



June 10, 2013

Honourable Pat Pimm
Minister of Agriculture
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, British Columbia
V8V 1X4

Dear Colleague:

Congratulations on your new appointment as Minister of Agriculture.

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.

Agriculture is one of British Columbia's foundational sectors and our government is committed to ensuring that those who farm are able to earn a living for their efforts and that British Columbians are able to enjoy the agrifood products grown in their regions. Our government recognizes the importance of this sector and we are committed to achieving the growth targets we have laid out in our *BC Jobs Plan*.

In our platform we made a number of commitments to the farming community. I expect that these commitments will be honoured and that we continue to work with the sector to help our province grow our exports to Asia in the coming years. China and India represent huge growth opportunities for B.C. agrifood products and we must not let these opportunities pass us by.

In your role as Minister of Agriculture I expect that the following initiatives will be 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. Ensure the Agricultural Land Commission is delivering on the improvements promised arising from the budget increase it received in *Balanced Budget 2013*.
3. Ensure the Agricultural Land Reserve is working for British Columbia and propose any changes necessary. These changes must successfully balance our desire to protect valuable farmland while allowing for responsible economic development opportunities.
4. Bring forward ALR changes that will further encourage the stability of farm families and the farming industry in British Columbia.
5. Execute industry growth objectives as outlined in the *BC Jobs Plan* and the agricultural sector plan, *BC Agrifoods, a Plan for Growth*.
6. Execute *Strong Economy, Secure Tomorrow* commitments including:
 - Implementation of the additional Buy Local program funding;
 - Creation of a long-term and sustainable tree fruit replanting program upon the expiry of the current program;
 - Work with the Ministry of Finance to implement the 25 per cent tax credit for farmers on the value of farmed food that is donated to food banks;
 - Implementation of a new meat inspection system by January 1, 2014 and work with the BC Association of Cattle Feeders to develop and promote their "Certified BC Beef" brand;
 - Work with Intergovernmental Relations to break down interprovincial trade barriers on B.C. wine and to create new markets for B.C. vintners;

- Work with the Ministry of Advanced Education to create a new Centre of Excellence for Agriculture at the University of the Fraser Valley; and
 - Work with the provincial organic farming sector to create a “BC Organic” brand to market B.C. organic foods.
7. Work with the Minister of International Trade to ensure trade capacity for B.C. agricultural support is sufficient to secure additional Asian trade export growth.
 8. Implement Cohen Commission recommendations pertaining to British Columbia.
 9. Working with the Minister of Finance, ensure that the carbon tax relief committed to the agricultural sector in *Balanced Budget 2013* is delivered.

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.

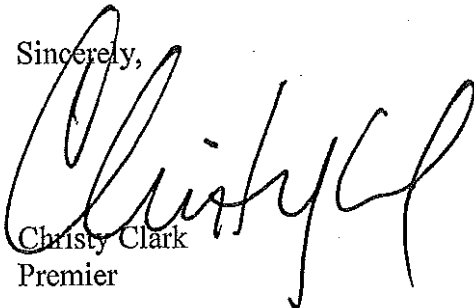
To assist you in the transition to your new role, I ask that you also review the attached document that provides further direction for you as a Minister.

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)

