

**Ministry of Post-Secondary Education
and Future Skills**

**2025/26 – 2027/28
Service Plan**

March 2025



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Minister's Accountability Statement



The Ministry of Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills 2025/26 – 2027/28 Service Plan was prepared under my direction in accordance with the *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act*. I am accountable for the basis on which the plan has been prepared.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anne Kang".

Honourable Anne Kang
Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills
March 4, 2025

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Strategic Direction

In 2025/26, the Government of British Columbia will continue to prioritize delivering the services and infrastructure needed for people to build good lives in strong communities.

To support this objective, Government will focus on growing the economy, responding to the threat of tariffs, creating good paying jobs, improving affordability, strengthening health care and education, and making communities safer.

Government will also continue deepening relationships with Indigenous Peoples while advancing implementation of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act Action Plan.

This 2025/26 service plan outlines how the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills will support the government's priorities and selected action items identified in the Minister's January 2025 [Mandate Letter](#).

Purpose of the Ministry

The [Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills](#) guides collaboration for our education and skills training partners to contribute to the prosperity of British Columbians and a sustainable economy where people can gain the skills to succeed, and employers can access the talent they need and our skilled workforce continues to grow.

The ministry oversees public and private post-secondary institutions through legislation, funding and accountability frameworks, and protects the interests and well-being of students, both domestic and international. The ministry oversees two Crown corporations: [SkilledTradesBC](#) and the [British Columbia Council for International Education](#) (BCCIE). It also supports learners' financial needs through [StudentAid BC](#) and works with institutions to provide additional supports such as student housing and mental health services.

Through federal labour market transfer agreements, the ministry provides targeted skills training opportunities to individuals, communities and employers. The ministry also provides education, labour market and career planning information so British Columbians can plan careers, access education and skills development programs and connect to jobs. This information also supports the growth of B.C.'s economy through targeted investments in education in high demand and high priority sectors.

With the recent addition of immigration services to the organization, the ministry is responsible for delivering programs and services that help newcomers settle and integrate into the province, and for facilitating economic immigration to address B.C.'s labour market needs and to attract international entrepreneurs. This change includes the delivery of two key pieces of legislation: [Provincial Immigration Programs Act](#), and immigration provisions of the [Ministry of International Business and Immigration Act](#). Immigration services such as the BC Provincial Nominee Program, BC Newcomers Services Program, Safe Haven Program and the Career Paths for Skilled Immigrants Program enables community-driven, inclusive progress in

support of social, environmental, and economic well-being for all who make British Columbia home.

The ministry is committed to reconciliation with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples by ensuring our institutions and training partners provide welcoming and culturally safe places to learn and work, helping communities get training they need for economic and social well-being, and through implementation of the [Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act](#).

Operating Environment

British Columbians continue to persevere through a range of challenges, including the acceleration of technological adoption and artificial intelligence breakthroughs, inflation, labour shortages, and the impacts of climate change. While not unique to British Columbia, these challenges highlight the vital role post-secondary education, skills training, and immigration plays in ensuring a sustainable economy that works for everyone.

The 2024 Labour Market Outlook forecasts that about three quarters of the 1 million new job openings in B.C. over the next decade will require some level of post-secondary education or training. Our post-secondary education and training system remains foundational for a sustainable economy and is fundamental to providing pathways for B.C. to have the most inclusive and talent-driven workforce in Canada. Meeting the labour market demands over the next few years may prove difficult when faced with ongoing global uncertainty.

Driven by international migration, recent record high population growth in B.C. has tested the capacity of many communities and institutions. In response to similar growth pressures experienced across the country, the federal government significantly reduced immigration targets for 2025 to 2027, including establishing new targets for temporary residents. Additionally, the federal decision to reduce by 50% the number of immigrants selected through Provincial Nominee Programs across the country has created significant policy and operational impacts on the BC Provincial Nominee Program.

Building on 2024 federal policy to cap the number of international study permit applications, additional reductions to the cap and more limited eligibility for post-study work permits have been announced in 2025. This will have significant financial impacts on B.C.'s post-secondary institutions and will change their recruitment and program approach.

The pivot in federal immigration policies has resulted in a significant shift from record high growth to near zero population growth, presenting a new range of challenges for the province's economy and labour market and significantly impacting newcomers, employers, institutions, and ministry programs.

