

**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General  
Estimates 2021/22 Briefing Book**

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## Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General

### Budget 2021

### Key Messages

#### ISSUE SUMMARY:

- The overall budget for the ministry is \$900.858 million which is up \$29.74 million, or 3.4 percent, from 2020/21 (restated).
- The overall increase against 2020/21 (restated) includes budget increases in *Budget 2021*:
  - \$4.968 million for compensation increases related to the Sustainable Services Negotiating Mandate allocations for Corrections Temporary Market Adjustment;
  - \$4.680 million for Policing and Security Branch salary and benefit pressures;
  - \$2.373 million for front-line Core Policing;
  - \$1.883 million for compensation increases related to the Sustainable Services Negotiating Mandate allocations for Community Social Services Low Wage Redress;
  - \$1.800 million for First Nation Policing Program costs;
  - \$1.611 million for costs associated with continuing initiatives under the Gang Suppression Action Plan;
  - \$1.509 million for Community Social Services Recruitment and Retention allocation;
  - \$1.259 million for Drugs and Driving Initiative (DDI);
  - \$1.175 million for Community Corrections Accommodation Strategy; and
  - \$1.000 million for costs associated with the Cariboo-Chilcotin RCMP unit.

**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General**  
**2021/22 Summary of Ministry Changes**

**1a) Three Year Service Plan Comparison**

(\$ millions)	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
<b>2020/21 Plan*</b>	873.131	876.161	882.407	882.407
<b>2021/22 Plan</b>	871.118*	900.858	906.569	906.675
<b>Plan over Plan Change</b>		\$24.697	\$24.162	\$24.268
<b>Plan over Plan % Change</b>		2.82%	2.74%	2.75%
<b>Year over Year Change</b>		\$29.740	\$5.711	\$0.106
<b>Year over Year % Change</b>		3.41%	0.63%	0.01%

\*2020/21 restated

**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General**  
**2021/22 Summary of Ministry Changes**

**1b) Plan-Over-Plan Changes**

<b>Plan over Plan Changes</b>	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>
<b>Budget 2021 Decisions</b>	(\$ millions)		
SSNM - Corrections Temporary Market Adjustment	4.968	4.968	4.968
Community Corrections Accommodation Strategy	1.175	0.000	0.000
PSB Salary and Benefit Pressures	4.680	4.680	4.680
Core Policing	2.373	2.373	2.373
First Nation Policing Program	1.800	1.850	1.900
Gang Suppression Action Plan	1.611	1.611	1.611
Cariboo-Chilcotin RCMP Unit	1.000	1.000	1.000
RCMP Support Staff Collective Bargaining	0.801	0.801	0.801
SSNM - Community Social Services Low Wage Redress	1.883	1.883	1.883
Community Social Services Recruitment and Retention Allocation	1.509	1.509	1.509
SSNM - Community Social Services Agencies	0.400	0.400	0.400
BC211 Texting Capabilities – Victim Services	0.024	0.024	0.024
Post-Mortem Diagnostic Suites	0.421	0.474	0.518
Drugs and Driving Initiative (DDI)	1.259	1.122	1.122
Office of the Fire Commissioner	0.779	1.440	1.440
Minister's Office	0.022	0.035	0.047
SSNM - legal services costs	0.005	0.005	0.005
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>24.710</b>	<b>24.175</b>	<b>24.281</b>
Budget Transfer from BCCS to RPD for "32772 Marshall Rd"	(0.013)	(0.013)	(0.013)
Lease Costs			
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>(0.013)</b>	<b>(0.013)</b>	<b>(0.013)</b>
<b>Net Change</b>	<b>24.697</b>	<b>24.162</b>	<b>24.268</b>

**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General**  
**2021/22 Summary of Ministry Changes**

**1c) Year-Over-Year Changes**

Year over Year Changes	2021/2 2	2022/2 3	2023/2 4
<b><u>Budget 2021 Decisions</u></b>	(\$ millions)		
SSNM - Corrections Temporary Market Adjustment	4.968		
Community Corrections Accommodation Strategy	1.175	(1.175)	
PSB Salary and Benefit Pressures	4.680		
Core Policing	2.373		
First Nation Policing Program	1.800	0.050	0.050
Gang Suppression Action Plan	1.611		
Cariboo-Chilcotin RCMP Unit	1.000		
RCMP Support Staff Collective Bargaining	0.801		
SSNM - Community Social Services Low Wage Redress	1.883		
Community Social Services Recruitment and Retention	1.509		
Allocation			
SSNM - Community Social Services Agencies	0.400		
BC211 Texting Capabilities – Victim Services	0.024		
Post-Mortem Diagnostic Suites	0.421	0.053	0.044
Drugs and Driving Initiative (DDI)	1.259	(0.137)	
Office of the Fire Commissioner	0.779	0.661	
Minister's Office	0.022	0.013	0.012
SSNM – legal services costs	0.005		
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>24.710</b>	<b>(0.535)</b>	<b>0.106</b>
<b><u>Prior Year Funding Decisions</u></b>			
Crime Victims Assistance Program ( <i>Budget 2019</i> )	0.175		
Social Program (Probation) Officer Reclassification ( <i>Budget 2019</i> )	0.003		
Electronic Supervision ( <i>Budget 2020</i> )	0.050		
Community Corrections Accommodation Strategy ( <i>Budget 2020</i> )	0.011	0.210	
High Risk Offender Supervision ( <i>Budget 2020</i> )		(0.232)	
Segregation Reform ( <i>Budget 2020</i> )	(1.738)	(0.032)	
First Nation Policing ( <i>Budget 2020</i> )	0.039	0.041	
Community Safety Initiative ( <i>Budget 2020</i> )	(0.563)	(0.660)	
Court Operating Costs ( <i>Budget 2020</i> )	0.977	0.009	
Crime Victims Assistance Program ( <i>Budget 2020</i> )	0.124	0.649	
Post Mortem Diagnostic Suite ( <i>Budget 2020</i> )	0.002	0.053	
Ground Search and Rescue (GSAR) ( <i>Budget 2020</i> )		6.211	
Emergency Management BC (EMBC) Caseload ( <i>Budget 2020</i> )	0.313		

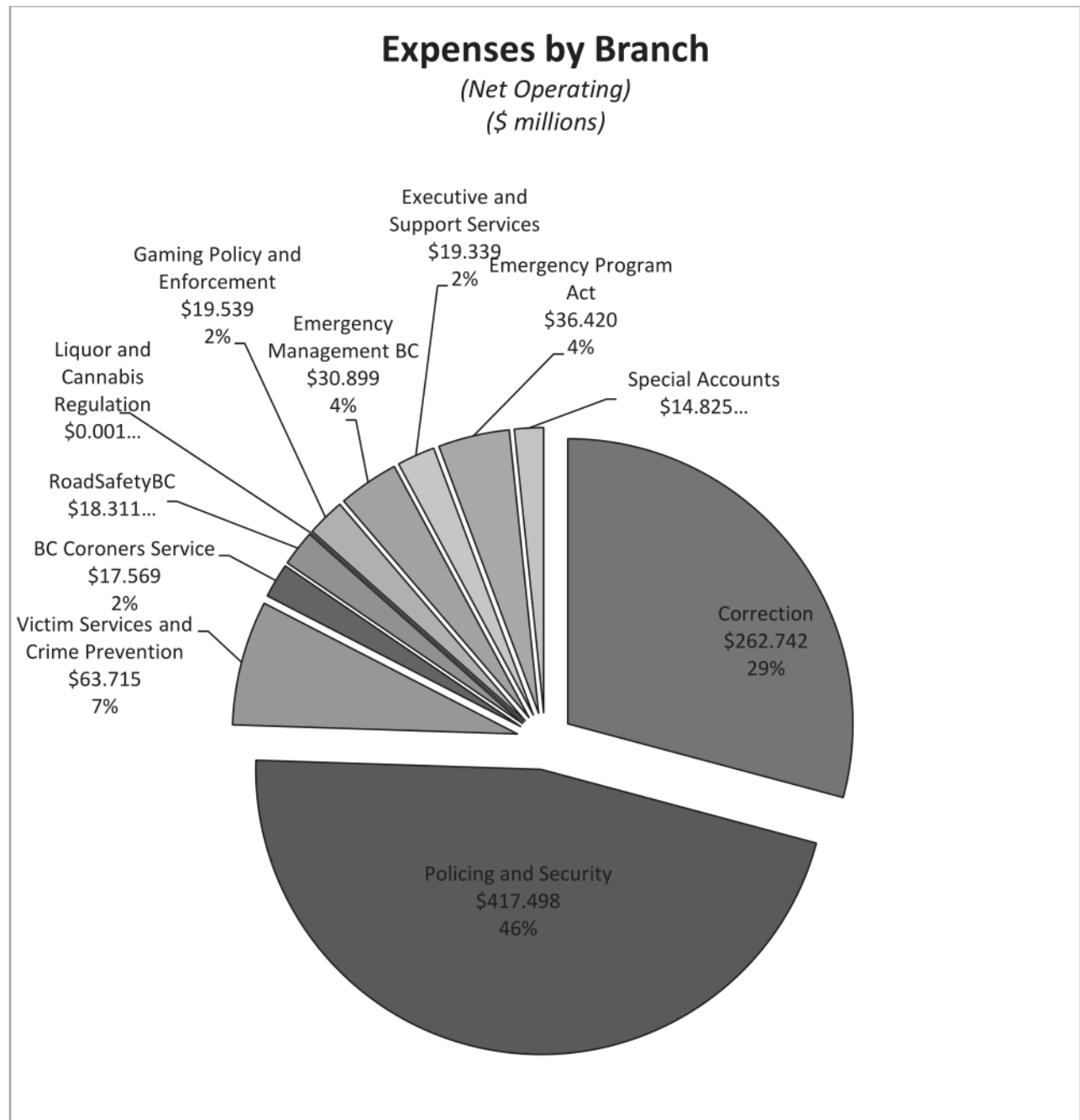
**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General**  
**2021/22 Summary of Ministry Changes**

SSNM and Community Social Services Employers' Association of BC (CSSEA) Allocation ( <i>Budget 2020</i> )	5.617		
Benefits Chargeback Rate Adjustment ( <i>Budget 2020</i> )	0.020	(0.003)	
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>5.030</b>	<b>6.246</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net Change</b>	<b>29.740</b>	<b>5.711</b>	<b>0.106</b>

**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General  
2021/22 Summary of Ministry Changes**

**1d) Ministry Budget by Branch**

**Expenses by branch, as a share of total expenses (\$ millions)**



**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General**  
**2021/22 Summary of Ministry Changes**

**Expense by branch, table of changes from 2021/21 restated**

(\$ Millions)	2020/21	2021/22	Change	Change
	Restated Estimates	Estimates	(\$)	(%)
<b>Voted Appropriations</b>				
Corrections	253.459	262.742	9.283	3.66%
Policing and Security	405.474	417.498	12.024	2.97%
Victim Services and Crime Prevention	58.870	63.715	4.845	8.23%
BC Coroners Service	17.103	17.569	0.466	2.72%
RoadSafetyBC	16.758	18.311	1.553	9.27%
Liquor and Cannabis Regulation	0.001	0.001	0.000	0.00%
Gaming Policy and Enforcement	19.437	19.539	0.102	0.52%
Emergency Management BC	29.454	30.899	1.445	4.91%
Executive and Support Services	19.221	19.339	0.118	0.61%
<b>Total Ministry Operations</b>	<b>819.777</b>	<b>849.613</b>	<b>29.836</b>	<b>3.64%</b>
<i>Emergency Program Act</i>	36.527	36.420	(0.107)	(0.29%)
<b>Total Voted Appropriations</b>	<b>856.304</b>	<b>886.033</b>	<b>29.729</b>	<b>3.47%</b>
<b>Statutory Appropriations</b>				
Civil Forfeiture Account	0.029	0.040	0.011	37.93%
Correction Work Program Account	1.281	1.281	0.000	0.00%
Victim Surcharge Special Account	13.504	13.504	0.000	0.00%
<b>Total Statutory Appropriations</b>	<b>14.814</b>	<b>14.825</b>	<b>0.011</b>	<b>0.07%</b>
<b>Total Appropriations</b>	<b>871.118</b>	<b>900.858</b>	<b>29.740</b>	<b>3.41%</b>

**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General  
2021/22 Summary of Ministry Changes**

**1e) Summary of Changes by Branch**

**Corrections**

A \$9.283 million year over year funding increase is due to additional funding provided for the Sustainable Services Negotiating Mandate (SSNM) for Corrections TMA \$4.968 million, the Community Corrections Accommodation Strategy \$1.186 million; incremental funding increases from *Budget 2020* for the SSNM \$3.949 million, the Court Operating Costs \$0.851 million, the Electronic Supervision \$0.050 million, the Benefits Chargeback Rate adjustments \$0.014 million; and an incremental funding increase from *Budget 2019* for the Social Program Officer Reclassification \$0.003 million; offset by an incremental funding decrease from *Budget 2020* for the Segregation Reform (\$1.738) million.

**Policing and Security**

A \$12.024 million year over year funding increase is due to additional funding provided for the Salary and Benefit Pressures \$4.963 million, the Core Policing \$2.373 million, the First Nation Policing \$1.800 million, the Gang Suppression Action Plan \$1.611 million, the Cariboo-Chilcotin RCMP Unit \$1.000 million, the RCMP Support Staff Collective Bargaining \$0.801 million; an incremental funding increase from *Budget 2020* for the First Nation Policing \$0.039 million; offset by an incremental funding decrease from *Budget 2020* for the Community Safety Initiative (\$0.563) million.

**Victim Services and Crime Prevention**

A \$4.845 million year over year funding increase is due to additional funding provided for the Sustainable Services Negotiating Mandate (SSNM) \$2.283 million, the Community Social Services Recruitment and Retention \$1.509 million, the BC211 Texting Capabilities \$0.024 million; incremental funding increases from *Budget 2020* for the Community Social Services Recruitment and Retention \$0.447 million, the SSNM \$0.156 million, the Court Operating Costs \$0.126 million, the Crime Victim Assistance Program \$0.124 million, and the Benefits Chargeback Rate adjustments \$0.001 million; and also an incremental funding increase from *Budget 2019* for the Crime Victim Assistance Program \$0.175 million.

**BC Coroners Service**

A \$0.466 million year over year funding increase is due to additional funding provided for Post Mortem Diagnostic Suite (PMDS) \$0.421 million; incremental funding increases from *Budget 2020* for the Sustainable Services Negotiating Mandate (SSNM) \$0.043 million and the PMDS \$0.002 million.

**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General  
2021/22 Summary of Ministry Changes**

**RoadSafetyBC**

A \$1.553 million year over year funding increase is due to additional funding provided for the Drugs and Driving Initiative \$1.259 million, and an incremental funding increase from *Budget 2020* for the Sustainable Services Negotiating Mandate (SSNM) \$0.294 million.

**Liquor and Cannabis Regulation**

No change.

**Gaming Policy and Enforcement**

A \$0.102 million year over year funding increase is due to *Budget 2020* funding provided for the Sustainable Services Negotiating Mandate (SSNM) \$0.101 million and the Benefits Chargeback Rate adjustments \$0.001 million.

**Emergency Management BC**

A \$1.445 million year over year funding increase is due to additional funding provided for the Office of the Fire Commissioner \$0.779 million, a STOB Realignment with EPA for \$0.193 million; incremental funding increases from *Budget 2020* for the Emergency Management BC (EMBC) Caseload \$0.313 million, the Sustainable Services Negotiating Mandate (SSNM) \$0.157 million, and the Benefits Chargeback Rate adjustments \$0.003 million.

**Executive and Support Services**

A \$0.118 million year over year funding increase is due to additional funding provided for the Minister's Office \$0.022 million; and an incremental funding increase from *Budget 2020* for the Sustainable Services Negotiating Mandate (SSNM) \$0.096 million.

***Emergency Program Act***

A (\$0.107) million decrease in year over year funding is due to a STOB Realignment with EMBC (\$0.193) million; offset by an incremental funding increase from *Budget 2020* for the Sustainable Services Negotiating Mandate (SSNM) \$0.086 million.

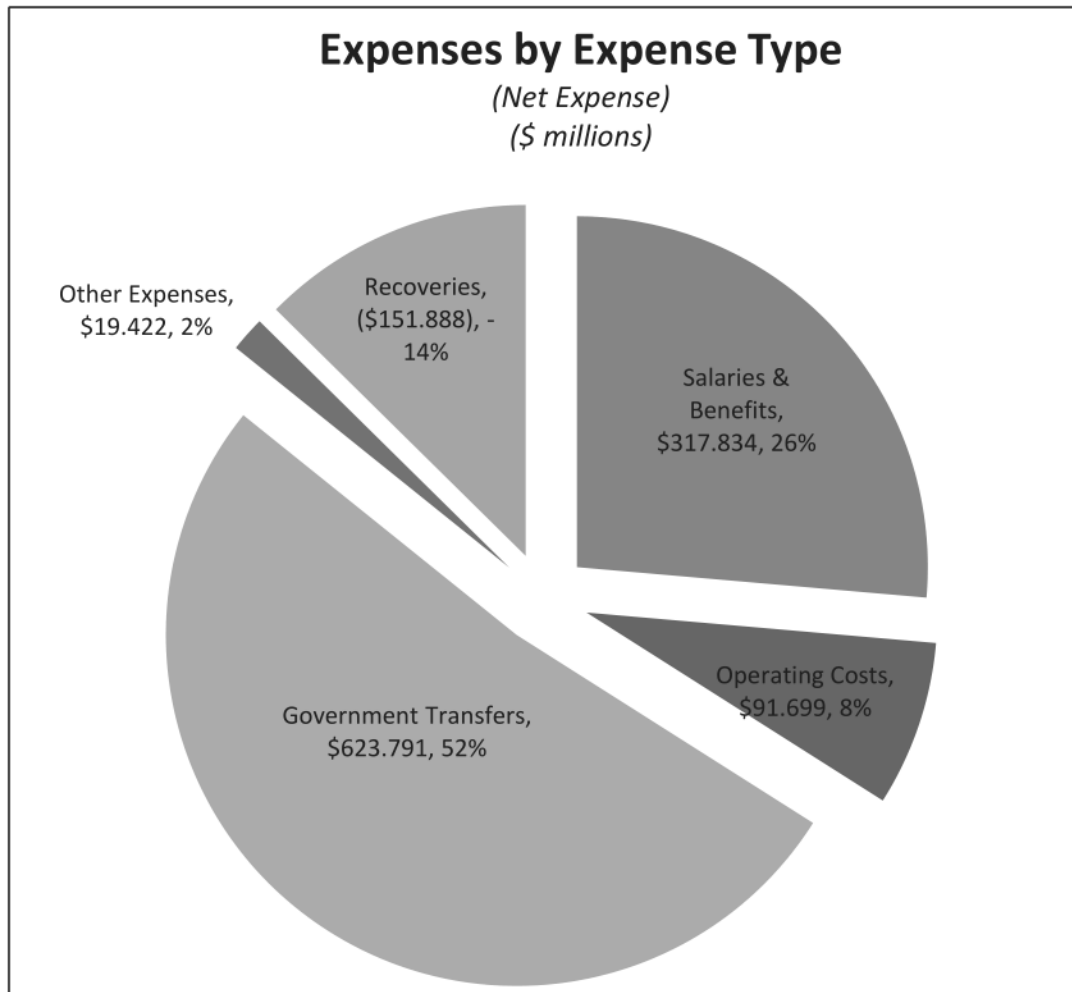
**Civil Forfeiture Office**

A \$0.011 million increase in year over year funding is due to an incremental funding increase from *Budget 2020* for the Sustainable Services Negotiating Mandate (SSNM).

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General  
2021/22 Summary of Ministry Changes

1f) Ministry Budget by Expense Type

Expenses by expense type, as a share of total expenses (\$ millions)



**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General**  
**2021/22 Summary of Ministry Changes**

Expenses by expense type, table of changes from 2020/21 restated<sup>1</sup>

(\$ millions)	2020/21	2021/22	Change	Change
	Restated Estimates	Estimates	(\$)	(%)
Salaries & Benefits	301.116	317.834	16.718	5.55%
Operating Costs	89.767	91.699	1.932	2.15%
Government Transfers	666.931	623.791	(43.140)	(6.47%)
Other Expenses	19.413	19.422	0.009	0.05%
Recoveries	(17.792)	(17.793)	(0.001)	0.01%
Recoveries External	(188.317)	(134.095)	54.222	(28.79%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>871.118</b>	<b>900.858</b>	<b>29.740</b>	<b>3.41%</b>

<sup>1</sup>Does not include Allowances for Doubtful Accounts and Commissions on Collection of Public Funds, or the offsetting recoveries.

## Summary of Changes

### Salaries & Benefits

Increase of \$16.718 million reflects additional funding provided for the Sustainable Services Negotiating Mandate (SSNM) for Corrections TMA \$4.968 million, the PSB Salary and Benefit Pressures \$4.963 million, a STOB Realignment between the Emergency Management BC (EMBC) and the *Emergency Program Act* programs for \$0.865 million, the Drugs and Driving Initiative \$0.786 million, the Office of the Fire Commissioner \$0.525 million, the Minister's Office \$0.104 million; incremental funding increases from *Budget 2020* for the SSNM \$5.048 million, the Court Operating Costs \$0.822 million, the EMBC Caseload \$0.289 million, the Electronic Supervision \$0.050 million, the Benefits Chargeback Rate adjustments \$0.020 million, the Crime Victim Assistance Program \$0.011 million, the Post Mortem Diagnostic Suite \$0.002 million; and an incremental funding increase from *Budget 2019* for the Social Program Officer Reclassification \$0.003 million; offset by an incremental funding decrease from *Budget 2020* for the Segregation Reform (\$1.738) million.

### Operating Costs

Increase of \$1.932 million reflects additional funding provided for the Community Corrections Accommodation Strategy \$1.186 million, the Drugs and Driving Initiative \$0.649 million, the Post Mortem Diagnostic Suite \$0.421 million, the Office of the Fire Commissioner \$0.254 million; incremental funding increases from *Budget 2020* for the Court Operating Costs \$0.083 million, the Emergency Management BC (EMBC) Caseload \$0.024 million; offset by a *Budget 2021* adjustment for the Minister's Office (\$0.018) million, and incremental funding decreases from

**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General**  
**2021/22 Summary of Ministry Changes**

*Budget 2020* for the Community Safety Initiative (\$0.563) million and the Crime Victim Assistance Program (\$0.104) million.

Government Transfers

Decrease of (\$43.140) million reflects Gaming Grants reduction (\$72) million (the reduction is due to expected decrease in BCLC revenue as a result of the pandemic), a STOB Realignment with EPA (\$0.865) million; an incremental funding decrease from *Budget 2019* for the Federal Cannabis Agreement (\$0.743) million; offset by additional funding provided for the Core Policing \$2.373 million, the Sustainable Services Negotiating Mandate (SSNM) \$2.283 million, the First Nation Policing \$1.800 million, the Gang Suppression Action Plan \$1.611 million, the Community Social Services Recruitment and Retention \$1.509 million, the Cariboo-Chilcotin RCMP Unit \$1.000 million, the RCMP Support Staff Collective Bargaining \$0.801 million, the BC211 Texting Capabilities \$0.024 million, and the Integrated Homicide Investigation Team Gross Up adjustment \$15.000 million; incremental funding increases from *Budget 2020* for the Community Social Services Recruitment and Retention \$0.447 million, the Crime Victim Assistance Program (CVAP) \$0.217 million, the SSNM \$0.049 million; and also incremental funding increases from *Budget 2019* for the Federal Guns and Gang Agreement \$2.140 million, the Gaming Grants \$1 million, the CVAP \$0.175 million, the First Nation Policing \$0.039 million.

Other Expenses

Increase of \$0.009 million reflects a placeholder adjustment for the *Emergency Program Act* program \$0.001 million; an incremental funding increase from *Budget 2020* decision for the Court Operating Costs \$0.072; offset by a *Budget 2021* adjustment for the Minister's Office (\$0.064) million.

Internal Recoveries

The change is immaterial.

External Recoveries

Increase of (\$54.222) million reflects the Integrated Homicide Investigation Team Gross Up adjustment (\$15) million, and the Drugs and Driving Initiative (\$0.176) million; incremental funding increases from *Budget 2020* for the Sustainable Services Negotiating Mandate (SSNM) (\$0.204) million and the Benefits Chargeback Rate adjustments (\$0.001) million; incremental funding increases from *Budget 2019* for the Federal Guns and Gang Agreement (\$2.140) million, and the Gaming Grants (\$1) million; offset by Gaming Grants reduction \$72 million, and an incremental funding decrease from *Budget 2019* for the Federal Cannabis Agreement \$0.743 million.

**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General**  
**2021/22 Summary of Ministry Changes**

**External recoveries in PSSG total \$134.095 million:**

<b>External Recoveries</b>	
<b>Estimates</b>	<b>2021/22</b>
	<b>(\$ millions)</b>
Corrections	4.045
Policing and Security	50.215
Victim Services and Crime Prevention	0.300
BC Coroners Service	0.002
RoadSafetyBC	4.227
Liquor and Cannabis Regulation	12.539
Gaming Policy and Enforcement	44.772
Emergency Management BC	10.491
Executive and Support Services	0.002
Emergency Program Act	0.001
Civil Forfeiture Account	7.501
<b>Total</b>	<b>134.095</b>

**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General**  
**2021/22 Summary of Ministry Changes**

**1g) Capital Budget**

The 2021/22 capital budget is \$2.542 million, a decrease of (\$8.720) million from the previous year. The decrease is primarily due to reduced capital needs for RoadSafety Initiative Phase 2 (\$8.873) million. During FY20/21, the Ministry aligned CRF capital expenditures in the Estimates document to specific core businesses.

<b>Asset Type (\$ millions)</b>	<b>2020/21</b>	<b>Estimates 2021/22</b>	<b>Budget Change</b>
Specialized Equipment	1.167	1.097	(0.070)
Office Furniture and Equipment	0.053	0.039	(0.014)
Vehicles	1.152	1.198	0.046
Information Systems	8.890	0.014	(8.876)
Tenant Improvements		0.194	0.194
<b>Total</b>	<b>11.262</b>	<b>2.542</b>	<b>(8.720)</b>

**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General**  
**Year over Year Comparison**

ANNUAL SERVICE PLAN						
Core Business Area	Restated Budget 2020/21	2021/22 Estimates	2022/23 Service Plan	2023/24 Service Plan	2021/22 Changes	2022/23 Changes
	In \$ Millions				In \$ Millions	%
Corrections	253.459	262.742	261.520	261.520	9.283	3.7%
Policing and Security	405.474	417.498	416.926	416.976	12.024	3.0%
Victim Services and Crime Prevention	58.870	63.715	64.366	64.366	4.845	8.2%
BC Coroners Service	17.103	17.569	17.675	17.719	0.466	2.7%
RoadSafetyBC	16.758	18.311	18.174	18.174	1.553	9.3%
Liquor and Cannabis Regulation	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.000	0.0%
Gaming Policy and Enforcement	19.437	19.539	19.539	19.539	0.102	0.5%
Emergency Management BC	29.454	30.899	37.771	37.771	1.445	4.9%
Executive and Support Services	19.221	19.339	19.352	19.364	0.118	0.6%
<i>Emergency Program Act</i>	36.527	36.420	36.420	36.420	(0.107)	-0.3%
Special Accounts	14.814	14.825	14.825	14.825	0.011	0.1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>871.118</b>	<b>900.858</b>	<b>906.569</b>	<b>906.675</b>	<b>29.740</b>	<b>3.4%</b>

**Budget 2021 Decisions:**

- SSNM - Corrections Temporary Market Adjustment - \$4.968 million.
- Community Corrections Accommodation Strategy - \$1.175 million.
- PSB Salary and Benefit Pressures - \$4.680 million.
- Core Policing - \$2.373 million.
- First Nation Policing Program - \$1.800 million.
- Gang Suppression Action Plan - \$1.611 million.
- Cariboo-Chilcotin RCMP Unit - \$1.000 million.
- RCMP Support Staff Collective Bargaining - \$0.801 million.
- SSNM - Community Social Services Low Wage Redress - \$1.883 million
- Community Social Services Recruitment and Retention Allocation - \$1.509 million.
- SSNM - Community Social Services Agencies - \$0.400 million.
- BC211 Texting Capabilities - \$0.024 million.
- Post Mortem Diagnostic Suite - \$0.421 million.
- Drugs and Driving Initiative (DDI) - \$1.259 million.
- Office of the Fire Commissioner - \$0.643 million.
- Minister's Office - \$0.022 million.
- SSNM - legal services costs - \$0.005 million.

**Prior Years' Decisions:**

- Sustainable Services Negotiating Mandate (SSNM) and Community Social Services Employers' Association of BC (CSSEA) Allocation (*Budget 2020*) \$5.516 million
- Court Operating Costs (*Budget 2020*) \$0.977 million
- Segregation Reform (*Budget 2020*) (\$1.738) million

Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund)						
	Restated Budget 2020/21	2021/22 Estimates	2022/23 Service Plan	2023/24 Service Plan	2021/22 Changes	2021/22 Changes
Core Business Area	In \$ Millions				In \$ Millions	%
Corrections	1.062	1.062	1.062	1.062	0.000	0.0%
Policing and Security	0.070	0.000	0.000	0.000	(0.070)	-100.0%
BC Coroners Service	0.035	0.035	0.035	0.000	0.000	0.0%
RoadSafetyBC	8.890	0.000	0.000	0.000	(8.890)	-100.0%
Emergency Management BC	0.000	0.550	0.550	0.000	0.550	0.0%
Executive and Support Services	1.205	0.895	0.747	0.747	(0.310)	-25.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>11.262</b>	<b>2.542</b>	<b>2.394</b>	<b>1.809</b>	<b>(8.720)</b>	<b>0.0%</b>

**Budget 2021 Decisions:**

- Funding reprofiled from Policing to BCCS, EMBC, and EPA (\$0.070).
- Reduction for RoadSafety Initiative Phase 2 (\$8.873)
- Capital funding for Office of the Fire Commissioner (\$0.550).
- Reduction in Vehicle allocation for Executive and Support Services (\$0.274).

OCG-TBS COVID-19 Information Report 2020/21 (\$M)

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

#	Program Name	Description	Q1	Q2	Q3	Program Total
1	Emergency Program Act	Includes costs to accommodate international travelers, temporary foreign workers and returning Canadians required and First Nations to self isolate, in addition to payments issued to Local Governments for COVID support and activation of the Provincial Emergency Coordination Center and Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Center.	1.7	12.6	7.0	21.2
4	Corrections	Including replacement overtime due to staff that are unable to report to work due to STIIP or self-isolation, PPE supplies and COVID required facility purchases, and deep cleaning high-touch surfaces in Community Corrections' field offices.	1.7	0.8	2.3	4.8
5	Victim Services Supports	COVID-19 Victim Services Support Fund.	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.9
6	RoadSafetyBC	Including salaries, legal services, cleaning supplies and other COVID related costs.	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.2
7	BC Coroners Service	Including PPE, supplies, body transport and storage costs.	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1
8	Executive and Support Services	Including clothing and equipment, legal services, cleaning supplies and other COVID related costs.	0.0	-0.0	0.0	0.0
9	EMBC - Shearwater Marine Limited agreement	Contractor will provide transportation of food, retail goods, fuel and other freight to remote central coast communities and businesses.	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1
10	Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch	Including salaries, legal services, cleaning supplies and other COVID related costs.	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1
12	Policing and Security	Including salaries, office supplies and stationery costs.	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1
13	Emergency Management BC	Funding to purchase PPE supplies and COVID Touchpoint cleaning services for EMBC staff.	0.0	-0.0	0.0	0.0
Total			3.6	13.6	10.4	27.6

Advice/Recommendations

**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General**  
**Full Time Equivalents**

<b>FTEs</b>	<b>2020/2021 YTD Average</b>	<b>Funded Increase</b>	<b>Projected 2021/22</b>
Corrections	2,637	-	2,637
Policing and Security	233	-	233
Victim Services and Crime Prevention	110	-	110
BC Coroners Services	93	-	93
RoadSafetyBC	197	-	197
Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch	171	-	171
Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch	153	-	153
Emergency Management BC	160	8	168
Executive & Support Services			
Minister's Office	6	-	6
Office of the Deputy Solicitor General	7	-	7
Emergency Management BC Deputy Minister	3	-	3
Corporate Policy and Planning	11	-	11
Corporate Management Services Branch	103	-	103
<i>Emergency Program Act</i>	65	-	65
<i>Special Accounts</i>			
Civil Forfeiture Account	12	-	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,962</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3,970</b>

**SUMMARY OF CHANGES**

**Emergency Management BC:** Additional FTEs approved through base budget funding for Office of the Fire Commissioner (8 FTE's).

**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General**  
**Budget 2021 Decisions**  
(in \$ millions)

**Base Budget**

<b>TB Decisions:</b>	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>
Community Corrections Accommodation Strategy	1.175		
Policing and Security Branch Salary and Benefit Pressures	4.680	4.680	4.680
Core Policing	2.373	2.373	2.373
First Nation Policing Program	1.800	1.850	1.900
Gang Suppression Action Plan	1.611	1.611	1.611
Cariboo-Chilcotin RCMP Unit	1.000	1.000	1.000
RCMP Support Staff Collective Bargaining	0.801	0.801	0.801
BC211 Texting Capabilities - Victim Services	0.024	0.024	0.024
Post-Mortem Diagnostic Suites	0.421	0.474	0.518
Office of the Fire Commissioner	0.779	1.440	1.440
<b>Caseload</b>	<b>14.664</b>	<b>14.253</b>	<b>14.347</b>
Community Social Services Recruitment and Retention Allocation	1.509	1.509	1.509
Drugs and Driving Initiative (DDI)	1.259	1.122	1.122
Minister's Office	0.022	0.035	0.047
SSNM - Corrections Temporary Market Adjustment	4.968	4.968	4.968
SSNM - Community Social Services Low Wage Redress	1.883	1.883	1.883
SSNM - Community Social Services Agencies	0.400	0.400	0.400
SSNM - legal services costs	0.005	0.005	0.005
<b>Other Allocations/Report Back</b>	<b>10.046</b>	<b>9.922</b>	<b>9.934</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>24.710</b>	<b>24.175</b>	<b>24.281</b>

**Contingencies**

<b>TB Decisions:</b>	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>
BC Corrections Recruitment and Retention	7.000		
Community Corrections Accommodation Strategy		1.175	1.175
Coastal GasLink Injunction (approval-in-principle)	5.000	5.000	5.000
First Nations Policing Program (approval-in-principle)	1.120	1.680	
ERASE Programming in Schools	0.800		
Traffic Fine Revenue Sharing (TFRS) (approval-in-principle)	3.300		
Road Safety Initiative (RSI)	5.750		
Intersection Safety Cameras (ISC) (approval-in-principle)	4.717		
Driver Medical Fitness (approval-in-principle)	0.432		
Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch	7.500		
<b>Contingencies</b>	<b>35.619</b>	<b>7.855</b>	<b>6.175</b>

## MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

The mission of the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General is to deliver public safety services and programs, to administer regulations for the liquor and cannabis industries, to ensure that the public has confidence in British Columbia's gaming sector, and to lead the development and coordination of an effective emergency management system for British Columbia.

### MINISTRY SUMMARY

(\$000)

	Estimates 2020/21 <sup>1</sup>	Estimates 2021/22
<b>VOTED APPROPRIATIONS</b>		
Vote 39 — Ministry Operations.....	819,777	849,613
Vote 40 — <i>Emergency Program Act</i> .....	36,527	36,420
<b>STATUTORY APPROPRIATIONS</b>		
Civil Forfeiture Account Special Account.....	29	40
Corrections Work Program Account Special Account.....	1,281	1,281
Criminal Asset Management Fund Special Account.....	—	—
Victim Surcharge Special Account.....	13,504	13,504
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<u>871,118</u>	<u>900,858</u>
<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES <sup>2</sup></b>	11,262	2,542
<b>LOANS, INVESTMENTS AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS <sup>3</sup></b>	—	—
<b>REVENUE COLLECTED FOR, AND TRANSFERRED TO, OTHER ENTITIES <sup>4</sup></b>	—	—

#### NOTES

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> A listing of estimated capital expenditures by ministry is presented in Schedule C.

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

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

## MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

## SUMMARY BY CORE BUSINESS

(\$000)

	2020/21	2021/22 ESTIMATES		
OPERATING EXPENSES	Net	Gross	External Recoveries	Net
<b>Core Business</b>				
Corrections.....	253,459	266,787	(4,045)	262,742
Policing and Security.....	405,474	467,713	(50,215)	417,498
Victim Services and Crime Prevention.....	58,870	64,015	(300)	63,715
BC Coroners Service.....	17,103	17,571	(2)	17,569
RoadSafetyBC.....	16,758	22,538	(4,227)	18,311
Liquor and Cannabis Regulation.....	1	12,540	(12,539)	1
Gaming Policy and Enforcement.....	19,437	64,311	(44,772)	19,539
Emergency Management BC.....	29,454	41,390	(10,491)	30,899
Executive and Support Services.....	19,221	19,341	(2)	19,339
Emergency Program Act.....	36,527	36,421	(1)	36,420
Civil Forfeiture Account Special Account.....	29	7,541	(7,501)	40
Corrections Work Program Account Special Account.....	1,281	1,281	—	1,281
Criminal Asset Management Fund Special Account.....	—	—	—	—
Victim Surcharge Special Account.....	13,504	13,504	—	13,504
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES .....</b>	<b>871,118</b>	<b>1,034,953</b>	<b>(134,095)</b>	<b>900,858</b>
<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>Capital Expenditures</b>	<b>Capital Expenditures</b>	<b>Receipts and P3 Liabilities</b>	<b>Net</b>
<b>Core Business</b>				
Corrections.....	1,062	1,062	—	1,062
Policing and Security.....	70	—	—	—
BC Coroners Service.....	35	35	—	35
RoadSafetyBC.....	8,890	—	—	—
Emergency Management BC.....	—	550	—	550
Executive and Support Services.....	1,205	895	—	895
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>11,262</b>	<b>2,542</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>2,542</b>

## MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

## VOTE DESCRIPTIONS

(\$000)

Estimates  
2020/21Estimates  
2021/22

## VOTE 39 — MINISTRY OPERATIONS

This vote provides for the programs, operations, and other activities described in the voted appropriations under the following core businesses: Corrections, Policing and Security, Victim Services and Crime Prevention, BC Coroners Service, RoadSafetyBC, Liquor and Cannabis Regulation, Gaming Policy and Enforcement, Emergency Management BC, and Executive and Support Services.

## CORRECTIONS

## Voted Appropriation

Corrections.....	253,459	262,742
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**Voted Appropriation Description:** This sub-vote provides for the management of remanded and sentenced adult offenders in custody and in the community, immigration detainees, and for the planning and management of correctional programs. Costs may be recovered from ministries, Crown agencies, boards and commissions, other levels of governments, and other parties both internal and external to government for activities described within this sub-vote.

## POLICING AND SECURITY

## Voted Appropriation

Policing and Security.....	405,474	417,498
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**Voted Appropriation Description:** This sub-vote provides for superintending policing and law enforcement in the province; management of contract policing; the development and administration of policy and legislation regarding cannabis, including stakeholder consultation and public engagement; and developing and delivering initiatives to maintain safe and secure communities. This sub-vote also provides for security industry regulations and other protective programs. Costs may be recovered from ministries, Crown agencies, boards and commissions, other levels of government, and other parties both internal and external to government for activities described within this sub-vote.

## VICTIM SERVICES AND CRIME PREVENTION

## Voted Appropriation

Victim Services and Crime Prevention.....	58,870	63,715
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**Voted Appropriation Description:** This sub-vote provides for direct services to support victims of crime, counselling and outreach services for women and children impacted by violence, and financial assistance and benefits to assist victims in their recovery from the impacts of violent crime. This sub-vote also provides for support to communities to prevent crime, violence, and victimization. Costs may be recovered from the Victim Surcharge Special Account for victim service programs, from ministries for special public safety initiatives, and from other levels of government for activities described within this sub-vote.

## BC CORONERS SERVICE

## Voted Appropriation

BC Coroners Service.....	17,103	17,569
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**Voted Appropriation Description:** This sub-vote provides for the operation of the BC Coroners Service and the administration of the *Coroners Act*, including investigating unnatural, sudden, and unexpected deaths; investigating and reviewing children's deaths; identifying, and publicly reporting on relevant facts about, deceased persons; advancing recommendations aimed at the prevention of death; holding inquests and Death Review Panels; and reporting on issues affecting public health and safety. Costs may be recovered from ministries, Crown agencies, and other levels of government for activities described within this sub-vote.

## MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

## VOTE DESCRIPTIONS

(\$000)

	Estimates 2020/21	Estimates 2021/22
<b>ROADSAFETYBC</b>		
<b>Voted Appropriation</b>		
RoadSafetyBC.....	16,758	18,311
<p><b>Voted Appropriation Description:</b> This sub-vote provides for programs and activities of RoadSafetyBC, including leading and supporting government traffic safety initiatives, administration of driver regulatory and traffic safety programs, setting driver licensing policies, monitoring and regulating unfit drivers, conducting appeals of driving prohibitions and conducting hearings and reviews of the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia's decisions respecting driver licence sanctions, driver training schools, driver trainer licences, and other driver-related programs. This sub-vote also provides for expenses related to participation in national organizations and reimbursements for programs administered by RoadSafetyBC. Costs may be recovered from ministries, Crown agencies, boards and commissions, other levels of government, organizations, and from appeal fees and program fees for activities described within this sub-vote.</p>		
<b>LIQUOR AND CANNABIS REGULATION</b>		
<b>Voted Appropriation</b>		
Liquor and Cannabis Regulation.....	1	1
<p><b>Voted Appropriation Description:</b> This sub-vote provides for the overall policy development, administration, licensing, and enforcement of cannabis and liquor in support of the <i>Liquor Control and Licensing Act</i> and regulations, and the <i>Cannabis Control and Licensing Act</i> and regulations to establish and operate ongoing programs to reduce the incidence of underage consumption and increase public awareness about responsible consumption. Costs may be recovered from ministries, Crown agencies, licensing applications, renewal and change request fees, and from the Liquor Distribution Branch for activities described within this sub-vote.</p>		
<b>GAMING POLICY AND ENFORCEMENT</b>		
<b>Voted Appropriations</b>		
Gaming Policy and Enforcement Operations.....	19,436	19,538
Distribution of Gaming Proceeds.....	1	1
	19,437	19,539
<p><b>Voted Appropriations Description:</b> This sub-vote provides for the administration of gaming in the province, including horse racing and lotteries, and includes development and administration of legislation, policy, standards, and regulations; licensing gaming events; oversight of horse racing events and teletheatres; registration; equipment and product certification; auditing all forms of gambling activities for compliance, investigation, and enforcement activities concerning legal gaming venues and illegal gaming; the management of the province's gaming initiatives; the province's responsible gambling strategy and problem gambling program; and the distribution of gaming proceeds. This sub-vote also provides for the activities of the cross-government Compliance and Enforcement Secretariat. Costs related to the Secretariat's activities may be recovered from ministries and Crown agencies. Costs may be recovered from revenues paid into the General Fund of the Consolidated Revenue Fund by the British Columbia Lottery Corporation, from processing fees for gaming event licence applications, from the Canadian Pari-Mutuel Agency for horse race testing, from external entities for horse race betting, and from gaming registrants for direct costs incurred in the processing of registration applications for activities described within this sub-vote. Costs may also be recovered from ministries for activities described within this sub-vote.</p>		
<b>EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BC</b>		
<b>Voted Appropriation</b>		
Emergency Management BC.....	29,454	30,899
<p><b>Voted Appropriation Description:</b> This sub-vote provides for program costs related to provincial emergency management planning and preparedness, emergency management policy development, disaster risk reduction, and disaster mitigation activities. Mitigation activities include flood, fire, and other hazards and disasters; assurance of critical infrastructure; promotion of emergency management capacity within British Columbian communities; and business continuity and integrated public safety planning readiness for response to emergencies. This sub-vote also provides for the coordination of recovery from wildfire and other provincial disasters, including community engagement and recovery plans and actions. This sub-vote also provides for the Office of the Fire Commissioner, which implements fire safety regulations and activities, promotes fire safety, and assists major fire investigations and the response to major wildland urban interface fire emergencies. Costs may be recovered from ministries, Crown agencies, other levels of government, agencies, organizations, individuals, and private sector partners for activities described within this sub-vote.</p>		

## MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

## VOTE DESCRIPTIONS

(\$000)

	Estimates 2020/21	Estimates 2021/22
<b>EXECUTIVE AND SUPPORT SERVICES</b>		
<b>Voted Appropriations</b>		
Minister's Office.....	803	829
Corporate Services.....	18,418	18,510
	<u>19,221</u>	<u>19,339</u>
<p><b>Voted Appropriations Description:</b> This sub-vote provides for the office of the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General; executive direction of the ministry, including the Deputy Solicitor General's office and the Deputy Minister of Emergency Management BC's office; the Parliamentary Secretary for Emergency Preparedness; general services to support program delivery; policy development; and management services for the ministry, including oversight of Crown corporations and delegated consumer protection agencies, and the Ministry of Attorney General, including financial administration, facilities management, organizational development, and service planning sponsored by the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General. This sub-vote also provides for the development and implementation of a regulatory framework for cannabis, including cannabis distribution. Costs may be recovered for costs associated with consumer restitution. Costs may also be recovered from ministries, Crown agencies, boards and commissions, other levels of government, organizations, and individuals for activities described within this sub-vote.</p>		
<b>VOTE 39 — MINISTRY OPERATIONS</b>	819,777	849,613

## MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

## VOTE DESCRIPTIONS

(\$000)

	Estimates 2020/21	Estimates 2021/22
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**VOTE 40 — EMERGENCY PROGRAM ACT**

This vote provides for the programs, operations, and other activities described in the voted appropriation under the following core business: *Emergency Program Act*.

**EMERGENCY PROGRAM ACT****Voted Appropriation**

<i>Emergency Program Act</i> .....	<u>36,527</u>	<u>36,420</u>
------------------------------------	---------------	---------------

**Voted Appropriation Description:** This sub-vote provides for operations and operational support described in the *Emergency Program Act*, including response to and recovery from emergencies and disasters, and for hazard mitigation initiatives. This sub-vote allows for statutory appropriation under the *Emergency Program Act*. Costs may be recovered from ministries, other governments, agencies, organizations, and individuals for activities described within this sub-vote.

<b>VOTE 40 — EMERGENCY PROGRAM ACT</b>	<b>36,527</b>	<b>36,420</b>
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## MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

**STATUTORY DESCRIPTIONS**  
 (\$000)

 Estimates  
 2020/21

 Estimates  
 2021/22
**STATUTORY APPROPRIATIONS**

These statutory appropriations provide for the programs, operations, and other activities of the following special accounts: Civil Forfeiture Account, Corrections Work Program Account, Criminal Asset Management Fund, and Victim Surcharge Special Account.

**CIVIL FORFEITURE ACCOUNT****Statutory Appropriation**

Civil Forfeiture Account.....	29	40
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

**Statutory Appropriation Description:** This statutory appropriation provides for the Civil Forfeiture Account which is governed under the *Civil Forfeiture Act*.

**CORRECTIONS WORK PROGRAM ACCOUNT****Statutory Appropriation**

Corrections Work Program Account.....	1,281	1,281
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

**Statutory Appropriation Description:** This statutory appropriation provides for the Corrections Work Program Account which is governed under the *Correction Act*.

**CRIMINAL ASSET MANAGEMENT FUND****Statutory Appropriation**

Criminal Asset Management Fund.....	—	—
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

**Statutory Appropriation Description:** This statutory appropriation provides for the Criminal Asset Management Fund which is governed under the *Criminal Asset Management Act*.

**VICTIM SURCHARGE SPECIAL ACCOUNT****Statutory Appropriation**

Victim Surcharge Special Account.....	13,504	13,504
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

**Statutory Appropriation Description:** This statutory appropriation provides for the Victim Surcharge Special Account which is governed under the *Victims of Crime Act*.

