



December 7, 2020

Honourable George Heyman
Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, British Columbia V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Heyman:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Urban Development Institute – Pacific Region (UDI) and our over 950 members, I would like to congratulate you on your recent re-election victory and reappointment as Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy. TransLink has been added to your portfolio, which is important to our membership, as expansion of transit is critical to supporting growth in Metro Vancouver. UDI looks forward to working with you and your Ministry to fulfill the *CleanBC* and climate mitigation/adaptation goals of your new Government.

UDI is the association of the development and building industry and its related professions. UDI Pacific represents thousands of individuals involved in all facets of land development and planning, including: builders, property managers, financial lenders, lawyers, engineers, planners, architects, appraisers, real estate professionals, local governments and government agencies. They build the residential, rental, commercial, industrial, institutional and resort projects across British Columbia, and annually contribute:

- Almost \$23 billion to the provincial GDP;
- Employed over 230,000 British Columbians; and
- Generated \$6.6 billion in revenues to governments at all levels.

UDI has long supported sustainable development. We were one of the original organizations that developed the *BC Energy Step Code (ESC)*, and we continue to actively participate on the Energy Step Code Council. Through our education programs, we have held numerous seminars and webinars on green building best practices, including events on the *ESC*, brownfield remediation projects and mass timber construction. We were pleased that the Government's platform included policies to encourage the use of mass timber in projects as well as incentives and financial mechanisms such as Property Assessed Clean Energy financing to support green building construction and electrical vehicle charging.

UDI concurs with the Government that climate change is a major challenge that British Columbia and the world needs to tackle, and we are eager to support your Ministry in achieving this Government's goals while leveraging the economic benefits of this activity.

We would also like to collaborate with your Ministry as it moves forward with policies to meet the 2030 greenhouse gas emissions target, and the 2050 net zero carbon emissions target. Part of this work will be establishing sectoral targets, and UDI would like to be involved in the process as they are developed since they will have direct and significant impacts on the building sector.

Our membership is also interested in the upcoming provincial *Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy*, which is under your mandate. If there will be new requirements or restrictions on development resulting from the *Strategy*, it would be critical for our members to be involved in the consultations as they are assembling sites today to prepare for future projects.

TransLink will be a key component of the Government's efforts to reduce carbon emissions, so we are pleased that it falls under your mandate. This includes the important completion of the Millennium Line to UBC and the design/construction of the Surrey-Langley SkyTrain, which is critical for transportation in South of the Fraser communities. As we have members working in the Fraser Valley and Sea-to-Sky regions, we welcome the Government's efforts to expand TransLink services to those areas.

What is important to note is that UDI has long advocated that the Province not only invest in transit – but also fully leverage those investments by using Transit Supportive Agreements to ensure municipalities implement appropriate land use policies around stations that support growth. UDI is pleased that the Government made a platform commitment to ensure that local governments reduce parking standards around transit stations, as this an important first step. This will help the Province achieve its climate targets and housing affordability goals, because people will be encouraged to take transit to their destinations and parking spaces can cost up to \$50,000 per stall.

We also understand that part of your mandate includes the creation of a *Watershed Security Strategy*. It is not clear whether this would impact our members' projects. If it will, we ask to be part of the Ministry's consultation process.

UDI would like to have the opportunity to discuss these critical issues with you early next year. My staff will follow-up with your office. Once again, congratulations on your re-election and reappointment as Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy. UDI looks forward to working with you and your Ministry on the many priorities set out in your mandate.

Yours sincerely,



Anne McMullin
President & CEO

C.C.
Kelly Greene, MLA, Parliamentary Secretary for Environment
Kevin Jardine, Deputy Minister, Environment and Climate Change Strategy