

November 7, 2024

The Honourable David Eby, M.L.A.,
Premier of British Columbia
PO Box 9041 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E1
Via email: Premier@gov.bc.ca

Re: Renewal of BC's Natural Resource Sector

Dear Premier Eby,

We are writing you to relay the urgency in renewing the confidence and strength in BC's natural resource sector.

The BC Natural Resource Coalition represents a coalition of small, local resource sector businesses, creating and maintaining family-supporting jobs all across the province. We are your family, friends and neighbours who work in the natural resource sector.

The members of our associations are frustrated and fearful about the lack of direction and commitment from government for a healthy, prosperous provincial economy anchored by resource jobs and investment. Many of our members have lost hope, and without hope there cannot be renewal.

Our sectors have been caught in a tangled web of policy initiatives and decisions that have strangled our ability to conduct business in an efficient and economical manner. It must be recognized the importance of a vibrant resource industry to our province, including the established world-class fishing, agriculture, hunting, forestry, and mining and energy sectors.

We ask that when you select and mandate your Ministers in the various ministries that impact our businesses, that your Ministers and ministry officials at all levels commit to the following:

- **Establishing clear objectives when undertaking new land use, environmental, and Indigenous reconciliation policies.**
- **Reviewing policies and programs that impact economic development, including economic and community impact assessments of these policies,** including the impact on future investment, current and future jobs, and the vitality of local communities. The impact assessments must account for the economic consequences of these policies on industries, businesses, and residents.
- **Implementing proper, ongoing and meaningful consultation with all impacted parties,** including Indigenous and local communities, affected industries, businesses, and workers. Only by considering everyone's interests can we achieve mutually-beneficial solutions.

- **Implementing a streamlined permitting process that is straightforward, timely, predictable, and fair.** New policies have added layers of regulatory complexity and delays, further impacting economic development.
- **Recognizing that fairness demands that there must be a plan for swift and full compensation for economic losses,** and that the costs of environmental protection as well as Indigenous reconciliation should be shared by society as a whole, not unfairly imposed upon businesses that have been operating lawfully.

These are simple, fundamental requirements for healthy and prosperous resource communities and business. Without fair, effective, and transparent governance the potential consequences are severe: lost jobs; reduced economic activity; decimated small towns; and less tax revenue to fund vital infrastructure and social programs. And the effects won't be confined to rural areas—urban centers like Metro Vancouver and Victoria will also feel the impacts, with fewer jobs, strained services, higher costs, and a greater reliance on imports.

We *can* unite our province and build a healthy, prosperous economy. Please select and mandate your Ministers to rebuild the confidence and investment in BC's natural resource industries. We look forward to a meeting with your Ministers and discussing more fully the issues we are facing.

We cannot wait any longer. The time for renewal is now.

Sincerely,

BC Natural Resource Coalition

CC John Rustad, M.L.A.; Leader of the Official Opposition
 Matt Smith, Chief of Staff
 Don Bain, Deputy Chief of Staff
 Aileen Machell, Deputy Chief of Staff



BC Placer Miners Association

