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Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation
2023/24 Estimates Summary

(in \$000's)

Estimates - Operating Budget	Restated Estimates 2022/23	Estimates 2023/24	Variance
Trade and Industry Development	28,379	29,064	685
Small Business and Economic Development	7,454	7,701	247
Investment and Innovation	13,029	13,503	474
Regional Development	27,391	27,676	285
Transfers to Crown Corporations and Agencies	25,640	26,020	380
Executive and Support Services	8,516	8,877	361
Northern Development Fund	500	500	-
	110,909	113,341	2,432

Variance Explanations:

Trade and Industry Development (\$685,000 increase)

- \$685,000 increase attributed to a base budget lift for compensation increases under the Shared Recovery Mandate

Small Business and Economic Development (\$247,000 increase)

- \$247,000 increase attributed to a base budget lift for compensation increases under the Shared Recovery Mandate

Investment and Innovation (\$474,000 increase)

- \$374,000 increase attributed to a base budget lift for compensation increases under the Shared Recovery Mandate
- \$100,000 increase attributed to a base budget lift to implement the initiatives outlined in the Economic Plan
 - Budget 2022 provided a base budget lift of \$1.3M in 2022-23 and \$1.4M in 2023-24 onwards

Regional Development (\$285,000 increase)

- \$285,000 increase attributed to a base budget lift for compensation increases under the Shared Recovery Mandate

Transfers to Crown Corporations (\$380,000 increase)

- \$380,000 increase attributed to a base budget lift for compensation increases under the Shared Recovery Mandate

Executive and Support Services (\$361,000 increase)

- \$386,000 increase attributed to a base budget lift for compensation increases under the Shared Recovery Mandate
- (\$25,000) decrease attributed to adjustments made to the Ministers' Offices budget; approved by the Premier's Office to better align budgets with current staffing complement. There is no change to the actual staffing complement (Minister and six support staff and Minister of State and two support Staff) in comparison to the prior year.

Estimates - Capital	Restated Estimates 2022/23	Estimates 2023/24	Variance
Furniture and Equipment	3	3	-
	3	3	-

Capital budget to allow for minor unexpected capital purchases, if required.

Budget 2023/24 Questions and Answers

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1. Why has JEDI's budget increased by \$2.432 million from 2022/23?

JEDI's 2023/24 budget of \$113.341 million increased by \$2.432 million from the 2022/23 restated estimates budget of \$110.909 million.

Budget Increase/(Decrease) Summary	\$ 000's
Compensation increases: Shared Recovery Mandate ¹	\$2,357
Economic Plan Increase ²	\$100
Ministers' Offices Decrease (see Q#2) ³	(\$25)
Net Budget Increase	\$2,432

1. Budget increase attributed to a base budget lift for compensation increases under the Shared Recovery Mandate
2. Budget 2022 provided a base budget lift of \$1.3 million in 2022/23 and \$1.4 million in 2023/24 onward for staffing related to implementation of the Economic Plan
3. Ministers' Offices budgets were adjusted to better align budgets with staffing complements.

2. Why has the Ministers' Offices budgets decreased by \$25,000 in 2023/24?

Ministers' offices budgets were adjusted to better align budgets with staffing complements, following a cross government review approved by the Premier's Office, resulting in the following adjustments:

- \$28,000 increase in the Ministers' Office Budget
 - The Minister's Office budget includes funding for the Legislative salary of the Minister as well as budget for six support staff. There is no change to the number of support staff from the prior year.
 - The approved increase includes \$5,000 for training under Office and Business expenses.
- (\$53,000) decrease in the Minister of State Office Budget
 - The Minister of State's Office budget includes funding for the Legislative salary of the Minister of State as well as budget for two support staff. There is no change to the actual staffing complement from the prior year.

*Any questions on the review of Ministers' Offices budgets should be directed to the Ministry of Finance.

3. How much funding has been allocated to “StrongerBC, B.C.’s Economic Plan” in *Budget 2023*?

- In February 2022, Government released an Economic Plan with a vision for B.C.’s economic future: an inclusive, sustainable, and innovative economy that works for everyone.
- *Budget 2022* provided an allocation of \$50 million over three years to deliver on New Actions in the Economic plan. This includes targeted strategies and investments under JEDI to support both clean and inclusive growth.
- Programs are ongoing and continue to deliver benefits to people in B.C. into 2023/24:
 - The Province launched a new **B.C. Centre for Agritech Innovation** in July 2022 and is investing as much as \$6.5 million over three years for the Centre, to help further position the province as a world leader in agricultural technology.
 - B.C. Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN) has launched a new **Centre of Excellence in First Nations Economic Development**, and the Province is providing more than \$1.2 million to the BCAFN in 2022/23 for the launch. The Centre will support First Nations to determine and implement their economic development goals, priorities and strategies.
 - Innovate BC will receive \$10 million over three years to establish **Integrated Marketplaces** to amplify innovation and connect local businesses with customers.
 - An **ESG Centre for Excellence** will be established to promote Environmental, Social and Governance principles for products and services.
 - The Ministry is developing various strategies as part of the StrongerBC Economic Plan, such as: Life Sciences and Biomanufacturing Strategy (Question #4), Trade Diversification Strategy (see Question #5), Small Business Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan, Industrial and Manufacturing Action Plan, Coastal Marine Strategy and Intellectual Property Strategy. The remainder of the \$50 million will be allocated to initiatives within these strategies when ready.
- *Budget 2022* provided a base budget lift of \$4.1M (\$1.3M in FY23 and \$1.4M in FY24 and FY25 to implement the initiatives in the Economic Plan and to support ongoing tracking and reporting on the progress of the plan’s intended outcomes

4. How much funding was allocated to B.C. Life Sciences and Manufacturing in Budget 2023?

- On February 14th, The Province and the Government of Canada announced that they are making a combined investment of \$7.2M for the National Biomanufacturing Training Centre at the British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT), which will support companies addressing some of the world's most pressing health-care challenges.
- The Province is contributing \$2 million while the Government of Canada, through Pacifican, is providing \$5.2 million.
- BCIT will partner with the Canadian Alliance for Skills and Training in Life Sciences to deliver training at the Centre.

5. Does Budget 2023 Provide any Incremental Funding for the Trade Diversification Strategy?

- The B.C. Trade Diversification Strategy is a trade and investment development plan that outlines actions to support entry in new markets and to increase the overall number and diversity of businesses exporting in the province.
- No incremental funding has been provided for the Trade Diversification Strategy in Budget 2023.
- The Trade Diversification Strategy (Strategy) is a ministry Mandate Letter commitment to help B.C. businesses build connections in new markets, increase exports, and highlight B.C. as a low-carbon supplier.
- The Strategy is a key action under the Stronger BC Economic Plan, and will align with strategies across government including the ESG Centre of Excellence, Industrial and Manufacturing Action Plan, Goods Movement Strategy, Mass Timber Action Plan, and Reconciliation Action Plan.

6. How much funding was allocated to supports for forestry workers and rural communities?

- Budget 2022 provided more than \$185 million over three years to bring forth coordinated and comprehensive supports to help forestry workers and contractors, industry, communities, and First Nations to adapt and respond to impacts of old growth deferrals. \$44M of this funding was allocated to 2023/24.

Included in the programs through JEDI are:

- **Forest Employment Program (FEP):** Creates short-term employment to help forest and land-based contractors explore new work.

- **Rural Business and Community Recovery Initiative (RBCRI):** Hires advisers to help create jobs and support rural businesses and communities in hard hit areas.
- **Enhanced Community Transition Services:** Ensures supports are in place for workers and communities after a community transition event (e.g. mill closure).
- **Rural Economic and Diversification Infrastructure Program (REDIP):** Promotes economic diversification, clean growth and infrastructure development.
 - In 2022/23 Province is investing up to \$33M in (\$23 million base budget)
 - Program will continue in 2023/24.
- As part of the original FWCS suite of programs, the BC Manufacturing Jobs Fund (MJF) will support value-add manufacturing from all manufacturing sectors, with an investment of \$180 million (see Question # 7)

7. How much funding has been allocated to the B.C. Manufacturing Jobs Fund?

- As part of the Forestry Worker Community Supports announced in November 2021, the Province committed to supporting innovation in Regional B.C. through investments in value-added forestry and other manufacturing to mitigate the impacts of old growth deferrals.
- On January 17, 2023 the Province announced up to \$90 million over three years for the B.C. Manufacturing Jobs Fund; on February 15, 2023 the Province announced that the program has been expanded to include manufacturing projects in all areas of B.C.; up to \$180 million is now available.
- The fund will help manufacturing companies modernize, innovate, and grow by providing funding for capital projects in all regions in B.C., particularly in communities affected by economic impacts or downturns.

8. How much funding was allocated for Mass Timber projects in Budget 2023?

- The Office of Mass Timber Implementation (OMTI) released the Mass Timber Action Plan (MTAP) in April 2022.
- The MTAP is a bold, carbon-friendly market transformation strategy. It combines strategic regulatory, policy and program interventions to bridge three pillars of

B.C.'s economy that are typically siloed – forestry, manufacturing and land development/construction.

- In FY2022/23, the Ministry received a base budget lift of \$2.620 million (\$2.476 million under Trade and Industry Development and \$144,000 for corporate support) for the Office of Mass Timber Implementation (OMTI).
- The funding was received to support 18 FTEs and operating costs to advance the implementation of the Mass Timber Action Plan (MTAP).
 - *Budget 2021* provided a base budget lift of \$1.27 million beginning in FY23;
 - *Budget 2022* provided a further base budget lift of \$1.35 million for a total budget of \$2.62 million per year.
- **Mass Timber Demonstration Projects**
 - As part of StrongerBC, FII received funding of \$3.0 million in 2020/21 for a mass timber demonstration program, which offsets incremental costs related to the design and construction of buildings that can demonstrate mass timber building systems and construction processes
 - An additional \$2 million per year for Mass Timber Demonstration projects was allocated to FII in 2021/22 and 2022/23.

9. How much funding was allocated to InBC in Budget 2023?

- InBC is a \$500 million strategic investment fund focused on a triple bottom line approach (economic, environmental and social), that will invest in small and medium-sized B.C. companies to help them scale up and reach their highest potential, while generating returns that support a growing economy.
- InBC will advance the Economic Plan by supporting low-carbon innovation and the low-carbon economy across sectors.
- Previous to Budget 2023, there was no base operating budget for InBC. Crown operations were funded through retained earnings, revenues from existing portfolios, and a fiscal agency loan.
- The Province is providing InBC with incremental funding over five years (starting in 2023/24) to fund InBC's operations and debt services costs.
- InBC Investment Corp. (InBC) is presenting a balanced budget over the next three years, as indicated in its Service Plan.
 - Provincial contribution of \$7.36 million in 2023/24, \$10.649 million in 2024/25 and \$14.161 million in 2025/26.
- InBC's actual funding needs will be driven in large part by the timing of their investment decisions and the resulting interest costs on funds borrowed from the Province to make the investments.

- Venture capital investment income is not budgeted for because the timing of distributions from venture capital portfolios is unpredictable, and it is difficult to estimate the value of a portfolio distribution until it occurs.

10. How much funding was allocated to Future Ready in Budget 2023?

- Any questions on Future Ready should be directed to the Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills.

Below is the general messaging on Future Ready provided by PSFS.

Future Ready: Skills for the Jobs of Tomorrow Plan:

- People are B.C.'s most important asset.
- We know that 80 per cent of the 1 million new job openings in B.C. over the next decade will require some form of post-secondary education and training.
- We hear from British Columbians, the business community, and students that we need to move on this challenge now - we can't wait.
- That's why we are moving forward with StrongerBC's Future Ready Plan, which is making education and training more accessible, affordable, and relevant to help prepare British Columbians for the jobs of tomorrow.
- Future Ready is a bold, transformative plan that will help people expand the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in high-demand, good paying jobs.

Secondary messaging:

- StrongerBC's Future Ready Plan is accelerating talent development and skills training across the province- to support workers and businesses across all sectors of the economy.
- The plan will help equip British Columbians with the knowledge and skills they require to succeed in the jobs of today and the future.
- As we work to ensure the next decade is filled with opportunity and shared

Cabinet Confidences; Government Financial Information

- Cabinet Confidences; Government Financial Information
- JEDI received Preliminary approval for the following items over the fiscal plan:
 - Manufacturing Workforce Development: \$3 million Cabinet Confidences; Government Financial Information to fund a youth internship program.

- Technology and Innovation Workforce Development Initiatives: \$8.1 million
 - Canadian Tech Talent Accelerator Program (CTTAP):
 - The CTTAP supports Canada's economic recovery by providing valuable, in-demand skills to unemployed and underemployed youth (18 to 29 years old) from communities underrepresented in the digital economy.
 - Digital Skills Bootcamp:
 - The Digital Skills Bootcamps helps to upskill workers in small and medium sized businesses to enable effective use of digital sales and marketing tools.

MANDATE LETTER COMMITMENTS DECEMBER 2022

Mandate Letter Commitments December 2022	Division Lead	Contact	Completed or Underway	Status
Minister Brenda Bailey Mandate Letter				
1. Continue to deliver the StrongerBC Economic Plan to build an inclusive, sustainable, and innovative economy that works for people.	Tim Lesiuk, ITIC	Danielle Grbavac	Underway	<p>Since release of the StrongerBC Economic Plan in February 2022, the government of B.C. has been working on the implementation of 13 flagship actions and 70+ early commitments to grow a clean and inclusive economy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Of the flagship actions announced in the Plan, 7 are complete: Collaborating on an Indigenous economic development agency; Building a new Trades and Technology Complex at BCIT; Developing a Mass Timber Action Plan; Delivering a Trade Diversification Strategy; Establishing Integrated Marketplaces for innovation; Creating an Agritech Centre of Excellence; and Initiating a Goods Movement Strategy. • Performance measures for each of the Plan's six missions are in development to track progress over time. In Spring 2023, JEDI intends to release an update on how the Plan is being delivered.
2. Make B.C. a global destination for investment in clean industries by leveraging federal investments, taking steps to attract more new companies, and supporting B.C.-based clean business start-ups.	Kerry Pridmore, TIDD	William Hoyle	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Fall 2022, JEDI supported and adjudicated funding applications in B.C. for the CanExport Community Investments program (Federal). The program provides support to communities and non-profit organizations to help them attract, retain and expand their FDI activities. 11 B.C. community projects were funded in 2023. • Leveraged growing global demand for green economy products and services by positioning B.C. to be among the world leaders in sustainable business including low-carbon investments in clean industries at targeted industry events in

Mandate Letter Commitments December 2022	Division Lead	Contact	Completed or Underway	Status
Minister Brenda Bailey Mandate Letter				
				<p>Canada (BC, AB, ON), Japan, South Korea, EU, USA, and China. As a result of these activities, several Inbound Missions and Executive Visits (FDI-focus) to B.C. were supported. FY22-23 results include MOUs and investors making Final Investment Decisions in B.C.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two Connection Days completed in May and October 2022. JEDI engaged with investment firms and companies regarding opportunities in B.C., supporting clean business scale-up – matchmaking capital sources and business investments to support company growth.
3. Continue to drive innovation in biotechnology, low carbon technology, and climate solutions and identify opportunities for communities across the province.	Paul Pawlowski, IID (biotech)	Maija Duffy	Underway	<p>The Life Sciences and Biomanufacturing Strategy is under development, planned to be released in April 2023. The Strategy will position B.C. as an international hub for life sciences. Implementation initiatives are underway:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Biomanufacturing Training Centre (NBTC) at BC Institute for Technology will provide hands-on biomanufacturing training with leading-edge equipment in a cleanroom environment. NBTC is established to address talent shortage challenges. It was announced in February 2023. NBTC to open in early 2024. Leverages federal funding: \$5.2 million from PacificCan. Establish two new wetlab facilities that will provide early-stage biotech companies access to turnkey labs and equipment – one in Vancouver (Mt Pleasant) and one on Vancouver Island (Saanich). Announcement planned for April 2023.

Mandate Letter Commitments December 2022	Division Lead	Contact	Completed or Underway	Status
Minister Brenda Bailey Mandate Letter				
	Tim Lesiuk, ITIC (low carbon tech, climate solutions)	Elaine Cross	Underway	<p>The Integrated Marketplace (aka ZELDA) is underway, which will help industry to decarbonize and increase productivity through adoption of made-in-B.C. technology:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In December 2022, government announced an investment of up to \$11.5 million in funding over three years to support the program. • In October 2022, JEDI contracted with IBM to develop the business processes for the program and a Shared Cost Agreement was signed with Innovate BC to deliver the program. • The program was launched December 2022 with the first industry partnership (aka test bed) with YVR as part of the announcement. • Hiring of five Integrated Marketplace staff is in progress, with the Vice President hired January 2023 and director recruitment currently underway. • Announcement of a second test bed at Prince Rupert Port Authority is expected in March 2023, along with the first projects at the two initial test beds. • Innovate BC has applied for PacifiCan funding to further expand the program.
4. Continue to support advancement of clean industry in alignment with our CleanBC and StrongerBC plans and continue to provide support for industries in	Chris Rathbone, SBED	Sonja Cunningham	Underway	<p>The BC Manufacturing Jobs Fund, announced in January 2023, will invest \$180 million into manufacturing companies to modernize, innovate and grow by providing funding for capital projects in all regions in B.C., particularly in communities affected by economic impacts or downturns. There will be a focus on helping the forestry sector retrofit and develop new, sustainable value-added business lines that reduce dependency</p>

Mandate Letter Commitments December 2022	Division Lead	Contact	Completed or Underway	Status
Minister Brenda Bailey Mandate Letter				
transition.				on old growth logging and make innovative use of biomaterials. The program intake will be open for up to two years, with projects funded at regular intervals.
5. With support from the Minister of State for Trade, launch and implement the Trade Diversification Strategy that will diversify our trading partners to hedge against global uncertainty and position B.C. businesses on the global stage.	Kerry Pridmore, TIDD	Lori MacKenzie	Development of Trade Diversification Strategy Underway. Expected to be released Spring 2023.	<u>Trade Diversification Strategy Update:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Market, sector, and programming research has been completed, and business intelligence from our teams here and in-market has been gathered. • Strategic goals and metrics have also been developed. • External engagement on the Strategy was carried out in the Spring 2022 to understand the needs of B.C. exporting businesses, including businesses traditionally under-represented, and to inform actions in the Strategy. • Between April and May 2022, Minister of State for Trade hosted 7 virtual roundtable engagement sessions. A total of 32 participants attended the sessions, including representatives from business and trade associations, industry associations, businesses, and organizations representing women, people of colour, LGBTQ2+, youth, and entrepreneurs with disabilities. • A tailored approach was taken to Indigenous engagement. Individual sessions were held with Indigenous groups instead of roundtables, and engagement materials included Indigenous context and appropriate questions. • Trade and Industry Development division is working on finalizing actions, developing Strategy implementation and launch plans in advance of a Spring 2023 release.

Mandate Letter Commitments December 2022	Division Lead	Contact	Completed or Underway	Status
Minister Brenda Bailey Mandate Letter				
6. Continue working with local governments to identify and preserve land suitable for supporting sustainable industrial activity and economic benefits in rural and urban communities throughout the province.	Kerry Pridmore, TIDD	Lori MacKenzie	Underway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> JEDI continues to support Metro Vancouver in their efforts to address industrial land challenges through their Regional Industrial Lands Strategy. JEDI is also working with other Ministries such as Transportation and Infrastructure to identify opportunities for targeted investments in the region. To promote available industrial land in the rest of B.C., we are working with the Ministry of Citizens' Services to promote their Community Investment Opportunities Tool (CIOT), which is part of a suite of data-driven planning tools developed under the StrongerBC initiative to provide communities with accessible resources for economic and community growth. The CIOT is a visual tool that showcases investment land opportunities including agricultural, industrial and commercial properties throughout the province and enables rapid analysis of investment decisions by incorporating community asset information with digital and other infrastructure data.
7. With support from the Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Development, work with rural communities to strengthen regional economic development and to build economic resilience in hard-hit	Chris Rathbone, SBED	Kim Reid	Underway	<p>Coordinate the \$185 million Forest Worker and Community Supports programs and services to offset economic impacts from changes in the forest sector. While some programing is through PSFS and LBR, JEDI leads on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forest Employment Program (FEP) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding allocated to land-based projects to create short-term employment opportunities for forestry contractors. Rural Business and Community Recovery Initiative (RBCRI)

Mandate Letter Commitments December 2022	Division Lead	Contact	Completed or Underway	Status
Minister Brenda Bailey Mandate Letter				
forest sector communities.				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Temporary employment opportunities for advisors to support rural businesses and communities impacted by forest policy changes and other economic impacts. ● Rural Economic Diversification Infrastructure Program (REDIP) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Economic diversification program including specific focus on communities impacted by old growth deferrals. ● BC Jobs Manufacturing Fund <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Help manufacturing companies modernize, innovate, and grow by providing funding for capital projects. ● Community Transition Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Enhanced community transition services to communities undergoing significant economic disruption.
8. Support the Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills to deliver the Future Ready Skills plan so British Columbians have the skills they need for the jobs of the future and to support B.C. employers impacted by global labour shortages.	Tim Lesiuk, ITIC	Matt Zahynacz	Underway	Engagement for the Future Ready Skills Plan (FRSP) was conducted in the spring of 2022 with JEDI representation at a number of these sessions. Engagement and the resultant FRSP focused on three areas: shortage of skilled workers for expected employment demand; skills gaps for these workers, and the transition in the nature of what and how work is done. An omnibus Treasury Board submission reflecting engagement and other skilling priorities was completed late in 2022 that included a number of JEDI funding requests. We are awaiting formal decisions from Treasury Board in the Ministry budget letter.

Mandate Letter Commitments December 2022	Division Lead	Contact	Completed or Underway	Status
Minister Jagrup Brar Mandate Letter				
1. Continue to leverage our role as the trade gateway to Canada by seeking new strategies to expand export opportunities and diversify our trading partners across the globe, and by arranging opportunities for B.C. to showcase our remarkable products and services to potential trading partners with strong prospects for growth in trade with our province.	Kerry Pridmore, TIDD	Lori MacKenzie	Development of Trade Diversification Strategy Underway. Expected to be released Spring 2023.	<u>Trade Diversification Strategy Update:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Market, sector, and programming research has been completed, and business intelligence from our teams here and in-market has been gathered. Strategic goals and metrics have also been developed. External engagement on the Strategy was carried out in Spring 2022 to understand the needs of B.C. exporting businesses, including businesses traditionally under-represented, and to inform actions in the Strategy. Between April and May 2022, Minister of State for Trade hosted 7 virtual roundtable engagement sessions. A total of 32 participants attended the sessions, including representatives from business and trade associations, industry associations, businesses, and organizations representing women, people of colour, LGBTQ2+, youth, and entrepreneurs with disabilities. A tailored approach was taken to Indigenous engagement. Individual sessions were held with Indigenous groups instead of roundtables, and engagement materials included Indigenous context and appropriate questions. Trade and Industry Development division is working on finalizing actions, developing Strategy implementation and launch plans in advance of a Spring 2023 release.
2. Work with all ministries to ensure more regular interactions with the federal government on B.C.'s international trade and economic priorities,	Kerry Pridmore, TIDD	William Hoyle	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Represented B.C.'s trade and investment interests at Federal-Provincial-Territorial (FPT) tables to advance discussions on economic priority areas and sectors to seize opportunities and address challenges that open markets for B.C. (e.g. FPT Agri-Food Investments, FPT Director Generals on FDI, FPT Economic-based National Security Community Practice, etc.).

Mandate Letter Commitments December 2022	Division Lead	Contact	Completed or Underway	Status
Minister Jagrup Brar Mandate Letter				
including increased opportunities for face-to-face meetings with staff and key ministers in Ottawa.				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiated face-to-face discussions for Ministers with federal counterparts (Global Affairs Canada) on the new Indo-Pacific Strategy, China bi-lateral relations and collaboration on trade and investment initiatives and the role of B.C. in new programs (with the goal of advancing B.C. economic priorities in alignment with Indo-Pacific Strategy).
3. Build on relationships with B.C.'s neighbouring jurisdictions – including through the Pacific Coast Collaborative, the Pacific NorthWest Economic Region, and inter-provincial trade – to expand trade opportunities for B.C. businesses and support our shared efforts to reduce emissions.	Kerry Pridmore, TIDD		Underway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with PCC affiliated organizations during March 2023 Ministerial trip to Portland, OR. Additional meetings are planned with government and corporate officials to further trade relations and explore commercial opportunities, particularly in Mass Timber.
4. Continue to work across ministries and with the federal government to ensure British Columbia's interests are protected and advanced in trade negotiations and disputes, including supporting the Minister of Forests on	Kerry Pridmore, TIDD	Steve Anderson	Underway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Trade Policy, Analytics and Marketing Branch (TPAM) continues to lead B.C.'s domestic and international trade policy to secure new, preferential, and predictable market access for B.C. workers and businesses in other jurisdictions, as well as defend B.C. industries when they are being treated unfairly. There are several trade negotiations currently ongoing: two negotiations with the UK (the Canada-UK free trade agreement negotiations and the UK's accession negotiations to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific

Mandate Letter Commitments December 2022	Division Lead	Contact	Completed or Underway	Status
Minister Jagrup Brar Mandate Letter				
softwood lumber negotiations with the United States.				<p>Partnership); the Canada-India Early Progress Trade Agreement negotiations; the Canada-Indonesia Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement negotiations; the Canada-ASEAN free trade agreement negotiations; the Canada-Ukraine free trade agreement modernization negotiations; and negotiations to add financial services coverage under the Canadian Free Trade Agreement. TPAM works across Ministries throughout the negotiations to identify B.C.'s interests and potential impact to B.C., and engages with the federal government to ensure that B.C.'s interests are protected and advanced in trade negotiations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TPAM continues to support the Ministry of Forests on the softwood lumber dispute with the U.S. B.C. continues to emphasize to Canada that resolving the dispute is B.C.'s number one trade priority. • TPAM is closely monitoring, and supporting the Ministry of Agriculture and Food on dairy disputes under the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement and the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership. • TPAM is currently monitoring the EU's proposed implementation of a carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM) for potential impact to B.C.

MANDATE LETTER COMMITMENTS PRIOR TO DECEMBER 2022 TRANSITION

Mandate Letter Commitments February 2022	Division Lead	Contact	Completed or Underway	Status
Minister Ravi Kahlon Mandate Letter				
1. Support people and businesses in the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic by continuing to deliver initiatives that will directly support small businesses and build an inclusive economic recovery across BC.	Kerry Pridmore, TIDD	William Hoyle	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invested more than \$530 million in COVID-19 relief grants to businesses providing short term relief and medium-term recovery to help them navigate the challenges of operating in the pandemic and to support economic recovery. As part of the StrongerBC Economic Plan, development of the Small Business Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan, to understand barriers and challenges, and deliver support to underrepresented small business owners. Enacted the Food Delivery Service Fee Act, providing certainty to small business owners with a delivery cap of 20% on fees charged by food delivery companies. In addition, the legislation protects drivers' rights. Ongoing support to help businesses to start and grow through the delivery of a suite of core Small Business BC (SBBC) services. The Export Navigator Program continues to provide support to small businesses looking to export outside of B.C. The program's six Regional Export Advisors and three specialist Export Advisors for Indigenous, Women and Youth owned businesses provide one-on-one mentoring to help small businesses become "export ready".
2. Work across ministries to lead the development and coordinate	Kerry Pridmore, TIDD	Lori MacKenzie	Underway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> JEDI staff have completed comprehensive economic modelling on the manufacturing sector. <small>Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences; Intergovernmental Communications</small>

Mandate Letter Commitments February 2022	Division Lead	Contact	Completed or Underway	Status
Minister Ravi Kahlon Mandate Letter				
implementation of an industrial and manufacturing strategy that generates cleaner, more innovative, value-added economic activity across BC, while supporting our commitments to reconciliation and CleanBC.				Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences; Intergovernmental Communications
3. With support from the Minister of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation, boost B.C. as a global exporter of climate solutions by investing in B.C.-based carbon capture and storage and other low carbon technologies.	Tim Lesiuk, ITIC	Elaine Cross	Underway Plan and deliver targeted export programming.	Proactively plan and deliver export programming for B.C.'s clean tech sector. Includes participation at select trade shows to support B.C. companies and promote B.C.'s low carbon tech capabilities, including an outbound mission of B.C. companies to Fuel Cell Expo Japan (March 2023) and inbound visits of foreign buyers to Hydrogen and Fuel Cells Canada Int'l Expo (Vancouver June 2023).

Mandate Letter Commitments February 2022	Division Lead	Contact	Completed or Underway	Status
Minister Ravi Kahlon Mandate Letter				
4. Support the work of the Minister of State for Trade on special projects to support economic development, trade and innovation in areas such as B.C.'s shipbuilding sector, aerospace and forest sector innovation.	Kerry Pridmore, TIDD	Lori MacKenzie	Development of Trade Diversification Strategy Underway. Expected to be released Spring 2023.	<p><u>Trade Diversification Strategy Update:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Market, sector, and programming research has been completed, and business intelligence from our teams here and in-market has been gathered. • Strategic goals and metrics have also been developed. • External engagement on the Strategy was carried out in Spring 2022 to understand the needs of B.C. exporting businesses, including businesses traditionally under-represented, and to inform actions in the Strategy. • Between April and May 2022, Minister of State for Trade, hosted 7 virtual roundtable engagement sessions. A total of 32 participants attended the sessions, including representatives from business and trade associations, industry associations, businesses, and organizations representing women, people of colour, LGBTQ2+, youth, and entrepreneurs with disabilities. • A tailored approach was taken to Indigenous engagement. Individual sessions were held with Indigenous groups instead of roundtables, and engagement materials included Indigenous context and appropriate questions. • Trade and Industry Development division is working on finalizing actions, developing Strategy implementation and launch plans in advance of a Spring 2023 release. <p>Trade and Investment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proactively planned and delivered export programming for B.C.'s aerospace, ocean/marine, and forest sectors. Includes missions to select trade shows and conferences

Mandate Letter Commitments February 2022	Division Lead	Contact	Completed or Underway	Status
Minister Ravi Kahlon Mandate Letter				
				<p>to support B.C. companies and promote B.C.'s capabilities, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Connecting B.C.'s value-add wood sector to inbound buyers from priority Asian markets during the annual Global Buyers Mission in Whistler (September 2023); ○ Attending and promoting BC at the International Mass Timber Conference in Portland March 2023; and ○ Arranging exhibition space and providing matching making for B.C. companies at SMM Hamburg (September 2022) and Heli-Expo USA (March 2023).
5. Support B.C. shipyards to build capacity and become increasingly competitive with investments to support more shipbuilding, refit, repair, and maintenance here in B.C.	Kerry Pridmore, TIDD	Lori MacKenzie	Underway. Expected to be released in 2023	<p><u>Update: BC Maritime Industries Strategy</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Fall 2022, Cabinet endorsed and approved an approach for a B.C. Maritime Industries Strategy (the "Strategy"), following extensive cross-government and industry engagement to understand key needs and opportunities. • This engagement included a survey and a series of roundtables and one-on-one discussions with sector stakeholders such as, domestic ship owners, newbuild, maintenance and ship repair yards, local governments, First Nations, federal government, post-secondary institutions, economic development agencies and regional industry associations. • In response to industry feedback, a West Coast Maritime Office has been created within JEDI to 'enhance

Mandate Letter Commitments February 2022	Division Lead	Contact	Completed or Underway	Status
Minister Ravi Kahlon Mandate Letter				
				<p>collaboration to encourage cross-sectoral co-operation, co-ordination, and planning, including and increase partnerships between sector stakeholders and both provincial and federal government.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further strategic initiatives are expected to address top industry challenges in areas that include decarbonization, workforce development, infrastructure, ocean science and innovation, and major procurements. • Final Strategy including supporting activities are under development with anticipated public launch in 2023.
6. Capitalize on the potential of B.C.'s aerospace industry by expanding support for B.C. companies to integrate into global supply chains and access new markets.	Kerry Pridmore, TIDD	Lori MacKenzie	Underway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JEDI provided the Aerospace Industries Association of Canada (AIAC) with a \$280,000 "Supply Chain Resiliency Grant" to expose supply chain barriers and examine the B.C. aerospace industry's strengths and growth prospects. AIAC delivered JEDI its final supply chain report, "B.C. Aerospace Sector Study" by Roland Berger in May 2022. • JEDI continues to work with the AIAC to advance the key recommendations in the Roland Berger supply chain report, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reducing the cost of business and improving operational efficiency, through government support where possible, and procedural efficiencies. ○ Increasing the attractiveness of B.C.'s aerospace sector for talent – make B.C. a preferred destination for national global talent.

Mandate Letter Commitments February 2022	Division Lead	Contact	Completed or Underway	Status
Minister Ravi Kahlon Mandate Letter				
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Strengthening aerospace infrastructure and sectoral recognition. • The “Accelerating Manufacturing Scale-Up Program” provided \$882,000 in funding to B.C. aerospace manufacturing companies to enhance productivity and scale, e.g., \$250,000 to Coulson Airplane to scale up production of proprietary aerial firefighting tanks. • JEDI Trade and Industry Development (export team) advances B.C. aerospace exports into strategic markets by working directly with B.C. aerospace companies and facilitating participating in global aerospace events, e.g., Singapore Airshow (February 2024) and Heli-Expo USA (March 2024).
7. Launch a strategic investment fund to support our government's objective of building a more innovative low-carbon economy by investing in high-potential B.C. businesses to help them scale up and grow here.	IID	Paul Pawlowski/David Mortimer (InBC)	Underway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • December 2022: InBC announced its first investments, starting with venture capital funds that have strong connections to B.C. and are aligned with impact objectives to drive climate action, advance reconciliation and innovate for the future. • October 2022: InBC launched its Investment Policy Statement, clarifying the parameters for delivering a triple bottom line investing approach and contains InBC’s impact investment objectives, risk tolerance, constraints and reporting requirements. • February 2022: InBC announced its first Chief Investment Officer. • December 2021: InBC announced its first CEO.

Mandate Letter Commitments February 2022	Division Lead	Contact	Completed or Underway	Status
Minister Ravi Kahlon Mandate Letter				
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 2021: InBC officially launched with the first reading of Bill 5, the <i>InBC Investment Corp. Act</i>, in the House, followed by a media event with MRK and PJH.
8. Lead the Office of Mass Timber Implementation and, with support from the Minister of Forests, advance the mass timber action plan.	Kerry Pridmore, TIDD	Jarrett Hutchinson	Underway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Mass Timber Action plan was released on April 7, 2022. • The Mass Timber Demonstration Project has announced three rounds of funding for buildings to date. • Five new skills training programs to support B.C.'s workforce adapt to mass timber construction have been announced since 2021. • Eighty-three mass timber research projects have been funded in the past three years; advancing the amount of data and scientific support for the use of mass timber in construction. • Use of mass timber is now integrated into the ESG Framework for Capital. • International collaboration is underway through the Pacific Coast Collaborative on a Low Carbon Construction task force. • Annual square footage of mass timber used in new buildings grew by 15% in 2022, exceeding the forecast by 5%.
9. With support from the Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Training, work with BC's Innovation	Tim Lesiuk (emergency mgt tech, AI, quantum,	Elaine Cross	Underway	The Quantum Algorithms Institute (QAI) was established in 2020 to focus on B.C.'s strengths in quantum computing systems and quantum algorithm software development by creating a long-term talent pipeline for this transformative

Mandate Letter Commitments February 2022	Division Lead	Contact	Completed or Underway	Status
Minister Ravi Kahlon Mandate Letter				
Commissioner to lead investment in innovation clusters, with a focus on emerging industries where BC companies have developed the early lead – such as life sciences, emergency management technology, engineered wood, clean tech, artificial intelligence, and quantum and virtual reality technologies.	clean tech, VR) Kerry Pridemore (engineered wood) Paul Pawlowski (life sciences)	Maija Duffy	Underway	<p>technology that has the potential to tackle real world problems that traditional computers cannot solve.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Strategic Plan, spending plan, project pipeline and revenue streams established in 2022 by interim CEO and approved by the Board. • Recruitment of permanent Executive Director in progress. • Board structure currently under review and will include more demand-side representation. • Pipeline of projects underway, aligned with the three core streams of the Strategic Plan • Strong alignment between QAI and the National Quantum Strategy, and Chair of QAI Board is also Co-Chair of National Quantum Advisory Council. <p>Cabinet Confidences</p> <p>See item #3 in the current ML for details.</p>
10. Support the work of the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries to move forward with the recommendations of the Food Security Task Force and develop a new	Kerry Pridmore, TIDD	Lori MacKenzie	Underway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Minister of Agriculture and Food's Advisory Group on Regenerative Agriculture and Agritech (MAGRAA) was established in June 2022 to build upon the groundwork laid by the Food Security Task Force and develop recommendations on opportunities for promoting innovation, technology adoption, and regenerative practices that will increase the productivity, profitability, and sustainability of B.C.'s food system.

Mandate Letter Commitments February 2022	Division Lead	Contact	Completed or Underway	Status
Minister Ravi Kahlon Mandate Letter				
Regenerative Agricultural Network, which will create jobs for workers, opportunities for farmers and greater food security by bringing together natural systems of production with agri-technologies that enhance production.				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 18-member group consists of regenerative agriculture and agritech industry experts from farming, academia, industry associations, private-sector representatives, and special advisors. JEDI supports this work as part of the secretariat and led a technical working group to develop a standardized description for agritech. In January 2023, the Advisory Group developed a Regenerative Agriculture and Agritech Strategic Framework which lays out their advice to the Minister on the vision, mission, values, goals, and strategic priorities for regenerative agriculture and agritech in the future.

Mandate Letter Commitments February 2022	Division Lead	Contact	Completed or Underway	Status
Minister George Chow Mandate Letter				
1. Seek new strategies to expand B.C.'s export opportunities as the province recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic, with a specific emphasis	Kerry Pridmore, TIDD	William Hoyle	Completed	<p>The Ministry delivered against priority market work plans which consisted of events and initiatives to expand exports and attract investment. Examples include:</p> <p>BC Export Awards, Vancouver, November 2021. MGC attended, spoke in a one-on-one interview/ fireside chat with Business in</p>

Mandate Letter Commitments February 2022	Division Lead	Contact	Completed or Underway	Status
Minister George Chow Mandate Letter				
on B.C.'s emerging clean technology and innovation sector.				<p>Vancouver (BiV) Chief Editor Kirk LaPointe and presented three awards during the 39th annual B.C. Export Awards.</p> <p>ABCMI Business Opportunities Conference, Vancouver, October 2021, 260 delegates. The B.C. Government was a sponsor of this annual conference of the Association of BC Marine Industries. Sponsorship included TIDD's ADM Basi speaking and participating in a panel discussion at the conference; a B.C. booth with Ministry staff managing the booth and engaging with conference delegates.</p> <p>BIO International Conference in San Diego, USA, June 2022. Minister Chow gave opening remarks in the virtual pre-BIO showcase, where 8 B.C. companies pitched to an international audience of approximately 100 international attendees. At the BIO International Conference event itself, 35 B.C. companies attended.</p> <p>In September 2022, the Ministry supported an inbound delegation to B.C. of over 30 companies comprised of utilities, renewable energy project developers, government agencies and conglomerates from the Asia Pacific region (Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Indonesia and South Korea). The mission focus entailed hydrogen, fuel cells, and carbon capture and storage under the theme of "Decarbonizing the Energy Sector". The B.C. program consisted of site visits and pre-arranged meetings over two days. More than 20 BC clean tech companies attended the event, with over 50 meetings scheduled with the international delegates.</p>

Mandate Letter Commitments February 2022	Division Lead	Contact	Completed or Underway	Status
Minister George Chow Mandate Letter				
				Addition export programming delivered by the Ministry for B.C.'s clean tech and innovation sector companies included Mobile World Congress (Spain, February 2022), Singapore Int'l Water Week (April 2022), and Asia Tech x Singapore (June 2022).
2. In collaboration with cabinet colleagues and with support from the Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation, lead work on special projects to support economic development, trade and innovation in areas such as B.C.'s shipbuilding sector, aerospace and forest sector innovation.	Kerry Pridmore, TIDD		Completed	<p>Shipbuilding:</p> <p>Minister provided opening remarks at the November 2021 Association of B.C. Marine Industries Business Opportunities Conference at the Vancouver Convention Centre, speaking to major industry players in B.C.'s shipbuilding sector about the government's vision for the development of their sector and the broader plan for the B.C. economy in the years to come.</p> <p>The Minister – alongside Minister Kahlon – attended a meeting of the Shipbuilding Advisory Committee in Richmond, B.C. in 2021. The Advisory Committee includes industry experts who make up the Industry Working Group and senior representatives across both the public and private sector that make up the Innovation Advisory Council. Committee members provided intel to Ministers on their vision for the shipbuilding, refit and repair industry in the next 20 years and opportunities to grow the sector. The Minister's participation was important to demonstrate government's commitment to this work and ensuring this sector remains healthy and viable and to provide clarity to members on the Shipbuilding Strategy mandate.</p>

Mandate Letter Commitments February 2022	Division Lead	Contact	Completed or Underway	Status
Minister George Chow Mandate Letter				
				<p>Minister visited Babcock Canada's Esquimalt Graving Dock in 2022 to tour the fully intact, operational submarine in Victoria, and to discuss the status and outlook for current and future work on Canada's Victoria Class submarine fleet at the Esquimalt Graving Dock - including the overall economic benefits, and the 'geographic competition' for this project in future. Minister also participated in a site visit at Allied Shipyards and Seaspan shipyards in support of the Province's work towards a made-in-B.C. shipbuilding strategy.</p> <p>Aerospace:</p> <p>Minister attended a B.C.-Mexico event for Trade and Investment Opportunities. The virtual session was aimed to connect B.C. and Mexico's aerospace sectors to explore opportunities for regional integration. The Minister provided the introductory remark at the session, recognizing the increased business partnerships with Mexico and the opportunities available for B.C. and Mexican businesses to get ahead of global competition because of the Free Trade Agreement. He also highlighted the support provided to the aerospace industry through the B.C. Economic Recovery Plan, and the Ministry's plan to continuously support this sector.</p> <p>Forest sector innovation:</p> <p>Minister was chair of the Mass Timber Advisory Council (MTAC). The cross-sector council facilitates formal dialogue to gain industry insight on the mass timber action plan. The Minister also supported the Mass Timber Demonstration Program delivered by Forestry</p>

Mandate Letter Commitments February 2022	Division Lead	Contact	Completed or Underway	Status
Minister George Chow Mandate Letter				
				<p>Innovation Investment Ltd (IIL) which is currently in its 3rd year. Minister visited the Richmond Fire-Rescue Training facility and participated in a Mass Timber Fire Demonstration event designed to educate key stakeholders.</p> <p>The Minister attended and provided remarks at the 2021 Virtual Forest Sector Mission to Asia for China and Japan, noting the Province's commitment to supporting the B.C. forest products industry and market diversification.</p> <p>In support of the value-add wood sector, Minister Chow attended and met with buyers from the ASEAN region during the annual Global Buyers Mission in Whistler (September 2022).</p>
3. Expand B.C.'s Export Navigator program to help more small businesses export their goods and services beyond our borders.	Kerry Pridmore, TIDD	William Hoyle	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Export Navigator (EN) Program continues to provide free cradle to grave export advisory services to rural B.C. businesses looking to export. Currently, EN has nine EAs who provide services to businesses in six B.C. regions; excluding Greater Victoria and Greater Vancouver; and includes three specialist EAs who provide services to businesses owned by Indigenous Peoples, Women and Youth. From August 2022, JEDI staff have held collaborative discussions with PacifiCan and SBBC to develop options to continue the program beyond March 2023 to address opportunities and better align with both JEDI and PacifiCan trade priorities.