Performance Planning

Goal 1: British Columbians have access to post-secondary education and training to respond to the urgent need for more and new skills

This goal reflects government's commitment to helping to reduce costs by making life more affordable and enhancing the services British Columbians depend on. Accessible, and inclusive post-secondary education and skills training equips British Columbia's workforce for good paying jobs and is critical to an economy that works for everyone.

Objective 1.1: Provide more affordable access to skills training and post-secondary education

Making post-secondary education and skills training more affordable and accessible is a priority for the ministry. As the value of post-secondary education continues to increase along with the growing demand for a well-educated, highly skilled workforce, affordable access to post-secondary education and skills training will be fundamental to ensuring B.C.'s workforce can keep pace.

Key Strategies

- Continue providing a range of student financial assistance programs to help with the cost of post-secondary education.
- Continue supporting former youth in care through the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program and the Learning for Future Grant.
- Continue to administer the future skills grant for eligible short-term skills training at public post-secondary institutions.
- Continue to provide critical pathways for learners, including tuition-free adult basic education and English language learning.
- Work with the Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs to support government's efforts to deliver affordable student housing.

Objective 1.2: Build an inclusive workforce by bringing more people into the labour force who have historically been left behind

Breaking down barriers so more people can enter the labour force is a priority for the ministry. An inclusive education and training system creates a diverse workforce and ensures all British Columbians are equipped to participate in our rapidly changing economy and that our workforce can meet labour market demands.

Key Strategies

- Under the Canada-B.C. Workforce Development Agreement (WDA), continue delivering skills training and targeted employment programs.
- Work with SkilledTradesBC, and our post-secondary education and skills training partners to continue to build a trades training system that is welcoming and inclusive so more people can benefit from becoming certified in the trades.
- Work with the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction to continue to support employment services and skills training for people facing multiple and complex barriers.

Performance Measures

Performance Measure	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Target	2025/26 Target	2026/27 Target
[1a] Post-Secondary costs are manageable and in line with household incomes				
Undergraduate tuition and fees as a percent of median household income	6.8% (target <7.5%) ²	TBD	TBD	TBD
Average percent of income recent grads used to repay education-related debt ¹				
Diploma, Associate Degree & Certificate Students	3.7%	<8.0%	<8.0%	<8.0%
Baccalaureate Graduates	6.9%	<8.0%	<8.0%	<8.0%

Data source: Statistics Canada and BC Student Outcomes Surveys, 2023¹

¹Efforts are made to contact all eligible public post-secondary graduates (over 60,000 each year), and a response rate of ~40% is consistently achieved. The margin of error for these measures is currently between +/- 0.9% and 1% (19 times out of 20). 2024 survey results will be available in the spring of 2025 and will be reported in the 2024/25 Annual Service Plan Report.

² Undergraduate tuition and fees as a percent of median household income targets are based on the Canadian average and are determined each reporting year. Future year targets are to be determined.

Performance Measure	2021/22 Baseline	2024/25 Forecast	2025/26 Target	2026/27 Target	2027/28 Target
[1b] The percentage of individuals employed or in further education and training three months after completing a Ministry skills training program aimed at unemployed or precariously employed people ¹	67%	76%	>70%	>70%	>70%

Data source: 3-month Participant Outcomes Survey, Labour Market Development Division, Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills.

¹ 2024/25 forecast is based on survey results for actual participants who completed training programs in 2023/24, many of whom were surveyed in the fiscal year 2024/25.

Goal 2: British Columbia has a high-quality post-secondary and training system that is relevant, responsive and innovative

This goal reflects Government’s commitment to build a strong and sustainable economy that works for everyone. The ministry works with partners to ensure post-secondary education and skills training programs, services and supports are responsive, relevant and aligned with the labour market and career opportunities.

Objective 2.1: Support a more responsive and relevant post-secondary and skills training system

A priority of the ministry is to support a relevant and responsive post-secondary education and skills training system that helps workers acquire new skills to meet evolving occupational requirements and labour market demands.

