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## Ministry of Attorney General 2023/24 Service Plan Framework

Goal	Objectives	Key Strategies	Performance Measures
<p><b>Goal 1:</b> The justice sector is fair and accessible</p>	<p><b>Objective 1.1:</b> Enhance the user experience and modernize the justice system</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advance the Courthouse Capital Asset Management Plan, including courthouse replacement and renovations, infrastructure remediation and enhancements in facilities across the province.</li> <li>• Improve access to justice for British Columbians through initiatives such as application modernization, virtual proceedings, enhancements to e-filing, online guided pathways, plain language, smart forms to help navigate the court system, and a Digital Evidence and Disclosure Management System.</li> <li>• Advance justice modernization and court digital transformation initiatives, such as use of online resolution of violation ticket disputes, process improvements and technology deployment to support the Virtual Bail Initiative.</li> <li>• Continue to improve early resolution services offered to families remotely and in-person at Family Justice Centres and Justice Access Centres.</li> <li>• Support the 19 boards and tribunals accountable to the Ministry with business operations, transformation, innovation, and modernization, including the Civil Resolution Tribunals, Mental Health Review Board and BC Human Rights Tribunal.</li> </ul>	<p><b>PM1a:</b> Percentage of respondents who agreed that the Parenting After Separation program gave them a better understanding of the family justice system including its relevant laws and services.</p> <p><b>PM1b:</b> Percentage of respondents who agreed that the program gave them a better understanding of alternatives to court.</p> <p><b>PM1c:</b> Percentage of respondents who agreed that the program gave them a better understanding of making decisions in the best interests of the children.</p> <p><b>PM1d:</b> Percentage of eFiled Court Documents.</p>
	<p><b>Objective 1.2:</b> Increase access to justice</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advance the <i>Legal Profession Act</i> reform initiative to create a single and modernized regulator for all legal service providers in the province, including lawyers, notaries public and licensed paralegals. The proposed reforms will lead to improved access to legal services for British Columbians.</li> <li>• Further family justice reform initiatives, including developing initiatives to support those experiencing intimate partner violence, and moving forward initial phases of <i>Family Law Act</i> modernization.</li> <li>• Advance reform of the <i>Family Compensation Act</i> to facilitate increased transparency and access to compensation for families who lose a loved one.</li> <li>• Continue to advance work toward implementing the Comprehensive Bail Program to expand access to justice across the province and</li> </ul>	

## Ministry of Attorney General 2023/24 Service Plan Framework

		<p>improve fairness and effectiveness of bail hearings for all justice participants.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to work with and provide funding support to Legal Aid BC.</li> <li>• In partnership with the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions, and the Ministry of Children and Family Development, implement the Rights Advice Service for patients who are involuntarily detained under the <i>Mental Health Act</i>.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Goal 2:</b> British Columbian communities are protected and resilient</p>	<p><b>Objective 2.1:</b> Improved community and public safety for all British Columbians.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The BC Prosecution Service will assign dedicated prosecutors and professional staff to repeat violent offending coordinated response teams, in connection with police and probation officers, as part of the Safer Communities Action Plan, in response to concerns about repeat violent offending and recommendations coming from <i>A Rapid Investigation into Repeat Offending and Random Stranger Violence in British Columbia</i>.</li> <li>• Apply the BC Prosecution Service Bail Policy to seek pre-trial detention of repeat violent offenders whenever the risk they pose to public safety cannot be reduced to an acceptable level by a release on bail conditions.</li> <li>• Support the BC First Nations Justice Council to develop a pilot project to support Indigenous peoples who come into conflict with the law, operating out of the Prince George Indigenous Justice Centre.</li> <li>• Develop and implement new federally funded pilot programs to support those experiencing intimate partner violence as they navigate the family justice system.</li> <li>• Contribute to the development and implementation of the province's gender-based violence action plan.</li> <li>• Collaborate on a provincial framework for assisting people victimized by non-consensual disclosure of intimate images.</li> </ul>	<p><b>PM2a:</b> Number of B.C. communities engaged in projects that build intercultural trust and understanding and reduce racism and systemic barriers.</p>
	<p><b>Objective 2.2:</b> Address systemic racism and support Indigenous and other racialized communities to respond to public incidents of racism and hate.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduce a new <i>Anti-Racism Act</i> that better serves everyone in British Columbia. In developing this legislation, the Ministry will also work closely with Indigenous partners and communities to address Indigenous-specific racism, to fulfill its commitment to Action 3.6 of the <i>Declaration Act</i> Action Plan.</li> <li>• Work with the Ministry of Citizens Services to implement the <i>Anti-Racism Data Act</i> to reduce systemic racism and pave the way for race-based data collection essential to modernizing sectors like policing, healthcare, and education.</li> </ul>	

**Ministry of Attorney General 2023/24 Service Plan Framework**

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage communities through the Resilience BC Anti-Racism Network and related initiatives to provide them with information, supports and training they need to respond to, and prevent future incidents of racism.</li> <li>Honour the Japanese-Canadian community by providing lasting recognition of historical wrongs.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Goal 3:</b> The justice sector is safe and responsive to Indigenous peoples</p>	<p><b>Objective 3.1:</b> Facilitate self-determination and restoration of traditional Indigenous justice systems in partnerships with Indigenous leadership and communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In partnership with the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, the Federal Government and Indigenous communities, continue work with the BC First Nations Justice Council to advance the B.C. First Nations Justice Strategy and work with the Metis Nation BC to develop, endorse and advance the Metis Justice Strategy.</li> <li>Improve access to culturally appropriate justice service, including expanding the network of Indigenous Justice Centres to 15 centres across the province, in alignment with the First Nations Justice Strategy and the Safer Communities Action Plan.</li> <li>Advance design of a legal aid model for Indigenous peoples and develop a comprehensive work plan to transfer control of legal aid services to the BC First Nations Justice Council.</li> <li>Reduce Indigenous over-representation in the criminal justice system through ongoing policy review and changes, justice sector employee education, expansion of Indigenous courts, and outreach and partnerships with Indigenous communities.</li> <li>Continue to promote resources and available supports to help Indigenous peoples navigate administrative boards and tribunals.</li> <li>Support treaty negotiations and enforcement of the laws of Treaty Nations through changes to provincial statutes as needed.</li> <li>In consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples, continue reviewing and ensuring alignment of B.C. laws with UNDRIP for all statutes within the Ministry's mandate including new and amending bills.</li> </ul>	<p><b>PM3a:</b> Number of Indigenous clients supported at Indigenous Justice Centres.</p>

