



January 16, 2025

Honourable Ravi Parmar
Minister of Forests
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Parmar:

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister of Forests 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 Forests programs and initiatives to ensure programs remain relevant, are efficient, support the connection between forests and jobs in our province, and help keep costs low for British Columbians. This is important in the context of current Provincial budget constraints, the crisis in the sector, and the threat of expanded American tariffs.
- In light of the threat of American tariffs, the existing softwood lumber tariffs, the price crisis in the timber sector, and the reduction in available annual allowable cut, work with communities, labour, forestry and forest product companies, and Indigenous governments to review BC Timber Sales to ensure that the model is responsive to the new realities of the industry and the need for a strong connection between our forests and sustainable jobs for British Columbians for generations to come.
- Continue to bring together industry, First Nations, and communities through forest landscape planning tables – to chart a path forward for the stewardship of BC's forests and forest industry.
- Work to increase value from BC's forests by supporting value-added and innovative forest products, creating good local jobs and diversifying BC's wood products for local and international markets.

- Work with your ministerial colleagues and First Nations to ensure the prompt, efficient, and effective delivery of permits required by industry while maintaining our world-leading environmental standards.
- Work with all partners, including Indigenous governments, toward ensuring a sustainable land base to enable harvest of 45,000,000 cubic meters per year, while fulfilling our commitment to protect old growth.
- Work to secure a more sustainable future for First Nations and communities that depend on local forests for their economic strength by expanding the community forest program.
- With support from the Minister of State for Trade, continue work to protect and create jobs by fighting for a fair deal for BC wood products in softwood lumber negotiations and other tariff challenges with the United States.

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