August 18, 2020

Jocelyn Carver
Chair
Columbia Basin Trust
300 – 445 13 Ave
Castlegar BC V1N 1G1

Dear Jocelyn Carver:

I would like to extend appreciation on behalf of the Honourable John Horgan, Premier, and the Executive Council for your dedication, and that of your board members, in leading your organization. You have helped the British Columbia government deliver our priorities to the citizens of our province.

Government remains focused on its three strategic priorities: making life more affordable, delivering better services, and investing in a sustainable economy.

Every public sector organization is accountable to the citizens of British Columbia. The expectations of British Columbian citizens are identified through their elected representatives, the Members of the Legislative Assembly. In the case of the Columbia Basin Trust, it is also mandated under the Columbia Basin Trust Act to manage its assets for the ongoing economic, environmental and social benefit of the Columbia Basin region.

This mandate letter, which I am sending in my capacity as Minister responsible for the Columbia Basin Trust, on behalf of the Executive Council, sets out overarching government priorities as well as specific agreed-upon expectations for the coming fiscal year.

Our goal is to build a strong, sustainable economy that works for everyone. We are committed to working with you and other Crown Agencies to provide quality, cost-effective services to British Columbia families and businesses. By adopting the Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) lens and Framework for Improving British Columbians’ Standard of Living to policy development, we will ensure that equity is reflected in government budgets, policies and programs. You are encouraged to apply the GBA+ lens in your Crown Agency operations and programs. In the same vein, appointments to agencies, boards and commissions reflect government’s direction to promote equity and leadership at senior levels in the public and private sectors, with a view to building strong public sector boards that reflect the diversity of British Columbia.

Two key priorities that will underpin lasting prosperity are advancing reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples and moving towards a low-carbon economy.

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In November 2019, government passed the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, which represents a crucial step towards true and lasting reconciliation. In keeping with the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the Act was developed in collaboration with the First Nations Leadership Council to create a framework for reconciliation in British Columbia. All Crown Agencies are expected to incorporate the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act and Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission within their specific mandate and context.

Announced in December 2018, the CleanBC plan puts our province on the path to a cleaner, better future – with a low-carbon economy that creates opportunities while protecting our clean air, land and water. As part of the new accountability framework established in CleanBC, and consistent with the Climate Change Accountability Act, please ensure your organization plans to align operations with targets and strategies for minimizing greenhouse gas emissions and managing climate change risk. Please be prepared to work with government to report out on these plans and activities.

The Crown Agencies and Board Resourcing Office with the Ministry of Finance will continue to support you and your board on recruitment and appointments as needed, and will be expanding professional development opportunities in 2020/21. This will include online training modules and in-person conferences, as government works to support strong public sector boards that reflect the diversity of British Columbia.

Finally, having Canada’s Digital Supercluster located in British Columbia creates an opportunity for industries, government ministries, crown agencies, public institutions and non-government organizations to collaborate in digital research and development projects. Should the Columbia Basin Trust intend to participate in or be a funding partner for Digital Supercluster projects, you are asked to work closely with Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) staff to ensure that investments are aligned with Government’s priorities and wherever possible undertaken collectively with partner ministries and organizations. MCFD will work with the Deputy Minister’s Committee on the Digital Supercluster to ensure that projects are coordinated effectively across government.

To achieve its mandate under the Columbia Basin Trust Act, the Province and the Columbia Basin Trust have agreed that the Trust should take the following strategic actions:

- Complete a community engagement process to inform the development of a renewed Columbia Basin Management Plan.
- Maintain an active and cooperative relationship with partners in power project management and operations to ensure the projects deliver optimized financial returns and are managed in the best long-term interests of the owners.

Each board member is required to sign the Mandate Letter to acknowledge this agreement. The signed Mandate Letter is to then be posted publicly on your organization’s website.
I look forward to continuing to work with you and your Board colleagues to build a better British Columbia.

Sincerely,

Katrine Conroy
Minister

Jocelyn Carver,
Chair

David Raven,
Vice Chair

Carol Andrews,
Board Member

Larry Binks,
Board Member

Corky Evans,
Board Member

Murray McConnachie
Board Member

Don McCormick,
Board Member

Ron Oszust,
Board Member

Vickie Thomas,
Board Member

Owen Torgerson,
Board Member

Krista Turcasso,
Board Member

Bill yan Yzerloo,
Board Member

pc: Honourable John Horgan, Premier
    Don Wright, Deputy Minister to the Premier and Cabinet Secretary
    Lori Waramaker, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Finance
    Heather Wood, Associate Deputy Minister and Secretary to Treasury Board, Ministry of Finance
    Allison Bond, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Children and Family Development
    Les MacLaren, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources