



January 16, 2025

Honourable Ravi Kahlon
Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Kahlon:

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs 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 Housing and Municipal Affairs programs and initiatives to ensure programs are efficient and remain relevant to delivering affordable housing, growing the economy, and helping keep costs low for British Columbians. This is important in the context of the current Provincial budget constraints, the current capital environment and cost environment for homebuilders, and the threat of American tariffs.
- Work to make homeownership a reality for more British Columbians.
- Increase the supply of rental, co-op and non-market housing. Identify under-used capital that can be leveraged to construct new purpose-built rental housing across the province. To this end, work with the Minister of Citizens' Services to identify potential uses for surplus government real estate assets in a way that supports our overall housing and economic development goals.
- Support tenants with interventions that deliver affordability and a high quality of living without compromising rental housing supply or rental housing standards.
- Work with small-scale landlords to identify interventions that will support them with establishing new rental units, including improving their ability to deal with issues of non-payment of rent, crime, or property destruction.

- Work with the Minister of Finance to remove barriers to the construction of small-scale multi-unit housing across the province.
- Work with homebuilders to address barriers to new home construction in the current capital and interest rate environment.
- Work across ministries to expedite permits required for new housing construction.
- Support local governments, the Minister of Transportation and Transit, the Minister of Environment and Parks, and others affected by encampments with dignified, prompt, and effective interventions to move people living in encampments inside before encampments can become entrenched.
- Work with local governments to achieve housing targets and address concerns related to infrastructure.
- 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.
- Continue to enhance delivery of supportive and complex care housing in a manner that keeps residents and others safe.
- Continue work with the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation on standardized modular housing design.

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