**MINISTRY GROUP ACCOUNT CLASSIFICATION SUMMARY****GROUP ACCOUNT CLASSIFICATION**

Salaries and Benefits .....	301,116	317,834
Operating Costs .....	89,767	91,699
Government Transfers .....	666,931	623,791
Other Expenses .....	19,413	19,422
Internal Recoveries .....	(17,792)	(17,793)
External Recoveries .....	(188,317)	(134,095)
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES.....</b>	<u>871,118</u>	<u>900,858</u>

## MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

SPECIAL ACCOUNTS<sup>1</sup>

(\$000)

	Estimates 2020/21	Estimates 2021/22
<b>CIVIL FORFEITURE ACCOUNT</b>		
This account was established by the <i>Civil Forfeiture Act</i> in 2005. The purpose of the Act is to suppress unlawful activities by removing the associated economic incentive and to fund crime prevention, crime remediation, and victim compensation initiatives. The account is established to receive the liquidated value of forfeited assets and to distribute the net revenue in the form of grants. The net revenue represents the excess of recoveries over expenses in a given fiscal year. Expenses are limited to those permitted within the scope of the Act and include administration of the Act. Costs may be recovered from proceeds from judgments or settlements of concluded legal proceedings.		
<b>SPENDING AUTHORITY AVAILABLE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE FISCAL YEAR <sup>2</sup>.....</b>	<b>9,273</b>	<b>9,244</b>
OPERATING TRANSACTIONS		
Revenue.....	—	—
Expense.....	(7,530)	(7,541)
Internal and External Recoveries.....	7,501	7,501
Net Revenue (Expense).....	(29)	(40)
FINANCING TRANSACTIONS		
Receipts.....	—	—
Disbursements.....	—	—
Capital Expenditures.....	—	—
Net Cash Source (Requirement).....	—	—
<b>PROJECTED SPENDING AUTHORITY AVAILABLE AT THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR <sup>2</sup>.....</b>	<b>9,244</b>	<b>9,204</b>

## NOTES

<sup>1</sup> 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*.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

## MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

SPECIAL ACCOUNTS<sup>1</sup>  
(\$000)

	Estimates 2020/21	Estimates 2021/22
<b>CORRECTIONS WORK PROGRAM ACCOUNT</b>		
This account was established by the <i>Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act (No.2)</i> in 1987 and is governed under the <i>Correction Act</i> . The purpose of the account is to assist inmates in acquiring skills and to encourage them to develop good work habits. Revenue represents proceeds from the sale of goods and services produced by inmates. Expenses are for supplies and costs related to the Corrections Work Program. Administration costs are funded through the ministry's voted appropriations.		
<b>SPENDING AUTHORITY AVAILABLE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE FISCAL YEAR <sup>2</sup>.....</b>	<b>2,548</b>	<b>2,677</b>
OPERATING TRANSACTIONS		
Revenue.....	650	650
Expense.....	(1,281)	(1,281)
Transfer from Ministry Operations Vote.....	700	700
Net Revenue (Expense).....	69	69
FINANCING TRANSACTIONS		
Receipts.....	—	—
Disbursements.....	—	—
Capital Expenditures.....	—	—
Net Cash Source (Requirement).....	—	—
Working Capital Adjustments and Other Spending Authority Committed <sup>3</sup> .....	60	60
<b>PROJECTED SPENDING AUTHORITY AVAILABLE AT THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR <sup>2</sup>.....</b>	<b>2,677</b>	<b>2,806</b>

## NOTES

<sup>1</sup> 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*.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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 PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

SPECIAL ACCOUNTS<sup>1</sup>

(\$000)

	Estimates 2020/21	Estimates 2021/22
<b>CRIMINAL ASSET MANAGEMENT FUND</b>		
The Forfeited Crime Proceeds Fund account was established by the <i>Special Accounts Appropriation and Control Act</i> in 1988, as amended by the <i>Attorney General Amendment Act</i> in 1989. This account was continued in 2012, under the name Criminal Asset Management Fund, by the <i>Criminal Asset Management Act</i> . The purpose of this account is to use the proceeds that government obtains from criminal forfeitures and certain fines for certain criminal justice purposes. Revenue represents money received by government from proceeds of crime provided by certain other governments, money paid as a fine under a provision of the <i>Criminal Code</i> of Canada or under similar legislation, and money forfeited under certain sections of the <i>Criminal Code</i> of Canada. Revenue also represents money realized from the disposition of forfeited property governed by the Act and other money, interest, and income provided for in the Act. Expenses are for compensation of eligible victims, crime prevention and remediation, administration of the Act, and other prescribed purposes. Administrative costs may be funded through the ministry's voted appropriations.		
<b>SPENDING AUTHORITY AVAILABLE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE FISCAL YEAR <sup>2</sup>.....</b>	<b>2,416</b>	<b>2,416</b>
OPERATING TRANSACTIONS		
Revenue.....	—	—
Expense.....	—	—
Net Revenue (Expense).....	—	—
FINANCING TRANSACTIONS		
Receipts.....	—	—
Disbursements.....	—	—
Capital Expenditures.....	—	—
Net Cash Source (Requirement).....	—	—
<b>PROJECTED SPENDING AUTHORITY AVAILABLE AT THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR <sup>2</sup>.....</b>	<b>2,416</b>	<b>2,416</b>

## NOTES

<sup>1</sup> 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*.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

## MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

SPECIAL ACCOUNTS<sup>1</sup>

(\$000)

	Estimates 2020/21	Estimates 2021/22
<b>VICTIM SURCHARGE SPECIAL ACCOUNT</b>		
This account was established by the <i>Victims of Crime Act</i> in 1996. The purpose of the account is to fund services to victims of crime as provided for in the Act. Revenue represents proceeds from a victim surcharge levy on fines from all provincial offences, both court-imposed fines and those which result in a violation ticket. Revenue also includes proceeds from the federal victim surcharge levy on offences imposed by the court under the <i>Criminal Code</i> of Canada, fines issued under the <i>Controlled Drugs and Substances Act</i> , the <i>Cannabis Act</i> , and interest earned on the balance of the fund. Expenses are for justice system obligations to victims of crime under the Act, including administration costs for both the Ministry of Attorney General and the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General. Any remaining funds may be expended on initiatives which may benefit victims of crime. Administration costs are funded through the ministry's voted appropriations.		
<b>SPENDING AUTHORITY AVAILABLE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE FISCAL YEAR <sup>2</sup>.....</b>	<b>32,623</b>	<b>31,119</b>
OPERATING TRANSACTIONS		
Revenue.....	12,000	12,000
Expense.....	(13,504)	(13,504)
Net Revenue (Expense).....	(1,504)	(1,504)
FINANCING TRANSACTIONS		
Receipts.....	—	—
Disbursements.....	—	—
Capital Expenditures.....	—	—
Net Cash Source (Requirement).....	—	—
<b>PROJECTED SPENDING AUTHORITY AVAILABLE AT THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR <sup>2</sup>.....</b>	<b>31,119</b>	<b>29,615</b>

## NOTES

<sup>1</sup> 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*.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

# MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

(\$000)

## VOTE 39 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
Corrections	253,459	163,989	4,751	41,773	—	210,513	—	835	2,363	3,298	806	2,065	—	—	7,763
Policing and Security	405,474	16,182	25	4,110	—	20,317	—	212	535	1,180	363	464	—	—	416
Victim Services and Crime Prevention	58,870	6,828	76	1,734	—	8,638	—	69	83	429	469	191	—	—	—
BC Coroners Service	17,103	7,961	76	2,022	—	10,059	55	351	199	6,424	170	177	—	—	86
RoadSafetyBC	16,758	11,239	51	2,854	—	14,144	—	33	2,454	460	25	166	—	—	—
Liquor and Cannabis Regulation	1	7,836	20	1,990	—	9,846	—	221	147	300	525	300	—	—	5
Gaming Policy and Enforcement	19,437	10,595	72	2,691	—	13,358	—	472	333	372	507	641	—	40	2
Gaming Policy and Enforcement Operations	19,436	10,595	72	2,691	—	13,358	—	472	333	372	507	641	—	40	2
Distribution of Gaming Proceeds	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Emergency Management BC	29,454	15,458	6	3,926	—	19,390	—	580	58	2,789	1,795	486	—	—	159
Executive and Support Services	19,221	8,447	27	2,182	72	10,728	—	190	221	121	4,473	270	—	—	5
Minister's Office	803	501	—	156	72	729	—	65	—	—	10	17	—	—	3
Corporate Services	18,418	7,946	27	2,026	—	9,999	—	125	221	121	4,463	253	—	—	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>819,777</b>	<b>248,535</b>	<b>5,104</b>	<b>63,282</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>316,993</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>2,963</b>	<b>6,393</b>	<b>15,373</b>	<b>9,133</b>	<b>4,760</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>8,436</b>

## VOTE 40 Emergency Program Act

Description	Total 2020/21 Operating Expenses	50	51	52	54	Total Salaries and Benefits	55	57	59	60	63	65	67	68	69
Emergency Program Act	36,527	—	—	—	—	—	—	200	—	7,000	—	—	—	—	7,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>36,527</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>7,000</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>7,500</b>

## 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
Civil Forfeiture Account	29	671	—	170	—	841	—	30	3,000	—	25	55	—	90	—
Corrections Work Program Account	1,281	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14	41	—	—	475
Criminal Asset Management Fund	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Victim Surcharge Special Account	13,504	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,814</b>	<b>671</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>841</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>475</b>

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
944	—	3,777	3,929	25,780	—	4,300	25,457	29,757	—	—	1,212	1,212	—	(475)	(475)	(1)	(4,044)	(4,045)	262,742
208	—	121	316	3,815	1,663	—	443,354	445,017	—	—	149	149	—	(1,585)	(1,585)	(1)	(50,214)	(50,215)	417,498
—	—	94	—	1,335	175	17,563	46,078	63,816	—	—	44	44	(9,816)	(2)	(9,818)	—	(300)	(300)	63,715
66	—	28	29	7,585	—	—	—	—	—	—	28	28	—	(101)	(101)	(1)	(1)	(2)	17,569
15	—	13	4	3,170	—	—	2,951	2,951	—	—	2,274	2,274	—	(1)	(1)	(1)	(4,226)	(4,227)	18,311
170	—	49	749	2,466	—	—	—	—	—	—	229	229	—	(1)	(1)	(1)	(12,538)	(12,539)	1
8	—	444	—	2,819	5,000	—	43,086	48,086	—	—	49	49	—	(1)	(1)	—	(44,772)	(44,772)	19,539
8	—	444	—	2,819	—	—	7,086	7,086	—	—	49	49	—	(1)	(1)	—	(3,773)	(3,773)	19,538
—	—	—	—	—	5,000	—	36,000	41,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	(40,999)	(40,999)	1
219	—	118	329	6,533	780	—	15,187	15,967	—	—	28	28	—	(528)	(528)	(1)	(10,490)	(10,491)	30,899
153	—	2,452	2,706	10,591	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,304	3,304	—	(5,282)	(5,282)	(1)	(1)	(2)	19,339
—	—	5	—	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	829
153	—	2,447	2,706	10,491	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,304	3,304	—	(5,282)	(5,282)	(1)	(1)	(2)	18,510

1,783	—	7,096	8,062	64,094	7,618	21,863	576,113	605,594	—	—	7,317	7,317	(9,816)	(7,976)	(17,792)	(7)	(126,586)	(126,593)	849,613
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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
2,000	7,000	—	—	23,700	120	9,601	3,000	12,721	—	—	1	1	—	(1)	(1)	—	(1)	(1)	36,420

2,000	7,000	—	—	23,700	120	9,601	3,000	12,721	—	—	1	1	—	(1)	(1)	—	(1)	(1)	36,420
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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
—	—	—	—	3,200	3,000	—	—	3,000	—	—	500	500	—	—	—	—	(7,501)	(7,501)	40
115	—	60	—	705	—	—	476	476	—	—	100	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,281
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	2,000	—	—	2,000	11,504	—	—	11,504	—	—	—	—	—	—	13,504

115	—	60	—	3,905	5,000	—	476	5,476	11,504	—	600	12,104	—	—	—	—	(7,501)	(7,501)	14,825
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## Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General 2021/22 – 2023/24 Service Plan Overview

Due to the November 2020 organizational changes in the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General and the Ministry of Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Housing, the decision was made to develop separate service plans for the two ministries, rather than the joint plans for the justice and public safety sector that were released in recent years.

The *Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General 2021/22 – 2023/24 Service Plan* complies with the government-wide Service Plan Guidelines released by the Crown Agencies and Board Resourcing Office, Ministry of Finance.

### Purpose of the Ministry (page 5)

- States that PSSG works with the Ministry of Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Housing as the justice and public safety sector to advance a shared vision of a safe, secure, just and resilient British Columbia.
  - This shared vision is also referenced in MAG's service plan.
- Identifies PSSG's mission:
  - To deliver public safety services and programs, administer regulations for the liquor and cannabis industries, ensure that the public has confidence in British Columbia's gaming sector, and lead the development and coordination of an effective emergency management system for the province.
    - This is consistent with the mission statement included in the Estimates and Supplement to the Estimates.
- Identifies PSSG's areas of responsibility.
  - Highlights Emergency Management BC as a distinct area under the Minister's responsibilities supported by the Parliamentary Secretary for Emergency Preparedness.

### Strategic Direction (page 5)

- Highlights government's priorities using prescribed text provided by the Crown Agencies and Board Resourcing Office to be used by all ministries.
- States that the service plan focuses on the priorities set out in the November 2020 ministerial mandate letter along with the mandate letter of the Parliamentary Secretary for Emergency Preparedness (hyperlinks provided).

## **Performance Planning (pages 6 - 14)**

- Identifies the ministry's goals, objectives, strategies and performance measures.
- PSSG endorses and continues to work toward the four goals developed by the Justice and Public Safety Council based on extensive engagement with leaders, participants and stakeholders across B.C.'s justice and public safety sector.
  - The goals remain unchanged from the current, 2020/21 – 2022/23 joint service plan for the justice and public safety sector; however, the order of the first two goals has been reversed to better highlight the public safety mandate of the ministry.
- One objective has been revised since publication of the sector's current, 2020/21 – 2022/23 service plan to reflect PSSG's regulatory functions.
  - Objective 2.1 under Goal 2 – a fair justice and public safety sector – now reads: "Regulatory systems that promote public safety and interests, and fair and efficient business practices"
    - The objective was formerly "Increased access to justice" and focused on MAG priorities
- The strategies included address the directions in the Minister's November 2020 mandate letter and other key priorities of the ministry, along with the key priorities of the Parliamentary Secretary for Emergency Preparedness.
- The performance measures included are indicators of progress towards PSSG's goals and objectives.
  - Additional performance measures are under development within the ministry to strengthen performance reporting and accountability in future service plans and annual service plan reports.

## **Financial Summary (pages 15 – 16)**

- All financial information was verified by PSSG's Corporate Management Services Branch and approved by the Performance Budgeting Office, Ministry of Finance.

## **Appendix A (page 17)**

- Identifies the agencies and boards for which the Minister is responsible and provides hyperlinks.

## **Appendix B (page 18)**

- Provides an overview of the Organized Crime Agency of British Columbia and the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit – British Columbia.

Goals	Objectives	Performance Measures
		<i>[Note: All measures included are retained from the previous service plan.]</i>
1. The justice and public safety sector in British Columbia protects people	1.1 Improved outcomes for Indigenous people across the justice and public safety sector through strengthened partnerships with Indigenous leadership and communities	1.1a Total number of First Nations communities with a Letter of Intent to create an MOU with BC Corrections to support the successful reintegration of Indigenous people returning to their community and/or remaining connected to their community.
		1.1b Percentage of on-reserve First Nations communities participating on First Nations Regional Emergency Management Partnership Tables.
	1.2 Strengthened prevention, protection and support for victims of crime, and marginalized and vulnerable women and children	1.2 Timeliness of Victim Financial Assistance claim adjudication
	1.3 Improved public safety for all British Columbians	1.3 Police-reported crime rates: violent; property; other; and overall
2. The justice and public safety sector in British Columbia is fair	2.1 Regulatory systems that promote public safety and interests, and fair and efficient business practices	To be determined.  Additional performance measures are under development for inclusion in future PSSG service plans and annual service plan reports.
3. The justice and public safety sector in British Columbia is sustainable	3.1 Strengthened sustainability of the justice and public safety sector to deliver accessible and effective programs and services	To be determined.  Additional performance measures are under development for inclusion in future PSSG service plans and annual service plan reports.
4. The justice and public safety sector in British Columbia has the public's confidence	4.1 Increased public confidence in the justice and public safety sector	4.1a Public confidence in the justice system and courts
		4.1b Public confidence in the police

# **Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General**

## **2021/22 – 2023/24 Service Plan**

**April 2021**



For more information on the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General contact:

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[Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General](#)

Published by the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

## Minister's Accountability Statement



*The Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General 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 "Mike Farnworth".

Honourable Mike Farnworth  
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General  
April 6, 2021

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## Purpose of the Ministry

The Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General works with the Ministry of Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Housing as the justice and public safety sector to advance a shared vision of a safe, secure, just and resilient British Columbia. The mission of the ministry is to deliver public safety services and programs, administer regulations for the liquor and cannabis industries, ensure that the public has confidence in British Columbia's gaming sector, and lead the development and coordination of an effective emergency management system for the province.

The areas of responsibility within the ministry include: oversight of policing and law enforcement; correctional services; crime prevention and reduction; victim services; restorative justice; coroners services; civil forfeiture; non-medical cannabis legalization and regulation, including security screening of non-medical cannabis retail store applicants and workers, and enforcement against illegal cannabis sales; liquor and cannabis licensing, compliance and enforcement; gambling regulation and enforcement; problem gambling prevention and treatment services; road safety; criminal record checks; the protection order registry; private security industry regulation; consumer protection; and guide dog and service dog certification.

In addition, the ministry includes responsibility for Emergency Management BC (EMBC), which is supported by the Parliamentary Secretary for Emergency Preparedness. EMBC is the Province's lead coordinating agency for all emergency management activities, including mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery, as well as for fire prevention and safety through the Office of the Fire Commissioner. This work is done in collaboration with local governments, First Nations, federal departments, industry, non-government organizations and volunteers.

The Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General is also responsible for several boards and agencies, including the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia (see Appendix A) and the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit – British Columbia (see Appendix B).

## Strategic Direction

In 2021/22 British Columbians continue to face significant challenges as a result of the global COVID-19 pandemic. The Government of British Columbia 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 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 Public Safety and Solicitor General will support the government's priorities, including the foundational principles listed above and the action items identified in the November 2020 Minister's [mandate letter](#) and the [mandate letter](#) of the Parliamentary Secretary for Emergency Preparedness.

## Performance Planning

### Goal 1: The justice and public safety sector in British Columbia protects people<sup>1</sup>

A key role of British Columbia's justice and public safety sector is to protect people, especially those who are most vulnerable.

### Objective 1.1: Improved outcomes for Indigenous people across the justice and public safety sector through strengthened partnerships with Indigenous leadership and communities

#### Key Strategies

- Move forward on the *Calls to Action* of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and review policies, programs and legislation to determine how to bring into action the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP).
- In partnership with the Ministry of Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Housing, the federal government and Indigenous communities, work with the BC First Nations Justice Council to advance the B.C. First Nations Justice Strategy and work with the Métis Nation BC Justice Council to develop, endorse and advance the Métis Justice Strategy for the province.
- Work with Indigenous leadership and communities to take action to reduce the number of Indigenous people adversely involved in and impacted by the justice system, including recognizing culture for its role in rehabilitation and recovery and providing culturally diverse and appropriate programming in communities and correctional centres.
- Provide comprehensive Coroners Service mortality data and analyses to the First Nations Health Authority and First Nation communities to inform community-based initiatives that reduce health and safety risks and support wellness and safe communities.
- Continue to work with Indigenous partners on non-medical cannabis economic development opportunities through the First Nations Leadership Council joint working group and negotiate agreements with Indigenous Nations under section 119 of the *Cannabis Control and Licensing Act* to address community-specific interests.
- Continue to partner with First Nation communities to advance disaster risk reduction and improve emergency management services and supports by working with key organizations such as Indigenous Services Canada, the First Nations Leadership Council and the First Nations Health Authority and through initiatives such as the First Nations Emergency Management Toolkit and Indigenous Emergency Management Regional Partnership Tables.

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<sup>1</sup> The Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General adopted and continues to work toward the goals developed by the Justice and Public Safety Council based on extensive engagement with leaders, participants and stakeholders across B.C.'s justice and public safety sector.

Performance Measure	2019/20 Baseline	2020/21 Forecast <sup>1</sup>	2021/22 Target <sup>2</sup>	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target
1.1a Total number of First Nation communities with a Letter of Intent to create a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to support the successful reintegration of Indigenous people returning to their community and/or remaining connected to their community. <sup>1</sup>	8	23	25	27	29

Data source: Results for this measure are derived from B.C. Corrections.

<sup>1</sup>The forecast and target numbers are cumulative and therefore represent the total number of First Nation communities with signed Letters of Intent to create an MOU, not the number of First Nations with Letters of Intent signed in a given fiscal year.

<sup>2</sup>The targets reflect a conservative estimate of two additional communities per year.

## Linking Performance Measure to Objective

Supporting the successful reintegration of Indigenous people returning to their community and/or remaining connected to their community contributes to the objective of creating better outcomes for Indigenous people across the justice and public safety sector.

The MOUs between First Nations and B.C. Corrections outline the process to work together to support release planning for those in custody and ensure the coordination of supports for those under community supervision.

B.C. Corrections has signed MOUs and Letters of Intent with First Nations across the province and continues to engage with communities under this same goal of strengthening relationships and services to improve outcomes for Indigenous clients.

The number of signed Letters of Intent far exceeded that forecasted early last year. This was the result of contact with a single community representative who was part of a Tribal Council thereby leading to one MOU with several Nations. As it is often unclear how many communities are interested in engaging in this process at the outset of these conversations, conservative forecasts and targets will continue to be used.

Performance Measure	2019/20 Baseline	2020/21 Forecast	2021/22 Target	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target
1.1b Percentage of on-reserve First Nation communities participating on Indigenous Emergency Management Regional Partnership Tables	43	55	60	65	75

Data source: Emergency Management B.C. First Nations Coordination Unit.

## Linking Performance Measure to Objective

Indigenous Emergency Management Regional Partnership Tables provide a venue for First Nations and provincial agency emergency managers to meet in partnership, share knowledge and provide guidance on emergency management issues and initiatives related to all phases of emergency management – mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery.

Through consensus building, each Partnership Table is comprised of a unique governance structure and sets their own topics for discussion, based on priorities identified, with the common objective of improving the delivery of emergency management in the communities and therefore reducing disaster risk. Pathways to support the participation of small communities include in-community, face-to-face partnership meetings and/or conference calls, reflecting preferences identified by Indigenous communities. The definition of participation reflects the value of varied forms of participation by communities, particularly those in remote locations.

## Objective 1.2: Strengthened prevention, protection and support for victims of crime, and marginalized and vulnerable women and children

### Key Strategies

- Work to implement the *Calls for Justice* of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and lead the Province in the development of a Path Forward to stopping violence against Indigenous women and girls in B.C.
- Support the work of the *Parliamentary Secretary for Gender Equity* to develop an action plan to end gender-based violence, including minimum standards for sexual assault response, more training for police, Crown counsel and justices, and core funding for sexual assault centres.
- Continue to support the continuum of *victim services and violence against women programs* across B.C. and domestic violence prevention and intervention measures, such as Domestic Violence Units, Interagency Case Assessment Teams, domestic violence prevention/intervention programming, including B.C. Corrections programs, and the Protection Order Registry.
- Continue to conduct thorough coroners' investigations into all deaths of women and children related to violence and criminal activity, providing key information to law enforcement investigators and informing the development of policy and legislation protecting and supporting victims of crime, and conduct inquests and death review panels into these deaths to highlight risks to marginalized and vulnerable populations and identify opportunities for greater protection and support.
- Continue to deliver the cross-sector curriculum on trauma-informed practice for the justice, public safety and anti-violence community sectors to support understanding of and responsiveness to the impact of trauma on vulnerable victims and witnesses.

Performance Measure	2019/20 Baseline <sup>1</sup>	2020/21 Forecast <sup>2</sup>	2021/22 Target <sup>3</sup>	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target
1.2 Average number of days to adjudicate claims for financial assistance from victims and others impacted by violent crime.	154	150	120	90	90

Data source: Results for this measure are derived from the Electronic Victim Information System, considering the dates claims were received and the dates they were completed, as well as the cases that remain outstanding.

<sup>1</sup>The 2019/20 baseline has been revised from the 130 forecasted in the *Ministry of Attorney General and Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General 2020/21 – 2022/23 Service Plan* due to a 20 per cent increase in applications

received. This figure remains subject to change as approximately three per cent of 2019/20 files are still being adjudicated.

<sup>2</sup>The 2020/21 forecast remains subject to change as it represents an estimate based on the adjudication of 52 per cent of applications received.

<sup>3</sup>The 2021/22 and 2022/23 targets reflect approved staffing increases in 2020 and the implementation of a new case management system in 2021/22, which will lead to improved claim processing efficiencies.

## Linking Performance Measure to Objective

This measure indicates the level of client service and system efficiency in administering the Crime Victim Assistance Program under the *Crime Victim Assistance Act*. The program assists victims, immediate family members and some witnesses in coping with the effects of violent crime by providing financial benefits to help offset financial losses and assist in recovery, including funding for counselling and memorial services.

## Objective 1.3: Improved public safety for all British Columbians

### Key Strategies

- Work with police to address serious crime, including cracking down on those who distribute toxic drugs, and make our streets safer from gangs and guns by implementing legislation to regulate imitation firearms, strengthen regulation of shooting ranges and close regulatory gaps.
- Increase support for initiatives that are proven to prevent and reduce crime and support an integrated, cross-sector, strategic approach to increasing the use of restorative justice in the province.
- Inform and support evidence-based initiatives aimed at reducing the number of illicit drug toxicity deaths in British Columbia through B.C. Coroners Service reporting, analyses and recommendations.
- Enhance emergency management capabilities and accountabilities for government and our partners, consistent with the United Nations Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 – 2030, through modernizing the *Emergency Program Act* to reduce disaster risk.
- Continue to implement the regulatory framework for non-medical cannabis, including distribution, licensing of retailers and retail sales to allow adults legal, controlled access to non-medical cannabis, and monitor the effectiveness of enforcement action in disrupting the illegal supply chain and reducing the size of the illegal market.
- Continue to implement initiatives to increase and improve the efficiency of traffic enforcement, with a focus on reducing high-risk driving behaviours (alcohol, drugs, speeding and distraction).
- Monitor changes in the marketplace and update consumer protection laws as required to ensure that they are responsive to modern business practices and protect and meet the needs of all British Columbians while minimizing regulatory impacts to businesses.

Performance Measures <sup>1</sup> :	2019 Baseline	2020 Forecast <sup>2</sup>	2021 Target <sup>3</sup>	2022 Target	2023 Target
1.3a Violent crime rate <sup>4</sup>	15.7	14.8	14.4	14.1	13.7
1.3b Property crime rate <sup>5</sup>	53.3	51.6	50.3	49.0	47.8
1.3c Other crime rate <sup>6</sup>	18.1	16.8	16.3	15.9	15.5
1.3d Overall crime rate	87.1	83.1	81.0	79.0	77.0

Data source: Criminal incident counts are obtained through the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey administered by Statistics Canada's Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, and population estimates are obtained through BC Stats.

<sup>1</sup>Police-reported crime rates (*Criminal Code* offences per 1,000 persons). Crime rates are based on all police-reported violent crime, property crime, and other *Criminal Code* offences, but do not include traffic, drug, or other federal-statute violations. Results are reported by calendar year. The most recent year for which data is available is 2019.

<sup>2</sup>The forecasts for 2020 were calculated based on the linear trend from the last five years. It is anticipated that actual results for 2020 will be available in August 2021.

<sup>3</sup>The targets were calculated as a 2.5 per cent decrease each year, starting from the 2020 forecasts.

<sup>4</sup>Violent crimes include the offences of homicide, attempted murder, sexual and non-sexual assault, sexual offences against children, abduction, forcible confinement or kidnapping, firearms, robbery, criminal harassment, extortion, uttering threats, indecent or harassing communications, and other violent offences.

<sup>5</sup>Property crimes include the offences of breaking and entering, theft, motor vehicle theft, possession of stolen property, trafficking in stolen goods, fraud, mischief, identity theft, identity fraud, arson, and other property offences.

<sup>6</sup>Non-traffic *Criminal Code* offences that are not violent or property-related are classified as "other" crimes, which include offences against the administration of justice, offences against public order, the possession and/or distribution of child pornography, and other "other" offences.

## Linking Performance Measure to Objective

While government does not control crime rates, crime prevention and reduction are a priority of the ministry and these rates are tracked as an indicator of progress toward increased public safety for all British Columbians. Crime rates are better indicators of trends in crime than are the actual numbers of offences because the rates account for population differences.

Many factors influence police-reported crime rates, including changes to scoring rules, demographic changes, neighbourhood conditions, social and economic factors, public reporting practices, technological advancements, legislative amendments, local police service priorities, and social perceptions and attitudes toward certain crimes.

British Columbia's crime rates are notably higher compared to those presented in the *Ministry of Attorney General and Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General 2020/21 – 2022/23 Service Plan*, which is partly attributable to changes in the way police report crime to Statistics Canada. In January 2018, Statistics Canada updated the definitions of "founded" and "unfounded" crimes in its reporting methodology for police services across Canada to represent a "victim-centred approach" to recording crimes, which means it is to be believed that the crime occurred ("founded") unless there is credible evidence to prove it did not ("unfounded"). These changes

were predicted to increase the number of “founded” incidents and decrease clearance rates.<sup>2</sup> Many police agencies across Canada implemented these changes at varying points throughout 2018. British Columbia’s roll-out of these changes occurred in 2019, and as such, the definitional changes likely impacted B.C.’s crime statistics in 2019.

## **Goal 2: The justice and public safety sector in British Columbia is fair**

Fairness in the justice and public safety sector requires sound regulatory measures that protect public safety and interests while minimizing regulatory impact on businesses.

### **Objective 2.1: Regulatory systems that promote public safety and interests, and fair and efficient business practices<sup>3</sup>**

#### **Key Strategies**

- Make car insurance more affordable by continuing to support the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia (ICBC) as the corporation moves to a new enhanced care model effective May 1, 2021, reducing premiums by an average of 20 per cent while increasing the care available for people who are injured in accidents.
- Establish an ICBC Fairness Officer, who will be independent of the corporation, to ensure that ICBC’s decisions, actions and practices are fair and to improve transparency and accountability.
- Continue to lead the Province in the safe implementation of legal, non-medical cannabis, including implementing strategies to facilitate Indigenous and small-scale producer market entry, and to enhance legal cannabis market competitiveness.
- Modernize and streamline liquor and cannabis regulation, compliance and enforcement practices that balance public safety and public interests and facilitate improved services.<sup>4</sup>
- In collaboration with the Liquor Distribution Branch and the Ministry of Finance, continue to act on the Business Technical Advisory Panel [recommendations](#), while also supporting restaurant and hospitality business recovery during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Enhance the effectiveness of the gambling regulatory framework in British Columbia by reforming the *Gaming Control Act* and implementing an independent office and standards-based regulatory model.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Offences cleared represent the number of offences where the police have identified at least one offender in relation to an offence and have sufficient evidence to solve the offence. The clearance rate is the number of crimes cleared by police during the year as a percentage of the number of crimes reported by police during that year.

<sup>3</sup> This objective has changed since publication of the joint *Ministry of Attorney General and Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General 2020/21 – 2022/23 Service Plan* to reflect the regulatory functions of the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General.

<sup>4</sup> This initiative includes the development of key performance measures to monitor the effectiveness and efficiency of practices and services.

<sup>5</sup> Part of the *Gaming Control Act* reform will include developing performance measures once the legislation is in force.

### **Goal 3: The justice and public safety sector in British Columbia is sustainable**

The justice and public safety sector must be innovative, adaptive, well-managed and efficient to remain sustainable.

#### **Objective 3.1: Strengthened sustainability of the justice and public safety sector to deliver accessible and effective programs and services**

##### **Key Strategies**

- Work across ministries and with other levels of government to help maintain the overall provincial business continuity program, including ministry plans that prioritize the critical infrastructure assets and services that governments, citizens, businesses and visitors rely on, and the continuity of government operations to ensure an effective command and control structure following an emergency or disaster.
- Modernize Emergency Support Services, which provides critical emergency supports including food, lodging, clothing, transportation and incidentals to those impacted by emergency events.
- Continue to implement electronic ticketing (eTicketing) across B.C. to help intervene more quickly with dangerous drivers while allowing police to spend more time on enforcement activities and enabling more efficient information sharing between agencies.
- Continue to support innovative ways to move certain types of disputes out of courtrooms, such as the Immediate Roadside Prohibition program, so that court resources may be reserved for the most serious matters.
- Implement the justice and public safety sector digital strategy to unify the sector's digital transformation efforts and coordinate investments in data, technology and resources to optimize how programs and services are delivered.
- Continue to strengthen evidence-based workforce planning with a focus on leadership development and succession management, as manager and supervisor roles are the primary connection between the strategic goals of the ministry and the people who work towards accomplishing them.<sup>6</sup>

### **Goal 4: The justice and public safety sector in British Columbia has the public's confidence**

Citizens must have confidence in the integrity and effectiveness of the justice and public safety sector for it to function effectively and to ensure continued public participation and support.

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<sup>6</sup> Commencing in January 2021, an 18-month Leadership Development Program is being piloted in the justice and public safety sector (Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General and Ministry of Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Housing). As a component of further developing the program in 2021/22, key performance measures will be explored to monitor the effectiveness of the program.

## Objective 4.1: Increased public confidence in the justice and public safety sector

### Key Strategies

- Continue to work closely with the Provincial Health Officer and other ministries to oversee the COVID-19 state of emergency and implement emergency orders as needed to support the health and well-being of British Columbians.
- Evaluate and implement the recommendations the Special Committee on Reforming the Police Act will bring forward to the legislature on how B.C.'s *Police Act* can be modernized. This includes the role of police with respect to complex social issues such as mental health and wellness, addictions and harm reduction; funding; the scope of systemic racism within B.C.'s police agencies; and ensuring consistency with the principles of UNDRIP.
- With the assistance of the Parliamentary Secretary for Anti-Racism Initiatives, bring forward recommendations to address systemic racism, support establishing hate crime units within local police forces, and review training and procedures related to “wellness checks.”
- Work with communities to identify gaps in existing emergency response procedures and resources, with the goal of updating and future-proofing B.C.'s province-wide ability to respond to crises, including pandemics.
- In collaboration with local governments and First Nations, lead training and exercise events in support of Exercise Coastal Response 2022, which will be B.C.'s second full-scale earthquake and tsunami response exercise, including real-time and simulated activities involving functions such as emergency operations, logistics, public information, operational communications, and care for the needs of those affected or displaced.
- Continue to support the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development to work with local governments to reduce wildfire risk and better prepare and support communities for future wildfires.
- Support the work of the Parliamentary Secretary for Seniors' Services and Long-Term Care to work with community groups and the B.C. Seniors Advocate to develop a made-in-B.C. Silver Alert system to help assist first responders in locating missing seniors, particularly those with dementia and Alzheimer's disease.

Performance Measures	2013 Baseline	2020 Actual <sup>2</sup>	2021/22 Target	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target
4.1a Percentage of British Columbians who have confidence in the justice system and courts <sup>1</sup>	51	To be determined	> 2020 Actual	> 2021/22 Target	> 2022/23 Target
4.1b Percentage of British Columbians who have confidence in the police <sup>1</sup>	74	To be determined	> 2020 Actual	> 2021/22 Target	> 2022/23 Target

Data source: Statistics Canada General Social Survey (GSS) on Social Identity. Established in 1985, Statistics Canada's GSS program was designed as a series of independent, annual, cross-sectional surveys, each covering one

topic in depth. The GSS on Social Identity is conducted every five years to seven years and includes questions on confidence in public institutions.

<sup>1</sup> Includes those respondents who stated they had a great deal of confidence or some confidence. Responses of “don’t know/not stated” are excluded from the calculation of percentages.

<sup>2</sup> The *Ministry of Attorney General and Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General 2020/21 – 2022/23 Service Plan* incorrectly stated that a GSS on Social Identity was conducted in 2018. The next iteration of the GSS on Social Identity, following the 2013 survey, was conducted in 2020 and the results have not yet been released.

## **Linking Performance Measure to Objective**

The ministry tracks long-term trends in public confidence in the justice system, the courts and police as indicators of public confidence in the justice and public safety sector. Citizens must have confidence in the justice system, the courts and police for them to function effectively and to ensure continued public participation and support. It is anticipated that the results for 2020 will be available for inclusion in the ministry’s 2020/21 Annual Service Plan Report, to be released in summer 2021.

## Financial Summary

Core Business Area	2020/21 Restated Estimates <sup>1</sup>	2021/22 Estimates	2022/23 Plan	2023/24 Plan
<b>Operating Expenses (\$000)</b>				
Corrections	253,459	262,742	261,520	261,520
Policing and Security	405,474	417,498	416,926	416,976
Victim Services and Crime Prevention	58,870	63,715	64,366	64,366
BC Coroners Service	17,103	17,569	17,675	17,719
RoadSafetyBC	16,758	18,311	18,174	18,174
Liquor and Cannabis Regulation <sup>2</sup>	1	1	1	1
Gaming Policy and Enforcement <sup>3</sup>	19,437	19,539	19,539	19,539
Emergency Management BC	29,454	30,899	37,771	37,771
Executive and Support Services	19,221	19,339	19,352	19,364
<i>Emergency Program Act</i>	36,527	36,420	36,420	36,420
Statutory Services <sup>4</sup>	14,814	14,825	14,825	14,825
<b>Total</b>	<b>871,118</b>	<b>900,858</b>	<b>906,569</b>	<b>906,675</b>
<b>Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000)</b>				
Corrections	1,062	1,062	1,062	1,062
Policing and Security	70	0	0	0
BC Coroners Service	35	35	35	0
RoadSafetyBC	8,890	0	0	0
Emergency Management BC	0	550	550	0
Executive and Support Services	1,205	895	747	747
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,262</b>	<b>2,542</b>	<b>2,394</b>	<b>1,809</b>

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

<sup>2</sup> Liquor and Cannabis Regulation transferred from the Ministry of Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Housing to the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General effective November 26, 2020.

<sup>3</sup> Gaming Policy and Enforcement transferred from the Ministry of Finance to the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General effective November 26, 2020.

<sup>4</sup> Statutory Services includes Civil Forfeiture Account, Corrections Work Program Account, Criminal Asset Management Fund, and Victim Surcharge Special Account.

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

## Capital Expenditures

Major Capital Projects (over \$50 million)	Targeted Year of Completion	Project Cost to Dec 31, 2020 (\$m)	Estimated Cost to Complete (\$m)	Approved Anticipated Total Cost (\$m)
Nanaimo Correctional Centre Replacement	2023	\$4	\$163	\$167
<p>The Nanaimo Correctional Centre (NCC) Replacement Project will replace the current aging and outdated 190-cell correctional centre located in Nanaimo, B.C. The new centre will be constructed on the existing site while the current centre remains operational, after which the existing centre will be deconstructed. The new NCC will be a 202-cell, multi-security level facility, including a 12-cell unit for short-term accommodation of women from Vancouver Island.</p> <p>The new centre will better support staff and enhance the NCC's unique, effective programs, including the <a href="#">Guthrie Therapeutic Community</a> and vocational and educational programs delivered in partnership with Vancouver Island University.</p> <p>Government approved \$167 million in total capital funding for this project, \$155 million of which is the value of the design-build agreement for the facility's construction. The project is expected to bring major regional economic benefits, including approximately 1,000 jobs during construction (650 direct and 275 indirect jobs, plus nearly 100 additional jobs associated with spending by workers).</p>				

## **Appendix A: Agencies and Boards**

As of April 6, 2021, the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General is responsible and accountable for the following:

Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit – British Columbia (see Appendix B)

Consumer Protection BC

Insurance Corporation of British Columbia

Municipal Police Boards

Organized Crime Agency of British Columbia (see Appendix B)

Vehicle Sales Authority of British Columbia

## **Appendix B: Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit – British Columbia**

In 1999, the Organized Crime Agency of British Columbia (OCABC) was created as an independent Designated Policing and Law Enforcement Unit under the Provincial *Police Act*.

In 2004, the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit – British Columbia (CFSEU-BC) was developed in consultation with the provincial government as an initiative to integrate the OCABC, the municipal police departments and the RCMP. The Board of Governance for the OCABC also acts as the Board of Governance for the CFSEU-BC. The board is currently comprised of: the Deputy Commissioner Pacific Region and Commanding Officer “E” Division RCMP; the Assistant Commissioner “E” Division RCMP and Lower Mainland District Commander; the Chief Superintendent and Southeast District Commander RCMP; the Chief Constable of the Vancouver Police Department; the Chief Constable of the BC Transit Authority Police Service; one municipal police Chief Constable from Vancouver Island; and one civilian member. The Director of Police Services sits as an ex officio member of the board. The board determines the strategic direction of the CFSEU-BC and ensures its operational priorities are aligned with the policing priorities for British Columbia. The CFSEU-BC operates under the RCMP policies and procedures. Board members do not receive any remuneration. The Province is currently working collaboratively with the RCMP and our municipal policing partners to update the board, including its membership, to enhance its strategic oversight as part of the British Columbia Organized Crime Strategy.

The Chief Officer in charge of the CFSEU-BC leads an executive team comprised of civilian members in addition to regular RCMP and municipal officers seconded from across the province. The CFSEU-BC Gang Enforcement Unit, Investigation Teams, and the Joint Illegal Gaming Investigation Team are just a few of the teams that fall under the responsibility of the CFSEU-BC. Offices for the CFSEU-BC are located in the Lower Mainland, Prince George, Kelowna and Victoria.

The mission of the CFSEU-BC is to facilitate the disruption and suppression of organized crime that affects British Columbians. Its mandate is to investigate, prosecute, disrupt and suppress criminal organizations, consistent with local, regional, national and international priorities. The CFSEU-BC also supports other agencies by assisting in organized crime and major crime investigations.

British Columbia  
**JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY COUNCIL**

**Strategic Plan for the Justice and  
Public Safety Sector 2020-23**

INCORPORATING

**Sector Performance Update 2019-20**

MARCH 31, 2020



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# JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY PLAN 2020-23

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## CHAIR'S MESSAGE



As Chair of the Justice and Public Safety Council, I am pleased to present the 2020-21 update of the Council's strategic plan.

Over the past year the justice and public safety sector has experienced several great successes in addition to some significant challenges.

Topping this list, the COVID-19 pandemic has required everyone throughout British Columbia and the rest of the world to unite and respond swiftly to mitigate one of the largest public health crises of our generation. This challenge has been met admirably by all facets of society, including those who have ensured continuity of essential services throughout justice and public safety sector in a way that puts the safety of British Columbians first. The urgency of this evolving pandemic has also catalyzed sector leaders to again come together in the spirit of collaboration and boldly challenge long-standing conventions, view policy barriers through a new lens, and prioritize the art of the possible. While our paramount efforts remain focused on upholding the integrity of the justice and public safety sector throughout this difficult time, the Council simultaneously looks forward to the positive transformations that can arise from an otherwise challenging situation.

In addition to overseeing other key sector developments throughout the previous year, the Council has also taken an opportunity to closely consider the core themes arising from the spring 2019 Justice Summit discussion on: *The Summits, Justice Reform and Assessing Progress*. This Justice Summit reaffirmed the utility and value of broad-scale collaboration across the sector on topics of mutual importance. However, it also highlighted the need for further process refinement to ensure themes arising from Justice Summit discussions are properly validated and actioned through a more coordinated and timely cross-sectoral approach. The Council has begun to explore what these process refinements might look like based on advice provided by Justice Summit participants and looks forward to continued collaborative development of these ideas in partnership with other sector participants throughout the coming year.

Richard J. M. Fyfe, QC  
Chair

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Justice and Public Safety Council Strategic Plan describes the orientation of high-level policy reforms pertaining to provincial government sector participants throughout the 2020-2023 period. The Strategic Plan is written and presented under the authority of the *BC Justice Reform and Transparency Act*. The plan begins by outlining the mutually-developed vision for the justice and public safety sector, along with its four associated goals of *Fairness, Protection of People, Sustainability, and Public Confidence*. It then explores each of government's operational priority areas for the sector that fall within the scope of the plan, which includes criminal, civil, family and administrative law, and their associated processes. The plan concludes with a comprehensive review of relevant statistical indicators and trends.

For this iteration of the plan, the Council has overviewed several important ongoing and future areas of focus. As the above Chair's Message highlights, the province's response to the COVID-19 pandemic has become a collective top priority for all sector organizations. This emerging priority is joined by a collection of ongoing priorities including: Indigenous justice and reconciliation; mental health and substance use; violence against women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA people; access to justice; dispute resolution for families; money laundering; innovation and technology, and; performance measurement. Many of these priorities have seen positive developments over the last number of years and the Council looks forward to continued progression into the future. In addition to the above, the Council is anticipating further exploration of possible Justice Summit process refinements discussed at the spring 2019 Summit as well as the upcoming Justice Summit on *Diversion and Alternatives to Short-Term Incarceration*, which will be convened in November 2020.

Finally, the Statistical Context section of this plan highlights key trends across several important topic areas such as adult and youth criminal justice, court processes, and road safety. Of particular interest, certain indicators demonstrate a prevailing trend towards greater numbers of individuals being remanded to custody in BC, which is similar to experiences in other provinces. The Council continues to monitor these measures closely and explore ways to address challenges while continuously improving existing practices.

## THE JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY COUNCIL

### The Council

The Justice and Public Safety Council of British Columbia (JPSC, or the Council) was established in April 2013 under the terms of the *Justice Reform and Transparency Act*. Members of the Council are appointed by the Attorney General.

The Council's objectives under the provisions of the *Justice Reform and Transparency Act* include:

- Development of a strategic vision for the justice and public safety sector
- Establishment of an annual Justice and Public Safety Strategic Plan
- Collection of information on the sector to assist in the Council's functions
- Facilitation of the collection and sharing of information needed to enhance the ability to ensure careful management and prudent expenditure of public resources, engage in evidence-based decision making, make informed evaluations of performance, and design strategies to improve that performance
- Promotion of collaboration and cooperation among participants in the sector
- Provision of advice and recommendations to the Minister

An overview of the Council's current membership can be found in Appendix 1.

## OVERVIEW OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN

The *Justice Reform and Transparency Act* requires the Council to produce (and refresh annually) a three-year plan for the sector to achieve progress towards its vision. By law, the Council's annual plan is delivered at the end of March and is made available to the public at the same time.

This is the seventh edition of the rolling three-year strategic plan, initially developed by the Council in March 2014. It highlights the strengths and progression of the sector while simultaneously identifying gaps between where the sector is today and where it should be to meet the needs of citizens.

### Scope and limitations of the plan

The plan applies broadly to publicly-funded programs and services that contribute to the administration of justice, to the delivery of justice services, and to public safety in British Columbia, within or outside government – referred to collectively as the justice and public safety sector (the sector). The sector includes:

1. The formal justice system, which includes administrative, civil, criminal, and family law, court processes, prosecution, and related work
2. The closely related functions of public protection, such as policing, corrections, crime prevention, and services to victims of crime
3. Regulatory, protective and/or response functions such as motor vehicle licensing and fines, civil forfeiture, and coroner services
4. The reform of provincial statutes
5. The governing and administrative activity – the bureaucracy – which supports all of the justice and public safety work on which British Columbians rely

### Continuity of vision

For the plan renewal applicable to the period 2020-21 to 2022-23, the Council reaffirms its vision and four goals for the sector: British Columbia is committed to a justice and public safety sector founded on the rule of law. The sector encompasses criminal, civil, family and administrative law. It is **fair, protects people, is sustainable**, and has the **public's confidence**. The Council also reaffirms the 12 objectives derived from these goals.

### Goals, objectives and performance gaps

Over the following pages, this strategic plan identifies specific gaps where the current reality of the sector does not match the aspirations of the vision. Against each goal and objective, “performance gaps” are set out, as identified through dialogue among sector participants. The gaps are reviewed annually by the Council in light of work done over the preceding 12 months.

## JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY PLAN 2020-23

GOAL	OBJECTIVE	PERFORMANCE GAP(S)
<b>OUR SECTOR IS FAIR</b>	<b>Accessible</b> We offer services accessible to all regardless of means or location, provide meaningful redress and ensure access to justice for vulnerable and marginalized people proactively.	Improved access to justice is needed in civil, family and administrative disputes, in both urban and rural settings.  We need to better balance the application of public resources to increase access to justice for accused persons.
	<b>Impartial</b> We model integrity, fairness and natural justice in our procedures and in delivering services, treating people equally.	We require an integrated strategy to address overrepresentation of Indigenous people in the court and correctional systems.  We must ensure fair treatment of victims of violent trauma and sexual violence through comprehensive implementation of Trauma-informed Practice.
	<b>Timely</b> We work together to reduce systemic delay as an impediment to justice; we seek early resolution of individual processes wherever possible.	The administration of the court system must continue to be modernized to improve scheduling and decrease unproductive appearances.  We need to promote and support established risk/need-assessment practices beyond corrections, in prosecutions and policing.

## JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY PLAN 2020-23

GOAL	OBJECTIVE	PERFORMANCE GAP(S)
<b>OUR SECTOR PROTECTS PEOPLE</b>	<b>Prevention</b> We offer early, appropriate and effective prevention programming to reduce antisocial behaviour. When offenses occur, we provide timely and effective rehabilitative interventions to support behavioural change and mental health/addictions/trauma recovery to reduce recidivism and assist people in rebuilding healthy, productive lives.	Integrated cross-sector and community-based strategies are required to protect vulnerable populations. Interventions must be focused on the root causes of offending behaviours, including mental health challenges, addictions and trauma, and also address the factors that make people more vulnerable to victimization.  To improve road safety compliance, we need to better link critical information regarding high-risk drivers, such as driver records, prohibitions, administrative reviews and driver remedial actions.
	<b>Protection</b> We work together to reduce threats to public safety, protect complainants and victims of crime, and prevent re-victimization of the vulnerable by the system.	We need a coordinated, evidence-based framework for managing and supporting sexual and domestic violence cases through the courts, ensuring coordination with family court process, and ensuring referrals to support services.  We require better tools to increase the frequency with which missing persons are located.

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**Systemic Approach**

We work across all levels of government to understand and address root causes of crime, and support and participate in effective alternative interventions and innovation.

The recommendations of the Eleventh Justice Summit on Indigenous justice, regarding Gladue principles, community-based programming, and progress reporting, should be fully implemented.

The recommendations of the Seventh Justice Summit regarding mental health, coordinated crisis response and continuity of care should be fully implemented.

## JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY PLAN 2020-23

GOAL	OBJECTIVE	PERFORMANCE GAP(S)
<b>OUR SECTOR IS SUSTAINABLE</b>	<b>Focused efforts</b> Based on measurable demand, we make evidence-based decisions to resource the system's necessary functions, ensuring these services are delivered efficiently.	We need better measures of demand and workload for sector processes around which resource planning can occur.  Sustainable models for policing service delivery are required at the provincial, regional and municipal levels.
	<b>Managed resources</b> We allocate resources prudently across the system according to clear and demonstrated cause and effect.	All significant public investments, in cash or in kind, need to be evaluated against expected outcomes identified in advance.  Savings or efficiencies created from reforms should be clearly identified through planning and measurement and be reallocated where resources are most required.
	<b>Effectiveness</b> We measure and improve the return on investment of public resources, collectively and as institutions.	We require methodologies to accurately track and predict the costs for each of the sector's major functions.

## JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY PLAN 2020-23

GOAL	OBJECTIVE	PERFORMANCE GAP(S)
<b>OUR SECTOR HAS THE PUBLIC'S CONFIDENCE</b>	<b>Adaptive</b> We offer services and programs that are nimble; we solicit and respond to the needs of people and monitor the effectiveness of our programs.	We need to establish, report on, and respond to feedback from populations served by the sector.  We require an effective and sustainable model to manage digital information throughout the criminal process.
	<b>Performance-focused</b> We assume collective and respective responsibility for system performance, engaging British Columbians in dialogue as users and observers of the system.	Meaningful performance reports on core sector deliverables and services should be regularly published.
	<b>Empowering</b> People entering the system have sufficient opportunity and support to learn its rules and practices at their level of need; the public both understands and values the system; we treat the time of every participant as valuable.	People must be better informed about ways in which the sector can assist them in adapting to change and resolving disputes.  More user-needs-driven information should be made available and provided proactively at the outset of proceedings.

