

Ministry of Municipal Affairs Estimates Debate 2021/22

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MINISTRY OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

1. Local Government Transfers

Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information

Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

2. Auditor General for Local Government (AGLG)

Question: Why are you getting rid of the Office of the AGLG?

Response:

- Government took a second look at the review done on the AGLG in 2018, and how the Office is supporting local governments to deliver for the public.
- While the review showed that some local governments found value in AGLG services, the Office was imposed on local governments when it was created and UBCM – on behalf of all B.C. local governments – continues to not be in support of the Office.
- While we have made the decision to dissolve the Office, I know the information gained during its time will help us and UBCM as we support local governments.

We want to thank the AGLG Mike Furey and the Audit Council members for their contributions to the Office.

Ministry of Municipal Affairs

2021/22 Estimates Summary

MINISTRY ESTIMATES BUDGET OVERVIEW

Ministry Operations Vote 38

2021/22 Estimate Budget: \$308.198M (a net increase of \$159.620M or 107.4% from the Restated Estimates 2020/21 of \$148.578M)

The \$159.620M increase is primarily due to the following:

- \$154.570M increase due to the timing of payments on the following Local Government transfers:
 - \$62M increase due to the addition of the Capital Regional District Wastewater Treatment Project in 2021/22
 - \$52.020M increase due to the addition of the Peace River Agreement in 2021/22
 - \$40.550M increase due to the addition of the Traffic Fine Revenue Sharing agreement in 2021/22
- \$15M increase due to the timing of the Library Government Transfers payment in 2019/20
- \$1.731M increase to cover costs related to Community Social Services Recruitment and Retention
- \$1.001M increase for the Sustainable Services Negotiating Mandate
- \$0.018M increase due for other operating needs

The above increases are offset by:

- \$10M decrease for fiscal adjustment per *Budget 2020* decision
- \$1.5M decrease for the completion of the Housing Needs Report
- \$1.2M decrease due to winding down of Office of the Auditor General for Local Government

CORE BUSINESS SUMMARY

Local Government Division \$270.950M

- \$270.950M (\$158.209M increase from Restated Estimates 2020/21 of \$112.741M)
 - \$62M increase due to the addition of the Capital Regional District Wastewater Treatment Project in 2021/22
 - \$52.020M increase due to the addition of the Peace River Agreement in 2021/22
 - \$40.550M increase due to the addition of the Traffic Fine Revenue Sharing agreement in 2021/22
 - \$15M increase due to the timing of the Library Government Transfers payment made in 2019/20
 - \$0.139M increase for the Sustainable Services Negotiating Mandate
 - \$10M decrease fiscal adjustment per *Budget 2020* decision
 - \$1.5M decrease due to completion of the Housing Needs Report

Immigration Services and Strategic Planning \$18.977M

- \$18.977M (\$2.374M increase from Restated Estimates 2020/21 of \$16.603M)
 - \$1.731M increase to cover costs related to Community Social Services Recruitment and Retention
 - \$0.745M increase for the Sustainable Services Negotiating Mandate
 - \$0.102M decrease due to a One-time Reorganization adjustment

Executive and Support Services \$7.603M

- Minister's Office
\$620K (\$45k increase from Restated Estimates 2020/21 of \$575k)
 - \$45K increase to support Minister's Office resources
- Corporate Services
\$6.983M (\$1.083M decrease from Restated Estimates 2020/21 of \$8.066M)
 - \$1.2M decrease due to winding down of the Office of the Auditor General for Local Government

- \$0.117M increase for the Sustainable Services Negotiating Mandate

Special Accounts \$10.668M

- University Endowment Lands Administration Account
\$10.668M (\$75K increase from Restated Estimates 2020/21 of \$10.593M)
 - \$75K increase to the University Endowment Special Account for amortization expenses on capital improvement projects

Ministry Capital Budget

- \$2.601M (\$1.660M decrease from Restated Estimates 2020/21 of \$4.261M)
 - \$1.615M decrease for the Wesbrook mall capital improvement project
 - \$45K decrease for the Local Government Information System



November 26, 2020

Honourable Josie Osborne
Minister of Municipal Affairs
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, British Columbia V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Osborne:

Thank you for agreeing to serve British Columbians as Minister of Municipal Affairs. 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.

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.

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.

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

- Work with UBCM and local government elected leaders to support their communities through the COVID-19 pandemic response and recovery.
- Improve local communities' ability to respond to the COVID-19 crisis by launching the new Strengthening Community Fund to enable local governments to apply for funding to help them tackle street disorder, cleanliness and public safety, and improve their ability to respond to challenges posed to businesses and neighbourhoods by homelessness.
- Work with cabinet colleagues to redouble our government's efforts to streamline foreign credential assessments processed by various regulatory bodies and health-related colleges to make sure immigrants can more easily strengthen their language skills and access job opportunities in their field of training.
- With support from the Attorney General and Minister responsible for Housing, work to bring down the cost of housing for people by streamlining and modernizing development permitting and approvals.
- Work with the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure to support economic recovery in communities across B.C. by continuing to build important infrastructure projects, including through StrongerBC and the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program.
- With support from the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, lead work on the Integrated Transportation and Development Strategy to ensure greater alignment between transportation and land-use planning.
- Support the work of the Attorney General and Minister responsible for Housing and the Minister of Finance to continue work to provide relief for commercial tenants with triple-net leases who are paying high property taxes.
- Support the work of the Attorney General and Minister responsible for Housing to address the needs of people experiencing homelessness, including those living in encampments.
- Support the work of the Minister of Finance to establish Property Assessed Clean Energy financing.

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

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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", followed by a long horizontal flourish.

John Horgan
Premier

Mandate Letter Commitments 2020	Division Lead	Status
Minister Josie Osborne Mandate letter		
1. Work with UBCM and local government elected leaders to support their communities through the COVID-19 pandemic response and recovery.	LGD – LGPRL; LGD – OCRU and ADMO; LGD – LGIF LGD – GSB LGD - PLUM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Between December 2020 and end of April 2021, Minister held 20 regular regional teleconferences with local government leaders (municipal mayors, regional district chairs; CAOs) to provide updates on COVID-19 both generally and on specific topics (e.g. vaccination roll out; mental health and addictions), including participation from UBCM, PHO and relevant ministries; these teleconferences are continuing approximately every 4-6 weeks. Each teleconference is followed by a general email to all participants providing information, answers to common questions, links, resources, etc., in addition to individual follow up responses to enquiries sent in by local governments. The Minister typically meets quarterly with UBCM Executive and ministry staff generally meet bi-monthly with UBCM senior staff. Two formal meetings with UBCM Executive members and two staff-level meetings took place from November 2020 to April 2021 including one UBCM President's meeting in December 2020. Various agenda topics relating to COVID-19 pandemic response and recovery were discussed as needed. Minister generally meets one on one with 60+ local government and UBCM First Nations member delegates annually during the UBCM Convention in September to hear about community issues/concerns. As well, a number of ministry staff meetings with delegates also take place to discuss issues/concerns. Canada-BC Safe Restart Agreement for Local Government provided \$425 million in direct funding to 188 local governments to address fiscal impacts of COVID-19. The funds support facility reopening and operating costs; emergency planning and response costs; bylaw enforcement costs; protective services; uncollected revenues, and other COVID-19 related impacts.

Mandate Letter Commitments 2020	Division Lead	Status
Minister Josie Osborne Mandate letter		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To date over 30 Ministerial Orders have been issued to support local governments conducting by-elections or holding assent votes. The Orders adjust election rules to address high touch points during the election process (e.g. allowing for mail ballot voting and oral declarations). Guidance has been created to provide practical advice for local governments with pending by-elections or assent votes. The <i>COVID-19 Related Measures Act</i> (CRMA) and Ministerial Order M192 (Order M192) provide flexibility for local governments to shift how they are conducting meetings and public hearings based on the current PHO recommendations. Order M192 provides that a council or body is not required to allow members of the public to attend a meeting if, despite the best efforts of the council or body, the attendance of members of the public cannot be accommodated at a meeting that would otherwise be held in accordance with the applicable requirements or recommendations under the <i>Public Health Act</i>. Order M192 also allows for local governments and local government bodies to conduct their regular meetings electronically. It also enables local governments and local trust committees under the <i>Islands Trust Act</i>, to conduct public hearings electronically, in all circumstances that have previously required an in-person hearing. Additional best practice advice was created in collaboration with LGMA for local governments meeting or conducting hearings electronically. On going advice and problem-solving support provided to local governments on financial issues. In terms of monitoring, Ministry staff will monitor the 2020 financial statements to see how individual local governments managed COVID-19 impacts (tax collection efficiency, change in cash position, and surplus/deficit position). Guidance provided to individual local governments on the implementation of an alternative tax scheme (sections 235 and 236 of the <i>Community Charter</i>)

Mandate Letter Commitments 2020	Division Lead	Status
Minister Josie Osborne Mandate letter		
2. Improve local communities' ability to respond to the COVID-19 crisis by launching the new Strengthening Community Fund to enable local governments to apply for funding to help them tackle street disorder, cleanliness and public safety, and improve their ability to respond to challenges posed to businesses and neighbourhoods by homelessness.	<p>ISSP</p> <p>LGD-PLUM</p>	<p>The Community Gaming Grants program contributes to Mandate commitments #1 and #2; in supporting communities through the COVID-19 pandemic response and recovery and improving local communities' ability to respond to the COVID-19. In 2020, the program made changes to make it easier for non-profit organizations to adapt and continue to provide vital services to British Columbians. Applications for the human and social services sector, which includes food banks, shelters, domestic violence supports, hospice, counselling services and other services, opened two months early to respond to community needs. Financial eligibility requirements were relaxed in order to not penalize organizations experiencing interruptions to their programming or receiving emergency government assistance. For the Capital Project Grant, projects or acquisitions needed to modify how programs and services are delivered, or projects required due to increased demand due to the COVID-19 pandemic were given additional weight during the selection process, and the matching funds required were reduced from 50% to 20%.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) is administering the \$100 million Strengthening Communities' Services Fund program on behalf of the province and serves as the point of contact for all inquiries and questions from applicants. • The program aims to support unsheltered homeless populations and address related community impacts through an application-based program funded under the Canada-BC Safe Restart Agreement; the program is open to all local governments and the eight First Nations in B.C with modern treaties. • Applications were accepted between February 18, 2021, and April 16, 2021. • UBCM is solely responsible for reviewing and adjudicating applications and expects to conclude the approvals process later in the spring. Should there be funding remaining at the end of this first funding intake, a second intake would likely occur as soon as possible.

Mandate Letter Commitments 2020	Division Lead	Status
Minister Josie Osborne Mandate letter		
3. Work with cabinet colleagues to redouble our government's efforts to streamline foreign credential assessments processed by various regulatory bodies and health-related colleges to make sure immigrants can more easily strengthen their language skills and access job opportunities in their field of training.	ISSP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This topic has been a mandate letter item since 2017. Significant progress has been made, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanding by nearly 50% (to \$5.8M) the Career Paths for Skilled Immigration program, which provides direct services to newcomers to help them get their credentials recognized, upgrade their language skills, and find employment in their field. 70% of clients find employment in their field upon program completion (Service Plan performance measure) Creating the Credential Assessment Improvement Fund (up to \$1M/year), which undertakes projects to improve the information available to newcomers about credential recognition and to help professional regulatory bodies streamline their credential assessment processes. Work is underway to develop options for how government can "double-down" on these efforts. An initial Minister briefing is expected in early May.
4. With support from the Attorney General and Minister responsible for Housing, work to bring down the cost of housing for people by streamlining and modernizing development permitting and approvals.	LGD - PLUM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Priority areas of work have been identified to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of local government development approvals. Multiple workstreams within each priority areas will include funding programs, policy guidance, technical support and tools and legislative change. Early actions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The launch of a \$15 million funding program under the Canada-BC Safe Restart Agreement on March 5th, 2021, to support local governments in increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of their development approvals processes through implementing established best practices and testing innovative approaches. The program is being delivered by the Union of British Columbia Municipalities. Program intake closes May 7th, 2021. <p>Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advice/Recommendations
5. Work with the Minister of Transportation and	LGD – LGIF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program (CERIP) provided 100% funding for projects up to \$1 million to local governments, First Nations and not

Mandate Letter Commitments 2020	Division Lead	Status
Minister Josie Osborne Mandate letter		
Infrastructure to support economic recovery in communities across B.C. by continuing to build important infrastructure projects, including through StrongerBC and the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program.		<p>for profits. Under the Community Economic Resilience stream 63 projects for a total of \$30 million were announced in February 2021.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) – Covid19 Resilient Infrastructure Stream (CVRIS). This program was enabled through amending the ICIP bilateral agreement. The application intake, with \$136 million available, for projects supporting communities with pandemic response, retrofits, active transportation and disaster mitigation closed in January 2021. Project approvals will occur throughout Spring 2021. Intakes for 3 other ICIP streams (Rural and Northern Communities, Community, Culture and Recreation, CleanBC Communities Fund) occurred to provide medium term recovery projects to communities throughout the province. <u>Intergovernmental</u> Intergovernmental Communications Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications; Government Financial Information
6. Support the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure to work on the Integrated Transportation and Development Strategy to ensure greater alignment between transportation and land-use planning	ISSP	<p>The Integrated Transportation and Development Strategy is intended to improve the seamless movement of people and goods, enable trade, prepare for future growth, and encourage the development of diverse, affordable, resilient, and connected communities.</p> <p>The development of ITDS concepts, planning and supporting data are underway. Potential ITDS concepts and approaches are being applied and tested in the Fraser Valley Integrated Transportation and Development Plan. This holistic and collaborative plan will enable all parties to coordinate and make transportation, land use and housing decisions that will best serve the Fraser Valley and neighbouring regions.</p>

Mandate Letter Commitments 2020	Division Lead	Status
Minister Josie Osborne Mandate letter		
		As the development of the ITDS progresses, the province will work with stakeholders to create a collaborative vision for integrating provincial growth and transportation networks. This work will also aim to align the ITDS with local and regional priorities and plans. The Province will be engaging with partners to better understand opportunities and challenges in advancing integrated planning on the ground.
7. Support the work of the Attorney General and Minister responsible for Housing and the Minister of Finance to continue work to provide relief for commercial tenants with triplenet leases who are paying high property taxes.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government is aware that many small businesses/non-profits operating under triple-net leases located on development properties, are struggling to remain economically viable due to significant property tax increases. For the 2020 tax year, legislation was enacted to provide Municipalities with authority to provide interim relief to identified small business properties through partial tax exemptions. <p>Advice/Recommendations</p>
8. Support the work of the Attorney General and Minister responsible for Housing to address the needs of people experiencing homelessness, including those living in encampments.	LGD - PLUM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Planning and Land Use Management Branch are participating in the Homelessness Strategy Working Group led by the Ministry of the Attorney General and the Ministry Responsible for Housing, to help assist government's efforts to address homelessness by supporting the development of a provincial homelessness strategy. Advice/Recommendations Note also the Strengthening Communities Services Fund (ML #2 noted above)
9. Support the work of the Minister of Finance to establish Property Assessed Clean Energy financing.	LGD: LGIF PRL PLUM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feedback and advice provided on the development of a proposed approach to establishing Property Assessed Clean Energy financing Identification and analysis of impacts tot the local government finance system.

Community Gaming Grants – Capital Projects Sector

ISSUE

- As part of Budget 2017, Treasury Board approved a \$5 million base budget lift starting in 2017/18 to support a new capital component of the Community Gaming Grants (CGG) program.

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- **The Ministry has successfully delivered the Capital Project Grant Program for four years, from 2017/18 to 2020/21. 2021/22 will be the fifth year of the program.**
- **Applications are competitively assessed against the published eligibility criteria by professional public servants in the CGG Branch.**
- **In 2020/21, 81 projects were funded representing all regions of B.C. and all six CGG sectors.**
- **Two Indigenous projects were supported, including renovations to a Friendship Centre in Merritt and acquisitions to support mobile outreach in Nanaimo.**
- **In 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2020/21, additional capital projects were funded with money that was not fully spent in the regular \$135 million program; the Branch did not fund additional projects in 2019/2020.**
- **In light of the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting pressures on not for profit organizations, the Branch made changes to the program in 2020/21, such as: amendments to the program assessment criteria to give priority consideration to projects that are required as a direct result of COVID-19 and a reduction in the 'matching funds' requirements for COVID-19 related applications from 50 per cent to 20 per cent of project costs, in recognition of the financial challenges they face.**

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- In February 2017, government announced that an additional \$5 million in funding for capital projects was allocated to the CGG program.
- Staff developed detailed assessment criteria with input from other areas of government and key stakeholders such as the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres and the British Columbia Association for Charitable Gaming.
- The Capital Projects Sector Guide is updated each year, providing information on eligibility, the application process, the assessment criteria, and the appropriate use of funds.
- The Manager of Community Outreach attended more than twenty information sessions across the Province in 2019/20, including sessions in Terrace, Fort St. John, Prince George, Kamloops, and other small communities in central B.C.
- Due to COVID-19 and the vacant Manager of Community Outreach position, there were fewer outreach sessions in 2020/21. The position is now filled, and more outreach sessions will be planned for 2021/22.
- Eligible not-for-profit organizations were approved for between 20 to 50 per cent of the total cost of a project, to a maximum of \$250,000. Applicants were required to have matching funds. Projects had a total cost of more than \$20,000.
- The project categories included the construction of new facilities and renovation of existing facilities; development of public amenities; and purchase of fixed capital assets. All projects were primarily for community benefit and accessible to the public.
- Additional considerations were made to include regional distribution, sector distribution, project size and Indigenous inclusion.
- The Branch received 242 applications in 2020/21, representing a total ask of \$24 million.
- Recent funding history is as follows: 2017/18 had 107 projects at \$9.2 million, 2018/19 had 88 projects at \$8.3 million, 2019/20 had 63 projects at \$4.9 million, and 2020/21 had 81 projects at \$7.7 million.

CONTACT: Rachel Holmes, ADM, Community Gaming Grants Branch, 250-356-7325

Community Gaming Grants – Regular

ISSUE

- More than 5,000 not-for-profit organizations, representing communities throughout B.C., benefit from \$135 million in Community Gaming Grants (CGG) every year to directly deliver approved programs in their communities.

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- In 2021/22, CGG will continue to be awarded to a diverse range of not-for-profit organizations representing six sectors: arts and culture, sport, environment, public safety, human and social services and parent advisory councils. The Capital Projects Sector will also return for its fifth year in 2021.
- In 2017/18, the program budget increased from \$135 million to \$140 million to accommodate the inclusion of a new Capital Projects Sector grant (\$5M).
- A revenue-sharing agreement between B.C. and First Nations communities was announced in *Budget 2019*.
- This gaming revenue-sharing arrangement will not change the amount of funding that currently goes to B.C.'s not-for-profit sector through the CGG program.
- In light of the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting pressures on not for profit organizations, the Branch made changes to the program in 2020/21, such as:
 - Allowing organizations to redirect program funds for cancelled or postponed programming to any other approved program;
 - Extending the permissible timeframe to spend gaming funds from 12 to 24 months, allowing organizations to retain funding for future program delivery; and
 - Opening the Human and Social Services sector two months earlier to support organizations that were facing an increased demand for services due to the pandemic.

2021/22 Estimates Note

Honourable Josie Osborne

April 2021

- **For 2021/22, many of these COVID-19 Response Measures will continue and are written into the Program Guidelines. New temporary changes for 2021/22 include:**
 - **Relaxing financial eligibility criteria for return applicants to ensure organizations can continue to access the CGG; and**
 - **Allowing CGG funding to be used for the creation of new paid positions, supporting organizations to increase staff capacity.**
- **The Province is committed to considering input from all stakeholders regarding the program, including ongoing consultation with the British Columbia Association for Charitable Gaming (BCACG).**
- **The Branch has also incorporated stakeholder feedback from the 2018 BC Stats survey, which was sent to all applicant organizations plus a sample of non-applicant not-for-profits. 3,656 survey responses were received.**

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- CGG funding level history:
 - 2008/09 pre-economic recession funding was \$156 million.
 - 2009/10, CGG funding was reduced to \$112.5 million.
 - In March 2011, the funding level was increased to \$135 million.
 - In 2017/18 – CGG program funding increased to \$140 million. The \$5 million increase remains dedicated to funding Capital Projects.
- In 2019/20 there was a \$3.0 million year-end program surplus in the \$135 million regular program that was provided to Food Banks British Columbia to reallocate to food banks throughout BC during the provincial state of emergency.
 - The primary reason for the surplus was fewer approved applications in the Human and Social Services sector.

2021/22 Estimates Note

Honourable Josie Osborne

April 2021

- The Branch also implemented changes to the CGG \$5 million 'Capital Projects' program in 2020/21, including: amendments to the program assessment criteria to give priority consideration to projects that are required as a direct result of COVID-19 and a reduction in the 'matching funds' requirements for COVID-19 related applications from 50 per cent to 20 per cent of project costs, in recognition of the financial challenges they face.

CONTACT: Rachel Holmes, ADM, Community Gaming Grants Branch, 250-356-7325

Community Gaming Grants - Audits

ISSUE

- A compliance audit conducted by the Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch at the Ministry of Attorney General in 2019 determined that the Health Action Network Society (HANS) was ineligible for funding for having objectives, programs or expenditures that do not conform with all laws, regulations and the general public policies of the Province.

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- **Provincial staff conducted an audit of the Health Action Network Society's compliance with the Community Gaming Grants (CGG) Guidelines' requirements.**
- **The program staff's decision to suspend the organization's access to funding in 2019 was based upon the audit's findings.**
- **The organization submitted a request for reconsideration on the decision to suspend access to funding. A decision to uphold the denial was communicated to the organization by ADM Tara Faganello on July 14, 2020.**
- **The organization was instructed to repay \$9,574.99 of CGG funding to the Branch within 10 days of ADM Faganello's letter.**
- **The organization responded on July 23, 2020, disputing the repayment of CGG funding. As of April 14, 2021, the repayment from the organization remains outstanding.**
- **The organization has not applied for a CGG in 2020/21.**
- **Decisions about CGG are made by public service employees who are statutory decision makers, not by ministers or Cabinet.**

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- The organization came to government's attention after receiving extensive media coverage in spring 2019 for promoting "vaccine safety" messages.
- The organization has been reviewed and audited and it was determined that the organization's program content related to "vaccine safety" did not conform with the Ministry of Health's Strategic Framework for Immunization in B.C.



2021/22 Estimates Note

Honourable Josie Osborne

April 2021

- The ministry made the decision that the organization would be ineligible to apply for funding for one-year but may reapply in 2020/21.
- The organization will be required to demonstrate adherence to provincial public policy to be eligible to receive funding.

Advice/Recommendations

- The Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch conducts audits based on a range of criteria including risk factors, public complaints, and concerns regarding the organization's reporting and/or application.

CONTACT: Rachel Holmes, ADM, Community Gaming Grants Branch, 250-356-7325

Community Gaming Grants – 2021/22 Policy Changes

ISSUE

- Every year, the Community Gaming Grant (CGG) Branch updates the Program Guidelines to incorporate major policy changes, address stakeholder feedback, improve administration and increase clarity.

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- **The Program Guidelines were released in mid-January 2021 and took effect on February 1, 2021.**
- **As a result of the 2016 Office of the Auditor General Report, the Branch committed to a continuous improvement approach where the Guidelines are updated and improved annually.**
- **The Branch made several temporary policy changes to the 2021 Guidelines to support COVID-19 re-start and recovery:**
 - **The Human and Social Services sector will open two months earlier, in June, to support organizations that are facing an increased demand for services due to the pandemic;**
 - **Financial eligibility criteria for return applicants will be temporarily relaxed to ensure organizations can continue to access the CGG;**
 - **The requirement for programming to have been delivered for 12 months has been relaxed for return applicants, as well as for new programs responding to COVID-19 related needs; and**
 - **CGG funding may be used for the creation of new paid positions, to supporting organizations to retain staff and increase capacity.**
- **In addition to the COVID-19 re-start and recovery changes, the Branch made minor changes and clarification to existing policy to better assist applicants.**

2021/22 Estimates Note

Honourable Josie Osborne

Date: March 10, 2021

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- Advice/Recommendations
 - Engagement from key stakeholders, including the BC Association for Charitable Gaming and the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centers is sought for material changes to the Guidelines prior to their finalization.
 - The Branch made changes to the CGG \$135 million 'Regular' program in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in spring of 2020. Many of these changes have now been formally written into the 2021 Guidelines as temporary policy changes to support COVID-19 re-start and recovery.
 - The Branch also made changes to the CGG \$5 million 'Capital Projects' program in 2020/21, including: amendments to the program assessment criteria to give priority consideration to projects that are required as a direct result of COVID-19 and a reduction in the 'matching funds' requirements for COVID-19 related applications from 50 per cent to 20 per cent of project costs, in recognition of the financial challenges they face.

CONTACT: Rachel Holmes, ADM, Community Gaming Grants Branch, 250-356-7325

DISSOLUTION OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

ISSUE

- The Office of the Auditor General for Local Government (AGLG) has closed.

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- **While the results of the 2018 independent review showed that many local governments found value in AGLG services, the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) continued to oppose the Office.**
- **The Province wants to work with the UBCM and local governments on financial and performance best practices within the local government system.**
- **I want to thank both the AGLG and the Audit Council members for making significant improvements to the Office since 2015 and for their hard work assisting local governments.**
- **The 32 performance audits and 10 good practices booklets produced by the AGLG will continue to be available through the ministry's website.**

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- In 2015, UBCM endorsed a resolution calling on government to eliminate the AGLG. The resolution stated such a function is already met under existing local government legislation and regulations.
- In February 2020, the previous Minister decided to close the Office. Factors for closing the office included UBCM's continued opposition and the high costs of audits.
- The mandated activities of the AGLG Office were completed by March 31, 2021 and the office closed. Final administrative tasks related to closing the office are being managed by the Ministry.
- The *Auditor General for Local Government Act* will be repealed. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we do not expect to complete this legislative work this fiscal (2021/22)

CONTACT: Rachel Holmes, ADM, Immigration and Strategic Planning Division, Phone Number 250 356-7325

CREDENTIAL RECOGNITION AND LABOUR MARKET INTEGRATION

ISSUE

- Government programs and initiatives to improve credential recognition and labour market outcomes of immigrants in BC.

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- **Our government is working to support the best employment outcomes for newcomers to our province.**
- **Since 2017 we have significantly increased funding to improve the process of foreign credential recognition and help newcomers find employment in their field.**
- **We will build on these successes to continue improving employment outcomes for immigrants and support the provincial economy.**

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- In B.C. more than 60 regulatory authorities serve an important role for health, safety, and consumer protection by assessing and recognizing professional qualifications for approximately 250 regulated occupations.
- Many immigrants arrive to B.C. with valuable education, skills and experience gained outside of Canada. However, they may experience barriers to professional recognition that can create challenges for employment success.
- The Province spends \$5.8 million annually on the Career Paths for Skilled Immigrants program to help people new to B.C. find employment in occupations that match their pre-arrival skills, education and experience.
- Another \$1 million is allocated for the Credential Assessment Improvement Fund (CAIF), which supports projects to improve regulator processes and information for newcomers—levelling the playing field for newcomers.
- The ministry has a mandate commitment to redouble government's efforts on foreign credential recognition. Work is underway to develop options for how the ministry can build on existing initiatives to improve labour market outcomes for newcomers.

CONTACT: Carling Helander, Executive Director, Immigration Policy and Integration Branch, 250-886-5632

BC SETTLEMENT SERVICES

ISSUE

- Provincial programs to support the settlement and integration of newcomers.

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- **When newcomers come to BC, they often need help to adjust to their new hometown, successfully integrate into their community, and join the job market.**
- **The Province currently provides \$11.7 million in annual funding to support newcomers, more than 50 per cent higher than in 2017.**
- **This funding complements federal funding to ensure newcomers have supports across their immigration journey.**

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- The province's annual investment of \$11.7M in settlement services is split between two programs: BC Settlement and Integration Services (BCSIS) and Career Paths for Skilled Immigrants.
- BCSIS (\$5.9M) provides services to approximately 24,000 temporary residents and naturalized Canadian citizens per year in over 60 communities across B.C. This includes resources and services for vulnerable clients such as refugee claimants and foreign workers.
- There is a high demand for these services. Reporting from the past three years shows that annual client targets are exceeded by approximately 55% per cent.
- Career Paths for Skilled Immigrants (\$5.8M) helps skilled permanent residents to find employment commensurate with their pre-arrival skills, education and experience.
- In 2019/20, Career Paths for Skilled Immigrants served more than 1,500 clients across B.C., with 72 per cent of clients achieved employment in the field upon program completion. Ensuring strong credential recognition supports for skilled newcomers is integral for a strong economic recovery and is outlined in the mandate letter.
- During COVID-19, settlement services continue to be provided across the province virtually, by telephone or in-person.

CONTACT: Carling Helander, Executive Director, Immigration Policy and Integration Branch, 250-886-5632

MULTICULTURAL HELPING HOUSE SOCIETY

ISSUE

- Governance and service quality concerns regarding Multicultural Helping House Society

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- **We take any concerns with how programs and services are delivered to newcomers seriously.**
- **It was disappointing to hear that clients and employees at Multicultural Helping House Society were not receiving the support they needed to succeed here in B.C.**
- **Over the last two years, we have worked closely with the society to implement new policies and processes - such as the hiring of new staff and monthly status updates - to address these concerns and make sure they do not happen again.**

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- The Multicultural Helping House Society (MHHS) is a non-profit society that receives approximately \$100,000 in annual funding from the Immigration Policy and Integration Branch to deliver settlement services to newcomers in Metro Vancouver.
- In response to concerns raised about MHHS's governance and service quality, the Branch has conducted extensive due diligence, including requesting changes to its financial and governance practices, monitoring service quality and increasing oversight including site visits and monthly reporting.
- The organization has made several changes including changes to the board leadership, hiring a new executive director and staff and built stronger governance and financial oversight.
- Due to these improvements, the Branch extended MHHS's contract for the 2021/22 fiscal year. While areas of improvement still exist, the Branch believes they can be managed within the contract management process.

CONTACT: Carling Helander, Executive Director, Immigration Policy and Integration Branch, 250-886-5632

2021 Federal Immigration Levels and Policy Changes

ISSUE

- Immigration levels and federal response to impacts of pandemic on targets

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- **BC is a welcoming province and immigration plays an important role in our social and economic fabric.**
- **We're aware that the federal government has committed to an ambitious immigration target this year and has created new, time-limited opportunities for temporary residents to apply for permanent residency.**
- **It is important that everyone in British Columbia has the best possible chance for success, so we will monitor the federal program closely to ensure any new policies and programs work for all British Columbians.**

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- The 2021-2023 federal immigration levels plan includes levels targets of 401,000 new permanent residents to be admitted to Canada in 2021 with growth to 421,000 by 2023. These targets are the highest levels targets in over 100 years.
- Canada's rationale behind higher levels is that a significant increase in Canada's newcomer intake will help support Canada's economic recovery.
- Pandemic border restrictions continue to affect Canada's ability to meet levels targets and as a result they are implementing new measures to make more individuals already in Canada eligible to apply for to permanent resident status.
- On February 13, 2021, IRCC invited all registrants (over 27,000) in the Canadian Experience Class to apply for permanent residence, dropping the required points score from a norm of 430+ to a low of 75, making individuals with lower levels of human capital eligible for permanent residence.
- The federal government also plans to create new, time-limited permanent resident pathways for temporary residents currently in Canada. These pathways would target francophone immigrants, foreign workers (with a focus on those in health care occupations and other critical occupations yet to be defined), and international graduates from Canadian institutions.

CONTACT: Carling Helander, Executive Director, Immigration Policy and Integration Branch, 250-886-5632

BC Provincial Nominee Program COVID-19 Response

ISSUE

- Continuing to effectively administer the BC Provincial Nominee Program (BC PNP) through the global pandemic.

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- **We have needed to be responsive and flexible given the impact of the pandemic on the economy, jobs and on global travel.**
- **While the BC PNP public facing office closed in March 2020, the program has been delivered remotely for all lines of business.**
- **Throughout the year, some temporary criteria or process adjustments were made such as flexibility with deadlines, virtual interviews or restricted access for certain occupations.**
- **We maintain our commitment that nominations should not adversely affect employment or development opportunities for British Columbians.**
- **Through these measures, we approved 6,268 people for nomination.**
- **We continue to monitor the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on the provincial labour market while remaining committed to attracting new permanent residents who can contribute to BC's economy.**

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- The BC PNP has been virtually on-line for a number of years, therefore the transition to remote service delivery was relatively seamless. Some processing time was lost due to time needed for adjusting various processes or policies.
- Current travel restrictions have an impact on prospective BC PNP candidates. In some cases, this has put categories on hold; in other cases, a virtual interview option has been provided.
- If nominees are not already in Canada, once nominated, they are exempt from travel restrictions and can come with a valid work permit to begin working for the employer. All are subject to conditions under the Quarantine Act.

CONTACT: Deb Zehr, Executive Director, Immigration Programs, 778 572-5685

BC Provincial Nominee Program Entrepreneur Immigration - Regional Pilot

ISSUE

- Extension of Regional Pilot to support smaller centres in economic recovery

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- **The Regional Pilot was launched in March 2019 to support economic growth in smaller regional centres of B.C.**
- **It has been a positive model of collaboration between regional communities and the provincial government.**
- **The initiative has demonstrated its ability to attract entrepreneurs from around the world and contribute to regional economic development needs, despite the impacts of COVID-19.**
- **We understand that with global travel restrictions still in effect, communities may be focused on other priorities. This three-year extension will help communities to welcome entrepreneurs and be well positioned to support recovery post-pandemic.**
- **In total, 65 communities enrolled in the initial pilot phase and many will receive new entrepreneurs in their communities once international travel restrictions are lifted.**

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- The Regional Pilot is for communities under 75,000 and 30 km from larger centres. One hundred forty-five total referrals made by communities is 45% over the initial target of 100. A process review indicates positive early outcomes.
- Minor adjustments to the program will be made in consultation with communities in spring 2021 and the initiative will be open to new communities. These preparations will be made in anticipation of travel restrictions being lifted by the end of 2021, to be ready when foreign entrepreneurs can again conduct in-person exploratory visits.
- The collaborative network between communities and the Province can be leveraged in recovery efforts and the creation of future opportunities to attract international talent to regional communities.

CONTACT: Deb Zehr, Executive Director, Immigration Programs, 778 572-5685

Addressing Fraud in Immigration

ISSUE

- Measures to address fraud in the BC Provincial Nominee Program (PNP)

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- **We are committed to protecting the integrity of the immigration system in B.C.**
- **We work with the federal government to tackle fraud and abuse, including in our own BC Provincial Nominee Program.**
- **Operational and legislated measures are in place and continue to be strengthened to identify, address and mitigate risks of misrepresentation or fraud.**
- **In line with Auditor General recommendations, we have strengthened our formal approach to fraud risk management and have established a dedicated unit to lead anti-fraud initiatives and investigate allegations and suspicions of fraud.**
- **We continue to cooperate with enforcement bodies such as the Canada Border Services Agency to ensure that illegal activities can be prosecuted.**

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- Given that permanent residency is highly valued, there is risk of fraud and corruption within all immigration systems. A 2020 Office of the Auditor General audit report recommended that the Ministry develop and implement a risk management framework related to misrepresentation, fraud and corruption.
- Along with the fraud risk management framework, the Ministry has established a risk registry to identify and prioritize risks; work is underway and is on-going to address risks.
- A new fraud webpage provides resources and a dedicated email address where members of the public can send any fraud tips pertaining to the BC PNP.
- The *Provincial Immigration Programs Act* and Regulations, provide the authority to conduct inspections, monitor compliance, and refuse to accept applications for a two year period for misrepresentation.

CONTACT: Deb Zehr, Executive Director, Immigration Programs, 778 572-5685

BC Provincial Nominee Program Talent Attraction

ISSUE

- Attracting and retaining international talent to support B.C. labour needs

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- **BC's Provincial Nominee Program (PNP) allocation was 6,750 in 2020.**
- **Notwithstanding challenges created by the global pandemic, 6,268 international workers and entrepreneurs were nominated through the BC PNP for permanent residency.**
- **More than 99% of the nominations were under the Skills Immigration stream, comprised of 65% skilled and semi-skilled workers, and 35% international graduates from Canadian post-secondary institutions. The majority were already working in the province.**
- **The BC PNP Tech Pilot has continued to support the sector to address its workforce needs by prioritizing 29 in-demand tech occupations. In 2020, a total of 1,855 applicants were nominated under the Tech Pilot, a 22.9% increase from 2019. Tech Pilot nominations represented 30% of all Skills Immigration nominations in 2020.**

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- The BC PNP provides a pathway for many temporary workers to remain in B.C. Most PNP applicants must have a job offer from a B.C. employer to be nominated, thus 84% of applicants are already working in the province.
- The PNP application assessment confirms that employers have first attempted to recruit Canadian Citizens or Permanent Residents.
- Ministry staff are reviewing BC PNP Skills Immigration categories to ensure they continue to align with government's strategic objectives and best support BC's economic recovery.

CONTACT: Deb Zehr, Executive Director, Immigration Programs, 778 572-5685

BC Provincial Nominee Program

Auditor General of BC Report on Skills Immigration

ISSUE

- Work continues to progress in response to the 2020 Auditor General recommendations for the Skills Immigration stream of the BC PNP

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- **Work has progressed on every aspect of the recommendations that were received from the Auditor General, amidst the unexpected pressures of the pandemic.**
- **The development of a performance framework and a formalized approach to the risk management of fraud, misrepresentation and corruption are two examples of work that is on track in response to the recommendations.**
- **We are committed to addressing all recommendations and look forward to reporting more fully to the Public Accounts Committee as part of the accountability process.**

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- In June 2020, the Office of the Auditor General released a performance audit and made four recommendations that included: defining key performance measures and targets; conducting periodic analysis of program and outcome data; conducting systems changes to ensure that reliable program data is collected; and developing and implementing a fraud risk management framework.
- A workplan was presented to the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) in July 2020. Work has progressed on all aspects of the work plan and in response to recommendations. This includes development of a Performance Management Framework with measures, targets and plans for public reporting, a Fraud Risk Management Framework and Registry and updates and changes to systems and data collection.
- Some of these measures are in approval stages, continue to evolve and are already benefitting program planning to inform how the PNP can best benefit B.C. in economic recovery.