Key Strategies

- Support the Ministry of Finance-led government-wide review of programs and initiatives.
- Continue to support the Micro-Credentials initiative and [TradeUpBC](#) to help address shortages of key skilled workers and professionals.
- Support post-secondary institutions to manage financial challenges so they can continue to provide British Columbians training and skills needed to be successful and grow the economy.
- Continue to support delivery of priority programming at public post-secondary institutions, including expanding medical education through the new medical school at Simon Fraser University and continued roll-out of the University of British Columbia’s current expansion.

- Continue to support work-integrated learning opportunities for post-secondary students.
- Support access to flexible, high quality, and innovative learning opportunities using modern digital technology and online delivery.
- Modernize the student financial aid application process by implementing a new Student Information Management System that will enhance accessibility and make it easier and quicker for students to apply for loan and grant funding.

Objective 2.2: Ensure B.C. provides a quality post-secondary education experience for international students and has a fair, transparent processes to recognize international credentials

Ensuring quality international education with high standards for student learning, student supports, and labour market outcomes contributes to a diverse, globally connected post-secondary education system that helps attract international talent to British Columbia. In addition, creating clear streamlined pathways for skilled people with international credentials is a priority for the ministry that helps respond to the demand for people with in-demand skills and contributes to a strong, diverse economy.

Key Strategies

- Work with post-secondary institutions to evaluate the impacts of federal changes to the study permit system for international students and advocate federally for improvements that reflect the needs of British Columbia.
- Continue to implement initiatives under the International Education Framework that set higher education quality standards and enforce more rigorous requirements and stronger oversight for institutions enrolling international students.
- Continue engagement with people with international professional credentials to ensure the implementation of the *International Credentials Recognition Act* is relevant, meaningful, and effective for them in transitioning into employment in their area of professional training.
- Continue to engage with professional colleges and other credential granting agencies to identify any shortcomings and ensure compliance with government expectations.

Objective 2.3: Provide British Columbia's workforce with the best information available to make informed decisions about their education, training, and career opportunities.

Ensuring all British Columbians are connected to current and future labour market opportunities by providing accurate, high-quality information on post-secondary education, skills training and workforce development opportunities is a priority of the ministry.

Key Strategies

- Provide information on future labour market trends in different industries, occupations, and regions through the annual [BC Labour Market Outlook](#).
- Connect all British Columbians to information on high-opportunity occupations through innovative tools on [WorkBC.ca](#).
- Provide British Columbians with personalized and responsive career pathways and boost access to high-opportunity occupations through a new [Find Your Path](#) digital service.
- Help all learners make informed decisions about post-secondary education and career opportunities, and to search and apply for public post-secondary education in B.C. using [EducationPlannerBC.ca](#).

Performance Measures

Performance Measure	2023 Actual	2024 Target	2026/27 Target	2027/28 Target
[2a] Graduates reporting their knowledge and skills developed through post-secondary education are useful in their employment ¹	85.9%	≥ 90%	≥ 90%	≥ 90%

Data source: BC Student Outcomes Surveys, 2023¹

¹Efforts are made to contact all eligible public post-secondary graduates (over 55,000 each year), and a response rate of ~50% is consistently achieved. The margin of error for these measures is currently between +/- 0.3% and 0.4% (19 times out of 20). 2024 survey results will be available in the spring of 2025 and will be reported in the 2024/25 Service Plan Report.

Performance Measure	2020/21 Baseline	2024/25 Forecast	2025/26 Target	2026/27 Target	2027/28 Target
[2b] Number of online and in-person engagements with ministry-provided labour market, career planning and education information ^{1,2}	6.43M	9.7M	Maintain or increase	Maintain or increase	Maintain or increase

Data source: EducationPlannerBC website, WorkBC.ca and other ministry sources.

Goal 3: Advance reconciliation and self-determination with First Nations, Métis and Inuit in B.C. through post-secondary education and skills training

This goal reflects Government's commitment to the [Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act](#) (the Declaration Act). Meaningful reconciliation requires recognizing the rights of Indigenous Peoples to participate in joint decision-making regarding post-secondary education and skills training policies, programs, and services. Supporting self-determination in

the post-secondary education and training system will help Indigenous learners and Indigenous Peoples access a range of culturally responsive and relevant programs that meet their priorities.

