



January 15, 2024

Honourable Anne Kang
Minister of Municipal Affairs
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Kang:

Thank you for agreeing to serve as Minister of Municipal Affairs. 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.

Municipalities and Regional Districts are vital partners for our government. As the front lines of service delivery, municipal and regional leaders see opportunities and challenges firsthand in their communities and can help our government ensure programs succeed on the ground. From housing, to healthcare, to public safety, to economic development, municipal and regional partners will help us deliver on the priorities of British Columbians.

Many local leaders are seeing fast growth in their cities and towns thanks to record high numbers of people moving to B.C. from other provinces and around the world. Rural and urban communities are facing challenges with delivering the amenities and infrastructure that this growth requires to ensure livability and efficient service delivery.

Our government will work with these local representatives to ensure that we are strong partners in the growth and development of a resilient and prosperous province. By working together, we can achieve our shared aim of building vibrant and healthy communities and a secure province where everyone can find a good home.

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

- Working with UBCM and local government elected leaders to support communities through the COVID-19 pandemic and to launch the new Strengthening Community Fund.
- Working to bring down the cost of housing for people by streamlining and modernizing development permitting and approvals.

- Supporting economic recovery in B.C. communities through important infrastructure projects.

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

- Support municipalities to partner with the federal government to maximize benefits for our province's communities from federal government programming, including through coordination with provincial programs.
- Explore options to support fast growing municipalities with funding for infrastructure and community amenities.
- Continue providing strong supports for newcomers to British Columbia with WelcomeBC programs, including the Provincial Nominee Program and settlement services.
- With support from the Minister of Education and Child Care, work with local governments to identify opportunities to increase child care spaces on municipal property.
- With support from the Minister of Finance, continue to work with UBCM to strengthen local government finance systems to ensure local governments and regional districts have the tools they need to remain resilient in the face of economic change.
- Continue working with the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure to build important infrastructure projects, including through StrongerBC and the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program.
- Support work led by the Minister of Housing to assist municipalities to accelerate development approvals and ensure sufficient housing for provincial growth through continued implementation of the Development Approvals Process Review and implementation of the Housing Supply Act.
- Support the work of the Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness to co-develop and introduce modernized emergency management legislation.

- Support the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure and work with the Minister of Housing to implement transit-oriented development to advance sustainable communities along transit corridors to help achieve our housing and affordability goals.
- Work with the Parliamentary Secretary for International Credentials to help ensure B.C. quickly removes barriers so new international arrivals can find employment sooner in their field of training.

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Eby", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Eby, KC
Premier