



July 30, 2015

Honourable John Rustad  
Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation  
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:

- Your hard work in responding to the William decision by negotiating the Letter of Understanding with the Tsilhqot'in Nation and public apology for the murder of 6 Chiefs
- Your personal work with the Ministry of Energy and Mines to work with First Nations impacted by the collapse of the Mount Polley tailings pond
- Your participation and assistance in the extremely successful first-ever provincial Cabinet and First Nations leaders gathering

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:

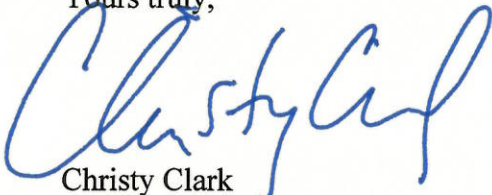
1. Balance your ministerial budget in order to control spending and ensure an overall balanced budget for the province of British Columbia.
2. Continue to work with BC First Nations who are in the Treaty Process and who have an opportunity to secure a treaty with British Columbia and Canada to provide all parties with economic benefit and long lasting security.
3. Continue to work with the Tsilhqot'in National Government to implement the Letter of Understanding signed with the Province of British Columbia.
4. Work with the BC Treaty Commission Principals to develop a more inclusive approach to the BC Treaty Process.
5. Work with BC First Nations that participate in and benefit from natural gas extraction, pipelines or LNG facilities to ensure they are provided with the ability to participate in this generational opportunity.
6. Continue to implement our commitment to BC First Nations to expand the number of non-treaty agreements to further economic development opportunities that benefit both British Columbia and First Nations.
7. Work with BC First Nations to ensure they continue to participate in and benefit from the Clean Energy Standing Offer by BC Hydro through the First Nations Clean Energy Business Fund.
8. Work with BC Hydro to ensure First Nations have the ability to participate in economic development opportunities arising from the construction of the Site C dam.

9. Work with the Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training to increase the number of First Nations participating in apprenticeship and skills training programs to ensure economic prosperity includes First Nations members.
10. Work with the Ministry of Energy and Mines on the Mining Dialogue with First Nations that was committed following the Mount Polley tailings pond collapse.
11. As Minister work with your colleagues to host the second annual meeting between First Nations leaders and the Provincial Government in September, 2015.
12. Work with the Ministries of Justice, Health and Children and Family Development to continue to implement Violence Free BC.

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