## Sector operational priorities

The following areas have been identified as priorities for the sector in 2020-21.

### COVID-19 response

The March 2020 arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent state of emergency, rapidly and fundamentally changed the way British Columbians lived their daily lives. The effects of COVID-19 are being realized through every facet of society, including the justice and public safety sector. The sector's response to the pandemic has become our top priority with areas of focus such as:

- Ensuring continuity of essential justice and public safety sector services, including time-sensitive court proceedings
- Finding ways to promote the immediate protection of the public and employees when delivering in-person government services that people require
- Protecting BC Corrections populations – both within custody and community settings
- Accelerating innovation and digital transformation initiatives, including the virtualization of court proceedings
- Initiating sector recovery efforts and exploring new ways to deliver services that enhance public safety while continuing to meet public expectations

Additional areas of focus are likely to materialize over the coming weeks and months as the province continues to adjust and strives to develop a new state of normalcy. The Council will continue to closely manage this evolving situation and will adapt priorities as required.

### Indigenous justice

The overrepresentation of Indigenous people in the criminal justice system and Indigenous children and youth in the child welfare system, remain key priorities for attention. Over and under-policing of Indigenous peoples is an equally serious problem. The impact of over-policing has contributed to distrust of the police by Indigenous peoples and has perpetuated issues with systemic racism on the front lines. The impact of under-policing has led to Indigenous peoples being disproportionately affected by violence of all kinds (homicides, violence in relationships, sexual violence, and other

violent crime), rates of missing persons that are far higher than the general population, and substantial barriers in obtaining access to justice. The legacy of residential schools, colonialism, systemic racism and their resulting effects are still ongoing. These impacts are often expressed in trauma, which is transmitted across generations and compounds the ability to effectively access justice. The Council looks forward in 2020-21 to beginning the multi-year implementation process for the newly-developed First Nations and Métis Justice Strategies, including important ongoing operational developments on *Gladue* principles, Indigenous Justice Centres, Indigenous courts, and other applicable access to justice transformations. These Justice Strategies and their embedded action plans represent important steps on the journey towards reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.

### Indigenous reconciliation

British Columbia's focus on building a true and lasting vision of reconciliation is anchored by a cross-government commitment to adopt and implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's calls-to-action, and the Supreme Court of Canada Tsilhqot'in decision. The *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* sets out a process to align BC's laws with the UN Declaration, mandating the BC government to bring provincial laws into harmony with the UN Declaration and requires development of an action plan to achieve this alignment over time.

The Council looks forward in 2020-21 to the continued development and implementation of a multi-year plan for the sector to strategically align its work with the Draft 10 Principles that Guide the Province of British Columbia's Relationship with Indigenous Peoples and the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*.

### Mental health and substance use in the justice system

People with mental health and/or substance use challenges continue to be significantly represented throughout the criminal justice system. Research in recent years has established that 60 per cent of individuals under BC Corrections' supervision have at least one mental health and/or substance use diagnosis, with many experiencing multiple

concurrent diagnoses<sup>1</sup>. These realities create a compelling case for ongoing coordinated cross-sectoral efforts to address the needs of those affected by mental health and substance use challenges in BC. To date, positive steps to address this topic include:

- Discussions at the Sixth and Seventh Justice Summits and the resulting recommendations for improving mental health and substance use care
- Partnerships between BC Corrections and the Provincial Health Services Authority regarding the transfer of health services in correctional institutions
- Increasing coordination across different sectors in support of better outcomes for mental health and substance use clients
- Pilot projects with police forces in Vancouver, Vernon and Abbotsford (i.e. Project Angel) to refer people who use substances and are at risk of overdose to treatment, services and peer-based supports instead of the criminal justice system

Looking forward, the Council encourages the sector to innovate not only in the appropriate care of those with mental health and/or substance use diagnoses, but also to take steps to reduce the criminalization of offending behaviour that is fundamentally driven by health-related factors.

### Overdose crisis

While there has been progress made in this area, the ongoing overdose emergency continues to pose a substantial public health threat throughout British Columbia. People in BC continue to experience high rates of overdose-related harms, including death, due to an unregulated drug supply that is unpredictable and highly-toxic. Since the Provincial Health Officer declared a public health emergency related to opioid overdoses in 2016, the number of annual illicit drug toxicity deaths had risen from 991 to 1,495 in 2017, to a peak of 1,543 in 2018 – a three-year increase of 56%. As a result of rigorous cross-sectoral efforts to combat this crisis, the number of illicit drug toxicity deaths in 2019 dropped back to 975 (a one-year reduction of 37%); however, BC still has considerable work on the horizon.

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<sup>1</sup> Somers Research Group (2015). *Mentally Ill Offenders: The Intersections of Public Health and Public Safety*. Simon Fraser University, British Columbia.

Beyond the overwhelming health aspects associated with the overdose crisis, the effects of organized crime on drug trafficking and the exploitation of people who are marginalized, including those who use substances, continues to be felt throughout the sector. The presence of these criminal organizations has given rise to high-levels of street violence, money laundering, extortion, and other serious criminal activities.

The Council looks forward to ongoing cross-sectoral collaboration and further tangible progress on harm reduction measures to continue combatting the overdose crisis. These include implementation of life-saving strategies to help prevent overdoses from occurring in the first place, such as Overdose Prevention and Supervised Consumption Sites and expanding access to prescription alternatives to the toxic illicit drug supply, as well as new approaches for fighting organized crime and further strengthening collaboration between local health authorities and policing agencies.

### Integrated service solutions

Municipalities throughout British Columbia are expressing heightened concerns regarding frequent or prolific offending behaviours in their communities, which are often most effectively addressed through integrated service solutions, as opposed to a more punitive approach. Frequent or prolific offending concerns may be unique to a community and focus on disproportional patterns of behaviors such as substance use, property crime, mischief, and the like. Further, the root causes and contributing factors of these behaviours are often closely interrelated with other areas of social concern such as mental health challenges, substance use, unemployment, poverty and homelessness.

The Council recognizes the importance of this issue and looks forward to contributing towards further cross-sectoral collaborations that empower communities to develop customized integrated service solutions that effectively address their areas of concern.

### Trauma-informed practice

In partnership with the Justice Institute of BC, a new Trauma-Informed Practice (TIP) Foundations Curriculum is being delivered in a format specifically for members of the justice, public safety and anti-violence community sectors in BC. The impetus for this course came from the Fifth Justice Summit, which focused on a trauma-informed justice

system response to victims/survivors of violent crime. The cross-sector TIP Foundations Curriculum is comprised of two components:

1. TIP Foundations Online Course for Justice, Public Safety and Anti-Violence Community Sectors in BC: a self-directed, continuous intake course comprised of six cross-sector modules and one sector-specific module
2. TIP Foundations In-Person Course for Justice, Public Safety and Anti-Violence Community Sectors in BC: a one-day facilitated course

### Violence against women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA people

There remains much more to do in combatting violence against women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA people, domestic violence and sexual violence. The National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Final Report revealed that persistent and deliberate human and Indigenous rights violations and abuses are the root cause behind Canada's staggering rates of violence against Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA people. Dismantling the underlying and systemic issues that result in Indigenous women experiencing violence at a much higher rate than non-Indigenous women is fundamental in working towards true and lasting reconciliation. In addition, the BC First Nations Justice Strategy released in 2019 shines light on the need to create better justice system outcomes for women and girls and provides direction for the transformation of the justice system in this regard. The Council looks forward in 2020-21 to beginning implementation of the Calls to Justice from the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls as well as related actions from the First Nations Justice Strategy.

The Council also recognizes that public awareness activities such as the Moose Hide Campaign present an opportunity for people throughout the province to bring about positive change in families and communities while encouraging all to take action against gender-based violence. This and other similar public awareness campaigns remain an important focus for the sector.

### Access to justice

Access to justice means having affordable, effective, and lasting resolution for British Columbians experiencing legal problems. There is continued concern throughout the sector over the ability of people to identify, obtain and afford services, understand and

exercise their rights and obligations, and effectively participate in proceedings. While these issues persist on a national-level, there is recognition that our response must primarily be provincial. The work of Access to Justice BC (A2JBC) - the provincial network of justice organizations led by the Chief Justice of British Columbia and committed to improving the BC civil and family justice system – continues to be important in working towards client-centred solutions to these challenges. The Council looks forward to ongoing support for A2JBC and the development of access to justice metrics, such as the Access to Justice Triple Aim and Measurement Framework, which will be necessary to evaluate our progress going forward. The University of Victoria Access to Justice Centre for Excellence and the Research Framework Working Group also continue to be closely engaged in this work, supporting the development of the Measurement Framework.

Budget 2019 also provided funding to pilot legal clinics in up to eight communities across the province, in partnership with the Law Foundation. Clinic lawyers offer legal advice on issues including poverty, housing, immigration and disabilities, and act as counsel in legal proceedings at no cost to their clients. As evidenced by the success of these clinics, increasing access to expert legal guidance and support for vulnerable individuals continues to be a key priority of government as it works to further promote access to justice enhancements.

In addition to the above, the Council also looks forward to full implementation of the recently refreshed Association of Legal Aid Lawyers agreement, which was negotiated between government, Legal Services Society and the Association of Legal Aid Lawyers to promote long-term, sustainable legal aid funding.

### Dispute resolution services for families

Families experiencing separation or other types of family restructuring want to resolve disputes in ways that are timely and do not exacerbate or create conflict. Timely and appropriate resolution mechanisms are crucial in providing families with a sense of control, as well as ensuring the family justice system is proportionate and sustainable.

In May 2019, a new Provincial Court process for *Family Law Act* matters was rolled out in Victoria to prototype some key elements of reforms envisioned for the broader Provincial Court Family Rules. Evaluation is still proceeding, though the timeline has been impacted

by COVID-19. These changes were designed to provide families with early opportunities to get information, referrals and resolution services to help them resolve family disputes out of court. This new model is also intended to provide families with more assistance to help them prepare for and obtain just and timely decisions in Provincial Court. Experience from this prototype has informed proposed changes to the Provincial Court Family Rules anticipated to be introduced this year.

In addition, BC Justice Access Centres (JAC) offer a range of information and services designed to help people find an early and affordable solution to civil and family justice issues. The Council looks forward in 2020-21 to the expansion of Justice Access Centres across BC, preparation to implement rules to support families in navigating various dispute resolution services offered, and development of proposals to modernize the *Family Law Act*.

### Money laundering

Throughout the province, there is widespread recognition that more must be done to combat the extraordinary levels of money laundering in BC's real estate market, casinos, luxury vehicles, and other sectors of the economy. In May 2019, a Commission of Inquiry into Money Laundering in BC was announced by the Premier. This decision to proceed with a commission of inquiry followed four independent reviews of BC's real estate market and casinos.

The Council looks forward in 2020-21 to the continued implementation of the Provincial Anti-Money Laundering strategy, which contains actions to uncover and address the root causes of money laundering in BC.

### Driving innovation through technology

Innovation and technology are key components when striving to deliver effective services that people count on. The sector's Digital Strategy focuses on a vision and approach that coordinates investments in data and technology to optimize service delivery to British Columbians.

The sector has already made significant progress on its digital transformation journey. Since its launch in 2013, the Ministry of Attorney General's Tribunal Transformation Initiative (TTI) has been delivering a common technology platform that enables start-to-

finish digital justice case management and online dispute resolution (ODR) across the administrative justice sector. The launch of Canada's first online tribunal – the Civil Resolution Tribunal – provides a common technology platform that other agencies and tribunals can use. Additionally, the sector has implemented electronic ticketing to support the Road Safety Initiative and accelerated the development and launch of the Cannabis Retail Licensing application.

The Council looks forward in 2020-21 to the continued development and implementation of sector Digital Strategy initiatives that seek to modernize the following areas:

1. Courts
2. Access to justice and tribunals
3. Crime prevention and reduction
4. Prosecutions
5. Coroner investigations
6. Corrections
7. Services for victims of crime
8. Road safety
9. Regulation
10. Emergency management

### Performance measurement and reporting

The Council continues, in support of the above priority areas, to encourage efforts to collaborate and innovate in broadening the empirical grounding of our sector's policies and operations, through the individual and collaborative development of business analytics and transparent reporting. It is as important as ever to know what works.

## ISSUES AND TRENDS: STATISTICAL CONTEXT

The Council's legislated mandate includes facilitation of the collection and sharing of information needed to enhance the ability to ensure careful management and prudent expenditure of public resources, engage in evidence-based decision making, make informed evaluations of performance and design strategies to improve that performance.

This section of the 2020-23 strategic plan sets out numerous statistical charts intended to illuminate key issue areas within the sector. This section also incorporates the 2019-20 *Performance Measurement Update*. The *Performance Measurement Update* provides an annual set of indicators relating to the sector and was first incorporated into the 2018-21 Strategic Plan. It was previously published by the Council as a separate document in 2015-16 and 2016-17. These indicators were first developed in 2014-15 by a multidisciplinary technical working group and approved by a multidisciplinary External Review Committee comprised of academic experts, justice and public safety executives, non-governmental organizations, and Indigenous organizations, with observers participating on behalf of the judiciary. Participation on the External Review Committee was solicited at the Second Justice Summit in November 2013. Data is provided by organizations within the sector. Prior updates are archived at [www.justicebc.ca](http://www.justicebc.ca).

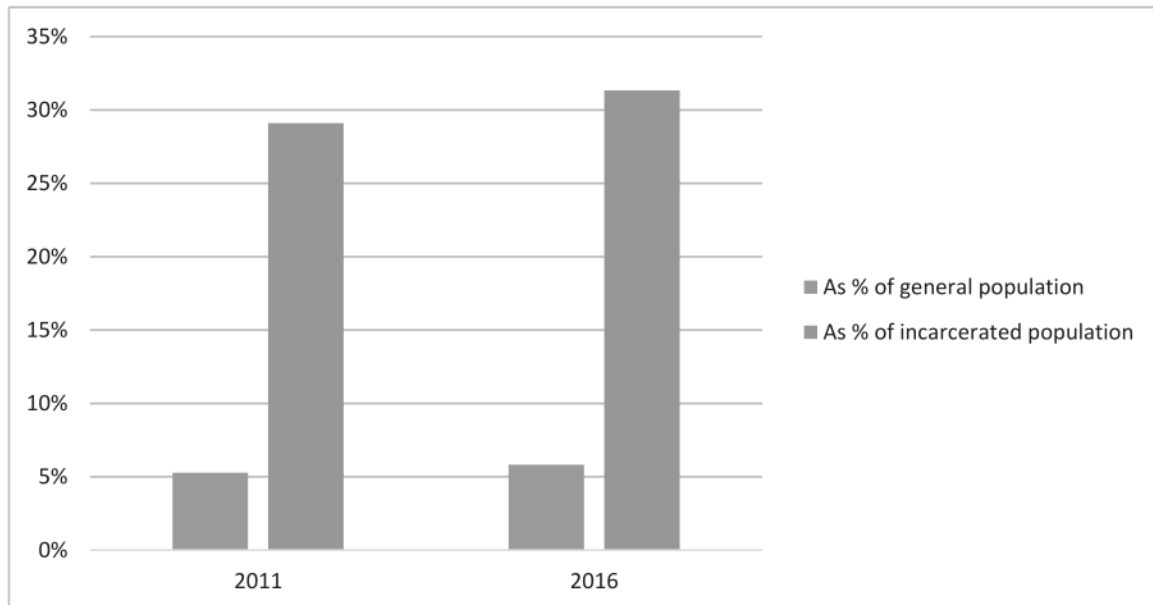
### Indigenous overrepresentation in the correctional system

A consistent issue within the sector is the overrepresentation of Indigenous peoples in custody<sup>2</sup>. Data from the 2011 and 2016 Canadian Census helps us to conclude that this situation remains concerning and must continue to be treated as a high priority. In this regard, the Council looks forward to government's ongoing partnership with the First Nations Justice Council and Métis Nation BC, and the positive impacts that are anticipated as a result of the First Nations and Métis Justice Strategies over the coming years.

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<sup>2</sup> In this section and the section following, incarceration rates are used to show patterns of remand, custodial sentences, and levels of representation in the criminal justice system according to ethnicity. While the data shown are commonly used to provide insight in the functioning of the criminal justice system, they cannot tell the whole story, as criminal behaviour is a highly complex phenomenon involving a variety of individual and societal factors, many of which are outside of the control of the justice system.

*Figure 1: Indigenous proportion of general population vs. proportion of persons released from sentenced custody self-reporting as “Aboriginal”, BC 2011 and 2016<sup>3</sup>*



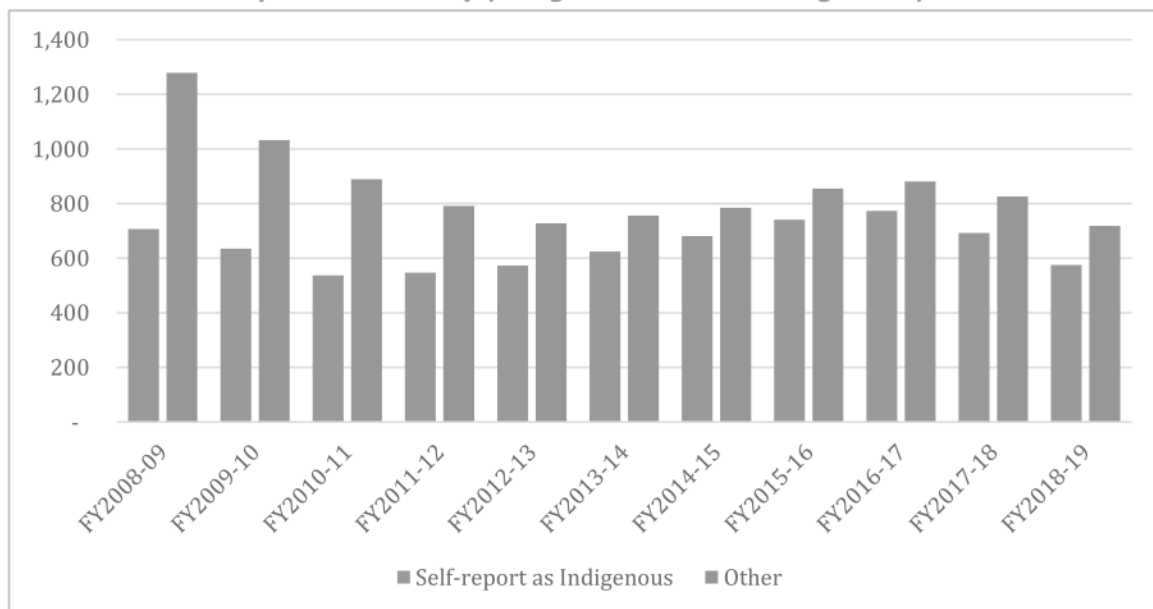
This analysis uses self-reported ethnicity on release from custody as a proxy measure of overall incarceration rates. In recognizing that this data is gathered by way of self-identification, it is important to acknowledge that changes in these measures may be partly driven by the number of individuals choosing to self-identify as Indigenous, or not. Unique episodes of custody for Indigenous people in BC in 2015-16 accounted for approximately 31 per cent of all custody releases, despite the Indigenous population being just 5.8 per cent of the general provincial population. Indigenous incarceration thus continues to occur at a rate more than five times greater than expected given the percentage of the population which is Indigenous, and was substantively unchanged between the two census periods of 2011 and 2016.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Indigenous peoples were identified as 5.3 per cent of the provincial population in the 2011 census, and 5.8 per cent in 2016.

<sup>4</sup> Source: Government of British Columbia; BC Corrections Operations Network (CORNET), extracted through the Cognos business intelligence system; demographic data from Statistics Canada census 2011 and 2016 population tables. In BC's justice and public safety sector, self-report on admission to corrections is the sole indicator of ethnicity gathered. The rate of releases of individuals from a custody centre who self-report "Aboriginal", "First Nations", "Metis" or "Inuit" status in comparison to those who self-report other categories. This is a measure of all releases, not unique releases of individuals for the following legal hold statuses: dual status, federal, immigration, not stated, and provincially sentenced. This measure does not include releases for clients on remand status. As this is a measure of all releases, not unique releases, this means that individuals who are released more than once in a given year will be counted more than once. The definition of release

The contrast between incarceration of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in British Columbia is even greater when viewed through the lens of gender, but is showing signs of improvement. Indigenous women represented 44 per cent of female remand admissions and 40 per cent of those released from sentenced custody in 2018-19. The most substantial ongoing development shown within the 2018-19 data update is in the continued decline of Indigenous female remand admissions after six consecutive years of increases. Since 2016-17, Indigenous female remand admissions have declined by 26 per cent, from 773 in 2016-17 to 575 in 2018-19. This is additionally noteworthy as non-Indigenous remand numbers declined by 19 per cent over the same period. Similar trends are also materializing within the sentenced population. Since 2016-17, the annual number of non-Indigenous females released from custody has decreased by 1% from 371 to 367, whereas the number of Indigenous females released from custody has decreased by 27% from 337 to 246.

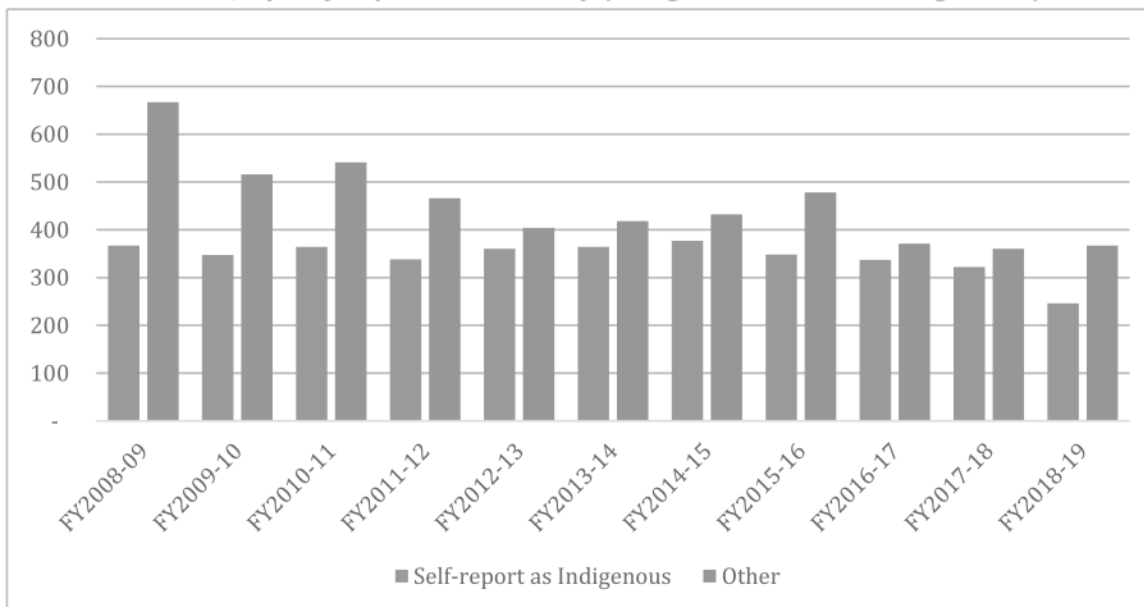
**Figure 2: Female remand admissions, BC Corrections, 2008-09 to 2018-19, by self-reported ethnicity (Indigenous vs. non-Indigenous)<sup>5</sup>**



does not include a status change from remand to sentenced or sentenced to remand; however, it does include individuals released from custody to probation.

<sup>5</sup> Source: For Figures 2 and 3, Government of British Columbia; BC Corrections Operations Network (CORNET), extracted through the Cognos business intelligence system. The measure of remand admissions (Fig 2) and releases of individuals from sentenced custody (Fig 3) who self-report as female and as "Aboriginal", "First Nations", "Metis" or "Inuit" status in

**Figure 3: Female inmates released from sentenced custody, BC Corrections, 2008-09 to 2018-19, by self-reported ethnicity (Indigenous vs. non-Indigenous)**



## The adult remand population

In recent years, BC has seen steep year-over-year increases in the average number of adults remanded to custody awaiting trial. This pattern, which is visible in Figure 4 below starting in 2014-15, reveals the remanded population has become a clear majority of those held in custody. Over the last two years, BC is beginning to see a stabilization in these numbers; however, the proportion of those remanded to custody remains high relative to the sentenced population.

Over the period of 2013-14 to 2016-17, the absolute number of individuals on remand increased by 42 per cent, from 1,173 to 1,668. Meanwhile, the absolute number of individuals in sentenced custody decreased by 15 per cent, from 1,228 to 1,043. At the 2016-17 peak, remanded individuals represented 62 per cent of the overall adult custody population (Figure 5).

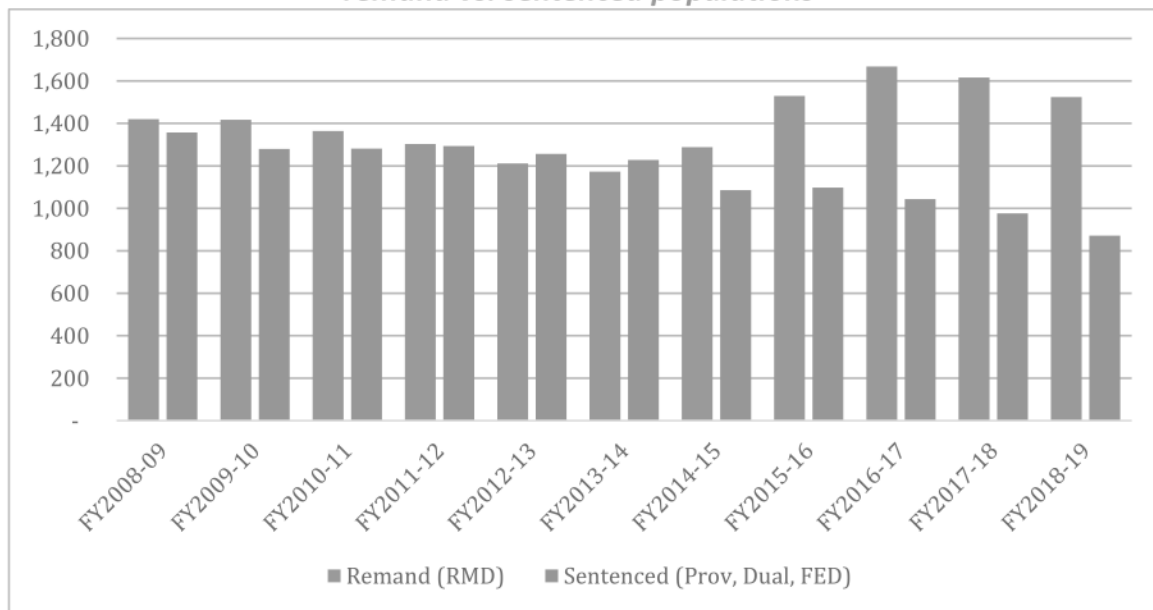
comparison to those who self-report other categories. Sentenced custody (Fig 3) includes provincially sentenced, federally sentenced, dual, immigration, and not stated.

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The above trend has shown signs of improvement in more recent years; however, remand populations continue to substantially outweigh those who are sentenced, and the imbalance is worsening. Over the last two years, the absolute number of adults in remand has decreased by nine per cent, from 1,668 to 1,524. However, over the same time the number of sentenced adults has decreased by 16 per cent, from 1,043 to 871. The remanded population currently represents 64 per cent of the overall custody population.

The Justice and Public Safety Council views the relative growth of the remand population as being a high priority issue that requires additional research and strategizing to accurately identify root causes and apply appropriate remedies.

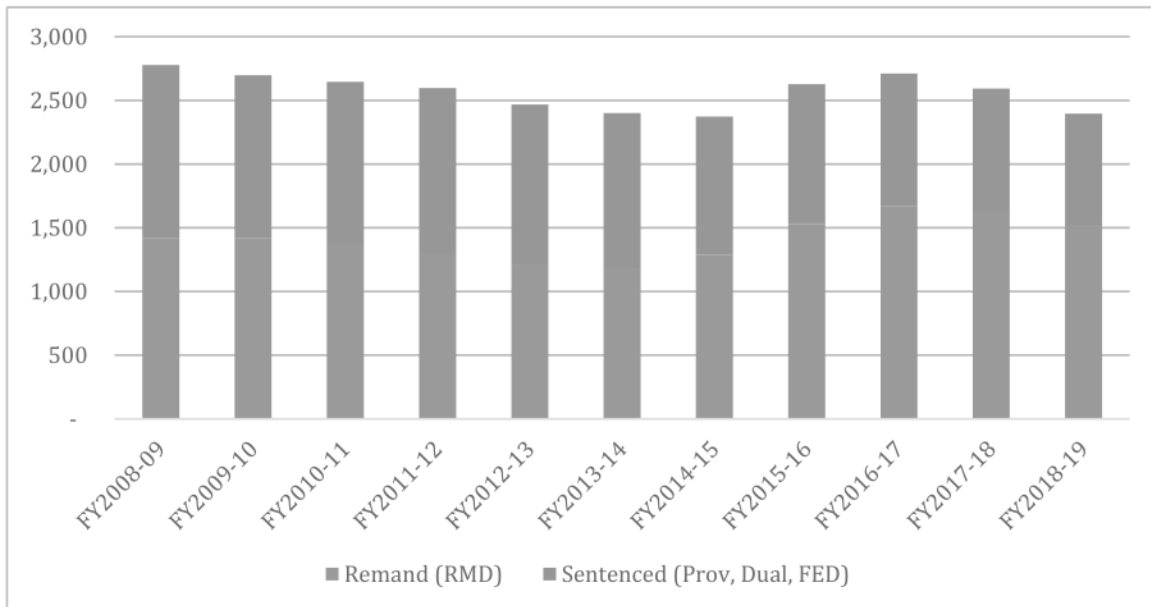
**Figure 4: Adults in custody, BC Corrections, annual daily average 2008-09 to 2018-19: remand vs. sentenced populations<sup>6</sup>**



<sup>6</sup> Government of British Columbia; BC Corrections Operations Network (CORNET), extracted through the Cognos business intelligence system.

## JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY PLAN 2020-23

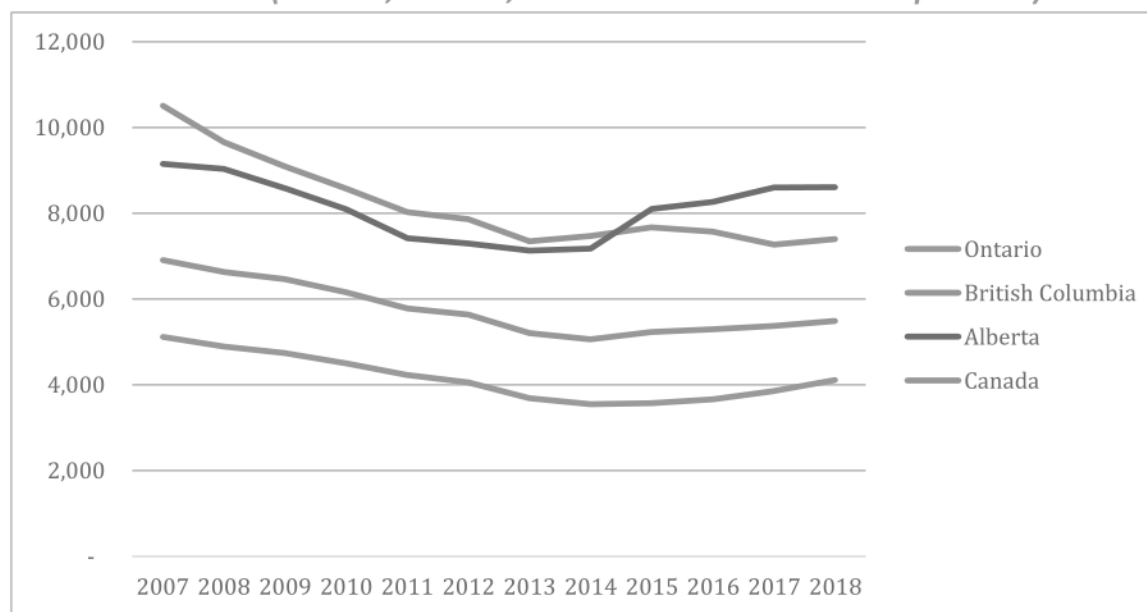
**Figure 5: Adults in custody, BC Corrections: annual daily average 2008-09 to 2018-19:**  
*total population, remand and sentenced*



## Crime rates (reported)

The most recent crime data available through Statistics Canada are for the calendar year 2018. British Columbia has experienced a 19 per cent drop in the crime rate per 100,000 people over the last 10 years. However, much of this cumulative reduction occurred in the years leading up to 2014, where annual decreases in crime rates were more consistent and pronounced. Since 2014, annual crime rates per 100,000 population in BC have hovered between approximately 7,300-7,700. The crime rate increased by 1.8 per cent between 2017 and 2018, from 7,269 to 7,400. For additional context, the rates recorded in this recent period are the lowest annual rates since the early 1970s.

*Figure 6: Reported crime incidents per 100,000 population (excluding traffic), BC 2007-2018 (Canada, Ontario, and Alberta included as comparators)*



When comparing against similar provinces, the rate of reported crime in British Columbia remains substantially higher than the rate in Ontario. For the fourth consecutive year, BC's crime rate is lower than that of neighbouring Alberta.<sup>7</sup>

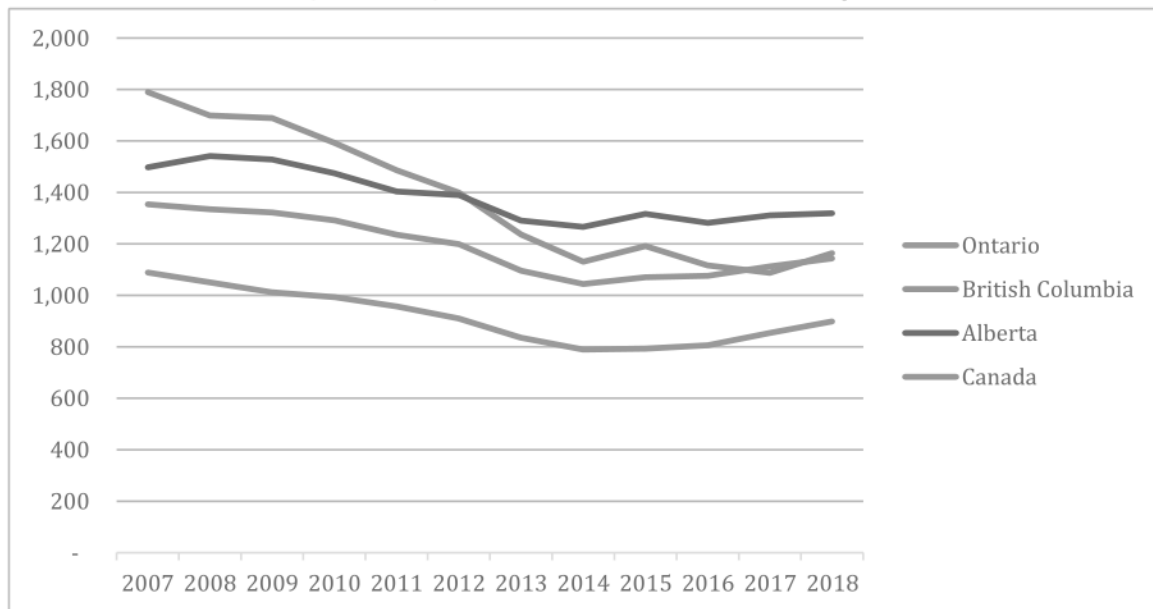
<sup>7</sup> Source: Statistics Canada. Table 35-10-0177-01 Incident-based crime statistics, by detailed violations. These figures reflect reported crimes. They do not reflect crimes which are for one reason or another unreported to police, and they are therefore necessarily an incomplete picture of criminal occurrences. The rate of victimization, typically determined by population survey, is considered a more accurate picture of total criminal activity. However, victimization rates are currently measured nationally every five years – too infrequently to serve as a useful policy tool – and are not included here. The reader should also note that the crime rate is at best an incomplete measure of police workload, as it does not capture the

## Violent crime

The overall rate of violent crime reported to police has declined significantly in British Columbia over the last decade. During that time, BC's rate of violent crime incidents per 100,000 population declined by 31 per cent. However, in 2018 the violent crime rate in BC has increased by seven per cent.

One of the most significant developments in the BC crime picture in recent years has been the narrowing of the gap between the rate of violent crime in our province and the national average – a gap now effectively closed. In 2007, BC's violent crime rate was 32 percent higher than the rate across Canada. By 2017, BC's violent crime rate had dropped to 2.2 percent below the national average and over the last year it has risen slightly to 1.7% above than the national average.<sup>8</sup>

**Figure 7: Reported violent crime incidents per 100,000 population, BC 2007-2018 – Canada, Ontario, and Alberta included as comparators**



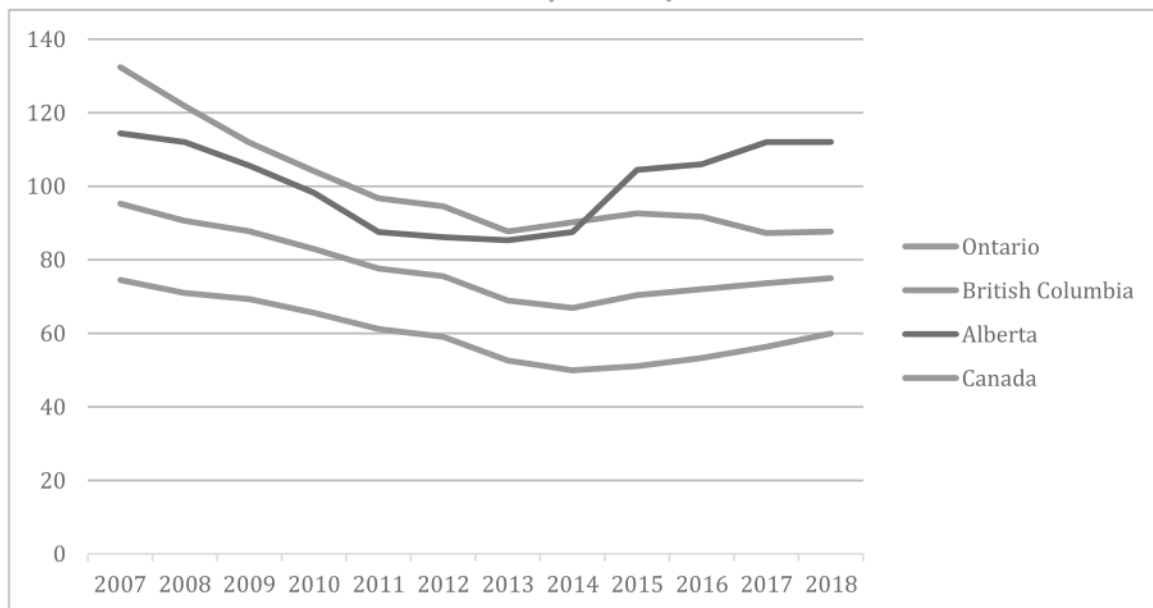
range of proactive community or public order activity required of police agencies, enforcement of non-criminal statutes (e.g. *Motor Vehicle Act*) or non-criminal requests for service from the public.

<sup>8</sup> Source: *Statistics Canada. Table 35-10-0177-01 Incident-based crime statistics, by detailed violations*. Most recent data year is calendar 2018.

## Crime severity

Along with the crime rate, the relative severity of crime has generally fallen in BC over the last 10 years by 22 per cent. The crime severity index is a measure of the seriousness of criminal offences being committed, which addresses some limitations of the traditional “crime rate” measure, specifically its lack of capacity to distinguish differences between serious crimes such as homicide and other crimes (such as mischief). In 2018, BC’s crime severity index remained essentially flat from the prior year. The pattern in British Columbia over the past decade is generally consistent with national trends, with the exception of provinces like Alberta, which have seen recent increases in their crime severity index.<sup>9</sup>

**Figure 8: Crime severity index BC 2007-2018 (Canada, Ontario, and Alberta included as comparators)**



<sup>9</sup> Source: Statistics Canada. Table 35-10-0026-01 Crime severity index and weighted clearance rates. Most recent data year is calendar 2018. The Police Reported Crime Severity Index (PRCSI) measures changes in the level of severity of crime in Canada from year to year. In the index, all crimes are assigned a weight based on their seriousness. The level of seriousness is based on actual sentences handed down by the courts in all provinces and territories. More serious crimes are assigned higher weights, less serious offences lower weights. As a result, more serious offences have a greater impact on changes in the index.

### Sector expenditures (provincial): rate of change

In this section, information on sector expenditures within the province are presented in terms of the rate of change over the last 12 years, rather than as an absolute dollar amount. In addition, two other variables are factored-in for the purposes of meaningful comparison: changes in provincial population and inflation as expressed through the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The chart below establishes the baseline year as 2007-08 and all subsequent annual growth/contraction rates are measured in relation to this baseline year. The two rates presented are:

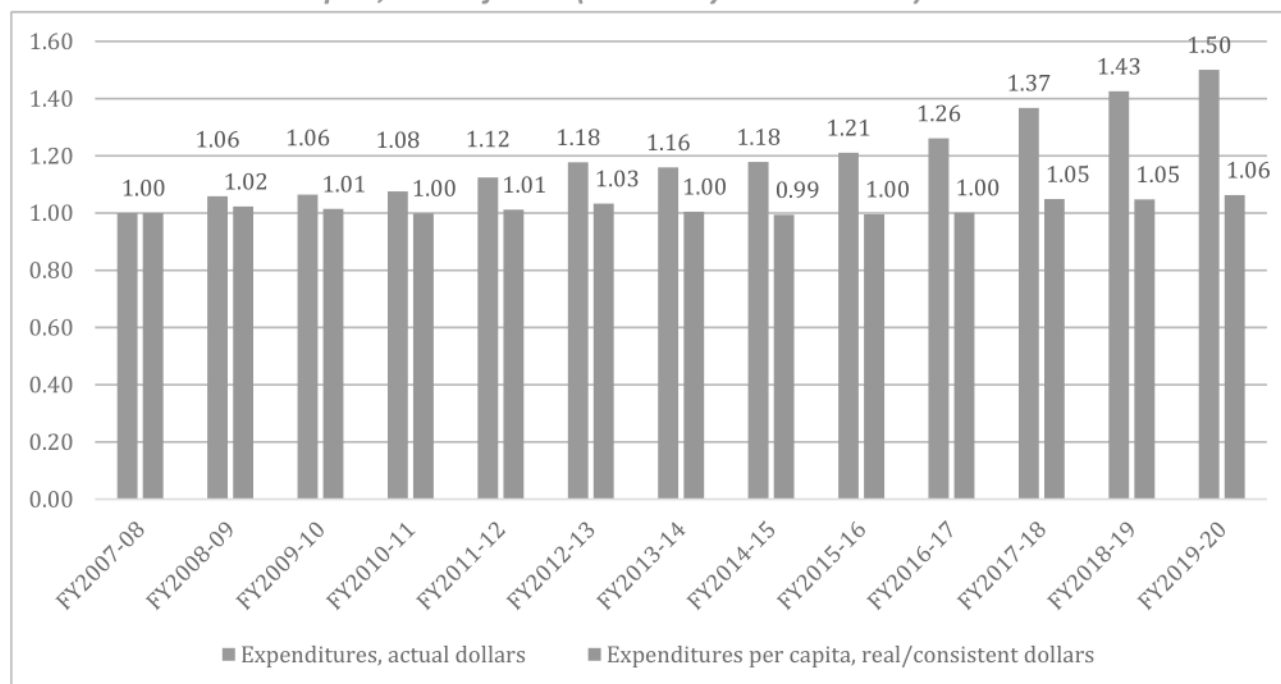
1. change in actual dollars spent; and
2. change in actual dollars spent per capita, adjusted by CPI (i.e. controlling for population growth and inflation).

In terms of actual (unadjusted) dollars, the total 2019-20 provincial government expenditure on major functions spanning the justice and public safety sector was measured at \$1.2 billion, an increase of 5.3 per cent from 2018-19. This follows an absolute increase of 4.2 per cent the previous year. Overall, actual-dollar expenditures have increased by 50 per cent since 2007-08.

However, as Figure 9 illustrates, when expenditure increases are controlled for population and inflation growth, the annual expenditure by the Province on the sector was effectively unchanged for the 10 years between 2007-08 and 2016-17 (inclusive). Since this point, expenditure per capita has risen by approximately six per cent in real terms. With this context factored in, the most substantial change in sector expenditure occurs between 2016-17 and 2017-18, with an increase of roughly five per cent in real terms (i.e. controlled for population growth and inflation). The sector's expenditure levels have remained relatively stable since then.

## JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY PLAN 2020-23

**Figure 9: Rate of change in provincial government justice and public safety sector expenditures, 2007-08 to 2019-20: actual expenditures vs. actual expenditures per capita, CPI-adjusted (baseline year = 2007-08)<sup>10</sup>**



### New case volumes (provincial)

Over the last 10 years, there has been a decreasing trend in the annual number of new Provincial Court cases entering the system. New cases have fallen by 24 per cent over the last decade. While the decrease in new adult criminal cases contributed to almost half of the total reduction in new Provincial Court cases over the last 10 years, youth criminal

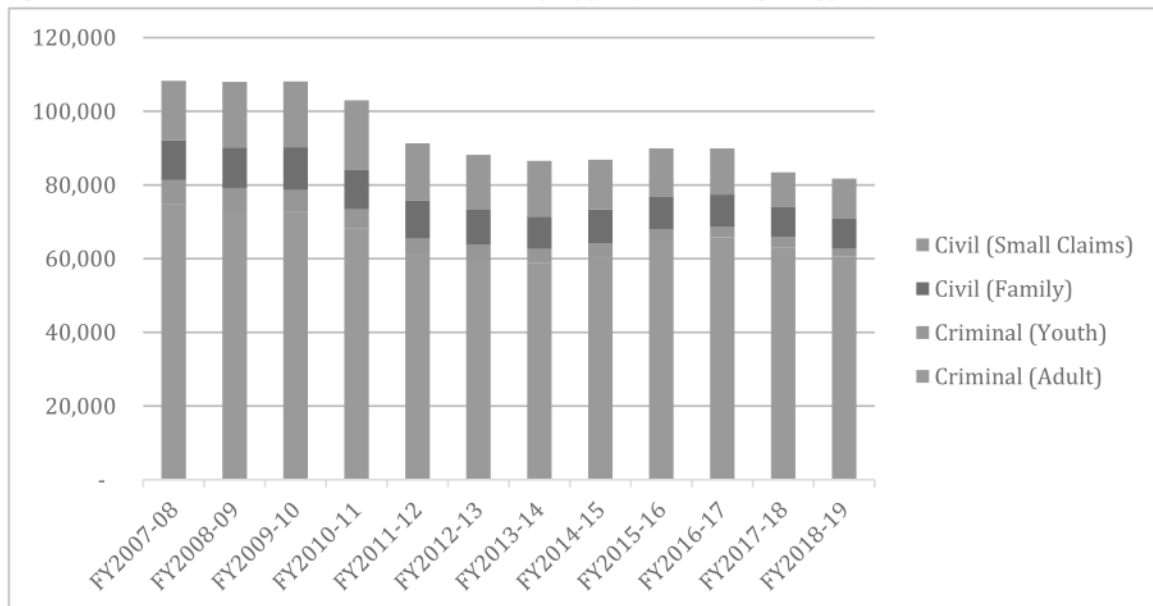
<sup>10</sup> **Data source and considerations:** BC Government Justice and Public Safety Sector, Corporate Management Services Branch (sector actual expenditures); Statistics Canada. Table 17-10-0005-01 Population estimates on July 1st, by age and sex; Statistics Canada. Table 18-10-0005-01 Consumer Price Index (CPI), annual average, not seasonally adjusted. Population and "all-items" CPI data are aligned to the calendar year, rather than to the fiscal year. This chart incorporates budget figures from the Ministry of Attorney General and Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, and combines salary and operating costs, for core sector functions. Figures include amounts for Corrections, the Corrections work program, policing and security programs, victim services and crime prevention, RoadSafetyBC, justice transformation, justice services, prosecution services, and court services. Figures exclude amounts for corporate government shared services (i.e. corporate infrastructure and facilities costs) and some programs (e.g. emergency management, liquor and cannabis regulation, and gaming policy and enforcement). The chart also excludes funds for the judiciary, and federal and municipal budget figures for justice and public safety (including policing costs). Standard Object of Expenditures (STOB) for building occupancy charges (STOB 75) and centralized management support services (STOB 59) are also excluded, except for legal services. Note that the justice and public safety sector ministries were split in FY2015-16.

## JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY PLAN 2020-23

cases and small claims civil cases saw substantial in-category percentage decreases, at 64 per cent and 39 per cent respectively. It should be noted in interpreting these figures that the substantial decline in criminal cases which drove the steep overall reductions after 2009 is commonly associated with changes in process for impaired driving, and thus may mask patterns related to other crime types.

The number of new Provincial Court cases declined by 2.1 per cent over the last year. The total number of new cases (81,703) is the lowest of any year reported in the Council's plan document stretching back to 1998-99.<sup>11</sup>

**Figure 10: New Provincial Court cases by type (excluding traffic) 2007-08 to 2018-19<sup>12</sup>**



<sup>11</sup> In 1998-99 the total number of new Provincial Court cases was 179,838. See Justice and Public Safety Council, *Strategic Plan for the Justice and Public Safety Sector 2014-15*, p. 32. The 2018-19 total of 81,703 represents a decline of 55 per cent in volume of new cases over 19 years. Data provided by Court Services Branch.

<sup>12</sup> Source: BC Ministry of Attorney General, Court Services Branch – CMIS tables, CSB Criminal BI. Extracted on March 2, 2020. Data does not include Provincial Ticket class cases.

### Youth justice

Youth justice in recent years represents a continuing success story in British Columbia. Youth crime continues to decline, and the number of youth in provincial custody remains well below 100; so low that annual fluctuations in those numbers have little statistical meaning. However, this decline has not benefited Indigenous youth to the same extent as the general population. While self-identified Indigenous people made up just under 10 per cent of the provincial population aged 12 to 17, Indigenous youth made up approximately 50 per cent of incarcerated youth (remanded and sentenced)<sup>13</sup>. Additionally, as in the adult population, Indigenous youth are also overrepresented in terms of community sentencing.

