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**Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation
2021/22 Estimates Summary**

(in \$000's)

Estimates - Operating Budget	Restated Estimates 2020/21	Estimates 2021/22	Variance
Trade and Industry Development	25,801	25,903	102
Small Business and Economic Development	8,070	8,319	249
Investment and Innovation	11,109	11,198	89
Transfers to Crown Corporations and Agencies	25,640	25,640	-
Executive and Support Services	7,298	7,588	290
Northern Development Fund	500	500	-
	78,418	79,148	730

Variance Explanations:

Trade and Industry Development (\$102,000 increase)

- \$102,000 increase attributed to BCGEU negotiated wage increases

Small Business and Economic Development (\$249,000 increase)

- \$183,000 increase attributed to BCGEU negotiated wage increases
- \$102,000 increase attributed to the transfer of Immigration Programs to MUNI

Immigration programs were transferred to MUNI during the November 2020 Government Reorganization, and JERI's Estimates budget has been restated to reflect this. The budget allocated to the immigration programs and transferred to MUNI for 2020/21 was \$102,000 higher than the amount for 2021/22. As a result, on a restated basis JERI's budget shows an increase of \$102,000 for 2021/22.

- \$36,000 decrease attributed to the transfer of BCGEU increases to CITZ for BC Stats, as a result of the November 2020 Government Reorganization

Investment and Innovation (\$89,000 increase)

- \$89,000 increase attributed to BCGEU negotiated wage increases

Executive and Support Services (\$290,000 increase)

- \$97,000 increase attributed to BCGEU negotiated wage increases
- \$3,000 decrease attributed to BCGEU increases for the transfer of BC Stats to CITZ as a result of the November 2020 Government Reorganization
- \$196,000 increase attributed to the increase in Ministers' Offices budgets resulting from a cross Government Review
Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommendations Advice/Recommendations
Advice/Recommendations

Estimates - Capital	Restated Estimates 2020/21	Estimates 2021/22	Variance
Furniture and Equipment ¹	1	1	-
	1	1	-

¹ Budgets are placeholders in the event we need to incur Furniture & Equipment.



BUDGET 2021/22 QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

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Announced in Budget 2021

InBC Investment Corp.

1. How much funding has been provided to InBC Investment Corp. (InBC) in Budget 2021?

- InBC is a \$500 million strategic investment fund focussed on a triple bottom line approach, that will invest in small and medium-sized B.C. companies to help them scale up and reach their highest potential, while generating returns that support a growing economy.
- Prior to September 16, 2020 InBC Investment Corp. was called the BC Immigrant Investment Fund Ltd. (BCIIF). The BCIIF name was changed to InBC Investment Corp. to align with the Crown's new mandate to establish and administer a Strategic Investment Fund announced in September 2020 as part of the StrongerBC Economic Recovery Plan.
- No base funding has been allocated for InBC in Budget 2021. Crown operations will be funded through retained earnings, revenues from existing portfolios, and a fiscal agency loan.
- InBC's planned operating expenses are \$3.863M in FY22, \$6.5M in FY23 and \$6.781M in FY24.
- It is expected that over the next 10 years, up to \$500 million will be drawn down from this fiscal agency loan to fund InBC's investments.
- InBC is still in development and it is expected that its investment strategy and criteria will be published during 2021.

StrongerBC Initiatives – Small & Medium Sized Business Recovery Grants (including Circuit Breaker) & Future Leaders Initiatives

2. What is the Ministry's StrongerBC budget allocation for 2021/22?

- Some StrongerBC programming is continuing into the new fiscal year including the Small and Medium Sized Business Recovery Grant Program. The Ministry is also providing funding to support two initiatives under the StrongerBC Future Leaders program.
- The Digital Marketing Bootcamps program is also continuing its intake this fiscal although the funding for this program was provided in 2020/21 (see Q3)

• **Small and Medium Sized Business Recovery Grant Program** Cabinet Confidences

- The Small and Medium Sized Business Recovery Grant Program was approved and launched as part of StrongerBC in October 2020. The funding provides grants to enable small businesses to access professional advice and grants to support recovery for those which have been impacted by the pandemic
- The Program was extended to August 31, 2021 or when the funding runs out.

Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information

- \$52.8 million from the Cabinet Confidences Small and Medium Sized Business Grant program has been set aside for businesses through the new Circuit Breaker Business Relief Grant



- The Circuit Breaker Business Relief grant provides restaurants, bars, breweries, wineries, gyms and fitness centres impacted by the March 30, 2021, provincial health orders with up to \$10,000 in one-time funding to help with expenses like rent, insurance, employee wages, maintenance and utilities and other unexpected costs resulting from the restrictions such as the purchase of perishable goods. This program stream is open until June 4, 2021.

Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information

- **Province's StrongerBC Future Leaders Program (\$22M under JERI, \$15M in 2021/22, \$7M in 2020/21)**

- The Province is providing more than 5,000 youth and young adults across BC with access to skills training and well-paid jobs through the StrongerBC Future Leaders Program.
- The Ministry of JERI is investing \$22 million to fund a minimum of 4,500 training spots and paid internships in two programs in partnership with Innovate BC and the Digital Technology SuperCluster.
- Innovator Skills Initiative (\$15M in 2021/22)
 - Budget 2021 provides \$15 million in funding to Innovate BC to expand the Innovator Skills Initiative program as part of the StrongerBC Future Leaders Program.
 - The new funding will expand the existing program to include non-student youth who have completed industry-approved certification or training.
 - The program will fund a portion of the internship costs for under-represented youth, creating 3,000 job placements for youth in a high-opportunity sector with higher-than-average wages.
- Canadian Tech Talent Accelerator (\$7M provided in 2020/21)
 - The Canadian Tech Talent Accelerator Program, is delivered by NPower Canada, in partnership with the Digital Technology SuperCluster and Microsoft.
 - The program provides valuable, in-demand tech skills to unemployed and underemployed youth from communities underrepresented in the digital economy.
 - This funding will provide training to a minimum of 1,400 B.C. youth (17-30 yr olds) over a two-year period. The training program is 15 weeks.
 - Graduates of the program will receive a certification as a Junior Data Analyst which enable them to work in roles related to cloud computing, artificial intelligence, and data visualization
 - Typical job placements include Help Desk Specialist, Jr Data Base Developer or Administrator, Business Analyst and project analyst



- 80% of graduates from the program have found employment or gone on to post-secondary training.
 - The Ministry invested \$7 million towards this program in 2020/21.
- The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural development will invest more than \$11 million in 2021/22 for over 220 jobs in the Natural Resource Youth Employment Program and the Recreation Sites and Trails Program.
- The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy is creating opportunities for up to 180 young people to help tackle marine debris and plastic pollution in coastal communities. An investment of \$5 million will be made in the Clean Coast, Clean Waters program in 2021/22.
- The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy will invest \$4 million in 2021/22 to create 37 positions with BC Parks and 46 positions with the Conservation Officer Service, to work in a variety of fields to gain experience and help protect the environment.
- The Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills training invested \$1 million into Mitacs in 2020/21 for key internal program placements. This funding was in addition to the \$1.18 million provided in 2019/20, for a total investment of \$2.18 million over two years.

3. What was spent on StrongerBC Programming in 2020/21?

- **Actual spending on StrongerBC programming for 2020/21 will be released through the public accounts later this year.**
- StrongerBC funding supported economic recovery and help businesses survive the impacts of the pandemic.
- Approximately \$230 million (StrongerBC Funding \$227.75M, \$3.25M base budget) was allocated to StrongerBC Programming in 2020/21.
- Actual spending will be released in the 2020/21 Public Accounts.

Stronger BC Programs (\$ In Millions)	2020/21 Allocation
a. Small & Medium Sized Business Recovery Grant ¹	\$150M
b. Launch Online	\$42M
c. Digital Marketing Bootcamps ²	\$4.5M
d. Agritech Grant	\$7.5M
e. Accelerating Manufacturing Scale-Up Grants ³	\$10.75M
f. Supply Chain Resiliency Grants	\$6M
g. Supply Chain Analysis	\$0.25M
h. Mass Timber Demonstration Projects	\$3M
i. Youth Corps – Canadian Tech Talent Accelerator	\$7M
Total Funding	\$231M
¹ Total allocation of Cabinet over 2 years (\$150M in 2020/21, Cabinet in 2021/22) ² Includes \$2.5M funded through base budget savings ³ Includes \$0.75M for administration costs funded through base budget savings	



New to JERI – Office of Mass Timber Implementation

4. How much funding was allocated to the Office of Mass Timber Implementation (OMTI) and Mass Timber Demonstration Projects in Budget 2021?

Office of Mass Timber Implementation:

- No base budget lift was provided to OMTI in FY22. Although no base budget lift was received, a \$2.01M allocation will be provided to the program this fiscal.
- Funding will be reallocated from anticipated base budget savings in FY22 as a result of COVID-19 impacts. JERI is expecting continued delays and cancellations of international programs and events partway into this fiscal.
- A base budget lift of \$1.27M per year was received in FY23 and FY24 (\$1.214 under Trade and Industry Development and \$56,000 for corporate support).^{Advice/Recommendations}

Advice/Recommendations

Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information

Mass Timber Demonstration Projects:

- As part of StrongerBC, FII received funding of \$3.0M in 2020/21 for a mass timber demonstration program, which offsets incremental costs related to the design and construction of buildings that can demonstrate mass timber building systems and construction processes
- An additional \$2 million per year for Mass Timber Demonstration projects will be provided to FII in 2021/22 and 2022/23. This transfer is shown in the Service Plan for FII.

