



December 7, 2022

Honourable George Heyman
Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Heyman:

Thank you for agreeing to continue to serve as Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy. 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.

British Columbians value our land, water and wild spaces. That's why we live here – to ski, swim, hike, bike and camp and enjoy all that nature has to offer in our beautiful province. Those values are also why British Columbians are concerned about the impacts of climate change on our natural environment. Forest fires, floods, and drought fill them with concern about not just their children's future, but what a quickly changing climate will look like in their communities today.

Leading on climate change prevention and response while growing our economy, and balancing our natural resource industries with protection of wild spaces, are not mutually exclusive ideas – their integration is the way we do business in British Columbia. Our model of investing in people for a sustainable future has led our province to be a national economic leader coming out of the pandemic, and a new home for record numbers of people choosing to join us here on the west coast.

Our leadership in sustainable economic growth with CleanBC must continue. British Columbians want us to continue to build a sustainable economy that works for them, while protecting the province we love and making sure they have opportunity to get out and enjoy it. Every sector of our economy has a role to play in driving down emissions and ensuring we meet our 2030 and 2050 emissions goals, and our government will work hard in partnership with First Nations, businesses, labour, non-profit organizations, communities and all levels of government to deliver on those important commitments.

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

- Delivering the CleanBC Roadmap to 2030 in partnership with communities and the Climate Solutions Council, setting interim and sectoral GHG targets, enhancing the CleanBC Program for Industry, and establishing a new, ongoing funding program for local governments.
- Launching and funding the Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy.
- Beginning the phase-out of single use plastics province-wide, including expanding our CleanBC Plastics Action Fund and empowering municipalities to ban single-use plastics as a first step.
- Making public transit a priority by providing free transit for kids under 12, hitting milestones in the construction of the new Surrey-Langley SkyTrain, and making major investments in Metro Vancouver transit improvements.
- Expanding our network of parks and protected areas by over six thousand hectares, making improvements to recreation sites and parks infrastructure, and working together with First Nations to ensure Indigenous culture and history is respected and reflected in our parks and protected areas.

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

- Lead our government's implementation of the CleanBC Roadmap to 2030, on time and on target, including legislating an additional target to reach net-zero province-wide by 2050 while continuing to take action to meet B.C.'s 2030, 2040 and 2050 legislated reduction targets.
- Support the Minister of Finance to chart a path that aligns with the federal carbon price, including measures to support families, small businesses, and industry in B.C. to make the transition to a clean economy while ensuring no one gets left behind
- Work with the Minister of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation to develop policies and regulations that meet B.C.'s 2030 sectoral and methane targets for the oil and gas sector while ensuring alignment with the federal cap on oil and gas emissions.
- Ensure new industries fit within the CleanBC Plan, and that they deliver on the CleanBC Roadmap to 2030 commitment that requires new large industrial facilities to submit plans demonstrating how they align with B.C.'s legislated and sectoral targets and how they will achieve net zero emissions by 2050.

- Complete the Plastics Action Plan and set a target date to phase out single-use plastics.
- Deliver the first phase of B.C.'s new bonding policy toward ensuring owners of large industrial projects are bonded moving forward so that they – not British Columbians – pay the full costs of environmental cleanup if their projects are abandoned.
- Continue to implement the Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy to help communities, businesses, key public services and infrastructure be prepared for and resilient to our changing climate.
- Work with the Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness to develop a provincial hazard risk vulnerability assessment that builds on B.C.'s Preliminary Strategic Climate Risk Assessment and integrates climate and disaster risk. This will support the development of a subsequent province-wide integrated disaster and climate risk reduction plan that assesses risk priorities, and systematically coordinates and implements cross-government interventions consistent with those priorities.

To assist you in meeting the commitments we have made to British Columbians, you are assigned a Parliamentary Secretary for Environment. You will work closely together and ensure your Parliamentary Secretary receives appropriate support to deliver on the priorities outlined in the mandate letter 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, appearing to read "David Eby", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Eby, KC
Premier