



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

July 30, 2015

Honourable Michelle Stilwell
Minister of Social Development and Social Innovation
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:

- The successful creation and launch of the Single Parent Employment Initiative
- Working with the Ministry of Advanced Education to ensure students with disabilities have access to training for in-demand occupations
- Hosting the successful provincial Disabilities Summit

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:

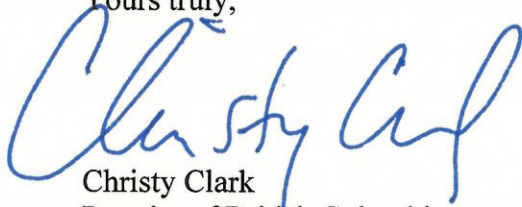
1. Balance your ministerial budget in order to control spending and ensure an overall balanced budget for the province of British Columbia.
2. Continue to grow and support the Social Innovation sector in our Province.
3. Manage the budget of Community Living BC to ensure both fiscal discipline and maximum service delivery to individuals.
4. Work with partner ministries and the disability community to implement Accessibility 2024 and report out annually on the progress made in moving B.C. forward as an accessible province.
5. Work with Parliamentary Secretary Linda Larson and continue broad outreach in the business and not-for-profit community to increase employment opportunities for people with disabilities.
6. Launch the following in September 2015 and provide Cabinet with an update on these important initiatives by March 31st 2016:
 - The new Family Maintenance Exemption
 - Policy changes for families with children on income assistance
 - Single Parent Employment Initiative
7. Continue to look for opportunities to modernize and improve income and disability assistance policies and programs.
8. Work with the Labour Market Priorities Board to identify opportunities to support BC Employment and Assistance clients in developing their skills and securing long-term employment.

9. Conduct an evaluation of the Employment Program of BC to ensure it continues to support BC's Skills for Jobs Blueprint and identify improvements that will better assist unemployed and underemployed British Columbians in gaining long-term employment.
10. Work with the federal government to renew the Canada/B.C. Labour Market Development Agreement so that improvements can be made to expand eligibility and access to skills training.
11. Work with the Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services to continue to identify opportunities to implement integrated service counters with Service BC, in order to provide improved, unified government service to clients and citizens.

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 Coralee Oakes 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 that reads "Christy Clark". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Christy" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Clark".

Christy Clark
Premier of British Columbia