

Date: June 2, 2021

Fazil Mihlar
Chair
BC Oil and Gas Commission
2950 Jutland Road
Victoria, BC V9T 5K2

Dear Mr. Mihlar:

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. 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 and 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 Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation, on behalf of the Executive Council, communicates expectations for your organization. It sets out overarching principles relevant to the entire public sector and provides specific direction to the BC Oil and Gas Commission about priorities and expectations for the coming fiscal year.

I expect that 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 I expect that 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-centered 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; and
- **A strong, sustainable economy that works for everyone:** I expect that 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, I expect that you will consider how your decisions and operations reflect environmental, social and governance factors and contribute to this future.

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.

As Minister Responsible for Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation, I expect that you will make substantive progress on the following priorities and incorporate them in the goals, objectives and performance measures in your 2021/22 Service Plan:

- Continue to build and strengthen relationships with Indigenous Nations through flexible approaches to consultation and supporting partnership initiatives;
- Continue to modernize liability management programs; ensure operators complete reclamation activities for dormant sites in accordance with the Dormancy and Shutdown Regulation; ensure reclamation activities for orphan sites occur within established timelines and reflect Indigenous peoples, community and agricultural land priorities; and include the restoration of other legacy oil and gas disturbances to protect public safety and the environment;
- Continued engagement with those affected by oil and gas development to ensure an ongoing dialogue, information and data is transparent and available, and there are opportunities to inform policies, guidelines and regulations that protect public interests; and
- Collaborate with other government ministries, agencies and partners to help achieve BC's methane emissions reduction targets from oil and gas operations, including by monitoring the effectiveness of new methane regulations, undertaking robust compliance and enforcement activities, and advancing research to improve the detection, measurement and reduction of methane emissions.

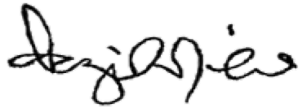
Each board member is required to sign the Mandate Letter to acknowledge government's direction to your organization. The signed Mandate Letter is to be posted publicly on your organization's website in spring 2021. I look forward to continuing to work with you and your Board colleagues to build a better BC.

Sincerely,



Bruce Ralston
Minister

Date: June 02, 2021



Fazil Mihlar
Chair
BC Oil and Gas Commission

Date: June 10, 2021



Paul Jeakins
Chief Executive Officer/Commissioner
BC Oil and Gas Commission

Date: June 10, 2021



Patrick Kelly
Board Member
BC Oil and Gas Commission

Date: June 10, 2021

cc: Honourable John Horgan
Premier

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

Fazil Mihlar
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation

Paul Jeakins
Chief Executive Officer/Commissioner
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