CONTACT: Deb Zehr, Executive Director, Immigration Programs, 778 572-5685

INVESTING IN CANADA INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

ISSUE

- Status of Federal-Provincial Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP)

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- Our government is committed to making life more affordable for British Columbians and improving the services you can count on. That is why we are partnered with Canada on the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP), a 10 year program investing \$3.917 billion of federal funds in B.C. delivered through 5 streams.
- Our government continues to work with Canada on strategic use of infrastructure funding to support communities across B.C. through the post-COVID economic recovery – for example, on November 27, 2020, the agreement was amended to create the ICIP COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream (CVRIS).
- The Ministry works closely with the ministries of Transportation and Infrastructure, and Environment and Climate Change Strategy on delivering this file.
- There are multiple programs under ICIP currently underway (existing programs that continued to operate as planned and the new CVRIS stream):
 - CVRIS intake closed January 27 and final decisions expected in May 2021.
 - Second intake for Environment Quality Program (EQ) closed February 26, 2020; final announcements expected by May 2021.
 - Second and final intake for Community, Culture and Recreation Program (CCR) launched on June 25, 2020 and closed October 1, 2020;

Intergovernmental Communications

Intergovernmental

- **Second and final intake for Rural and Northern Communities Program (RNC) launched on June 25, 2020 and closed October 22, 2020;** Intergovernmental Communications
- **Second intake of CleanBC Communities Fund (CCF) closed November 12, 2020; final decisions expected by Fall 2021.**
- **There are currently 127 approved projects from the first intakes of EQ, CCR, RNC and CCF.**

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- The federal government announced their 11-year \$81.2 billion Investing in Canada Plan in February 2017. A core program is ICIP, delivered through an Integrated Bilateral Agreement (IBA) between federal and provincial government.
- The ICIP IBA (signed March 22, 2018; announced April 2, 2018) is a \$3.917 billion federal investment in B.C. ICIP is a 10-year program (2018 to 2028).
- Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) is the primary interlocutor with the federal government on infrastructure funding agreements. Ministry of Municipal Affairs (MUNI) leads/co-leads program development and holds the budget for most, if not all, non-provincial projects. Climate Action Secretariat (CAS) Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV) is a key stakeholder.
- There are 5
- Under ICIP, the province's commitment includes:
 - A commitment that participation will include all five of the funding streams;
 - A commitment to a minimum of 33.33 per cent cost share for local government projects (except CVRIS stream);
 - An equitable balance of investment between provincial and local government;
 - Consideration of projects that benefit Indigenous peoples, on and off reserve;
 - Report on targets outlined under each funding stream; and,
 - Finalize ICIP projects by March 31, 2025, (does not require full expenditure, only identification and approval of projects).
- Under the IBA, the federal commitment includes 5 funding streams:
 - British Columbia Public Transit Infrastructure (\$2.7 billion); Green Infrastructure (\$858 million); Community, Culture and Recreation (\$157 million); Rural and Northern Communities (\$102 million) and CVRIS (\$109

- million). With \$212 million federal funding already committed to Northshore Wastewater Treatment Plant, total is \$4.1 billion.
- The new CVRIS stream is supported by reprofiling federal allocations from two existing ICIP streams (transfer \$45 million from Green Infrastructure – Adaptation, Disaster Mitigation and Resilience stream, and \$64 million from Rural and Northern Communities Infrastructure stream).
 - CVRIS intake was announced December 1, 2020 and closed January 27, 2021, with final decisions expected in May 2021. CVRIS offers \$80.29 million to support projects that will result in upgrades to local government and Indigenous buildings, improve health and educational facilities, increase access to active transportation and increase resilience/adaptation to natural disaster events.
 - EMBC administered a parallel \$56.25 million intake to support structural flood mitigation projects.
 - The EQ Program, a component of ICIP – Green Infrastructure, will provide funding towards reliable drinking water and wastewater systems.
 - There are 13 approved projects being monitored from the initial intake (May 31, 2018 to August 29, 2018; \$243 million), 12 approved August 2019 and one project previously approved in Fall 2018.
 - The second intake, announced September 25th, 2019 with \$150 million in federal-provincial funding, closed on February 26, 2020, with final decisions expected May 2021.
 - The CCR Program's initial intake was concurrent with the RNC intake. It provides up to \$234 million towards projects that improve access to or quality of cultural, recreational, or community infrastructure.
 - There are 52 approved projects; August 2019, six projects approved and a further 46 projects approved in July 2020. Projects are being monitored.
 - Second intake launched June 25, 2020 and closed October 1, 2020.
Intergovernmental Communications
 - The RNC will provide up to \$153.7 million towards projects that support infrastructure priorities in rural communities with populations under 25,000.
 - There are 46 spring 2020 approved projects being monitored from the initial intake (September 12, 2018 to January 23, 2019);
 - Second intake launched on June 25, 2020 and closed October 22, 2020;
Intergovernmental Communications
 - The CCF, a component of ICIP – Green Infrastructure, had an initial intake December 18, 2018 to March 27, 2019. The first two intakes will provide up to

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\$110 million to community infrastructure projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions using clean or renewable energy or that improve energy efficiency.

- The CCF is co-led with CAS, ENV and is aligned with the CleanBC plan.
- 16 projects, approved in 2020 and early 2021, are being monitored.
- Second intake launched August 12, 2020. and closed November 12, 2020; decisions expected in Fall 2021.
- The Electricity Program, a component of ICIP – Green Infrastructure, supports provincial priorities in greenhouse gas emission reductions. Two BC Hydro projects are approved at a 50/50 cost share:
 - The Peace Region Electricity Supply Project received approval on December 7, 2018 for \$83,680,825 million in federal funding.

Intergovernmental Communications; Government Financial Information

- The CleanBC Facilities Electrification Fund is the final component of this program. It has a federal allocation of \$84M, is administered by Energy Mines and Low Carbon Initiatives, and has no project approvals to date.
- All merit-based programs are claims based, which means that provincial funding will be required in out years as projects are constructed. Proponents incur and pay costs prior to submitting claims to the Province for reimbursement.
- The following table outlines the estimated funding flows of the approved ICIP intakes. It does not include the Public Transit component and Electricity Program:

Provincial Funding (\$ millions)	Actuals	Forecast	Budget 2021 Fiscal Plan Period			Fiscal Plan Total	Estimate				Total
	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24		2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	
Approved Program 1 st and 2 nd Intakes											
Environmental Quality Program	91.457	0.521	5.680	19.130	23.150	47.960	Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information				
Clean BC Communities Fund	-	2.082	8.820	12.470	9.010	30.300					
Community, Culture and Recreation	0.155	8.947	14.990	20.530	15.710	51.230					
Rural and Northern Communities	-	3.570	15.630	13.980	9.220	38.830					
COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure (MUNI)	-	-	10.000	6.060	-	16.060					
COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure – Adaptation, Resilience and Disaster Mitigation (EMBC)	-	-	8.000	3.250	-	11.250					
Sub total approved programs	91.612	15.120	63.120	75.420	57.090	195.630					

CONTACT: Tara Faganello, ADM, Local Government Division, 250 356-6575

INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING GRANT PROGRAM

ISSUE

- Status update on the ongoing Infrastructure Planning Grant Program (IPGP)

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- **The IPGP is an annual grant program with two intakes per year and offers grants up to \$10,000 to support local government projects for the development of sustainable infrastructure.**
- **The grant program helps local governments create a vision for the future – one that embraces sustainability, resilience and livability.**
- **The last intake closed on January 13, 2021, and notifications were issued in April 2021. The current intake is open for applications from local governments.**
- **Grants support activities related to assessing technical, environmental and/or economic feasibility of local government infrastructure. The program provides a solid foundation for future capital projects, helping plan successful implementation.**

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- Grants up to \$10,000 are available to help develop long-term comprehensive plans and feasibility studies including: asset management; integrated storm water management plans; water master plans; and liquid waste management plans.
- The grant formula provides 100 per cent of the first \$5,000 and 50 per cent of the next \$10,000. The Minister approves the final list of funded projects.
- The IPGP is highly regarded by local governments as an effective program. It is well subscribed by small and medium sized local governments. Most local governments have applied to the program.
- There are two rounds of approvals. The first is aligned with the annual Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) Convention where the Minister announces approved projects during individual local government meetings. The second is based on the end of the fiscal year.
- The 2020/21 Round 1 approvals in September 2020 resulted in \$255,577 awarded to 27 projects. Round 2 approvals in March 2021 resulted in \$233,245 awarded to 24 projects. Total allocation of \$488,822.

CONTACT: Tara Faganello, ADM, Local Government Division, 250 356-6575

INVESTING IN CANADA INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM – COVID 19 RESILIENCE INFRASTRUCTURE STREAM

ISSUE

- Status update on the Federal-Provincial Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream (CVRIS)

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- Our government is committed to making life more affordable for British Columbians and improving the services you can count on. That is why we are partnered with Canada on the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) and why we worked with Canada to modify the program to respond to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Our government continues to work with Canada on strategic use of infrastructure funding to support communities across B.C. through the post-COVID economic recovery.
- On November 27, 2021, the ICIP Integrated Bilateral Agreement with Canada was amended to create the ICIP COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream (CVRIS).
- The amendment reprofiled \$109 million in federal funding to support projects in response to the pandemic. The Province matched this with \$27 million.
- The Ministry continues to work closely with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, and Emergency Management BC, on delivering this file.
- The CVRIS intake closed on January 27 and final decisions are anticipated this month (May 2021).

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- The original ICIP IBA was signed with Canada on March 22, 2018, securing a \$3.917 billion investment in federal funds to B.C. over the next 10 years.
- The ICIP CVRIS was developed as an addition to ICIP by Canada in order to provide flexibility within the existing program to respond to the unanticipated

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needs resulting from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. In August 2020, Canada publicly announced ICIP-CVRIS, with development of the program across Canada left to respective provinces.

- In July 2020, government approved up to \$27 million spread between 2020/21 and 2022/23 to fund the ICIP CVRIS, and authorized signing an IBA amending agreement with the Federal government to enable creation of this program stream. Administration of this provincial commitment is divided between the Ministry of Municipal Affairs (MUNI - \$16.06 million) and Emergency Management BC (EMBC - \$11.25 million).
- CVRIS is supported by reprofiling federal allocations from two existing ICIP streams – a transfer of a \$45 million federal allocation from the Green Infrastructure – Adaptation, Disaster Mitigation and Resilience stream; and a \$64 million federal allocation from the Rural and Northern Communities Infrastructure stream. The amendment was signed on November 27, 2020.
- The CVRIS intake was announced December 1, 2020 and closed on January 27, 2021. It provides \$80.29 million in funding to support projects that will result in upgrades to local government and Indigenous buildings, improve health and educational facilities, increase access to active transportation and increase resilience/adaptation to natural disaster events.
 - In parallel, EMBC administered an intake that closed on January 11, 2021, through a CVRIS component focused on flood mitigation projects. This intake has \$56.25 million available
- Projects under \$10 million are eligible for up to 100% funding.
- Final decisions on CVRIS projects are anticipated in May 2021.

CONTACT: Tara Faganello, ADM, Local Government Division, 250 356-6575

Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program Community Economic Resilience Stream

ISSUE

- Status update on the Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program Community Economic Resilience Stream

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- **The Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program (CERIP) was designed to help communities across B.C. recover from the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.**
- **And projects approved will do just that – for example, on February 24, 2021, my Ministry announced approvals for 63 projects worth \$30 million under the Community Economic Resilience Stream (CER) of CERIP.**
- **CERIP is a partnership of 4 ministries -- Ministry of Municipal Affairs (MUNI); Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture, and Sport (TACS), Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD), and Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD).**
- **There are multiple funding streams under CERIP, each led by a Ministry partner.**
- **My Ministry is responsible for the \$30 million CERIP Community Economic Resilience Stream (CER) which provides funding for revitalizing outdoor recreation, parks, washrooms, public buildings and downtown areas.**

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- Announced September 17, 2020 as part of the province's StrongerBC Economic Recovery Plan, CERIP provides \$100 million in approved funding for "shovel worthy" infrastructure projects across five program streams, managed by four ministries.

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- CERIP provides provincial grants to Local Governments, First Nations, and Not for Profit applicants to support capital projects in communities across B.C. to help in economic recovery from the economic impacts of the pandemic
- CERIP provides a one time, 100% funded infrastructure grant for merit-based, smaller scale projects.
- MUNI manages the \$30 million CERIP CER stream that supports initiatives through investment in short term, small scale public infrastructure meeting the economic recovery objectives of initial job creation in the community and ancillary job creation in other areas hard hit with COVID-19. Examples of types of projects funded include:
 - Arena chiller replacements
 - Community Food Hub
 - Trail enhancements
 - Park upgrades
- Applications were accepted from October 1, 2020, to October 29, 2020; 63 projects were approved for the full \$30 million funding envelope, announced on February 24, 2021 with funding released to successful applicants by March 31, 2021.
- Approved projects are required to complete by March 31, 2023 and will provide regular progress reports to MUNI

CONTACT: Tara Faganello, ADM, Local Government Division, 250 356-6575

Safe Restart Funding – Local Government

ISSUE

- Payment of \$425 million in direct grants to 188 local governments to address fiscal impacts of COVID-19.

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- **As part of the Joint Federal/Provincial Safe Restart Agreement, the Province created the “COVID-19 Safe Restart Grant for Local Governments”.**
- **This program provided critical funding to 188 local governments across British Columbia, through \$425 million in direct grants to address the fiscal impacts caused by the pandemic.**
- **This funding allowed for the continuation of critical local services across British Columbia.**

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- In late Summer, 2020, the federal and provincial governments ratified the Safe Restart Agreement, which provided funding for local governments and transit.
- The local government component of funding (approximately \$540 million) was equally shared between the federal government and the province. The province committed to direct and verifiable transfers to local governments with no claw backs before the end of the 2020/21 fiscal year.
- Included in this \$540 million funding package was \$425 million for direct grants to local governments. The remaining \$115 million is earmarked for two application-based programs (Strengthening Communities Program and Development Services Program) for which there are separate estimate notes.
- The \$425 million is to address fiscal impacts from COVID-19 and includes: facility reopening and operating costs; emergency planning and response costs; bylaw enforcement costs; protective services; uncollected revenues, and other COVID-19 related impacts.
- Local governments must annually report on the use of funds until the funding is fully utilized.
- Of the \$425 million, \$394M was allocated to the Province’s 161 municipalities, paid in one installment in Nov 2020 (Jumbo Glacier Mountain Resort Municipality was not included given Advice/Recommendation population of zero).

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- The remaining \$31 million was allocated to the Province's 27 regional districts (paid in two installments, \$21 million in Nov 2020 and then \$10 million in March 2021).
- The 27 regional districts received a smaller portion of the funding because their regional tax revenue was kept whole in 2020 (by the Province and municipalities, with regional district requisitions being required to be paid), whereas the Province could not make the same guarantee to the 161 municipalities.
- The money was allocated to individual local governments based on a "adjusted per capita" basis. This ensured that while larger local governments received more funding, smaller and mid-sized local governments received higher per capita funding. This recognizes that smaller local governments often lack the expertise, financial resources, diverse revenue base, and the economies-of-scale to easily restart operations.

CONTACT: Sean Grant, Local Government Infrastructure and Finance, 778-698-3241

Safe Restart Funding – Strengthening Communities

ISSUE

- The Province is working to help B.C. communities through the COVID-19 pandemic by providing \$100 million in grants to address the impacts of homelessness, support people and strengthen communities' health and safety.

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- **The Province and the Government of Canada signed the *Canada-BC Safe Restart Agreement* to help B.C. communities address local challenges compounded by COVID-19.**
- **As part of this agreement, the *Strengthening Communities' Services Program* provides \$100 million in funding to help B.C. communities address the impacts of homelessness, support people and strengthen community health and safety.**
- **This new program is application based and open to all local governments and First Nations in B.C with modern treaties.**
- **The Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) is administering the program on behalf of the Province and accepted applications until April 16, 2021, with approval expected later in the spring.**

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- UBCM is administering \$100 million in provincial funding to temporarily support communities to meet emerging health and safety needs through the pandemic.
- All local governments and First Nations in B.C. with modern treaties are eligible to apply. Applicants must show their projects respond to a demonstrated need in the community and are a temporary-surge response to immediate needs.
- The intent of the Strengthening Communities' Services program is to assist local governments and modern Treaty First Nations with:
 - Improved health and safety of unsheltered homeless people living in public or private spaces, including reducing risk of COVID-19 or other disease transmission;

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- Reduced community concerns about public health and safety in neighbourhoods where unsheltered homeless populations are seeking temporary shelter and services;
 - Improved coordination among eligible applicants and health/social service providers, Indigenous organizations and others working on housing, homelessness and service provision; and;
 - Increased capacity of eligible applicants to work with homeless persons and Indigenous organizations towards culturally safe and trauma-informed responses
- Local Governments are able to undertake a wide array of activities that align with the above intended program outcomes. Examples of potential activities include: temporarily expanding the number of shelter spaces; expanding access to harm reduction services; providing services like bathroom facilities, showers, and laundry; increasing fire safety in encampments; providing storage services for the belongings of the unsheltered homeless population; or hiring neighbourhood liaisons to promote positive dialogue between unsheltered homeless people and other community members.
 - Funding Guidelines are based on population size, but applications for projects that exceed the Funding Guidelines may be considered provided funding is available and applicants are able to provide a rationale.
 - Funding requests for a combination of applicants may be submitted as a single “regional” application for eligible, collaborative projects.

CONTACT: Tara Faganello, ADM, Local Government Division, 250-356-6575

SAFE RESTART FUNDING – LOCAL GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT APPROVALS PROGRAM

ISSUE

- The Province has launched a funding program to support local governments to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of their development approvals processes.

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- The ongoing pandemic has created unprecedented challenges for local governments and has heightened the need to further increase the supply of new, affordable homes for people in their communities.
- The Province and the Government of Canada signed the Canada-BC Safe Restart Agreement to help B.C. communities address local challenges compounded by COVID-19.
- As part of this agreement, the Local Government Development Approvals Program provides \$15M in funding to local governments to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the development approvals process.
- Building on our commitment to help people and communities get the homes they need built faster, the program supports the implementation of established best practices and the testing of innovative approaches.
- Outcomes from the program will support non-profit housing organizations, developers, and other stakeholders to deliver the different types of housing people need across the province.
- This program is an important first step in addressing the challenges identified during consultations on the Development Approvals Process Review.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- The Province of British Columbia and the Government of Canada signed a Canada-BC Safe Restart Agreement to help B.C. communities address local challenges compounded by COVID-19. The Province is providing \$270 million in matched funding towards a \$540 million federal/provincial Safe Restart funding package for local governments.
- The new \$15 million Local Government Development Approvals Program will support local governments to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of their development approvals processes through implementing established best practices and testing innovative approaches.
- Examples of the types of activities eligible for funding include establishing a pre-application process, including pre-application developer meetings; purchasing and implementing digital platforms or software; and creating or updating a development approvals process guide for use by staff.
- Outcomes from the program are anticipated to result in reduced development approval timelines while also meeting local government planning and policy objectives.
- Launched on March 5, 2021, applications were accepted until May 7, 2021, with approvals expected in summer 2021. The Program is being administered by UBCM on behalf of the Province.
- Municipalities, regional districts and the Islands Trust are eligible for up to \$500,000 for projects. Applications for projects that exceed that amount may be considered if applicants can demonstrate rationale and if funding is available.
- Program guidelines encourage applicants to submit proposals in a range of areas that would result in improvements to the development approvals process, including conducting internal reviews of current development processes, updating internal approvals procedures, facilitating collaboration or coordination with external partners, or improving information technology to facilitate development application processing.

CONTACT: Tara Faganello, ADM, Local Government Division, 250-356-6575

Safe Restart Funding Programs Status Update

ISSUE

- To provide an update on the status of the *Safe Restart* funding programs and program effectiveness and impact.

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- **We are pleased to see that communities across British Columbia have expressed such strong interest in the *Safe Restart* funding programs launched to address the impact of COVID-19 and being administered by the Union of BC Municipalities.**
- **While it is still too early to evaluate the effectiveness of these new programs, local governments have told us how critical these supports are to meeting pandemic-related challenges, and we look forward to seeing their positive impact in communities.**
- **Various COVID-19 measures (including reserve fund borrowing, extending operating borrowing, delayed school tax remittance, and Restart Funding) were designed to inject emergency liquidity into the local government system, which was impacted by lost and delayed revenues from COVID-19.**
- **Staff will monitor the 2020 financial statements to see how individual local governments managed COVID-19 impacts (looking at things like tax collection efficiency, change in cash position, surplus/deficit position). We will also monitor the spending under the Local Government Restart Grant.**

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Strengthening Communities' Services Program:

- UBCM is administering \$100 million in provincial funding to help B.C. communities address the impacts of homelessness, support people and strengthen community health and safety.
- The program is application based and open to all local governments and the eight First Nations in B.C with modern treaties.

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- Ministry staff will have a better sense of program uptake once UBCM advises of the list of successful applicants and their approved funding amounts, later in Spring 2021.
- Formal reporting on program effectiveness and impact will be available once program participants submit final reports to UBCM at project completion. Report requirements include information on both the economic impact (e.g. the number of jobs created) and the community impact of funded activities (e.g. the number of people who received support, number of emergency shelter beds created, number of people who engaged, and other community benefits).
- Funded projects are expected to wrap-up within one year (though applicants can apply for an extension), after which participants must submit their final report within 30 days.

Local Government Development Approvals Program

- UBCM is administering the \$15 million funding program to support local governments in improving their development approvals processes while meeting their planning and policy objectives.
- The program is application based and open to all local governments.
- UBCM will provide Ministry staff with all information regarding applications and approved funding in Summer 2021.
- Program effectiveness and impact will be measured once program participants submit final reports to UBCM at project completion. Requirements include reporting on achievement of overall program goals (improved effectiveness and efficiency of development approvals), project-specific outcomes identified in the initial application, and *Safe Restart* goals such as information on job creation (i.e. number of FTEs created with funding) and other metrics related to economic recovery.
- Funded projects are expected to wrap-up within one year (though applicants can apply for an extension), after which participants must submit their final report within 30 days.

Safe Restart Funding – Local Government

- \$425 million was allocated to 188 local governments to address fiscal impacts from COVID-19 including for: facility reopening and operating costs; emergency planning and response costs; bylaw enforcement costs; protective services; uncollected revenues, and other COVID-19 related impacts.
- Local governments must annually report on the use of funds until the funding is fully utilized.

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- The core success metric is that none of the 189 BC local governments became insolvent as a result of COVID-19 impacts.
- In terms of monitoring, Ministry staff will monitor the 2020 financial statements to see how individual local governments managed COVID-19 impacts (looking at things like tax collection efficiency, change in cash position, and surplus/deficit position).
- Ministry staff will also monitor the spending under the Local Government Restart Grant. As noted above, each local government must report on the use of that funding until the funds are fully utilized.

CONTACT: Tara Faganello, ADM, Local Government Division, 250-356-6575

COVID-19 – LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENGAGEMENT

ISSUE

- Interaction with local governments during pandemic and towards recovery

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- **The Province's response to COVID-19 is built on collaboration and communication, and we continue that in economic recovery.**
- **We continue to engage with local governments on a significant scale, including directly through regional calls, individual meetings and emails; we respond to questions, share information and get input.**
- **And we connect with key organizations, such as the Union of BC Municipalities, to work together on pressing issues, including delivering Safe Restart grant programs.**
- **I thank each local government elected representative, local government staff and the organizations key to our local government system for their tireless efforts for communities and people throughout B.C.; their willingness to collaborate on everything from vulnerable populations to support for local businesses to vaccine rollout has been inspiring.**
- **And I know that by working together, we have all contributed to B.C. coming through the pandemic towards recovery.**

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- Since March 2020, the Minister responsible for local government held an unprecedented 74 (as of mid May 2021) teleconferences with municipal mayors, regional district Chairs and senior staff on a province-wide, regional or other group basis. Calls focused on pandemic response, restart and economic recovery; some calls included other ministers and Provincial Health Officer office (e.g. PHO orders; enforcement; mental health/addictions); and the Premier participated in June 2020 and the UBCM President in January 2021.
- Other points of engagement with local governments during the COVID-19 emergency and moving to economic recovery include:

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- 64 Minister's teleconferences with specific local governments at 2020 UBCM Convention (and 174 provincial staff meetings);
- emails out to all local government leaders/CAOs providing general or topical updates, plus hundreds of responses to specific local governments;
- staff-level day-to-day advice/problem solving with specific local governments (e.g. by-elections; public hearings; funding eligibility);
- regular and ad hoc engagement with partner organizations (e.g. 4 Minister's meetings with UBCM Executive; staff meetings with Municipal Finance Authority and Local Government Management Association);
- meetings with local governments and stakeholders to discuss specific topics of interest (e.g. joint meeting with Minister of Tourism, ski resort communities and Canada West Ski Areas Association; joint meeting with Premier John Horgan and BC Urban Mayors Caucus leaders); and
- agreements on program design/delivery (e.g. Strengthening Communities Services and Local Government Development Approvals grant programs under the Canada-BC Safe Restart Agreement are being administered by UBCM).

CONTACT: Nicola Marotz, Strategic Advisor, Local Government, 778 698-3221

LOCAL GOVERNMENT COVID ORDERS

ISSUE

- In response to the pandemic, a number of orders affecting local governments were made under the *Emergency Program Act* and subsequently continued as part of the *COVID-19 Related Measures Act*.

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- **The Province has taken action to support local government during the COVID-19 pandemic.**
- **Since the declaration of the provincial state of emergency, emergency orders have been in place to support local government governance, operations and financial health.**
- **In 2020, the Province issued orders including ones: to initially cancel local by-elections and then later ensure they could proceed safely; to provide needed temporary authorities around public meetings, bylaw adoption, and public hearings so that local government decision-making could continue; and to provide financial measures around borrowing, reporting and taxation to assist local governments with cash flow pressures.**
- **Other orders defined the role of local governments in the emergency, including orders requiring provincial approval for any local state of emergency declaration, implementation of local emergency plans, and local bylaw enforcement officers' support for enforcement of public health orders.**
- **Many orders were incorporated under the *COVID-19 Related Measures Act*; as the circumstances related to the pandemic evolve, there will be careful monitoring to ensure that local governments continue to have appropriate abilities to effectively govern their communities.**

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- On March 16, 2020, a Public Health Order was issued banning gatherings of more than 50 people; a public health emergency was declared on March 17th and a provincial state of emergency was declared on March 18th.

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- Several Ministerial Orders were issued in response under the *Emergency Program Act*; a number of these orders dealt with important local government matters and provided temporary authorities to allow local elected officials to continue to govern their communities while meeting public health orders and guidelines. Orders still in effect include:
 - *Meetings, public hearings, bylaws adoption, and improvement district processes (MO192 order under EPA)*: requires local governments to make best efforts to hold meetings with public in attendance while meeting public health guidelines; allows council/board meetings and public hearings to be held electronically; enables specific financial bylaws to be adopted the same day as 3rd reading; and provided for deferral of annual general meeting and financial reporting for improvement districts.
 - *Financial measures (MO159 order under EPA)*: allows interfund borrowing between capital and operating funds; extends revenue anticipation borrowing for an additional year; enables deferral of annual property tax sales and delays financial reporting timelines. An additional measure (led by the Ministry of Finance) delayed remittance to the province of school tax collected by municipalities in 2020. These measures were part of a package with Ministry of Finance that also included further reducing the school property tax rate for commercial properties, and postponing date of late payment penalties for all property taxes on commercial properties.
- As part of government's transition plan for all EPA orders, in July 2020, the local government orders above (MO159 and MO192) were incorporated as provisions into the *COVID-19 Related Measures Act (CRMA)* and will expire in July 2021.
- The Ministry has been monitoring how the temporary authorities from the orders are being used and where appropriate, is looking at what transition, continuity and long-term authorities local governments may need beyond July 2021 in light of evolving COVID-19 circumstances (e.g. what legislative change should be considered to keep some aspects of some orders).
- Led by other ministries, a number of other provincial COVID-19 related actions/orders directly affecting or involving local governments were also taken in 2020, some of which were incorporated into CRMA (e.g. orders requiring provincial approval for any local state of emergency declarations; requiring local government bylaw enforcement officers to provide compliance support for enforcement of Provincial Health Officer orders). MUNI continues to work with the other ministries regarding appropriate transition/continuity on such matters.
- Other orders were made under other authorities (e.g. by-election orders under the *Local Government Act*) and those continue to be used as needed, and some were made under the *Emergency Program Act* but did not need to continue (e.g. order enabling UBCM to hold a virtual 2020 Convention).

CONTACT: Tara Faganello, ADM, Local Government Division, 250-356-6575

COVID 19 – LOCAL GOVERNMENT BY-ELECTIONS AND ASSENT VOTES

ISSUE

- Supporting local governments with ongoing by-elections and assent votes

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- To date the Ministry has completed 34 Ministerial Orders to assist local governments with conducting safer by-elections or assent votes during COVID-19.
- The Ministerial Orders provide temporary exemptions to election rules that allow local governments to reduce “high touch” interactions during voting (for instance, by enabling mail ballot voting for all electors).
- Ministry staff are aware of an additional 6 by-elections or assent votes that will be taking place in spring 2021.
- In close collaboration with election partners (Local Government Management Association, Elections BC), WorkSafe BC, and the Provincial Health Office, the Ministry has developed COVID-19 guidance materials for by-elections and assent votes.
- The Ministry engages regularly with local governments about plans for their election processes, and continues to liaise with election partners to explore new ways to support.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- The Ministry has been working to support election processes taking place during COVID-19 by providing advice, guidance, and direct one-on-one engagement to local governments with pending by-elections or assent votes.
- Guidance has included release of *Guidance for Conducting By-elections and Assent Voting During COVID-19*, which continues to be updated to align with the latest recommendations from the PHO and others.

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- The Ministry works with individual local governments to complete Ministerial Orders (MOs) for by-elections or assent votes that have been scheduled.
- Elections involve many “high touch” interactions, and each MO includes measures requested by a local government to mitigate risks and contribute to safer processes for electors and election officials.
- Since September 2020, 34 MOs have been signed by the Minister, and another 6 by-elections or assent votes are expected to occur in spring 2021.
- The MOs have been completed under the authority of section 167 (‘Special circumstances’) of the *Local Government Act* (LGA), to enable a local government to operate under a specific set of rules for a scheduled election/vote.
- The MOs override certain sections of the LGA or the applicable election bylaws, enabling the local government to conduct a by-election or assent vote under agreed upon temporary rules without having to make immediate changes to its election bylaw that may need to be repealed in the future.
- Measures requested in MOs include: expanded eligibility for mail ballot voting; oral declarations for voting books; and discretion relating to advanced voting, special voting and mail ballot voting procedures.
- Ministry staff continue to work with election partners (Elections BC, LGMA, UBCM) to share information, identify any gaps, and explore approaches that could be considered to safely conduct local by-elections and assent votes.
- Ministry staff have been encouraging local governments to consult with their regional medical health officials about their elections and to develop election safety plans with their health officer and WorkSafe BC.

CONTACT: Tara Faganello, ADM, Local Government Division, (250) 356-6575

DEVELOPMENT APPROVALS PROCESS REVIEW

ISSUE

- The Ministry is undertaking steps through the Development Approvals Process Review (DAPR) to support local government development approvals processes become more effective and efficient.

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- **The Province is working closely with local governments and stakeholders to increase housing supply, choice and affordability, as well as focusing on stimulating recovery in light of the significant economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.**
- **The development approvals process can be costly and lengthy and slow down the provision of much needed housing supply. Local governments and many stakeholders have a role to play in increasing its efficiency and effectiveness.**
- **Local governments are on the front lines of the housing crisis. Through their authorities for planning and land use, they are well positioned to help advance the development of new homes.**
- **Challenges faced by local governments and developers during the COVID-19 pandemic have highlighted the pressing need to find efficient and effective ways of making land use decisions.**
- **As we transition into economic recovery, this is an opportune time to further examine and take action on development approvals processes to reduce barriers or complexities while ensuring that important standards and community needs are being met.**
- **As an important step, applications were accepted by UBCM for the \$15 million Local Government Development Approvals Program to support local governments in implementing best practices and testing innovative approaches to improving development approvals processes.**

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If asked about the Expert Panel on Housing Supply and Affordability

- **Government is closely monitoring the work of the BC-Canada Expert Panel on Housing Supply and Affordability and will consider any recommendations related to local government land use as part of the Development Approvals Process Review.**

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- The Province is committed to working with all orders of government, and the private and non-profit sectors to increase the supply of affordable housing.
- From December 2018 to May 2019, the Ministry engaged in comprehensive consultations with a broad range of stakeholders and local governments, to identify issues and opportunities for improving the local government development approvals process.
- In September 2019, the Ministry released the “Development Approvals Process Review: Final Report from a province-wide stakeholder engagement” detailing the challenges and ideas for resolution identified during the consultations.
- The Ministry has identified four general priority areas for action: streamlining approvals, development finance, public hearings and public input, official community plans and zoning.
- In light of the COVID-19 pandemic the Ministry has reconsidered DAPR initiatives through an economic recovery lens.
- For the 2021/2022 fiscal year, the Ministry is prioritizing:
 - supporting recently launched Local Government Development Approvals Program (*see separate Estimates Note*),
Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

- Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

Advice/R A number of these are expected to be considered through the DAPR priority areas of focus.

CONTACT: Tara Faganello, ADM, Local Government Division, (250) 356-6575

PACE – Property Assessment Clean Energy

ISSUE

- Examination of the Property Assessment Clean Energy (PACE) program and its applicability to the British Columbia local government system.

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- **PACE is referenced in mandate letters for the Ministers of Municipal Affairs and for Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation. Specific to my letter is to provide a supporting role to the Ministry of Finance.**
- **The Ministry Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation in collaboration with Ministry of Environment and Climate Change have undertaken an external contract to examine the PACE program and its fit with the BC system of local government finance.**
- **My Ministry welcomes the opportunity to review the study report, and work cooperatively with our colleagues in the other Ministries.**
- **A critical objective of my Ministry, as stated in our service plan, is to maintain local government financial sustainability. And, a critical purpose of local governments, as stated in the Community Charter, is stewardship of public assets.**
- **In considering any next steps on PACE, it will be important for government to fully consider the potential implications of this program to ensure that it can optimally meet objectives like energy efficiency while addressing competing public concerns around financial stewardship and tax policy.**

If pressed for details on the study

- **Any further information that may be available about the work commissioned to date is the responsibility of my colleague, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change.**

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- PACE is a method of financing residential/commercial energy retrofits through the municipal tax and borrowing system. For an individual private property, the capital costs of energy retrofits are recovered over several years through an annual parcel tax on the property. The amount of the parcel tax includes implied interest, principal, and administrative costs of capital works and associated financing costs. And, the liability for the cost of the energy retrofits is placed as a tax lien on the property until such time as the costs are fully paid down.
- There is currently no statutory authority for a PACE program in British Columbia.
- The Minister's mandate letter states that the Ministry will, "support the work of the Minister of Finance to establish Property Assessed Clean Energy [PACE] financing."

- Advice/Recommendations

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- Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

- Advice/Recommendations

CONTACT: Sean Grant, Local Government Infrastructure and Finance, 778-698-3241

LOCAL GOVERNMENT - INDIGENOUS NATIONS RELATIONS & DECLARATION ACT

ISSUE

- Local Government Relations with First Nations and Indigenous People

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- An important part of our government's commitment to lasting reconciliation with Indigenous people, and implementing the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, is encouraging local governments and First Nations to work together to build strong relationships.
- Critical to this is the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) and the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (supported by Municipal Affairs) that is set to renew this fall.
- The MOU affirms the local government role in treaties and other agreements, and fostering honest, respectful relationships, to build community level reconciliation.
- We actively encourage relationship building by providing advice, assistance and partnering with other organizations to share working relationship examples on CivicInfo BC's website.
- Additionally, our 2021-22 contribution of \$50,000 for the Regional Community to Community (C2C) Forum program helps local governments and First Nations connect.
- Since 1999, the program has funded over 650 C2C events to help local governments and First Nations develop collaborative relationships – and right now it will provide 100% funding coverage for events.
- While there is more to do, the list of local governments and First Nations working together, on shared interests and projects, is growing. For example, I know local governments and First

Nations are connecting and working together towards economic recovery from the COVID-19 emergency.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- Ministry of Municipal Affairs (MUNI) uses various ways to encourage and assist local governments to build positive relationships with First Nations.
- Local governments have no constitutional obligation to consult on the potential impacts to Indigenous Interests arising from local government decisions. They are encouraged and supported to engage with their First Nation neighbours.
- C2C program is administered, by UBCM and First Nations Summit. The Province and the federal governments provide funding (MUNI is providing \$50,000 for 2021-2022).
- MUNI supported the move to 100% funding coverage for this recent intake (previously 50% cost sharing formula), recognizing the unprecedented times local governments and First Nations are facing during the COVID-19 pandemic and to support implementation of the *Declaration Act*.
- In recent years, the partners have improved the C2C program with: UBCM contributing additional resources; increasing profile for reconciliation efforts; and expanded eligibility to include staff meetings. As well, in 2019, MUNI contributed \$5,000 to update/re-print the program guide (available on UBCM's website).
- Of the over 300 C2C events held since 2008, 85 per cent identified relationship building as the primary outcome.
 - Other outcomes include, advancement of formal agreements, protocols and MOUs in relation to community well-being, economic development, environmental stewardship and emergency management.
- MUNI also supports and works with other partner organizations including CivicInfo BC, the Local Government Management Association (LGMA) and the Local Government Leadership Academy (LGLA) to help build relationships.
- In summer 2020, CivicInfo BC, the Province, the First Nations Summit, and UBCM developed and released a new Joint Indigenous and Local Government Initiatives and Relations research tool.
- Located at civicinfo.bc.ca/first-nation-relationship-resources, this resource pulls together wide-ranging examples of Indigenous communities and local governments working together into a single searchable database. Documents that can be found in the database include: Pathways to Collaboration economic development case studies; materials that highlight agreements and partnerships; information about the provision of services; and more.

CONTACT: Brent Mueller, Director, Governance and Structure Branch, 778 698-3220

RESPONSIBLE CONDUCT OF ELECTED OFFICIALS

ISSUE

- Conduct-related issues of locally elected officials remain of interest and a working group is exploring ways to strengthen the local responsible conduct framework.

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- **Local governments are autonomous, responsible and accountable within their jurisdiction.**
- **I recognize that it's been a challenging time for many local elected officials, especially over the last year during the pandemic. I am heartened to see that elected decision-makers have continued to strive to provide for good governance and engage in responsible conduct for their communities.**
- **A staff-level working group continues to explore ways to strengthen the responsible conduct framework. The working group recently published a guide that supports compliance and enforcement, with a focus on prevention and practical resources for local governments on enforcing local codes of conduct.**
- **While there are no 'silver bullet' solutions to complex and sensitive matters of conduct, staff are continuing to collaborate with UBCM and LGMA to understand what opportunities might exist to enhance legislative tools on issues related to responsible conduct.**

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- "Responsible conduct" includes a range of issues respecting the conduct of local elected officials between themselves, with staff, and with the public.
- Ministry staff, along with the Local Government Management Association (LGMA) continue to support specific communities such that may be experiencing responsible conduct issues Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications
- The Working Group on Responsible Conduct (with staff from the Ministry, the Union of BC Municipalities and the LGMA) was created in response to a 2016 UBCM resolution calling on the Province to empower local governments to appoint local independent integrity commissioners.

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- The working group was formed to explore approaches to deal with the spectrum of conduct-related matters that occur primarily while elected officials are at the council/board table and carrying out their duties of office. A key focus has been on codes of conduct and the frameworks around such codes.
- In addition to research, outreach and policy work, the working group has published a range of guidance and resources, including a Model Code of Conduct, and most recently (in April) a guide on “Forging the Path to Responsible Conduct in Your Local Government” that supports compliance and enforcement of local codes of conduct.
- There remains continued interest and media attention on various conduct issues at the local level, both responsible conduct and other issues (e.g. concerns around elected officials travelling during public health advisories; discriminatory statements or actions). There are also ongoing and varied calls for “solutions”, including regulatory tools, (e.g. provincial integrity commissioner; recall; mandatory codes of conduct).
- Moving ahead, as conduct issues raise multiple complex and sensitive issues, Ministry staff will continue to work through the working group to thoughtfully collaborate and explore the nature and impacts of proposed solutions and what additional tools may be appropriate.

Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommendations
Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommendations

CONTACT: Tara Faganello, ADM, Local Government Division, 250 356-6575

Disqualification and Mandatory Leaves for Local Elected Officials

ISSUE

- Concerns have been raised regarding local government recourse where local elected officials are charged with or convicted of a criminal offence or have engaged in serious misconduct. UBCM Resolutions have sought new legislative tools to address such concerns.

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- I know that local governments throughout the Province have struggled with deciding what steps to take when an elected official has been charged or convicted of a serious offence or has engaged in serious misconduct.**
- I take this issue very seriously, as the public needs to have confidence in their elected officials.**

- Advice/Recommendations

- Given the range of situations, it is important to work thoughtfully and in consultation with UBCM as we move forward. If legislative amendments can be developed and would assist in some of these situations, I am committed to pursuing them with UBCM and local government support.**

[IF ASKED ABOUT CURRENT RULES]

- Local elected officials are disqualified from holding office when serving a custodial sentence for an indictable offence.**
- In situations where charges are laid, some local governments have requested the local elected official to take a leave of absence from their duties. There is currently no legal obligation or enforcement mechanism for a mandatory leave.**

- **In cases of non-criminal misconduct, local governments can use tools such as codes of conduct and sanctions, along with education materials to promote responsible conduct.**

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- There have been recent public reports of local elected officials engaging in misconduct. This includes criminal misconduct (e.g. charged and/or convicted of sexual offences) and non-criminal matters (e.g. travelling in contravention of public health guidance). Local governments are seeking adjustments to current tools and development of new ones to address these situations.
- For criminal matters, local elected officials are disqualified after conviction and when currently serving a custodial sentence for an indictable offence.
Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommendations
- Where local elected officials are charged with criminal offences, the local government may request that the official take a leave of absence; however, this is not legally enforceable. UBCM have endorsed resolutions requesting amendments to require local elected officials to take a leave of absence upon charge.
Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommendations
- Local governments currently have various tools to address issues of non-criminal misconduct. This includes legislative tools to address specific types of misconduct (e.g. disqualification for financial misconduct); codes of conduct, which can include enforcement processes and sanctions; and various educational materials to promote responsible conduct.
- UBCM has endorsed two resolutions requesting legislative amendments to establish a local recall process in cases of misconduct. As well, UBCM recently referred a resolution for a provincially established integrity commissioner to the Working Group on Responsible Conduct (a staff-level joint initiative of the Ministry, UBCM and Local Government Management Association – see separate note on *Responsible Conduct of Elected Officials*).



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○ Advice/Recommendations

CONTACT: Tara Faganello, ADM, Local Government Division, 250-356-657

Local Government Finance – Strong Fiscal Futures

ISSUE

- UBCM's recent re-establishment of the Select Committee on Local Government Finance, which will undertake a comprehensive review of the 2013 Strong Fiscal Futures Report.

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- **UBCM is currently in the process of reviewing and updating the 2013 Strong Fiscal Futures Report.**
- **The Province is willing to engage and collaborate with UBCM as it develops its report and makes recommendations.**
- **Local governments are an autonomous order of government within their jurisdiction, with broad authority over budgeting, revenues, expenses, capital planning, borrowing, and reserves.**
- **The Province will work cooperatively with UBCM to ensure long term sustainability of the local government system; at the same time, we are also dealing with the fiscal impacts of a global pandemic, which have materially impacted the Province's bottom line.**

If asked about any funding agreement with the Resource Benefits Alliance (RBA):

- **The Province is committed to dialogue with the RBA. To date, the Province has provided the RBA \$150M through the Northern Capital and Planning Grant and a further \$25M through the Northern Development Initiative Trust.**

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- In 2013, UBCM released a document entitled "Strong Fiscal Futures: A Blueprint for Strengthening BC Local Governments' Finance System".
- This was a detailed 100-page document outlining UBCM's request for changes to the local government financial system

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- Essentially, it was a consolidation of proposals by UBCM's members over the previous generation. Most of the recommendations from the report focused on developing large and stable revenue sharing agreements with the provincial and federal governments.
- Following the report, the Province undertook a multi-year engagement with UBCM on the report's recommendations.
- While several recommendations of the report were implemented -- like new infrastructure grant programs and a renewal of the Federal Gas Tax Fund -- the parties were not able to come to agreement on the broader recommendations in the paper (especially some of the recommendations on revenue sharing). Thus, by the end of 2015, the Provincial/UBCM engagement process was wound down, and it remained dormant for the next four years.
- In September 2019, UBCM Executive approved the re-establishment of the Select Committee on Local Government Finance to undertake a comprehensive review of the 2013 Strong Fiscal Futures Report.
- The Select Committee was to report back to UBCM Executive in July 2020. However, COVID-19 has delayed this process by a year. The Province anticipates that the Select Committee will report back to UBCM Executive in the early summer before the upcoming UBCM Convention in September 2021.

○ Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

CONTACT: Sean Grant, Local Government Infrastructure and Finance, 778-698-3241

SPECULATION TAX UPDATES / LOCAL GOVERNMENT/VANCOUVER VACANCY TAX UPDATE

ISSUE

- In 2016, the City of Vancouver (“Vancouver”) approved its vacancy tax (“Empty Homes Tax”) effective for 2017 and following years; in 2018, the Province passed legislation imposing the provincial “Speculation and Vacancy Tax” on vacant properties in some regions.

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- **Addressing housing affordability for British Columbians is a top priority for our government.**
- **In 2016, amendments to the *Vancouver Charter* authorized Vancouver to design and implement the Empty Homes Tax on vacant residential properties.**
- **This authority was specifically designed for Vancouver, at its request, at a time before the Provincial Speculation and Vacancy Tax.**
- **The Province will continue to monitor the effectiveness of Vancouver’s tax and hear the views of local governments across B.C. on this matter.**
- **The Province is committed to implementing policies for affordable housing, including the Provincial Speculation and Vacancy Tax. This provincial tax supports similar goals as Vancouver’s Empty Homes Tax and the revenue from this tax supports affordable housing initiatives in B.C. This tax is the responsibility of my colleague, the Minister of Finance.**

Advice/Recommendations



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KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- Since the 2016 introduction of amendments to the *Vancouver Charter* enabling Vancouver to pass a bylaw imposing the Empty Homes Tax, other local governments have requested similar authority to tax vacant residential properties. The Vancouver Empty Homes Tax's revenue may only be used for initiatives respecting affordable housing.
- In 2018, the Province introduced its Speculation and Vacancy Tax applicable in areas of the Lower Mainland, Okanagan and Capital Region. This tax applies in large urban centres where affordability is most acute and all revenue generated by the tax supports affordable housing initiatives. This tax applies in the City of Vancouver in addition to Vancouver's Empty Homes Tax.
- West Vancouver and White Rock both submitted proposed resolutions at the 2020 UBCM Convention requesting amendments to enable all local governments in BC to impose a tax on vacant properties. The resolution from West Vancouver was endorsed.
- Amendments to the *Community Charter* to provide authority for a vacancy tax on residential properties for other municipalities would require consideration of complex policy and legal issues and extensive consultations with local governments. These amendments would need to be useable by all communities in B.C. of varying sizes, needs, and resources. For example, many small communities lack the administration resources available to Vancouver, making it challenging for them to administer a similar tax on vacant properties.
- Advice/Recommendations

CONTACT: Tara Faganello, ADM, Local Government Division, 250-356-6575

Improvement District Grant Policy

ISSUE

- Improvement District Grant Funding Policy

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- Our government's priority is to ensure people have access to the services they count on.
- The infrastructure grant system is set up recognizing that regional districts and municipalities have more robust governance, regulatory authority, and stronger accountability than improvement districts.
- Improvement districts can access capital grants to fund infrastructure projects if an application is submitted on their behalf by the regional district or municipality. Upon completion of the infrastructure project, ownership of the upgraded infrastructure must be transferred to the regional district or municipality as a condition of the grant.
- The Province supports the voluntary conversion of improvement districts into local government services where there is local support. For example, the Ministry has recently supported the conversion of the Hagensborg Waterworks District as a condition of receiving \$3.7 million in infrastructure funding to address a long-term boil water advisory.
- In the case of the Salt Spring Island, the Ministry provided \$40,000 in grant funding to the Capital Regional District based on a joint proposal from the CRD and North Salt Spring Waterworks District to explore how improvements could be made to the coordination of water service delivery on Salt Spring Island.
- The Water Service Optimization Study was recently completed and identified options for a more coordinated approach to water delivery on Salt Spring.

Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications
Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- There are 195 improvement districts in BC that provide one or more services to landowners within their jurisdiction (most provide potable water/fire protection). Improvement districts were the primary way to provide rural community services before regional districts were established. Improvement districts do not have broad authorities like local governments (e.g. only landowners are eligible to vote within an improvement district; no regulatory authority for planning and land use).
- The Ministry encourages existing improvement districts to voluntarily transfer their services to regional districts or municipalities in recognition that other local government structures have many advantages for sustainable service delivery (e.g. more robust legislation, better access to financing, broader and integrated powers and more accountability).
- Ministry efforts are focused on supporting the role of regional districts as the primary local government for rural areas. The Ministry has operated with consistent objectives towards improvement districts for thirty years.
- Improvement districts are eligible for the Infrastructure Planning Grant Program (IPGP) if sponsored by the regional district or municipality when undertaking infrastructure planning activities that result in outcomes to inform a potential conversion. There is no requirement, under the IPGP, to convert.
- In 2018, the Capital Regional District (CRD) obtained a \$10,000 grant towards a \$25,000 project through the IPGP for the North Salt Spring Waterworks District (NSSWD) Infrastructure Assessment.
- Improvement districts are eligible for infrastructure funding through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) when a local government agrees to be the applicant and if funded, the ID converts to a regional district or municipal service area.
- The infrastructure funding is used to defray the capital cost required to bring the service up to current standards. This policy is based on voluntary conversions. Thus, improvement districts that have the resources to operate and meet regulations may continue to function as is.
- In 2019, the Ministry committed up to \$50,000 for a restructure planning grant to the CRD in collaboration with NSSWD to study how to better coordinate water delivery on Salt Spring Island.
Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications
- For more information on Hagensborg Waterworks District conversion see Restructure estimates note appendix 2.

CONTACT: Tara Faganello, ADM, Local Government Division. 250 356-6575

Restructure Studies

ISSUE

- Local governments request restructure studies to address a variety of community concerns related to services, governance, and form of government.

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- **Local government restructure processes are typically locally driven, although the Ministry supports those processes through advice and grants.**
- **The Ministry acts as a resource and facilitator, assisting communities to overcome barriers to change and addressing current local circumstances.**
- **The Ministry may also provide local governments with restructure study grants to resource processes that examine, engage, and in some cases plan to implement change.**
- **Restructure studies require extensive collaboration at the local level with all sectors of the community -- including First Nations, community organizations and other local governments – to work through many complex issues.**

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- The Ministry oversees changes to the form and function of local governments through the local government restructuring program. Taking a facilitative approach, this program seeks to ensure that the structure of local governments fits local needs while also serving local and provincial objectives (please see **appendix 1** for restructure process).
- Local government restructuring can take various forms including changing boundaries, service reviews, amalgamation, municipal reclassification, or incorporation of a new municipality.
- The structure of each local government should match the governed area's settlement pattern, the services required, and local needs for political representation. As communities change, so the need for restructuring may arise.

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- The Ministry uses a formal program of incentives and disincentives without forcing change. These incentives include Restructure Planning and Implementation Grants under the *Local Government Grants Regulation*.
- In 2020/21, the Ministry dispensed \$130,000 in restructure study grants to 3 regional districts. In addition, the Ministry spent \$127,250 on the University Endowment Lands Governance, Services and Structure Study contract.
- When a community considers restructuring, the process must account for the unique characteristics and issues in that community, while meeting the legislative requirements for the type of change that might address those issues.
- Changes to local government structures are enacted by Cabinet (Order in Council to issue Letters Patent), generally on recommendation of the Minister.
- Major municipal restructuring (significant boundary extension, incorporation, amalgamation) must involve local citizens, as the *Local Government Act* establishes assent of the electors as a pre-condition to Cabinet approval of municipal incorporation.
- In addition to the brief description of the local government restructure process (appendix 1), also attached as background are current and requested restructure projects and pending proposals (**appendix 2**).

CONTACT: Marijke Edmondson, Director, Governance and Structure Branch, 778-698-3227

Appendix 1 – Local Government Restructure Process

- The Province is often asked to resolve local and inter-local challenges by restructuring local government; in rural communities these challenges are often framed around the “solution” of municipal incorporation.
- Each community is unique and requires preliminary work and assessment before the Ministry sanctions an incorporation study. This preliminary phase can bring to light alternative solutions to incorporation, conflicting narratives, or evidence that challenges the claim of a broad interest in change.
- Grants are available to local governments to support the study of local governance, services, and structures. Local governments apply by a request to the Minister of Municipal Affairs that broadly outlines the objectives of the proposed study and estimates a reasonable budget for the work.
- Preliminary studies can take various forms: community issues assessment, diagnostic inventory of current services, service conversion studies, governance and services study, and boundary analysis.
- The preliminary study process typically consists of local education opportunities and encourages grounded conversations about motives for change. It also is an opportunity to have important, complex, and sometimes deeply-felt discussions about local governance without immediate pressure to decide on an outcome.
- After a preliminary study and boundary analysis, a regional district may be prepared to submit a request to the Ministry to fund an incorporation study.
- If the Minister sanctions an incorporation process, the Ministry assists the local government with developing study terms of reference and restructure planning grants to assist with hiring an independent consultant with expertise in local governance, services, and finance.
- The regional district creates a restructure committee with broad representation of community interests to objectively oversee the process at arms length from the Ministry, the regional district and municipalities. The committee works closely with the consultant hired by the local government to conduct the study.
- In parallel, the Ministry engages and consults Indigenous nations on the proposed new municipality.
- Extensive community engagement is conducted and the study findings are shared with the community. Based on the results and public input, a recommendation is made on proceeding to restructure decision.
- If the committee wishes to proceed, the Minister offers a restructuring assistance grant and orders a referendum on restructuring. If the vote passes, the implementation process begins.



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- Ministry staff prepare the Letters Patent, which are then considered by Cabinet. If the Letters Patent are approved, Ministry staff then coordinate the implementation of the restructuring.

Appendix 2

Current Restructure Projects

Columbia Shuswap (*Sorrento-Blind Bay incorporation*) \$100,000 in 2019/2020
\$10,000 in 2020/2021

- Sorrento and Blind Bay are adjacent communities on the south shore of Shuswap Lake near Highway 1, with a population of approximately 4,700.
- The Sorrento Blind-Bay Municipal Incorporation Study was launched in Fall 2019
Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications A governance and services study for all of Electoral Area C recommended enhanced governance for these communities in 2017, and the specific boundary configuration was the result of a 2018 boundary analysis study.
- The Municipal Incorporation Study evaluates the service delivery, governance, financial, and property tax implications associated with the incorporation of Sorrento-Blind Bay and compares these with the alternative of establishing a new Electoral Area for these communities, which the regional district has indicated it would pursue if incorporation does not occur.
- The Study will provide an objective, technical examination of the current situation and implications of changes that accompany incorporation. Significant community engagement is planned for Spring/Summer 2021 to share and reflect on those implications.
- The engagement will be informed by an Offer of Restructure Assistance, provided in late March, that outlines Provincial support to a new municipality and a level of transition assistance. The Ministry's \$1.7M contribution would be payable in the year of incorporation, if a new municipality is established.
- The committee is expected to ask the Minister to order an incorporation vote, likely for Fall 2021.

Comox Valley (*Union Bay Improvement District conversion*) \$40,000 in 2019/2020

- Union Bay Improvement District provides water, fire protection and street lighting to almost 700 properties south of Courtenay on the Old Island Highway. The study, which outlined the financial and governance implications of winding up the improvement district and transferring its services to the Comox Valley Regional District, was presented online and at two in-person open houses.
- In November 2020 the Union Bay landowners voted 72% in favour of converting to regional district services. With support of the Regional District, Cabinet

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approved dissolution of the Improvement District and transfer of its services, assets, liabilities, and other obligations to the Regional District on July 1, 2021.

Capital (*Salt Spring water optimization*)

\$40,000 in 2019/20

- Since electors turned down an incorporation proposal for Salt Spring Island in Fall 2017, the Ministry has been working with the Capital Regional District and North Salt Spring Waterworks District on an approach to consolidating management and planning for water provision on Salt Spring and increasing access to infrastructure grants.
- In July 2019, the North Salt Spring Waterworks District and Capital Regional District Boards endorsed draft terms of reference for the Water Service Optimization Study and obtained funding from them Ministry.
- The study was recently completed and identified options for a more coordinated approach to water delivery on Salt Spring. Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

Central Coast (*Hagensborg Waterworks District conversion*) converted Dec 2020 \$40,000 in Feb 2020/21

- The Ministry has been working with the Central Coast Regional District to support an upgrade to the Hagensborg Waterworks District drinking water system, culminating in the award of \$3.7M in infrastructure funding to address a long-term boil water advisory.
- As a condition of the infrastructure grant, the regional district and waterworks district agreed to convert the improvement district to regional district water and fire protection services. The conversion was implemented by Order in Council in December 2020, and received an implementation grant of \$15,000 to assist with the transitional costs.
- The regional district has also requested study funding to examine the creation of a local community commission or alternative governance option that affords residents a say in how services are provided to them. This work is expected to be undertaken in 2021 and 2022.

UEL (*Governance, Services, and Structure Study*)

initiated 2020

- See separate Estimates Note

Proposed Restructure Projects

Okanagan-Similkameen (*Okanagan Falls incorporation*) \$80,000 in 2020/21

approved March 2021, work not yet underway

- Okanagan Falls is a former forestry community located at the south end of Skaha Lake on Highway 97. Located in the south Okanagan, its economy is in transition and it is home to several significant wineries and to the mass timber producer Structurelam.
- The possibility of incorporating Okanagan Falls has been raised many times over the years, although it was rejected in the last formal vote in 1989. A more recent governance study process, with the support from the Ministry, led to creation of an additional Electoral Area with more focus on the Okanagan Falls just before the last local election.
- The Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen has requested the first step in an incorporation study process, and Ministry staff are working with them to develop terms of reference for a preliminary examination of issues and interests in incorporation, as well as options for geographic scope if an incorporation study were to follow after the next general local election.

Nanaimo – Electoral Area F (Coombs-Errington-Hilliers) cost not yet scoped decision pending

- Ministry staff have received a request from Regional District of Nanaimo for a governance study in Electoral Area F. Advice/Recommendations

Central Okanagan (North Westside) cost not yet scoped decision pending

- The North Westside encompasses a series of small rural residential communities along Westside Road north of West Kelowna. Advice/Recommendations



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The Regional District of Central Okanagan have applied to the Ministry for governance and services study for the North Westside area. Advice/Recommendations
Advice/Recommendations

Anticipated Restructure Proposals

Columbia Shuswap (*Scotch Creek*)

cost not yet scoped

local proposal under development

- Scotch Creek is the largest of several small communities on the north shore of Shuswap Lake which see a significant seasonal residential influx. Inadequate water and sewer infrastructure have limited development and there is related interest in incorporation.
- Advice/Recommendations

Saanich-Victoria (Citizens' Assembly to examine amalgamation)

\$250,000

local proposal under development

- See separate Estimates Note

Local Government Boundary Changes

ISSUE

- Municipal boundary changes arise from local requests to accommodate community growth, servicing, or manage other local issues.

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- **The Ministry works with municipalities on changes to their boundaries through a process that is locally initiated and provincially implemented.**
- **The municipal boundary change process looks at the benefits and trade-offs to service delivery, taxation, land use, and community interests for the municipality, property owners, and regional district.**
- **The Ministry carefully reviews and evaluates all relevant local information and consults Indigenous Nations and other provincial ministries on boundary change implications.**

If asked about holding a vote in the remainder of the electoral area (not just in the municipality)

- **Where there would be a material impact, the municipality is expected to work with the regional district to minimize, mitigate, or otherwise manage the effect.**

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- Municipal boundary changes involve extending a municipal boundary and reducing an adjacent municipal or regional district electoral area boundary.
- A municipal boundary change may impact taxation, revenues, infrastructure, and overall service provision by the local governments.
- Municipalities are encouraged to take a strategic approach to boundary extension proposals as the process involves significant time and resources (both locally and provincially), pursuing proposals that align with land use and servicing plans.
- Municipal electors and the affected property owners must be consulted and have an opportunity to express an opinion on a municipal boundary change (there must be a vote of municipal electors).



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- Municipal boundaries are set and changed in Letters Patent by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, on the recommendation of the Minister. The Ministry works in advance of those decisions to reduce potential conflicts and adverse impacts through consultation and referral processes.
- Attached as background information, is a brief description of the local government boundary change process and a list of current projects (Appendix 1).

CONTACT: Marijke Edmondson, Director, Governance and Structure Branch, 778-698-3227

Appendix 1
Municipal Boundary Change Process and Active Projects

Municipal Boundary Change Process

- A municipal boundary extension proposal begins with a council resolution endorsing an extension concept and authorizing staff to develop the proposal details, consult potentially affected parties, and send it to the Ministry for review.
- In developing and refining the proposal, the municipality is expected to consider the input of affected parties, including property owners, residents, other public service providers and land use regulators and neighbouring Indigenous Nations.
- Once the Ministry receives a detailed proposal, Ministry staff review the submission, confer with other Ministries, and provide feedback. If further work is required, Ministry staff can work with the municipality to update the proposal.
- The Ministry initiates a series of consultation and referrals with provincial agencies including TRAN, PSSG, FLNRORD, and the Ministry consults with Indigenous Nations that have an interest in the area.
- The municipality must obtain elector approval before the council adopts a second council resolution that formally requests extension of the boundary and confirms the legal description of the parcels proposed to be included.
- Once the statutory requirements and Indigenous consultations are complete, the Ministry works with MAG to prepare draft Letters Patent that implement the proposed boundary change, for Cabinet consideration. The Minister must recommend a municipal boundary extension before it may be approved by Cabinet.
- If the boundary change proposal is approved, the Ministry notifies the municipality, the regional district and other ministries and agencies, such as BC Assessment and the Land Title and Survey Authority of BC, and the consulted Indigenous Nations.

Recent Municipal Boundary Changes

City of Fort St. John: (Exclude Road Allowance in City's Southwest Boundary) - approved March 5, 2021

- minor redefinition, correcting an error in a 2013 boundary extension involving an undeveloped road right of way.

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Active Municipal Boundary Change Files

Village of New Denver: (Denver Siding)

- neighbourhood scale extension, improving water quality for 63 properties, supported by Gas Tax Strategic Priority funding of \$0.5M.

City of Vernon (BX Elementary School)

- minor extension, including a single school site that will connect to municipal sanitary sewer as part of a \$11.1M renovation funded by EDUC.

Town of Osoyoos (Lakeshore Drive and 87th Street)

- minor extensions, including several properties interested in accessing municipal services and potential future development.

Village of Pemberton (South Hwy)

- minor redefinition, correcting an error in a 2011 boundary extension, which inadvertently excluded an industrial property located across the highway from the Industrial Park from the Village boundaries.

District of Barriere (Armour Mountain Property)

- minor extension, proposed in 2018, including a large parcel to facilitate more intensive development and servicing than permitted in the electoral area.
- consultation with Indigenous Nations have resolved several concerns, and the parties are awaiting archaeological information to conclude consultation on the remaining area of concern.

City of Port Alberni (Johnston Road)

- minor extensions, request to include properties to access City water services.

City of Powell River – (additional treaty lands - Wharf St, Arbutus Ave, Lund Rd)

- minor reduction, properties to be designated as Treaty Lands of the Tla'amin Nation will be removed from City jurisdiction under the Tla'amin Final Agreement.

City of Cranbrook – (17th Street and 3rd Street)

- minor extensions, to allow connection to the City's sanitary sewer system and to facilitate the subdivision/development.

UEL Services, Structure and Governance Study

ISSUE

- The Ministry is undertaking a study to examine the services, structure and governance of the University Endowment Lands (UEL).

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- The UEL is the only urban area in B.C. that is run directly by the Province rather than by a local government.
- Today the UEL and its governance model are facing many pressures due to development, demographic shifts, and the community's interest in change and representation.
- The Province recognizes the need for a long-term solution, and has launched a multi-year services, structure and governance study that will explore the impacts of pursuing change.
- The study will document current and future service needs, the technical impacts of any change, and the perspectives of community, First Nations and others through engagement.
- The first phase of public engagement recently ended. It involved launch of the Bang the Table web platform, an online survey, and a virtual Open House.
- This study will lay the groundwork for the Province's future consideration of changes to the UEL's services, structure and governance; it will yield information and analysis but will not recommend options.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- The UEL has operated under the *University Endowment Land Act* for nearly 100 years and is the only urban area in B.C. not directly run by a local government.
- Today the UEL is facing a number of pressures including new development (i.e. the Ielərn development by Musqueam Nation), redevelopment, population growth, demographic shifts, and demands for more local representation.

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- In February 2020, after a competitive procurement process, the Ministry retained consultant Urban Systems to lead the multi-year UEL Services, Structure & Governance Study in response to concerns about the UEL's outdated governance model.
- The study is a significant phase of work that will explore the UEL's current state, its projected pressures and needs, as well as the costs, impacts, and transition considerations from shifting to other forms of local governance; the study itself will not recommend options.
- The study process is intended to be open and inclusive and will include opportunities for engagement and input from a range of interested parties.
- The first round of public engagement with UEL community members began in March 2021 with the launch of the Bang the Table web platform to share information about the UEL, conduct an online survey, and host a virtual Open House. Advice/Recommendations
- The study will also provide opportunities to hear from organizations and others who may be affected by change, including the City of Vancouver, Metro Vancouver, UBC and other Provincial Ministries. Ministry staff will lead the engagement with First Nations, including the Musqueam Nation who have significant traditional and current interests in the UEL.
- The final results of the study will provide provincial decision-makers with a comprehensive overview of the facts, a summary of the perspectives gathered through engagement, and an outline of the considerations relevant to any change in services and structure. Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommendations
Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommendations
- While the project has experienced some delays (due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the new online engagement platform, and the October 2020 Provincial election) Advice/Recommendations

CONTACT: Tara Faganello, ADM, Local Government Division, 250-356-6575

JUMBO GLACIER MOUNTAIN RESORT MUNICIPALITY

ISSUE

- Dissolution of Jumbo Glacier Mountain Resort Municipality (Municipality)

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- **With the termination of the Jumbo Glacier Master Development Agreement, there is no longer a need for the Municipality.**
- **We are doing the work and seeking the decisions necessary to dissolve the Municipality.**
- **Dissolving a municipality is a complex process and special legislation is expected to be required to respond to the unique situation of the Municipality.**
- **We will continue to engage with affected parties to ensure that their interests are fully considered in this process.**

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- The Municipality was incorporated in 2013 to provide local governance and services for a controversial anticipated resort community in East Kootenay.
- The Province terminated the Jumbo Glacier Resort Master Development Agreement at the request of the resort developers in late 2019, after federal and private sector funding allowed compensation for abandoning the Agreement.
- Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommendations

Cabinet Confidences: Dissolution legislation currently requires a petition from municipal electors and is inadequate to address the Municipality's unique incorporation without residents.

- Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommendations

- The appointed Mayor and Councillor and contracted staff continue in place ^{Intergovernmental Communications} They have ^{Intergovernmental Communications} suspended council remuneration and meetings to limit further expenses.



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- The Municipality has not received any provincial funding since 2015; all subsequent eligible funding payments were deferred at the request of council. The Municipality has been operating on reserve funds from prior Small Community Grants received from 2013 to 2015, totalling \$470,720.

CONTACT: David Van Ommen, Senior Planning Analyst, Governance and Structure Branch, 778-698-3214

VICTORIA AND SAANICH STUDY PROCESS (AMALGAMATION)

ISSUE

- Victoria and Saanich are working towards establishing a Citizen's Assembly to study municipal amalgamation.

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- **Our government is working hard with municipalities to improve the services people count on.**
- **Voters in Saanich and Victoria signalled their support for a study on amalgamation, and the councils have been working on terms of reference for a joint study process.**
- **Once the councils agree on the scope and process for next steps (e.g. a Citizens Assembly and technical study), I am open to discussing a specific joint proposal and considering a financial contribution from the Province toward a study.**

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- Voters in both Saanich and Victoria supported a 2018 non-binding ballot question to explore potential costs, benefits, and disadvantages of amalgamation through a Citizens' Assembly, receiving 66 per cent support in Victoria and 56 per cent support in Saanich.
- In December 2018, Minister Robinson met with Mayor Haynes (Saanich) and Mayor Helps (Victoria) to discuss the process to initiate an amalgamation study, including a citizens' assembly. The then minister responsible for local government outlined the roles of the Province and municipalities, along with key requirements and considerations.
- The mayors indicated they intended to appoint a joint committee to develop terms of reference for consideration by the two councils. On January 16, 2018, the ADM, Local Government followed up with a letter that reinforced the minister's messaging.
- The councils each developed a separate proposal for terms of reference, which the joint committee was tasked with in the summer of 2019.^{Intergovernmental Communications}

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Intergovernmental Communications

- Intergovernmental Communications and further work on the amalgamation study proposal was slowed as the municipalities managed their COVID-19 response and recovery actions.
- The Saanich council debated cancelling its work outright and ultimately resolved to work with Victoria to revisit the proposal to accommodate a protracted period of physical distancing requirements.
- The matter of the Citizens' Assembly was an item on both councils' recent agendas in March 2021. Councils considered and supported additional changes to the composition of the assembly as well as the terms of reference for the technical study.
- Ministry staff have not yet received or reviewed a study proposal and cannot advise whether the proposal could be supported.
- The local ballot questions contemplated a total project budget of \$750,000, to be split three ways by the Province and the two municipalities (e.g. \$250,000 would be requested from the Minister).
- Once a study proposal has been received by the Minister, funding for the study could be considered. Given the complexity of amalgamation, it is thought that the local governments will need the maximum allowable under a multi-year commitment.
- Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommendations
Cabinet each municipality is eligible for up to \$60,000 per project per year under the Local Government Grants Regulation, and multi-year funding requires Treasury Board pre-approval under the current fiscal guidelines.

CONTACT: Marijke Edmondson, Director, Governance and Structure Branch, 778-698-3227

Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program (CARIP) Wind-down

ISSUE

- Wind-down of the final year of the Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program (CARIP) program in 2021/22.

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- **Local governments throughout British Columbia have demonstrated tremendous leadership in taking climate action.**
- **Since 2010 50 local governments have achieved corporate carbon neutrality and many others have also taken steps toward reducing emissions in their communities -- but we know more can be done.**

Advice/Recommendations

Advice/Recommendations

Advice/Recommendations

- **After over 10 years, our government is wrapping up the Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program and exploring new ways to support local governments in creating greener and more livable communities.**
- **We will provide Climate Action Revenue Incentive program grants for the 2020 reporting year to ensure local governments have time to plan for the transition.**
- **Our government remains committed to working with local governments to reach our climate goals and make life better for people across British Columbia. We hope to have more to say on next steps later this year.**

Advice/Recommendations

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● Advice/Recommendations

●

●

●

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- Since 2010, local government signatories to the B.C. Climate Action Charter who report annually on their actions to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions have been eligible for a Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program (CARIP) grant equivalent to 100 percent of the carbon taxes paid directly to provide services.
- Due to COVID 19 impacts, in 2020, for the 2019 reporting year, all reporting requirements for the program were waived and eligible local governments received grants equal to carbon tax paid in 2018.
- Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information

- In February 2021, government approved one final year of funding for CARIP in 2021/22 and directed MUNI to communicate the planned wind down and end of the program.
- For the final year, local governments are only be required to submit a carbon tax calculation form to calculate each local government's CARIP grant amount, by August 6, 2021. All other previous reporting requirements (completed survey on climate actions, attestation that survey report was made public) have been waived.
- CARIP grants will be issued in late August 2021.



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- All local governments will be informed of the wind-down in May, including through direct calls from Deputy Minister to CAOs on May 13th and a letter from Minister to Mayors and Board Chairs.

Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommendations

CONTACT: Tara Faganello, ADM, Local Government Division, 250-356-6575

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND CLEANBC

ISSUE

- CleanBC includes opportunities to build local government climate action. Future work under the plan will identify new ways to further enhance local government action through integrating planning and land use with transportation and building initiatives.

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- **Ninety-eight per cent of B.C. local governments have demonstrated their commitment to climate action by signing the B.C. Climate Action Charter.**
- **Of the 187 Charter signatories, 50 local governments achieved carbon neutrality in 2018, contributing to an overall reduction of provincial Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions.**
- **CleanBC was released in December 2018, outlining actions that will put B.C. about 75 per cent of the way to reaching government's GHG emission reduction targets.**
- **CleanBC includes the CleanBC Communities Fund (CCF), under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP), to support local governments' efforts on climate action by helping develop energy efficiency and clean energy infrastructure projects. The second intake closed on November 12, 2020, with decisions anticipated in summer 2021.**
- **Looking ahead, we will continue to work with local governments to enhance climate action, with a focus in MUNI on planning, land use and infrastructure that support resilient communities that are complete, compact and energy efficient.**
- **This work will contribute to the achievement of the remaining 25 per cent of GHG reductions required to meet provincial targets.**

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- On December 5, 2018 the B.C. government released CleanBC, aimed at reducing climate pollution, while creating more jobs and economic opportunities for people, businesses and communities.

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- This includes the CCF (under ICIP), through which the provincial and federal governments are investing \$110 million to help local governments and Indigenous communities develop community infrastructure projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions using clean or renewable energy or that improve energy efficiency. The second intake of the initial merit-based program closed on November 12, 2020; applications are currently under review.
 - 1st Intake, with \$63 million, had 16 projects approved in 2020/21
 - For the 2nd intake approval decisions are anticipated in summer 2021 (subject to federal review timelines).
- The CCF is co-led with Climate Action Secretariat, Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy. MUNI is the budget holder for the program and leads program management.
 - The CCF is a claims-based program, with provincial funding required in out years as projects are constructed. Proponents incur and pay costs prior to submitting claims to the Province for reimbursement.
- The actions outlined in the CleanBC strategy will put B.C. about 75 per cent of the way to reaching the 2030 GHG reduction targets that are set out in the *Climate Change Accountability Act*. The plan commits Government to finding additional ways of achieving the remaining 25 per cent of GHG reductions.
- Government is developing an action plan for achieving the remaining 25 per cent of reductions which will focus on topics that overlap with local government authority, including integrating planning and land use with transportation and buildings.
- Specifically, Government will explore new ways to enhance local government climate action to achieve the third commitment under the Climate Action Charter: to create complete, compact, energy efficient communities.
- Over the last decade, the Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program (CARIP) has provided annual funding to local governments, based on carbon tax expenditures. The program, which has focused largely on corporate carbon emission tracking, Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications (See the estimates note 'Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program' for details and key messages.)

CONTACT: Tara Faganello, ADM, Local Government Division, 250-356-6575

LNG Canada & Coastal GasLink Socio-Economic Management Plans

ISSUE

- The Ministry of Municipal Affairs (MUNI) is working collaboratively with provincial agencies, including with the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Canada Project Board/Secretariat's leadership, to ensure the socio-economic effects of LNG projects on B.C. communities are identified and appropriately addressed.

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- **Building a strong, sustainable, innovative economy is a priority for our government.**
- **LNG Canada and its affiliated pipeline, Coastal GasLink, are expected to provide \$23 billion in direct provincial revenue, and lasting, multi-generational benefits to B.C. and Canada.**
- **As well as delivering benefits, large projects like these can have adverse direct and indirect impacts - for example, impacts on community utilities, housing, health care, social services, childcare and policing.**
- **We're working to ensure the effective delivery of provincial programs and services to support communities impacted by LNG projects. For example, the Northern Healthy Communities Fund, an application-based program, is available to northern communities near the LNG projects that are facing specific needs due to social impacts of rapid economic growth.**
- **We are also monitoring the implementation of Environmental Assessment Certificate conditions that require LNG Canada and Coastal GasLink to mitigate socio-economic effects.**

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Provincial Structures for LNG Oversight

- Provincial governance structures that oversee the implementation of the LNG Canada and Coastal GasLink projects include the Deputy Minister LNG Steering Committee and the ADM level LNG Canada Executive Project Board.

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- MUNI's ADM, Local Government Division sits on the Project Board which oversees government activities related to project implementation
- MUNI staff also co-chairs -- with the LNG Canada Implementation Secretariat -- the Social and Economic Management Committee (SEMC), comprised of approximately twenty provincial agencies.
- The SEMC monitors socio-economic effects from LNG Canada and Coastal GasLink construction and operations activities on communities and supports the effective delivery of provincial programs and services to mitigate those effects.

MUNI Roles for LNG Oversight

- Legally binding conditions attached to the Environmental Assessment Certificates (EAC) of the LNG Canada and Coastal GasLink projects required proponents to develop socio-economic effects management plans to address the potential effects of the projects on services and infrastructure delivered by provincial agencies, Indigenous Nations, and local governments.
- LNG Canada's management plan, called the Community Level Infrastructure and Services Management Plan (CLISMP), outlines actions to mitigate the project's adverse direct effects on community level infrastructure and services; approaches to engagement, monitoring and reporting; and an adaptive management process for mitigation of effects not previously anticipated.
- Coastal GasLink's management plan, called the Socio-Economic Effects Management Plan (SEEMP), similarly outlines actions to engage affected parties, mitigate potential adverse effects on regional and community infrastructure and services, monitor and report on effectiveness of mitigation and adaptively manage where monitoring indicates a mitigation action is not achieving its intended outcome.
- As required by the EAC conditions, LNG Canada and Coastal GasLink are implementing their plans in consultation with MUNI.
- Associated MUNI roles include senior staff participation in the LNG project governance structures and oversight of CLISMP and SEEMP implementation which includes engaging with local governments and First Nations.
- Where applicable, MUNI would also help ensure consideration of non-regulatory matters related to local governments that fall outside of the scope of the CLISMP or SEEMP, by directing those to the SEMC/appropriate provincial agency (e.g. local government concerns about lack of LNG-related employment activities).

CONTACT: Tara Faganello, ADM, Local Government Division, 778 698-3486

NORTH COAST REGIONAL DISTRICT OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN

ISSUE

- Ministry staff is consulting with First Nations on the North Coast Regional District's (NCRD) Official Community Plan (OCP), which requires ministerial approval before it can be adopted.

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- **As a result of a Ministerial Order issued in early 2017, the NCRD OCP requires my approval before it can be adopted by bylaw.**
- **Ministry staff are currently consulting on the OCP with First Nations in the area. Staff is also supporting the regional district in their engagement with the Nations and other ministries.**
- **Government is committed to ensuring meaningful consultation with First Nations and this can take some time in an area as vast and complex as that covered by the OCP.**
- **I would like to acknowledge the importance of the proposed OCP to the regional district, and I look forward to considering it for approval once consultation is complete.**

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- In February 2017, a Ministerial Order was issued under section 585 of the *Local Government Act* requiring that the Minister approve the NCRD OCP before it can be adopted by bylaw.
- The Ministerial Order was issued due to a concern that the proposed OCP would impede the construction and operation of the proposed Aurora LNG facility on Digby Island. The site for the now-cancelled proposed facility overlapped with land designated as "Rural" and "Parks, Natural Amenities and Recreation". The policies for both of these designations suggested that the project, including investigative activities prior to a final investment decision, would not be permitted without an amendment to the OCP bylaw.
- The requirement for Ministerial approval triggered a Provincial duty to consult with the six area First Nations. Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications



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Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

- The OCP area is subject to overlapping First Nations' interests, treaty negotiations and benefit agreements. Consequently, it is anticipated that consultation will take some time to complete. The NCRD initiated engagement in 2016 and the Province began consultation in September 2018.
- Consultation will continue until after the NCRD submits the OCP to the Ministry for consideration of approval. ^{Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications} The time required to complete consultation will depend on the nature of the feedback received by the Nations and the extent to which the NCRD reflects this in the revised OCP.
- The proposed OCP covers 9,000 square kilometers of the NCRD, some of which is currently not subject to OCP land designations. Dodge Cove has an existing OCP, dating from 1990.

