

**Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation**  
**Estimates Debate Binder – 2022/23 Table of Contents**

<b>ESTIMATES HIGHLIGHTS</b>	
<b>Budget Summary</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Budget Q's and A's</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Mandate Letters</b>	<b>3</b>
StrongerBC Summary	<b>4</b>
<i>Tabs Intentionally Blank</i>	<i>5-7</i>
<b>INVESTMENT AND INNOVATION DIVISION</b>	
Major Investments and Corporate Initiatives Office Activities	<b>8</b>
STEMCELL Advanced Biologics Manufacturing Facility Project	<b>9</b>
Venture Capital Tax Credit Program	<b>10</b>
Innovation Commissioner	<b>11</b>
Quantum Algorithms Institute	<b>12</b>
Launch Online - <b>StrongerBC</b>	<b>13</b>
Digital Marketing Bootcamp - <b>StrongerBC</b>	<b>14</b>
Digital Technology Supercluster	<b>15</b>
Clean Technology	<b>16</b>
BC Economic Plan Overview – <b>Econ Plan</b>	<b>17</b>
Life Sciences/Biotech Strategy – <b>Econ Plan</b>	<b>18</b>
Integrated Marketplace – <b>Econ Plan</b>	<b>19</b>
ESG Centre of Excellence – <b>Econ Plan</b>	<b>20</b>
Mazzucato Contract – <b>Econ Plan</b>	<b>21</b>
Stronger BC Future Leaders Program	<b>22</b>
<i>Tabs Intentionally Blank</i>	<i>23-24</i>
<b>OFFICE OF MASS TIMBER IMPLEMENTATION</b>	
Mass Timber Action Plan	<b>25</b>
Mass Timber Advisory Council	<b>26</b>
Investments in Mass Timber (includes Demonstration Programs)	<b>27</b>
Measuring Success in Mass Timber	<b>28</b>
Mass Timber Key Facts	<b>29</b>
<i>Tabs Intentionally Blank</i>	<i>30-32</i>

**Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation**  
**Estimates Debate Binder – 2022/23 Table of Contents**

<b>MANAGEMENT SERVICES DIVISION</b>	
Deputy Minister’s Office Budget	<b>33</b>
Executive Compensation (Crowns)	<b>34</b>
Ministers’ Offices Budget	<b>35</b>
Ministers' Offices Travel	<b>36</b>
<i>Tabs Intentionally Blank</i>	<i>37</i>
<b>SMALL BUSINESS and ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION</b>	
B.C. Economic Overview	<b>38</b>
Small Business Profile (includes Business Activity Appendix)	<b>39</b>
Small Business and COVID-19	<b>40</b>
Small Business Extreme Weather Events	<b>41</b>
Industry Engagement Table/ Vaccine Passport/Business Engagement – <b>COVID-19</b>	<b>42</b>
Small Business Roundtable	<b>43</b>
Small Business Diversity Strategy – <b>Econ Plan</b>	<b>44</b>
Better Regulations for British Columbians Initiatives	<b>45</b>
StrongerBC Young Leaders Council - <b>StrongerBC</b>	<b>46</b>
Economic Trusts - Overview	<b>47</b>
Indigenous Engagement & Outreach – <b>Econ Plan</b>	<b>48</b>
Joint Office on Indigenous Economic Development	<b>49</b>
Small and Medium-Sized Business Recovery Grant Program - <b>StrongerBC</b>	<b>50</b>
Circuit Breaker Business Relief Grant - <b>StrongerBC</b>	<b>51</b>
COVID-19 Closure Relief Grant Program – <b>COVID-19</b>	<b>52</b>
Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives report - <b>COVID Spending</b>	<b>53</b>
<i>Tabs Intentionally Blank</i>	<i>54-56</i>
<b>TRADE AND INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION</b>	
Softwood Lumber Dispute	<b>57</b>
BC Liquor Stores BCL Select Program	<b>58</b>
Trade and Investment Network	<b>59</b>
International Marketing	<b>60</b>

**Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation**  
**Estimates Debate Binder – 2022/23 Table of Contents**

Investment Attraction	<b>61</b>
Export Navigator	<b>62</b>
Alacrity B.C. Cleantech Program	<b>63</b>
Trade Diversification Strategy – <b>Econ Plan</b>	<b>64</b>
B.C. Shipbuilding Sector Strategy – <b>Econ Plan</b>	<b>65</b>
Agritech Strategy – <b>Econ Plan</b>	<b>66</b>
Industrial and Manufacturing Strategy – <b>Econ Plan</b>	<b>67</b>
Agritech Grant Program - <b>StrongerBC</b>	<b>68</b>
Manufacturing Recovery Projects- <b>Stronger BC</b>	<b>69</b>
<i>Tabs Intentionally Blank</i>	<i>70-72</i>
<b>CROWN CORPORATIONS</b>	
<b>InBC</b>	
InBC Investment Corp. Profile	<b>73</b>
InBC Budget	<b>74</b>
InBC Current Status	<b>75</b>
InBC Investment Policy Update	<b>76</b>
InBC Board	<b>77</b>
BC Renaissance Capital Fund Ltd. (BC Tech Fund & Portfolio 1)	<b>78</b>
InBC and Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act	<b>79</b>
<b>Forestry Innovation Investment Ltd. (FII)</b>	
FII Profile	<b>80</b>
FII Budget	<b>81</b>
FII Mass Timber Demonstration Projects - <b>StrongerBC</b>	<b>82</b>
FII Board	<b>83</b>
<i>Tabs Intentionally Blank</i>	<i>84</i>
<b>Innovate BC</b>	
Innovate BC Profile	<b>85</b>
Innovate BC Budget	<b>86</b>
Innovate BC Board Chair Appointment	<b>87</b>
Innovate BC Board	<b>88</b>
Innovator Skills Initiative	<b>89</b>

**Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation**  
**Estimates Debate Binder – 2022/23 Table of Contents**

<i>Tabs Intentionally Blank</i>	<i>90</i>
<b>RURAL DEVELOPMENT UNIT</b>	
Integration of Rural Development Unit into the Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation	91
Forestry Worker and Community Support Programs	92
Overview of Community Transition and Economic Recovery Services	93
<i>Tabs Intentionally Blank</i>	94-95

**Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation**  
**2022/23 Estimates Summary**

(in \$000's)

Estimates - Operating Budget	Restated Estimates 2021/22	Estimates 2022/23	Variance
Trade and Industry Development	25,903	28,379	2,476
Small Business and Economic Development	7,454	7,454	-
Investment and Innovation	12,063	13,029	966
Regional Development	27,391	27,391	-
Transfers to Crown Corporations and Agencies	25,640	25,640	-
Executive and Support Services	8,020	8,533	513
Northern Development Fund	500	500	-
	<b>106,971</b>	<b>110,926</b>	<b>3,955</b>

**Variance Explanations:**

**Trade and Industry Development (\$2.476M increase)**

- Increase attributed to a base budget lift for the Office of Mass Timber Implementation (OMTI); 18 FTEs have been funded to advance the implementation of a Mass Timber Action Plan

**Investment and Innovation (\$966,000 increase)**

- Increase attributed to a base budget lift for 8 incremental FTEs to implement the initiatives outlined in the Economic Plan

**Executive and Support Services (\$513,000 increase)**

- \$17,000 base budget lift for legal services to adjust for rate increases
- \$18,000 increase attributed to a salary growth rate of 2% included in the Ministers' Offices budgets
- \$334,000 increase for 2 incremental FTEs and operating costs related to the implementation of the Economic Plan
- \$144,000 for operating costs to increase to support an additional 18 FTEs related to OMTI to advance the implementation of the Mass Timber Action Plan

Estimates - Capital	Restated Estimates 2021/22	Estimates 2022/23	Variance
Furniture and Equipment <sup>1</sup>	1	3	2
	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>

<sup>1</sup> Increase in capital budget to allow for minor unexpected capital purchases, if required.

# BUDGET 2022/23 QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Budget: General** .....2
- 1. Why has JERI’s budget increased by \$3.955M in 2022/23? .....2
- 2. Why has the Minsters' Offices budgets increased by \$18,000 in 2022/23?.....2
- Economic Plan** .....3
- 3. How much funding has been allocated to “StrongerBC, B.C.’s Economic Plan” in Budget 2022? ....3
- 4. How much funding was allocated to the Office of Mass Timber Implementation in Budget 2022?.4
- 5. How much funding was allocated to InBC in Budget 2022? .....4
- 6. How much funding has been allocated towards the Quantum Algorithms Institute? .....5
- 7. How much funding has been allocated towards the Other Initiatives identified within the Economic Plan?.....5
- Government Reorganization: Transfer of Regional Development Programs** .....6
- 8. How has the government reorganization effective April 1, 2022 impacted JERI’s budget? .....6
- StrongerBC: Previous Fiscal (2021/22)** .....6
- 9. What was spent on StrongerBC Programming in 2021/22? .....6
- Other:**.....8
- 10. What is/has been the budget impact of the change in the Asia Trade and Investment Representative model? .....8

## Budget: General

### 1. Why has JERI's budget increased by \$3.955M in 2022/23?

JERI's 2022/23 budget of \$110.926M increased by almost \$4M from the 2021/22 restated estimates budget of \$106.971M.

Budget Increase/(Decrease) Summary	\$ 000's
Office of Mass Timber Implementation (See Q&A #4)	\$2,620
Stronger BC – Economic Plan (See Q&A #3)	\$1,300
Ministers' Offices Increase <sup>1</sup>	\$18
Legal Services Funding <sup>2</sup>	\$17
<b>Net Budget Increase</b>	<b>\$3,955</b>

1. Budget assumes 2% salary growth in Minister's Offices. See Q&A #2 for more details.
2. Increase to offset budget pressures from an increase in Legal Services chargeback rates.

### 2. Why has the Ministers' Offices budgets increased by \$18,000 in 2022/23?

- An increase of \$18,000 was provided for a 2% growth in salaries built into the Ministers' Offices budgets.
- The Minister's Office FY23 budget increased by \$13,000 and the Minister of State's budget increased by \$5,000.
- In 2021/22, a cross Government review led by the Premier's Office and the Ministry of Finance was completed to better align budgets with staffing levels and historic spending.
- An incremental increase of \$196,000 was provided in 2021/22, and the salaries budget assumed 2% growth in the out years (\$18,000 in 2022/23).

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

## Economic Plan

### 3. How much funding has been allocated to “StrongerBC, B.C.’s Economic Plan” in *Budget 2022*?

- 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. The plan charts the path to meeting two big goals — inclusive growth and clean growth — to build a strong economy that works for more people and establishes sustainability as the foundation for the economy of tomorrow.
- *Budget 2022* provides an allocation of \$50 million over the fiscal plan to deliver on New Actions in the Economic plan. This includes targeted strategies and investments under JERI to support both clean and inclusive growth.
- JERI has several new actions identified in the Economic Plan:
  - Creating a Small Business Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan and an Industrial and Manufacturing Action Plan
  - Developing a Mass Timber Action Plan (separate base funding received – See #4 below)
  - Launching a Life Sciences and Biomanufacturing Strategy and engaging on a Trade Diversification Strategy
  - Establishing Integrated Marketplaces to amplify innovation and connect local businesses with Customers
  - Establishing an ESG Centre of Excellence which will promote Environmental, Social and Governance principles for products and services.
  - Creating an Agritech Centre of Excellence
- *Budget 2022* provides a base budget lift of \$4.1M (\$1.3M in FY23, \$1.4M in FY24 & FY25) over three years to implement the initiatives in the Economic Plan and to support ongoing tracking and reporting on the progress of the plan’s intended outcomes.
- This includes funding for 10 incremental FTE’s.
  - A \$966,000 increase was received for 8 incremental FTEs and associated operating costs in the Investment and Innovation Division.
  - A \$334,000 increase was received for corporate services support, including 2 FTEs



4. **How much funding was allocated to the Office of Mass Timber Implementation in Budget 2022?**

- In FY23, the Ministry received a base budget lift of \$2.620M (\$2.476 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 \$1.27M beginning in FY23;
  - *Budget 2022* provided a further base budget lift of \$1.35M for a total budget of \$2.62M per year.
- 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.
- The MTAP is anticipated to be released in the Spring of 2022.
- **Mass Timber Demonstration Projects**
  - As part of StrongerBC, FII received funding of \$3.0M 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. This transfer is shown in the Service Plan for FII.

5. **How much funding was allocated to InBC in Budget 2022?**

- InBC is a \$500 million strategic investment fund focussed 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.
- There is no base operating budget for InBC. Crown operations will be funded through retained earnings, revenues from existing portfolios, and a fiscal agency loan.

- InBC Investment Corp. (InBC) is presenting a planned deficit of \$5.4 million in 2022/23, \$6.8 million in 2023/24, and \$7.1 million in 2024/25 in its Service 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.
- Without a significant source of revenue in its budget, InBC's planned deficit largely reflects the company's planned operating expenses.

**6. How much funding has been allocated towards the **Quantum Algorithms Institute**?**

- On October 2nd, 2019 the B.C. Government announced that it will be supporting the creation of a Quantum Algorithms Institute that includes the province's network of post-secondary research institutes and industry partners.
- The B.C. Government allocated up to \$17 million over five years (\$2M in FY20, \$3M in FY21, \$4M in FY22 to FY24) to establish the Institute, with \$4 million to be provided in 2022/2023, subject to available budget appropriation and review of future funding proposals from the Quantum Algorithms Institute.
- This funding will aid in positioning B.C. to be a world leader on quantum computing.
- The independent Quantum Algorithms Institute was formally established in March 2020 and received \$2 million in 2019/20 and \$3 million in 2020/21.
- Actual 2021/22 funding will be released in the Public Accounts.

**7. How much funding has been allocated towards the **Other Initiatives** identified within the Economic Plan?**

- Supporting workers and rural communities transition into new industries (See #8).
- Working with government and business leaders from both sides of the border, through the Cascadia Innovation Corridor, to create a global model for sustainable growth.
- Developing a long-term provincial shipbuilding strategy – In 2021/22, a \$250,000 contract was entered into with the Association of B.C. Marine industries to administer an advisory committee that will develop recommendations for actions supporting a robust, resilient and innovative shipbuilding sector in B.C.
- Developing an Intellectual Property Strategy to support the growth and Innovation of B.C. companies. This is a priority in Parliamentary Secretary Bailey's mandate letter.

## Government Reorganization: Transfer of Regional Development Programs

### 8. How has the government reorganization effective April 1, 2022 impacted JERI's budget?

- Effective April 1, 2022, the delivery of regional development programs and services and community transition services for significant economic disruptions has transferred from the Ministry of Forests to JERI.
- The transfer includes a base budget transfer of \$27.391M for Regional Development programs and an additional \$432,000 for corporate services support.
- For comparison purposes, the 2021/22 Estimates have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2022/23 Estimates.
- Budget 2022 provides more than \$185 million over the next three years to bring forth coordinated and comprehensive supports to help forest workers and contractors, industry, communities, and First Nations to adapt and respond to impacts of deferrals.
- This includes connecting workers with short-term employment opportunities and education and skills training for community members. It also includes funding of partnerships with businesses and communities to assist them through the transition to create jobs through diversified economies and infrastructure projects.

## StrongerBC: Previous Fiscal (2021/22)

### 9. What was spent on StrongerBC Programming in 2021/22?

- *Actual spending on StrongerBC programming for 2021/22 will be released through the public accounts later this year.*
- 2021/22 Budget Allocation:

<b>Stronger BC Funding (\$ In Millions)</b>	<b>2021/22 Budget Allocation</b>
a. Small & Medium Sized Business Recovery Grant and Circuit Breaker Business Relief Grant <sup>1,2</sup>	\$467.2M
b. COVID-19 Closure Relief Grant <sup>3</sup>	\$14M
c. Stronger BC Future Leaders – Innovator Skills Initiative	\$15M
d. Digital Marketing and Skills Training <sup>4</sup>	\$0.8M
e. Value Added Manufacturing (Funded through base budget)	\$0.25M
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>\$497.25M</b>
<sup>1</sup> Funding of \$327.2M (\$198.2M for the Small Business Grant Program and \$129M for Circuit Breaker Grant Program) approved in JERI's <i>Budget 2021</i> letter; an additional \$140M	

approved in May 2021 to meet projected program demand of the Small Business Grant Program.

