



July 27, 2017

Dear Chiefs and Chief Councilors:

One of the core commitments of our new government is to base our relationships with First Nations and Indigenous Peoples on the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and to ensure that the calls to action within the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) are reflected in the work that we do. We take this very seriously and wish to base all of our decisions on these principles.

Many of you have written seeking meetings with me and I hope to make those connections as soon as possible. As you can appreciate, this is a busy time and our legislative priorities are pressing as we prepare a budget and a session of the Legislature.

One area of particular importance and sensitivity is the hiring and promotion of people of First Nations' and Indigenous descent in the public service and through orders in council. We would appreciate and seek the advice of First Nations and Indigenous leaders in this regard, as well as on the appropriate liaison processes between the government and First Nations. We hope we can canvass these matters when we meet early in September in Vancouver.

In the interim, we do not propose to take any steps that would prejudice the development of a process that reflects the input of First Nations' leaders. Given the challenging agenda ahead of us, we promoted internal candidates to replace outgoing senior public servants for this first period. We look forward to developing processes that will help ensure people of First Nations' and indigenous descent are recruited across the public service. With the new government now in place, we are able to take steps to ensure that happens.

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I look forward to connecting soon and receiving your advice on these and other matters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Horgan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John Horgan  
Premier

cc: Honourable Melanie Mark, Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training  
Honourable Lana Popham, Minister of Agriculture  
Honourable David Eby, Attorney General  
Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Children and Family Development  
Honourable Katrina Chen, Minister of State for Child Care  
Honourable Jinny Sims, Minister of Citizens' Services  
Honourable Rob Fleming, Minister of Education  
Honourable Michelle Mungall, Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources  
Honourable George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy  
Honourable Carole James, Minister of Finance  
Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations,  
and Rural Development  
Honourable Adrian Dix, Minister of Health  
Honourable Scott Fraser, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation  
Honourable Bruce Ralston, Minister of Jobs, Trade and Technology  
Honourable George Chow, Minister of State for Trade  
Honourable Harry Bains, Minister of Labour  
Honourable Judy Darcy, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions  
Honourable Selina Robinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Honourable Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General  
Honourable Shane Simpson, Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction  
Honourable Lisa Beare, Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture  
Honourable Claire Trevena, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure