



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

Ministry of
Environment and
Climate Change Strategy

Estimates Debates 2023

**Prepared for:
Honourable George Heyman**

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Event Information / Opening Remarks

Event: 2023 Estimates Opening remarks

When: Thursday, March 30, 2023

Where: Legislature, Tiny House/Committee C

Length: 8-9 minutes (approx. 1160 words)

Opening Remarks:

- Thank you everyone for joining today.
- Introduce ministry staff:
 - Kevin Jardine – Deputy Minister
 - Jeremy Hewitt – ADM, Climate Action Secretariat
 - Laurel Nash –ADM, Environmental Protection
 - Jim Standen – ADM, BC Parks and Recreation Sites and Trails BC
 - Elenore Arend – Associate Deputy Minister, Environmental Assessment Office
 - Ranbir Parmar – EFO, Corporate Services for the Natural Resource Ministries
- Thank you, Honourable Chair,
- I want to start by acknowledging the traditional territories of the Lekwungen peoples – the Esquimalt and Songhees First Nations.
- Since last Estimates debate, we’ve seen some significant changes – a new Premier, new Cabinet and new set of ministry mandate commitments.
- We’ve seen some operational changes to my ministry, with responsibility for TransLink moving to Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure.

- We also have a new Parliamentary Secretary for Environment – my colleague Aman Singh.
- That said, much of the day-to-day operations and responsibilities of my ministry remain the same, and I look forward to building on the significant progress our team has achieved over the past five years.

[PAUSE]

- This past year has continued to present challenges for many people in B.C.
- We've seen the impacts of rising global inflation, with the cost of goods steadily increasing, putting pressure on families.
- We continue to see the war play out in Ukraine, which is impacting global supply chains.
- B.C. continues to recover from the impacts of the atmospheric river event of late-2021 and other climate-related disasters.
- Last summer and fall many areas experienced substantial and prolonged drought in many parts of the province, right through until late October.
- Many of the actions taken by my ministry have focused on addressing those challenges and more.

Flood response, recovery and clean up

- Response and recovery from the extreme flooding in late-2021 continues into 2023.
- Staff at my ministry were tasked with debris removal – a monumental task.
- Over 725 kilometres of waterways were assessed along major waterways – including the Tulameen, Similkameen, Nicola, Thompson, Coldwater, Chilliwack, Fraser and Coquihalla rivers.
- Hundreds of debris sites were cleaned up; and thousands of tonnes of debris removed.
- Sediment work continues include removing deposited materials, addressing erosion, mitigating future flooding, and helping restore river channels.
- This has involved significant collaboration and leadership from First Nations, municipalities, local contractors, the public, other ministries, and the federal government...
- ... all with the shared goal of removing potential hazards and restoring affected watersheds.
- Through the Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy we're strengthening our ability to respond to extreme events like wildfires, flooding and heatwaves, as well as more gradual changes like water shortages and sea level rise.
- We know that every dollar spent on disaster and climate risk mitigation now can help save \$10 or more on recovery

costs down the road, but we first need to assess disaster and climate risks to prioritize our investment.

- Through the development of a Disaster and Climate Risk and Resilience Assessment, we can determine risk and resilience priorities so that we can ultimately develop a province-wide disaster and climate risk reduction plan.
- This is a joint mandate of the Ministries of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness and Environment and Climate Change's Climate Action Secretariat. It will be completed in 2024.
- The assessment will be co-developed with Indigenous Partners, and informed through engagement with local governments, industry, critical infrastructure owners, Academia, non-governmental organizations, and other key provincial parties.
- To further enhance disaster and climate resilience, we have invested \$369 million in the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund, this includes the recent top-up of \$180 million. These funds have supported more than 1,300 projects.
- Budget 2023 provides an additional \$85 million over three years to increase emergency management capacity in the province and provide new investments to make communities more resilient to climate and disaster risk.

CleanBC

- These incidents only underscore the urgency of our work to build a better future for people across the province.

