



December 7, 2022

Honourable Katrine Conroy
Minister of Finance and Minister responsible for the
Columbia Basin Trust, Columbia Power Corporation,
and the Columbia River Treaty
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Finance:

Thank you for agreeing to serve as Minister of Finance and Minister responsible for the Columbia Basin Trust, Columbia Power Corporation, and the Columbia River Treaty. 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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- **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.

Our government provided strong leadership in pandemic response and recovery, resulting in one of the fastest recoveries of any province coming out of the pandemic. This growth demonstrates the value of our approaches to supporting public health officials and investing in people. But the tests of our efforts to build a sustainable economy that works for everyone are not done.

Global inflationary pressures are impacting British Columbians at the checkout of the grocery store, buying essentials for kids, and in costs of housing and transportation. In addition, the decisions of central banks around the world calculated to create strong economic headwinds are pressures we need to continue to prepare for. We must provide a secure, stable economy for British Columbians through this turbulent time around the world.

Because of our work to date, record numbers of people are choosing to move to our province. We set a record for the number of people moving here from other countries and provinces last year, and this year's numbers are expected to be similar. It's good news, but it also means that fast growing communities are seeing pressures in essential services, infrastructure, and amenities like schools, health care, hospitals, roads, transit, and parks.

Because of careful economic management and our focus on people as the source of growth in our economy, we are currently receiving dividends that can be directed back into infrastructure and supports for communities, businesses, industry, families, seniors, and all British Columbians. We must invest in our people and our future. These investments must be targeted to reinforce the positive economic trends we're seeing as we build a strong, secure, and sustainable economy for all, ensuring that British Columbia is a province where everyone can build a good home for themselves and their families.

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

- Supporting British Columbians through the COVID-19 pandemic and ensuing global inflation challenges, including providing relief through the Recovery Benefit in 2021 and increases to the Climate Action Tax Credit, BC Affordability Credit, and the B.C. Family Benefit this year, while continuing to deliver responsible fiscal management.
- Delivering a record level of capital investment, including new schools, hospitals, child care spaces, roads, transit, and housing in communities across B.C.
- Providing a new tool for municipalities to offer tax relief to small businesses with triple-net leases.
- Expanding the Speculation and Vacancy Tax to new communities to deliver more homes for people.
- Taking significant action to address money laundering.

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

A more fair province:

- Explore additional ways to fight speculation and deliver more homes, including possible strengthening of the Speculation and Vacancy Tax and an effective flipping tax that fights increased costs due to short-term flipping by investors.
- Take action on unexplained wealth orders to target proceeds of crime from high-level organized criminals.
- Explore options and deliver solutions to close loopholes and take enforcement actions against those who are avoiding taxes and driving up the prices of real estate, including closing bare trust loopholes and strengthening the beneficial ownership registry.

A more secure province:

- Continue to deliver cost of living supports for British Columbians in response to global inflation and economic uncertainty.

- With support from the Minister of Housing, establish a Rental Housing Acquisition Fund to support non-profits to purchase affordable rental buildings for sale and protect renters from being displaced from their homes by big corporations.
- With support from the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, chart a path that aligns with the federal carbon price, including measures to support families, small businesses, and industry in BC to make the transition to a clean economy while ensuring no one gets left behind.
- Work to deliver the renters' rebate to help bring down costs for renters who need it most.

A stronger province:

- Work with the Minister of Municipal Affairs to identify effective measures to support fast growing communities.
- Work with the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation to advance and support business innovation, exports, and transition across the province.
- Work with the Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Development to support economic opportunities in rural, regional, and remote communities.

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

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, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

David Eby, KC
Premier