



June 10, 2013

Honourable Steve Thomson  
Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations  
Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, British Columbia  
V8V 1X4

Dear Colleague:

Congratulations on your new appointment as Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations.

British Columbians have asked us to build a strong economy, a secure tomorrow and a lasting legacy for generations to come. Now it's time to deliver.

We must be alive to the challenges of a fragile global economy. We have a duty to be disciplined for taxpayers today, and a responsibility to be fair to future generations. Protecting British Columbia for us and our children means making tough choices now to control spending and balance the budget. By charting a course for a debt-free BC, our children can be free to make their own choices when it's their turn to lead.

To grow our economy and create high-paying jobs for British Columbians, I am asking you to keep your ministry focused on the *BC Jobs Plan*. Our province is blessed with both abundant natural resources, and the resourcefulness and diversity of our people and businesses. We have a generational opportunity to develop Liquefied Natural Gas. This will demand determination and purposeful work.

We are committed to building a strong economy in the province because we know that it is the only way we will be able to afford strong public services for our citizens. World class health care, education, skills training and social safety nets are only possible if we have an economy that can sustain them over the long term.

To that end our first priorities across government are:

- To bring back the legislature to pass *Balanced Budget 2013*;
- To ensure that government does not grow;
- To conduct a core review of government to make sure we are structured for success on all of our objectives; and

- To eliminate red-tape so that we can get to yes on economic development without needless delay.

In the course of our decision making we must always maintain respect for taxpayers and remember that our fellow British Columbians are looking to us to help make life more affordable for them and their families.

These priorities, along with your specific ministerial objectives, will allow us to achieve results that reflect our shared values.

The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations is responsible for the commercial and recreational activities that occur on B.C.'s Crown land. In particular, the ministry is responsible for ensuring that B.C. has a sustainably managed forest industry. This task will be challenging with the reduction in harvest levels in the interior of our province as the mountain pine beetle affected timber is reduced. Communities in the interior will face challenges as identified in the report on the mid-term timber supply.

Many recreational activities also take place on our Crown land and this ministry is responsible for ensuring safe, responsible access to B.C.'s backcountry. It will be your job to find a balance between commercial and recreational activities on our Crown land to ensure we all can benefit from our natural environment.

In your role as Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resources I expect that the following initiatives are completed by you and your ministry over the coming years:

1. Balance your ministerial budget in order to control spending and ensure an overall balanced budget for the province of British Columbia.
2. Consult with communities on the mid-term timber supply report and implement area based tenures as recommended to the Legislature last spring.
3. Examine the role and effectiveness of BC Timber Sales and bring forward recommendations for improvement to Cabinet.
4. Monitor and assist with softwood lumber agreement treaty discussions leading up to re-negotiation in 2016.
5. Work with Geoscience BC to establish long-term, predictable funding to foster oil, gas and mineral exploration and development in B.C.
6. Streamline all mining application processes to ensure that they all can be done online with faster turnaround times for project proponents.
7. Co-sponsor with the forest industry annual B.C. trade missions to China, India, Japan and Korea to continue diversifying B.C. lumber exports.

8. Work with the forest industry to develop the cellulose filament research opportunity in British Columbia.
9. Develop a plan for the \$10 million in additional silviculture provided to reforestation in the province beginning in 2015/16.
10. Implement the Outdoor Recreational Vehicle strategy.
11. Work with the B.C. Guides and Outfitters to ensure continued access to Crown land and continued economic and tourism opportunities in rural British Columbia.
12. Undertake a review of provincial permitting processes to eliminate red tape wherever possible while maintaining rigorous permitting requirements.

I have outlined in a separate letter my requirements for conduct of all members of Cabinet. It is imperative that you review and understand this letter, and the *Members' Conflict of Interest Act*, and that you act in accordance with both as you carry out the duties of a Minister of the Crown. I will evaluate any circumstances that may call into question the conduct of a Minister against the expectations and obligations set out in applicable statutes and this letter.

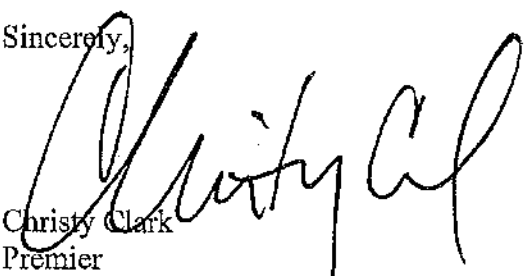
To assist you in the transition to your new role, I ask that you also review the attached document that provides further direction for you as a Minister.