COVID 19 Questions

5. What initiatives has the Ministry undertaken to support COVID-19 response and recovery?

In addition to Stronger BC Initiatives (See Question #3), the Ministry has undertaken several initiatives to support COVID-19 response and recovery:

- **Small Business BC Hotline and Website:** \$250,000 was provided to Small Business BC in 2019/20 and \$75,000 in 2020/21 to fund a dedicated COVID-19 hotline and internet-based resources. The COVID Support Line provides a much needed service to businesses looking for information on programs and supports. The Service was then rolled into the Small Business and Medium-Sized Grant Program.
- **Digital Marketing Bootcamp:** \$250,000 in funding to support the delivery of a digital marketing course for businesses that is intended to improve their digital platforms and marketing, and individuals for digital marketing positions. This program received



an additional \$4.5M (\$2 million in Stronger BC Funding and \$2.5 million in 2020/21 base funding) and has been extended in to fiscal year 2021/22.

- **Online Marketplace for Businesses:** \$205,000 in funding for the purpose of enhancing the functionality of Small Business BC's existing online Marketplace for businesses website by creating:
 - A searchable database of local BC vendors meant to connect businesses with consumers who want to shop local; and
 - an online listing that businesses can utilize to fund vendors that have PPE and cleaning/disinfecting supplies available for sale.
- **BC Restart Application:** We've listened to small businesses. We built an application in partnership with the Ministry of Health to support small businesses with economic recovery. Over \$300,000 was allocated for this purpose from JERI's 2020/21 budget. The responsibility of this initiative transferred to the Ministry of Citizens' Services (please direct questions to CITZ).

6. What impacts has COVID-19 had on the Ministry's revenues and expenses.

- All ministries have been redirecting operations as needed to meet critical service needs during the pandemic. This included implementing new StrongerBC programs funded through the Vote 52 Contingencies for Pandemic Response and Economic Recovery and through a reallocation of base budgets. (See Questions # 3 and #5 detailing response and recovery initiatives undertaken by JERI).
- The pandemic resulted in 2020/21 savings due to the cancellation/rescheduling of international missions and events, resulting in limited travel and support costs. These savings are anticipated to continue partway into 2021/22.
- JERI's budgeted revenues and recoveries have not been significantly impacted by the pandemic but low interest rates have resulted in lower returns on investments.



General Budget 2021/22

7. Why has JERI's budget increased by \$730,000 in 2021/22?

JERI's 2021/22 budget of \$79.148M increased by \$730,000 from the 2020/21 restated estimates budget of \$78.418M.

Budget Increase/(Decrease) Summary	\$ 000's
BCGEU Negotiated Compensation Increases	\$471
Minister's Office Increases resulting from a cross Government Review ¹	\$196
Transfer adjustment to MUNI for Immigration Programs (November 2020 Government Reorganization) ²	\$102
Additional budget transfer to CITZ for BC Stats BCGEU increases (November 2020 Government Reorganization) ³	(\$39)
Net Budget Increase	\$730

¹. Ministers' Offices increase resulting from a cross Government Review Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommendations
Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommendations Advice/Recommendations
Advice/Recommendations See Question #8 for further details.

². Immigration Programs were transferred to MUNI during the November 2020 Government Reorganization, and JERI's Estimates budget has been restated to reflect this. The budget allocated to the Immigration Programs and transferred to MUNI for 2020/21 was \$102,000 higher than the amount for 2021/22. As a result, on a restated basis JERI's budget shows an increase of \$102,000 for 2021/22.

³. BC Stats transferred to CITZ during the November 2020 Government Reorganization. Additional budget transfer of \$36,000 in 2021/22 for BCGEU negotiated wage increases.

8. Why has the Ministers' Offices budgets increased by \$206,000 in 2021/22?

- The Minister's Offices budget received an increase of \$196,000 as a result of a cross Government review Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommendations The intent of this review was to better align budgets with staffing levels and historic spending. The remaining \$10,000 increase was a result of BCGEU increases.
 - The \$196,000 increase includes funding for the Parliamentary Secretary expenses, as well as salary increases for staffing levels.
 - Increases were offset by a reduction in operating expenses as office expenses and information systems budgets were standardized across Ministries and some IT expenses will be centralized with the Ministry of Citizens' Services



Minister's Office	Increase (Decrease) In \$000's
Salaries and Benefits	172
Operational Expenses	(2)
Total Net Increase Minister's Office	170

Minister of State for Trade	Increase (Decrease) In \$000's
Salaries and Benefits	73
Operational Expenses	(47)
Total Net Increase Minister's Office	26

Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommendations

9. **Why do Forestry Innovation Investment (FII) and Innovate BC's 2021/22 Estimates amounts differ from the amounts received from the Province in the Crown's Service Plan?**

Crown Corporation	Per Crown Service Plan	Per Blue Book	Variance
Innovate BC	\$21.09M	\$6.09M	\$15M
FII	\$21.55M	\$19.55M	\$2M

Innovate BC:

- Innovate BC's 2021/22 Provincial Contributions will be \$21.090 in 2021/22
- This includes a base budget of \$6.09M plus one-time funding of \$15M for the expansion of the Innovator Skills Initiative

Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information

Forestry Innovation Investment Ltd:

