



BRITISH  
COLUMBIA

June 12, 2015

Honourable Coralee Oakes  
Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural 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:

- Working with the organizers and communities that successfully hosted the Canada Winter Games in Prince George
- Successfully concluding a new Peace River Agreement with the communities of northeast British Columbia
- Launching the new NBCF-Small Communities Fund with the federal government to allow communities with populations under 100,000 access funds to improve vital infrastructure

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:

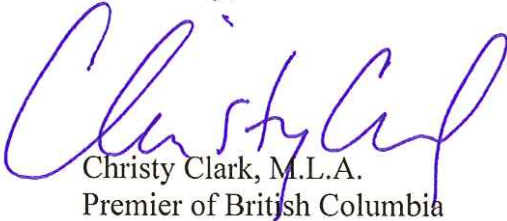
1. Balance your ministerial budget in order to control spending and ensure an overall balanced budget for the province of British Columbia.
2. Work with the Ministry of Natural Gas Development to ensure communities facing growth due to LNG development are provided support to manage and mitigate the impacts of significant economic development and population growth.
3. Develop and present legislation to the House to implement the commitment to limit local government election expenses by March 31, 2016.
4. Working with the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training, report out and implement the ministry's plan to grow BC's creative economy and creative workforce.
5. Review the recommendations made by Chris Trumpy to improve the operations of the office of the Auditor General for Local Government and provide options for reform.
6. Develop and present options to Cabinet on potential processes under which local governments could either amalgamate or integrate service delivery by June 30, 2016.
7. Maximize the opportunity to showcase British Columbia to the world as Vancouver hosts the Women's FIFA World Cup Final in July, 2015.
8. Work with the federal government to secure funding for British Columbia available under the Building Canada Communities Fund.

9. Work with your colleagues to ensure that the annual UBCM convention provides a comprehensive exchange of ideas with municipal partners.

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,



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