Objective 3.1: Implement B.C.'s Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act and relevant components of the Action Plan

The objectives of the Declaration Act will continue to guide government's work with Indigenous Peoples to advance reconciliation. Self-determined and culturally relevant post-secondary education and skills training are fundamental to meeting these commitments. This underscores the ministry's ongoing commitment to reconciliation through the inclusion of [Declaration Act Action Plan](#) actions, and the ministry's continued commitment to work with Indigenous partners to ensure that Indigenous learners can achieve their higher educational goals in ways that reflect a diversity of Indigenous cultures and values.

Key Strategies

- Collaborate with the First Nations Education Steering Committee to advance action 1.8 of the Declaration Act Action Plan.
- Collaborate with Métis Nation BC to advance action 1.8 of the Declaration Act Action Plan through exploration of potential service delivery models for a Métis institute.
- Work with Native Education College, Nicola Valley Institute of Technology, and the Urban Native Youth Association and partners to advance action item 1.9 of the Declaration Act Action Plan.
- Collaborate with First Nation, Métis, other Indigenous partners and the sector to advance action item 4.05 of the Declaration Act and co-develop a policy framework for Indigenous post-secondary education and skills training.
- Advance action item 4.41 of the Declaration Act by continuing to work with First Nations, Métis chartered communities, and urban Indigenous organizations to provide funding for self-determined, community-led programs.
- Collaborate with lead ministries to advance joint actions 3.03, 4.02, 4.18, 4.29, and 4.30 of the Declaration Act Action Plan.

Performance Measures

The Province reports annually on progress made to implement the Declaration Act. This report on the Province's [Declaration Act website](#) was developed in consultation with Indigenous Peoples in B.C. and uses a groundbreaking model of reporting that is comprehensive and accessible. It provides information on each action that shows the progress, complexity, challenges, and collaboration.

In place of a conventional performance measure, the ministry will rely on the Declaration Act annual report to show progress towards achieving the ministry's actions. The ministry is taking distinct approaches with First Nations, and Métis Nation BC, and other Indigenous partners to advance key legislative, policy and program initiatives, including those identified in the Declaration Act Action Plan.

Our priorities for this work are informed by the priorities identified by FNEC as well as Métis Nation BC and other Indigenous partners and progress is being made in several areas. The action items that the ministry is leading and supporting are to be implemented over five years and, as such, progress will advance more quickly on some actions than others, based on the priorities identified through consultation and collaboration.

Goal 4: Contribute to B.C.'s sustainable economy by providing immigration services and supports for newcomers

This goal reflects the ministry's contribution towards sustainable economic development through province-led immigration policy and program delivery to support workforce development and ensure newcomers are welcomed to B.C.

Objective 4.1: Ensure newcomers have the supports they need to thrive through their settlement journey

Province-led immigration policy and program delivery supports broader provincial goals relating to sustainable economic development and addressing constraints to economic growth caused by shortages of skilled workers and professionals. The ministry relies upon several levers to do this, including administering the BC Provincial Nominee Program, collaboration with community and other partners, and federal advocacy.

Key Strategies

- Continue to identify how immigration can best meet the evolving skills needs of B.C.'s economy, with a focus on regional development and addressing skills shortages that are constraining economic growth or service delivery.
- Advocate to the federal government for a greater provincial role in economic immigration policy, including the ability to select more immigrants through the BC Provincial Nominee Program.
- Employ targeted initiatives and collaboration to enhance the attraction and retention of newcomers, including entrepreneurs, in rural, interior and coastal communities in B.C.
- Help skilled newcomers achieve employment in their field through the Career Paths for Skilled Immigrants program and continue to support newcomers through the BC Newcomers Services Program and BC Safe Haven Program.

Performance Measure

Performance Measure	2024/25 Forecast	2025/26 Target	2026/27 Target	2027/28 Target
[4a] Percentage of Career Paths Clients employed in their field upon program completion ^{1,2}	70%	70%	70%	70%

Data source: Internal tracking Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills.

Financial Summary

(\$000s)	2024/25 Restated Estimates ¹	2025/26 Estimates	2026/27 Plan	2027/28 Plan
Operating Expenses				
Educational Institutions and Organizations	3,116,407	3,225,813	3,225,813	3,225,813
Student Services Programs	73,697	73,792	73,792	73,792
Private Training Institutions	1	1	1	1
Labour Market Development ²	39,469	39,737	39,737	39,737
Immigration and Strategic Planning	38,069	39,529	39,529	39,529
Transfers to Crown Corporations and Agencies	106,960	107,221	107,221	107,221
Executive and Support Services	29,263	29,775	29,775	29,775
Total	3,403,866	3,515,868	3,515,868	3,515,868
Capital Expenditures				
Executive and Support Services	504	504	504	504
Total	504	504	504	504

¹ For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2024/25 have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2025/26 *Estimates*.