- Government continues to prioritize investments to support climate action, with \$3.5 billion invested in CleanBC since 2019.
- We know that these impacts are likely to become more severe and frequent in the future – and we want to be prepared.
- My ministry continues to take action across sectors to reduce our carbon emissions by reducing climate pollution in B.C. – and build new opportunities in the clean economy.
- We continue to coordinate implementation of our CleanBC Roadmap to 2030 – one of the strongest climate plans on the continent.
- We just announced our new energy action framework that will cap emissions in the oil and gas sector. The cap will be designed in line with our 2030 climate targets and will support new opportunities in clean energy and technology.
- We will also be establishing a clean-energy and major projects office to fast-track investment in clean energy and technology and create good, sustainable jobs in the transition to a cleaner economy.

BC Parks / Conservancies

- Since the pandemic our provincial parks are more popular than ever.

- We know that connecting with nature is more important than ever – people want more options to get outside and explore our beautiful parks and outdoor spaces.
- Since August 2017, we have established three conservancies and two provincial parks. This includes Incomappleux Conservancy – which is one of the most significant new protected areas established in the past decade.
- We are also investing in expanded access to BC Parks, while protecting the natural values that make them so important to people.
- This work has been coordinated with work at different ministries to help meet our government’s commitment to protect 30% of the land base by 2030.
- Budget 2023 invests \$71 million in operating and capital funding over the fiscal plan to help preserve and enhance outdoor recreation opportunities in BC Parks and Recreation Sites and Trails BC.
- This amounts to an increase of \$40 million in operating funding and \$31 million in capital funding over the fiscal plan.
- We also recently unveiled our BC Parks Commitment to Inclusion –a vision that will help ensure our parks are more welcoming to people – along with \$3.6 million over the next three years to continue upgrading facilities, like washrooms, parking lots and trails, to an accessible standard.

Environmental Protection:

- Work in my ministry's Environmental Protection division continues to focus on various aspects of the CleanBC Plastics Action Plan.
- This includes improvements to our nation-leading recycling system – called Extended Producer Responsibility – an approach that requires producers and manufacturers to take responsibility for the products they sell.
- In addition, we continue to work on the first phase of a new bonding strategy and policy framework that will ensure owners of large industrial projects – not British Columbians – pay the full costs of any potential environmental cleanup if their projects are abandoned in the future.

Conclusion:

- As is often the case, much of my ministry's work involves significant collaboration and coordination across different ministries.
- I'd like to thank the incredible staff beside me and throughout the ministry for their hard work and dedication to public service and building a better province.
- With that, I look forward to addressing your questions.

ENV ESTIMATES CONTACT LIST

NAME	ROLE	NUMBER
DEPUTY MINISTER'S OFFICE		
Responsibilities: All		
Kevin Jardine	Deputy Minister	250-361-6753
Jennifer Meadows	Director, Executive Operations	250-507-0063
CORPORATE SERVICES FOR THE NATURAL RESOURCES SECTOR		
Responsibilities: Budget		
Ranbir Parmar	Assistant Deputy Minister and Executive Financial Officer	250-213-8119
Tamara Romanova	Chief Financial Officer	250-883-2682
Debbie Chew	Director, Financial Planning & Reporting	778-698-3351
GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT		
Sonia Lowe	Communications Director	250-882-6696
Andrew Patrick	Communications Manager	778-698-8200
CLIMATE ACTION SECRETARIAT		
Responsibilities: CleanBC, Roadmap to 2030, Program for Industry, Climate Adaptation		
Jeremy Hewitt	Assistant Deputy Minister	250-888-1466
Jen Turner	A/ED, Accountability, Economics and Analysis	250-213-6328
Adria Fradley	ED, Clean Growth	250-893-4329
Elaine Cross	ED, Climate Partnerships & Engagement	Government
Cameron Lewis	ED, Resilience & Indigenous Relations	250-213-6882
Cheryl Tromp	A/Manager, Secretariat Operations	250-978-9822
Alexis Di Georgio	A/Executive Coordinator	Government
CONSERVATION AND RECREATION DIVISION (Formerly BCPRTS)		
Responsibilities: Parks Future Strategy, Campsite Expansion and Parks Foundation, Recreation Sites and Trails, Conservation Officer Service		
Jim Standen	Assistant Deputy Minister	250-888-7299
John Hawkings	Executive Lead, Rec Sites and Trails	236 468-3918
Bob Austad	ED, Regional Operations	250-889-5462
David Ranson	ED, Provincial Services	250-818-6859
Rumon Carter	ED, BC Parks Service Transformation	250-896-2329
Jennie Aikman	ED, Recreation Sites and Trails	604-398-5913
Cam Schley	Chief Conservation Officer	250-876-6831
Launa Murai	Issues Manager	250-208-5933
Clare Trotter	Project Assistant	236-478-2242
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION		
Responsibilities: Spills, Waste, Regulatory regime, Extended Producer Responsibility, <i>Environmental Management Act (EMA)</i> , <i>Integrated Pest Management Act (IPMA)</i> , EMA and IPMA Compliance and Enforcement		
Laurel Nash	Assistant Deputy Minister	250-508-1670
Douglas Hill	ED, Regional Operations	250-302-3586
Sonya Sundberg	ED, Environmental Standards	250-213-1843
Kevin Butterworth	ED, Env. Emerg & Land Remediation	250-507-8636
Robyn Roome	ED, Env. Monitoring & Analysis	778-671-9190
Brady Nelles	ED, Compliance and Enforcement	250-645-9314
Kara Charlton	Manager, Planning and Strategic Initiatives	778-974-5089