CONTACT: Tara Faganello ADM, Local Government Division, 778 698-3486

Northern Healthy Communities Fund

ISSUE

- Status update on the Northern Healthy Communities Fund

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- **The Northern Healthy Communities Fund (NHCF) will provide \$25 million to help support the long-term resilience of northern communities experiencing major economic development.**
- **The NHCF launched February 2, 2021 and is available to 22 local governments and 27 First Nations near the LNG Canada and Coastal Gaslink projects that are facing specific needs due to social impacts of rapid economic growth. Non-profits delivering services in those communities are also eligible.**
- **Up to \$100,000 per application will be available for capacity-building projects and up to \$300,000 for capital projects, to help communities meet increased demand for key social services.**
- **The NHCF is being administered by the Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT). Applications will be reviewed and funding dispersed quarterly. The first intake closed February 26, 2021.**

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- On March 31, 2020, the Province, represented by the Minister of Municipal Affairs, entered into an agreement with the Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT), transferring \$25 million to NDIT to establish a funding program that is focusing on communities adjacent to the LNG Canada and Coastal GasLink projects.
- The purpose of the Northern Healthy Communities Fund (NHCF) is to provide \$25 million in funding over six years for initiatives that support healthy, sustainable and resilient communities facing rapid and large-scale economic development and associated need for enhanced social service readiness.
- Under the funding agreement, NDIT is entitled to deduct an administrative fee equal to 4% of the funding payment to defray the actual costs of providing administration and management of the fund.

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- Eligible local governments and First Nations are those that have been/are directly impacted by the ongoing construction of the LNG Canada and Coastal GasLink projects, or have been deemed, through the Environmental Assessment or Pipeline Benefit Agreement processes, to be impacted by the projects.
- The program is providing two funding streams:
 - Capacity Building Stream: Applicants will be eligible to receive up to \$100,000 to a maximum of 90% of the eligible project budget for projects such as expanding hours for childcare centres, hiring more employees for mental health services or supporting small business recruitment, retention and resiliency.
 - Capital Stream: Applicants will be eligible to receive up to \$300,000 to a maximum of 80% of the eligible project budget for projects such as renovating a childcare facility, a building that provides mental health services or multi-unit housing or undertaking upgrades to an Indigenous cultural space.
- There will be four intake deadlines each year and applications will be reviewed quarterly. Applications received after the end of one intake period will be considered as part of the next intake period.
- The first intake closed February 26, 2021. 19 applications were submitted and NDIT undertakes its due diligence review of the applications. The first round of funding **will be announced May 13th**, and will deliver over \$2 million for 16 projects. The next intake deadlines are May 14, 2021, August 13, 2021 and October 29, 2021.

CONTACT: Tara Faganello, ADM, Local Government Division, 250 356-6575

METRO VANCOUVER RGS (*METRO 2050*)

ISSUE

- Metro Vancouver Regional District is developing an updated Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) called *Metro 2050*.

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- **The Province appreciates all the work by Metro Vancouver's Board and staff to update the Regional Growth Strategy.**
- **Regional cooperation in Metro Vancouver is more important than ever to manage growth and address many complex challenges and interrelated goals, including reconciliation with First Nations, climate action, housing, transportation and economic development.**
- **I understand that Metro Vancouver is working closely with TransLink to ensure the Regional Growth Strategy and TransLink's next Regional Transportation Strategy (Transport 2050) are aligned.**
- **Our government remains committed to working constructively and collaboratively with partners to make sure the plans that shape future land use, transportation and development in Metro Vancouver benefit the region and the province.**

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- Metro Vancouver's current RGS was adopted in 2011. In 2019, Metro began a comprehensive RGS update process to build on its strengths, address identified policy gaps, respond to emerging trends and shape future growth. The updated RGS will be known as *Metro 2050*.
- COVID-19 and the provincial election required Metro to assess impacts to the project timeline and adjust its stakeholder engagement process. Metro remains committed to completing the RGS by late 2021 with full adoption by July 2022.
- Metro is working closely with TransLink to align the updated RGS with the next Regional Transportation Strategy (RTS), known as Transport 2050.
- Provincial responsibility for the RGS resides with MUNI. Equivalent work on the RTS is led by MOTI.

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- The Policymakers Coordination Forum (PCF) – an advisory committee of elected and executive representatives from TransLink, Metro and the Province - and a staff-level provincial Working Group have been established to support coordination of both regional strategies and support provincial input. The PCF and the Working Group are joint initiatives of MUNI and MOTI, with representation on the PCF provided by MOTI. MUNI expects to be engaged on PFC content on an advisory basis through either the Planning and Land Use Management Branch or the Immigration and Strategic Policy Division.
- Together, the RGS and RTS updates are a key opportunity for the Province to help shape the region's future in support of provincial priorities, including First Nations reconciliation, housing, transit, economic development, and climate action.
- MUNI's Minister's mandate letter commitments include working with MOTI on the development of an Integrated Transportation and Development Strategy (ITDS) to ensure greater alignment between transportation and land-use planning. While work to define the ITDS is still underway, the joint work on the Metro Vancouver RGS and TransLink's RTS are reflective of ITDS principles.

CONTACT: Tara Faganello, ADM, Local Government Division, 250 356-6575

Banning Handguns by Municipalities

ISSUE

- The Federal Government introduced legislation that, if passed, would allow the federal government to put conditions on an individual's firearms licence to restrict handgun storage and transportation within municipal boundaries if a relevant municipal bylaw is in effect. Municipalities will require the authority to pass relevant bylaws under provincial legislation if the Province supports the authority.

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- **Together with my colleague, the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, I welcome the overall proposed federal legislation to enhance public safety with measures to thwart the illegal use of firearms and related violence in communities.**
- **One aspect of the federal proposal would create conditions on an individual's federal firearms licence in municipalities that have bylaws in place to limit the storage and transport of handguns within their municipal boundaries.**
- **I understand some municipalities have expressed support for this aspect of the proposed legislation and others have expressed some concern. BC will monitor the progress of Bill C-21 and we look forward to engaging with municipalities on this important public safety issue.**
- **The Province will work in consultation with the Union of BC Municipalities in considering any new authorities for municipalities to pass bylaws consistent with Bill C-21.**
- **This government recently passed the Firearm Violence Protection Act. While Bill-C21 is outside of the scope of that legislation, I look forward to working with the Minister as we monitor progress on the federal proposal, to ensure a coordinated and effective approach is taken to gun safety in BC.**

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- The Federal Government introduced legislation that, if passed, will establish new restrictions on firearms. Included in Bill C-21 is support for municipalities that wish to restrict handguns.

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- The proposal would allow the federal government, at a municipality's request, to put conditions on an individual's firearms licence to restrict handgun storage (including an outright prohibition) and transportation within municipal boundaries. The municipality must first have bylaws in effect related to handgun storage and transport in their jurisdiction.
- A breach of the federal firearms licence condition would carry a maximum penalty of two years' imprisonment, as well as possible revocation of a firearms licence or a registration certificate.

For a municipality in BC to pass the type of bylaws contemplated by Bill-C21, they would first require the authority to do so under provincial legislation.^{Advice/Recommendations}

- The City of Vancouver and Surrey have expressed public support for Bill-C21. Other municipalities or municipal leaders have expressed concerns (e.g. Princeton, Penticton, Salmon Arm, Fort St. John).^{Advice/Recommendations}
- PSSG recently introduced the Firearm Violence Protection Act which regulates imitation firearms, strengthens the regulation of shooting ranges and closes regulatory gaps. While that Act does not relate directly to Bill-C21, MUNI staff have begun discussions with PSSG to ensure a coordinated approach is taken to provincial firearms policy.

CONTACT: Tara Faganello, ADM, Local Government Division, 250-356-6575

Islands Trust

ISSUE

- The Islands Trust (Trust) has requested legislative amendments to the Islands Trust Act with respect to foreshore jurisdiction and tree cutting authority.

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

Foreshore Jurisdiction:

- This is a complex issue with a longstanding history in the Islands Trust relating to who can regulate activities in the foreshore on Vancouver Island. Although the specific request to resolve this issue was submitted by the Trust and the Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD), the issue involves several area Indigenous Nations.
- In order to proceed with consideration of legislative amendments, the ministry is consulting with area Indigenous Nations for their views on possible amendments.
- Once consultations have concluded Ministry staff will connect with Islands Trust and CVRD staff to discuss next steps.

Tree Cutting Authority:

- The issue of tree cutting in the Islands Trust area has a long and contentious history.
- The scope of this request is quite significant and as with any requested legislative changes, the ministry would seek to understand the rationale and complexity, and the full range of implications of the request.
- Any changes would also require consultations with other local governments, Indigenous communities and stakeholders, including private landowners, to take into consideration the various interests within the Islands Trust area.
- Sufficient time for the necessary policy work, stakeholder and other ministry consultations, and availability on the legislative agenda would also be factors before committing to proceeding with any changes.

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KEY CONSIDERATIONS

○ **Foreshore Jurisdiction**

In July 2019, the Islands Trust (Trust) and CVRD sent a joint letter to the Minister of Municipal Affairs to request legislative amendments to the Islands Trust Act (Act) that would reinstate the CVRD's land use planning authority for parts of the foreshore of Vancouver Island to address enforcement challenges in developed waterfront areas such as Cowichan Bay.

Although the initial request was submitted only by the Trust and the CVRD, the issue involves several Indigenous Nations in the area. ^{Advice/Recommendation}

^{Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications}

○ **Tree Cutting Authority**

In March 2021, Minister Osborne met with the Trust chair to discuss the Trust's proposal for legislative amendments to the Act to provide the Trust with the same authority for tree cutting that municipalities have under the Community Charter.

^{Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommendations}

The issue of the Trust's authority in relation to trees is longstanding and complex, juxtaposing landowners' private property rights with those of the Trust's mandate to "preserve and protect". The scope of this request is quite significant with implications for the authorities of regional districts as well. As with any requested legislative changes, the ministry would seek to understand the rationale and complexity, and the full range of implications of this request.

Consultations would be required with private landowners, Indigenous communities, and regional districts, to consider the various interests within the Islands Trust area. In addition, there are connections to private managed forest land policies that are the responsibility of FLNRORD. Sufficient time for the necessary policy work, stakeholder consultations, and availability on the legislative agenda will have to be considered by the ministry before committing to proceeding. ^{Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommendations}

^{Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommendations}

CONTACT: Miriam Starkl-Moser, Manager, LG Policy, Research & Legislation, 250 812-1590

Provincial Highway Interchanges and Development Cost Charges (DCC)

ISSUE

- Options for funding provincial highway interchange projects, including possible funding from Development Cost Charges.

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- **We are aware that some local governments want to use DCC reserves to fund a portion of provincial highway interchange costs.**
- **The DCC Best Practices Guide is clear that DCCs are currently only to be used for local government infrastructure, not provincial infrastructure.**
- **Any policy change to the scope of allowable DCC costs would require detailed consultation with local governments and stakeholders such as the development industry.**
- **To assist in such consultation, Ministry staff have invited discussion of this issue with staff from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure at the Development Finance Review Committee (DFRC) later in 2021.**
- **The DFRC is a permanent committee made up of representatives from the Province, local governments, and the development industry. It reviews and recommends potential policy and legislative changes to the current system of development finance.**

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- Development Cost Charges (DCCs) are charges levied on developers at subdivision or building permit to pay for off-site municipal infrastructure costs necessary to service new development, including: water, sewer, drainage, parks and roads.
- Some municipalities (e.g. Abbotsford and Langley) have requested the Province include provincial interchanges as an allowable road project for DCC purposes.

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- However, MUNI's DCC Best Practices Guide, which is the guiding document for all DCC related issues, states that eligible DCC projects are to be used exclusively for local government infrastructure. Since the interchanges are provincial, they are not eligible for inclusion in a DCC program. This is to ensure that developers are only charged for municipal capital costs (not provincial). This does not preclude local government contributing funds, other than DCCs, to the infrastructure, particularly if there is a benefit to the community.
- Advice/Recommendations
Advice/Recommendations to school site acquisition charges. These are charges collected by local governments on behalf of Province for acquiring school land. However, there is no parallel authority for provincial highway interchanges.
- In 2020, MUNI staff met with Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) to discuss this situation. Advice/Recommendations
Advice/Recommendations however, MUNI staff offered several alternative approaches to funding provincial interchanges, including:
 - Approach 1 - include the project on the DCC list by showing a clear partial ownership interest in the project by the municipality (to acceptable Public Sector Accounting standards).
 - Approach 2 - find alternate sources for funding for the interchange from existing municipal reserves or surplus.
 - Approach 3 - if the first two approaches do not work out, consider scaling back the project to fit within a reduced budget.
- For further discussion of MOTI's interest in legislative or policy changes to include provincial interchanges in DCC program costs, MUNI staff invited them to meet with the DFRC.

CONTACT: Sean Grant, Local Government Infrastructure and Finance, 778-698-3241

PUBLIC LIBRARY FUNDING

ISSUE

- Campaign to increase provincial funding for public libraries

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- **Libraries are key partners in delivering quality and innovative public services throughout B.C.**
- **Annual provincial funding to public libraries is \$14 million.**
- **In 2019/2020, \$3 million in one-time funding was additionally invested to improve electronic collections, public computing and connectivity. The pandemic has highlighted people's need for digital access.**
- **The Ministry continues to work with the library community to identify priorities and make smart investments through planning and collaboration.**

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- Local governments provide the majority of funding to public libraries (95% on average, but there are significant differences between libraries in smaller versus larger communities).
- Government has committed \$14 million in funding for public libraries within the Ministry's budget in 2021/22.
- The provincial investment of \$14 million annually focuses on increasing the reach of services and collections and supporting libraries in smaller communities (provincial funding makes up between 5% and 67% (2019) of such libraries' operating budgets).
- The public library community, local governments and CUPE BC continue to call on government to address the provincial funding gap in B.C.'s public libraries (calling for an annual increase of \$6 million to \$20 million total /year).
- Funding was last distributed on March 31, 2020, and libraries will be receiving funding in June for 2021.

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- As a key action of the Strategic Plan for Public Library Services (published in April 2020):
 - \$3M in additional one-time funding was allocated in March 2020 to support digital initiatives. (\$1.2 directly to public libraries, \$1.8M to coordinate provincial digital collections and connectivity enhancement projects);
 - Libraries are spending these funds on lendable technology, increasing digital collections and computer/connectivity enhancements.
- Responsibility for Public Libraries changed to Municipal Affairs from Education in November 2020.
- Funding is distributed to public libraries through eight grants:
 - Four grants directly to Public Libraries include the *Per Capita Operating*, *Resource Sharing*, *BC OneCard*, and *Literacy/Equity* grants.
 - Four grants to partner associations and library federations for operations, technology and alternate formats that deliver support of provincial services/programs, training and system-wide support.
- In 2020, grants to public libraries were kept the same as in 2019; as a result, no library system experienced a reduction in 2020; this will again be the case for 2021.
- Advice/Recommendations

CONTACT: Mari Martin, Director, Public Libraries Branch, Local Government Division, 250-886-2584

COMMUNITY LITERACY FUNDING

ISSUE

- Funding for Community Literacy Programs

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- Literacy is one of life's essential skills and opens the doors to meaningful work and new learning opportunities.
- The Ministry provides \$2.185 million annually to Decoda's *Literacy Outreach Coordination Program*.
 - Decoda supports 101 Literacy Outreach Coordinators, who provide literacy programming support to 400 communities in B.C.
 - Decoda uses a community-based, local approach to literacy, as learning happens in the context of home and community.
- The Province also contributed \$500,000 to the Vancouver Sun's annual *Raise a Reader* campaign in 2020.
 - The *Raise a Reader* campaign plays a vital role in increasing literacy awareness and community involvement in literacy programs.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- Community Literacy develops literacy and learning skills for individuals and groups outside of the formal education system.
- Ministry of Municipal Affairs provides funding for Community Literacy through two key programs: *Literacy Outreach Coordination* and *Raise a Reader Campaign*.

Decoda Literacy Outreach Coordination (LOC) Program

- Decoda is B.C.'s key provincial literacy organization and coordinates the LOC program, plus other provincial programs such as Community Adult Literacy Program (CALP) funded by Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training.
- The Province has provided \$2.185 million annually since 2015 to Decoda's LOC Program; \$2 million has already been allocated for 2021.
- Decoda provides professional development, learning resources and support for Literacy Outreach Coordinators and 101 community literacy task groups (in over 400 communities)

Honourable Josie Osborne

April 2021

- This is not operational funding for non-profit organizations but supports locally based collaboration and community coordination of literacy activities across communities.
- Task Groups identify literacy needs and priorities, then develop action plans to deliver literacy programs and services that best serve people in their communities.
- Program outcomes include:
 - Increased awareness of need for essential literacy skills at the community level;
 - Better linkages between formal and informal education programs;
 - Growth of professional development opportunities for community-based literacy practitioners; and
 - A stronger community-based network of literacy organizations.
- Task Groups are made up of representatives from various community organizations, including libraries, family resource programs, employment agencies, business community, K-12 school system, and literacy organizations.

Raise a Reader Campaign

- The awareness and fundraising campaign usually runs the 3rd week of September.
- Decoda manages the funding and distribution on behalf of the Vancouver Sun (Postmedia), fund raising communities and the Province. Communities receive different grants each year depending on the total funds raised and their communities' contributions.
- Funds are used by communities to build literacy awareness, host family programs and purchase literacy materials.

CONTACT: Tara Faganello, ADM, Local Government Division, 250 356-6575

Mari Martin, Director, Public Libraries Branch, 250-886-2584

MINISTRY OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

The mission of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs is to provide British Columbians with liveable environments by helping local governments and residents build sustainable, well-governed communities; support newcomers to settle and integrate into the province; facilitate economic integration to address British Columbia's labour market needs; and attract international entrepreneurs.

MINISTRY SUMMARY

(\$000)

	Estimates 2020/21 ¹	Estimates 2021/22
VOTED APPROPRIATION		
Vote 38 — Ministry Operations.....	137,985	297,530
STATUTORY APPROPRIATION		
University Endowment Lands Administration Account Special Account.....	10,593	10,668
OPERATING EXPENSES	<u>148,578</u>	<u>308,198</u>
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES²	4,261	2,601
LOANS, INVESTMENTS AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS³	—	—
REVENUE COLLECTED FOR, AND TRANSFERRED TO, OTHER ENTITIES⁴	—	—

NOTES

¹ For comparative purposes, figures shown for the 2020/21 operating expenses; capital expenditures; loans, investments and other requirements; and revenue collected for, and transferred to, other entities are restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2021/22 *Estimates*. A reconciliation of restated operating expenses and capital expenditures resulting from transfers between ministries is presented in Schedule A.

² A listing of estimated capital expenditures by ministry is presented in Schedule C.

³ A summary of loans, investments and other requirements by ministry is presented in Schedule D.

⁴ A summary of revenue collected for, and transferred to, other entities by ministry is presented in Schedule E.

MINISTRY OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

SUMMARY BY CORE BUSINESS

(\$000)

	2020/21	2021/22 ESTIMATES		
OPERATING EXPENSES	Net	Gross	External Recoveries	Net
Core Business				
Local Government.....	112,741	462,899	(191,949)	270,950
Immigration Services and Strategic Planning.....	16,603	168,679	(149,702)	18,977
Executive and Support Services.....	8,641	7,608	(5)	7,603
University Endowment Lands Administration Account Special Account.....	10,593	10,668	—	10,668
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	148,578	649,854	(341,656)	308,198
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	Capital Expenditures	Capital Expenditures	Receipts and P3 Liabilities	Net
Core Business				
Executive and Support Services.....	361	316	—	316
University Endowment Lands Administration Account Special Account.....	3,900	2,285	—	2,285
TOTAL	4,261	2,601	—	2,601

MINISTRY OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

VOTE DESCRIPTIONS

(\$000)

Estimates
2020/21Estimates
2021/22

VOTE 38 — MINISTRY OPERATIONS

This vote provides for the programs, operations, and other activities described in the voted appropriations under the following core businesses: Local Government, Immigration Services and Strategic Planning, and Executive and Support Services.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Voted Appropriations

Local Government Services and Transfers.....	107,144	265,353
University Endowment Lands.....	5,597	5,597
	<u>112,741</u>	<u>270,950</u>

Voted Appropriations Description: This sub-vote provides for the administration of core local government legislation, including the *Community Charter*, the *Local Government Act*, and the *Local Government Grants Act*; financial and other support to local governments and related organizations; development and administration of policy, legislation, and regulations; and the management and delivery of cross-government initiatives. These activities may involve consultation with other ministries; agencies; governments, including local governments; First Nations; and external stakeholders. This sub-vote also provides for the operation of the University Endowment Lands and for funding to support the public library system. Costs may be recovered from special accounts, ministries, organizations within the government reporting entity, other organizations, and local and federal governments for activities described within this sub-vote.

IMMIGRATION SERVICES AND STRATEGIC PLANNING

Voted Appropriations

Strategic Planning.....	517	530
Workforce and Immigration.....	14,429	16,765
Community Gaming Grants.....	1,657	1,682
	<u>16,603</u>	<u>18,977</u>

Voted Appropriations Description: This sub-vote provides for the development and implementation of provincial plans, programs, and policies related to administration of the British Columbia Provincial Nominee Program and immigrant settlement and integration services, including negotiating and entering into agreements or arrangements with parties inside and outside of British Columbia, and the administration of Part 6 of the *Gaming Control Act*, as well as the distribution of gaming proceeds through community gaming grants. Costs related to the British Columbia Provincial Nominee Program may be recovered from fees. Costs may also be recovered from ministries, the British Columbia Lottery Corporation, other organizations, and local and federal governments for activities described within this sub-vote.

EXECUTIVE AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Voted Appropriations

Minister's Office.....	575	620
Corporate Services.....	8,066	6,983
	<u>8,641</u>	<u>7,603</u>

Voted Appropriations Description: This sub-vote provides for the office of the Minister of Municipal Affairs. This sub-vote also provides for executive direction of the Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation; the Ministry of Labour; the Ministry of Municipal Affairs; and the Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport; including financial administration and budget coordination, strategic and business planning and reporting, human resources, office management, accommodation, and information systems; and support for ministry programs and initiatives. This sub-vote also provides for the operations of the office of the Auditor General for Local Government. Costs may be recovered from ministries, Crown agencies, other levels of government, and parties external to government for activities described within this sub-vote.

VOTE 38 — MINISTRY OPERATIONS

137,985

297,530

MINISTRY OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

STATUTORY DESCRIPTIONS

(\$000)

Estimates
2020/21Estimates
2021/22

STATUTORY APPROPRIATIONS

This statutory appropriation provides for the programs, operations, and other activities of the following special account: University Endowment Lands Administration Account.

UNIVERSITY ENDOWMENT LANDS ADMINISTRATION ACCOUNT

Statutory Appropriation

University Endowment Lands Administration Account.....	10,593	10,668
--	--------	--------

Statutory Appropriation Description: This statutory appropriation provides for the University Endowment Lands Administration Account which is governed under the *University Endowment Land Act*.

MINISTRY GROUP ACCOUNT CLASSIFICATION SUMMARY

GROUP ACCOUNT CLASSIFICATION

Salaries and Benefits	25,517	29,039
Operating Costs	13,042	13,335
Government Transfers	415,377	607,252
Other Expenses	10,626	10,901
Internal Recoveries	(10,598)	(10,673)
External Recoveries	(305,386)	(341,656)
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES.....	148,578	308,198

MINISTRY OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

SPECIAL ACCOUNTS¹

(\$000)

	Estimates 2020/21	Estimates 2021/22
UNIVERSITY ENDOWMENT LANDS ADMINISTRATION ACCOUNT		
This account was established as a Miscellaneous Statutory Account by authority of the <i>University Endowment Lands Administration Act</i> and was continued under the <i>University Endowment Land Act</i> in 1979. This account provides for services to residents of the University Endowment Lands. Revenue is derived from University Endowment Lands resident ratepayer contributions, including fees, licences, and property taxes. Other revenue sources (net of direct costs) include land sales, rent from land tenures, fees, and the recovery of costs associated with a redevelopment/rezoning process. Expenses include the ratepayer's portion of costs transferred from the Ministry Operations Vote for services provided.		
SPENDING AUTHORITY AVAILABLE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE FISCAL YEAR ².....	26,781	23,024
OPERATING TRANSACTIONS		
Revenue.....	10,593	10,668
Expense.....	(10,593)	(10,668)
Net Revenue (Expense).....	—	—
FINANCING TRANSACTIONS		
Receipts.....	—	—
Disbursements.....	—	—
Capital Expenditures.....	(3,900)	(2,285)
Net Cash Source (Requirement).....	(3,900)	(2,285)
Working Capital Adjustments and Other Spending Authority Committed ³	143	218
PROJECTED SPENDING AUTHORITY AVAILABLE AT THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR ².....	23,024	20,957

NOTES

¹ A Special Account is an account in the General Fund where the authorization to spend money from the account is located in an Act other than the *Supply Act*.

² The Spending Authority Available at the Beginning of the Fiscal Year 2020/21 is based on the 2019/20 *Public Accounts*. The Projected Spending Authority Available at the End of the Fiscal Year represents the cash and temporary investments projected to be available at the end of each fiscal year.

³ The Working Capital Adjustments and Other Spending Authority Committed includes those adjustments that would change the cash balance of the Special Account. This may include amortization expense, changes in accounts receivable and payable, and the recognition of deferred revenues.

MINISTRY OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS (\$000)

VOTE 38 Ministry Operations

Description	Total 2020/21 Operating Expenses	50	51	52	54	Total Salaries and Benefits	55	57	59	60	63	65	67	68	69
Local Government	112,741	9,090	73	2,310	—	11,473	—	247	551	2,412	373	287	—	2	6,425
Local Government Services and Transfers	107,144	7,902	57	2,008	—	9,967	—	242	524	649	336	231	—	2	—
University Endowment Lands	5,597	1,188	16	302	—	1,506	—	5	27	1,763	37	56	—	—	6,425
Immigration Services and Strategic Planning	16,603	8,882	14	2,256	—	11,152	—	93	99	69	591	195	30	—	—
Strategic Planning	517	389	2	99	—	490	—	16	—	14	3	9	—	—	—
Workforce and Immigration	14,429	7,200	8	1,829	—	9,037	—	73	99	55	555	167	30	—	—
Community Gaming Grants	1,657	1,293	4	328	—	1,625	—	4	—	—	33	19	—	—	—
Executive and Support Services	8,641	5,003	64	1,291	56	6,414	8	148	22	202	319	343	—	—	7
Minister's Office	575	364	—	114	56	534	—	58	—	—	10	15	—	—	—
Corporate Services	8,066	4,639	64	1,177	—	5,880	8	90	22	202	309	328	—	—	7
Total	137,985	22,975	151	5,857	56	29,039	8	488	672	2,683	1,283	825	30	2	6,432

Statutory Appropriations

Description	Total 2020/21 Operating Expenses	50	51	52	54	Total Salaries and Benefits	55	57	59	60	63	65	67	68	69
University Endowment Lands Administration Account	10,593	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	10,593	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

70	72	73	75	Total Operating Costs	77	79	80	Total Govt Transfers	81	83	85	Total Other Expenses	86	88	Total Internal Recoveries	89	90	Total External Recoveries	Total 2021/22 Operating Expenses
206	—	299	—	10,802	184,710	1,123	265,447	451,280	—	—	13	13	(10,668)	(1)	(10,669)	(1,000)	(190,949)	(191,949)	270,950
—	—	81	—	2,065	184,710	1,123	258,127	443,960	—	—	11	11	—	(1)	(1)	—	(190,649)	(190,649)	265,353
206	—	218	—	8,737	—	—	7,320	7,320	—	—	2	2	(10,668)	—	(10,668)	(1,000)	(300)	(1,300)	5,597
—	—	—	275	1,352	140,000	—	15,972	155,972	—	—	204	204	—	(1)	(1)	(1)	(149,701)	(149,702)	18,977
—	—	—	—	42	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(2)	530
—	—	—	275	1,254	—	—	15,972	15,972	—	—	202	202	—	—	—	—	(9,700)	(9,700)	16,765
—	—	—	—	56	140,000	—	—	140,000	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	(140,000)	(140,000)	1,682
16	—	42	74	1,181	—	—	—	—	—	—	16	16	—	(3)	(3)	(3)	(2)	(5)	7,603
3	—	—	—	86	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	620
13	—	42	74	1,095	—	—	—	—	—	—	16	16	—	(3)	(3)	(3)	(2)	(5)	6,983
222	—	341	349	13,335	324,710	1,123	281,419	607,252	—	—	233	233	(10,668)	(5)	(10,673)	(1,004)	(340,652)	(341,656)	297,530

70	72	73	75	Total Operating Costs	77	79	80	Total Govt Transfers	81	83	85	Total Other Expenses	86	88	Total Internal Recoveries	89	90	Total External Recoveries	Total 2021/22 Operating Expenses
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10,668	—	—	10,668	—	—	—	—	—	—	10,668
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10,668	—	—	10,668	—	—	—	—	—	—	10,668

Ministry of Municipal Affairs

2021/22 Estimates Summary

MINISTRY ESTIMATES BUDGET OVERVIEW

Ministry Operations Vote 38

2021/22 Estimate Budget: \$308.198M (a net increase of \$159.620M or 107.4% from the Restated Estimates 2020/21 of \$148.578M)

The \$159.620M increase is primarily due to the following:

- \$154.570M increase due to the timing of payments on the following Local Government transfers:
 - \$62M increase due to the addition of the Capital Regional District Wastewater Treatment Project in 2021/22
 - \$52.020M increase due to the addition of the Peace River Agreement in 2021/22
 - \$40.550M increase due to the addition of the Traffic Fine Revenue Sharing agreement in 2021/22
- \$15M increase due to the timing of the Library Government Transfers payment in 2019/20
- \$1.731M increase to cover costs related to Community Social Services Recruitment and Retention
- \$1.001M increase for the Sustainable Services Negotiating Mandate
- \$0.018M increase due for other operating needs

The above increases are offset by:

- \$10M decrease for fiscal adjustment per *Budget 2020* decision
- \$1.5M decrease for the completion of the Housing Needs Report
- \$1.2M decrease due to winding down of Office of the Auditor General for Local Government

CORE BUSINESS SUMMARY

Local Government Division \$270.950M

- \$270.950M (\$158.209M increase from Restated Estimates 2020/21 of \$112.741M)
 - \$62M increase due to the addition of the Capital Regional District Wastewater Treatment Project in 2021/22
 - \$52.020M increase due to the addition of the Peace River Agreement in 2021/22
 - \$40.550M increase due to the addition of the Traffic Fine Revenue Sharing agreement in 2021/22
 - \$15M increase due to the timing of the Library Government Transfers payment made in 2019/20
 - \$0.139M increase for the Sustainable Services Negotiating Mandate
 - \$10M decrease fiscal adjustment per *Budget 2020* decision
 - \$1.5M decrease due to completion of the Housing Needs Report

Immigration Services and Strategic Planning \$18.977M

- \$18.977M (\$2.374M increase from Restated Estimates 2020/21 of \$16.603M)
 - \$1.731M increase to cover costs related to Community Social Services Recruitment and Retention
 - \$0.745M increase for the Sustainable Services Negotiating Mandate
 - \$0.102M decrease due to a One-time Reorganization adjustment

Executive and Support Services \$7.603M

- Minister's Office
\$620K (\$45k increase from Restated Estimates 2020/21 of \$575k)
 - \$45K increase to support Minister's Office resources
- Corporate Services
\$6.983M (\$1.083M decrease from Restated Estimates 2020/21 of \$8.066M)
 - \$1.2M decrease due to winding down of the Office of the Auditor General for Local Government

- \$0.117M increase for the Sustainable Services Negotiating Mandate

Special Accounts \$10.668M

- University Endowment Lands Administration Account
\$10.668M (\$75K increase from Restated Estimates 2020/21 of \$10.593M)
 - \$75K increase to the University Endowment Special Account for amortization expenses on capital improvement projects

Ministry Capital Budget

- \$2.601M (\$1.660M decrease from Restated Estimates 2020/21 of \$4.261M)
 - \$1.615M decrease for the Wesbrook mall capital improvement project
 - \$45K decrease for the Local Government Information System

Ministry Operations
Three Year Budget Targets FY22
(including Special Accounts)
(in \$millions)

Year over Year Service Plan Changes	Restated Estimates 2020/21	Estimates 2021/22	Target 2022/23	Target 2023/24
Service Plan 2020/21	148.578	274.461	213.504	244.418
Budget 2021 changes:				
Housing re-org Corporate Services FTEs to AG		(0.677)	(0.677)	
TransLink re-org Community, Policy and Legislation FTEs to TRAN		(0.454)	(0.454)	
Library Service Transfers adjustment		17.478	17.478	
Immigration Programs re-org from JERI		14.510	14.510	
AGLG Transfer		0.602		
Minister Office budget adjustment		0.045	0.054	0.063
Sustainable Services Negotiating Mandate adjustment		0.524	0.524	0.467
Community Social Services Recruitment and Retention		1.731	1.731	1.731
UEL reduction for the Wesbrook mall project and Acadia Sewer project		(0.022)	(0.005)	(0.005)
Service Plan 2021/22	148.578	308.198	246.665	246.674

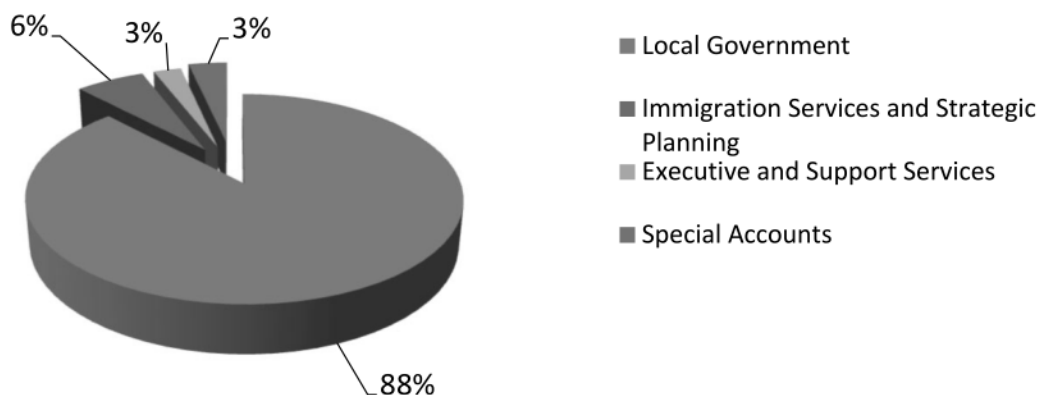
Budget 2021 allocations by Core Business (Net of external recoveries)	Restated Estimates 2020/21	Estimates 2021/22	Target 2022/23	Target 2023/24
Ministry Operations				
Local Government	112.741	270.950	209.990	209.990
Immigration Services and Strategic Planning	16.603	18.977	18.977	18.977
Executive and Support Services	8.641	7.603	7.010	7.019
Special Accounts				
University Endowment Lands Administration Account	10.593	10.668	10.688	10.688
Municipal Affairs	148.578	308.198	246.665	246.674

Estimates - year over year change	Restated Estimates 2020/21	FY22 Estimates	Variance
Local Government	112.741	270.950	158.209
Immigration Services and Strategic Planning	16.603	18.977	2.374
Executive and Support Services	8.641	7.603	(1.038)
University Endowment Lands Administration Account	10.593	10.668	0.075
	148.578	308.198	159.620

Ministry Operations
2021/22 Operating Budget by Core Business

Vote, Core Business	2020/21 Restated (\$000s)	2021/22 Estimates (\$000s)	Year-Over-Year Increase/(Decrease)	
			(\$000s)	% Change
Ministry Operations Vote				
Local Government				
Local Government Services and Transfers	107,144	265,353	158,209	147.7%
University Endowment Lands	5,597	5,597	-	0.0%
Immigration Services and Strategic Planning				
Immigration Services and Strategic Planning	517	530	13	2.5%
Community Gaming Grants	1,657	1,682	25	1.5%
Workforce and Immigration	14,429	16,765	2,336	16.2%
Executive and Support Services				
Minister's Office	575	620	45	7.8%
Corporate Services	8,066	6,983	(1,083)	(13.4%)
Special Accounts				
University Endowment Lands Administration	10,593	10,668	75	0.7%
Total Ministry Operations Vote	148,578	308,198	159,620	107.4%
Total	148,578	308,198	159,620	107.4%

Ministry Operations
2021/22 Operating Budget by Core Business



Ministry Operations
2021/22 Operating Budget by Core Business
(in \$000s)

Core Business	LG Government Transfers	Library Service Transfers adjustment	Immigration Programs - One-time Reorganization Adjustment	Sustainable Services Negotiating Mandate	Community Social Services Recruitment and Retention	Completion of Housing Needs Report	AGLG Fiscal Adjustment	Minister's Office Resources	UEL Special Account	Total Variance
Local Government	144,570	15,000		139		(1,500)				158,209
Immigration Services and Strategic Planning			(102)	745	1,731					2,374
Executive and Support Services				117			(1,200)	45		(1,038)
Special Accounts									75	75
	144,570	15,000	(102)	1,001	1,731	(1,500)	(1,200)	45	75	159,620

Local Government Division

LGD Government Transfers: \$144.570M Increase due to:

\$62M for the Capital Regional District Wastewater Treatment Project payment
\$52.020M for the Peace River Agreement payment
\$40.550M for the Traffic Fine Revenue Sharing agreement
\$10M decrease for fiscal adjustment per Budget 2020 decision

Libraries service transfer: \$15M Increase - Due to the timing of the Library Government Transfers payment made in 2019/20

University Endowment Lands (UEL) Special Account: \$0.075M Increase - for amortization expenses on capital improvement projects

Immigration Services and Strategic Planning

Immigration Programs \$0.102M Decrease - due to a One-time Reorganization adjustment

Sustainable Services Negotiating Mandate \$1.001M Increase - to fund negotiated wage increases for BCGEU staff

Executive and Support Services

AGLG Fiscal Adjustment \$1.2M Decrease - Winding down of AGLG program. Budget transferred under ESS

Ministry Operations
2021/22 Estimates by Expenditure Type
(in \$000s)

Core Business	LG Government Transfers	Provincial Nominee Program Gross-up	Infrastructure Programs Federal Gross-up	Library Service Transfers adjustment	Immigration Programs - One-time Reorganization Adjustment	Sustainable Services Negotiating Mandate	Community Social Services Recruitment and Retention	Completion of the Housing Needs Report	AGLG Fiscal Adjustment	Minister's Office Resources	UEL Special Account	Total Variance
Salaries and Benefits		3,864	8			365			(750)	35		3,522
Operating Costs		818	(70)	12	(102)				(450)	10	75	293
Government Transfers	144,570		31,450	14,988		636	1,731	(1,500)				191,875
Other Expenditures		200									75	275
Recoveries		(4,882)	(31,388)								(75)	(36,345)
	144,570	-	-	15,000	(102)	1,001	1,731	(1,500)	(1,200)	45	75	159,620

Local Government Division

LG Government Transfers: \$144.57M increase is due to

\$62M for the Capital Regional District Wastewater Treatment Project payment

\$52.020M for the Peace River Agreement payment

\$40.550M for the Traffic Fine Revenue Sharing agreement

\$10M decrease for fiscal adjustment per Budget 2020 decision

Infrastructure Programs Federal Gross-up

Adjustment to Federal recoveries: increase in salaries and benefits and government transfers offset by a increase in recoveries. No overall net impact.