I look forward to discussing your ideas and priorities for your ministry in the coming weeks and working with you to fulfill the mandate we were elected to fulfill.

Our government faces many exciting challenges and opportunities in the months ahead. Our success will be defined by our ability to develop and implement an agenda that reflects priorities and circumstances of BC citizens. Our ability to make this connection is a function of the degree to which we engage citizens and stakeholders in pursuing change. I am confident that we will succeed in this, and have every expectation that you will make a significant contribution to our success.

I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Christy Clark  
Premier

Attachments (2)





July 30, 2015

Honourable Steve Thomson  
Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations  
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.

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Office of the  
Premier

Mailing Address:  
World Trade Centre  
740 - 999 Canada Place  
Vancouver BC V6C 3E1

In particular, I would like to congratulate you and your ministry for:

- Keeping our commitment to transferring the proceeds generated from freshwater fisheries licences to the Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC
- Completion of phases 1 and 2 of the BC Timber sales review and meeting your target for timber sales in 2014/15
- Working with First Nations and the Nature Conservancy to protect the archaeological values of Grace Islet near Saltspring Island

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:

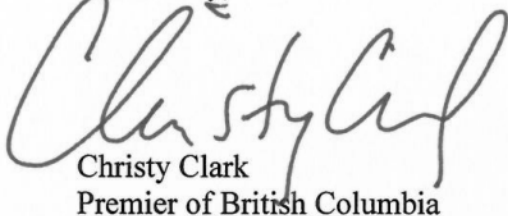
1. Balance your ministerial budget in order to control spending and ensure an overall balanced budget for the province of British Columbia.
2. Lead the Softwood Lumber Agreement discussions with the federal government and ensure that the federal government position is consistent with that of the province.
3. Continue to implement the recommendations of the BC Timber Sales Effectiveness review and report to Cabinet the status of timber sales in the province by December 31, 2015.
4. Continue to work with the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development to prepare for and minimize the impact of timber supply reductions caused by the mountain pine beetle.
5. Co-sponsor with the forest industry annual BC trade missions to China, India, Japan and Korea to continue to diversify BC lumber exports.
6. Finalize and implement the Great Bear Rainforest ecosystem-based management agreement.
7. Examine ways to enhance the security of fibre supply for secondary and non-lumber users of lower quality and residual fibre and bring forward options that can be introduced in the Spring 2016 Legislative Session.
8. Work with the forest industry on a new Forest Sector Competitiveness Strategy to maintain and enhance the industry, protect jobs and forest dependent communities and extract maximum value from our forest resource.

9. Work with the Ministry of International Trade and Ministry Responsible for the Asia Pacific Strategy and Multiculturalism to recognize significant Chinese Canadian Historic Places under the Heritage Conservation Act.
10. Undertake a review of registry services and permits issued by the Ministry and identify which permits can be administered online to reduce the time between application and issuance of the permit.
11. Work with Parliamentary Secretary Donna Barnett and her Rural Advisory Council to provide advice to government on ways to improve rural economic development, access to capital and the rural dividend.
12. Review the recent Auditor General report on Cumulative Effects assessment and make recommendations to Cabinet on ways to improve application of the framework while undertaking integrated management decisions.
13. Working with the Ministry of Environment, undertake an analysis of the impact of lower snowpacks and retreating glaciers on the forests of British Columbia and make recommendations to cabinet on strategies to protect our forests from any impacts of climate change.

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



BRITISH  
COLUMBIA

June 10, 2014

Honourable Steve Thomson  
Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations  
Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, British Columbia  
V8V 1X4

Dear Steve:

On behalf of the province of British Columbia, I would like to thank you for the contributions made by you and your ministry over the past year to provide a strong economy and secure tomorrow for our citizens.

The past year has seen significant achievements by our government: the successful delivery of the first balanced budget since the global economic downturn of 2008 which was followed by the introduction of a second balanced budget in February; continued progress to secure a new LNG industry in British Columbia; the development and release of BC's Skills for Jobs Blueprint; and successfully concluded long-term and affordable labour agreements with our valued public servants.

While these accomplishments are significant, we all acknowledge there is more to do to ensure all citizens are able to enjoy the promise of our province.

