



January 16, 2025

Honourable Sheila Malcolmson
Minister of Social Development
and Poverty Reduction
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Malcolmson:

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction 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 Social Development and Poverty Reduction programs and initiatives to ensure our programs remain relevant, are efficient, ensure safe and strong communities, and reduce poverty. This is important in the context of current Provincial budget constraints and the priorities of communities in the province.
- Continue to develop tools and approaches to prevent poverty and increase income, focusing first on youth growing up in families living in poverty, and work with the Ministers of Health, Finance, Citizens' Services and others to ensure low- and moderate-income British Columbians receive and retain the federal and provincial benefits they are eligible for, beginning with the Canada Disability Benefit.
- With support from the Parliamentary Secretary for Accessibility, lead government's work on accessibility initiatives.
- Support British Columbians struggling with the cost of food and unable to afford the basics by leading work on food security and find opportunities to support BC farmers and food producers in this work.
- 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.

- Lead work, with support from the Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills, to deliver skills and training initiatives for people facing multiple complex barriers that will enable them to access opportunities and build a dignified life.

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

- Support you to work with stakeholders, in particular with people with lived experience, to support the development and implementation of government's work to make BC more accessible and inclusive for all people.

You are also assigned a Parliamentary Secretary for Community Development and Non-Profits whose focus will be to:

- Work with the Attorney General to support engagement of the non-profit sector in the 2025 review of the *Lobbyist Transparency Act*.
- Continue to strengthen government's relationship with the non-profit sector by acting as the point of contact within government on key issues affecting the sector and supporting the effectiveness of non-profit sector organizations, including through the Social Services Sector Roundtable.

You will work closely together and ensure your Parliamentary Secretaries receive 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.

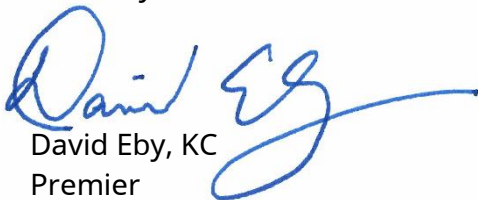
We have an obligation to protect and defend British Columbians, as well as seize opportunities, in these uncertain times.

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: Dana Lajeunesse, MLA
Parliamentary Secretary for Accessibility

Joan Phillip, MLA
Parliamentary Secretary for Community Development and Non-Profits