Mandate Letter Commitments February 2022	Division Lead	Contact	Completed or Underway	Status
Minister George Chow Mandate Letter				
4. Develop and implement a new B.C. Trade Diversification Strategy that will help B.C. businesses build connections in new markets, increase exports and highlight B.C. as a low-carbon supplier.	Kerry Pridmore, TIDD	Lori MacKenzie	Development of Trade Diversification Strategy Underway. Expected to be released Spring 2023.	<u>Trade Diversification Strategy Update:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Market, sector, and programming research has been completed, and business intelligence from our teams here and in-market has been gathered. • Strategic goals and metrics have also been developed. • External engagement on the Strategy was carried out in Spring 2022 to understand the needs of B.C. exporting businesses, including businesses traditionally under-represented, and to inform actions in the Strategy. • Between April and May 2022, Minister of State for Trade hosted 7 virtual roundtable engagement sessions. A total of 32 participants attended the sessions, including representatives from business and trade associations, industry associations, businesses, and organizations representing women, people of colour, LGBTQ2+, youth, and entrepreneurs with disabilities. • A tailored approach was taken to Indigenous engagement. Individual sessions were held with Indigenous groups instead of roundtables, and engagement materials included Indigenous context and appropriate questions. • Trade and Industry Development division is working on finalizing actions, developing Strategy implementation and launch plans in advance of a Spring 2023 release.
5. Work across ministries and with the federal government to ensure British Columbia's	Kerry Pridmore, TIDD		Underway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We continue work with the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resources Operations to advance and defend B.C.'s interests with the US on the softwood lumber disputes underway with the U.S. We are also monitoring developments

Mandate Letter Commitments February 2022	Division Lead	Contact	Completed or Underway	Status
Minister George Chow Mandate Letter				
interests are protected and advanced in trade negotiations and disputes, including the softwood lumber negotiations with the United States.				<p>and providing B.C.'s response to other concerns with the U.S. and leading B.C.'s response to U.S. investigations of various seasonal fruits and vegetables such as blueberries, bell peppers and cucumbers.</p> <p>Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As a result of the dairy tariff rate quota allocation policy CUSMA panel decision in favour of the U.S., we continue to work closely with the B.C. industry, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food and the Federal Government to find policy options to comply with the CUSMA panel ruling. The Federal Government continues to engage with its U.S. counterparts with a goal of resolving the issue. We are utilizing negotiations to further open markets to support diversification through our domestic trade negotiations with other provinces, territories and the federal government, and by leading B.C.'s input to international negotiations the federal government is considering or negotiating. Amongst the numerous FTAs Canada is preparing to negotiate in 2022, we are consulting stakeholders and partners on a Canada-ASEAN FTA and Canada-Indonesia Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement. B.C.'s priorities for these negotiations will be informed by direct stakeholder input, including from a virtual roundtable with industry led by Minister.

Mandate Letter Commitments February 2022	Division Lead	Contact	Completed or Underway	Status
Minister George Chow Mandate Letter				
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under existing agreements, B.C. works with the federal government, Provinces and Territories, regulators and other stakeholders to negotiate regulatory reconciliation agreements to secure preferential market access and remove trade barriers (irritants). B.C. served as chair for the national work to improved domestic trade under the Canadian Free Trade Agreement. This included negotiations to extend coverage to financial services, non-medicinal cannabis, and direct-to-consumer purchases of alcoholic beverages. In addition, under BC's leadership, all provinces, territories and the federal government have committed to the identification and mutual recognition of regulatory requirements that relate to the sale or provision of goods and services. <p>We are continuing a comprehensive and consolidated outreach initiative, with particular focus on underrepresented export groups, Small to Medium Enterprises and regional participation to gather input to inform TPN's work and to ensure the economic benefits of trade agreements are widespread and well understood throughout B.C. We've held 77 outreach activities to date, with over 1,300 in person attendees, nearly 2,000 online attendees, and over 13,000 views on the BC Gov YouTube channel.</p>
6. Continue to support Forestry Innovation Investment's efforts to promote B.C.'s	Kerry Pridmore, TIDD	William Hoyle	Completed	Ministry staff and our international offices network are supporting programs that promote B.C.'s wood products.

Mandate Letter Commitments February 2022	Division Lead	Contact	Completed or Underway	Status
Minister George Chow Mandate Letter				
manufactured wood products, including mass timber.				<p>This has included supporting FII's Virtual Japan and China Mission in early May 2021, which Ministers Kahlon and Chow participated in; and B.C. Wood's Global Buyers Mission, which FII is a funding partner.</p> <p>This year's Global Buyers Mission took place September 8-10, 2022 and welcomed over 600 delegates to Whistler. Turn-out was significant with buyers and suppliers participating from Australia, Belgium, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, South Korea, Taiwan, United Kingdom, and the United States. BC's Trade & Investment Representatives assisted with recruiting buyers including many first-time buyers to the event, offering new opportunities for BC / Canadian manufacturers to develop new business. Minister attended the opening reception as the BC Government Representative, met with a delegation of Southeast Asian buyers, and toured the trade show exhibition floor with BC Wood Board members to meet BC exporters and wood buyers from abroad.</p> <p>The Ministry worked with FII and Ministry of Forests to deliver a week-long mission to Japan (November 2022) with a 40+ person delegation of BC Forestry executives, stakeholders, First Nations and senior Government Representatives.</p>
7. Support the work of the Minister of Agriculture and Food to continue to	Kerry Pridmore, TIDD	William Hoyle	Underway	B.C.'s network of trade and investment offices continue to plan and deliver food promotion initiatives to support B.C. exporters.

Mandate Letter Commitments February 2022	Division Lead	Contact	Completed or Underway	Status
Minister George Chow Mandate Letter				
promote B.C. food and agriculture exports.				<p>MGC has participated in industry events and staff continue to support exporting showcases for B.C. agrifood companies and B2B connection meetings to support the development of new customers in new markets for B.C. agricultural products.</p> <p>Despite continued global challenges with COVID-19 in certain markets, our Ministry is supported over 40 export-focused food and agriculture activities in more than 15 markets, providing platforms for B.C. industry to establish and advance long-lasting mutually beneficial business partnerships with international buyers.</p> <p>The Ministry collaborates with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), and Global Affairs Canada (GAC) to showcase a diversity of B.C. food and agriculture exhibitors through 4 major international trade events in the US, Europe and ASEAN.</p>
8. Work with the Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport to continue the development of the Chinese Canadian Museum.	Kerry Pridmore, TIDD	Lori MacKenzie	Completed	The Chinese Canadian Museum will open in its permanent location in Vancouver Chinatown in July 2023.

Mandate Letter Commitments November 2020	Division Lead	Contact	Completed or Underway	Status
Parliamentary Secretary Brenda Bailey Mandate Letter				
1. Develop an intellectual property strategy to support more innovation and commercialization by B.C. companies, including a First Patent Program.	Tim Lesiuk, ITIC	Matt Zahynacz	Underway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ten industry roundtable sessions were held in Summer 2022. Stakeholder feedback focussed on growing IP literacy, increasing IP expertise in B.C., and examining the IP opportunities government may have related to IP. A B.C. consortium coordinated by Innovate BC has been awarded \$12.5 million through the Federal ElevateIP program to address initial needs regarding literacy and expertise. The Ministry is currently drafting the IP strategy that could be considered for release in spring 2023.
2. Help more people from underrepresented groups get their first job in the tech sector, while simultaneously helping B.C.-based tech companies hire and grow, by increasing the number of Innovator Skills Initiative Grants and prioritizing placements for women, Indigenous people, people of colour and others currently underrepresented in B.C.'s tech sector.	ITIC	Elaine Cross	Underway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2021/22, Government provided \$15 million in one-time funding via the Innovator Skills Initiative (ISI) to provide 3,000 grants of up to \$10,000 each to employers. The redesigned ISI is designed to increase diversity in the tech sector by encouraging employers to hire from under-represented communities. At this time, Innovate BC has fully allocated the funding. Innovate BC is delivering this program in partnership with Mitacs, the Information and Communications Technology Council (ICBC) and BC Tech Association (BCTech), bringing the total investment in 2021/22 to \$29 million. On August 31, 2022, \$583,000 was further allocated to allow waitlisted businesses to access the ISI. The redesigned ISI launched on September 27, 2021. Progress reports from the program partners show: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mitacs reports awarding 912/750 grants as of January 31, 2023. ICTC reports awarding 1,089/1250 grants as of January 31,

Mandate Letter Commitments November 2020	Division Lead	Contact	Completed or Underway	Status
Parliamentary Secretary Brenda Bailey Mandate Letter				
				<p>2023.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ BCTech reports awarding 69/40-80 grants as of June 30, 2022. • Responsible for 847-960 grants, Innovate BC has received over 1,700 applications to date and has fully approved 939 grants. • JEDI received an additional \$5.0 million of year-end 22/23 funding to further support placements in the program, to be concluded by Innovate BC partners by end of 2023.
3. Help more innovative B.C. businesses successfully scale up here by expanding the successful RevUp program that brings business owners together with experienced mentors who provide coaching and advice on growing small successful tech companies into larger ones.	ITJC	Elain Cross	Underway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovate BC funds a number of programs to support business scale up including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ BC Fast ○ IGNITE ○ Integrated Marketplace Initiative • A key initiative out of the StrongerBC Economic Plan is the Integrated Marketplace Initiative (IMI or Zelda). The IMI received \$11.5 million of funding from the StrongerBC envelope in October 2022, with the first test bed at YVR announced in December 2022. A second test bed is expected to be announced at Prince Rupert Port Authority in Spring 2023, and along with first projects at these two test beds. The funding also supports a third test bed, which is in process of being identified. The purpose of the program is to support B.C. businesses scale-up while supporting innovation, competitiveness, and productivity within B.C. industry. • As part of the Future Ready: Skills for the Jobs of Tomorrow Plan, the Ministry has proposed companion skills and training programs to develop the workforce needed to support business scale up. A

Mandate Letter Commitments November 2020	Division Lead	Contact	Completed or Underway	Status
Parliamentary Secretary Brenda Bailey Mandate Letter				
				decision on the JEDI proposed initiatives is pending in the JEDI budget letter.

Mandate Letter Commitments February 2022	Division Lead	Contact	Completed or Underway	Status
Parliamentary Secretary Roly Russel Mandate Letter				
1. Lead the work of Rural and Regional Development with local governments and First Nations to support and promote regional diversified economies.	Chris Rathbone, SBED	Kim Reid	Underway	<p>Coordinate the \$185 million Forest Worker and Community Supports programs and services to offset economic impacts from changes in the forest sector. While some programming is through PSFS and LBR, JEDI leads on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest Employment Program (FEP) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Funding allocated to land-based projects to create short-term employment opportunities for forestry contractors. • Rural Business and Community Recovery Initiative (RBCRI) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Temporary employment opportunities for advisors to supports rural businesses and communities impacted by forest policy changes and other economic impacts. • Rural Economic Diversification Infrastructure Program (REDIP) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Economic diversification program including specific focus on communities impacted by old growth deferrals. • BC Jobs Manufacturing Fund

Mandate Letter Commitments February 2022	Division Lead	Contact	Completed or Underway	Status
Parliamentary Secretary Roly Russel Mandate Letter				
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Help manufacturing companies modernize, innovate, and grow by providing funding for capital projects. • Community Transition Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Enhanced community transition services to communities undergoing significant economic disruption.
2. Provide the regional perspective to the work of the Ministry with a focus on implementing supports for rural, remote and First Nations communities when needed.	Chris Rathbone, SBED	Kim Reid	Underway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Economic Operations (REO) staff live and work within rural communities across B.C. REO staff provide on-the-ground support to rural communities, and offer information and insight into rural, remote and Indigenous community challenges and needs to other areas of the Ministry and government. • REO also supports and delivers proactive rural and regional engagement to address diversification challenges in communities facing economic decline or sudden growth. • Staff provide rural policy expertise to the Ministry and key areas of government to incorporate rural considerations into policy and program development.
3. Support the Minister of Citizens' Services to deliver high-speed connectivity throughout the province with a goal of connecting all regions to the high-speed network.	Chris Rathbone, SBED	Kim Reid	Underway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOU between CITZ and JEDI supports coordination on key issues that underpin rural connectivity. • Work to align community economic development opportunities and priorities with connectivity planning and education (eg facilitating discussions on digital readiness). • Regular meetings between CITZ and JEDI staff to share information, and rural and connectivity data.

Mandate Letter Commitments February 2022	Division Lead	Contact	Completed or Underway	Status
Parliamentary Secretary Roly Russel Mandate Letter				
4. Work with the Minister of Labour to establish a Worker Training and Job Opportunity Office to maximize the impact of our economic recovery plan for workers and communities during COVID-19 and beyond – with a focus on retraining workers, supporting resource communities facing job loss, developing higher value goods, and accessing new global markets and opportunities for BC products.	Chris Rathbone, SBED	Kim Reid	Underway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Worker Training Job Opportunity Office concept transitioned into a strengthened and cohesive cross-agency network that supports strategic coordination of planning, engagement and program/policy development. • Formal cross-agency efforts have led to the development and launch of government programs supporting worker transition, and communities affected by forestry sector change, including the Bridging to Retirement Program, BC Manufacturing Fund, REDIP and more robust community transition supports. • JEDI works closely with Ministry of Forests to support the Forestry Worker Supports and Community Resiliency Council established to inform government's vision for resilient, thriving communities through the development of innovative and forward-looking economic development and diversification initiatives.



December 7, 2022

Honourable Brenda Bailey
Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Bailey:

Thank you for agreeing to serve as Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation. 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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- **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.

Global economic forces, from inflation to war to the ever-changing relationships between countries, have had profound effects on British Columbia. Putting people first and making life better for families and communities has paid off. Despite global economic headwinds, our economy and employment numbers remain strong. But change can come quickly. Our government will work hard to ensure we are preparing British Columbians to securely weather the economic storms of changing central bank policies, supply chain challenges, and labour shortages around the world.

Indigenous Peoples, the federal government, and local governments are all strong partners in our work to secure the gains British Columbians have seen as we move into uncertain economic times and address these pressing issues.

Our technology sectors, like hydrogen, cleantech, and biotech, are growing rapidly. The exciting developments in B.C. technology can help build resiliency in every industry, with growth sustained over the long term by building centres of research, education, and excellence. As Minister, you will work to ensure the many positive impacts from the tech sectors are distributed across the province to support all regions in their economic development activities, job creation, strategic investments, and economic diversification.

Supporting natural resource sector jobs by partnering with industry to add value to our resources will help B.C. develop technologies, systems, and manufactured goods that can be exported to other jurisdictions. Supporting farmers, ranchers, and food producers will help ensure food security at home while building export opportunities abroad. Supporting small businesses, Indigenous Peoples, and communities with economic development initiatives will help ensure everyone in British Columbia benefits from economic growth and weathers the downturns of the global market.

B.C. is the trade gateway to Canada. By prioritizing building and diversifying our trade relationships around the globe, we can ensure B.C. businesses find receptive markets for innovative clean technologies, sustainable value-added resource commodities, healthy foods, manufactured goods, and game-changing services. By building on B.C.'s competitiveness through our environmental, social, and governance advantages, our government will help B.C. stand strong and secure through changing global relationships. From the West Coast of the United States to across Canada to around the world, people are interested in buying sustainable goods, products, and services from B.C.

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

- Working with your colleagues and the people of British Columbia to launch the ambitious StrongerBC Economic Plan that focuses on the missions of clean and inclusive growth for our province.
- Supporting small businesses through COVID-19 with initiatives such as the Small and Medium Sized Business Recovery Grant and the permanent delivery fee cap to support restaurants.
- Launching InBC, a \$500 million strategic investment fund to support clean, inclusive jobs and economic growth.
- Creating the Office of Mass Timber Implementation and investing \$5.4 million to accelerate the use of mass timber demonstration projects, making B.C. a world leader in this new sector.
- Redesigning the Innovator Skills Initiative program, which provides B.C. companies with grants to hire employees for technology and tech-enabled jobs.
- Reversing the previous government's cuts by restoring core funding to sexual assault centres.

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 deliver the StrongerBC Economic Plan to build an inclusive, sustainable, and innovative economy that works for people.

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- Make B.C. a global destination for investment in clean industries by leveraging federal investments, taking steps to attract more new companies, and supporting B.C.-based clean business start-ups.
- Continue to drive innovation in biotechnology, low carbon technology, and climate solutions and identify opportunities for communities across the province.
- Continue to support advancement of clean industry in alignment with our CleanBC and StrongerBC plans and continue to provide support for industries in transition.
- With support from the Minister of State for Trade, launch and implement the Trade Diversification Strategy that will diversify our trading partners to hedge against global uncertainty and position B.C. businesses on the global stage.
- Continue working with local governments to identify and preserve land suitable for supporting sustainable industrial activity and economic benefits in rural and urban communities throughout the province.
- Support the Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills to deliver the Future Ready Skills plan so British Columbians have the skills they need for the jobs of the future and to support B.C. employers impacted by global labour shortages.

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.


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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.

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, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

David Eby, KC
Premier



December 7, 2022

Honourable Jagrup Brar
Minister of State for Trade
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Brar:

Thank you for agreeing to serve as Minister of State for Trade. 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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- **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.

Building strong trade relationships will help protect British Columbia against uncertain global economic forces. In the context of rising inflation, supply chain challenges, and labour shortages, diversifying our trade relationships, identifying emerging areas of focus, and fortifying our existing connections will ensure that we can solidify our strong employment numbers and grow our economy in a way that is sustainable for future generations.

Our province is already known for value-added resource commodities, clean and safe foods and manufactured goods, and game-changing services. Championing British Columbia beyond our borders – internationally and within Canada – means a continued focus on what we do well to ensure that businesses big and small can reach their customers and help build a strong economy across the province.

Home to world class post-secondary and skills training facilities, remarkable natural resources, and exceptional arts and cultural industries, our province is also quickly developing a reputation as a leader in innovative technologies, including in the hydrogen, cleantech, and biotech sectors. Through ambitious efforts to build new trade relationships and promote our high-tech sectors, we can bring made-in-B.C. goods and services to markets around the world, meeting the demand for clean, sustainable, and responsibly produced products.

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

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- Working with your colleagues and the people of British Columbia to launch the ambitious StrongerBC Economic Plan that focuses on the missions of clean and inclusive growth for our province.
- Creating the Office of Mass Timber Implementation and investing \$5.4 million to accelerate the use of mass timber demonstration projects, making B.C. a world leader in this new sector.

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 leverage our role as the trade gateway to Canada by seeking new strategies to expand export opportunities and diversify our trading partners across the globe, and by arranging opportunities for B.C. to showcase our remarkable products and services to potential trading partners with strong prospects for growth in trade with our province.
- Work with all ministries to ensure more regular interactions with the federal government on B.C.'s international trade and economic priorities, including increased opportunities for face-to-face meetings with staff and key ministers in Ottawa.
- Build on relationships with B.C.'s neighbouring jurisdictions – including through the Pacific Coast Collaborative, the Pacific NorthWest Economic Region, and inter-provincial trade – to expand trade opportunities for B.C. businesses and support our shared efforts to reduce emissions.
- Continue to work across ministries and with the federal government to ensure British Columbia's interests are protected and advanced in trade negotiations and disputes, including supporting the Minister of Forests on softwood lumber negotiations with the United States.

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.

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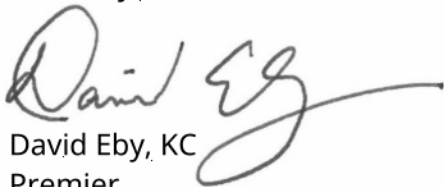
British Columbians expect their elected representatives to work together to advance the public good. That means seeking out, fostering, and championing good ideas regardless of their origin. I expect you to reach out to elected members from all parties as you deliver on your mandate. Further, you will 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.

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, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

David Eby, KC
Premier



February 25, 2022

Honourable Ravi Kahlon
Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, British Columbia V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Kahlon:

Thank you for agreeing to serve British Columbians as Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation.

In this past year, as a member of Cabinet, your work has contributed to this government's efforts to support British Columbians as they face the impacts of COVID-19. People throughout the province continue to work together to stay safe and rebuild their lives and communities from the effects of the pandemic. Our government remains committed to getting through the pandemic and its after effects by building on this resilience and focusing on what matters most to people.

British Columbians voted for a government focused on their priorities: providing better health care for people and families, delivering affordability and security in our communities, and investing in good jobs and livelihoods in a clean-energy future.

I expect you –with support of your ministry – to focus on the commitments detailed in our platform, *Working for You*, along with the following foundational principles:

- **Putting people first:** Since 2017, our government has focused on making decisions to meet people's needs. That focus drove our work in our first term and will continue to be our priority. British Columbians are counting on the government to keep them safe and to build an economic recovery that works for everyone, not just those at the top. Keeping people at the centre of everything we do means protecting and enhancing the public services people rely on and working to make life more affordable for everyone.

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- **Lasting and meaningful reconciliation:** Reconciliation is an ongoing process and a shared responsibility for us all. The unanimous passage of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* was a significant step forward in this journey. True reconciliation will take time and ongoing commitment to work with Indigenous peoples as they move toward self-determination. Our government – and every ministry – must remain focused on creating opportunities for Indigenous peoples to be full partners in our economy and providing a clear and sustainable path for everyone to work toward lasting reconciliation.
- **Equity and anti-racism:** Our province's history, identity and strength are rooted in its diverse population. Yet racialized and marginalized people face historic and present-day barriers that limit their full participation in their communities, workplaces, government, and their lives. Our government has a moral and ethical responsibility to tackle systemic discrimination in all its forms – and every ministry has a role in this work. While our caucus elected a record number of women, more work remains to address gender equity. Delivering on our commitments to address racial discrimination will require a commitment by all of government to ensure increased IBPOC (Indigenous, Black and People of Colour) representation within the public service, including in government appointments. Our efforts to address systemic discrimination must also inform policy and budget decisions by reviewing all decisions through a Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) lens.
- **A better future through fighting climate change:** In 2018, our government launched our CleanBC climate action plan. CleanBC puts British Columbia on the path to a cleaner, better future by building a low-carbon economy with new clean-energy jobs and opportunities, protecting our air, land and water and supporting communities to prepare for climate impacts. It is every Minister's responsibility to ensure your ministry's work continues to achieve CleanBC's goals.
- **A strong, sustainable economy that works for everyone:** We will continue our work to support British Columbians through the pandemic and the economic recovery by investing in health care, getting people back to work, helping businesses and communities, and building the clean, innovative economy of the future. Our plan will train the workforce of tomorrow, help businesses hire and grow and invest in the infrastructure needed to build our province.

The pandemic has reminded us that we're strongest when we work together. Delivering on our commitments to people will require a coordinated effort with your cabinet and caucus colleagues, supported by the skilled professionals in the public service. You will also support your cabinet colleagues to do their work, particularly where commitments cross ministry lines.

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British Columbians expect their elected representatives to work together to advance the broader public good despite their partisan perspectives. 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 through public and stakeholder engagement plans that connect with people to incorporate their perspectives early in the policy development process. These plans must include measurable outcomes and ensure active dialogue and ongoing outreach in your ministry's actions and priorities.

Over the course of our mandate, I expect you will make progress on the following items:

- Support people and businesses in the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic by continuing to deliver initiatives that will directly support small businesses and build an inclusive economic recovery across BC.
- Work across ministries to lead the development and coordinate implementation of an industrial and manufacturing strategy that generates cleaner, more innovative, value-added economic activity across BC, while supporting our commitments to reconciliation and CleanBC.
- With support from the Minister of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation, boost BC as a global exporter of climate solutions by investing in BC-based carbon capture and storage and other low carbon technologies.
- Support the work of the Minister of State for Trade on special projects to support economic development, trade and innovation in areas such as BC's shipbuilding sector, aerospace and forest sector innovation.
- Support BC shipyards to build capacity and become increasingly competitive with investments to support more shipbuilding, refit, repair, and maintenance here in BC.
- Capitalize on the potential of BC's aerospace industry by expanding support for BC companies to integrate into global supply chains and access new markets.
- Launch a strategic investment fund to support our government's objective of building a more innovative low carbon economy by investing in high-potential BC businesses to help them scale up and grow here.
- Lead the Office of Mass Timber Implementation and, with support from the Minister of Forests, advance the mass timber action plan.

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- With support from the Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Training, work with BC's Innovation Commissioner to lead investment in innovation clusters, with a focus on emerging industries where BC companies have developed the early lead – such as life sciences, emergency management technology, engineered wood, clean tech, artificial intelligence, and quantum and virtual reality technologies.
- Support the work of the Minister of Agriculture and Food to move forward with the recommendations of the Food Security Task Force and develop a new Regenerative Agricultural Network, which will create jobs for workers, opportunities for farmers and greater food security by bringing together natural systems of production with agri-technologies that enhance production.

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

- Develop an intellectual property strategy to support more innovation and commercialization by BC companies, including a First Patent Program.
- Help more people from underrepresented groups get their first job in the tech sector, while simultaneously helping BC-based tech companies hire and grow, by increasing the number of Innovator Skills Initiative Grants and prioritizing placements for women, Indigenous people, people of colour and others currently underrepresented in BC's tech sector.
- Help more innovative BC businesses successfully scale up here by expanding the successful RevUp program that brings business owners together with experienced mentors who provide coaching and advice on growing small successful tech companies into larger ones.

You are also assigned a Parliament Secretary for Rural and Regional Development. You will work closely together and ensure your Parliamentary Secretary receives appropriate support to deliver on the following priorities, outlined in the mandate letter issued to them:

- Lead the work of Rural and Regional Development with local governments and First Nations to support and promote regional diversified economies.
- Provide the regional perspective to the work of the Ministry with a focus on implementing supports for rural, remote and First Nations communities when needed.

- Support the Minister of Citizens' Services to deliver high-speed connectivity throughout the province with a goal of connecting all regions to the high-speed network.
- Work with the Minister of Labour to establish a Worker Training and Job Opportunity Office to maximize the impact of our economic recovery plan for workers and communities during COVID-19 and beyond – with a focus on retraining workers, supporting resource communities facing job loss, developing higher value goods, and accessing new global markets and opportunities for BC products.

Our work as a government must continually evolve to meet the changing needs of people in this province. Issues not contemplated in 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. Your ministry's priorities must reflect our government's overall strategic plan as determined by cabinet.

All cabinet 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 minister of the Crown, your conduct will reflect not only on you, but on cabinet and our government.

You are responsible for providing strong, professional, and ethical leadership within cabinet and your ministry. 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. You must ensure your minister's office meets the highest standards for integrity and provides a respectful and rewarding environment for all staff.

My commitment to all British Columbians is to do my level best to make sure people's lives are better, safer, and more affordable. I believe the challenges we face can and will be overcome by working together. By way of this letter, I am expressing my faith that people can expect the same commitment from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'John J. Horgan', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

John Horgan
Premier



February 25, 2022

Honourable George Chow
Minister of State for Trade
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, British Columbia V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Chow:

Thank you for agreeing to serve British Columbians as Minister of State for Trade.

In this past year, as a member of Cabinet, your work has contributed to this government's efforts to support British Columbians as they face the impacts of COVID-19. People throughout the province continue to work together to stay safe and rebuild their lives and communities from the effects of the pandemic. Our government remains committed to getting through the pandemic and its after effects by building on this resilience and focusing on what matters most to people.

British Columbians voted for a government focused on their priorities: providing better health care for people and families, delivering affordability and security in our communities, and investing in good jobs and livelihoods in a clean-energy future.

I expect you –with support of your ministry – to focus on the commitments detailed in our platform, *Working for You*, along with the following foundational principles:

- **Putting people first:** Since 2017, our government has focused on making decisions to meet people's needs. That focus drove our work in our first term and will continue to be our priority. British Columbians are counting on the government to keep them safe and to build an economic recovery that works for everyone, not just those at the top. Keeping people at the centre of everything we do means protecting and enhancing the public services people rely on and working to make life more affordable for everyone.

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- **Lasting and meaningful reconciliation:** Reconciliation is an ongoing process and a shared responsibility for us all. The unanimous passage of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* was a significant step forward in this journey. True reconciliation will take time and ongoing commitment to work with Indigenous peoples as they move toward self-determination. Our government – and every ministry – must remain focused on creating opportunities for Indigenous peoples to be full partners in our economy and providing a clear and sustainable path for everyone to work toward lasting reconciliation.
- **Equity and anti-racism:** Our province's history, identity and strength are rooted in its diverse population. Yet racialized and marginalized people face historic and present-day barriers that limit their full participation in their communities, workplaces, government, and their lives. Our government has a moral and ethical responsibility to tackle systemic discrimination in all its forms – and every ministry has a role in this work. While our caucus elected a record number of women, more work remains to address gender equity. Delivering on our commitments to address racial discrimination will require a commitment by all of government to ensure increased IBPOC (Indigenous, Black and People of Colour) representation within the public service, including in government appointments. Our efforts to address systemic discrimination must also inform policy and budget decisions by reviewing all decisions through a Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) lens.
- **A better future through fighting climate change:** In 2018, our government launched our CleanBC climate action plan. CleanBC puts British Columbia on the path to a cleaner, better future by building a low-carbon economy with new clean-energy jobs and opportunities, protecting our air, land and water and supporting communities to prepare for climate impacts. It is every Minister's responsibility to ensure your ministry's work continues to achieve CleanBC's goals.
- **A strong, sustainable economy that works for everyone:** We will continue our work to support British Columbians through the pandemic and the economic recovery by investing in health care, getting people back to work, helping businesses and communities, and building the clean, innovative economy of the future. Our plan will train the workforce of tomorrow, help businesses hire and grow and invest in the infrastructure needed to build our province.

The pandemic has reminded us that we're strongest when we work together. Delivering on our commitments to people will require a coordinated effort with your cabinet and caucus colleagues, supported by the skilled professionals in the public service. You will also support your cabinet colleagues to do their work, particularly where commitments cross ministry lines.

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British Columbians expect their elected representatives to work together to advance the broader public good despite their partisan perspectives. 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 through public and stakeholder engagement plans that connect with people to incorporate their perspectives early in the policy development process. These plans must include measurable outcomes and ensure active dialogue and ongoing outreach in your ministry's actions and priorities.

Over the course of our mandate, I expect you will make progress on the following items:

- Seek new strategies to expand BC's export opportunities as the province recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic, with a specific emphasis on BC's emerging clean technology and innovation sector.
- In collaboration with cabinet colleagues and with support from the Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation, lead work on special projects to support economic development, trade and innovation in areas such as BC's shipbuilding sector, aerospace and forest sector innovation.
- Expand BC's Export Navigator program to help more small businesses export their goods and services beyond our borders.
- Develop and implement a new BC Trade Diversification Strategy that will help BC businesses build connections in new markets, increase exports and highlight BC as a low-carbon supplier.
- Work across ministries and with the federal government to ensure British Columbia's interests are protected and advanced in trade negotiations and disputes, including the softwood lumber negotiations with the United States.
- Continue to support Forestry Innovation Investment's efforts to promote BC's manufactured wood products, including mass timber.
- Support the work of the Minister of Agriculture and Food to continue to promote BC food and agriculture exports.
- Work with the Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport to continue the development of the Chinese Canadian Museum.

Our work as a government must continually evolve to meet the changing needs of people in this province. Issues not contemplated in 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. Your ministry's priorities must reflect our government's overall strategic plan as determined by cabinet.

All cabinet 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 minister of the Crown, your conduct will reflect not only on you, but on cabinet and our government.

You are responsible for providing strong, professional, and ethical leadership within cabinet and your ministry. 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. You must ensure your minister's office meets the highest standards for integrity and provides a respectful and rewarding environment for all staff.

My commitment to all British Columbians is to do my level best to make sure people's lives are better, safer, and more affordable. I believe the challenges we face can and will be overcome by working together. By way of this letter, I am expressing my faith that people can expect the same commitment from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "John I. Horgan" with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

John Horgan
Premier



February 25, 2022

Roly Russell, MLA
Parliamentary Secretary for Rural and Regional Development
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, British Columbia V8V 1X4

Dear Parliamentary Secretary Russell:

Thank you for agreeing to serve British Columbians as Parliamentary Secretary for Rural and Regional Development, supporting the Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation.

In this past year, your work has contributed to this government's efforts to support British Columbians as they face the impacts of COVID-19. People throughout the province continue to work together to stay safe and rebuild their lives and communities from the effects of the pandemic. Our government remains committed to getting through the pandemic and its after effects by building on this resilience and focusing on what matters most to people.

British Columbians voted for a government focused on their priorities: providing better health care for people and families, delivering affordability and security in our communities, and investing in good jobs and livelihoods in a clean-energy future.

I expect you –with support of your Minister and ministry – to focus on the commitments detailed in our platform, *Working for You*, along with the following foundational principles:

- **Putting people first:** Since 2017, our government has focused on making decisions to meet people's needs. That focus drove our work in our first term and will continue to be our priority. British Columbians are counting on the government to keep them safe and to build an economic recovery that works for everyone, not just those at the top. Keeping people at the centre of everything we do means protecting and enhancing the public services people rely on and working to make life more affordable for everyone.

.../2

**Office of the
Premier**

Web Site:
www.gov.bc.ca

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

Location:
Parliament Buildings
Victoria

- **Lasting and meaningful reconciliation:** Reconciliation is an ongoing process and a shared responsibility for us all. The unanimous passage of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* was a significant step forward in this journey. True reconciliation will take time and ongoing commitment to work with Indigenous peoples as they move toward self-determination. Our government – and every ministry – must remain focused on creating opportunities for Indigenous peoples to be full partners in our economy and providing a clear and sustainable path for everyone to work toward lasting reconciliation.
- **Equity and anti-racism:** Our province's history, identity and strength are rooted in its diverse population. Yet racialized and marginalized people face historic and present-day barriers that limit their full participation in their communities, workplaces, government and their lives. Our government has a moral and ethical responsibility to tackle systemic discrimination in all its forms – and every ministry has a role in this work. While our caucus elected a record number of women, more work remains to address gender equity. Delivering on our commitments to address racial discrimination will require a commitment by all of government to ensure increased IBPOC (Indigenous, Black and People of Colour) representation within the public service, including in government appointments. Our efforts to address systemic discrimination must also inform policy and budget decisions by reviewing all decisions through a Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) lens.
- **A better future through fighting climate change:** In 2018, our government launched our CleanBC climate action plan. CleanBC puts British Columbia on the path to a cleaner, better future by building a low-carbon economy with new clean-energy jobs and opportunities, protecting our air, land and water and supporting communities to prepare for climate impacts. It is every Minister's responsibility to ensure your ministry's work continues to achieve CleanBC's goals.
- **A strong, sustainable economy that works for everyone:** We will continue our work to support British Columbians through the pandemic and the economic recovery by investing in health care, getting people back to work, helping businesses and communities, and building the clean, innovative economy of the future. Our plan will train the workforce of tomorrow, help businesses hire and grow and invest in the infrastructure needed to build our province.

As you continue your work as Parliamentary Secretary, you will also continue to assist your Minister in carrying out your Minister's duties. You will represent the Minister at public events as needed, deliver speeches on behalf of the Minister, and act as a spokesperson for the government's position. You will continue your work of reaching out to stakeholders, businesses, civil society, and individuals across BC to better understand their perspectives and bring their views to your Minister.

.../3

I expect you to continue your support for your Minister and make progress on the following items:

- Lead the work of Rural and Regional Development with local governments and First Nations to support and promote regional diversified economies.
- Provide the regional perspective to the work of the Ministry with a focus on implementing supports for rural, remote and First Nations communities when needed.
- Support the Minister of Citizens' Services to deliver high-speed connectivity throughout the province with a goal of connecting all regions to the high-speed network.
- Work with the Minister of Labour to establish a Worker Training and Job Opportunity Office to maximize the impact of our economic recovery plan for workers and communities during COVID-19 and beyond – with a focus on retraining workers, supporting resource communities facing job loss, developing higher value goods, and accessing new global markets and opportunities for BC products.

Your Minister is ultimately responsible and accountable for your ministry and its mandate; thus, all key decisions will be made by your Minister. Your role is to understand your Minister's policy goals, develop a deep understanding of the issues, participate in consultations with key stakeholders, Indigenous peoples, and the broader public, in order to give your best advice to the public service as it develops options for a decision by your Minister.

You will collaborate with your Minister, 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 your Minister and our government.

You are accountable for providing strong, professional, and ethical leadership. I expect you to establish a positive, respectful, and collaborative working relationship with your Minister, your Minister's staff and the public servants who provide the professional, non-partisan advice fundamental to delivering on our government's priorities.

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My commitment to all British Columbians is to do my level best to make sure people's lives are better, safer, and more affordable. I believe the challenges we face can and will be overcome by working together. By way of this letter, I am expressing my faith that people can expect the same commitment from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "John J. Horgan" with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

John Horgan
Premier



November 26, 2020

Brenda Bailey, MLA
Parliamentary Secretary for Technology and Innovation
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, British Columbia V8V 1X4

Dear Parliamentary Secretary Bailey:

Thank you for agreeing to serve British Columbians as Parliamentary Secretary for Technology and Innovation, supporting the Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation. You are taking on this responsibility at a time when people in our province face significant challenges as a result of the global COVID-19 pandemic.

COVID-19 has turned the lives of British Columbians upside down. None of us expected to face the challenges of the past number of months, yet British Columbians have demonstrated incredible resilience, time and time again. We will get through the pandemic and its aftereffects by building on this resilience and focusing on what matters most to people.

British Columbians voted for a government focused on their priorities: fighting the COVID-19 pandemic, providing better health care for people and families, delivering affordability and security in our communities, and investing in good jobs and livelihoods in a clean-energy future.

I expect you – and the work of your ministry – to focus on the commitments detailed in our platform, *Working for You*, along with the following foundational principles:

- **Putting people first:** Since 2017, our government has focused on making decisions to meet people's needs. That focus drove our work in our first term and will continue to be our priority. British Columbians are counting on the government to keep them safe and to build an economic recovery that works for everyone, not just those at the top. Keeping people at the centre of everything we do means protecting and enhancing the public services people rely on and working to make life more affordable for everyone.
- **Lasting and meaningful reconciliation:** Reconciliation is an ongoing process and a shared responsibility for us all. The unanimous passage of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* was a significant step forward in this journey. True

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reconciliation will take time and ongoing commitment to work with Indigenous peoples as they move toward self-determination. Our government – and every ministry – must remain focused on creating opportunities for Indigenous peoples to be full partners in our economy and providing a clear and sustainable path for everyone to work toward lasting reconciliation.