The Speech from the Throne delivered in February charted the course for our government for the year ahead. As you know, the speech was consistent with the policies contained in our election platform and outlines the steps we are taking to ensure development opportunities are seized in the province where they make economic and environmental sense.

The only way to secure long-lasting prosperity is to ensure that private sector investments are welcomed and encouraged in our province. That is the path we have chosen and that is the path upon which we will continue for the remainder of our term.

Last June, you were assigned a number of initiatives that were to be accomplished over the course of our term in office.



First and foremost was the need to control spending to the levels committed in Balanced Budget 2013. I am pleased that according to the third quarterly report issued with the budget, you are on track to successfully achieving this goal.

I would like to congratulate you and your team for the following achievements that have been made over the past year, recognizing that this list is only a selection and not a full accounting of the ministry's work:

- Worked with the forest industry to produce a new record of timber sales volume in the Chinese market.
- Successfully concluded sole proponent agreements on two parcels of land on Grassy Point in northwest British Columbia to LNG proponents.
- Launched timber supply reviews to provide support to the Chief Forester in determining new annual allowable cuts in areas impacted by the pine beetle epidemic.
- Completed the BC Timber Sales effectiveness review.
- Introduced and passed the Outdoor Recreational Vehicle legislation.
- Led one trade mission with industry.
- With the other natural resource ministries, successfully reduced the wait-times for permits as committed in the BC Jobs Plan.

The mandate letter provided to you last June was designed to be an ongoing workplan for your ministry that would be updated on an annual basis.

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. Lead the Softwood Lumber Agreement treaty discussions leading up to re-negotiation with the United States in 2016.
3. Implement the recommendations of the BC Timber Sales Effectiveness Review.
4. Work with the forest industry to prepare for the upcoming fibre supply reduction as the pine beetle killed timber is exhausted.
5. Work with the other resource ministries to ensure application processes are streamlined to ensure faster turnaround times for project proponents.

6. Co-sponsor with the forest industry annual BC trade missions to China, India, Japan and Korea to continue diversify BC lumber exports.
7. Develop and implement a plan for the \$10 million in additional silviculture provided to reforestation in the province beginning in 2015/16.
8. Respond to the public consultation on the mid-term timber supply recommendations on area-based management.
9. Examine ways to enhance security of fiber supply for secondary and non-lumber users of lower quality and residual fiber.
10. Support the development of new mines and major mine expansions by working with industry and the natural resource ministries to ensure that BC's mines permitting process is the best in Canada.
11. Continue to work with BC Guides and Outfitters and other back country operators to ensure continued access and business certainty to Crown land and provide economic and tourism opportunities in rural British Columbia.
12. Work with Parliamentary Secretary Donna Barnett and the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development on the creation and implementation of the Rural Dividend as committed in Strong Economy, Secure Tomorrow.
13. Work with Finance to ensure all revenues from fishing licences are provided to the Freshwater Fisheries Society for conservation purposes no later than 2015/16.
14. Implement the Great Bear Rainforest ecosystem-based management agreement.

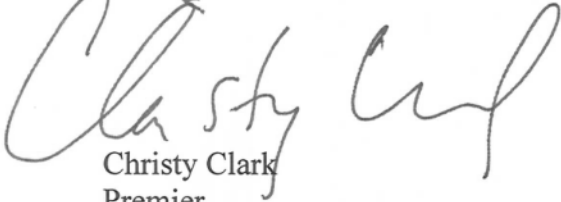
In addition, as discussed and approved by Cabinet, our government is committed to ensuring a common platform of compensation and accountability principles is implemented across our broader public sector. Taxpayers expect that the agencies they fund and support through their tax dollars adhere to the same standards of fiscal responsibility and transparency as the government they elect.

Please find attached a document containing these new common public sector principles and accompanying instructions for implementing these principles across the public sector organizations and agencies that fall under your ministerial responsibility.

These principles will require you and your deputy to spend additional time meeting with the chairs and boards of these organizations to ensure complete understanding of the expectations that government and taxpayers have of them in their roles as our representatives and their need to protect the public interest at all times.

While much has been accomplished in the first 12 months of our mandate, much work remains to ensure the promises of both a strong economy and secure tomorrow are met for British Columbians. I look forward to working with you in the next year of our mandate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christy Clark". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Christy" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Clark".

Christy Clark  
Premier