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	<p><b>Objective 3.2:</b> Advance reconciliation through use of the Directives of Civil Litigation involving Indigenous peoples.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to work with Indigenous peoples on the implementation of the Directives and training of counsel, as well as performance metrics and changes as identified.</li> <li>• Review active litigation to ensure the Directives are being implemented as intended, which may include making pleadings amendments.</li> <li>• Work with the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation on identifying potential avenues for negotiation of the dispute, such as forms of alternative dispute resolution.</li> <li>• Seek early internal government meetings to discuss effects of litigation on the work of reconciliation and try to identify collaborative ways to resolve all or part of the potential or newly filed legal proceedings.</li> <li>• When litigation has concluded, meet with clients to discuss preventing similar litigation in the future; as well as debriefing with counsel for the Indigenous parties to identify potential areas for improvement.</li> </ul>	
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**Table 1: Progress Status of Current (2022) Mandate Letter Items**

MANDATE LETTER ACCOUNTABILITY	STATUS
<p><b>2022 Mandate Letter:</b> Continue to work with the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Indigenous communities and the BC First Nations Justice Council to advance the First Nations Justice Strategy.</p>	<p><b>In progress</b> – The BC First Nations Justice Strategy (the Strategy), was signed on March 6, 2020, and an implementation workplan was approved by Cabinet in July 2021. Since then, there has been significant progress made on the Strategy. Of the 25 strategies contained within it, there has been significant progress on:</p>
<p><b>2020 Mandate Letter:</b> Work with the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Indigenous communities, and the BC First Nations Justice Council to advance the First Nations Justice Strategy and to improve access to culturally appropriate justice, including continuing to establish Indigenous Justice Centres across the province.</p>	<p>Strategy 4: Establishing a Network of Indigenous Justice Centres (IJC): There are three IJCs operating in Prince George, Prince Rupert, and Merritt as well as a Virtual Indigenous Justice Centre (VIJC), all of which provide legal advice and representation to Indigenous clients with criminal or family law legal matters who may not otherwise have access to legal representation. The Province has committed to funding the network of 15 IJCs as described in the Strategy by the end of 2024, with a centre set to open in Chilliwack this spring, five to open in major urban centres (Kelowna, Nanaimo, Surrey, Vancouver, and Victoria) this year, and five more IJCs scheduled to open next fiscal.</p> <p>Strategy 9: Establishing an Indigenous Justice Secretariat: On March 6, 2023, B.C. appointed the Executive Director of the Indigenous Justice Policy and Legislation Division, Colleen Spier, to the role of ADM for the newly formed Indigenous Justice Secretariat. This is as described in Strategy 9, which calls for B.C. to establish the Indigenous Justice Secretariat to advance the Strategy through coordination throughout the Provincial Government and the broader justice sector.</p> <p>Strategy 16: Establish an annual Justice Summit on First Nations Issues. The BCFNJC hosted a First Nations Justice Forum on March 6-8, 2023, which provided a space for First Nations rights holders, leadership, and subject matter experts to attend and hear updates on Strategy implementation and provide their input and feedback. Topics covered at the forum included community safety and policing, First Nations women’s justice, Indigenous courts, the National</p>



	<p>Indigenous Justice Strategy, and the future of legal services for Indigenous Peoples, including the expansion of Indigenous Justice Centres.</p> <p>Strategy 17: January 20, 2022, the BCFNJC, BC and Canada announced the signing of a Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding to support their shared agenda, including the implementation of the BC First Nations Justice Strategy, and collaboration on the development of a National Indigenous Justice Strategy. Canada has also provided funding to support IJCs, Gladue and capacity for the Council. In July 2022, B.C. hosted the first Annual Tripartite Minister’s Meeting, including Canada’s Attorney General, B.C.’s Attorney General and Solicitor General, and BCFNJC.</p> <p>There continues to be progress across other areas of the Strategy as well. This includes securing funding from Canada to develop an Indigenous Women’s Justice Plan (Strategy 11), developing cultural competency standards for the justice system (Strategy 20), and the Province funding the development of a workplan to transition Indigenous Legal Aid Services from Legal Aid BC to BCFNJC.</p>
<p><b>2022 Mandate Letter:</b> Advancing recommendations from the German Report and the Cullen Commission on money laundering.</p>	<p><b>In Progress</b> - JSB is advancing a small number of recommendations, including changes to the Notaries Act as part of our overall project to modernize the regulation of legal professionals. The Law Society is also advancing a number of recommendations relating to the regulation of lawyers. The remaining coordination work and recommendations are being advanced by the Anti Money Laundering Secretariat within the Ministry of Finance.</p>
<p><b>2020 Mandate Letter:</b> Advance recommendations from the findings of the Cullen Commission and the German Report to fight money laundering.</p>	
<p><b>2022 Mandate Letter:</b> Taking significant steps to honour Japanese Canadian internment survivors and their families.</p>	<p><b>In progress</b> - Ministry staff have delivered \$62 million out of the \$100 million commitment that BC Government made in May 2022. These funds sent to the Japanese Canadians Legacies Society (JCLS) are to support the new initiatives outlined in the communities' historical wrongs redress proposal, which covered six pillars of work.</p>

