



January 16, 2025

Honourable Mike Farnworth
Minister of Transportation and Transit
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Farnworth:

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister of Transportation and Transit 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 Transportation and Transit programs and initiatives to ensure our programs remain relevant, are efficient, are responsive to the needs of commuters, grow the economy, and help keep British Columbians moving. This is important in the context of current Provincial budget constraints and the priorities of communities in the province.
- Support improvements in BC's road infrastructure balanced with integrated transit opportunities to ensure that people can get home and to work faster, and goods can get to market more efficiently in our province.
- Find ways to support low-income people including seniors and young people in accessing affordable transit.
- Drive the development and expansion of transit across the province and work with communities across BC to find ways to strengthen key rural and intercity transportation services. This includes supporting regional transportation plans such as the Central Okanagan Transit Future Plan and working toward regular local transit along the Sea to Sky corridor.
- Ensure that our provincial transit services are being delivered in a way that is cost-effective for taxpayers, responsive to the concerns of transit riders, and not duplicative of administration by reviewing the private delivery model for provincial transit systems starting with handyDART.

- Work with BC ferries to address administrative costs and ensure affordable, reliable, and sustainable ferry services.
- Identify affordable and efficient opportunities for expansion of SkyTrain, RapidBus, and rail service in the province to meet the transportation and goods movement needs of growing populations.
- Lead work to advance progress on the Broadway extension to UBC, including by working with the federal government, UBC, the City of Vancouver, First Nations, and all relevant government agency stakeholders. Work with the Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs to advance related government objectives on housing density and identify opportunities to achieve reduced carbon pollution and economic development. Delegate key responsibilities as you are able to the Parliamentary Secretary for Transit to support the extensive coordination and relationship building required by this file.
- Find ways to support taxi and ride hail operators and ensure safe and affordable transportation options for British Columbians.
- Support the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General in ensuring 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.

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

- Work with you and the Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs to identify and champion transit-oriented development sites with local governments, stakeholders, and the private sector in order to maximize success of this initiative.
- Work with you to advance progress on the Broadway extension to UBC, including by building relationships with the relevant contacts in the federal government, UBC, the City of Vancouver, First Nations and all relevant government agency stakeholders. Work with the Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs to advance related government objectives on housing density and identify opportunities to achieve reduced carbon pollution and economic development.
- Work with you to identify opportunities to improve transit in underserved areas with greatest need, with a goal of connecting communities.

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.

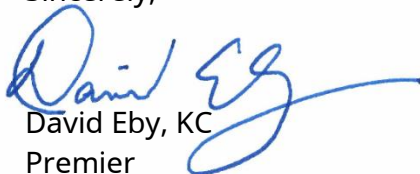
We have an obligation to protect and defend British Columbians, as well as seize opportunities, in these uncertain times.

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: George Anderson, MLA
Parliamentary Secretary for Transit