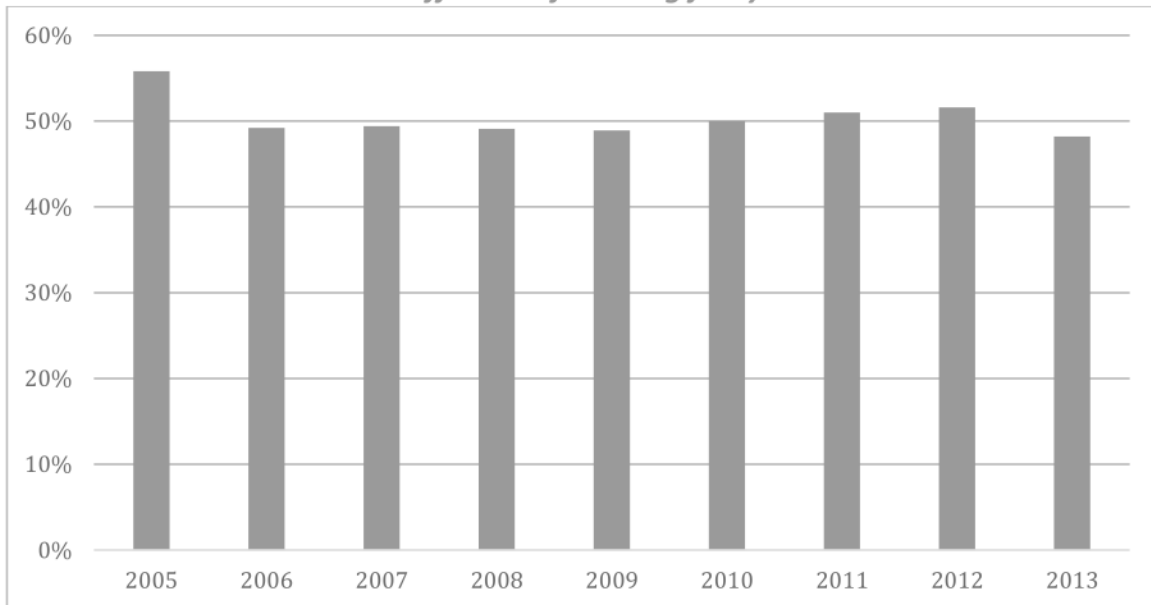
In recent years, the rate of youth reoffending has been relatively stable. In 2018, the most recent year for which five-year data are available (i.e., the period which commenced in 2013), the percentage of youth not reoffending within five years of a first community sentence decreased from 52 per cent to 48 per cent.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> Self-identified Indigenous population aged 12 to 17 was 9.8 per cent from the 2016 Census. Of the daily average youth incarceration rates for 2016-17 (remand and sentenced), 49.1 per cent were reported as being Indigenous; Government of British Columbia, BC Corrections Operations Network (CORNET) and reported via <https://mcf.gov.bc.ca/reporting/services/youth-justice/case-data-and-trends>.

<sup>14</sup> **Data source and considerations:** Government of British Columbia; Ministry of Children and Family Development - Youth Justice. Percentage of Youth Justice clients (ages 12-17) receiving a first community sentence who are not convicted of a new offence within the following five years (includes offences in adulthood). A five-year follow-up period is used for this metric. The metric counts recidivism of individual clients; therefore, individuals who are admitted more than once in a calendar year will only be counted once.

**Figure 11: Percentage of youth receiving first community sentence in given year with no new offence in following five years**



### Performance measurement update 2019-20

The following statistics reflect the suite of sector performance measures adopted by the Council in 2014-15 further to the recommendations of the External Review Committee (noted above). In 2015-16 and 2016-17, this section was published as a separate document entitled *Performance Measurement Update*. Since then, these measures have been incorporated into the *Strategic Plan for the Justice and Public Safety Sector*.

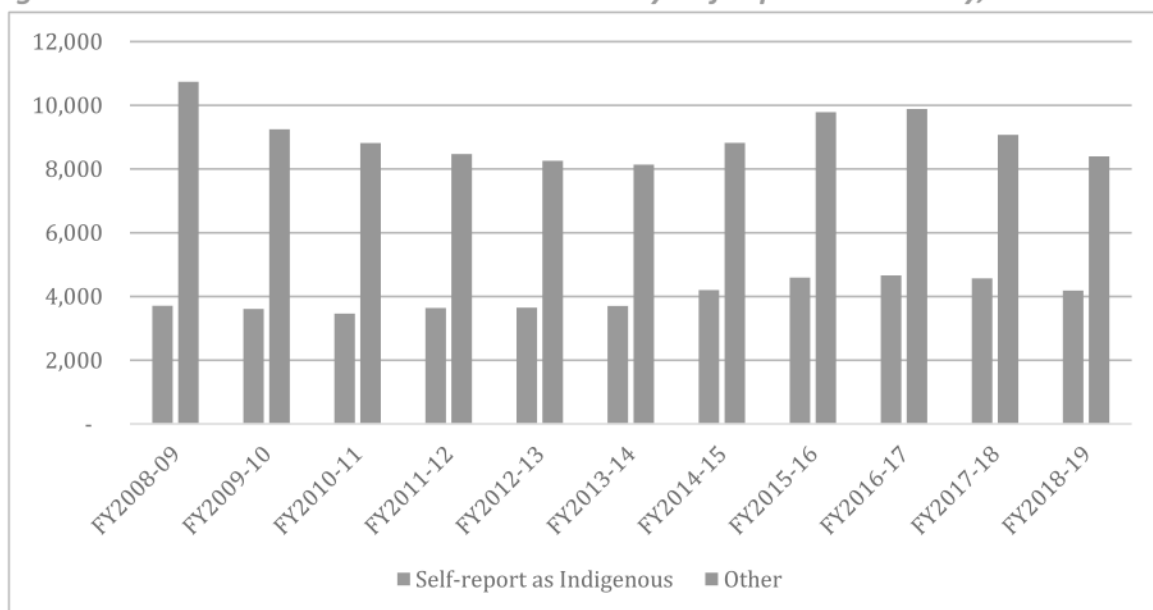
# JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY PLAN 2020-23

## Indicator 1: Rate of Indigenous incarceration (remand)

**Definition:** Admissions to a provincial custody centre for remand of individuals who self-report “Aboriginal” or “Metis” status in comparison to those who do not.<sup>15</sup>

**Why this indicator matters:** When there is a higher proportion of Indigenous people remanded in custody than one would expect in relation to the proportion of the overall provincial population that is Indigenous, it is an indicator of the extent to which Indigenous peoples are overrepresented within criminal justice system.

**Figure 12: Individuals admitted under remand by self-reported ethnicity, annual totals**



<sup>15</sup> **Data source and considerations:** Government of British Columbia; BC Corrections Operations Network (CORNET), extracted through the Cognos business intelligence system. This measure is comprised of all admissions, not unique admissions. This means that individuals who are admitted more than once in a given year will be counted more than once. The definition of admission does not include a status change from remand to sentenced.

**Figure 13: Individuals admitted under remand by self-reported ethnicity, as % of overall total**



## Indicator 2: Rate of Indigenous incarceration (sentenced)

**Definition:** This Indicator is the rate of sentenced custody releases of individuals from a custody centre who self-report “Aboriginal” or “Metis” status in comparison to those who do not.<sup>16</sup>

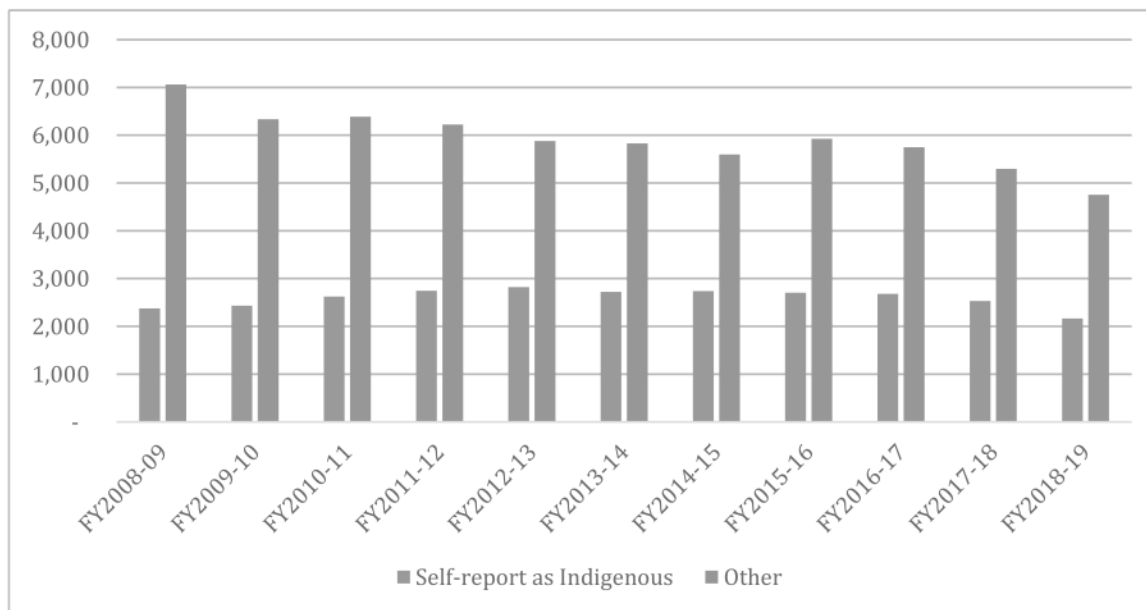
**Why this indicator matters:** When there is a higher proportion of Indigenous people in sentenced custody than one would expect in relation to the proportion of the overall provincial population that is Indigenous, it is an indicator of the extent to which Indigenous peoples are overrepresented within criminal justice system. It is also an

<sup>16</sup> **Data source and considerations:** Government of British Columbia; BC Corrections Operations Network (CORNET), extracted through the Cognos business intelligence system. This measure is comprised of all releases, not unique releases. This means that individuals who are released more than once in a given year will be counted more than once. The definition of release does not include a status change from remand to sentenced or sentenced to remand; however, it does include individuals released from custody to probation.

## JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY PLAN 2020-23

indicator of the degree of success of the justice system in remediating the absolute fact of overrepresentation per capita, all other things being equal.<sup>17</sup>

**Figure 14: Persons released from custody by self-reported ethnicity, annual totals, 2008-09 to 2018-19<sup>18</sup>**



<sup>17</sup> In 1996, Parliament enacted s.718.29(e) of the *Criminal Code*, which places a statutory duty on sentencing judges to consider an offender's Indigenous circumstances in the determination of what constitutes a fit sentence. The leading authority on interpretation of this provision is *R. v. Gladue*, [1999] 1 S.C.R. 688.

<sup>18</sup> Sentenced includes provincially sentenced, federally sentenced, dual, immigration, and not stated.

**Figure 15: Persons released from custody by self-reported ethnicity, proportion of total, 2008-09 to 2018-19**



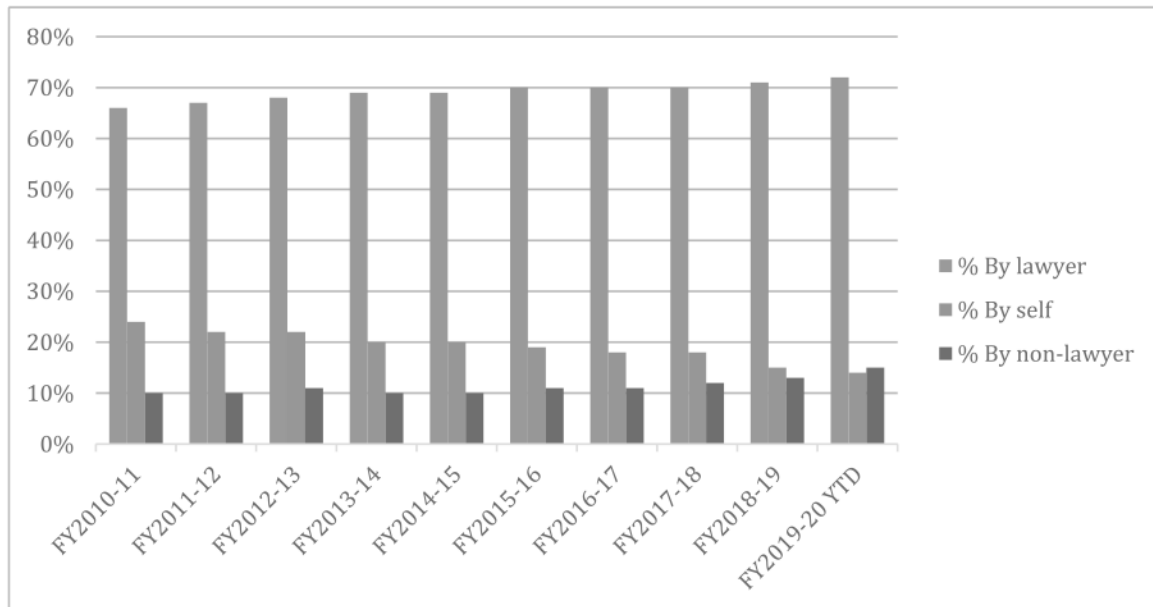
## Indicator 3: Accused representation at Provincial Criminal Court appearances

**Definition:** The number of Provincial Court adult and youth criminal case appearances where the defence attendance indicated that an accused appeared in court represented by legal counsel, by themselves, or by a non-lawyer agent, expressed as a proportion of total appearances.<sup>19</sup>

**Why this indicator matters:** Competent and informed representation in a court of law is significant in considering whether an accused person can be said to have had appropriate “access to justice,” where such access is defined as a person having the knowledge, resources and services to deal effectively with legal matters.

<sup>19</sup> **Data source and considerations:** Court Services Branch Criminal BI. Extracted on March 2, 2020. Data does not include Provincial Ticket class cases. "Lawyer" indicates a represented appearance where any counsel (designated counsel, duty counsel, counsel) is recorded in JUSTIN as appearing in court regardless of whether the accused is present, or an agent is present in the accused absence. "Self-Represented" indicates self-representation appearance where the accused is recorded as appearing in court with no counsel or agent present. "Non-lawyer" indicates an agent appearance where the accused is represented by an agent other than legal counsel. Fiscal 2019/20 data includes the representation status known/available as of November 30, 2019.

**Figure 16: Accused representation at Provincial Criminal Court appearances (adult & youth), as a % of total where representation status known/available**



Indicator 4: Number of criminal cases judicially stayed due to systemic delay

**Definition:** Number of Provincial and Supreme Court, adult and youth criminal cases judicially stayed due to systemic delay.<sup>20</sup>

**Why this indicator matters:** This and the following two measures are indicators of court timeliness and, more broadly, the accessibility of the justice system. To effectively uphold the rule of law, and to fulfill its legal obligations to the public, the Courts must process cases within a reasonable time.

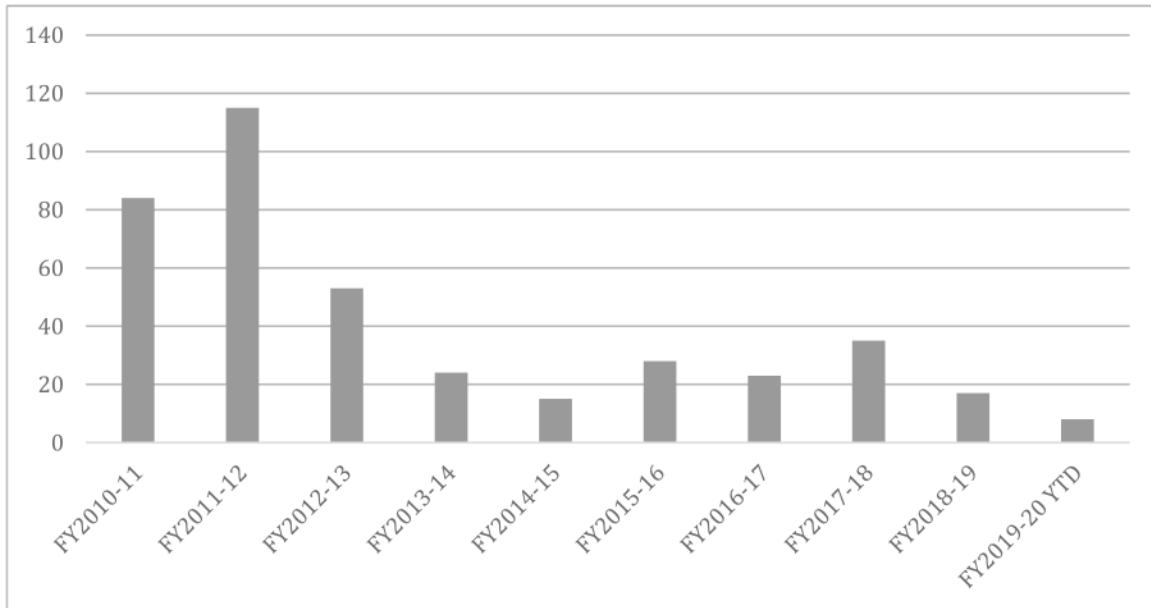
This first indicator displays the annual number of Judicial Stays of Proceedings in Provincial and Supreme Court. This measure reflects the Supreme Court of Canada's decisions in *R. v. Askov* (1990) and *R. v. Jordan* (2016), which first established then made

<sup>20</sup> **Data source and considerations:** Justice Information Network (JUSTIN); Court Services Branch Criminal BI. Extracted on March 2, 2020. Selection criteria based on any case where the most serious count on the case resulted in a Judicial Stay of Proceedings and there were no other significant findings (e.g. "guilty") on other less serious counts against the case. These are assumed to be Judicially stayed as a result of an *Askov* argument. Cases with a Judicial stay on one charge, and a different significant finding on one or more other charges on the same case are excluded from this dataset under the presumption the JSP was as a result of a *Kienapple* argument. Data does not include Provincial Ticket class cases. Fiscal 2019/20 data includes the information as of November 30, 2019. Constitutionally unacceptable delay is case specific, but generally cases run a real risk of judicial stay of proceedings between 12 to 14 months.

## JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY PLAN 2020-23

more stringent, the criteria and standards by which Canadian courts judge whether an accused's right under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, Section 11(b) "to be tried within a reasonable time" has been infringed.

**Figure 17: Provincial Court (adult/youth criminal) and Supreme Court Criminal Judicial Stays of Proceedings per *R. v. Askov* and *R. v. Jordan* (right to trial within a reasonable time)**



### Indicator 5: Time to trial in Provincial Court

**Definition:** The Provincial Court determines available hearing dates through published semi-annual surveys of the “time to trial.”<sup>21</sup> The surveys are conducted at every Provincial Court location and reflect the time to schedule a trial for each area of the Court’s jurisdiction. Location-based survey data are used to generate average provincial wait times (weighted by caseload), in months, from the time a ‘first available date’ request is made for various types of proceedings. The Office of the Chief Judge has established standards for wait times for various categories of trial.

**Why this indicator matters:** This is an indicator of court timeliness and, more broadly, the accessibility of the justice system.

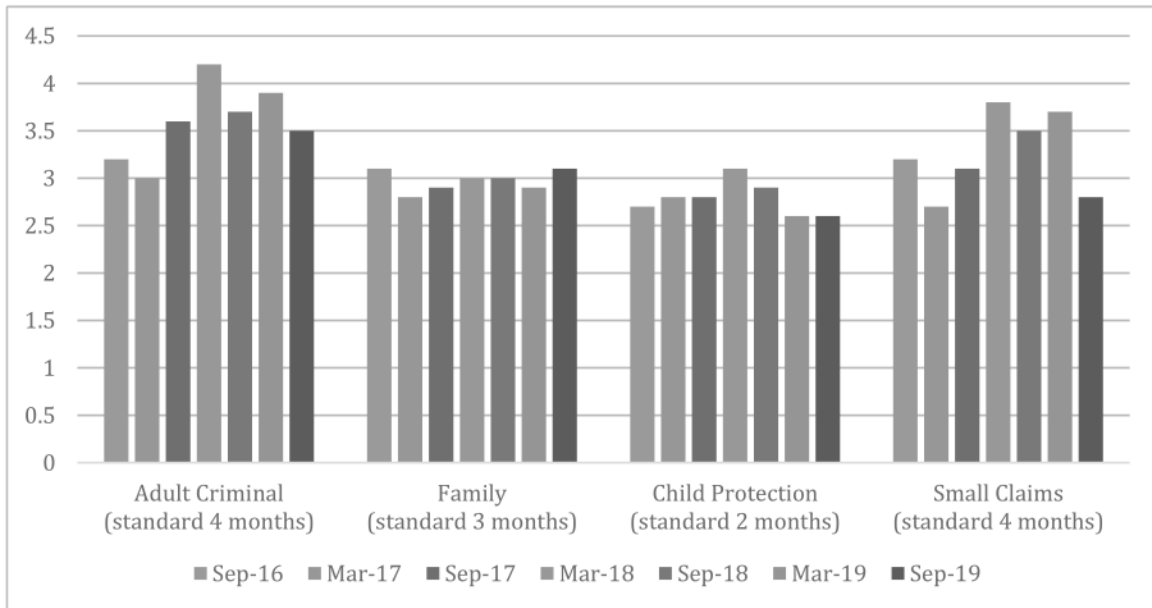
**Important Note:** With longer hearings becoming more common, the Provincial Court determined in 2016 that additional data collection was needed with respect to estimated trial length. This led to revised reporting categories and associated standards of the semi-annual “Time to Trial” report. As a result, data before and after this change are no longer comparable. See footnotes for details.

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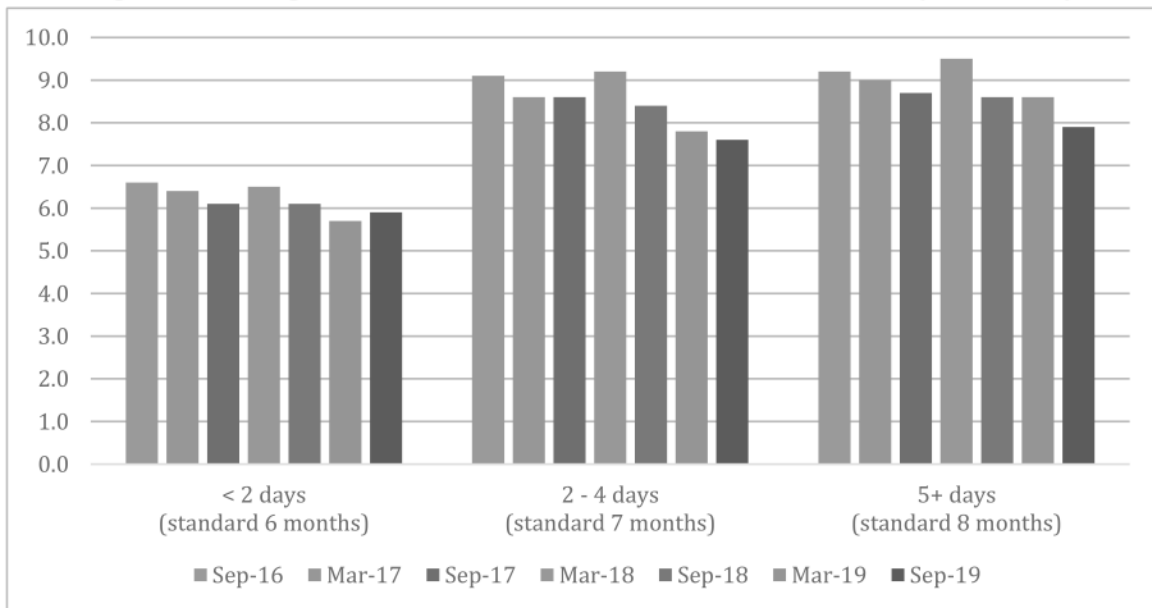
<sup>21</sup> **Data source and considerations:** Provincial Court’s “Time to Trial” published semi-annual survey results. The survey provides trend data by comparing the current quarter’s results with previous quarters, as well as with the Office of the Chief Judge (OCJ) Delay Standard. A link to the Provincial Court’s reports is provided here: <http://www.provincialcourt.bc.ca/news-reports/court-reports>. Adult Criminal Trials - wait time represents the number of months between an Arraignment Hearing/Fix Date and the first available court date for typical adult criminal trials of various lengths. Family Hearings - wait time represents the number of months between when a judge directs a conference to be set and the first available court date for a case conference PLUS the number of months between the case conference and the first available court date for a typical family (FLA) trial of various lengths. It no longer takes into account the time between a first appearance and case conference. Child Protection Hearings - wait time represents the number of months between when a judge directs a conference to be set and the first available court date for a case conference PLUS the number of months between the case conference and the first available court date for a typical CFCSA trial of various lengths. It no longer takes into account the time between a first appearance and case conference. Small Claims Trials - wait time represents the number of months between the final document filing and the first available court date that a typical settlement conference can be scheduled PLUS the number of months between a settlement conference and the first available court date for a typical small claims trial of various lengths.

# JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY PLAN 2020-23

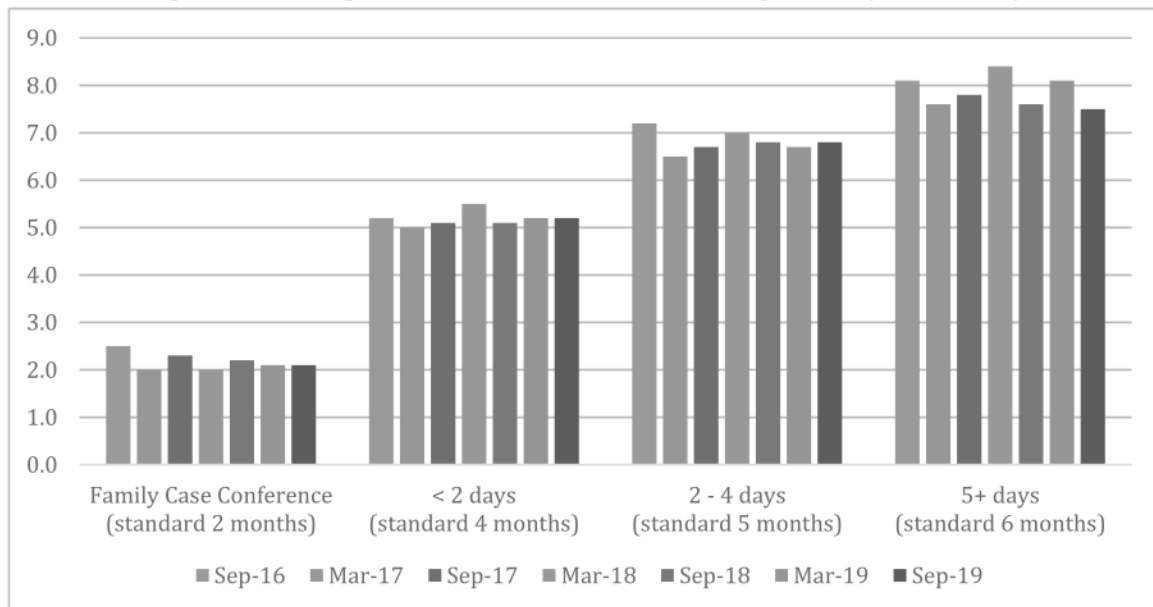
**Figure 18: Weighted Provincial Time for Summary Proceedings Court (in months)**



**Figure 19: Weighted Provincial Time to Adult Criminal Trials (in months)**



*Figure 20: Weighted Provincial Time to Family Trials (in months)*



Indicator 6: Percentage of Provincial Court criminal cases concluded within 90, 180, and 365 days

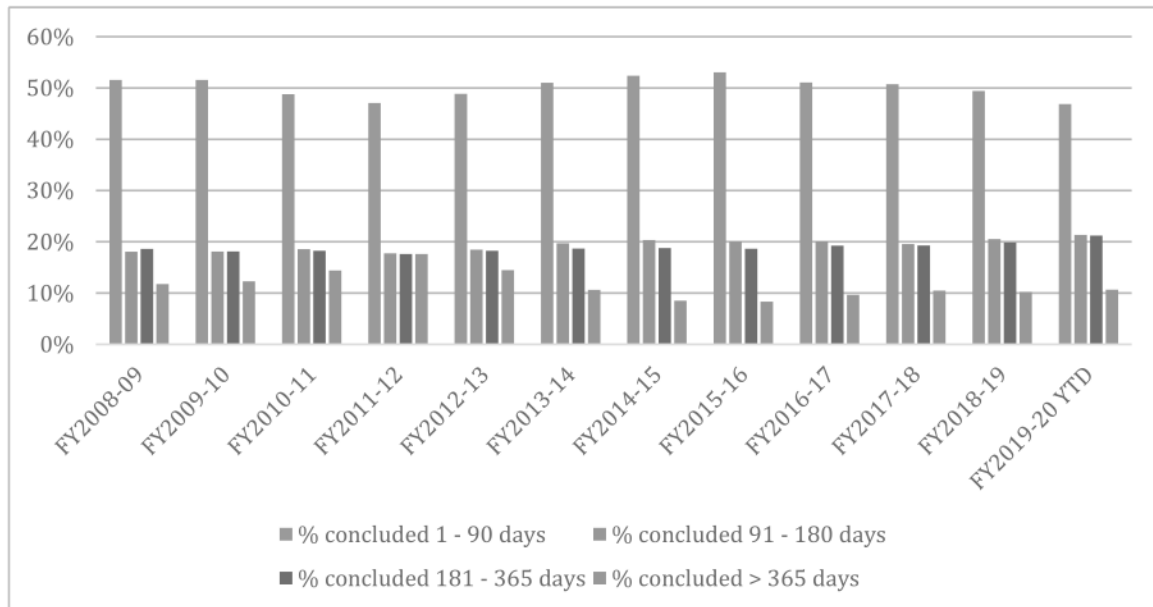
**Definition:** The proportion of all Provincial Court adult and youth criminal cases concluded where the number of days between their sworn date and case conclusion date is within 90, 180, and 365 days.<sup>22</sup>

**Why this indicator matters:** This is an indicator of court timeliness and, more broadly, the accessibility of the justice system. Many factors contribute to the time it takes to conclude a criminal case – delays in scheduling cases for trial and increasing case complexity are seen as two key factors.

<sup>22</sup> **Data source and considerations:** Provincial Court of British Columbia; Court Services Branch Criminal BI. Extracted on March 2, 2020. Fiscal 2019/20 data includes the concluded cases as of November 30, 2019. Court Services Branch defines a concluded case as one that has had a disposition entered against all charges on the case.

## JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY PLAN 2020-23

**Figure 21: Percentage of criminal cases concluded in Provincial Adult and Youth Court within 90/180/365 days**



Indicator 7: Percentage of adult offenders who are not reconvicted in BC within two years of release

*The Council has been advised by BC Corrections that:*

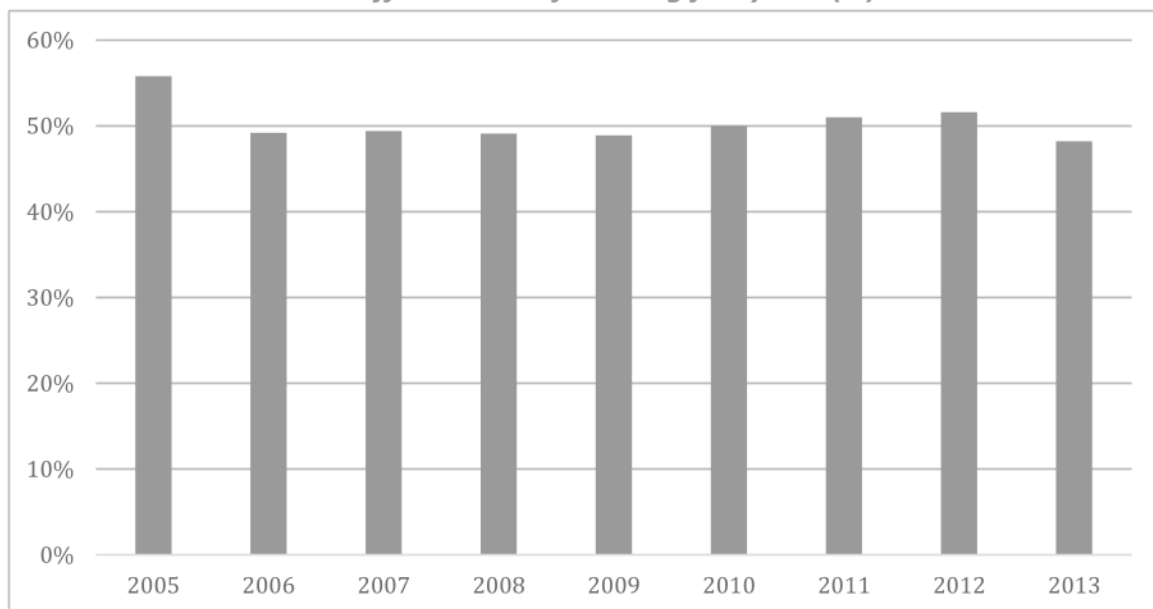
1. in August 2017, a problem was identified in the justice and public safety sector business intelligence application that is used to generate rates of non-reoffending.
2. It has been determined that the problem may have materialized several years ago and may have impacted rates of non-reoffending previously published.
3. This issue has yet to be rectified; however, updated rates will be made available as soon as the integrity of the data has been re-established and validated.
4. Steps are also being taken to further strengthen the sector's data quality control procedures to prevent a similar situation from occurring in the future.

Indicator 8: Percentage of Youth Justice clients receiving their first community sentence who are not reconvicted in BC within the following five years

**Definition:** The percentage of Youth Justice clients (ages 12-17) receiving their first community sentence who are not convicted of a new offence within the following five years (includes offences in adulthood).

**Why this Indicator matters:** Non-recidivism by adult offenders and Youth Justice clients is indicative of the success of the justice system in deterring and rehabilitating offenders. That said, criminal behaviour is a highly complex phenomenon involving a variety of individual and societal factors, many of which are outside of the control of the justice system.

**Figure 22: Youth Justice clients receiving first community sentence who did not commit a new offence in the following five years (%)**



Indicator 9: Percentage of Youth Justice clients receiving their first custodial sentence who are not reconvicted in BC within the following five years

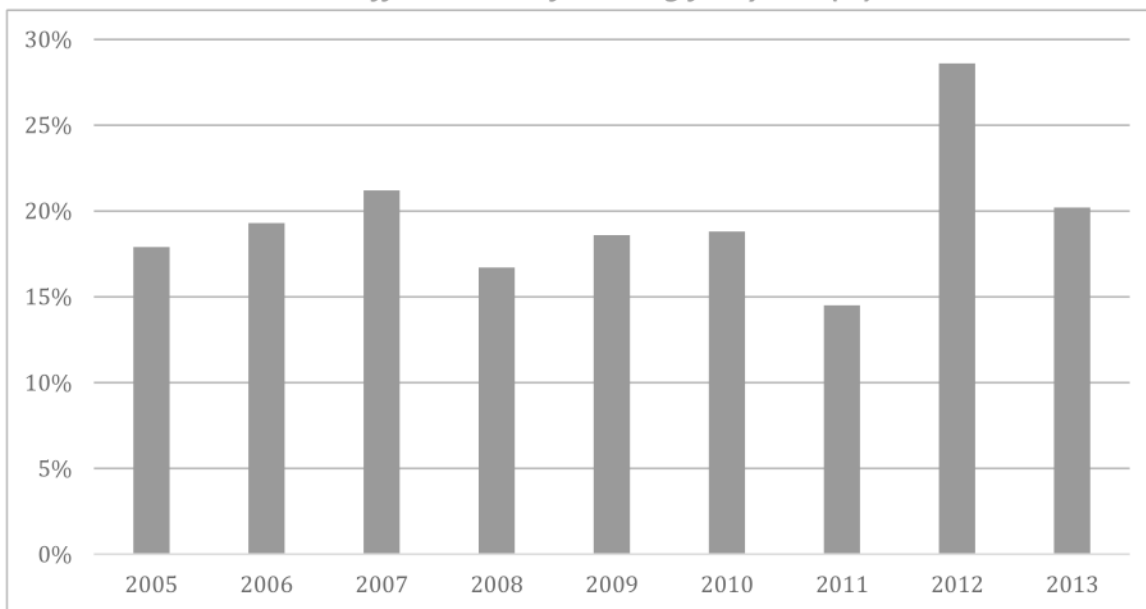
**Definition:** The percentage of Youth Justice clients (ages 12-17) receiving their first custodial sentence who are not convicted of a new offence within the following five years (includes offences in adulthood).<sup>23</sup>

**Why this Indicator matters:** Non-recidivism by adult offenders and Youth Justice clients is indicative of the success of the justice system in deterring and rehabilitating offenders.

<sup>23</sup> **Data source and considerations:** Government of British Columbia; Ministry of Children and Family Development - Youth Justice. A five-year follow-up period is used for this metric. The metric counts recidivism of individual clients; therefore, individuals who are admitted more than once in a calendar year will only be counted once.

That said, criminal behaviour is a highly complex phenomenon involving a variety of individual and societal factors, many of which are outside of the control of the justice system.

**Figure 23: Youth Justice clients receiving first custodial sentence who did not commit a new offence in the following five years (%)**



Indicator 10: Number of traffic casualties involving high-risk driving behaviors per 100,000 population

**Definition:** The number per 100,000 population in British Columbia of serious injuries and fatalities resulting from a motor vehicle incident where police assess that one or more of the following were a factor: alcohol or drugs; speeding; and distraction.<sup>24</sup>

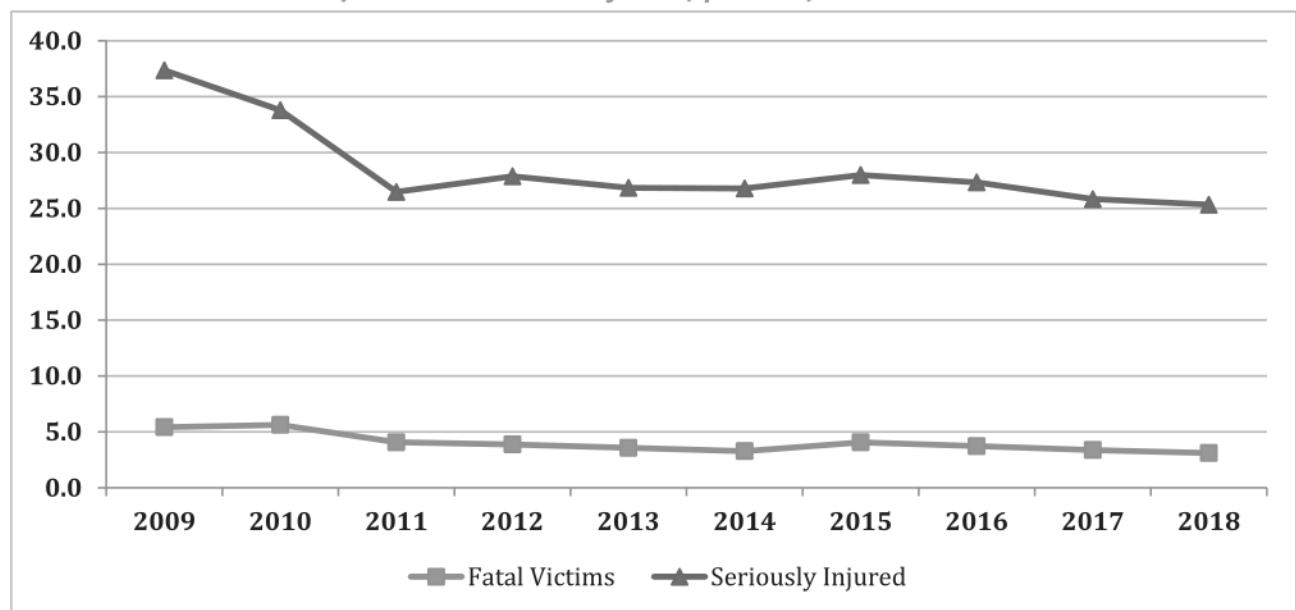
**Why this Indicator matters:** This is an indicator of success in protecting the public from these high-risk driving behaviours that are the focus of RoadSafetyBC programs. Drivers

<sup>24</sup> **Data source and considerations:** Fatal victim counts were extracted from the Traffic Accident System (TAS) tables on April 1, 2020. Contributing factors are suspected by police attending the scene of the crash. This measure encompasses a unique count of fatal victims, so if an incident included more than one of these factors the victim is counted only once. Seriously Injured victim counts are from the TAS Quarterly Summary, 2019 Q4. This measure does NOT involve a unique count of seriously injured victims, so if an incident involved more than one of these factors the victim is counted once for each.

BC Population estimates are from BC Stats. <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/data/statistics/people-population-community/population/population-estimates>

who have received sanctions for these driving behaviours may receive interventions from RoadSafetyBC's Driver Improvement Program or Remedial Driver Program and will be charged a Driver Risk Premium by ICBC. Although other driving behaviours, like not wearing a seatbelt or running red lights, increase casualty risk, these behaviours do not cause as many casualties as the factors listed above. Medical conditions are also not included in this indicator as there are considerable differences with drivers who choose high-risk driving behaviour.

*Figure 24: Traffic casualties resulting from crashes where alcohol, drugs, speeding, or distraction/inattention was a factor, per 100,000 BC residents*



## PLAN FEEDBACK

Comments are encouraged and may be emailed to [justicereform@gov.bc.ca](mailto:justicereform@gov.bc.ca). Written communication may be sent to:

*The Chair*

*British Columbia Justice and Public Safety Council*

*c/o Coordinator, Justice and Public Safety Council and BC Justice Summits*

*11<sup>th</sup> floor, 1001 Douglas Street*

*Victoria, BC V8W 3V3*

## APPENDIX 1: JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY COUNCIL

Under provisions of the *Justice Reform and Transparency Act*, Council members are appointed by Ministerial order and may include: an individual who is in a senior leadership role in the government and who has responsibility for matters relating to the administration of justice in British Columbia or matters relating to public safety, and includes any other individual the minister considers to be qualified to assist in improving the performance of the justice and public safety sector. The current membership includes:

Richard Fyfe, Q.C. (Chair)	Deputy Attorney General, Ministry of Attorney General
Mark Sieben (Vice-Chair)	Deputy Solicitor General, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Lisa Anderson	Assistant Deputy Minister, Community Safety and Crime Prevention, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Elenore Arend	Assistant Deputy Minister, BC Corrections, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Allison Bond	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Children and Family Development
Brenda Butterworth-Carr	Assistant Deputy Minister, Policing and Security Branch Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Lynda Cavanaugh	Assistant Deputy Minister, Court Services, Ministry of Attorney General
Peter Juk, Q.C.	Assistant Deputy Attorney General, British Columbia Prosecution Service, Ministry of Attorney General
Kurt Sandstrom, Q.C.	Assistant Deputy Attorney General, Justice Services, Ministry of Attorney General
Taryn Walsh	Assistant Deputy Minister, Strategic Priorities and Initiatives, Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions

## APPENDIX 2: VALUES OF OUR SECTOR

In a free and democratic society, the rule of law and principles of fundamental justice must guide the behaviour of the justice and public safety sector. Based on this foundation, the following values apply to work across the justice and public safety sector:

### ***Fair and equitable***

Acting without discrimination with regard to ethnicity, age, religion, gender, gender identification, sexual orientation, belief or socio-economic status

### ***Open and responsive to change***

Thinking critically about existing practice, considering information that challenges convention and responding actively to environmental changes

### ***Outcome-focused***

Setting achievable objectives, evaluating our efforts according to results and working together to ensure our activities do not have unintended adverse consequences

### ***Accountable***

Engaging the public on the effectiveness of our work, and reporting regularly on meaningful aspects of our performance

### ***Evidence-based***

Managing operations and innovating through shared collection and analysis of data about what works, and by enabling rigorous research through partnership

### ***Proportionate***

Allocating resources in ways that are necessary and reasonable, according to agreed-upon risks, and taking action in consideration of the sector's goals as a whole

### ***Transparent***

Making information broadly available about the sector's functions, enabling constructive democratic dialogue about goals, outcomes, services and performance

**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General  
Estimates 2021/22 Briefing Book**

**Cross Branch Issues  
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**2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE****Missing and Murdered  
Indigenous Women and Girls  
National Inquiry****Suggested Response:**

- The final report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls was released on June 3, 2019, in Gatineau, Quebec and was attended by the Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation as well as the provincial lead for the Inquiry. The Commission of the Inquiry also released a supplemental report related to genocide.
- Since that time, the Province has been working with communities and partners to develop a 'path forward' to ending violence against Indigenous women and girls that is meaningful for B.C. To that end, a series of Indigenous-led, community-based dialogues were held across the province in the summer of 2019. The purpose of these dialogues was to support information and healing, and to identify priorities for action. A final report of these engagement sessions has been publicly released.
- On June 3, 2020, the one-year anniversary of the release of the final report, the Province released a milestone document, identifying key activities undertaken that are aligned with the Calls for Justice, as well as information related to community priorities and areas for improvement.
- The Province then supported an additional series of community dialogues through the spring of 2021 to confirm priorities and better understand potential strategies to serve as the foundation for the path forward.
- BC's Path Forward is being developed to acknowledge and respond to four key priority themes that were articulated during the community dialogue sessions: (1) Safe Spaces and Safety Plans; (2) Healing Support; (3) Strengthening Relationships with Partners; (4) Access to Resources and Recommendations.
- The Province is committed to ongoing dialogue with federal, provincial and territorial partners, Indigenous partners, and community members, in order to continue to build the path forward in a meaningful and impactful way.

**Status of B.C.'s Missing Women Commission of Inquiry Recommendations**

- See Estimates Note CROSS 2 "Missing Women Commission of Inquiry Reporting".

**Future Provincial Reporting on B.C.'s Missing Women Commission of Inquiry Recommendations Following the National Inquiry**

- The most recent status update was released in April 2021.

- The Province is committed to continue reporting on the recommendations and is also considering future reporting in relation to the release of the final report of the national inquiry.

**Background:**Provincial Response to the National Inquiry

- The Province prepared a written submission for the Inquiry, which provided comprehensive, B.C.-specific information related to the Inquiry's mandate to inform the final report and recommendations; the written submission incorporated content from across government, including health, mental health and addictions, children and families, poverty reduction, housing, education, justice and public safety.
- The Province has been working with partners and communities to develop a 'path forward' to ending violence against Indigenous women and girls that is meaningful for B.C. To that end, a series of Indigenous-led, community-based dialogues were held across the province in the summer of 2019. The purpose of these dialogues was to support information and healing, and to identify priorities for action. A final report of these engagement sessions has been publicly released.
- The Province then supported an additional series of community dialogues through the spring of 2021 to confirm priorities and better understand potential strategies to serve as the foundation for the path forward.
- In addition to the specific work on the Path Forward, B.C. has made progress over the past year related to the Calls for Justice, including:
  - Beginning April 1, 2021, management of B.C.'s Gladue report program transitioned from Legal Aid BC (LABC) to the BC First Nations Justice Council (BCFNJC). The transition of Gladue services to the BCFNJC allows the removal of barriers related to requesting a Gladue report. As of April 1, 2021, any First Nations, Métis or Inuit person can request a Gladue report, regardless of whether they have a private lawyer or are a client of Legal Aid BC.
  - In response to events involving police use of force against Indigenous and Black peoples and growing calls to address systemic racism in policing, the Legislative Assembly appointed the Special Committee on Reforming the Police Act. The final report of the Special Committee is to be tabled by April 28, 2022.
  - In June 2020, the Minister of Health launched an investigation into anti-Indigenous racism in B.C.'s health system, leading to the November 2020 In Plain Sight report, which found evidence of widespread systemic racism against Indigenous peoples. In response, the Minister publicly apologized, affirmed the Province's responsibility to address the

problem and announced the appointment of a new Associate Deputy Minister of Indigenous Health for a fixed term to oversee a task force to implement the report's recommendations.

- As announced on April 7, 2021, the Connecting British Columbia program and the Government of Canada's Universal Broadband Fund will provide Rogers with \$4.5 million towards the \$11.6-million cost of providing continuous cellular coverage along the whole of Highway 16. As part of this project, Rogers will install 12 cellular towers along the highway. This will provide 252 kilometres of new highway cellular coverage, closing several gaps. The project will also provide coverage to three rest areas along Highway 16, located at Boulder Creek, Basalt Creek and Sanderson Point. It is scheduled to be complete in fall 2022. This project directly reflects the recommendations of the Highway of Tears Symposium and the final report of the National Inquiry and will significantly contribute to increased safety along the corridor.
- B.C. is actively participating in dialogue at the federal level regarding the development of a National Action Plan. B.C. serves as the co-chair of the FPT Deputies Table and FPT working group.
- Leveraging federal funding, the Province established the BC Family Information Liaison Unit (BC FILU) to provide frontline victim services and supports to families of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, whether or not they are participating in the inquiry. Funding for the BC FILU was extended in March 2020 for an additional three years.

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**2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE****Missing Women  
Commission of Inquiry  
Reporting****Suggested Response:**

- The Province appreciates the Office of the Auditor General's (OAG) examination of government's response to 21 recommendations and two urgent measures included in the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry (MWCI) report.
- A significant amount of work has been undertaken to address the following major themes of the MWCI report:
  - In March 2020, the ministry provided EVA BC with a one-time grant in the amount of \$10 million to establish and administer a multi-year emergency sexual assault services (ESAS) grant program, in collaboration with the ministry, the Ministry of Finance's Gender Equity Office (GEO), the Minister's Advisory Council on Indigenous Women (MACIW), and the Ministry of Health (MoH).
  - In March 2021, the ministry provided EVA BC with a subsequent one-time grant in the amount of \$10 million to fund additional programs from among a pool of already adjudicated, strong applications that were submitted, but not funded, under the multi-year ESAS grant program launched in 2019/20.
  - On January 15, 2021, the BC Prosecution Service released updates to several policies – including Vulnerable Victims and Witnesses. This policy now includes an expanded set of factors to be addressed in order to support an individual's effective participation in the criminal justice system, including additional advice specific to files involving Indigenous victims.
  - The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, through the Highway 16 Five-Point Transportation Action Plan, has implemented enhanced public transportation systems in over 35 communities along the Highway 16 corridor from Prince Rupert to Prince George. Through over \$10.2M in investments and commitments through 2022/23, the action plan is helping provide safer and more reliable transportation options for First Nations and remote communities along the corridor.
  - In 2020, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing continued its budget commitments to create new social and supportive housing for vulnerable women and their children. Through its \$550 million investment in the Building BC: Indigenous Housing Fund, the Province, over ten years, will build and operate 1,750 units of social housing, both on and off-nation.
- The Province released the 2018 Status Update on February 28, 2018, 2019 Status Update on

February 28, 2019, the 2020 Status Update on April 17, 2020, and the 2021 Status Update on April 1, 2022.

