



June 10, 2013

Honourable Coralee Oakes
Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, British Columbia
V8V 1X4

Dear Colleague:

Congratulations on your new appointment as Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development.

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.

Your ministry will be essential to the ability of communities in our province to prepare and benefit from our incredible LNG opportunity. We have implemented benefit sharing agreements with communities in northeast B.C. to help them manage growth challenges arising from natural gas extraction. We have committed to benefit sharing agreements as well with the communities of B.C.'s northwest which will be facing huge opportunities and tremendous change from these massive investments.

While the Community side of your ministry is critical, so are its other elements. As well, the sport and cultural development communities play key roles in the social development of our province. It will be your role to work with these partners to ensure we are putting our resources to best use to create vibrant cultural and sporting opportunities for people across our province.

In your role as Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development, 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. Create the framework for the rural dividend for communities in the northwest that will be impacted by the opportunities and challenges that will arise from the LNG opportunity.
3. Work with the Union of BC Municipalities on a framework for implementing the upcoming federal infrastructure program to maximize provincial benefit opportunities.
4. Implement local government election changes in time to be used for the November 2014 local government elections.
5. Work with the sport and cultural development communities to make recommendations on how we can better provide provincial support to these organizations recognizing that we remain in a very difficult financial position.

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.

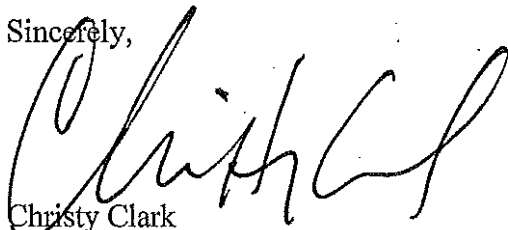
To assist you in the transition to your new role, I ask that you also review the attached document that provides further direction for you as a Minister.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christy Clark", written in a cursive style.

Christy Clark
Premier

Attachments (2)