	<p>The ministry is working closely with Citizens’ Services and JCLS to help assess and manage the work required for the “monument” initiative, which is one of the remaining two redress pillars.</p>
<p><b>2022 Mandate Letter:</b> Adopting the Anti-Racism Data Act to dismantle systemic racism and improve access to government programs and services for Indigenous, Black, and other people of colour.</p>	<p><b>In progress</b> – MARB working with CITZ on the Anti-Racism Data Act implementation. In Fall of 2022, the Anti-Racism Data Committee was appointed. The committee is made up of 11 members that represent a wide cross-section of racialized communities and geographic regions of B.C.</p> <p>In collaboration with Indigenous Governing Entities (IGEs) and the Committee, on June 1, 2023, government will release a list of anti-racism research priorities, and will also release statistics and other information that is relevant to our anti-racism efforts.</p>
<p><b>2022 Mandate Letter:</b> Continue to move forward to support the judiciary in the modernization of B.C.’s courts and legal processes to make it easier for the public to navigate our justice system and to better support victims and families.</p>	<p><b>In Progress</b> -The Court Digital Transformation Strategy (2019-2023) continues to guide the priorities for court modernization. In collaboration with the three levels of Court, Court Services Branch is in the process of refreshing the roadmap of priorities for the Court Digital Transformation Strategy for its next cycle. The roadmap will take into consideration all of the advances made in the last four years and leverage those to continue to meet citizens' expectations for access to justice.</p> <p>Other justice modernization initiatives continue to move forward, with a focus on achieving:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improved access to justice and timely resolution of matters.</li> <li>- Enhanced online, integrated and efficient citizen experiences.</li> <li>- More reliable virtual proceedings, including secure access to court materials, modernized court infrastructure/connectivity,</li> <li>- Less costly and adversarial resolution options for citizen issues, including family justice, housing, and small claims matters.</li> <li>- Modernized justice processes and tools that meet sector needs and reduce the risks created by interruptions to service delivery.</li> </ul>

<p><b>2022 Mandate Letter:</b> Work with community partners, including B.C.’s Human Rights Commissioner, to develop and pass an Anti-Racism Act to better serve everyone in B.C.</p>	<p><b>In progress</b> – MARB have been working with the B.C.’s Human Rights Commissioner’s office, and have begun the Interim approach with Indigenous Governing Entities to help co-develop the Anti-Racism legislation and inform the RFD. Consultation and engagement will continue and expand to include other Racialized communities throughout the process. The legislation is scheduled to be introduced in Spring 2024.</p>
<p><b>2022 Mandate Letter:</b> In collaboration with the Parliamentary Secretary for Gender Equity, take steps to address non-consensual disclosure of intimate images.</p>	<p><b>In progress</b> – The Legislature passed legislation in the Spring 2023 session that will, once it comes into force by regulation at a future date, provide new forms of redress for people who have experienced the harm of having their intimate images distributed without consent. The legislation will also assist people who have received threats that their intimate images will be distributed. Work is currently under way to develop regulations and prepare for implementation.</p>
<p><b>2022 Mandate Letter:</b> Support the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General and the work of the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions to build safe and healthy communities through implementation of the Safer Communities Action Plan.</p>	<p><b>In progress</b> – BCPS is working with BC Corrections and Policing and Security Branch to support the Safer Communities Action Plan through the development and implementation of the Repeat Violent Offending Intervention Initiative (ReVOII).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ReVOII builds on the prior prolific offender program.</li> <li>• ReVOII involves dedicated Crown prosecutors, dedicated probation officers and correctional supervisors, along with targeted enforcement and enhanced investigation and monitoring of repeat violent offenders (“prioritized individuals”) by police agencies.</li> <li>• ReVOII will serve the entire province through the stand-up of community hubs led by BC Corrections in 12 locations throughout the province that will identify, track and case manage prioritized individuals. BC Corrections Community Hubs will stand up on May 1, 2023.</li> <li>• BCPS has identified the members of five Regional ReVOII Prosecution Teams that will begin working on May 1, 2023 to provide independent criminal law advice and prosecutorial services to each of the BC Corrections Community Hubs.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BCPS has made system enhancements to permit improved tracking and reporting on ReVOII prioritized individuals and to enhance information available to prosecutors for use at charge assessment, bail, trial and sentencing.</li> <li>• Goals of ReVOII include early intervention in cases involving prioritized individuals, and to assist Crown Counsel in making informed decisions about charge assessments and prosecutions through improved information sharing from investigative agencies to Crown Counsel. ReVOII will assist Crown Counsel in advocating for better crafted judicial interim release considerations along with sentences that are aimed at lessening the risk prioritized individuals pose to the community.</li> <li>• ReVOII also intends to focus on helping prioritized individuals through enhanced community supervision, case management and release planning for those transitioning from custody into the community, as well as helping prioritized individuals gain access to available culturally appropriate supports/resources where they identify as indigenous, and much needed mental health and addictions treatment by engaging community stakeholders and service providers.</li> </ul> <p>Through the Safer Communities Action Plan, the Province has committed to funding 10 additional Indigenous Justice Centres to bring the network of 15 IJCs as described in the BC First Nations Justice Strategy by the end of 2024. A centre is set to open in Chilliwack this spring, then 5 to open in major urban centres (Kelowna, Nanaimo, Surrey, Vancouver, and Victoria) this year, and 6 more IJCs scheduled to open next fiscal year.</p>
<p><b>2022 Mandate Letter:</b> Support all ministries to deliver initiatives listed in the Action Plan required by the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, to keep building strong relations based on recognition and implementation of the inherent rights of Indigenous Peoples protected in Canada’s constitution.</p>	<p><b>In progress</b> – Action 3.12: Prioritize implementation of the First Nations Justice Strategy. The BC First Nations Justice Strategy (the Strategy) was signed on March 6, 2020, and an implementation workplan was approved by Cabinet in July 2021. Since then, there has been significant progress made on the Strategy. Of the 25 strategies contained within it, there has been significant progress on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategy 4: Establishing a Network of Indigenous Justice Centres (IJCs)</li> <li>• Strategy 9: Establishing an Indigenous Justice Secretariat</li> </ul>

<p><b>2020 Mandate Letter:</b> Support the Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation to deliver the action plan required under DRIPA to build strong relationships based on recognition and implementation of the inherent rights of Indigenous peoples protected in Canada’s constitution.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Strategy 16: Establish an annual Justice Summit on First Nations Issues.</li><li>• Strategy 17: January 20, 2022, the BCFNJC, BC and Canada announced the signing of a Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding to support their shared agenda, including the implementation of the BC First Nations Justice Strategy, and collaboration on the development of a National Indigenous Justice Strategy.</li><li>• There continues to be progress across other areas of the Strategy as well. This includes securing funding from Canada to develop an Indigenous Women’s Justice Plan (Strategy 11), developing cultural competency standards for the justice system (Strategy 20), and the Province funding the development of a workplan to transition Indigenous Legal Aid Services from Legal Aid BC to BCFNJC.</li></ul> <p>Action 3.13: Prioritize endorsement and implementation of the Métis Justice Strategy: The ministry has received the draft Métis Justice Strategy (MJS) from MNBC and continues to facilitate government consultation on the MJS and its accompanying draft Implementation Workplan <small>Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences</small></p>
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**Table 2: Progress Status of 2020 Mandate Letter Items Not in 2022 Mandate Letter (AG Component Only)**

MANDATE LETTER ACCOUNTABILITY	STATUS
<p><b>2020 Mandate Letter:</b> Work with the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General (PSSG) and the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions (MHA) to fast track the move toward decriminalization by working with police chiefs to push Ottawa to decriminalize simple possession of small amounts of illicit drugs for personal use. In the absence of prompt federal action, develop a made-in-B.C. solution that will help save lives.</p>	<p>Health Canada granted an exemption from the <i>Controlled Drugs and Substances Act</i> to the Province of B.C. This is effective from January 31, 2023 to January 31, 2026. Under this exemption, adults (18 years and older) in B.C. are not arrested or charged for possessing small amounts of certain illegal drugs for personal use.</p> <p>The Ministry of Attorney General no longer is assigned this accountability in their mandate letter, going forward it will be led by the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions with support from the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General.</p>

**Table 3: Progress Status of 2022 Mandate Letter Items (Parliamentary Secretary)**

MANDATE LETTER ACCOUNTABILITY	STATUS
<p><b>2022 Mandate Letter:</b> Support the Attorney General’s work with community partners, including B.C.’s Human Rights Commissioner, to develop and pass an Anti-Racism Act to better serve everyone in B.C.</p>	<p><b>In progress</b> – MARB have been working with the B.C.’s Human Rights Commissioner’s office and have begun the Interim approach with Indigenous Governing Entities to help co-develop the Anti-Racism legislation and inform the RFD. Consultation and engagement will continue and expand to include other Racialized communities throughout the process.</p>
<p><b>2020 Mandate Letter:</b> Conduct a full review of anti-racism laws in other jurisdictions and launch a stakeholder consultation to inform</p>	<p>Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences</p>

<p>the introduction of a new Anti-Racism Act that better serves everyone in B.C.</p>	
<p><b>2022 Mandate Letter:</b> Continue work to advance the anti-racism hotline.</p>	<p><b>In progress</b> - Government will assess the options for creating an Anti-Racism Hotline and look to potentially align this work with recommendations that came out of the From Hate to Hope Report from BC’s Human Rights Commissioner.</p>
<p><b>2022 Mandate Letter:</b> Work with community partners to create an anti-black racism strategy in recognition of the International Decade for the People of African Descent.</p>	<p><b>In progress</b> - Government conducted extensive engagement with the Black community in 2021 to inform potential initiatives related to the work and recognition of the International Decade for the People of African Descent. The B.C. Government also funded the Black in British Columbia (BC) Convener pilot project through a \$0.100 million grant. As part of the Convener role, The African Arts and Cultural Community Contributor Society (AACCCS) led a community assessment process of the performance of our government, and provided their findings and recommendations through their report called Black In B.C.</p> <p>Work will continue with the Black community and an Anti-Black Racism strategy will follow the introduction of the Anti-Racism Act. The Act will provide the necessary guidelines and actions required for anti-racism strategies. This information will help inform the process and development of specific anti-racism strategies.</p>
<p><b>2022 Mandate Letter:</b> Work with community partners to create an anti-Asian racism strategy.</p>	<p><b>In progress</b> - Work for this mandate item will begin late 2023/early 2024. An Anti-Asian Racism strategy will follow the introduction of the Anti-Racism Act. The Act will provide the necessary guidelines and actions required for anti-racism strategies. This information will help inform the process and development of specific anti-racism strategies.</p>
<p><b>2022 Mandate Letter:</b> Work with the Japanese Canadian Legacies Society to deliver the Province’s redress initiatives that honour the legacy of Japanese Canadians in B.C.</p>	<p><b>In progress</b> - Ministry staff have delivered \$62 million out of the \$100 million commitment that BC Government made in May 2022. These funds sent to the Japanese Canadians Legacies Society (JCLS) are to support the new initiatives outlined in the communities' historical wrongs redress proposal, which covered six pillars of work.</p>
<p><b>2020 Mandate Letter:</b> Honour the Japanese-Canadian community by providing lasting recognition of the traumatic internment of</p>	<p>The ministry is working close with Citizens’ Services and JCLS to help assess and manage the work required for the “monument” initiative, which is one of the remaining two redress pillars.</p>

<p>more than 22,000 Japanese-Canadians during World War II in libraries, communities and at the BC Legislature.</p>	
<p><b>2022 Mandate Letter:</b> Support the Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport in consultation with affected communities to advance emerging museum programs and proposals, including the Chinese Canadian museum, a South Asian Museum, and a provincial Filipino cultural centre.</p>	<p><b>In progress</b> - This work is being led by the Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sports (TACS), but PS Elmore has met with the Minister of TACS and senior executives to determine how she can help move this important work forward and provide her full support throughout the process.</p>
<p><b>2022 Mandate Letter:</b> Support the Minister of Citizens' Services to continue collaborating with community partners on implementation of the Anti-Racism Data Act to dismantle systemic racism and improve access to government programs and services for Indigenous, Black, and other people of colour.</p>	<p><b>In progress</b> – MARB working with CITZ on the Anti-Racism Data Act implementation. In Fall of 2022, the Anti-Racism Data Committee was appointed. The committee is made up of 11 members that represent a wide cross-section of racialized communities and geographic regions of B.C.</p> <p>In collaboration with Indigenous Governing Entities (IGEs) and the Committee, on June 1, 2023, government will release a list of anti-racism research priorities and will also release statistics and other information that is relevant to our anti-racism efforts.</p>
<p><b>2020 Mandate Letter:</b> Work with B.C.'s new Human Rights Commissioner and other stakeholders to introduce legislation that will help reduce systemic discrimination and pave the way for race-based data collection essential to modernizing sectors like policing, health care and education.</p>	





December 7, 2022

Honourable Niki Sharma  
Attorney General  
Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Attorney General Sharma:

Thank you for agreeing to serve as Attorney General. I trust in your leadership at this critical time to deliver results for the people of British Columbia.