<sup>2</sup> Total allocation of \$560.2M over 2 years (\$93M spent in 2020/21, \$467.2M budgeted in 2021/22)

<sup>3</sup> Original grant program of \$10M plus \$4M extension

<sup>4</sup> Cabinet Confidences

Contract amount of \$150,000 was

proactively released (see note d below)

**a) Small and Medium Sized Business Recovery Grant Program, Circuit Breaker Business Relief Grant and COVID-19 Closure Relief Grant (\$481.2M)**

- As at Q3, the Ministry is forecasting an overall spend on the 3 grant programs of \$477M.
- The Small and Medium Sized Business Recovery Grant (SMSBRG) Program was approved and launched as part of StrongerBC in October 2020. The funding provides grants to enable small businesses to access professional advice and grants to support recovery for those which have been impacted by the pandemic.
- The SMSBRG program spent 93M in 2020/21 and has a 2021/22 budget of \$338.2M, for a total allocation of \$431.2M over 2 years.
- The Circuit Breaker Business Relief Grant's provided restaurants, bars, breweries, wineries, gyms and fitness centres, and short term accommodation providers impacted by the March 30, 2021, provincial health orders and the subsequent travel restrictions with up to \$20,000 in one-time funding to help with expenses like rent, insurance, employee wages, maintenance and utilities and other unexpected costs resulting from the restrictions such as the purchase of perishable goods.
- The 2021/22 budget for the Circuit Breaker Business Relief grant is \$129M. JERI has approval to reallocate any underspend to the SMSBRG program.
- On December 23, 2021, the \$10M COVID-19 Closure Relief Grant program was announced to support businesses that had to close due to the December 22, 2021 Provincial Health Officer Orders.
- On January 19, 2022, the Province allocated an additional \$4M to extend the grant and double supports for eligible businesses that have been ordered to remain temporarily closed until February 16, 2022.
- Eligible businesses (bars, nightclubs and lounges that do not serve full meals and event venues that were required to close) were eligible for up to \$20,000 in total funding.
- Eligible fitness facilities could receive the original 4 week temporary closure grant of up to \$10,000.

**b) StrongerBC Future Leaders Program – Innovator Skills Initiative (\$15M)**

- Budget 2021 provided \$15 million in funding to Innovate BC to expand the Innovator Skills Initiative program as part of the StrongerBC Future Leaders Program.
- The funding expands the existing program to include non-student youth who have completed industry-approved certification or training.
- The program will fund a portion of the internship costs for under-represented youth, creating over 3,000 job placements for youth in a high-opportunity sector with higher-than-average wages.

**c) Digital Marketing and Skills Training (\$800,000):**

- \$800,000 in Stronger BC funding was allocated to engage with businesses on their demand for digital skills, and conduct a labour market study identifying workplace needs and gaps.
- Through an open competitive process, in 2021/22 a \$150,000 contract with Deloitte was entered into to prepare an industry study to identify digital skills gaps and barriers to technology adoption companies across BC .

**d) Value Added Manufacturing – Research (\$0.25M provided from Base Budget)**

- \$250,000 was allocated from JERI’s base budget for a BC supply chain resiliency and value-added manufacturing project. The project will focus on key BC manufacturing and related strategic supply chains, and emerging value-added manufacturing opportunities.
- In September 2021, a contract of \$237,000 was awarded to Price Waterhouse Cooper after an open competitive process.

**Other:**

**10. What is/has been the budget impact of the change in the Asia Trade and Investment Representative model?**

This decision was made to allow the Ministry to provide more trade and investment programming support and diversify our trade and investment opportunities across Asia. The transition is made possible by the partnership with Global Affairs Canada and BC is benefiting from a closer relationship with the many new resources added by Global Affairs Canada in Asia in recent years.

BC’s new co-located positions in Asia are already strengthening our relationship with the many trade resources of Global Affairs Canada. Our new representatives supported efforts of BC and Canada to source and secure COVID-19 related supplies from Asia. We re-directed efforts of the headquarters team, utilized low-cost temporary assignments in-market, and relied on Global Affairs Canada to provide interim supports for BC businesses. We expect service levels to increase as more international trade resumes in the months ahead.



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.

.../2

---

**Office of the  
Premier**

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

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

**Location:**  
Parliament Buildings  
Victoria

- **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.

.../3

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.

.../4



- 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,



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.

.../2

---

**Office of the  
Premier**

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

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

**Location:**  
Parliament Buildings  
Victoria

- **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.

.../3

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

.../4

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 black ink, reading "John J. Horgan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John Horgan  
Premier



BRITISH  
COLUMBIA

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

.../2

---

Office of the  
Premier

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

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

Location:  
Parliament Buildings  
Victoria

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.



- 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,



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](http://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.

.../4

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 J. Horgan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

John Horgan  
Premier

# 2022/23 ESTIMATES NOTE

## Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation StrongerBC Summary

**Issue:** StrongerBC provided more than \$1.5 billion in funding to support economic recovery and help businesses throughout the pandemic.

### KEY FACTS

#### Background/Status:

- StrongerBC projects include 55 initiatives from across government totaling more than \$1.5 billion in expenditures.
- Some programs are still ongoing and continue to deliver benefits to people in B.C. into 2022-2023, including construction projects around B.C. communities, employment programs and community infrastructure programs (see Appendix A).
- From the last reporting, over 10,000 jobs were created and around 50,000 businesses were assisted

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

#### Budget/Expenditures:

- Please see the table in Appendix A

#### Approvals:

Last Updated: February 15, 2022

#### Contact:

James Harvey

Associate Deputy  
Minister

(250) 356-8800

# 2022/23 ESTIMATES NOTE

## Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation

### APPENDIX A – Initial Funding Allocations FY 20/21:

Supporting B.C. Businesses		
Program	Initial Allocation FY 20/21	Key Outcomes & Notes
1. Small and Medium Business Grants (includes \$45M from Tourism taskforce) <b>JERI</b>	\$345.00 M	Completed Advice/Recommendations
2. Agritech Grants <b>JERI</b>	\$7.50 M	Completed
3. Manufacturing grants <b>JERI</b>	\$17.00 M	Funds expended; some projects ongoing to March 31, 2022
4. Launch Online & Digital Marketing Bootcamps <b>JERI</b>	\$44.00 M	Launch online completed, digital bootcamp ongoing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>JERI provided an additional \$2.5M to the Digital Marketing Bootcamp in August 2021.</li> <li>51% of Launch Online grant payments were issues to regional and IBPOC-owned businesses</li> </ul>
5. Mass Timber Demonstration <b>JERI</b>	\$3.00 M	Completed
6. Supports for agricultural businesses (food hub) <b>AFF</b>	\$5.60 M	Completed
7. Increasing BC Food Production and Processing <b>AFF</b>	\$1.95 M	Completed
8. Small Farm Business Acceleration Program and Provincial Replant Program <b>AFF</b>	\$0.89 M	Completed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>73% of approved applicants for the Small Farm Business Acceleration Program and Provincial</li> </ul>

