August 15, 2017

Rick Jensen
Chair
Columbia Basin Trust
Suite 300
445 – 13th Ave
Castlegar BC V1N 1G1

Dear Mr. Jensen:

On behalf of the Honourable John Horgan, Premier, and our new government, I would like to thank you for your service to the people of British Columbia. I look forward to working with you in the months and years ahead to help deliver on government’s priorities, and provide effective programs and services to the people of our province.

This Mandate Letter lays out the principles of the new government, and you are to take these into consideration when revising your Service plan for the Budget 2017 Update. It is expected that Columbia Basin Trust will manage its programs and initiatives within its existing budget targets, unless otherwise directed.

Going forward, you are to begin the process of working with me as the Minister responsible to develop strategic actions through the 2018 Mandate letter process for Budget 2018. I will provide further direction. The Ministry of Finance will provide guidance on preparation for Budget 2018.

Our government made three key commitments to British Columbians:

Our first commitment is to make life more affordable. We expect all public service organizations to work to contain costs, and to be conscious of the impact of every decision on the daily cost of living of families and businesses.

Our second commitment is to deliver the services that people count on. In many cases, critical programs and services are delivered by Crown Corporations, and Ministers will work with Board Chairs to ensure your organizations remain focused on maintaining and improving levels of service to citizens.

Our third key commitment is to build a strong, sustainable, innovative economy that works for everyone. Our government believes that public sector organizations have a role to play in supporting broad-based economic growth in every region of the province.

To support true and lasting reconciliation with First Nations in British Columbia, our government will be fully adopting and implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), and the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Please ensure that going forward, your organization incorporates the UNDRIP and Calls to Action, given the specific mandate and context of your organization.
As the Board Chair of a Crown agency, your primary accountability to government is through me as the Minister responsible. My expectation is that regular dialogue and engagement between the ministry and your organization will continue, starting with regular meetings between us over the coming weeks and months. Included in these meetings will be regular meetings between your communications staff and Government Communications and Public Engagement staff responsible for the communication of ministry-related matters.

The Crown Agencies Resource Office (CARO) has lead responsibility for overseeing and maintaining the Public Sector Organizations Governance Framework. CARO has now integrated with the Board Resourcing and Development Office (BRDO) which provides leadership in the merit-based appointment of qualified and competent individuals to the Crown Agencies. All Crown corporations and other public agencies are asked to work closely with this office on Board member appointments, all governance matters including orientation and training of Board members, and on accountability to government generally.

I look forward to regular meetings to discuss progress on your strategic priorities and to ensure you and your organization are supported in delivering your mandate on behalf of the people of British Columbia.

Sincerely,

Katrine Conroy
Minister

cc: Honourable John Horgan

Date: August 23, 2017

Rick Jensen
Chair
Columbia Basin Trust
cc: Correspondence Management
Don Wright, Deputy Minister to the Premier and Cabinet Secretary
Allison Bond, Deputy Minister for Children and Family Development
Lori Wanamaker, Deputy Minister of Finance
David Galbraith, Associate Deputy Minister and Secretary to Treasury Board
Lynne Holt, Executive Lead, Board Resourcing and Development Office
Laurie Page, Director, Columbia Basin Trust
Larry Binks, Director, Columbia Basin Trust
Wendy Booth, Director, Columbia Basin Trust
Mike Delich, Director, Columbia Basin Trust
Gord DeRosa, Director, Columbia Basin Trust
John Dooley, Director, Columbia Basin Trust
Am Naqvi, Director, Columbia Basin Trust
Loni Parker, Director, Columbia Basin Trust
Rhonda Ruston, Director, Columbia Basin Trust
Vickie Thomas, Director, Columbia Basin Trust
Jeannette Townsend, Director, Columbia Basin Trust