British Columbians continue to recover from and respond to the upheaval caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and climate related natural disasters, while global inflation is driving up costs for more households and the world's economic outlook is concerning. Now more than ever, we need to focus on building a secure, low emission, sustainable economy, and a province where everyone can find a good home – whether you live in a rural area, in a city, or in an Indigenous community. We will continue working toward true and meaningful reconciliation by supporting opportunities for Indigenous Peoples to be full partners in the inclusive and sustainable province we are building together.

Our government is committed to delivering on the mandate British Columbians gave us in 2020. Together we can make life better for people in B.C., improve the services we all rely on, and ensure a sustainable province for future generations.

As we renew our work, my priority as Premier is to deliver results that people can see and feel in four key areas:

- **Attainable and affordable housing:** In the wake of soaring prices and record migration to B.C., we will take on the important work of building new homes that are actually attainable for the middle class, while continuing our work to address the housing crisis for those in distress on our streets.

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**Office of the  
Premier**

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PO Box 9041 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria BC V8W 9E1

**Location:**  
Parliament Buildings  
Victoria

- **Safer communities:** To address concerns about public safety, both for the people struggling with mental health and addiction on our streets, as well as the feeling that downtown centres are not as safe as they were before the pandemic, we will work with our partners at all levels of government, the justice and health care systems, the non-profit sector, and community leaders to find solutions for this complex challenge facing our province, and work overtime to seize the assets of high-level criminals.
- **Improved health care:** Amid unprecedented pressures we will continue to work to strengthen our public health care system, from family doctors to new hospitals, so care is there for each of us when we need it.
- **A sustainable, clean, secure, and fair economy:** We will continue our work investing in British Columbians, fighting racism and promoting equity, and building a clean economy that addresses our obligations to combat climate change by driving down emissions, while creating good, family supporting jobs.

As Attorney General, part of your unique role is to ensure the rule of law is protected as a foundational principle in British Columbia. One of the greatest challenges and opportunities of modern British Columbia is to find ways to meaningfully recognize the two systems of law in our province – Indigenous and Colonial – that co-exist and are recognized by our Constitution, our Courts, and by our government through the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples incorporated into provincial law.

In addition to this historic work and partnership with Indigenous Peoples that you will continue, British Columbians expect government to enhance and build on remarkable modernization work undertaken in our Courts and Tribunals during the COVID-19 pandemic. Virtual bail hearings, remote testimony, virtual courts, and other innovations were embraced across the justice system during the pandemic. Our government will continue to support the Courts of British Columbia in further enhancing processes and services.

Currently, public concern about community safety coming out of the pandemic is also front of mind for British Columbians. The public, and our government, believes that social and health issues like mental health, addiction, and poverty are not matters for the criminal law, and yet many people struggling with these issues end up in conflict with the criminal law and the justice system in our province. Our response to this issue requires your ongoing support with colleagues in Cabinet and community members across the province.

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Since 2020, our government has made considerable progress on important initiatives including:

- Launching the First Nations Justice Strategy with the BC First Nations Justice Council and the federal government toward dismantling systemic racism and discrimination from our justice system and revitalizing Indigenous legal traditions.
- Advancing recommendations from the German Report and the Cullen Commission on money laundering.
- Taking significant steps to honour Japanese Canadian internment survivors and their families.
- Adopting the *Anti-Racism Data Act* to dismantle systemic racism and improve access to government programs and services for Indigenous, Black, and other people of colour.

As you continue to make progress on items in the previous mandate letter, over the remaining period of this mandate I expect you to prioritize making progress on the following:

- Continue to work with the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Indigenous communities and the BC First Nations Justice Council to advance the First Nations Justice Strategy.
- Continue to move forward to support the judiciary in the modernization of B.C.'s courts and legal processes to make it easier for the public to navigate our justice system and to better support victims and families.
- Work with community partners, including B.C.'s Human Rights Commissioner, to develop and pass an *Anti-Racism Act* to better serve everyone in B.C.
- In collaboration with the Parliamentary Secretary for Gender Equity, take steps to address non-consensual disclosure of intimate images.
- Support the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General and the work of the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions to build safe and healthy communities through implementation of the Safer Communities Action Plan.
- Support all ministries to deliver initiatives listed in the Action Plan required by the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, to keep building strong relations based on recognition and implementation of the inherent rights of Indigenous Peoples protected in Canada's constitution.

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To assist you in meeting the commitments we have made to British Columbians, you are assigned a Parliamentary Secretary for Anti-Racism Initiatives. You will work closely together and ensure your Parliamentary Secretary receives appropriate support to deliver on the priorities outlined in the mandate letter issued to them.

Our work together must continue to evolve to meet the changing needs of people in this province. Issues not contemplated by this letter will come forward for government action and I ask you to bring such matters forward for consideration by the Planning and Priorities Committee of Cabinet, with the expectation that any proposed initiatives will be subject to the usual Cabinet and Treasury Board oversight and include measurable outcomes for British Columbians. Your ministry's priorities must reflect our government's overall strategic plan as determined by Cabinet.

British Columbians expect their elected representatives to work together to advance the public good. That means seeking out, fostering, and championing good ideas regardless of their origin. I expect you to reach out to elected members from all parties as you deliver on your mandate. Further, you will build thoughtful and sustained relationships both with title holders and through public and stakeholder engagement plans that incorporate diverse perspectives early in the policy development process. Federal partnerships and resources will be particularly important and, on behalf of our government, you will engage with the federal government on advancing priorities to improve the lives of British Columbians.