STRATEGIC SERVICES		
Responsibilities: Intergovernmental Relations, Corporate Planning, Legislation, Indigenous Partnerships, Service Transformation		
Amy Avila	Executive Lead	778-698-7296
Anthony Danks	ED, Strategic Policy	250-480-6706
Kelsey Singbeil	ED, Service Transformation	250-883-4029
James Prsala	ED, Indigenous Partnerships & Engagement	778-698-7290
Haley Williams	Estimates Lead	778-698-5452
Karolina Cwikla	Estimates Support	778-445-5409
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OFFICE		
Responsibilities: <i>Environmental Assessment Act</i> , Compliance and Enforcement, Indigenous Relations		
Elenore Arend	Associate Deputy Minister	250-415-6297
Chris Trumpy	Assistant Deputy Minister	250-415-7754
Julie Chace	ED, Strategic Services and Compliance	778-677-6365
Mirella Standbridge	ED, Corporate Services	250-514-8413
Sarah Plank	ED, Communications & Engagement	250-208-9621
Tiffany Recalma	Manager, Divisional Operations	250-882-9532

Members of the Legislative Assembly – March 2023

B.C. NDP Caucus (55)

MLA	Constituency
Alexis, Pam (Hon.)	Minister of Agriculture and Food , Abbotsford - Mission
Anderson, Brittny	Parl. Sec for Tourism , Nelson - Creston
Babchuk, Michele	North Island
Bailey, Brenda (Hon.)	Minister of Jobs, Economic Development & Innovation , Vancouver-False Creek
Bains, Harry (Hon.)	Minister of Labour , Surrey-Newton
Beare, Lisa (Hon.)	Minister of Citizens' Services , Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows
Begg, Garry	Surrey-Guildford
Brar, Jagrup (Hon.)	Minister of State for Trade , Surrey-Fleetwood
Chandra Herbert, Spencer	Vancouver-West End
Chant, Susie	Parl. Sec for Accessibility , North Vancouver-Seymour
Chen, Katrina	Burnaby-Lougheed
Chouhan, Raj (Hon.)	Speaker of the Legislative Assembly , Burnaby-Edmonds
Chow, George	Vancouver-Fraserview
Conroy, Katrine (Hon.)	Minister of Finance, Minister Responsible for the Columbia River Treaty , Kootenay West
Coulter, Dan (Hon.)	Minister of State for Infrastructure and Transit , Chilliwack
Cullen, Nathan (Hon.)	Minister of Water, Land & Resource Stewardship and Minister Responsible for Fisheries , Stikine
D'Eith, Bob (K.C.)	Parl. Sec for Arts & Film , Maple Ridge – Mission
Dean, Mitzi (Hon.)	Minister of Children and Family Development , Esquimalt-Metchosin
Dix, Adrian (Hon.)	Minister of Health and Minister Responsible for Francophone Affairs , Vancouver-Kingsway
Donnelly, Fin	Parl. Sec for Watershed Restoration , Coquitlam – Burke Mountain
Dykeman, Megan	Parl. Sec for Community Development & Non-profits , Langley East
Eby, David (Hon.) (K.C.)	Premier and President of the Executive Council , Vancouver-Point Grey
Elmore, Mable	Parl. Sec for Anti-Racism Initiatives , Vancouver-Kensington
Farnworth, Mike (Hon.)	Minster of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Deputy Premier , Port Coquitlam
Fleming, Rob (Hon.)	Minister of Transportation & Infrastructure, Minister Responsible for BC Transit and Translink , Victoria-Swan Lake
Glumac, Rick	Port Moody-Coquitlam
Greene, Kelly	Parl. Sec for Fisheries and Aquaculture , Richmond - Steveston
Heyman, George (Hon.)	Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy , Vancouver-Fairview