- **Equity and anti-racism:** Our province's history, identity and strength are rooted in its diverse population. Yet racialized and marginalized people face historic and present-day barriers that limit their full participation in their communities, workplaces, government and their lives. Our government has a moral and ethical responsibility to tackle systemic discrimination in all its forms – and every ministry has a role in this work. While our caucus elected a record number of women, more work remains to address gender equity. Delivering on our commitments to address racial discrimination will require a commitment by all of government to ensure increased IBPOC (Indigenous, Black and People of Colour) representation within the public service, including in government appointments. Our efforts to address systemic discrimination must also inform policy and budget decisions by reviewing all decisions through a Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) lens.
- **A better future through fighting climate change:** In 2018, our government launched our CleanBC climate action plan. CleanBC puts British Columbia on the path to a cleaner, better future by building a low-carbon economy with new clean-energy jobs and opportunities, protecting our air, land and water and supporting communities to prepare for climate impacts. It is every Minister's responsibility to ensure your ministry's work continues to achieve CleanBC's goals.
- **A strong, sustainable economy that works for everyone:** We will continue our work to support British Columbians through the pandemic and the economic recovery by investing in health care, getting people back to work, helping businesses and communities, and building the clean, innovative economy of the future. Our plan will train the workforce of tomorrow, help businesses hire and grow and invest in the infrastructure needed to build our province.

As Parliamentary Secretary, you will assist your Minister in carrying out their duties. You may be asked to represent the Minister at public events, deliver speeches on behalf of the Minister, or act as a spokesperson for the government's position. You will reach out to stakeholders, businesses, civil society and individuals across B.C. to better understand their perspectives and bring their views to the Minister.

You are also being given special responsibility to support your Minister in specific areas within their mandate. You will work with, and be supported by, B.C.'s professional public service in this role.

Over the course of our mandate, I expect you will make progress on the following items:

- Develop an intellectual property strategy to support more innovation and commercialization by B.C. companies, including a First Patent Program.

.../3

- Help more people from underrepresented groups get their first job in the tech sector, while simultaneously helping B.C.-based tech companies hire and grow, by increasing the number of Innovator Skills Initiative Grants and prioritizing placements for women, Indigenous people, people of colour and others currently underrepresented in B.C.'s tech sector.
- Help more innovative B.C. businesses successfully scale up here by expanding the successful RevUp program that brings business owners together with experienced mentors who provide coaching and advice on growing small successful tech companies into larger ones.

Your Minister is ultimately responsible and accountable for their ministry and their mandate; thus, all key decisions will be made by them. Your role is to understand your Minister's policy goals, develop a deep understanding of the issues, participate in consultations with key stakeholders, Indigenous peoples and the broader public, in order to give your best advice to the public service as it develops options for a decision by the Minister.

You will collaborate with your Minister, 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 through briefings, supporting consultations, and keeping you apprised of policy development.

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 your Minister and our government.

You are accountable for providing strong, professional and ethical leadership. I expect you to establish a positive, respectful and collaborative working relationship with your Minister, their staff and the public servants who provide the professional, non-partisan advice fundamental to delivering on our government's priorities.

My commitment to all British Columbians is to do my level best to make sure people's lives are better, safer and more affordable. I believe the challenges we face can and will be overcome by working together. By way of this letter, I am expressing my faith that people can expect the same commitment from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John I. Horgan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

John Horgan
Premier

Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

2023/24 – 2025/26 Service Plan

February 2023



For more information on the Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation contact:

Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

Vancouver: 604 660-2421

Victoria: 250 387-6121

Or visit our website at

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/JEDI>

Published by the Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

Minister's Accountability Statement



The Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation 2023/24 – 2025/26 Service Plan was prepared under my direction in accordance with the *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act*. I am accountable for the basis on which the plan has been prepared.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Bailey'.

Honourable Brenda Bailey
Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation
February 10, 2023

Minister of State's Accountability Statement



I am the Minister of State for Trade and under the *Balanced Budget and Ministerial Accountability Act*, I am accountable for achieving the following results for 2023/24:

- (a) promote the 2023 BC Export Awards;
- (b) continue to consult with key stakeholders as ministry teams work towards implementation of a new B.C. Trade Diversification Strategy which includes B.C.'s Export Navigator program, to help more small businesses export their goods and services and new strategies to expand B.C.'s export opportunities;
- (c) continue to support Forestry Innovation Investment Ltd.'s efforts to actively maintain, create and diversify demand for B.C.'s manufactured wood products in key international markets;
- (d) continue to promote B.C. food and agricultural exports in collaboration with the Minister of Agriculture and Food;
- (e) work with all ministries to ensure more regular interactions with the federal government on B.C.'s international trade and economic priorities, including increased opportunities for face-to-face meetings with staff and key ministers in Ottawa;
- (f) continue to promote the benefits of free trade and work across ministries and with the federal government to ensure British Columbia's interests are protected and advanced in trade negotiations and disputes, including supporting the Minister of Forests on softwood lumber negotiations with the United States;
- (g) continue to engage with industry stakeholders to identify sector-focused special projects that would support economic development, trade and innovation in sectors including aerospace and broader forest innovation;
- (h) build on relationships with B.C.'s neighbouring jurisdictions – including through the Pacific Coast Collaborative, the Pacific NorthWest Economic Region, and inter-provincial trade – to expand trade opportunities for B.C. businesses and support our shared efforts to reduce emissions;
- (i) support the development and implementation of a Westcoast Maritime Industry;
- (j) submit to Cabinet a report on the results referred to in paragraphs (a) through (i) on or before March 31, 2024

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jagrup Brar".

Honourable Jagrup Brar
Minister of State for Trade
February 10, 2023

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Strategic Direction

In 2023/24, the Government of British Columbia will continue our work to make life better for people in B.C., improve the services we all rely on, and ensure a sustainable province for future generations. Government will focus on building a secure, clean, and fair economy, and a province where everyone can find a good home – whether in a rural area, in a city, or in an Indigenous community. B.C. will continue working toward true and meaningful reconciliation by supporting opportunities for Indigenous Peoples to be full partners in an inclusive and sustainable province. The policies, programs and projects developed over the course of this service plan period will focus on results that people can see and feel in four key areas: attainable and affordable housing, strengthened health care, safer communities, and a secure, clean and fair economy that can withstand global economic headwinds.

This 2023/24 service plan outlines how the Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation will support the government's priorities and selected action items identified in the [December 2022 Minister's Mandate Letter](#).

Purpose of the Ministry

The Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation is working to make life better for people by building an inclusive, sustainable, and innovative economy that works for all British Columbians.

The Ministry delivers programs and services that leverage British Columbia's natural advantages to drive clean and inclusive economic growth.

Its priorities include encouraging business start-up and growth through innovation and adoption of new technologies, supporting emerging opportunities in manufacturing, shipbuilding, life sciences, agritech, hydrogen, clean technology, and mass timber. In addition, the Ministry will build on British Columbia's competitive advantages through the development of an Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) program. The Ministry also promotes trade and investment, positioning B.C. as a global exporter of low-carbon goods and services.

The Ministry supports First Nations and Indigenous Peoples, small businesses and communities with economic development activities, the revitalization of traditional industries, economic diversification, job creation, exposure to export opportunities, and strategic investments to ensure everyone in British Columbia benefits from economic growth.

To that end, our government is implementing [Stronger BC: A plan for today, a vision for tomorrow](#)– British Columbia's guide to economic prosperity through inclusive and clean growth.

The Ministry has an oversight role for the following Crown corporations: [Forestry Innovation Investment Ltd.](#), [InBC Investment Corporation](#) and [Innovate BC](#).

Operating Environment

In 2023/24 British Columbia continues to navigate global economic challenges such as the lingering economic effects of the pandemic, global inflation, and labour shortages across key industries. The impact of these challenges is felt across all regions of the province, making the ministry's small business and regional economic development support critical as B.C. continues to respond and adapt.

While the current climate continues to be one of trade restrictions and protectionism, there are several ongoing trade agreement negotiations seeking to improve market access and opportunities for B.C. companies and workers, for example the Canada-India Early Progress Trade Agreement negotiations, the Canada-Indonesia Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement negotiations, and the Canada – United Kingdom Free Trade Agreement negotiations.

An increasing number of climate related emergencies (flooding, landslides, forest fires) have affected supply chains and food security.

Economic Statement

B.C.'s economy has been resilient to pandemic, geopolitical and climate-related disruptions. However, higher interest rates are expected to weigh on the economy in the coming years. Following a rapid recovery from the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, high inflation led to successive interest rate increases from the Bank of Canada in 2022. The impact of higher interest rates has been evident in housing markets and there is uncertainty over its transmission to the rest of the economy in B.C. and among our trading partners. B.C. is heading into this challenging period in relatively strong position, with a low unemployment rate. The Economic Forecast Council (EFC) estimates that B.C. real GDP expanded by 3.0 per cent in 2022 and expects growth of 0.5 per cent in 2023 and 1.6 per cent in 2024. Meanwhile for Canada, the EFC estimates growth of 3.4 per cent in 2022 and projects national real GDP growth of 0.5 per cent in 2023 and 1.5 per cent in 2024. As such, B.C.'s economic growth is expected to be broadly in line with the national average in the coming years. The risks to B.C.'s economic outlook center around interest rates and inflation, such as the risk of further inflationary supply chain disruptions, the potential for more interest rate increases than expected, and uncertainty around the depth and timing of the impact on housing markets. Further risks include ongoing uncertainty regarding global trade policies, the emergence of further COVID-19 variants of concern and lower commodity prices.

Performance Planning

Goal 1: Capitalize on our strengths, including low-carbon and Environmental, Social and Governance advantages, to build a brand that attracts investment, accelerates exports and supports business growth in British Columbia

Objective 1.1: Assist B.C. businesses to compete globally, taking advantage of trade opportunities in existing and new markets, and attract investment to create resiliency

Key Strategies

- Establish an Environmental Social Governance (ESG) Centre of Excellence that will facilitate ESG investments in B.C., attract socially and environmentally conscious investors, and diversify markets for B.C.'s world-class goods and services under a respected and trustworthy ESG brand.
- Lead an ongoing multi-sector program of trade promotion and investment attraction activities to support B.C. exporters and communities in domestic and international markets, working with B.C.'s Trade and Investment Representatives globally.
- Defend B.C.'s interests in trade actions and disputes to help protect B.C. businesses' competitiveness and utilize trade negotiations to further open markets to support diversification.
- Develop and implement a Trade Diversification Strategy that will help B.C. businesses, identify new opportunities, build connections in new markets, take advantage of trade agreements, increase exports, and highlight B.C. as a low carbon supplier.
- Promote the opportunities in B.C.'s and Canada's free trade agreements for B.C. businesses and workers in order to support export growth, diversification, and investment attraction.

Discussion

As a small, trade-dependent jurisdiction, B.C.'s economic resiliency and growth is intrinsically tied to export, foreign investment, and global supply chains. B.C. collaborates with federal, provincial, and municipal partners. B.C.'s network of global trade and investment representative offices identifies trade and investment opportunities, and promotes B.C. as an investment destination and a low-carbon supplier of quality products and services.

Additionally, B.C. actively participates in domestic and international trade agreement negotiations to expand preferential market access for B.C. workers and companies in other markets, whether outside of B.C. or outside of Canada. These domestic and international trade agreements improve the competitiveness of B.C. goods and services exports, contribute to lower costs for B.C. workers and businesses, foster trade diversification, and provide greater

certainty and stability through agreed upon trade rules and recourse to dispute settlement. Where there are disagreements about how the trade rules should apply, or where B.C. workers, companies, and industries are being treated unfairly in other markets, B.C. may initiate, or participate in, trade challenges to defend B.C.'s interests.

To ensure as many B.C. workers and businesses are benefiting from the opportunities in B.C.'s and Canada's free trade agreements, the Ministry will continue to raise awareness of these opportunities and how to leverage them in free trade agreement information sessions and events across B.C. and will communicate B.C.'s interests through the appropriate channels.

Objective 1.2: Support business growth and anchoring in B.C.

Key Strategies

- Leverage Small Business BC to increase awareness of resources for B.C. businesses to grow and diversify.
- Work with InBC Investment Corporation to help high potential businesses grow and deliver economic, environmental, and social returns for the province.
- Work with interested parties to leverage investment programming, such as the Small Business Venture Capital Tax Credit program.
- Assist investors in taking significant projects from idea to completion, and bring proponents, various levels of government, Indigenous communities, and other stakeholders together to advance investment decisions, seek matching opportunities and lead and coordinate cross-government corporate initiatives.
- Ensure businesses that are not yet export-ready are supported to become exporters through Export Navigator, The Trade Accelerator Program and associated trade readiness programs, building capacity for international markets and attracting investment into their regions.
- Ensure businesses owned by women, youth, indigenous people and other under-represented groups are supported to reap benefits of export.
- Continue to maintain the Agritech Concierge Program to help farmers, food entrepreneurs or agritech companies navigate government programs and services.

Discussion

Support for business growth is important in ensuring long-term success for several reasons including: attracting new talent, funding investments / acquiring assets, driving performance and profit. Ministry programs support business growth by creating opportunities for companies to build capacity and address challenges, including through export and investment programming, which in turn can help attract more customers, increase sales, expand products/services and employ more staff.

British Columbia's small businesses are the backbone of the economy, and the Ministry and government will continue to support small business growth and diversification to establish anchor businesses and enhance small business competitiveness here and abroad. The Ministry

works with small businesses to help them grow and diversify by providing access to tools and resources through [Small Business BC](#).

The Ministry develops and implements integrated export development and investment attraction programs aimed at helping B.C. business to scale up, grow sustainably and remain anchored in the province, including through export readiness services as well as matching B.C. companies with strategic value adding investment. Specifically, the Export Navigator program delivers a suite of services to B.C. companies looking to become export-ready, with a special focus and expertise supporting women-, youth- and indigenous-led businesses.

The Ministry, through its network of Trade and Investment offices abroad, supports foreign direct investment into British Columbia, often translating into the strengthening of industry clusters and capability in B.C., as well as opportunities for strategic growth for B.C. business as an outcome of the investment and associated partnership opportunities.

Performance Measures

Performance Measure	2022/23 Forecast	2023/24 Target	2024/25 Target	2025/26 Target
1.1 Number of trade and investment opportunities supported by the Ministry	665	732	732	732

Data source: Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

Discussion

The Ministry has an integrated program of investment attraction and export promotion activities in B.C., and in overseas markets to support growth and diversification in the province. This performance measure follows how well the Ministry can attract and promote British Columbia trade and investment opportunities and is monitored by an internal tracking system.

The targets for 2024/25 to 2025/26 will remain stable given the global uncertainty presented by climate related emergencies affecting supply chains and food security, the ongoing spread of COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses, and to reflect our steady recovery. Subsequent targets will be dependent on ongoing client and stakeholder feedback and development of a new trade diversification strategy.

Performance Measures	2022/23 Forecast	2023/24 Target	2024/25 Target	2025/26 Target
1.2a Total small business venture capital leveraged through tax credit usage ¹	\$105M	\$90M	\$95M	\$98M
1.2b Rural small business venture capital leveraged through tax credit usage ²	\$10M	\$8.5M	\$8.5M	\$9M

Data source:

¹Investment Capital Branch. The 30% tax credit reduces risk to B.C. investors of their investment into eligible B.C. businesses.

²Rural small business usage is a sub-component of the total small business venture capital tax credit usage detailed in 1.2a.

Discussion

Business scale up is often reliant on access to capital. By supporting businesses throughout B.C. to access this needed capital the Ministry helps establish the province as a preferred location to do business, encourages job creation and provides a catalyst for sectoral growth – an investment in businesses that encourages them to grow and stay in B.C. The investment dollars available for venture capital can be influenced by several external market factors, therefore, original targets are being carried forward. Preliminary forecasts for 2022/23 indicate the previous targets are likely to be exceeded. While investment in later stage private companies has fallen as their valuations have been directly affected by falling stock markets, investment in start-ups has been buoyant. Sectors such as health care, clean-tech, energy and transportation, and food security have seen recent surges in investment in late 2022/23. High energy prices, R&D in long-COVID and vaccine technologies, and government policies to reduce carbon emissions have all contributed to increased investment into start-up companies in these sectors. Any changes will be reported in the Annual Service Plan Report. Access to investment capital in British Columbia will be further enhanced through the investments made by the [InBC Investment Corp.](#) Strategic Investment Fund.

The Small Business Venture Capital Tax Credit Program provides investors with a 30 per cent tax credit to help off-set some of the risk of investing in B.C.'s small businesses. The tax credit helps entrepreneurs and innovators raise seed and early-stage venture capital to help start a business, conduct R&D, develop technologies, commercialize ideas and create jobs. Venture investment is volatile and reflects multiple factors, including the number and quality of investment opportunities available in any given year, prevailing economic conditions, and the fund-raising activities of businesses to meet their specific operational requirements.

Goal 2: Accelerate the innovation economy to catalyze future opportunities in core and emerging sectors to support ongoing economic development in British Columbia

Objective 2.1: Implement the Mass Timber Action Plan that will accelerate the growth of B.C.'s emerging innovative, inclusive, and sustainable economic sector

Mass timber is an emerging sector in B.C. with strong innovation potential in the areas of building design, product manufacturing, and construction technology. Implementing the Mass Timber Action Plan will leverage B.C.'s recognized expertise and leadership advantage. Currently, mass timber provides approximately 1,100 jobs in B.C. By 2035, production is estimated to increase by the equivalent of up to ten new mid-size factories. Modelling suggests this will support over 4,000 direct and indirect jobs. This includes about 2,300 jobs in mass timber factories and 1,900 jobs in construction technology, forestry, engineering, and design.

Key Strategies

- Increase real-world experience and learning from new mass timber hybrid buildings through the Forestry Innovation Investment Mass Timber Demonstration Program and provincial publicly funded buildings.
- Support innovation within the building regulatory system to remove technical barriers to mass timber construction.
- Engage the Mass Timber Advisory Council (formed in April 2021) in small focus groups on strategic topics to implement the Mass Timber Action Plan.
- Leverage the new CleanBC focus on low-carbon building materials to expand market adoption of climate friendly mass timber.
- Showcase B.C. Mass Timber on the international stage.
- Engage with Indigenous partners to advance economic reconciliation in the mass timber space.

Discussion

The Mass Timber Action Plan was launched in April 2022. It is a bold, carbon-friendly, market transformation strategy established to build up domestic demand for mass timber. The goal is to create pre-conditions for new and increased investment in value-added mass timber manufacturing.

Mass timber remains a strong Provincial priority and Action Plan implementation will continue over the coming three years, including through the key strategies listed above. Mass timber sequesters carbon, reducing emissions from B.C.'s building stock, while matching or exceeding the structural performance of concrete and steel. By delivering up to seven times the

economic value compared to milling logs for lumber, mass timber will contribute to building a vibrant new clean and inclusive economic base. It will also support the B.C. forestry sector to transition from high-volume to high-value production. Mass timber innovation can also support new jobs and career opportunities in areas such as digital design, software robotics, and logistics.

Objective 2.2: Grow sectors of emerging opportunity, including agritech, life sciences, manufacturing and transformative technologies such as artificial intelligence, and position them as drivers of good jobs, revenues and solutions to food security and climate change

Key Strategies

- Release a B.C. Life Sciences and Biomanufacturing Strategy that will cement B.C.'s position in the global supply chain with the focus on biotech research, talent development, clean growth and commercialization to generate sustainable, innovative, value-added economic activity and well-paying jobs in B.C.
- Continue to help advance the commercialization efforts of B.C.'s quantum computing and applied artificial intelligence clusters.
- Develop an Industrial and Manufacturing Action Plan that will respond to key industry needs including innovation and productivity; workforce and management development and supply chain resiliency.
- In collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food and other relevant stakeholders such as the BC Centre for Agritech Innovation, coordinate and implement targeted initiatives to support and grow B.C.'s thriving agritech sector.
- Continue to develop the B.C. Maritime Industries Strategy to support sustainable and innovative industrial marine activities in B.C.
- In collaboration with industry partners, establish Integrated Marketplaces that allow innovative companies to access domestic markets and efficiently scale up operations.

Discussion

Through the implementation of StrongerBC, the Province is developing key priority innovative sectors such as mass timber, clean tech, life sciences, biotech and biomanufacturing, quantum computing, manufacturing, agritech, and the marine sector. Building on B.C.'s advantages will increase productivity and profitability and integrate our values of clean and inclusive growth.

Performance Measures

Performance Measure	2022/23 Baseline	2023/24 Target	2024/25 Target	2025/26 Target
2.1 Three year rolling average ¹ of square meters of floor area in newly completed buildings which incorporate mass timber in one or more primary structural systems ^{1,2, 3}	84,700	93,200	102,500	112,800

Data source: Forestry Innovation Investment/Sciurus Advisory Inc.

¹ Data is measured by calendar year, not fiscal year.

² Targets are based on trends in year over year growth in the 3-year rolling average, and industry information available about planned construction projects. Many projects change during the planning process, and annual targets may be updated if there is substantial industry change.

³ Primary structural system means load bearing walls, roofs, floors, and vertical shafts for stairs/elevators.

Discussion

Baseline data for performance measure 2.1 was established in 2021/22 and targets were set using a 10 percent increase year over year. This approach is maintained in this year's service plan as actual data for 2022/23 appears to be broadly tracking with the target established last year. However, this year targets were rounded up or down to the nearest hundred to reflect the fact that these targets are estimates.

The increasing number of square meters of floor area is an indicator of the overall growth of the mass timber sector. It demonstrates rising demand for this innovative building material which in turn sends strong market signals to mass timber manufacturers and the various goods and service providers within the emerging broader sector. One of the Actions in the Mass Timber Action Plan is to increase the types of data collected as this emerging sector develops. This performance measure may be revised in the future when more varied data is available.

Goal 3: Support businesses and communities to create sustainable, family supporting jobs and inclusive growth that works for all British Columbians

Objective 3.1: Support B.C. communities, Indigenous and other underrepresented peoples to increase participation in established and emerging economic sectors

Key Strategies

- Develop and implement the Small Business Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan.
- Establish a long-term dialogue and commit to improving economic well-being for First Nations and Indigenous Peoples and commit to taking action to ensure their full participation in all aspects of British Columbia's economy.
- Continue to coordinate and support Indigenous economic development activities through the Joint Office on Indigenous Economic Development in collaboration with the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation.
- Support the BC Assembly of First Nations in the establishment of the Centre of Excellence in First Nations Economic Development to provide guidance to First Nations in determining and implementing their economic development goals, priorities and strategies.
- Continue to build and strengthen relationships with underrepresented groups to support the start and growth of their small businesses.
- Build on the success of StrongerBC programming such as the Canadian Tech Talent Accelerator Program, Digital Marketing Bootcamps and the Innovator Skills Initiative, to continue to increase underrepresented groups participation in the digital economy.
- Deliver dedicated sessions to B.C. communities, Indigenous Peoples, and other underrepresented export groups on the opportunities in domestic and international trade agreements and how to leverage them.
- Work with the BC Assembly of First Nations to develop a joint First Nations trade background paper.

Discussion

The small business community was heavily impacted by the pandemic, and more disproportionately on underrepresented small business owners. These strategies are important to better support the start, growth and diversification of small businesses, and further economic development by leveraging existing services such as ones offered by Small Business BC, strengthening relationships and partnerships, and coordinating with other levels of government.

In the continued implementation of the StrongerBC Economic Plan, the Ministry remains committed to engaging with First Nations, Indigenous communities and organizations in setting the long-term direction of the economy.

The Joint Office on Indigenous Economic Development aligns Indigenous economic development work taking place across government, provides support and guidance to ministries and coordinates responsive and efficient support to Indigenous partners. Joint Office areas of work are established where there is alignment between each ministry's priorities and opportunities to pursue the government's broader reconciliation objectives in an economic context. Lastly, JEDI is committed to supporting the BC Assembly of First Nations on launching the Centre of Excellence in First Nations Economic Development to help advance the role of First Nations in B.C.'s inclusive economy and to works towards true and lasting reconciliation.

A key focus of the Ministry's work to increase the utilization of the opportunities in B.C.'s and Canada's free trade agreements is to deliver dedicated sessions for Indigenous Peoples and other underrepresented export groups, so that the benefits of these agreements are as widely felt in B.C. as possible. The intent of these dedicated sessions is to deliver them in partnership with indigenous organizations and business associations and chambers for businesses owned by women, LGBTQ2S+, and youth. To increase accessibility, the majority of sessions have a virtual option and are recorded.

Ongoing relationship building with the BCAFN and regular discussions on First Nations' trade and investment issues is a key priority and opportunities. The Ministry will continue to facilitate deeper relationships between B.C. and the BCAFN with a particular focus on enhancing First Nation's participation in the economy, and in domestic and international trade matters; communicate to investors, businesses and government and First Nations citizens the various components, history, and context of First Nations trade in B.C.; describe current opportunities, challenges, and barriers relevant to First Nations trade in B.C.; and, serve as a foundation for broader economic development work between B.C. and the BCAFN.

Objective 3.2: Strengthen regional economic development, support recovery, and build resilience to economic disruption

Key Strategies

- Support economic development and diversification, resilience, economic infrastructure development, and job creation in communities through the implementation of the Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program.
- Provide coordinated and comprehensive transition supports for workers, communities, and First Nations to offset impacts that may follow from economic disruption such as mill closures or new restrictions on the land-base.
- Provide grants for capital projects through the BC Manufacturing Jobs Fund to help manufacturing companies modernize, innovate and grow in regional and Indigenous communities in B.C., particularly in communities experiencing economic disruptions.

- Create short term employment opportunities for forest sector contractors and their employees through the continuation of the Forest Employment Program.
- Continue to assist businesses and communities, together with the three Regional Economic Trusts, through the Rural Business and Community Recovery Initiative.
- Lead and strengthen cross-government programs, services, and investments to support regional worker and community resiliency, and realize new economic opportunities.
- Develop and refine economic development tools, including the Economic Atlas, and investment readiness resources to support the activities and economic planning of rural, remote and Indigenous communities.

Discussion

Communities are empowered to determine their best way forward in recovery, transition and/or diversification as the programs and services offered are complementary, flexible and serve the full make-up of a community, including people, businesses, non-profits and the municipal, regional and Indigenous governments. These programs and services also work in concert with other ministry programs, such as skills training and workforce development, further supporting successful economic development activities in regional communities.

The development of toolkits, resources and information to support communities in their planning can provide pathways towards certainty which can attract economic growth and opportunity. Supporting Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities with information and toolkits to assess, facilitate/collaborate and create action-oriented plans will support regional and inclusive economic growth in alignment with local values and priorities.

Objective 3.3: British Columbia's evolving regulatory framework supports effective service delivery as well as business and economic growth

Key Strategies

- Building on past success, maintain the commitment to a zero-net increase in regulatory requirements (from the baseline set in 2004) until 2024.
- Report on cross-government progress on regulatory modernization and service improvements on an annual basis.
- Continue to use an annual process of bundling small regulatory changes to enhance service delivery and support ongoing maintenance of B.C.'s regulatory framework.
- Continue efforts to identify and address outdated language in B.C.'s provincial statutes and regulations related to inclusion, accessibility and modern service delivery.

Performance Measures

Performance Measure	2020 Baseline	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Target	2024 Target
3.1 Support growth in the number of businesses with 10 or more employees	49,900	49,700	TBC ¹	52,500	53,400

Data source: BC Stats using data supplied by Statistics Canada.

¹ Please note that the total number reflects the calendar year and final business counts for 2022 will be released in March 2023.

Discussion

Businesses with 10 or more employees are shown to have higher salaries, a more stable workforce, and to generate more economic activity domestically and internationally. B.C. is a leader in entrepreneurship and has an abundance of small start-up companies. Supporting entrepreneurs and small businesses to start up and grow, to become economic anchors in communities, builds resilient and diverse regional economies. With this growth comes investment in research and development, supply chain development and the ability to export to domestic, national and global markets – all of which will result in good-paying jobs for British Columbians.

Performance Measure	2021/22 Baseline	2022/23 Forecast	2023/24 Target	2024/25 Target	2025/26 Target
3.2 Percent of rural development grant funding spent	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Data source: Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

Discussion

This performance measure tracks the amount of grant funding dispersed to Indigenous and non-indigenous communities and non-profit organizations to support economies in regional B.C. This funding supports infrastructure and economic development, directly contributing to short-term economic recovery and job creation. In the long-term, these projects support economic diversification and transition, help strengthen regional economies and increase resiliency to economic disruptions.

Regional economic recovery depends on many factors including community capacity, the structure and condition of the local economy, and access to resources. Communities and organizations need funding and supports to implement initiatives to create the foundations for long-term economic development.

Financial Summary

Core Business	2022/23 Restated Estimates ¹	2023/24 Estimates	2024/25 Plan	2025/26 Plan
Operating Expenses (\$000)				
Trade and Industry Development	28,379	29,064	29,127	29,127
Small Business and Economic Development	7,454	7,701	7,724	7,724
Investment and Innovation	13,029	13,503	13,538	13,538
Regional Development	27,391	27,676	27,772	27,772
Transfers to Crown Corporations and Agencies	25,640	26,020	26,046	26,046
Executive and Support Services	8,516	8,877	8,903	8,903
Northern Development Fund	500	500	500	500
Total	110,909	113,341	113,610	113,610
Capital Expenditures (\$000)				
Executive and Support Services	3	3	3	3
Total	3	3	3	3

¹ For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2022/23 have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2023/24 Estimates.

* Further information on program funding and vote recoveries is available in the [Estimates and Supplement to the Estimates](#).

Appendix A: Public Sector Organizations

As of February 10, 2023 the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation is responsible and accountable for the following organizations:

BC Renaissance Capital Fund Ltd.

The BC Renaissance Capital Fund (BCRCF) is a direct investment firm which invests in venture capital funds in a range of technology sectors with a focus on information and communications technology, digital media, life sciences, and clean tech.

Forestry Innovation Investment Ltd.

Forestry Innovation Investment (FII) is a Crown Corporation that helps create, maintain and diversify markets for B.C.'s world class, environmentally friendly forest products.

InBC Investment Corporation

InBC is a public fund that contributes to investment capital in B.C. through investing in opportunities where there is both measurable social impact and financial outcome.

Innovate BC

Innovate BC is a Crown Corporation that works with all levels of government, the private sector, non-government organizations, post-secondary institutions, and others to foster innovation and support a thriving, sustainable economy.

Indigenous Business and Investment Council

The Indigenous Business and Investment Council (IBIC) is a partnership of First Nations leaders, industry and government.

Island Coastal Economic Trust

The Island Coastal Economic Trust (ICET) develops programs prioritized by and for the region and delivers government (both federal and provincial) programs.

Nechako-Kitimaat Development Fund Society

The Nechako-Kitimaat Development Fund Society supports sustainable economic activity through programs and projects that meet each community's goals in northern communities affected by the Kitimat-Kemano project and by the creation of the Nechako Reservoir.

Northern Development Initiative Trust

The Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT) develops programs prioritized by and for the regions and delivers government (both federal and provincial) programs.

Premier's Chinese Canadian Community Advisory Committee

The advisory committee provides advice to the Premier on government initiatives of interest and concern to members of the Chinese-Canadian community in B.C.

Small Business BC

Small Business BC helps British Columbia's entrepreneurs grow successful and sustainable businesses through expert business advisors, educational services, easy-to-use free resources and community events.

Small Business Roundtable

The Small Business Roundtable supports targeted outreach and engagement, providing insight on issues and opportunities facing the sector and government priorities and policy.

Southern Interior Development Initiative Trust

The Southern Interior Development Initiative Trust (SIDIT) develops programs prioritized by and for the regions and delivers government (both federal and provincial) programs.

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2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

MAJOR INVESTMENTS OFFICE ACTIVITIES

Issue: Supporting private sector proponents advance major projects in B.C.

RESPONSE

- The Major Investments Office (MIO) helps land major private sector investments that support the B.C. economy. This includes providing:
 - Concierge services to streamline government processes for large investments with significant potential economic benefits; and
 - Consulting services to thoroughly assess the merits of projects against provincial priorities and values, prior to consideration of co-funding opportunities.
- MIO is focused on a small number of high-value, high-profile investments.

Concierge Services:

- MIO acts as a dual advocate for the investor and government to help advance major projects.
- By providing personalized business support and a single point of contact to navigate project logistics and regulatory processes, MIO increases the likelihood of landing new investments.
- Examples of MIO concierge services include:
 - Conduit to key indigenous communities, stakeholders and other provincial, federal and municipal agencies;
 - Project specific advice/advocacy such as: site selection assistance; infrastructure assessment and coordination support (for example: power, water, gas, transportation, etc.); regulatory mapping; permitting support/streamlining; facilitation of multi-stakeholder negotiations and agreements; and
 - Assistance with financial support through existing B.C. and federal programs and incentives.

Project Assessments:

- MIO also provides consulting services to help confirm the benefits of high-value projects which could support development of a new generation of foundational industries.
- Using a framework built on the values outlined in StrongerBC, MIO has capacity to:
 - Review private sector business plans;
 - Initiate multi-stage project assessments, including reviewing and evaluating quantitative and qualitative project information for provincial benefits and financial strength, supporting decision-makers in the consideration of co-investment; and
 - Coordinate due diligence with federal government and/or other co-investors.
- MIO has successfully supported a series of high-profile investors in establishing a B.C. presence. The office continues to assist more than three dozen clients in key sectors, spanning clean energy, clean tech and life sciences, in considering British Columbia as a place to grow their business.

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Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- Currently, MIO is supporting 37 projects with a potential investment value of \$19 billion and 3,800 permanent jobs. Projects span 11 sectors and represent investors from within Canada (60 percent) and internationally (40 percent).

Contact:

Sean Darling A/Executive Director Major Investments Office 778-698-1625

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

Issue: General project update

- British Columbia is at the frontier of scientific discovery. We are a hub for talented people, distinguished labs and enterprising companies.
- Together, we are developing solutions to the world's most pressing health challenges.
- Business Information will help solidify our position as a leader in regenerative medicine, creating local jobs and attracting more talent and investment to our province.

Background/Status:

- Business Information
 - Business Information
 - s.21
 - Government Financial Information; Intergovernmental Communications
 - Government Financial Information; Intergovernmental Communications
 - Government Financial Information; Intergovernmental Communications
 - Government Financial Information; Intergovernmental Communications
 - Government Financial Information; Intergovernmental Communications
- The company currently employs about 1,000 people in British Columbia.
- To date, it has created .Business Information

2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

- Business Information

Contact:

Sean Darling A/Executive Director Major Investments Office 778-698-1625

2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

VENTURE CAPITAL TAX CREDIT PROGRAM

Issue: Investment through the *Small Business Venture Capital Act* (SBVCA) supports jobs and economic development throughout the province

RESPONSE

- 2022 was a strong year for venture capital investment under the Ministry's Tax Credit Program, with over 215 small businesses raising about \$137 million of equity investment, second only to the record level of investment under the program in 2021 when B.C. small businesses raised about \$185 million of investment from B.C. investors.

If asked why venture investment in B.C. dropped between 2021 and 2022:

- Venture investment in North America peaked in 2021 as investors sought higher returns by investing in start-ups and growing small businesses than the returns available from stock markets. 2022 was a strong year for venture investment but did not reach the same level as 2021 due to economic uncertainty as a result of high interest rates, high inflation and higher energy costs negatively influenced investors' outlook.

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- The Small Business Venture Capital Tax Credit de-risks investment and helps small businesses access early-stage venture capital to help start a business, commercialize ideas, and create jobs for people in every corner of the province.
- The SBVCA provides 30 percent tax credits to B.C. resident investors who invest directly into companies or into managed funds. Under the SBVCA, the tax credit budget is \$41 million annually which, with a 30 percent tax credit, can leverage investment up to \$136.7 million a year (see Appendix 1 for equity raised 2018 to 2022).
- The \$41 million tax credit budget is divided into five sub-budgets that support investment into specific business sectors. Over 100 businesses are newly registered in the program each year, and many of them qualify for registration under more than one sub-budget.
- The five sub-budgets are:
 - Business Creation - businesses less than two years old;
 - Community Diversification - outside Metro Vancouver and the Capital Regional District;
 - Digital Media - developing interactive digital media products;
 - Clean technology - R&D in clean tech and/or manufacturing clean tech products; and
 - Equity Capital - the general category under which all the above businesses qualify, plus businesses doing manufacturing and R&D (see Appendix 2 for equity raised under each sub-budget in 2022).
- Government Financial Information
- The tax credit budget is not a statutory appropriation and the SBVCA allows claims for tax credits to exceed the notional budget limit. Government Financial Information
- Government Financial Information

2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

Government Financial Information

- 2021 was an exceptional year for venture investment in North America as investors sought higher returns in venture investments than returns available from publicly traded stocks with US\$300 billion invested, nearly double the amount that was invested in 2020. B.C. benefitted from the flow of funds into venture investment as approximately \$185 million of investment was raised in 2021 under the Tax Credit Program. The economic uncertainty of 2022 (due to high interest rates and high inflation) resulted in less investment than in 2021 but was still higher than the five-year average for the program.
- The impact of lower venture investment activity resulted in fewer businesses raising investment in 2022 than in 2021, and the average amount of investment raised by businesses was approximately \$128,000 below the level reached in 2021. In 2022, the average amount raised by approximately 215 businesses was \$642,000 compared with the average amount raised in 2021 of \$770,000.
- See Appendix 3 for recent examples of B.C. technology companies that have raised tax credit supported investment.
- The Small Business Venture Capital Tax Credit budget is the smallest amongst nine other tax credit programs under Vote 51 and is the responsibility of the Ministry of Finance. Utilization of tax credits have no impact on the budget of the Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation.
- Effective for the 2022 to 2024 calendar years, Budget 2022 increased the annual maximum venture capital tax credit from \$38.5 million to \$41 million. This increase is allocated to investments made in clean technology businesses.

Attachment: Appendix 1 – Equity Leveraged by B.C. Businesses – 2018 to 2022

Appendix 2 - Detailed Tax Credit Program Stats, 2022

Appendix 3 - Recent Examples of Companies in the Tax Credit Program

Contact:

Tim Lesiuk	Assistant Deputy Minister	Innovation, Technology and Investment Capital Division	250-216-5893 778-698-4039
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2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

Appendix 1 – Equity Raised by B.C. Businesses - 2018 to 2021

	2018	2019	2020	2021	Government Financial Information
Total Amount of Equity Raised	\$106.8 M	\$115.7 M	\$114.0 M	\$185.1 M	
Total Amount of Tax Credits Claimed	\$32.0 M	\$34.7	\$34.2 M	\$55.5 M	
Number of Businesses that Raised Investment	215	234	214	240	

Government Financial Information

Government Financial Information

Tax Credit Budgets

Business Creation – for businesses less than two years old.

Community Diversification – for businesses located outside Metro Vancouver and the Capital Regional District.

Digital Media – for businesses developing interactive digital media products (e.g., video games).

Clean Technology – for businesses manufacturing clean-tech products or conducting R&D in clean technology.

Equity Capital – general category that includes the above plus businesses in manufacturing and R&D.

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Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

Appendix 3 – Recent Examples of Companies in the Tax Credit Program

Recent examples of B.C. technology companies that raised tax credit supported investment are (all the information below is publicly available):

- SaNOTize Research & Development Corp. is a life sciences company developing the use of nitric-oxide solution technologies designed to treat upper respiratory and dermal infections. In August 2022 SaNOTize raised \$24 million in venture funding co-led by venture funds Horizons Ventures and Our Crowd Ventures. The funding will advance development of SaNOTize's nitric oxide nasal spray, shown in clinical studies to treat and prevent COVID-19 infection.
- Intelligent City Inc. is a construction firm specializing in using robotics to assemble mass timber buildings, particularly homes and mid to high-rise offices. Intelligent City raised \$22 million in July 2022 to expand its factory operations in Delta, B.C., and grow new markets where jurisdictions have adopted mass timber building codes such as Alberta and Quebec, and the Pacific Northwest states of Washington, Oregon and California.
- Ideon Technologies Inc. is a company spun out of TRIUMF - Canada's national particle accelerator laboratory - and is a pioneer in the application of cosmic ray technology. Ideon's technology detects subatomic particles in ore bodies and can produce 3D geological maps to help geologists identify ores and the density of ore bodies, thereby helping geologists and mining companies reduce the risk and cost of metal and mineral exploration. In 2022, Ideon Technologies secured \$21 million in funding led by San Francisco venture fund Playground Capital.
- Terramera Inc. is an agri-tech business that specializes in developing safer, more effective plant-based replacements for synthetic chemical pesticides and fertilizers. In January 2023 it secured \$6 million in funding from At One Ventures venture fund to form a new subsidiary called EnrichAG. The funding will help launch a new technology called "enrichSoil", a breakthrough solution that delivers real-time soil analysis results with 99 percent accuracy, helping food growers optimize fertilizer use and improve soil health, the most essential component of the global food production system.
- Atlas Power Technologies Inc. is in construction of the first large-scale supercapacitor manufacturing facility in Canada, located in Abbotsford, B.C. Supercapacitors are electro-chemical devices that rapidly charge and discharge energy and can be used as part of the energy storage and management systems for renewable energy, such as wind and solar. Atlas Power's supercapacitors will use cheap and plentiful thermal coal or petroleum coke – a byproduct from oil sands – as a base for making activated carbon used in the supercapacitors.

2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

INNOVATION COMMISSIONER

Issue: Role and Appointment Status of B.C.'s Innovation Commissioner

RESPONSE

- B.C.'s Innovation Commissioner (IC) Gerri Sinclair was re-appointed for a third, one-year term by the Province on July 16, 2022.
- During her time as IC, Dr. Sinclair has engaged with hundreds of stakeholders resulting in the development and implementation of the Integrated Marketplace (IM) initiative.
- In addition, the IC has provided remarks at numerous public speaking events in various sectors to promote innovation and economic development across the province.