○ Advice/Recommendations

- The Province is currently developing a path forward to ending violence against Indigenous women and girls in collaboration with community and partners, which will include renewed engagement and play a key role in advancing a number of directions, including the MWCI and inquiry recommendations.

Relationship Between the MWCI and the National Inquiry into MMIWG

- Work towards implementing the MWCI recommendations is ongoing and will continue to influence the development of government initiatives, strategies and policy.
- In addition to continuing to act on the MWCI recommendations, the Province committed to fully participating in the national inquiry.
- The Province prepared a written submission for the national inquiry, which provided comprehensive, B.C.-specific information related to the inquiry's mandate to inform its final report and recommendations. The Province's submission is available online.
- The Calls for Justice add to the Province's understanding of the underlying issues and strategies to address the systemic causes of violence experienced by Indigenous women and girls that lead to greater vulnerability.

Recommendations Not Yet Implemented

- The MWCI report detailed 65 recommendations and urgent measures and led to a comprehensive response that has significantly improved policing, missing persons investigations and the safety of vulnerable women in B.C.
- Some of the MWCI recommendations called for research projects and feasibility studies. While these recommendations have not been the focus of the Province's response, the Province does rely on the current and growing body of knowledge stemming from recent studies and reports, as well as the input and advice from key stakeholders, to inform its response to the issues raised by these recommendations and the MWCI Report overall.
- While not all the recommendations have been addressed, the Province continues to take actions that reflect the intentions and spirit of the MWCI report and recommendations to improve the safety and women and support impacted families.

- The Province will continue to work with partners to identify systemic causes of violence against Indigenous women and girls and to uncover opportunities in alignment with the MWCI Report. This work is aligned with the Province's participation in the national inquiry.

#### Related Investments

- The Province also provides the following investments:
  - Since 2017/18, approximately \$5.8 million in grant funding has been provided through the Civil Forfeiture Crime Prevention and Remediation Grant Program to over 200 community-led projects supporting healing in Indigenous communities. In March 2021, 54 Indigenous healing and rebuilding projects totalling approximately \$1.5 million were funded, including projects that have a specific focus on Indigenous women and girls.
  - The Crime Victim Assistance Program's (CVAP) 2021/2022 budget for payment of benefits is \$17.563 million. CVAP assists victims, immediate family members, and, in some cases, witnesses in coping with the effects of violent crime. It provides financial benefits to help offset financial losses and assist in recovery. CVAP continues to support victims and their immediate family members through access to financial benefits that support healing, including funding for counselling or memorial services.
  - Starting in 2018/19, the Province provided \$400,000 over two years to the Minister's Advisory Council on Indigenous Women's Giving Voice. Additional funding was provided in 2019/20 and 2020/21 which meant a total of 106 projects have been funded to date for a grand total of \$1.06M.
  - Through its \$550 million investment in the Building BC: Indigenous Housing Fund, the Province, over ten years, will build and operate 1,750 units of social housing, both on and off-reserve. The first 1,100 new housing units in 30 projects were announced in November 2018, and this included almost 780 off-nation units and close to 370 on-nation units. These projects will be located in 26 communities across the province. As of December 31, 2020, there were 1,093 units initiated, in development or under construction through the Indigenous Housing Fund
  - Through the Building BC: Women's Transition Housing Fund, this government is investing \$734 million over 10 years to build and operate 1,500 new safe homes for women and children in need in our province. When complete, these 1,500 homes will represent a 60% increase in the number of spaces that were available in 2017.

#### Dedicated Funding to Support Vulnerable Women

- Work towards implementing the MWCI recommendations is ongoing and the Province will continue to consider these priorities as part of broader funding decisions to ensure that we are able to better meet the needs of vulnerable women in B.C.
- The Province provides over \$42 million annually in funding to support over 400 victim service and violence against women programs in B.C.

- In addition, in Budget 2018, the Province increased annual funding to better meet the ongoing demand for programs and services such as counselling, outreach and crisis support for women and children who experience domestic violence, sexual assault and other crimes. This increase included \$5 million starting in 2018/19 with an additional increase of \$3 million in 2020/21, for a total increase of \$8 million annually.
- The Civil Forfeiture Crime Prevention and Remediation Grant Program provides one-time funding to crime prevention and remediation projects across B.C. The 2020/2021 program cycle awarded approximately 4 million in funding to projects across several streams that align with Calls to Justice. This includes funding towards initiatives addressing gender-based violence, violence against women, sexual assault and domestic violence; Indigenous healing; and human trafficking, sexual exploitation sex worker safety. ;
- \$37.5 million in annual funding is invested in the Women's Transition Housing and Support Program to provide temporary shelter, housing and support to women and children who have experienced violence or are at risk of experiencing violence.

#### Remaining Development of Provincial Policing Standards Relevant to the MWCI Recommendations

- Provincial policing standards provide high-level direction to ensure that police services across the province adopt similar approaches in key areas.
- The MWCI Report recommended that standards be established in a number of key areas, including:
  - Missing persons investigations, which were completed in 2015 and have been in effect since September 2016;
  - Major case management and inter-agency cooperation, which were completed in 2017 and have been in effect since January 2019; and
  - Ensuring equality in the delivery of policing services, which are currently in final stages of development.
- Provincial Policing Standards on sexual assault investigation are in early stages of development.

#### **Background:**

- The OAG completed an examination of how the Province has responded to selected recommendations made by the MWCI report and released a public report on December 9, 2016.

- The OAG examination focused on 21 recommendations and two urgent actions identified in the MWCI report.
- The Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General and the Ministry of Attorney General are responsible for 21 of the recommendations and one urgent action; the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure is responsible for one urgent action.
- During its examination, the OAG verified actions taken and drew conclusions regarding whether those actions have been responsive to their intent.
- The OAG concluded that government:
  - Responded to the intent of eight recommendations;
  - Partially responded to the intent of four recommendations and two urgent actions;
  - Has not responded to the intent of five recommendations; and
  - Was not far enough along with four recommendations to determine if the approach addresses the intent.
- Additionally, the OAG provided more general observations with respect to approaches taken to implement various recommendations across the following four themes: funding, stakeholder engagement, reporting and accountability and oversight.
- The OAG made one recommendation for action: “that the Government of British Columbia report publicly each year on how its programs and initiatives are meeting the intent of the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry’s recommendations.”
- The Province accepted the recommendation of the OAG and committed to resuming annual public reporting on actions taken on the MWCI recommendations.
- In response, the Province released the 2018 Status Update on February 28, 2018, released the 2019 Status Update on February 28, 2019, released the 2020 Status Update in April 2020 and released the 2021 Status Update on April 1, 2021.

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**2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE****Declaration Act, Draft  
Principles and Reconciliation  
Commitments****Suggested Response:**

- The Province is committed to pursuing true, lasting reconciliation with Indigenous peoples through adopting and implementing the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP); the *Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Calls to Action*; and the *Draft Principles that Guide the Province of British Columbia's Relationship with Indigenous Peoples*.
- I recognize that reconciliation is a journey and making real progress will take time. I also understand that there is an immediate need to make meaningful change for Indigenous peoples as it relates to the justice and public safety system.
- As the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, I have been mandated to make progress in areas of importance for Indigenous peoples that are directly aligned with government's reconciliation commitments, such as:
  - Taking concrete steps to evaluate the recommendations of the Special Committee on Reforming the Police Act and, with the assistance of the Parliamentary Secretary for Anti-Racism Initiatives, to bring forward recommendations to address systemic racism, support dedicated hate crime units within local police forces, and review training and procedures related to 'wellness checks';
  - Increasing support for initiatives that are proven to prevent and reduce crime and increase the use of restorative justice programs;
  - Continuing to work to implement the Calls for Justice of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls; and
  - Supporting the work of the Parliamentary Secretary for Gender Equity to develop an action plan to end gender-based violence, including minimum standards for sexual assault response, more training for police, Crown counsel and justices, and core funding for sexual assault centres.
- I am committed not only to delivering on my mandate, but to supporting my colleagues to achieve theirs in a way that ensures engagement and collaboration with Indigenous communities and leadership.

**Ministry's Actions to fulfill its Reconciliation Commitments.**

- The ministry is actively pursuing opportunities to support government's reconciliation commitments. For example:

- The ministry is supporting the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation in developing the inaugural Declaration Act Action Plan, as required under the B.C. *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*.
- The ministry is also continuing to promote the advancement of the *Draft Principles that Guide the Province of British Columbia's Relationship with Indigenous Peoples* through efforts such as cultural safety training for frontline staff to support culturally appropriate, responsive and safe services for Indigenous peoples.
- Efforts are underway to align new and amended legislation with the articles of the UN Declaration. Engagements are currently underway to inform modernizations to both the *Police Act* and the *Emergency Program Act*, in addition to other key legislative, regulatory and policy priorities (cross reference Estimates Notes PSB 11 Policing Modernization and EMBC 16 Emergency Program Act Modernization).
- Government is committed to enhancing the use of community-driven and informed restorative justice in the province, by building on the existing foundation of restorative justice throughout B.C. (cross reference Estimates Note CROSS 4 Restorative Justice).
- We are committed to developing a path forward to end violence against Indigenous women, girls and two spirit people that will be directly informed by survivors, family members and communities (cross reference Estimates Notes CROSS 01 Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls National Inquiry, CROSS 2 Missing Women Commission of Inquiry Reporting and CSCBP 2 Addressing Gender-Based Violence).
- The ministry is supporting implementation of the First Nations Justice Strategy, which was jointly released by the Province and B.C. First Nations Justice Council on March 6, 2020
- In partnership with the Ministry of Attorney General and Métis Nation B.C. Justice Council, the ministry is supporting finalization and implementation of the Métis Justice Strategy, which was received by the Province on January 6, 2021.

#### Background:

- Released in May 2018, the *Draft Principles that Guide the Province of British Columbia's Relationship with Indigenous Peoples* reflects government's commitment to true and lasting reconciliation with Indigenous peoples in British Columbia.
  - Members of the BC Public Service are uniquely positioned to transform the Province of B.C.'s relationships with Indigenous peoples through the important work they do every day, and these draft principles are a resource to help guide all public service employees as we build relationships with Indigenous peoples based on respect and

recognition of inherent rights.

- The draft principles guide our work to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Calls to Action, and recent direction from the courts.
- In July 2018, all Provincial ministers were mandated to fully adopt and implement the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP), and the *Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission* and move forward on the calls to action and review policies, programs, and legislation to determine how to bring the principles of the declaration into action in British Columbia.
- The B.C. *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People Act* (Declaration Act) was passed unanimously in the legislature and became law on November 28, 2019. When the Declaration Act took effect, British Columbia became the first province in Canada, and one of the first jurisdictions in the world, to pass such a law.
  - The Declaration Act mandates B.C., in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples, to take all measures necessary to bring provincial laws into alignment with the UN Declaration and to develop an action plan to meet the objectives of the UN Declaration, with annual public reporting to monitor progress and ensure accountability.
- B.C.'s approach to advancing long-term reconciliation is focused on building respectful government-to-government relationships and improving opportunities and outcomes for Indigenous people in British Columbia. Reconciliation touches on social, economic and cultural aspects and includes First Nations governance and jurisdiction.

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**2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE****Restorative Justice****Suggested Response:**

- Our Government is committed to enhancing the use of restorative justice (RJ) in the province.
- Using a strategic, integrated, cross-sector approach, we have engaged with a broad range of stakeholders to promote greater collaboration and dialogue about RJ across the province and have worked to identify opportunities to enhance its use in the province
- Based on feedback heard during our consultation sessions, this ministry has provided support for a number of initiatives focused on enhancing RJ across B.C. including supporting the development and implementation of an association for B.C.'s community-based RJ programs. The ministry funded, RJ Association of BC is currently working to build its membership base and provide support and advocacy for RJ programs and services across the province.
- The ministry also continues to increase its support for RJ programming through the Civil Forfeiture Crime Prevention and Remediation Grant Program. We provided over \$1M to 33 RJ related projects through the grant program in fiscal 2020/2021 including funding for the development of a cross-sector advisory committee that will support this ministry's work in enhancing the use of RJ in B.C.
- The Province currently supports over 85 community-based programs that deliver RJ approaches, including 52 Community Accountability Programs and 34 Indigenous justice programs.

**Background:****Enhancing RJ in B.C.**

- The ministry has completed a number of activities in exploring options for enhancing the use RJ in B.C., including consultations with federal, provincial and territorial partners and one-to-one and online engagement sessions with key partners from the RJ and Indigenous Justice Program communities in B.C. to gain feedback and inform future enhancements of RJ program and policy development in the province.
- As a result of learnings through these engagement sessions, in 2019/20, the ministry modified the funding criteria for the Civil Forfeiture Crime Prevention and Remediation Grant Program's RJ stream to increase the amount of funding that RJ programs could apply for and to enable programs to apply for funding to support service delivery and capacity development.

- Our engagement to date with RJ community and justice and public safety sector stakeholders has also helped inform key investments made by this ministry, including approximately \$1.96M in grants to 66 RJ related projects through the civil forfeiture crime prevention and remediation grant program in fiscal years 2019/2020 and 2020/21 Initiatives supported with this funding include:
  - A total of \$320K since 2019/20 to support the Restorative Justice Association of BC including \$90K over 3 years to develop and implement an RJ committee that brings together key justice and public safety sector representatives from across the province in partnership with the ministry. The committee will support further steps towards increasing the use of RJ programming in the province and supporting the understanding, utilization, and recognition of RJ within the justice sector.

#### Progress on increased use of RJ in B.C.

- It will take time for recent investments to be reflected in an increase in the use of RJ in the province.
- Historic underfunding of RJ in B.C. has limited the capacity of community-based RJ programs to deliver services partly given to an over-reliance on volunteers. This underfunding has also limited their capacity to collect data and report on their RJ related work. It will take time to build the necessary capacity and build awareness of the benefits of RJ which over time will lead to a noticeable increase in the use of RJ across the province.
- To support the monitoring and reporting of the use of RJ in the province, this ministry has been working with its FPT partners to develop common indicators to support uniform reporting of RJ programming across Canada. This FPT work has informed adjustments made in what data current government funded RJ programs provide on an annual basis.

#### Status of the government's work in developing and implementing a strategy to enhance the use of RJ in B.C.:

- This government is not currently planning to release a public strategy.
- The focus moving forward is to continue to work with key stakeholders in the RJ community to continue to identify opportunities to increase the use of RJ in B.C.

#### Community Accountability Programs

- Since 1998, the ministry has supported community-based, volunteer-driven RJ programs through the Community Accountability Program (CAP). There are currently 52 CAPs which accept over 1,000 referrals annually, primarily police-referred cases dealing with less serious crimes such as mischief and theft.
- Some CAPs take on offences referred by Crown counsel. The BC Prosecution Service supports the use of RJ programs in appropriate cases including in alternative measures or extrajudicial sanctions and sentencing.

- CAPs are eligible for annual funding of up to \$4,000 to support volunteer training and administrative expenses. CAPs have various capacity levels with some programs using municipal funding to provide more complex and extensive RJ services.
- Since 2017/2018, approximately \$2.7 million in Civil Forfeiture Crime Prevention and Remediation Grant funding has been provided to support CAPs and other RJ programs for specialized victim-sensitive RJ training and development projects.

#### Indigenous Justice Programs

- The Indigenous Justice Program (IJP) is a cost-shared program that is jointly supported by the Department of Justice Canada and the Province. The program provides funding to 27 Indigenous communities in British Columbia to deliver culture-based justice services. In 2020-2021 the Province contributed \$1.43 million to the federal/provincial cost-shared initiative.
- IJPs offer a range of services, including court diversion, community support and secondary community supervision, Substance Abuse Management and Respectful Relationships core programming, and re-integration support after a custodial sentence.
- IJP programming is provided in the following 27 communities: Ahousaht, Alert Bay, Alkali Lake, Bella Bella, Bella Coola, Chilliwack, Duncan, Fort Nelson, Fort St. James (x2), Fort Ware, Haida Gwaii, Kamloops, Lillooet, Lower Post, Lytton, Merritt, New Aiyansh, Penticton, Powell River, Prince George, Prince Rupert, Punky Lake, Smithers, Telegraph Creek, Vancouver, and Victoria.
- BC Corrections funds an additional seven Indigenous Justice Programs (\$300K) and works with other Indigenous communities across the province to support the development of community justice plans and programs where justice programming is not currently provided. The seven provincially funded Indigenous justice programs are provided in: Atlin, Canim Lake, Cranbrook, Kamloops, Klemtu, Lake Babine, and Mount Currie.

#### Ministry of Children and Family Development – youth focussed restorative justice

- The Ministry of Children and Family Development is committed to ensuring restorative justice process are available across its 13 Service Delivery Areas (SDA).
- Each SDA has either a conferencing specialist or a youth probation officer to support offenders, victims and communities in restorative justice processes including community conferences.
- Service provided may include engaging and supporting young offenders in restorative approaches that facilitate an understanding of the impacts of their offending behaviour.

Referrals to Restorative Justice from the RCMP

- The RCMP supports RJ in B.C. and is the largest source of referrals to community RJ programs in the province. They have a policy in place requiring every RCMP detachment to have a designated Restorative Justice Liaison Officer.
- RCMP E Division is currently exploring options for increasing referrals to CAPs.

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**2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE****Cannabis: Section 119,  
Medical Cannabis, and Illicit  
Cannabis Testing Results****Suggested Response:**

- Legal cannabis retail sales in B.C. have been steadily increasing over the past year.
- Continued growth can be attributed to an increasing number of licensed stores, a declining number of illicit stores, and the release of new, high quality cannabis products at prices that are competitive with the illicit market.
  - Approximately 70% increase in the number of retail stores between March 2020 (201) and April 2021 (342).
  - Since legalization, 163 illicit retailers have closed or stopped selling cannabis as a direct result of Community Safety Unit efforts.
- We continue to make regulatory adjustments to increase the competitiveness of the legal cannabis industry, such as developing programs for farm-gate sales and direct delivery from producers to retailers, as well as an Indigenous Shelf Space program.
- We are committed to supporting Indigenous participation in the regulated industry. We continue to engage with First Nations, including negotiating section 119 agreements and working with the joint Provincial-First Nations Leadership Council Working Group on Cannabis.

**Section 119**

- The section 119 agreement-making provision can be a valuable tool to address unique, community-specific interests regarding cannabis and increase Indigenous participation in the regulated cannabis market.
- To date, 28 Indigenous Nations have expressed interest in section 119, the Province has negotiated two agreements, and is in active discussion with five nations.

**Medical Cannabis**

- Health Canada is responsible for authorizing and regulating cannabis production for medical and non-medical purposes; the Province does not have a direct role.
- While most medical cannabis patients make legitimate use of the medical cannabis program, we have serious concerns that the program creates significant opportunity to divert cannabis to the illegal market.

- B.C. is encouraging the federal government to undertake comprehensive review and reform of the medical cannabis program and will use the upcoming Health Canada three-year review of the *Cannabis Act* to outline our concerns.

#### Illicit Cannabis Testing Results

- The Cannabis Legalization and Regulation Secretariat tested 20 dried samples seized from illicit cannabis retailers and found many contained pesticides and concentrations of bacteria, fungi and heavy metals that would not be allowed in the legal market.
- The message to people who choose to consume cannabis is simple: buy regulated product from legal retailers whose products meet national standards or do your research and grow your own.

#### **Background:**

- B.C.'s cannabis priorities include increasing legal market competitiveness and supporting Indigenous and small-scale participation in the emerging cannabis market, while ensuring we continue to protect public health and safety.
- At the end of 2020, national household expenditure on legal cannabis surpassed spending on illicit cannabis for the first time (BC numbers are not yet available). This represents rapid progress against an entrenched illicit market, but there is considerable work ahead of us.
- B.C. is increasing legal market competitiveness by:
  - Developing farm-gate and direct delivery programs for launch in 2022;
  - Streamlining requirements for licensed cannabis retailers;
  - Continuing to take enforcement against the illegal market, including online sales; and
  - Encouraging the federal government to address barriers to legal market competitiveness at the federal level, such as reviewing rules around packaging, promotion, and possession limits.
- B.C. is working to support Indigenous participation by:
  - Implementing an Indigenous shelf space program by the end of 2021;
  - Negotiating government-to-government agreements with Indigenous nations to address unique, community-specific interests regarding cannabis; and
  - Continuing to collaborate with the First Nations Leadership Council Working Group on Cannabis.

Section 119

- In September 2020, Williams Lake First Nation and the Province entered into B.C.'s first section 119 agreement.
- In December 2020, Cowichan Tribes and the Province entered into a one-year agreement that allows the nation to participate in both cannabis production and cannabis retail.

Medical Cannabis

- While medical cannabis access and regulation is a federal responsibility, the impacts of abuse of the program undermine efforts to transition existing illicit growers to the legal industry and the overall competitiveness of the legal cannabis industry.
- This is a complex challenge for the federal government given Supreme Court jurisprudence.
- The Provincial Cannabis Secretariat regularly raises concerns about misuse of the medical program with Health Canada and advocates for program reform and greater information sharing with Provinces, law enforcement, and local governments.

Illicit Cannabis Testing Results

- Federal regulations test for the presence of solvent residues and contaminants such as pesticides, mould, bacteria, and heavy metals; samples are also tested for potency.
- The 20 dried bud samples were tested by federally authorized cannabis testing lab MB Labs for presence of microbials, aflatoxins, heavy metals, pesticides, and CBD/THC levels.

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**2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE****9-1-1 Services and Next Generation 9-1-1****Suggested Response:**

- Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG 9-1-1) is a federally-mandated modernization of 9-1-1 networks and infrastructure across Canada that will enhance 9-1-1 service by transitioning to Internet-based networks.
  - NG9-1-1 will allow the system to adopt new and emerging voice technology and messaging services and support modern features while ensuring this life-saving system remains effective, secure, and resilient.
  - Next generation technology will also provide additional caller identification and location information from cellphones; information that is essential for effective and swift emergency response in support of public safety.
- In recognition of the importance of these developments, the Province provided \$155K to E-Comm 911, which answers over 99% of the province's primary 9-1-1 calls, to develop a strategic plan and roadmap that describes when and how to best introduce NG 9-1-1 services in British Columbia.
  - The report is anticipated to be completed by the December 31, 2021.

**Background:**

- 9-1-1 services are established by regional districts, comprised of municipalities and unincorporated areas. Regional districts manage governance and funding for services in the districts, including aspects of 9-1-1 and emergency response.
  - The role of regional districts in 9-1-1, for those that have established it, is limited to the initial call answer and certain supporting functions, like the mapping used in emergency communications and response.
  - Downstream or dispatch operations and services are established by the emergency response agencies they serve.

**CRTC Decision**

- The Canadian Radio-television Telecommunications Commission (CRTC), the regulator of broadcasting and telecommunications in Canada, released their decision related to NG 9-1-1 on June 1, 2017.
- On April 8, 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the CRTC suspended the timelines that 9-1-1 network providers must transition to NG9-1-1. At that time, the CRTC indicated that they will undertake a public consultation to finalize new milestones, but proposed the

tentative new milestones below:

- March 30, 2021 – NG9-1-1 voice service (9-month postponement)
- March 30, 2022 – Real-Time Text service (15-month delay)
- March 30, 2024 – Legacy 9-1-1 networks decommissioned (9-month delay)

#### E-Comm 911

- In March 2021, the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General contracted E-Comm 911 to undertake research to develop a strategic plan and roadmap to NG9-1-1 in B.C.
  - Advice/Recommendations
  -
- On April 1, 2021, E-Comm 911 successfully completed their first voice call transfer in a NG 9-1-1 test environment. The call transfer was completed from E-Comm's Lower Mainland emergency communications centre to Calgary 9-1-1's centre.
  - This means that E-Comm has both received and transferred the voice connection and audio from a call in the test environment, along with the caller data.
  - This first call transfer validates E-Comm's efforts to ensure their test environment matches the reliability and functionality of the existing 9-1-1 system.
- Interprovincial call transfers are not currently possible with today's existing 9-1-1 systems. This new level of functionality will form part of the national rollout of NG 9-1-1, allowing for more coordination and faster response to emergency events.

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**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General  
Estimates 2021/22 Briefing Book**

**BC Corrections Branch  
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**2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE****Adult Custody Staff  
Recruitment, Wages and  
Retention****Suggested Response:**

- Over the last few years, the Adult Custody Division has implemented significant changes to its recruitment and retention strategy.
- Despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been a positive impact on our ability to hire and retain staff, with attrition rates dropping from 13.3% in 2019 to 8.9% in 2020.
- This is primarily related to implementing WorkSafeBC approved COVID-19 protocols that allowed for the recruitment process and the six (6) week recruit training to continue throughout the pandemic. Many employers suspended their recruitment activities.
- Recruitment efforts include:
  - A province-wide recruitment campaign including radio, newspaper, social media, and online marketing that resulted in more than 181,200 views of our job postings and 3,670 applications and 249 hires in 2020;
  - Promoting the role of a correctional officer as a career that people can be proud of versus a job - “Be a role model, be a peace officer, create change in your community;”
  - A move away from part-time hiring to a full-time only model; and
  - Implementing a provincial recruitment program with a team dedicated to enhancing the applicant experience, as well as a recruitment incentive program.
- These efforts saw a 26% reduction in repeat applicants and an increase of nearly 100% in applicant-to-hire ratio when compared to the previous recruitment model.
- Retention efforts include:
  - Environmental retention scans at all ten correctional centres to review challenges, engagement scores, absenteeism, and unexplained staff turnover with recommendations to address challenges provided to wardens at each centre.
  - Increased focus on staff training, staff forums, and wellness initiatives to improve retention.
  - A leadership development program, including an international award-winning leadership development website, to support current and future leaders. This includes regular offerings of leadership coursework and support from the Coaching Services

Division of the Public Service Agency to provide ongoing group coaching opportunities for Adult Custody Division managers; and

- A research-based retention framework developed in partnership with the University of Victoria. A key objective is to inform and reinforce effective communication skills and management approaches within BC Corrections to further improve the work environment for staff. A review of recommendations based on the data gathered from staff is currently underway to develop an implementation plan.

#### **Background:**

- In 2019 and 2020, the Adult Custody Division hired 455 correctional officers throughout the province; however, 312 correctional officers left the organization, with the vast majority leaving for higher wages in similar and competing justice agencies.

#### **Staffing Levels:**

- As of December 31, 2020, the Adult Custody Division had 2,073 staff: 1,438 correctional officers; 274 correctional supervisors; 183 managers; 137 administrative staff; 25 instructors and 16 chaplains.

- Employee Departures:

Year	Correctional Officers	Correctional Supervisors
2020	128	18
2019	184	18
2018	184	16
2017	163	18
2016	134	11

#### **Overtime, Hours of Work and Rate of Pay**

- Due to the 24/7 and custodial nature of the correctional officer role, most posts must be backfilled when vacant often at overtime rates – until replacements can be put in place. Unforeseen pressures such as hospital escorts, investigations, etc., often take priority, which also put pressure on existing and limited resources.

- Overtime costs over the past 5 years:

Calendar Year	Overtime (Million)
2020	\$9.5
2019	\$10.5
2018	\$5.7
2017	\$3
2016	\$3.2

- The 18<sup>th</sup> Main Public Service Agreement was ratified by BCGEU members and came into effect on April 1, 2019, for a three-year period. The current agreement provides increases of 2% annually for all unionised employees for the duration of the contract. In addition, the temporary market adjustment (TMA) remains in place for correctional officers. This increased their wages from grid 19 to grid 21 effective April 1, 2020.
- Correctional staff working for Correctional Service Canada (CSC) work a 40-hour work week compared to B.C.'s 35-hour work week. The following table illustrates that although B.C. correctional officers' hourly wage is the second highest hourly salary amongst the provinces, due to B.C.'s 35-hour work week, the annual wage ranks fifth out of 11 jurisdictions in Canada.

Ranking (based on annual salary)	Jurisdiction*	Maximum hourly rate	Hours worked per week	Annual salary based on hours worked per week
1	CSC (Federal)	\$42.18**	40	\$87,752
2	Alberta	\$35.66	38.75	\$71,855
3	Manitoba	\$34.35	40	\$71,687
4	Ontario	\$34.09	40	\$70,907
5	British Columbia	\$37.27 <sup>1</sup>	35	\$67,831
6	Quebec	\$32.28	40	\$67,145
7	NFLD and Labrador	\$31.30	40	\$65,104
8	Saskatchewan	\$33.11	37	\$63,703
9	Nova Scotia	\$29.92	40	\$62,234
10	New Brunswick	\$29.63	n/a	n/a
11	Prince Edward Island	\$28.88	37.5	\$56,316

\*Northwest Territories (\$44.50/hour), Nunavut (\$40.78/hour) and Yukon (\$37.87/hour) have been removed from this analysis because they are isolated and sparsely populated regions, and as such, do not offer comparable wage data for our jurisdiction.

\*\*Based on 2,080 hours of work per year (40-hour work week), as of June 1, 2020 the overall salary under the new CSC agreement is \$87,752 per year for a federal correctional officer at the CX2 level.

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<sup>1</sup> As of April 1, 2020

**2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE****Correctional Centre Safety  
and Violence Statistics****Suggested Response:**

- Keeping staff and individuals in custody safe is critical. Security measures, building design, risk assessments, information sharing, case management, and staffing models all contribute to creating a safe environment.
- Despite every effort, violence remains a reality in our work, which is why we continue to address this challenging issue by adopting new and innovative approaches that focus on supporting the complex needs of those in our care.
- At least 69% of individuals in custody have been diagnosed with either a mental health or substance use issue, and approximately 42% have been diagnosed with both.
- It is also important to consider that there are approximately 15,000 admissions into custody each year - and typically less than 50 individuals are responsible for the majority of the incidents of violence. For example, eight individuals were responsible for 21% of all staff assaults in 2020.
- BC Corrections classifies violence in two ways:
  - Assaults are violent incidents that result in some degree of intentional physical contact or force such as throwing items, spitting, scratching, pushing or hitting; and
  - Other incidents of violence that include threats, attempted assaults and individual-on-individual violence.
- WorkSafeBC completed inspections at our centres in 2012, 2016, 2019, 2020, and 2021. While each resulted in some orders to enhance our practices and policies to strengthen safety measures already in place - overall our centres were found to be safe.
- As a result of the pandemic, 2020 saw an unprecedented reduction of the custody population from 2,200 to 1,500 on average, resulting in a decrease of all incidents. While this can be attributed to lower counts, it can also be attributed to reduced tensions as a result of having the ability to single-bunk the majority of individuals.

**Reducing Risks**

- BC Corrections is committed to using effective risk assessments and classification processes to determine staffing needs and the appropriate placement for individuals in custody.
- BC Corrections responds to the complex needs of those in custody by: adopting trauma-informed practices; improving cultural competency; working closely with our Provincial Health Services Authority - Correctional Health Services team; and providing supportive

alternatives to segregation such as Complex Needs Units and Structured Intervention Placements.

- Other units support individuals committed to living violence-free and healing, such as Right Living Units and No Violence Units. These specialized units work to support like-minded individuals by encouraging self-awareness and non-violent behaviour through various incentives.
- Following an in-depth review of violent incidents in 2016, BC Corrections introduced several new measures to support staff which include:
  - Ensuring staff know about violent individuals who have previously assaulted a peace officer through a new database alert and information presented at shift muster meetings;
  - Minimizing staff proximity to individuals who are known to be violent. For example, eliminating a significant number of assaults that occur through cell door hatches by reducing contact, using meal delivery devices, and exploring facility design changes;
  - Charging incarcerated people internally, as well as working closely with the BC Prosecution Service and police to lay charges where appropriate; and
  - Working with the union to develop a victim impact statement for violent assaults, which has helped to ensure the courts understand the lasting impact of these incidents on staff and the importance of serious consequences.

#### Staff Assault Realities

- In 2020, there were 138 incidents of assault against staff, compared to 156 in 2019. (See table below for additional statistics)
- Annual in-depth analysis tells us that for 2020:
  - Most staff assaults (94%) occurred either with just one individual present or involved an individual who was locked in their cell at the time (typically a situation where that individual threw something at a staff member through the food hatch);
  - Most incidents (68%) occurred on segregation or specialized units with higher staffing levels and limited individuals unlocked at any given time; and
  - 68% of all staff assaults had two or more staff present at the time of the incident.
- These statistics demonstrate that staffing ratios do not change the behaviour of individuals who are intent on causing harm.
- When a correctional officer is assigned to a unit, it is important to understand that they have a multitude of supports, including:
  - Other correctional officers assigned to rotate regularly through the units;

- Program staff and supervisors' frequent, unscheduled visits; and
- Control room staff and technology, such as CCTV cameras and personal alarms that allow staff to receive help in seconds.
- As well, health care and mental health professionals, Indigenous cultural liaisons, and other professionals have frequent, regular interactions on the living units.

#### Individual-on-Individual Assaults

- To mitigate violence between individuals in custody, classification and risk assessments take each individual's personal circumstances - such as gang affiliations and health needs - into consideration when determining placement within the centre.
- While BC Corrections staff do everything they can to maintain a safe and secure living environment, given the unique and complex histories of those in custody and the large numbers of people with addiction and mental health challenges, occasional violent outbursts are an unpredictable reality.

#### **Background:**

- Risk assessments are conducted proactively on the workplace environment to identify existing or potential risks of violence and make recommendations to eliminate or minimize those risks in accordance with the WorkSafeBC Occupational Health and Safety Regulation.
- All B.C. provincial correctional centres have occupational health and safety committees, with both employer and union representation, where concerns about staff safety at the centre level are discussed on a regular basis.
- If staff injury occurs, management and union personnel conduct a joint investigation and the results are forwarded to the local occupational health and safety committee, as per WorkSafeBC Occupational Health and Safety Regulation. Changes that improve safety may result from these investigations.

## Incidents of Individual-on-Staff, Individual-on-Individual Assaults and Violence by Year

Calendar Year	Incidents of Individual Assaults on Staff*	Other Incidents of Individual Violence** Against Staff	Incidents of Individual on Individual Assaults*	Other Incidents of Individual on Individual Violence**	Total Incidents of Violence	Average daily Individuals in custody count	Annual Admissions to Custody
2020	138	67	337	69	611	1656	9,256
2019	156	90	844	510	1600	2287	15,301
2018	124	94	838	477	1533	2475	16,305
2017	115	89	759	419	1382	2667	17,730
2016	117	60	870	434	1481	2738	18,681
2015	99	94	782	440	1415	2588	18,149
2014	71	81	535	291	978	2369	16,603
2013	82	88	660	348	1178	2462	15,881
2012	105	66	511	327	1009	2516	15,992

\* Assaults are violent incidents that result in some degree of intentional physical contact or force such as throwing items, spitting, scratching, pushing or hitting. \*\*Other incidents of violence include threats, attempted assaults, individual-on-individual fights.

## Incidents of Assaults\* on Staff by Correctional Centre

Correctional Centre	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Alouette for Women	3	8	13	12	9	6	7	9	18
Ford Mountain	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Fraser Regional	10	12	5	10	15	7	16	12	5
Kamloops Regional	12	15	7	7	9	8	4	10	5
Nanaimo	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
North Fraser Pretrial	33	31	10	19	21	35	33	16	29
Okanagan	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	8	20	37	18
Prince George Regional	21	9	10	12	19	13	9	16	20
Surrey Pretrial	15	3	20	23	25	26	22	38	33
Vancouver Island Regional	10	4	6	15	18	12	13	17	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>138</b>

\* Assaults are violent incidents that result in some degree of intentional physical contact or force such as throwing items, spitting, scratching, pushing or hitting.

## Other Incidents of Violence\* Against Staff by Correctional Centre

Correctional Centre	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Alouette for Women	1	7	20	18	2	3	4	6	4
Ford Mountain	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Fraser Regional	10	13	6	15	13	6	12	13	9
Kamloops Regional	22	24	9	17	15	17	17	19	27
Nanaimo	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
North Fraser Pretrial	11	18	5	13	10	25	14	16	8
Okanagan	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	12	16	12	3
Prince George Regional	15	12	19	6	7	5	12	10	9
Surrey Pretrial	4	5	16	15	3	6	7	6	7
Vancouver Island Regional	2	8	6	9	10	15	11	6	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>67</b>

\*Other incidents of violence include threats, attempted assaults, individual-on-individual fights.

## Incidents of Individual-on-Individual Assaults\* by Correctional Centre

Correctional Centre	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Alouette for Women	3	26	17	28	27	27	15	17	9
Ford Mountain	5	3	2	4	8	4	7	1	0
Fraser Regional	102	119	64	100	120	56	79	54	28
Kamloops Regional	57	69	69	80	111	72	57	76	40
Nanaimo	15	9	9	16	10	10	13	9	5
North Fraser Pretrial	137	211	96	159	159	165	175	139	58
Okanagan	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	94	126	142	44
Prince George Regional	51	78	65	106	121	91	102	159	58
Surrey Pretrial	60	51	125	194	196	134	140	129	41
Vancouver Island Regional	81	94	87	95	118	106	124	118	54
<b>Totals</b>	<b>511</b>	<b>660</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>782</b>	<b>870</b>	<b>759</b>	<b>838</b>	<b>844</b>	<b>337</b>

\* Assaults are violent incidents that result in some degree of intentional physical contact or force such as throwing items, spitting, scratching, pushing or hitting.

## Other Incidents of Individual-on-Individual Violence\* by Correctional Centre

Correctional Centre	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Alouette for Women	6	17	14	18	15	10	8	8	0
Ford Mountain	2	5	2	3	5	1	3	0	0
Fraser Regional	70	68	53	96	107	66	55	48	8
Kamloops Regional	17	26	26	33	52	27	39	39	9
Nanaimo	16	17	15	9	11	12	15	10	1
North Fraser Pretrial	78	98	41	80	71	82	90	78	11
Okanagan	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	36	83	65	7
Prince George Regional	64	37	44	50	50	44	53	132	18
Surrey Pretrial	38	46	65	116	72	91	70	74	9
Vancouver Island Regional	36	34	31	35	51	50	61	56	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>434</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>477</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>69</b>

\*Other incidents of violence include threats, attempted assaults, individual-on-individual fights.

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**2020/21 ESTIMATES NOTE****COVID-19 Response: Adult Custody Division****Suggested Response:**

- From the outset of the pandemic, BC Corrections took action to implement a multitude of new protocols, based on direction from health officials, to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 into correctional centres, and respond quickly to confirmed cases amongst staff and individuals in custody.
- Key measures included health screening for staff and individuals entering a centre, advocating for Point-of-Care rapid testing (supplied as of December 2020) to quickly identify individuals who require medical isolation, and placement of all new intakes in an induction unit for 14-days before being integrated into the general population. On any given day, induction units house approximately 25% of the custodial population.
- BC Corrections also advocated for individuals in our care and staff to receive priority status for vaccinations. By March 2021, all individuals in provincial custody were offered the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine and will be offered their second dose within the recommended 16-week period. New admissions will be vaccinated as quickly as possible by correctional health care staff.
- All correctional facility staff have been offered a first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine and some staff have received their second dose. They will continue to receive their second doses through vaccination clinics operated by their regional health authorities.
- The sustained reduction in count – of approximately one-third across all ten centres - has allowed BC Corrections to, in most cases, single-bunk individuals. This is in order to comply with the health orders and guidelines and maintain COVID safety measures such as induction units (to prevent the entry of, or spread of, COVID-19 into correctional centres) and space to allow for proper physical distancing to remain in place in order to protect staff and individuals in custody.
- BC Corrections is mandated to admit all persons the courts order to be held in custody pending resolution of their matters before the courts or those what have been sentenced to a period of incarceration.

**Early and ongoing risk reduction measures include:**

- Anyone who develops COVID-19 like symptoms, however mild, is considered presumptive, assessed by health care staff, and if required, medically isolated and tested.

- Actively screening everyone who enters a correctional centre for health symptoms and/or travel history outside of Canada;
- Suspending all in-person visits and only allowing essential contracted service delivery. Free calling within North American was implemented and video visitation is now available in all centres to further support contact with family and friends;
- Encouraging legal counsel to meet with their clients using video technology or by phone;
- Increasing court appearances by video or phone, unless directed otherwise by the courts;
- Ensuring physical distancing in food preparation, serving, and eating, and program delivery;
- Providing frequent communication, information sessions, handouts and signage for staff and individuals in custody about COVID-19 prevention;
- Implementing extensive cleaning and sanitation protocols along with the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for staff and essential contractors when physical distancing is not possible;
- Working with Indigenous communities to address the unique needs of Indigenous individuals as part of the release planning process to ensure they had housing and supports in place; and
- Working with community agencies to ensure that individuals at risk of homelessness upon release had shelter, and individuals who completed their sentence and had tested positive for COVID-19 had a safe place to isolate and were connected with local health authorities for monitoring and care.

#### Reduction in counts

- BC Corrections' in-custody count decreased from approximately 2,200 in mid-March, 2020 to between 1,400-1,500 by mid-June 2020. The current daily count is approximately 1,550 and continues to moderately fluctuate.
- The reduction in count has been associated primarily with the remand population, which is approximately 65% of the total incarcerated population. Reductions in the sentenced population since the outset of the pandemic can be attributed to individuals completing existing sentences, and fewer admissions into custody.
- BC Corrections granted temporary absences to non-violent sentenced individuals when it was considered appropriate and safe to do so. Between March, 2020 and June 2021, 35 sentenced individuals (with less than 60 days remaining of their sentence) and 97 individuals serving intermittent sentences were granted temporary absences.

- Proactive assessments for temporary absences pause when single-bunking and physical distancing is achievable due to lower count levels. Temporary absences continue to be considered for individuals serving intermittent sentences, as appropriate.

**Background:**

- In 2021, WorkSafeBC conducted an inspection of correctional centres with a focus on safety related to COVID-19 and found our centres to be safe. One order with respect to fit-testing requirements for respirators was issued and was implemented.

Case Count

- As of May 14, 2021, there have been 206 individuals in BC Corrections' correctional centres and 90 staff members at correctional centres who have tested positive for COVID-19.

Ministerial Order

- On June 17, 2020, the use of induction units was authorized under the *Emergency Program Act* by Ministerial Order M193. The Ministerial Order authorizes BC Corrections to designate and operate induction units that separate new admissions and symptomatic individuals from the existing correctional centre population. Prior to the Ministerial Order, BC Corrections used separate confinement authorities under the *Correction Act* to place individuals in induction units.

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**2020/21 ESTIMATES NOTE****COVID-19 Response:  
Community Corrections****Suggested Response:**

- At the beginning of the pandemic, the Community Corrections Division transitioned 650 staff to primarily work from home and the majority of 19,000 clients on bail, probation, or conditional sentences to telephone/virtual reporting.
- Decisions on phone or virtual reporting were made following an assessment of each client's case-specific factors such as their case management needs, the level of risk they pose, and offence type.
- Those that have been required to report in person throughout the pandemic due to their case management needs, are seen behind glass with both staff and clients following public health direction to keep them safe.
- Where appropriate, clients were provided a cell phone to ensure they could maintain contact with their probation officer.
- To further support clients, plain language guides were created to assist clients in navigating virtual reporting, and technology solutions were implemented to help mirror, as best as possible, the interactions and interventions that take place in-person in an office setting.
- Significant work was undertaken to condense and adapt core programming, such as the substance abuse management and relationship violence prevention programs, so that they could be delivered virtually.
- The Community Corrections Division continues to engage in ongoing pandemic planning meetings with its health and justice partners to adapt and implement operational protocols in response to evolving public health direction.
- As of mid-May 2021, in-person reporting has resumed for almost 5,000 clients out of a total of 17,000 currently under supervision.

**Background:**

- To support physical distancing and staff safety, BC Corrections suspended the electronic supervision program for new clients for approximately three months at the start of the pandemic (March-June 2020). The program resumed once appropriate PPE was in place to protect staff and clients.
- While the program was suspended, electronic supervision continued for approximately 200 pre-existing clients in the program.

- Staffing levels in public facing community corrections offices continue to be assessed and adjusted to address workload arising from a resumption of court services, client case management needs and guidance from the Provincial Health Officer.
- Prior to increasing in-person operations, including increasing staffing and client reporting levels, all community corrections offices completed workplace risk assessments, which informed maximum occupancy capacities, interaction protocols, and safe work practices needed to comply with public health orders.
- Most staff continue to work both from home and in their office based on client needs. Office signage as well as cleaning and sanitation protocols continue to be in place to support public health direction.

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**2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE****Indigenous Over-Representation:  
BC Corrections Response****Suggested Response:**

- BC Corrections has been working with Indigenous justice partners and communities to reduce Indigenous over-representation in the justice system for well over a decade and this work remains a top priority.
- BC Corrections' Indigenous Programs and Relationships unit works to reduce the over-representation of Indigenous people in the justice system and educate staff about the lasting impacts of colonization, intergenerational trauma and the role of culture in healing.
- Actions and/or work underway to support this priority include:
  - Establishing Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) with Indigenous communities to support the successful reintegration of individuals upon release from custody and while under community supervision;
    - The first MOU was signed with the Sts'ailes Nation in 2017.
    - Additional agreements were signed with the Tl'etinqox (Clay-deen-co-teen) First Nation (2018), the Tsleil-Waututh (Slay-wah-tuth) Nation (2019) and Nicola Valley Tribal Council (2021).
    - Work is underway to support agreements with the Nuu-Chah-Nulth Tribal Association, the Squamish Nation, the Williams Lake First Nation and Lake Babine Nation.
  - Establishing an Indigenous Cultural Liaison (ICL) program offered in all 10 correctional centres where ICLs and Elders provide guidance and cultural programming (sweat lodges and smudges) to individuals in custody as well as support returning to their community upon release. ICLs also provide cultural awareness training to correctional centre staff to increase understanding and cultural safety;
  - 34 Indigenous Justice Programs (IJP) that deliver community-driven and culturally based programming and supports to BC Corrections clients;
    - The Indigenous Justice Program is a cost-shared program that is jointly supported by the Department of Justice Canada and the Province of BC to provide funding to 27 Indigenous communities to deliver culture-based justice services.
    - In 2020/2021 the Province contributed \$1.43 million to this initiative.
    - BC Corrections also funds an additional seven Indigenous community justice programs (\$300K).

- The Indigenous Courtworker (ICW) program, which ensures Indigenous people in conflict with the law receive fair, equitable, and culturally sensitive treatment while in the court system;
  - BC Corrections provides over \$1.6 million to the Native Courtworker and Counselling Association of BC (NCCABC) to deliver the ICW program.
  - The federal government matches this funding and the program operates in 70% of B.C.'s courthouses.
- Updated data collection systems to ensure information about cultural identity is collected from Indigenous clients and cultural supports are incorporated into case management plans. This information is also used to determine whether additional MOUs with Indigenous communities could be developed if one is not currently in place; and
- Enhanced core training and additional cultural education for staff and leadership through online and in-person experiential modes, along with branch-wide recognition of the Moose Hide campaign, National Indigenous Peoples Day and the Orange Shirt Day campaign.

**COVID-19 Pandemic Response:**

- From the outset of the pandemic, BC Corrections has been working closely with Indigenous partners, along with health, justice, and social service providers to adapt service delivery to keep individuals safe. This includes:
  - Working with the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction and the Attorney General and Minister responsible for Housing to address the increased need for housing to support those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness; and
  - Ensuring that community release and reintegration planning for Indigenous individuals takes into consideration any protective measures or protocols that Indigenous communities have put into place to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- Despite a decrease in the total number of Indigenous individuals in custody and under community supervision during the COVID-19 pandemic, the proportion of Indigenous people under community supervision (27%) has remained relatively stable. However, the proportion of Indigenous people in custody has increased slightly, from 33% (in 2019) to 35% (in 2020). This is due to:
  - A declining non-Indigenous supervision population; and
  - An increase in the number of individuals self-identifying as Indigenous as a result of BC Corrections' efforts to improve the collection and tracking of Indigenous identity data.

**Background:**

- Recently, the Union of BC Indian Chiefs Council called upon federal and provincial governments to commit to reducing the overall number of Indigenous people in custody by at least 5% by 2022.
- BC Corrections is working with justice sector and cross-government partners, as well as working in partnership with the BC First Nations Justice Council and Métis Nation, to support the implementation of the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) to ensure staff are culturally aware and provincial legislation, policies and practices align with the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*. BC Corrections is also participating in the implementation of the First Nations Justice Strategy and the Metis Nation Justice Strategy.

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**2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE****Nanaimo Correctional  
Centre Replacement  
Project****Suggested Response:**

- After examining options to address the evolving needs of Vancouver Island's adult custody population, government approved \$167 million in capital funding to replace the Nanaimo Correctional Centre (NCC) on its existing site.
- The new 200-room campus style, multi-security level facility will maintain existing capacity while creating new space for women from Vancouver Island (an additional 12-room unit) and providing modern, purpose-built spaces for health care and various programs.
- This includes purpose-built space for the Guthrie Therapeutic Community—proven to reduce reoffending by 33%.
- In December 2020, the Province announced the successful proponent, Stuart Olson Construction Ltd., following a multi-stage procurement process that began in June 2019. The design-build agreement with Stuart Olson Construction Ltd. includes the local expertise of 17 collaborating partners for this project.
- With preliminary site work already underway, construction is set to begin in the spring of 2021 with completion scheduled for 2024, followed by demolition of the existing centre.
- This project is expected to bring major regional economic benefits, including approximately 1,000 jobs during construction (650 direct and 275 indirect jobs, plus nearly 100 jobs associated with spending by those workers).
- The site is within the traditional territories of the Snuneymuxw and Snaw-Naw-As First Nations. Terms within the design-build agreement ensure that opportunities are provided to incorporate art and design ideas including cultural elements of the Coast Salish peoples. Further, sub-contracting and employment opportunities will be available during construction to a combined value of approximately \$1.5 million.
- BC Corrections has also committed to working with both the Snuneymuxw and Snaw-Naw-As First Nations to enhance opportunities for Indigenous programming and Elder involvement in the new correctional centre once operational.
- At the existing centre, it will be business as usual during construction, with every effort made to mitigate disruptions to work routines and daily life for the individuals NCC supports.

