BRITISH COLUMBIA

November 24, 2026

Honourable Ryan Peterson
Minister of Health
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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- Keep rural emergency rooms and maternity wards open, backed by flexible staffing and a $50 million Rural Health Emergency Fund.
- Launch the 100-day Patients First review to identify reforms from other universal public systems that cut waits, expand capacity, keep ERs open, and strengthen rural services, without user fees.
- Identify opportunities to use technology to reduce paperwork and give professionals more time with patients.
- Implement the Universal Health-Care Guarantee, providing publicly funded treatment through another qualified provider when medically recommended wait times are exceeded.
- Fix the Health Professions and Occupations Act to strengthen patient safety, professional accountability and effective oversight while reducing unnecessary administrative burdens.
- Train and recruit more doctors, nurses and other health professionals, and remove barriers that prevent qualified professionals from using their full skills.
- Expand long-term care, palliative, and respite care and help seniors age at home. Strengthen safeguards against coercion in MAiD decisions and protect patient choice. Use proven technology to reduce paperwork and give professionals more time with patients.
- Enhance the safety of medical staff and patients and reduce burnout by working with the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General to enforce safety and drug laws in hospitals and clinics.
- Strengthen hospital and clinic safety and establish a Traditional Chinese Medicine Advisory Committee to advise on patient care and professional issues.
- Support the Minister of Agriculture to introduce a Home-Based Craft Food Act allowing the sale of low-risk homemade foods tax free from small home producers.
- Work with the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General and the Minister of Social Development to end the “safe supply” approach to drug use; expand drug courts; move funding to prevention, treatment and recovery; stop forcing drug-friendly facilities on communities; and review and reform overdose prevention sites and injection sites.
- Support the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure to re-start seven deferred long-term care homes for seniors.

Mental Health

- Expand timely access to psychiatric services, community mental-health care, crisis response and residential treatment, with stronger early intervention.

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- Expand detoxification, addiction treatment, and aftercare, including appropriate mandatory care for individuals at serious risk of harm. Work with the Minister of Local Government, Housing, Sport and Culture to expand recovery housing.

- Conduct an independent review of the Mental Health Act, including its application to people with brain injuries, schizophrenia and dementia.

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