If asked about a particular part of note issue...

- A substantial portion of engagement done by the IC has been conducted with federal parties to socialize the Integrated Marketplace initiative. This has resulted in a high degree of enthusiasm and interest from federal agencies in the form of potential partnerships and funding contributions to the program.

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- Dr. Gerri Sinclair was re-appointed for a third term as B.C.'s Innovation Commissioner (IC) on July 16, 2022, by Order in Council, for a one-year term.
- The role was created in 2018 and was previously occupied by Dr. Alan Winter.
- Since her appointment, Dr. Sinclair has met with key stakeholders and reviewed findings from recent tech industry recovery roundtables to advise on and help implement innovation-related initiatives as part of B.C.'s Economic Plan.
- Over the past 12 months, the IC has met with 463 stakeholders¹ on key issues to support her mandate of promoting innovation across all sectors of B.C. (See Appendix 1 for a summary of meetings by topic).
- More recently, the IC has been focused on engagement to support the development and implementation of the Integrated Marketplace (see note 19). She has met with 214 stakeholders in the sector, 35 of these were federal officials including the Minister of International Trade, Export Promotion, Small Business and Economic Development, and senior members of: Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada, PacificCan, Transport Canada and the National Research Council.
- As a result of this engagement, and as part of B.C.'s Economic Plan, a cleantech-focused Integrated Marketplace (IM) was launched in 2022.
- Dr. Sinclair provided remarks at six events on various topics related to innovation including: the First Nations Business Development Association, the Vancouver Maritime Centre for Climate Flagship Blue BC Challenge, the OECD Local Development Forum, the Collision Conference, the New Economic Opportunity Forum for Vancouver's Tech Community, PortForward, and the Frontier Collective Summit.
- Dr. Sinclair's term as IC ends on July 16, 2023.

¹ This is the number of stakeholders met with, whereas the summary table in Appendix 1 provides a synopsis of number of meetings (which may include more than one stakeholder).

2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

- The work of the Innovation Commissioner is managed within the divisional budget for Innovation, Technology and Investment Capital division.

Contact:

Tim Lesiuk	Assistant Deputy Minister	Innovation, Technology and Investment Capital Division	250-216-5893 778-698-4039
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2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

Appendix 1 – Number of Engagement Meetings by Theme

Topic	Number of Engagement Meetings
Business Incubators & Accelerators	7
Artificial Intelligence, Quantum and Digital Technology	14
Transportation	8
Investment	16
Life Sciences	3
Integrated Marketplace/Clean Technologies	207
Innovation Ecosystem	31
Mining Technology	8
Skills Training	12
TOTAL	306

2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

QUANTUM ALGORITHMS INSTITUTE

Issue: The B.C. Government's funding of the Quantum Algorithms Institute

RESPONSE

- Quantum computing holds the possibility to solve incredibly complex data and computing problems with potential applications in nearly every sector.
- JEDI has budgeted up to \$17 million in total to start and establish the Quantum Algorithms Institute (QAI) to grow B.C.'s quantum computing capabilities. \$9 million of this funding has been provided since 2019/20.
- The Institute has a plan to be financially self-sufficient by 2026.

If asked about a particular part of note issue...

- The full operationalization of QAI has been delayed. This is expected to be addressed with an interim management team and new QAI business plan approved in September 2022, and the opening of QAI's physical hub at SFU in Surrey in January 2023.

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- The Quantum Algorithms Institute (QAI) was established on March 31, 2020, as an independent not-for-profit corporation.
- QAI was established to help grow B.C.'s quantum computing capabilities by:
 - Producing and educating highly qualified professionals in the fields of quantum computing, basic and quantum algorithmic research.
 - Assisting current and future industry participants in B.C. in the field of applied quantum computing in commercializing the products of their research and development with the goal of building a vibrant industry for the benefit of all British Columbians.
 - Leveraging B.C.'s strengths to establish an applied quantum computing ecosystem that features broad participation, an inclusive approach to core technology and is focused on building a critical mass of talent that drives skilled job creation and economic development in the province and Canada.
- QAI is based at Simon Fraser University's (SFU) Innovation Plaza in Surrey. This physical hub was opened in January 2023 with \$2.2 million from PacifiCan, \$1.5 million from SFU and \$0.5 million from QAI's B.C. government funding.
- Changes to leadership and management have delayed the ramp-up of QAI's operations. This is expected to be addressed with an interim management team working on implementing QAI's new business plan approved by its Board in September 2022.
- The current QAI Board consists of: Landon Downs (1Qbit); Paul Gulyas (IBM Canada); Stephanie Simmons (Photonic); Murray Thom (D-Wave); Dugan O'Neil (SFU); Cynthia Milton (UVic); and Tim Lesiuk (B.C. Government).

- QAI intends to be financially self-sufficient by 2026 through several potential revenue streams, including consulting, computing services, business and data services, training courses, hosting events, federal funding and industry partnerships.
- Some key activities undertaken in 2022 include:
 - A partnership with Strangeworks to streamline access to quantum systems for researchers and professionals.
 - The establishment of a roster of university researcher QAI Affiliate Fellows.
 - Hosting and contributing to events such as with Xanadu, Foxconn (the world's largest electronics manufacturer) and the Quantum Summit in Calgary.
- In January 2023, the federal government launched its National Quantum Strategy. QAI Director Stephanie Simmons has been appointed Co-Chair of Canada's new Quantum Advisory Council to guide implementation of the strategy.
- The B.C. Government has allocated up to \$17 million in total to establish the QAI, with \$9 million provided to date (of which about \$2 million has been spent) and another \$8 million subject to available budget appropriation and review of annual reports and future funding plans from the Institute.

Why Quantum Computing – Context

- Quantum computing represents the next major evolution of computing capability. While still pre-commercial, there is consensus that quantum computing holds the possibility of solving incredibly complex problems faster and with less energy than traditional computers, or solving problems that are too complex even for today's super computers.
- Experts believe that quantum computing will have applications in nearly every sector, including cybersecurity, mining, communications, healthcare, biology, chemistry and optimization problems that involve huge and complex data sets.

Contact:

Tim Lesiuk	Assistant Deputy Minister	Innovation, Technology and Investment Capital Division	250-216-5893 778-698-4039
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2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

LAUNCH ONLINE GRANT PROGRAM

Issue: B.C. Government funding of Launch Online Grant Program

RESPONSE

- The Launch Online Grant Program (program) provided grant funding during the pandemic (2021) to B.C.'s small and medium-sized businesses needing to build or improve their e-commerce tools and supports.
- 30 percent of the funding was ear-marked for regional and Indigenous, Black and people of colour (IBPOC) owned businesses.
- Over 8,600 applications were received and over 5,600 businesses received \$41 million in funding. 51 percent of grant payments were issued to regional and IBPOC owned businesses.

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- The Launch Online Grant Program provided funds to B.C.'s small and medium-sized businesses that need to build or improve their e-commerce tools and supports.
- The program was administered by Alacrity Canada in partnership with South Island Prosperity Project, Button and JetStream, the successful proponents on a Request for Proposal in 2020.
- The program first launched on Feb 3, 2021, and began by supporting B.C. businesses selling tangible goods. It was expanded on March 17, 2021, to include service-based businesses.
- Launch Online Grant program provided up to \$7,500 in grant funding to eligible businesses. Businesses were to fund 25 percent of the project costs. Originally, 25 percent of the funding was ear-marked for regional and Indigenous businesses, but this was extended to 30 percent and to include IBPOC-owned businesses on March 17th as part of the program expansion.
- Eligible expenses included:
 - Service provider costs – these expenses needed to be B.C.-based businesses, registered to do business in B.C.;
 - Digital marketing costs, such as Facebook ads, search engine optimization costs and platform subscription costs; and
 - Course fees for staff training related to the management of the online operations and/or digital marketing.
- Businesses receiving the grant needed to use the funding to hire B.C.-based businesses to do any work for them, ensuring the bulk of the funding remained in B.C. This also provided an economic multiplier effect that supported B.C. businesses and B.C. job creation.
- As a condition of the grant, recipients were required to provide a breakdown of what they were looking to spend the grant on including mandatory features such as: customer registration, payment processing, product catalogue, shopping cart and website analytics.
- Alacrity then checked the provided URL for these mandatory features and recorded what features were net new or updated.

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Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

Key Statistics

- Over 8,660 applications were received from February 2021 to September 2021 and 5,669 businesses received \$41 million in funding, an average of \$7,184 per business. All files have been adjudicated.
- 51 percent of grant payments were issued to regional and IBPOC businesses. This included:
 - 1,867 grants issued to regional businesses (outside Metro Vancouver and Capital Regional District).
 - 150 grants issued to Indigenous-owned businesses.
 - 1,221 grants issued to Black and people of colour owned businesses.

Success Stories

- A painter located on Vancouver Island stated that “adding e-commerce has made such a big difference for me. Both in how much time I have to spend billing and invoicing and reducing buying-point friction for my customers. Now I spend more time doing what I love, painting, and less on paperwork”.
- An acupuncturist in the Metro Vancouver region stated that “we really appreciate this grant and we are so appreciative that we could start growing our business through this”.
- A Registered Massage Therapist located on Vancouver Island stated: "Thank you so much!! This grant has really helped strengthen my online presence and I'm deeply grateful for the opportunity and funding to be able to expand and diversify my service offerings."

Contact:

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2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

DIGITAL MARKETING BOOTCAMP - StrongerBC

Issue: Digital marketing training to support businesses move to online sales to connect with local and global customers

RESPONSE

- E-commerce grew by more than 70 percent in Canada in 2020 as a result of the pandemic. JEDI has been supporting this shift to e-commerce through an investment in the Digital Marketing Bootcamp program.
- Since fall 2019, this \$6.0 million investment has supported nearly 8,000 B.C. businesses to acquire digital marketing skills to access other markets and connect with consumers online.
- To date, underrepresented groups and regional communities represent over 74 percent of business enrolment.
- The course is expected to be fully subscribed by end of March 2023.

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- E-commerce grew by more than 70 percent in Canada in 2020 as a result of the pandemic and has continued to factor strongly in B.C.'s businesses.
- JEDI has been supporting the shift to e-commerce through two primary initiatives: the Digital Marketing Bootcamp program, which was expanded from a pilot program; and the Launch Online Grant program (See Note #13), delivered under StrongerBC.

Digital Marketing Bootcamp

- In 2019, JEDI contracted Alacrity Foundation, the successful proponents on a Request for Proposal and worked with them and industry to develop and pilot a 12-week digital marketing bootcamp addressing talent and capability gaps in B.C.
- The first pilot was delivered in fall 2019, followed by a second in winter 2020. The pilots included businesses, under-represented peoples and people already working in the field who wanted to improve their skills. The pilot also tested classroom and virtual delivery.
- The 2019 pilot resulted in an 85 percent job placement rate within one month of completion.
- The program was expanded under StrongerBC and relaunched in November 2020 as an 8-week virtual training program after a \$2 million investment from the Province. Due to positive feedback and ongoing demand, JEDI provided an additional \$2.5 million investment in 2021. A further investment of \$1.5 million was made in 2022.
- The \$6.0 million investment will support nearly 8,000 B.C. businesses to acquire digital marketing skills to access other markets and connect with consumers online.
- Tuition has been fully covered through StrongerBC funding for eligible B.C. businesses. Eligible businesses include those that are currently registered and operating in B.C. and employ less than 149 employees.
- Of the over 7,800 participants that have registered, approximately 20 percent have completed the program, while another 21 percent have done 80 percent or more. One-quarter are at least half done the program. By comparison, the average completion rate of free online courses is around 5 percent.

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Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

- The course is expected to be fully subscribed in end of March 2023.

Outcomes and Success

- On average, 188 new participants were enrolled in the program each month during the period of April 2022 to January 2023.
- 92 percent of those who completed the program would recommend it to another business.
- Based on a six-month graduation survey:
 - 79 percent currently use the skills learned in the bootcamp.
 - 68 percent listed the bootcamp as the sole economic recovery program they have utilized.
 - Close to half of respondents (47.4 percent) indicated a demonstrable increase in digital customer acquisition; almost one-third (31.6 percent) said it was too soon to tell.
- To support diversity and inclusion, 30 percent of new seats have been reserved for Indigenous, Black and people of colour, as well as regional businesses (outside Metro Vancouver and Capital Regional District). To date, underrepresented groups and regional communities represent over 74 percent of business enrolment.
- The Bootcamp has received hundreds of student testimonials that attest to the impact the program has and continues to have on their business. Many of these respondents stated that they felt "more confident and ready to implement digital marketing strategies and tactics in their workplace". Some testimonials we have received:
 - "I've recommended Alacrity to a number of my clients and colleagues so they can have a stronger understanding of 'why' a digital strategy is critical to their success and growth, not just 'how' to use various channels. It has given many a few light bulb moments, and a deeper appreciation of key metrics and their own ROI, and it has helped me be a better guide and advisor."
 - "It already helped my business by placing it on the first page of Google, I learned to optimize my website and information to be crucial to customers."
 - "I have attended two Social Media camps in Victoria and find the Digital Marketing Bootcamp is keeping me relevant with the ever-changing world of Digital Marketing."

Contact:

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2022/23 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

DIGITAL GLOBAL INNOVATION CLUSTER

Issue: B.C. Government's participation in the Digital Global Innovation Cluster

RESPONSE

- The Digital Global Innovation Cluster (Digital Cluster) is one of five federal innovation clusters.
- From 2018-2022, the federal government committed \$173 million to the Digital Cluster. B.C. has provided annual funding over the same period to a total of \$6.75 million.
- The Digital Cluster has supported investment of over \$250 million in B.C. led innovation. The Province's contributions have helped fund more than 20 projects with \$40 million in investment.
- In addition to annual funding, as part of the StrongerBC Future Leaders Program, B.C. invested \$7 million to support at least 1,400 participants in the Canadian Tech Talent Accelerator Project, a digital skills training program for youth from underrepresented communities.

If asked about a particular part of note issue...

- In February 2023, Canada confirmed additional funding of \$125 million over six years (2023-2028) for the Digital Cluster. The Digital Cluster will be approaching B.C. for further Provincial funding.

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- The Digital Global Innovation Cluster (Digital Cluster), headquartered in Vancouver, is one of five federal innovation clusters. B.C. is a founding member.
- Formerly the Digital Technology Supercluster, the organization was renamed to 'Digital Technology Cluster' in January 2023 as part of the renewal of Canada's cluster program.
- One of the key Digital Cluster programs the Province has invested in is the Canadian Tech Talent Accelerator which is a 15-week skills training & job placement program targeted at Black, Indigenous and People of Colour and underrepresented B.C. youth.
- As part of the StrongerBC Future Leaders Program, the Province invested \$7 million in 2020/21 in the Canadian Tech Talent Accelerator Project with an initial target of at least 1,400 participants.
- The program runs to March 31, 2024. As of December 2022, the program has had 1,105 applicants, 693 enrollments and 476 graduates. To date, almost 80 percent of participants have graduated with at least one industry-recognized certification, and more than 85 percent of graduates have either secured employment (in tech roles with London Drugs, BDO Canada and YWCA, etc.), or enrolled in further education within seven months of completing the program.
- Program participation includes:
 - 72 percent BIPOC;
 - 57 percent new Canadians;
 - 50 percent women, non-binary or gender-diverse;
 - 10 percent 2SLGBTQ+; and

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Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

- 1 percent Indigenous.
- B.C.'s contributions to the Digital Cluster have helped fund a portfolio of more than 20 projects with private and public investments exceeding \$40 million. Recent projects include:
 - Athena Digital Leaders led by AlnBC:
 - Wage subsidies and training for women and new immigrants in artificial intelligence, machine learning and data science.
 - Coastal First Nations (CFN) Connectivity Network:
 - Employ and train up to 12 CFN members in technology leadership positions.
- From 2018-2022, the federal government committed \$173 million to the Digital Cluster. In Budget 2022, Canada announced further funding for the five global innovation clusters. In February 2023, Canada confirmed additional funding of up to \$125 million over six years for the Digital Cluster.
- As of September 2022, the Digital Cluster had, through its public/private co-funding approach, invested over \$250 million in B.C.-led innovation, supporting the success of B.C.-based businesses including Firstline, Koonkie, Ideon Technologies, FoodX, and FoodMesh.
- The Digital Cluster's members represent organizations, industry and institutes from across Canada and range from start-ups to world-leading companies. Members include:
 - Global leaders: Canfor, LifeLabs, Lululemon, Telus, Teck Resources
 - Tech leaders: D-Wave Systems, Ideon Technologies, LlamaZOO, Terramera
- The Digital Cluster has approached the Province with funding proposals for new projects, which are currently being reviewed.
- The Province has contributed \$750,000 in 2018/2019 (pro rata) and 1.5 million per year between 2019/2020-2022/2023 for a total of \$6.75 million through a Membership Agreement.
- The Digital Cluster is supported financially by the Ministries of Health (MoH), Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation (JEDI), and Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills (PSEFS). [MoH = \$750,000; JEDI = \$500,000; PSEFS = \$250,000].
- The Province's annual contribution supports the Capacity Building Programs (\$1.0 million) and Digital Cluster operations (\$0.5 million).
- In addition, the Province has provided \$7 million for the Canadian Tech Talent Accelerator project between 2021-2024 (\$6.97M in 2020/21, \$15k in 2022/23, and \$15K in 2023/24).

Contact:

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2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

CLEAN TECHNOLOGY

Issue: Overview of B.C.'s Cleantech Sector

RESPONSE

- B.C.'s cleantech sector is important to help realize StrongerBC and CleanBC goals and make B.C. industries across the province cleaner and more competitive.
- The ministry provides support at all stages of innovation through investments in the B.C. Knowledge Development Fund, Foresight Cleantech Accelerator Centre, and transfer funding to Innovate BC for a number of projects.
- In addition, the Small Business Venture Capital Tax Credit Program has issued tax credits of about \$6.9 million during FY22/23 in cleantech companies, enabling businesses to raise about \$23.1 million.

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- B.C.'s cleantech sector is important to help realize StrongerBC and CleanBC goals and make B.C. industries across the province cleaner and more competitive.
- B.C.'s cleantech sector was impacted but relatively resilient during the pandemic and has continued its growth trajectory with contributions to GDP, across a broad range of industries:
 - The cleantech sector represented about 1.7 percent of B.C.'s GDP in 2021. For comparison with other sectors, see Attachment 1.
 - In 2020, B.C.'s environmental and cleantech companies generated over \$2.5 billion in revenue and employed almost 13,000 people.
 - B.C. has approximately 500 cleantech companies, representing 20.3 percent of Canadian companies, second only to Ontario.
 - Six B.C. companies (Ekona Power, Moment Energy, Iononomr Innovations, Mangrove Lithium, Pani Energy and Svante) made the 2023 Global Cleantech Top 100 list of companies in sustainable technology and innovation.
 - The environmental and cleantech sector in the province grew by about 27 percent between 2017 and 2021. Average Canadian wages in the industry rose 6.4 percent in 2020 compared to 2019 to more than \$96,000 versus an economy-wide average of about \$69,000.
 - The global cleantech industry is on a growth trajectory. The global market was estimated to reach over 3.3 trillion USD by 2022. CleanBC has helped set the stage for B.C. to play a prominent role in Canada and capitalize on this significant economic opportunity.
- The ministry provides supports at all stages of innovation:
 - Over the past three fiscal years (2019/20 to 2021/22), the Province (through the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills) has invested over \$7.8 million in innovative infrastructure to support cleantech research through the B.C. Knowledge Development Fund.
 - e.g. B.C. contributed \$1.6 million to UBC's "Used-Water to Resource" project, to develop knowledge and technologies essential to transforming

- the current used-water treatment systems (enabling greater contaminant removal, reduced energy requirements).
 - This research will position B.C. and Canada, as well as industry partners, as global leaders in resource recovery from used water.
- Through its Venture Acceleration Network, Innovate BC funds the Foresight Cleantech Accelerator Centre to help advance B.C.'s growing cleantech industry.
 - Government provided \$500,000 in funding to Foresight in FY21/22 through Innovate BC.
 - The Venture Acceleration Network is available to clean technology companies throughout the province (from Prince George, to Nanaimo, to the Okanagan). This network of accelerators help advance B.C.'s growing cleantech industry by helping entrepreneurs define a proven business model.
- The ministry provides a transfer to Innovate BC to support its operations, which include the BC Fast Pilot program. Since the program started in 2019, \$7.9 million has been invested into 62 B.C. projects.
 - Outcomes from the first three years of Fast Pilot funding (2019-2021) include the creation of 97 jobs, the acquisition of 102 customers and an increase of \$12 in new revenue for participating projects.
 - In the 2022/23 intake, the program funded robotics company Novarc Technologies to test and validate the first clean, intelligent orbital welding machine at a pilot project in Northern B.C.
- The B.C. Government invested over \$1.3 million in the Alacrity Foundation's B.C. Cleantech Scale-Up program, and as of September 30, 2022, B.C. companies enrolled in the program attracted \$75.1 million of investment and achieved export revenue of \$29.9 million.
- In FY22/23, the Small Business Venture Capital Tax Credit Program has issued tax credits of about \$6.9 million in cleantech companies, enabling businesses to raise about \$23.1 million.

Contact:

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2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

ATTACHMENT 1:

B.C. GDP Composition by Select Industry Sectors (2021)

Shares of B.C. GDP at basic prices by major industry

Industry Sector	GDP Contribution (percent)
Manufacturing	6.2%
Energy	5.2%
Mining, quarrying, oil & gas extraction	4.4%
Mining and quarrying (except oil/gas extraction)	2.2%
Agriculture, forestry, fishing & hunting	2.1%
Forestry/logging only	0.6%

From StatsCan <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/cv.action?pid=3610040201>

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Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

StrongerBC ECONOMIC PLAN

Issue: Implementation program for StrongerBC Economic Plan

RESPONSE

- The StrongerBC Economic Plan was launched in February 2022 after extensive engagement with British Columbians from every region of the province who confirmed that the central aim for B.C.'s long-term economic plan needs to be clean and inclusive economic growth shared by all.
- The long-term plan is designed to meet the challenges of our time by achieving the two big goals of clean and inclusive growth to create a more prosperous B.C. today and for generations to come.
- The plan identifies six missions for the economy:
 - Supporting people and families;
 - Building resilient communities;
 - Advancing true, lasting and meaningful reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples;
 - Meeting B.C.'s Climate Commitments;
 - Leading on environmental and social responsibility; and
 - Fostering innovation across our economy will shape our economy to work for everyone.
- JEDI has developed an implementation program, ensuring that government investment in the economy is aligned with the plan's goals.
- Performance measures for each of the plan's six missions are in development to track progress over time. A suite of initial performance measures is included on the ministry's website
- Through 2023, further stakeholder engagement and research on views of British Columbians will give government the insight it needs to craft our next StrongerBC actions.

If asked why targets have not been set for the plan (discussed in Estimates March 2022)?

- StrongerBC is a long-term economic plan, guiding government's actions for the next 10 to 15 years. Once the performance measures are developed, the Province will be able to consider setting targets.

If asked why Budget 2023 does not use the plan's goals and missions?

- The plan's missions and goals are a long-term framework for the B.C. economy.

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

StrongerBC Economic Plan

- The StrongerBC Economic Plan was released February 17, 2022, and remains one of government's signature economic documents.
- The Economic Plan is the B.C. government's vision for the province looking ahead to the next 10 to 15 years, supporting a new approach to the economy calling on British Columbians to achieve two big goals: inclusive growth and clean growth.

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Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

- StrongerBC includes over 70 initiatives from across government totaling more than \$1.5 billion in expenditures. Programs are ongoing and continue to deliver benefits to people in B.C. into 2022/23:
 - B.C. launched a new B.C. Centre for Agritech Innovation in July 2022 to help further position the province as a world leader in agricultural technology. Funds from the Province of British Columbia and Pacific Economic Development Canada (PacifiCan) are already being invested in companies, with four recently receiving \$540,000.
 - The province has supported the B.C. Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN) to launch a new Centre of Excellence in First Nations Economic Development, and the Province is providing more than \$1.2 million to the BCAFN this year for the launch. The centre will support First Nations to determine and implement their economic development goals, priorities and strategies, and it will help advance the role of First Nations in B.C.'s inclusive economy and to work toward true and lasting reconciliation.
 - In January 2023, government announced a new BC Manufacturing Jobs Fund, investing as much as \$90 million over three years into high-value manufacturing in rural areas. The program has recently been expanded to include manufacturing projects in all areas of B.C. and up to \$180 million is now available. The fund will support established for-profit organizations to plan and launch shovel-ready projects that bring direct benefits and stable, family-supporting jobs to regional and Indigenous communities.
- The plan was built through extensive engagement sessions with a wide cross-section of stakeholders, experts and everyday British Columbians.
- Supporting the Province's efforts from the outset has been Professor Mariana Mazzucato, one of the world's leading experts on innovation, inclusivity and sustainable growth, who has advised governments all over the world.

Spring 2023 report on StrongerBC implementation

- A comprehensive report is being developed for spring 2023, giving more detail on how government is delivering each of the plan's six missions.

StrongerBC Performance Measures

- With the release of the plan in February 2022, JEDI included a preliminary suite of performance indicators based on the structure of key goals and missions, with a commitment to broaden measurables over time.
- Advice/Recommendations

Stakeholder engagement

- Since the plan was published, JEDI has continued engagement with stakeholders to understand views on the delivery of the economic plan.
- Government intends to carry out further in-depth stakeholder engagement through summer 2023.

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Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

Attachment: Appendix 1 - Inclusive Growth and Clean Growth Flagship Actions

Contact:

Danielle Grbavac Executive Director Economic Plan Branch 250-818-4877

Appendix 1 – Inclusive Growth and Clean Growth Flagship Actions

Inclusive Growth Flagship Actions	
Launching the Future Ready: Skills for the Jobs of Tomorrow plan	<i>Underway</i>
Accelerating the timeline to connect all B.C. communities to high-speed internet	<i>Underway</i>
Creating a Small Business Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan	<i>Underway</i>
Collaborating on an Indigenous economic development agency	✓
Building a new Trades and Technology Complex at BCIT	✓
Clean Growth Flagship Actions	
Developing a Mass Timber Action Plan	✓
Creating a Life Sciences and Biomanufacturing Strategy	<i>Underway</i>
Delivering a Trade Diversification Strategy	✓
Establishing Integrated Marketplaces for innovation	✓
Creating an Industrial and Manufacturing Action Plan	<i>Underway</i>
Establishing an ESG Centre of Excellence	<i>Underway</i>
Creating an Agritech Centre of Excellence	✓
Initiating a Goods Movement Strategy	✓

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Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

LIFE SCIENCES & BIOMANUFACTURING STRATEGY

Issue: B.C. Life Sciences and Biomanufacturing Strategy – an Economic Plan commitment

RESPONSE

- The Ministry has released the Life Sciences and Biomanufacturing Strategy to create high-value jobs for B.C. workers, to strengthen our connections to the global life sciences supply chain, and support the transition to a cleaner, more resilient, knowledge-based economy.
- We had committed to developing this strategy as a deliverable of the StrongerBC Economic Plan, released last year.
- We have already announced funding in support of the Life Sciences and Biomanufacturing Strategy implementation (funding from 2022/23 FY).
 - We have invested \$2 million to establish a National Biomanufacturing Training Centre at the BC Institute of Technology to address a demand for highly-skilled biomanufacturing operators for our growing industry, leveraging \$5.2 million in federal co-funding from PacificCan.
 - We have invested \$10 million to build turnkey wet-lab facilities for our innovative early-stage biotech companies to combat the shortage of lab capable real estate.

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- B.C.'s life sciences sector is the fastest growing life sciences sector in Canada, with more businesses created in B.C. than anywhere else in Canada, a 57 percent increase from 2018 to 2021.
- B.C.'s life sciences sector is a global leader in nanomedicine, genomics, HIV-AIDS, radiotherapeutics, precision medicine, mRNA vaccines, lipid nanoparticles, antibodies, medical technology and medical device design, and innovative therapeutic platforms, with applications spanning from vaccines to oncology to rare diseases.
- Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, B.C.'s life sciences research and companies have earned international recognition for new technologies and treatments that are being used around the world.
 - Every COVID-19 vaccine candidate that reached late-stage development in 2020 used components that were developed or manufactured by a B.C. company or scientist, for example:
 - The mRNA COVID-19 vaccines developed by Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna and CureVac rely on technology originally developed in Vancouver – the Lipid Nanoparticle delivery platforms (LNP).
 - AbCellera, BC-based biotech company developed the first antibody therapeutic approved to treat COVID-19 patients.
- Statistics (2021) – the updated Life Sciences Sector Profile will be released in May.
- B.C. is home to:
 - Canada's largest biotech company, STEMCELL Technologies, employing over 1,800 employees.
 - Canada's largest medical device company, Starfish Medical.

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Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

- Four of Canada's largest biotech companies, with greater than \$1 billion in market capitalization, are: AbCellera Biologics Inc., Xenon Pharmaceuticals Inc., Chinook Therapeutics Inc., and Aurinia Pharmaceuticals Inc.
- The Ministry provides supports to Life Sciences in British Columbia:
 - Through the BC Knowledge Development Fund, a program matching federal funding for research infrastructure and equipment at universities, the Province funded close to \$5 million in 2022/23 and over \$25 million in 2021/22 to support innovative health and life sciences research facilities (funding from Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills capital budget). This funding leveraged close to \$48 million in Federal and other funding, for a total of \$78 million for B.C. researchers.
 - In 2022/23, over \$19 million was invested in B.C.'s life sciences start-ups under the Small Business Venture Capital Tax Credit Program, for which the province issued approximately \$6 million in tax credits to B.C. investors.
 - Last year, \$195 million was announced to Michael Smith Health Research BC and Genome BC to support life sciences and health research (funding from Ministry of Health).
 - InBC – a strategic investment fund created was launched with \$500 million to invest in growing funds and companies, also includes biotechnology and life sciences investment areas.

Contact:

Maija Duffy	Executive Director	Biomanufacturing & Life Sciences	250-507-0685
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2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

INTEGRATED MARKETPLACE – ECON PLAN

Issue: New Economic Plan initiative matching market-ready clean technology innovations to local industry aggregated demand

RESPONSE

- As part of the StrongerBC Economic Plan, the Government of B.C. is investing \$11.5 million to support the further development and implementation of the Integrated Marketplace (IM) initiative.
- The IM was announced in December 2022, with Vancouver International Airport (YVR) as the first industry partner and testbed.
- A second testbed at the Prince Rupert Port Authority is set to be announced in March 2023.
- The ministry's Crown corporation, Innovate BC, has been designated as the delivery partner for the program and will house the IM operations team.

If asked about a particular part of note issue...

- Specific projects addressing the decarbonization of operations have been identified by both industry partners. The proposed projects will include made-in-B.C. technology components, with first pilots beginning in spring of 2023.

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- The Integrated Marketplace (IM) connects a consortium of industry partners with innovative suppliers to make industry more productive/resilient while scaling-up and ultimately exporting B.C. cleantech solutions.
- \$11 million has been allocated from the StrongerBC envelope over three years building on previous funding of \$0.5 million for a total Provincial investment of \$11.5 million in the program. Funding is to cover IM operations and projects at three testbeds in B.C. that meet the goals of the IM.
- The IM announced a partnership with Vancouver International Airport (YVR) in December 2022 as its first industry partner and testbed. The IM will link YVR to B.C. cleantech companies who can implement solutions for the electrification of its operations to meet its net-zero by 2030 commitment.
- The IM expects to announce its second testbed (the Prince Rupert Port Authority) in March 2023, with discovery work underway to identify a third testbed.
- First pilot projects are expected to launch by March 31, 2023, with projects focused on reducing GHG emissions, improving safety, or increasing productivity.
- The first two testbeds were chosen to pilot the IM through engagement with B.C.'s Innovation Commissioner and ministry staff throughout 2021 and 2022. Each is seeking solutions to improve transportation-related environmental impacts within their operations. Through multiple workshops (known as Design Labs) in the spring and fall of 2022, the top priorities and solution providers were identified.
- In July 2022, an RFP was launched seeking proponents who could plan the operating structure of the IM, including its three main components: the alliance of industry partners seeking solutions, the innovation solutions providers, and the Integrated Marketplace Operations team who would facilitate pilot projects.

2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

- The RFP was awarded in October 2022.
- The proponent led Design Labs in the fall of 2022.
- Final deliverables for the project will be received by March 31, 2023.
- Contract total: \$500,000
- This contract builds on one from 2020/21 for \$100,000 to conduct Design Workshops with potential testbeds.
- The ministry's Crown corporation, Innovate BC, has been designated as the IM program's delivery partner and will house the Integrated Marketplace Operations team. The VP of Integrated Marketplace Operations was hired in January 2023, and two director roles are in the process of being hired.
- Initial success for IM will be measured through its ability to match innovative made-in-B.C. solutions to industry problems; support projects that reduce GHGs, increase safety and increase productivity; and kickstart, scale and export innovation, by identifying first customers and offering proof of concept.
- Learnings from this initial round of testbed pilots will guide future expansion of the IM over its three years of funding.

Contact:

Elaine Cross	Executive Director	Innovation Programs and Partnerships	250-893-0582
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2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

ESG CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

Issue: ESG Centre of Excellence to serve as a catalyst and advocate for the development and promotion of B.C.'s ESG advantages

RESPONSE

- As part of the economic plan, the Province committed to establishing an ESG Centre of Excellence (Centre) to leverage our environmental, social and governance (ESG) strengths and build B.C.'s clean and inclusive economy.
- B.C. has distinct ESG advantages, and we are well positioned to compete and win in this new global economy that puts a premium on ESG values.
- This will be an important investment to continue strengthening B.C.'s reputation as a world leader in ESG and to help equip B.C. businesses to continue to be competitive and attract investors.
- The Centre will help facilitate ESG investments in B.C., attract socially and environmentally conscious investors, and diversify markets for B.C.'s goods and services for long-term growth.

If asked about opening/launch date

- Detailed plans for the Centre are still under development; however, it is estimated the Centre will open sometime in the spring/summer of 2023.

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- B.C.'s high standards for environmental protection, social support, and democratic governance are an important and growing economic advantage.
- The rising importance of ESG in global markets has opened a short window for B.C. to capitalize on its ESG advantage.

Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences; Government Financial Information; Intergovernmental Communications

2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences; Government Financial Information; Intergovernmental Communications

Contact:

Kursti Calder

Executive Project
Director

ESG Centre of Excellence 250-415-0329

2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

DEPUTY MINISTER'S OFFICE BUDGET IN 2023/24

Issue: Deputy Minister's Office budget in 2023/24.

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- The Deputy Minister's Office budget in 2023/24 is \$1.1216 million; this is an increase of \$44,000 from last year's Restated Estimates of \$1.172 million.
- The increase is related to compensation increases under the Shared Recovery Mandate.
- The Deputy Minister's office has funding for a staffing complement of seven FTEs (includes Deputy Minister).

Estimates Budget	2022/23 Restated Estimates (\$)	2023/24 Estimates (\$)	Change (\$)
Salaries and Benefits	986,000	1,030,000	44,000
Travel	68,000	68,000	0
Legal Services	7,000	7,000	0
Information Systems	25,000	25,000	0
Office and Business	68,000	68,000	0
Operating Expenses	15,000	15,000	0
Building Occupancy	1,000	1,000	0
Other Expenses	2,000	2,000	0
TOTAL	1,172,000	1,216,000	44,000

Contact:

Carla Merkel

A/CFO

Financial Services Branch 778-698-3361

2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION (CROWNS)

Issue: Executive Compensation in Ministry Crown corporations reported by PSEC

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- The Public Sector Employers Act (PSEA) requires employers to disclose their senior executive compensation within six months of their fiscal year end in a form and manner directed by the CEO of PSEC.
- The compensation that is disclosed includes holdbacks, benefits, perquisites, allowances, pension, severances, salary continuance and any other payments.
- The requirements to disclose apply to all public sector employers', CEOs/Presidents and the top four executives earning \$125,000 or more in base salary.
- Crowns may utilize holdbacks for executive compensation or, with the endorsement of the Board and approval from PSEC Secretariat, may phase them out. In situations where holdbacks are phased out, the maximum achievable salary (base plus full holdback) may not be exceeded.
- JEDI Crowns do not currently utilize holdbacks in their pay structure (see below).
- Increases in total compensation may be due to vacation payouts, retirement allowances or other payments.
- To support the principles of fiscal restraint, this government:
 - Provides direction to public sector entities on standards of conduct, including post-employment restrictions;
 - Ensures direction for crowns intended to strengthen accountability, promote cost control, and ensure public sector entities operate in the best interest of taxpayers;
 - Maintains an effective and transparent executive compensation framework for Crown corporations.

Name and Position	Salary	Holdback / Bonus and/or Incentive Plan Compensation	Benefits	Pension	All Other* Compensation	2021/22 Total
Innovate BC						
Raghwa Gopal, President & CEO	\$ 190,008	-	\$ 10,461	\$ 19,085	\$ 20,635	\$ 240,189
Jennie Choboter, CFO	\$ 157,518	-	\$ 4,375	-	-	\$ 161,893
Tomica Divic, VP Operations	\$ 157,440	-	\$ 12,422	\$ 15,508	-	\$ 185,370

2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

Name and Position	Salary	Holdback / Bonus and/or Incentive Plan Compensation	Benefits	Pension	All Other* Compensation	2021/22 Total
Sandra Wear, VP Marketing and Communication	\$14,365	-	\$2,104	-	\$9,034	\$25,503
General Note: Sandra Wear's compensation represents earnings in her full-time role as Vice President, Marketing and Communication from April 1, 2021 to May 10, 2021						
InBC Investment Corp.						
Jill Earchy, Chief Executive Officer	\$ 61,040	-	\$ 6,250	\$ 6,013	\$3,152	\$ 76,455
David Mortimer, Chief Financial Officer	\$ 97,622	-	\$ 15,180	\$ 9,616	\$6,583	\$ 129,001
General Note: Jill Earchy joined InBC Investment Corp. as Chief Executive Officer on December 13, 2021 David Mortimer compensation reflects service from July 1, 2021 as a seconded employee. Employee became permanent March 7, 2022						
Forestry Innovation Investment						
Michael Loseth, CEO	\$182,710	-	\$11,311	\$17,928	\$777	\$212,726
Douglas Greig, CFO & VP, Finance & Administration	\$160,096	-	\$9,639	\$15,709	\$16,090	\$201,534
Jim Messer, Vice President, International Marketing	\$170,654	-	\$9,911	\$16,745	-	\$197,310
Sonya Zeitler-Fletcher, VP Market Development	\$171,281	-	\$10,759	\$16,807	\$6,839	\$205,686

*Other compensation includes categories such as vacation payout, sick leave payout, vehicle allowance, paid parking, severance/salary continuance, retirement allowance, professional dues or fees and administrative leaves.

Contact:

Brian Urquhart

A/ADM and EFO

Management
Services Division

236-478-1767

2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

MINISTERS' OFFICES BUDGET

Issue: Ministers' Offices Budget in 2023/24

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- The Ministers' Offices budgets for 2023/24 total \$1.188 million, a \$25,000 decrease from the 2022/23 Restated Estimates.
- *Budget 2023* includes adjustments made to the Ministers' Offices budgets to better align budgets with staffing complements and historic spending. These entries were approved by the Premier's Office, resulting in the following adjustments:
 - \$28,000 Increase to the Ministers' Office budget; this adjustment includes salaries and benefits, and a \$5,000 increase in training under Office and Business expenses
 - (\$53,000) decrease to the Minister of State for Trade's Office Salaries and Benefits budget
 - There is no change in staffing complement (number of staff) in the Ministers' Offices from the prior year
 - The Minister's Office has funding for a staffing complement of 7 FTEs (including the Minister) and the Minister of State's Office has a staffing complement of 3 FTEs. (including the Minister of State)

Minister's Office			
Expenditure Type	2022/23 Restated Estimates	2023/24 Estimates	Increase/ (Decrease)
Salaries	491,000	513,000	22,000
Benefits	150,000	152,000	2,000
Legislative Salaries	59,000	58,000	(1,000)
Travel	100,000	100,000	0
Information Systems	10,000	10,000	0
Office and Business	20,000	25,000	5,000
Amortization Expense	1,000	1,000	0
TOTAL	\$831,000	\$859,000	\$28,000

Minister of State for Trade's Office			
Expenditure Type	2022/23 Restated Estimates	2023/24 Estimates	Increase/ (Decrease)
Salaries	198,000	151,000	(47,000)
Benefits	66,000	56,000	(10,000)
Legislative Salaries	39,000	43,000	4,000
Travel	79,000	79,000	0
TOTAL	\$382,000	\$329,000	(\$53,000)

Corinne Ferreira A/Director, Budgets Financial Services Branch 778-698-3372

2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

MINISTERS' OFFICES TRAVEL

Issue: Minister's Office and Minister of State's Office Travel Expenses

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- The Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation's Office has a 2023/24 travel budget of \$100,000, which is consistent with previous years.
- The Minister of State for Trade has a travel budget in 2023/24 of \$79,000, which is consistent with previous years.

