January 14, 2020

Ref: 251558

Cassie Doyle
Chair, Board of Directors
BC Housing Management Commission
1701–4555 Kingsway
Burnaby BC V5H 4V8

Dear Cassie Doyle:

I would like to extend appreciation on behalf of Premier Horgan and the Executive Council for your dedication, and that of your board members, in leading your organization and helping government deliver on our priorities to British Columbians.

Government remains focused on its three strategic priorities: making life more affordable, delivering better services, and investing in a sustainable economy.

Every public sector organization is accountable to the citizens of British Columbia. The expectations of B.C. citizens are identified through their elected representatives, the members of the Legislative Assembly.

This mandate letter, which I am sending in my capacity as Minister responsible for British Columbia Housing and Management Commission (BC Housing), on behalf of the Executive Council, communicates those expectations for your agency. It sets out overarching government priorities that will inform your agency’s policies and programs, as well as specific direction on priorities and expectations for the coming fiscal year.

Our goal is to build a strong, sustainable economy that works for everyone. We are committed to working with you and other Crown Agencies to provide quality, cost-effective services to British Columbia families and businesses. By adopting the Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) lens and Framework for Improving British Columbian’s Standard of Living to policy development, we will ensure that equity is reflected in government budgets, policies and programs. You are encouraged to apply the GBA+ lens in your Crown Agency operations and programs. In the same vein, appointments to agencies, boards and commissions reflect government’s direction to promote equity and leadership at senior levels in the public and private sectors, with a view to building strong public sector boards that reflect the diversity of British Columbia.

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Two key priorities that will underpin lasting prosperity are advancing reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples and moving towards a low-carbon economy.

In November 2019, government passed the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, which represents a crucial step towards true and lasting reconciliation. In keeping with the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the Act was developed in collaboration with the First Nations Leadership Council to create a framework for reconciliation in B.C. All Crown Agencies are expected to incorporate the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act and Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission within their specific mandate and context.

Announced in December 2018, the CleanBC plan puts our province on the path to a cleaner, better future – with a low-carbon economy that creates opportunities while protecting our clean air, land and water. As part of the new accountability framework established in CleanBC, and consistent with the Climate Change Accountability Act, please ensure your organization plans to align operations with targets and strategies for minimizing greenhouse gas emissions and managing climate change risk. Please be prepared to work with government to report out on these plans and activities.

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 2020/21. This will include online training modules and in-person conferences, as government works to support strong public sector boards that reflect the diversity of British Columbia.

As the Minister Responsible for BC Housing, I expect that you will make substantive progress on the following priorities and incorporate them in the goals, objectives and performance measures in your 2020/21 Service Plan:

- Continue to implement, support and report on BC Housing-related programs delivered through Budget Update 2017, Budget 2018, and Budget 2019, including those BC Housing programs included in Homes for B.C.: 30-Point Plan for Housing Affordability in British Columbia.

- Continue to facilitate partnerships through the new HousingHub division to create and report on market-based affordable housing for middle income and working households.

- Work collaboratively with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction to implement and evaluate a coordinated approach to addressing homelessness.

In addition to the strategic priorities outlined above, please ensure that BC Housing projects comply with the Wood First Act to support the use of wood, including as the primary building material, where the building code allows.
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 2020.

I look forward to continuing to work with you and your Board colleagues to build a better B.C.

Sincerely,

Selina Robinson
Minister

Cassie Doyle, Chair
BC Housing Management Commission

Joanne Granek, Board Member
BC Housing Management Commission

Barbara Carle-Thiesson, Board Member
BC Housing Management Commission

Penny Gurstein, Board Member
BC Housing Management Commission

Katherine McParland, Board Member
BC Housing Management Commission

Perry Staniscia, Board Member
BC Housing Management Commission

Aaron Sumexheltza, Board Member
BC Housing Management Commission

TERM ENDED, EFFECTIVE
JANUARY 29, 2020
pc: Honourable John Horgan
   Premier

   Don Wright
   Deputy Minister to the Premier and Cabinet Secretary

   Lori Wanamaker, Deputy Minister
   Ministry of Finance

   Heather Wood, Associate Deputy Minister and Secretary to Treasury Board
   Ministry of Finance

   Kaye Krishna, Deputy Minister
   Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

   Barbara Carle-Thiessson, Board Member
   British Columbia Housing Management Commission

   Joanne Granek, Board Member
   British Columbia Housing Management Commission

   Penny Gurstein, Board Member
   British Columbia Housing Management Commission

   Harvey McLeod, Board Member
   British Columbia Housing Management Commission

   Katherine McParland, Board Member
   British Columbia Housing Management Commission

   Perry Stanisca, Board Member
   British Columbia Housing Management Commission

   Aaron Sumexheltza, Board Member
   British Columbia Housing Management Commission

   Shayne Ramsay, Chief Executive Officer
   British Columbia Housing Management Commission