Kahlon, Ravi (Hon.)	Government House Leader, Minister of Housing , Delta North
Kang, Anne (Hon.)	Minister of Municipal Affairs , Burnaby-Deer Lake
Leonard, Ronna Rae	Courtenay-Comox
Lore, Grace (Hon.)	Minister of State for Child Care , Victoria – Beacon Hill
Ma, Bowinn (Hon.)	Minister of Emergency Management & Climate Readiness , North Vancouver-Lonsdale
Malcolmson, Shelia (Hon.)	Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction , Nanaimo
Mercier, Andrew (Hon.)	Minister of State for Workforce Development , Langley
Osborne, Josie (Hon.)	Minister of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation , Mid-Island – Pacific Rim
Paddon, Kelli	Parl. Sec for Gender Equity , Chilliwack-Kent
Popham, Lana (Hon.)	Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport , Saanich South
Ralston, Bruce (Hon.) (K.C.)	Minister of Forests, Minister Responsible for Consular Corps , Surrey-Whalley
Rankin, Murray (Hon.) (K.C.)	Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation , Oak Bay – Gordon Head
Rice, Jennifer	Parl. Sec for Rural Health , North Coast
Robinson, Selina (Hon.)	Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills , Coquitlam-Maillardville
Routledge, Janet	Parl. Sec for Labour , Burnaby North
Routley, Doug	Parl. Sec for Forest , Nanaimo-North Cowichan
Russell, Roly	Parl. Sec for Rural Development , Boundary - Similkameen
Sandhu, Harwinder	Parl. Sec for Seniors' Services & Long-Term Care , Vernon – Monashee
Sharma, Niki (Hon.) (K.C.)	Attorney General , Vancouver-Hastings
Simons, Nicholas	Powell River-Sunshine Coast
Sims, Jinny	Surrey-Panorama
Singh, Aman	Parl. Sec for Environment , Richmond-Queensborough
Singh, Rachna (Hon.)	Minister of Education and Child Care , Surrey-Green Timbers
Starchuk, Mike	Surrey - Cloverdale
Walker, Adam	Parl. Sec for the Sustainable Economy , Parksville - Qualicum
Whiteside, Jennifer (Hon.)	Minister of Mental Health & Addictions , New Westminster
Yao, Henry	Richmond South Centre

B.C. Liberal Caucus (27)

MLA	Constituency
Ashton, Dan	Penticton
Banman, Bruce	Abbotsford South
Bernier, Mike	Peace River South
Bond, Shirley	Prince George – Valemount
Clovechok, Doug	Columbia River - Revelstoke
Davies, Dan	Peace River North
De Jong, Michael (K.C.)	Abbotsford West

