



January 15, 2024

Honourable Brenda Bailey
Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Bailey:

Thank you for agreeing to serve as Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and 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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- **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.

Global economic forces, from inflation to war to the ever-changing relationships between countries, have had profound effects on British Columbia. Putting people first and making life better for families and communities has paid off. Despite global economic headwinds, our economy and employment numbers remain strong. But change can come quickly. Our government will work hard to ensure we are preparing British Columbians to securely weather the economic storms of changing central bank policies, supply chain challenges, and labour shortages around the world.

Indigenous Peoples, the federal government, and local governments are all strong partners in our work to secure the gains British Columbians have seen as we move into uncertain economic times and address these pressing issues.

Our technology sectors, like hydrogen, cleantech, and biotech, are growing rapidly. The exciting developments in B.C. technology can help build resiliency in every industry, with growth sustained over the long term by building centres of research, education, and excellence. As Minister, you will work to ensure the many positive impacts from the tech sectors are distributed across the province to support all regions in their economic development activities, job creation, strategic investments, and economic diversification.

Supporting natural resource sector jobs by partnering with industry to add value to our resources will help B.C. develop technologies, systems, and manufactured goods that can be exported to other jurisdictions. Supporting farmers, ranchers, and food producers will help ensure food security at home while building export opportunities abroad. Supporting small businesses, Indigenous Peoples, and communities with economic development initiatives will help ensure everyone in British Columbia benefits from economic growth and weathers the downturns of the global market.

B.C. is the trade gateway to Canada. By prioritizing building and diversifying our trade relationships around the globe, we can ensure B.C. businesses find receptive markets for innovative clean technologies, sustainable value-added resource commodities, healthy foods, manufactured goods, and game-changing services. By building on B.C.'s competitiveness through our environmental, social, and governance advantages, our government will help B.C. stand strong and secure through changing global relationships. From the West Coast of the United States to across Canada to around the world, people are interested in buying sustainable goods, products, and services from B.C.

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

- Working with your colleagues and the people of British Columbia to launch the ambitious StrongerBC Economic Plan that focuses on the missions of clean and inclusive growth for our province.
- Supporting small businesses through COVID-19 with initiatives such as the Small and Medium Sized Business Recovery Grant and the permanent delivery fee cap to support restaurants.
- Launching InBC, a \$500 million strategic investment fund to support clean, inclusive jobs and economic growth.
- Creating the Office of Mass Timber Implementation and investing \$5.4 million to accelerate the use of mass timber demonstration projects, making B.C. a world leader in this new sector.
- Redesigning the Innovator Skills Initiative program, which provides B.C. companies with grants to hire employees for technology and tech-enabled jobs.

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:

- Continue to deliver the StrongerBC Economic Plan to build an inclusive, sustainable, and innovative economy that works for people.
- Make B.C. a global destination for investment in clean industries by leveraging federal investments, taking steps to attract more new companies, and supporting B.C.-based clean business start-ups.
- Continue to drive innovation in biotechnology, low carbon technology, and climate solutions and identify opportunities for communities across the province.

- Continue to support advancement of clean industry in alignment with our CleanBC and StrongerBC plans and continue to provide support for industries in transition.
- With support from the Minister of State for Trade, launch and implement the Trade Diversification Strategy that will diversify our trading partners to hedge against global uncertainty and position B.C. businesses on the global stage.
- Continue working with local governments to identify and preserve land suitable for supporting sustainable industrial activity and economic benefits in rural and urban communities throughout the province.
- With support from the Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Development, work with rural communities to strengthen regional economic development and to build economic resilience in hard-hit forest sector communities.
- Support the Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills to deliver the Future Ready Skills plan so British Columbians have the skills they need for the jobs of the future and to support B.C. employers impacted by global labour shortages.

To assist you in meeting the commitments we have made to British Columbians, you are assigned a Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Development. You will work closely together and ensure your Parliamentary Secretaries receive 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 horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Eby, KC
Premier