



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

July 26, 2017

Dear Minister;

On behalf of the members of the College of Applied Biology, I would like to congratulate you on your appointment as Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy. The mandate of your ministry is critical to the environmental, social and economic health of our province.

The College of Applied Biology, as with all regulated professional organizations, has a primary mandate to hold its members accountable for their conduct and practice, and to safeguard the public interest. Since the *College of Biology Act* came into force in 2003, the College membership has grown to over 2,300 – including practitioners inside and outside of government – who provide their professional expertise in resource management decisions, policies and assessments.

In order for the public to continue to have confidence that professionals can be relied upon, trust is essential. Trust that the professional has the expertise, trust that they are putting the public interest at the forefront, and trust that the profession has the appropriate mechanisms in place - and is actively using them - to ensure their members meet the practice standards of their profession.

That trust also requires government to be a full partner with regulating professional organizations by ensuring that regulations and policies are clear, and that there is sufficient oversight to ensure standards are met.

The priority identified by your government in the agreement with the Green Party, and re-articulated in the mandate letter to you from Premier Horgan, states that revitalizing the Environmental Assessment process in BC and reviewing the professional reliance model to “ensure the legal rights of First Nations are respected and the public's expectation of a strong, transparent process is met”. We fully support this objective.



COLLEGE OF  
**APPLIED BIOLOGY**

Professional Accountability

While there is reason to be proud of the role professional biologists have played in protecting the public interest by using sound science in decision making, we believe there is always room for improvement.

The College's Executive looks forward to meeting you at your earliest convenience to discuss how we can work together to strengthen the professional reliance framework so BC can regain its place as a leader in resource management and ensure the trust and confidence of its citizens.

Sincerely,

Brian Clark, RPBio, Executive Vice-President  
for Vanessa Craig, PhD, RPBio, President

Cc Mark Zacharias, PhD, RPBio  
Christine Houghton, Executive Director  
Alexandra Tait, RPBio, Vice-President