

January 28, 2016

The Honourable Christy Clark, MLA
Premier of British Columbia
West Annex, Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC
V8V 1X4

Dear Premier Clark,

I am writing you on behalf of the Burnaby Board of Trade, Burnaby's leading business association, to applaud your government's recent announcement of a \$100 million venture capital fund to help support the growth and development of technology firms in BC.

In 2014, the Burnaby Board of Trade called for new policies to support the high tech sector and encourage BC firms to grow, create jobs, and thrive in-province, and one of our suggestions was the creation of a provincial investment fund to support the tech sector. Therefore, we were very pleased to hear of the creation of the BC Tech Fund.

The important role the high tech sector plays in our provincial economy can't be overstated. This industry employs over 86,000 people who enjoy salaries 60% higher than the BC average. In addition, the high tech sector is the 3rd largest contributor to the provincial GDP and has seen the 2nd highest private-sector job creation over the past 10 years, growing significantly faster than the overall economy.

Burnaby has emerged as a hub for this sector with many innovative and dynamic tech companies locating here. With internationally-recognized digital media companies like Electronic Arts, to health sciences and bio-tech firms like LivaNova, to leading alternative energy companies like Schneider Electric calling Burnaby home, Burnaby's tech community is strong, and the creation of the BC Tech Fund will only serve to help make it stronger.

I would again like to applaud your government's creation of the BC Tech Fund and the BC Tech Strategy as a whole, and would welcome any opportunity for future collaboration or consultation on how we can further make BC and communities like Burnaby the best place for the tech sector to do business.

Sincerely,



Paul Holden
President & CEO
Burnaby Board of Trade

cc: Hon. Amrik Virk, Minister of Technology, Innovation & Citizens' Services
cc: Hon. Shirley Bond, Minister of Jobs, Tourism & Skills Training & Responsible for Labour
cc: Hon. Teresa Wat, Minister of International Trade