- FII's 2021/22 Provincial Contributions will be \$21.55 million in 2021/22
- FII's Provincial Contribution in 2021/22 includes base budget of \$19.550M and \$2.0M for the continuation of the Mass Timber Demonstration Program, ^{s.12; Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommendations;}



Cabinet Confidences;
Advice/Recommendations; Government (\$3M in StrongerBC funding was provided for Mass Timber Demo projects in 2020/21)

- FII's Provincial Contribution in 2022/23 also includes \$2.0M for the continuation of the Mass Timber Demonstration Program, Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information

Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information

Possible General Questions

10. What is the impact of the Employer Health Tax on the Ministry?

- Ministries previously paid MSP premiums on behalf of employees (until December 31, 2019). The impact of Employer Health Tax (EHT) is the difference between the previous MSP premiums and the EHT.
 - The EHT is included in the benefits chargeback rate Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommendations and charged to each Ministry.
 - The EHT amount included in the 2020/21 chargeback is 2.19% of salaries Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommendations
 - MSP was 1.87% in the chargeback rate in 2018/19 and 1.66% in 2019/20.
 - The annual impact of the difference between EHT and MSP is \$128,000.
 - The annual impact for the Employer Health tax was \$540,000 for the 2020/21 fiscal year.
 - The estimated MSP premiums for the same period would be \$399,000 using the 2019/20 rate of 1.66%.
 - The benefits chargeback rate is 25.4% in 2021/22 which is unchanged from 2020/21. Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommendations

11. What is government doing to minimize the cumulative impact on businesses of tax, regulatory and cost increases?

The Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation helps support and maintain the strong and diverse economy that British Columbians need for long-term prosperity. We are making life easier and more affordable for small businesses and improving the lives of people throughout the province while strengthening our economy.

B.C. continues to have a strong, competitive economy with some of the lowest taxes in the country, including the second lowest small business rate among provinces, and one of the lowest competitive general corporate income tax rates in the country. Government has implemented the following supports for Small Business:

- We have reduced the small business tax rate by 20%, and eliminated the provincial sales tax on non-residential electricity.



- The B.C. government's 2019 Budget announced more than \$800 million in business tax reductions to support investment in new plants, machinery and equipment. This will benefit B.C. businesses by saving significant overhead costs when they need to buy equipment.
- B.C. has some of the lowest taxes in Canada, including:
 - The second lowest small business corporate income tax rate among provinces,
 - One of the lowest general corporate income tax rates among provinces, and
 - The lowest personal income taxes in Canada for individuals earning less than \$125,000 annually.
- These tax reductions are in addition to the federal government's boost in competitiveness through tax write-offs announced in November 2018.
- The Small Business Venture Capital Tax Credit encourages investors to invest in B.C.'s small businesses, giving them access to early-stage funding that helps them grow. For the 2019 tax year, the Small Business Venture Capital Tax Credit helped raise \$115 million in early-stage funding for over 230 small businesses.
- During the COVID-19 crisis, immediate help for businesses includes: delaying tax filing and payment deadlines, postponing the April 1st carbon tax rate increase, cutting the school property tax rate for some classes, and partnering with the federal government on the Canada Emergency Commercial Rent program.
- Through the Ministry of Citizen Services, we have established new procurement approaches that help businesses of all sizes access new opportunities, provide benefits to people, and solve everyday problems faster and more effectively through innovative solutions, partnerships and technology.
- We're revamping BC Bid to modernize how businesses of all sizes access and respond to government opportunities. In addition, we are also improving the process of informing suppliers of the status of procurements.
- Since 2017, this government has committed a total of \$180 million for the expansion and improvement of high-speed connectivity in rural and Indigenous communities across British Columbia. This includes \$40 million for Phase 2 and \$50 million for Phase 3 of the Connecting British Columbia program and \$90 million in 2020 under the Stronger BC Economic Recovery Plan. Since July 2017, projects underway or completed through the Connecting British Columbia program are benefitting more than 500 communities, including 87 Indigenous communities.
- We extended the Net Zero increase in regulatory requirements across government to 2022.
- While the former government doubled MSP premiums, we're proud to fully eliminate them. Getting rid of the unfair MSP premiums will save individuals up to \$900 a year and families up to \$1,800 a year. Eliminating MSP premiums is one of the biggest middle-class tax cuts in B.C.'s history.



- Under CleanBC, we have programs and incentives in place to help green businesses. Financial incentives are available to help businesses reduce energy consumption through energy-saving studies for buildings, upgrades for commercial buildings, small business equipment.
- We've relaunched Buy B.C. to help farmers market and food processors market their products and reach more people looking for made-in-B.C. products. Buy B.C. was expanded to provide an additional \$550,000 to farmers and food processors to integrate e-commerce technologies into their business and expand sales online.

12. How much funding has been allocated towards the Quantum Algorithms Institute for fiscal 2021/22?

- On October 2nd, 2019 the B.C. Government announced that it will be **supporting the creation of a Quantum Algorithms Institute that includes the province's network of post-secondary research institutes and industry partners.**
- The B.C. Government allocated up to \$17 million over five years (\$2M in FY20, \$3M in FY21, \$4M in FY22 to FY24) to establish the Institute, with \$4 million to be provided in 2021/2022, subject to available budget appropriation and review of future funding proposals from the Quantum Algorithms Institute Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information

Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information

- The independent Quantum Algorithms Institute was formally established in March 2020 and received \$2 million in 2019/20 and \$3 million in 2020/21.

