



December 7, 2022

Honourable Lana Popham  
Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport  
Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Popham:

Thank you for agreeing to serve as Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport. I trust in your leadership at this critical time to deliver results for the people of British Columbia.

British Columbians continue to recover from and respond to the upheaval caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and climate related natural disasters, while global inflation is driving up costs for more households and the world's economic outlook is concerning. Now more than ever, we need to focus on building a secure, low emission, sustainable economy, and a province where everyone can find a good home – whether you live in a rural area, in a city, or in an Indigenous community. We will continue working toward true and meaningful reconciliation by supporting opportunities for Indigenous Peoples to be full partners in the inclusive and sustainable province we are building together.

Our government is committed to delivering on the mandate British Columbians gave us in 2020. Together we can make life better for people in B.C., improve the services we all rely on, and ensure a sustainable province for future generations.

As we renew our work, my priority as Premier is to deliver results that people can see and feel in four key areas:

- **Attainable and affordable housing:** In the wake of soaring prices and record migration to B.C., we will take on the important work of building new homes that are actually attainable for the middle class, while continuing our work to address the housing crisis for those in distress on our streets.

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- **Safer communities:** To address concerns about public safety, both for the people struggling with mental health and addiction on our streets, as well as the feeling that downtown centres are not as safe as they were before the pandemic, we will work with our partners at all levels of government, the justice and health care systems, the non-profit sector, and community leaders to find solutions for this complex challenge facing our province, and work overtime to seize the assets of high-level criminals.
- **Improved health care:** Amid unprecedented pressures we will continue to work to strengthen our public health care system, from family doctors to new hospitals, so care is there for each of us when we need it.
- **A sustainable, clean, secure, and fair economy:** We will continue our work investing in British Columbians, fighting racism and promoting equity, and building a clean economy that addresses our obligations to combat climate change by driving down emissions, while creating good, family supporting jobs.

Our tourism industry was hit hard by the pandemic and continues to need support to recover and thrive. People are travelling again and when they have a choice of where to go, they are choosing our province as a destination.

British Columbia will be hosting major sporting events every year from 2024 to 2026, inclusive. By using these marquee events to promote our province and the remarkable tourism opportunities available, we will help leverage our investments in Indigenous tourism, conservation, and community amenities into sustained economic growth across B.C.

Beyond tourism, arts and culture play a vital role in our province's economy. From our thriving film, special effects, gaming, and animation sectors to theatre, music, comedy, and dance, British Columbians are having an outsized impact, delivering major success on the world stage.

The remarkable diversity that makes up our province, from Indigenous art and culture to art that thrives in cultural communities, has led to an innovative and unique cultural sector that has remarkable potential for further growth and development.

Since 2020, our government has made considerable progress on important initiatives including:

- Supporting the tourism, arts, culture, and sport sectors through the COVID-19 response and recovery.

- Evaluating the benefits of potential marquee sporting events, resulting in commitments to host the 2025 Invictus Games and the 2026 FIFA World Cup.
- Doubling support for arts and culture spaces with \$4 million in support to the Arts Infrastructure Program.
- Supporting the redevelopment of the Jewish Community Centre of Greater Vancouver with a \$25 million contribution for new child care and housing for families.
- Announcing the single largest funding program to support B.C.'s unique heritage infrastructure with \$16 million to be delivered in partnership with Heritage BC and \$4 Million delivered with the First Peoples' Cultural Council.
- Establishing Canada's first Chinese Canadian Museum in B.C.

As you continue to make progress on items in the previous mandate letter, over the remaining period of this mandate I expect you to prioritize making progress on the following:

- Continue to work with the tourism and hospitality sectors in rural and urban communities to ensure sustained recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Continue to support the Arts Infrastructure Program to help communities build new cultural spaces and renovate existing ones.
- Maintain work with B.C. host cities and organizers of upcoming marquee events – Grey Cup in 2024, Invictus Games in 2025 and FIFA world cup in 2026 – to ensure they provide positive benefits for businesses, communities, and the tourism sector.
- Work with First Nations to secure the bid for the 2027 North America Indigenous Games.
- Continue to promote rural and Indigenous tourism opportunities, taking advantage of B.C.'s unparalleled natural areas.
- Continue the development and implementation of heritage policy and programs related to geographical naming, heritage conservation capacity building, historic places recognition, fossil management, and the stewardship of physical heritage resources.

- Work with the Royal BC Museum to engage in a robust consultation with First Nations, British Columbians, and other stakeholders to inform next steps in the Museum's future.
- With support from the Parliamentary Secretary for Anti-Racism Initiatives, work in consultation with affected communities to advance emerging museum programs and proposals including the Chinese Canadian museum, a South Asian museum, and a provincial Filipino cultural centre.

To assist you in meeting the commitments we have made to British Columbians, you are assigned a Parliamentary Secretary for Arts and Film and a Parliamentary Secretary for Tourism. You will work closely together and ensure your Parliamentary Secretaries receive appropriate support to deliver on the priorities outlined in the mandate letters issued to them.

Our work together must continue to evolve to meet the changing needs of people in this province. Issues not contemplated by this letter will come forward for government action and I ask you to bring such matters forward for consideration by the Planning and Priorities Committee of Cabinet, with the expectation that any proposed initiatives will be subject to the usual Cabinet and Treasury Board oversight and include measurable outcomes for British Columbians. Your ministry's priorities must reflect our government's overall strategic plan as determined by Cabinet.

British Columbians expect their elected representatives to work together to advance the public good. That means seeking out, fostering, and championing good ideas regardless of their origin. I expect you to reach out to elected members from all parties as you deliver on your mandate. Further, you will build thoughtful and sustained relationships both with title holders and through public and stakeholder engagement plans that incorporate diverse perspectives early in the policy development process. Federal partnerships and resources will be particularly important and, on behalf of our government, you will engage with the federal government on advancing priorities to improve the lives of British Columbians.

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 rural and urban challenges that we face are urgent and complex. In response, we must be forward-thinking, strategic, and ready to work across disciplines and old divisions in new ways. Labour shortages are a major issue globally, and British Columbia is no exception, including in the public service. Maintaining the BC Public Service as an employer of excellence will be key to retaining and recruiting the diverse professionals we rely on to deliver essential services, advice, and analysis.

At the core of this work is listening and responding to the priorities of people in B.C. Together, we can deliver results in very real ways – ways that people can see, feel, and touch, and that change their lives for the better. Thank you for doing this important work with me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Eby". The signature is stylized and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Eby, KC  
Premier