Current Minister Travel

- Honourable Brenda Bailey, Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation has no travel expenses for the period December 7, 2022¹ to December 31, 2022
- Honourable Jagrup Brar, Minister of State for Trade, has no travel expenses for the period December 7, 2022² to December 31, 2022

Previous Minister Travel

- Minister Ravis Kahlon's Travel expenses for the period April 1, 2022 to December 7, 2022 were \$20,507.83 This travel is relates to his time as the Minister of Jobs Economic Development and Innovation
- Minister George Chow's travel expenses for the period April 1, 2022 to December 7, 2022 were \$3,907.24 during his time as the Minister of State for Trade

The Ministers' travel expenses are made available on a quarterly basis on the government's Open Information website.

Contact:

Corinne Ferreira A/Director, Budgets Financial Services Branch 778-698-3372

¹ Honourable Brenda Bailey was appointed as Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation on December 7, 2022.

² Honourable Jagrup Brar was appointed as Minister of State for Trade on December 7, 2022

2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

B.C. ECONOMIC AND LABOUR MARKET OVERVIEW

Issue: B.C.'s Economy Remains Strong Amid Economic Uncertainty

RESPONSE

- B.C.'s unemployment rate is 4.5 percent, second lowest in Canada.
- Total net migration to B.C. for 2022 was over 151,000, the highest on record (since 1961 when records are first available).
- B.C. inflation is 6.2 percent (as of February 2023), down from its forty-year peak of 8.1 percent in May 2022.
- B.C. GDP growth in 2021 was the highest among large provinces, at 6.1 percent.

KEY FACTS

Background/Status: UPDATED APR 6

Employment Growth (March 2023, Year-over-Year)

- Total employment is up 1.5 percent (+40,300); B.C. is tenth among provinces.
 - Women account for most (94.5 percent) of B.C.'s total employment growth.
- Private sector employment is flat at 0.0 percent (+500); B.C. is tenth among provinces.
- Self-employment is up 6.3 percent (+25,600); B.C. is second among provinces.
- Total public sector employment is up 2.7 percent (+14,400); B.C. is fifth among provinces.
 - The public sector includes federal, provincial, municipal and Aboriginal administrations and agencies; crown corporations; and public institutions such as schools and hospitals.
- Full-time employment is up 2.7 percent (+57,600); B.C. is sixth among provinces.
- Part-time employment is down 3.0 percent (-17,100); B.C. is ninth among provinces.

Employment Recovery (March 2023 relative to pre-pandemic levels in February 2020)

- B.C. ranks seventh among provinces in employment recovery, at 104.1 percent (+110,600).
- Women's employment recovery is 106.1 percent (+77,300), and men's is 102.4 percent (+33,400).
- Youth employment recovery is 104.7 percent (+16,800); B.C. is third among provinces.
- Indigenous peoples' employment recovery is 106.6 percent (+7,800); B.C. is eighth among provinces.

Unemployment Rate (as of March 2023)

- B.C.'s unemployment rate is second lowest in the country at 4.5 percent, behind only Quebec (4.2 percent).
- Women's unemployment rate is 4.3 percent, tied for second lowest among provinces.
- Youth unemployment rate is 7.8 percent, tied for lowest among provinces.
- Indigenous peoples' unemployment rate is 6.9 percent, second lowest among provinces.
- Visible minorities' unemployment rate is 6.2 percent, tied for second with Ontario and the Atlantic region, after the Prairie Region (Manitoba and Saskatchewan) (5.2 percent).

2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

Expanded Unemployment Rate (as of March 2023)

- B.C.'s expanded unemployment rate is 6.7 percent, second lowest among provinces.
- The expanded unemployment rate is a comprehensive measure that includes discouraged searchers, those waiting to return to work and a portion of involuntary part-time workers.

Wages (as of March 2023)

- B.C.'s average hourly wage is \$33.71, third highest among provinces, after Alberta (\$34.47) and Ontario (\$34.18).
- Year-over-year, B.C.'s average hourly wage is up 5.4 percent, sixth among provinces.

Migration and Immigration (as of Q4 2022)

- B.C.'s total net migration for all of 2022 was 151,264 – over 50 percent higher than B.C.'s net migration for 2021 (94,786).
- Net international immigration to B.C. for 2022 totalled 150,783, the highest year on record.
- Net interprovincial migration to B.C. for 2022 totalled 481.
 - There is a net outflow of 10,418 people from B.C. to Alberta - 38,709 people left B.C. for Alberta, and 28,291 people moved from Alberta to B.C.

Inflation (as of February 2023)

- B.C.'s inflation rate of 6.2 percent is the fourth highest among provinces and above the national average of 5.2 percent.
- B.C. inflation peaked at 8.1 percent in May 2022.
- Key drivers of B.C.'s inflation are: food purchased from stores (11.3 percent), personal care (6.6 percent), and shelter (costs of living in a dwelling such as utilities, rent; or homeowner costs such as insurance and repairs) (6.5 percent).

GDP (as of 2021)

- B.C. led economic growth among large provinces in 2021 - GDP increased by 6.1 percent, ahead of Quebec (+6.0 percent), Ontario (+5.2 percent), and Alberta (+4.8 percent).
- The major banks expect B.C.'s GDP to grow by 2.8 percent in 2022, tied for third among large provinces, and by 0.4 percent in 2023, fourth among large provinces.

Contact:

Angelo Cocco

Executive Director

Economic and Regulatory Analysis Branch 250-516-3674

2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

SMALL BUSINESS PROFILE

Issue: 2022 Small Business Profile

RESPONSE

- B.C. continues to lead the country in small business growth. Small business employment increased between 2016 and 2021.
- In 2021, B.C. ranked first among provinces in the number of small businesses per 1,000 persons.
- The B.C. Small Business Profile (Profile) is published annually, providing decision and policy makers analysis on small businesses and their impact on B.C.'s economy.
- Small businesses continue to play a critical role in B.C.'s growing economy and the information in the report can help policy discussions support small businesses to grow in an inclusive, innovative and sustainable way.

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- The 2022 Small Business Profile, published annually, reflects the latest data available for relevant indicators from 2021. Much like the previous year, the 2022 Small Business Profile paid special attention to available data related to impacts of COVID-19.
- The Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation, along with BC Stats, released the annual Small Business Profile on November 28, 2022.
- Key indicators examined in the Profile include the number of businesses, employment and earnings, contribution to the economy, industry distribution, regional details and the role of small business exporters – see Tables 1 and 2.
- Although the number of active small businesses in B.C. fell by 2.5 percent in 2021, that number has grown over the last five years. Both the largest decline in 2021 and the largest growth over the last five years occurred among people who are self-employed without paid help.
- B.C.'s small business sector contributed approximately 33 percent of the provincial GDP; first among provinces, and 3 percent above the Canadian average.
- B.C. had the lowest business bankruptcy rate per 1,000 businesses in the country in 2021. Total bankruptcies also declined from 80 in 2020 to 49 in 2021.
- Workers of large organizations are more likely to belong to a union and generally earn higher wages. Since 2016, employees of small businesses saw their average wage increase more than their counterparts working for large businesses (23 percent compared to 22 percent). B.C. has the third smallest wage gap in the country between large and small businesses.
- Small business exporters represent a small portion of all goods producing small businesses in the province. This could be due to high start-up costs required for an exporting business to be able to compete internationally.
- 81 percent of small businesses in the province are in service sector industries.
- In B.C., a small business is defined as a business with fewer than 50 employees or a business that is operated by a person who is self-employed without paid help.

2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

Table 1: Key statistics from the 2022 Small Business Profile

BC Small Business Indicator	2021	Change since 2016
Employment	1,134,800	+ 4.4%
Number of small businesses	510,00	+ 5.8%
Average annual wage	\$51,500	+ 23%
Export value	\$18.1 billion	+0.2%
Number of micro businesses 0-4 employees	430,600	+ 6.2%
Businesses with 5-9 employees	39,000	+ 2.8%
Businesses with 10-19 employees	25,300	+ 4.4%
Businesses with 20-29 employees	9,100	+ 12.2%
Businesses with 30-49 employees	6,700	-1.3%

Table 2: Additional Small Business Statistics

BC Small Business Indicator	2021
Employment as % of private sector employment	54%
Businesses per 1,000 persons	97.9
Percentage of B.C. GDP	33%
Goods producing small businesses that export	6.8%
Business bankruptcies (all businesses) per 1,000 businesses	0.07
Businesses owned by women	38%
Incorporated self-employed business owners	191,900
Unincorporated self-employed business owners	237,200
Self-employed with no employees	311,900

Contact:

Jordan Bennett Director Small Business Branch 778 698-1634

2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

SMALL BUSINESS GRANT PROGRAMS (COVID-19)

Issue: Three grant programs launched to help provide immediate relief to small and medium-sized businesses and help them recover from the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic from October 2020 to February 2022

RESPONSE

- Through these programs, more than \$530 million was provided to local businesses to help them navigate the challenges of operating in the pandemic and to continue to safely support the people in their communities.

If asked about the audit work underway (expected completion in spring 2023)

- I look forward to receiving the results of the audit work once completed.
- Learning from the impressive work undertaken to get grants out to businesses facing extreme challenges during the pandemic, will benefit the development of any future grant programs.

KEY FACTS

Background:

- The **Small and Medium Sized Business Recovery Grant (SMSBRG)** program provided grants of \$10,000 to \$30,000 for B.C. businesses and an additional \$5,000 to \$15,000 for tourism-related businesses to fund their economic recovery plans.
 - Launched on October 9, 2020, expanded on December 23, 2020 and March 4, 2021, and closed for applications on July 2, 2021.
 - 25,631 SMSBRG applications were submitted, of which 22,618 businesses (88 percent) received funding totalling \$437.1 million.
 - More than half of all grants were valued at \$15,000 per business, with around 3,400 businesses receiving \$10,000, and around 8700 businesses receiving up to \$45,000.
 - More than 190,000 employees and contract staff were supported.
 - Funding was provided to 1,266 Professional Service Providers, such as accountants and bookkeepers, to help 19,000 businesses gather documentation and develop recovery plans.
- The **Circuit Breaker Business Relief Grant (CBBRG)** program provided grants of \$2,000 to \$20,000 to fitness, hospitality and accommodation businesses impacted by the March 31, 2021 Provincial Health Officer (PHO) orders and the April 23, 2021 *Emergency Programs Act*.
 - Launched on April 13, 2021, expanded to include short term accommodation on April 26, 2021 and closed for applications on June 4, 2021.
 - 12,431 CBBRG applications were submitted, of which 9,808 businesses (79 percent) received funding totalling \$88.7 million.
 - Almost 78 percent of all grants were valued at \$10,000 per business, with close to 17 per cent of businesses receiving \$4,000, 2 percent receiving \$2,000 and 2.5 percent receiving \$20,000.
 - More than 200,000 employees and contract staff were supported.

2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

- The **COVID-19 Closure Relief Grant (CRG)** program provided grants of up to \$20,000 to nightclubs, lounges, gyms, fitness centers, adult dance centers and event venues impacted by the December 22, 2021 PHO orders and the January 10, 2022 extension of those orders.
 - Launched on January 12, 2022, expanded on January 19, 2022 and February 10, 2022 and closed for applications on February 28, 2022.
 - Initial grant funding of up to \$10,000 was available to gyms, lounges, nightclubs, and event venues. The grant was expanded up to \$20,000 for only nightclubs, lounges, and event venues impacted by the January 19, 2022 PHO order to remain temporarily closed until February 16, 2022. Gyms that were allowed to re-open were still capped at \$10,000.
 - 1,721 CRG applications were submitted, of which approximately 73 percent were from gyms, fitness and adult dance businesses, around 18 percent were event establishments and 9 percent were bars, nightclubs and lounges. 1042 businesses (61 percent) received funding totalling \$4.9 million.
 - Of total applicants who chose to self-identify, close to 60 or almost 3.5 percent of applicants were Indigenous and close to 670 or almost 40 percent were women.
 - More than 10,000 employees and contract staff were supported.
- The grant programs are complete; there was no funding allocated under the program budget for 2022/23.
- The ministry is working with the Internal Audit and Advisory Services (IAAS) from the Office of the Comptroller General, and an external auditor, to conduct an audit of the SMSBRG and the CBBRG, scheduled to wrap up after external audit has been completed in spring 2023.
- Deloitte has been awarded the external audit contract and the report is expected by March 31, 2023, with a possible extension up to three months if required. The scope includes the SMSBRG and CBBRG programs.
- MNP was awarded a second contract to perform a program evaluation.

Contact:

Swin Chai

Director

Small Business Branch

778 698-9241

2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

SMALL BUSINESS BC

Issue: Funding of Small Business BC in 2022/2023

RESPONSE

- Small Business BC (SBBC) provides small businesses with seamless, coordinated access to information, services and tools.
- SBBC is the highest performing business resource service centre in Canada and a leader among the provinces for the volume of clients served and the variety of services provided.

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- SBBC is a not-for-profit organization that is a key resource centre for business information and services related to starting, growing or exiting a small business; providing guidance, support and resources for small businesses in areas such as registration, planning, export-import, e-business and market research.
- SBBC is funded by the Provincial and Federal governments and through its own revenue funding streams (such as sponsorships and charging nominal fees for advanced business services).
 - The Province and PacifiCan provide ongoing operational and governance direction. PacifiCan entered into a five-year agreement with the organization in April 2021 of \$1.2 million annually.
 - The Province's current three-year contribution agreement of \$686,000 annually was set to expire in 2023, however, was extended to March 31, 2024.
- As of December 31, 2022, SBBC directly served businesses through almost 14,000 phone calls, over 1.1 million website visits and supported almost 13,000 clients through webinars and education sessions.
- SBBC delivers its services to business clients around the province through a toll-free telephone service, seminars, webinars and email, and has a physical office in Vancouver.
- SBBC works with local organizations, such as chambers of commerce, economic development organizations, business improvement associations, Community Futures, and other organizations to increase its reach across the province and share information.
- For 2022/23, the SBBC plan included 36 full time employee positions in addition to ad hoc project related positions. SBBC is governed by a diverse 12 seat Board of Directors (11 seats currently filled) as outlined in Appendix 1. The Province and Federal government sit as ex-officio members.
- SBBC hosts the Small Business BC Awards, an annual province-wide contest that recognizes and celebrates the important contributions of entrepreneurs to their local communities and the wider global economy. Awards have grown into an opportunity for nominees to learn, secure financial support, and gain valuable exposure.
 - Since 2013, the Province has provided a cash prize to the Small Business BC Award winners, plus a one-year all-access pass to SBBC education, experts and business mentorship.
 - In 2022, the Province contributed \$15,000 to three Business Impact Awards and one Premier's People's Choice Award.

2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

- For the 2022 SBBC Awards, there were 636 nominations from 88 B.C. communities. Winners were: Nature Bee, Saanichton; Friendly Composting Inc., Kamloops; Lil' Ronnie's BBQ, Tofino; and Soul Bite Foods Inc., Vancouver.
- To celebrate Small Business Week, October 17-22, 2022, the Province provided \$11,125 to SBBC for the delivery of free training sessions and supports for entrepreneurs in all regions of B.C. The Province has contributed to this annual celebration since 2016.
 - The free webinars, which covered topics such as networking, taxes, recruitment, business plans, and marketing - saw a total of 761 client registrations, with an additional 663 registrants for the in-person education event.
 - The total number of SBBC's education session participants in 2022 was 11,244 (1,805 more than 2021).
- Along with Community Futures, SBBC is a partner in delivering the Export Navigator Program, funded by the Province and PacificCan. From 2019 to early 2022, the Province had provided \$3.6 million to the program (for additional information, see Tab 50).
- SBBC delivered several key supports in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. These include the development of the B.C. Business COVID-19 Support Service, helping businesses navigate WorkSafeBC B.C.'s restart guidelines and taking on a key role in the delivery of the B.C. Small and Medium Sized Business Recovery Grant Program (for additional information, see Tab 29).
 - SBBC administered over \$20 million in grants and reviewed over 19,000 applications.
 - The Province initially contributed \$250,000 to the Support Service, with an additional \$75,000 later that year to extend the operation of the program until September 2020. The Federal government contributed \$100,000. The Province delivered continued funding through the B.C. Small and Medium Sized Business Recovery Grant Program until July 2021.
 - Although the volume of inquiries has decreased significantly and the Support Service no longer requires dedicated funding, SBBC continues to offer COVID-19 supports through their website and their regular phone lines and email channels.

Attachment: Appendix 1 – Small Business BC Board Members

Contact:

Debbie Smollett Executive Director Small Business Branch (778) 698-9811

2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

Appendix 1 – Small Business BC Board Members

Arthur Mercer	Director, Nisga'a Nation (pronounced Nis-gah), Terrace B.C. Owner, Tseax Development Group Former CEO of the Nisga'a Commercial Group
Barb Steele	Director, Vancouver Entrepreneur, business owner and investor
Barry Hartman	Treasurer, Richmond Co-founder and CEO of 505 Junk
Debbie Smollett	Director, Provincial Government Seat Executive Director, Small Business Branch, Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation
Emily Kerr	Vice-Chair, Vancouver Vice President, Business Banking at Bank of Montreal
Fiona Forbes	Director, Vancouver, Senior Creative Producer/TV Host, Hubcast Media Productions
Joyce Yip	Chair, Burnaby Managing Director, FTXT (Canada) Energy Technology Co. Ltd.
Mark C. Smith	Director President and CEO of Query Fusion
Richard Sehmer	Co-owner and partner at Murphy & Company LLP, Business Law
Tammy Schulz	Director, Federal Government Seat Director General, Economic Development and Investment Strategies, Pacific Economic Development Canada (PacifiCan)
Vince Prince	Director Executive Director for the Aboriginal Business and Community Development Centre

2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

SMALL BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE

Issue: Small Business Sector Engagement

RESPONSE

- The Small Business Roundtable (SBRT) is a forum for dialogue with representatives of the business community, providing input to small business policy and programming.
- Since the Province declared a state of emergency in response to COVID-19 in March 2020, the SBRT was convened on ten occasions to discuss issues and opportunities relating to government's response to the pandemic.
- The ministry engages with sector representatives throughout the province to ensure that the voice of small business is heard and considered in policy and program discussions. As part of this, the SBRT is often consulted to provide a small business lens.

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- The SBRT was formed in 2005 to facilitate ongoing dialogue between government and the small business sector. The Minister responsible has traditionally held quarterly meetings with the SBRT.
- The SBRT also meets regularly with other ministries and agencies, who seek their input and advice on new policy initiatives.
 - Members have expressed support for government priorities including affordable childcare & housing, and improving public safety.
 - Economic recovery priorities include minimizing administrative burden and the cost of doing business.
- The membership of the SBRT has no term limits and representatives of some major industry associations have been members for many years.
 - There are 17 current members (up to 25 members may be appointed).
 - James Delorme (Indigenous Business Owner) and Keith Bridge (Invictus Games Board Member) resigned in 2022.
- Since the onset of the pandemic, the SBRT's has been focused on issues and opportunities facing the sector, and providing advice to government at special meetings. In addition to COVID-19 related discussions:
 - In 2022, the SBRT convened on seven occasions to provide a small business lens on various government initiatives. In addition to JEDI, the following ministries consulted the SBRT: Public Safety and Solicitor General; Finance; and Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills.
 - Several members also participated on the COVID-19 Industry Engagement Table.
- The Small Business Branch maintains the SBRT website and Twitter (@SBRoundtableBC).
- The Small Business Task Force was a special initiative of the SBRT, providing a report to government in October, 2018.

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2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

BETTER REGULATIONS AND LEGISLATION FOR BRITISH COLUMBIANS

Issue: British Columbia's Regulatory Reform Initiatives and Legislated Policy Commitments

RESPONSE

- Regulatory reform efforts in B.C. have evolved over time to encompass an emphasis on modernization to ensure the regulatory framework meets the evolving needs of British Columbians and their businesses (see Attachment).
- Established in 2016, the annual Better Regulations for British Columbians (BR4BC) initiative started as a streamlined process to allow ministries to make minor amendments to clarify, modernize, correct, or repeal outdated information in regulations.
- B.C. reports on its regulatory reform initiatives and regulatory count in an annual report published each year on or before June 30.

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- BR4BC is a partnership between the Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation (JEDI) and the Ministry of Attorney General and is linked to two pieces of legislation:
 - The *Regulatory Reporting Act* requires the Minister to report annually, on or before June 30, on various aspects of B.C.'s regulatory reform initiatives, including the total number of regulatory requirements.
 - The *Red Tape Reduction Day Act*'s sole purpose is to legislate the first Wednesday of March as Red Tape Reduction Day in B.C. when the BR4BC regulatory amendments are released.
- Since 2020, the focus of BR4BC has been on the removal of outdated gendered and binary language from B.C.'s regulations and legislation.

BR4BC Regulatory Amendment Package

- Government undertakes an annual regulatory amendment process to address administrative items proposed by ministries.
- More than 1,500 amendments have been made through BR4BC process, of which over 1,300 reflect amendments to outdated gendered and binary language.
- Approved changes are enacted on or close to the first Wednesday of March to coincide with Red Tape Reduction Day – which this year fell on March 1, 2023.

Modernizing Language Legislative Amendments

- Building on the success of the annual regulatory package, in 2021 the Cabinet Committee on Economy directed JEDI to expand the BR4BC process to include making minor amendments to B.C.'s provincial statutes.
- Cabinet Confidences

2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

- The legislative amendments are expected to be introduced in the 2023 spring legislative session.

Net Zero Commitment and Regulatory Requirements Count

- The Net Zero Increase (NZI) commitment was established in 2004; it holds government to keep its regulatory requirements count below a baseline of 197,242.
- The count fluctuates regularly due to new and amended legislation and regulation; every year it has remained well below the 2004 baseline.
- The regulatory requirements count for 2021/22 was 169,189; the 2022/23 count will be made publicly available on June 30, 2023 (through the release of the Annual Report).
 - The count will be completed in April 2023.
- The NZI commitment has been renewed five times since 2004; it is set to expire in 2024.
- The Canadian Federation of Independent Business issues a Red Tape Report Card each year that compares provincial and federal regulatory reform efforts. B.C. received a B+ in 2023, ranking third overall. B.C. ranked first in the assessment from 2011-2016.

Annual Report

- As legislated by the *Regulatory Reporting Act*, the BR4BC Annual report is released on or before June 30 of each year.
- The Annual Report is required to include:
 - an update of the goals, objectives and accomplishments of B.C.'s regulatory reform initiatives;
 - a count of regulatory requirements (and historical comparison);
 - an explanation of the methodology used to determine the count; and
 - an assessment of the regulatory reform initiatives undertaken.

Attachment: B.C.'s Regulatory Requirements Framework History

Contact:

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2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

B.C.'s Regulatory Requirements Framework History

Year	Initiative	Description
2001	Regulatory requirements reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government policy to reduce B.C.'s the number of regulatory requirements by 40% over three years.
2004	Net Zero Increase (NZI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NZI established a regulatory baseline count of 197,242 (inclusive of legislation, regulation, forms and policies), and committed B.C. to not exceed the baseline. The 2022 count is ~15% below the 2004 baseline. The NZI commitment has been renewed five times since it was established; it is set to expire in 2024.
2011	<i>Regulatory Reporting Act</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Created a legislative requirement for the Minister to publicly report on the regulatory reform initiatives from the last year, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Goals and objectives of regulatory reform initiatives; Count of regulatory requirements (and historical comparison); Explanation of the methodology used to determine the count; and Assessment of the regulatory reform initiatives undertaken. Reporting is done through the Better Regulations for British Columbians annual report that must be published by June 30.
2015	<i>Red Tape Reduction Day Act</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The sole purpose of the act is to legislate the first Wednesday of March as Red Tape Reduction Day in B.C.
2016	Better Regulations for British Columbians (BR4BC) initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established in partnership with the Ministry of Attorney General, BR4BC created a streamlined, annual process for ministries to make minor amendments to clarify, modernize, correct, or repeal outdated information in regulations. More than 200 minor administrative amendments proposed by ministries have been made. BR4BC amendments are typically brought into force on Red Tape Reduction Day.
2020	Gendered language regulatory amendments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BR4BC was focused on the removal of outdated gendered and binary language from B.C.'s provincial regulations. Modernizing regulatory language aligns with governments goal of a more inclusive society and economy, further reinforced by the StrongerBC Economic Plan's goal of Inclusive Growth. Between 2020 and 2022, more than 1,300 instances of gendered and binary language have been removed from B.C.'s regulatory framework (this is in addition to the 200 ministry items).
2021	Gendered language legislative amendments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cabinet Confidences Policy approval was also provided to institute a regular process to make minor legislative amendments. The Legislative amendments are scheduled to go to the Legislative Review Committee on February 13, 2023.

2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

ECONOMIC TRUSTS - OVERVIEW

Issue: Background and status of the Economic Trusts

RESPONSE

- The Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT), the Economic Trust of the Southern Interior (ETSI-BC) and Island Coastal Economic Trust (ICET) were created by the Province to support regional economic development.
- These trusts are locally operated and governed by their own board of directors, comprised of 8 internally appointed members and 5 provincially appointed members.
- One trust, ICET, has requested recapitalization from the Province.

If asked about item 4.39 of the Declaration Act Action Plan: This work is underway with the formation of a working group between the Trusts and JEDI staff.

If asked about Island Coastal Economic Trust's request for recapitalization: JEDI is carefully considering the request from ICET in relation to broader provincial commitments.

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- The Northern Development Initiative Trust, the Economic Trust of the Southern Interior and Island Coastal Economic Trust (the Trusts) were created by the Province with initial capitalizations of \$185 million, \$50 million and \$50 million, respectively.
- The Trusts are non-reporting statutory public service organizations that operate independent of the Province, within the constraints of their legislation and regulation.
- Locally operated, the Trusts develop programs prioritized by and for their regions. The Trusts have also been used to administer government programs, including \$4.5 million on behalf of the Province for communities to hire economic recovery advisors in 2021. This program was renewed for a further \$4.5M in 2022 (fiscal year 2022/23).
- The governance structure of the trusts are defined by their legislation, which notably lacks inclusions of Indigenous communities.
- Under item 4.39 of the Declaration Act Action Plan, the Province has committed to “work with the Trusts and First Nations to develop a mechanism that ensures inclusion of First Nations at a regional decision making-level.”

Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT)

- NDIT was created and capitalized with \$135M under the *Northern Development Initiative Trust Act* by the Province in 2005, to support economic growth and job creation in central and northern B.C. NDIT received an additional \$50M alongside the creation of two trusts for the island-coastal and southern interior regions in 2006, that also received \$50M.
- As of January 2022, NDIT has invested \$173.7 million in projects in its service region, enabling a total approved project value of \$2.1 billion into communities since inception.
- Intergovernmental Communications

2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

The Economic Trust of the Southern Interior (ETSI-BC)

- ETSI-BC, formerly known as the Southern Interior Development Initiative Trust (SIDIT), was created by the Province through the *Southern Interior Development Initiative Trust Act* in 2006, to support economic development initiatives throughout southern interior B.C.
- SIDIT historically administered loans for high-risk business ventures. In 2021, the Trust retired its loans program for a traditional grants-based model under the rebranded ETSI-BC.
- Since inception in 2006 and as of March 2022, ETSI-BC has invested \$66 million in projects that it states have helped to create or maintain almost 11,200 jobs in its service region.
- In January 2022, the *Southern Interior Development Initiative Trust Regions Regulation* was amended to include the Regional District of East Kootenay (RDEK). This amendment corrected an unintentional error that omitted RDEK from the original Regulation.

Island Coastal Economic Trust (ICET)

- ICET was created by the Province through the *North Island-Coast Development Initiative Act* in 2006 to support economic development and diversification of Vancouver Island and the Sunshine Coast.
- Since inception in 2006 and as of March 2022, ICET has invested \$56 million in projects and created 2,550 construction-phase and 2,450 long-term jobs in its service region.
- In 2018, ICET was recapitalized with \$10 million from the Province, committing to disburse the funds over a minimum of four years and develop a sustainable financial plan.
- In 2021, the *North Island-Coast Development Initiatives Trust Regions Regulation* was amended to include three CRD electoral areas of Juan de Fuca, Salt Spring Island and the Southern Gulf Islands into the ICET service region.
- ICET submitted a business case to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation requesting a \$150M recapitalization in September, 2022.

Contact:

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2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

ISLAND COASTAL ECONOMIC TRUST

Issue: Island Coastal Economic Trust recapitalization

RESPONSE

- For over 16 years, the Island Coastal Economic Trust (ICET) has been a valuable partner in supporting regional economic development of Vancouver Island and the Sunshine Coast.
- ICET provides grants to communities and non-profits that help to create a significant number of good-paying jobs and diversify the regional economy.
- Since inception, ICET has invested \$56 million in over 280 projects, leveraging more than \$270 million into the region and creating 2,600 construction and 2,750 long-term jobs.
- In addition to ICET's core programs, the Trust is a key partner in delivering other funding envelopes on behalf of the Province.
- Recognizing the importance of this funding source to Island-Coastal communities, we are proposing an investment of \$10 million to support ICET's mandate, subject to amended legislation being passed later this year.
- I look forward to continuing our strong and mutually supportive partnership with ICET.

If asked about the timing and amount of support provided to ICET ...

- If passed, \$10 million will allow ICET to serve their region for four more years while the Province considers opportunities to support regional economic development throughout B.C.
- \$10 million is consistent with the support we hope to provide to the other two economic trusts in B.C. (NDIT and ETSI-BC), to continue strengthening our regional economies.
- The Trusts' acts must still be amended to raise the legislated caps on Provincial contributions, which we anticipate passing in Fall 2023.

If asked about the historical inequity of trust funding provided to the Island-Coastal region ...

- It is difficult to compare regions in terms of provincial trust funding, as many trusts are established under varying circumstances, and serve different mandates and regions.
- For example, NDIT was established with the proceeds from the sale of BC Rail to support communities disproportionately affected by the transaction.

If asked about why the two other regional economic trusts are receiving funding...

- Under the StrongerBC Economic Plan, the Province has been considering opportunities to support regional economic development throughout B.C.
- We recognize the important role that the trusts play in developing their regional economies, which is aligned with the Province's key goals of inclusive growth.
- As a result, the Province hopes to provide the regional economic trusts with equal, one-time investments of \$10M as additional support to achieve their mandates.

2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

KEY FACTS

Background:

- The Island Coastal Economic Trust (ICET) was created by the Province through the *North Island-Coast Development Initiative Trust Act* (the *Act*) in 2006. ICET provides grants to stimulate economic development throughout Vancouver Island and the Sunshine Coast.
- ICET was initially capitalized with \$50 million, similarly to the other economic trusts, but unlike the Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT) and the Economic Trust of the Southern Interior (ETSI-BC), ICET adopted a spend-out model which lacked sustainability.
- In 2018, ICET was recapitalized with an additional \$10 million from the Province. As part of the agreement, the Trust was required to disburse this amount over a minimum of 4 years and to develop a sustainable financial plan to replace its current spend-out model.
- Despite the \$10M recapitalization in 2018 and associated conditions, ICET is nearing the end of its available fund and has entered the final year of application intakes in FY2023/24.

Status:

- Since July 2022, the Province and MLA offices have received over 40 letters in support of ICET recapitalization from coastal communities, First Nations and regional partners. In September 2022, a motion in support for recapitalization of ICET was passed with unanimous consent at the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM).
- In September 2022, ICET submitted a business case to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation requesting a \$150M investment for Budget 2023.
- ICET defines their ask as an investment and not a recapitalization, since the plan outlines a transformative shift in scope and new business model.
- The Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation (JEDI) staff have been regularly engaged with the Trust while the Province considered the proposal alongside broader commitments to B.C.'s other regional economic trusts.
- Recapitalization of any amount will require an amendment to the *Act* to raise the legislated cap on provincial contributions.

Timeline:

- ICET is projected to reach a nil balance in Spring 2024, when it will be required to enact the wind-up provisions within the *Act*.
- Any recapitalization the Trust must account for the time needed to enact legislation and complete the capital transfer before the Trust is required to dissolve.
- Amendments to the *Act* must be passed and a bill introduced in the Fall sitting of the B.C. legislature.

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2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

BCAFN CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

Issue: Centre of Excellence in First Nations Economic Development

RESPONSE

- In October 2022, Minister Ravi Kahlon and BC Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN) Regional Chief Terry Teegee announced the Centre of Excellence in First Nations Economic Development (the Centre).
- The Centre will be an independent, non-political and non-profit economic development organization serving all First Nations in B.C.
- Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications
- the B.C. economy overall.
- In February 2022, the Province released the StrongerBC Economic Plan which details several actions in relation to Advancing True, Lasting and Meaningful Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.
- One of the commitments was to support the creation of an Indigenous economic development organization.
- We have met that commitment. A transfer agreement was signed by both parties in January 2023 and Year one funds have been transferred to the BCAFN.
- As the Centre becomes established, it will be an important catalyst for First Nations economic activity, providing tools, resources and capacity to assist B.C. First Nations in achieving their unique goals and priorities.
- Advice/Recommendations
- The Ministry looks forward to building a collaborative working relationship with the Centre to advance economic development in First Nations communities, including engaging with the Centre as a key partner on economic policy and programs.

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- The BCAFN, representing all 204 First Nations in B.C., approached the Province with a proposal to establish the Centre as part of their economic development strategy.
- The proposal followed Indigenous engagement for the development of the StrongerBC Economic Plan between September 2021 – January 2022.
- The proposal was endorsed by:
 - BCAFN members at assemblies of Chiefs and Councils in Fall and Winter 2021;
 - BCAFN/B.C. Business Council 'Champions Table'; and,
 - The First Nations Leadership Council (including the First Nations Summit and Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs).
- A key deliverable in the StrongerBC Economic Plan includes collaborating on an Indigenous-led organization focused on Indigenous economic development.
- The Centre will be an independent, non-political and non-profit economic development organization. As a BCAFN initiative, the Centre is inherently First Nations-focused.

2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

- The Centre is intended to support opportunities for economic development and investment for First Nations, and guide the expansion of provincial initiatives to support First Nations communities.
- The focus of the Centre will be on five areas of activity, including the following:
 - Strengthening First Nations business capacity;
 - First Nations economic strategy development and coordination;
 - Policy, research and data gathering;
 - Indigenous trade development; and,
 - B.C. First Nations Transformative Change Initiative (Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA) implementation).
- Interests of an Indigenous People; Intergovernmental Communications
- The Ministry of Jobs Economic Development and Innovation (JEDI) has offered capacity support and is contributing staff resources to the BCAFN as needed to help expedite the launch of the Centre.
- Once launched, the Centre and the Ministry will collaborate on a framework for an efficient and constructive working relationship to effectively manage capacity limitations, including how the Centre engages with different areas of government.
- Some First Nations have expressed concerns about the Centre's ability to advance the priorities of all Nations. The Province is mindful that the Centre does not replace the need for ongoing Indigenous engagement and collaboration.

Provincial Funding:

- As part of the StrongerBC Economic Plan, the Province is providing over \$1.2 million in 2022/23 to launch the Centre.
- Through endowments or a fee-for-service model, the BCAFN expects the Centre to be self-sustaining by 2025 at the conclusion of the funding agreement.
- Funding the Centre upholds the Province's commitment to DRIPA and the StrongerBC Economic Plan, and supports their implementation. It also confirms the Province's ambition to continue meaningful and long-term economic engagement with Indigenous Peoples.

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2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH – ECON PLAN

Issue: Indigenous engagement and outreach

RESPONSE

- A mission within the StrongerBC Economic Plan's challenge of inclusive growth is to pursue meaningful and lasting reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples by reducing barriers and increasing participation in the economy.
- To achieve this mission, the Ministry has strengthened its relationships with Indigenous organizations and maintains its commitment to ensure Indigenous perspectives are frequently heard, understood and reflected in economic policy and decision-making.
- Indigenous engagement and outreach continues to be a primary focus in the Ministry's implementation of the StrongerBC Economic Plan.
- Indigenous partners have been extensively engaged with on StrongerBC Economic Plan policy initiatives such as the Trade Diversification Strategy, Mass Timber Action Plan, ESG Centre of Excellence, and Small Business Diversity and Inclusion Strategy.
- Engagement has also included supporting the launch of the BC Assembly of First Nations' Centre of Excellence in First Nations Economic Development, and collaborating to advance new opportunities led by Indigenous economic development organizations.

If asked about a particular part of note issue:

- Numerous Indigenous organizations have participated in engagement from various branches of the Ministry since the StrongerBC Economic Plan was announced.
- Indigenous economic interests outside of JEDI-led initiatives include Indigenous data governance, major investment information sharing, and support for Indigenous-led business and economic programs and pilots.

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- From September 2021 to January 2022, the Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation (JEDI) held 19 separate engagements with 20 Indigenous economic organizations and 9 Indigenous nations to introduce the StrongerBC Economic Plan.
- The engagements were positioned as opening conversations to build relationships between the Province and Indigenous Peoples concerning the future of the B.C. economy.
- Goals of engagement were to:
 - Ensure that Indigenous perspectives are reflected in the StrongerBC Economic Plan; and
 - Start a dialogue for economic discussions and collaborative decision-making involving Indigenous Peoples over the course of StrongerBC implementation and beyond.

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2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

JOINT OFFICE WITH MIRR

Issue: Joint Office on Indigenous Economic Development between the Ministries of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR) and Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation (JEDI)

RESPONSE

- The Joint Office is a collaborative partnership between MIRR and JEDI that supports economic sector work across government to foster Indigenous economic prosperity.
- The Joint Office provides guidance to MIRR and JEDI on Indigenous economic policy and program delivery and engagement to ensure adherence to the Province's commitments to reconciliation under the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People's Act (the Declaration Act) and the StrongerBC Economic Plan.
- The Joint Office works with certain Indigenous organizations on key files that support policy implementation and to advance economic development opportunities and interests.

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- The Joint Office is a collaborative partnership between MIRR's Indigenous Economic Development Branch (IED) and JEDI's Branch for Regional and Inclusive Economic Recovery (BRIER). It was originally established in 2017.
- The Joint Office exists to ground MIRR and JEDI's economic development work in the shared principles of the Declaration Act and the StrongerBC Economic plan, foster sustainable Indigenous economic prosperity, and support the Province's broader commitments towards reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.
- The Joint Office provides support and advice when requested by other ministries to ensure policies, processes and program delivery uphold Indigenous perspectives, priorities, and rights.
- The Joint Office nurtures relationships with Indigenous organizations to advance Indigenous economic development interests, such as the BC Assembly of First Nations, Métis Nation of BC and the National Consortium on Indigenous Economic Development (NCIED).
- Presently, the Joint Office does not directly engage with First Nations. The Declaration Act and the StrongerBC Economic Plan have established the need for a new approach to work directly with Nations in a government-to-government capacity, and the Joint Office is adapting to meet this emerging need.
- Specific areas of work include:
 - Working with Indigenous partners to co-develop or support Indigenous-led economic data, metrics and indicators as outlined in Declaration Act Action 4.42 and the StrongerBC Economic Plan;
 - Strengthening relations with Métis people through the Métis Nation of BC to ensure a distinctions-based approach to economic policy and programs;
 - Advising program areas across government on appropriate engagement practices to effectively work with Indigenous partners and reflect their unique values, priorities and interests.

2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

Discussion:

- In 2019, government passed the Declaration Act, bringing the Province into alignment with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).
- In passing this Act, the way in which Indigenous peoples are involved in the policy, process, and economy of B.C. has shifted, requiring new and deeper involvement in work with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples.
- In February 2022, JEDI released the StrongerBC Economic Plan, a whole-of-government vision for a clean and inclusive economy, which affirms the Province's commitment to reconciliation through economic development.
- The StrongerBC Economic Plan establishes the Province's responsibility to:
 - Work with Indigenous partners to address barriers to full participation and leadership in B.C.'s economy;
 - Acknowledge, respect and uphold Indigenous rights and First Nations title; and
 - Build enduring and productive relationships with Indigenous partners to lead and contribute to economic development initiatives.
- In addition to these commitments, several other policy drivers and calls to action reinforce the work of the Joint Office, including the Minister's mandate letter, the Province's ongoing reconciliation efforts, and the passing of the Anti-Racism Data Act.

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2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

BC MANUFACTURING JOBS FUND

Issue: BC Manufacturing Jobs Fund Launch

RESPONSE

- As part of Government's supports for forest workers and communities, the BC Manufacturing Jobs Fund (MJF) is a new program that will invest in high-value industrial and manufacturing projects that drive clean and inclusive growth, generate well-paying jobs, and contribute to economic diversification and sustainability.
- A continuous program intake opened on February 28, 2023 for approximately two years.
- Established for-profit manufacturing organizations can access up to \$10 million for planning and capital projects that will bring quick and direct benefits to communities throughout B.C.
- While open to all manufacturing sectors, funding will focus on supporting the forestry sector with developing new, sustainable value-added business lines that reduce dependency on old growth logging.

If asked about the Forestry sector and fibre shortages:

- MJF is designed to support innovation in the forestry sector, including making innovative and sustainable uses of existing fibre and biomass.

