



January 16, 2025

Honourable Jennifer Whiteside
Minister of Labour
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Whiteside:

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister of Labour 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 Labour programs and initiatives, to ensure our programs remain relevant, are efficient, protect employees and their families, grow the economy, and help keep costs low for British Columbians. This is important in the context of current Provincial budget constraints; the realities faced by provincial employers in relation to access to capital, global inflation and interest rates; and the threat of American tariffs.
- Support workers facing domestic abuse, life threatening illness, or significant risk of exploitation due to precarious status, by ensuring provincial programs and protections are responsive to their particular needs.
- Consider particular categories of workers who face higher rates of workplace illness or exploitation as a result of their conditions of work and ensure that they are supported appropriately.
- Continue to work with WorkSafe BC on the prevention of workplace injury or illness, the promotion of safe workplaces to ensure robust compliance and enforcement, and ensure meaningful programs are in place to support the return of injured workers to their workplaces.
- Support the Minister of Health to ensure that trades workers, who are disproportionately affected by the toxic drug crisis, have treatment options and programs available that are responsive to their particular needs.

- Review the implementation of gig worker protections to ensure they are delivering meaningful and intended outcomes to gig workers. Refine or replace any regulations that are not achieving the intended outcomes.
- Work to ensure our labour laws are keeping up with modern workplaces through the continued review of the *Labour Relations Code*, providing stable labour relations and supporting the exercise of collective bargaining rights.

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

- Support development and maintenance of relationships with organized labour to ensure their feedback is considered in policy development.

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.

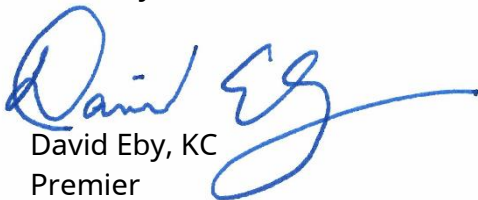
The good news is that we have everything we need to succeed, and we will succeed. British Columbia's people – our workers, entrepreneurs, business leaders, artists, and

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Eby", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

David Eby, KC
Premier

cc: Darlene Rotchford, MLA
Parliamentary Secretary for Labour