13. Is there new funding in the budget to address the recommendations of the Food Security Task Force?

- The Food Security Task Force mandated activities to date are funded by the Ministry of Agriculture.
- In 2020/21 JERI launched the Agritech Grant Program under StrongerBC. This program is an initiative with strong alignments to the Food Security Task Force's recommendations.
 - The program accelerates the growth of B.C.'s Agritech sector, in support of economic recovery, using one-time grant funding for B.C. companies to scale up or for companies to anchor within the Province.
 - A total of 21 applicants were awarded Agritech Grants, totalling \$7.5 million in 2020/21.
 - Grant recipients will work on a range of Agritech projects from nutrient and waste management to precision agriculture, aquaculture, genomics and robotics.
 - No additional funding has been provided in 2021/22



- Building on the 2020 Food Security Task Force report, the newly announced Agritech Concierge provides support to food producers and agritech companies to grow and scale their businesses.
 - The Concierge serves as a one-stop shop for companies to access government services and programs to expand operations, improve export readiness and attract further investment. We have an exciting, growing cluster of companies and increasing interest from companies outside of BC looking for opportunities to expand business opportunities. The concierge leverages our existing services to facilitate investments in a tailored and targeted way.

14. What is/has been the budget impact of the change in the Asia Trade and Investment Representative model?

This operational change was about improving services and diversifying our trade network. Cost savings were redeployed to increase the program funding we have available to support B.C. businesses. Moving to a co-location model means we can re-invest these savings into new initiatives that benefit B.C. businesses. As a result of the re-investment, there is no anticipated bottom line impact to the Ministry budget

This decision was made to allow the Ministry to provide more trade and investment programming support and diversify our trade and investment opportunities across Asia. The transition is made possible by the partnership with Global Affairs Canada and BC is benefiting from a closer relationship with the many new resources added by Global Affairs Canada in Asia in recent years.

BC's new co-located positions in Asia are already strengthening our relationship with the many trade resources of Global Affairs Canada. Our new representatives supported efforts of BC and Canada to source and secure COVID-19 related supplies from Asia. We re-directed efforts of the headquarters team, utilized low-cost temporary assignments in-market, and relied on Global Affairs Canada to provide interim supports for BC businesses. We expect service levels to increase as more international trade resumes in the months ahead.

15. Is there funding for the continuation of the Export Navigator Pilot program?

Yes. The Ministry has developed and maintained the Export Navigator Program since 2016. In April 2019, we moved Export Navigator out of its pilot phase and expanded the program to offer specialized supports for businesses owned by Indigenous peoples, women, and youth. The Ministry allocated funding to maintain the program on a continuing basis in 2019/20 and onward.

The Province currently allocates \$1.2M for EN. The Ministry has also worked with Western Economic Diversification Canada to access their funding. This resulted in a successful application of up to \$2.25M of WD funds over three years. This WD funding contract is set to expire on March 31, 2022. The additional funding allowed for the hiring of three sector



specialists to focus on the under-represented demographics of Indigenous, Women and Youth (under 30).

Export Navigator currently operates in six communities across the Province (Comox Valley, Port Alberni, Prince George, Vernon, Prince Rupert and Nelson).

16. What are the expected risks/impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on BC's international trade and does the Ministry have a plan to mitigate these?

The global economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic continue to play out on the international trade and investment fields. Many of our conventional trading partners have experienced similar shut-down events and some are in the process of returning to broader activity.

- As our trading partners move to restart their economies, the Ministry is monitoring the status of key sectors and trade events to enable BC producers that experienced trade disruptions to access their international markets again as soon as possible. There have been virtual trade shows and business to business events supported by BC's export services staff and BC businesses such as BIO Partnering 2020, a Growing Indigenous Seafood Businesses Webinar, and continued engagement with BC businesses through online Trade Accelerator Programs. Additionally, the TIR network in international markets continues to engage with international buyers to provide made in BC solutions as well as monitor any trade policies that may be viewed as a barrier for BC products and services.
- The Ministry has expanded our capabilities to enable broader virtual event hosting and online networking events and has encouraged BC companies to adopt eCommerce solutions through the TAP training program and BC Government programs to offer an option to export their product to international markets.
- The Ministry continues to deploy domestic efforts to help existing investors and companies with their business continuity in BC; building investor confidence, thus keeping the economy going. Along with BC's Investor Services staff, our Trade and Investment Representatives (TIRs) overseas continue to engage international businesses to encourage and sustain investments and capital flows into BC. With current travel restrictions, instead of visiting the province, many global companies are spending time connecting electronically with potential partners and service providers in BC. Our staff has actively fostered introductions and executed connection days (tailored matchmaking sessions for vetted investors) to help guide international investors in identifying and shortlisting opportunities in BC's communities. As an example, the US TIR team has been organizing topical seminars such as the "Meet the VC" events in the Seattle area to connect BC technology companies with prospective funds.