Doerkson, Lorne	Cariboo-Chilcotin
Falcon, Kevin	Leader of the Opposition , Vancouver-Quilchena
Halford, Trevor	Surrey-White Rock
Kirkpatrick, Karin	West Vancouver - Capilano
Kyllo, Greg	Shuswap
Lee, Michael	Vancouver-Langara
Letnick, Norm	Kelowna-Lake Country
Merrifield, Renee	Opposition Critic for ENV , Kelowna-Mission
Milobar, Peter	Kamloops-North Thompson
Morris, Mike	Prince George – Mackenzie
Oakes, Coralee	Cariboo North
Paton, Ian	Delta South
Ross, Ellis	Skeena
Shypitka, Tom	Kootenay East
Stewart, Ben	Kelowna-West
Stone, Todd	Kamloops-South Thompson
Sturko, Elenore	Surrey South
Sturdy, Jordan	West Vancouver – Sea to Sky
Tegart, Jackie	Fraser-Nicola
Wat, Theresa	Richmond North Centre

B.C. Green Caucus (2)

MLA	Constituency
Furstenau, Sonia	Leader of Third Party , Cowichan Valley
Olsen, Adam	Saanich North & The Islands

Independent (1)

MLA	Constituency
Rustad, John	Nechako Lakes

Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

Budget Briefing
Fiscal 2023/24

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MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY (ENV)

Title	Contact	Private Office phone	Cell phone	Key Responsibilities/ Issues¹
Deputy Minister	Kevin Jardine	250-387-5429	250-361-6753	All
EFO / ADM, Corporate Services	Ranbir Parmar	778-698-3756	250-213-8119	Budget
Associate Deputy Minister EAO	Elenore Arend	778-974-3009	250-415-6297	Environmental Assessment projects, process, fees, review
ADM, Environmental Protection Division	Laurel Nash	250 953-4004	250 508-1670	Spills, waste, regulatory regime, extended producer responsibility
ADM, BC Parks, Recreation Sites and Trails	Jim Standen	250-387-1288	250 888-7299	Parks Future Strategy, campsite expansion, recreation sites and trails and Parks Foundation
ADM, Climate Action Secretariat	Jeremy Hewitt	250-387-1134	250-888-1466	Clean BC, Climate Preparedness and Adaptation, Climate Change Strategy
Executive Lead, Compliance and Enforcement	Doug Forsdick	250-613-5593	250-613-5593	Environmental enforcement, Conservation Officer Service, Regulatory effectiveness, and sector integration
Executive Lead, Recreation Strategy and Service Transformation	John Hawkings	250-468-3918	Government Financial Information	Outdoor recreation and guide recreation management service delivery

¹ Where a contact is the subject matter expert for an issue that may arise on budget day provide the short name of the program area or key issue (e.g., Capital, Climate Action, Legislation, Negotiations)

Lead, Strategic Services	Amy Avila	778-698-7296	Government Financial Information	Indigenous partnerships, intergovernmental relations, business transformation
Director, Communications (GCPE)	Sonia Lowe	250-882-6696	250-882-6696	All
Chief Financial Officer	Tamara Romanova	778-974-2941	250-883-2682	Budget

¹ Where a contact is the subject matter expert for an issue that may arise on budget day provide the short name of the program area or key issue (e.g., Capital, Climate Action, Legislation, Negotiations)



Ministry of
Environment and
Climate Change
Strategy

Budget 2023

February 2023

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Ministry Budget 2022/23 – 2025/26

Budget by Core Business (\$000)	2022/23 Restated	2023/24 Estimates	2024/25 Plan	2025/26 Plan
Ministry Operations				
Environmental Protection	19,006	24,977	26,307	26,336
BC Parks, Recreation Sites and Trails	58,969	69,601	75,466	75,840
Compliance and Enforcement	24,220	25,997	26,407	26,407
Climate Action	42,513	42,942	42,585	42,585
CleanBC Program for Industry	142,919	6,463	6,474	6,474
Executive & Support Services	28,306	29,702	30,199	30,169
Sub-Total	315,933	199,682	207,438	207,811
Environmental Assessment Office	15,367	16,392	16,655	16,655
Sub-Total	15,367	16,392	16,655	16,655
Park Enhancement Fund SA	9,800	12,920	12,949	12,949
Sustainable Environment Fund	30,435	26,135	26,135	26,135
TOTAL Ministry	371,535	255,129	263,177	263,550