**Background:**

- In May 2019, Treasury Board approved the business case and \$157 million in capital funding for the NCC Replacement Project and in December 2020 approved \$10 million in additional capital funding in response to market conditions, COVID-19 impacts, and other unforeseen factors resulting in a total capital cost of \$167 million for the entire project.
- NCC was constructed in 1953 for use as a boys' reform school. It was subsequently used as an alcohol and drug treatment centre and was converted for use as a correctional centre in the 1980s.
- The existing NCC has an ongoing risk of environmental issues (e.g. mould, asbestos) and building failures (e.g. roof leaks) and is highly susceptible to earthquake damage—any of which can significantly affect safety and program operation.
- During the construction phase, both local First Nations will benefit from apprenticeship, job and contract opportunities of \$750,000 each through the design-build contractor.
- The facility will also provide enhanced supports for mental health and substance use programming, consideration for cross-cultural needs, accessibility for persons with disabilities and in-room bathroom and shower facilities.
- BC Corrections continues to share project updates with staff as well as various internal and external stakeholders.
- Large capital projects of this kind often take up to six years from start to completion. Typically, years one and two are spent developing a business case and presenting it to stakeholders and various levels of government for approval. Year three is often spent on procurement and years four through six on construction, commissioning and training.
- The Guthrie Therapeutic Community is a self-contained residential addiction treatment program for 50 residents at NCC that has been in operation since 2007. The new facility will have space for 48 residents, including flexible spaces to accommodate an additional four residents if needed.

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**2020/21 ESTIMATES NOTE****Segregation****Suggested Response:**

- BC Corrections has been working proactively to review and change its segregation practices to better safeguard the well-being of people in its custody, while in no way compromising the safety of correctional centre staff.
- We know that many of the individuals who are placed in segregation are dealing with complex issues that need extra supports - so that is why we have been working to only use segregation as a last resort.
- At least 69% of BC Corrections' custody population has been diagnosed with either a mental health or substance use disorder, and approximately 42% have been diagnosed with both.
- Segregation is used after all other options have been exhausted, for the shortest possible time, and with a 15-day limit for a disciplinary penalty. As well, time out of cell has increased from one hour a day to a minimum of two and half hours.
- These changes help bring us closer in line with recent court rulings here in Canada and with the United Nations' Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules).
- We recognize there is still more work to be done and we are committed to improving conditions as quickly as possible while ensuring the safety of staff and those in our custody.
- Though project initiatives are dependant on available resources, a multi-year plan has been developed that will:
  - Enhance case management for high risk, high needs individuals in custody;
  - Provide alternative placements outside of segregation units;
  - Develop new behaviour management strategies;
  - Add independent oversight and enhance administrative fairness; and
  - Make changes to the disciplinary process, including exploring restorative justice as an alternative measure.
- BC Corrections is discussing the project with stakeholders to ensure they are consulted on suggested improvements and/or staff training that may follow.

- To-date, government has allocated \$30M in capital funding to renovate segregation spaces to add program and socialization space, and access to recreation space, to enhance meaningful human contact. These funds will also support renovations to create alternative placement options. Initial planning work well is under way.
- On January 28, 2021, there were 68 individuals (4.6% of the population) in segregation provincewide—a significant reduction from 192 individuals (8.8% of the population) a year ago.
- Some of this reduction is connected to lower population counts as a result of the pandemic, along with efforts to use Supported Integration Placements (SIP) whenever safe to do so as an alternative to segregation.
- SIP gives staff the option to safely house individuals outside of segregation units with a modified living unit routine and an enhanced case plan to address any risks, needs or behaviours to support integration to the safest and least restrictive placement possible.

#### Alternatives to Segregation:

- In addition to SIP, other alternatives such as Complex Needs Units provide intensive supervision and healthcare supports in an environment better suited to people with unique and challenging complex needs.
- BC Corrections has also established Right Living Units and No-Violence Units to help reduce violent incidents:
  - Right Living Units are for those who want to make real changes in their lives by committing to following the Right Living philosophy – including the ‘cardinal rules’ of no violence, substances or weapons.
  - No-Violence Units at Surrey Pretrial Services Centre and the Okanagan Correctional Centre supports positive, compliant individuals by separating them from those who are non-compliant, which gives them increased access to programs and services.

#### Rights and access while in separate confinement/segregation:

- People receive written reasons for any decision to house them in segregation and/or separate confinement and can request a review by the independent Investigation and Standards Office.
- These individuals are monitored by health and mental health support staff every 24-hours and have access to many of the same programs and services that others in custody receive, such as daily exercise, reading materials, mail, phone calls, personal visits, healthcare and hygiene facilities.

- As well, individuals may participate in programs outside of the segregation unit if, through case planning, supervising staff determine those programs are beneficial and their participation presents no safety risk.

**Background:**

- While out of scope of the Segregation Reform Project, the Adult Custody Division has several initiatives under way that may further support a reduction in the use of segregation and separate confinement, including:
  - A review of the classification process related to where individuals are placed within correctional centres;
  - Enhanced services provided by Indigenous Cultural Liaisons and Elders to better support Indigenous inmates; and
  - Focus on changing the culture to strengthen relationships between staff and incarcerated individuals through improved understanding of trauma informed practices and increased cultural competency.

**Separate Confinement**

- Separate Confinement is a temporary measure for removing individuals in custody from others for security or safety reasons and may be used when the individual:
  - Is endangering themselves or is likely to;
  - Is endangering another person or is likely to;
  - Is jeopardizing the management, operation, or security of the correctional centre or is likely to;
  - Must be confined separately for a medical reason; or
  - If there are reasonable grounds to believe that the individual has contraband hidden in their body.
- Separate confinement is not punitive and is only used to provide the correctional centre or individual an opportunity to remedy their behaviour or circumstances that led to the separate confinement. Individuals placed in separate confinement retain the same rights and privileges of general population inmates. Privileges and personal items are not withdrawn for punitive reasons but may be limited for health and safety reasons.
- Under the Correction Act Regulation, the length of stay for short-term separate confinement must be no longer than 72-hours and no longer than 15-days for long-term separate confinement.

- Following a detailed review, long term confinement may be renewed if some or all circumstances justifying separate confinement continue to exist. An enhanced case plan is put into place after five days on separate confinement to support the individual to address any risks, needs or behaviours that may be contributing to the placement. Enhanced case plans are developed with input from a variety of stakeholders, including healthcare and the individual themselves.
- If separate confinement continues for more than 30 days, further reviews take place, including by the deputy warden and a mental health professional who review the impact of separate confinement. After 45 days, BC Corrections' deputy provincial director conducts a review of the placement.

#### BC Corrections Class Action Lawsuit:

- On December 22, 2020, the BC Supreme Court certified a class proceeding against BC Corrections related to their use of separate confinement.
- In that decision, the court confirmed the action may proceed based on classes of individuals who, between April 18, 2005 and the present, were involuntarily subjected to either prolonged solitary confinement of at least 15 consecutive days or solitary confinement while suffering from mental illness.

#### Segregation (Pending a Disciplinary Hearing for Breaching a Rule):

- An individual who is suspected of breaching a rule may be held in segregation pending a disciplinary hearing if there is reason to believe that:
  - The individual is likely to endanger him/herself or another person if not housed in segregation;
  - The individual is likely to jeopardize the management, operation or security of the correctional centre; or
  - Segregation is necessary to preserve evidence for the disciplinary hearing.
- Any order to place an individual on segregation status pending a disciplinary hearing must be reviewed by the warden or designate within 24-hours of being made and must be reviewed every 24 hours until the conclusion of the hearing.
- If an individual is found guilty of breaching a rule, the chairperson may impose one or more penalties, including confinement in segregation. A penalty must not exceed 15 days.
- Individuals have the right to advocacy, including legal counsel, at any stage of the disciplinary process and counsel may attend the hearing.

Extended Periods of Time in Segregation/Separate Confinement

- In certain circumstances, the length of stays in segregation may be reviewed and extended to ensure safety and security of individuals in custody and for the protection of staff.
- Individuals who have their segregation extended generally exhibit complex and repetitive problematic behaviours, which may include, but are not limited to:
  - Assaultive tendencies towards other inmates and/or staff; and
  - Significant behavioural issues jeopardizing, or likely to jeopardize, the management, operation, or security of the centre.
- Extended time may also be voluntary if the individual self-identifies concerns of harm if they were to be placed on a regular living unit.
- BC Corrections ensures individuals are offered access to health and mental health care professionals at least once in every 24 hour period and a mental health professional reviews the impact of segregation every 30 days with a new enhanced case management approach recently launched to support individuals in segregation/separate confinement for more than five days.
- This includes a collaborative case plan focussed on addressing the individual's unique risks, needs and behaviours that are contributing to their placement. This enhanced case management approach ensures individuals are being connected with healthcare, mental health supports, Indigenous supports and any other interventions that support integration to a less restrictive placement.
- BC Corrections has implemented an interim solution to improve the tracking of, and reporting on, the use of segregation and separate confinement in provincial custody centres, including an individual's length of stay, mental health status, and Indigenous self-identification.
- Of the 68 individuals in segregation on Jan. 28, 2021 there were:
  - 40 individuals in for fewer than 15-days—down from 86 in January 2020;
  - 23 individuals in for 15-days or more—down from 97;
  - 1 individual on voluntary separate confinement—down from 25;
  - 33 individuals with mental health needs—down from 63; and
  - 13 individuals that self-identified as Indigenous—down from 47.

	January 28, 2021	January 1, 2020
Count in segregation or separate confinement	68 (4.6 % of total count)	192 (8.8 % of total count)
Average daily inmate count	1,463	2,187
% of individuals with lengths of stay < 15 days	59%	45%
% of individuals with lengths of stay >= 15 days	41%	51%
% of individuals with mental health needs	49%	33%
% of Indigenous individuals	19%	24%

	ACCW	FMCC	FRCC	KRCC	NFPC	OCC	PGRCC	SPSC	NCC	VIRCC	Total (per CAR Section)
CAR 17 (short term)	0	0	1	0	3	2	0	4	0	7	17
CAR 18 (longer term)	2	0	2	3	12	5	0	4	0	0	28
CAR 19 (voluntary)	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total per centre	2	0	3	3	16	7	0	8	0	7	46

	ACCW	FMCC	FRCC	KRCC	NFPC	OCC	PGRCC	SPSC	NCC	VIRCC	Total (per CAR section)
CAR 24 (segregation pending)	1	0	1	1	0	3	2	0	0	3	11
CAR 27 (segregation disposition)	0	0	2	2	4	1	0	0	0	2	11
Total per centre:	1	0	3	3	4	4	2	0	0	5	22

#### Other jurisdictions:

- Efforts are underway to reform segregation across Canada. In addition, the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners now recommends a prohibition of prolonged or indefinite segregation.
- Two recent court decisions in the British Columbia and Ontario Supreme Courts raised concerns about Correctional Service Canada's (CSC) use of segregation in the areas of prolonged solitary confinement, the independence of review mechanisms, insufficient inmate access to legal counsel, and the placement of Indigenous inmates or those with mental health needs in segregation. Both court decisions gave CSC 12 months to amend their legislation.

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**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General  
Estimates 2021/22 Briefing Book**

**Policing and Security Branch  
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**2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE****Guns and Gangs Violence****Suggested Response:**

- The ministry continues its commitment to addressing gang violence through a multi-pronged approach that recognizes the interdependence of prevention/intervention, intelligence, enforcement and legislation, as well as the intricate and interconnected landscape of gun and gang violence.
- This approach will divert people from gang life, enhance law enforcement's and communities' ability to respond to gang activities and remove illegal guns and gang members from communities to enhance community safety.
- The ministry is building off continuing efforts of recommendations from the Illegal Firearms Task Force (IFTF), the Gang Suppression Action Plan (GSAP), and the Guns and Gangs Violence Action Fund (GGVAF), towards the development and implementation of a provincial organized crime strategy.
- Specialized provincial units such as the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit-BC (CFSEU-BC), Integrated Homicide Investigations Team, and the Major Crime Section remain committed to aggressively pursue gangs and those involved in the destructive world of organized crime.
- As the Province's anti-gang agency, CFSEU-BC is the largest integrated joint forces police unit in Canada and draws and develops highly specialized officers from federal, provincial and municipal agencies around the province.
- The Province also has OCABC as a provincially designated policing unit comprised of highly trained and specialized professionals including sworn members and operational support in the fight against gangs and organized crime. OCABC serves as the foundational police agency of the CFSEU-BC as currently its members are the only fully seconded members of CFSEU-BC.
- The 2021/22 total projected funding to anti-gang and organized crime initiatives is approximately \$90.816 million (provincial portion of \$57.920 million and a federal portion of 32.895 million). Fiscal 2020/21 funding was \$88.271 million (provincial portion of \$57.539 million and a federal portion of \$30.731 million).
- The amounts include leveraging \$30.53 million in additional federal funding from the Guns and Gangs Violence Action Fund (GGVAF) distributed over five years with funding of \$8.5 million in 2021/22. The year over year increase of \$2 million in total spending is a result of GGVAF funding.

- Over the past few weeks, we have seen brazen violence as a result of gangs in our streets. In response, the provincial anti-gang agency, CFSEU-BC, has taken the lead in coordinating a response to gang related crimes to enhance public safety and reduce gang violence.
  - Project SPECTRUM has been stood up to lead the coordinated response to the gang conflict in partnership with all policing agencies; all LMD agencies, RCMP detachments, integrated teams, and multiple specialty units. This includes ERT, Police Dog Services and Air One.
  - The command team is supported by additional resources with dedicated investigators, criminal analysts, investigative assistants and various support staff are fully assigned to this project.
  - One of the key responsibilities is to coordinate intelligence sharing. Overarching intelligence related to the conflict is gathered and analyzed, and in partnership with the Real Time Intelligence Centre (RTIC) disseminates the information to policing agencies, especially to those on the front line.
  - Another key focus is the proactive and strategic mobilization of uniform gang enforcement teams using the latest intelligence. Resources committed to the visible, uniformed response are enhanced and are coordinated with various dedicated gang teams (e.g. Burnaby Gang Enforcement Team, Surrey Gang Enforcement Team), ERT and others to ensure they have the latest intel and are working together in the collective prevention, suppression and disruption efforts.
  - PSB has advised CFSEU-BC to utilize resources as necessary from the PBL for Project SPECTRUM.
- We have seen these escalations in gang violence before and by working together, suppress them. Everyone is working together to stop the violence and hold those responsible accountable.

**Background:**

- By leveraging provincial and federal funds, significant investments are being made across the Justice and Public Safety sectors (such as policing, prosecutions, specialized firearm tracing and interdiction capabilities, corrections, and community prevention and intervention programs).
- The ministry is building off continuing efforts of recommendations from the Illegal Firearms Task Force (IFTF), the Gang Suppression Action Plan (GSAP), and the Guns and Gangs Violence Action Fund (GGVAF), towards the development and implementation of a provincial organized crime strategy.

New Initiatives

- The ministry has recently operationalized the provincial Forensic Firearms Laboratory to provide timely and necessary forensic evidence and intelligence related to illegal firearms and will complement the established Firearms Investigation Assistance Team (BC-FIAT) to support a firearms-focused approach that aligns priorities across intelligence, enforcement and regulatory agencies through what is known as the Crime Gun Intelligence and Investigation Group (CGIIG).
- The CGIIG will provide timely province-wide firearm certification and analysis and enhanced tracing coordination, resulting in quicker turn-around times for criminal investigations. It is also expected that the Provincial hub model will result in enhanced capacity in RCMP laboratories at the federal level.
- The Province has introduced the *Firearms Violence Prevention Act* (FVPA) as a further tool for law enforcement to thwart the illegal use and trafficking in firearms. The FVPA will complement new federal firearms measures aimed at curbing illegal use and firearms violence.
- In response to repeated requests from police and Crown, the ministry's Gang Suppression Action Plan supported the development of the *Witness Security Act*, which came into force on January 1, 2020. The Act established the provincial Witness Security Program, dedicated to the protection and management of witnesses and cooperating co-accused where risks to witnesses cannot otherwise be adequately addressed. The successful implementation of the WSA and continuing efforts to support witnesses and encourage individuals out of gang life falls to the provincial Witness Security Program and Gang Exit Program.
- The province further supports enforcement through Cannabis Organized Crime Counter Proliferation Unit (CPU) which works to thwart the influence and involvement of organized crime in the supply, distribution, and sale of cannabis within the legal market.
- Effective January 2019, all police agencies are required to participate in the Provincial Tactical Enforcement Priority (PTEP) process, which identifies and targets priority gang-affiliated individuals in each district of the province. This will help ensure province-wide and cross-border approaches to organized crime, firearms and drug trafficking and gang violence. An additional \$3.5M in funding was allocated by the Province at a 70/30 cost-share with the Federal government for a total of \$5M to increase enforcement efforts against high-level organized crime, opioid traffickers and traffickers of illegal firearms. An additional \$1.1M in federal funds from GGVAFF was allocated to supporting municipal PTEP enforcement.
- The following Justice Sector initiatives are also being funded, including:
  - Support to prosecution services to ensure expertise and reduce delays associated with

organized crime/gang-related trials to increase prosecutorial capacity and bring about more specialized and tailored legal responses to gun and gang-related cases across the province.

- Specialized, court-based victim service workers to support witnesses and victims of serious crimes, contributing to increased justice/sentencing; and
- Support for corrections staff to gather and analyze gang-related intelligence in provincial correctional institutions and provide anti-gang education to inmates.

#### Ongoing Key Strategies

- Funding of community and education programs to combat gang recruitment and exploitation of youth.; examples include:
  - The Ministry of Education's ERASE/SST program to include education and identification of at-risk youth with focus on support for youth, families and educators, including Indigenous youth. Additionally, funding of a limited number of community-based programs addressing youth and families who are at-risk for gang recruitment.
  - The Office of Crime Reduction and Gang Outreach (OCR-GO) is leading numerous activities in support of its mandate to work with law enforcement and community partners to support evidence-based and integrated crime reduction and anti-gang initiatives.
  - Crime Reduction Research Program: The OCR-GO research team leads a Working Group comprised of membership from the RCMP, CFSEU-BC and the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Branch to identify priority research projects that align with agency mandates for funding under the \$1M annual allotment; and
  - Situation Table implementation: OCR-GO Senior Policy Analyst leads the outreach and stakeholder engagement efforts required to support funding to establish Situation Tables in communities across B.C.
- Funding of capacity building and public safety enhanced programs to combat gangs and gang-related activities in BC; examples include:
  - \$0.378 million to BC's Real Time Intelligence Centre (RTIC) which delivers real time (24/7/365) operational support to frontline police officers and investigators by providing actionable intelligence in the Metro Vancouver area.
  - RTIC provides analytical support to all police investigating crimes in real time and has a mandate to provide actionable intelligence and real time operational support by accessing, analyzing, and disseminating information to enhance public safety and accelerate investigations. RTIC is currently serving all police in Metro Vancouver, including RCMP and municipal police.

- CFSEU-BC is also responsible for the Joint Illegal Gaming Investigation Team to disrupt organized crime and gang involvement in illegal gaming and prevent criminals from using B.C. gaming facilities to legalize the proceeds of crime. The team also works to raise public awareness of the role service providers play in identifying and reporting illegal gaming and financial transactions.
- There is no quick fix to gun and gang violence. It has deep roots requiring a multi-pronged strategy over the long term. The development of a comprehensive strategy involves comprehensive, focused and sustained initiatives over several years to bolster the response to guns and gangs and enhance the safety of our communities.

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**2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE****Community Safety Unit:  
Cannabis Retail, On  
Reserve and Online****Suggested Response:**

- The Community Safety Unit (CSU), under the Policing and Security Branch, is responsible for delivering a regulatory compliance and enforcement program province-wide to enhance public safety with a focus on the illegal retail sale of cannabis without a licence and other associated activities.
- The *Cannabis Control and Licensing Act* (CCLA) establishes government control over the sale, supply and possession of non-medical cannabis in B.C. Private cannabis stores that operate without a licence from the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch (LCRB) are illegal. Under the CCLA, all non-medical cannabis retailers in the province are required to obtain provincial licenses issued under the CCLA by the LCRB in order to legally sell non-medical cannabis.
- The CSU operates with approximately 40 FTEs located province-wide out of four regional offices - Surrey (headquarters), Victoria, Kelowna and Prince George.
- On July 31, 2019 the CSU began conducting enforcement action through seizures of cannabis and records at those illegal unlicensed cannabis retailers that continue to sell cannabis illegally following an education and awareness visit from the CSU.
- Those operating illegally are provided an opportunity to voluntarily comply with the legislation and regulations. Illegal operators who continue to sell cannabis without a licence put themselves at risk of facing increased enforcement action.
- The CSU can impose an administrative monetary penalty (AMP) against an illegal retailer found to be in contravention of the CCLA. An AMP can be up to two times the retail value of cannabis seized, proven to have been sold or produced. An individual, corporation or society who is issued a notice of an administrative monetary penalty (NAMP) has a right to sign a waiver, which reduces the penalty to the actual value of the cannabis sold or possessed for the purpose of sale; however, by signing the waiver they are admitting to the contravention of the CCLA and waiving their right to a hearing. The person has a right to a hearing if they choose not to sign a waiver.
- The intention behind AMPs is to be a deterrent and in part, collecting on them helps to account for losses from revenue that would have otherwise come from the legal market. Further, AMPs are an effective civil deterrent directed at illegal retailers without overburdening courtrooms and justice system resources as would be the case in criminal proceedings. It is also expected that the issuance of AMPs will encourage other illegal

operators to close.

#### CSU's Approach to the Illegal Cannabis Retail Market

- The CSU's initial focus has been on unlicensed brick and mortar stores operating without a licence throughout the province. A considerable number of illegal operators have now closed which has supported the legal market to become established.
- The CSU has achieved the following:
  - Over 270 educational visits of unlicensed cannabis retail stores;
  - Over 160 voluntary closures by unlicensed cannabis retail stores;
  - Over 60 enforcement actions involving seizures of cannabis at unlicensed cannabis retail stores throughout the province;
  - Seized over \$13 million (retail value) in illegal cannabis from unlicensed retail stores;
  - Issued 19 NAMPs against illegal retailers for selling cannabis without a licence; and
  - Three waivers signed, with admission to the contravention and payment of an administrative monetary penalty. Penalties total \$ 1,227,626.
- NAMPs are expected to be issued in most cases where there was enforcement involving the seizure of cannabis and sales records.
- The CSU has received 18 Applications for an Administrative Hearing from individuals who disagree with a NAMP being issued against them. These hearings involve complex legal arguments with many including constitutional arguments and charter challenges.
- There are persistent illegal cannabis operators in the City of Vancouver. The CSU is collaborating with the City of Vancouver and the Vancouver Police Department to address the illegal cannabis market in Vancouver.
- The CSU is attempting to address persistent illegal cannabis retailers by gaining cooperation from landlords whose property is knowingly or unknowingly being used to illegally sell cannabis.

#### CSU's Approach to Illegal Online Cannabis Sales

- While the CSU education visits and enforcements actions have resulted in a significant number of illegal cannabis stores closing, online cannabis sales continue to be prevalent.
- The CSU is developing its capacity to investigate and disrupt illegal online sales. Several CSU Officers have received training on conducting online investigations and arrangements have

been made to secure necessary equipment and resources to support investigations.

- Investigating and enforcing against illegal online retailers is challenging because online illegal sales occur from websites that can be operated from anywhere. The cross-jurisdictional nature of these investigations requires a coordinated national approach. The CSU participates on a national working group on illicit online cannabis sales led by Public Safety Canada.
- The CSU is also exploring opportunities to disrupt online sales by gaining cooperation from third party service providers (e.g. social media and financial institutions) who may be inadvertently supporting illegal online retailers.
- The CSU will continue to work with its cross-jurisdictional partners as well as local police and other agencies to explore opportunities to investigate and disrupt illicit online cannabis sales in B.C.

#### CSU's Approach to Unlicensed Retailers Operating on Reserve and Treaty Settlement Lands

- The Federal Cannabis Act and B.C.'s corresponding provincial cannabis laws, including the Cannabis Control and Licensing Act, are laws of general application that apply across the province, including on reserve and treaty settlement lands. This means all private cannabis stores in B.C. require provincial authorization. Private cannabis stores operating without Provincial authorization are illegal.
- There is an expectation that all non-medical cannabis retailers, including those operating on reserve or treaty settlement land, will follow the provincial licensing process and obtain valid retail licenses from the LCRB prior to selling cannabis.
- Some Indigenous nations have expressed differing views with respect to federal and provincial cannabis frameworks. The Province is committed to reconciliation, building positive relationships with Indigenous governments, understanding where they have different perspectives, and, where possible, collaborating to find resolution. These efforts are balanced against the need to ensure that the legal and regulatory framework for cannabis is implemented across the province and in alignment with federal laws.
- There are currently at least four provincially licensed cannabis retail stores operating on reserve lands in B.C. Furthermore, section 119 of the CCLA allows the Province to enter into an agreement with an Indigenous nation with respect to cannabis. Two Indigenous nations have a section 119 agreement in place, and many more have expressed interest in obtaining section 119 agreements.
- The CSU works to make connections with Indigenous communities and considers their views and interests when carrying-out compliance and enforcement activities, including reaching out to build relations with Chief and Council. This has helped develop positive relationships

with some First Nations governments and obtain compliance from some unlicensed retailers that were operating on reserve and treaty lands. The CSU will continue to engage directly with First Nations communities across the province.

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**2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE****COVID-19 Enforcement****Suggested Response:**

- Throughout the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, front-line police and Compliance and Enforcement Officers (C&EOs) have continued to provide critical services in all areas of the province, including the enforcement of numerous Provincial Health Orders (PHO) issued to help slow the spread of COVID-19.
- C&EOs empowered with enforcing these orders (including Liquor and Cannabis Inspectors and Investigators, Gaming Investigators, Conservation Officers and Community Safety Unit Officers) are supporting police by increasing enforcement during their regular duties or when out in public. Local Bylaw officers have also played a key role in following up on concerns and engaging police departments and WorkSafeBC when encountering possible violations.
- Health Authorities, Police, C&EOs, WorkSafeBC and local government have worked collaboratively to proactively monitor, educate, and use enforcement tools as needed in areas with increased transmission of COVID-19. Enforcement authorities have been well equipped to handle evolving situations in communities and are supported with effective leadership, communication, and guidance throughout the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.

**Background:**Approach to Order and enforcement

- Police and specified compliance and enforcement officers have been encouraged to engage, educate, provide advice and guidance, and aim to achieve voluntary compliance with the Provincial Health Officer Orders.
- Non-emergency contraventions are communicated through local government bylaw offices to follow up on concerns and refer to others as needed. Outside of office hours, reports for PHO violations are sent through police non-emergency lines when appropriate.
- If reasonable efforts to achieve compliance are unsuccessful, police and C&EOs can consider escalating the matter to enforcement action in line with the penalties and deterrents outlined below.

History of the enforcement scheme and transition

- B.C. declared a state of emergency in response to the COVID-19 global pandemic on March 18, 2020, which has been extended regularly. Numerous public health orders have been made and various restrictions have been imposed to stem the spread of COVID-19.

- On August 21, 2020 new measures were enacted under the provincial state of emergency, using the extraordinary powers of the *Emergency Program Act* (EPA) in ongoing support of the Province's all-of-society approach to the COVID-19 response and BC's Restart Plan. This resulted in numerous provisions under the *COVID-19 Related Measures Act* that allow police and compliance and enforcement officers to issue violation tickets.
- The enforcement scheme evolved over time; major changes include the following:
  - April 20, 2020, police, and other enforcement officers were given authority to issue \$2,000 violation tickets under an EPA Order for price gouging and the reselling of medical supplies and other essential goods during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
  - Since the declaration of a Public Health Emergency, the Gathering and Events, Food and Liquor Serving Premises and Prevention Regional Measures Orders have evolved.
  - On Nov. 24, 2020, a face covering enforcement order was introduced under the EPA.
  - On Dec. 16, 2020, enforcement measures were expanded to include C&EOs.
  - On Jan. 8, 2021, the Protective Measures (COVID-19) Order was issued to shift from enforcement under CRMA to enforcement under the EPA. The Face Coverings (COVID-19) Order was also shifted to enforcement under the EPA. This transition simplified the enforcement regime and administrative changes that need to occur to going forward and provided greater clarity on what constitutes a contravention.
  - On March 25, 2021, the Violation Ticket Administration and Fines Regulation to increase fines to \$575 (\$500 plus \$75 victim surcharge levy) for those promoting attendance at a non-compliant event (S. 4(3)) or attending a non-compliant event (S. 4(4)).
  - The Travel Restrictions (Covid-19) Order No. 2 of April 30, 2021 was repealed and replaced with the current Travel Restrictions (Covid-19) Order No. 3 on May 25, 2021. Current travel restrictions are in place until June 15, 2021. This Order aims to reduce non-essential travel between defined regions and functions as a tool for preventing, responding to and alleviating the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in BC. This Order includes authorities for police to conduct planned road checks and to require stopped drivers to provide limited information, such as their name, address, drivers licence and purpose of travel. During these checks, police can direct a driver to leave (or not enter) the health authority region that they were prohibited from entering if there is reasonable belief the driver is contravening the Order.

#### Enforcement authorities and tools

- Provincial Public Health Orders and other Ministerial Orders related to COVID-19

- Contraventions fall under the *Emergency Program Act* for the Protective Measures Order, Face Coverings Order and the Travel Restrictions Order, which are enforceable under the Violation Ticket Administration and Fines Regulation. Appendix A contains a list of all contraventions.
- Police and C&EOs can recommend charges by long form information to the BC Prosecution Service in relation to offences under the EPA. Upon conviction, a fine of up to \$10,000 and/or 1-year imprisonment can be imposed as per section 27 of the EPA.
- Price Gouging and Secondary Selling
  - April 20, 2020, police, and other enforcement officers were given authority to issue \$2,300 violation tickets for those who:
    - Exceed the quantity limits on the sale of specified items; and
    - Do not comply with the requirement for hotel and other lodging operators to provide accommodation at the request of the Province to serve as self-isolation facilities or to support essential workers.
  - Concerns around price gouging are reported through Consumer Protection BC.
- *Quarantine Act*
  - On April 14, 2020 the federal government announced local and provincial police forces to issue tickets to returning travellers who do not comply with the requirements of the federal *Quarantine Act*.
  - Fines for violating the *Quarantine Act* increased February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 to deter Canadians from engaging in non-essential travel and re-emphasize the seriousness and severity of contravening these offences.
  - As of May 15, 2021 ICBC, has 460 Federal *Quarantine Act* on file with a value of \$1,233,888.
    - 22 Tickets for federal fines have been paid totalling \$48,060 (to May 15, 2021)
    - 220 are currently in dispute
    - 41 have been categorized as guilty
    - 177 have been categorized as “other” (includes cancelled tickets, not guilty tickets, and in-progress tickets)

Provincial and Operational Coordination:

- Policing and Security Branch (PSB) of the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General is leading several activities to ensure approaches to enforcement are coordinated and

appropriate guidance and support is provided. PSB also facilitates coordination in response to new and emerging issues that arise bringing together relevant partners to develop strategies to prevent and respond to situations as needed (e.g. Whistler, Big White).

- Regular (bi-weekly) meetings are held with Police Leaders to provide situational updates, discuss and plan around new and emerging issues and to support development of new guidance to support enforcement of orders.
- A BC COVID-19 Interagency Enforcement Working Group has also been established and is comprised of Health Authorities, Provincial Compliance and Enforcement, WorkSafeBC, Police, Municipal Bylaw Officers, and other provincial government Ministries. The working group meets bi-weekly to identify trends, discuss emerging issues and strategies and to help inform and influence approaches.
- In addition, a Provincial Orders Support Team Call Centre (POST-CC) continues to be available to local bylaw officers, police and Provincial C&EOs to provide the most up to date information and guidance on Provincial Orders. The call centre continues to be staffed by personnel from Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch and supported by other Provincial C&E resources.
- Enforcement efforts have included various multi-agency responses to local issues, for example the rise in COVID-19 cases in Whistler and Big White, Police, C&EOs, bylaw, WorkSafeBC and health authority partners have organized coordinated, timely and targeted inspections of establishments as needed. This has included areas demonstrating increased transmission of COVID-19 such as restaurants as well as in response to holidays or events, to inform, educate and monitor establishments for compliance with public health orders.
- Through the Travel Restrictions (COVID-19) Orders, BC Ferries has been directed by the Province to ensure people travelling on the ferry system are doing so for essential reasons only. Ticket agents have been asked to confirm this with travelers and escalate issues when necessary. PSB receives daily situational reports from BC Ferries which are consistently showing low traffic volumes, generally no issues/concerns. The RCMP have set up periodic road checks at planned locations over the course of the Travel Restrictions Order to educate and raise awareness of travel restrictions. PSB monitors and maintain regular contact with the RCMP as road checks are set up and implemented.

#### Results: COVID-19 Violations Recorded by Police and Compliance and Enforcement Officers

- Between August 21, 2020 and May 14, 2021, 2005 violation tickets were issued including:
  - 371 \$2300 tickets to owners or organizers contravening the PHO's order on gatherings and events, totalling \$853,300.
  - 54 \$2300 violation tickets for contravention of the PHO Food and Liquor Serving Premises Order, totalling \$124,200.

- 1528 \$230 tickets to individuals who refuse to comply with PHO Orders, totalling \$351,440.
- 51 \$575 tickets to individuals using the increased violation fines who promote or attend a non-compliant event, totalling \$29,325: and
- 1 \$575 ticket to an individual for failing to comply with the travel restrictions, totalling \$575.

**COVID-19 Violations Recorded by ICBC**

- Between August 21, 2020 and May 15, 2021 ICBC has recorded 1834 provincial tickets on file. The total fine amount is \$1,272,720 and the total value of provincial fines paid to date is \$174,030. Of the provincial tickets:
  - 347 have been paid
  - 600 are currently in dispute
  - 762 are guilty (i.e., the ticket has passed the 30 days to dispute, or was in dispute but the alleged offender did not show for their court date, or the dispute was heard and led to a guilty judgement decision)
  - 125 are classified as “Other” (includes cancelled tickets, not guilty tickets, in-progress tickets)
- ICBC sends unpaid provincial tickets directly to collections shortly after the initial 30-day payment or dispute period ends, or after a recipient is found guilty in court.

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Appendix: List of Contraventions under the *Emergency Program Act*

<b><i>Emergency Program Act</i></b>				
<b>Protective Measures (COVID-19) Order</b>		<b>Fine</b>	<b>Victim Surcharge Levy</b>	<b>Ticketed Amount</b>
section 3 (2)	Patron failing to comply with food and liquor condition	\$200	\$30	\$230
section 4 (3)	Promote non-compliant event	\$500	\$75	\$575
section 4 (4)	Attend non-compliant event	\$500	\$75	\$575
section 4 (5)	Patron failing to comply with event condition	\$200	\$30	\$230
section 5 (4)	Attend a place when prohibited	\$200	\$30	\$230
section 5 (5)	Patron failing to comply with protective measure condition	\$200	\$30	\$230
section 6 (1)	Fail to comply with direction	\$200	\$30	\$230
section 6 (2)	Abusive or belligerent behaviour	\$200	\$30	\$230
<b>Face Coverings (COVID-19) Order</b>				
section 3 (1)	Fail to wear face covering	\$200	\$30	\$230
section 6 (1)	Fail to comply with direction	\$200	\$30	\$230
section 6 (2)	Abusive or belligerent behaviour	\$200	\$30	\$230
<b>Travel Restrictions (COVID-19) Order No. 2</b>				
Section 2 (1)	Fail to comply with travel restriction	\$500	\$75	\$575
Section 4 (1)	Fail to stop for police	\$200	\$30	\$230
Section 4 (4)	Fail to provide information	\$200	\$30	\$230
Section 4 (6)	Fail to comply with direction	\$200	\$30	\$230
Section 5	Abusive or Belligerent behaviour	\$200	\$30	\$230
Every provision of the regulations made under the <i>Emergency Program Act</i> , the contravention of which constitutes an offence, other than those specifically enumerated		\$2 000*	\$300	\$2 300
*The maximum penalty for youth is \$1 000.				

**2020/21 ESTIMATES NOTE****Regional Policing****Suggested Response:**

- It is always the responsibility of the Province to ensure adequate and effective policing, and that includes decisions around the structure of policing.
- That said, the amendments passed in November 2014 are enabling and clarify government's authority to enhance and structure the delivery of specialized policing services, however, our preference is co-operation first.
- Government continues to be committed to working with local governments and key stakeholders to explore a range of service delivery models, including further integration of services and regional service delivery, while retaining local community-focused policing.
- The ministry consulted with UBCM during the creation of our Police Act amendments and, if it becomes necessary to use this legislation, the impacted municipalities would be involved in those discussions at that point as well.

**Background:**

- The provincial government has responded to the increasingly cross-jurisdictional nature of crime by taking a leadership role in the integration of police services and working with police agencies on the consolidation and integration of services throughout the province. For further information, see the Estimates Note PSB 7 Integrated Police Services Teams.
- Integration helps communities stretch their policing budgets by giving their police access to sophisticated equipment and expertise and is supported by the BC Association of Chiefs of Police, including the RCMP.
- Regionalization of policing has been discussed in B.C. for several decades. In 1994, Justice Wally Oppal conducted a Commission of Inquiry into Policing in B.C. and ultimately did not recommend regional police services due to the lack of public interest and political will. He concluded that the main objective of regionalization was to improve efficiency in the delivery of police services, a goal which he recommended be achieved through the regional integration of specific services such as communication systems and major crime investigations.
- During the 2012 Missing Women Commission of Inquiry, Justice Oppal reviewed the structure of policing in the Lower Mainland. He concluded that a regional police force is required for the Greater Vancouver area, while at the same time acknowledged that regionalized policing is a controversial issue with ardent supporters and detractors.

- In 2012 Justice Oppal recommended that the provincial government provide the direction and commitment required for the creation of a Greater Vancouver regional police force, including consultation with stakeholders and independent experts. He did not recommend a particular model. He stated that careful consideration of models is required to ensure that the underlying interests of all municipalities are addressed and a commitment to community policing retained.
- Local governments have very different opinions on regionalization of policing and there is no clear consensus either for or against regionalization.

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## 2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE

## RCMP Funding

## Suggested Response:

- It is my duty to ensure adequate and effective policing throughout the province.
- The Province continues to support front-line policing and will continue to focus on the broader preventative approach to mitigate resource shortages to improve public and officer safety.
- Budget 21*, provided permanent funding of \$7.585M: <sup>Government Financial Information</sup> filling front-line resources within the RCMP, <sup>Government Financial Information</sup> for critical guns and gangs initiatives, <sup>Government Financial Information</sup> for the Cariboo Chilcotin Crime Reduction Unit; <sup>Government Financial Information</sup> for RCMP support staff wage increase; and <sup>Government Financial Information</sup> for First Nations Enhanced Policing Program.
- Prior year funding to the police budget also focused on the Guns and Gangs Initiatives, the opioid crisis and front-line policing.
- In addition, prior year investments allowed the RCMP to establish a <sup>Intergovernmental Communications</sup> Provincial Support Team (PST).
- The PST augments front-line policing by allowing the RCMP to be nimble and responsive to address vacancies in detachments when responding to emergencies such as wildfires, protests and crisis events.

## Financial Summary

Budget 21 - \$ in millions	
Amount	Initiative
Government Financial Information	Core Policing
	Guns & Gangs
	Cariboo-Chilcotin
	RCMP Support Staff wage increases
	First Nations Enhanced Policing Program
<b>\$7.585</b>	<b>Total RCMP Funding</b>

## Background:

- B.C. residents receive policing from a number of different police agencies: the RCMP federal service, the RCMP provincial service, 65 RCMP municipal services, 11 municipal police departments and one First Nations Administered Police Service.

- Various policing agreements detail the cost-sharing between the provincial, municipal and federal governments specific to each agreement.

#### Provincial Service

- Provincial Service Costs are cost shared at a 70:30 ratio (provincial / federal):
  - 2019/20 total costs: \$562.6 million (\$394.5 million provincial and \$168.1 million federal);
  - 2018/19 total costs: \$560.4 million (\$397.9 million provincial and \$162.5 million federal)
  - The year-over-year increase of \$2 million is attributed to funding the Witness Security Program.
- The 2019/20 total provincial service authorized strength remains unchanged at 2,602.

#### First Nations Policing

- Dedicated policing for First Nations communities is primarily provided by the RCMP under the First Nations Community Policing Services program. The agreement has been extended to March 31, 2022 and is cost-shared at a 48:52 ratio (provincial / federal).
- The 2020/21 total authorized strength for First Nations policing under this agreement is 117.5 members with a \$26.813 million budget (\$12.87 million provincial and \$13.94 million federal).
- The 2021/22 estimated budget for First Nations policing is approximately \$27.55 million (\$13.22 million provincial and \$14.32 million federal).

#### Municipal Services - RCMP

- In 2019, 65 municipalities contracted with the Province for RCMP municipal police services.
- The 2019 adjusted authorized strength of the RCMP municipal services is 3,969 members. This includes adjusted strength figures for departments participating in Lower Mainland District Integrated Teams.

#### Independent Municipal Police Department Service

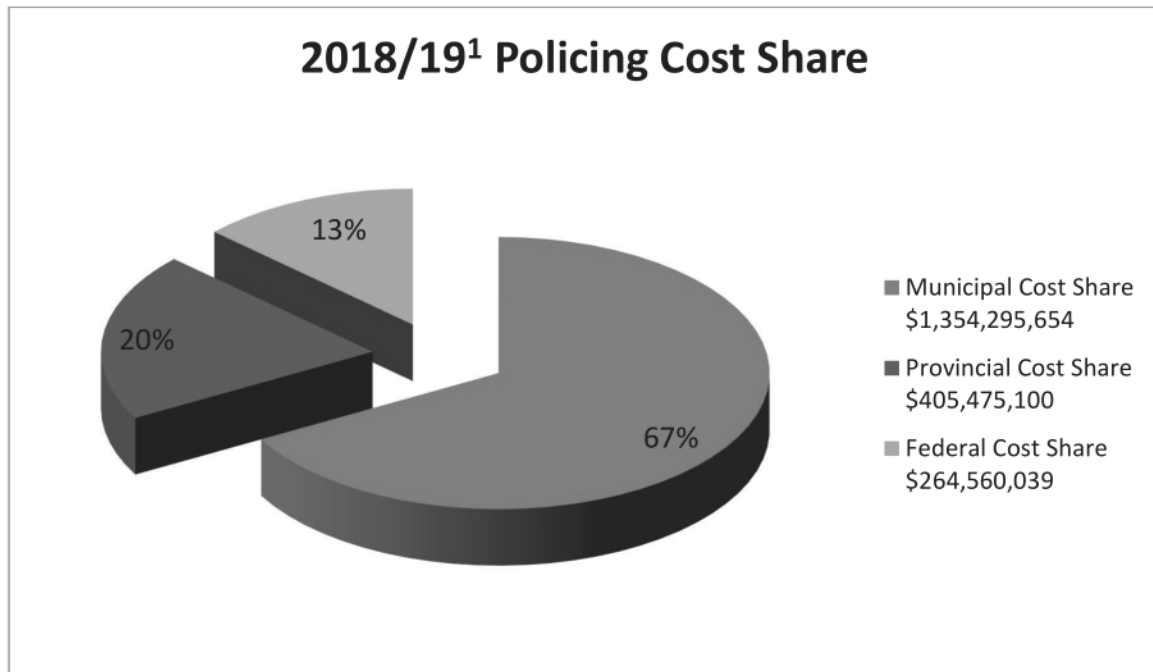
- 12 municipalities in B.C. are policed by 11 independent municipal police departments: Vancouver, West Vancouver, Victoria (also polices Esquimalt), Saanich, Central Saanich, Oak Bay, New Westminster, Abbotsford, Delta, Port Moody and Nelson.
- The 2019/20 adjusted authorized strength of the independent municipal police departments is 2,461 officers. This includes adjusted strength figures for departments participating in Lower Mainland District Integrated Teams.

Municipal - RCMP and Independent Police Department Service

- The 2019/20<sup>1</sup> total policing expenditures are \$1.354 billion compared to total expenditures of \$1.305 billion in 2018/19 with a combined adjusted authorized strength of 6,430 officers in 2019.

Total Policing Cost Share

- The table below outlines the 2019/20<sup>1</sup> \$2.024 billion cost share for policing between municipal, provincial and federal governments.



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**Note 1:** 2019/20 is the latest year for which expenditure numbers are available.

**2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE****First Nation Policing Program****Suggested Response:**

- In B.C., approximately 70% of First Nations participate in the federal government's First Nations Policing Program. The program provides policing services to several First Nations communities that are professional, dedicated and culturally appropriate. The program is a distinct service and is provided in addition to regular police services.
- Participation in the program requires First Nations communities to enter into an agreement with the Government of Canada and the Province.
- B.C. is working with the federal government on a renewed program Framework Agreement and continues to consult with First Nations in the development of a renewed program that meets the safety needs of their communities.
- B.C. has supported the up to 110 additional resources initiative announced by Canada in 2018 and has increased our complements in Community Tripartite Agreements and our Self-Administered Agreement. We also supported the First Nations Infrastructure Program and currently have 3 projects underway.

**Financial Summary**

- The First Nations Policing Program 2021/22 budget is \$30,506,369 with the federal government providing \$15,863,312 and B.C. providing \$14,643,057.
- The program is cost-shared between the federal government at 52% and the Province at 48%.

**Background:**

- The FNPP provides policing services that are in addition to the level of policing services provided under the Provincial Police Services Agreement (PPSA). Public Safety Canada (PSC) is the lead agency for the program and determines the overall budget associated with the program which is cost shared between Canada at 52% and the Province at 48%. The program has been operating in the province since 1996.
- FNPP was created with the intention of giving participating indigenous communities a role in shaping the policing services received by the community and to address the long-standing lack of trust between the indigenous communities and the police.
- FNPP ensures that First Nations enjoy their right to personal security and public safety

through providing policing services that are responsive to the needs of First Nation communities. FNPP aims to build partnerships with indigenous communities and the police through promoting partnerships based on trust, mutual respect, and community participation in decision-making around policing services.

- There are three different types of enhanced policing models in the province that allow a First Nations community to participate in the First Nations Policing Program:
  - Community Tripartite Agreements between Canada, the Province, and First Nation communities for enhanced policing services provided by the RCMP.
    - There are 59 Community Tripartite Agreements in BC
    - 132 communities receive services through Community Tripartite Agreements
  - Self-Administered agreement which allow First Nation communities to operate as a tribal police service under the province's Police Act.
    - There is 1 Self Administered Agreement in the province
    - 10 communities are part of the self-administered agreement
  - Quadripartite Agreement for enhanced policing service provided by a municipal police service to a community
    - There is 1 Quadripartite Agreement between Canada, the Province, City of Delta, the Delta Police Board, and Tsawwassen First Nation.

#### FIRST NATIONS POLICING PROGRAM

<b>CTA's RCMP-FNCPs</b>	\$27,546,794 in 2021/22 Cost share: Canada \$14,324,333, BC \$13,222,461
<b>St'at'Imx Tribal Police Service</b>	\$2,760,275 in 2021/22. Cost Share: Canada \$1,435,343, BC \$1,324,932
<b>Quad-Partite Agreement – Tsawwassen First Nation</b>	\$199,300 in 2021/22. Cost Share: Canada \$103,636, BC \$95,664
<b>Total Projected 21/22 Funding</b>	\$30,506,369
<b>Provincial portion</b>	\$15,863,312
<b>Federal portion</b>	\$14,643,057

- The RCMP, as the provincial police force, are contracted to provide the RCMP First Nations Community Policing Services through Community Tripartite Agreements as part of the provincial police service through a Framework Agreement between the Province and Canada.
- Policing services provided to First Nations communities through Community Tripartite Agreements are not intended to replace the functions and duties of policing services provided by the provincial police service under the Provincial Police Service Agreement but

are provided in addition to services already received under the Provincial Police Service Agreement.

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**2019/20 ESTIMATES NOTE****Integrated Police Services  
Teams****Suggested Response:**

- Our government continues to respond to the increasingly cross-jurisdictional nature of crime by taking a leadership role in the integration of police services and working with police agencies on the consolidation and integration of services throughout B.C.
- Integration helps communities maximize their policing budgets by giving their police access to sophisticated equipment and expertise, and is supported by the BC Association of Chiefs of Police, including the RCMP.
- Integrated teams provide specialized police services to multiple policing jurisdictions and may be funded by multiple governments or comprised by officers from multiple police agencies (Provincial, Federal, and municipal).
- In FY2019/2020, the Province provided a budget at the 70% cost share of approximately \$84 million to the RCMP for integrated teams. This included \$5.3 million (@70%) for the Anti-Trafficking Task Force.
- The Province invested at 70% cost-share, approximately \$84 million for 30 integrated teams and an additional \$17.7 million for other Anti-Gang and Organized Crime initiatives, of which \$2.6 million was for JIGIT (Joint Illegal Gaming Investigation Team) and \$0.5 million for CRRU (Criminal Records Review Unit).
- Integrated teams and operations avoid duplication and optimize efficiency. Integrating specialized police services is a critical way to approach policing and we are looking for further opportunities to do so.

**Background:**

- There are a number of integrated teams in the province. Integrated teams provide specialized police services to more than one policing jurisdiction. In B.C., there are three broad categories of integrated teams: federal, provincial, or regional.
  - Federal Integrated Teams – includes members from municipal, provincial, and/or other federal agencies (Canadian and US) which are funded primarily by the federal government. Most Federal integrated teams are managed under the Federal Policing program. Such multi-disciplined groups deal with National Security, Transnational Organized Crime, Money Laundering, Integrated Market Enforcement and Border Integrity.
  - Provincial Integrated Teams – may include members from municipal, provincial, and/or

federal agencies but are funded primarily by the provincial government. The provincial teams include Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit (CFSEU), Hate Crime Task Force, Integrated Sexual Predator Observation Team (ISPOT), Integrated Witness Protection Services, and the Unsolved Homicide Unit.

