



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

July 30, 2015

Honourable Andrew Wilkinson
Minister of Advanced Education
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, British Columbia
V8V 1X4

Dear Minister:

On behalf of the people of British Columbia, I would like to thank you for the contributions made by you and your ministry over the past 12 months to make our province stronger.

You have been part of a government that has continued to deliver on the promises we made in our election platform, Strong Economy, Secure Tomorrow during the past 24 months. Balancing the budget for a third time, having our triple A credit rating confirmed and re-confirmed as stable by Moody's Investors Service, and continuing to support the growth of a diverse economy are all accomplishments of which we collectively and you individually can be rightly proud.

I am very pleased to note that you and each of your colleagues were again able to live within your voted legislative budgets. The people of our province elect us to work on their behalf—to control spending.

Living within our means is demonstrating our respect for the people of our province and the tax dollars they send to Victoria. By keeping government lean and reducing the cost of administration, we can make significant investments in people and the infrastructure on which they depend to succeed in a strong and growing economy.

As a result of our strong fiscal position, we have been able to provide new assistance to single parents as they return to the workforce, greater income exemptions for single parents on income assistance and continued record investments in funding for public health care, education and transportation—services on which families depend.

Our government is resolute in our desire to grow the economy as a way to enable more British Columbians to participate in the economy and obtain meaningful, family-supporting work. The work your ministry does each and every day to contribute to these efforts are noticed and valued.

In particular, I would like to congratulate you and your ministry for:

- Adding nearly 3,000 trades seats to improve access in high-demand trades and support a strong, growing and diverse economy
- Launching two new non-repayable student grant programs and expanding the Student Loan Forgiveness Program
- Continuing progress in delivering open textbooks that will see students able to access 120 textbooks by Fall, 2015

As you know, the annual mandate letter you receive is designed to be an ongoing workplan for your ministry that is updated on an annual basis. You will undoubtedly notice some changes since last June.

Your mandate for the following year is as follows:

1. Balance your ministerial budget in order to control spending and ensure an overall balanced budget for the province of British Columbia.
2. Continue to implement the commitments and actions contained in BC's Skills for Jobs Blueprint including the commitment to re-engineer funding for post-secondary training spaces, ensuring that 25 percent of provincial funding is directed to the top 100 in-demand occupations.
3. Ensure the institutions within your portfolio are meeting their budget targets and using their resources as efficiently as possible.
4. Work with the Ministries of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training and Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services on the development of a 10-year skills plan for BC's Technology Sector as part of our government's overall technology strategy.
5. In order to maximize taxpayer resources into classrooms, continue to minimize overheads within our publicly funded universities and colleges and, where possible, consolidate functions or programs across different post-secondary institutions in geographically similar regions.
6. Ensure that the student loan program is available to students in the trades as well as students in the academic educational stream.
7. Work with Parliamentary Secretary Richard T. Lee and Kwantlen Polytechnic University to establish and open their School of Traditional Chinese Medicine.
8. Working with your colleagues in the Ministry of International Trade and Education to work with the federal government to ensure students wanting to study in British

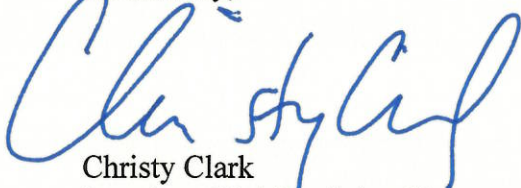
Columbia are not unduly limited by federal immigration processes, and continue to work on implementing our International Education strategy.

9. Continue to expand the number of open textbooks available to British Columbia students in an effort to keep the cost of post-secondary education as affordable as possible.
10. Work with BC publicly funded post-secondary institutions to develop a single, unified application system for all post-secondary institutions in the province.
11. Working with the Public Service Employers Council, successfully conclude all contract negotiations within the sector, within the Economic Stability Mandate as approved by government.

In addition, as discussed and approved by Cabinet, our government is committed to ensuring British Columbia government services are easily accessed by our citizens and businesses. Minister Coralee Oakes will be leading this initiative on my behalf and over the following 12 months she will be reaching out to all ministries to assist in reducing unnecessary red tape and regulation.

It is hard to believe but it has been two years since the people of British Columbia put their faith in us to lead their province. We have accomplished much in those two years, but much work remains to deliver the promise of a strong economy and secure tomorrow for our citizens. I look forward to working with you over the coming year.

Yours truly,



Christy Clark
Premier of British Columbia