As a Cabinet, we will uphold the highest standards of ethics, collaboration, and good conduct in service of the public, and as a Minister of the Crown, you are expected to review, understand, and act according to the *Members' Conflict of Interest Act*. You will establish a collaborative working relationship with your Deputy Minister, and the public servants under their direction, who provide the professional, non-partisan advice that is fundamental to delivering on our government's priorities. Your Minister's Office must meet the highest standards for integrity and provide a respectful, rewarding environment for all staff.

The rural and urban challenges that we face are urgent and complex. In response, we must be forward-thinking, strategic, and ready to work across disciplines and old divisions in new ways. Labour shortages are a major issue globally, and British Columbia is no exception, including in the public service. Maintaining the BC Public Service as an employer of excellence will be key to retaining and recruiting the diverse professionals we rely on to deliver essential services, advice, and analysis.

.../5

At the core of this work is listening and responding to the priorities of people in B.C. Together, we can deliver results in very real ways – ways that people can see, feel, and touch, and that change their lives for the better. Thank you for doing this important work with me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Eby". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

David Eby, KC  
Premier



December 7, 2022

Mable Elmore, MLA  
Parliamentary Secretary for Anti-Racism Initiatives  
Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Parliamentary Secretary Elmore:

Thank you for agreeing to serve as Parliamentary Secretary for Anti-Racism Initiatives. I trust in your leadership at this critical time to deliver results for the people of British Columbia.

British Columbians continue to recover from and respond to the upheaval caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and climate related natural disasters, while global inflation is driving up costs for more households and the world's economic outlook is concerning. Now more than ever, we need to focus on building a secure, low emission, sustainable economy, and a province where everyone can find a good home – whether you live in a rural area, in a city, or in an Indigenous community. We will continue working toward true and meaningful reconciliation by supporting opportunities for Indigenous Peoples to be full partners in the inclusive and sustainable province we are building together.

Our government is committed to delivering on the mandate British Columbians gave us in 2020. Together we can make life better for people in B.C., improve the services we all rely on, and ensure a sustainable province for future generations.

As we renew our work, my priority as Premier is to deliver results that people can see and feel in four key areas:

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**Office of the  
Premier**

**Web Site:**  
[www.gov.bc.ca](http://www.gov.bc.ca)

**Mailing Address:**  
PO Box 9041 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria BC V8W 9E1

**Location:**  
Parliament Buildings  
Victoria

- **Attainable and affordable housing:** In the wake of soaring prices and record migration to B.C., we will take on the important work of building new homes that are actually attainable for the middle class, while continuing our work to address the housing crisis for those in distress on our streets.
- **Safer communities:** To address concerns about public safety, both for the people struggling with mental health and addiction on our streets, as well as the feeling that downtown centres are not as safe as they were before the pandemic, we will work with our partners at all levels of government, the justice and health care systems, the non-profit sector, and community leaders to find solutions for this complex challenge facing our province, and work overtime to seize the assets of high-level criminals.
- **Improved health care:** Amid unprecedented pressures we will continue to work to strengthen our public health care system, from family doctors to new hospitals, so care is there for each of us when we need it.
- **A sustainable, clean, secure, and fair economy:** We will continue our work investing in British Columbians, fighting racism and promoting equity, and building a clean economy that addresses our obligations to combat climate change by driving down emissions, while creating good, family supporting jobs.

As Parliamentary Secretary, you will assist the Attorney General in carrying out ministerial duties in the House and speaking on the government's behalf when issues arise in the absence of the Attorney General. You will also play an important role in engaging British Columbians by representing the Attorney General at public events, delivering speeches on behalf of the Attorney General, or acting as a spokesperson for the government's position. You will reach out to stakeholders, businesses, civil society, and people across B.C. to better understand their perspectives and bring their views to the Attorney General.

You will work with the Attorney General to help advance these shared responsibilities:

- Support the Attorney General's work with community partners, including B.C.'s Human Rights Commissioner, to develop and pass an Anti-Racism Act to better serve everyone in B.C.
- Continue work to advance the anti-racism hotline.
- Work with community partners to create an anti-black racism strategy in recognition of the International Decade for the People of African Descent.

.../3

- Work with community partners to create an anti-Asian racism strategy.
- Work with the Japanese Canadian Legacies Society to deliver the Province's redress initiatives that honour the legacy of Japanese Canadians in B.C.
- Support the Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport in consultation with affected communities to advance emerging museum programs and proposals, including the Chinese Canadian museum, a South Asian museum, and a provincial Filipino cultural centre.
- Support the Minister of Citizens' Services to continue collaborating with community partners on implementation of the *Anti-Racism Data Act* to dismantle systemic racism and improve access to government programs and services for Indigenous, Black, and other people of colour.

The Attorney General is responsible and accountable for their ministry and their mandate; all key decisions will be made by them. You will understand the Attorney General's policy goals, develop a deep understanding of the issues, build thoughtful and sustained relationships both with title holders and through public and stakeholder engagement plans, and provide your best advice to the public service as they develop options for decision by the Attorney General.

You will collaborate with the Attorney General, ministry, and the Premier's Office to develop a workplan to guide your efforts, including detail on how the professional public service will support your work.

All members are expected to review, understand, and act according to the *Members' Conflict of Interest Act* and conduct themselves with the highest level of integrity. As a Parliamentary Secretary, your conduct will reflect not only on you, but on the Attorney General and our government.

You will establish a collaborative working relationship with the Attorney General, the Attorney General's staff, and the public servants who provide the professional, non-partisan advice that is fundamental to delivering on our government's priorities.

The rural and urban challenges that we face are urgent and complex. In response, we must be forward-thinking, strategic, and ready to work across disciplines and old divisions in new ways. Labour shortages are a major issue globally, and British Columbia is no exception, including in the public service. Maintaining the BC Public Service as an employer of excellence will be key to retaining and recruiting the diverse professionals we rely on to deliver essential services, advice, and analysis.