Libraries service transfer: \$15M Increase - Due to the timing of the Library Government Transfers payment made in 2019/20

University Endowment Lands (UEL) Special Account: \$0.075M Increase - for amortization expenses on capital improvement projects

Immigration Services and Strategic Planning

Immigration Programs \$0.102M Decrease - Due to a one-time reorganization adjustment

Sustainable Services Negotiating Mandate \$1.001M Increase - to fund negotiated wage increases for BCGEU staff

Provincial Nominee Program Gross-up

Gross - up to STOB's to reflect the actual budget for expenditures and offsetting recoveries for the Provincial Nominee Program

Executive and Support Services

AGLG Fiscal Adjustment \$1.2M Decrease - Winding down of AGLG program. Budget transferred under ESS



Local Government - Core Business 2021/22 Estimates by Sub Sub Vote

Sub Sub Vote	2020/21 Restated (\$000s)	2021/22 Estimates (\$000s)	Year-Over-Year Increase/(Decrease)	
			(\$000s)	% Change
Local Government Services and Transfers	107,144	265,353	158,209	148%
University Endowment Lands	5,597	5,597	-	-
Total	112,741	270,950	158,209	140%

Local Government Services and Transfers (\$000s)

Changes related to Government Transfers:

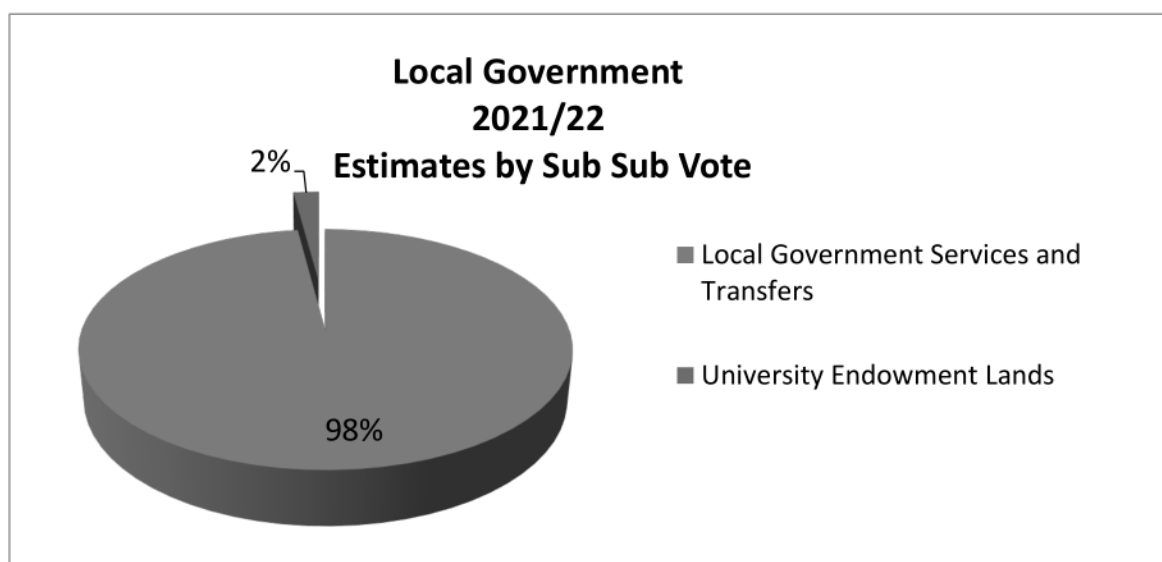
Peace River Agreement	52,020
Capital Regional District Wastewater Treatment Project	62,000
Traffic Fine Revenue Sharing	40,550
Library Service Government Transfers	14,988
<i>Budget 2020</i> fiscal adjustment decision	(10,000)
Completion of the Housing Needs Report	(1,500)
	<u>158,058</u>

Other budget changes:

Operational increase for Libraries branch	12
Sustainable Services Negotiating Mandate - to fund negotiated wage increases for BCGEU staff	139
	<u>151</u>

Local Government Services and Transfers total changes

158,209



Immigration Services and Strategic Planning - Core Business
2021/22 Estimates by Sub Sub Vote

Sub Sub Vote	2020/21 Restated (\$000s)	2021/22 Estimates (\$000s)	Year-Over-Year Increase/(Decrease)	
			(\$000s)	% Change
Strategic Planning	517	530	13	3%
Community Gaming Grants	1,657	1,682	25	2%
Workforce and Immigration	14,429	16,765	2,336	16%
Total	16,603	18,977	2,374	14%

Strategic Planning - \$0.013M Increase

\$13K increase to salaries and benefits due to negotiated wage increase for BCGEU staff.

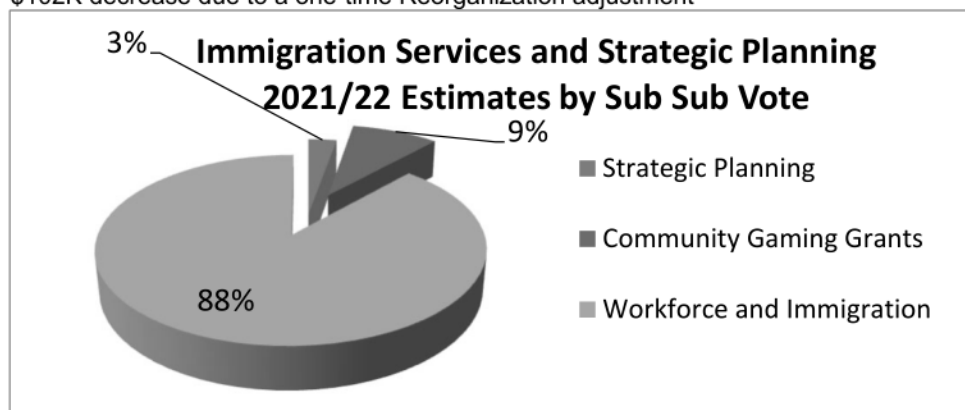
Community Gaming Grants (CGG) - \$0.025M Increase

\$25K increase to salaries and benefits due to negotiated wage increase for BCGEU staff.

Workforce and Immigration - \$2.336M Increase

\$707K increase to salaries and benefits due to negotiated wage increase and \$1.731M increase due to Community Social Services Recruitment and Retention funding.

\$102K decrease due to a one-time Reorganization adjustment



Executive and Support Services - Core Business
2021/22 Estimates by Sub Sub Vote

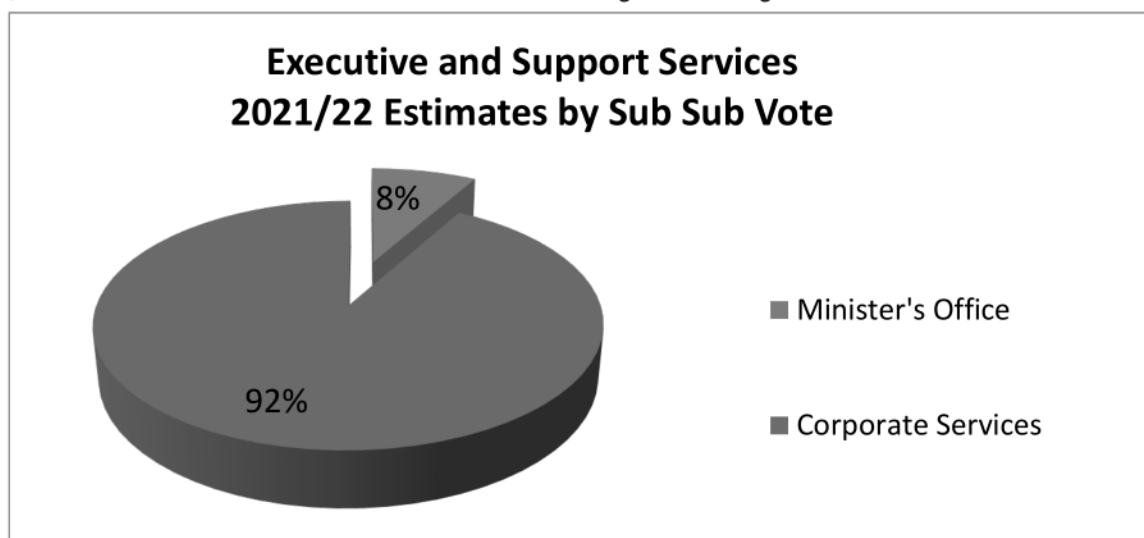
Sub Sub Vote	2020/21 Restated (\$000s)	2021/22 Estimates (\$000s)	Year-Over-Year Increase/(Decrease)	
			(\$000s)	% Change
Minister's Office	575	620	45	8%
Corporate Services	8,066	6,983	(1,083)	(13%)
Total	8,641	7,603	(1,038)	(12%)

Minister's Office - \$0.045M Increase

\$45K increase to support Minister's Office resources.

Corporate Services - \$1.038M Decrease

\$1.2M decrease due to winding down of AGLG. Final fiscal budget has been transferred under ESS.
 \$117K increase to Salaries and Benefits due to negotiated wage increases for BCGEU staff.



University Endowment Lands Administration - Special Account 2021/22 Estimates by Expenditure Type

Expenditure Type	2020/21 Restated (\$000s)	2021/22 Estimates (\$000s)	Year-Over-Year Increase/(Decrease)	
			(\$000s)	% Change
Salaries and Benefits	-	-	-	-
Operating Costs	-	-	-	-
Government Transfers	-	-	-	-
Other Expenditures	10,593	10,668	75	1%
Total Gross	10,593	10,668	75	1%
Internal Recoveries	-	-	-	-
External Recoveries	-	-	-	-
Total Net	10,593	10,668	75	1%

\$75K increase for amortization expenses on capital improvement projects.

The Budget for these expenditures are fully matched against revenues raised within the UEL Special Account.

The University Endowment Lands Administration Special Account provides for services to residents of the University Endowment Lands (UEL).

Revenue is derived from University Endowment Lands resident ratepayer contributions including water usage fees, building permits, property taxes and other public works user fees. Other revenue sources include land sales, rent from land tenures, and the recovery of costs associated with a redevelopment/rezoning process. Expenditures are incurred for the provision of municipal-like services to the local residents.

3 Year Capital Budget by Core Business (\$000s)

Program	2020/21 Restated (\$000s)	2021/22 Estimates (\$000s)	2022/23 Estimates (\$000s)	2023/24 Estimates (\$000s)
Executive and Support Services	361	316	2	2
University Endowment Lands Administration Account	3,900	2,285	-	-
Total	4,261	2,601	2	2

The capital budget consists of a \$2K placeholder for Office Equipment and a capital budget for the Local Government Information System (LGIS). The University Endowment Lands capital budget comes from the UEL Special Account.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT DIVISION: LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS

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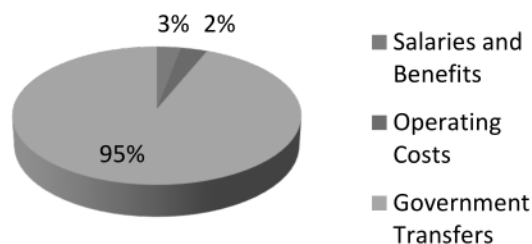
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2021/22 BUDGET BY EXPENDITURE TYPE

Local Government Division (LGD)

Description:

LGD supports local governments to improve the quality of life for all communities by encouraging sustainable, livable and well governed communities that are healthy and safe, economically resilient and socially and environmentally responsible for British Columbians. Services for local governments and others include: maintaining and applying the policy and legislative framework; administering grant programs; and providing advisory services and problem-solving support. LGD is also responsible for municipal-like services in the University Endowment Lands (UEL)



Operating Budget (\$000s)	2020/21 Budget Restated	2021/22 Estimates	Increase/ (Decrease)
Salaries and Benefits	11,326	11,473	147
Operating Costs	10,785	10,802	17
Government Transfers	261,772	451,280	189,508
Other Expenditures	13	13	0
Total before Recoveries	283,896	473,568	189,672
Internal Recoveries	(10,594)	(10,669)	(75)
External Recoveries	(160,561)	(191,949)	(31,388)
Total	112,741	270,950	158,209

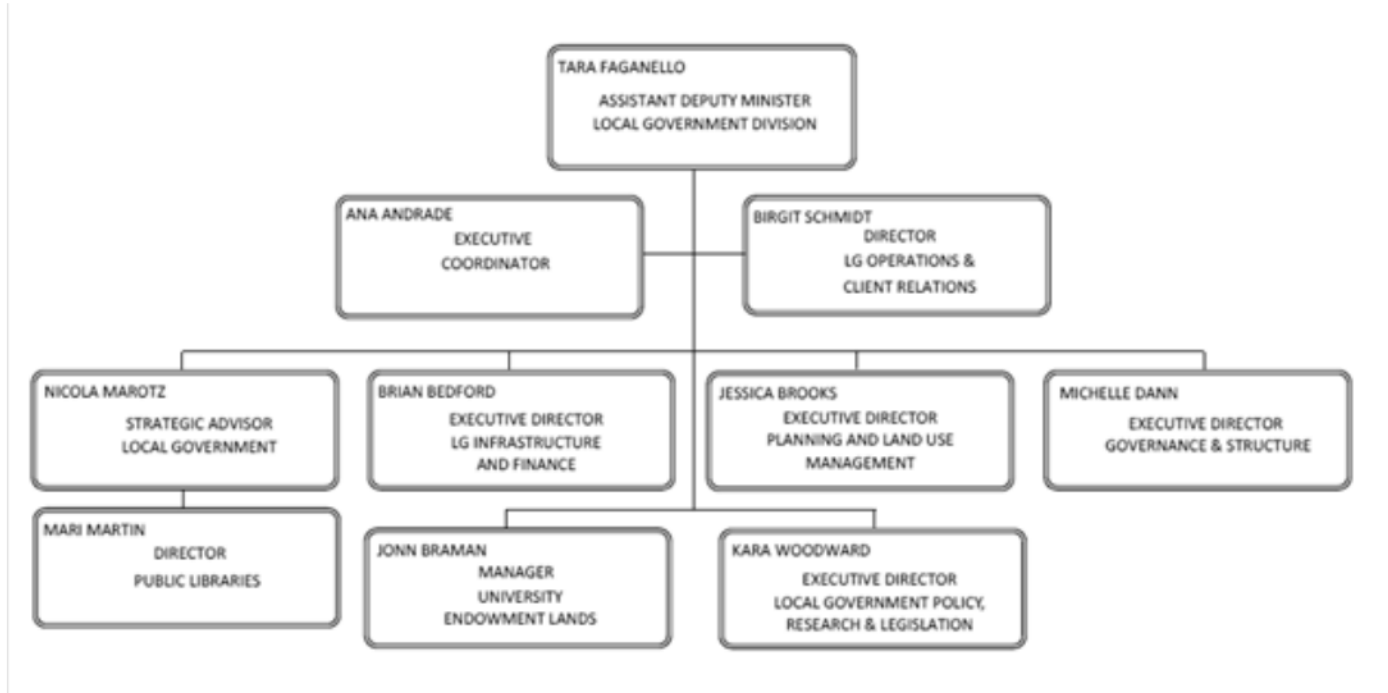
Local Government Division: 129 full time equivalents (at March 31, 2021)

Includes: Local Government, Public Libraries Branch and University Endowment Lands (UEL) Administration and Public Works.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT DIVISION OVERVIEW

Organization Chart:

Ministry of Municipal Affairs Local Government Division



Branch	Description
ADM Office	<p>Oversees the delivery of a full range of programs to serve local governments and their communities. Supports internally for the division the management of financial and human resources; creating and maintaining strong partnership relations with other provincial ministries, the federal government, local governments, and other internal and external clients, in particular with the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) and local government professional organizations including through formal bodies such as supporting Board of Examiners; overseeing major project initiatives such as multi-dimensional policy and program projects; and facilitates partnerships with internal and external clients regarding the provincial planning and participation at the annual UBCM Convention, involving all ministries in government, including some Crown corporations and other agencies, 1,900+ delegates including 189 local governments, Cabinet Ministers, MLAs, elected and non-elected local government officials, and UBCM First Nation members that attend each year.</p> <p>Also maintains the functional connection between the ministry and the UEL administration (a unique body responsible for providing direct municipal-like services to an unincorporated area on the Point Grey Peninsula). On behalf of the ministry, leads the quasi-judicial process for hearing statutory appeals under the University Endowment Land (UEL) Act in the UEL. Also provides Executive leadership to the Public Libraries Branch.</p>
Planning and Land Use Management Branch	<p>Supports effective implementation and enhancement of the local government planning and land use framework by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • working with local governments to develop and implement related provincial policies and regulations. • working with provincial agencies to align the local government planning framework and provincial policies, programs, and legislation. <p>Develops and implements policies, programs and legislation and supports cross-ministry, local and federal collaboration on issues of high provincial interest that intersect with the land-use planning framework, e.g., affordable housing, climate action, integrated transportation and development, regional growth management.</p> <p>Facilitates resolution of inter-jurisdictional issues/disputes. Liaises with other orders of government to negotiate agreements and support commitments.</p> <p>Supports work to ensure that communities are prepared for impacts of major industrial growth (e.g. Liquefied Natural Gas in Northwest). Leads coordination of the LGD's support of emergency response and recovery.</p>

Branch	Description
Local Government Infrastructure and Finance Branch	<p>Provides infrastructure and operating support to local governments and improvement districts; provides local finance advisory services and monitors annual Local Government Data Entry submissions; coordinates approvals for the Deputy Inspectors and Inspector of Municipalities.</p> <p>Works to maintain and enhance the local government finance system. Develops and administers multiple local government funding assistance programs.</p> <p>Partners with the federal government, UBCM and other provincial ministries on a variety of significant, simultaneous infrastructure funding programs.</p>
Governance and Structure Branch	<p>Supports the work of local governments in three main areas: advising, problem solving and educating on complex local and regional governance issues, including provincial oversight of certain bylaws and other actions; overseeing the restructure of local governments, including municipal incorporations and boundary extensions; and supporting the building of productive relationships between local governments and First Nations.</p>
Local Government Policy, Research and Legislation	<p>Leads and undertakes forward-looking policy and legislative development on virtually any aspect of the local government system; is responsible for local government framework legislation and local government campaign financing legislation. The Branch is also responsible for knowledge gathering/sharing about that system, cross-government UBCM Resolutions Response process, and support for BC's participation on the Provincial Territorial Officials Committee.</p>
University Endowment Lands (UEL) Fire Contract	<p>Provides fire protection services to the University of British Columbia, Pacific Spirit Regional Park and the UEL, through a contract with the City of Vancouver.</p>
University Endowment Lands Administration – Statutory Appropriation	<p>Provides local government-like services including: planning; land use regulation; building regulation and inspection; local roads; water; sewerage; drainage; community parks; and bylaw enforcement. The cost of these services is recovered from local taxes through the UEL Special Account.</p>

QUICK FACTS ABOUT B.C. LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local and Regional Government in B.C.

- Local governments in British Columbia (B.C.) consist of incorporated municipalities and regional districts.
- 162 municipalities (cities, districts, towns, villages, resort municipalities and regional municipalities) and 27 regional districts as well as the Islands Trust. The key legislative framework for all local governments, except for the City of Vancouver which has the Vancouver Charter, is based on the *Community Charter* and the *Local Government Act*.

Population Distribution

- In 2020, B.C. had a population of over 5.1 million.* Eighty-nine per cent of B.C.'s population lived in an incorporated area (municipality), while 10.5 per cent of the population lived in non-municipal territory.
 - Incorporated municipalities – approx. 4.6 million
 - Electoral (unincorporated) areas – approx. 0.5 million
- Municipal population ranged from under 118 (Zeballos) to over 697,000 (City of Vancouver).
- The average municipal population size was 28,440; however, the median population size was 4,741. 63 per cent of municipalities had a population of less than 10,000.
- Most of BC's urban population lives in Metro Vancouver Regional District (Metro Vancouver), Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD), and Capital Regional District (CRD), which account for only 1.97 per cent of the province's entire area.
- 53 per cent of B.C.'s population lives in Metro Vancouver, which only accounts for 0.30 per cent of the province's territory.

Regional Growth and Planning

- B.C.'s metropolitan regions are experiencing high growth. An additional 1.4 million people are expected to live in B.C. by 2041.**
- Over 90 per cent of the population increase is expected to be in the urban areas of B.C.'s high growth regions (Lower Mainland, Southeast Coast of Vancouver Island and the Okanagan Valley).**
- Ten regional districts in B.C.'s high growth areas have established regional growth strategies to guide growth and development to support a high quality of life for communities and regions.
- The Capital, Central Okanagan, Comox Valley, Fraser Valley, Metro Vancouver, Nanaimo, North Okanagan, Okanagan-Similkameen, Squamish-Lillooet, and Thompson-Nicola regional districts have adopted regional growth strategies and are undertaking implementation efforts with over 75 member municipalities and one Treaty First Nation.
- Metro Vancouver is currently undertaking an update of its regional growth strategy in alignment with updates to TransLink's Regional Transportation Strategy. The province is participating directly in both processes to support robust integration of transportation and development priorities within the region.

* These numbers are based on the 2020 Population Estimates from BC Stats.

** Comparison using 2020 Population Estimates from BC Stats

QUICK FACTS ABOUT LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE

Local Government Expenditures*

- In 2019, local government spending accounted for approximately 4.3 per cent of B.C.'s Gross Domestic Product at approximately \$10.8 billion.
- Municipal vs. regional district spending:
 - Municipal \$9.1 billion (84 per cent of local total)
 - Regional \$1.7 billion (16 per cent of local total)

Local Government Revenue Sources*

- In 2019, local government revenue was approximately \$14 billion. Local government revenue sources have remained stable for the last seven years.
- Local government revenue is composed of property taxes; user fees; transfers from other levels of government; and other sources such as construction permits and business licenses.

Local Government Labour Force

- Approximately 43,300 people make up the local government public sector labour force in BC.
- Between 2010 and 2020, the number of people working in local government in BC increased by 21 per cent. During that same time period, the employment rate in the Federal Government in BC decreased by eight per cent and increased in the provincial government by 36 per cent (BC Stats).

*Excludes data from the Town of Pouce Coupe, Village of Sayward and Village of Warfield. These three municipalities have not submitted their 2019 data to the Ministry.

SMALL COMMUNITY GRANTS (SCG) AND REGIONAL DISTRICT GRANTS PROGRAM PROFILE

Program Objectives:

Annual

- Ensure that small municipalities and regional districts have the fiscal capacity to provide services and support their governance structure.

Program Description:

- Small Community Grants are based on a formula involving basic funding, population-based funding and assessment-based funding.

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- Regional District Grants are provided to regional districts based on population and the number of local community commissions that serve unincorporated areas; an equivalent transfer is also provided to the Islands Trust in support of local governance.

Grant Formula:

- Small Community Grants are allocated based on the formula set out in the Local Government Grants Regulations. A grant is paid when the sum of the following components is \$100,000 or more. The allocation begins with a base funding amount of \$200,000 plus:
 - A population funding amount of \$50 per resident up to 5,000, less \$25 per resident after that; and
 - An assessment equalization funding amount based on the relative size of the local tax base.
- Regional District Grants are similarly allocated based on a formula set out in the Local Government Grants Regulations. The grant consists of three components:
 - Up to \$120,000 based on total regional population;
 - Up to \$80,000 based on total combined electoral area population; and
 - \$5,000 for each Local Community Commission in the regional district.
- The Islands Trust receives a grant in support of local governance that is equivalent to what would be provided under the Regional District Grants formula.

Client Profile:

- Most of BC's 162 municipalities
- All 27 regional districts
- Islands Trust

Program Budget	Budget \$000's	
	2020/21 Budget	2021/22 Budget
Small Community Grants	55,100	55,100

Note: These figures include grants to Regional Districts and Islands Trust.

Program Outcomes/Service Statistics:

- The Province remains committed to ensuring that small municipalities have access to the financial resources they need in order to deliver quality services in their communities.

Please see: Appendix A – Small Communities Grants

Appendix B - Regional District Grants

Contact:

Brian Bedford, Executive Director
Infrastructure and Finance Branch

Last update: April 2021

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RESTART FUNDING GRANTS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS PROGRAM PROFILE

Program Objectives:

One-Time

- The objective of this program is to inject needed liquidity into the local government system to help local governments address certain cost pressures caused by COVID-19, including:
 - facility reopening and operating costs;
 - emergency planning and response costs;
 - bylaw enforcement costs;
 - costs of policing, fire protection and other protective services;
 - costs of programs and services for persons living with disabilities, mental illness or addictions, or persons experiencing homelessness or other vulnerable persons;
 - computer and other electronic technology costs;
 - budgeted revenues that have not been collected.

Program Description:

- In fiscal 2020/21, the Ministry provided \$540 million in Federal-Provincial COVID-19 Restart Funding to local governments around the province. This money was divided into three funding streams (see specific program outlines in this document for details on the application-based programs):
 - \$425M under the “COVID-19 Safe Restart Grant for Local Governments” – these are direct grants to local governments to address the fiscal impacts caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic.
 - \$100 million for “Strengthening Communities” – these are application-based grants (operated in cooperation with the Union of BC Municipalities) to help local governments and Treaty First Nations support unsheltered homeless populations and address community-related impacts.
 - \$15 million for “Local Government Development Approvals” - these are application-based grants (operated in cooperation with the Union of BC Municipalities) for programs improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the development approvals process to help accelerate the home construction communities need, an increasingly critical issue due to COVID-19.

Grant Formula:

- For the \$425 million in direct grants, the apportionment for municipalities (\$394M) was calculated on a base amount plus an adjusted population which provides more money to larger communities but a higher per capita level of funding to smaller and mid-sized communities that lack a diverse revenue base or economies-of-scale to easily restart their operations..
- The 27 regional districts received a smaller portion of the funding because their regional tax revenue was kept whole in 2020 (by the Province and municipalities, with regional district requisitions being required to be paid), whereas the Province could not make the same guarantee to the 161 municipalities

Please see: Appendix D – Restart Grant Funding for Local Governments

Contact:

Brian Bedford, Executive Director
Infrastructure and Finance Branch
778 698-3232

TRAFFIC FINE REVENUE SHARING (TFRS) PROGRAM PROFILE

Program Objectives:

Annual

- Share financial benefits with municipalities that contribute to traffic safety and enforcement.

Program Description:

- The Traffic Fine Revenue Program returns 100 per cent of net traffic fine revenue to municipalities whose population is greater than 5,000 and who are responsible for policing costs.
- Traffic Fine Revenue Sharing is distributed based on municipal policing costs and municipalities are required to use the funds towards community safety and policing initiatives.

Grant Formula:

- Consistent with the Local Government Grants Regulations, Traffic Fine Revenue Sharing Grants are distributed to municipalities in accordance with the ratio of an individual municipality's policing costs to the total municipal policing costs, two years previous.
- Municipalities are responsible for submitting details regarding police expenditures to the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General.
- Annual funding fluctuates based on the amount of traffic fines collected and municipal policing expenditures.

Client Profile:

- 77 of 162 municipalities.

Note: In 2019/20, the ministry accessed the Contingencies Vote to reprofile \$43.850M of the 2020/21 payment into 2019/20.

Program Budget	Budget \$000's	
	2020/21 Budget	2021/22 Budget
TFRS	20,550	61,100

Program Outcomes (Impacts)/Service Statistics:

Since the expansion of the program in 2004, municipalities have boosted their police forces by hiring additional police officers and establishing innovative programs in order to help make BC safer.

Please see Appendix C Traffic Fine Revenue Sharing Grants

Contact:

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778 698-3232

Last update: April 2021

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PEACE RIVER AGREEMENT PROGRAM PROFILE

Program Objectives:

Annual

- On May 29, 2015, the Peace River Agreement was signed by the Province and the eight local governments in the Peace River region.
- Funding under this agreement provides a stable source of revenue to local governments in the province's major oil and gas producing region where most of the industry assets are not subject to local taxation. The current agreement will go through to fiscal year 2034/35.

Program Description:

- The Peace River Agreement is a 20-year agreement signed in 2015 that provides provincial funding of \$50.0 million annually to the Peace River Regional District (PRRD) and to the seven municipalities located within the regional district. Beginning in fiscal year 2020/21, provincial funding will also include a two per cent compounding inflation escalator.

Client Profile:

- One regional district
- Seven municipalities

Note: In 2020/21, the ministry had an appropriation of \$0 for this program. In 2019/20, the ministry had an appropriation of \$101 million for this program to fund the 2019/20 annual payment of \$50 million in April 2019 and to reprofile the 2020/21 payment of \$51 million to March 2020.

Advice/Recommendations

Advice/Recommendations

MUNI reprofiled the timing of this payment to enable Peace River local governments access to the 2020/21 allocation in 2019/20.

Program Budget	Budget \$000's	
	2020/21 Budget	2021/22 Budget
Peace River Agreement	0	52,020

Service Provider:

- The Province allocates annual funding under this agreement based on formulas and procedures set out in an appendix to the agreement.
- The funding agreement establishes eligibility criteria and reporting requirements for the PRRD and its seven member municipalities including submission of:
 - Long-term Development Plan (LTDP)
 - Annual Development Plan (ADP)
 - Annual Progress Report (APR)

This agreement is an extension of a previous agreement (called the Peace River Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)). Between 2005 and 2020, total funding under the MOU was approximately \$688.0 million, bringing significant benefits to the region.

Program Outcomes (Impacts)/Service Statistics:

- Funds are primarily directed to Fort St. John and Dawson Creek, the region's two major service centres, but all signatories receive some funding each year.

Priorities/Key Initiatives:

- The agreement allows northeast communities to access new resources to improve the infrastructure that is crucial to a healthy community and an active business sector. The amount attributable to 2021/22 will be \$52.02 million. An annual payment of \$52.02 million was issued on **April 22, 2021**.

Contact:

Brian Bedford, Executive Director
Infrastructure and Finance Branch
778 698-32320

NORTHERN ROCKIES INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENT PROGRAM PROFILE

Program Objectives:

Annual

- Funding under the Infrastructure Development Contribution Agreement provides a stable source of capital funding to the Northern Rockies Regional Municipality (NRRM) to facilitate and accommodate the growth of the NRRM as a regional service centre for the natural gas industry.

Program Description:

- Growth in the natural gas industry will place significant demands on the NRRM for housing, infrastructure, and community services.

In April 2013, the Province and NRRM signed a 20-year agreement, whereby the Province may provide NRRM with up to \$10.0 million annually (beginning in fiscal 2015/16), to facilitate and accommodate the growth of the NRRM as a regional service centre for the natural gas industry.

- From 2015-2019, the Province provided the NRRM with an annual contribution of \$10.0 million for community infrastructure.
- For the 2020-2024 cycle, the annual payment was determined by the annual growth in the previous five-year cycle (2015-2019). This annual payment is comprised equally between a fixed (\$5 million) and variable (\$5 million) component. The variable component is based on whether the NRRM achieves an annual growth target (averaging 2% per year) over the previous five-year cycle (2015-19) for each of three indicators (transient and permanent population and regional gas production).
- Based on the indicator data available for 2015-2019, the annual funding level for 2020 to 2024 will be \$5 million.

Client Profile:

- 1 regional municipality

Note: In 2019/20, the Ministry funded the \$10.0 million payment through the Contingency Vote. In 2020/21, the Ministry has budget appropriation of \$5.0 million.

Program Budget	Budget \$000's	
	2020/21 Budget	2021/22 Budget
Northern Rockies	5,000	5,000

Service Provider:

- This program will provide the NRRM with up to \$10.0 million per year to fund infrastructure works established in an approved capital plan.

Program Outcomes (Impacts)/Service Statistics:

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- The long-term outcome of this funding agreement is to develop the NRRM as a regional service centre for natural gas development.

Priorities/Key Initiatives:

- The 20-year agreement provides up to \$10.0 million per year, allowing the NRRM to access new resources for infrastructure crucial to a healthy community and an active business sector.
- The ministry, Treasury Board Staff, Management Committee, and staff from the NRRM established three economic and demographic indicators (for permanent population, transient population, and natural gas production), which are used to determine future annual funding under the agreement.
- Continue to support and monitor the agreement

Contact:

Brian Bedford, Executive Director
Infrastructure and Finance Branch
778 698-3232

TRANSFER PROGRAMS – OTHER PROGRAM PROFILE

Program Description:

Annual

Other Transfer Programs includes a variety of unique programs, outlined as follows:

Local Services Grants specifically relates to the Province's 15-year commitment from 2009 to 2023 to provide an annual grant of approximately \$1.6 million in lieu of taxes to the Regional Districts of Bulkley-Nechako and Kitimat-Stikine for the Kemano hydroelectric facility. A 1950 agreement between the Province and Alcan exempted Kemano from property taxation; this grant compensates the two regional districts and allows them to provide and support infrastructure in their regions. The amount is calculated and divided between the two regional districts according to the same formula used for payments in lieu of taxes made by BC Hydro for their generating facilities.

- Climate Action Programs provide additional support to local governments taking action on climate change. Local government signatories to the BC Climate Action Charter who report annually on actions taken to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions have been eligible for a Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program (CARIP) grant equal to 100 per cent of the carbon taxes paid directly to provide services.

Program Budget	Budget \$000's	
	2020/21 Budget	2021/22 Budget
Local Service Grants	1,000	1,000
Climate Action Programs	8,744	0 ¹
Total	9,744	1,000

Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommendations
for this program

This will be the final year of funding

Program Outcomes (Impacts)/Service Statistics:

- Assist local governments to become carbon neutral in internal operations and to take other actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions within their communities.
- Annual CARIP reporting requirements enable monitoring of local government climate action progress year over year, assist in measurement of intended program outcomes and support public transparency and accountability.
- Advice/Recommendations

Contact:

Brian Bedford, Executive Director
Infrastructure and Finance Branch
778 698-3232

Last update: April 2021

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE GRANTS PROGRAM PROFILE

Program Objectives:

Annual

- To assist communities in choosing local government structures that meet local and provincial needs and objectives, including long-term cost savings and service integration.

Program Description:

- The program oversees the restructure of local governments in the province. Restructure can include incorporating new municipalities; amalgamating existing municipalities, significantly or modestly extending municipal boundaries; restructuring of regional districts, and restructuring of services or functions, including conversion of improvement districts to municipal or regional district services.
- The program supports locally initiated restructure processes by providing advice and guidance and financial incentives under the *Local Government Grants Act* and Regulation:
 - Restructure Planning Grants assist communities in studying the services, issues and governance structures in a community and implications of restructure.
 - Restructure Assistance Grants provide an incentive for communities to restructure and support newly incorporated or restructured municipalities with transitional assistance.
 - Restructure Implementation Grants support the implementation of approved restructures by providing for interim administration and the transfer of improvement districts to local government.
- The program also works with other ministries, particularly Transportation and Infrastructure, Public Safety and Solicitor General, Finance, and Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation.

Client Profile:

- Unincorporated communities interested in restructure and existing municipalities, regional districts and improvement districts seeking to address governance and service challenges.

Program Budget	Budget \$000's	
	2020/21 Budget	2021/22 Budget
Restructure grants	500	500

Service Provider:

- LGD staff, in cooperation with municipalities and regional districts.

Program Outcomes (Impacts)/Service Statistics:

- Local demand for boundary change and restructure support was dampened by COVID-19 constraints and priorities, while program staff were reassigned to COVID-19 response

activities and planning for new restructure proposals expected to emerge as local governments returned attention to pre-pandemic priorities.

- Concluded municipal boundary change to correct a boundary error (Fort St. John), amended regional district membership to implement treaty commitments (Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k'tles7et'h' First Nations joining Strathcona Regional District), reclassified and renamed a municipality to reflect its contemporary identity (City of Mission)..
- Transferred responsibility for improvement district services to local governments (Hagensborg Waterworks to Central Coast; Stardel, Silver Star, Highland Park, Landsdowne and Larkin to Spallumcheen; and Union Bay to Comox Valley).

Priorities/Key Initiatives:

- Support incorporation study process for Sorrento/Blind Bay in the Columbia-Shuswap Regional District, including presentation of restructure assistance offer, consultation with First Nations and preparation for possible vote in Fall 2021.
- Support emerging municipal restructure initiatives, such as Okanagan Falls exploration of interest in incorporation (Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen), and anticipated proposal for a Citizens' Assembly on municipal amalgamation for the District of Saanich and City of Victoria in the Capital Regional District.
- Manage governance review plan for University Endowment Lands (currently directly administered by the Province), completing the UEL Services, Structure and Governance Study to provide a foundation for future government consideration of options for change.

Advice/Recommendations

- Monitor emerging restructure requests and support strategic decision-making on governance study requests. Evaluate and process further routine municipal boundary extensions and improvement district boundary amendments for decision.
- Plan for dissolution of the Jumbo Glacier Mountain Resort Municipality. Collaborate with partner ministries to clarify community service and governance structures in other regions (e.g. Big White).
- Continue to explore options and opportunities to convert legal municipal, regional district, and improvement district boundary descriptions from text (metes-and-bounds) to visual (map-based) format.
- Update program materials to more effectively assist communities seeking changes to achieve different governance and service delivery arrangements (e.g. articulate criteria for municipalization, rural governance enhancement, or service delivery enhancement initiatives; identify opportunities for locally led service and governance improvements).

Please see Appendix G Local Government Structure Grants

Contacts:

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Governance and Structure Branch
778 698-3227

TRANSITIONAL/SPECIAL ASSISTANCE TRANSFERS PROGRAM PROFILE

Program Objectives:

- Special purpose grants assist in the resolution of unique local problems and provide grants in lieu of taxes on provincially-owned property within a municipality.

Program Description:

- Special purpose grants provide for the resolution of unusual or unique situations including railway property tax reform mitigation and grants in lieu paid under the *Municipal Aid Act*. The latter are given to municipalities for buildings owned by the provincial government and not maintained by Shared Services BC.

Client Profile:

- Local governments including municipalities and regional districts.

Program Budget	Budget \$000's	
	2020/21 Budget	2021/22 Budget
Railway Tax Mitigation	658	658
First Nations Rail Tax Agreement	749	749
Grants in Lieu of Taxes	500	500
Total	1,907	1,907

Priorities/Key Initiatives:

- Continue to support specific agreements.

Contact:

Brian Bedford, A/Executive Director
Infrastructure and Finance Branch
778 698-3232

INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMS

NEW BUILDING CANADA – SMALL COMMUNITIES FUND (NBCF-SCF) PROGRAM PROFILE

Program Objectives:

2014 - Open

- To assist local governments with populations of less than 100,000 with up to 2/3 of total eligible costs of building local public infrastructure.
- The Province committed \$109.0 million to match federal funding contributions.
- Through this program over \$327.0 million will be invested in BC communities.

