



Ref: 98540

Mr. Rick Jensen
Chair
Columbia Basin Trust
Suite 300, 445 13th Avenue
Castlegar, BC V1N 1G1

Dear Mr. Jensen:

This Mandate Letter confirms your organization's mandate, Columbia Basin Trust's (Trust's) agreed upon annual strategic direction, and sets out key performance expectations for the 2017/18 fiscal year.

On behalf of the Province of British Columbia, thank you for your leadership and the contributions made by the Trust over the past year and congratulations on the efforts made toward the following achievements:

- Ongoing development and growth of programs arising from each of the thirteen priority areas identified in the Columbia Basin Management Plan. In particular, expansion of the regional broadband network, establishment of a new economic development corporation, and foundational work in the areas of housing, agriculture, and Indigenous relationships.
- The development and launch of three new programs in response to the priorities established in the renewed Columbia Basin Management Plan. The Impact Investment Fund, Non-profit Advisors Program, and Recreation Infrastructure Grants align with the priorities of Basin residents.
- Undertaking a consultative process and confirming two new provincial appointees to ensure the appropriate balance of skills and experience on the Trust Board.

In 2014, Government established a common set of principles for British Columbia public sector organizations (PSOs). The intent of the Taxpayer Accountability Principles (TAP) is to strengthen accountability and promote cost control. These principles instil a common frame of reference to inform decisions and ensure that the actions taken and services provided meet public policy objectives established by Government on behalf of the citizens of British Columbia. All PSOs are expected to understand the responsibility they have to the citizens of British Columbia and how it is complementary to the fiduciary duty to their organizations.

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**Ministry of
Energy and Mines and
Minister Responsible
for Core Review**

Office of the Minister

**Mailing Address:
PO Box 9060, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2**

**Telephone: 250 387-5896
Facsimile: 250 356-2965**

One of Government's core values is respect for the taxpayer's dollar. It is critical that PSOs operate as efficiently as possible, in order to ensure British Columbians are provided with effective services at the lowest cost possible. This requires constant focus on maintaining a cost-conscious and principled culture through the efficient delivery of services that stand the test of public scrutiny and help develop a prosperous economy in an environmentally sustainable manner. The foundation of this work is the Government's commitment to controlling spending and balancing the budget.

The Trust's mandate is established by the *Columbia Basin Trust Act* as follows:

The purpose of the corporation is to invest, spend and otherwise manage the regional allocation and the corporation's other assets, including any assets that may be transferred to it, for the ongoing economic, environmental and social benefit of the region including, without limitation, for

- (a) the social wellbeing of the residents of the region;
- (b) the preservation, protection and enhancement of the environment of the region;
- (c) the economic development of the region; and
- (d) any other prescribed purposes.

To achieve this mandate, the Province and the Trust have agreed that the Trust should take the following strategic actions:

- Continue to develop and implement new initiatives in response to the 2014/15 community engagement process, and ensure these new initiatives are aligned with the renewed Columbia Basin Management Plan and implemented in an effective and efficient manner.
- Maintain an active and cooperative relationship with partners in power project management and operations to ensure the projects deliver optimized financial returns and are managed in the best long term interests of the owners.
- The Trust will work with the Ministry of Energy and Mines, Ministry of Finance, and Columbia Power Corporation to explore structural options to further enhance value to both the Province and Basin residents while mitigating risk.

To achieve this, several actions as detailed in the 2014 TAP Transition Letter, which will continue to be implemented and refined, such as on-going orientation, the joint strategic engagement plan, and the evaluation plan. For detailed information about TAP directives, please refer to the following link, [Taxpayer Accountability Principles](#).

In addition, it is expected that your organization will continue to be diligent in ensuring familiarity with and adherence to statutory obligations and policies that have broad application across the public sector. Please refer to the following link for a summary of these accountabilities, [PSO Accountability Summary](#).

Government is committed to continuing to revitalize the relationship between Government and PSOs. This strong focus on increased two-way communication supports and ensures a common understanding of Government's expectations. Timely communication of any issues which may affect the business of the Trust and/or the interests of Government is critical to building trust and the effective delivery of public services, including information on any risks to achieving financial forecasts and performance targets.

Each Board member is required to acknowledge the direction provided in the Mandate Letter by signing this letter. The Mandate Letter is to be posted publicly on your organization's website and a copy signed by all Board members provided to the Ministry of Energy and Mines and made available to the public upon request.

I look forward to our regular meetings focusing on strategic priorities, performance against the TAP, key results and working together to protect the public interest at all times.

Sincerely,



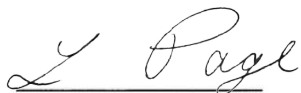
Honourable Bill Bennett
Minister

Date: Feb 28/17

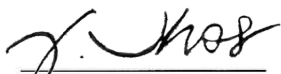


Rick Jensen
Chair, Columbia Basin Trust

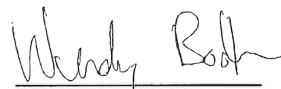
Date: March 3, 2017



Laurie Page
Vice-Chair



Vickie Thomas
Board Member



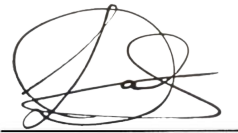
Wendy Booth
Board Member



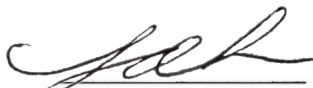
Michael Delich
Board Member



Gord DeRosa
Board Member



John Dooley
Board Member



Loni Parker
Board Member



Jeannette Townsend
Board Member



Larry Binks
Board Member



Am Naqvi
Board Member



Rhonda Ruston, Q.C.
Board Member

Enclosure: Taxpayer Accountability Principles

cc: Honourable Christy Clark
Premier

Ms. Kim Henderson
Deputy Minister and Secretary to Treasury Board
Ministry of Finance

Ms. Elaine McKnight
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Energy and Mines

Ms. Cheryl Wenezenki-Yolland
Associate Deputy Minister
Ministry of Finance

Attachment

B.C. Taxpayer Accountability Principles

Further information available at: <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/services-for-government/public-sector-management/plan-report/accountabilities>

1 Cost Consciousness (Efficiency)	Strengthen cost management capabilities and foster a culture of cost-consciousness at all levels of public sector organizations. Provide public services and programs as efficiently and effectively as possible to “bend the cost curve” and support sustainable public policies and programs as a lasting legacy for generations to come.
2 Accountability	Transparently manage responsibilities according to a set of common public sector principles in the best interest of the citizens of the province. By enhancing organizational efficiency and effectiveness in the planning, reporting and decision making, public sector organizations will ensure actions are aligned with government’s strategic mandate.
3 Appropriate Compensation	Comply with a rigorous, standardized approach to performance management and employee compensation, which reflects appropriate compensation for work across the public sector that is consistent with government’s taxpayer accountability principles and respectful of the taxpayer.
4 Service	Maintain a clear focus on positive outcomes for citizens of British Columbia by delivering cost-efficient, effective, value-for-money public services and programs.
5 Respect	Engage in equitable, compassionate, respectful and effective communications that ensure all parties are properly informed or consulted on actions, decisions and public communications in a timely manner. Proactively collaborate in a spirit of partnership that respects the use of taxpayers’ monies.
6 Integrity	Make decisions and take actions that are transparent, ethical and free from conflict of interest. Require the establishment of a strong ethical code of conduct for all employees and executives. Serve the citizens of British Columbia by respecting the shared public trust and acting in accordance with the taxpayer accountability principles.

