



January 16, 2025

Honourable Lisa Beare  
Minister of Education and Child Care  
Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Beare:

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister of Education and Child Care 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.

.../2

- **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 Education and Child Care programs and initiatives to ensure programs remain relevant, are efficient, and improve the experience of British Columbians who access child care and education services in our province. This is important in the context of current Provincial budget constraints and overall efficiency in delivering cost effective and relevant education and child care services to British Columbians.
- Work to ensure that teachers and schools have access to additional supports in the classroom and beyond, including the expansion of education assistants and counseling resources.
- Support effective learning for students across the province by working with the Minister of Infrastructure to accelerate the delivery of new and expanded schools in a cost-effective manner, and by working with the Minister of Post Secondary Education and Future Skills to expedite the certification and deployment of new and experienced international and domestic teachers.
- Continue work to increase Indigenous graduation rates.
- Continue implementing ChildCareBC to improve access to accessible, affordable child care.

- Work with school districts to expand before- and after-school care programs across the province using cost-effective models for parents and the public that leverage existing school facilities and education workers.
- Work with key stakeholders in relation to the SOGI anti-bullying program to improve understanding, protect vulnerable children and support parents.
- Ensure that British Columbia's early interventions for children struggling with numeracy and literacy are the most effective in North America through a centre of excellence in applied research and professional development.
- Prioritize excellence in the British Columbia education system by reviewing existing inter-jurisdictional student evaluation scores post pandemic, and working with teachers, parents, and relevant stakeholders to ensure the global competitiveness of British Columbia student outcomes.

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

- Work with you to deliver cost-effective before- and after-school care that leverages existing school infrastructure and workers.
- Work with you to expand child care spaces in a cost-effective way so that more parents may have access to cost-effective child care for their family.
- Support you in continuing to work with Indigenous peoples and the federal government to advance jurisdiction over child care for Indigenous peoples.
- Build relationships with parents, child care service providers, early childhood educators, and advocates to ensure that government policy is responsive to the concerns and interests of these groups.

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.

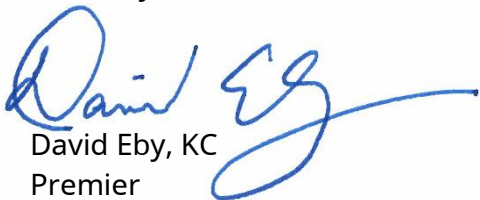
We have an obligation to protect and defend British Columbians, as well as seize opportunities, in these uncertain times.

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 horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Eby, KC  
Premier

cc: Rohini Arora, MLA  
Parliamentary Secretary for Child Care