Program Description:

- The Federal New Building Canada Plan (NBCP) provides \$53 billion nationally over 10 years, from 2014/15 until 2023/24. The NBCP contains numerous programs, including the Gas Tax Fund and GST Rebate Program. From this, the NBCP results in approximately \$14 billion of new federal funding as the New Building Canada Fund (NBCF) with the following components:
 - \$4.0 billion National Infrastructure Component (NIC) to support projects of national significance;
 - \$10.0 billion Provincial-Territorial Infrastructure Component (PTIC) for projects of national, regional or local significance.
 - The PTIC allocation to BC is \$1.09 billion over the 10-year period. The Federal Government requires that a minimum of 10 per cent of each provincial allocation under PTIC is dedicated towards the Small Communities Fund (NBCF-SCF) and matched with a provincial contribution.
- Through the NBCF-SCF program, the provincial and federal governments will each allocate approximately \$109.0 million to support infrastructure projects in communities with a population of less than 100,000 people.
- NBCF-SCF funding provides communities with support in addressing their infrastructure needs and operates concurrently with Gas Tax Funding and Clean Water and Wastewater Fund.
- The NBCF-SCF funding formula is based on 1/3 of project funds contributed by each order of government: federal, provincial and local.
- Through two application intakes (2015 and 2016) 80 projects were approved for the combined federal and provincial funding contribution of \$218 million. The program is now fully allocated and the projects are underway and being monitored. Two additional projects were approved in 2019/20 to utilize residual program funding.
- Eligible project categories are:
 - Brownfield Redevelopment

- Connectivity and Broadband
- Disaster Mitigation
- Drinking Water
- Green Energy
- Highways and Major Roads
- Innovation
- Local and Regional Airports
- Public Transit
- Short Sea Shipping
- Shortline Railways
- Solid Waste Management
- Wastewater

Client Profile:

- Primarily local governments.

Note: In 2020/21, the Ministry will be accessing the Contingency Vote to fund provincial contributions. \$10.770 million is included in the Ministry budget in 2020/21 to reflect Federal contributions which are fully offset by Federal recoveries.

Program Budget	Budget \$000	
	2020/21 Budget	2021/22 Budget
	0	0
Total	0	0

Priorities/Key Initiatives:

- Monitoring approved projects through monthly budget forecast reports, quarterly progress reports, processing claims, site visits, and reporting out to the federal partners on progress.
- 72% of projects are complete; 21% of projects are in progress; and 7% of projects are in design phase (as of March 31, 2021).

Contact:

Brian Bedford, Executive Director
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778 698-3232

CLEAN WATER AND WASTEWATER FUND (CWWF) PROGRAM PROFILE

Program Objectives:

2016 - Open

- To support the rehabilitation of local government drinking water, wastewater and storm water infrastructure, and the planning and design of future facilities and upgrades to existing systems.

Program Description:

- Canada and British Columbia launched the Clean Water and Wastewater Fund (Fund) following the signing of the agreement between the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia on September 30, 2016.
- The Fund accelerates short-term local government investments, while supporting the rehabilitation of water, wastewater and storm water infrastructure, as well as the planning and design of future facilities and upgrades to existing systems. Eligible project categories include:
 - Asset management – Design and Planning
 - Drinking Water
 - Storm water
 - Wastewater
- Canada and British Columbia governments are investing up to \$373.6 million under the Fund. The Government of Canada will contribute \$225.1 million and the Province of British Columbia will contribute \$148.5 million to the total program funds. An initial list of 35 approved projects was announced under the Fund as part of the signing announcement, which represents \$60.0 million of the combined \$373.6 million available.
- The Fund offers funding up to a maximum of eighty-three per cent (83 per cent) of the total eligible project costs. Fifty per cent (50 per cent) is contributed by the Government of Canada and thirty-three per cent (33 per cent) by the Province of British Columbia.
- 180 projects were approved through the Fund; 35 at the initial signing of the agreement with 144 more announced in March 2017 and one additional project approved in June 2017. The program is fully allocated.
- More information and applications can be found at:
www.gov.bc.ca/cleanwaterwastewaterfund.

Client Profile:

- All local governments.

Note: In 2020/21, the Ministry will be accessing the Contingency Vote to fund provincial contributions. \$16.750 million is included in the Ministry budget in 2020/21 to reflect Federal contributions which are fully offset by Federal recoveries.

Program Budget	Budget \$000	
	2020/21 Budget	2021/22 Budget
	0	0
Total	0	0

Priorities/Key Initiatives:

- Monitoring approved projects through monthly budget forecast reports, quarterly progress reports, processing claims, site visits, and reporting out to the federal partners on progress.
- 90% of capital projects are complete; and 10% are in progress (as of March 31, 2021).
- 100% of asset management and design projects are complete (as of March 31, 2021).

Contact:

Brian Bedford, Executive Director
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778 698-3232

INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING GRANT PROGRAM (IPG) PROGRAM PROFILE

Program Objectives:

Annual Ongoing

- To assist local governments in developing long-term comprehensive infrastructure plans or studies used for a range of activities related to assessing the technical, environmental and/or economic feasibility of infrastructure projects.
- Eligible projects are those that will improve public health and safety, protect the natural environment and strengthen local and regional economies.
- The provision of a study grant demonstrates direct provincial support for local government efforts to plan for construction and replacement of infrastructure, focusing on planning, designing, constructing and managing sustainable community infrastructure.

Program Description:

- Each year, local governments apply for assistance of up to \$10,000 per application for infrastructure planning projects.
- Grants are based on a formula that provides 100 per cent of the first \$5,000 and 50 per cent of the next \$10,000. The Minister approves the final list of funded projects.
- The grants help local governments assess feasibility, costs, location, technology and other factors to improve or develop water, sewer, drainage and active transportation infrastructure, increase energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- 55 projects were approved through the program in fiscal 2019/20.
- .
- The 2020/21 Round 1 approvals in September 2020 resulted in \$255,577 awarded to 27 projects. Round 2 approvals in March 2021 resulted in \$233,245 awarded to 24 projects.

Client Profile:

- Primarily local governments.

Program Budget	Budget \$000's	
	2020/21 Budget	2021/22 Budget
Infrastructure Planning Grants	500	500

Priorities/Key Initiatives:

- The next round of grant approvals will be based on applications received by July 15, 2021.
- Continue to explore ways to encourage innovation, cost effectiveness, asset management, and climate risk and vulnerability analysis.

Contact:

Brian Bedford, Executive Director
Infrastructure and Finance Branch
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GAS TAX AGREEMENT (GTA) FUNDING PROGRAM PROFILE

Program Objectives:

Annual

- The BC Gas Tax Agreement (GTA) is a federal funding program that provides local governments with predictable, long-term funding for investments in sustainable infrastructure and capacity building.

Program Description:

- The GTA is a tri-partite agreement between the federal and provincial governments and the UBCM that delivers federal funding to BC local governments.
- The current Agreement covers a 10-year period to March 31, 2024. Between 2014 – 2019, over \$1.3 billion will be transferred to BC communities under the current GTA. Allocations for the subsequent five years will be updated based on 2016 census population data.
- On March 26, 2021, the Government of Canada tabled Bill C-25 with the intention of a one-time doubling of the Gas Tax payment in 2021. BC local governments would receive an additional \$280 million with the scheduled payment of \$293 million. Further the Bill will change the name of the program to the Canada Community Building Fund.
 - In 2019 a previous one time doubling of the Gas Tax occurred. BC local governments received an additional \$278.6 million.
 - In 2020, in response to the pandemic, Canada made the Gas Tax payment in one lump sum (June 2020) rather than the scheduled July and November timelines.
- In BC, funding is delivered through a combination of direct allocation to individual local governments, and pooled funding programs.
 - Strategic Priorities Fund – application based for local governments outside of Metro Vancouver
 - Community Works Fund – per capita allocation to all 189 local governments
 - Greater Vancouver Regional Fund – supports TransLink projects within Metro Vancouver
- The first intake for the SPF program occurred in 2015. Application reviews resulted in 66 projects approved for \$120.0 million in spring 2016.
- The second intake and reviews occurred in 2017. In January 2018 program Management Committee approved 112 projects, four of which are conditional, for \$192.2 million. Joint public announcement occurred on March 9, 2018.
- The four projects with conditional approvals had until by March 31, 2019 to meet the conditions. One project met the conditions and is now approved. One did not and the remaining two withdrew their applications.

Client Profile:

- Local governments.

Priorities/Key Initiatives:

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- Gas Tax funding is administered by UBCM in accordance with the GTA. The ministry has key support responsibilities including Strategic Priorities Fund (SPF) program applications and review stages that will occur throughout the implementation of the program.
- The Gas Tax Strategic Priorities Fund is an application-based pooled funding program that provides opportunities to local governments outside the GVRD for funding for eligible projects that are larger in scale, regional in impact, or innovative and meet national objectives of productivity and economic growth, a clean environment and strong cities and communities.

Contact:

Brian Bedford, A/Executive Director
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778 698-3232

CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT (CRD) WASTEWATER TREATMENT PROJECT PROFILE

Program Objectives:

2017 - 2023

- To cost-share the funding for the provision of wastewater treatment in the core area of the Capital Regional District (CRD).
- The provision of the grant demonstrates the Province's direct support for local governments' efforts to advance sustainable community infrastructure.

Program Description:

- Provide sewage treatment for the CRD core area that meets new federal and provincial regulatory requirements and incorporates resource recovery.
- The Province has committed to contributing 1/3 of eligible costs to a maximum contribution of \$248 million, dependent on the completion of all project components.
- On March 10th, 2017 the Province signed a shared costs agreement with the CRD.
- To ensure the project meets its goals and objectives, and to protect provincial interests, the provincial contribution will be made at substantial completion and after final commissioning of the entire wastewater system.
- The Province has reprofiled payments under the CRD agreement. In 2019/20, the Ministry made the first payment of \$62 million and accessed the Contingencies Vote to provide a second payment of \$124 million in 2019/20. The last payment of \$62 million will be made in 2021/22.
- The shared contribution agreement was amended in Fall 2019 and the first payment was transferred to CRD in December 2019.
- The CRD has demonstrated sound project management and implementation under the tight timelines and constraints on this project. The project is on track for completion and meeting key objectives.

Client Profile:

- Capital Regional District. The CRD core area includes the municipalities of Victoria, Oak Bay, Saanich, Esquimalt, View Royal, Colwood and Langford and communities of the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations.

Program Budget	Budget \$000	
	2020/21 Budget	2021/22 Budget
	\$0	\$62,000
Total	\$0	\$62,000

Priorities/Key Initiatives:

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- Monitoring project through quarterly progress reports, site visits, and ad hoc meetings.

Treatment of sewage began in December 2020 with major construction components complete. Remaining construction activities are expected to finish in spring 2021. The treatment plant was operational ahead of the federal regulatory deadline of December 31, 2020. The following project components are included in the project:

- McLoughlin Point WWTP: Construction is complete, and the plant is in full operation treating wastewater to a tertiary level to exceed provincial and federal regulatory requirements.
- Residuals Treatment Facility: Construction is complete and sewage sludge (residuals) is being treated and processed into Class A biosolids for beneficial use.
- Clover Point Pump Station: Most of the construction is complete and final completion of the public amenities is planned for early 2021. The public amenities include public washrooms, pedestrian and bicycle paths, bicycle facilities, a public plaza, street furniture and road intersection improvements.
- Clover Forcemain: Construction was completed in 2019. The sewer forcemain was installed along Dallas Road from Clover Point to Ogden Point. The Victoria Harbour Crossing was completed in 2018 and conveys sewage from Ogden Point to the McLoughlin treatment plant.
- Macauley Point Pump Station and Forcemain: Construction is complete with final landscaping work at the pump station underway.
- Trent Forcemain – Construction is nearing completion and work is underway to connect the forcemain to the conveyance system at the intersection of St. Charles Street and Chandler Avenue. Final restoration and commissioning work are planned for spring 2021.
- Residuals Solids Conveyance Line: Construction is complete with final landscaping expected in spring 2021.
- Arbutus Attenuation Tank – Construction continues on the underground storage tank located at Haro Woods in Saanich with completion expected in spring 2021, including woodland restoration.

Contact:

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INVESTING IN CANADA INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM (ICIP) PROGRAM PROFILE

Program Objectives:

2018 - Open

The Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) invests in infrastructure that will create economic growth, sustain well-paying jobs, build inclusive communities and support a low-carbon, green economy.

Program Description:

- The federal government announced their \$81.2 billion Investing in Canada Plan in February 2017. A core program of this is ICIP which is delivered through an Integrated Bilateral Agreement (IBA) between the federal and provincial government.
- The IBA for ICIP was signed on March 22, 2018, representing a \$3.917 billion federal investment in BC. On November 27, 2020 the IBA was amended to create the ICIP COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream (CVRIS).
- The new CVRIS stream is supported by reprofiling \$109 million in federal allocations from two existing ICIP streams (transfer \$45 million from Green Infrastructure – Adaptation, Disaster Mitigation and Resilience stream, and \$64 million from Rural and Northern Communities Infrastructure).
- ICIP is a 10 year program, running from 2018 to 2028. The commitment includes funding towards five streams:
 - Public Transit Infrastructure (\$2.7 billion);
 - Green Infrastructure (\$858 million);
 - Community, Culture and Recreation (CCR) (\$157 million);
 - Rural and Northern Communities (RNC) (\$102 million); and
 - CVRIS (\$109 million) .
- British Columbia has committed funding towards current program intakes for the following programs administered by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs:
 - Green Infrastructure – Environmental Quality Program: \$161.4 million (\$69.95 million provincial)
 - Green Infrastructure – CleanBC Communities Fund (CCF): \$47.39 million (\$21.54 million provincial)
 - CCR Program: \$100.6 million (\$43.63 million provincial)
 - RNC Program: \$58.69 million (\$24.83 million provincial)
 - CVRIS - \$80.29 million (\$16.06 million provincial).
- Additional federal funding is available and is identified to be used for future program intakes.
Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommendations
- More information and applications can be found at: www.gov.bc.ca/Investing-in-Canada-Infrastructure-Program.

Client Profile:

- All local governments, Indigenous recipients, not-for-profit, and for-profit.

Note: \$165.86 million is included in the Ministry budget in 2021/22 to reflect Federal contributions which are fully offset by Federal recoveries.

Program Budget	Budget \$000	
	2020/21 Budget	2021/22 Budget
	0	0
Total	0	0

Priorities/Key Initiatives:

- The Environmental Quality Program had an application intake from May 31, 2018 to August 29, 2018. There were 14 approved projects; 13 projects were announced in August 2019 and one project approved in Fall 2018., Projects are being monitored.
 - The second intake was announced September 25th, 2019 with \$150 million in federal-provincial funding. Intake closed on February 26th, 2020 with final decisions expected May 2021.
- The CCR Program's initial intake was concurrent with the RNC intake. It provides up to \$234 million towards projects that improve access to or quality of cultural, recreational, or community infrastructure.
 - There are 52 approved projects; August 2019, six projects approved and a further 46 projects approved in July 2020. Projects are being monitored.
 - Second intake launched June 25, 2020 and closed October 1, 2020. Advice/Recommendations; Advice/Recommendations;
- The RNC Program will provide up to \$153.7 million towards projects that support infrastructure priorities in rural communities with populations under 25,000.
 - There are 46 spring 2020 approved projects being monitored from the initial intake (September 12, 2018 to January 23, 2019);
 - Second intake launched on June 25, 2020 and closed October 22, 2020; Advice/Recommendations; Advice/Recommendations;
- The CCF, a component of ICIP – Green Infrastructure, had an initial intake December 18, 2018 to March 27, 2019. The first two intakes will provide up to \$110 million to community infrastructure projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions using clean or renewable energy or that improve energy efficiency.
 - The CCF is co-led with CAS, ENV and is aligned with the CleanBC plan.
 - 16 projects, approved in 2020 and early 2021, are being monitored.; second intake launched August 12, 2020, closed November 12, 2020; decisions expected in Fall 2021.

- The Electricity Program, a component of ICIP – Green Infrastructure, supports provincial priorities in greenhouse gas emission reductions with two approved BC Hydro Projects.
 - The CleanBC Facilities Electrification Fund is the final component of this program. It has a federal allocation of \$84M, is administered by Energy Mines and Low Carbon Initiatives, and has no project approvals to date.
- CVRIS intake was announced December 1, 2020 and closed January 27, 2021, with final decisions expected in May 2021. CVRIS offers \$80.29 million to support projects that will result in upgrades to local government and Indigenous buildings, improve health and educational facilities, increase access to active transportation and increase resilience/adaptation to natural disaster events.
 - EMBC administered a parallel \$56.25 million intake to support structural flood mitigation projects.

Contact:

Brian Bedford, Executive Director
Infrastructure and Finance Branch
778 698-3232

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC RECOVERY INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM PROGRAM PROFILE

Program Objectives: 2021- 2023 (project completion)

Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program (CERIP) provides fully-funded provincial grants to support economic resilience, tourism, heritage, and urban and rural economic development projects in communities impacted by COVID-19. Ministry of Municipal Affairs (MUNI) is responsible for the \$30 million CERIP Community Economic Resilience Stream (CER).

Program Description:

- CERIP is an umbrella program that was developed by (MUNI in partnership with the Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture, and Sport (TACS), Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD), and Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) to help communities across B.C. recover from the economic impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- CERIP provides provincial grants to Local Governments, First Nations, and Not for Profit applicants to support capital projects in communities across the province.
- Announced September 17, 2020, as part of the province's Economic Recovery Plan, CERIP provides \$100 million in approved funding for "shovel worthy" infrastructure projects across five program streams managed by four ministries.
- CERIP provides a one time 100% funded infrastructure grant for shovel worthy, merit-based, smaller scale projects throughout the province.
- All CERIP CER funding was released to successful applicants by March 31, 2021. Projects must start by December 31, 2021 and end by March 31, 2023.
- .
- For each stream in CERIP, the minister responsible is required to provide final approval over projects.
- MUNI manages the \$30 million CERIP Community Economic Resilience (CER) stream that supports initiatives through investment in short term, small scale public infrastructure meeting the economic recovery objectives of initial job creation in the community and ancillary job creation in other areas hard hit with COVID-19.

Client Profile:

- All local governments, Indigenous recipients, not-for-profit.

Program Budget	Budget \$000	
	2020/21 Budget	2021/22 Budget
	0 ¹	0
Total	0	0

1 Funded through contingencies in 2020/21. One-time payment.

Priorities/Key Initiatives:

- In regard to the CERIP Community Economic Resilience (CER) stream, applications were accepted from October 1, 2020, to October 29, 2020.
- MUNI recommended for Minister approval 63 projects representing the \$30 million funding envelope.
- Following Ministerial approval, the CERIP CER projects were publicly announced on February 24, 2021.
- All CERIP CER funding was released to successful applicants by March 31, 2021.

Contact:

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PLANNING AND LAND USE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS
HOUSING NEEDS REPORTS PROGRAM
PROFILE

Program Objectives: **Fourth intake scheduled Spring 2021**

- The Housing Needs Reports Program supports local governments to undertake housing needs reports, as required by legislation, in order to better understand local housing needs.

Program Description:

- Legislative requirements took effect April 16, 2019 requiring local governments, at least every five years, to collect information and then prepare and publish online a report showing current and projected housing needs.
- Budget 2018 provided \$5 million over three years for a program to assist local governments to develop housing needs reports. Consultations with local governments and UBCM highlighted the value of such support, particularly in smaller communities with limited financial resources, staff capacity, or experience assessing housing needs.
- In August 2018, UBCM agreed to administer and deliver the Housing Needs Report Program over three years.
- All local governments and First Nations with modern treaties in British Columbia are eligible to apply, with funding amounts based on population size.
- Funding requests for a combination of local governments may be submitted as a single application for eligible, collaborative projects.
- All program funding has been transferred: \$3.1M in FY18/19, \$1.050M in FY19/20, \$0.850M in FY 20/21.
- **Client Profile:** Local governments.

Program Budget	Budget \$000's	
	2020/21 Budget	2021/22 Budget
Housing Needs Reports Program	850	0

Priorities/Key Initiatives:

- There has been a high degree of local government interest in this program; two funding intakes occurred in 2019, and a third in 2020, in which over \$4 million was awarded for housing needs reports that together cover over 140 local governments and seven Treaty First Nations.
- Several local governments have already completed their housing needs reports in line with the requirements while most others are in the process of developing their reports.
- A fourth and final intake is scheduled for Spring 2021.

- Ministry staff have ensured alignment between the program, legislation, and related guidance and communications materials.
- The Province has made most of the data required by local governments, such as demographics and household income levels, available online at no cost.

Contact:

Jessica Brooks, Executive Director
Infrastructure and Finance Branch
778-698-3483

SAFE-RESTART – LOCAL GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT APPROVALS PROGRAM PROFILE

Program Objectives:

Spring 2021 Intake

- The Local Government Development Approvals (LGDAP) program supports local governments in improving the effectiveness and efficiency of their development approvals processes through implementing established best practices and testing innovative approaches.

Program Description:

- LGDAP's \$15 million funding is being provided under the BC- Canada Safe Restart Agreement, as part of the Province's \$270 million in matched funding towards a \$540 million federal/provincial Safe Restart funding package for local governments.
- The program aligns with the Ministry's ongoing Development Approvals Process Review (DAPR), initiated in response to the Province's *Homes for B.C.: Government's 30-Point Plan for Housing Affordability in British Columbia*.
- Improving the effectiveness and efficiency of development approvals processes will help accelerate the construction of homes communities need -- a particularly critical issue during, and following, the pandemic.
- The Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) is administering the program on behalf of the Province.
- Municipalities, regional districts and the Islands Trust are eligible for up to \$500,000 for projects. Applications for projects that exceed that amount may be considered if rationale is clearly demonstrated and funding is available.
- Examples of eligible activities include: improving information technology used for development application processing; undertaking a comprehensive review of current development approvals processes to increase effectiveness and efficiency; and implementing existing strategies and action plans to address previously identified process challenges.
- **Client Profile:** Local governments.

Program Budget	Budget \$000
	2020/21 Budget
Local Government Development Approvals	0 ¹

¹ Funded through contingencies in 2020/21. One-time payment

Priorities/Key Initiatives:

- The program anticipates improved effectiveness and efficiency of development approval timelines, while also meeting local government planning and policy objectives.
- Applications will be accepted until May 7th, 2021, with approvals expected in summer 2021.

Contact:

Jessica Brooks, Executive Director
Planning and Land Use Management Branch
778-698-3483

SAFE-RESTART – STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES’ SERVICES PROGRAM PROFILE

Program Objectives:

Spring 2021 Intake

- The Strengthening Communities’ Services program will help local governments and Treaty First Nations support unsheltered homeless populations and address related community impacts.

Program Description:

- The Strengthening Communities’ Services \$100 million funding is being provided under the BC- Canada Safe Restart Agreement, as part of the Province’s \$270 million in matched funding towards a \$540 million federal/provincial Safe Restart funding package for local governments
- The COVID-19 pandemic has increased the visibility of unsheltered homelessness in many communities and raised additional concerns for community health and safety.

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- In March 2021, UBCM agreed to administer and deliver the Strengthening Communities' Services Program on behalf of the Province. As the program administrator, UBCM serves as the point of contact for all inquiries and questions from applicants.
- All local governments and Treaty First Nations in British Columbia are eligible to apply.
- Funding requests for a combination of applicants may be submitted as a single application for eligible, collaborative projects.
- **Client Profile:** Local governments and Treaty First Nations.

Program Budget	Budget \$000's
	2020/21 Budget
Strengthening Communities'	0 ¹

¹ Funded through contingencies in 2020/21. One-time payment

Priorities/Key Initiatives:

- The intent of the program is to assist local governments and Treaty First Nations with:
 - Improved health and safety of unsheltered homeless people, including reducing the risk of COVID-19 or other disease transmission.
 - Reduced community concerns about public health and neighbourhood safety where unsheltered homeless populations are seeking temporary shelter and services.
 - Improved coordination among applicants and health/social services providers, Indigenous organizations, and those working on housing, homelessness, and service provision.
 - Increased capacity to apply trauma-informed and culturally safe practices to approaches used by those who work with homeless persons and Indigenous organizations.
- The application deadline is April 16, 2021. Grants will be awarded in two payments: 50% with the project approval and return of a signed Approval Agreement to UBCM; and 50% when the project is complete and UBCM has received and approved the required final report and financial summary

Contact:

Jessica Brooks, Executive Director
Planning and Land Use Management Branch
778-698-3483

BOARD OF EXAMINERS PROGRAM PROFILE

Division: Local Government

ADM Responsible: Tara Faganello

Program Objectives:

- Certification of local government employees and provision of financial support for training of local government officials.

Program Description:

- The principal goal of the Board of Examiners is to improve the professional skills of BC's local government employees.
- The Board is responsible for awarding certificates to local government employees who meet the standards of qualification in local government administration, as prescribed in the Board of Examiners Regulation, pursuant to the *Local Government Act*.
- The Board is also responsible for issuing scholarship awards to eligible local government employees who wish to undertake training leading to certification or to upgrade their professional skills.
- The three person Board is appointed by Cabinet with representation from key partners in the local government system. The three appointees and their respective organizations are as follows: Nicola Marotz (MUNI), Chair, appointed to June 5, 2022; Ron Poole (Local Government Management Association), appointed to November 4, 2022; and Marie Crawford, (UBCM), appointed to November 4, 2022.

Client Profile:

- Local government employees.

Priorities/Key Initiatives:

- Providing four levels of certification to local government staff – who qualify based on experience in local government and mandatory education in the fields of local government leadership and management, services, finance, law, policy and economics – remains a key function of the Board.
- Providing scholarship awards to eligible local government employees who are pursuing courses leading to certification or wishing to upgrade their professional skills through enrolment in post-secondary courses of study and/or attendance at seminars relating to local government administration, ensures a continuing high level of skill and professionalism of employees in the local government field.

Website: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/local-governments/governance-powers/councils-boards/officers-employees/learning>

Contact:

Nicola Marotz, Chair
Local Government Division
778 698-3221

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ISLANDS TRUST PROGRAM PROFILE

Division: Local Government

ADM Responsible: Tara Faganello

Program Objectives:

- The Islands Trust (Trust) is an autonomous, elected body.
- The provincial role is limited to legislative oversight and statutory approval of some Trust decisions. Currently, the most prominent of these is Ministerial approval of Local Trust Committees' (LTC) official community plan (OCP) bylaws in accordance with section 27 of the *Islands Trust Act* (the Act).
- OCP bylaws are reviewed as to their impact on provincial interests, including Indigenous interests. While approval is seldom withheld, citizens have the expectation that the ministry provides due consideration to each approval.

Program Description:

- The Trust is a special purpose local authority, authorized to plan and regulate land use and protect special places throughout the Islands Trust Area (Trust Area). The Trust was established by legislation in 1974 to address the challenges encountered by regional districts in dealing with increasing development on the Gulf Islands, and to manage threats to their unique natural environment.
- The Act establishes the "object" (mandate) of the Trust: "to preserve and protect the Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment for the benefit of the residents of the Trust Area and of BC generally, in cooperation with municipalities, regional districts, improvement districts, other persons and organizations and the government of BC."

Client Profile:

- The Trust is responsible for overall policy for the entire Trust Area and local land use planning and regulation for 13 Island groupings in the Trust Area (covering over 450 islands in Georgia Strait and Howe Sound, running from the US border north to and including Denman Island).
- Other than planning, the Trust does not provide services (e.g. water; sewer) as those are provided by eight regional districts, improvement districts and the Bowen Island Municipality.
- Local governance of the Trust Area is provided by 12 LTCs, one island municipality and, to a lesser extent, the eight regional districts that provide services to the local trust areas. The directly elected LTCs develop land use bylaws for the main islands in the Trust Area except for the Bowen Island Municipality. A 26-person Trust Council comprised of all trustees makes policy for the entire Trust Area and provides oversight of LTC bylaws. The chair and vice-chairs of the Trust Council form the Executive Committee.
- The Trust has a budget of \$8.19 million for the 20/2021 fiscal year and has 66 staff serving a population of about 26,000. Trust staff are included in the provincial bargaining unit with equivalent status to other provincial public servants.

- The Trust is almost totally self-financing with the provincial grant comprising less than 3 per cent of revenues (the grant in 2020/21 was \$0.18 million). The majority of the revenues come from the annual property tax levy which comprises more than 90 per cent of revenues.
- The Trust has strong relationships with regional, provincial and federal governments and land conservancies, the closely associated Islands Trust Conservancy, other agencies, community groups and land owners.
- The Trust is committed to building meaningful relationships with the many First Nations that have interests in the Trust Area.

Priorities/Key Initiatives:

- The biggest challenge for the Trust over the years has been managing the diversity of the islands, which range from populous and connected (Salt Spring, Gabriola, and Bowen have more than 3,500 residents and are bedroom communities to regional centres) to small and remote (South Pender and Gambier have fewer than 250 residents, Gambier and Lasqueti are off-grid, and accessing Saturna and Hornby requires island-hopping).
- In a letter to the Minister on December 18, 2018, the Trust Council requested that changes be made to the *Islands Trust Act* to modernize and strengthen it. Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommendations

Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommendations
Advice/Recommendations

- The Trust continues its efforts to foster preservation and protection of the Trust Area's ecosystems through the creation of public parks, conservation covenants on private lands, and other means. By March of 2020, public and non-profit conservation organizations (including the Islands Trust Conservancy) had protected 15,477 hectares (20 per cent) of the Islands Trust Area.
- In September 2019, the Trust initiated public consultation on an update to the Islands Trust Policy Statement, which guides land use planning and regulation, and strategic planning and advocacy work in the Trust Area. OCPs and land use bylaws must be consistent with the Policy Statement. The Policy Statement update project, called "Islands 2050" has recently concluded its second phase of public engagement, and will now move onto a reporting back and policy analysis phase.

Website: <http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/>

Contact:

Jessica Brooks, Executive Director
Local Government Division
(778) 698-3483

ISLANDS TRUST CONSERVANCY PROGRAM PROFILE

Division: Local Government

ADM Responsible: Tara Faganello

Program Objectives:

- To assist the Islands Trust in preserving and protecting the Trust Area, and to administer the fund.

Program Description:

- The Islands Trust Conservancy (Conservancy) is a separate corporate entity within the Islands Trust, established by the *Islands Trust Act*.
- The Conservancy is a regional conservation land trust, empowered to acquire and hold money, land and interests in land within the trust area and to administer and manage the funds.
- The Conservancy is administered by a board of directors, comprising three members of the Trust Council (one of whom must be an Executive Committee member) and up to three persons appointed by the Minister.
- As of March 2020 the Conservancy has protected more than 1,300 hectares (3,188 acres) of land on 106 properties throughout the Islands Trust area, through acquisition of land assets and conservation covenants.

Client Profile:

- The Trust Area consists of over 450 islands located in Georgia Strait and Howe Sound, running from the United States border north to and including Denman Island.
- The Conservancy has strong relationships with regional, provincial and federal governments and land conservancies, other agencies, First Nations, community groups and land owners.

Priorities/Key Initiatives:

- Ecosystem preservation and protection, focused on natural areas with highest biodiversity values; ensuring human activity and development are compatible with local ecosystems; sustaining island character and health communities; and collaborative governance (with a focus on First Nations).

Website: <http://www.islandstrustfund.bc.ca/>

Contact:

Jessica Brooks, Executive Director Local Government Division
(778) 698-3483

UNIVERSITY ENDOWMENT LANDS PROGRAM PROFILE

Program Objectives:

- To provide effective administration, community planning and a broad range of municipal-like services to residents of the University Endowment Lands (UEL) in accordance with the principles of good governance.

Program Description:

- The ministry is responsible for the UEL in accordance with the *University Endowment Land Act* (the Act).
- The Minister hears appeals, primarily of land use decisions of the UEL Manager, and adopts bylaws in accordance with the Act.
- The Minister appoints a manager to administer the day-to-day operations of the UEL, with delegation of specific and general powers and functions.
- The program provides the community with general administration; community planning; development and building inspection services; utility services, such as, water, sewer, and garbage collection; maintenance of local roads, street lighting and parks; and other typical municipal services. (Note: Potable water is provided to both UEL residents and UBC.)
- The costs of these services are recovered through a UEL tax levy administered by the provincial Surveyor of Taxes, revenues from water sales, fees for licences and permits and parking meter revenue. Property taxes in the UEL are substantially lower than adjacent jurisdictions, but are intended to increase to cover the cost of replacing aging infrastructure and meeting other service needs.
- Fire protection is provided by the City of Vancouver through a contract with the Province. A portion of the contract cost has always been attributed to the UEL (recovered from UEL residents through property tax). Since 2016, a portion of the costs are being recovered from the University of British Columbia (UBC) for the residential segment of the campus. The majority of the costs are for protecting UBC (academic areas) and these are paid for by the provincial government.
- The UEL community has representation through a Community Advisory Council, constituted under the *Society Act*, which has a role in advising the manager and in reviewing the draft annual budget and draft property tax requisition.

Client Profile:

- The UEL is a community of roughly 3,000 people, based on most recent census data, living in the jurisdiction between Vancouver and UBC.
- The UEL community has existed since the 1920's under provincial administration, and has historically not been in favour of amalgamation with the City of Vancouver. In 1995, a proposal to incorporate as a municipality was defeated in a referendum. In 2014, the Community Advisory Council requested that the Minister fund a study of incorporation as a stand-alone municipality within the current boundaries. Reviewing UEL governance involves significant policy, technical and other work such as consultation with diverse key interests (Musqueam First Nation, Community Advisory Council, Metro Vancouver Regional District,

City of Vancouver, UBC, other provincial ministries/agencies--). The UEL Services, Structure and Governance Study is currently underway -- see Structure Program profile).

- In November 2016, the Musqueam First Nations' rezoning/development proposal for Ieləṁ (Block F) was approved. Ieləṁ is held by the Musqueam as fee simple land and is expected to be developed over at least 10 years to include commercial/retail, apartments and highrise residential as well as a community park and community centre; and to increase the UEL population by 2,500 people. The public works infrastructure has been installed and construction will be complete this year on an 18-storey tower and townhouse complex, followed early in 2022 with the completion of the adjacent commercial retail and rental housing complex, which includes below market housing. Community centre construction and a second 18-storey tower/townhouse development is expected to begin late this fiscal
- Other First Nations or provincial interests (e.g. Crown land) could also arise in the UEL.
- More generally, the UEL is seeing a wider interest in redevelopment from other landowners in the multi-family / commercial neighbourhood called Area D. To address this, bylaws are being updated to include an Area D Neighbourhood Plan as a framework for future redevelopment, culminating 4 years of planning work.

The administration will be updating its ten-year infrastructure plan in 2021 plan for ongoing to utility infrastructure repairs, particularly respecting water, sewer and road works. Annually, the UEL completes infrastructure repairs through its capital plan, with recent work including sewer pipe repairs and enlargement and soil/water monitoring well installation.

Service Provider: Provincial government

Program Budget	Budget \$000's	
	2020/21 Budget	2021/22 Budget
Administration and Public Works	10,593	10,668
Fire Prevention Services	5,597	5,597
Total	16,190	16,264

Priorities/Key Initiatives:

- Continue oversight and support work for Musqueam First Nation's Ieləṁ (Block F) development permit applications and further subdivision processes.
- Complete the community centre design, begin construction and develop a strategy, including Advice/Recommendations for the operation of the new facility when it opens (projected in 2022).
- Implement the priority Area D Neighbourhood Plan outcomes and respond to rezoning and development applications, with a strong emphasis on Residential Rental Tenure Zoning and affordability to offer greater diversity in housing options for the UEL.

- Continue to implement the Infrastructure Rehabilitation and Replacement plan, as budget and staff capacity allow – for 2021/22, it is expected that \$1.4 million of infrastructure work will be completed.
- Work with UBC to manage the costs for/impact on UEL of Phase 3 of the Wesbrook Mall redevelopment (design in 2021, construction in 2022).
- Continue work with an interagency group to address a specific slope erosion/stability issue that, longer term, could threaten sanitary and storm sewers and a significant road.
- Provide information/fact checking support to consultants/Victoria headquarters staff for the UEL Services, Structure and Governance Study (see Structure Program profile).

Contact:

Jonn Braman, Manager
University Endowment Lands
604 398-5180

SPONSORED CROWN GRANTS AND NOMINAL RENT TENURES PROGRAM PROFILE

Program Objectives:

- To assist local governments and community organizations in obtaining tenures and title to Crown land for the benefit of all community residents.
- The Sponsored Crown Grants/Nominal Rent Tenures (SCG/NRT) program meets provincial objectives of fostering enhanced economic and social development by providing Crown land for community infrastructure and public use.
- The program is led by the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNR)

Program Description:

- Local governments or community groups proposing to use Crown land for community purposes are eligible to apply to the SCG/NRT program, which was introduced in 2004.
- Sponsored Crown Grants (SCG) are transfers of Crown land from the Province to municipalities and regional districts.
- Nominal Rent Tenures (NRT) are leases and licences of occupation of Crown land provided to municipalities, regional districts and community groups for token rent.
- Ministry sponsorship of SCGs or NRTs is available to local governments. Only NRT sponsorship is available to community organizations.
- Where the value of an NRT exceeds \$100,000, the application process requires the ministry to review applications and confirm sponsorship. Applications for an NRT for land valued at less than \$100,000 can be obtained directly through FrontCounter BC (FCBC).

Client Profile:

- Municipalities, regional districts and improvement districts access NRTs and SCGs for community uses such as parks, recreation, and water or wastewater treatment.
- Community organizations obtain NRTs for recreation and park management, youth activities, protecting heritage, promoting the arts, and other community activities.

Sponsorship Approvals, Completions and Allocation:

- Since 2004/05, ministry allocations under the Crown Land Special Account (CLSA) were provided to enable sponsorship of proposed uses of Crown land that meet provincial priorities.
- All Crown land applications are submitted through FCBC. If a ministry sponsors a proposal, FLNR engages stakeholders, and First Nations, and manages land transfer to applicants.
- Following sponsorship, the SCG or NRT process typically takes one-three years to complete land transfer or tenure. At completion, NRTs with terms of 30 years and over are booked against the ministry's CSLA allocation.

- 2014/15 accounting changes now show completed SCG as zero value against CLSA allocations.

Year	SCG Sponsored	NRT Sponsored	Total \$ Sponsored
2013/14	6	8	\$7.5 million
2014/15	2	4	\$10.5 million
2015/16	4	5	\$4.6 million
2016/17	1	7	\$2.7 million
2017/18	2	3	\$5.9
2018/19	5	2	\$3.1 million
2019/20	2	10	\$10.7 million
2020/21	4	7	\$9.1 million

The Crown Land Special Account budget allocations are booked for NRTs only on completion, not at sponsorship. Completions of SCG and NRT occur in the years following sponsorship.

MUNI only tracks SCG and NRT sponsorship (not completions), by fiscal year, as shown above. FLNR is responsible for undertaking completions. MUNI's allocation changes every fiscal depending on the applications that FLNR has on the go. FLNR takes the value of all the NRT applications for 30 years and above and uses this number to estimate MUNI's allocation for the following fiscal year.

