



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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June 18, 2020

Dear Honourable Minister Mungall:

The City of Prince George supports the establishment of the new CORE Cleantech Cluster, initiated by Foresight Cleantech Accelerator Centre.

As British Columbia transitions to the future clean economy, it needs an approach to market acceleration that elevates the role of clean technology and innovation across many sectors. Clean technology is solving the hardest problems faced by industry today - decoupling growth from emissions, repurposing used materials, and adopting new products and processes that sustainably maximize efficiency and minimize waste. These are complex challenges that cannot be solved alone. Collaboration between key stakeholder groups including cleantech SMEs, industry, academia, government and investors is critical to accelerating the pace of this transition.

We believe that the CORE Cleantech Cluster is fundamental to accelerating action on CleanBC and supporting quality economic growth in British Columbia. We are aligned with the vision and mission of the Cluster which is to support a sustainable economy and position BC as a global centre for innovation, talent and capital to scale cleantech innovation.

As a government partner, the City of Prince George plays a role in BC's clean economy. From 2017 to 2020, with funding support through Western Diversification, we led a clean tech cluster development initiative that identified, and engaged, 75 firms in Prince George doing work that involved the use of clean technology and, or the development of clean technology products. Further, Prince George City Council recently approved a new strategy aimed at reducing the greenhouse gas emissions produced in Prince George and preserving aspects of the community that absorb carbon, such as forests and wetlands. The 2020 Climate Change Mitigation Plan includes updated greenhouse gas emission inventories, reduction targets, and actions that can be taken to achieve these targets.

We expect to benefit from participating in the cluster by:

- Ensuring Northern British Columbian businesses are active participants in clean tech initiatives, and as a local government, we are engaged in provincial strategies.
- Access to strategic market intelligence and reports on the BC cleantech sector.
- Investing in economic development and diversifying and increasing the export base and tax revenue for our region.
- Telling the story of our cleantech competencies through a dedicated organization and brand
- Putting BC cleantech on the global map to attract investment and support exports.
- Highlighting Prince George companies under the British Columbia Clean Tech banner.

Realizing these benefits will lead to quality jobs, investment attraction and scaling up of one of the most important emerging industries of our time, we respectfully request that you look at this initiative and prioritize its establishment as we look to economic recovery over the coming years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lyn Hall', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Lyn Hall, Mayor
mayor@princegeorge.ca

CC

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Honourable Minister Ralston EMPR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

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