



January 15, 2024

Honourable Josie Osborne
Minister of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Osborne:

Thank you for agreeing to serve as Minister of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation. 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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**Office of the
Premier**

Web Site:
www.gov.bc.ca

Mailing Address:
PO Box 9041 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9E1

Location:
Parliament Buildings
Victoria

- **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.

Energy is central to our economic growth, our response to climate change, and to delivering the basics that British Columbians expect – heat, light, transportation, and so much more. How and where we deliver energy, and how we leverage our natural energy advantages as a solution to the generational challenge of climate change, will determine how our province is positioned to benefit from the low-carbon economy of the future for generations to come.

British Columbia has significant environmental, social and governance (ESG) advantages in our partnerships with First Nations, our high standards for major project environmental protection, and our commitment to transparent and independent permitting and corporate regulation. Combined with our rich mineral and metal deposits across the province, this puts British Columbia in an enviable position to help deliver high-standard products from our mining sector to build global solutions to climate change.

Applying innovation in partnership with the private sector, labour, First Nations, and end users will ensure British Columbia doesn't just produce raw materials, but turns them into an economic development engine of related technologies that are ready for deployment around the world. British Columbia can and should be a leader in using our energy, mining and innovation to address the challenges faced by the world.

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

- Launching the transitional phase of a new oil and gas royalty system that puts the interests of British Columbians first and replaces outdated and inefficient fossil fuel subsidies.

- Accelerating zero emission vehicle adoption by increasing the maximum rebate amounts for eligible electric vehicles and ensuring they are going to those who need them most, increasing rebates to buy and install charging infrastructure at home and work, expanding the public network of charging stations across the province, and exempting used zero emission vehicles from PST.
- Driving made-in-B.C. innovation through the establishment of a new 'B.C. Centre for Innovation and Clean Energy' where areas such as carbon capture and storage and renewable fuels will be advanced.

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

- Drive delivery of your ministry's CleanBC Roadmap to 2030 policies and programs on time and on target to help ensure we meet our legislated GHG goals.
- Develop targeted programs to support clean energy and efficiency upgrades for low-income and rental housing that will help reduce emissions while making our homes more comfortable and affordable, with support from Ministers of Housing, Environment and Climate Change Strategy, and Social Development and Poverty Reduction.
- Develop and implement a climate-aligned energy framework for B.C. with an overall goal of maximizing our province's production of clean energy to use at home and for export.
- Improve timing and transparency of permitting processes to support sustainable economic development while maintaining high levels of environmental protection, aligned with cross-government work on permitting led by the Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship.
- Work with BC Hydro to implement its Electrification Plan and to ensure the province is well positioned to electrify B.C.'s economy and industry, including options for Indigenous ownership and/or equity interest in BC Hydro infrastructure and Indigenous partnership in clean energy projects.
- Work with the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy to develop policies and regulations that meet B.C.'s 2030 sectoral and methane targets for the oil and gas sector while ensuring alignment with the federal cap on oil and gas emissions.

- In collaboration with the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, complete the Clean Transportation Action Plan to support shifts to sustainable modes of travel, advance modern transportation systems, and help meet our ambitious greenhouse gas targets for the transportation sector.
- Work with the BC Utilities Commission to identify an appropriate role for the Commission in supporting B.C.'s clean energy transition, in alignment with our province's climate goals to achieve net zero by 2050 and affordability objectives.
- Review and identify opportunities to transition fossil fuel subsidies to the clean tech and clean energy sectors.
- Support B.C.'s mining sector by launching the Mining Innovation Hub and expedite a provincial critical minerals strategy that positions British Columbia to take advantage of the emerging clean global economy.
- Advance the co-development of a modernized Mineral Tenure Act with First Nations and Indigenous organizations, in alignment with the DRIPA Action Plan commitment.

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