



April 9, 2021

Jocelyn Carver, Chair
Columbia Basin Trust
300 – 445 13 Avenue
Castlegar, British Columbia
V1N 1G1

Dear Jocelyn Carver:

On behalf of Premier Horgan and the Executive Council, I would like to extend my thanks to you and your board members for the dedication, expertise and skills with which you serve the people of British Columbia.

Every public sector organization is accountable to the citizens of British Columbia. The expectations of British Columbians 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. Your contributions advance and protect the public interest of all British Columbians and through your work, you are supporting a society in which the people of this province can exercise their democratic rights, trust and feel protected by their public institutions.

You are serving British Columbians at a time when people in our province face significant challenges as a result of the global COVID-19 pandemic. Recovering from the pandemic will require focused direction, strong alignment and ongoing engagement between public sector organizations and government. It will require all Crowns to adapt to changing circumstances and follow Public Health orders and guidelines as you find ways to deliver your services to citizens.

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 principles relevant to the entire public sector as well as specific agreed-upon priorities and expectations for the coming fiscal year.

The following five foundational principles will inform your agency's policies and programs:

- **Putting people first:** We are committed to working with you to put people first. You and your board are uniquely positioned to advance and protect the public interest and you will consider how your board's decisions maintain, protect and enhance the public services people rely on and make life more affordable for everyone.

- **Lasting and meaningful reconciliation:** Reconciliation is an ongoing process and a shared responsibility for us all. Government's unanimous passage of the *Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* was a significant step forward in this journey – one that all Crown Agencies are expected to support as we work in cooperation with Indigenous peoples to establish a clear and sustainable path to lasting reconciliation. True reconciliation will take time and ongoing commitment to work with Indigenous peoples as they move towards self-determination. Guiding these efforts, Crown agencies must also remain focused on creating opportunities that implement the Truth and Reconciliation Commission through your mandate.
- **Equity and anti-racism:** Our province's history, identity and strength are rooted in its diverse population. Yet racialized and marginalized people face historic and present-day barriers that limit their full participation in their communities, workplaces, government and their lives. The public sector has a moral and ethical responsibility to tackle systemic discrimination in all its forms – and every public sector organization has a role in this work. All Crowns are expected to adopt the Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) lens to ensure equity is reflected in your operations and programs. Similarly, appointments resulting in strong public sector boards that reflect the diversity of British Columbia will help achieve effective and citizen-centred governance.
- **A better future through fighting climate change:** Announced in December 2018, the CleanBC climate action plan puts our province on the path to a cleaner, better future by building a low-carbon economy with new clean energy jobs and opportunities, protecting our clean air, land and water and supporting communities to prepare for carbon impacts. As part of the accountability framework established in CleanBC, and consistent with the *Climate Change Accountability Act*, please ensure your organization aligns operations with targets and strategies for minimizing greenhouse gas emissions and managing climate change risk, including the CleanBC target of a 50% reduction in public sector building emissions and a 40% reduction in public sector fleet emissions by 2030. Your organization is expected to work with government to report out on these plans and activities as required by legislation.
- **A strong, sustainable economy that works for everyone:** You will identify new and flexible ways to achieve your mandate and serve the citizens of British Columbia within the guidelines established by the Provincial Health Officer and considering best practices for conducting business during the pandemic. Collectively, our public sector will continue to support British Columbians through the pandemic and economic recovery by investing in health care, getting people back to work, helping businesses and communities, and building the clean, innovative economy of the future. As a public sector organization, you will consider how your decisions and operations reflect environmental, social and governance factors and contribute to this future.

Jocelyn Carver, Chair

The Crown Agencies and Board Resourcing Office (CABRO), 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 2021/22. The Governing in the Public Interest online certificate program is now available, and all board members are encouraged to complete this new offering.

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:

- Implement the strategic priorities identified by Basin residents and included in the Columbia Basin Management Plan Strategic Priorities 2020-2022.
- 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 be posted publicly on your organization's website in spring 2021.

I look forward to continuing to work with you and your Board colleagues to build a better British Columbia.

Sincerely,



Katrine Conroy
Minister

Date:



Jocelyn Carver,
Chair



David Raven,
Vice-Chair



Carol Andrews,
Board Member



Corky Evans,
Board Member



Murray McConnachie,
Board Member



Don McCormick,
Board Member



Codie Morigeau,
Board Member



Ron Oszust,
Board Member



Owen Torgerson,
Board Member



Krista Turcasso,
Board Member



Bill van Yzerloo,
Board Member



Aimee Watson,
Board Member

pc: Honourable John Horgan, Premier of British Columbia
Lori Wanamaker, Deputy Minister to the Premier, Cabinet Secretary
and Head of the BC Public Service
Heather Wood, Deputy Minister and Secretary to Treasury Board, Ministry of Finance
Douglas S. Scott, Deputy Minister, Crown Agencies Secretariat, Ministry of Finance
Richard Manwaring, R.P.F., Deputy Minister, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural
Resource Operations and Rural Development
Les MacLaren, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low
Carbon Innovation
David Raven, Vice-Chair, Columbia Basin Trust
Carol Andrews, Board Member, Columbia Basin Trust
Corky Evans, Board Member, Columbia Basin Trust
Murray McConnachie, Board Member, Columbia Basin Trust
Don McCormick, Board Member, Columbia Basin Trust
Codie Morigeau, Board Member, Columbia Basin Trust
Ron Oszust, Board Member, Columbia Basin Trust
Owen Torgerson, Board Member, Columbia Basin Trust
Krista Turcasso, Board Member, Columbia Basin Trust
Bill van Yzerloo, Board Member, Columbia Basin Trust
Aimee Watson, Board Member, Columbia Basin Trust
Johnny Strilaeff, Chief Executive Officer/President, Columbia Basin Trust