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MAYOR'S OFFICE

MAR 10 2017

VICTORIA, B.C.

Her Worship Mayor Lisa Helps
Mayor
District of Saanich
1 Centennial Square
Victoria, BC V8W 1P6

Dear Mayor Helps:

Canada Starts Here: The BC Jobs Plan was launched five years ago to strengthen, diversify and grow our economy and support long-term job creation in our province.

We are now seeing the significant benefits of these efforts. When we launched the BC Jobs Plan, British Columbia (BC) ranked third among provinces in economic growth and ninth in job creation. Today, we are first in both areas, and many economists across the country expect BC to be a leader in economic growth over the next two years.

The 5-Year Update outlines a renewed focus on the key sectors that have made up the backbone of our economic strategy, but also builds on where we see further opportunities for growth. In particular, B.C.'s vibrant technology sector is playing an increasingly integral role. Not only is technology a growing, high-wage sector, but it also directly contributes to the Province's competitiveness by creating new efficiencies, connections, and opportunities across all sectors.

At the core of the BC Jobs Plan, and a priority for government, is the goal to diversify, grow and strengthen the economies of every region in BC. The focus on key sectors, both traditional and emerging, supports economic resilience for the province. Our fiscal discipline and strong economy mean that we have the capacity to invest in our people, the environment, communities and business. These fundamentals help prepare all of BC to compete in a rapidly changing and often uncertain global environment

As a leader in your community, you are also a partner in our province's economic development. You are a major stakeholder in the future of our economy, which is why we are sending you the BC Jobs Plan 5-Year Update. The document can also be found at www.bcjobsplan.ca.

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This update highlights significant achievements we have made over the past five years. We engaged with a wide variety of stakeholders, representing a number of industries and sectors from across the province to inform 25 new targets. These new targets will help ensure that our businesses, communities and citizens are well positioned for enduring economic prosperity.

We hope, as you read through the 5-Year Update, you feel confident in our commitment to drive diversity and growth in every region across the province. It is our hope that you will assist in distributing the province's economic development strategy, the BC Jobs Plan 5-year Update, to citizens in your region and community to inform them of the benefits of a diverse and strong economy.

Best wishes for you and your community in 2017.

Sincerely,



Shirley Bond
Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training
and Minister Responsible for Labour



Greg Kylo
Parliamentary Secretary
The BC Jobs Plan

Enclosure