KEY FACTS

- As part of the Forestry Worker Community Supports announced in November 2021, the Province committed to supporting innovation in regional B.C. through investments in value-added forestry and other manufacturing to mitigate the impacts of old growth deferrals.
- The Manufacturing Jobs Fund was announced at the BC Natural Resources Forum on January 17, 2023.
- MJF will invest up to \$180 million over three years to support manufacturing projects across B.C. that will help grow and diversify regional economies.
- The initial program allocation was \$90 million for projects in rural and remote B.C.; the scope was expanded in February 2023 to extend eligibility province-wide and add additional funding, particularly to support the value-added manufacturing sector in Metro Vancouver and the Capital Regional District.
- Two funding streams will provide up to \$50,000 for business planning to prepare a project for investment readiness, and up to \$10 million for new or renovated capital infrastructure including facilities, technology, equipment and processes.
- All manufacturing sectors are eligible to apply, with at least 50% of the total funding dedicated to projects in the value-added forestry sector.
- Project examples include:
 - Repurposing an unused mill site into a value-added facility;
 - Implementing new technology to produce hydrogen fuel cell batteries; or
 - A forestry company purchasing new equipment to support new product lines, such as mass timber production or plastics alternatives manufacturing.
- Projects must demonstrate market readiness, a viable business plan, alignment with economic diversification goals within communities, and direct benefits for communities and workers.

2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

- The program will be administered by a team at the Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation (JEDI).
- Advice/Recommendations
- Viable projects will be prioritized for funding based on the following criteria:
 - Within the forestry sector and/or located in forestry-dependent communities;
 - Having a high degree of readiness, need and direct impact; and
 - Those that are Indigenous-led.
- Funding decisions will be made by the Deputy Ministers of JEDI and the Ministry of Forests.
- Funding will be disbursed based on achievement of project milestones.

Financial Implications

- MJF has been approved to access up to \$180M in contingency funding over three fiscal years beginning in 2023/2024.

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2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

FOREST WORKER AND COMMUNITY SUPPORTS (FWCS)

Issue: Support programs to mitigate economic disruption in rural B.C. communities as a result of changes in the forest sector.

RESPONSE

- The Forestry Worker and Community Supports have been a welcomed and successful suite of supports for workers, communities and businesses experiencing forest related impacts.
- We recently added the BC Manufacturing Jobs Fund to an already comprehensive and coordinated suite of supports targeting hard-hit areas.

If asked about Bridging to Retirement or Skill Training as related to FWCS:

- Refer Bridging to Retirement to Ministry of Labour
- Refer Skills Training to Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills (PSFS)

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- In response to changes in the forest sector and the expected job loss, government announced the Forestry Worker and Community Supports (FWCS) in Fall 2021.
- The FWCS is a suite of programs offered by the ministries of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation (JEDI), Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills (PSFS) and Labour (LBR) to support impacted workers, businesses, and communities.
- A contingency allocation of \$185M towards the FWCS over three years FY2022/23 to FY 2024/25 included the following programs through JEDI:
 - **Forest Employment Program (FEP):** Creates short-term employment to help forest and land-based contractors explore new work. FEP is an internally administered program. Individual projects funded through FEP are led on the ground by staff throughout Regional Operations, who manage individual contracts. The Program creates short-term employment opportunities in areas acutely affected to reduce the impact of job losses on the communities.
 - **Rural Business and Community Recovery Initiative (RBCRI):** Hires advisers to help create jobs and support rural businesses and communities in hard hit areas. The funding will be distributed through regional programs administered by the Northern Development Initiative Trust, the Economic Trust of the Southern Interior and the Island Coastal Economic Trust. Each trust will receive \$1.5 million.
 - **Enhanced Community Transition Services:** Ensures supports are in place for workers and communities after a community transition event (for e.g., mill closure).
 - **Rural Economic and Diversification Infrastructure Program (REDIP):** REDIP is a new grant launched by the Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation (JEDI) to promote economic diversification, clean growth and infrastructure development. Eligible applicants include local governments, regional districts, indigenous communities and organizations, indigenous development corporations, and not-for-profits.
- The \$185M also included funding for:

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- **Bridging to Retirement (LBR):** Offers forestry workers, 55 and older, up to \$75K to help transition to retirement.
- **Skills Training for Job Pathways (PSFS):** Connects affected workers and communities with skills training opportunities.
- As part of the original FWCS suite of programs, the BC Manufacturing Jobs Fund (MJF) was announced in February 2023 to support value-add manufacturing with an additional \$180M in funding for FY2023/24 to FY2025/26.

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2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

COMMUNITY TRANSITION AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY SERVICES

Issue: Supports for Communities Impacted By The Loss of a Major Employer

RESPONSE

- Ministry of Jobs Economic Development and Innovation (JEDI) staff, with support from other areas of government, offer responsive services to communities that go through an economic shock such as the loss of a major employer.
- Community transition services are an effective tool to support workers, businesses and communities that are experiencing a significant job loss, especially when combined with other government supports designed to offset economic impacts.
- Supports, including social supports, for impacted workers and families are the first priority during a community transition event. Staff connect with the community within 24 hours. Working with the community on economic planning and diversification comes next.

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- Community transition services are an effective, and impactful tool that allow for customized support for communities, businesses and workers impacted by the loss of an employer.
- There is a proven, well-documented process that helps staff navigate the acute economic shock and the emotional environment that comes with an loss of an major employer:

Step 1: Initiation

- Within 24 hours of hearing of the layoff event, JEDI staff reach out to the impacted community. Staff offer community transition services and, if invited by the community, begin organizing a community transition response.
- The community transition response consists of three main elements:
 - *Worker Transition* - ensuring services and supports for impacted workers are coordinated, communicated and accessible to impacted employees.
 - *Enhanced Economic Development and Diversification* - working with local government and stakeholders on diversification strategies.
 - *Community Supports and Services* - monitoring and mitigating impacts on community social services.

Step 2: Implementation

- A transition table includes local government (Mayor and/or staff) and First Nations; Employer; Union (if applicable); ministries of JEDI, Social Development and Poverty Reduction (Work BC), Labour and Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills; Service Canada, post-secondaries and local service providers, such as Community Futures.
- Community transition meetings help to understand worker and community impacts and to determine a coordinated response, including a Worker Needs Assessment or access to economic development funding.

Step 3: Monitoring

- Community transition teams may be active for a few months and up to a year depending on the nature of the transition.
- The community transition response is enhanced when combined with key provincial resources such as the Bridging to Retirement and the Rural Economic and Diversification Infrastructure Program.

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- JEDI staff monitor the status of short-term curtailments in forest processing facilities across the province so that staff are ready to respond to new closure announcements as required.
- Additional staff have been hired to support the increase of community transition events throughout the province.
- This program is funded through the \$185 million Forest Worker and Community Supports envelope.

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2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

StrongerBC YOUNG LEADERS COUNCIL

Issue: Establishment of the StrongerBC Young Leaders Council

RESPONSE

- The StrongerBC Young Leaders Council was established as a platform for young British Columbians to provide their ideas and perspectives to government policy makers.
- In the first year of activity, the Council held ten virtual meetings, two two-day in-person meetings, and provided their input directly to decision makers on 13 proposed policies or topic areas.

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- In March 2021, Nelson-Creston MLA Brittny Anderson was appointed the Premier's Special Advisor on Youth and tasked with establishing the StrongerBC Young Leaders Council.
- The Council identifies and provides advice to government on issues that matter most to young British Columbians.
- After a province-wide recruitment process, 18 Council members were announced on December 13, 2021; members' ages range from 15-23, and they are based across the province (see **APPENDIX A: StrongerBC Young Leaders Council Members**).
- Council members represent Indigenous, Black or people of colour, young people living with disabilities, 2SLGBTQ+ youth, youth living in rural or remote areas, and young leaders from equity-seeking communities.
- Council members' terms began on January 1, 2022, and are for one year, renewable up to a maximum of three years.
- To date the Council has held two in-person meetings, ten virtual meetings, and engaged with nine ministries across government.
- Youth are not paid for their participation in the Council as per Treasury Board Directive, which applies to all appointees to Ministry and Crown Agency Boards.
 - The Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation has received special authorization to provide remuneration in exceptional circumstances as required.
- Costs associated with the StrongerBC Young Leaders Council will be managed within the Ministry's base budget.

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Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

APPENDIX A: StrongerBC Young Leaders Council Members

Name	Age	City	Region
Prabhnoor Sidhu (she/her)	17	Prince George	Cariboo
Damon Robinson (he/him)	24	Prince George	Cariboo
Aur Hager (she/her)	19	Slocan	Kootenays
Maya Provencal (she/her)	24	Rossland	Kootenays
Clea Schooner (she/her)	23	Bella Bella	North Coast / Nechako
Thea Wells (they/them)	19	Kamloops	Thompson/Okanagan
Jacob Tourand (he/him)	25	Kelowna	Thompson/Okanagan
Noor Shaker (she/her)	16	Port Coquitlam	Mainland / Southwest
Yi Nuo (Emmy) Wang (she/her)	16	Maple Ridge	Mainland / Southwest
Malia Mercado (she/her)	17	Maple Ridge	Mainland / Southwest
Alexandra Mandewo (she/her)	18	Coquitlam	Mainland / Southwest
Andrew David Millage (he/they)	20	Abbotsford	Mainland / Southwest
Ripdaman Malhans (he/him)	20	Delta	Mainland / Southwest
Jeanna Pillainayagam (she/her)	21	Vancouver	Mainland / Southwest
Sukhmanpreety (Harry) Bajwa (he/him)	23	Surrey	Mainland / Southwest
Hamza Dari (he/him)	16	Victoria	Vancouver Island / Coast
Eya Ibrahim (she/her)	18	Victoria	Vancouver Island / Coast
Dacian Filipescu (he/him)	18	Victoria	Vancouver Island / Coast

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Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

SOFTWOOD LUMBER DISPUTE

Issue: United States Department of Commerce Fourth Administrative Review

RESPONSE

- Successfully resolving this dispute is our number one trade priority.
- British Columbia (B.C.) is disappointed that the U.S. continues to impose unwarranted and unfair duties on Canadian softwood lumber.
- The Minister of Forests has overall lead for this file. Our staff work very closely with his staff.
- Duties on Canadian softwood lumber not only hurt B.C. businesses and communities, but they are a tax on U.S. consumers – including U.S. home buyers – which makes housing less affordable for American families and threatens the current economic recovery.
- We maintain that B.C.'s forest policies are trade compliant, and will continue to defend the 50,000 hard-working people in the industry against these unwarranted duties.
- As we strive to make a more robust, sustainable forest economy, what we need most is partners across the border who work with us, not against us, in building a stronger forest sector for both Canada and the United States.
- We will continue to work alongside the federal government to challenge these duties through the dispute settlement processes that are available to us.

If asked how the fourth Administrative Review preliminary results impact B.C. companies?

- The preliminary results do not take effect; only the final results do. However, preliminary results may be indicative of what the final results will be.

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- The softwood lumber dispute was initiated in 2016 when the U.S. alleged that Canadian lumber exports were unfairly subsidized and that Canadian companies were selling their lumber into the U.S. at below market prices (i.e. dumping). They believed this was hurting the U.S. industry and therefore placed duties on Canadian lumber. Three of the four companies initially identified for investigations by the U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC) are B.C.-based (Canfor, West Fraser and Tolko).
- As of November 2022, countervailing and anti-dumping duties collected by the U.S. on lumber shipments from B.C. are estimated to be \$4.040 billion CAD (\$8.298 billion for all of Canada).
- As part of Canada's ongoing softwood lumber trade dispute with the U.S., Canadian softwood lumber duties are subject to a series of annual Administrative Reviews (ARs).
- The U.S. DOC conducts an annual review of its anti-dumping and countervailing duty orders. The annual review process is similar to the process used for initial investigations but applies only to companies that are subject to review.
- On August 4, 2022, the U.S. DOC issued the final results of its third AR of its anti-dumping and countervailing duty orders on softwood lumber products from Canada, which were based on a review of Canfor and West Fraser.
- As a result of its third AR, the duty rate that now applies is 8.59 percent for "all other" softwood lumber producers, down from 17.91 percent from its second AR.

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- On January 24, 2023, the U.S. DOC issued its preliminary determination for its fourth AR. It determined rates for Canfor and West Fraser of 7.29 percent and 9.38 percent respectively; for all other producers, the rates were 8.24 percent.
- The preliminary determination does not have any impact on current duties, and rates will not change until the U.S. DOC issues its final determination, expected between May and August 2023.
- Along with filing multiple challenges through the World Trade Organization (WTO), Canada is challenging the U.S.' duty orders as inconsistent with its trade obligations under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the DOC's first, second and third ARs under the Canada-US-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA).
- While both Canada and the U.S. have appealed certain aspects of the original WTO panel ruling, the WTO's appellate body is not functional and so there is no timeline on this challenge.
- In November 2022, after 6 years, two panels were composed to hear Canada's challenges to U.S. anti-dumping and countervailing duties respectively, under the original NAFTA process. Proceedings (written submissions and oral hearings) are expected to get underway in the spring of 2023.
- No panels have yet been composed under the CUSMA for Canada's challenge of the DOC's first, second and third Administrative Review results.

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2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS

Issue: International Missions in 2022

RESPONSE

- Trade missions are opportunities to:
 - Open new market opportunities by developing new relationships and promoting B.C.'s business advantages;
 - Further B.C.'s reputation for climate leadership and sustainability, to promote continued trade and investment advantages;
 - Promote B.C.'s strong environmental, social, and (corporate) governance (ESG) credentials to public and private sector partners and stakeholders; and
 - Advance strategic trade and investment relationships to strengthen B.C.'s economy in key sectors.
- In fiscal year 2022-23, the Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation led four ministerial missions to international markets.
- Costs associated with ministry-led missions are subject to fiscal approvals, compliance and review.

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- Minister Kahlon visited the USA West Coast including San Francisco and Portland, Oregon showcasing the StrongerBC Economic Plan. In Portland, he promoted B.C.'s world-leading mass timber industry at an international mass timber conference that brought together industry experts and investors from around the globe. In San Francisco, he met with leaders and investors in clean tech, agritech and in the emerging metaverse sector to advance our trade investment relationships.
- Minister Kahlon's 10-day Mission to key European markets included stops in five countries and resulted in enhanced relationships and the signing of two agreements:
 - One with the Netherlands on May 24, 2022 centred around co-operation and resource sharing in agritech to support food security in B.C. and to better position the province to both trade and supply food globally; and
 - One signed with Finland on May 31, 2022 focused on both regions working together to further develop the mass timber sector and forest bioeconomy.
- Minister Kahlon attended the Cascadia Conference in Blaine, Washington to showcase B.C.'s competitive advantage, develop new economic opportunities and highlight the power of trade between B.C. and Washington, Oregon and California – which collectively account for 46 percent of B.C. goods exported to the U.S. in 2021.
- In October 2022, Premier Horgan went to San Francisco to sign the Statement of Collaboration with the governments of California, Oregon, and Washington recommitting the region to climate action. The statement focused on working together to chart a path to a cleaner energy, stronger future with good jobs and opportunities for people on both sides of the border.

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Dates	Mission	Delegation
April 12-14, 2022	California/Portland Mass Timber Conference	Minister Kahlon, Ravi Parmar, Bobbi Plecas
May 24-June 2	Europe 2022	Minister Kahlon, Ravi Parmar, Bobbi Plecas
Sept. 8-12	Seattle, Blaine Washington, Cascadia 2022	Minister Kahlon, Ravi Parmar, Kerry Pridmore (for Seattle) and Bobbi Plecas (for Blaine) and Gerri Sinclair.
Oct. 5-7, 2022	San Francisco	Premier Horgan, Lindsay Byers, Jarrett Hagglund, Silas Brownsey

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Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

TRADE AND INVESTMENT NETWORK

Issue: B.C.'s international office network

RESPONSE

- B.C. maintains a network of international representatives to promote the export of B.C. products and investment attraction for the companies and communities in the Province.

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- B.C. currently has 47 trade and investment representative positions based in 19 locations worldwide.
- Costs associated with the Trade and Investment Representative (TIR) Network are managed within the Ministry Base Budget. The budget allocation for the Trade and Industry Development Division is \$29.064 million.
- On December 30, 2019 ministry staff notified contract trade and investment representatives in Asia (China, Japan, South Korea, Philippines, Indonesia, Singapore and India) that their contracts would not be renewed.
- Civil claims filed by the Ministry's previous contractors in Beijing and Jakarta have concluded.
- This was due to a government decision to transition to a co-location model similar to other provinces (AB, ON, SK, QC) which allows B.C. to maximize efficiency and cost effectiveness and better leverage the Canada brand.
- Trade and investment representative offices in Europe, the U.K. and the U.S. were not affected by this delivery model change and continue to advance B.C. interests within the contract model.

TIR Locations		
Tokyo, Japan	Manila, the Philippines	San Francisco, United States
Seoul, South Korea	Singapore	Los Angeles, United States
Beijing, China	Jakarta, Indonesia	Seattle, United States
Shanghai, China	New Delhi, India	Boston, United States
Guangzhou, China	Chandigarh, India	London, United Kingdom
Chongqing, China	Mumbai, India	
Ho Chi-Minh, Vietnam	Bengaluru, India	

*Note – Above list represents locations where B.C. has a physical office presence. Trade Representatives also work for B.C. in Austin, TX; Portland, OR; Germany; and the Hague, Netherlands.

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Japan

- There are five full-time trade and investment representatives in place.

South Korea

- There are four full-time trade and investment representatives in place.
- The Province plans to hire one additional position.

China

- There are nine full-time trade and investment representatives in place, located in Beijing, Shanghai, Chongqing and Guangzhou.
- Hong Kong is covered out of the office in Guangzhou.
- The Province intends to hire one additional position in Taipei.

Southeast Asia

- There are six full-time trade and investment representatives in place, located in Singapore (2 positions), Jakarta (1), Manila (2), and Ho-Chi-Minh (1). One position is vacant and under recruitment.

India

- There are four full time positions in India in Delhi (2), Chandigarh and Bengaluru.
- There is one vacant position in Mumbai. The recruitment process is underway.

Europe

- B.C. maintains a contract for service with Articulate International for the European market including the U.K.
- There are seven trade and investment representatives in the EU. Representatives are based in the U.K., Germany, and the Netherlands.

United States

- B.C. maintains a contract for service with Fox Group International for the United States.
- There are eight full-time trade and investment representatives in place, located in Seattle, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Boston.

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2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

INTERNATIONAL MARKETING

Issue: International marketing efforts to support the growth of exports and attract international investment

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- International Marketing manages B.C.'s international business brand and delivers marketing activities to support the growth of exports and attract international investment.
- B.C.'s international business brand and marketing strategy has been refreshed to align with CleanBC, StrongerBC, and the Trade Diversification Strategy.
- BritishColumbia.ca is the digital platform on which marketing efforts are based. The site was modernized in 2022 and was available in English at the time of launch. In 2023, the website will be available in six additional languages: Korean, Simplified Chinese, Japanese, Spanish, French and German. This is an increase in three languages from the previous version of the website.
- B.C.'s international brand positioning has been updated to highlight B.C.'s commitment to sustainability, innovation and inclusiveness.
- International Marketing produces a large volume of multilingual content to promote B.C.'s competitive advantages to international markets.
- Marketing content is delivered through images, video, infographics, digital content, brochures and presentations. This content is updated at least annually to ensure consistency and accuracy.
- International marketing is developing new content and marketing resources to support the high growth sectors Hydrogen Energy and Mass Timber.
- International Marketing works with cross-Ministry teams to deliver marketing materials and communications for trade shows, events and trade missions, providing a strong and consistent business brand image for B.C. Delivery of marketing products has shifted to a hybrid digital and in-person model to support the continually changing nature of trade shows and events.
- International Marketing has implemented a digital asset management system to enable faster access to approved marketing materials by JEDI teams.

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Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

INVESTMENT ATTRACTION

Issue: The Ministry promotes B.C. as an attractive and stable place to invest working with strategic partners to foster investment from global markets into a range of sectors across all regions of the province creating economic benefit for British Columbians

RESPONSE

- In fiscal year 2022/2023 (as at January 31, 2023) 12 investments supported by the ministry have successfully closed with \$786 million in investment value.
- Global FDI growth was strong across 2022, growing by 41 percent over 2021 (*Source: FDImarkets.com*), although macroeconomic trends continue to impact FDI attraction (e.g. energy crisis, war in Ukraine, rising interest rates, China's zero covid policy etc.).
- In 2022, greenfield foreign investment (which is new operations built from the ground up) to B.C. totaled \$1.5 billion, a decrease of 48.4 percent from the 2021 total of \$2.9 billion.
- The Ministry continues to work hard to open doors for new investment, and expand and retain current investment.
- B.C. is well positioned to continue to draw high quality, sustainable investment in the interest of all British Columbians as companies continue to express interest in B.C. with our welcoming business climate, commitment to innovation and talented workforce.
- According to the Economist Intelligence Unit, Canada overall will be the best country in the G20 for doing business throughout the next five years (2022-2026); it has consistently ranked among the top 2 countries in the last 5 years.

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- The Ministry, through its network of Trade and Investment Representatives (TIRs), the Investor Services team and in collaboration with other parts of government, develop and deliver effective investment attraction programs for the Province of B.C.
- Examples of collaborative investment-focused efforts in 2022 include:
 - The Ministry and India TIR organized a visit of Indian technology companies to B.C. in collaboration with GAC to raise awareness of Canada as an attractive investment location during the NASSCOM mission in April 2022. The delegation was led by NASSCOM, India's premier technology association as part of an initiative to promote outward investment. A two-day program was put in place by the Ministry comprising of meetings with B.C. companies, federal/provincial/municipal agencies and stakeholders, as well as education institutes.
 - In June 2022, a new agreement signed between the Ministry and the Japanese Overseas Infrastructure Investment Corporation for Transportation and Urban Development (JOIN) will help deliver innovative and clean solutions for future transportation projects and priorities. The agreement will welcome international investment to B.C. and explore more ways for B.C. businesses to connect with new international partners to create more economic opportunities at home and abroad. JOIN is a governmental policy-based

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company in Japan, engaged in investing in transportation and urban development projects outside of Japan.

- In October 2022, a virtual city tour was held for the City of Squamish and the US TIRs to introduce the Ministry's trade and investment services. A number of local Squamish businesses in different sectors (Clean Tech, Agrifood, Creative Media) had the opportunity to present their projects to the TIRs for investment attraction from the U.S.
- Ministry teams seek to qualify and respond to investment queries from potential investors, assess opportunities, identify potential challenges, offer guidance, facilitate investment decisions, and provide post-investment services.
- The Ministry's Investor Services team works with communities, businesses and economic development agencies throughout B.C. to make sure that international investors are aware of opportunities in all regions of B.C., leading to investment decisions that can help foster a sustainable and inclusive economy in every corner of the province.
- Partners may include municipal governments, the federal government including the Trade Commissioner Service, federal and municipal investment agencies such as Invest in Canada, Invest Kelowna, Invest Vancouver, economic development agencies and officers across the province, industry groups and many more.
- Examples of Success Stories include:
 - In 2022, Masimo, an Irvine-based global medical technology company that develops and manufactures hospital-approved innovative patient monitoring technologies, launched a major expansion in Vancouver, acquiring a 100,000 square feet property for \$123 million across from the new St. Paul's Hospital complex. This expansion is to support the growth of Masimo's R&D operation to approximately 200 engineers. Masimo has over 6,000 employees worldwide and revenues in excess of \$1 billion USD. In 2016, the Ministry facilitated Masimo's first Canadian business location here in B.C. (North Vancouver).
 - HCL, an India-based multinational software company, inaugurated their new B.C. office at 580 Granville Street through a launch event in June 2022. The Vancouver software delivery centre is HCL's fourth office in Canada, currently adding 80 staff to its Canadian headcount of 1000, with plans to expand significantly as the company grows their North American customer base.
 - cellcentric, a 50:50 joint venture of Germany's Daimler Truck AG and Sweden's Volvo Group AB, opened a brand new, expanded facility in Burnaby in 2022. The 56,727 square feet state-of-the-art facility is a keystone in cellcentric's global R&D, manufacturing and commercialization efforts to deliver critical hydrogen and fuel cell systems to advance climate neutral and sustainable transportation in heavy-duty trucking and other applications.
 - Austria-based Red Bull GmbH chose Chilliwack, B.C. for a major new facility investment in support of their North American expansion plans in 2023. Red Bull energy drinks formula is produced in Austria, and the Chilliwack location will be the only other facility in the world to provide dry mixed ingredients required to meet global demand.

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Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

EXPORT NAVIGATOR

Issue: Export Navigator Program Continuation

RESPONSE

- The Export Navigator program provides free supports to rural B.C. businesses looking to export to domestic and international markets.
- Managed and operated by Small Business BC, the program's nine Export Advisors (EAs) across 6 B.C. regions have provided export advisory services to nearly 900 companies, including businesses owned by Indigenous Peoples, Women and Youth.
- The EN program is a critical program to help small and medium sized businesses across the province on their journey to become export-ready.

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- The Export Navigator Program provides free cradle to grave export advisory services to rural B.C. businesses looking to export.
- Funded jointly by JEDI and PacifiCan, the program is delivered by Small Business BC (SBBC) who contracts with Community Future Offices (CFs), which in-turn subcontract with local Export Advisors (EAs) who offer export advisory services to local companies.
- Currently, EN has nine EAs who provide services to businesses in six B.C. regions; excluding Greater Victoria and Greater Vancouver, and to businesses owned by Indigenous Peoples, Women and Youth.
- In 2021, SBBC commissioned an external program evaluation of EN which confirmed the program's benefits and contribution to growing the number of export-ready B.C. businesses in underserved rural communities. The program was found to be cost-effective considering the broad geographic reach and number of businesses served.
- EN's current annual budget is \$1.95 million of which \$1.2 million comes from Ministry funding and the remaining \$750,000 come from PacifiCan.
- The current JEDI and PacifiCan funding for EN expires March 31, 2023.
- Over the last several months, JEDI staff have held collaborative discussions with PacifiCan and SBBC for continued funding to support both JEDI and PacifiCan trade priorities.
- PacifiCan has expressed support for the program as it strongly aligns with their mandate and have made recommendations accordingly to SBBC to submit a funding application in February 2023 to match JEDI's contribution of \$1.2 million.
- SBBC has submitted a proposal to PacifiCan for \$1.2 million matching JEDI's \$1.2 million to continue the program as proposed. A decision is expected in March 2023.

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Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

ALACRITY B.C. CLEANTECH PROGRAM

Issue: Program support to grow B.C. cleantech and ocean tech companies in targeted global markets in support of trade diversification

RESPONSE

- In 2019, JEDI, PacifiCan (former Western Diversification) and Alacrity partnered to address gaps in support for B.C. cleantech businesses as they progress from market-ready solutions to fully developed sales networks in global export markets.
- The Alacrity B.C. Cleantech Program supports client B.C. companies to become economically and operationally self-sufficient in strategic global markets over three years (2019-2023).
- The program will meet or exceed service metrics. The Q4 2022 Quarterly Report indicated investment attraction was \$78.7 million (target \$55 million), and export revenue was \$38.2 million (target \$30 million).
- In anticipation of the Program ending on May 31, 2023, the thirty-three Program clients are being introduced to JEDI's trade and investment staff, including our global network of Trade and Investment Representatives (TIRs).

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- Alacrity Foundation is a non-profit organization based in Victoria, B.C. which was founded in 2009 to promote tech entrepreneurship & facilitate investment.
- The Alacrity B.C. Cleantech Program focuses on:
 - a) Finding qualified opportunities for promising B.C. cleantech companies that permit them to commercialize, scale-up, and become investment-ready.
 - b) Building relationships between B.C. cleantech companies and international clients.
 - c) Supporting participating companies in customer acquisition and revenue building.
 - d) Creating a global content marketing initiative to raise awareness about participating B.C. cleantech companies and the B.C. cleantech sector.
- The Alacrity B.C. Cleantech Program also supports the mandate for trade diversification by helping B.C. companies to enter new markets or regions, e.g., Mexico.
- Alacrity in-market consultants (India, Mexico, Singapore, and Northern Europe) work with the B.C. TIRs and Global Affairs Canada.

Key Deliverables – Program

The Alacrity service contract, which ends on May 31, 2023, includes the following metrics:

1. Promote opportunities to B.C. cleantech companies that would benefit the most with an emphasis on technologies that advance *CleanBC*.
2. Develop a business development program in India, Mexico, Singapore, and Northern Europe.
3. **Investment Attraction:** Targeted new inbound investment from local and international investors: **\$50 million** (full program target).
4. **Export Development:** Targeted export revenue generated as a result of the program to B.C. cleantech participants: **\$20 million** (full program target).
5. **Jobs:** Targeted number of high-quality jobs facilitated (full program target): 100.

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6. Targeted value to new global export/sales/licensing/partnership revenue: \$30 million.
7. Number of B.C. companies assessed for entry into the Program: 100.
8. Minimum number of B.C. cleantech companies accepted into the Program: 30.
 - B.C. cleantech companies are chosen according to their market readiness.
 - No cost to B.C. companies that participate: Alacrity provides portfolio companies with basic support, e.g., marketing, sales, introductions for opportunities.
 - If a company asks for additional support (e.g., deal negotiation, RFP support), Alacrity charges a negotiated service fee not exceeding 6 percent of the deal.

Highlight of Key Activities to Date

Business Information; Government Financial Information; Intergovernmental Communications

Budget/Expenditures:

Business Information; Government Financial Information; Intergovernmental Communications

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2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

TRADE DIVERSIFICATION STRATEGY

Issue: A trade and investment strategy focused on increased export opportunities for products and services and targeted foreign direct investment attraction into B.C.

RESPONSE

- The B.C. Trade Diversification Strategy is a trade and investment development plan that outlines actions to support entry in new markets and to increase the overall number and diversity of businesses exporting in the Province.
- An emphasis on diversification will promote trade opportunities that pivot away from over-reliance on a single market, making B.C. more resilient to market volatility and geographically specific trends and changes.
- We value trade relationships in our existing markets and are committed to their continued growth as we pursue diversification into new markets.

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- The Trade Diversification Strategy (Strategy) is a Ministry Mandate Letter commitment to help B.C. businesses build connections in new markets, increase exports, and highlight B.C. as a low-carbon supplier.
- The Strategy is a key action under the Stronger BC Economic Plan, and will align with strategies across government including the ESG Centre of Excellence, Industrial and Manufacturing Action Plan, Goods Movement Strategy, Mass Timber Action Plan, and Reconciliation Action Plan.
- International trade is a core contributor to B.C.'s overall economy. It is imperative for B.C.'s long-term prosperity that trade is supported to grow, diversify and be accessible to all businesses in every region of the province.
- A targeted engagement approach with stakeholders was used to inform our understanding of trade and investment priorities, challenges, and barriers. There was engagement with partners across B.C., including from groups traditionally underrepresented in trade, such as Indigenous people, women, and people of colour.
- The Strategy sets out initiatives for targeted new markets, including Vietnam, Taiwan and Mexico; enhanced tactics to foster growth in emerging markets, including India, Singapore, Indonesia and the Philippines; and continued activities in B.C.'s major markets including the USA, the EU, Japan and South Korea.
- The Strategy's goals of diversifying trade by targeting new and emerging markets will be accomplished through clear and purposeful actions designed to support businesses at all stages of export readiness. These actions will involve working together with partners and stakeholders throughout the Province that have overlapping mandates for trade and investment.
- The Strategy provides for an inclusive approach to trade that seeks to ensure all businesses have equitable access to opportunities to export goods to global markets. Targeted actions will be undertaken to meet the unique needs of B.C. businesses led by underrepresented groups and regions.

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Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

- The Strategy is grounded in the Province's work to advance reconciliation, and as the Strategy progresses, we will continue to ensure that Indigenous rights and interests are acknowledged and respected and that Indigenous peoples are full partners and leaders in economic development in the Province.
- The anticipated public release is planned for spring 2023.

B.C.'s Export Performance

- B.C. is the fourth largest provincial exporter. Compared to other provinces, B.C.'s export profile is relatively diversified in terms of the goods exported and the destination of exports.
- Year-to-date B.C. exports were \$59.9 billion in November 2022, an increase of 21.2 percent compared with November 2021. Most of this increase can be attributed to an increase in exports to the U.S., Japan, South Korea, and India.
- In 2021, B.C. exported \$53.9 billion in goods, an increase of 36.1 percent compared with 2020.
- The U.S. accounted for over half of B.C.'s total goods exports at \$29.88 billion in 2022 (55.4 percent). China had B.C.'s second largest goods export market at \$8.88 billion (16.5 percent).

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2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

BC MARITIME INDUSTRIES STRATEGY

Issue: Province has committed to supporting B.C. maritime industries

RESPONSE

- The *B.C. Maritime Industries Strategy* will establish B.C. as a leader in innovative and high-value industrial marine activity aligned with our social, environmental and economic values to support sustainable sector growth and high-quality, inclusive jobs.
- B.C.'s maritime capabilities support commerce, transportation and marine operations in the region. The industrial marine sector has seen significant growth over the past decade as a result of federal vessel procurement, strong market demand for refit, repair and maintenance services, and increased capabilities and innovation in the industrial marine supply chain. Further, B.C. is home to many ocean science and technology companies that have global reputations for their niche expertise, often earning the majority of their revenues from export.
- The B.C. Maritime Industries Strategy is expected to support decarbonization, workforce development, infrastructure, "blue" innovation, export, major procurements, and industrial marine coordination.
- This will address challenges identified by industry including increased global competition, the need for 'green' innovation to decarbonize the marine sector, and the push to adopt new, modernized processes and technologies in order to stay competitive and relevant.

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- B.C.'s maritime industry includes vessel construction (small marine craft like yachts to large vessels more than 1,000 tonnes); marine industrial services; marine products; small craft marine; ocean science and technology; shipbuilding refit and repair; and marine professional services.
- B.C.'s maritime industry is interconnected with the larger blue economy through maritime logistics and shipping, marine infrastructure, commercial fishing and seafood products, coastal marine, etc.
- The Government made a commitment to B.C. maritime industries and the shipbuilding sector was articulated in 2021 and 2022 Mandate Letters for the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation.
- The Strategy is a key action under the *Stronger BC Economic Plan*, and will align with strategies across government including the ESG Centre of Excellence, Future Ready: Skills for the Jobs of Tomorrow, Goods Movement Strategy, CleanBC Roadmap to 2030, and the BC Coastal Strategy.
- On September 22, 2021, the Province announced the appointment of an Advisory Body to profile the industry, understand barriers and growth opportunities, and provide a broad perspective of alignment with labour, academia, and communities. The Advisory Body consists of two committees:
 - i. Industry Working Group (IWG) (chaired by Robert Allan, President, Association of B.C. Marine Industries); includes experienced experts who have longstanding

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Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

industry knowledge and insight with an active role in identifying and advancing sector opportunities.

- ii. Innovation Advisory Council (IAC) (co-chaired by JEDI DM Bobbi Plecas and Brenda Eaton, Chair, BC Ferries); includes a broader group of senior-level stakeholders across government, labour and academia to provide guidance, advice and objective feedback to the IWG on the research, analysis, engagement approach and report of recommendations.
- The Advisory Body supported a robust engagement effort, including:
 - An industry survey to get a better understanding key barriers and opportunities for growth, and ways that government can effectively support growth.
 - A series of targeted roundtables with key sector stakeholders (e.g., stakeholders representing federal government, ports and infrastructure, academia and labour, and innovation and sustainability related organizations).
 - One-on-one discussions with local governments, First Nations, and key companies (e.g., shipyards).
- B.C.'s maritime capabilities support commerce, transportation and marine operations in the region. Our shipyards build vessels of all sizes and provide robust ship repair, maintenance and refit activities that serve the Canadian Navy and Coast Guard fleets, and other key customers such as BC Ferries, cruise ships, foreign and domestic commercial vessels and small marine craft.
- B.C. is also home to a cluster of experienced companies with global reputations in niche areas of naval architecture and ship design, as well as technology companies in CADD systems, control, communication, information, environmental monitoring and navigation systems.
- The Strategy is guided by three overarching objectives (i) Clean, inclusive growth; (ii) Support the competitiveness and capacity of B.C. maritime industries' greater market share and opportunities for B.C. maritime industries; and (iii) Diverse, resilient coastal communities.
- Strategy activities are expected to support decarbonization, workforce development, infrastructure, "blue" innovation, export, major procurements, and industrial marine coordination (pending resource availability).

The draft Strategy is expected to be released in the Spring/Summer 2023 (Note: No update as of Mar. 20, 2023).

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2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

BC CENTRE FOR AGRITECH INNOVATION – ECON PLAN

Issue: JEDI provides \$6.5 million to Simon Fraser University to establish the BC Centre for Agritech Innovation

RESPONSE

- The BC Centre for Agritech Innovation (BCCAI) is an investment in growing B.C.'s small and medium-sized businesses in the agritech sector.
- BCCAI's activities will contribute to government's goal of improving food security, sustainability and increasing productivity in BC by helping companies develop and introduce new technologies to support a resilient agricultural sector.
- The BCCAI is a key commitment of the StrongerBC Economic Plan and supports a recommendation of the Food Security Task Force to create an agriculture and agritech institute as a collaborative entity across post-secondary institutions to drive excellence in priority areas and deepen the knowledge base and talent pool for the agriculture innovation agenda.
- BCCAI will help companies move from minimally viable products to commercially viable products that meet the needs of the agricultural sector, while reducing the impacts on the environment and climate.
- The Federal Government (through PacifiCan) is providing \$10 million over 5 years, and the Province (through JEDI) is contributing up to \$6.5 million over 3 years to support the services delivered through the BCCAI.
- The BCCAI officially started taking applications in September 2022 and selected the first four industry projects in December 2022.
- BCCAI will provide the following deliverables by July 2025:
 - Train 750 workers, create 195 jobs, and develop 30 industry projects.
 - Create economic opportunities for Indigenous Peoples by training at least 20 Indigenous people in highly qualified positions.
- BCCAI's first annual report is due October 18, 2023.

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- The BCCAI is a province-wide initiative, headquartered at Simon Fraser University (SFU) Surrey with partnered hubs located throughout B.C. BCCAI is led by SFU in collaboration with other B.C. universities, including the University of the Fraser Valley and Kwantlen Polytechnic University, British Columbia Institute of Technology, and more.
- The Centre focuses on three pillars:
 1. Industry projects to help small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs) develop their products and get them to market faster;
 2. Skills development, including designing farming literacy programs for tech sector members; and
 3. Agritech network bringing stakeholders together to share best practices, intelligence, and co-create holistic solutions addressing agriculture sector challenges.

2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

- The BCCAI will leverage the triple helix model by bringing together academia, government, and industry partners to assess the needs of the end-users (ex: farmers, food processors, etc.) and provide project-specific supports to accelerate the development and adoption of technologies.
- Eligible applicants must be SMEs who:
 - Have between 4-100, full-time employees;
 - Are a private corporation headquartered in B.C.;
 - Have been in operation for at least two years;
 - Have a clear plan to scale up their business; and
 - Have 1–4 collaborating partners on the proposed project.
- Eligible projects will:
 - Cost between \$50,000 and \$500,000 (applicants responsible for 50%).
 - Have a product at a Technology Readiness Level of 5-9 with the potential to commercialize within 12 to 24 months.
- BCCAI will focus on projects that are developing, testing and piloting solutions in simulated and real-world environments to be farm-ready for commercialization.
- As of December 2022, four industry projects have been signed:
 - Agrotech Industries, Aeroroot Systems Ltd., Lucent Biosciences Inc., and Bakerview EcoDairy (Project details in Appendix 1).
- These projects are anticipated to cumulatively create 34 jobs, train 4 highly qualified persons (HQP), and have products ready for market within 24 months. This is a total investment of \$530,000, including \$133,000 from BCCAI matched with \$133,000 cash and \$264,000 in-kind from industry.
- The projects were announced on January 26th at the Pacific Agriculture Show in Abbotsford by Minister Alexis (MAF), SFU Vice President, Dugan O’Neil and federal Parliamentary Secretary Francis Drouin.

Administrative pieces to pay attention to:

- BCCAI’s annual reports include results by project; a statement of detailed/itemized expenditures; a work plan; a forecasted spending plan for the remainder of the project; an update on funding from other parties; and progress made on the objectives/targets outlined in their contract.
- As of January 2023, BCCAI has approximately 30 more project applications in the queue.

Budget impacts:

- Up to \$6.5 million over three years (first year of funding was 2022/23).

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2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

APPENDIX 1: INDUSTRY PROJECT DETAILS

1. **Aeroroot Systems** is developing quality standards for basil cultivation using vertical farming. Aeroroot designs vertically automated aeroponics growing equipment called AeroWalls, allowing farmers to grow crops anywhere with no soil and 90 percent less water. Cultivation trials using the Aerowall equipment will be conducted inside a greenhouse at Kwantlen Polytechnic University to develop best management practices. The project represents as much as \$34,000 in investment.
2. **Agrotek Industries**, an Indigenous-owned fertilizer and biostimulant manufacturing company, will test the effects of an innovative and organic soil amendment on blueberry plants and grapevines grown in the Okanagan through its \$186,000 project. The company also wants to test its products on greenhouse crops. Agrotek products use naturally sourced ingredients extracted from Canadian mines. Agrotek is partnering on the project with the Westbank First Nation Indian Band, IAS Labs, Wapaw Bay Inc. and Simon Fraser University.
3. **Bakerview EcoDairy** in Abbotsford experiments with new technologies and innovations in sustainable agriculture, including rice cultivation. The company is using hydroponic farming systems to enhance rice-growing capacity on the Lower Mainland and is partnering with Granville Island's Artisan Sakemaker to make sake from rice grown on the farm. The company's project represents a \$53,000 investment to help develop a sustainable method to address weed control, which is a major challenge in rice production.
4. **Lucent BioSciences** accelerates sustainable agriculture by delivering crop nutrition that improves yield and soil health while sequestering carbon. Lucent is looking to develop a new fertilizer called Soileos copper as an important essential plant micronutrient. Copper-deficient soils cause significant yield loss and the company's \$267,000 project will assess copper application on various crops cultivated in a controlled environment. Lucent is partnering with SFU on the project.