.../4



At the core of this work is listening and responding to the priorities of people in B.C. Together, we can deliver results in very real ways – ways that people can see, feel, and touch, and that change their lives for the better. Thank you for doing this important work with me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Eby", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Eby, KC  
Premier

## Service Plan Performance Measure Comparison

Performance Measure AG Service Plan (2022-23)	Performance Measure AG Service Plan (2023-24)	Rationale
<p><b>PM 1.1</b> Number of substantive client service activities provided (via Family Justice Services Division) <b>(Replaced with 1a, b, c)</b></p>	<p><b>PM1a:</b> Percentage of respondents who agreed that the Parenting After Separation program gave them a better understanding of the family justice system including its relevant laws and services. <b>(new)</b></p> <p><b>PM1b:</b> Percentage of respondents who agreed that the program gave them a better understanding of alternatives to court. <b>(new)</b></p> <p><b>PM1c:</b> Percentage of respondents who agreed that the program gave them a better understanding of making decisions in the best interests of the children. <b>(new)</b></p>	<p>Replaced former PM 1.1 that included the raw input of number of activities provided by Family Justice Services Division, to provide a PM that reflects how the Ministry's Parenting After Separation (PAS) Program facilitates user understanding of navigating the justice system.</p> <p>PAS measures are indicators of improved capacity of families to use the justice system.</p> <p>Punjabi PAS will further expand the program's reach, benefiting people who may experience a language barrier to the justice system. The Ministry will be doing a "soft launch" of this program at the beginning of April.</p>
	<p><b>PM1d:</b> Percentage of eFiled Court Documents. <b>(new)</b></p>	<p>New PM added to demonstrate progress in the Ministry's focus on modernizing processes or court forms to enhance the user-experience and array of options when interfacing with the justice system.</p>
<p><b>PM 1.2:</b> Number of Indigenous clients supported at Indigenous Centres. <b>(now 3a)</b></p>		<p>Carried over, shifted from former Goal 1 to current Goal 3.</p>

<p><b>PM 3.1:</b> Number of B.C. communities engaged in projects that build intercultural trust and understanding and reduce racism and systemic barriers.</p>	<p><b>PM2a:</b> Number of B.C. communities engaged in projects that build intercultural trust and understanding and reduce racism and systemic barriers. <b>(carried)</b></p>	<p>Carried over, shifted from former Goal 3 to current Goal 2</p>
	<p><b>PM3a:</b> Number of Indigenous clients supported at Indigenous Centres. <b>(carried)</b></p>	<p>Carried over, shifted from former Goal 1 to current Goal 3</p>

## **2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE**

*Last updated: April 3, 2023*

## **BUDGET 2023 OVERVIEW – KEY MESSAGES**

### **KEY MESSAGES:**

- The overall budget for the ministry is \$773.322 million, an increase of \$65.136 million, or 9.20 per cent, over last year's (restated) budget for ministry key initiatives in 2023/24.
- Budgetary increases predominantly focus on improving access to justice and keeping communities safe.
- The overall Budget 2023 increase includes:
  - \$34.812 million for Shared Recovery Wage Mandate;
  - \$16.035 million for additional 10 Indigenous Justice Centres;
  - \$2.900 million to support the BC Human Rights Tribunal;
  - \$2.804 million to support weekday evening After Hours Bail;
  - \$2.429 million to support courthouse related facilities projects;
    - Minor Capital Asset Management Plan (Minor CAMP) \$1.792 million, Vancouver Law Courts Inn renovations \$0.900 million, and Port Coquitlam Law Courts Supreme Court Registry staffing \$0.298 million
  - \$2.148 million to support additional staffing and operational costs at the Independent Investigations Office;
  - \$2.045 million to support virtual bail expansion for the North, Interior and Vancouver Island regions;
  - \$0.219 million for the Community Legal Assistance Society Human Rights Clinic; and
  - A \$0.041 million minor housekeeping budget adjustment.
- The increase also includes confirmation of prior year decisions:
  - \$1.785 million increase primarily a Budget 2021 decision to support legal clinics.
- The Electoral Boundaries Commission operates independently from the Ministry of Attorney General:
  - \$0.147 million for the Electoral Boundaries Commission.

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

Cabinet Confidences ; Government Financial Information

## **2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE**

*Last updated: April 12, 2023*

## **JUSTICE SECTOR AND COURT MODERNIZATION**

### **KEY MESSAGES:**

- The Ministry is committed to fair, equitable and timely access to justice through technology innovation and justice reform.
- Through collaborative efforts, justice and court modernization initiatives to date have resulted in significant accomplishments in numerous areas across the justice sector.
- This work enables efficiencies to be created and increases accessibility to court services in a digital forum.
- These initiatives support everyone in the justice system, including the judiciary, court services staff, media, other partners, and most importantly members of the public who interact with the justice system.
- Outcomes of these efforts include:
  - Improved access to justice and timely resolution of matters for people in B.C.
  - Enhanced, integrated, and efficient experiences, including online.
  - Reliable proceedings, including secure access to court materials, modernized court infrastructure and increased connectivity.
  - Less costly and adversarial resolution of issues in key areas such as family justice and small claims.
  - Modernized justice processes and tools that meet sector needs and reduce the risks created by interruptions to service delivery.

### **FINANCES:**

- Budget allocations for Courts Modernization focus on access to justice by delivering on citizen centred services in the areas of modern electronic filing services, on-demand access to court materials, scheduling, virtual proceeding enablement, delivery, and training.

