



July 30, 2015

Honourable Shirley Bond  
Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training  
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:

- Developing and implementing our new policy designed to sponsor apprentices on publicly-funded infrastructure projects
- Celebrating one year of action on BC's Skills for Jobs Blueprint to ensure British Columbians have the skills to be first in line for the in-demand jobs of tomorrow
- Working with the federal government on the Canada Jobs Grant program development which has now provided training for 6,800 British Columbians

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 work with the Ministries of Education and Advanced Education to implement the commitments and actions contained in BC's Skills for Jobs Blueprint.
3. Implement the announced changes to the BC Provincial Nominee Program that will ensure nominees entering British Columbia have the necessary skills to fill labour pool gaps.
4. Work with the federal government to increase the number of Provincial Nominee Program spaces available for people wishing to emigrate to British Columbia.
5. Working with the Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation, provide options to Cabinet on ways to reform the Labour Market Development Agreements with the Government of Canada.
6. Continue to host sectoral jobs roundtables to ensure that government is meeting the needs of industries as they meet the challenge of a growing and changing economy.
7. Continue to work with the Ministry of Education to improve access or students who wish to go into the trades to participate in credited applied trades skills programs while in high school.
8. Work with Ministry of Innovation and Citizens' Services on the development of a 10-year skills plan for BC's Technology Sector as part of our government's overall technology strategy.



9. Develop and implement a strategy to connect displaced workers in Alberta with job opportunities in British Columbia.
10. Work with all ministries to identify opportunities to reduce or eliminate outdated regulation and reduce red tape for British Columbians. As part of this work, examine the current Regulator Impact Assessment and consider changes to ensure regulatory impacts are identified and mitigated as early as possible in the development process.
11. Continue to implement and provide an update to Cabinet on the Worksafe BC changes as recommended by Gordon Macatee.
12. Review and update our provincial tourism strategy, *Gaining the Edge*.
13. Work with the President and CEO of Destination BC to ensure it is working closely with the Province on the implementation of our provincial tourism strategy.
14. Continue to work with the Premier's Women's Economic Council to identify initiatives and ideas to advance women's role in the economy.

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,



Christy Clark  
Premier of British Columbia