solve these complex problems linked to mental health and addiction alone, and no one level of government has all the tools to respond to the many factors that have created this issue. Coordination and cooperation across sectors and governments is needed.

Further, a public inquiry in our province has identified that British Columbia has been used as a hub for organized crime to launder billions of dollars through our economy. Gang shootings and related crime are simply fighting over the profits of the deadly fentanyl crisis and other illicit activities. Those who profit from death and misery should find no comfort here in our province – seizing luxury goods, homes and cars will send a strong message that they're not welcome here. These efforts will also send a strong message to young people attracted to the luxury trappings of gang life.

Indigenous Peoples are both disproportionately incarcerated in our province, and disproportionately victims of crime, so ensuring that we are implementing the recommendations of the First Nations Justice Strategy will help us provide the services and supports to make everyone safer while breaking the cycle that brings people into conflict with the law in a real and sustainable way.

Since 2020, our government has made considerable progress on important initiatives including:

- Reducing vehicle insurance costs for people by moving ICBC to an enhanced care model and delivering rebates to drivers.

- Expanding the successful 'situation table' model, connecting front-line workers from different sectors to better help vulnerable people.
- Providing additional resources for women fleeing violence and for community-based sexual assault response organizations.
- Passing legislation targeting illegal and imitation firearms that give police additional tools and help make our communities safer.
- Supporting B.C. restaurants and hospitality businesses through the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond, capping food delivery app fees and making permanent initiatives that were implemented during the pandemic, including the expansion of service areas and allowing restaurants and pubs to purchase alcohol at wholesale cost.

As you continue to make progress on items in your previous mandate letter, over the remaining period of this mandate I expect you to prioritize making progress on the following:

- Implement the recommendations of the Special Committee on Reforming the Police Act, including working with the support of the Parliamentary Secretary for Anti-Racism Initiatives to address systemic racism, including interim and long-term policy, regulatory and legislative changes.
- Convene roundtables with community leaders across the province on safety issues in their communities to identify ways to work in partnership on these issues.
- Lead work to improve public safety in our communities, including the implementation of the Safer Communities Action Plan, to address repeat and violent offending, with the support of the Attorney General and the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions.
- Continue to advocate for federal government reforms related to public safety.
- Work with ICBC to improve the experience of pedestrians and cyclists involved in vehicle collisions.
- Work with the Attorney General and the First Nations Justice Council to address the disproportionate incarceration of Indigenous peoples through the implementation of the First Nations Justice Strategy.

- With support from the Attorney General, explore coordination of provincial regulatory enforcement teams, including for tobacco, liquor, gambling and cannabis.
- Work with the Minister of Finance to target proceeds of crime for high level organized criminals, in line with Cullen Commission recommendations.
- With support from your Cabinet colleagues, continue work to implement the Calls for Justice of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.
- Work with the Law Foundation of British Columbia to develop a proposal to enhance and expand restorative justice programs across the province.
- Support police efforts to combat gangs and criminal organizations that fuel the toxic drug supply and increase support for initiatives that are proven to prevent and reduce serious crime.
- Support the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions to free up police to focus on serious crime through provincial investments in community-based mental health and social service front-line workers, such as Peer-Assisted Care Teams.
- Support the work of the Minister of Housing to better coordinate services to deliver improved outcomes for people living in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, in collaboration with the Ministers of Mental Health and Addictions, Health, and Social Development and Poverty Reduction, as well as Indigenous Peoples, external partners, and others.

Our work together must continue to evolve to meet the changing needs of people in this province. Issues not contemplated by this letter will come forward for government action and I ask you to bring such matters forward for consideration by the Planning and Priorities Committee of Cabinet, with the expectation that any proposed initiatives will be subject to the usual Cabinet and Treasury Board oversight and include measurable outcomes for British Columbians. Your ministry's priorities must reflect our government's overall strategic plan as determined by Cabinet.

British Columbians expect their elected representatives to work together to advance the public good. That means seeking out, fostering, and championing good ideas regardless of their origin. I expect you to reach out to elected members from all parties as you deliver on your mandate. Further, you will build thoughtful and sustained relationships both with title holders and through public and stakeholder engagement plans that incorporate diverse perspectives early in the policy development process. Federal partnerships and

resources will be particularly important and, on behalf of our government, you will engage with the federal government on advancing priorities to improve the lives of British Columbians.

As a Cabinet, we will uphold the highest standards of ethics, collaboration, and good conduct in service of the public, and as a Minister of the Crown, you are expected to review, understand, and act according to the *Members' Conflict of Interest Act*. You will establish a collaborative working relationship with your Deputy Minister, and the public servants under their direction, who provide the professional, non-partisan advice that is fundamental to delivering on our government's priorities. Your Minister's Office must meet the highest standards for integrity and provide a respectful, rewarding environment for all staff.

The rural and urban challenges that we face are urgent and complex. In response, we must be forward-thinking, strategic, and ready to work across disciplines and old divisions in new ways. Labour shortages are a major issue globally, and British Columbia is no exception, including in the public service. Maintaining the BC Public Service as an employer of excellence will be key to retaining and recruiting the diverse professionals we rely on to deliver essential services, advice, and analysis.

At the core of this work is listening and responding to the priorities of people in B.C. Together, we can deliver results in very real ways – ways that people can see, feel, and touch, and that change their lives for the better. Thank you for doing this important work with me.

Sincerely,



David Eby, KC
Premier