## 2022/23 ESTIMATES NOTE

### Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation

		Replant Program were from new entrants or women
9. On-Farm Innovation Top-Up Program <b>AFF</b>	\$1.60 M	Completed
10. Restoring Confidence App <b>CITZ</b>	\$2.00 M	Completed
11. Digitization of industrial land <b>CITZ</b>	\$0.70 M	Work ongoing during FY 21/22
12. Destination BC Tourism Recovery Strategy <b>TACS</b>	\$5.00 M	Funds expended; Work ongoing during FY 21/22
13. Tourism Taskforce Indigenous Tourism Recovery Fund <b>TACS</b>	\$5.00 M	Funds expended; Work ongoing during FY 21/22
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$436.74 M</b>	

<b>Getting People Back to Work</b>		
<b>Program</b>	<b>Initial Budget Allocation in FY 20/21</b>	<b>Key Outcomes &amp; Notes</b>
14. Youth Employment Program (YEP) for Parks and Conservation Officer Service <b>ENV</b>	\$1.80 M	Funds expended; New funding allocated to extend the program under StrongerBC Future Leaders
15. Community Job Creation Projects - Rural opportunities and Wildfire Risk Reduction <b>FLNRORD</b>	\$25.00 M	Funds expended; Projects targeting completion fall 2022
16. Forest Employment Program <b>FLNRORD</b>	\$12.00 M	Funds expended; Some projects continuing into spring 2023
17. Recreation Sites and Trails Youth Crew Program Expansion <b>FLNRORD</b>	\$0.43 M	Funds expended; additional funding extended the program into 2021
18. Employment Supports for People with Disabilities and Facing Barriers <b>SDPR</b>	\$20.00 M	Additional projects funded Sept 2021 and March 2022
19. Targeted Training for Health and Human Services <b>AEST</b>	\$10.53 M	Funds expended; Training continuing throughout FY 21/22
20. Short-Term Skills Training for In-demand Jobs <b>AEST</b>	\$20.00 M	Funds expended; Projects will be completed by March 2022 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This program helped almost 2,500 unemployed or precariously employed British</li> </ul>



## 2022/23 ESTIMATES NOTE

### Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation

		Columbians impacted by COVID-19 with short-term skills training to upskill to access jobs and get back to work sooner
21. Micro-Credentialing <b>AEST</b>	\$2.00 M	Completed
22. Indigenous Community Skills Training and Education <b>AEST</b>	\$15.00 M	Funds expended; Training continued to be delivered in FY 21/22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Indigenous Community Skills Training and Education (AEST) program was fully subscribed and served over 113 Indigenous communities and 1700+ participants</li> </ul>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$106.76 M</b>	

### Stronger Communities

<b>Program</b>	<b>Initial Budget Allocation in FY 20/21</b>	<b>Key Outcomes &amp; Notes</b>
23. Anti-Racism Restart and Recovery <b>AG</b>	\$1.90 M	Funds expended; Programming continuing during FY 21/22
24. Technology and Innovation – Connectivity <b>CITZ</b>	\$90.00 M	Majority of projects completed by Nov 2021. Some extend to 22/23
25. Tulsequah Chief Mine Remediation <b>EMLI</b>	\$1.57 M	Funds expended
26. Building Innovation Fund Recapitalization <b>EMLI</b>	\$8.00 M	Projects delivered over 21/22 and 22/23
27. Center for Innovation and Clean Energy <b>EMLI</b>	\$35M	Funds expended; Since fall 2021, the centre is up and running
28. Commercial Vehicle Innovation Challenge – ARC Program <b>EMLI</b>	\$30.00 M	Program continued over 21/22
29. Go Electric Specialty Use Vehicle Incentive Program <b>EMLI</b>	\$31.00 M	Funds expended; Program continues to March 2023
30. Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Roadmap and Pilot Program <b>EMLI &amp; ENV</b>	\$2.00 M	Initiative is ongoing in FY 21/22 subject to TBS approval

## 2022/23 ESTIMATES NOTE

### Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation

31. BC Parks Stimulus Proposal – Construction Projects <b>ENV</b>	\$5.00 M	Funds expended; Construction continued into June 2021
32. Species and Ecosystems Conservation and Restoration <b>ENV</b>	\$10.21 M	Projects continued until December 2021
33. Watershed Initiative and Wetlands Projects (Watersheds BC) <b>ENV</b>	\$27.00 M	Funds expended; Projects continued until December 2021
34. Clean Coast, Clean Waters Initiative Fund <b>ENV</b>	\$14.83 M	Funds expended; Projects continued until December 2021. Top up of \$5M through StrongerBC Future Leaders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small Ships Tour Operators Association was issued \$3.5M in funding. The project was completed and removed 127,060 kg of marine debris from 401 sites. The project employed more than 100 crew, as well as community members from the Heiltsuk, Kitasoo/Xai'Xais, and Gitga'at First Nation</li> </ul>
35. Recycled Plastics Manufacturing Stimulus <b>ENV</b>	\$5.00 M	Funds expended; completed by December 2021
36. Invasive Species Detection and Removal <b>FLNRORD</b>	\$12.00 M	Funds expended; Initiatives continue into spring 2022
37. Convert Underperforming Forests <b>FLNRORD</b>	\$5.00 M	Funds expended; Some initiatives continued to be delivered during 2021
38. Remote and Rural Road Access - Capital and Operating <b>FLNRORD</b>	\$8.05 M	Funds expended; Project work continued into summer 2021
39. Early Retirement Bridging Program <b>LBR</b>	\$10.00 M	Funding continued into spring 2021 as people hit their retirement dates
40. Childcare Spaces and Safety Grants <b>MCFD</b>	\$46.00 M	Funding continued to create new spaces
41. Huu-ay-aht First Nations – Anacla/Bamfield Road <b>MIRR</b>	\$25.70 M	Project work will continue into fall 2023

