



January 16, 2025

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

Dear Minister Gibson:

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation 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 the Minister of Finance to review all existing JEDI programs and initiatives to ensure programs remain relevant, are efficient, grow the economy, and help keep costs low for British Columbians and BC businesses. This is important in the context of current Provincial budget constraints; the realities faced by businesses in relation to access to capital, global inflation, and interest rates; and the threat of American tariffs.
- Lead work with the Minister of State for Trade and the Parliamentary Secretary for Asia-Pacific Trade to enhance and expand BC's *Trade Diversification Strategy* and diversify BC's sources of international investment.
- Ensure that any proposed new legislation or regulations are considered through the lens of impact on BC businesses and engage on proposed legislative initiatives at the earliest possible stage. Bring forward reforms as required to ensure that our laws promote high standards in relation to human rights, the environment, and social well-being, without unduly impairing our ability to compete internationally and ensure the prosperity of British Columbians.
- Continue to diversify BC's economy and support good jobs through the BC Manufacturing Jobs Fund.
- Work with business leaders in the province to develop a set of performance measurements in relation to the ease of doing business in British Columbia,

address issues identified, and improve competitiveness for business to grow our province's economy and create good jobs.

- Continue to support BC's innovation, tech, life sciences, and other emerging sectors, and work with businesses to encourage AI adoption to improve productivity across traditional and emerging sectors.
- Continue to support small- and medium-sized businesses to innovate, grow, and access global markets.
- Advocate strongly to the federal government for fair treatment of BC businesses in relation to economic growth and stimulus programs.
- Make sure BC's economy has the space to grow by creating an inventory of existing industrial lands, carrying out a land-use needs assessment and a strategy for protecting and growing the industrial land base.
- In partnership with the Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Development, ensure government initiatives consider and deliver economic growth and benefits for rural and urban communities.

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

- Engage with BC businesses to better understand the challenges and opportunities they see in bringing their products to markets in the Asia-Pacific region and support you and the Minister of State for Trade as you work to enhance and expand BC's *Trade Diversification Strategy*.
- Use their personal experience and skills with Korean language and culture to expand our trading opportunities with South Korea and invite and host Korean delegations in British Columbia that advance our economic and cultural goals of increasing prosperity and relationships across the Pacific. Expand this work over time to other countries in the region.
- Support Ministers and Ministers of State in making government-to-government and people-to-people connections that are key to growing BC's trade relationships with partners in the Asia-Pacific region.

You will work closely together and ensure your Parliamentary Secretary receives 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.

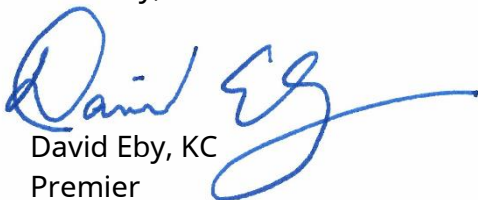
We have an obligation to protect and defend British Columbians, as well as seize opportunities, in these uncertain times.

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: Paul Choi, MLA
Parliamentary Secretary for Asia-Pacific Trade