* Further information on program funding and vote recoveries is available in the [Estimates and Supplement to the Estimates](#).

² The Labour Market Development sub-vote budget is expressed net of federal funding received under the Workforce Development Agreement (WDA) and Labour Market Development Agreement (LMDA).

Public Post-Secondary Institutions Financial Summary

(\$millions)	2024/25 Forecast	2025/26 Budget	2026/27 Plan	2027/28 Plan
Combined Operating Statement				
Total Revenue	9,178	9,226	9,383	9,551
Total Expense	(8,993)	(9,182)	(9,334)	(9,540)
Operating Surplus	185	44	49	11
Gain (Loss) on sale of capital assets	2	0	0	0
Annual Surplus	187	44	49	11

Significant IT Projects (over \$20 million in total)	Targeted Year of Completion	Project Cost to Dec 31, 2024 (\$m)	Estimated Cost to Complete (\$m)	Anticipated Total Cost (\$m)
Modernizing StudentAidBC	2025	14.5	0.4	14.9
<p>Objective: Modernizing StudentAidBC is a multi-year, multi-phased initiative to improve the digital tools, information systems and internal processes, to enhance the experience of financial aid services to students.</p> <p>In 2024/25 the project achieved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successfully launched the student portal for all BC part-time students applying for Student Financial Assistance. 				

Appendix A: Public Sector Organizations

As of February 2025, the Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills is responsible and accountable for the following organizations:

[Architectural Institute of BC](#)

Established in 1920 under the *Architects Act*, the Institute establishes standards for entry into the architectural profession; provides services to support just over 5,100 registrants in maintaining credentials and overall professionalism; and enforces the competency, ethical and professional standards expected of those in a regulated practice. The Institute began operating under the *Professional Governance Act* in 2023.

[Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of BC](#)

The Applied Science Technologists & Technicians of BC (ASTTBC) was formed under the *Society Act* in 1958 and incorporated under the *Applied Science Technologists and Technicians Act* in 1985. ASTTBC has just under 6,700 registrants and regulates a large number of different designations, reflecting the broad scope of work of their registrants. ASTTBC began operating under the *Professional Governance Act* in 2021.

[Association of British Columbia Forest Professionals \(Forest Professionals BC\)](#)

Forest Professionals BC (FPBC) is the business name of the Association of BC Forest Professionals. FPBC was originally brought into being with the passage of the 1947 *Foresters Act* and now represents over 5,300 registrants, including foresters and forest technologists. FPBC began operating under the *Professional Governance Act* in 2021.

[Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of BC \(Engineers and Geoscientists BC\)](#)

Engineers and Geoscientists BC (EGBC) is the business name of the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of the Province of British Columbia. EGBC was first established under the *Engineering Profession Act* of 1920. In 1990 the professional regulator expanded to include geoscientists and now has more than 39,000 registrants. EGBC began operating under the *Professional Governance Act* in 2021.

[BC Council on Admissions and Transfer](#)

BC Council on Admissions and Transfer (BCCAT) has a key coordinating role in facilitating communication and co-operation among post-secondary institutions and in ensuring a well-articulated system of academic course equivalency and academic credit transfer between and among institutions in British Columbia.

[BCcampus](#)

BCcampus provides teaching, learning, educational technology, and open education resources and supports to British Columbia post-secondary institutions.

BC Council for International Education

BC Council for International Education (BCCIE) is a provincial crown corporation that supports the internationalization efforts of B.C.'s public and independent K-12 schools, public and private colleges and universities and language schools. It promotes international education in and for B.C., enhancing B.C.'s international reputation for quality education and supporting the international education activities of the provincial government.

BC Electronic Library Network

BC Electronic Library Network (BC ELN)'s develops and supports system-wide mechanisms that allow post-secondary libraries to meet the expanding information needs of learners, educators, and researchers at the lowest possible cost.