Priorities/Key Initiatives:

- Review Crown land applications from municipalities, regional districts, improvement districts and community organizations to determine if key provincial and ministry criteria are satisfied as part of the evaluation for recommending sponsorship.
- Continue to support provision of Crown land and tenures to eligible organizations that provide enhanced opportunities for local governments and community groups to deliver services to the greatest possible number of residents in the community. Examples include: local water/ sewage treatment, administrative buildings, fire halls, recreation space, parks, and local airports

Contact:

Brent Mueller, Director
Governance and Structure Branch
778 698-3220

Appendix A – Small Communities Grants 2020/21

Municipality	2020/21 Small Community Grants
100 Mile House	386,266
Alert Bay	454,682
Anmore	353,520
Armstrong	567,575
Ashcroft	437,703
Barriere	452,154
Belcarra	254,361
Bowen Island	423,711
Burns Lake	513,099
Cache Creek	396,567
Canal Flats	349,069
Castlegar	462,934
Central Saanich	208,729
Chase	427,065
Chetwynd	430,154
Clearwater	445,633
Clinton	379,678
Coldstream	384,900
Colwood	215,016
Comox	313,029
Cranbrook	187,214
Creston	578,739
Cumberland	508,662
Dawson Creek	370,633
Duncan	554,869
Elkford	399,113
Enderby	483,160
Esquimalt	224,617
Fernie	508,802
Fort St. James	395,771
Fort St. John	132,613
Fraser Lake	389,708
TOTAL	<u>\$52,202,826</u>

Municipality	2020/21 Small Community Grants
Fruitvale	491,809
Gibsons	499,252
Gold River	463,093
Golden	480,192
Grand Forks	534,748
Granisle	599,083
Greenwood	422,616
Harrison Hot Springs	325,689
Hazelton	511,576
Highlands	397,528
Hope	505,426
Houston	531,796
Hudson's Hope	311,198
Invermere	429,749
Kaslo	368,033
Kent	511,881
Keremeos	400,367
Kimberley	524,133
Kitimat	422,252
Ladysmith	459,947
Lake Country	302,695
Lake Cowichan	493,974
Lantzville	449,865
Lillooet	466,837
Lions Bay	298,345
Logan Lake	367,469
Lumby	402,114
Lytton	337,238
Mackenzie	495,505
Masset	454,772
McBride	400,195
Merritt	513,440

Municipality	2020/21 Small Community Grants
Metchosin	529,016
Midway	352,998
Montrose	432,680
Nakusp	430,344
Nelson	383,988
New Denver	357,636
New Hazelton	476,659
North Saanich	329,084
Northern Rockies	466,876
Oak Bay	145,462
Oliver	551,428
Osoyoos	506,199
Parksville	324,466
Peachland	508,688
Pemberton	396,964
Pitt Meadows	148,298
Port Alberni	275,363
Port Alice	335,161
Port Clements	425,979
Port Edward	303,098
Port Hardy	597,310
Port McNeill	495,904
Pouce Coupe	376,896
Powell River	349,694
Prince Rupert	393,693
Princeton	434,808
Qualicum Beach	414,152
Queen Charlotte	418,681
Quesnel	461,140
Radium Hot Springs	285,260
Revelstoke	462,412
Rossland	498,880

Municipality	2020/21 Small Community Grants
Salmo	465,902
Salmon Arm	191,566
Sayward	391,413
Sechelt (District)	377,356
Sechelt (Indian Govt)	294,922
Sicamous	386,743
Sidney	331,056
Silverton	297,952
Slocan	377,195
Smithers	552,601
Sooke	323,984
Spallumcheen	542,639
Sparwood	465,562
Squamish	115,346
Stewart	267,396
Summerland	361,359
Sun Peaks	246,322
Tahsis	353,462
Taylor	360,264
Telkwa	466,137
Terrace	409,340
Tofino	345,470
Trail	476,366
Tumbler Ridge	364,526
Ucluelet	352,901
Valemount	354,477
Vanderhoof	569,656
View Royal	377,557
Warfield	486,759
Wells	461,606
Whistler	307,088
White Rock	112,068
Williams Lake	432,195
Zeballos	351,860

Appendix B - Regional District Grants 2020/21

Regional Districts	2020/21 Regional District Grants
Alberni-Clayoquot	190,000
Bulkley-Nechako	185,000
Capital	60,000
Cariboo	140,000
Central Coast	200,000
Central Kootenay	150,000
Central Okanagan	110,000
Columbia-Shuswap	160,000
Comox Valley	160,000
Cowichan Valley	150,000
East Kootenay	170,000
Fraser Valley	70,000
Fraser-Fort George	175,000
Islands Trust	180,000
Kitimat-Stikine	190,000
Kootenay-Boundary	200,000
Metro Vancouver	60,000
Mount Waddington	205,000
Nanaimo	100,000
North Coast	200,000
North Okanagan	170,000
Okanagan-Similkameen	165,000
Peace River	165,000
qathet	200,000
Squamish-Lillooet	200,000
Strathcona	190,000
Sunshine Coast	190,000
Thompson-Nicola	140,000
TOTAL	\$ 4,475,000

Appendix C Traffic Fine Revenue Sharing Grants 2020/21

Municipality	2020/21 Traffic Fine Revenue Grants
Abbotsford	2,487,370
Armstrong	18,118
Burnaby	2,827,726
Campbell River	433,608
Castlegar	72,112
Central Saanich	238,721
Chilliwack	1,162,622
Coldstream	48,026
Colwood	158,008
Comox	87,714
Coquitlam	1,580,176
Courtenay	277,349
Cranbrook	268,284
Creston	54,678
Dawson Creek	208,451
Delta	1,836,323
Esquimalt	378,678
Fernie	42,271
Fort St. John	374,371
Hope	102,745
Kamloops	1,265,885
Kelowna	1,815,787
Kent	53,101
Kimberley	50,473
Kitimat	129,960

TOTAL \$ 61,834,877

Municipality	2020/21 Traffic Fine Revenue Grants
Ladysmith	60,081
Lake Country	81,364
Langford	342,192
Langley (City)	600,619
Langley (District)	1,514,468
Maple Ridge	1,108,221
Merritt	102,892
Mission	550,380
Nanaimo	1,332,568
Nelson	179,543
New Westminster	1,269,122
North Cowichan	294,973
North Saanich	85,634
North Vancouver (City)	659,812
North Vancouver (District)	843,520
Oak Bay	223,660
Osoyoos	31,466
Parksville	114,895
Peachland	32,032
Penticton	419,542
Pitt Meadows	226,092
Port Alberni	321,744
Port Coquitlam	678,772
Port Moody	516,656
Powell River	124,701
Prince George	1,326,527

Municipality	2020/21 Traffic Fine Revenue Grants
Prince Rupert	285,218
Qualicum Beach	54,864
Quesnel	171,009
Revelstoke	86,777
Richmond	2,508,088
Saanich	1,598,481
Salmon Arm	167,891
Sechelt (District)	85,191
Sidney	112,620
Smithers	79,365
Sooke	95,078
Spallumcheen	27,147
Squamish	235,251
Summerland	74,549
Surrey	7,661,939
Terrace	183,593
Trail	95,099
Vancouver	14,642,650
Vernon	499,281
Victoria	2,197,363
View Royal	68,919
West Kelowna	271,978
West Vancouver	830,260
Whistler	312,679
White Rock	262,962
Williams Lake	212,593

Appendix D – COVID Safe Restart Grants 2020/21

Local Government	2020/21 COVID Safe Restart Grant	Local Government	2020/21 COVID Safe Restart	Local Government	2020/21 COVID Safe Restart Grant
100 Mile House	752,000	Houston	1,066,000	Port Edward	317,000
Abbotsford - C	8,338,000	Hudson's Hope	499,000	Port Hardy	1,376,000
Alberni-Clayoquot	651,000	Invermere	1,181,000	Port McNeill	888,000
Alert Bay	315,000	Kamloops	6,680,000	Port Moody	4,647,000
Anmore	882,000	Kaslo	480,000	Pouce Coupe	426,000
Armstrong	1,608,000	Kelowna	7,884,000	Powell River - C	2,928,000
Ashcroft	659,000	Kent	1,826,000	Prince George	6,110,000
Barriere	730,000	Keremeos	659,000	Prince Rupert	2,799,000
Belcarra	380,000	Kimberley	2,087,000	Princeton	1,013,000
Bowen Island	1,273,000	Kitimat	2,176,000	qathet	541,000
Bulkley-Nechako	897,000	Kitimat-Stikine	829,000	Qualicum Beach	2,359,000
Burnaby	9,827,000	Kootenay Boundary	662,000	Queen Charlotte	435,000
Burns Lake	732,000	Ladysmith	2,343,000	Quesnel	2,503,000
Cache Creek	461,000	Lake Country	2,947,000	Radium Hot Springs	459,000
Campbell River	4,618,000	Lake Cowichan	1,158,000	Revelstoke	2,105,000
Canal Flats	381,000	Langford	4,878,000	Richmond	9,331,000
Capital	1,996,000	Langley - C	4,151,000	Roseland	1,257,000
Cariboo	1,483,000	Langley - D	7,608,000	Saanich	7,453,000
Castlegar	2,184,000	Lantzville	1,220,000	Salmo	533,000
Central Coast	395,000	Lillooet	880,000	Salmon Arm	3,598,000
Central Kootenay	1,276,000	Lions Bay	603,000	Sayward	268,000
Central Okanagan	1,464,000	Logan Lake	816,000	Sechelt	2,563,000
Central Saanich	3,455,000	Lumby	764,000	Sechelt Indian Government	387,000
Chase	879,000	Lytton	248,000	Sicamous	927,000
Chetwynd	955,000	Mackenzie	1,244,000	Sidney	2,758,000
Chilliwack	6,488,000	Maple Ridge	6,417,000	Silverton	231,000
Clearwater	894,000	Masset	429,000	Slocan	262,000
Clinton	373,000	McBride	366,000	Smithers	1,656,000
Coldstream	2,623,000	Merritt	2,005,000	Sooke	2,981,000
Columbia Shuswap	989,000	Metochosin	1,540,000	Spallumcheen	1,604,000
Colwood	3,476,000	Metro Vancouver	3,801,000	Sparwood	1,282,000
Comox	3,067,000	Midway	377,000	Squamish	3,760,000
Comox Valley	1,125,000	Mission	4,964,000	Squamish-Lillooet	627,000
Coquitlam	8,293,000	Montrose	485,000	Stewart	366,000
Courtenay	4,149,000	Mount Waddington	428,000	Strathcona	724,000
Cowichan Valley	1,543,000	Nakusp	692,000	Summerland	2,724,000
Cranbrook	3,765,000	Nanaimo - C	6,693,000	Sun Peaks	387,000
Creston	1,648,000	Nanaimo - RD	1,884,000	Sunshine Coast	762,000
Cumberland	1,312,000	Nelson	2,613,000	Surrey	14,769,000
Dawson Creek	2,793,000	New Denver	323,000	Tahsis	249,000
Delta	7,059,000	New Hazelton	357,000	Taylor	644,000
Duncan	1,570,000	New Westminster	6,052,000	Telkwa	602,000
East Kootenay	931,000	North Coast	454,000	Terrace	2,728,000
Elkford	938,000	North Cowichan	4,419,000	Thompson-Nicola	1,376,000
Enderby	1,062,000	North Okanagan	1,077,000	Tofino	822,000
Esquimalt	3,538,000	North Saanich	2,711,000	Trail	2,115,000
Fernie	1,597,000	North Vancouver - C	5,434,000	Tumbler Ridge	827,000
Fort St. James	666,000	North Vancouver - D	6,484,000	Ucluelet	764,000
Fort St. John	3,778,000	Northern Rockies - REGM	1,507,000	Valemount	501,000
Fraser Lake	485,000	Oak Bay	3,589,000	Vancouver	16,371,000
Fraser Valley	1,793,000	Okanagan-Similkameen	1,177,000	Vanderhoof	1,438,000
Fraser-Fort George	1,031,000	Oliver	1,591,000	Vernon	4,997,000
Fruitvale	787,000	Osoyoos	1,539,000	Victoria	6,522,000
Gibsons	1,512,000	Parksville	2,861,000	View Royal	2,613,000
Gold River	557,000	Peace River	1,084,000	Warfield	710,000
Golden	1,263,000	Peachland	1,650,000	Wells	241,000
Grand Forks	1,359,000	Pemberton	987,000	West Kelowna	4,602,000
Granisle	264,000	Penticton	4,711,000	West Vancouver	5,068,000
Greenwood	381,000	Pitt Meadows	3,656,000	Whistler	2,685,000
Harrison Hot Springs	675,000	Port Alberni	3,536,000	White Rock	3,769,000
Hazelton	268,000	Port Alice	386,000	Williams Lake	2,618,000
Highlands	897,000	Port Clements	259,000	Zeballos	200,000
Hope	1,833,000	Port Coquitlam	5,622,000		
TOTAL					
					\$425,000,000

Last update: April 2021

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Public Libraries Branch (PLB) Program Profile

Division: Local Government Division

ADM Responsible: Tara Faganello

Program Objectives:

- Through the *Library Act*, support effective public library governance and accountability, and work to ensure provincial funding helps to extend local services and improve access to public library services throughout B.C.

Program Description:

- The Ministry mandate under the *Library Act* includes,
 - Providing the regulatory structure that supports public libraries' operation and governance
 - Promoting the improvement and extension of public library service throughout B.C.
 - Apportioning grants to help library boards and public bodies that are engaged in delivering and improving public library service.
- The PLB provides strategic leadership and direction through its provincial strategic plan released April 2020, *B.C.'s Strategic Plan for Public Library Service*.
- The PLB advises and consults with library boards and local governments on matters relating to the *Library Act* and provincial programs.
- B.C. aims to support a province-wide library system with programs (e.g. Interlibrary loans), resources (province-wide digital collections, Summer Reading Club) and a technology infrastructure that benefits all libraries and communities.
- The PLB joined the Ministry in November 2020 from the Ministry of Education and is part of the Local Government Division.

Client Profile and Service Providers:

- There are 71 public library systems in B.C., with 249 branches. There are four main types of library systems: Municipal Library Systems (30), Public Library Associations (36), Regional District Library Systems (three), and Integrated Library Systems (two).
- There are also six library federations – quasi-library systems that deliver shared services to two or more public libraries in a similar geographic region.
- Public libraries are further supported by the 4 key library organizations (BC Libraries Cooperative, BC Library Trustees Association, Association of BC Public Library Director, and BC Library Association) which are also provincial grant recipients.

Last update: April 13, 2021

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- Public libraries and library organizations are supported with advice, guidance, some oversight, and funding by the Ministry's PLB staff.

Public Libraries Fast Facts

Key Library Statistics (2019):

- 99 per cent of B.C.'s population has access to a public library
- 43 per cent of B.C.'s population are active library cardholders
- 62.5 million people visited libraries either virtually or in-person
- 1.8 million people attended over 78,000 programs, events, and workshops
- 55 million physical and digital items were borrowed or used by library patrons (12 per cent increase over previous year)
- Over 158,000 items lent through B.C. interlibrary loan programs (8 per cent increase over previous year)
- 700 library trustees (elected or appointed members of boards)
- 2,260 full-time equivalent library employees

Program Outcomes

- Equitable access to library services for all British Columbians, including efforts to extend and improve library programs and services throughout the province.
- Effective board governance, meaning that public libraries are accountable for the delivery of library services best suited for their community.
- British Columbians with print and perceptual disabilities have improved access to alternate format materials and an increased selection of reading materials.
- Library staff and trustees throughout B.C., including in rural areas, have more equitable access to the training and resources needed to best support their communities.

2020-21 Accomplishments:

- Lead COVID-19 Guidance for Public Libraries (liaison with Health and partners)
- Release of the Strategic Plan for Public Library Service (April 2020)
- Investment of \$3 million one-time technology and digital initiatives funding for public libraries.
 - Funds have increased people's access to Internet/WIFI, computers/printing/technology and online reading materials.
 - Library-card holders can use three new province-wide resources from home (LinkedIn Learning, Tumblebooks and digital magazines)
 - Families were able to register and participate in *BC's Summer Reading Club 2020* online to limit the spread of COVID-19 (\$65K)

- Revised the annual survey of public libraries based on sector engagement to better align with library data needs and impacts of COVID-19 (new services such as virtual programs, curbside pick up).

2021-22 Priorities/Key Initiatives

- Implementation of the Strategic Plan for Public Library Services
 - Continue to coordinate the use of the \$3 million in one-time funding for digital initiatives, collections, and improvements in internet connectivity.
 - Advice/Recommendations
 - Increase the number of training and development opportunities, in areas of governance, reconciliation and inclusion (for library staff and boards).
 - Develop a continuous review process for annual survey/data collection through an external working group.
- Support government activities in economic and social recovery during the COVID-19 pandemic through the public library system.

Contact: Mari Martin, Director, Public Libraries Branch
Phone: (250) 886-2584

Public Libraries Funding: Grants Profile

Division: Local Government Division

ADM Responsible: Tara Faganello

Program Objectives:

- To support equitable access to information, programs and services across B.C.; greater collaboration between libraries to share services and digital collections; technical infrastructure, such as library catalogues, websites and basic library technology; and Province-wide programs such as BC OneCard, resource sharing and the BC Summer Reading Club.

Program Description:

- The ministry provides \$14 million in annual funding directly to B.C. public libraries and library sector partners, which in 2019 was about 4.4 per cent of total funding to libraries (local governments provide 89.6 per cent and other sources make up the remaining 6 per cent).
- Under the Library Act s.51 (3), the Director of the Public Libraries Branch is responsible for allocating and managing provincial grants to public library boards and public bodies. The \$14 million is divided as follows
 - Library federations and service partners receive four grants (\$2.2 million) for operations, technology and alternate formats that deliver support of provincial services/programs and system-wide support.
 - Public libraries receive four grants (\$11.8 million) including:
 - **Per Capita Operating grants:** help offset cost of library operations. Population based/rates.
 - **Resource Sharing grants:** help offset cost of shipping out library materials to other B.C. public libraries via Interlibrary Loan.
 - **BC OneCard grants:** enable libraries to expand service to B.C. residents through the BC OneCard program, ensuring that active patrons of any public library in B.C. may use their card wherever they travel within the province.
 - **Literacy and Equity grants:** support the promotion of literacy and life-long learning within B.C. public libraries through expanding collections and services to support literacy in communities or collaboration with other libraries or federations on related projects.
- Public libraries submit three reports (Statement of Financial Information, Annual Survey of Public Library Statistics, and Public Library Grant Report) and participate in provincial programs (Interlibrary Loan, B.C. OneCard) to be eligible for provincial funding.

Last update: April 13, 2021

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- Provincial funding is intended to support and supplement strategic priorities and specific provincial programs, as opposed to supporting daily operations. However, libraries supporting smaller communities rely more heavily on provincial funding (5 per cent – 67 per cent of operating funds).

Grant Formula:

- The funding framework has been in place for over 15 years, and the Public Libraries Branch makes adjustments each year to stay within the annual budget amount.
- In 2020, libraries received the same funding as in 2019 (rates were not used).
- The following funding framework is in place but was not used in 2020:
 - Per Capita Operating grants are calculated using population data multiplied by one of 12 rates ranging from \$1.78/person to \$4.10/person, based on library type, population size tier, and whether the library service area is urban or rural.
 - The Resource Sharing grant uses a piece-rate of \$2.24 per item lent through interlibrary loan (services during the previous calendar year).
 - BC OneCard grants are based on either a piece rate of \$0.05 per item lent and returned in the previous calendar year, or a flat amount ranging from \$6,350 to \$24,000 based on population size tier – whichever is greater.
 - Literacy and Equity grants have been held at fixed, flat amounts since 2009/10 and are not based on a calculation formula.
- Federation grants are fixed, flat amounts based on historic population.
- Service partner grants are a combination of flat amounts to offset operation costs, and annually adjusted amounts to cover the costs of specific services such as resource sharing software licensing.
- Funding is allocated in Spring each year and published in the [Public Libraries Grants Allocation document](#).

Client Profile:

- There are 71 public library systems in B.C., and six library federations (quasi-library systems that deliver shared services to two or more public libraries in a similar geographic region).
- There are 4 key library organizations (BC Libraries Cooperative, BC Library Trustees Association, Association of BC Public Library Directors, and BC Library Association), which provide support to public libraries through advocacy, IT infrastructure (catalogues, connectivity), professional development

Last update: April 13, 2021

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workshops/training, governance/trustee supports, and delivery of programs and services such as the BC Summer Reading Club, and the National Network of Equitable Library Service (focused on library materials in accessible formats).

- For many years, the public library community and local governments have called on the Province to provide more than the \$14 million it has provided annually since 2009/10 – *see Estimates Note for more information.*
- “Budget line item” --There is a perception among some public library stakeholders, (e.g. CUPE BC; local governments) that the absence of a specific budget line for public libraries makes funding tenuous and less transparent. The consolidation of the libraries budget line (in 2011/12) was an administrative exercise to make budget estimate documents more succinct and has not impacted the security of funding to B.C. public libraries.

IMMIGRATION SERVICES AND STRATEGIC PLANNING DIVISION

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IMMIGRATION SERVICES AND STRATEGIC PLANNING DIVISION OVERVIEW

Description:

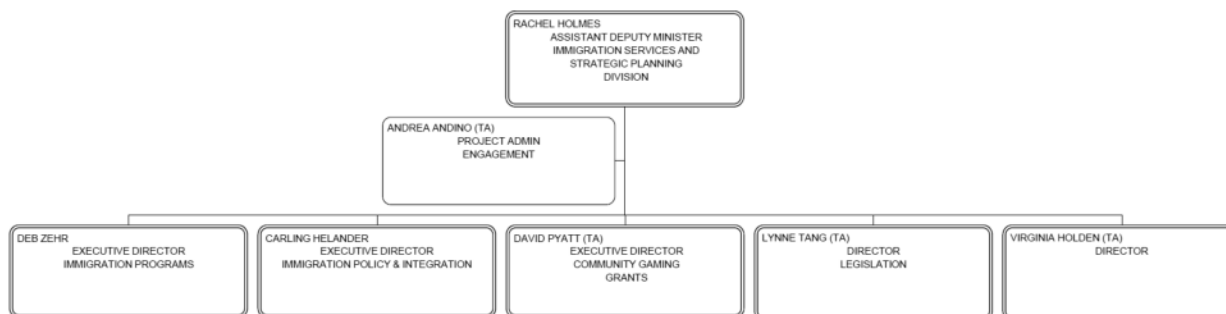
The Immigration Services and Strategic Planning Division provides the Ministry with leadership and support in the areas of legislation; Orders-in-Council; board appointments; Community Gaming Grants; Immigration programs and Immigration Policy & Integration.

Budget (in \$000s):

Core Business Area	2020/21 Restated Estimates	2021/22 Estimates	2022/23 Plan	2023/24 Plan
Immigration Services and Strategic Planning Division	16,603	18,977	18,977	18,977

Immigration Services and Strategic Planning: 125 full time equivalents (At March 31st, 2021)

Organization Chart:



STRATEGIC PLANNING BRANCH PROFILE

Program Objectives:

- To provide services and leadership in the areas of legislative services, community policy, corporate priorities and strategic planning related to local governments and communities. The branch is responsible for and executes the legislative program and coordinates of Orders in Council (OIC) and board appointments for the ministry.

Program Description:

- Legislative program management and planning, including development and execution of the ministry's legislative plan.
- Engage with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (TRAN), branches across the ministry, stakeholders and government on long-term strategic planning for integrated transportation and land use policy development.
- Lead and support branches from across the ministry in undertaking and implementing strategic policy and legislative issues, program design, project management and research and analysis.
- Coordination and management of ministry OIC, Ministerial Orders and board appointments processes.
- Ministry contact and liaison with the Crown Agencies and Board Resourcing Office.

Client Profile:

- The Minister
- B.C. local governments
- Key stakeholders
- Ministry branches / divisions
- Other ministries

Service Provider:

- Ministry staff

Priorities/Key Initiatives:

- Support the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (TRAN) in the development of the integrated transportation and development strategy to better align transportation and land use planning, including the Policymakers Coordination Forum (PCF) in Metro Vancouver.

- Support the ministry's legislative plan, including lead and provide assistance on legislative and policy initiatives that have local government implications. Projects include working with TRAN on ride-hail legislation and Advice/Recommendations

Transportation Strategy and providing legislative support to other MUNI branches on legislative amendments such as the *Gaming Control Act*.

- Engage with branches and cross government partners to assess community resilience risks and shape an approach to strengthen provincial response.
- Chair and provide secretariat support for the ministry's 10 Principles committee which coordinates ministry efforts related to the Province's 10 draft principles that guide the Province's relationship with Indigenous Peoples.

Contact:

Lynne Tang, Director of Legislation, Community Policy and Legislation
778 698-8795

COMMUNITY GAMING GRANTS BRANCH PROFILE

Program Objectives:

- To ensure all eligible not-for-profit organizations in B.C. have fair and equitable access to gaming funds to support the delivery of programs that benefit their communities.

Program Description:

- The Community Gaming Grants Branch distributes commercial gambling revenue to eligible not-for-profit organizations to support programs that directly benefit British Columbians and their communities.

Client Profile:

- Eligible organizations are those delivering approved programs and services in the following six sectors, generally in keeping with the brief descriptions below:
 - **Arts and culture**
 - Dance, theatre and music - performances and education
 - Visual arts – exhibition and education
 - Fairs and festivals
 - Museums, heritage sites and archives
 - **Sport**
 - Community-based, competitive sports leagues, including for example:
 - soccer, swimming, hockey, baseball, and skiing programs
 - Special Olympics and Seniors Games
 - **Public Safety**
 - Land and marine search and rescue
 - Fire/emergency response
 - Recreation/trail safety
 - **Environment**
 - Ecosystem conservation
 - Climate change adaptation
 - Agriculture and food systems
 - **Human and Social Services**
 - Childcare and family programs
 - Mental health support
 - Seniors services and activities
 - Food banks
 - Hospices
 - Public health in the community
 - **Parent Advisory Councils and District Parent Advisory Councils**

- Not-for-profit organizations must meet the organizational, program and financial eligibility requirements set out in the program Guidelines.
- The branch works collaboratively with its partners in the not-for-profit sector, such as the BC Association for Charitable Gaming, the seven regional Community Charitable Gaming Associations, the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres and other umbrella organizations with connections throughout the sector.

Program Outcomes (Impacts)/Service Statistics

- Approximately 4,800 community organizations—representing virtually every community in British Columbia received a total of \$140 million in Community Gaming Grant funding in 2020/21.
- The annual budget to support community-based programming is \$135 million, subject to per-applicant annual funding maximums of:
 - \$100,000 for organizations offering programs locally.
 - \$225,000 for organizations offering programs regionally.
 - \$250,000 for organizations offering province-wide programs.
- Beginning in 2017/18, an additional \$5 million in annual funding was allocated for a new Capital Projects program stream. In 2020/21, the branch awarded 81 capital project grants, totalling \$7.7 million in funding (an additional \$2.7 million in funding was reallocated from community-based programming after all other eligible applications had been funded).

Service Provider:

- Ministry Staff

Priorities/Key Initiatives:

- The Community Gaming Grants Branch is committed to supporting not-for-profit organizations and increasing awareness about the program. Staff will continue to provide a broad range of outreach activities throughout the 2021/22 fiscal year.
- In light of the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting pressures on not-for-profit organizations, the Branch has made changes to the program for 2021/22, such as:
 - Allowing organizations to redirect program funds for cancelled or postponed programming to any other approved program;
 - Opening the Human and Social Services sector two months early to support organizations facing an increased demand for services due to the pandemic;
 - Relaxing financial eligibility criteria for return applicants to ensure organizations can continue to access funding; and
 - Allowing Community Gaming Grant funding to be used for the creation of new paid positions, supporting organizations to increase staff capacity.

- The branch remains committed to implementing the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) recommendations from its 2016 review of the Community Gaming Grants program. Eight of the ten recommendations have been fully implemented and the remaining two recommendations are substantially implemented.
- Work on these final two OAG recommendations – implementation of a performance reporting framework and improved public reporting – will be finalized in 2021/2022. The branch began publishing sector infographics for the 2020/21 grant year to better demonstrate the program's broad community benefit and it will release its first ever public annual report with performance measures in 2021/22.

Contact:

David Pyatt, Acting Executive Director
Community Gaming Grants
778 698-3345

IMMIGRATION PROGRAMS BRANCH PROFILE

Program Objectives:

- Attract and retain new workers, entrepreneurs and international students through the BC Provincial Nominee Program (BC PNP) to help meet the province's economic and labour market needs and to support government's priorities.
- Position and promote the BC PNP as an efficient pathway to permanent residence for skilled and entrepreneur immigrants, targeting those who are best able to have an economic impact in B.C.

Program Description:

- The Branch delivers the BC PNP under the *Provincial Immigration Programs Act* and the Provincial Nominee Annex of the 2015 *Canada-BC Immigration Agreement*. The Province has the authority to invite, assess and nominate economic immigrants for permanent residence based on B.C.'s needs, priorities and selection criteria.
- Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) sets annual national immigration targets and annual calendar-year nomination targets for B.C. and other provinces. In 2020, B.C.'s nominations allocation was 6,500 plus an additional 250 for semi-skilled workers.
- The Skills Immigration stream of the BC PNP (99 per cent of total nominations) targets skilled workers and selects semi-skilled workers with a B.C. job offer,

and international postgraduates from B.C. institutions with an advanced science or technology degree.

- The Entrepreneur stream attracts experienced entrepreneurs to invest in, develop and manage businesses that will create or maintain jobs for British Columbians, and expedites the entry of key corporate staff essential to establishing a foreign branch or subsidiary in B.C.
- The Entrepreneur Immigration – Regional Pilot, recently extended to March 2024, is a collaboration with communities across B.C. to attract, support and retain foreign entrepreneurs in establishing new businesses in smaller centres.
- The Branch provides immigration expertise to support the investment attraction activities of the Strategic Investments Office and the International Business Development Division and is a referral partner for the federal Global Skills Strategy (GSS). The GSS is a federal pilot program that provides case management support and expedited processing of highly skilled temporary workers for Canadian companies creating a significant economic benefit.
- The Branch administers WelcomeBC.ca, the provincial immigration portal with information about immigrating, working, studying and living in B.C. and the province's primary online immigration presence.

Client Profile:

- Prospective immigrant workers, with a focus on temporary foreign workers seeking a permanent residence pathway to remain in B.C., international post-secondary students and experienced entrepreneurs.
- B.C. employers, industry organizations, regional communities and economic development organizations.
- Federal government: Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, Employment and Social Development Canada and Canada Border Services Agency.

Service Provider:

- Branch staff

Program Outcomes/Service Statistics

- Average processing times for skills immigration applications is within the service standard of 2 – 3 months; processing times for entrepreneur applications in the base category are 4-6 months. Processing time was under 4 months for the Entrepreneur Immigration Regional Pilot prior to the pandemic. Global travel restrictions are creating delays given that an in-person exploratory visit is a requirement for the pilot in 2020, 6,268 applicants were nominated with over 99% being under Skills Immigration. A total of 7,456 applications were processed with an average 90% approval rate (approval rate does not include withdrawn by applicant).

- From 2015 to now, entrepreneur nominees have invested over \$280 million in B.C. businesses and created over 1,100 jobs for British Columbians.
- An independent evaluation (2016), indicated that the PNP is relevant, needed and aligned with B.C. priorities; is valued and well-regarded by stakeholders; nominates people who thrive in B.C. and contribute to economic growth.
- An Office of the Auditor General (OAG) performance audit (June 2020) showed that the BC PNP Skills Immigration program is supporting B.C.'s forecasted labour market and economic development needs.
- The Branch operates under full cost recovery with revenue from program fees.

2021/22 Priorities/Key Initiatives

- Further address recommendations from 2020 OAG audit, including enhancements to performance management and program integrity.
- Ensure appropriate levels of resources and expertise are in place to administer and support the delivery of the BC PNP.
- Update the policy framework and Skills Immigration program criteria to ensure alignment with B.C.'s labour market and economic priorities.
- In collaboration with community stakeholders, implement and evaluate the Entrepreneur Immigration Regional Pilot.

Contact: Deb Zehr, Executive Director
778 572-5685

IMMIGRATION POLICY & INTEGRATION BRANCH PROFILE

Program Objectives:

Businesses and communities can access international talent to address identified labour needs and support sustainable economic development.

Newcomers to B.C. successfully settle and integrate, achieving a good standard of living and quality of life.

Workers experience fast, fair and transparent credential recognition.

Branch Description:

Immigration Policy: The branch undertakes comprehensive policy analysis to provide strategic advice to elected officials and senior executives on all matters relating to immigration. This includes:

- Negotiating and implementing the *Canada-BC Immigration Agreement*.
- Working with the Immigration Programs Branch to align B.C.'s annual PNP nomination allocation to labour market demand and maximize the program's contribution to B.C.'s economic prosperity.
- Providing strategic advice on the role of international workers and federal/provincial immigration programs in addressing labour needs in the province.

Settlement and Integration: The branch delivers settlement and integration programs that complement federal services and build community capacity to attract and retain immigrants across B.C. This includes:

- The BC Settlement and Integration Services program (BCSIS) for naturalized citizens and temporary residents (such as Temporary Foreign Workers, International Students and Refugee Claimants) to support their settlement and integration in communities and the labour market in B.C., and to support their pathway to citizenship.
- The Career Paths for Skilled Immigrants program (Career Paths) to provide individualized employment supports to assist skilled immigrants to find employment that utilizes their pre-arrival skills, knowledge and experience. Career Paths is co-funded with the federal government.

Credential Recognition: The branch works to reduce barriers to the recognition of qualifications for internationally trained workers and ensure national labour mobility is maintained. This includes:

- Implementing the Credential Assessment Improvement Fund and overseeing other initiatives related to foreign qualification recognition.
- Oversight of pan-Canadian labour mobility requirements under the Canada Free Trade Agreement.

Intergovernmental Relations: The branch leads intergovernmental relations for the immigration portfolio, including the Ministry's participation in multi-lateral forums for immigration and settlement to ensure provincial interests are included in national and regional federal policy development and programming.

Key Stakeholders

- Employers, industry associations, and labour organizations.
- Professional regulatory bodies.
- Contracted service providers, non-profit organizations and immigrant-serving organizations.
- Federal departments – Employment and Social Development Canada, and Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada.
- Provincial ministries and agencies.
- Municipal government partners.

Client Profile:

Employers, job-seekers, immigrants and refugees in B.C. communities.

Service Providers:

- Ministry staff.
- Provincial regulators working with contractors.
- Contracted service providers (primarily non-profit immigrant-serving organizations).

Program Outcomes/Service Statistics:

- Negotiated and entered into a new five-year Canada-BC Immigration Agreement and Settlement Memorandum of Understanding.
- Launched the new provincial Credential Assessment Improvement Fund and completed 25 projects with 14 professional regulatory bodies between 2019/20 and 2020/21.
- The BC Settlement and Integration Services Program is funded to serve 16,000 clients annually in 60 communities throughout the province. Service providers regularly exceed their client target by 25-50%; over 23,000 clients were served in 2019/20.
- The Career Paths for Skilled Immigration Program serves approximately 1,600 clients per year through \$5.8M in annual funding. Over 70% of clients achieve employment in their field upon completion and the average wage of program participants increases by \$10/hour.
- Distributed Temporary Pandemic Pay for settlement services providers and supported service providers to continue providing essential supports to clients throughout the pandemic.

2021/22 Priorities/Key Initiatives:

- Re-procure the Career Paths for Immigrants Program, as current contracts will expire March 2022.
- Conduct an evaluation of the BC Settlement and Integration Services Program^{Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information}_{Advice/Reco}
- Conduct procurement and contract management for increasing the supply of temporary housing for refugee claimants through renovations of unused spaces, utilizing \$4.8M in federal government funding transfer.
- Continue improving foreign credential recognition in the provinces and pursuing new project-based contracts with professional regulatory bodies through the Credential Assessment Improvement Fund.
- Develop, with the Immigration Programs Branch, new program objectives and a performance management framework for the PNP Skills Immigration Stream, followed by recommendations for program criteria changes to strengthen alignment of the program with government's strategic objectives.
- Implement the Canada-BC Immigration Agreement, which became effective in April 2021.
- Develop an evidence-based Levels Submission for federal government consideration during their immigration levels planning process, including the right level of PNP nominations to support B.C.'s labour needs and economic growth.
- Ensure continued labour mobility for skilled workers from across Canada under the Canadian Free Trade Agreement.

Contact: Carling Helander, Executive Director
778 974-2185

2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE

Minister's Office Budget

Issue: Minister's Office Budget increase in 2021/22

Key Messaging and Recommended Response:

- The Minister's Office budget increased by \$45,000 in 2021/22 Advice/Recommendations
- This is the first material but modest increase in the Minister's Office budget since 2013/14.
- This government has an ambitious budgetary and legislative agenda aimed at improving affordability, services, and a sustainable economy, and this requires Ministers to have the appropriate assistance to ensure that the information flow with the public service is clear and timely.

KEY FACTS

Background/Status:

- The Minister's Office received an increase of \$45,000 (from \$575,000 in 2020/21 to \$620,000 in 2021/22) as a result of a cross Government review Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommendations
- The budget now provides for the following complement:
 - Minister*
 - Senior Ministerial Assistant
 - Ministerial Assistant
 - Executive Assistant
 - Administrative Coordinator
 - Administrative Assistant
- Any questions on the review of Minister's Office budgets should be directed to the Minister of Finance.

*Legislative salaries budget only accommodates for the Minister's executive salary. MLA basic compensation is reported against the Legislative Assembly's budget.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information

2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE

Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information

Contact:

Tamara	A/Assistant	Management	(778) 974-2941
Romanova	Deputy Minister	Services Division	

EXECUTIVE OFFICES PROFILE

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MINISTER'S OFFICE PROFILE

Minister of Municipal Affairs

Description:

Minister's Office

The Minister's office is comprised of the executive and support staff of the Minister. The role of the staff are to be a source of support and advice for the Minister. The Minister is accountable for meeting the provincial government's objectives as outlined in their Mandate Letter from the Premier.

Budget (in \$000s):

Core Business Area	2020/21 Restated Estimates	2021/22 Estimates	2022/23 Planned	2023/24 Planned
Minister's Office	575	620	629	638

Positions:

The Minister's Office salaries and benefit budget provides funding for 5 FTEs.

DEPUTY MINISTER'S OFFICE PROFILE

Deputy Minister: Okenge Yuma Morisho

Deputy Minister's Office

The Deputy Minister's Office (DMO) is responsible for all aspects of information that flows from Elected Officials and the Executive Council (Cabinet) to the ministry by acting as the touchpoint between the elected arm of government and the public service. The office provides strategic advice on issues management, oversees the development of Cabinet material, and provides strategic direction to staff. The DMO also ensures the ministry is in compliance with Cabinet approved mandates, Treasury Board directives and other specific issues.

The DMO builds strategic alliances across government and works with the Executive team and ministry staff to ensure efficient collaboration, the flow of information and increased integration within the Ministry to support the achievement of the Ministry's strategic direction and government's overall objectives.