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Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

INDUSTRIAL MANUFACTURING ACTION PLAN

Issue: Progress made to date / importance of manufacturing

RESPONSE

- The Industrial & Manufacturing Action Plan is a new action under the Clean Growth goal of the Province's economic plan, *StrongerBC*.
- The Action Plan will seek to create more domestic manufacturing capability, increase cross-sector collaboration, and create new jobs and high-value, sustainable goods across sectors.
- Manufacturing is a critical economic driver across the Province – it contributes over \$16 billion to B.C.'s GDP and employs over 170,000 British Columbians.
- Manufacturing is a key priority as we look to drive more clean and inclusive economic growth in every corner of our province. By manufacturing products here at home, we maximize the value we get from our precious natural resources.
- COVID-19 and other global risks like climate change have shown us that we need to secure our supply chains and make them more resilient.
- Recent investments in B.C. manufacturing, including the \$180 million Manufacturing Jobs Fund, is one example of our government's commitment to this important sector.
- B.C. has key strengths in forest products, food & beverage processing, aerospace, shipbuilding, metals & machinery, and medical products, to name a few. The Action Plan will help B.C. capitalize on new opportunities in these and other value-added industries.
- We are continuing to engage with our industry stakeholders and Indigenous partners to ensure the Action Plan addresses key needs and has a meaningful impact on workers across the Province.

KEY FACTS

Current Status:

- JEDI staff have completed comprehensive economic modelling on the manufacturing sector.
- Business Information; Cabinet Confidences; Intergovernmental Communications

- In her December 2022 letter from Premier Eby, Minister Brenda Bailey was given a mandate to "Continue working with local governments to identify and preserve land suitable for supporting sustainable industrial activity and economic benefits in rural and urban communities throughout the province."

Business Information; Cabinet Confidences; Intergovernmental Communications

2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

Business Information; Cabinet Confidences; Intergovernmental Communications

- Key B.C. Government Initiatives that support industry development:
 - Manufacturing Jobs Fund
 - Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program (REDIP)
 - CleanBC Program for Industry
 - InBC Strategic Investment Fund
 - Export Navigator Program
 - BC Trade and Investment Representative Network
 - Innovative Clean Energy Fund
 - Innovate BC business grants
 - Employer Training Grant
 - Community Workforce Response Grant
 - Training Tax Credit for Apprentices
 - Sector Labour Market Partnership Program
- Prior-Year B.C. Government initiatives that supported industry development:
 - Accelerating Manufacturing Grants, 2021-2022 (\$10 million Program)
 - Supply Chain Resiliency Grants, 2021-2022 (\$6 million Program)
 - Supplier Development Program, 2015-2020
- Economic Contributions of B.C.'s Manufacturing Sector:
 - \$16.3 billion in GDP annually
 - 170,000 family-supporting jobs
 - Wages 8% above B.C. average
 - Approximately 20,000 businesses (over 90% are small and medium-sized enterprises)
 - \$32 billion in annual export revenues (60% of B.C.'s exports are manufactured goods)
 - More reliable and resilient supply chains
 - Local opportunities for product innovation (e.g., intellectual property development, advanced research and development ecosystems)
 - Local opportunities for process innovation (e.g., plant electrification to support clean growth)

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2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

AGRITECH GRANT PROGRAM - StrongerBC

Issue: Progress on the *StrongerBC* Agritech Grant Program

RESPONSE

- The Agritech Grant Program provided one-time funding under *StrongerBC* to support B.C.-based agritech or technology companies, agriculture producers and agrifood companies in developing technologies to address food security, productivity and sustainable practices.
- The Grant provided \$7.5 million to 21 companies (max. \$500,000 per company) in March 2021.
 - 15 located in the Lower Mainland
 - 6 outside the Lower Mainland
- Over 100 companies applied for funding.
- Grant recipients are working on a range of projects, ranging from nutrient/waste management to precision agriculture, aquaculture, traceability and robotics.
- Companies are required to submit progress reports to JEDI every six months until the project concludes.
- Preliminary results as of January 2023 include:
 - 75 new jobs created, and 132.5 jobs retained, with an average annual salary of \$70,900.
 - 102 new technologies developed.
 - 23 new technologies brought to market (commercialized).
 - 80 new partnerships established (industry, academia, Indigenous groups, etc.).
- The ministry regularly receives requests from stakeholders for another intake of the program.

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- The Agritech Grant Program is a \$7.5 million grant program that was announced as part of B.C.'s economic plan, *StrongerBC*.
- The program was intended to accelerate the growth of B.C.'s agritech sector, in support of economic recovery, and ensure companies could maintain employment using one-time grant funding.
- The Program follows on the recommendations of the 2020 Food Security Task Force report, which outlined a vision for establishing a thriving agritech sector in B.C.
- The Program was launched on December 11, 2020, with a 9-week intake period. Intake closed February 12, 2021, with over 100 applications submitted and a total funding request of \$35.2 million.
- The Program was led by the Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation (JEDI), in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food (MAF).
- Applications were reviewed and evaluated by JEDI, MAF, a Technical Review Panel and a Strategic Review Panel.
- In total, there were 21 grant recipients selected, of which 14 recipients were located outside the lower mainland. Grant amounts ranged from \$150,000 to \$500,000. See Appendix 1 for a full summary.

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Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

- As of January 2023, thirteen projects have been completed and seven are ongoing (one participating company dissolved). Projects have until April 30, 2024, to be completed.
- The interim benefits of the program are detailed in the table below:

Interim Results	
Jobs created	75
Jobs retained	132.5
Average annual salary	\$70,900
Technologies piloted/ demonstrated	102
Technologies commercialized	23
Partnerships established	80

- Other benefits include:
 - Recipients have increased exports of novel agritech products.
 - Interested recipients are working with JEDI's Export Services team to assist them in expanding into new markets.
 - Two recipients (Bakerview EcoDairy and Lucent Biosciences) have been selected to participate in projects with the BC Centre for Agritech Innovation.
- The program has been lauded by industry and public sector stakeholders who are similarly aligned with JEDI's objective to grow the agritech sector. These stakeholders have signaled to Ministry staff their keen interest in whether or not the Province will continue the program at the conclusion of this first intake.

Administrative pieces to pay attention to:

- Companies submit six-month progress reports for the term of their projects. The next reporting cycle will close April 30, 2023. Program Managers work closely with all recipients to obtain the reports and clarify questions.
- Five projects received extensions for their project timelines. Delays were due to labour shortages and supply chain disruptions, as well as necessary but unforeseen pivots to the scope of the project. All projects are still expected to be completed by April 30, 2024.

Budget/Expenditures:

- \$7.5 million in grants was provided to 21 companies (max. \$500,000 per company) in FY 2020/21.

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Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

Appendix 1

List of Agritech Grant Recipients

#	Applicant (Company)	Project Type	Economic Region	Funding Amount (\$)
1	Valid Manufacturing	Nutrient/waste management	Thompson-Okanagan	\$320,000
2	Lucent Biosciences Inc.	Nutrient/waste management	Mainland/Southwest	\$248,145
3	NovoBind Livestock Therapeutics	Agri-biotech	Mainland/Southwest	\$500,000
4	Sanctuary Cognitive Systems Corp.	Labour automation	Mainland/Southwest	\$500,000
5	Advanced Intelligent Systems (AIS)	Robotics	Mainland/Southwest	\$500,000
6	TechBrew Robotics Inc.	Labour automation	Thompson-Okanagan	\$500,000
7	BW Global	Innovative production system	Mainland/Southwest	\$500,000
8	Verdi Expeditions	Precision agriculture IoT	Mainland/Southwest	\$300,000
9	AgriForest Biotechnologies Ltd.	Agri-biotech	Thompson-Okanagan	\$150,000
10	ThisFish	Traceability, e-commerce	Mainland/Southwest	\$353,313
11	FoodMesh	Traceability, e-commerce, and waste management	Mainland/Southwest	\$450,000
12	BarrelWise Technologies Ltd.	Precision agriculture	Mainland/Southwest	\$500,000
13	BCCA Delivery (BC Cattlemen)	Precision agriculture GPS	Thompson-Okanagan	\$350,000
14	<i>Trident Processes (insolvent)</i>	<i>Nutrient/waste management</i>	<i>Mainland/Southwest</i>	<i>\$413,861</i>
15	Cascadia Seaweed	Aquaculture	Vancouver Island/Coast	\$258,821
16	Point 3 Biotech Corp.	Waste management	Mainland/Southwest	\$257,820
17	Skipper Otto	Traceability, e-commerce	Mainland/Southwest	\$227,775
18	i-Open Technologies Inc.	Precision agriculture IoT	Mainland/Southwest	\$500,000
19	Industrial Plankton	Aquaculture, biotechnology	Vancouver Island/Coast	\$200,000
20	Flex Alert Company Ltd.	Precision agriculture IoT, sensing and monitoring	Mainland/Southwest	\$240,000
21	Bakerview EcoDairy Ltd.	Traceability, e-commerce	Mainland/Southwest	\$230,265
			TOTAL	\$7,500,000

2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

MANUFACTURING RECOVERY PROJECTS - StrongerBC

Issue: Overview of economic recovery grants providing targeted support to the manufacturing sector

RESPONSE

- As part of B.C.'s Economic Recovery Plan, the Province committed up to \$16.25 million (2021) toward the Supply Chain Resiliency and Value-Added Manufacturing Grant projects.
- These programs supported small and medium-sized businesses to build manufacturing capacity, generate new economic opportunities, and enhance supply chain resilience.
- The funding was comprised of three program components:
 - \$10 million Accelerating Manufacturing Scale-Up Grant Program;
 - \$6 million Supply Chain Resiliency Grant Program; and
 - \$0.25 million Strategic Supply Chain Analysis.

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

Manufacturing is a critical component of B.C.'s economy, representing:

- 179,000 good paying jobs;
- \$15.6 billion contribution in GDP (6.4 percent of provincial total GDP); and
- Approximately 12,000 small and medium-size companies.

1) Accelerating Manufacturing Scale-Up Grant Program:

- A \$10 million program to accelerate innovative capacity, and strengthen provincial supply chains, providing one-time, 75 percent funded provincial grants (to a maximum of \$250,000 for individual businesses; up to \$500,000 for groups in collaboration).
- Eligible project activities included:
 - Prototype, pilot or demonstrate new technology;
 - Commercialize new technology or products;
 - Support in-market access activities; or
 - Assess or conduct process/operational improvements to increase production.
- Following a Request for Proposal (RFP) (Jan. 21-Feb. 18, 2021), JEDI selected Pricewaterhouse Coopers LLP (PWC) to deliver the Accelerating Manufacturing Scale-Up Grant program and ensure appropriate use of grant funds.

Status:

- More than 700 applications were received (April 25-June 1, 2021) and assessed using merit based criteria aligned with program objectives.
- October 20, 2021, 43 projects were announced for funding.
- \$8.7 million was paid to recipients and distributed to 43 projects across the province, 41 of which were completed. Two projects were cancelled due to supply chain issues.
- PwC has submitted a final project report to JEDI. Key outcomes (among others):
 - 78 percent of recipients reduced existing dependency on international suppliers.
 - 71 percent of recipients increased their international and/or domestic exports.
 - 24 percent of recipients collaborated with Indigenous peoples on their projects.
- Project example: *TAG Panels Inc.* (Squamish) – The project was for the acquisition of automation equipment for the manufacture of prefab panels for prefabricated homes.

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Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

2) Supply Chain Resiliency Grant Program:

- A \$6 million program providing one-time, 100 percent funded provincial grants to support B.C. small and medium-sized businesses and industry associations to increase the resiliency of manufacturing supply chains and manage the risk of future disruption.
- Eligible applicants included the following:
 - Industry Organizations: Up to \$400,000 for registered Canadian or B.C. industry, sector, or trade associations or organizations that support manufacturing in B.C.;
 - Groups in Collaboration: Up to \$200,000 for a group of two or more legally registered entities working in collaboration that support manufacturing in B.C. (for-profit or not-for profit entities).

Status:

- 94 applications were received (Jan. 18-Feb 18, 2021) and assessed using merit based criteria aligned with program objectives.
- Priority was given to manufacturing projects in: food and beverage processing; shipbuilding; aerospace; medical supplies; and forestry.
- Applications were reviewed by JEDI and underwent a technical review by ministry staff from Forests, Agrifood and Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation.
- 25 B.C. applicants were awarded \$6 million in funding. One project was cancelled due to management changes with the funds returned to JEDI.
- The 24 projects included: 10 - machinery, infrastructure & technology enhancements; 8 - supply chain reports; and 6 - research and/or education programs.
- 12 percent of the recipients were First Nations, e.g., Williams Lake First Nation.
- Project example: *The Independent Wood Processors Association of British Columbia* produced a report analyzing fibre supply availability for value-added wood products. Through the B.C. Timber Sales Value-Added Manufacturing Program, secondary manufacturers now have a dedicated fibre supply under a new licensing program.

3) Strategic Supply Chain Analysis:

- \$250,000 to support a study focused on key B.C. manufacturing and related strategic supply chains and emerging value-added manufacturing opportunities.
- PwC was selected to deliver the project following an RFP (closed Mar. 9, 2021).
- Five sectors were selected based on GDP, export levels and strategic provincial priorities: 1) Food & Beverage; 2) Chemicals; 3) Computers, Electronic & Electrical Equipment; 4) Minerals & Metal Products; and 5) Transportation & Machinery Equipment.

Status: The December 2021 PwC B.C. Strategic Supply Chain Report identified opportunities to strengthen B.C.'s strategic supply chains and economic recovery; inform the B.C. Industrial and Manufacturing Action Plan; and generate new employment in the B.C. manufacturing sector.

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2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

MASS TIMBER ACTION PLAN

Issue: Implementation of the Mass Timber Action Plan is moving mass timber from niche to mainstream

RESPONSE

- The Mass Timber Action Plan (MTAP) was released in April 2022.
- The MTAP was developed in consultation with Indigenous leaders and major stakeholders in the forest product manufacturing, development, and construction sector.
- The Province is now implementing key objectives of the plan, with many achievements in the past year and more to come (**see Estimates Note #65 – Measuring Success in Mass Timber**).
- The MTAP is bringing positive change for people living in British Columbia through:
 - Workforce transition towards low-carbon, emerging, green technology;
 - Expanded market adoption of building materials that achieve climate targets; and
 - Economic development opportunities that support innovation in mass timber manufacturing.

KEY FACTS

- The Mass Timber Action Plan is a bold, carbon-friendly, market transformation strategy involving 15 ministries.
- The plan bridges three pillars of B.C.'s economy typically siloed: forestry, manufacturing and land development/construction.
- The MTAP consists of seven objectives nested under three thematic planks that align with the StrongerBC Economic Plan:
 - Plank 1: Develop mass timber as an innovative economic sector.
 - Demonstrate mass timber in action
 - Enhance and advance the system of technical tools and rules
 - Catalyze construction sector innovation
 - Celebrate B.C.'s high-performance building success
 - Plank 2: Maximize mass timber's benefits for people.
 - Expand mass timber education and prepare the workforce
 - Strengthen inclusive, sustainable, economic development
 - Plank 3: Support a more sustainable low-carbon future.
 - Amplify climate action with low carbon building materials

Contact:

Jarrett Hutchinson	Executive Director	Office of Mass Timber Implementation	250 208-7277
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2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

MASS TIMBER ADVISORY COUNCIL

Issue: Internationally recognized thought leaders advise on Mass Timber Action Plan implementation

RESPONSE

- The Mass Timber Advisory Council (MTAC) provides advice on the implementation of B.C.'s cross-government and cross-sectoral Mass Timber Action Plan (MTAP).
- The MTAC's advice and guidance was instrumental in the development of the MTAP.

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- The MTAC was formed in April 2021 and draws on the collective knowledge and insights of key leaders in the development, construction, and forestry sectors.
- The MTAC is composed of 18 B.C. thought leaders who are recognized internationally for their contribution to mass timber innovation.
- The chair of the MTAC is the Honourable Jagrup Brar, Minister of State for Trade. Minister Brar will chair his first meeting in early April 2023.
- The MTAC met five times throughout 2021 and 2022.

Mass Timber Advisory Council Member List

Name	Organization
Government and Regulators	
Terry Teegee, Regional Chief	British Columbia Assembly of First Nations
Robert Phillips, Elected Member	First Nations Summit Political Executive
Brian Frenkel, Past President	Union of BC Municipalities
Tim Ryce, Chief Building Official	City of North Vancouver
Engineering and Architecture	
Andrew Harmsworth, Fire Engineer, Principal	GHL Consultants
Derek Newby, Principal	Diamond Schmitt Architects
Michael Green, Founder	Michael Green Architects
Paul Fast, Founder	Fast+Epp
Industry	
Anne McMullin, President & CEO	Urban Development Institute
Paul Rasmussen, President	Interior Lumber Manufacturers' Association
Jeff Bromley, Wood Council Chairperson	United Steel Workers
Karla Fraser, Construction Manager	Hive Projects Inc.
Linda Coady, President and CEO	BC Council of Forest Industries
Brian Hawrysh, CEO	BC Wood Specialties
Research & Education	
Claire Huxtable, Senior Analyst	ERA Forest Products Research
Dr. Guido Wimmers, Associate Professor	Master of Engineering Program, UNBC
Shawn Keyes, Executive Director	WoodWORKS! BC
Tom-Pierre Frappé-Sénéclauze, Program Director, Buildings	Pembina Institute

2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

Ex-officio

Kerry Pridmore, ADM

Michael Loseeth, President & CEO

Trade & Industry Development Division, JEDI

Forestry Innovation Investment

Contact:

Jarrett Hutchinson Executive Director

Office of Mass Timber
Implementation

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2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

INVESTMENTS IN MASS TIMBER

Issue: Investments to advance the mass timber sector

RESPONSE

- The Province is advancing the mass timber sector in B.C. through investment in demonstration projects, research, and other initiatives, such as education and manufacturing grants.
- The Province invested a total of \$14.40 million in mass timber in 2020/21 and 2021/22, and has budgeted \$5.18 million in 2022/23.
- These investments:
 - Support the objectives of the Mass Timber Action Plan;
 - Demonstrate the feasibility of mass timber construction; and
 - Show the Province's commitment to investing in the opportunity of mass timber.
- The Ministry has a base budget of \$2.620 million to advance the implementation of the Mass Timber Action Plan.

KEY FACTS

Mass Timber Demonstration Program

- The Mass Timber Demonstration Program promotes innovation in construction and supports real-world examples of mass timber in action.
- Since 2020, the Province has committed \$8.52 million to the Mass Timber Demonstration Program through JEDI (\$7 million) and FII supplemental funding (\$1.52 million):
 - \$4.83 million on building demonstration projects (intakes 1 and 2).
 - \$0.57 million on research projects (intake 1).
 - Remaining funds will be awarded to building projects from a third intake.
- See # 75 – **Mass Timber Demonstration Program – StrongerBC** for more information.

Investments in Research

- Since 2020, \$5.15 million has been invested in research via
 - JEDI research contracts;
 - Forestry Innovation Investment (FII) through the Wood First initiative; and
 - Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation (EMLI) through the CleanBC Building Innovation Fund (BIF).

	\$ million		
	2020/21 Spent	2021/22 spent	2022/23 budgeted
JEDI (research contracts)	-	0.29	0.29
FII (Wood First)	0.93	1.21	0.97
EMLI (Building Innovation Fund)	0.96	0.50	-
TOTAL	1.89	2.00	1.26

- To date, 83 research projects have been completed or are underway, advancing the amount of data and scientific support for the use of mass timber in construction.

2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

- Outcomes from projects the Province has invested in, include:
 - Improved ability to estimate the environmental impact of buildings during the design phase;
 - Local government land use planning and design guidelines to support mass timber buildings; and
 - Structural testing and analytical research on point-supported cross laminated timber (CLT) for use in multi-unit residential buildings.

Education, Manufacturing and Communications:

- Since 2020, the Province has invested \$6.33 million in education, manufacturing, and communications:

	\$ million		
	2020/21 spent	2021/22 spent	2022/23 budgeted
JEDI (Supply Chain Grant)	0.40	-	-
FII (Wood First and Market Outreach)	0.72	0.83	0.92
EMLI (CleanBC Building Innovation Fund)	2.34	0.50	-
Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills (mass timber education)	0.37	0.25	-
TOTAL	3.83	1.58	0.92

- Outcomes from this investment include:
 - BCIT programs and curriculum on mass timber, including a well-subscribed micro-credential program and associate certificate program;
 - Expansion of pre-fabrication manufacturing facilities and technology; and
 - Communicating B.C.'s position as a leader in mass timber innovation through FII's Wood First program and market outreach.

Capital Projects

- The Ministry of Finance's ESG Framework for Capital was approved in June 2022. It requires that publicly-funded buildings incorporate mass timber wherever feasible.
- By investing in capital projects, the Province is leading by example and demonstrating the use and advantages of mass timber construction.
- Twenty-five (25) buildings have been announced since early 2021, and others have been approved or are in business case development.

Contact:

Jarret Hutchinson Executive Director Office of Mass Timber (250) 208-7277
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2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

MEASURING SUCCESS IN MASS TIMBER

Issue: Data measuring growth in B.C.'s mass timber sector

RESPONSE

- More mass timber is being used in more buildings in B.C. than ever before:
 - Annual square footage of mass timber used in new buildings grew by 15 percent in 2022, exceeding the forecast by 5 percent.
 - Approximately 370 buildings have been completed or are under construction, up from 285 about a year ago. Fifty additional buildings are in planning.
- Provincial investment in mass timber demonstration and workforce training is also having a strong impact.
 - Government is leading by example: 25 capital construction projects have been announced since early 2021 and others have been approved or are in business case development.
 - Private-sector innovation is being supported through the Mass Timber Demonstration Program: 12 buildings have been funded through two intakes since April 2021.
 - B.C.'s workforce is being supported to adapt to mass timber construction: Five new skills training programs have been implemented since early 2021.
 - For example, BCIT is offering three mass timber training initiatives with a total of 708 registrations.
- 83 mass timber research projects have been funded in the past 3 years.

KEY FACTS

Service Plan Metric

- The Service Plan measures one aspect of mass timber sector growth. It does not capture the complex interplay of actions proposed in the Mass Timber Action Plan.
- The JEDI 2023-24 Service Plan uses the metric: square meters of floor area in newly constructed buildings that incorporate mass timber in one or more primary structural systems.
 - Structural systems are defined as roofs, floors, walls and building shafts.
 - Mass timber buildings are often hybrid, meaning structural systems will often use a combination of mass timber, concrete and steel.
- This metric enables the Office of Mass Timber Implementation to compare the amount of mass timber used in B.C. from year to year and to compare data with international reporting.
- Annual targets forecast a 10 percent increase year over year, and actual data for the first year is broadly tracking with this. This may change in future years as B.C. is a relatively small market, with a small number of buildings constructed each year. This means the floor area of buildings can be volatile from year to year.

2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

Educational Opportunities

- Six skills training programs have been developed to support B.C.'s workforce to adapt to mass timber construction. Registration data is provided where available:

Institution	Program or Course	Registrations
B.C. Insitute of Technology	Introductory Studies in Mass Timber Construction (micro-credential)	257
B.C. Insitute of Technology	Construction of Mass Timber Structures (associate certificate)	41
B.C. Insitute of Technology	Webinars for Building Officials: Introduction + Building Envelope and Fire Protection	410
B.C. Insitute of Technology	Whole-Building Life Cycle Assessment Professional (micro-credential)	n/a
University of Northern British Columbia	Mass Timber Development (micro-credential)	n/a
University of British Columbia	Advanced Topics in Timber Structures (graduate level course)	n/a

Future Success Metrics

- A key action in the Mass Timber Action Plan is to improve data available for tracking growth in B.C.'s emerging mass timber sector.
- Work is underway to update and build data sets to profile mass timber and move from anecdotal information to accurate and reliable data.
 - For example, B.C. is expected to continue exporting a large share of product across Western North America.
 - Anecdotal reports suggest that 50-70 percent of mass timber product manufactured in B.C. is exported.
 - The Harmonized Item Description and Coding System (HS) was updated in January 2022 to include new international HS codes for cross-laminated timber, glulam and engineered structural timber products. A clearer picture of mass timber trade will be available in future years when these new codes are fully implemented by border services classifying imports and exports.
- For facts regarding B.C.'s mass timber sector, refer to **# 62 – Mass Timber Key Facts.**

Contact:

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2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

MASS TIMBER KEY FACTS

Issue: Mass timber has climate, employment, and economic benefits

RESPONSE

- Mass timber buildings are:
 - Safe in earthquakes – five times lighter than concrete and more resilient to seismic forces.
 - Strong – they match or exceed the structural performance of concrete and steel.
 - Resistant to fire – panels subjected to fire for three hours remain structurally strong.
 - Quick to build – projects can be completed 25 percent faster than conventional construction.
 - Made from wood, a renewable resource – forests in B.C. regrow the wood required to build UBC's 18-storey Brock Commons student housing in 43 minutes.
- B.C.'s mass timber sector is growing. Production is estimated to be worth \$46 million in 2022-23.
- B.C. is constructing more mass timber buildings than ever:
 - Twenty-two B.C. municipalities have adopted BC Building Code requirements that allow mass timber buildings up to 12 storeys.
 - B.C. is home to approximately 370 mass timber buildings that are completed or under construction. There are about 50 additional buildings at an earlier stage of planning.
- Mass timber is better for the environment. GHG emissions are 25-40 percent lower for mass timber buildings than conventional construction.

KEY FACTS

Current State of Mass Timber in B.C.

- More than 22 B.C. companies provide mass timber services, sustaining over 700 jobs. Eleven of these manufacture mass timber products.
- B.C.'s total annual mass timber production capacity could build the equivalent of 47 Brock Commons every year (or 105,000 cubic meters).
- B.C. manufacturers, if working at full capacity, could produce 19 percent of North America's total mass timber production.
- Modeling shows potential for up to 10 more mid-sized mass timber plants in B.C. by 2035 to meet demand in B.C. and across western North America.

Market Growth of Mass Timber

- The value of the mass timber sector in the B.C. economy is expected to grow. Forecasts show:
 - An increase of \$24 million per year for the next 15 years
 - Annual value of \$403 million by 2035

2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

Climate Benefits

- Mass timber is prefabricated, which allows for less onsite construction waste and noise.
- Mass timber sequesters more than 200 kilograms of carbon dioxide equivalent per squared meter of floor, compared to concrete which emits 90 kilograms of carbon dioxide equivalent per squared meter of floor.
- UBC Brock Commons avoided emitting 679 metric tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent. This is equivalent to taking 511 cars off the road for one year.

Employment Benefits

- Projections estimate 2,350 jobs in manufacturing mass timber, with an additional 1,880 jobs in technology, forestry, engineering, and design by 2035.

Forest Facts

- B.C. has some of the highest rates of forest certification in the world. More than 40 million hectares of B.C. forests are certified.
- Large diameter trees are not needed to make mass timber.

Exporting Mass Timber

- Mass timber panels are frequently shipped. Mass timber panels have a similar weight to standard lumber and are not uniquely challenging to ship.
- B.C. has a thriving export industry. A large share of B.C.'s mass timber is exported and the US is the biggest market.

Contact:

Jarrett Hutchinson	Executive Director	Office of Mass Timber Implementation	250-208-7277
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2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

InBC INVESTMENT CORP. PROFILE

Issue: Overview of the InBC Investment Corp.

RESPONSE

- InBC is a \$500 million strategic investment fund created by the Government of British Columbia to provide a source of local and long-term capital for small and medium businesses.
- The InBC Investment Corp. Act (InBC Act) establishes the purpose and governance structure of the corporation.
- The purposes of the corporation are: to make investments that achieve a financial return; and, to make investments that support the social, economic and environmental policy objectives of the government
- InBC invests in opportunities that demonstrate measurable financial, social and environmental impacts that link to its triple bottom line approach considering: people, planet and profit.

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- InBC is a \$500 million strategic investment fund created by the Government of British Columbia to provide a source of local and long-term capital for small and medium businesses. With a triple bottom line approach that values people, planet and profit, InBC seeks to build a more sustainable, inclusive and prosperous future for British Columbians.
- Acting on the five priorities in its mandate:
 - **Putting people first:** InBC must advance and protect the public interest by making investments that support an inclusive economy for British Columbians.
 - **A better future through fighting climate change:** InBC aligns with the [CleanBC](#) climate action plan to build a future with clean energy jobs and protect our clean air, land and water.
 - **Lasting and meaningful reconciliation:** As a shared responsibility, InBC must continue to make every effort to advance reconciliation in cooperation with Indigenous Peoples.
 - **A strong sustainable economy that works for everyone:** InBC operates in a way that considers environmental, social and governance factors to build a better future for British Columbians.
 - **Equity and anti-racism:** People face barriers that limit their participation in communities, workplaces and their lives. Adopting the Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) lens is expected so that InBC can ensure equity is reflected in operations and programs.
- InBC invests in opportunities that demonstrate measurable financial, social and environmental impacts that link to its triple bottom line approach considering:
 - **People:** Investments support an inclusive economy for all British Columbians and advance reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.
 - **Planet:** Investments create new quality jobs and opportunities associated with a net-zero future and climate resiliency.
 - **Profit:** Investments have growth potential to achieve a positive financial return for British Columbians over the longer term.

2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

- The InBC Investment Corp. Act (InBC Act) establishes the purpose and governance structure of the corporation; as well as specifying the independence of investment decision-making by establishing the Chief Investment Officer (CIO) with the sole statutory authority to make investment decisions.
- InBC is governed by a Board of Directors, appointed by the Government of British Columbia, to oversee the affairs of the corporation to ensure prudent stewardship and alignment with the policy direction from the government. The Board is also responsible for the oversight of risk management of InBC. Board members are as follows: Christine Bergeron (Chair), Kevin Campbell, Carole James, Ingrid Leong, Glen Loughheed, Fazil Mihlar, Suzanne Trottier (Vice-Chair), and Heather Wood.
- The Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation and the Minister of Finance are the shareholders of InBC. The Deputy Ministers of each of the shareholder Ministries serve on the Board.
- InBC submits annual reports as required by the Budget Transparency and Accountability Act as well as an annual report regarding its investments to the Ministers responsible for InBC for tabling in the Legislature. InBC's legislation also requires an external review by an independent third party every five years.
- Jill Earthy joined InBC as its Chief Executive Officer in December of 2021. The Chief Investment Officer is Leah Nguyen, who was appointed in April 2022.
- InBC was created by repurposing an existing Crown corporation, the BC Immigrant Investment Fund (BCIIF). All the assets and responsibilities of the BCIIF have been transferred to InBC.
- InBC is also the sole shareholder of a subsidiary corporation, the BC Renaissance Capital Fund Ltd. (BCRCF), which holds venture capital investments in British Columbia's technology sector.
- The BCRCF, through its two portfolios of venture capital investments (Portfolio 1 and BC Tech Fund), makes capital available to B.C. technology companies by investing in venture capital funds and co-investing in B.C. companies.
- Both Portfolio 1 and Portfolio 2 are now fully committed. Portfolio 1 investments are at or near maturity. Portfolio 2 will continue to deploy capital to meet existing investment commitments but is no longer making new investments.
- As of December 31, 2022, InBC manages approximately \$86.0 million in assets, which includes \$5.9 million in outstanding infrastructure loans, \$75.3 million in venture capital fund investments and \$4.8 million in cash and short-term investments.
- InBC's operations and investments are financed through a combination of returns from its existing investment portfolios, accumulated surplus, an operating transfer from government and a fiscal agency loan arranged through the Ministry of Finance.
- The intention is for InBC to be self-sustaining over the long run.
- InBC does not include revenue or losses from venture capital investments when forecasting due to the variable and unpredictable nature of the investments. Actual results may be significantly different from the budget as a result.

Contact:

Jill Earthy

Chief Executive
Officer

InBC Investment
Corp

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2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

InBC BUDGET

Issue: InBC Budget and Transparency Measures

RESPONSE

- InBC Investment Corp. (InBC) is presenting expenses of \$7.531 million in 2023/24, \$10.799 million in 2024/25, and \$14.311 million in 2025/26.
- InBC is financed in part through operating contributions from the Province of B.C.
- Operating contributions will fund InBC's expenses when revenues from legacy venture investments are not sufficient to cover expenses. Accordingly, InBC does not present a deficit or a surplus over the course of the 3-year fiscal plan.

If asked about investment income...

- Venture capital investment income is not budgeted for because the timing of distributions from venture capital portfolios is unpredictable, and it is difficult to estimate the value of a portfolio distribution until it occurs.

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- InBC Investment Corp. (InBC) is presenting expenses of \$7.531 million in 2023/24, \$10.799 million in 2024/25, and \$14.311 million in 2025/26.
- InBC is financed in part through operating contributions from the Province of B.C. The operating contributions will fund InBC's expenses when revenues from legacy venture investments are not sufficient to cover expenses. Accordingly, InBC does not present a deficit or a surplus over the course of the 3-year fiscal plan.
- Venture capital investment income is not budgeted for because the timing of distributions from venture capital portfolios is unpredictable, and it is difficult to estimate the value of a portfolio distribution until it occurs.
- Over the past 5 years venture capital investment revenue has fluctuated from a low of \$0.1 million in 2019/20, to a high of \$14.8 million in 2017/18. For fiscal year 2022/23 InBC has realized venture capital investment income of \$0.436 million.
- Cabinet Confidences; Government Financial Information

- InBC will be investing with a long-term investment horizon, in some cases investment returns won't be realized for a number of years. InBC's financial performance may only be assessed over the long term.

Budget, Expenditures and Accountability:

InBC's budget presents the company's planned operating expenses which include:

- Salaries and Benefits budget of \$3.674 million in 2023/24, \$3.982 million in 2024/25, and \$4.309 million in 2025/26.
 - Salaries and Benefits will support a staff complement of 20 FTEs.
 - The budget for salaries reflects the salary levels approved by the Public Sector Employers' Council Secretariat and the Minister of Finance.

2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

- Similar to all Crown corporations, InBC publicly discloses all compensation that is paid to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and the next four highest ranking or highest paid executives with decision-making authority earning an annualized base salary of \$125,000 or more during a fiscal year. The report for last year (2021/22) is available on InBC's website.
- In accordance with the *Financial Information Act*, each year, InBC will disclose the total amount of remuneration for each employee that exceeds \$75,000 and the total amount of expenses paid to or on behalf of those employees.
- Operations and Administration budget of \$1.721 million in 2023/24, \$1.775 million in 2024/25, and \$1.899 million in 2025/26.
 - The budget covers expenses for Facilities, Board Costs Information Systems, Office Costs, Legal and Advisory Services.
 - In accordance with the *Financial Information Act*, on an annual basis, InBC will publicly disclose the name of the individual, firm or corporation and the aggregate amount paid to them when payments exceed \$25,000.
 - In accordance with Treasury Board Directive, remuneration paid to all board members will be disclosed every year so that this information is accessible and transparent to the public. The report for last year (2021/22) is available on InBC's website.
- Total Debt total debt budget of \$53.050 million in 2023/24, \$135.200 million in 2024/25, and \$247.300 million in 2025/26.
 - Budget 2021 direction specified that InBC's investments would be financed through a fiscal agency loan, arranged through the Ministry of Finance.
 - InBC's debt balance will be influenced by factors such as the available investment opportunities over the year, the timing and amount of venture capital calls and investment distributions. These factors create a high degree of uncertainty over debt projections, and actual results will differ from budgeted amounts.
- Debt Service debt service expenses of \$2.136 million in 2023/24, \$5.042 million in 2024/25, and \$8.103 million in 2025/26.
 - The fiscal agency loan that finances InBC's investments is interest bearing. Debt service expenses are driven by the prevailing market rate. Over the course of the past year, interest rates have increased significantly with the cost of short-term borrowing increasing from less than 1% to over 4%.
 - InBC will show an increasing debt burden over the next three years as it borrows to finance its investments. This borrowing will result in increasing debt service expenses. Accordingly, InBC's budget reflects interest expenses increasing to \$8.103 million by year 3 of the Service Plan based on interest rates ranging between 3.25% and 4.00% over the period.
 - InBC uses the 1-year forward Canadian sovereign yield curve to inform its interest rate assumptions over a 10-year horizon, however this information changes regularly based on market conditions.

Contact:

Jill Earthy

Chief Executive Officer

InBC Investment Corp

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2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

InBC CURRENT STATUS OF INVESTMENT PROGRAM

Issue: Current status of InBC's investment program

RESPONSE

- InBC Investment Corp. (InBC) launched its investment program, starting with venture funds, in Fall 2022.
- In December 2022, InBC completed its initial investments in three funds: Evok Innovations, Raven Indigenous Capital Partners and Yaletown Partners.
- InBC is actively preparing to launch its strategy to invest directly into companies with an inclusive intake and review process aligned with its mandate for launch in April 2023.
- InBC is on-track to commit \$25 million in fiscal 2022/23 and anticipates a cumulative capital commitment of \$105 million in 2023/24.

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

Chief Investment Officer and Investment Team

- The *InBC Investment Corp. Act* specifies independence of investment decision-making and establishes the Chief Investment Officer with the sole statutory authority to make investment decisions.
- InBC's Chief Investment Officer was hired in April 2022.
- Between April and June 2022 the CIO worked with the Board of Directors and InBC's shareholders to finalize InBC's Investment Policy Statement (IPS) and submitted the IPS for Minister of JEDI and Minister of Finance approval (InBC's shareholders).
- The IPS was submitted for Treasury Board approval by the Ministry of JEDI in late June 2022, and InBC was notified of the IPS approval in early July 2022.
- Over the course of Q2 (July – September 2022) InBC focused on recruitment of its investment team to deliver on its investment mandate detailed in the IPS.
- The IPS was shared publicly in October 2022 through a series of information sessions. The full IPS and summary documents are available on the InBC website.

Investment Policy Statement (IPS)

- The IPS defines and established the parameters of InBC's investment program including impact objectives, risk tolerances, constraints, and reporting requirements. InBC will invest through: venture funds¹ that invest across various stages of growth - seed stage²; early stage and later stage companies; co-investments³ in early and later stage companies; and direct investments in early and later stage companies. The IPS was approved by Treasury Board in late June 2022.

¹ Pooled investment funds that manage the money of investors who provide private capital to start-ups and small to medium-sized businesses considered to have growth potential.

² InBC will not be making direct investments into seed stage companies. Seed companies typically require smaller investments and additional post-investment support that sector specific funds are better suited to provide.

³ A co-investment is an investment into a company that InBC's partner venture funds have previously invested in or are contemplating investing in.

2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

- InBC has defined four impact objectives⁴ in the IPS to support a more inclusive, sustainable and prosperous economy: **Driving climate action** - Investing in solutions towards net-zero emissions and a climate resilient economy; **Advancing reconciliation** - Investing in solutions that strengthen partnerships and generate economic opportunities for Indigenous Peoples; **Elevating inclusive communities** - Investing in solutions to improve outcomes for under-represented people and communities; and **Innovating for the future** - Investing in innovations and industries for future economic growth.
- Any investment InBC makes aligns to at least one of these impact objectives, and is individually assessed according to its:
 1. Strength of connection to B.C.;
 2. Alignment with one (or more) of its impact objectives;
 3. Environmental, social and governance (ESG)⁵ risks; and,
 4. Ability to provide a return on investment and generate a profit.
 - 5.

With a team to support the intake of fund investment proposals, InBC published its IPS and communicated the investment intake opportunity for funds publicly.

Venture Funds:

- InBC launched its investment program, starting with venture funds, in the Fall 2022. In December 2022, InBC completed its initial investments in three funds: Evok Innovations, Raven Indigenous Capital Partners and Yaletown Partners (see Appendix A for further details). InBC is evaluating venture fund opportunities on an ongoing basis.

Co-investment:

- InBC is continuing to advance its investment strategy by commencing co-investments. Co-investing allows InBC to leverage private sector capital and investment expertise from trusted partners. This allows InBC to have access to a set of pre-reviewed investment opportunities which can expedite the investment decision making process and deploy capital to businesses more efficiently.

Direct investing:

- InBC is actively preparing to launch its strategy to invest directly into companies with an inclusive intake and review process aligned with its mandate and preparing detailed communications materials for launch in April 2023.
- Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information

⁴The measurable economic, social and environmental returns, as well as financial returns resulting from an investment.

