

August 21, 2024

The Honourable [Minister's Name]
Minister of Construction
Province of British Columbia

Dear Minister [Last Name],

Your role is critical in ensuring the growth and sustainability of British Columbia's construction sector, which is vital to our economy and the well-being of our communities. This mandate letter outlines the government's priorities and expectations for your ministry.

1. Affordable Housing and Infrastructure Development

- Increase Affordable Housing Supply: Work collaboratively with the Ministry of Housing to accelerate the construction of affordable multi-unit residential housing units, particularly for low-income families, Indigenous communities, and seniors.
- Infrastructure Investment: Prioritize infrastructure projects that enhance public services, including transportation, healthcare, and education facilities, ensuring projects are delivered on time and within budget.
- Green Building Initiatives: Encourage sustainable construction practices by promoting green building standards and technologies. Support initiatives that reduce carbon emissions in construction projects.

2. Labour and Workforce Development

- Skilled Trades and Workforce Training: Collaborate with the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Education to address the skilled labour shortage in the construction industry. Promote apprenticeship programs and support initiatives that encourage youth and underrepresented groups to pursue careers in the trades.
- Health and Safety Standards: Ensure strict adherence to workplace safety standards in all construction activities. Develop and implement policies that enhance the health, safety, and well-being of workers on construction sites.

3. Regulatory and Policy Framework

- Prompt Payment Legislation: Introduce a bill for Prompt Payment Legislation, Builders Lien Reform, and Adjudication to ensure timely payments for contractors and subcontractors in the construction industry. This payment certainty legislation will provide greater financial security and stability and help mitigate cash flow challenges faced by small and medium-sized enterprises.
- Streamline Permitting Processes: Work with municipalities and relevant agencies to streamline permitting and approval processes, reducing red tape and accelerating project timelines.

- Building Code Modernization: Update and modernize the provincial building codes to reflect current best practices and emerging technologies. Ensure codes include accessibility standards and are resilient to climate change impacts.

- Public Procurement Practices: Review and enhance public procurement practices to ensure fairness, transparency, and the efficient use of public funds. Encourage the adoption of innovative construction methods and materials in public projects.

4. Environmental and Climate Action

- Climate Resilience and Adaptation: Incorporate climate resilience and adaptation measures into construction policies and practices. Support the development of infrastructure that can withstand extreme weather events and changing climate conditions.

- Waste Reduction and Resource Efficiency: Promote practices that reduce construction waste and encourage recycling and the efficient use of resources. Support initiatives that advance circular economy principles within the construction sector.

5. Stakeholder Engagement and Collaboration

- Engage with Industry Stakeholders: Maintain regular engagement with industry stakeholders, including construction associations, unions, and Indigenous groups, to address challenges and opportunities in the sector.

- Community Engagement: Foster community engagement and public consultation in major construction projects, ensuring that the voices of local communities are heard and considered in decision-making processes.

6. Reporting and Accountability

- Performance Monitoring and Reporting: Implement a robust system for monitoring and reporting the progress of key initiatives and projects within your portfolio. Ensure transparency and accountability in the use of public resources.

- Inter-ministerial Collaboration: Work closely with other ministries to ensure a cohesive and integrated approach to policy implementation and project delivery.

As the Minister of Construction, you are expected to uphold the highest integrity, transparency, and public service standards. Your leadership will be instrumental in driving our government's agenda forward and making meaningful progress on these priorities. I look forward to working with you to achieve these goals for the benefit of all British Columbians.

Sincerely,

[Premier's Name]

Premier of British Columbia