

November 19, 2025

The Honourable David Eby, M.L.A.
Premier of British Columbia
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The Right Honourable Mark Carney, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
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Subject: Made in BC: The Prescription for a Strong BC Resource Economy

Dear Premier Eby and Prime Minister Carney,

We write to you on behalf of thousands of British Columbians whose livelihoods, communities, and futures are tied to the natural resource sector. Today, those livelihoods are at risk. A series of federal and provincial policy decisions have destabilized the industries that sustain our province and are eroding the economic foundations of British Columbia.

This instability is not abstract. It affects people—workers, families, small business owners, and entire communities. It affects the trucks we drive, the boats we launch, the mills and shops we run, the harvests we steward, and the long-standing relationships we maintain with the lands and waters that support us. The men and women in these sectors are your neighbours, and they deserve a fair chance to continue contributing to a strong and prosperous British Columbia.

For generations, BC's resource industries—forestry, mining, energy, fisheries, agriculture, and tourism—have powered local economies and provided the revenue that funds the public services British Columbians value. These sectors have long been global leaders in responsible, science-based, and sustainable resource development. This is something governments should champion—not constrain.

Yet today, overlapping, inconsistent, and increasingly ideological policies from both levels of government are creating a business climate that threatens the viability of entire sectors. British Columbia has become one of the most challenging jurisdictions in the world for responsible resource development. Investment is leaving. Jobs are disappearing. Communities that once thrived on first-dollar economic activity are now facing decline. These losses ripple outward to the Lower Mainland and beyond, affecting service workers, contractors, retailers, and the very government programs these industries once funded.

The Policy Environment Is Becoming Unworkable

Policies driven by global frameworks—including the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (DRIPA), UN 30×30 conservation targets, Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs), and the proposed *Heritage Conservation Act*—are being

implemented without meaningful consultation, transparency, or regard for economic consequences.

Individually, each of these initiatives carries serious implications. Together, they are creating a climate of uncertainty that chills investment, slows permitting, and places the future of resource development in jeopardy. For example, despite BC already having conserved 35% of its marine areas – a figure acknowledged by federal reporting (Environment and Climate Change Canada, 2024) – governments continue to push for additional MPAs without demonstrating need or providing clarity on impacts to fisheries, coastal communities, and marine-based industries.

The situation has been further amplified by recent court decisions, including the *Cowichan* title ruling. The lack of clarity around land ownership, tenure rights, and the implications for project development has created deep concern across the province—not only within industry, but also among First Nations communities who are themselves active partners and participants in resource development.

This is not reconciliation. It is fragmentation. DRIPA's current implementation is dividing communities, placing First Nations at odds with one another, and leaving the public, municipalities, and industry without a meaningful voice or avenue for participation.

Secrecy surrounding government-to-government agreements only worsens this divide. Recent revelations—such as those related to the Haida case and the Kamloops challenge—raise the question: **how many other agreements are being developed without transparency or public accountability?**

A Better Path Exists: A Made-in-BC Approach

We believe there is a constructive and balanced way forward—one that upholds environmental stewardship, advances reconciliation, and strengthens BC's economy rather than undermining it. To achieve this, we call on the Province of British Columbia and the Government of Canada to work with British Columbians to:

1. End secrecy and restore transparency.

All legislation, policies, and government-to-government agreements affecting land use, marine use, tenure rights, or economic activity must involve meaningful participation from all affected parties—First Nations, communities, local governments, industry, and workers.

2. Streamline permitting and regulatory processes.

Restore predictability, clarity, and operational certainty. British Columbia and Canada must ensure that environmental objectives are met without undermining economic opportunity, innovation, or investment.

3. Pause implementation of global UN initiatives pending full assessment.

This includes 30×30, MPAs, IPCAs, and land-use frameworks that may infringe on the rights and interests of resource-dependent communities without appropriate consultation, accommodation, or compensation.

4. Establish clear, balanced objectives before negotiations begin.

All land and marine use decisions must be rooted in transparent objectives that weigh environmental, social, and economic impacts. Economic impact assessments must accompany all major policy and conservation proposals.

5. Pause the implementation of DRIPA.

Immediately pause all implementation and action occurring under *DRIPA*. Review the Act, and amend as necessary, to ensure full participation of all affected parties, including First Nations, citizens, communities, and businesses, in all aspects. There has been insufficient clarity and communication from government about the breadth of legislative and regulatory changes being made under DRIPA. Legislation must be transparent, inclusive, and built on shared responsibility. Costs and benefits must be distributed fairly, and those who experience economic loss should receive proper and timely compensation.

This Is About the Future of British Columbia

Your governments have a responsibility to govern for all British Columbians. The people, businesses, and communities of this province are resilient and solutions-oriented. They are ready to work with you. But they cannot succeed under an unpredictable and unbalanced policy environment that jeopardizes their livelihoods, threatens provincial revenue, and places our collective prosperity at risk.

Our recommendations are clear, fair, and principled. We expect that they will be fully considered and that your governments will take the steps necessary to restore stability, unity, and long-term viability to BC's resource sector.

Respectfully,

BC Resource Sector Coalition

cc: Pierre Poilievre – Leader of the Official Opposition
John Rustad – Leader of the BC Opposition