Budget 2023 Highlights

- Budget 2023 is decreased by \$116.406M over the restated 2022/23 budget. Changes include:
 - Increase of \$9.269M to salary and benefits for the Shared Recovery Mandate
 - Increase of \$6.639M for Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure to enhance existing asset maintenance and replacement programs
 - Increase of \$2.039M to fund the implementation of the Solutions Framework for permitting
 - Increase of \$0.171M to Minister's Office to reflect current staff complement
 - Decrease of \$136.467M to base budget as part of the transition of the provincial industrial carbon pricing model to an Output Based Pricing System

Budget 2023 Changes by Core Business

Budget by Core Business (\$000)	2022/23 Restated	2023/24 Estimates	Change	Changes from 2022/23 Restated												
				Budget 2023 Decisions						Budget 2021 & 2022 Decisions						
				Permittin g	Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure	Carbon Pricing	Shared Recovery Mandate	Minister's Office	Park Enhancement Fund SA	Clean BC Roadmap to 2030	CPAS Funding	Sustainable Environment Fund	BC Parks Enhancement	Clean BC Program for Industry		
Ministry Operations																
Environmental Protection	19,006	24,977	5,971	1,198			3,064				8	1,701				
BC Parks, Recreation Sites & Trails	58,969	69,601	10,632	348	6,294		2,466							1,524		
Compliance and Enforcement	24,220	25,997	1,777	44			1,733									
Climate Action	42,513	42,942	429				771				(342)					
CleanBC Program for Industry	142,919	6,463	(136,456)			(184,894)					11					48,427
Executive & Support Services	28,306	29,702	1,396	262	345		277	171			2	299		40		
Sub-Total	315,933	199,682	(116,251)	1,852	6,639	(184,894)	8,311	171	-	(321)	2,000	-	1,564	48,427		
Environmental Assessment Office	15,367	16,392	1,025	187			838									
Sub-Total	15,367	16,392	1,025	187	-	-	838	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Park Enhancement Fund SA	9,800	12,920	3,120				120		3,000							
Sustainable Environment Fund	30,435	26,135	(4,300)									(4,300)				
TOTAL Ministry	371,535	255,129	(116,406)	2,039	6,639	(184,894)	9,269	171	3,000	(321)	2,000	(4,300)	1,564	48,427		

Fiscal Plan Comparison

Fiscal Plan Comparison (\$000)	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25 Plan	2025/26 Plan
	Restated	Estimates		
Budget 2022 - Baseline	371,535	418,913	554,066	554,066
Permitting		2,039	3,581	3,581
Outdoor Recreation Instructure		6,639	11,679	12,052
Carbon Pricing		(184,894)	(320,517)	(320,517)
Shared Recovery Mandate		9,269	11,205	11,205
Minister's Office		163	163	163
Park Enhancement Fund SA		3,000	3,000	3,000
Budget 2023 Total Budget	371,535	255,129	263,177	263,550

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Minister's Office

Minister's Office Budget (\$000)	2022/23	2023/24	Change
	Restated	Estimates	
Salaries and Benefits	477	640	163
Legislative Salaries	72	75	3
Travel	75	75	-
Information Systems	10	10	-
Office Expenses	17	22	5
Total Budget	651	822	171

- ▶ Increase to the Minister's Office budget to reflect current staff complement as approved by the Office of Premier (PO). Includes approved positions/salary post-December cabinet shuffle.

Capital Budget

3 Year Capital Budget (\$000)	2022/23 Restated	2023/24 Estimates	2025/26 Plan	2024/25 Plan
Ministry Operations				
Centralized Assets				
Land Acquisition	7,000	7,000	2,000	2,000
Land Improvements	26,802	31,614	26,614	26,614
Vehicles	6,383	5,932	1,900	1,900
Office Equipment	10	10	10	10
Specialized Equipment	2,319	2,419	2,330	2,092
Total Ministry Operations	42,514	46,975	32,854	32,616
Park Enhancement Fund				
Land Improvements	300	300	300	300
Specialized Equipment	100	100	100	100
Ministry Total	42,914	47,375	33,254	33,016

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