



February 25, 2022

Honourable George Heyman
Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, British Columbia V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Heyman:

Thank you for agreeing to serve British Columbians as Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy.

In this past year, as a member of Cabinet, your work has contributed to this government's efforts to support British Columbians as they face the impacts of COVID-19. People throughout the province continue to work together to stay safe and rebuild their lives and communities from the effects of the pandemic. Our government remains committed to getting through the pandemic and its after effects by building on this resilience and focusing on what matters most to people.

British Columbians voted for a government focused on their priorities: providing better health care for people and families, delivering affordability and security in our communities, and investing in good jobs and livelihoods in a clean-energy future.

I expect you –with support of your ministry – to focus on the commitments detailed in our platform, *Working for You*, along with the following foundational principles:

- **Putting people first:** Since 2017, our government has focused on making decisions to meet people's needs. That focus drove our work in our first term and will continue to be our priority. British Columbians are counting on the government to keep them safe and to build an economic recovery that works for everyone, not just those at the top. Keeping people at the centre of everything we do means protecting and enhancing the public services people rely on and working to make life more affordable for everyone.

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- **Lasting and meaningful reconciliation:** Reconciliation is an ongoing process and a shared responsibility for us all. The unanimous passage of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* was a significant step forward in this journey. True reconciliation will take time and ongoing commitment to work with Indigenous peoples as they move toward self-determination. Our government – and every ministry – must remain focused on creating opportunities for Indigenous peoples to be full partners in our economy and providing a clear and sustainable path for everyone to work toward lasting reconciliation.
- **Equity and anti-racism:** Our province's history, identity and strength are rooted in its diverse population. Yet racialized and marginalized people face historic and present-day barriers that limit their full participation in their communities, workplaces, government, and their lives. Our government has a moral and ethical responsibility to tackle systemic discrimination in all its forms – and every ministry has a role in this work. While our caucus elected a record number of women, more work remains to address gender equity. Delivering on our commitments to address racial discrimination will require a commitment by all of government to ensure increased IBPOC (Indigenous, Black and People of Colour) representation within the public service, including in government appointments. Our efforts to address systemic discrimination must also inform policy and budget decisions by reviewing all decisions through a Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) lens.
- **A better future through fighting climate change:** In 2018, our government launched our CleanBC climate action plan. CleanBC puts British Columbia on the path to a cleaner, better future by building a low-carbon economy with new clean-energy jobs and opportunities, protecting our air, land and water and supporting communities to prepare for climate impacts. It is every Minister's responsibility to ensure your ministry's work continues to achieve CleanBC's goals.
- **A strong, sustainable economy that works for everyone:** We will continue our work to support British Columbians through the pandemic and the economic recovery by investing in health care, getting people back to work, helping businesses and communities, and building the clean, innovative economy of the future. Our plan will train the workforce of tomorrow, help businesses hire and grow and invest in the infrastructure needed to build our province.

The pandemic has reminded us that we're strongest when we work together. Delivering on our commitments to people will require a coordinated effort with your cabinet and caucus colleagues, supported by the skilled professionals in the public service. You will also support your cabinet colleagues to do their work, particularly where commitments cross ministry lines.

British Columbians expect their elected representatives to work together to advance the broader public good despite their partisan perspectives. 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 through public and stakeholder engagement plans that connect with people to incorporate their perspectives early in the policy development process. These plans must include measurable outcomes and ensure active dialogue and ongoing outreach in your ministry's actions and priorities.

Over the course of our mandate, I expect you will make progress on the following items:

- Work with cabinet colleagues to advance clean economic opportunities and CleanBC goals as our government responds to and recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Begin the phase-out of single use plastics province-wide.
- Keep BC on track to meet our 2030 greenhouse gas emissions target, set sectoral and interim targets, and legislate a new target of net zero carbon emissions by 2050.
- Work with government's Climate Solutions Council and relevant industrial sectors to enhance CleanBC's Program for Industry so that additional funding is available to support mines, pulp mills, oil and gas processing plants, and other industrial facilities in their efforts to reduce GHG emissions and move to cleaner operations.
- Complete and coordinate implementation of a provincial Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy.
- Accelerate the move toward a net-zero emission bus fleet powered by electrification, hydrogen fuel cell technologies, and other zero-emissions technologies, including supporting TransLink's "aggressive" level plan.
- Work with TransLink to help families get around more affordably by making transit free for children up to and including age 12.
- Work with the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure to integrate TransLink and BC Transit services.
- Work with the TransLink Mayors' Council through its 10-year planning process to continue work to extend the Millennium Line to Arbutus, with an eventual terminus at UBC, and ensure prompt design and construction of the Surrey-Langley Skytrain.

- Reduce congestion and make transit an option for more people by working with TransLink to improve and expand the network for people living in the Fraser Valley and Sea-to-Sky regions, including by expanding West Coast Express service.
- With support from the Minister of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation, take steps to ensure owners of large industrial projects are bonded moving forward so that they – not British Columbians – pay the full costs of environmental cleanup if their projects are abandoned.
- Support the Minister of Land, Water and Resource Stewardship and Minister responsible for Fisheries to protect species at risk and work collaboratively with other ministries to protect and enhance BC's biodiversity.
- Working with First Nations, local governments, industry, environmental organizations, and others, undertake an assessment of the monitoring, compliance and enforcement of environmental laws and regulations.
- Support the Minister of Land, Water and Resource Stewardship and Minister responsible for Fisheries to ensure our water and watersheds are respected and valued, through the development of the Coastal Marine Strategy, the Watershed Security Strategy and Watershed Security Fund.

To assist you in meeting the commitments we have made to British Columbians, you are assigned a Parliamentary Secretary for Environment. You will work closely together and ensure your Parliamentary Secretary receives appropriate support to deliver on the following priorities, outlined in the mandate letter issued to them:

- Recognizing the heightened importance of outdoor recreation in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, guide work to create new protected areas, campgrounds, recreation sites and trails; propose new funding to improve infrastructure; and ensure provincial parks and recreational opportunities remain affordable for British Columbians.
- Lead work with the Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation to reflect Indigenous peoples' history and cultures in provincial parks.
- Work with the Minister of Land, Water and Resource Stewardship and Minister responsible for Fisheries, the Parliamentary Secretary for Forests, and with neighbouring jurisdictions to cooperatively develop and invest in new strategies aimed at better protecting our shared wildlife and habitat corridors, including work to implement the Together for Wildlife Strategy.

- Support the Minister of Land, Water and Resource Stewardship and Minister responsible for Fisheries, and the Parliamentary Secretary for Fisheries and Aquaculture to implement the Coastal Marine Strategy – in partnership with First Nations and federal and local governments – to better protect coastal habitat while growing coastal economies.

Our work as a government must continually evolve to meet the changing needs of people in this province. Issues not contemplated in 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. Your ministry's priorities must reflect our government's overall strategic plan as determined by cabinet.

All cabinet members are expected to review, understand and act according to the *Members' Conflict of Interest Act* and conduct themselves with the highest level of integrity. As a minister of the Crown, your conduct will reflect not only on you, but on cabinet and our government.

You are responsible for providing strong, professional, and ethical leadership within cabinet and your ministry. 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. You must ensure your minister's office meets the highest standards for integrity and provides a respectful and rewarding environment for all staff.

My commitment to all British Columbians is to do my level best to make sure people's lives are better, safer, and more affordable. I believe the challenges we face can and will be overcome by working together. By way of this letter, I am expressing my faith that people can expect the same commitment from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Horgan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

John Horgan
Premier