



July 30, 2015

Honourable Norm Letnick
Minister of Agriculture
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:

- Implementing changes to the Agricultural Land Commission and reconstituting the regional panel structure
- Working with the federal government to minimize the impact of the Avian influenza outbreak in the Fraser Valley
- Working with the BC Wine Institute to implement the Golden Mile wine appellation in British Columbia

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. Assess and report to Cabinet any benefits or challenges arising in the farming community arising from the 2014 Agricultural Land Commission Amendment Act and regulatory changes to the Agricultural Land Commission and Agricultural Land Reserve.
3. Update and release BC Agrifoods and Seafood Strategic Growth Plan to reflect the growth in the industry and identify the opportunities that lie ahead.
4. Work with the Minister of International Trade to identify and execute strategies to continue to grow BC agricultural exports.
5. Continue to execute Strong Economy, Secure Tomorrow commitments including:
 - Work with Finance to implement the 25 percent tax credit on the value of farmed food donated to non-profit organizations for Budget 2016/17
 - Work with the BC Association of Cattle Feeders to develop and promote their “100% BC Beef Brand”
 - Work with Intergovernmental Relations to break down interprovincial trade barriers on BC wine and Craft Beer to create new markets for BC producers
 - Work with the provincial organic farming sector to create a “Certified BC Organic” brand to market our locally produced organic foods
6. Identify options and present to Cabinet opportunities to develop a longer-term Buy Local strategy to encourage British Columbians to purchase local agricultural products and develop long term food supply security for the province.

7. Implement the Fish and Seafood Act passed by the legislature in the 2015 Spring Legislative Session.
8. Review and make recommendations to Cabinet on the provincial Aquaculture strategy by October 31, 2015.
9. Working with the Ministry of Environment, undertake an analysis to help the BC Agriculture industry adapt to a changing climate and make recommendations to Cabinet on the challenges and opportunities climate change will have for BC agriculture.
10. Work with the BC Wine Appellation Task Group to make recommendations to Cabinet on how to improve the certification of 100-percent BC made wine.

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