Budget (in \$000s):

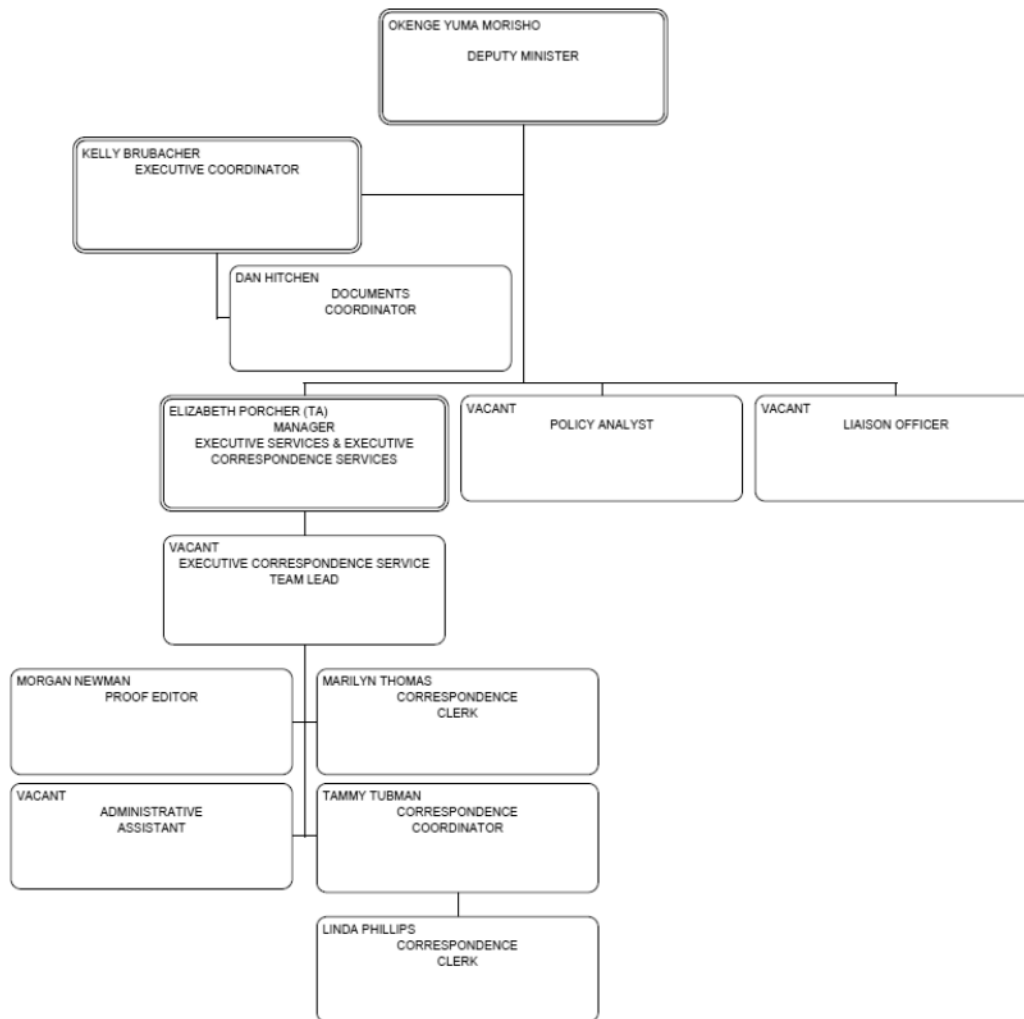
Core Business Area	2020/21 Restated Estimates	2021/22 Estimates	2022/23 Planned	2023/24 Planned
Deputy Minister's Office ¹	870	879	879	879

¹Including the Correspondence Branch.

Positions:

The DMO currently has 9 FTEs (including Executive Correspondence Services 4 FTEs)

Organization Chart:



Contact: Okenge Yuma Morisho
Deputy Minister
250-387-0752

MANAGEMENT SERVICES DIVISION PROFILE

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MANAGEMENT SERVICES DIVISION OVERVIEW

ADMs: David Curtis (TACS and MUNI); Joanna White (Labour and JERI)

Description:

The Management Services Division (MSD) develops the internal infrastructure and systems that support ministry programs and contribute to improved service delivery. This includes supports in the areas of:

- Budget, procurement, and financial management
- Facilities
- Information technology
- Human resources
- Corporate planning & compliance reporting
- Correspondence
- FOI & records management.

MSD provides services to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs (MUNI); the Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation (JERI); the Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport (TACS); and the Ministry of Labour (LBR).

Budget (in \$000s):

MSD's operating budget is provided below.

Core Business Area	2020/21 Restated Estimates ¹	2021/22 Estimates ²	2022/23 Planned	2023/24 Planned
Management Services	10,924	11,200	11,256	11,256

¹ For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2020/21 have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2021/22 Estimates.

² The fiscal 2021/22 Estimates includes \$5.502M from MUNI, \$5.204M from JERI, \$0.414M from LBR and \$0.080M from TACS

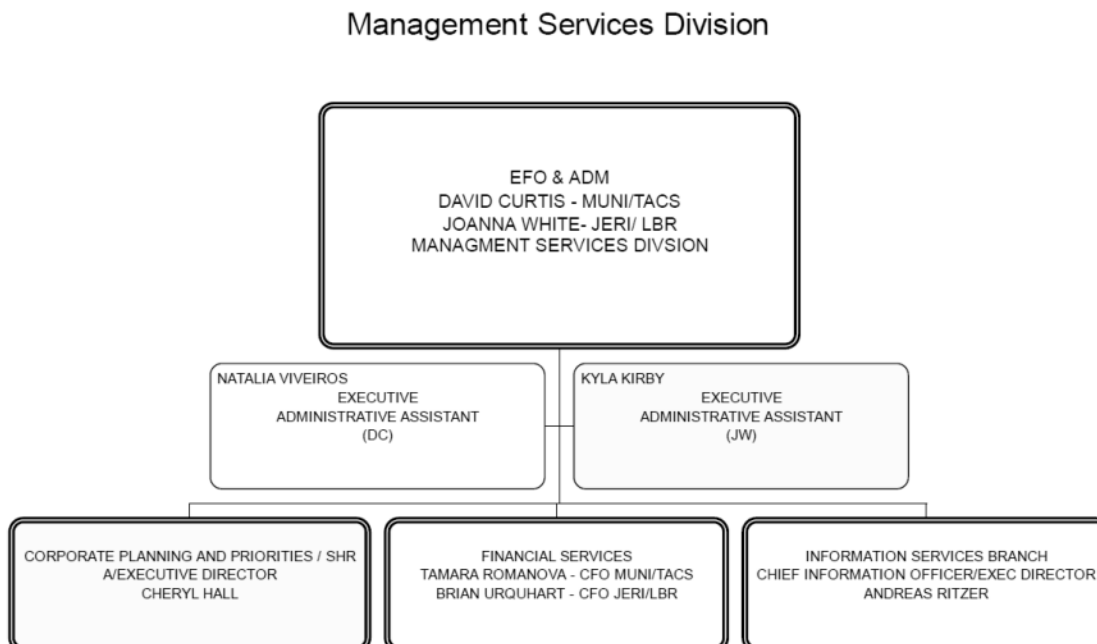
Positions:

The table below summarizes the Management Services Division FTEs at March 31, 2021. The table includes JERI and MUNI FTEs that provide support to the Economy Sector ministries.

Support Services FTEs	
MUNI FTE's	
MSD	74
JERI FTE's	
MSD	33
Total Economy Sector FTE's	
Total	107

Organization Chart:

MARCH 2021



FINANCIAL SERVICES BRANCH PROFILE

Branch Objectives:

To support the Economy Sector, by providing financial management, oversight of ministry budgets, procurement, and facilities services. The branch offers cost-effective financial support in the areas of financial planning and reporting, financial operations and contract policy and review.

Branch Description:

Financial Planning and Reporting (Budgets)

The branch works to ensure that the Ministry has the ability to discharge its financial reporting duties related to expenditures, revenue, capital, FTEs and forecasting. The branch provides the following budgetary services:

- Ensuring that the Ministry's Executive and Ministers have timely access to appropriate financial information to facilitate decision making.
- Coordinating the Ministry's estimates, budgets and monthly forecasts for program managers and Executive.
- Coordinating the quarterly forecast (signed by the Deputy Minister) to Treasury Board.
- Coordinating the development of the Ministry's account structure (Chart of Accounts, STOB listing and rollup values).
- Ensuring ministry staff has access to financial report training.
- Producing monthly financial reports for program managers.
- Coordinating the development of all Treasury Board Submissions with ministry program staff and Treasury Board Staff and advising on financial aspects of cabinet and treasury board submissions.
- Coordinating the presentation of the Ministry's annual financial performance in the public accounts with the Ministry of Finance.

Financial Operations (Accounts)

Financial Operations provides a comprehensive suite of accounting and financial services including fiscal year-end coordination, analysis and reporting, asset capitalization administration, purchasing and travel card administration, Goods and Services Tax administration, training and outreach, balance sheet management, payment and journal entry processing as well as control framework implementation, monitoring and recommendations.

Procurement and Contract Management

The branch manages the Economy Sector's procurement practices by providing advice and expertise on all aspects of compliance with government policies and trade agreements. This work includes policy and process development, procurement reporting, procurement and contract support, and managing the vendor complaint process and contract monitoring services.

Facilities

Facilities manages building maintenance issues and physical security for our locations in conjunction with various service providers. In addition, this branch handles large and small space planning projects including various Lean Workplace Strategy moves, and furniture and equipment acquisition.

Client Profile:

- Ministers and Ministry Executive
- Program managers
- Ministry staff

Service Provider:

- Branch staff

Branch Outcomes/Service Statistics:

- 2020/21 spending was within budget, with minimal underspending
- 2019/20 audited financial statements reported in accordance with PSAB with no exceptions from the Office of the Auditor General (OAG)
- No outstanding recommendations from OAG.

2021/22 Priorities/Key Initiatives:

- The Financial Services Branch will continue to monitor monthly reporting, and support expenditure approval processes to ensure ministry expenditures remain within budget, ministry hiring adheres to managed hiring controls and salary expenses are managed within STOB 50 targets, and expenditures are managed within expenditure guidelines, core policy, and budget letter directions
- Implement the new BC Bid system.
- Continue to move towards paperless processes, including electronic retention of ministry contracts.

Contacts:

TACS and MUNI: Tamara Romanova, Executive Director and Chief Financial Officer
(778) 974-2941 office
(250) 883-2682 mobile

Labour and JERI: Brian Urquhart, Executive Director and Chief Financial Officer
(236) 478-1767

INFORMATION SYSTEMS BRANCH PROFILE

Branch Objectives:

To support the Economy Sector and the office of the Government Chief Information Officer by overseeing the procurement, development and deployment of technology solutions, ranging from workstations and mobile devices through to large internationally accessible business applications.

Branch Description:

Program Management and Oversight:

ISB is responsible for overseeing and implementing corporate information technology (IT) programs and initiatives within the sector. ISB also provides IT Business consulting services to oversee the delivery of vendor services and to ensure that these services align with client needs and corporate priorities (such as the Internet Strategy, Digital Strategy, and open Data).

Legislative / Policy Compliance, Intellectual property protection

ISB assists the Economy Sector in meeting the requirements set out in the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FOIPPA) and the *Electronic Transactions Act*. The branch also works to enable its sector clients to meet the extensive IM/IT and Data Stewardship policies outlined through Core Government and the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) policy.

Information Security and Privacy

ISB works to protect the sector's IT assets from unauthorised access and to ensure that personal information trusted to the sector is stored and accessed in an appropriate manner. This is accomplished through proactive security threat and risks assessments, educational awareness and ongoing security audits, the development of privacy impact assessments and information sharing agreements, as well as the investigation and management of incidents.

IT Operations & Application Development

ISB provides desktop and mobile device support to the sector and manages the larger system and network infrastructure required for the sector's line of business applications. The branch supports the development of new applications through the provision of architecture and specialised technical expertise along with defined processes that

support the Branch's IT security mandate, ensure the quality of vendor deliverables and secure the intellectual property delivered by vendors under contract.

Client Profile:

- Sector ministries and staff
- OCIO

Service Providers:

- ISB staff

Branch Outcomes/Service Statistics:

- Direct, enable & implement multiple IM/IT projects as well as manage an average spend of \$4 million per fiscal on vendor resources
- Support four ministries in their line of business desktop, mobile and communications needs
- Implement cross government initiatives and infrastructure updates on behalf of the OCIO
- Aid clients in creating their capital submissions, including OCIO IM/IT and Treasury Board business cases.
- Work with clients on road mapping their IM/IT plans for the coming years and provide advice on how best to meet their business outcomes through their technology investments.

2021/22 Priorities/Key Initiatives:

- Provide oversight and support in the development and maintenance of digital services provided by the Economy Sector.
- Develop and renew internal policies, processes, standards and guidelines to align with changes in information and technology trends and directions.
- Ensure that systems are in compliance with internal and corporate IM/IT policies, procedures and standards.
- Support for major cross government & economy sector transformation initiatives.
- Implementation of the Privacy policy & preparation for internal audit.
- Improve security and risk assessment methods and implement a risk register to better track and manage risks.
- Develop and implement an IM/IT strategy to support business transformation, information protection, business continuity and succession planning.

Contact: Andreas Ritzer, Chief Information Officer and Executive Director
(250) 356-7081 (office)

Last update: March 31st, 2021

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STRATEGIC HUMAN RESOURCES BRANCH PROFILE

Branch Objectives:

Strategic Human Resources is a trusted business partner, aiding client Ministries with the development and delivery of organizational effectiveness strategies and exceptional internal communications.

Branch Description:

The Strategic Human Resources Branch (SHR), as part of the Management Services Division, provides support to the four sector Ministries. SHR's mission is to design and deliver strategic human resources services, programs and communications that build workforce capacity, enhance employee engagement, support delivery of corporate priorities and help clients achieve lasting business results.

Program Management and Oversight

SHR develops and delivers customised programs and tools for the sector. This includes but is not limited to: the development and implementation of professional supervision, and leadership development programs, mentorship programs and specialized workshops to support the rollout of corporate priorities. The branch also delivers and facilitates team dynamics sessions and specialized programs to help optimize individual and team results.

SHR also oversees corporate programs and initiatives at the sector level including Work Environment Survey (WES) unpacking and strategy development, Pacific Leaders Scholarship Program, Long Service Awards, Premiers Awards, and Performance Management (My Performance).

SHR also manages the hiring approval process for all Ministries in the sector.

Strategic HR Planning

SHR leads the development of the annual workforce plan for each Ministry within the sector. This includes workforce analysis and reporting, identification of human resources priorities and the development and deployment of succession management strategies and organizational development tools.

Customised Advisory Services

SHR provides support and advice on organizational design and development, managed staffing strategies, change management, facilitation and the Management Compensation and Classification Framework (MCCF). SHR also provides ongoing support and advice through its participation in a variety of committees including but not limited to Ministry Employee Advisory Committees, Article 29 Committees and special project committees, at both the Ministry and corporate levels.

Client Profile:

- Economy Sector Executives, managers, supervisors and staff.

Service Providers:

- Strategic HR team members.

Branch Outcomes/Service Statistics:

- Improved organizational performance from meeting leadership development goals.
- Development and delivery of workforce plans and reporting to Ministry Executive.

2021/22 Priorities/Key Initiatives:

- Support ongoing succession planning and workforce planning in each Ministry.
- Provide strategic human resources consulting services to Ministry clients.
- Support the implementation and ongoing development of strategies to become a diverse and inclusive professional public service.
- Provide Ministry support for the Work Environment Survey.
- Providing organizational development tools to Ministries, divisions and branches, to help them achieve their mandates and future organizational goals.
- Deliver experiential, classroom and virtual leadership and professional development opportunities to develop capacity within each Ministry.
- Support hiring managers through the recommendation of effective and expedient recruitment strategies and hiring practices for use in merit-based competitions.
- Support communications and change management initiatives for reorganizations and leading workplace strategies projects.
- Support Occupational Health, Safety and wellness within the Ministries.
- Provide internal communications support and web-based intranet services.

Contact: Cheryl Hall, Acting Executive Director
(236) 478-2518 office, (236) 638-1796 mobile

CORPORATE PLANNING AND PRIORITIES BRANCH PROFILE

Branch Objectives:

To support the Economy Sector's key corporate processes by providing: Executive support on major corporate projects; corporate and compliance reporting; legislative portfolio management¹; Crown portfolio management; risk management; business continuity planning; correspondence Services² and FOI and records management.

Branch Description:

Executive Support

CPP supports the Ministry Executive by coordinating key corporate projects, such as ministry transitions, estimates, and UBCM³. This entails working with staff across the organization to ensure that Executive and the Minister have the information they need to effectively participate in these processes.

Corporate and Compliance Reporting

CPP coordinates the development of a number of corporate reports on behalf of its clients, including: service plans, annual reports, enterprise-wide risk management, business continuity readiness, multiculturalism reports, carbon-neutral reports, continuous improvement reporting and regulatory reports. In case of service plans and annual reports, CPP works with program areas to develop ministry-wide performance measures and targets.

Crown Portfolio Management

CPP provides support to program leads and their Crown corporations to deliver a consistently high level of service for all economy sector Crowns. Branch services include support for Crown service planning, Crown annual service plan reports, mandate directives and corporate initiatives (e.g. Crown direction and accountabilities).

Risk Management, Business Continuity Management Program

CPP is responsible for leading sector-wide frameworks, capacity-building and coordination of risk management, Business Continuity Planning and preparedness as well as the Ministry Operations Centre plan and procedures.

¹ For Ministries of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport; Labour and Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation.

² For Ministries of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport; Labour and Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation

³ With the exception of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs' UBCM process.

Correspondence Services

CPP supports Executive and Minister correspondence to ensure timely responses to public and other stakeholder inquiries (JERI, TACS, Labour clients).

FOI and Records Management

Branch services include responsibility for timely responses to access to information (FOI) requests, records management support for programs/branches, and assistance with planning and delivery of information management initiatives across the sector.

Client Profile:

- Economy Sector ministry executives and program staff.
- Deputy Minister's Offices and Minister's Offices.

Service Providers:

- CPP branch staff.

Branch Outcomes/Service Statistics (Sector-wide):

- Twelve Ministry and Crown service plans and annual reports annually.
- Eight Crown mandate letters annually.
- Support for ministers and ministry executives across the sector in preparing for the Budget, Estimate Debate and UBCM⁴, as well as reorganizations, resulting in the production of over 100 briefing binders annually.
- From January 1, 2020 – Dec 31, 2020:
 - Coordination of 104 Board Resourcing and Development Office board appointments/reappointments.
 - TACS had 52
 - JERI had 41
 - LBR had 11
 - Correspondence team handled 43,628 pieces of Executive correspondence in total.
 - TACS had 11,307
 - JERI had 13,032
 - LBR had 19,289

⁴ With the exception of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs' UBCM process.

- FOI/Records team processed and closed 836 records requests and reviewed 44,195 pages to support appropriate information release.

Ministry	# processed and closed	# pages reviewed
JERI	292	19,406
LBR	166	5,091
MUNI	219	7,447
TACS	159	12,251
TOTAL for all 4	836	44,195

2021/22 Priorities/Key Initiatives:

- Development of Ministry and Crown service plans and reports.
- Coordination of Budget 2020 briefing materials and preparation for the budget estimates debates.
- Coordination of Mandate Letter process for ten Crown Corporations.
- Strengthened Risk Management capacity and sector planning to support contributions to government's strategy for coordinated catastrophic response.
- Timely FOI responses facilitated by increased training and awareness around records management.

Contact: Jason Gabitous, Director
(778) 698-3382 (office)
(250) 886-5196 (mobile)

Ministry of Municipal Affairs

2021/22 – 2023/24 Service Plan

April 2021



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<https://www.gov.bc.ca/muni>

Published by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs

Minister's Accountability Statement



The *Ministry of Municipal Affairs 2021/22 – 2023/24 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 dark ink, appearing to read 'J. Osborne'.

Honourable Josie Osborne
Minister of Municipal Affairs
April 8, 2021

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Purpose of the Ministry

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs helps make B.C. communities great places to live by taking leadership in supporting local governments, not-for-profit organizations and residents to build vibrant and healthy communities that are well governed, liveable, safe and diverse as well as economically, socially and environmentally resilient.

The Ministry supports newcomers to settle and integrate into the province, facilitates economic immigration to address B.C.'s labour market needs and attracts international entrepreneurs.

The Ministry also oversees the University Endowment Lands and works with public library partners to sustain the public library system.

The effective delivery of the Ministry's mandate relies on key legislation, including: the *Community Charter*, the *Vancouver Charter*, the *Local Government Act*, the *Municipal Aid Act*, the *Municipal Finance Authority Act*, part six of the *Gaming Control Act*, the *Islands Trust Act*, the *Immigration Programs Act*, the *Ministry of International Business and Immigration Act*, and the *Library Act*.

Strategic Direction

In 2021/22 British Columbians continue to face significant challenges as a result of the global COVID-19 pandemic. The Government of B.C. is continually evolving to meet the changing needs of people in this province. Government has identified five foundational principles that will inform each ministry's work and contribute to COVID-19 recovery: putting people first, lasting and meaningful reconciliation, equity and anti-racism, a better future through fighting climate change and meeting our greenhouse gas reduction commitments, and a strong, sustainable economy that works for everyone.

This 2021/22 service plan outlines how the Ministry of Municipal Affairs will support the government's priorities including the foundational principles listed above and selected action items identified in the November 2020 [Minister's Mandate Letter](#).

Performance Planning

With the transfer of the Housing portfolio to the Ministry of Attorney General the 2021/22 Service Plan has been reorganized to reflect our updated mandate. As a result, Goals 1 and 2 have been removed and the 2020/21 Goal 3 shifted to be Goal 1. Goal 2 is a new goal that displays our mandate letter commitment to support communities through the COVID-19 pandemic and Goal 3, while new, encompasses performance measures found in the 2020/2021 service plan of the Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Competitiveness.

Goal 1: Strong Sustainable and Well Governed Communities

By cultivating strong partnerships and delivering services that support sustainable and well governed communities, the Ministry enables a local government framework that can support the financial, economic, environmental, social and infrastructure health of communities for all British Columbians.

Objective 1.1: Further a governance system that considers local government and provincial interests and builds strong relationships for the benefit of all people.

Key Strategies

- Work with the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) and other local government partners, to ensure the annual UBCM Convention provides a comprehensive exchange of ideas and optimizes cooperation and collaboration among the Province, UBCM, individual local governments, and UBCM First Nations members.
- Consistent with government's Draft Principles that guide the Province's relationship with Indigenous Peoples, support local governments in building respectful relationships and fostering meaningful and lasting reconciliation with First Nations.
- Review and enhance the policy, legislative and education framework for local governments where needed, including working with key partners to implement lessons learned from the 2018 local government elections, to further responsible conduct among locally elected officials and to move forward on other requests that are provincial priorities.
- Provide advice, resolve problems and give targeted support and oversight on a range of local and regional governance matters of local government and provincial interest, both directly and in partnership with others.
- Work with public library partners to sustain a public library system that is effectively governed and accountable, where provincial funding helps extend local services and improve access throughout B.C.

Performance Measure(s)	2020/21 Forecast	2021/22 Target	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target
1.1a Actively engage with UBCM local governments and UBCM First Nations members with ongoing meetings between elected officials and staff, including: number of formal meetings held annually between UBCM Executives and the Minister of Municipal Affairs ¹	4+	4+	4+	4+
1.1b Actively engage with UBCM local governments and UBCM First Nations members with ongoing meetings between elected official and staff, including: number of meetings held annually between the Ministry, UBCM, individual local governments and UBCM First Nations members during UBCM Convention and throughout the year ¹	100+	100+	100+	100+

¹Data source: Meeting schedules (calendar meeting invites) and agendas for Senior staff and Minister's meeting. Informal meetings with staff are not counted.

Linking Performance Measure to Objective

The number of formal interactions between the Minister and UBCM Executive is an important indicator that the relationship between local governments and the provincial government is being actively sustained. These meetings create a reciprocal opportunity to better understand the interests of local governments and to ensure policy and programs are meeting the needs of communities.

Objective 1.2: Maintain local governments' financial sustainability so they can meet the service needs of their communities.

Key Strategies

- Support ministries and other partners in reviewing pressures in the local government financial system, including issues related to revenues and property tax impacts.
- Provide advice and statutory approvals on local government finance (revenues and expenditures) to support sound local government financial management practices and stewardship that ensure fiscal viability.

- Deliver stable, predictable and timely grant funding for professional administration to smaller and rural local governments throughout B.C. through the Small Community Grants and Regional District Grants as well as provide targeted funding to municipalities with over 5,000 people for community safety initiatives, through the Traffic Fine Revenue Sharing Program.
- Support the Municipal Finance Authority (MFA) in obtaining a high credit rating and low rates for borrowing through: overseeing the *Municipal Finance Authority Act*; setting local government borrowing limits; reviewing and approving loan authorization bylaws and setting financial reporting requirements; and ensuring local government financial data is available to the MFA and the broader public.

Performance Measure(s)	2020/21 Forecast	2021/22 Target	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target
1.2 Municipal Finance Authority's Credit Rating ¹	AAA	AAA	AAA	AAA

¹Data source: Municipal Finance Authority Ratings provided by the Moody's, Standard & Poor's, and Fitch rating agencies

Linking Performance Measure to Objective

A strong credit rating of the MFA reflects the sustainability of the local government financial system. This strong credit rating gives local governments the freedom to engage in capital projects that touch the lives of people in B.C. every day.

Objective 1.3: Support improvement of community and regional infrastructure and local government planning to further the environmental, economic and social health of communities.

Key Strategies

- Encourage resilient, efficient and effective community planning, fiscal and asset management practices to support the development of sustainable communities, including continued progress on the Development Approvals Process Review to streamline and modernize development permitting and approvals.
- Work in partnership with UBCM to implement the Housing Needs Reports Program to assist local governments in meeting new legislative requirements to have housing needs reports in place by Spring 2022.
- Support local governments to make effective, integrated and collaborative choices, through problem solving, guidance and program support for delivery of local and regional services such as water, recreation and economic development, and integrated sustainable land use, resiliency and infrastructure planning.

- Under the CleanBC Communities Fund (CCF) collaborate with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy to support infrastructure projects in communities across the province that focus on the:
 - management of renewable energy,
 - access to clean-energy transportation,
 - improved energy efficiency of buildings, and
 - the generation of clean energy.
- Partner with the federal government and other ministries to develop and implement community capital funding programs for local governments and First Nations that build and upgrade local infrastructure including drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, clean energy, recreation facilities and community centres.
- Support ministries and other partners to develop initiatives related to integrated planning, transportation, regional growth strategies, energy and the environment, and housing and homelessness.

Performance Measure(s)	2020/21 Forecast	2021/22 Target	2022/23 Target
1.3 Number of local governments funded under the Housing Needs Reports Program ¹	30	10	N/A ²

¹Data source: Housing Needs Reports Program Evaluation Committee approval of funding applications.

²A 2022/23 target has not been included for measure 1.3, because the Housing Needs Reports Program is currently intended to run for three years and then be reviewed.

Linking Performance Measure to Objective

Legislative requirements for local governments to complete housing needs reports helps strengthen their ability to understand and provide for the kind of housing that is most needed at a local level. The three-year, application-based \$5 million Housing Needs Reports Program, administered by UBCM, supports local governments in B.C. to meet these requirements and is also open to Treaty First Nations. The number of local governments requiring financial support is decreasing over time as the majority of local governments have completed their reports ahead of the deadline to meet the legislative requirement.

Goal 2: Communities in ongoing/continued economic recovery beyond COVID-19

Working with other governments and partner organizations to enable local governments and non-profits to support people through economic recovery and the COVID-19 pandemic into a stronger and better future for our neighbourhoods and communities.

Objective 2.1: Support the governance, financial, planning and infrastructure resiliency of communities in extraordinary circumstances

This is a new objective that, as a result of the broad impacts of the pandemic on communities, focuses on the monitoring and support as they work to re-establish services, adjust financial plans, and ensure good governance.

Key Strategies

- Develop, deliver, and monitor targeted funding, including with the federal government, to respond to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on communities and their operations.
- Work with local governments, UBCM and other partners to share information, monitor local government system impacts and respond to issues that arise.
- Provide guidance, advice and problem solving for communities, including initiating actions when required (e.g. Minister's orders; policy and legislative change).
- Ensure infrastructure projects approved through economic recovery funding meet reporting requirements and achieve completion.

Performance Measure(s)	2020/21 Forecast	2021/22 Target	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target
2.1 Number of approved Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program, Community Economic Resilience stream (CERIP-CER) projects that attain completion within program timeframe ¹	0 ²	35	25	N/A ³

¹Data source: Program applications and approvals

²[Forecast for 20/21 is zero as projects are being approved in February 2021.]

³[Forecast in 23/24 is zero as program requires projects to complete by March 31, 2023.]

Linking Performance Measure to Objective

Accelerated funding program specifically designed to respond to the impacts of the pandemic assists to further community resilience overall, with the short approval and completion timelines that are essential to help communities recover economically from COVID-19 impacts.

Goal 3: Communities are vibrant, inclusive, and enriched by the contributions of newcomers

Objective 3.1: Businesses and communities can access international talent to address identified labour needs and support sustainable economic development

Key Strategies

- Align immigration policies and programs to provincial priorities and community needs.
- Work with the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training to identify how immigration can best meet the labour market needs of B.C.'s industries and regions.
- Use B.C.'s Provincial Nominee Program (BC PNP) to attract international talent to communities throughout the province, helping B.C. businesses fill regional labour needs and enhance innovation.
- Through B.C.'s PNP Entrepreneur Immigration Regional Pilot, support regional communities to grow their economies and create jobs by attracting international entrepreneurs.
- Employ targeted initiatives to enhance attraction and retention of newcomers in communities throughout B.C.

Performance Measure(s)	2019/20 Actual	2020/21 Target	2021/22 Target	2022/23 Target
3.1 Percentage of BC PNP applications processed within service standard commitment ¹	84%	80%	80%	80%
3.1a - Skills applications: 3 months ¹				
3.1b - Entrepreneur Regional Pilot applications: 4 months ¹	93%	80%	80%	80%

¹Data source: Internal Ministry of Municipal Affairs tracking

Linking Performance Measure to Objective

The BC PNP is the province's only direct immigration selection tool to identify and facilitate the arrival of international workers and entrepreneurs. Expeditious processing is critical to addressing urgent labour needs across B.C. The Entrepreneur Immigration Regional Pilot, launched in March 2019, has seen successful applicants moving to and establishing new businesses, supporting sustainable economic development in smaller centres.

Discussion

Processing times refer to the provincial role in making a decision (approval or refusal) on a BC PNP file at the application stage; 80 per cent is considered a reasonable target for a service standard commitment given there will always be a certain percentage of files that will take longer to process (e.g., incomplete application, complexity, delays related to international travel).

Objective 3.2: Provide grants and services to help communities thrive and to support newcomers to settle and integrate.

Key Strategies

- Distribute \$140 million in Community Gaming Grants to not-for-profit organization throughout B.C. to support their delivery of ongoing programs and services that meet the needs of their communities.
- Build upon government's efforts to streamline and support fair, efficient and transparent foreign credential recognition by occupational regulators, including with continued investments through the Credential Assessment Improvement Fund.
- Help skilled newcomers achieve employment in their field through the Career Paths for Skilled Immigrants program.
- Support newcomers to integrate into communities and workplaces through the BC Settlement and Integration Services Program.

Performance Measure(s)	2018/19 Actual	2019/20 Forecast	2020/21 Target	2021/22 Target	2022/23 Target
3.2 Percentage of Career Paths Clients employed in their field upon program completion ¹	70%	70%	70%	70%	70%

¹Data source: Internal Ministry of Municipal Affairs tracking

Linking Performance Measure to Objective

The Career Paths for Skilled Immigrants program assists skilled immigrants and refugees in B.C. find work that utilizes their pre-arrival skills, education and experience. As a result, the program helps to maximize the human capital benefits of immigration and address the province's labour needs, which in turn improves economic growth in the province and raises the standard of living for all British Columbians.

Discussion

The Career Paths program was launched in January 2017. Participants typically remain active in the program for up to 22 months. As the program develops future adjustments to targets may occur.

Financial Summary

Core Business Area	2020/21 Restated Budget ¹	2021/22 Estimate	2022/23 Plan	2023/24 Plan
Operating Expenses (\$000)				
Local Government²	112,741	270,950	209,990	209,990
Immigration Services and Strategic Planning³	16,603	18,977	18,977	18,977
Executive and Support Services	8,641	7,603	7,010	7,019
University Endowment Lands Administration Account	10,593	10,668	10,688	10,688
Total	148,578	308,198	246,665	246,674
Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000)				
Executive and Support Services	361	316	2	2
University Endowment Lands Administration Account	3,900	2,285	0	0
Total	4,261	2,601	2	2

¹ For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2020/21 have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2021/22 Estimates.

² Local Government includes University Endowment Lands (UEL).

³ Immigration Services and Strategic Planning includes Community Gaming Grants, Strategic Planning and Workforce and Immigration.

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

Appendix A: Agencies, Boards, Commissions and Tribunals

As of April 8, 2021, the Minister of Municipal Affairs is responsible and accountable for the following:

Board of Examiners

Islands Trust Conservancy

BOARD OF EXAMINERS PROGRAM PROFILE

Division: Local Government

ADM Responsible: Tara Faganello

Program Objectives:

- Certification of local government employees and provision of financial support for training of local government officials.

Program Description:

- The principal goal of the Board of Examiners is to improve the professional skills of BC's local government employees.
- The Board is responsible for awarding certificates to local government employees who meet the standards of qualification in local government administration, as prescribed in the Board of Examiners Regulation, pursuant to the *Local Government Act*.
- The Board is also responsible for issuing scholarship awards to eligible local government employees who wish to undertake training leading to certification or to upgrade their professional skills.
- The three person Board is appointed by Cabinet with representation from key partners in the local government system. The three appointees and their respective organizations are as follows: Nicola Marotz (MUNI); Ron Poole (Local Government Management Association); and Marie Crawford, (UBCM).

Client Profile:

- Local government employees.

Priorities/Key Initiatives:

- Providing four levels of certification to local government staff – who qualify based on experience in local government and mandatory education in the fields of local government leadership and management, services, finance, law, policy and economics – remains a key function of the Board.
- Providing scholarship awards to eligible local government employees who are pursuing courses leading to certification or wishing to upgrade their professional skills through enrolment in post-secondary courses of study and/or attendance at seminars relating to local government administration, ensures a continuing high level of skill and professionalism of employees in the local government field.

Website: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/local-governments/governance-powers/councils-boards/officers-employees/learning>

Contact:

Nicola Marotz, Chair
Local Government Division
778 698-3221

ISLANDS TRUST PROGRAM PROFILE

Division: Local Government

ADM Responsible: Tara Faganello

Program Objectives:

- The Islands Trust (Trust) is an autonomous, elected body.
- The provincial role is limited to legislative oversight, and statutory approval of some Trust decisions. Currently, the most prominent of these is Ministerial approval of Local Trust Committees' (LTC) official community plan (OCP) bylaws in accordance with section 27 of the *Islands Trust Act* (the Act).
- OCP bylaws are reviewed as to their impact on provincial interests, including aboriginal interests. While approval is seldom withheld, citizens have the expectation that the ministry provides due consideration to each approval.

Program Description:

- The Trust is a special purpose local authority, authorized to plan and regulate land use and protect special places throughout the Islands Trust Area (Trust Area). The Trust was established by legislation in 1974 to address the challenges encountered by regional districts in dealing with increasing development on the Gulf Islands, and to manage threats to their unique natural environment.
- The Act establishes the "object" (mandate) of the Trust: "to preserve and protect the Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment for the benefit of the residents of the Trust Area and of BC generally, in cooperation with municipalities, regional districts, improvement districts, other persons and organizations and the government of BC."

Client Profile:

- The Trust is responsible for overall policy for the entire Trust Area and local land use planning and regulation for 13 Island groupings in the Trust Area (covering over 450 islands in Georgia Strait and Howe Sound, running from the US border north to and including Denman Island).
- Other than planning, the Trust does not provide services (e.g. water; sewer) as those are provided by eight regional districts, improvement districts and the Bowen Island Municipality.
- Local governance of the Trust Area is provided by 12 LTCs, one island municipality and, to a lesser extent, the eight regional districts that provide services to the local trust areas. The directly elected LTCs develop land use bylaws for the main islands in the Trust Area except for the Bowen Island Municipality. A 26-person Trust Council comprised of all trustees makes policy for the entire Trust Area and provides oversight of LTC bylaws.
- The Trust has a budget of \$8.19 million for the 2020/21 fiscal year and has 66 staff serving a population of about 26,000. Trust staff are included in the provincial bargaining unit with equivalent status to other provincial public servants.

- The Trust is almost totally self-financing with the provincial grant comprising less than 3 per cent of revenues (the grant in 2020/21 was \$0.18 million). The majority of the revenues come from the annual property tax levy which comprises more than 90 per cent of revenues.
- The Trust has strong relationships with regional, provincial and federal governments and land conservancies, the closely associated Islands Trust Conservancy, other agencies, community groups and landowners.
- The Trust is committed to building meaningful relationships with the many First Nations that have interests in the Trust Area.

Priorities/Key Initiatives:

- The biggest challenge for the Trust over the years has been managing the diversity of the islands, which range from populous and connected (Salt Spring, Gabriola, and Bowen have more than 3,500 residents and are bedroom communities to regional centres) to small and remote (South Pender and Gambier have fewer than 250 residents, Gambier and Lasqueti are off-grid, and accessing Saturna and Hornby requires island-hopping).
- In a letter to the Minister on December 18, 2018, the Trust Council requested that changes be made to the Islands Trust Act to modernize and strengthen it. Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommendations
- The Trust continues its efforts to foster preservation and protection of the Trust Area's ecosystems through the creation of public parks, conservation covenants on private lands, and other means. By March of 2020, public and non-profit conservation organizations (including the Islands Trust Conservancy) had protected 15,477 hectares (20 per cent) of the Islands Trust Area.
- In September 2019, the Trust initiated public consultation on an update to the Islands Trust Policy Statement, which guides land use planning and regulation, and strategic planning and advocacy work in the Trust Area. Official community plans (OCPs) and land use bylaws must be consistent with the Policy Statement. That Policy Statement update project, called "Islands 2050" Advice/Recommendations

Website: <http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/>

Contact:

Kris Nichols
Local Government Division
778 698-3450

ISLANDS TRUST CONSERVANCY PROGRAM PROFILE

Division: Local Government

ADM Responsible: Tara Faganello

Program Objectives:

- To assist the Islands Trust in preserving and protecting the Trust Area, and to administer the fund.

Program Description:

- The Islands Trust Conservancy (Conservancy) is a separate corporate entity within the Islands Trust, established by the *Islands Trust Act*.
- The Conservancy is a regional conservation land trust, empowered to acquire and hold money, land and interests in land within the trust area and to administer and manage the funds.
- The Conservancy is administered by a board of directors, comprising three members of the Trust Council (one of whom must be an Executive Committee member) and up to three persons appointed by the Minister.
- As of March 2020, the Conservancy has protected more than 1,300 hectares (3,188 acres) of land on 106 properties throughout the Islands Trust area, through acquisition of land assets and conservation covenants.

Client Profile:

- The Trust Area consists of over 450 islands located in Georgia Strait and Howe Sound, running from the United States border north to and including Denman Island.
- The Conservancy has strong relationships with regional, provincial and federal governments and land conservancies, other agencies, First Nations, community groups and landowners.

Priorities/Key Initiatives:

- Ecosystem preservation and protection focused on natural areas with highest biodiversity values; ensuring human activity and development are compatible with local ecosystems; sustaining island character and health communities; and collaborative governance (with a focus on First Nations).
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Website: <http://www.islandstrustfund.bc.ca/>

Contact:

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