BRITISH COLUMBIA

November 24, 2026

Honourable Kiel Giddens
Minister of Forests
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister:

British Columbians voted overwhelmingly for change. Families keep facing higher costs, the Province's deficits are at record levels, and investment has been leaving British Columbia for other jurisdictions when it should be staying here. People are waiting too long for the health care they need. Housing is out of reach for too many, especially young people. Our communities feel less safe. And we've lost sight of the basics in our schools and our democratic institutions.

We have been given a mandate to fix these problems, and as a Minister it is your responsibility to help deliver the change that British Columbians voted for. This is our moment to meet the challenge, make the hard decisions, and deliver the change British Columbians expect.

Our Priorities

Our plan is built on delivering on five goals. Each direction in this letter advances one or more of them, and I expect you to plan and report your priorities in these terms.

An Affordable BC: We will make British Columbians' hard work pay off, deliver tax relief, reduce costs, make housing more attainable, and restore fiscal discipline.

A Prosperous BC: We will supercharge our economy, restore investor confidence, develop our resources responsibly for the benefit of British Columbians, strengthen industries and trade, and create more good jobs.

A Healthy BC: We will protect universal health care, and improve access, treatment, recovery and support for those who need it, when they need it.

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A Safer BC: We will restore confidence in our communities, strengthen policing and justice, support victims, and prepare communities for wildfires, floods and other emergencies.

A Strong and Proud BC: We will build pride in our province and confidence in our shared future, strengthen education and families, protect freedoms and our environment, advance reconciliation and economic partnerships with First Nations, and stand up for British Columbia.

Together, these goals will guide the choices we make and the results we deliver. I expect you to set out the expected outcomes and benefits that British Columbians should see from our actions, when we will deliver, and how we will measure results.

How We Will Succeed

We will work with the professional public service, First Nations, local governments, businesses and communities to move from plans to implementation with urgency and purpose.

Note that restoring fiscal discipline is a central obligation of every minister.

We must confront the structural pressures in the budget, scrutinize programs and spending, eliminate duplication, measure value for money and make difficult choices where necessary. New spending must be justified by clear priorities and demonstrable outcomes. Every minister is accountable for helping return the Province to sustainable finances while protecting essential services and creating the conditions for growth.

Any new funding requests will be subject to thorough and rigorous review by the Treasury Board, with affordability for provincial taxpayers as a test, and must be delivered within the government's Fiscal Plan.

Many of our commitments need the work of more than one ministry. Where actions or authority to deliver on our mandate overlaps among ministries, you will work collaboratively with your ministerial colleagues to seek the best outcome.

Parliamentary Secretaries will support Ministers in their portfolio. Their roles and responsibilities will be set out by the Minister, consistent with the directions in this letter.

Your Priorities and Delivery Expectations

As Minister, you will play a central role in advancing our government's priorities and delivering the commitments we have made to British Columbians.

In addition to your statutory responsibilities, I expect you to focus on the following assignments:

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- Give mills and communities a predictable supply of wood through harvest permits, with a floor of 45 million cubic metres a year.
- Simplify harvest approvals while protecting the environment and establish accelerated forestry permitting with clear approval timelines and a single-window consultation hub giving First Nations one door for referrals and proponents one clock.
- Reduce forestry operating costs and improve industrial competitiveness and resolve the old-growth deferrals by protecting original old growth and the most endangered and rarest ecosystems while returning the remaining land to the working forest.
- Encourage Indigenous participation in the forest industry by investing in skills training, and work with the Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation and the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism to help ensure that First Nations benefit fully from any federal funding to support the industry.
- Make softwood lumber a national trade priority working with the Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat, and support the federal government in securing a durable agreement addressing U.S. tariffs.
- Support the Minister of Finance to create competitive tax conditions for B.C.'s value-added wood manufacturing, extend the BC Manufacturing Jobs Fund, and prioritize B.C. wood in government-funded housing and infrastructure projects wherever possible.
- Advance a comprehensive forest bioeconomy strategy that positions British Columbia as a leader in the production of forest-based biofuels, renewable energy and advanced bioproducts, supported by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources.
- Create a Community Protection Forestry program to thin forests and reduce forest fuels near communities, evacuation routes and critical infrastructure.

Wildfire Management

- Support the Premier in establishing and leading a Wildfire Response Cabinet Committee to implement the BC Wildfire Action Plan, coordinate government resources and work with local governments, First Nations and emergency responders to prepare for future wildfire seasons.
- Expand Community Protection Forestry, thinning, prescribed and cultural burning, and predictable FireSmart funding for municipalities.
- Deliver the $400-million Wildfire Aircraft Fleet Expansion, including new waterbombers and other aerial firefighting capabilities to strengthen provincial rapid wildfire response.

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- Establish a $100-million Wildfire Innovation Fund to support B.C.-developed technologies for early detection, monitoring, suppression and prevention of wildfires.

Working with your Deputy Minister and Cabinet colleagues, you will establish clear plans, timelines, expected results, and measures of success, with a focus on early and meaningful progress. I expect you to report regularly on the progress you are making to deliver our priorities, the results achieved and the challenges that remain.

Our Responsibility

Public office carries a fundamental responsibility: to serve all British Columbians, whether or not they supported us, and to act in their best interests at all times. The public has placed its trust in us at a difficult time, and we must earn that trust every day through principled decisions, fiscal discipline and meaningful results.

Every minister has a responsibility to control spending, eliminate waste, exercise restraint and direct public resources where they deliver the greatest value. We must also challenge unnecessary regulation and honour our commitment to eliminate two existing regulatory provisions for every new one we introduce.

The challenges before us are significant, and the decisions ahead will not always be easy. Restoring fiscal responsibility will require difficult choices, the courage to confront longstanding problems and the discipline to put the province's long-term interests ahead of short-term considerations. We cannot continue to spend beyond our means or leave the consequences of today's decisions to future generations.

I look forward to working with you to deliver the commitments we made to British Columbians.

Sincerely,



Honourable Lorne Doerkson
Premier of British Columbia