⁵ESG is a framework for integrating and assessing environmentally and socially conscious factors in opportunities - environmental refers to stewardship of the natural environment; social refers to people and relationships; governance refers to responsible management. InBC is following the lead of the provincial government and will align with their ESG standards as they evolve: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/british-columbians-our-governments/government-finances/debt-management/bc-esg-report.pdf>

2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

- InBC is presenting a proposed capital commitment schedule as follows:

Performance Measure	2022/23 Forecast	2023/24 Target	2024/25 Target	2025/26 Target
Cumulative committed capital to venture funds and companies.	\$25M	\$105M	\$230M	\$365M

Contact:

Jill Earthy

Chief Executive Officer

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2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE
Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

Business Information

Business Information

Business Information	
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Business Information

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Business Information	
Investment rationale:	
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Business Information Advice/Recommendations; Business Information	

2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

Advice/Recommendations; Business Information; Intergovernmental Communications

Advice/Recommendations; Business Information; Intergovernmental Communications

Advice/Recommendations; Business Information; Intergovernmental Communications

- Advice/Recommendations; Business Information; Intergovernmental Communications
- Advice/Recommendations; Business Information; Intergovernmental Communications
- Advice/Recommendations; Business Information; Intergovernmental Communications

2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

InBC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Issue: InBC Board of Directors

RESPONSE

- InBC is a statutory Crown corporation created under the authority of the *InBC Investment Corp. Act* (InBC Act).
- Section 6 of the InBC Act prescribes that InBC's Board be composed of up to nine Directors including the Board Chair.
- Board members are as follows: Christine Bergeron (Board Chair), Suzanne Trottier (Vice Chair), Kevin Campbell, Iglika Ivanova, Carole James, Ingrid Leong, Glen Lougheed, Fazil Mihlar, and Heather Wood.

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- InBC is a statutory Crown corporation created under the authority of the *InBC Investment Corp. Act* (InBC Act). The *InBC Act* came into force May 20, 2021.
- Section 6 of the *InBC Act* prescribes that InBC's Board be composed of up to nine Directors including the Board Chair. Specifically, of those nine members:
 - Two are appointed from the public service – namely, the Deputy Ministers of the two responsible Ministries (Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation (JEDI), and Finance);
 - Seven members are to be appointed from outside the public sector; and,
 - The Board Chair is chosen by the Minister of JEDI, after consulting with the Minister of Finance. The Board elects a Vice Chair from among the Directors.
- Directors are appointed by Order in Council¹. The Minister of JEDI, after having consulted with the Minister of Finance, makes recommendation to the Lieutenant Governor in Council for appointment. The Governance and HR Committee of the Board vets and proposes candidates for upcoming vacancies and those recommendations are made to the Ministers.
- Directors are appointed for a term of up to three years². Terms can be renewed and there is no limit on term renewals.
- Section 13 of the *InBC Act* prescribes that the Board must meet at least six times per year. In addition, the Board may hold additional special meetings as required.
- In May of 2021 an inaugural Board of Directors was appointed for a single year. In September 2022 the entire Board was renewed in the following schedule:

Last Name	First Name	Title	Mechanism	Initial Appt	Term Expiry
Bergeron	Christine	Chair	Order in Council	05-May-21	September 30, 2023
Lougheed	Glen	Director	Order in Council	05-May-21	September 30, 2023
James	Carol	Director	Order in Council	05-May-21	September 30, 2023
Campbell	Kevin	Director	Order in Council	05-May-21	September 30, 2024
Ivanova	Iglika	Director	Order in Council	05-May-21	September 30, 2024
Wood	Heather	Director	Order in Council	26-Nov-20	September 30, 2024
Mihlar	Fazil	Director	Order in Council	24-Jan-23	September 30, 2024
Leong	Ingrid	Director	Order in Council	05-May-21	September 30, 2025
Trottier	Suzanne	Vice Chair	Order in Council	05-May-21	September 30, 2025

¹ *InBC Investment Corp Act* section 7.

² *InBC Investment Corp Act* section 8

2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

The Appointee Remuneration Committee of the Ministry of Finance classifies the positions on Crown Agency according to remuneration levels established by the Treasury Board. On January 20, 2021, the Appointment Remuneration Committee classified InBC as a level four Crown agency board on the basis of the criteria established in Treasury Board Directive 2/20.

Cabinet Confidences; Government Financial Information

Table 1: Maximum Remuneration

Maximum Remuneration	Level 4	Level 6
Retainer – Chair	15,000	30,000
Retainer – Appointee	7,500	15,000
Retainer – Audit Cttee Chair	3,000	5,000
Retainer – Other Cttee Chair	2,000	3,000
Meeting Fee – Chair (Full Day)	500	750
Meeting Fee – Appointee (Full Day)	500	750

*Two years from the date the first board member was appointed is May 5, 2023, at which time remuneration moves from level 6 to level 4.

Contact:

Jill Earthy Chief Executive Officer InBC Investment Corp 604-762-4732

2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

Appendix A: InBC Board Member Profiles

Board Chair, Christine Bergeron is the president and CEO of Vancity, Canada's largest community credit union. Prior to becoming CEO, she was Vancity's chief member services officer, leading its member experience and community engagement divisions. Bergeron's achievements earned her a spot on the Business in Vancouver 2007 Top 40 Under 40 list. Much of her career has involved working with entrepreneurs, financing innovative companies and building financial firms focused within the clean tech, sustainability and impact investing sectors. Bergeron is a board member of Aviso Wealth and represents North America on the United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative's Banking Board.

Vice Chair, Suzanne Trottier is the vice-president of Indigenous trust services with First Nations Bank Trust. Trottier is a proud Métis who grew up in Manitoba with maternal roots to the Lake Manitoba First Nation. Previously, she was the director of capacity development and intervention with the First Nations Financial Management Board and vice-president of Ernst & Young Corporate Finance Inc. Active in her community, Trottier is a board member and member of the Risk Committee and the Audit Committee for the Business Development Bank of Canada. Previously, she was treasurer for North Fraser Métis Association and Actions Enfrance. Trottier was also a board member of Aboriginal Finance Officers Association of Quebec and a committee member for the National Financial Literacy Committee and the National Indigenous Financial Literacy Committee. She is a chartered financial analyst and an ICD.D with the Institute of Corporate Directors. Trottier holds a master of business administration in finance from the University of Western Ontario and a bachelor of arts in sociology from the University of Manitoba.

Kevin Campbell is the managing director of investment banking and is on the board of directors of Haywood Securities Inc., a Vancouver-based investment dealer. He is also founder and chair of the Altruition Scholarship Foundation. Campbell has previously served on the Provincial Child Care Council and B.C. Emerging Economy Task Force, as well as the boards of the Vancouver International Film Festival and Lundin Foundation.

Iglika Ivanova is an economist and policy analyst with a decade of experience in analyzing Canadian labour markets and public policy. Ivanova is a senior economist and public interest researcher at the BC Office of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, where she has produced high-impact research on key social and economic challenges facing Canada and developed evidence-based policy proposals to build a more just, inclusive and sustainable economy. She is an active member of academic and professional economist networks, Canadian Association for Business Economics and the Canadian Economics Association. Ivanova's areas of expertise include B.C. and Canadian labour market issues, job quality, low-wage work and living wages, poverty, income inequality, gender inequality, government finance, economic and social policy, and applying a gender and intersectional lens to public policy decisions.

Carole James served as minister of finance and deputy premier of British Columbia from 2017 to 2020. She has been recognized for her work and leadership through her many elected appointments, locally, provincially and nationally, serving in elected roles for over 25 years. Her public service has included National Democratic Institute Elections Missions in Morocco, Algeria

2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

and Georgia. James was a director for child and family services at Carrier Sekani Family Services and co-ordinator for Northern Aboriginal Authority for Families. Active in her community, she was chair of the Greater Victoria School Board, president of the BC School Trustees Association, and first and second vice-president of the Canadian School Boards Association. James is an honorary life member of the Vancouver Island Cooperative Preschool Association and the B.C. School Trustees Association, and she served as a foster parent for over 20 years for children and adults with developmental disabilities.

Ingrid Leong is a CPA with deep expertise in finance and sustainable investing. Ingrid works primarily within the high net worth and family enterprise space and has held a number of executive roles in the areas of thematic and ESG investing, governance and financial effectiveness. In her role as CIO of The Houssian Foundation, Ingrid led the development and implementation of the Foundation's fully mission aligned investment strategy, focused on climate and gender equality. Through this work, she has played a leadership role in the global impact investing community, particularly as it relates to gender lens investing. Ingrid has served on numerous boards, including Ballet BC, first as Chair of the Finance & Audit Committee and following this, as Chair of the Governance & Nominating Committee. She also serves on a number of advisory committees for venture and private equity funds focused on driving impact in the areas of climate, education, healthcare and gender equality. Currently, Ingrid serves as Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors of The Forum (formerly Forum for Women Entrepreneurs) and is also a member of Board of the Canada Council for the Arts.

Glen Loughheed is a serial tech entrepreneur, active angel investor and mentor. He holds a Masters of Business (MoT) from SFU, and a BA in Business and Economics from Bishop's University. Glen has served as the CEO and founder of several start-ups. These include dimeRocker, Overinteractive Media and NodeFly Systems. Currently, Glen is working on Applied Post and Backrail Systems, a project which has been nominated for the Canadian Fintech and AI Award. In addition, he served as special advisor, innovation and technology to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation and he is the Co-Chair of the Regenerative Agriculture and Agritech Task Force.

Fazil Mihlar was appointed effective December 7, 2022, as Deputy Minister, Ministry of Jobs Economic Development and Innovation. Prior to this role, Fazil was Deputy Minister, Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation; Deputy Minister, Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Competitiveness; Deputy Minister, Climate Leadership; Assistant Deputy Minister, Institutions and Programs Division, Ministry of Advanced Education; and Assistant Deputy Minister, Oil and Strategic Initiatives Division, Ministry of Natural Gas Development. Before joining government in 2013, Fazil was Associate Editor of The Vancouver Sun newspaper. Fazil holds a B.A. in Economics from Simon Fraser University, an M.A. in Public Administration from Carleton University and a Marketing Diploma from the Chartered Institute of Marketing in London, England. He has also completed a Certificate Course on Risk Management at Harvard University and the ICD-Rotman Directors' Education Program with the Institute of Corporate Directors.

Heather Wood is British Columbia's deputy minister of finance and secretary to Treasury Board. She has also held the roles of deputy minister and secretary to Treasury Board, associate

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Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

deputy minister, Treasury Board staff and assistant deputy minister Policy and Legislation Division. Prior to joining the BC Public Service in 2011, Wood was an assistant deputy minister within the Department of Finance for the Province of Manitoba, a position she held for more than three years.

2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

BC RENAISSANCE CAPITAL FUND LTD.

Issue: Status of the BC Renaissance Capital Fund Ltd.'s investments

RESPONSE

- The BC Renaissance Capital Fund Ltd. (BCRCF) is a wholly owned subsidiary of InBC Investment Corp. The BCRCF holds two portfolios of venture capital investments: the BCRCF Portfolio 1; and the BC Tech Fund.
 - Business Information
- Business Information
- Both Portfolio 1 and the BC Tech Fund are now fully committed and not making any new investments.

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- The BC Renaissance Capital Fund Ltd. (BCRCF) is a wholly owned subsidiary of InBC Investment Corp. The BCRCF holds two portfolios of venture capital investments: the BCRCF Portfolio 1; and the BC Tech Fund.
- In 2007, the Province launched the BC Renaissance Capital Fund which made \$90 million in commitments to nine venture capital funds, termed Portfolio 1:
 - Portfolio 1 attracted global venture capital investment to B.C.'s information technology, digital media, clean technology and life sciences sectors; and,
 - Business Information
- In October 2016, the BCRCF launched the \$101 million BC Tech Fund (\$100 million from the BCRCF and \$1 million from the fund manager), which is a fund-of-funds that invests in B.C.-based venture capital funds and makes direct co-investments into B.C.-based companies.
- The BC Tech Fund is managed by Kensington Capital Partners (Kensington), a private sector fund manager that makes all investment decisions. Kensington was selected through a competitive procurement process that was overseen by a fairness adviser.
- BC Tech Fund is now fully committed and not making any new investments, although underlying funds within the BC Tech Fund will continue to make new investments.
- Business Information

¹ Latest available reporting

² Latest available reporting

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Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

- Venture capital fund investments: Vanedge Capital II & III; ScaleUP Ventures Fund I; Yaletown Innovation Growth; Lumira Fund IV; Versant Voyageurs I; Pangaea Ventures Fund IV; Panache Ventures Investment Fund 2018; Framework Venture Partners I; and Voyager Capital Fund V.
- Direct investments in B.C.-based companies:
 - Active: Commit, D-Wave, Eventbase, Thinkific, Moj.io, Pela, Procurify and Spare Labs.
 - Exited: Foodee, Tasktop.
- Business Information
 - Business Information
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- As of September 30, 2022, the BC Tech Fund has completed investments across all four target sectors: Information Communication Technology, Life Sciences/Healthcare, Digital Media and Cleantech.
- Business Information
- InBC Investment Corp. announced in December 2022 an investment in Yaletown Partners' Innovation Growth Fund II. Yaletown Innovation Growth Fund I was supported by BC Tech Fund.
- Business Information
- The BC Tech Fund investment period is now at an end. Follow on investments and payment of capital calls will continue in existing commitments but no investments in new companies or funds will be made by the BC Tech Fund Manager.
- Business Information

Contact:

Jill Earthy

Chief Executive
Officer

InBC Investment Corp

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2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

INBC INVESTMENT CORP. TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY PROVISIONS

Issue: InBC's transparency and accountability requirements and applicability of *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPPA)*

RESPONSE

- InBC's predecessor corporation, the BC Immigrant Investment Fund (BCIIF), was not subject to the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPPA)*. As such, when BCIIF was renamed and became InBC in September 2020, it was also not subject to the Act.
- InBC has maintained that it would be detrimental to the business operations of the new Crown to be included. InBC is a new private market entrant and must establish its position and reputation as a trusted market participant. InBC must participate in accordance with the expectations of the market.
- A key expectation is that business and financial information is provided on strictly confidential terms without risk of disclosure, including to competitors who may want to use the FOIPPA process to get information on competitors.
- InBC is confident that there's enough public transparency to ensure that the public gets the information they need, and the fund is able to succeed.

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- Advice/Recommendations

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Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

Transparency measures for InBC include:

Salaries

- InBC discloses all compensation that is paid to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and the next four highest ranking or highest paid executives with decision-making authority earning an annualized base salary of \$125,000 or more during a fiscal year.
- In accordance with the Financial Information Act, each year, InBC discloses the total amount of remuneration for each employee that exceeds \$75,000 and the total amount of expenses paid to or on behalf of those employees.
- This information is available on InBC's website.

Operating Expenses

- In accordance with the Financial Information Act, on an annual basis, InBC publicly discloses the name of the individual, firm or corporation and the aggregate amount paid to them when payments exceed \$25,000.

Facilities Expenses:

- The existing lease is arranged through the Ministry of Citizens' Services. In accordance with the Financial Information Act, on an annual basis, InBC discloses the amount paid to the Ministry of Citizens' Service for lease costs.

Board of Directors:

- In accordance with Treasury Board Directive, remuneration paid to all board members is disclosed every year so that this information is accessible and transparent to the public.
- This information is available on InBC's website.

Annual Audited Financial Statements:

- InBC will publish its audited financial statements in its annual service plan report, in or around August every year.
- This information is available on InBC's website.

Investment Commitments and Portfolio Performance:

- InBC reports to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation and the Minister of Finance on the performance of the investments of the corporation through an annual legislative report. The InBC Annual Report is tabled in the legislature annually. The first report was tabled in November 2022 and is available on the InBC website on the corporate reports page¹.
- At least once every 5 years, InBC will undertake an external review of the performance of the investments of the corporation during a period specified in writing by the Minister.
- The external review will be tabled in the legislature. The external review is scheduled for 2026.

Contact:

Jill Earthy

Chief Executive Officer, InBC Investment Corp

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¹ [InBC AnnualReport 2021-2022 Web.pdf \(inbcinvestment.ca\)](#)

2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

FII PROFILE

Issue: Forestry Innovation Investment Ltd. profile and mandate

RESPONSE

- Forestry Innovation Investment Ltd. (FII) is British Columbia's Crown corporation responsible for creating, maintaining and diversifying markets for B.C. forest products.
- FII works closely with industry associations and other levels of government in developing markets for B.C. forest products around the world.
- About half of FII's budget supports programs delivered by industry trade associations and other partners. The federal government and industry also financially support these programs.

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- Building and maintaining markets is important to a strong and growing economy because forestry is one of B.C.'s largest manufacturing industries, and remains a cornerstone of communities, businesses and jobs across the province.
- With the majority of forest products destined for export markets (\$15.5B in 2022), diversification is important to help protect the B.C. forest sector from ups and downs in the global marketplace.
- Reflecting this, FII was established in 2003 to build markets internationally and domestically for B.C. forest products.
- FII benefits the B.C. economy by:
 - Working to maintain existing markets for B.C. forest products in collaboration with the forest sector, supporting forestry activity throughout B.C.
 - Opening up new markets for B.C. forest products and creating the potential for new jobs to service these markets.
 - Building awareness of B.C. forest products internationally, particularly in Japan, India, South Korea, China and Vietnam, which helps strengthen and grow trade ties.
 - Supporting the growth of a sustainable and green economy by promoting the environmental benefits of using renewable wood from B.C. in structural and non-structural applications.
- FII's mandate:
 - Promote wood's environmental merits as a preferred, sustainable and renewable building material.
 - Expand international market diversification for B.C. wood products by opening new opportunities in existing and new markets, with a strong focus on high-potential markets in Asia, including Japan, South Korea, India, China and Vietnam.
 - Showcase B.C.'s leadership in manufacturing and wood use by profiling innovative projects and leveraging that experience to expand the use of wood in Canada and abroad.
 - Collaborate with B.C. Provincial Government partners to jointly deliver on the Province's objective to expand our mass timber and engineered wood products sector in B.C.

2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

- As of January 2022, FII can report that all performance metrics, except one, are on track to be achieved for 2022/23 with:
 - 27,490 B.C. manufacturer searches and engagements through FII's online product and supplier sourcing tool—the Supplier Directory—advancing connections with B.C. companies for potential commercial opportunities.
 - 24 product trials have been completed with an additional 19 underway in India.
 - In the U.S., 313 non-residential and multi-storey residential construction projects have been converted to wood, resulting in an incremental \$238 million of wood use (reported by FII's funding recipient, US WoodWorks).
 - In B.C., 28 non-residential and multi-storey residential construction projects have been converted to wood, resulting in an incremental \$36.4 million of wood use (reported by FII's funding recipient, WoodWORKS! BC). The program expects to come in slightly below its \$70 million target for 2022/23 due to supply chain challenges associated with all products, as well as labour shortages.
- These figures will increase with final reporting in April 2023.

Budget/Expenditures:

- FII's base budget received from the Province in 2022/23 was \$19.55 million plus an additional \$2.0 million for a third intake of the Mass Timber Demonstration program.
- For 2023/24, FII anticipates receiving \$19.81 million in funding from the Province, \$1.98 million from Natural Resources Canada and \$0.20 million in other revenue for a grand total of \$21.91 million in revenue for the fiscal year.

Contact:

Lori MacKenzie	Executive Director	Industry Development and Corporate Initiatives	(778) 698-7593
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2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

FII BUDGET

Issue: Forestry Innovation Investment Ltd. budget and operations summary

RESPONSE

- Forestry Innovation Investment Ltd. (FII) is the Government of B.C.'s market development agency for forest products.
- FII works closely with industry associations and other levels of government in developing markets for B.C. forest products around the world.
- For 2023/24, FII's revenue is projected to be \$21.991 million, of which \$19.81 million is from the Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation, \$1.98 million is from the Federal Government (Natural Resources Canada) for market development in India and Vietnam, as well as \$200,000 from other sources.
- FII's base budget increased in 2023/24 by \$0.261 million and \$0.272 million from 2024-25 onward as part of the government's Shared Recovery Wage mandate.
- About half of FII's base funding is used to cost share activities that B.C. forest industry trade associations, universities and other organizations will deliver in North America and Asia.

If asked about a particular part of note issue...

- Funding from Natural Resources Canada is contingent on the federal Emerging Markets Program being renewed in the next federal budget and continuing at current funding levels.

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- For 2023/24, FII's revenue is projected to be \$21.991 million (see budget summary below).
- FII India:
 - FII's subsidiary in India continues to advance a strong Canadian Wood brand in India and develop a market for B.C. wood products.
 - Program activities will focus on investing to build market acceptance of B.C. species; delivery of promotional and educational efforts; increasing the number of product trials; and supporting commercial demonstration activities.
 - These efforts are supported by the B.C. forest industry, maintaining a Canada Wood representative as a part of the India team.
 - The Federal Government, through NRCan, is expected to fund \$1.155 million, or roughly half the cost of the India program.
 - FII's India headquarters is in Mumbai with two satellite offices; one in Delhi and one in Bangalore.
- FII Vietnam:
 - Program activities are focused on exploring opportunities for B.C. species in the Vietnam furniture manufacturing segment and identifying key players in the supply chain, including importers, distributors and end users to introduce them to B.C. species.
 - Education, promotion and product trials are important elements of the Vietnam program, to position B.C. species and develop new commercial opportunities.
 - The Federal Government, through NRCan, is expected to fund \$0.825 million, or roughly 55 percent the cost of the Vietnam program.

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Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

- FII's Vietnam office is based in a furniture manufacturing area approximately 45 minutes outside Ho Chi Minh City.
- FII China:
 - China remains a priority for FII, with the focus on building deeper and broader relationships with Chinese government agencies and state-owned development companies to position wood as a low-carbon, climate-friendly building material.
 - FII China maintains offices in Beijing and Shanghai.
 - FII China works in close partnership with the Canada Wood Group, the forest sector's market development trade association. FII funds roughly 1/3 of the budget of Canada Wood China (the remaining 2/3 has been split evenly between Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) and the forest industry).
- FII Vancouver:
 - Through its Market Initiatives program, FII makes available \$6.5 million annually to cost-share international programming with industry and the federal government.
 - FII's Wood First program focuses on advancing innovative wood use and construction technologies in B.C.—with \$2.4 million allocated to cost-share work done by industry and research institutions in an annual Call for Proposals.
 - FII's Market Outreach program provides audiences with factual, consistent and credible information about the environmental parameters of B.C.'s forest products and the forest practices that underlie their production.

Budget/Expenditures: (next page)

2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

\$000s	2022/23 Forecast	2023/24 Budget	2024/25 Plan	2025/26 Plan
Revenue				
Contribution from the Province of B.C.	21,550	19,811	19,822	19,822
Contribution from the Federal Government	2,112	1,980	1,980	1,980
Other Revenue	238	200	200	200
Total Revenue	23,900	21,991	22,002	22,002
Expenses				
Funding Recipient Initiatives	11,375	9,050	9,050	9,050
Market Initiatives and Outreach				
Government Initiatives and Outreach	4,820	5,311	5,322	5,322
China Market Development	2,439	2,300	2,300	2,300
India Market Development	2,357	2,100	2,100	2,100
Vietnam Market Development	1,242	1,500	1,500	1,500
Corporate Services	1,667	1,730	1,730	1,730
Total Expenses	23,900	21,991	22,002	22,002
Excess of Revenue over Expenses	0,000	0,000	0,000	0,000
Retained Earnings, End of Year	5,784	5,784	5,784	5,784
Capital Expenditures	(250)	(250)	(250)	(250)

Contact:

Lori MacKenzie Executive Director Industry Development (778) 698-7593
and Corporate Initiatives

2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

FII MASS TIMBER DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS - StrongerBC

Issue: Mass Timber Demonstration Program – progress and outcomes

RESPONSE

- British Columbia has the opportunity to be a world leader in mass timber, and the Mass Timber Demonstration Program (MTDP) has been helping to enable the skills and knowledge in design, development and construction practices necessary for success.
- Since 2020, the MTDP has been providing grants to accelerate the use of mass timber in B.C. to support jobs in research, design, engineering, construction and forestry.
- The program spans a three-year period from 2020/21 to 2022/23.
- Through the first two intakes, four research projects and 12 demonstration building projects are being supported.
- Findings and lessons learned from completed research, as well as the demonstration projects are being shared with key stakeholders in all levels of government and the building design and construction sector to support capacity building and address technical barriers to mass timber use.
- Intake 3 proposals are currently under review with successful projects to be announced shortly.

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- First announced in fall 2020 as part of StrongerBC, the Mass Timber Demonstration Program (MTDP) helps to offset some of the incremental costs associated with the design and construction of new or emerging mass timber building systems, including research.
- The program is intended to advance the use of mass timber in B.C., document and share lessons learned by early mass timber adopters, to support jobs and B.C.'s economic recovery, and to position B.C. as a leader in next-generation wood products, systems and services.
- Funding commitments extend across a three-year period, with \$3 million committed in 2020/21 (Intake 1), and an additional \$2 million in 2021/22 (Intake 2) and 2022/23 (Intake 3), respectively.
- JEDI holds responsibility for the MTDP and has tasked Forestry Innovation Investment (FII) with the design and delivery of the program, given FII's experience on the mass timber file and with delivery of funding programs.
- FII is working closely with B.C.'s Office of Mass Timber Implementation (OMTI) to manage the outcomes and direction of the program.
- Funding proponents for each intake were identified through an Expression of Interest (EOI) application process.

Intake 1 & 2

- As of September 2022, through the first two intakes, four research projects and 12 demonstration building projects are being supported.
- Building types include 3 multi-family and residential, 4 civic and institutional and 5 commercial and industrial.
- Building projects are located in:

2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

- 8 Greater Vancouver
- 2 Okanagan Valley (Kelowna)
- 1 West Kootenays (Castlegar)
- 1 Vancouver Island (Saanich)
- Demonstration projects continue to progress with 8 having started construction, and mass timber now on site for 3 of these projects.
- Currently, all projects under Intake 1 and 2 are experiencing six- to 18-month construction delays due to widespread supply chain issues with building materials supply/delivery, including concrete and mass timber, labour and subcontractor shortages and interruptions, and extended municipal building permit approval processes. These supply chain issues are prevalent across the construction sector, and are not specific to mass timber projects.
- With Intake 1 and 2 buildings currently at various stages of design and construction, we expect to be sharing progress and lessons learned starting 2023 through to 2025.
- The majority of research projects under Intake 1 are now completed with findings being shared with key stakeholders in all levels of government and the building design and construction sector to support capacity building and address technical barriers to mass timber use.
- Information on each of the projects is available on FII's naturallywood.com website and www.masstimber.com.

Intake 3

- The Expression of Interest (EOI) process for intake 3 was conducted across the second half of 2022.
- Technical and other evaluations are currently underway on the 17 proposals submitted.
- Announcement of successful projects will occur March/ April 2023.

Budget/Expenditures:

- Since 2020, the Province has committed \$8.52 million to the Mass Timber Demonstration Program through JEDI (\$7 million) and FII supplemental funding (\$1.52 million).
- Total funding, including supplemental FII dollars, awarded to projects progressing to date:
 - \$0.567 million research
 - \$4.83 million demonstration projects
- Remaining dollars will be awarded to intake 3 projects.

Contact:

Jarret Hutchinson	Executive Director	Office of Mass Timber Implementation	(250) 208-7277
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2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

FII BOARD

Issue: FII Board role and composition

RESPONSE

- Forestry Innovation Investment (FII) is the B.C. Government's market development agency for forest products.
- FII is governed by a four-member Board of Directors.
- The Board reports to the Shareholder, the Province of British Columbia, represented by the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation.
- The Government appoints the Board to set operational policy for the organization and, in cooperation with senior management, to set strategic direction.
- FII's Board is required to have a minimum of four meetings per year.
- Board members employed by the Government of B.C. do not receive any remuneration. There are currently no non-government appointees.

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- FII's current Board of Directors:
 - Rick Manwaring, Deputy Minister, FOR (Chair)
 - Fazil Mihlar, Deputy Minister, JEDI (Vice Chair)
 - Neilane Mayhew, Deputy Minister, TACS.
 - Bobbi Plecas, Deputy Minister, PSFS
- Board members are appointed by Shareholder Consent Resolution, with the Minister of JEDI acting as the Shareholder on behalf of the Province.
- While appointments are for an open-ended term, they are confirmed annually.
- No Board appointments are set to expire within the next 90 days.
- The FII Board has an Audit Committee, which is responsible for reviewing, recommending and, in some instances, approving financial statements and other information.
- The Audit Committee has two members: Neilane Mayhew (Deputy Minister, TACS) and John Desjardins (Partner, KPMG).
- Current Board members are employed by the Government of B.C. and, as such, do not receive remuneration for their role on FII's Board.
- FII's Audit Committee members are also not compensated for their role.

Contact:

Lori MacKenzie	Executive Director	Industry Development and Corporate Initiatives	(778) 698-7593
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2023/24 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

INNOVATE BC PROFILE

Issue: Innovate BC Role and Programs

RESPONSE

- Innovate BC is a Crown Corporation with a mission to foster innovation in B.C. so that British Columbians in all regions of the province can benefit from a thriving, sustainable and inclusive innovation economy.
- The Province sees Innovate BC as a partner in the implementation of strategic initiatives that leverage technology to deliver innovation that supports economic development.
- Innovate BC delivers support through programs such as the Venture Acceleration Program, IP Assist, Innovator Skills Initiative, Digital Skills for Youth, BC Fast Pilot, Ignite program, Integrated Marketplace Initiative and New Ventures BC Competition.
- In 2021/22, Innovate BC provided \$24 million to support 3,297 companies and 3,700 jobs. Companies supported by Innovate BC have generated \$112 million in revenue and attracted \$558 million in investment.
- The Ministry recently launched the Integrated Marketplace Initiative, which is a key action of the StrongerBC Economic Plan. Innovate BC will lead the implementation of the initiative that matches innovators of clean technology with industry buyers looking for clean-tech solutions.

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- Innovate BC is a Crown corporation, operating under the statutory authority of the *Innovate BC Act*. It is led by a Board of Directors appointed by Order in Council.
- Innovate BC acts as government's program delivery arm supporting the growth of B.C.'s technology ecosystem, growing jobs, increasing revenue, and ensuring all regions of the Province benefit from the opportunities of the emerging economy.
- The key programs of Innovate BC are:
 - *Venture Acceleration Program (VAP)* – A structured venture growth program designed to guide and grow ambitious early-stage technology entrepreneurs and their technology ventures. The VAP provides access to a province-wide network of accelerators (BC Acceleration Network) with coaching, networking, and programs.
 - BC Acceleration Network – The Network is formed by 10 partners across the province delivering the VAP: Victoria Innovation, Advanced Technology and Entrepreneurship Council (VIATEC), Innovation Island, entrepreneurship@UBC, Foresight Cleantech Accelerator Centre, New Ventures BC, VentureLabs, Accelerate Okanagan, Kootenay Association for Science and Technology, Kamloops Innovation and Hubspace (Prince George).
 - Executives in Residence (EIRs) – Each entrepreneur in the program is assigned an experienced technology and business professional as a primary advisor. EIRs provide strategic guidance and ongoing coaching, helping entrepreneurs overcome challenges and meet start-up milestones that improve company success.

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- Since its inception through to Q2 2022/2023, the VAP has supported over 1500 unique companies, which created over 4700 jobs, generated over \$390 million in revenue and attracted over \$900 million in investment.
- Success story: FreshWorks Studio (EY) – This custom software development company received support from VAP through VIATEC. This program helped two immigrant entrepreneurs develop their network and gain access to funding and resources. Eight years later (2022) FreshWorks and its 100+ person team of software development experts-for-hire joined forces with Ernst & Young Canada.
- *Innovator Skills Initiative (ISI)* – Helps companies hire and develop talent, as well as help under-represented people get their first job in tech, by providing a grant that covers a portion of an employee's salary (up to \$10,000) over a minimum four-month period. In June 2021, Government provided \$15 million in one-time funding to launch the redesigned ISI to increase diversity in the tech sector. To answer demand for this program, an additional \$0.583 million was reallocated to ISI in August 2022. At this time, Innovate BC has fully allocated the funding.
 - B.C.'s investment in Innovator Skills Initiative was supplemented by an additional \$14 million provided by program delivery partners, Mitacs and the Information and Communications Technology Council (ICTC).
 - In 2021/2022, 2058 grants were administered, and the program is ongoing in 2022/2023 and on track to exceed 3,000 grants by the end of March 2023.
- *Innovate BC-New Ventures Competition* – Provides B.C. entrepreneurs with the skills to launch and manage a start-up through a 10-week business seminar and networking series while competing to win one of several prize packages totalling \$250,000 in capital and prizes. Past winners have raised over \$1 billion in financing, more than \$288 million in revenues, and have created over 9,000 jobs in B.C. Since its inception, more than 3,100 companies have participated in the program. Program alumni include Semios, Certn, Mintlist, Thinkific and AbCellera, the latter which has reached a \$2 billion enterprise valuation.
- *Ignite Program* – Launched in 2016, Ignite provides funding to accelerate commercialization of new technologies and innovations in the natural resources and applied sciences in B.C. Awards are up to \$300,000 to B.C. industry and academic partnerships that are conducting research and development projects with the intent to commercialize. Past winners include fast-growing B.C. companies such as Aspect Biosystems, Terramera, Axine Water Technologies, and Performance Biofilaments.
 - Since 2016, 42 projects have been funded, and have garnered more than \$239 million in follow-on investments and awards, and 21 projects have been completed to date generating \$5.4 million in revenue.
 - To date, more than 288 academic and industry jobs have been created or maintained through this program.
- *BC Fast Pilot Program* – Launched in 2019, the program provides up to \$200,000 for B.C. small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to deliver a pilot demonstration of their innovation at a potential customer's site, to validate their technology and help expand to new markets. Program priority areas include clean tech, regional, and Indigenous-related projects. This program is cost-shared, with awards funded by both Innovate BC

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and the federal agency National Research Council Industrial Research Assistance Program.

- In the first four years of the program, 62 pilot demonstrations were funded. Notable outcomes include the creation of 97 jobs, the acquisition of 108 new customers, and an increase of \$22.2 million in new revenue and \$13.1 million in new investments for participating businesses.
- Since the program began, over 24 percent of projects have had either an Indigenous pilot firm or pilot customer/site.
- In 2021/22, over 36 percent of projects included Indigenous participation.
- *Integrated Marketplace (IM) Initiative* – Launched in 2022, the initiative connects a consortium of industry partners with innovative suppliers to make industry more productive/resilient while scaling-up and ultimately exporting B.C. cleantech solutions.
 - In October 2022, under StrongerBC \$11 million was allocated to the initiative over 2022/2023 to 2024/2025, building on previous funding of \$0.5 million.
 - The program is being delivered by a new Integrated Marketplace Operations team.
 - The initiative's first industry partnership and testbed is with Vancouver International Airport (YVR) with a focus on electrification of operations. Other testbeds are planned.
- Innovate BC delivered the federally-funded Digital Skills for Youth (DS4Y) program, which provides funding for companies to hire and provide digital skills training to underemployed youth aged 15 to 30. In 2021/22, the program enabled the creation of 186 high-paying jobs and work placements at 185 high potential BC companies.
- Palette Skills BC Pilot - The Palette Skills project is a B.C. pilot aimed at supporting the talent needs of B.C.'s fast growing tech sector by upskilling displaced workers in sectors heavily impacted by COVID, such as retail, hospitality and tourism into technical sales roles. The project, conceived by Palette Skills Inc. (Palette), a national not-for-profit talent platform, has upskilled more than 70 B.C. workers and supports their transition into high-demand sales roles in the technology sector. Innovate BC provided \$300,000 for this project which is matched by a cash and in-kind contribution of more than \$1 million from Palette, PacifiCan and other industry partners.
- IP Assist - Innovate BC is supporting the delivery of NRC-IRAP's Intellectual Property (IP) program, IP Assist, in B.C. To date, the program has connected 36 small and medium-sized enterprises to experienced IP lawyers and experts for individual, personalized engagements. Program participants are provided with general IP foundational training and given the opportunity to address questions or concerns related to their particular assets, solutions or sectors of interest. The impact of the program has been positive; average scores for quality of service received and impact on increasing business' IP awareness and activity are 9.6 and 9.1 respectively (out of 10).

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INNOVATE BC BUDGET

Issue: Innovate BC Budget 2023/24

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- Innovate BC will receive base funding of \$6.209 million in 2023/24 from the Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation's voted appropriation. Additionally, the Ministry is providing Innovate BC an additional \$4.219 million in 2023/24 from the StrongerBC Economic Plan funding envelope to operate the Integrated Marketplace.
- In 2023/24, Innovate BC also forecasts revenue of \$1.7 million in interest from the Natural Resources and Applied Sciences (NRAS) Endowment Fund, and \$375,000 from other interest/funding.
- In total, Innovate BC is budgeting revenue and expenditures of \$12.503 million in 2023/24.
- In 2022/23, an additional \$583,000 was allocated to the Innovator Skills Initiative program to supplement its initial \$15 million investment from 2020/21. All funds have been fully utilized in 2022/23.
- Salaries and Benefits include a budget for 22 permanent employees and 3 co-op students.
- See Appendix 1 for a full breakdown of Innovate BC revenue and expenses.

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Appendix 1: Innovate BC Revenue and Expenses for 2023/24

(\$000)	2023/24 Budget
Total Revenue	
Province of British Columbia	10,428
Government of Canada	0
Internal Program Funding ¹	0
NRAS Endowment ²	1,700
Interest and Other	375
Total Revenue	12,503
Total Expenses	
Programs and Initiatives	6,588
NRAS Endowment	1,600
Salaries and Benefits	3,100
Rent	380
Amortization	40
Operational and Administrative Expenses ³	795
Total Expenses	12,503
Annual Surplus (Deficit)	0
Total Debt	0
Accumulated Surplus (Deficit)⁴	55,997
Capital Expenditures⁵	50

¹ Internal Program Funding represents the use of deferred program revenues.

² Accumulated interest from the Natural Resources and Applied Sciences Research (NRAS) Endowment Fund will provide funding for research activities of B.C. academic institutions and technology developers leading to commercializable projects.

³ Other operating costs include legal, audit, travel, and office expenses.

⁴ Accumulated Surplus includes the \$50 million NRAS Endowment Fund capital.

⁵ Capital expenditures include costs of equipment, computer hardware and software.

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INNOVATE BC BOARD CHAIR APPOINTMENT

Issue: Appointment of Andrew Petter as Innovate BC Board Chair

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- On March 19, 2021, Andrew Petter was appointed by Order in Council as Innovate BC's new Board Chair for a two-year term.
- Andrew Petter is a visionary leader who will be instrumental in helping Innovate BC support entrepreneurs to launch and commercialize technologies, while generating jobs and economic growth in the province.
- Andrew Petter has more than two decades of academic leadership at Simon Fraser University (SFU) and the University of Victoria. He was SFU's president and vice-chancellor from 2010 to 2020 and he is currently a professor in its School of Public Policy.
- Andrew Petter brings a deep knowledge of government from his decade working as an MLA from 1991 to 2001, serving in multiple cabinet positions, including Advanced Education, Training and Technology, and Finance and Corporate Relations.
- See Note 18 for Board composition and biographies.

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INNOVATE BC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Issue: Innovate BC Board of Directors' Status

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- The *Innovate BC Act* allows for a maximum of 15 directors appointed by Order in Council for a term of up to three years, with no member serving more than six consecutive years.
- Innovate BC currently has 15 board members.
- Innovate BC board members are recognized leaders from their sub-sectors in B.C., nominated for their expertise and their ability to represent a broad range of innovation and technology sub-sectors, regions, and GBA+ diversity and inclusion.
- Andrew Petter was appointed as Innovate BC's new board Chair, effective March 19, 2021, for a two-year term.
- Ten board members including the Chair have terms expiring in the second quarter of 2023/24. The Ministry and Board Chair are currently canvassing these members for their wishes regarding reappointment. Reappointments will take place in spring 2023.
- B.C.'s Innovation Commissioner, Dr. Gerri Sinclair, sits as Ex-Officio on the Board.
- See attached board member biographies.

Name	Position	Appointment Date	Term Expiry
Jack Chang	Director	15-May-21	15-May-23
Edoardo De Martin	Director	16-July-21	15-May-24
Lesley Elizabeth Esford	Director	14-May-20	14-May-23
Michael James Fergusson	Director	14-May-20	14-May-23
Catherine Suzanne Gill	Director	14-May-20	14-May-23
Stephen David Krysko	Director	14-May-20	14-May-23
Elicia Maine	Director	15-May-21	15-May-23
Gail Cecile Murphy	Director	14-May-20	14-May-23
Andrew Petter	Chair	19-Mar-21	15-May-23
Thomas Wolfgang Roemer	Director	14-May-20	14-May-23
Emilie de Rosenroll	Director	12-July-21	14-May-24
Jameel Sayani	Director	12-July-21	14-May-24
Donald Raymond Stuckert	Director	14-May-20	14-May-23
Carol Anne Hilton	Director	15-Feb-23	14-May-25
Tom Mikael Nyberg	Director	15-Feb-23	14-May-25

- Approved by OIC on October 4, 2021, directors appointed to Innovate BC's board receive remuneration in accordance with section 5.13 at Level 3 of Treasury Board Directive 2/20.
- Previously, board members were unpaid volunteers, only reimbursed for certain expenses. Board members may still refuse remuneration if they do not wish to be compensated for their time.

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- Level 3 Crown agency subsidiary board appointees receive annual remuneration as follows:
 - Retainers – Chair, \$6,000; audit committee chair, \$2,000; other committee chair, \$1,000; appointee \$3,000; and
 - Meeting Fees - \$300 per meeting per person.
- Remuneration funds come from Innovate BC's quarterly operating funding instalments.
- Innovate BC is budgeting \$65,000 for board remuneration in fiscal 2023/24.

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Biographies – Innovate BC Board of Directors

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Jack Chang, Partner, Fort Capital Partners

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Edoardo De Martin, Chief Technology Officer, CubicFarms Systems

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Ex-Officio to the Innovate BC Board of Directors

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Gerri Sinclair, B.C. Innovation Commissioner

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