



July 30, 2015

Honourable Bill Bennett  
Minister of Energy and Mines  
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:

- Your tireless work following the breach of the Mount Polley mine tailings pond facility
- Working with BC Hydro to secure a positive provincial approval for the construction of the Site C Clean Energy Project
- Working with the Ministry of Finance to extend the New Mine Allowance tax credit as promised in Strong Economy, Secure Tomorrow

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:

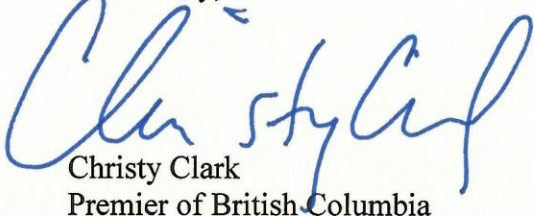
1. Balance your ministerial budget in order to control spending and ensure an overall balanced budget for the province of British Columbia.
2. Work with the Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs to ensure the Canadian negotiating position on the Columbia River Treaty is reflective of the British Columbia position in any discussions of re-negotiation of the treaty.
3. Work with the Government of Alaska to achieve a mining Memorandum of Understanding on Mining between the state and province.
4. Work with the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation on the Mining Dialogue with First Nations that was committed following the Mount Polley Mine tailings pond collapse.
5. Implement the Major Mines Permitting Office.
6. Implement the recommendations of the BC Utilities Commission review.
7. Work with BC Hydro to deliver the Site C project on time and on budget.
8. Work with the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation and BC Hydro to ensure First Nations have the ability to participate in economic development opportunities arising from the construction of the Site C dam.
9. Work with the ministries of Environment and Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations to provide options to Cabinet on a wildlife access corridor in southeast British Columbia

10. Ensure the recommendations of the independent Mount Polley Review Panel are acted upon and all mines have undertaken the actions recommended by the panel and required by government.
11. Work with the Mining Associations of British Columbia and Canada to restore public confidence in British Columbia's tailings pond regulatory framework.
12. Work with the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation to continue to conclude mineral tax sharing agreements to encourage mine development across the province.
13. Report to Cabinet on the progress being made on the implementation of the 10 year electricity plan for BC Hydro in order to keep rates as low as possible for British Columbians while continuing to invest in new generation and critical infrastructure upgrades.
14. Work with the Ministry of Finance and Geoscience BC to establish long-term, predictable funding to foster oil, gas and mineral exploration and development in BC.
15. Continue to work with BC Hydro and Clean Energy BC to identify further opportunities for clean energy producers in British Columbia.

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christy Clark". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small arrow pointing to the top of the "C".

Christy Clark  
Premier of British Columbia