



GOVERNMENT'S LETTER OF EXPECTATIONS

BETWEEN

**THE MINISTER OF ADVANCED EDUCATION, INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY
(AS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA)**

AND

**THE CHAIR OF THE BRITISH COLUMBIA INNOVATION COUNCIL
(AS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COUNCIL)**

FOR 2013/14

PURPOSE

This Letter of Expectations (the Letter) provides Government's annual direction to the Crown corporation and is an agreement on the parties' respective accountabilities, roles, and responsibilities. The Letter confirms the Council's mandate and priority actions, articulates the key performance expectations as documented in the Government's Expectations Manual for British Columbia Crown Agencies¹, and forms the basis for the development of the Council's Service Plan and Annual Service Plan Report. The Letter does not create any legal or binding obligations on the parties and is intended to promote a co-operative working relationship.

¹ The Province of British Columbia's Crown Agency Accountability System (<http://www.gov.bc.ca/caro/publications/index.html>) establishes guiding principles for the governance of Crown corporations. The Government's Expectations Manual identifies roles and responsibilities for the Government and Crown corporations, and provides for a Government's Letter of Expectations (Letter) to be developed.

jl 1

COUNCIL ACCOUNTABILITIES

Based on the approved recommendations of the 2011/12 mandate review, Government has provided the following mandate direction to the British Columbia Innovation Council (BCIC):

- To advance commercialization in British Columbia through focused support to start-up companies and facilitation of partnerships between industry and academia;
- To work with partners and organizations that support entrepreneurship and the development of entrepreneurial talent; and
- To work cooperatively with the BC Regional Science and Technology Network (BCRSTN) offices and the University-Industry Liaison Offices (UILOs) operating in the province.

SPECIFIC COUNCIL ACCOUNTABILITIES

To achieve this mandate, the Council is directed to take the following specific actions in the 2013/14 fiscal year:

- In keeping with the 2012/13 Letter of Direction to BCIC, continue to work in partnership with Government on the full implementation of the approved recommendations of the British Columbia Innovation Council Mandate Review, including:
 - Continue to strengthen corporate governance and accountability by ensuring consistency with the Board Resourcing and Development Office (BRDO) policies and best practices;
 - Develop outcome-based metrics, aligned with the BC Jobs Plan, to assess the effectiveness of BCIC programs and initiatives; and
 - Build partnerships and diversify programming in order to strengthen entrepreneurship development in the priority sectors and support regional expansion as outlined in the BC Jobs Plan.
- Ensure BCIC programs are aligned with the BC Technology Strategy and collaborate with Government to develop and implement initiatives that directly support and accelerate commercialization in British Columbia.
- Meet quarterly with Government to provide progress reports on the actions above and discuss specific goals and performance measures.

GENERAL COUNCIL ACCOUNTABILITIES

Over the past decades, British Columbians have come to expect high quality products and services delivered by their Crown corporations. The Province is well served by our Crown corporations and it

is up to the Boards and Senior Management teams of these organizations to manage in the best interests of the Province and our citizens.

For those Crown corporations that are commercial entities, they are expected to earn positive returns for their shareholders, the people of British Columbia, to help provide health care, education and other critical social services required by our growing and aging population.

As a Crown corporation, it is critical that the operations of the entity be done as efficiently as possible, in order to ensure families are provided with services at the lowest cost possible. In addition, it is expected that Crown corporations, to the greatest extent possible, participate in the Government's open data and public engagement opportunities.

British Columbians rightly expect openness and transparency from both their Government and Crown corporations and it is incumbent upon both parties to be as open and transparent as possible with citizens.

Government sets broad policy direction to ensure the Council's operation and performance is consistent with government's strategic priorities and Fiscal Plan, and as such, the Council will:

- Ensure that the Council's priorities reflect Government's goals of putting families first; creating jobs and building a strong economy; and open government and public engagement;
- Ensure that prior to commencing collective bargaining or initiating changes to non-union compensation on or after January 1, 2012, coordination with Government occurs to develop detailed plans for funding proposed compensation changes or other incentives under the Province's Cooperative Gains Mandate and to ensure clarity on the applicability of the freeze on executive and management compensation announced on September 14, 2012. Savings plans must be based on real savings that are measurable and incremental to existing business plans that are included in the Province's budgets and three-year fiscal plan. They must not include proposals for:
 - increased funding from Government,
 - reductions in service, or
 - transferring the costs of existing services to the public.

However, plans may also include new revenue generation opportunities that are voluntary in nature to consumers and taxpayers.

In any year, incremental realized savings/revenues must fully offset incremental costs of compensation increases.

Savings and bargaining plans must be reviewed and approved by Government before any proposed changes to union or non-union compensation are made. Any changes to an approved plan also require approval by Government.

Commencing the effective date of any changes to the collective agreement and/or non-union compensation plans, the Council must report to Government on the implementation of a plan, including information on progress in meeting savings targets. The frequency and metrics used in that reporting will be defined by Government in consultation with the Council;

