

## B.C. Climate [Solutions](#) Council

**David Black**, President, MoveUP  
**Toni Boot**, Mayor,  
District of Summerland  
**Ian Bruce**,  
Acting Executive Director,  
David Suzuki Foundation  
**Colleen Giroux-Schmidt**, Vice  
President, Corporate Relations,  
Innergex Renewable Energy  
**Matt Horne**, Climate Policy  
Manager, City of Vancouver  
**Lydia Hwitsum**, First Nations  
Summit Political Executive  
**Mark Jaccard**, School of Resource  
and Environmental Management  
Director, Simon Fraser University  
**Khelsilem**, Councillor,  
Squamish Nation Council  
**Adriana Laurent**, Co-Founder and  
Project Administrator,  
UBC Climate Hub  
**Scott Maloney**, Vice President,  
Environment, Teck Resources Ltd.  
**Skye McConnell**, Manager of  
Policy and Advocacy, Shell Canada  
**Kurt Niquidet**, Vice President,  
Council of Forest Industries  
**Nancy Olewiler**, School of  
Public Policy Director,  
Simon Fraser University  
**Danielle (DJ) Pohl**, President,  
Fraser Valley Labour Council  
**Arjun Singh**, Councillor,  
City of Kamloops  
**Merran Smith**, Executive Director,  
Clean Energy Canada  
**Karen Tam Wu**, Regional Director  
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Pembina Institute  
**Jill Tipping**, President & Chief  
Executive Officer,  
BC Tech Association  
**Joie Warnock**, Assistant to the  
President, Unifor

April 13, 2021

TO: Minister Heyman

### **RE: Climate Solutions Council recommendations on a whole of government approach to climate action**

As part of the Climate Solution Council's annual work-planning, Council members were polled on what areas of focus they would like to provide advice to government. A key topic that surfaced among Council members was the need to ensure there is a 'whole of government' approach to CleanBC policy development and implementation. In particular, the Council is interested in encouraging government to maintain progress on CleanBC implementation and ensure government has a clear path to meeting its 2030 climate targets, and a sustainable low-carbon society and economy.

The Council is pleased with the recent mandate letters and the inclusion of climate action as a foundational principle across all ministries. However, with more than 40 climate-related commitments across 15 ministries, the Council notes that – regardless of climate action as a key cross government initiative – progress on CleanBC implementation will only succeed if government's actions are coordinated.

While the Council recognizes that the establishment of the Planning & Priorities Secretariat is an excellent first step in ensuring decisions coming to Cabinet committees consider their effects on B.C. climate policy, the Council encourages government to continue identifying ways to ensure the objectives of CleanBC are considered in all government decision-making.

The purpose of this letter is to provide initial observations on how government might better advance CleanBC's goals and ensure that B.C.'s climate leadership is recognized here in B.C. and elsewhere. As the Council proceeds with its work over the coming months, it may take the opportunity to refresh or add to the observations below.

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### Initial observations on a whole of government approach to climate action

The Council provides the following thoughts for consideration to improve CleanBC implementation and outcome.

#### *Communication:*

- While polling shows that the majority of B.C. citizens support strong climate action, many people remain unaware of the B.C. government's climate leadership. The B.C. government has a good story that is not always finding an audience, partly because many ministries are unaware that their programs (e.g., transportation and housing) are an opportunity to profile CleanBC and climate action and partly because government communications are not sufficiently coordinated to communicate to the public that **climate action is economic action, is fundamental to reconciliation**, and improves the health and safety of all citizens.
- Many ministries that have a major role in delivering CleanBC miss opportunities to profile these responsibilities or the benefits that climate action provides. For example, the Ministries of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation and Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation have no mention of CleanBC on their home pages, yet they are central to CleanBC implementation and putting the province on a path to a sustainable, low carbon economy.

#### *Coordination*

- Improved coordination and collaboration between different levels of government, while respecting jurisdiction, is essential. Federal, provincial, Indigenous and local governments all need to work in coordination and enhance their various efforts to maximize results by making best use of available funding. Using local government as an example, the Council refers to work undertaken by the UBCM on better linking local and provincial governments on climate action. Specific initiatives include:
  - o Partnering with local and Indigenous governments to scale up climate solutions (e.g. the UBCM signature initiatives);
  - o Expanding the tools that local governments have to reduce carbon pollution (e.g. the Help Cities Lead campaign); and
  - o Building capacity with local government leaders on key CleanBC policies.

The Council would also like to emphasize the importance of Indigenous peoples and their Nations' roles in both the mitigation and adaptation aspects of climate action and the need to acknowledge that reconciliation is a fundamental component of climate action.

The [Climate Solutions Council](#) provides strategic advice to the B.C. government on climate action and clean economic growth. It includes members from First Nations, environmental organizations, industry, academia, youth, labour, and local government.

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### *Ambition*

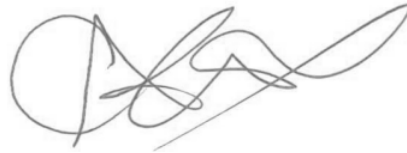
- While previously announced CleanBC policies are being implemented, government should actively pursue new policies that both help the province meet its climate targets, while improving business competitiveness and B.C.'s global economic position. As an example, a whole of government 'buy clean' policy could be implemented that would require provincial building and infrastructure projects to use low carbon building materials (e.g. low carbon concrete or carbon-storing wood products).

In summary, we encourage you to champion an all of government approach to CleanBC with your colleagues. We continue to work with the Climate Action Secretariat who are playing a central, effective role in CleanBC, and we expect to provide specific advice on how government can better implement CleanBC as a whole of government initiative over the coming months.

Regards,



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Clean Energy Canada  
Co-Chair, B.C. Climate Solutions Council



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