

December 7, 2022

Janet Routledge, MLA
Parliamentary Secretary for Labour
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Parliamentary Secretary Routledge:

Thank you for agreeing to serve as Parliamentary Secretary for Labour. 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.

As Parliamentary Secretary, you will assist the Minister of Labour in carrying out ministerial duties in the House and speaking on the government's behalf when issues arise in the absence of the Minister. You will also play an important role in engaging British Columbians by representing the Minister at public events, delivering speeches on behalf of the Minister, or acting as a spokesperson for the government's position. You will reach out to stakeholders, businesses, civil society, and people across B.C. to better understand their perspectives and bring their views to the Minister.

You will work with your Minister to help advance these shared responsibilities:

- Support development and maintenance of relationships with organized labour to ensure their feedback is considered in policy development.
- Continue work to develop a precarious work strategy that reflects the diverse needs and unique situations of today's workers and workplaces.
- Propose employment standards and other protections relevant to app-based ride hail and food delivery drivers.
- Investigate the feasibility of a government-backed collective benefit fund and access to a voluntary pooled-capital pension plan for workers who do not otherwise have coverage.
- Review labour policy innovations in other jurisdictions related to the emerging economy and precarious work to identify trends that may inform the development of labour policy in British Columbia.

 Work with the Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills to develop partnerships between labour and business organizations to identify and advance in-demand programs that will ensure workers have the skills they need to participate in the new economy.

Your Minister is responsible and accountable for their ministry and their mandate; all key decisions will be made by them. You will understand your Minister's policy goals, develop a deep understanding of the issues, build thoughtful and sustained relationships both with title holders and through public and stakeholder engagement plans, and provide your best advice to the public service as they develop options for decision by the Minister.

You will collaborate with your Minister, ministry, and the Premier's Office to develop a workplan to guide your efforts, including detail on how the professional public service will support your work.

All members are expected to review, understand, and act according to the *Members' Conflict of Interest Act* and conduct themselves with the highest level of integrity. As a Parliamentary Secretary, your conduct will reflect not only on you, but on your Minister and our government.

You will establish a collaborative working relationship with your Minister, your Minister's staff, and the public servants who provide the professional, non-partisan advice that is fundamental to delivering on our government's priorities.

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