LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
of BRITISH COLUMBIA

Bridget Parrish, CPA, CA
Auditor General of British Columbia

BCAuditor@BCAuditor.com

August 31, 2026

Dear Auditor General Parrish,

I am writing to you in my capacity as the BC Green Party House Leader and critic for Ministry of Finance regarding the recent acknowledgment by the B.C. Government that it made an estimated $1.5 billion forecasting error with respect to natural gas royalty revenues.

I respectfully request that you exercise your powers under section 11, 12, and 13 of the *Auditor General Act*, as applicable, to urgently investigate, and report publicly your findings on:

a) The original Budget 2026 natural gas revenue forecasting error,
b) The impact on investment and financial confidence of statements and clarifications made regarding the error,
c) Any restatements in the upcoming September 15th First Quarterly Report,
d) Other related issues, as appropriate, and within the jurisdiction of the Auditor General, for example impact on the new natural gas royalty revenue policy framework,
e) Interim recommendations to restore and maintain public confidence, for example placing implementation of the new royalty framework on hold, and
f) A detailed review of the decision-making process leading to this forecasting error amongst the Ministries and Offices involved.

Confidence in the integrity and accuracy of provincial government financial forecasts and statements is the foundation for public policy decisions to address the significant challenges that face British Columbia such as a $13 Billion dollar deficit, major spending cuts in government programs and services, a trade war with the United States, and the accelerating and unmitigated impacts of climate change.

By virtue of its non-partisan and independent role, the Office of the Auditor General is uniquely positioned to provide accurate, objective, and trusted public investigation reports that restore, maintain and enhance confidence in public sector financial reporting, programs, and services.

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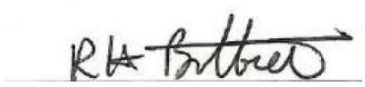
Thank you for considering my request. I would welcome the opportunity to see your office undertake a public investigation of this significant forecasting error, and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Rob Botterell, MLA
Saanich North and the Islands

Cc Honourable Josie Osborne, Minister of Finance