



Ref. 42219

Murray Ritchie
Executive Director
First Nations Safety Council of BC
info@fnsc-bc.ca

Dear Murray Ritchie:

On behalf of the Province of British Columbia (BC), I send greetings and my greatest respects to you and all of the delegates of the First Nations Safety Conference. I know this is the first event of its kind to be held by the First Nations Safety Council of BC and I am sincerely disappointed that I am not able to be with you in person.

The theme of your conference is Safe Nations – Safe Opportunities and as BC's new Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, I believe that pursuing the highest standards of occupational health and safety is paramount to attracting, training and retaining skilled workers which allow businesses to grow and flourish.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission's call to action on business and reconciliation highlight the need to ensure that Indigenous peoples have equitable access to jobs, training and education opportunities in the corporate sector and that communities gain long-term sustainable benefits from economic development projects. Focusing on occupational health and safety in the context of First Nations economic development is an essential part of this important work. I understand that your keynote speaker is Senator Murray Sinclair and I know that he will have wise words to impart on this subject.

.../2

I wish you great success with your conference. I am sure that all delegates will benefit from this significant opportunity to discuss these critical issues and benefit from each other's experiences and ideas. This may be the first conference of its kind, but I am sure it will not be the last. I hope in future I will be able to hear first-hand about the important work the First Nations Safety Council of BC is involved in.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Fraser', with a large loop at the top and a horizontal stroke at the bottom.

Scott Fraser
Minister