



JUN 15 2018

Ref: 141202

Dr. Alan Shaver
Chair
Board of Directors
Innovate BC
9th Floor, 1188 West Georgia Street
Vancouver, BC V6E 4A2

Dear Dr. Shaver:

On behalf of the Province of British Columbia, I welcome you and the other new Directors of the Board, and thank you for providing leadership to Innovate BC as it moves into a new phase of supporting the technology sector's growth and competitiveness in British Columbia (BC).

It is government's intention that under your leadership, Innovate BC will be established as the primary agency for initiatives that help position BC as a preferred location for new and emerging technologies and ensuring the benefits of technology and innovation are felt around the province. Through these initiatives, Innovate BC will promote company growth, resulting in jobs, increased revenue and economic development throughout the province.

As established in the *Innovate BC Act* (Act), the agency will be expected to meet its newly added objective to offer tools, resources and expert guidance to entrepreneurs and companies across the province, including support for building the capacity of BC companies to access new markets and attract investment. Furthermore, Innovate BC will be expected to advise the government on the development of science, technology, and innovation policy; as required by the Act, and follow government's guiding principles, as outlined in the agency's Mandate Letter.

In addition to providing leadership to the agency in meeting its statutory objectives, I ask that the Board of Directors of Innovate BC proceed with the following tasks:

1. Conduct a thorough examination of current Innovate BC technology and innovation programs and provide the Ministry with recommendations on future programs to be delivered by Innovate BC.

.../2

2. Engage in consultations with technology and innovation stakeholders in BC to gain a deeper understanding of what the sector needs to drive growth, and help change existing or develop new programs and initiatives for delivery by Innovate BC. This should include consideration of how to help BC resource sectors use technology to become more productive and innovative. Based on these stakeholder consultations, provide recommendations to the Ministry on the following questions:
 - a. Have past BC Tech Summits achieved their intended impact from an industry perspective? How can the lessons learned best be applied in the delivery of future technology sector conferences in 2019 and 2020?
 - b. What would be the key features of a provincial procurement program aimed at engaging small- and medium-sized enterprises and bringing new innovative solutions into government? How should the Province structure an 'Innovative Ideas Fund' that could support a provincial procurement program?
 - c. How can the Province best foster increased business-academic-community collaboration and leverage existing regional strengths, in collaboration with the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training?
 - d. How can the Province best support technology companies to understand and implement initiatives that protect intellectual property (IP) in BC? Should government build on the recently announced federal IP Strategy? Should BC look to implement the policy recommendations developed by the Intellectual Property Institute of Canada that were not included in the federal strategy?
3. Conduct a competitive process for securing a permanent CEO for Innovate BC, in accordance with the policies of BC's Public Sector Employers' Council Secretariat.
4. Lead the planning and delivery of a BC Tech Summit in Spring 2019.

I request that the Board complete the listed tasks and report back to me in Fall 2018, to ensure recommendations are included in the drafting of BC's next technology sector strategy, as well as in the budget planning process for 2019/20.

In pursuing the activities outlined in this Letter of Direction, please work with the Innovation Commissioner, Dr. Alan Winter, who is an ex-officio member of the Innovate BC Board.

Dr. Alan Shaver
Page 3

Our Government is committed to ensuring the benefits of technology and innovation are felt around the province. I ask this Board to be guided by the goal to deliver programs and services that will offer opportunities for all British Columbians, including rural and indigenous communities, as well as equity-seeking groups.

Sincerely,



Bruce Ralston
Minister

pc: Honourable John Horgan
Premier

Honourable Melanie Mark
Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training

Mr. Don Wright
Deputy Minister to the Premier and Cabinet Secretary

Ms. Lori Wanamaker
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Finance

Me. Fazil Mihlar
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Jobs, Trade and Technology

Ms. Shannon Baskerville
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training

Mr. David Galbraith
Associate Deputy Minister and Secretary to Treasury Board
Ministry of Finance

Mr. Alan Winter
Innovation Commissioner

Ms. Lesley Esford
Director
InnovateBC

Mr. Michael Fergusson
Director
InnovateBC

Ms. Suzanne Gill
Director
InnovateBC

Ms. Joy Johnson
Director
InnovateBC

Mr. David Krysko
Director
InnovateBC

Ms. Gail Murphy
Director
InnovateBC

Mr. Peter Nunoda
Director
InnovateBC

Ms. Jennifer Ouano
Director
InnovateBC

Mr. Tom Roemer
Director
InnovateBC

Mr. Ben Sparrow
Director
InnovateBC

Mr. Don Stuckert
Director
InnovateBC