

Jan. 21, 2018

Ministry of Jobs, Trade and Technology

Dr. Alan Winter
Commissioner
Innovation Commissioner Office
PO Box 9855 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9T5

Dear Dr. Winter:

Subject: Acknowledgement of Innovation Commissioner's Progress Report

I would like to thank you for your diligence and work over the past year. As I have mentioned before, the breadth of your senior leadership experience in the biotech and information technology fields makes you the ideal ambassador for our tech and innovation sector.

The rise of the digital economy is transforming business and society around the world, and British Columbia is no exception. This transformation is also creating new context for policymakers. The maxims that guided economic policymaking in previous decades simply no longer apply.

As Dan Ciuriak of the Centre for International Governance Innovation concluded in a recent paper on the subject, "Industrial development and innovation are two sides of the same coin. The development, acquisition and adaptation, and application of technology – which is to say, innovation – has always been the cornerstone of industrial progress."

In this context, your first progress report is particularly welcome. It provides a clear-eyed assessment of British Columbia's innovation ecosystem, and insight into how government policy can create winning conditions for people and firms in the emerging economy.

I appreciate your observation that we should build on the progress made in tech and innovation in the province, including increasing business investment in research and development, and supporting collaboration and partnerships with the federal government. We recognize that we have an important role to play in advancing the Province's innovation infrastructure, including worker training and retraining, tax policies and research grants, among others.

Your report is a valuable addition to our understanding of innovation in British Columbia. As Minister of Jobs, Trade and Technology, I am dedicated to building on our province's economic achievements and significant reputation as a great place to invest and do business.

I have very much appreciated your excellent advice over this past year, and I look forward to continuing our work to support innovation in our province and ensure shared, sustainable prosperity for British Columbians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce Ralston", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bruce Ralston
Minister of Jobs, Trade and Technology