



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

June 12, 2015

Honourable Michael de Jong
Minister of Finance
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, British Columbia
V8V 1X4

Dear Minister:

On behalf of the people of British Columbia, I would like to thank you for the contributions made by you and your ministry over the past 12 months to make our province stronger.

You have been part of a government that has continued to deliver on the promises we made in our election platform, Strong Economy, Secure Tomorrow during the past 24 months. Balancing the budget for a third time, having our triple A credit rating confirmed and re-confirmed as stable by Moody's Investors Service, and continuing to support the growth of a diverse economy are all accomplishments of which we collectively and you individually can be rightly proud.

I am very pleased to note that you and each of your colleagues were again able to live within your voted legislative budgets. The people of our province elect us to work on their behalf—to control spending.

Living within our means is demonstrating our respect for the people of our province and the tax dollars they send to Victoria. By keeping government lean and reducing the cost of administration, we can make significant investments in people and the infrastructure on which they depend to succeed in a strong and growing economy.

As a result of our strong fiscal position, we have been able to provide new assistance to single parents as they return to the workforce, greater income exemptions for single parents on income assistance and continued record investments in funding for public health care, education and transportation—services on which families depend.

Our government is resolute in our desire to grow the economy as a way to enable more British Columbians to participate in the economy and obtain meaningful, family-supporting work. The work your ministry does each and every day to contribute to these efforts are noticed and valued.

In particular, I would like to congratulate you and your ministry for:

- Successfully implementing our Economic Stability Mandate for public sector labour negotiations which to date have seen over 75 percent of public sector employees conclude long-term labour agreements
- The creation of the Renminbi currency trading hub in Vancouver
- The confirmation of our AAA provincial credit rating and the move by Moody's Investor's Service to return British Columbia to a stable credit outlook

As you know, the annual mandate letter you receive is designed to be an ongoing workplan for your ministry that is updated on an annual basis. You will undoubtedly notice some changes since last June.

Your mandate for the following year is as follows:

1. Ensure Balanced Budget 2014/15 reports as balanced as per Public Accounts released in summer, 2015.
2. Balance your ministerial budget in order to control spending and ensure an overall balanced budget for the province of British Columbia.
3. Protect British Columbia's AAA credit rating.
4. Successfully conclude all outstanding collective agreements yet to be signed under the Economic Stability Mandate by June 30, 2016.
5. Work with the Ministry of Natural Gas Development to secure Project Development Agreements with LNG developers in British Columbia.
6. Work with the Ministry of Natural Gas Development to present options to Cabinet on the creation of the Prosperity Fund by the 2017 Spring Legislative session.
7. Work with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to complete and implement any recommendations from the Crown Agency Review of BC Transit.
8. Aggressively promote Vancouver as a global Renminbi trading centre by encouraging Asian lending institutions to open offices in Vancouver.
9. Examine the feasibility and make recommendations to Cabinet regarding the potential to issue British Columbia bonds into Indian Rupee market.
10. Work with BC industry to propose policy or tax changes to Cabinet that could improve the competitiveness of BC businesses that do not include the return of a harmonized sales tax.

11. Review and ensure that all remaining tax policy changes that were committed in Strong Economy, Secure Tomorrow are implemented no later than Budget 2017.

In addition, as discussed and approved by Cabinet, our government is committed to ensuring British Columbia government services are easily accessed by our citizens and businesses. Minister Naomi Yamamoto will be leading this initiative on my behalf and over the following 12 months she will be reaching out to all ministries to assist in reducing unnecessary red tape and regulation.

It is hard to believe but it has been two years since the people of British Columbia put their faith in us to lead their province. We have accomplished much in those two years, but much work remains to deliver the promise of a strong economy and secure tomorrow for our citizens. I look forward to working with you over the coming year.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Christy Clark', with a small arrow pointing to the end of the signature.

Christy Clark, M.L.A.
Premier of British Columbia