- In order to ensure solid alignment and maximum impact of export and investment initiatives, the Ministry teams have been integrating planning and execution with Federal departments and foreign governments. As an example, the Ministry, in conjunction with the BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, developed and implemented the Netherlands Agritech Event as part of the Letter of Intent (2019) in collaboration with the Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality and the Consulate General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Vancouver to further ties between the two jurisdictions and its companies. The Ministry, in collaboration with the BC Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Initiatives, is also planning a LNG Forum in China with Global Affairs Canada, Natural Resources Canada and other provinces in order to promote Canadian natural gas and LNG development.
- The Ministry is working on the development of a Trade Diversification Strategy as part of the Ministry's mandate commitments in an effort to streamline efforts and leverage provincial resources in the markets and in the sectors that represent the greatest potential.





November 26, 2020

Honourable Ravi Kahlon
Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, British Columbia V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Kahlon:

Thank you for agreeing to serve British Columbians as Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation. You are taking on this responsibility at a time when people in our province face significant challenges as a result of the global COVID-19 pandemic.

COVID-19 has turned the lives of British Columbians upside down. None of us expected to face the challenges of the past number of months, yet British Columbians have demonstrated incredible resilience, time and time again. We will get through the pandemic and its aftereffects by building on this resilience and focusing on what matters most to people.

British Columbians voted for a government focused on their priorities: fighting the COVID-19 pandemic, providing better health care for people and families, delivering affordability and security in our communities, and investing in good jobs and livelihoods in a clean-energy future.

I expect you – and the work of your ministry – to focus on the commitments detailed in our platform, *Working for You*, along with the following foundational principles:

- **Putting people first:** Since 2017, our government has focused on making decisions to meet people's needs. That focus drove our work in our first term and will continue to be our priority. British Columbians are counting on the government to keep them safe and to build an economic recovery that works for everyone, not just those at the top. Keeping people at the centre of everything we do means protecting and enhancing the public services people rely on and working to make life more affordable for everyone.
- **Lasting and meaningful reconciliation:** Reconciliation is an ongoing process and a shared responsibility for us all. The unanimous passage of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* was a significant step forward in this journey. True

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reconciliation will take time and ongoing commitment to work with Indigenous peoples as they move toward self-determination. Our government – and every ministry – must remain focused on creating opportunities for Indigenous peoples to be full partners in our economy and providing a clear and sustainable path for everyone to work toward lasting reconciliation.

- **Equity and anti-racism:** Our province's history, identity and strength are rooted in its diverse population. Yet racialized and marginalized people face historic and present-day barriers that limit their full participation in their communities, workplaces, government and their lives. Our government has a moral and ethical responsibility to tackle systemic discrimination in all its forms – and every ministry has a role in this work. While our caucus elected a record number of women, more work remains to address gender equity. Delivering on our commitments to address racial discrimination will require a commitment by all of government to ensure increased IBPOC (Indigenous, Black and People of Colour) representation within the public service, including in government appointments. Our efforts to address systemic discrimination must also inform policy and budget decisions by reviewing all decisions through a Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) lens.
- **A better future through fighting climate change:** In 2018, our government launched our CleanBC climate action plan. CleanBC puts British Columbia on the path to a cleaner, better future by building a low-carbon economy with new clean-energy jobs and opportunities, protecting our air, land and water and supporting communities to prepare for climate impacts. It is every Minister's responsibility to ensure your ministry's work continues to achieve CleanBC's goals.
- **A strong, sustainable economy that works for everyone:** We will continue our work to support British Columbians through the pandemic and the economic recovery by investing in health care, getting people back to work, helping businesses and communities, and building the clean, innovative economy of the future. Our plan will train the workforce of tomorrow, help businesses hire and grow and invest in the infrastructure needed to build our province.

The pandemic has reminded us that we're strongest when we work together. Delivering on our commitments to people will require a coordinated effort with your cabinet and caucus colleagues, supported by the skilled professionals in the public service. You will also support your cabinet colleagues to do their work, particularly where commitments cross ministry lines.

British Columbians expect their elected representatives to work together to advance the broader public good despite their partisan perspectives. 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 through public and stakeholder engagement plans that connect with people to incorporate their perspectives early in the policy development process. These plans must include measurable outcomes and ensure active dialogue and ongoing outreach in your ministry's actions and priorities.