**Confidential**

**BACKGROUND:**

- Court Modernization Funding by Budget and Fiscal Year in \$ Million

<b>Budget</b>	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2024/25</b>	<b>Total</b>
Budget 2021	5.496	5.271	4.910		15.677
Budget 2022		3.909	4.072	4.072	12.053
<b>Total</b>	<b>5.496</b>	<b>9.180</b>	<b>8.982</b>	<b>4.072</b>	<b>27.730</b>

- Over the past three years, many improvements have been made in digital service delivery, application enhancements, and the enablement of virtual appearances.
- Individual initiatives include:
  - **Application Modernization** – automating court form submission and eliminating manual data entry, improved infrastructure to enable digital services.
  - **Digital Identity**– enhancing digital identity and secure access tools. For example, Family Duty Counsel has secure access to Provincial Family Court documents, and the ability to verify if counsel is a Law Society member in good standing.
  - **Enhanced Connectivity** – WiFi expanded to over 50 courthouses, enabling both public and secured connectivity options in courtrooms and adjacent hallways
    - Bandwidth capacity increases, provincial implementation of modern network technology and proactive network health reporting in conjunction with network architecture review improves the end user experience.
  - **Virtual Appearances** – Use of MS Teams and Zoom for virtual civil, family, and criminal proceedings across courts, boards, and tribunals province-wide.
    - Expansion of Cisco videoconferencing units - an additional 150 devices and endpoints over the last 3 years, bringing the number of devices and endpoints located in courthouses, correctional centres, police detachments and boardrooms around the province to over 500.
  - **Virtual Bail Initiative** - The aim of this initiative is to reduce community displacement and expand video access to accused for bail hearings and conversations with counsel, improve communication and information sharing between all involved stakeholders across the justice sector, and enhance the overall efficiency of the bail process, ultimately improving access to justice.
  - **e-Filing Services** – Enablement of processes to support electronic submission of family forms, representation grant, chamber binders, divorce forms, Supreme Court civil forms and Court of Appeal forms.
    - Includes guided pathways to assist with form completion, e-filing, and integration with case tracking systems.

**Confidential**

- **Traffic Court Online** – created a web landing page (tickets.gov.bc.ca) and a self-resolution information tool, with plans to create end-to-end digitized virtual processes to resolve Violation Ticket cases and enable options for Early Resolution.
- **Family Justice enhancements** – virtual support for clients seeking help with separation and divorce (Family Justice Services), expanded the Early Resolution Model to Surrey, and launched an informal trial pilot which provides litigants in Kamloops with a less adversarial trial option.
- **Online Booking and Court Services Scheduling enhancements** – development of web-based applications that assist in managing resources allocations. Online bookings provide an avenue for court users to submit requests in a modern, more efficient application.
  - Development of a Sheriff Scheduling and an Interpreter Scheduling system.
  - Supreme Court Online Booking: Creating a more equitable process for allocating booking opportunities for Trial Management Conferences, Judicial Case Conferences and Case Planning Conferences.
- **Digital access to court materials**
  - Access to court audio and documents enabled for counsel using verifiable credentials.
  - Supports judicial viewing of electronic documents and records in support of virtual proceedings.
- **Modernization of Legacy Systems**
  - Upgrades to the Oracle forms-based systems, which are in use in multiple applications across the Justice sector, are under way.
  - The Court Fees and Fines modernization project will replace the 40-year-old legacy Accounts Receivable and Collections system.
- For CSB, these projects and initiatives are aligned with the *Court Digital Transformation Strategy*, which provides a clear roadmap of the shared government and judicial priorities to improve services and accessibility for citizens.
  - The Strategy also builds on technology investments already made, expertise of justice partners, and the support of the judiciary to deliver user-centred services.

Contact: Paul Craven, ADM, Justice Services Branch	Government Financial Information
Contact: Jenny Manton, ADM, Court Services Branch	



## 2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

*Last updated Date: April 21, 2023*

## HATE REPORT & MINISTRY RESPONSE

### KEY MESSAGES:

- AG and Human Rights Commissioner met shortly after the comprehensive report regarding the inquiry into hate in the pandemic which was released March 7, 2023.
- Ministry staff as well as other affected ministries, are looking at the Commissioner's recommendations very carefully.
- Regarding recommendations to ensure adequate funding for the Human Rights Tribunal to process complaints, I am pleased to say that Budget 2023 gave an additional \$13.9 million over three years to the Tribunal to improve its processes, which includes support towards the Community Legal Assistance Society.
- With respect to the recommendations to amend the *Human Rights Code* (the Code), Ministry staff are carefully analyzing each of the recommendations for potential inclusion in the Code.
- The findings from the Human Rights Commissioner's report on incidents of hate during the pandemic will also inform the Province's approach to dismantling systemic racism.

### *If asked if Housing is a Human Right:*

- The right to adequate housing is recognized in international human rights law and as you know we are working hard as a government on the housing issue.
- It is fundamental that we get people housing so that they have the stability necessary to access other supports that help to provide them with stable and safe living situations.

### FINANCES:

- There are currently no financial impacts.
- The BC Human Rights Tribunal is experiencing a backlog of complaints. Adding new protected grounds to the Code in the future will add to the scope of the Tribunal's work and will require additional resources and funding.

**Confidential**

- Budget 2023 gave an additional \$13.9 million over three years of funding to the BC Human Rights Tribunal and the Community Legal Assistance Society.
  - This year (2023/24), funding for the BC Human Rights Tribunal increased by \$2.900 million and by \$0.219 million for the Community Legal Assistance Society
- Funding in Budget 2023 was announced prior to the release of the report and before the recommendations pertaining to the inquiry were made public.
- Adding to or expanding the mandate of the Human Rights Commissioner will also require additional funding.

Cabinet Confidences; Government Financial Information

**BACKGROUND:**

There are three recommendations that the Office of the Human Rights Commissioner has made with respect to amending the Code:

- 1) Introduce legislation for consideration by the legislative assembly to amend s.7 (discriminatory publication) of the Code to clarify that it applies regardless of whether publications are online or offline.
- 2) Introducing legislation for consideration by the legislative assembly to amend s.7, along with other substantive sections of the Code containing prohibited grounds of discrimination, to include social condition as a prohibited ground of discrimination for the purposes of hateful publications.
- 3) Amendment to the Code to provide the Human Rights Commissioner with the legislative mandate to provide independent oversight on the implementation of Government’s strategy to address hate as laid out in the report.

**Confidential Advice to Minister:** Legal Information  
Legal Information

Legal Information

Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences

Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences

Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences

Advice/Recommendations

