



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

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.

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:

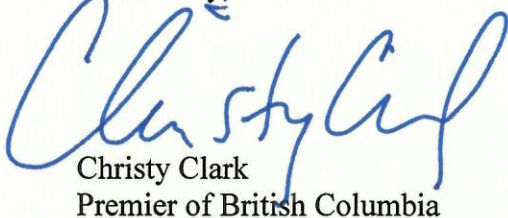
1. Balance your ministerial budget in order to control spending and ensure an overall balanced budget for the province of British Columbia.
2. Lead the Softwood Lumber Agreement discussions with the federal government and ensure that the federal government position is consistent with that of the province.
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