



2020/21 BC OGC MANDATE LETTER

Date: 2020-08-13

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

Dear Mr. Mihlar:

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 Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, 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 Columbians' 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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**Ministry of
Energy, Mines and
Petroleum Resources**

Office of the Minister

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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.

Finally, having Canada's Digital Supercluster located in British Columbia creates an opportunity for industries, government ministries, crown agencies, public institutions and non-government organizations to collaborate in digital research and development projects. Should the BC Oil and Gas Commission intend to participate in or be a funding partner for Digital Supercluster projects, you are asked to work closely with Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources staff to ensure that investments are aligned with Government's priorities and wherever possible undertaken collectively with partner ministries and organizations. The Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources will work with the Deputy Minister's Committee on the Digital Supercluster to ensure that projects are coordinated effectively across government.

As the Minister Responsible for the BC Oil and Gas Commission, 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 build and strengthen relationships with Indigenous Nations through flexible approaches to consultation, supporting partnership initiatives;

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- Collaborating on matters across the regulatory lifecycle, while ensuring operational alignment to the Province's reconciliation vision;
- Expand dormant site restoration; modernize the liability management program to ensure operators have the financial means to complete restoration; and deliver on commitments to restore orphan sites in a timely manner to protect the environment and public safety;
- Heightened engagement with those affected by oil and gas development to ensure an ongoing dialogue, transparent information and data is available, and there are opportunities to inform policies, guidelines and regulations that protect public interests; and
- Engage and collaborate with the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources on an enhanced research plan to improve baseline data for methane reduction targets, water and air quality to ensure continued safe and environmentally sustainable practices by British Columbia's energy sector.

Each board member is required to sign the Mandate Letter to acknowledge government's direction to your organization. The signed Mandate Letter is to then be posted publicly on your organization's website.

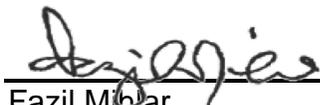
I look forward to continuing to work with you and your Board colleagues to build a better B.C.

Sincerely,



Bruce Ralston
Minister

Date: August 13, 2020



Fazil Mirza
Chair
BC Oil and Gas Commission

Date: Aug 13, 2020

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

Date: [August 13, 2020](#)



Patrick Kelly
Board Member
BC Oil and Gas Commission

Date: [August 26, 2020](#)

cc: 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

Patrick Kelly
Board Member
BC Oil and Gas Commission

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