- Regional Integrated Teams - may include members from municipal, provincial, and/or federal police agencies. These teams are formed to provide specialized services to specific regions of the province and are funded by the participating jurisdictions according to predetermined funding formula. For example, the Lower Mainland District (LMD) Police Dog Service provides service to all RCMP municipal and provincial policing jurisdictions in the RCMP Lower Mainland District, as well as Abbotsford, Delta, New Westminster, and Port Moody Police Departments.
- Integrated teams may be “integrated” in one or more ways:
  - They are comprised of police officers from more than one police agency or from at least two levels of policing (e.g. federal, provincial, municipal) and/or;
  - Multiple policing jurisdictions, or levels of government, contribute to funding the team.
- The goal of integrated teams is to create service delivery models that centralize highly technical, capital intensive and specialized services, while at the same time decentralizing functions that provide service directly to the public. Integration optimizes operational efficiencies, improves effectiveness and facilitates the provision of a seamless, integrated professional police service.
- In FY 2019/20, the Province paid actual expenses of \$84.1 million for 30 integrated teams and initiatives (see Appendix).
  - This investment was \$5.4 million less than in 2018/19 mainly due to the savings the Province had achieved in its Legacy Settlement Agreement that the entire IHIT (Integrated Homicide Investigation Team) is to be cost-shared at 70/30.
  - There was also a decrease of 53 authorized positions from FY 2018/19. The RCMP explained that some prior years’ figures were incorrect, e.g. CFSEU Integrated Team included fenced teams that are not considered “integrated”, in error.
  - The Anti-Trafficking Task Force established in November 2017 adding 34 authorized positions and \$2.5 million in provincial funding has expanded over the years. In 2019/20, the Unit’s expenditure in total was \$7.6 million (\$5.3 million in provincial funding and \$2.3 million federal funding).

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## Appendix: Provincial Contributions to Integrated Teams, Anti-Gang and Organized Crime Initiatives

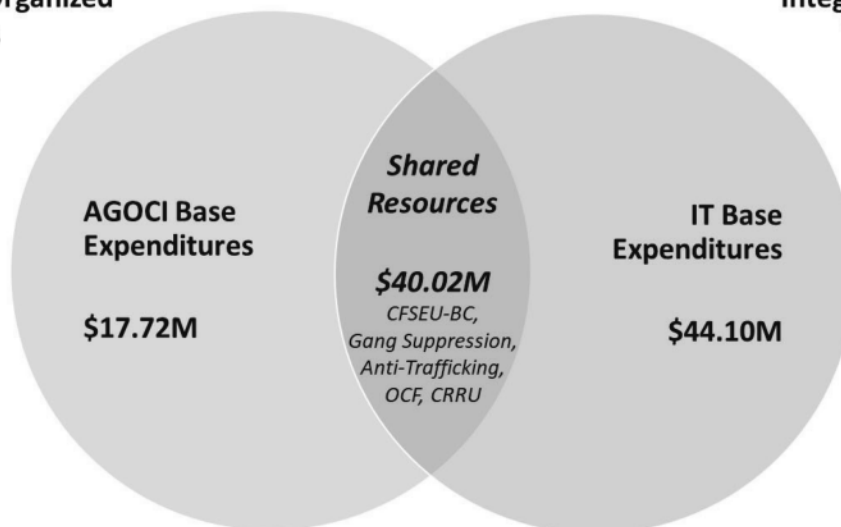
### Provincial payments to anti-gang and organized crime initiatives and Integrated Teams

- \$101.84M is the total provincial contributions to Anti-Gang & Organized Crime and to Integrated Teams.
  - \$40.02M of the \$101.84M includes CFSEU resources that are shared between Anti-Gang & Organized Crime and Integrated Teams

	<b>2019/20 Base Expenditure Allocation</b>	<b>Total AGOCI Resources (If 100% of Shared Resources Used)</b>	<b>Total IT Resources (If 100% of Shared Resources Used)</b>
Anti-Gang & Organized Crime Initiatives <b>(AGOCI)</b>	\$17.72M	\$57.75M	
<i>CFSEU Shared Resources Between (AGOCI &amp; IT)</i>	<i>\$40.02M</i>		
Integrated Teams <b>(IT)</b>	\$44.10M		\$84.14M
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$101.84M</b>		

**Anti-Gang and Organized  
Crime Initiatives**  
*Total \$57.72M*

**Integrated Teams**  
*Total \$84.14M*



*Updated: June 4, 2021*

#### Provincial contribution towards Integrated Teams (at 70%)

- The Province has been contributing annually towards Integrated Teams as follows:

In Fiscal Year 2019/20, the Province contributed \$84.14 million (Note 1)

In Fiscal Year 2018/19, the Province contributed \$89.58 million

In Fiscal Year 2017/18, the Province contributed \$85.62 million

In Fiscal Year 2016/17, the Province contributed \$84.68 million

In Fiscal Year 2015/16, the Province contributed \$79.48 million

In Fiscal Year 2014/15, the Province contributed \$78.51 million

In Fiscal Year 2013/14, the Province contributed \$74.15 million

In Fiscal Year 2012/13, the Province contributed \$73.16 million

In Fiscal year 2011/12, the Province contributed \$76.86 million

Note 1: Variance between 18/19 and 19/20 is from the settlement agreement eliminating the additional 20% payment province made on behalf of municipalities.

- In FY 2019/20, the Province paid actual expenditures of **\$84.14 million** to Integrated Teams which can be broken down as follows:
  - \$40.03 million for organized crime and anti-gang initiatives: \$25.03 million to the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit (CFSEU)-BC; \$2.77 million to support the Gang Suppression Team; \$6.17 million to the Organized Crime Fund (OCF) Integrated Teams such as E-PESETA, Uniformed Team, etc., \$5.33 million to the Anti-Trafficking Task Force, and, \$0.72 million for Cannabis (Counter Proliferation Unit).
  - \$44.11 million for other Provincial, Regional and Federal Integrated Teams whose mandate is not related to organized crime such as Integrated Road Safety Unit, Unsolved Homicide Unit, etc.
- Integrated teams provide specialized police services to more than one policing jurisdiction and may be “integrated” in one or more ways:
  - They are comprised of police officers from more than one police agency or from at least two levels of policing (i.e., federal, provincial, municipal); and/or
  - Multiple policing jurisdictions contribute to funding the team.

#### Provincial payments towards anti-gang initiatives and organized crime agency

- **\$82.50** million was paid to the RCMP in Fiscal year 2019/20 for CFSEU-BC, BC’s integrated anti-gang and organized crime agency.
- Out of \$82.50 million, the Province contributed \$57.75 million and the federal government contributed \$24.75 million.
- The provincial payment of \$57.75 million includes the above-mentioned Integrated Teams:

- \$25.03 million to CFSEU-BC
- \$2.77 million to the Gang Suppression Team
- \$6.17 million to the Organized Crime Fund
- \$5.33 million to the Anti-Trafficking Task Force
- \$0.72 million to Cannabis (Counter Proliferation Unit)

as well as:

- \$2.63 million to the Joint Illegal Gaming Investigation Team (JIGIT)
- \$15.09 million to the Organized Crime Fund, over & above the OCF Integrated Teams mentioned above, including Provincial Tactical Enforcement Priority (PTEP), Opioid Enforcement, and Criminal Records Review Unit (CRRU) etc.

**2020/21 ESTIMATES NOTE****Coastal Gas Link and  
Other Natural Resource  
Protests****Suggested Response:**

- The Director of Police Services, with authority under the *Police Act*, has provided direction to the RCMP regarding protest activity, to ensure they are providing a coordinated response throughout jurisdictions across B.C.
- It is important to understand that enforcement decisions, and individual investigations, occur at arm's length from government and we cannot interfere with or direct police on such matters.
- We recognize the public's right to engage in peaceful protests and lawful assembly, while ensuring public safety. However, while the police will respect lawful protest, they will also act pursuant to the Criminal Code of Canada and direction of the courts if necessary, to address unlawful conduct.
- Police are well trained and prepared to manage situations involving lawful protests, civil disobedience and to protect life and property. When they deem it appropriate, this includes promoting dialogue with all affected parties such as Indigenous groups, industry and protesters in order to prevent or mitigate potential conflict.
- The Policing and Security Branch (PSB) continues to closely monitoring cost pressures associated to the RCMP enforcement of the Supreme Court of British Columbia injunction prohibiting interference with work along the Coastal Gas Link (CGL) Pipeline route in northern B.C. PSB also acts a liasion between police and other involved ministries to ensure appropriate exchange of information.
- In addition, the following increased industrial activities and expected protests are also being closely followed: the Liquified Natural Gas Facility (LNG) in Kitimat, the expansion of the Trans-Mountain Pipeline, protests against Teal-Jones Logging at Fairy Creek Watershed, and Spring Rebellion.
- Current RCMP forecasts for protest activities to June 30, 2021 anticipate an increase across the province related to the various resource projects and other concerns.
- There is risk the resource protest activities will escalate in size and increase in scope as industrial activities ramp up after the spring thaw and from flexible COVID-19 restrictions to allow workers return to work.
- The Province continues to approached natural resource protest risks with cross-agency coordination with participation on an ADM committee organized by the LNG Secretariat, to

ensure accurate, timely and consistent messages are produced and shared across government.

- There are also various indigenous governments, hereditary chiefs and other organizations and individuals with a diverse range of involvement and response. The RCMP is directly engaged with elected officials and non-elected indigenous governments and organizations.
- RCMP execution has been a scalable approach that can quickly respond to the dynamic and risk based operational requirements. It will be important for the RCMP to continue to have the resources and support from government to provide an impartial and measured approach to policing.

#### CGL Fiscal Impacts

- Intergovernmental Communications; Government Financial Information 70% is the current estimated Provincial cost to March 31, 2022.
- 70% is the approximate Provincial cost from April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021.
- 70% is the Provincial cost from January 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020.

#### **Background:**

##### CGL

- Activity - Coastal GasLink plans to build 620 km of natural gas pipeline from Dawson Creek to Kitimat. Construction is expected to take four years to complete and has been the subject of Indigenous-led environmental protests since 2014.
- Indigenous engagement/involvement - The Unist'ot'en camp located near the Morice River Bridge Southwest of Houston, located in traditional Wet'suwet'en territory, is supported by the Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs, the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs and several international environmental organizations.
- Protests sites - The camp maintains an active blockade located at the 66 km marker of the Morice River Road on the north end of the bridge. Entry past this blockade had only been permitted with the consent of the Unist'ot'en camp.
  - RCMP advise of an increase in both Indigenous and non-Indigenous protesters at multiple sites.
  - RCMP updates indicated that Gidimt'en protesters remain upset by the increased right of way work and concerned about the inability to inspect CGL workplace compliance due to COVID-19 Provincial Health Orders as well as getting access beyond security checkpoints for traditional and cultural purposes.
- The Injunction - The RCMP have been enforcing the CGL injunction as of January 7, 2019, with a medium risk threat level, based on the remote location of the Morice River Bridge.

- RCMP Response - The RCMP must first deploy Provincial resources prior to drawing any resources from municipalities, however, due to the logistics of deploying officers in this remote location, along with specialized training requirements, municipal resources are also needed to effectively enforce the order.
- The RCMP remain in contact with the Office of the Wetsuwet'en on the proposed Community Safety Protocol Agreement and towards securing a meeting date with Wetsuwet'en Hereditary Chiefs on related public safety matters.

#### Teal-Jones Protests

- Teal-Jones Group have harvesting rights for wood at the Fairy Creek watershed on southwestern Vancouver Island. Old growth timber is present within the Fairy Creek watershed and is the focus of protest concern.
- Indigenous engagement/involvement: - The Fairy Creek watershed falls within the traditional Pacheedaht First Nation (PFN). The PFN supports the logging and has an agreement in place. A portion of the logging area also includes the territory of the Dididaht First Nation at Lake Cowichan. They are also supportive of the harvest.
- Protest Sites: - Since approximately August of 2020, assorted logging road blockade sites have been established in remote logging areas within areas policed by Sooke and Lake Cowichan RCMP Detachments. Current information details a total of eight blockade sites including three occupied sites.
- Protest Groups: - The blockades appear to be organized by a group called the "Rainforest Flying Squad" and the collective protest is generally referred to as the "Fairy Creek Blockade". The protest groups involved are supported by a broad coalition of environmental groups including the Wilderness Committee.
- The Injunction: - On April 1, 2021 the B.C. Supreme Court made an order granting an injunction inclusive of a police enforcement clause to September 26, 2021. This prohibits persons from obstructing site access or engaging in threatening behaviours etc. **Police are given discretion as to the timing and manner of enforcement.**
- RCMP Response - RCMP have continued to work at all levels including local detachments up through E-Division senior management to promote dialogue with all affected groups in order to prevent or mitigate conflict if/when a decision to enforce the injunction is made.

#### Spring Rebellion

- The Spring Rebellion is also organized by Extinction Rebellion, locally, nationally and across the globe.

- Participants are being encouraged to engage in “Rebellion of 1” activities. This means to take individual action – example, to lay down in an intersection. The intent appears to be to increase the scope of protests in an attempt to overwhelm police resources.
- Social media posts indicate potential disruptive activities including intersection blockades.

#### Trans Mountain Pipeline (TMP)

- Increased Industry Activity
  - Blue River – TMP has highly visible Horizontal Directional Drill (HDD) work underway to pass pipe under the Blue River Airport and North Thompson River. This underground pipe will eventually emerge on the Blue River community side of the river in proximity to the Tiny House Warriors Protest Camp.
  - Burnaby - HDD works are now underway at the Burnaby Mountain and the Colony Farm sites.
- Increased Protest Activity
  - Blue River - Activities have escalated recently as over the Easter weekend, two masked protesters entered the fenced compound at the Blue River Pump Station and chained themselves to heavy equipment. No further incidents reported since.
  - Burnaby – RCMP remain engaged with Indigenous groups and other protesters. The Tsleil-Waututh Watch House is opposed to the HDD work, but no direct action to date.

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**2020/21 ESTIMATES NOTE****Surrey Policing Model  
Transition****Suggested Response:**

- The City of Surrey's transition from a RCMP Municipal Police Unit to its own municipal police department is well underway and the Province is committed to supporting the City and moving this transition forward.
- The Surrey Police Board was established in July of 2020 and they have several responsibilities with respect to the establishment of the Surrey Police Service (SPS), including hiring its first Chief Constable. The SPS senior leadership team is also in place.
- SPS Chief Constable Lipinski submitted a proposed conceptual deployment model for an integrated transition and the Surrey Policing Transition Trilateral Committee (SPTTC) is working towards developing the first phase of that model.
- This is an unprecedented and complex process. Public safety is our top priority and core driving principle; adequate and effective policing services will be maintained throughout the transitions and once the Surrey Police Service is fully operational.
- The City of Surrey's *Municipal Policing Unit Agreement* is currently in effect, the RCMP is still the agency of jurisdiction. I am confident in the RCMP's continued ability to provide exceptional policing services to the citizens of Surrey throughout this process.

**City of Surrey's transition costs**

- The City of Surrey is responsible for the costs of policing and law enforcement within its municipal boundaries. As an autonomous government, they have significant fiduciary duties and responsibilities. I would direct you to the City of Surrey for further inquiries regarding the financial aspects of the transition.
- I would direct you to my colleague Josie Osborne, Minister of Municipal Affairs, for any questions regarding Provincial oversight of municipal finances.

**Police training/capacity at the Justice Institute of BC (JIBC)**

- The JIBC Police Academy has developed a plan and will be working with police departments to effectively manage training requirements and optimize recruit classes or class sizes to fit needs.

**Background:**

- Under B.C.'s Police Act, a municipality over 5,000 population has the authority, subject to the Minister's approval, to provide its policing and law enforcement by means of establishing its own municipal police department.
- On November 6, 2018, the City of Surrey wrote to the Minister to advise of their intention to transition Surrey from an RCMP Municipal Police Unit to a municipal police department.
- Upon review and evaluation of materials including the final report by the Provincial Municipal Policing Transition Study Committee, the City of Surrey's *Surrey Policing Transition Plan*, and the recommendation of the Director of Police Services, the Minister granted approval to establish the police board, which was established effective July 6, 2020.
- Although the SPS formally exists by virtue of Ministerial approval and establishment of the Board and is currently hiring staff/police officer positions, the SPS is not an operational police agency nor has it assumed the City's police functions per 3(2) of the Police Act.
- Prior to operationalization, the Director of Police Services must be satisfied that the SPS is capable of providing services contemplated under and in accordance with *Police Act*, related legislation, and the Director's Standards. Implementation plans, supporting documents, and the SPS' policies and procedures are required and will comprise major components of the Provincial evaluation process, which will inform the Director's decision for SPS operationalization.
- In the fall of 2020, the SPTTC was established to collaboratively develop, support, negotiate and implement a phased transition and approve the related formal legal agreements, if required. The SPTTC is comprised of senior executives from the City of Surrey, Public Safety Canada, the Province, and also includes ex-officio representation from the RCMP, SPS, and the Board.
- The timeline for the transition will be determined through the SPTTC as the work progresses.
  - The legal framework for the overall transition will determine the required agreements and timelines for the overall transition.
  - The transition and eventual operationalization of SPS will occur as a part of an integrated, phased process, overlapping with the demobilization of the RCMP.
- The Policing and Security Branch's Policing Model Transition Secretariat was established in spring 2019 to provide leadership and ensure provincial accountabilities are maintained throughout the transition.

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**2020/21 ESTIMATES NOTE****RCMP Resource Levels  
and Vacancies****Suggested Response:**

- Although Government has made investments in the RCMP Provincial Police Service (PPS) since 2012, largely with respect to organized crime and gangs and guns initiatives, the B.C. authorized police strength of the Service has remained at 2,602 positions.
  - 2,402 RCMP members Regular and Civilian Members (RM/CM); and
  - 200 positions for sworn officers from other police agencies such as Municipal Police Departments
- In 2020, 449 hard and soft vacancies existed— approximately 19.4% RM/CM positions
  - Positions were vacant, on leave, or reduced/gradual return to work duties;
  - There was a slight decrease from 453 vacancies in 2019;
  - Breakdown:
    - 192 vacancies (8.3% average) were established RM/CM positions and not filled by employee – 5% average decrease from 2019.
    - 257 vacancies from employees on leave (medical or parental) or reduced/gradual return to work duties (2.4% average increase from 2019).
- While the total provincial net decrease in vacancies is only four RM/CM positions, this is misleading and does not highlight the impacts from recent 2019 achievements to fund and reallocate 40 RMs to address high risk resource pressures as follows:
  - 28 RMs to augmented front-line, general duty policing at the 22 highest needs, highest risk Provincial Detachment Units across British Columbia.
  - 12 RM positions to create the Provincial Support Team (PST) to provide temporary, mobile relief to Provincial Detachment Units experiencing front-line resource pressures from emergent incidents or events across the province.
  - The three Provincial Support Teams are based in Prince George, Kamloops, and Terrace.
- It is important to note that funding and reallocating existing vacancies to the detachment level does not impact the overall authorized strength of 2,602, however; the strategy does address the issue of the RCMP requiring additional resources to address public and officer safety across the province.

- The number of RCMP PPS vacancies continues to be a concern for the provincial government, and we continue to work with E-Division RCMP and our national partners at the Contract Management Committee table to mitigate RCMP vacancy issues.

**Background:**

- The PPS Annex A authorized strength has not been adjusted since 2012 as a result of the long-standing disputed items with Public Safety Canada. Now that agreement has been reached to resolve these disputed items, RCMP and PSB staff are currently reconciling Annex A to more accurately reflect the RCMP PPS's authorized strength.
- Some hard vacancies are positions actually occupied by Municipal Police Department and/or Organized Crime Agency police officers; however, the RCMP do not consistently track or report on these. The RCMP also do not consistently "establish" positions for each "authorized" position, making the tracking of vacancy numbers difficult. Efforts are underway to resolve this issue as part of the Annex A reconciliation.
- By comparison, Federal Policing in B.C. has an average annual vacancy rate (hard/soft) of 32.9% in 2018, and rose to 35.5% in 2019, before decreasing to 33.6% in 2020 (or 347, 367, 341 hard/soft vacant positions, respectively).
- BC Municipal RCMP policing had a growth of 3% in established RM/CM positions over the last three years (from an annual average of 3,944 in 2018 to 4,059 positions in 2020). Municipal RCMP vacancy (hard/soft) rates improved from an annual average of 9.7% in 2018 (or 380 positions) to 8.5% in 2019 (or 342 positions). However in 2020, the average increased to 9.3% (or 375 positions).
- The majority of hard/soft vacancies for the Provincial Police Service (approximately 360 on average in the last three years) are held in positions located at B.C. RCMP Headquarters.
- Note: Established, Actual, and Hard/Soft Vacancy counts are point in time numbers. Vacancy rates include adjustments to account for Surplus to Establishment (STE) positions.

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**2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE****Policing Modernization****Suggested Response:**

- The current model for policing in B.C. is significantly challenged. Costs are increasing for all levels of government and public confidence in policing is at risk of being eroded particularly considering recent events involving police use of force and the heightened lens on systemic racism in policing across North America.
- The current structure in the province, outlined by the 45 year old *Police Act*, is unsustainable and requires significant modernization to ensure a safe, secure, just, and resilient B.C.
- On June 12, 2020, in response to recent protests against police-involved deaths and calls to “defund” the police, I committed to bringing forward a motion to create an all-party committee to engage with communities and experts on how the *Police Act* can be modernized to reflect today’s challenges and opportunities for delivering police services, with a specific focus on systemic racism.
- And on July 8, 2020, the Legislative Assembly agreed that a Special Committee on Reforming the Police Act be appointed.
- The Special Committee was re-appointed after the provincial election on December 9, 2020.
- The Terms of Reference for the reappointed Special Committee allow it to consider any information or evidence that was before the previous committee before its dissolution in September.
- Everyone deserves to be treated fairly by the police, and our government acknowledges that this has not always been the case for many including Black, Indigenous and other people of colour.
- The government also recognizes that police officers require a modern policing structure that provides greater clarity for their roles. Expectations on front-line police responders have grown and B.C.’s policing and public safety model needs to reflect communities’ current and future needs.
- Since the B.C. *Police Act* was introduced in 1974, it has undergone numerous changes in response to emerging needs and issues; however, it has not undergone a full-scale review of this scope and magnitude.
- The government looks forward to receiving the results of the Special Committee’s work by October 8, 2021, as well as working with communities and stakeholders towards implementation as soon as possible thereafter.

**Background:**

- The Province has a vision to create an equitable, efficient, and accountable policing and public safety model that meets the needs of all British Columbians. The Province seeks to achieve this vision by addressing the continuum of policing and public safety, as it is reflected within the Special Committee's terms of reference, with the lens of modernization to address four key pillars of:
  - I. Effectiveness & Efficiency
  - II. Roles & Responsibilities
  - III. Public Trust
  - IV. Systemic Racism & Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples
- The Special Committee on Reforming the *Police Act*, will make recommendations on the following:
  - Reforms related to independent oversight, transparency, governance, structure, service delivery, standards, funding, training and education, and any other considerations which may apply respecting the modernization and sustainability of policing under the *Police Act*;
  - The role of police with respect to complex social issues, such as mental health and wellness, addictions, and harm reduction, and in consideration of any appropriate changes to relevant sections of the *Mental Health Act*;
  - The scope of systemic racism within B.C.'s police agencies, including the RCMP, independent municipal police, and designated policing units, and its impact on public safety and public trust in policing;
  - Whether there are any measures necessary to ensure a modernized Police Act is consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007) as required by section 3 of the BC Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; and
  - undertake these examinations with regard to relevant reports, studies and examinations.
- Members of the Special Committee include Doug Routley (Chair), Dan Davies (Deputy Chair), Garry Begg, Rick Glumac, Adam Olsen, Rachna Singh, Karin Kirpatrick, Trevor Halford, Grace Lore and Harwinder Sandhu.

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**2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE****South Island Police  
Dispatch Centre****Suggested Response:**

- The ministry supports consolidation and integration of policing services as an opportunity to provide better service and improve public safety and information sharing amongst police units.
- As part of this commitment, the Province continues to support the initiative to consolidate South Vancouver Island police call-taking and dispatch services in one location, with services provided through the South Island Police Dispatch Centre, operated by E-Comm.
- Under the Municipal Police Unit Agreements (MPUAs) and the Provincial Policing Service Agreement, telecommunications are identified as the responsibility of the municipality.
- South Island RCMP-policed municipalities will begin contributing to the costs of police call-taking and dispatch services, as a result of the change in service provider from the RCMP to E-Comm.
- To support the affected municipalities, the Province will provide a phased transition plan, with RCMP-policed municipalities being 100% responsible for police call-taking and dispatch costs in the future.
- This is in line with municipal police departments in the South Island, which currently pay for these services at 100%.
- Giving the RCMP-policed South Island municipalities advance notice will allow time and space to have the necessary discussions and to build future costs into municipal budget cycles. Discussions with these municipalities on the details of the transition plan are ongoing.
- The ministry will be assessing future funding models in the context of policing and public safety modernization and the Special Committee on Reforming the *Police Act*.

**Background:**

- The Province has been able to fund police call-taking and dispatch as part of the services provided by the provincial RCMP at a 70/30 cost share with Public Safety Canada.

- In December 2020, the ADM and Director of Police Services advised the mayors of the eight RCMP policed municipalities of the change in funding model for the South Vancouver Island Police Dispatch Centre.
- On March 31, 2021, Policing and Security Branch staff emailed the Chief Administrative Officers of the affected municipalities and provided the preliminary funding allocation by fiscal year that had been prepared by E-Comm as estimates for police call taking and RCMP dispatch services in the future, based on the original transition plan developed.
- A transition plan was developed in acknowledgement of the Province's delays in communicating information, and in recognition of the economic and fiscal impacts that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on municipal budgets.
- With no retroactive costs to municipalities, the original transition plan was as follows:

Intergovernmental Communications; Government Financial Information

- On May 10, 2021 the Minister met with the eight mayors, and in follow up to that meeting on May 21, 2021, the ADM and the Director of Police Services wrote to the eight CAOs to acknowledge the issues raised by the mayors and communicated that a meeting would be scheduled in the coming weeks to discuss transition plan options.
- Once final details around the funding transition are worked out, E-Comm will be in a position to discuss future service arrangements with the respective municipalities of Colwood, Ladysmith, Langford, North Cowichan, North Saanich, Sidney, Sooke and View Royal.

#### Financial Impacts:

Intergovernmental Communications; Government Financial Information

- The estimates were allocated to reflect RCMP resources established in each municipality. Rural and unincorporated areas will continue to fall under the provincial police service and therefore are not charged for police dispatch services

- Revised estimates will be prepared based on options discussed with the CAOs and the final decision made on the transition plan.

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**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General  
Estimates 2021/22 Briefing Book**

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**2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE****COVID-19: Impact on  
CSCP Programs and  
Services Response****Suggested Response:**

- During times of crisis, such as natural disasters and pandemics, gender-based violence (GBV) such as domestic and intimate partner violence and sexual assault, can increase. Couples and families may be in close quarters and have decreased community connections during the pandemic. This can exacerbate GBV; Indigenous women, girls, 2SLGBTQIA people and other marginalized groups who already experience increased barriers to safety may be at an even greater risk of violence during this time.
- We remain committed to ensuring that critical supports for victims of crime are maintained during this COVID-19 pandemic, which has resulted in heightened risks of gender-based violence as well as unique challenges for our service providers.
- This ministry has worked to support existing victim service and violence against women programs and to address GBV in the context of the pandemic by:
  - Designating victim service and violence against women programs as essential services;
  - Establishing and administering the COVID-19 Victim Service and Violence Against Women Support Fund to contribute towards contracted service providers' incremental costs (e.g. additional staffing, technology to support remote service delivery, personal protective equipment, and engineering controls like plexiglass barriers) directly related to continued delivery of essential services during the COVID-19 pandemic;
  - Providing additional funding to VictimLinkBC to enable text message services and support its functionality to improve accessibility for all victims of crime, and in particular, for victims of family and sexual violence; and
  - Processing applications to the Temporary Pandemic Pay program from our contracted victim service and violence against women programs.
- We are working with the Parliamentary Secretary to develop an action plan to end gender based violence, including minimum standards for sexual assault response; more training for police, crown counsel, and justices; and core funding for sexual assault centres.
- As the Province continues through the pandemic we will continue to monitor service demand and pressure on our programs, as we know from other jurisdictions that a surge in domestic and family violence reports can be expected with the easing of restrictions and that increases may last long past the conclusion of the pandemic.

Has GBV Increased during the COVID-19 pandemic?

- During the COVID-19 pandemic, increased risk, incidents and severity of GBV emerged as a key concern in B.C. and globally.
- The prevalence of GBV in the community is difficult to measure; we know that sexual assault and gender-based violence is significantly underreported and that the COVID-19 pandemic may have exacerbated or introduced new barriers to reporting.
- Collectively, in the months immediately following the initial pandemic response in March 2020 our contracted victim service and violence against women programs saw a modest decrease in service utilization. This was followed by a slight increase in utilization into the summer of 2020, which is consistent with the easing of restrictions as the province moved into Phases 2 (May 18 to June 23) and 3 (June 24 onward) of BC's Restart Plan.
- Some Canadian surveys of staff and volunteers in the GBV sector over the past year document an increase in number of victims of domestic violence, increase in physical attacks, human trafficking and severity of violence; others reported decreases or no changes in the number of domestic violence victims they served.
- Police data provided to Statistics Canada shows:
  - Calls for service increased, while police-reported crime decreased during the first four months of the pandemic;
  - Declines were reported in the number of incidents of assaults (-11%) and sexual assaults (-27%), including those by a family member; and
  - In contrast, the number of calls for service increased during the early months of the pandemic for domestic disturbances (+12%).
- Ministry staff continue to monitor and analyze data as it becomes available.

Status of programs and services supporting victims of crime*Branch-funded Victim Service (VS) and Violence Against Women (VAW) Programs*

- We have maintained regular contact with service providers to monitor service delivery, assess needs and provide assistance, as the victim services sector continues to deliver services both remotely and in-person to support the critical needs of victims of crime.
- As the Province entered the initial phase of its pandemic response in mid-March 2020, the ministry confirmed that provincial funding arrangements with contracted victim service providers remained in place to support contractors as they adapted operations to minimize transmission of COVID-19 and that funding was not compromised in the event of temporarily reduced or suspended services.

- Efforts have been made throughout the pandemic to raise awareness about VictimLinkBC and it has been promoted by public health officials, media and anti-violence stakeholders as the go-to, province-wide crisis line for people at risk of, or victims of violence and abuse during this crisis.
- The ministry enhanced texting access to VictimLinkBC, in addition to available telephone and email options. VictimLink is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in multiple languages.
- Throughout this crisis, the ministry has continued to communicate with all contracted victim service providers and share Provincial Health Officer guidance. We have also worked collaboratively across government to ensure that comprehensive information and community-specific resources for people who may be experiencing violence are publicly available and widely disseminated.

- The ministry provided \$0.936M to support some of the increased costs our contracted service providers experienced due to the COVID-19 pandemic, including via the COVID-19 Victim Service and Violence Against Women Support Fund for contracted victim service and violence against women service providers and to VictimLink BC to ensure the availability of texting services.
- As part of a cost-shared program with the federal government, a Temporary Pandemic Pay program was established to support people working on the frontlines in B.C.'s health care system, social services, and corrections during the height of the pandemic in B.C.
  - To date, the provincial government has provided \$300 million in temporary pandemic pay to approximately 203,000 employees, including eligible contracted victim service and violence against women programs.
- The ministry has worked collaboratively with other social sector ministries to administer B.C.'s Temporary Pandemic Pay Program to contracted victim service and violence against women workers that have maintained critical, in-person services to vulnerable populations and victims of violence during the pandemic.

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**2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE****Addressing Gender-Based Violence****Suggested Response:**

- Our government recognizes the devastating impacts of violence on women, families and communities and has a number of initiatives underway to address these issues in B.C.
- We are committed to creating a province where all women have the services and supports they need to help prevent all forms of violence against women, including sexual violence, escape from violent situations and recover from the impacts of violence.
- We are delivering on this commitment. Budget 2018 increased annual funding by \$5 million starting in 2018/19 with an additional increase of \$3 million in 2020/21, for a total increase of \$8 million annually to better meet the ongoing demand for programs and services such as counselling, outreach and crisis support for women and children who experience domestic violence, sexual assault and other crimes.
- In total, the ministry now provides over \$42 million annually in funding to support over 400 victim services and violence against women programs across the province.
- We are working with the Parliamentary Secretary of Gender Equity to develop an action plan to end gender-based violence, including minimum standards for sexual assault response, more training for police, crown counsel and justices, and core funding for sexual assault centres.
- Our commitment to this issue is demonstrated in the \$20 million funding we provided to the Ending Violence Association of BC (EVA BC) between March 2020 and March 2021 to establish and administer a multi-year grant program that supports the delivery of coordinated, community-based emergency sexual assault response services in regions across the province to 2023.

**Background:****Sexual Assault Response**

- In March 2020, the ministry provided EVA BC with a one-time grant in the amount of \$10 million to establish and administer a multi-year emergency sexual assault services (ESAS) grant program, in collaboration with the ministry, the Ministry of Finance's Gender Equity Office (GEO), the Minister's Advisory Council on Indigenous Women (MACIW), and the Ministry of Health (MoH).
- In March 2021, the ministry provided EVA BC with a subsequent one-time grant in the

amount of \$10 million to fund additional programs from among a pool of already adjudicated, strong applications that were submitted, but not funded, under the multi-year ESAS grant program launched in 2019/20. EVA BC's work will continue to be undertaken in collaboration with the ministry, GEO, MACIW, and MoH.

- Organizations supported through this initiative will receive funding until March 2023 to deliver coordinated, community-based emergency sexual assault response services across the province that are trauma-informed and culturally appropriate and that meet the needs of sexual assault survivors across the province, including the unique needs of Indigenous communities and survivors.
- Since the mid-1990s, the ministry has funded independent legal counsel for sexual assault victims to respond to applications by the accused for disclosure of their personal information/records (e.g., counselling/medical records). This funding is provided by the ministry through a contract with the Legal Services Society.
- Our ministry and the Ministry of Health have in place a payment protocol for medical forensic evidence in cases where the victim/patient has not involved the police.
  - This protocol helps to ensure that victims of a sexual assault are provided with sufficient time to make decisions about justice system involvement when they attend a health care facility.
- B.C. also has in place the provincial Third Party Reporting (TPR) protocol, which supports community-based victim services (CBVS) programs and police to develop local interagency policies to implement and maintain the TPR protocol. By providing victims with the option to report a sexual assault through a CBVS program so that they remain anonymous to police, the TPR process engages sexual assault victims who might not otherwise report to police. It connects them with specialized supports, gives them needed time to decide if and when they are ready to engage the criminal justice system, and provides police with critical information about sex crime patterns within and across police jurisdictions.

#### Additional Funding Related to Violence Against Women

- The ministry continues to prioritize addressing violence against women through the Civil Forfeiture Crime Prevention and Remediation Grant Program.
- In March 2021, the ministry awarded \$5.3 million in Crime Prevention and Remediation Grant Program funding to support community-led projects that address domestic violence and sexual assault; human trafficking; sexual exploitation and vulnerable women in the sex trade; Indigenous healing and rebuilding; and projects that enhance the capacity and improve the services of child and youth advocacy centres (since 2017/2018, over \$20.7 million has supported projects in these areas).

Domestic Violence Response

- The ministry's Community Safety and Crime Prevention Branch holds responsibility for addressing the issue of domestic violence in B.C. The branch also has responsibility for victim services and violence against women counselling and outreach programs. This allows for a harmonized approach that aligns service delivery with broader coordination efforts to address domestic violence and other forms of violence against women.
- The ministry supports the Community Coordination for Women's Safety Working Group, led by EVA BC, the Provincial Domestic Violence Unit Network, the Domestic Violence and Child Welfare Working Group, and the Interagency Case Assessment Team Community of Practice.
- The ministry has allocated funding to several awareness and prevention initiatives to address domestic violence:
  - In Spring 2020, \$430,000 was awarded to the BC Society of Transition Houses to support the delivery of the VIP program's work to increase awareness and knowledge of the effects of violence to children and youth over a four year period; and
  - In 2021/22, \$220,000 is provided to EVA BC for the Be More Than a Bystander campaign.
- The ministry continues to support coordinated responses to domestic violence, including Domestic Violence Units (operational in nine communities) and Interagency Case Assessment Teams (60 fully operational).
  - In Spring 2020, \$430,000 was awarded to EVA BC to support local agencies that respond to referrals of suspected highest risk cases of domestic violence with a goal of increasing safety over a four year period.
- The ministry is also supporting the delivery of domestic violence prevention/intervention programming to perpetrators prior to the charge, conviction or sentencing stage of the criminal justice process.
- In March 2021 the ministry awarded 13 one-time grants totalling \$376,440 through the Civil Forfeiture Crime Prevention and Remediation Grant Program to community organizations to deliver Domestic Violence Prevention and Intervention Programming.

Trauma-Informed Practice Project

- Work to support effective responses to sexual assault has focused on establishing a solid understanding of trauma-informed practice across the justice, public safety and anti-violence community sectors.
- Since 2016, with the support of the Department of Justice Canada (\$1.175 million for 2016 to 2021 and \$577,000 for 2021 to 2026), B.C. has been leading a multi-year project to develop and implement a cross-sector, trauma-informed practice training, education and

awareness curriculum for personnel in the following areas: police, corrections, lawyers, Crown, and victim service/anti-violence programs.

- The curriculum supports these personnel to:
  - Better recognize and understand trauma and its effects on victims and witnesses and have a clear understanding of how violence and abuse may shape victim responses;
  - Assess their own practices and processes with a trauma-informed lens; and
  - Incorporate trauma-informed learnings to reduce potential re-traumatization experienced by victims and witnesses participating in the justice system.
- The *Trauma-Informed Practice (TIP) Foundations Curriculum for Justice, Public Safety, and Anti-Violence Community Sectors in British Columbia* launched on June 27, 2019. The curriculum consists of a self-directed online course, a one-day facilitated course offered in both in-person and virtual formats, a companion webinar series, and a series of sector-specific expert videos. Registration in all components of the curriculum is ongoing.
- As of May 2021, over 5,200 learners have registered in the online course and over 400 learners have registered in the one-day facilitated course.

#### Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation

- Government takes its commitment to combating human trafficking seriously and recognizes that it has a devastating impact on its victims.
- B.C. is engaged in actions to combat human trafficking, including those that support the availability of training and education, foster community-led responses, promote knowledge exchange and collaboration at the local and national level, and support the availability of support services to trafficked persons across the province (e.g., funding a network of over 400 victim service and violence against women programs, all of which support trafficked persons).
- The ministry developed and continues to deliver the online training course, *Human Trafficking: Canada is Not Immune*, designed to assist in the identification and support of trafficked persons in BC. Since 2014, over 11,400 people have completed the course.
- In 2020/21, approximately \$637,000 was awarded through the Civil Forfeiture Crime Prevention and Remediation Grant Program to projects focused on human trafficking, sexual exploitation and sex worker safety, including culturally sensitive outreach services for high risk female youth and women (including transgender, non-binary and gender fluid individuals) throughout B.C. who have experienced trafficking or exploitation or who are engaged in the sex trade (\$2.6M has been provided since 2017/18).

Victim Services for Men

- The majority of programs and services for victims of crime in B.C. serve all victims of violence, including men and women.
- The ministry funds specific Violence Against Women programs in recognition of the fact that women continue to be disproportionately impacted by the most severe forms of domestic violence, including homicides. For this reason, our Stopping the Violence Counselling Programs and Outreach, as well as multicultural outreach services, exclusively serve women.

GBV National Action Plan

- B.C. is engaging with Federal/Provincial/Territorial (FPT) partners on the development of a National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence being led by Women and Gender Equality Canada.
- FPT Ministers responsible for the Status of Women endorsed the FPT Ministerial Joint Declaration for a Canada Free of Gender-Based Violence in January 2021; the National Action Plan will ultimately be presented for endorsement by the FPT Ministers Responsible for the Status of Women.
- As set out in the Declaration, the National Action Plan will include the following five pillars: Prevention; Support for survivors and their families; Promotion of responsive legal and justice systems; Support for Indigenous-led approaches and informed responses; and Social infrastructure and enabling environment.

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## 2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE

Victim Services and Crime  
Prevention Fact Sheet

**2021/22 Total Net Operating Budget of \$63.715 million**  
**(Gross Expenditures of \$) \$73.833 million<sup>1</sup> with approximately 119 FTEs<sup>2</sup>**

<b>CRIME VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM</b>	<b>BUDGET: \$17.563 million</b>
Crime Victim Assistance Program	Provides financial assistance and other benefits to victims of crime, their immediate family members and witnesses to help with expenses related to physical and emotional recovery.
<b>COMMUNITY PROGRAMS<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>BUDGET \$46.078 million</b>
Victim Services Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>92 police-based victim services programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provincial Protective Measures Unit</li> </ul> </li> <li>66 community-based victim service programs (CBVS) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WISH Mobile Access Project (MAP Van)</li> </ul> </li> <li>9 Domestic Violence Units</li> <li>VictimLink BC phone, email, text service</li> </ul>
Violence Against Women Programs and Outreach Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>91 Stopping the Violence Counselling Programs</li> <li>84 PEACE Programs</li> <li>53 Outreach Service Programs</li> <li>11 Multicultural Outreach Service Programs</li> </ul>
Division-funded Victim Services and Crime Prevention Programs/Initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BC Crime Stoppers</li> <li>Block Watch Society of BC</li> <li>Be More Than a Bystander (delivered by the Ending Violence Association of BC)</li> <li>Surrey Wraparound Program (WRAP) (Surrey School District)</li> <li>52 Community Accountability Programs (community-based restorative justice programs)</li> <li>Victim travel and medical forensic expenses</li> </ul>
Provincial Services (including Provincial Associations)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ending Violence Association of BC (including Community Coordination for Women's Safety)</li> <li>Police Victim Services of BC</li> <li>BC Society of Transition Houses</li> <li>Legal Services Society</li> </ul>
<b>JUSTICE AND SAFETY PROGRAMS</b>	
Justice and Safety Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Victim Safety Unit – Victim Notification Service</li> <li>Victim Court Support Programs</li> <li>Restitution Program</li> </ul>
<b>FAMILY INFORMATION LIAISON UNIT</b>	<b>Budget: \$0.478 million (from Department of Justice Canada)</b>
Family Information Liaison Unit	Helps families of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls get information about their loved one(s).

<sup>1</sup> Total projected 2021/22 expenditures of \$73.833 million include a net operating budget of \$63.715 million and budgeted collections of \$9.818 million in internal recoveries (from the Victim Surcharge Account and CRF) and \$0.300 million in external recoveries (from the RCMP for the Crime Stoppers Tips Line: \$50,000 and from the Department of Justice Canada for Victims Fund projects: \$250,000).

<sup>2</sup> \$9.973 million of gross expenditures is allocated to general program operations; the remaining funding (\$63.860 million) is directed towards direct service delivery and crime victim entitlements as outlined in this note.

<sup>3</sup> Variances in number of programs operating from year to year occur due to consolidation (or separation) of programs without a negative impact to service delivery in the communities (e.g., in 2020/21 PPMU was counted under PBVS rather than CBVS; in 2020/21 two STV programs operated by Family Services of Greater Vancouver were consolidated into one).

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**2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE****Crime Victim  
Assistance Program****Suggested Response:**

- The Crime Victim Assistance Program (CVAP) provides financial assistance and a range of other benefits to assist some of the province's most vulnerable populations, primarily women and children victimized by family and sexual violence, cope with and heal from the impacts of crime and violence.
- CVAP's 2021/2022 budget for payment of benefits is \$17.563 million.
- Since 2003/04, CVAP's first year in operation, demand for CVAP benefits has doubled, resulting in about 64,000 applications processed and over \$245M in benefits awarded.
- This Government has taken steps to address the increasing volume of claims received by the program: Budget 2020 included \$13.251 million in new funding over three years to address caseload pressures and ensure victims of violent crime have access to the supports they need in a timelier manner.
- New funding allowed the program to hire and onboard nine new FTEs to help with clearing the backlog of claims awaiting adjudication. Additionally, in 2021/22, CVAP will implement a new IT system (COAST) to streamline work processes, moving from paper-based, manual processes to a modern IT solution. COAST will digitize services for victims, streamline work processes, and improve response times.

**Background:**Scope of CVAP

- CVAP provides financial benefits to victims injured as a result of certain crimes, immediate family members of an injured or deceased victim, and certain witnesses who are entitled to assistance in accordance with the *Crime Victim Assistance Act* and related regulations, which set out program eligibility, types of benefits and award limits.
- CVAP provides short-term or long-term benefits.
  - Short-term benefits are usually expensed in-year and can include partial or full reimbursement of various expenses related to, for example, counselling, crime scene cleaning, and protective measures.
  - Long-term benefits are ongoing payments provided to victims of crime who have suffered a permanent, catastrophic injury, or to a surviving spouse or child of a murder victim, who are also eligible to receive income support. These can include monthly

payments for income support (tied to minimum wage), and funding for ongoing benefits such as personal care, prescription expenses, and rehabilitative measures where applicants are deemed eligible.

- In most cases, the application must be received within one year from the date the crime took place. Extensions to the one-year time limit are made in the following situations because the applicant could not, for a variety of reasons, reasonably have been expected to complete an application within one year:
  - The crime is a sexual offence that occurred after July 1, 1972. In this case, the victim (including minors) can apply at any time. The victim's immediate family members must apply within one year of the date the crime took place or when the crime became known to them.
  - The applicant is under 19. In this case, the victim has until they turn 20 to apply. Minors can apply on their own or a parent or guardian can apply on their behalf.
- Witness benefits can be provided to a person who, while not a family member of the victim, had a "strong emotional attachment" to the victim and suffered psychological harm as a result of witnessing, in close proximity, an eligible offence that is life threatening to, or causes the death of, the victim. Eligible witnesses are offered limited benefits.
  - Advice/Recommendations

#### Historical Funding Lifts

- Budget 2019 provided CVAP with a budget lift of \$1.7M in 2019/20, and an additional \$0.250M in 2020/21 and \$0.175M in 2021/22 to account for cost pressures related to minimum hourly wage increases under the Employment Standards Act, which dictates the amounts CVAP provides for income support..

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**2021/2022 ESTIMATES NOTE****Civil Forfeiture Office****Suggested Response:**Civil Forfeiture Act

- The Civil Forfeiture Act allows the government to apply to forfeit property located in B.C. which is alleged to be the proceeds or an instrument (tool) of unlawful activity. Unlawful activity is defined as a contravention of any federal or provincial offence that has occurred inside or outside of B.C.
- The overarching purpose of the Act is threefold:
  - To take the profit out of unlawful activity;
  - To prevent the use of property to unlawfully acquire wealth or cause bodily injury; and
  - To compensate victims of crime and fund crime prevention and remediation.

Director of Civil Forfeiture and the Civil Forfeiture Office

- The Director of Civil Forfeiture is designated under the Act by the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General to manage and lead the Civil Forfeiture Office (CFO). The CFO employs a dedicated team of lawyers within the Legal Services Branch of the Attorney General to conduct civil forfeiture proceedings in court on its behalf.
- Law enforcement agencies throughout B.C. and even outside of B.C. refer files voluntarily to the CFO where these files contain evidence that property may be associated to a crime. Since the CFO's establishment in 2006, police have been referring files in greater numbers year over year which has led to more successful forfeiture applications and more funds disbursed as crime prevention grants. Over 9,000 files have been referred to date.
- The majority of files referred to the CFO involve drug trafficking offences connected to gangs and organized crime. Most larger file referrals to the CFO contain allegations of money laundering involving real estate, bank accounts and luxury vehicles.
- Files are reviewed and accepted based on a File Acceptance Policy that considers: the quality of the evidence, the public interest (crimes involving weapons or fentanyl), the interests of justice (is forfeiture fair and proportional to the crime) and a cost/benefit analysis (since the CFO is self funding and receives no appropriation from government).
- There are two "streams" of civil forfeiture:
  - Judicial Forfeiture: forfeiture proceedings are commenced by a Notice of Civil Claim in the Supreme Court of BC; and

- Administrative Forfeiture: forfeiture proceedings are commenced by the CFO serving Notice on the interest holder (property valued under \$75K with no lien).
- All recoveries from successful forfeitures are deposited to the Civil Forfeiture Special Account and these funds are then used to cover the cost of all CFO operations which is predominantly the cost of legal services. All remaining funds in excess of these operating costs are disbursed at year end as crime prevention grants to communities throughout B.C.
- Since 2006, the office has recovered over \$125M in successful forfeitures and disbursed \$65M as crime prevention grants (approximately 52% of all recoveries) which includes funding initiatives related to: preventing youth involvement in gangs, preventing sexual exploitation of youth and restorative justice.

#### 2019 Amendments to the Civil Forfeiture Act

- In 2019 significant amendments were made to the Civil Forfeiture Act to better address:
  - problems of gangs operating at the street level; and
  - efforts of persons involved in organized crime to hide their unlawful wealth.
- New presumption provisions in relation to cash and vehicles were created which now shifts the onus to the defendant to explain that certain property is not a proceed or instrument of unlawful activity rather than for the Director to prove that it is. These presumptions include:
  - Cash in excess of \$10K found near drugs is presumed to be the proceeds of crime;
  - A vehicle containing drug sale paraphernalia is presumed to be an instrument; and
  - A vehicle that fails to stop for police and flees in a dangerous manner that could cause harm to the public is presumed to be an instrument.
- New asset tracing provisions now authorize the Director to obtain:
  - Basic bank and non-bank account (non-financial) information by Notice; and
  - Financial information by Court Order including the ability to seek a pre-emptive hold on accounts and property before wealth can be transferred outside of BC.
- In crafting these amendments the CFO considered constitutional legal advice, what other provinces were doing, as well as input from police, the judiciary and other experts.

#### Cullen Commission

- The Director testified before the Cullen Commission in relation to the operations of the CFO and challenges faced by the office.

- The Cullen Commission referenced the CFO in its interim report by identifying the following issues for exploration:
  - *whether the BC Civil Forfeiture Office should be given enhanced investigative powers, including the autonomy and capacity to identify its own targets;*
  - *whether the BC Civil Forfeiture Office would be more effective if staffed with investigators, analysts, and other professionals (and, if so, what special status, if any, should they be given);*
  - *whether there are ways to enhance information sharing and other forms of cooperation between the BC Civil Forfeiture Office and other relevant agencies;*
  - *whether the self-funding model currently being used in British Columbia is the most efficacious way of combatting money laundering;*
  - *unexplained wealth orders, including the advisability and viability of such orders in the Canadian context and the policy considerations surrounding implementation;*
  - *the impact of any changes to the BC civil forfeiture model on the liberty and privacy interests of BC residents.*

#### Illegal cannabis files referred from police

- Law enforcement continue to refer an increasing number of files to the CFO involving property related to the unlawful production and sale of cannabis.
- The CFO continues to work closely with both the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch and the Community Safety Unit to ensure there is consistency with the policy and strategic direction of government regarding cannabis.
- Where appropriate, the CFO continues to make forfeiture applications against property involving illegal cannabis and has successfully forfeited property in this regard.