## 2022/23 ESTIMATES NOTE

### Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation

42. COVID-19 Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program <b>MUNI</b>	\$100.00 M	Ongoing; Projects to be completed in March 2023
43. Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Program <b>MUNI</b>	\$136.54 M	Program to continue into FY 22/23
44. Tourism Dependent Communities <b>TACS</b>	\$19.40 M	Funds expended
45. Targeted Regional Tourism Development Initiatives <b>TACS</b>	\$13.60 M	Funds expended
46. Arts and Culture Resilience Plan <b>TACS</b>	\$35.80 M	Funds expended
47. Active Transportation – Connections, Road Widening and Maintenance <b>TRAN</b>	\$16.67 M	Funds expended
48. Highways Climate Change Adaptation <b>TRAN</b>	\$20.70 M	Funds expended
49. Regional Port Enhancement Program <b>TRAN</b>	\$40.00 M	Funds expended; Supports larger port expansion projects that will complete in 23/24
50. Remote and Rural Community Access Program <b>TRAN</b>	\$25.65 M	Projects continued into 2021 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 61 projects have been completed that make improvements to side roads that access communities and contribute to job opportunities locally.</li> <li>• Delivery of some projects have been completed by Indigenous bands/companies.</li> </ul>
51. Air Access Grants <b>TRAN and EMLI</b>	\$15.75 M	Funds expended
52. Return to school funding <b>EDUC</b>	\$45.60 M	Completed
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 837.97 M<sup>1</sup></b>	

### Better Health Care

<sup>1</sup> Additional funding of \$14.8M was added to the Arts and Culture Resilience Plan

## 2022/23 ESTIMATES NOTE

### Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation

Program	Budget Allocation in FY 20/21	Key Outcomes & Notes
53. Jobs in Healthcare <b>HLTH</b>	\$299.99 M	Ongoing <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The funding helped support over 5,000 people to gain employment as of July 2021</li></ul>
54. Mental Health Support for the Workforce <b>MMHA</b>	\$2.00 M	Projects to be completed by March 2022
55. Youth Suicide Prevention and Life Promotion <b>MMHA</b>	\$2.33 M	Ongoing to March 2022 and March 2023
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$304.25 M</b>	

# 2022/23 ESTIMATES NOTE

## Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation

### Major Investments Office Activities

Issue: The Major Investments Office makes it easier for high profile proponents to advance major projects in B.C.

#### KEY FACTS

##### Background/Status:

- The Major Investments Office (MIO) helps land major private sector investments that support the B.C. economy.
- The mandate is to streamline government processes for large investments with significant potential economic benefits.
- MIO is focused on a small number of high value/high profile investments.
- Functions of the MIO include:
  - Individualized “concierge” services for large investors
  - Conduit to other provincial, federal and local agencies
  - Advice/advocacy for major investors
  - Infrastructure coordination support (power, water, gas)
  - Site selection assistance
  - Investment-focused corporate initiatives (e.g., industrial land, value-added natural gas, regulatory reviews, etc.)
- MIO also provides other ministries with consulting services including: early stage project due diligence, business case / financial reviews, and value proposition assessments.
- MIO had success with several high profile investments in B.C. and continues to assist over a dozen clients in key sectors such as clean energy, commercial development, cleantech manufacturing, forestry value-added and more.<sup>-Intergovernmental Communications; Government Financial Information</sup>
  - Intergovernmental Communications; Government Financial Information
  - Intergovernmental Communications; Government Financial Information

#### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The MIO is currently engaged with 18 prospective major investors.<sup>Advice/Recommendations</sup>  
Advice/Recommendations

##### Approvals:

[date approved] - [James Harvey, Investment and Innovation Division]  
February 8, 2022 – Carla Merkel, FSB

Last Updated: February 1, 2022

##### Contact:

Paul Pawlowski                      Executive Director                      Major Investments Office                      778-873-7037

# 2022/23 ESTIMATES NOTE

## Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation

### STEMCELL Advanced Biologics Manufacturing Facility Project Update

**Issue:** General project update and anticipated project timeline extension

#### KEY FACTS

##### Background/Status:

- The Province is contributing \$22.5 million (M) over four years to STEMCELL's \$150M Advanced Biologics Manufacturing Facility (ABMF). Canada matched the Province's contribution.
- The Province paid claims totalling \$18.2M up to end of FY 20/21. *Advice/Recommendations*  
*Advice/Recommendations*
- *Advice/Recommendations*
- The investment will allow Canada's largest biotechnology employer to develop regenerative medicine products for use in clinical trials, while creating good paying life science jobs in BC and supporting a strong, sustainable and innovative economy.
- The Contribution Agreement sets terms for ABMF design, construction, commissioning and new product development and imposes payment linked performance measures.
- Construction-related performance measures include:
  1. Major construction and capital equipment procurement and commissioning;
  2. Information technology development;
  3. Process development;
  4. Regulatory certification; and
  5. Manufacturing scale up.
- Non-construction related performance measures include:
  1. Employment creation and maintenance;
  2. Research and development spending;
  3. Training expenditures;
  4. BC-focused procurement; and
  5. Diversity and inclusion measures.
- *Advice/Recommendations*
- *Advice/Recommendations*
- *Business Information; Advice/Recommendations*

#### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

##### Budget/Expenditures:

- *Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information*

# 2022/23 ESTIMATES NOTE

## Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation

**Approvals:**

Feb. 3, 2022 - James Harvey, Innovation and Investment Division

February 12, 2022 – Brian Urquhart, CFO

**Last Updated: January 31, 2022**

**Contact:**

Paul Pawlowski                      Executive Director                      Major Investments Office                      (778) 873-7037

# 2022/23 ESTIMATES NOTE

## Advice to the Minister

### VENTURE CAPITAL TAX CREDIT PROGRAM

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

#### 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 per cent tax credits to B.C. resident investors who invest directly into companies or into managed funds. Under the SBVCA, the tax credit budget is \$38.5 million annually, which with a 30% tax credit can leverage investment up to \$128.3 million a year (see Appendix 1 for equity raised 2017 to 2021).
- The \$38.5 million tax credit budget is divided into five sub-budgets that support investment into specific business sectors. Over 100 businesses are 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 for 2020 and 2021).
- Government Financial Information
- Government Financial Information
- 2021 was an exceptional year for venture investment in North America, with US\$300 billion invested, nearly double the amount invested in 2020. This was driven by traditional funds (e.g., pension funds) and individual investors seeking higher returns in venture investments than returns available from publicly traded stocks or bonds.



# 2022/23 ESTIMATES NOTE

## Advice to the Minister

- The impact of increased venture investment activity is that businesses registered in the VCP were able to raise on average \$770,000 of investment in 2021. This is an increase of \$252,000 over the average amount raised in 2020. The increased investment will enable those businesses to fund more R&D tech development and commercialization activities in the months or years ahead.
- Recent examples of B.C. technology companies that raised tax credit supported investment are:
  - AbCellera Biologics Inc., a bio-technology company specializing in anti-body therapeutics had an Initial Public Offering in December 2020, raising \$555 million, more than double the previous largest IPO for a Canadian bio-tech company. On February 14, 2022, the US Food and Drug Administration approved the Eli Lilly/AbCellera Covid-19 anti-body treatment, worth US\$720 million for supplying 600,000 doses. These will be prescribed to Covid-19 patients who are at high risk from other diseases or unable/ineligible for alternative treatments.
  - D-Wave Systems Inc., the quantum computing company, announced it will seek an Initial Public Offering in the second quarter of 2022, which will see a further US\$340 million injected into D-Wave, and shares trading on the NYSE.
  - Redlen Technologies Inc., a manufacturer of cadmium zinc telluride semiconductors used in medical imaging was acquired by Japanese Global 500 company Canon for \$345 million in September 2021.
  - Loop Energy Inc., a hydrogen fuel cell manufacturer, had an Initial Public Offering in February 2021 which raised \$100 million, with shares trading on the TSX.

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The tax credit budget is the smallest amongst nine other tax credit programs under Vote 49 and is the responsibility of the Ministry of Finance.

Government Financial Information

Effective for the 2022 to 2024 calendar years, Budget 2022 increases 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 – 2017 to 2021  
Appendix 2 - Detailed Tax Credit Program Stats, 2020 and 2021

# 2022/23 ESTIMATES NOTE

## Advice to the Minister

**Approvals:**

James Harvey, Associate Deputy Minister, Investment and Innovation Division

**Last Updated: February 22, 2022**

**Contact:**

Tim Lesiuk	Assistant Deputy Minister	Innovation, Technology and Investment Capital	250 216 5893
------------	------------------------------	--	--------------

# 2022/23 ESTIMATES NOTE

## Advice to the Minister

### Appendix 1 – Equity Raised by B.C. Businesses - 2017 to 2021

Government Financial Information

	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total Amount of Equity Raised	\$116.4 M	\$106.8 M	\$115.7 M	\$114.0 M
Total Amount of Tax Credits Claimed	\$34.9 M	\$32.0 M	\$34.7	\$34.2 M
Number of Businesses that Raised Investment	250	215	234	214

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.

# 2022/23 ESTIMATES NOTE

## Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation

### INNOVATION COMMISSIONER

#### Issue: Role and Appointment Status

##### KEY FACTS

##### Background/Status:

- Dr. Gerri Sinclair was re-appointed for a second term as B.C.'s Innovation Commissioner (IC) on July 16, 2021 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 Government's larger COVID-19 recovery efforts.
- Over the past 12 months, the IC has met with 512 stakeholders on key issues to support her mandate of promoting innovation across all sectors of B.C. (summary table attached)
- More recently, the IC has been focused on engaging on demand-driven cleantech opportunities. She has met with 140 stakeholders in the sector, 36 of these were federal officials including the Minister of International Trade, Export Promotion, Small Business and Economic Development, and members of: ISED, PacifiCan, Global Affairs Canada and the National Research Council.
- As a result of this engagement, as part of B.C.'s new Economic Plan, a cleantech-focused Integrated Marketplace Initiative (IMI) will be launched in 2022. (see note #19)
- Dr. Sinclair provided keynote speeches at five events on various topics related to innovation including: The Rising Economy, Hydrogen Corridors in the Pacific Northwest, Superconducting Circuits and Qubits Workshop, iCubed Summit, and an ESG Panel hosted by the Business Council of B.C.
- Dr. Sinclair's term as IC ends on July 16, 2022.

##### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

##### Budget/Expenditures:

- The Investment and Innovation Divisional Budget is \$13.029M. The work of the Innovation Commissioner is managed within the divisional budget.

##### Approvals:

[date approved] – Tim Lesiuk, ITIC

February 11, 2022 – Carla Merkel, FSB

##### Last Updated:

##### Contact:

Tim Lesiuk

ADM

ITIC

778-698-4039

# 2022/23 ESTIMATES NOTE

## Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation

### Attachment – Number of Engagement Meetings by Theme

Topic	Number of Engagement Meetings
Business Incubators & Accelerators	12
Artificial Intelligence	9
Transportation	3
Investment	33
Life Sciences	16
Quantum Computing	5
Integrated Marketplace Initiative	103
General Innovation	314
Superclusters	6
Innovation in Forestry	15
Clean Technology	37
Agriculture Technology	9
Mining Technology	7
Digital Technology	18
Skills Training	33

# 2022 /23 ESTIMATES NOTE

## Advice to the Minister

### QUANTUM ALGORITHMS INSTITUTE

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

#### 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 British Columbia 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; and*
  - *leveraging British Columbia'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.*
- The Institute will be based at Simon Fraser University's (SFU) Surrey campus.
- COVID-19 has delayed establishing operations in the physical space, which is now anticipated for spring 2022
- QAI is in negotiations to hire an Executive Director.
- QAI's first Annual General Meeting was held on September 29, 2021. Members of the Institute elected the Board of Directors: Brad Lackey, Microsoft, Landon Downs, 1Qbit, Paul Gulyas, IBM Canada, Helmut Katzgraber, Amazon Web Services, Stephanie Simmons, Photonic, Murray Thom, D-Wave, Dugan O'Neill, SFU, Cynthia Milton, UVic, Gail Murphy, UBC, and ADM Tim Lesiuk, B.C. Government.
- The B.C. Government's investment was leveraged by the QAI members' committed of over \$2.1 million in cash and in-kind contributions in fiscal 2021, and will contribute a further \$2.2 million into fiscal 2022.
- The Institute intends to be financially self-sustainable by 2026 through commercial efforts, added memberships and partnerships, workshops, and public and private investments.
- Some of the partnerships and programs undertaken this year include: a partnership with Mitacs on a Quantum Internship Program for graduate students, an MOU with the Pacific Institute for the Mathematical Sciences, an MOU with qBraid, delivered workshops with Western Transportation Advisory Council, and a presentation on the Quantum Computing Industry panel.

### 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.
- It is also expected to be able to solve problems that are too complex for even 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.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

### **Budget/Expenditures:**

- The B.C. Government is allocating up to \$17 million over five years to establish the institute, with \$4 million to be provided in 2022/23, subject to available budget appropriation and review of future funding proposals from the Institute.
- QAI carried over \$1.6 million of unspent Provincial funds from 2020/21 to 2021/22. The funding agreement permits the carryover of unexpended funds for a limited period.

### **Approvals:**

[date approved] – Tim Lesiuk, Innovation, Technology and Investment Capital

February 15, 2022 – Brian Urquhart, FSB

**Last Updated: January 27, 2022**

### **Contact:**

Maija Duffy

Executive Director

Innovation Strategy,  
Policy and Coordination

250 507-0685

# 2022/23 ESTIMATES NOTE

## Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation

### Launch Online Grant Program

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

#### KEY FACTS

##### Background/Status:

- The Launch Online Grant program provides funds to B.C.'s small and medium sized businesses that need to build or improve their e-commerce tools and supports.
- The Program is administered by Alacrity Canada in partnership with South Island Prosperity Project, Button and JetStream, the successful proponents on a Request for Proposal in 2020. Cost to administer the program was 6.25% of the total funds.
- 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 provides up to \$7,500 in grant funding to eligible businesses. Businesses must fund 25 per cent of the project costs. 25 per cent of the funding was originally ear-marked for regional and Indigenous businesses but this was extended to 30 per cent, and to include IBPOC owned businesses, on March 17<sup>th</sup> as part of the program expansion.
- Eligible expenses include:
  - Service provider costs – these expenses must be to 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 must use the funding to hire B.C.-based businesses to do any work for them, ensuring the bulk of the funding remains in B.C. This also provides an economic multiplier effect that supports B.C. businesses and B.C. job creation.
- As a condition of the grant, recipients are required to participate in an audit, if selected. The audit will require that receipts and invoices of the eligible expenses be submitted for review by an independent auditor. The program has initiated audit, conducted by an independent auditor, on over 560 or 10% of all grant recipients.
- Failure to meet the requirements of the grant agreement could result in the requirement for the repayment of funding to the Program.

##### Key Statistics

- Over 8,660 applications were received from February 2021 to September 2021 and 5,669 businesses have received \$41 million in funding, an average of \$7,184 per business. Of the overall total, PacifiCan contributed \$1.4 million in funding which resulted in 186 grants. All files have been adjudicated.
- 51 per cent of grant payments were issued to regional and IBPOC businesses. This includes:
  - 1,867 grants issued to regional businesses (outside Metro Vancouver and Capital Regional District)
  - 150 grants issued to Indigenous businesses
  - 1,221 grants issued to Black and people of colour businesses



# 2022/23 ESTIMATES NOTE

## Advice to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation

### 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."

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

#### Budget/Expenditures:

- In 2020/21, \$12 million through original StrongerBC programming increased to \$42 million total on March 17<sup>th</sup>.
- One time StrongerBC funding. No funding allocation in 22/23.

#### Approvals:

[date approved] - [ADM name, division]

[date approved] – [CFO] FSB

#### Last Updated:

#### Contact:

Maija Duffy

Executive Director

Innovation Strategy,  
Policy and Coordination  
Branch

250-507-0685