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Over the course of our mandate, I expect you will make progress on the following items:

- Support people and businesses in the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic by continuing to deliver initiatives that will directly support small businesses and build an inclusive economic recovery across B.C.
- Work across ministries to lead the development and coordinate implementation of an industrial and manufacturing strategy that generates cleaner, more innovative, value-added economic activity across B.C., while supporting our commitments to reconciliation and CleanBC.
- With support from the Minister of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation, boost B.C. as a global exporter of climate solutions by investing in B.C.-based carbon capture and storage and other low carbon technologies.
- Support the work of the Minister of State for Trade on special projects to support economic development, trade and innovation in areas such as B.C.'s shipbuilding sector, aerospace and forest sector innovation.
- Support B.C. shipyards to build capacity and become increasingly competitive with investments to support more shipbuilding, refit, repair, and maintenance here in B.C.
- Capitalize on the potential of B.C.'s aerospace industry by expanding support for B.C. companies to integrate into global supply chains and access new markets.
- Launch a strategic investment fund to support our government's objective of building a more innovative low-carbon economy by investing in high-potential B.C. businesses to help them scale up and grow here.
- Lead the Office of Mass Timber Implementation and, with support from the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, advance the mass timber action plan.
- Work to expand on the investment that our economic recovery plan, StrongerBC, is making for people pursuing online courses to re-skill for the digital economy.
- With support from the Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Training, work with B.C.'s Innovation Commissioner to lead investment in innovation clusters, with a focus on emerging industries where B.C. companies have developed the early lead – such as life sciences, emergency management technology, engineered wood, clean tech, artificial intelligence, and quantum and virtual reality technologies.
- Support the work of the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries to move forward with the recommendations of the Food Security Task Force and develop a new Regenerative Agricultural Network, which will create jobs for workers, opportunities for farmers and greater food security by bringing together natural systems of production with agri-technologies that enhance production.

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To assist you in meeting the commitments we have made to British Columbians, you are assigned a Parliamentary Secretary for Technology and Innovation. You will work closely together and ensure your Parliamentary Secretary receives appropriate support to deliver on the following priorities, outlined in the mandate letter issued to them:

- Develop an intellectual property strategy to support more innovation and commercialization by B.C. companies, including a First Patent Program.
- Help more people from underrepresented groups get their first job in the tech sector, while simultaneously helping B.C.-based tech companies hire and grow, by increasing the number of Innovator Skills Initiative Grants and prioritizing placements for women, Indigenous people, people of colour and others currently underrepresented in B.C.'s tech sector.
- Help more innovative B.C. businesses successfully scale up here by expanding the successful RevUp program that brings business owners together with experienced mentors who provide coaching and advice on growing small successful tech companies into larger ones.

Our work as a government must continually evolve to meet the changing needs of people in this province. Issues not contemplated in 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. Your ministry's priorities must reflect our government's overall strategic plan as determined by cabinet.

All cabinet members are expected to review, understand, and act according to the *Members' Conflict of Interest Act* and conduct themselves with the highest level of integrity. As a minister of the Crown, your conduct will reflect not only on you but on cabinet and our government. You are responsible for providing strong, professional and ethical leadership within cabinet and your ministry. 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. You must ensure your minister's office meets the highest standards for integrity and provides a respectful and rewarding environment for all staff.

My commitment to all British Columbians is to do my level best to make sure people's lives are better, safer and more affordable. I believe the challenges we face can and will be overcome by working together. By way of this letter, I am expressing my faith that people can expect the same commitment from you.

Sincerely,



John Horgan
Premier



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

November 26, 2020

Honourable George Chow
Minister of State for Trade
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, British Columbia V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Chow:

Thank you for agreeing to serve British Columbians as Minister of State for Trade. You are taking on this responsibility at a time when people in our province face significant challenges as a result of the global COVID-19 pandemic.

COVID-19 has turned the lives of British Columbians upside down. None of us expected to face the challenges of the past number of months, yet British Columbians have demonstrated incredible resilience, time and time again. We will get through the pandemic and its aftereffects by building on this resilience and focusing on what matters most to people.

British Columbians voted for a government focused on their priorities: fighting the COVID-19 pandemic, providing better health care for people and families, delivering affordability and security in our communities, and investing in good jobs and livelihoods in a clean-energy future.

I expect you – and the work of your ministry – to focus on the commitments detailed in our platform, *Working for You*, along with the following foundational principles:

- **Putting people first:** Since 2017, our government has focused on making decisions to meet people's needs. That focus drove our work in our first term and will continue to be our priority. British Columbians are counting on the government to keep them safe and to build an economic recovery that works for everyone, not just those at the top. Keeping people at the centre of everything we do means protecting and enhancing the public services people rely on and working to make life more affordable for everyone.
- **Lasting and meaningful reconciliation:** Reconciliation is an ongoing process and a shared responsibility for us all. The unanimous passage of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* was a significant step forward in this journey. True

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reconciliation will take time and ongoing commitment to work with Indigenous peoples as they move toward self-determination. Our government – and every ministry – must remain focused on creating opportunities for Indigenous peoples to be full partners in our economy and providing a clear and sustainable path for everyone to work toward lasting reconciliation.

