



July 18, 2017

Honourable Melanie Mark
Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, British Columbia V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Mark:

Congratulations on your new appointment as Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training.

It has never been more important for new leadership that works for ordinary people, not just those at the top.

It is your job to deliver that leadership in

As you are aware, we have set up a Confidence and Supply Agreement with the B.C. Green caucus. This agreement is critical to the success

As minister, you are responsible for ensuring members of the B.C. Green caucus are appropriately consulted on major policy issues, budgets, legislation and other matters as outlined in our agreement. This consultation should be coordinated through the Confidence and Supply Agreement Secretariat in the g that members of the B.C. Green caucus are provided access to key documents and officials as set out in the agreement. This consultation and information sharing will occur in accordance with protocols established jointly by government and the B.C. Green caucus, and in accordance with relevant legislation.

British Columbians expect our government to work together to advance the public good. That means seeking out, fostering, and advancing good ideas regardless of which side of the house they come from.

Our government put forward a progressive vision for a Better B.C. that has won broad support with all members of the legislature. There is consensus on the need to address many pressing issues such as reducing health-care wait times, addressing overcrowded and under-supported classrooms, taking action on climate change, tackling the opioid crisis, and delivering safe, quality, affordable child care for all. As one of my ministers, I expect you to build on and expand that consensus to help us better deliver new leadership for British Columbians.

As part of our commitment to true, 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. As minister, you are responsible for moving forward on the calls to action and reviewing policies, programs, and legislation to determine how to bring the principles of the declaration into action in British Columbia.

In your role as Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training I expect that you will make substantive progress on the following priorities:

- x Provide greater access to adult basic education and English-language learning programs by eliminating fees.
- x Reduce the financial burden on students by eliminating interest on B.C. government student loans and establish a \$1,000 completion grant program to provide debt relief to B.C. graduates.
- x Encourage scholarship fund.
- x Work with the Minister of Education to support co-op, apprenticeship and work-experience programs for high school and undergraduate students.
- x Work with the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure to implement effective apprenticeship ratios on government-funded infrastructure projects, and increase participation of equity-seeking groups in the skilled workforce.

- x Work with the Minister of Children and Family Development to improve the education success of former youth in care by expanding the tuition fee waiver program.

- x -related post-secondary programs, co-op programs, and work to establish technology and innovation centres in key areas of the economy.

- x forestry sector, focusing on growing innovation and the manufactured wood products sector.

All members of Cabinet are expected to review, understand and act according to the Members Conflict of Interest Act and to conduct themselves with the highest level of integrity. Remember, as a minister of the Crown, the way you conduct yourself will reflect not only on yourself, but on your Cabinet colleagues and our government as a whole.