BC Institute of Agrologists

The British Columbia Institute of Agrologists (BCIA) was created in 1947 with the *Agrologists Act*, and currently has over 1,850 registrants. The practice of agrology includes many areas relating to natural resources and agriculture, including resource economics. BCIA began operating under the *Professional Governance Act* in 2021.

BC Registered Music Teachers Association

BC Registered Music Teachers Association (BCRMTA) is a non-profit association. The objects of BCRMTA are to raise the standard of the profession, the promotion of the art of music teaching and the maintenance of the honour and interests of the music teaching profession.

BC Society of Landscape Architects

The British Columbia Society of Landscape Architects Board of Examiners sets and administers the examination necessary for the registration of members in the BC Society of Landscape Architects and reviews all applicants' qualifications to determine acceptability.

Chartered Professional Accountants of British Columbia

Chartered Professional Accountants of BC (CPABC) is the training, governing, and regulatory body for over 36,000 CPA members and 5,000 CPA students and candidates. CPABC carries out its primary mission to protect the public by enforcing the highest professional and ethical standards and contributing to the advancement of public policy.

College of Applied Biology (College of Applied Biologists)

The College of Applied Biologists (CAB) was established in 2002 with the *College of Applied Biology Act*. They regulate professional biologists, and biology-related technologists and technicians. CAB currently has approximately 3,200 registrants. CAB began operating under the *Professional Governance Act* in 2021.

Degree Quality Assessment Board

The Degree Quality Assessment Board is an independent advisory board that ensures legislated quality assurance requirements are met for post-secondary education in B.C.

EducationPlannerBC

EducationPlannerBC (EPBC) is mandated to connect students to post-secondary education opportunities and associated career paths by improving post-secondary planning and application services. Additionally, EPBC's mandate includes establishing and maintaining a provincial data exchange hub to support the transition of B.C. students into post-secondary and between institutions within the B.C. post-secondary system.

SkilledTradesBC

The ITA Act was repealed and replaced with the Skilled Trades BC Act (STBC Act) in March 2022, to manage and support an industry training and apprenticeship system in B.C. and to ensure that the system meets the Province's need for skilled workers.

StudentAid BC Appeal Committee

The Committee reconsiders appeals at the request of StudentAidBC applicants or borrowers. It provides feedback, when requested, to StudentAidBC on proposed changes to key case review processes.

Appendix B: Minister Mandate Letter



January 16, 2025

Honourable Anne Kang
Minister of Post-Secondary Education
and Future Skills
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Kang:

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills at a critical time for our province. Serving as a member of the executive council is a privilege and responsibility which I am confident you will fulfill with integrity and a commitment to the people of our province.

British Columbians have trusted us with a mandate to deliver for them in ways that make a tangible difference in their daily lives. They expect us to listen and learn from people of different perspectives – and work together to make things better for everyone.

Specifically, we will tackle the challenges people worry about at the kitchen table:

- **Grow the economy by creating good jobs across British Columbia.** We will collaborate with businesses, workers, and communities to attract investments in both new and traditional sectors as well as emerging sectors of the economy. This approach will bring certainty for business, security for workers, and generate the wealth needed to support the essential services British Columbians rely on.
- **Reduce costs for families** including by helping people access homes they can afford through support for first-time homebuyers, increasing the supply of rental housing stock, and stronger measures to crack down on housing speculation.

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- **Strengthen health care** by expanding access to family doctors and recruiting and training more health professionals, ensuring that every British Columbian can access the care they need, no matter where they live. We will also increase access to addictions treatment and provide help for people whose struggles require intensive supports.
- **Make our neighbourhoods and communities safer** by working with law enforcement and social agencies to address street disorder, crack down on organized crime, and do all we can to ensure repeat offenders stay behind bars.

Our commitment to take action on climate change remains foundational and will be key to a healthy and prosperous BC for future generations.

Underlying all this work is our partnership with Indigenous peoples. Advancing reconciliation, implementing the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* and working in partnership with First Nations rights-holders to advance shared interests is the responsibility of every Minister.

