



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

July 30, 2015

Honourable Stephanie Cadieux
Minister of Children and Family Development
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 development and announcement of the Single Parent Initiative
- The continued provision of new child care spaces in our province to support parents in returning to the workforce
- The establishment of an additional 14 Early Years Centres in British Columbia

As you know, the annual mandate letter you receive is designed to be an ongoing work plan 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 implementation of the Early Years Strategy ensuring that families and children receive the supports they need to succeed.
3. Continue to work with the Ministry of Finance to ensure that the early childhood tax benefit registration is implemented to maximize parent participation in this important family support program.
4. Continue your regular quarterly meetings with the Representative for Children and Youth.
5. Continue to lead a cross-ministerial working group with Health and Education on the effectiveness and coordination of the provision of autism services for children and youth in British Columbia and make recommendations to Cabinet on potential changes by March 31, 2016.
6. Implement with the Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation the recent changes that will remove barriers for single parents from developing their skills and returning to the workforce and by March 31, 2016 report to Cabinet on further opportunities for improvement.
7. Continue to work with the federal government on issues impacting child protection in First Nations communities.
8. Continue to work with the Ministries of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation and Justice as well as the Provincial Office of Domestic Violence to implement the provincial Violence-Free BC initiative

9. Work with Parliamentary Secretary Jane Thornthwaite on improving youth mental health through the BC Friends for Life program.
10. Lead a working group with the Ministries of Health and Education to review and define Child and Youth Mental Health services in the province and make recommendations to Cabinet by June 30, 2016 on potential improvements.
11. Review and recommend to Cabinet changes to the existing adoption process to increase the number and timeliness of adoptions and other permanent placements of young people in British Columbia.
12. Review and recommend to Cabinet changes to the current foster parent system in the province.

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