



January 16, 2025

Honourable Brenda Bailey
Minister of Finance
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Bailey:

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister of Finance at a critical time for our province. Serving as a member of the executive council is a privilege and responsibility which I am confident you will fulfill with integrity and a commitment to the people of our province.

British Columbians have trusted us with a mandate to deliver for them in ways that make a tangible difference in their daily lives. They expect us to listen and learn from people of different perspectives – and work together to make things better for everyone.

Specifically, we will tackle the challenges people worry about at the kitchen table:

- **Grow the economy by creating good jobs across British Columbia.** We will collaborate with businesses, workers, and communities to attract investments in both new and traditional sectors as well as emerging sectors of the economy. This approach will bring certainty for business, security for workers, and generate the wealth needed to support the essential services British Columbians rely on.
- **Reduce costs for families** including by helping people access homes they can afford through support for first-time homebuyers, increasing the supply of rental housing stock, and stronger measures to crack down on housing speculation.

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- **Strengthen health care** by expanding access to family doctors and recruiting and training more health professionals, ensuring that every British Columbian can access the care they need, no matter where they live. We will also increase access to addictions treatment and provide help for people whose struggles require intensive supports.
- **Make our neighbourhoods and communities safer** by working with law enforcement and social agencies to address street disorder, crack down on organized crime, and do all we can to ensure repeat offenders stay behind bars.

Our commitment to take action on climate change remains foundational and will be key to a healthy and prosperous BC for future generations.

Underlying all this work is our partnership with Indigenous peoples. Advancing reconciliation, implementing the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* and working in partnership with First Nations rights-holders to advance shared interests is the responsibility of every Minister.

Over this mandate I expect you to prioritize making progress on the following:

- In order to protect key services that British Columbians rely on, work with your ministerial colleagues to review all existing government programs and initiatives to ensure programs remain relevant, are efficient, grow the economy, and help keep costs low for British Columbians. This is important in the context of Provincial budget constraints, proposed American tariffs and other global threats to BC families.
- Put BC on a clear path to balanced budgets and maintain the province's debt to GDP ratio as among the best in Canada.
- Continue to deliver cost of living supports for British Columbians in response to global inflation and economic uncertainty.
- Work with the Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs to:
 - support the construction of new purpose-built rental housing by exploring new models for capitalizing the construction of purpose built rental buildings;
 - remove barriers to financing small scale multi-unit density; and,
 - eliminate taxes that could prevent or impair the transfer of land for the purpose of developing affordable housing.
- In partnership with your ministerial colleagues, identify and deliver initiatives to support the competitiveness and growth of British Columbia's economy by supporting investment in the province, and the expansion and sustainability of existing businesses.

- Work with the new Cabinet Committee on Community Safety to ensure that initiatives identified by the committee are prioritized and delivered by your ministry as required.

To assist you in meeting the commitments we have made to British Columbians, you are assigned a Parliamentary Secretary for Gender Equity whose focus will be to:

- Work with partners to address the national epidemic of gender-based violence as it relates to our province, and work with stakeholders to ensure that government programs and initiatives reflect the interests and concerns of people with lived experience.
- Work with the Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs and the Attorney General to ensure that we are meeting our targets on delivering accessible transition housing for women fleeing violence, and that the justice system is responsive to the needs of survivors of gender-based violence.

You are also assigned a Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Development whose focus will be to:

- Ensure that government programs reflect the interests and concerns of rural businesses, and work with stakeholders to identify how government can support rural economic development proposals from across British Columbia to help ensure every British Columbian feels the benefit of a growing economy.
- In addition to priorities identified by rural and remote communities themselves, work with the Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport, the Minister of Agriculture and Food, and the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation to promote and design government programs and initiatives from these ministries in a way that rural communities can also see economic growth and benefit.

You will work closely together and ensure your Parliamentary Secretaries receive appropriate support to deliver on this work.

As you are aware, we have established an accord with the BC Green Caucus that supports our shared commitment to ensuring stable governance focused on delivering progress and tangible outcomes for British Columbians. The commitments in that accord complement the direction in these mandate letters.

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 work we have ahead takes place in a profoundly challenging geopolitical environment. Close friends and neighbours to our south are contemplating imposing draconian tariffs on our products that would hurt both Americans and Canadians. Our allies internationally face governmental instability. Hate and racism are on the rise around the world. Artificial intelligence breakthroughs with unclear implications and astonishing potential are announced daily. Global inflation, snarled supply chains, and war are threatening global economic growth and prosperity as well as the transition to a low-carbon economy.

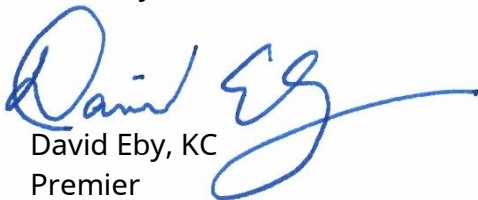
We have an obligation to protect and defend British Columbians, as well as seize opportunities, in these uncertain times.

The good news is that we have everything we need to succeed, and we will succeed. British Columbia's people – our workers, entrepreneurs, business leaders, artists, and innovators – are among the most talented in the world. We are home to world-class educational institutions and public services. Our natural beauty is unmatched, we have internationally envied resources, and we are one of the most diverse places on the planet. Your job is to help us leverage these advantages in perilous times.

Use this mandate letter to guide your work, and do not be afraid to challenge assumptions, or be innovative, bold and aggressive in achieving the goals set out for you and your Ministry by the people of this province.

Thank you for joining me in the work ahead.

Sincerely,



David Eby, KC
Premier

cc: Jennifer Blatherwick, MLA
Parliamentary Secretary for Gender Equity

Steve Morissette, MLA
Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Development