Over this mandate I expect you to prioritize making progress on the following:

- In order to protect key services that British Columbians rely on, work with the Minister of Finance to review all existing Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills programs and initiatives to ensure our programs remain relevant, are efficient, offer meaningful training opportunities for British Columbians, grow the economy, and help keep costs low. This is important in the context of current Provincial budget constraints, the job opportunities available and projected to be available for British Columbians in the near future, and the threat of American tariffs.
- Work with ministerial colleagues who have identified shortages of key skilled workers and professionals that are constraining economic growth or service delivery to find practical, fast, and efficient ways to address shortages of those workers through training, credential recognition, career laddering, and other innovative approaches.
- Work with post-secondary institutions to evaluate and advocate federally in relation to the funding challenges caused by the federal government's changes related to international students. Support schools in identifying structural solutions, new revenue streams, and cost reductions to ensure strong, sustainable public post-secondary schools, and training providers, who offer British Columbians the training and skills they need to be successful and help grow our provincial economy.

- Continue work with Indigenous partners to ensure that Indigenous learners can achieve their higher educational goals in ways that reflect a diversity of Indigenous cultures and values.
- Support the Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction to enhance employment services and skills training for people facing multiple and complex barriers to assist them in exiting a cycle of poverty and build a dignified life.
- Work with the Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs to ensure that post-secondary institutions that have identified opportunities in relation to using housing as an economic development tool are supported in delivering that housing urgently.
- Work with the Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs to enable privately owned new purpose-built rental buildings that, if partnered with a public post-secondary institution, receive special provision under the *Residential Tenancy Act* to be exclusively for students registered at that institution.

To assist you in meeting the commitments we have made to British Columbians, you are assigned a Parliamentary Secretary for International Credentials whose focus will be to:

- Engage with people with international professional credentials to ensure that the implementation of our *International Credentials Recognition Act* is relevant, meaningful, and effective for them in transitioning into employment in their area of professional training.
- Work with you to identify any shortcomings in the implementation of the Act and ensure that professional colleges and other credential granting agencies are in compliance with government expectations.
- Support government in formally recognizing and celebrating professional colleges and credential-granting agencies that exceed government expectations.

You will work closely together and ensure your Parliamentary Secretary receives appropriate support to deliver on this work.

As you are aware, we have established an accord with the BC Green Caucus that supports our shared commitment to ensuring stable governance focused on delivering progress and tangible outcomes for British Columbians. The commitments in that accord complement the direction in these mandate letters.

As a Cabinet, we will uphold the highest standards of ethics, collaboration, and good conduct in service of the public, and as a Minister of the Crown, you are expected to

review, understand, and act according to the *Members' Conflict of Interest Act*. You will establish a collaborative working relationship with your Deputy Minister and the public servants under their direction, who provide the professional, non-partisan advice that is fundamental to delivering on our government's priorities. Your Minister's Office must meet the highest standards for integrity and provide a respectful, rewarding environment for all staff.

The work we have ahead takes place in a profoundly challenging geopolitical environment. Close friends and neighbours to our south are contemplating imposing draconian tariffs on our products that would hurt both Americans and Canadians. Our allies internationally face governmental instability. Hate and racism are on the rise around the world. Artificial intelligence breakthroughs with unclear implications and astonishing potential are announced daily. Global inflation, snarled supply chains, and war are threatening global economic growth and prosperity as well as the transition to a low-carbon economy.

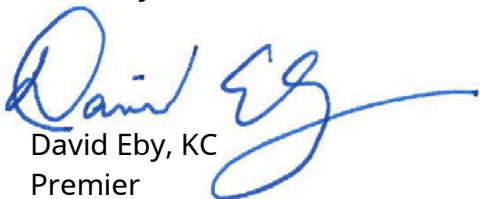
We have an obligation to protect and defend British Columbians, as well as seize opportunities, in these uncertain times.

The good news is that we have everything we need to succeed, and we will succeed. British Columbia's people – our workers, entrepreneurs, business leaders, artists, and innovators – are among the most talented in the world. We are home to world-class educational institutions and public services. Our natural beauty is unmatched, we have internationally envied resources, and we are one of the most diverse places on the planet. Your job is to help us leverage these advantages in perilous times.

Use this mandate letter to guide your work, and do not be afraid to challenge assumptions, or be innovative, bold and aggressive in achieving the goals set out for you and your Ministry by the people of this province.

Thank you for joining me in the work ahead.

Sincerely,



David Eby, KC
Premier

cc: Sunita Dhir, MLA
Parliamentary Secretary for International Credentials