



January 16, 2025

Honourable Garry Begg
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Begg:

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General 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 Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General programs and initiatives to ensure our programs remain relevant, are efficient, ensure safe and strong communities, grow the economy, and help keep British Columbians safe. This is important in the context of current Provincial budget constraints and the priorities of communities in the province.
- Facilitate strong cooperation between police, Crown prosecutors, probation officials, and the federal government to reduce repeat, violent, and gang offences. To this end, strengthen targeted policing and offender management, including continuing anti-gang programs, and work with the Attorney General to strengthen case management capacity.
- Continue to work with the federal government to respond to identified issues with federal criminal law that prevent keeping prolific and repeat violent offenders in custody.
- Ensure safe and strong communities by working with colleagues across ministries to support efforts to provide services and proactively intervene with individuals struggling with mental health, addiction, and brain injuries. In particular, work with the Minister of State for Community Safety and Integrated Services and other partners to ensure that provincial services are relevant and available to support police officers engaging in frontline responses to people in crisis, or who have identified individuals who present a risk to themselves or the public.

- Spearhead policy work to use civil and administrative processes to target organized criminals in British Columbia by expediting seizing assets and denying access to government privileges, including licences or permits.
- Work proactively with federal colleagues and provincial and territorial counterparts to ensure British Columbia is a strong partner in supporting border security along our coast and along all land borders with American states.
- Coordinate provincial regulatory enforcement agency and police authorities, including gaming, liquor, cannabis, tobacco, and transit, to ensure efficiency, consistent authorities, and training, and to improve coordination to ensure public safety, prompt and effective regulatory response, and strong communities.
- Support the Minister of State for Community Safety and Integrated Services in accessing dedicated funding for enforcement initiatives related to organized shoplifting and the protection of retail workers.
- Work with the Cabinet Committee on Community Safety to ensure that initiatives identified by the committee are prioritized and delivered by your ministry as required.
- Work with ICBC to ensure a comprehensive and independent review of the enhanced care model is conducted with the twin goals of delivering affordable rates for British Columbians and high-quality services and rehabilitation for those injured in collisions.
- Make it easier for communities and families to follow preferred funeral and cremation practices by ensuring that relevant laws are modernized and responsive to cultural communities and their faiths and traditions.
- Modernize British Columbia's liquor licensing and enforcement system to focus enforcement on high-risk and repeat non-compliant businesses, and to expedite and simplify permits. Use examples like Ontario to inform program design.
- Work with the Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport and the Minister of Agriculture and Food to grow our economy by supporting food and beverage producers, farmers, restaurants, and the tourism sector with flexible liquor, land use, and cannabis regulations in relation to the development of innovative tourism products and unique experiences.
- With support from the Minister of Transportation and Transit, take steps to ensure safety and efficiency across our public transportation system through partnerships with TransLink, BC Transit, and local governments to permit the use of technology in relation to enforcement of public transportation safety for everyone.

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.

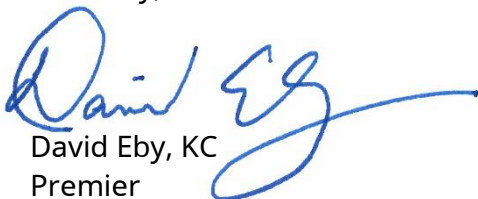
We have an obligation to protect and defend British Columbians, as well as seize opportunities, in these uncertain times.

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