- **Equity and anti-racism:** Our province's history, identity and strength are rooted in its diverse population. Yet racialized and marginalized people face historic and present-day barriers that limit their full participation in their communities, workplaces, government and their lives. Our government has a moral and ethical responsibility to tackle systemic discrimination in all its forms – and every ministry has a role in this work. While our caucus elected a record number of women, more work remains to address gender equity. Delivering on our commitments to address racial discrimination will require a commitment by all of government to ensure increased IBPOC (Indigenous, Black and People of Colour) representation within the public service, including in government appointments. Our efforts to address systemic discrimination must also inform policy and budget decisions by reviewing all decisions through a Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) lens.
- **A better future through fighting climate change:** In 2018, our government launched our CleanBC climate action plan. CleanBC puts British Columbia on the path to a cleaner, better future by building a low-carbon economy with new clean-energy jobs and opportunities, protecting our air, land and water and supporting communities to prepare for climate impacts. It is every Minister's responsibility to ensure your ministry's work continues to achieve CleanBC's goals.
- **A strong, sustainable economy that works for everyone:** We will continue our work to support British Columbians through the pandemic and the economic recovery by investing in health care, getting people back to work, helping businesses and communities, and building the clean, innovative economy of the future. Our plan will train the workforce of tomorrow, help businesses hire and grow and invest in the infrastructure needed to build our province.

The pandemic has reminded us that we're strongest when we work together. Delivering on our commitments to people will require a coordinated effort with your cabinet and caucus colleagues, supported by the skilled professionals in the public service. You will also support your cabinet colleagues to do their work, particularly where commitments cross ministry lines.

British Columbians expect their elected representatives to work together to advance the broader public good despite their partisan perspectives. 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 through public and stakeholder engagement plans that connect with people to incorporate their perspectives early in the policy development process. These plans must include measurable outcomes and ensure active dialogue and ongoing outreach in your ministry's actions and priorities.

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Over the course of our mandate, I expect you will work with your Minister to make progress on the following items:

- Seek new strategies to expand B.C.'s export opportunities as the province recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic, with a specific emphasis on B.C.'s emerging clean technology and innovation sector.
- In collaboration with cabinet colleagues and with support from the Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation, lead work on special projects to support economic development, trade and innovation in areas such as B.C.'s shipbuilding sector, aerospace and forest sector innovation.
- Expand B.C.'s Export Navigator program to help more small businesses export their goods and services beyond our borders.
- Develop and implement a new B.C. Trade Diversification Strategy that will help B.C. businesses build connections in new markets, increase exports and highlight B.C. as a low-carbon supplier.
- Work across ministries and with the federal government to ensure British Columbia's interests are protected and advanced in trade negotiations and disputes, including the softwood lumber negotiations with the United States.
- Continue to support Forestry Innovation Investment's efforts to promote B.C.'s manufactured wood products, including mass timber.
- Support the work of the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries to continue to promote B.C. food and agriculture exports.
- Work with the Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport to continue the development of the Chinese Canadian Museum.

Our work as a government must continually evolve to meet the changing needs of people in this province. Issues not contemplated in 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. Your ministry's priorities must reflect our government's overall strategic plan as determined by cabinet.

All cabinet members are expected to review, understand, and act according to the *Members' Conflict of Interest Act* and conduct themselves with the highest level of integrity. As a minister of the Crown, your conduct will reflect not only on you but on cabinet and our government. You are responsible for providing strong, professional and ethical leadership within cabinet and your ministry. 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

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fundamental to delivering on our government's priorities. You must ensure your minister's office meets the highest standards for integrity and provides a respectful and rewarding environment for all staff.

My commitment to all British Columbians is to do my level best to make sure people's lives are better, safer and more affordable. I believe the challenges we face can and will be overcome by working together. By way of this letter, I am expressing my faith that people can expect the same commitment from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John J. Horgan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

John Horgan
Premier



November 26, 2020

Brenda Bailey, MLA
Parliamentary Secretary for Technology and Innovation
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, British Columbia V8V 1X4

Dear Parliamentary Secretary Bailey:

Thank you for agreeing to serve British Columbians as Parliamentary Secretary for Technology and Innovation, supporting the Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation. You are taking on this responsibility at a time when people in our province face significant challenges as a result of the global COVID-19 pandemic.

COVID-19 has turned the lives of British Columbians upside down. None of us expected to face the challenges of the past number of months, yet British Columbians have demonstrated incredible resilience, time and time again. We will get through the pandemic and its aftereffects by building on this resilience and focusing on what matters most to people.

British Columbians voted for a government focused on their priorities: fighting the COVID-19 pandemic, providing better health care for people and families, delivering affordability and security in our communities, and investing in good jobs and livelihoods in a clean-energy future.

I expect you – and the work of your ministry – to focus on the commitments detailed in our platform, *Working for You*, along with the following foundational principles:

- **Putting people first:** Since 2017, our government has focused on making decisions to meet people's needs. That focus drove our work in our first term and will continue to be our priority. British Columbians are counting on the government to keep them safe and to build an economic recovery that works for everyone, not just those at the top. Keeping people at the centre of everything we do means protecting and enhancing the public services people rely on and working to make life more affordable for everyone.
- **Lasting and meaningful reconciliation:** Reconciliation is an ongoing process and a shared responsibility for us all. The unanimous passage of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* was a significant step forward in this journey. True

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