- Government is undertaking reviews of all Crown corporations. The Corporation is expected to participate in the review as requested, and to implement the recommendations of the review;
- A review of executive compensation in Crown corporations and related recommendations were provided to government by a working group of Crown corporation board chairs in July, 2012. Government has responded to those recommendations by changing elements of its executive compensation policies for Crown corporations. These policies are found at http://www.fin.gov.bc.ca/psec/disclosedocs/crown_corporation_executive_compensation_july_2012.pdf and include the requirement to incorporate the performance priorities articulated in this letter in any performance-related compensation the board establishes for executives. Boards should be familiar with this policy and contact the Public Sector Employers' Council Secretariat for assistance in applying it;
- Conduct its affairs with the principles of integrity, efficiency, effectiveness, and customer service;
- Display annual *Financial Information Act* – Statement of Financial Information and Executive Compensation Disclosure Schedules, a Remuneration for Appointees to Crown Agency Boards Schedule and Corporate Governance Disclosure in an easily accessible website location;
- Inform Government immediately if the Council is unable to meet the performance and financial targets identified in its Service Plan;
- Ensure that any planned deficit spending or use of the retained earnings is approved in advance by Treasury Board;
- Comply with Government's requirements to be carbon neutral under the *Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets Act*, including: accurately defining, measuring, reporting on and verifying the greenhouse gas emissions from the Council's operations; implementing aggressive measures to reduce those emissions and reporting on these reduction measures and reduction plans; and offsetting any remaining emissions through investments in the Pacific Carbon Trust, which will invest in greenhouse gas reduction projects outside of the Council's scope of operations;
- Ensure Government is advised in advance of the release of any information requests by the Council under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*;

- Ensure any debit/credit card payment services provided to the public are in compliance with the international Payment Card Industry Data Security Standards;
- For Corporations subject to the *Public Sector Employers Act*, ensure the Corporation's membership in the Crown Corporation Employers' Association is in good standing;
- Annually assess the Board appointment process to ensure that succession results in a balance of renewal and continuity of Board membership, and provide the results of this assessment to the Government for consideration;
- Ensure that Board appointments to Crown corporation subsidiaries comply with Board Resourcing and Development Office's Best Practice Guidelines and are approved by Cabinet; and
- Comply with Government's requirement that lobbyists not be engaged to act on behalf of the Corporation in its dealings with Government.

GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSIBILITIES

SPECIFIC GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Specific to the Council, Government will:

- Continue to work in partnership with the Council to implement the approved recommendations from the 2011/12 British Columbia Innovation Council Mandate Review and to implement the targeted actions identified in the 2012/13 Letter of Direction;
- Promote a collaborative working relationship with the Council aimed at increasing the success of the Council and ensuring that the Council's actions support the objectives of the BC Jobs Plan and the priorities of the BC Technology Strategy;
- Where appropriate, consult with the Council on any legislative, regulatory or policy changes proposed by Government that may have an impact on the Council or its activities; and
- Identify specific actions that Government plans to undertake to support the direction provided in the Corporation Accountabilities section above.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Government is responsible for the legislative, regulatory, and public policy frameworks in which Crown corporations operate. In order to meet these responsibilities and support achievement of government's performance expectations, Government will:

- Issue performance management guidelines, including annual guidelines for Service Plans and Annual Service Plan Reports (<http://www.gov.bc.ca/caro/publications/index.html>);



- Review and provide feedback and final approval of the Council's Service Plans and Annual Service Plan Reports; and
- On a quarterly basis, meet with the Council to review the achievement of the goals, objectives, performance and financial targets and risk assessments identified in the Council's Service Plan, and provide direction to the Council as required.

Government has developed the following policies and resources to support the Ministries and Corporations with their regulatory and public policy requirements:

- Shareholder's (Government's) Expectations Manual for British Columbia's Crown Agencies
- Best Practice Guidelines – BC Governance and Disclosure Guidelines for Governing Boards of Public Sector Organizations
- Remuneration Guidelines for Appointees to Crown Agency Boards
- Capital Asset Management Framework

AREAS OF SHARED ACCOUNTABILITY REPORTING

Government and the Council are committed to transparency and accountability to the public and have reporting and disclosure requirements in the *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act*, the *Financial Administration Act*, and/or the *Financial Information Act*. Government provides an Information Requirements and Events Calendar (<http://www.gov.bc.ca/caro/publications/index.html>) to the ministries responsible and the Corporations that set out the dates the Crown corporations must submit their financial information, service plans, annual service plan reports, and other information to government in order to meet the statutory reporting dates and other government requirements.

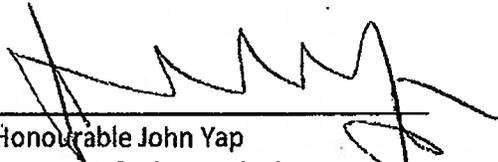
The parties agree that each will advise the other in a timely manner of any issues that may materially affect the business of the Council and/or the interests of Government, including information on any risks to achieving financial forecasts and performance targets.

The Council will post the most recent signed copy of the Government's Letter of Expectations on its website and the Crown Agencies Resource Office will post a signed copy of the Letter on its website.

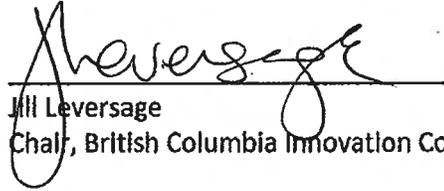
REVIEW AND REVISION OF THIS LETTER

The Minister of Advanced Education, Innovation and Technology is accountable for undertaking reviews of this Letter and monitoring its implementation. Government and the Council may agree to amend this Letter on a more frequent than annual basis.





Honourable John Yap
Minister of Advanced Education, Innovation
and Technology



Jill Leversage
Chair, British Columbia Innovation Council

December 13, 2012
Date

December 20, 2012
Date

cc. Honourable Christy Clark
Premier

John Dyble
Deputy Minister to the Premier and Cabinet Secretary

Peter Milburn
Deputy Minister and Secretary to Treasury Board
Ministry of Finance

Sheila Taylor
Associate Deputy Minister
Ministry of Finance

Cheryl Wenezenki-Yolland
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Advanced Education, Innovation and Technology

John Jacobson
President and Chief Executive Officer
British Columbia Innovation Council