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**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General  
Estimates 2021/22 Briefing Book**

**BC Coroners Service  
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8. Illicit Drug Crisis: BC Coroners Service Response
9. BC Coroners Service Delivery Model Transition
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**2021 ESTIMATES NOTE****Coroners Inquest  
Selection Criteria****Suggested Response:**

- The *Coroners Act* mandates that inquests must be held in certain circumstances. These include deaths that occur while the individual was detained by or in the custody of a peace officer (police officer or sheriff).
- In all other cases, the decision to hold an inquest is made by the chief coroner. The legislation allows the chief coroner to call an inquest in cases where either:
  - “The public has an interest in being informed of the circumstances of the death”; or
  - “The death resulted from a dangerous practice or circumstance, and similar deaths could be prevented if recommendations were made to the public or an authority.”
- Types of investigations in which the chief coroner will review the circumstances to determine whether an inquest should be held include, but are not limited to:
  - Deaths in provincial and federal correctional facilities;
  - Deaths of persons held involuntarily in mental health facilities;
  - Deaths involving domestic violence;
  - Non-natural workplace deaths; and
  - Child deaths in which the Ministry of Children and Family Development played a role in the child’s life prior to death.
- Coroners who investigate a death for which they believe an inquest could be beneficial will forward their recommendation to the chief coroner for consideration.
- Under the legislation, the Minister may also order a coroner to conduct an inquest if the minister is satisfied that it is necessary or desirable in the public interest.

**Background:**

- Inquests are formal, quasi-judicial proceedings with a five- to seven-person jury held to publicly review the circumstances of a death. The presiding coroner and jury hears evidence from witnesses under summons (subpoena) in order to determine the facts of a death. The presiding coroner ensures the jury maintains the goal of fact-finding, not fault-finding.

- Upon conclusion of the inquest, a written report known as a Verdict is prepared. It includes the classification of the death and any jury recommendations to prevent deaths in similar circumstances.
- Of the approximately 6,000 deaths that are investigated by coroners annually, less than 1% are reviewed at inquest. This usually represents approximately 12 per year.
- Inquests are not routine, and direction to hold an inquest is made after careful consideration of the circumstances of the death. Other than mandatory inquests, direction to hold an inquest occurs when the chief coroner has reason to believe that there is significant public interest in the circumstances of the death, or the death resulted from a dangerous practice or circumstance and similar deaths could be prevented if recommendations were made to the public or an authority.
- The usual route for conclusion of an investigation is the issuance of a Coroner's Report; these reports contain a concise but cohesive summary of the circumstances of the death, including the findings mandated by the legislation; the identity of the deceased, and how, when, where and by what means death occurred. The investigating coroner has the discretion to make recommendations aimed at preventing similar deaths in the future.
- On March 19, 2020, the Supreme Court of British Columbia suspended regular operations to protect the health and safety of court users and help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Due to the closure, five inquests were postponed into late 2020 and 2021.
- The Coroners Service has also adopted virtual livestreaming to provide a way for the public and media to virtually attend an inquest when Covid-19 measures prevent physical attendance. The same rules apply as for in person attendance at an inquest.

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**2021 ESTIMATES NOTE****Delays in Coroners  
Investigations****Suggested Response:**

- Over 12,000 deaths were reported to the BC Coroners Service in fiscal year 2020/21, and about half were deemed reportable deaths and investigated as per the *Coroners Act*.
- The coroner's investigation routinely includes scene attendance, examination of the deceased and gathering information and history from family, friends and relevant medical or nurse practitioners.
- Coroners recognize that providing information to next of kin is a key responsibility and endeavour to provide information in as timely a manner as possible, even if a Coroner's Report will be not available for several months.
- The timeliness of Coroners' Reports is impacted by many factors including: autopsy and/or toxicology reports, external expert analyses, criminal proceedings, and the coroner's own caseload.
- Timeliness has been impacted by a variety of factors including the significant increase in illicit drug toxicity deaths, but new resources and a redistribution of responsibilities is expected to result in much more timely information to families in the near future.

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**2021 ESTIMATES NOTE****Motor Vehicle Fatality  
Data from the BC  
Coroners Service****Suggested Response:**

- The BC Coroners Service investigates all motor-vehicle related deaths and reports on the factors deemed contributory to the death once the investigation is concluded.
- BC Coroners Service data indicates that the top three factors in motor vehicle fatalities are: driver impairment, speed, and weather/road conditions.
- The BC Coroners Service reports driver distraction and driver inattention as separate factors and reports distraction only when an identifiable distraction is confirmed. Traffic Accident System (TAS) data definitions are broader and include other factors in the term 'distraction'. In addition, TAS data are based on information received from the attending peace officer shortly after the motor vehicle incident and generally do not include any post-mortem, toxicology, or medical history findings available to the coroner.

**Background:**

- In previous years, there has been inconsistency between agencies on the definition of "distracted driving" which led to some public criticism in 2018 from lawyer Paul Doroshenko to ICBC and the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General.
- BC Coroners Service data is derived from the findings of coroners' investigations, including post-mortem and toxicology results and review of medical records, pre-trip history and inspection of the vehicle. TAS data is derived from information entered by the attending police officer shortly after the collision and is based on the officer's initial attendance.
- In 2019, the BC Coroners Service came under criticism from MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Drivers) Canada for what they described as a lack of timely reporting of motor vehicle incident data nationally to the Traffic Injury Research Foundation (TIRF). In response, the Coroners Service provided the following statement to media:
  - *"As part of its preventative mandate, the BC Coroners Service strives to collect data that facilitates evidence-based policies and actions at the local, provincial and national level. The Coroners Service currently partners with a number of agencies to promote efforts in reducing injuries and deaths related to drug overdoses, drownings, child deaths, road safety and other issues... The BC Coroners Service values its relationship with the Traffic Injury Research Foundation (TIRF) and has been sharing data with them since the early 90s. The detailed, factual analysis required to respond to their needs requires intensive*

*analysis and manual review. This takes time. In recent years, while also gathering comprehensive data with respect to the deaths of almost 5,000 British Columbians who died as a result of illicit drug toxicity, we have been working on a process of switching from a resource-intensive manual data collection process to a more efficient electronic one. That process has, unfortunately, taken more time than we have expected for a number of reasons but is near completion. We expect to provide a data update to TIRF in January 2020.”*

- In July 2020, the BC Coroners Service completed a Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) and sends data to TIRF on a continuing basis.

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**2021 ESTIMATES NOTE****Information Release  
Policy and Privacy****Suggested Response:**

- As per the requirements of the *Coroners Act* and provincial privacy legislation, the BC Coroners Service does not confirm or release identity or other personal information about the deceased (including age and gender) while the coroner's investigation is ongoing, unless disclosure of the information is necessary for purposes of the coroner's investigation.
- Once an investigation is concluded and a Coroner's Report is completed the chief coroner has discretion to disclose personal information and must balance the public interest in the disclosure with the personal privacy of the deceased.

**Background:**

- Over the past five years (since 2017), some members of the public, external agencies and media have raised concerns about their inability to obtain the name of the deceased from the BC Coroners Service (BCCS).
- In contrast, families often request that no information of the circumstances of the death of their loved one be shared publicly.
- The past practice (prior to-2017) of the BCCS was to issue a media release containing the name of the deceased following a death that attracted public interest.
- Upon the receipt of legal advice, the BCCS ceased that practice early in 2017 and began only releasing the name in rare cases – per discretion of the chief coroner once an investigation is concluded or during an open investigation with the permission of the next of kin and/or nearest relative. The advice identified limited circumstances under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act where names could be released:
  - Compelling circumstances that affect health and safety;
  - Circumstances where mandatory disclosure is clearly required in the public interest;
  - Where disclosure is consistent with the purpose for which the information was collected; and,
  - If required to contact next of kin or friends of the deceased.
- The *Coroners Act* prohibits any disclosure of information obtained in the course of an investigation, unless disclosure of the information or record is "necessary or incidental to

the carrying out of an investigation” or is allowed under other sections of the *Coroners Act* or other legislation.

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**2021 ESTIMATES NOTE****Post-Mortem Diagnostic Services and Timeliness****Suggested Response:**

- Prior to February 2019, access to post-mortem diagnostic services (PMDS) had historically been supplied to the BC Coroners Service on an ad hoc basis by health authority pathologists across the province.
- Over the past several years, access to timely, culturally safe and geographically accessible pathology services had been reduced due to decreasing numbers of qualified pathologists able and willing to undertake forensic autopsy assignments.
- Budget 2021 provides funding in the amounts of \$0.421M/\$0.474M/\$0.518M beginning in fiscal year 2021/22 to provide for internally contracted PMDS sites in both Victoria and Vernon. These sites are in addition to the high-volume autopsy suite in Abbotsford, which was funded in budget 2020.
- As at the fiscal year ending March 31, 2021, 79% of all post-mortems were performed internal to the Coroners Service PMDS network and 21% from external pathologists on a Fee-For-Service basis.
- The BC Coroners Service has worked with the other health authorities to expand access to post-mortem diagnostic services closer to the communities where it is needed. Quality post-mortem diagnostic services are now available on Vancouver Island and the Interior with the addition of skilled, experienced forensic pathologists in Victoria and Vernon. Weekly scheduled rotational service at Prince George is now in place to support needs in the northern part of the province.

**Background:**

- To improve access to timely and high quality post-mortem diagnostic services, the BC Coroners Service was approved for funding through access to contingencies in November 2018 in order to establish a new post-mortem diagnostic services suite at the Abbotsford Regional Hospital. The suite opened in February 2019 and is operating in collaboration with the Fraser Health Authority.
- Since the opening of the PMDS site at Abbotsford Regional Hospital, the average wait time to have an autopsy performed has decreased from close to two weeks to three days. The median time to receive the autopsy report is now 44 days, as compared to close to six months in the past.

- The Vernon PMDS site began operations in October of 2019. The Victoria site began operations in April of 2020. Rotational service in Prince George (an internally contracted pathologist travelling to this location weekly for 1-2 days) began in March 2020, but this service had to be suspended due to the pandemic. It has resumed in April 2021.
- As a part of the operationalising of the provincial PMDS network, the BC Coroners Service created an evaluation framework which is both qualitative and quantitative in nature.

Advice/Recommendations

- From a qualitative point of view, the BC Coroners Service has received feedback from stakeholders (e.g. police services, the Independent Investigations Office and Crown Prosecution Services) noting a significant and dramatic improvement in the accessibility, timeliness and quality of the autopsy services they receive. Families have also expressed appreciation for the improved timeliness.
- To support the suite at Abbotsford Regional Hospital, a maximum of \$335,000 was made available in the 2018/19 fiscal year and \$1.2 million for the 2019/20 fiscal year, as well as access to more than to \$570,000 in capital contingencies to support the post-mortem diagnostic services.

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**2021 ESTIMATES NOTE****Community Coroner  
Compensation****Suggested Response:**

- In order to ensure timely attendance to scenes of unexpected deaths across the province, the BC Coroners Service employs part-time coroners in a number of communities.
- These part-time coroners (also known as community coroners), are appointed by the chief coroner under Section 55 (s. 55) of the *Coroners Act* and are available 24/7. Depending on volume of calls, s. 55 coroners can be on call for an 8 hour period, for two to five days at a time; or for weeks or months, where call demand is minimal.
- In June 2016, the B.C. Government increased the compensation for s. 55 coroners to \$32.32/hour from \$25/hour. At the time, this was an increase that was equal to 70% of the maximum salary of a full-time coroner.

**Background:**

- Community coroners play a key role in the death investigation system in B.C. The information they gather at death scenes across the province is critical to the Coroners Service mandate. They also play a valuable role representing community interests.
- The BC Coroners Service currently employs 54 s. 55 coroners (aka community coroners) across the province to attend death scenes and perform other roles.
- Section 55 coroners are not Public Service Act employees but are employed on an “as and when needed” basis. They receive an hourly wage of \$32.32 without benefits, and with terms of employment governed by the *Employment Standards Act*. There is no stand-by remuneration.
- In 2019, in response to concerns from s. 55 coroners, the chief coroner established a Community Coroner Compensation Committee to develop a proposal for compensation for the periods of time a s. 55 coroner is available to be called but is not working.
- In April 2020, the BC Government Employees Union applied to remove the BC Public Service *Labour Relations Act* prohibition against s. 55 coroners belonging to one of the public service bargaining units and have the s. 55 coroners become part of the BCGEU but this was ultimately withdrawn.
- The chief coroner intends to continue to collaborate with the community coroners to develop a proposal for government approval for “on call” compensation.

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**2021 ESTIMATES NOTE****Conveyance of the  
Deceased****Suggested Response:**

- Coroners in B.C. may take possession of a decedent if the coroner deems it necessary for purposes of the coroner's investigation. The deceased is then transported at the coroner's direction by a contracted conveyance company. Transfer of all decedents is not a Coroners Service responsibility.
- Generally, when the coroner takes possession of a decedent, the Coroners Service will utilize a local hospital for temporary, respectful storage until final arrangements are made by the family. Where a hospital morgue is unavailable, contracts are in place with funeral homes on an if-and-when required basis to ensure the respectful storage of a decedent.
- In 2019, a practice advisory reminded coroners that they should not take possession of decedents when the death did not meet the reporting requirements of the *Coroners Act*, as they have no legal authority to do so. Exceptions could be made if the deceased was in a public place or if in a private residence but no family member was available to take responsibility for their loved one.
- Unrelated to the above, but of local attention in the community, in December 2020, a decedent conveyance contract servicing the areas from Prince Rupert/Burns Lake ended, premature of the expected term. We are grateful to BC Ambulance Services for providing interim service for these areas until an open competitive procurement process identified a new service provider in February 2021.

**Background:**

- The BC Coroners Service employs contractors to assist with the respectful transportation of the deceased. Under Section 11 of the *Coroners Act*, coroners have the authority to take possession of the body when necessary for purposes of the investigation.
- Previously, in some cases (e.g. to support a grieving family at a difficult death scene), coroners would occasionally authorize transportation of a decedent even when the death did not meet the reporting requirements of the *Coroners Act* and was not necessary for the purposes of the investigation.
- The BC Coroners Service will continue to take possession of the body when necessary for the coroner's investigation, when the death occurs in a public place, or where no family member is present.

Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications; Government Financial Information

- When a coroner takes possession of the body and authorizes a contractor to convey a decedent from the scene, the coroner assumes responsibility and must ensure the body remains in safe custody (per Section 11(3) of the *Coroners Act*).

Contact: Lisa Lapointe (BCCS)	Phone: 778 974-5110	Mobile: Government Financial Information
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**2021 ESTIMATES NOTE****Illicit Drug Crisis:  
BC Coroners Service  
Response****Suggested Response:**

- The BC Coroners Service provides monthly statistical updates on illicit drug toxicity deaths in the province. B.C. is the only jurisdiction in Canada to provide these timely detailed updates.
- The BC Coroners Service collaborates with a number of stakeholders and working groups, provincially and nationally, to share information and data to inform death prevention efforts across B.C. and across Canada, including the BC Centre for Disease Control and the Public Health Agency of Canada.
- The BC Coroners Service is a partner on the BC Drug Overdose and Alert Partnership and provides other stakeholders in the group, including law enforcement, public health and the BC Centre for Disease Control, with mortality data and trends as soon as possible in support of evidence-based programs to reduce deaths.
- Through the BC Coroners Service, the ministry supports the partnership with timely, accurate data to inform new strategies to try to reduce the number of drug toxicity deaths and will co-operate with other ministries in implementing these recommendations.
- In response to the public health emergency declared in 2016, the BC Coroners Service established a specialized Drug-Death Investigation Team which, along with the service's research unit, is working hard to identify patterns and trends to help determine who may be most at risk and where meaningful efforts and interventions can be made to prevent future deaths.

**Background:**

- Deaths due to illicit drug overdoses have increased steadily over the past 10 years, with significant increases in 2016, 2017 and 2018 and, after a decrease in 2019, a record 1,718 in 2020. Illicit fentanyl continues to be detected in more than four in every five deaths.
- There have been no deaths at supervised consumption or drug overdose prevention sites.
- The budget update provided by the B.C. Government in September 2017 included a significant funding boost for the illicit drug toxicity crisis including funds directed towards the B.C. Coroners Service.

- More than \$7 million was allocated over three years to the BC Coroners Service to enhance investigations into illicit drug overdose deaths and support the agency's response to increasing numbers of illicit drug toxicity deaths including: coroner scene attendance, conveyance of deceased, necessary post mortem testing, comprehensive investigation by the Drug Death Investigation Team, and continued collection, surveillance, analysis and reporting of information critical for evidence-based public policy and strategies.
- The increased funding boost started with \$1.5 million for the 2017-18 fiscal year and continued with \$2.778 million next two fiscal years.

ILLCIT DRUG OVERDOSE BUDGET LIFT BREAKDOWN (\$ Million)	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
<b>Budget 2017</b> – BC Coroners Service Lift (fentanyl portion only)	0.546	0.532	0.535
<b>Budget 2017 Update</b> - Coroner case volume increases related to fentanyl/illicit drug overdose deaths	1.500	2.778	2.778
<b>Budget 2018</b> - Action Plan for Overdose Prevention (to support the Drug Death Investigation Team)		0.450	0.450
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.046</b>	<b>3.760</b>	<b>3.763</b>

- These dollar amounts continue to be a part of the BC Coroners Service base-budgets and are expected to carry forward into the future indefinitely.

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**2021 ESTIMATES NOTE****BC Coroners Service Delivery  
Model Transition****Suggested Response:**

- The BC Coroners Service is continuing its transition to a functional service delivery model. The mandate and responsibilities of the organization will not change.
- The previous geography-based service delivery model was established long before the arrival of modern telecommunication and digital communication tools.
- A functional model will allow the Coroners Service to be more responsive to public expectations, assist with increasing caseloads, and will reduce many of the inefficiencies and inconsistencies of the historic model.
- The Coroners Service is utilizing a phased approach to support its employees in the transition and to minimize disruption to the services it provides to the people of B.C. Full implementation is anticipated to be completed in approximately one year.
- The transition to a functional model fits within the Coroners Service's existing budget and supports excellent public service to the people we serve.

**Background:**

- Historically, coroners across the province investigated each death reported to them in a geographical area regardless of their experience or expertise.
- A functional model is based on type of investigation, which allows dedicated investigating coroners assigned as subject matter experts and can lead to improved investigations, enhanced subject-matter expertise, improved recommendations and better relationships with stakeholders.

Advice/Recommendations

- Section 55 coroners will also continue to be assigned to the operational support team as needed and to preside over and assist at inquests where their expertise permits.

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**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General**  
BC Coroners Service Statistics Estimates Report\* to March 31, 2021

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<b>Total deaths reported<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>8,508</b>	<b>9,835</b>	<b>11,024</b>	<b>11,108</b>	<b>10,341</b>	<b>12,209</b>	<b>3,227</b>
• Non-reportable <sup>2</sup> (Section 15)	4,377	4,831	5,291	5,196	5,676	6,535	1,694
• Coroners' investigations (Section 16)	4,131	4,944	5,733	5,912	4,665	5,674	1,533
<b>Total deaths by type<sup>3</sup></b>							
• Suicides <sup>4</sup> (Section 16)	615	604	573	579	650	610	134
<i>Suicide rate per 100,000 population 10+ age</i>	14.2	13.8	12.9	12.8	14.1	13.1	--
• Homicides	113	105	126	97	94	101	35
• MAiD	--	194	677	773	2	1	--
• Child deaths	281	294	298	327	284	278	57
• Illicit drug overdose deaths (A+U)	529	991	1493	1550	984	1718	480
• Accidental traffic-related motor vehicle deaths	306	320	298	318	290	247	54
<i>% of deaths with alcohol involved<sup>6</sup></i>	30%	23%	25%	23%	23%	Note 5	Note 5
<i>% of deaths with drugs involved<sup>7</sup></i>	9%	8%	9%	8%	8%	Note 5	Note 5
<b>Section 16 cases with post-mortem examinations<sup>1</sup></b>							
• Autopsies <sup>8</sup>	1,121	1,229	1,238	1,505	1,492	1,893	493
<i>Autopsies as % of Section 16 cases<sup>9</sup></i>	27%	26%	25%	29%	32%	33%	32%
• Toxicology	1,627	2,240	2,607	3,006	2,532	3,329	885
<i>Toxicology as % of Section 16 cases<sup>9</sup></i>	39%	47%	52%	59%	54%	59%	58%
• Total cases with post-mortem examinations	1,872	2,421	2,849	3,209	2,727	3,629	987
<i>Total examinations as % of Section 16 cases<sup>9</sup></i>	45%	51%	56%	62%	58%	64%	64%
<b>Inquests</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
• Police-related	4	5	5	7	4	1	2
• Deaths in correctional facilities	3	1	0	2	3		
• Other	3	1	1	3	1	1	
<b>Total number of staff<sup>10</sup></b>	<b>123</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>124</b>

**NOTES:**

\* The BCCS works in a real-time database. As such, data is subject to change. Data is up to March 31, 2021.

1. Case counts in this section are based on Coroner Notification Year.

2. Includes deaths certified by a physician and non-human remains.

3. Case counts in this section are based on year of death.

4. BCCS suicide policy changed September 2014 to remove the Beckon Test and apply the balance of probabilities to the standard of proof.

5. Alcohol/drug contribution to motor vehicle related deaths is not available until investigations are concluded.

6. Alcohol involved includes alcohol or alcohol and drugs. Percent is of closed cases.

7. Drugs involved includes drug and not alcohol. Percent is of closed cases.

8. Includes external, simple and complex autopsy examinations.

**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General**  
BC Coroners Service Statistics Estimates Report\* to March 31, 2021

9. Excludes MAiD cases.

10. All public service staff including out of service part-time coroners.

**Revised: May 10, 2021**

**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General  
Estimates 2021/22 Briefing Book**

**RoadSafetyBC  
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2. eTicketing
3. Driver Medical Fitness COVID-19 Response / Wait Times
4. Motor Assisted Cycles
5. Impound Lot Operator Program Review
6. Distracted Driving

**2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE****Intersection Safety  
Cameras****Suggested Response:**

- Intersection safety cameras (ISC) have a proven record of reducing red-light runners and the serious crashes they cause.
- Experience in other jurisdictions strongly suggests B.C.'s approach to automated speed enforcement – in fixed locations, at high-risk intersections and with prominent warning signs – will bring further road safety gains.
- It is all about changing behaviour, saving lives and preventing serious injuries. Polling indicates public support for what we're doing.

**Speed Activation**

- Speed monitoring at ISC locations told us that each year tens of thousands of vehicles go through known, dangerous intersections at more than 30 km/h over the posted limit and that cannot continue.
- That's why we have installed technology at 35 ISC locations to ticket the fastest vehicles going through these intersections – whether the light is red, yellow or green.
- We've also developed new online content to help people understand why and how the program operates, as well as providing payment and dispute information and a link to PayBC.
- In addition to new, prominent warning signs ahead of each of these intersections, we're providing people with an online map showing where the cameras are, which ones are enforcing red light and speed, and operational program data.

**UBCM Request for Photo Radar**

- We are not considering bringing back random photo radar or enabling local governments to do so.
- We believe that strategic speed enforcement delivered at the discretion of local police also continues to be highly effective in improving road safety.

**ICBC Impacts**

- ICBC's basic insurance customers are not paying for these ISC changes but, as driver behaviour changes, we expect these road safety interventions will have a positive effect on lowering crashes and, in turn, ICBC's claims costs.

**Background:**

- In response to ICBC's current fiscal situation, on September 5, 2017 the Province initiated the Rate Affordability Action Plan. Through this process, the ministry fulfilled its commitment of 100% activation of the ISC Red Light Camera program as well as moving to utilize some of the ISC sites for speed enforcement with the overall goal of reducing crashes and related ICBC claims costs.
- To support 100% Red Light Camera activation, <sup>Government Financial Information</sup> contingency funding was approved in 2018/19 to support the incremental operating costs of the ISC program expansion and an additional <sup>Government Financial Information</sup> in 2017/18 and 2018/19 for capital related costs. Total ministry ISC 100% activation expansion to 24/7 cost was <sup>Government Financial Information</sup>
- Until March 2020, ICBC funded the ISC annual program's 25% activation costs of <sup>Government Financial Information</sup> which included the ministry's portion of <sup>Government Financial Information</sup> under the ICBC – PSSG Traffic and Road Safety Law Enforcement Funding Memorandum of Understanding. In 2020/21 this was funded via contingencies.
- Red-Light Revenue Summary:
  - 2018: A total of 82,287 ISC red light violation tickets were mailed in 2018, resulting in a 150% increase over 2017, and generating gross revenue of approximately \$8.8 million.
  - 2019: A total of 83,358 ISC red light violation tickets were mailed in 2019 generating gross revenue of approximately \$10.6 million.
  - 2020: A total of 64,379 red light were mailed in 2020 generating gross revenue of \$8.73 million. The decrease of red-light tickets is attributed to the changes in traffic activity across the province due to impact of COVID-19 restrictions.
- In 2018, an additional <sup>Government Financial Information</sup> was initially approved from 2018/19 contingencies to fund the costs of implementing ISC speed activation at 35 selected intersections.
- For 2019/20, <sup>Government Financial Information</sup> was provided and for 2020/21, <sup>Government Financial Information</sup> was provided to RoadSafetyBC through access to contingency for intersection safety cameras.
- Automated speed enforcement was implemented in a phased approach starting in July 2019 and completed with all 35 selected intersections as of March 31, 2020; one intersection in Nanaimo was activated in September 2020 at the request of the Ministry of Transportation due to a local speed limit change, providing a public grace period for drivers to get familiar with the new lower speed limit. The total cost of speed enforcement implementation was <sup>Government Financial Information</sup>

- Speed Activation Revenue Summary:
  - In 2019, during the first five months of phased speed activation, a total of 9,721 speed violation tickets were mailed that generated gross revenue of \$0.75 million.
  - In 2020, 72,546 speed violation tickets were mailed that generated gross revenue of \$8.969 million.
- Payment of all ISC VTs on PayBC was initiated in October 2019, and there has been a steady increase of payments made on PayBC with 63% of all ISC VTs paid online in 2020.
- For 2021/22 funding for the ISC program's red-light and speed operations will be provided by the Province for a total of Government Financial Information which includes transfers to ICBC of Government Financial Information
- As a result of consultations held between the Province and the Union of BC Municipalities (UMBC) in 2018 the Traffic Fine Revenue Sharing Program's new eligible costs will include all ISC operations and some historical processing costs incurred by ICBC for collecting and processing violation tickets. In addition, costs related to eTicketing post implementation will be eligible costs. These new costs will be deducted from TFR shared with local governments commencing 2021/22.

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**2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE****eTicketing****Suggested Response:**

- RoadSafetyBC is continuing provincial rollout of eTicketing, based on a successful pilot project in 2018.
- eTicketing will replace most paper traffic tickets and will:
  - automate processes to reduce red tape and cancellations due to human error;
  - allow officers to respond to traffic offences more efficiently; and
  - provide us with more accurate and timely data that will help to improve road safety programs and policies.
- The contents, penalties and validity of eTickets are the same as if someone received a paper ticket.
- People who receive eTickets can pay them online and more easily take advantage of early payment discounts.
- Our rollout approach prioritizes those agencies who issue a high volume of tickets, including independent municipal police traffic officers, RCMP Provincial Traffic Units and Integrated Road Safety Units.
- As of March 2021, 32 sites have been onboarded across the province and over 230,000 eTickets have been issued.

**Background:**

- eTicketing was piloted with five B.C. police agencies beginning March 2018.
- The Delta Police Department was the first to use the new equipment, beginning March 5, 2018. The Vancouver Police Department, Prince George and North District RCMP, and the Capital Regional District Integrated Road Safety Unit followed in subsequent months.
- All 12 independent municipal agencies, the Stl'atl'imx (Stat-lee-um) Tribal Police Service, and 19 of 130 RCMP detachments and Integrated Road Safety Units have implemented eTicketing to varying degrees.

- eTickets are paid, disputed and otherwise processed like their paper counterparts. Notably, eTicket recipients may pay through the PayBC online service (<https://pay.gov.bc.ca>), in-person at ServiceBC and ICBC locations, by phone or by mail.
- ~~Government Financial~~ in eTicketing fines have been collected via the PayBC online service; online payments are made quickly with 25% of payments being made within 24 hours of issuance.
- ~~Government Financial Information~~
- The eTicketing Integrated Project Agreement (IPA) covers the data exchange between partners, including municipal police departments, designated policing units, the provincial police force (RCMP), ICBC and the Province. The IPA was signed by police agencies participating in eTicketing, ICBC, and the Province to allow data exchange; Under the Police Act Section 68.1, police retain the ownership of the data.
- As RoadSafetyBC has expanded to include other products, including business intelligence data dashboards, and digitization of other road safety forms, it is timely to update the existing agreements to incorporate these new initiatives, as well as any future RoadSafetyBC and police agency projects that require data transfer.

#### Operational Components

- eTicketing is supported by an integrated technology system built by RoadSafetyBC, in collaboration with PRIMECorp and ICBC, so relevant eTicketing information can be distributed rapidly to each partner, supporting more efficient and effective administration.
- The integrated technology was leveraged to share relevant eTicket and paper violation ticket information between ICBC and Courts Services Branch to make it easier to schedule disputes.
- eTicketing data flows to user-friendly dashboards almost immediately, to inform RSBC program performance and decisions.
- RoadSafetyBC is beginning to share user-friendly dashboards with police to improve data sharing while maintaining security and privacy standards for citizen and police agency data.
- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, police training/eTicketing rollout had been temporarily impacted; however, as part of our recovery efforts, vehicle installations are moving forward, which is the first step for detachments in their preparation for launch. In addition, virtual training practices are being piloted to ensure eTicketing can continue rolling out should travel restrictions continue.

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**2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE****Driver Medical Fitness  
COVID Response/Wait  
Times****Suggested Response:**

- At the onset of the pandemic, to respond to impacts and pressures on the medical community, RoadSafetyBC paused all medical assessment requirements.
- Recognizing ongoing pressures on the medical community as the COVID-19 pandemic continues, RoadSafetyBC temporarily stopped issuing routine age-based Driver Medical Examination Reports (DMERs) for people over 80 on Dec. 16, 2020.
- We want to support the ability of medical practitioners to respond to priority medical cases affecting seniors and others at this difficult time.
- RoadSafetyBC is monitoring the pandemic's pressures on the medical system, in consultation with Doctors of BC, and will resume issuing age-based examination reports when it's appropriate.
- RoadSafetyBC is also providing extended timeframes for all drivers that have these requirements from 45 days to 120 days along with additional extensions when required and where possible.
- To ensure BC's roads continue to stay safe during the pandemic, RoadSafetyBC still requires that some Driver Medical Examination Reports be completed. These include:
  - Age-based DMERs issued *before* December 16, 2020;
  - DMERs related to high-risk drivers in BC, regardless of age; and
  - DMERs for commercial drivers.

**Wait Times:**

- RoadSafetyBC regularly deals with a large volume of files, reviewing over 200,000 medical assessments per year.
- At the onset of the pandemic, to respond to impacts and pressures on the medical community, RoadSafetyBC paused all medical assessment requirements. However, to ensure BC's roads continue to stay safe during the pandemic, RoadSafetyBC now requires that certain Driver Medical Examination Reports still be completed, resulting in a higher than normal volume of reports to process.

- RoadSafetyBC has undertaken several measures to assist with the higher than usual volumes including hiring additional staff, reallocation of staff resources, staff overtime, more efficient processes to communicate with clients and to process files.
- In addition, RoadSafetyBC is currently engaged in a transformation project that will digitize and transform driver medical fitness processes to increase the efficiency of the program and ensure increasing volumes can be managed while meeting service demands.

**Background:**

- RoadSafetyBC ceased issuance for Driver Medical Examination Reports (DMERs) on March 27, 2020 and contacted drivers who had already been issued a DMER to advise them that their requirement was on hold.
- On August 8, 2020, after consultation with the medical community, RoadSafetyBC gradually resumed DMERs and notified drivers of their requirements.
- To respond to impacts on a vulnerable senior population and the medical community during the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, RoadSafetyBC has paused issuing any further DMERs to drivers age 80 and greater who would normally receive a routinely scheduled medical. This change took effect on December 16, 2020.
- RoadSafetyBC will continue to inform doctors, nurse practitioners, law enforcement, and seniors' advocacy groups about changes to the program.

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## 2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE

## Motor Assisted Cycles

## Suggested Response:

- New and emerging technology has increased the diversity of the modes of personal transportation that people are using to get around on B.C. roads.
- As a result of a recent court decision (*R v. Ghadban*), courts have deemed the Motorino XMr to be outside the definition of a Motor Assisted Cycle MAC and therefore illegal to operate on public roads and highways in B.C.
- We are currently examining the regulatory and policy implications of recent judicial rulings on products considered by the courts to be illegal to operate on public highways.
- People who use these devices on public roadways or sidewalks risk penalties under the Motor Vehicle Act.
- We acknowledge that the technological and legal landscape around these modes of transportation is evolving and government continuously monitors developments to inform next steps, preserve the integrity of legislation, and help keep everyone on the road – including ebike users – safe.

Insurance for motor assisted vehicles that fall outside the definition of a MAC

- ICBC can only sell insurance for vehicles, including motorcycles and limited speed motorcycles, that meet provincial and federal classifications and associated standards.

## Background:

- The Ministries of TRAN and PSSG are working together to ensure the provincial government's legislative, regulatory and policy frameworks, including the Motor Vehicle Act (MVA), acknowledge all road users while maintaining overall safety.
- In British Columbia, low-powered vehicles such as ebikes, mopeds, and scooters have different operating rules and requirements under the MVA and the *Motor Assisted Cycle Regulation*.
- A motor-assisted cycle (MAC), or ebike, is a two- or three-wheeled cycle with a seat, pedals, and an electric motor(s) up to 500 watts. MAC's are limited to a maximum speed of 32 km/h and do not require the operator to have a driver's licence or insurance.
- Government established a three-year e-mobility pilot project to enable use of electric kick scooters on roads in six pilot communities. The pilot provides an opportunity to assess safety and how a new, emerging clean mode of personal transportation such as the electric

kick scooter supports expanded active transportation networks to meet our CleanBC goal of doubling trips taken by walking, biking and other kinds of active networks by the year 2030.

- As the Province embarks on the process of reviewing the current legislative, regulatory, and policy framework governing MACs and other active motorized transportation options, we will look to engage stakeholders in that discussion.

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**2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE****Impound Lot Operator  
Program Review****Suggested Response:**

- It has been more than a decade since B.C. introduced mandatory vehicle impoundment for alcohol-affected driving, excessive speeding and other high-risk driving behaviours.
- Impound lot operators (ILOs) are vital partners in keeping risky drivers off the road and the ministry has engaged the Office of the Comptroller General (OCG) to undertake a proactive review of the program which will help us ensure ILO services remain available throughout B.C. to help support road safety.
- The OCG report provided welcome direction on strengthening governance, engagement, and communication with stakeholders; our contracted relationships with ILOs; monitoring their performance; and other areas, including the scope of the program in more remote locations.
- RoadSafetyBC has assessed the recommendations and has created a dedicated project team to implement strategies to address the recommendations

**Background:**

- RoadSafetyBC proactively requested a review from the OCG on strengthening the governance and contract management practices of the ILO program and maximizing the availability and retention of ILOs throughout B.C.
- The Internal Audit & Advisory Services (IAAS) of the OCG posted the completed report with six recommendations on their website on January 29, 2021 and it outlines opportunities to mitigate these challenges – particularly in remote and rural areas – through stronger program governance and contract management.
- In response to the IAAS report recommendations, RoadSafetyBC has developed an action plan to implement the recommendations. The action plan was submitted to IAAS on April 21, 2021. As part of the project, RoadSafetyBC will develop a stakeholder engagement strategy to ensure that feedback from industry stakeholders across the province inform program improvements.
- An evaluation of the fee structure and vehicle abandonment was not within the scope of the IAAS review as the priority was the assessment of the governance and contract management practices of the overall program.

- Industry representatives have expressed concerns regarding the fee structure, and RoadSafetyBC will consider these issues in the project work and ongoing program design.
- As the report notes, in the decade since the introduction of Immediate Roadside Prohibitions effective September 20, 2010, vehicle impoundments by law enforcement officers for alcohol and non-alcohol related driving offences have more than doubled, increasing government's reliance on ILOs.
- The six recommendations are:
  - RSBC executive should set the strategic direction and review Program effectiveness annually.
  - RSBC should appoint a management role accountable for the overall Program, including implementing Program improvements and maintaining procedures and internal controls.
  - RSBC should ensure there is proactive and regular engagement with key Program stakeholders and create open and efficient lines of communication.
  - RSBC should strengthen the Program's selection practices ensuring better alignment with the Core Policy and Procedures Manual (CPPM) and formalize contract management relationships with third parties.
  - RSBC should conduct risk-based monitoring activities to strengthen adherence to performance standards and identify and implement training opportunities for ILOs.
  - RSBC should examine the overall Program model, including alternative impoundments, to ensure legislative requirements can consistently be met across British Columbia.

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**2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE****Distracted Driving****Suggested Response:**

- Distracted driving and inattention are serious, high-risk behaviours and remains a factor in more than 25% of all fatal motor vehicle crashes in our province.
- That is why we took action two years ago to strengthen distracted driving penalties.
- Drivers with multiple distracted driving offences now face added and higher penalties, over and above their regular insurance premiums.
  - A driver with two distracted driving tickets in a three-year period could pay as much as \$2,000. This is \$740 more than under the previous penalty structure.
  - Drivers with more than two tickets in one year could receive a prohibition of up to 12 months.
  - New drivers have stricter rules for distracted driving. One distracted driving ticket could receive a prohibition between one to six months.

**Consideration of Tougher Penalties:**

- I am aware that many people are concerned that people are not changing their behaviour – but since 2017, we have significantly toughened the penalties for distracted driving, and we are monitoring their impact.

**Enforcement and Clarity of the Law**

- Regulations under the *Motor Vehicle Act* clearly states that “an electronic device must be installed so that it is securely fixed to the motor vehicle.”
- My advice to drivers is to follow the law by having their electronic device affixed to the vehicle and programmed for voice-activated or one-touch use.
- Under no circumstances can Graduated Driver Licensing Program drivers use an electronic device, even if the phone is properly mounted.
- Police officers make enforcement decisions case by case at their discretion, but certainly, people who feel they are innocent can fight a ticket if they wish.
- We continue to monitor court decisions related to distracted driving tickets to determine any impacts on the current legislation.

**Background:**

- Distraction/inattention is one of the top 3 contributing factors to fatal motor vehicle crashes.
- Distracted driving relates to drivers caught using a hand-held electronic device while behind the wheel. In other instances of distraction or inattention, police may issue violation tickets for those offences, such as driving without due care and attention.
- In B.C., distracted drivers face a ticket, 4 penalty points and a Driver Penalty Point Premium.
- Since distracted driving is now considered a high-risk driving offence, repeat offenders with two or more offences in a one-year period will have their driving record subject to an automatic review, which could result in a three- to 12-month driving prohibition.
- In B.C., penalty points remain on a person's driving record for five years and can result in further penalties, including driving prohibitions.
- From 2014 to 2019, 27,000 B.C. drivers were issued two or more distracted driving violations.
- Distracted driving and inattention are contributing factors in an average of 75 motor vehicle crashes each year, 2014-18.
- Talking while driving increases the crash risk by 3 or 4 times; Texting increases the crash risk by 23 times.
- In 2019 there were 39,000 distracted driving tickets issued, below the 5-yr. average of 42,000.
- Distracted driving violation disputes increased annually from 11,438 in 2016 to 15,056 in 2018 before decreasing to 12,693 in 2019.

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5. Cannabis Licensing Process and Statistics
6. Indigenous Nations and Cannabis Non-Medical Retail Licensing
7. COVID-19 Response – Liquor Industries
8. Liquor Licensing Timelines
9. Extension of Temporary Expansion of Service Area (TESA)
10. Rural Licensee Retail Stores
11. Liquor Business Technical Advisory Panel (BTAP) Recommendations Status

## **2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE**

## **LCRB Program Summary – Budget, Staff, Licensees**

### **Program Area Overview/Deliverables:**

- Issues licences for the production, sale, and consumption of liquor; and for retail sale of non-medical cannabis.
- Oversees and educates establishments about liquor and cannabis laws and rules.
- Takes appropriate action, including enforcement when licensees do not follow the *Liquor Control and Licensing Act*, *Cannabis Control and Licensing Act*, associated regulations or their specific terms and conditions.
- Regulates licensee and server training programs, including Serving It Right and Selling it Right: BC's Responsible Beverage and Non-Medical Cannabis Service Programs, and Special Event Server.
- Develops liquor and non-medical cannabis regulations and policy and provides advice to government concerning decisions related to liquor and non-medical cannabis policy.
- For the October 17, 2018 date of legalization, the LCRB began intake/processing of non-medical cannabis retail store licenses.
- *Budget 2018* provided LCRB with initial base funding for Cannabis and directed the ministry to develop a comprehensive, cross-government assessment of funding requirements for cannabis legalization in BC.
- For FY20/21 Cannabis expenditures for the LCRB were \$7.5m.
- For FY21/22 the LCRB is anticipating Cannabis expenditures of \$7.5m.

## Program Summary:

	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	Anticipated 2021/22	Anticipated Trends 2018/19 to 2021/22
<b>Budget</b>	\$1,000 <sup>(1)</sup>	\$1,000 <sup>(2)</sup>	\$1,000 <sup>(3)</sup>	\$1,000 <sup>(4)</sup>	Liquor to remain cost-recovery model to \$1,000
<b>FTEs Liquor</b>	120	120	120	120	No changes to Liquor Program FTE counts anticipated
<b>FTEs Cannabis</b>	38	42	77	77	

Note 1 – Annual recoveries \$11,748M per Blue Book

Note 2 – Annual Recoveries \$12,060M per Blue Book

Note 3 – Annual Recoveries \$12,334M per Blue Book

Note 4 – Annual Recoveries \$12,540M per Blue Book.

## Other Key Statistics/Facts:

- Related Legislation:
  - *Liquor Control and Licensing Act*
  - *Cannabis Control and Licensing Act*

## Licensing Statistics for Calendar Year 2020:

Licensees by licence class

As of April 19, 2021, there were **10,360** commercial licensees in BC:

- Restaurants (food primary): 5986
- Bars, theatres, nightclubs: 2092
- Caterers: 34
- UBrew and UVin: 142
- Private liquor stores: 673
- Wine stores: 58
- Liquor agents: 339
- Liquor manufacturers: 701\*
  - 375 wineries
  - 220 breweries
  - 98 distilleries
  - 8 distillery co-packers
- Non-medical cannabis retail stores: 335 licences approved (75+ approved in principle)

\*The Liquor Distribution Branch's manufacturer numbers occasionally differ when a newly licenced manufacturer still does not have an LDB sales agreement in place.

Liquor Licensing Transactions for 2020 calendar year:

- New applications received: 482
- New applications completed: 316
- Change applications received: 1892
- Change applications completed: 1887
- Temporary Extension of Service Area (TESA) applications – As of May 17, 2021: 1,835 approved. Of these 1,111 are for FPs and 724 for LP/LPC/MFG

Liquor Special Event Permits for 2020 calendar year:

- 6,004 (967 were subsequently cancelled) – Normally, approximately 28,000 special event permits (SEPs) are issued each calendar year.

Compliance and Enforcement Statistics (for calendar year 2020):

<b>2020 Liquor Inspections</b>	<b>Minors as Agents</b>	<b>Non-Minors as Agents</b>	<b>2020 Total</b>	<b>2019 Total (for comparison)</b>
Enforcement Inspections – Liquor	85	11,468	11,553	15,549
Contraventions Identified*	13	382	395	1,283
Contraventions Pursued	8	29	37	130
Notices of Enforcement Action (NOEA) Issued ( <u>a NOEA may include more than 1 contravention</u> )	8	25	33	111
PHO Inspections**			134	N/A

<b>2020 Cannabis Inspections</b>	<b>Minors as Agents</b>	<b>Non-Minors as Agents</b>	<b>2020 Total</b>	<b>2019 Total (for comparison)</b>
Enforcement Inspections – Cannabis	0	709	709	373
Contraventions Identified*	0	28	28	4
Contraventions Pursued	0	0	0	0
Notices of Enforcement Action (NOEA) Issued ( <u>a NOEA may include more than 1 contravention</u> )	0	0	0	0

\*C&E also identified 1,035 compliance deficiencies, not included here. Compliance deficiencies represent minor administrative issues, which are nonetheless documented. Licensees are given the opportunity to rectify compliance deficiencies without involving more formal C&E processes

\*\*Liquor and Cannabis Inspectors were granted authority for enforcement of PHO Orders in September 2020 (as per Emergency Programs Act). This was operationalized with Inspectors conducting compliance and enforcement activities at applicable licensed establishments in addition to their LCRB mandate. The primary focus of these inspection and enforcement activities were liquor licensed restaurants and bars so included with liquor enforcement statistics.

Enforcement of these orders is through issuance of violation tickets. LCRB Inspectors issued 3 Violation tickets of PHO Order in January 2021 which were for violations occurring on New Years Eve activities of Dec 31, 2020.

Results of the liquor enforcement actions issued in 2020:

- 33 Notice of Enforcement Action issued
- 5 enforcement hearings – LCRB was able to prove all cases
- 85% waivers (28 waivers), 15% hearings (5 hearings)
- 76 suspension days, \$71,000 in monetary penalties

**Impacts Due to COVID-19:**

- The PHO has required the closing of some consumption-based liquor licensees and impacted the capacity of many others for extended periods of time.
- Licensing
  - Due to several COVID-related recovery initiatives (including TESAs) licensing timelines for most new licences were negatively affected. The TESA surge has impacted licensing timelines across the board and has a lingering effect in that it created backlogs in other queues which are difficult to recover from.
  - Reduction in the number of new liquor license applications received (482 in 2020; 574 in 2019).
  - Currently nearly 2000 TESAs have been issued for temporary patio space.
  - In 2020 6,004 SEPs were issued (967 of which were subsequently cancelled). The program has also been suspended intermittently since March 2020, barring applicants from applying.
- Compliance & Enforcement
  - At the beginning of the pandemic: In April of 2020, LCRB's Compliance & Enforcement Division (C&E) was deployed, along with other provincial enforcement personnel from CSU and GPEB, to support the province's response to COVID 19 pandemic.
  - Cancellation of SEPs resulted in further reduction in inspection activity. Opportunity to refocus on SEP process as part of licensing modernization.
  - Inspectors have conducted hundreds of Inspections related to the PHO issued where voluntary compliance was achieved through education and warning.
- Finance
  - Licensing fees for applications, renewals and SEPs provide revenue to LCRB that is intended to recover LCRB's cost to regulate the industry. For FY 2020/21 LCRB had approximately \$859,000 less liquor revenue than previous fiscal due to a reduction in license applications and special event permits.

- Penalty fees generated by enforcement activities go to general revenue and not to LCRB directly.

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**2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE****Liquor Licence Fee Waiver****Suggested Response:**

- Our government is committed to continuing to help liquor licensees weather the storm of COVID-19 as we progress through the crisis.
- That's why we've worked tirelessly across government and with our industry partners, like the Business and Technical Advisory Panel (BTAP), to identify and implement priority actions that would have the greatest economic impact for industry.
- There are also a number of financial supports available to help individuals and businesses navigate the pandemic. Most recently, Government announced more funding for businesses through the Circuit Breaker Business Relief Grant, which can be used for payment of fees and other business expenses during this time.
- We have also allowed restaurants, bars and pubs to purchase beer, wine and spirits at the wholesale cost, and allowed them to apply for a temporary expanded service area at no cost to the licensee.
- The LCRB will continue to support industry through the COVID-19 pandemic and into long-term recovery.

**Background:**

- The PHO ordered hospitality businesses with no meal service to close from March 20 to May 19, 2020, while restricting those with meal service to take-out or delivery service only. After May 19, on-site service was resumed but various restrictions have been in place since.
- As of March 31, 2021, indoor service at liquor primary (LP), food primary (FP) and manufacturer on-site endorsements is prohibited, two metres distance must be maintained between parties, liquor service must stop at 10 p.m., and nightclubs may not operate.
- Many LPs and FPs are unable to operate in these conditions and have temporarily closed, while others have had to make significant financial investments to adapt their operations to remain viable.
- Liquor licensees are required to pay an annual licence renewal fee, regardless of whether they are open. There is no existing authority for the General Manager to waive these fees.
- Liquor licence annual renewal fees vary by licence class, including endorsements, and by volume of liquor purchased or sold, and generally range from \$200 to \$2500. Collection of

these fees form a substantial part of LCRB's operating budget.

- The LCRB deferred renewal fees until September 30, 2020 for those liquor licensees experiencing financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic and whose licence expired between March 31 and June 30, 2020.
- The Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch (GPEB) waived one anniversary fee for gaming facility operators and senior officials, and deferred the fee deadline for other active registered gaming workers and service providers.
- Cabinet Confidences

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**2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE****Cannabis Retail Delivery****Suggested Response:**

- The Province is committed to supporting the growth of a vibrant, legal cannabis industry, while keeping public safety a top priority.
- Cannabis Retail Store (CRS) licensees have expressed substantial interest in online sales and direct retail delivery of non-medical cannabis.
- In response to licensee feedback, in August 2020, the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch (LCRB) announced a policy directive and Cannabis Licensing Regulation (CLR) amendment allowing non-medical CRS licensees to sell their non-medical cannabis products through an online system, or by telephone for pickup in-store.
- Patrons are now able to pay online, by telephone or in-store and licensees must ensure their online system is operated in compliance with the applicable laws, rules and requirements that apply to the licensee, such as age verification requirements.
- The LCRB is also currently prioritizing work on further measures to support the legal, non-medical cannabis industry, especially during the pandemic, including direct delivery from Cannabis Retail Stores to retail customers.
- As part of the Province's goal to keep organized crime out of the non-medical cannabis industry, these changes improve the competitiveness of legal operators by opening new sales channels and drawing business from illegal online cannabis stores by offering increased convenience for consumers.

**Background:**

- A framework for direct to consumer delivery by Cannabis Retail Stores has been developed.
- The LCRB has engaged with stakeholders and hopes to implement the framework in late spring, early summer.

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## 2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE

Cannabis Worker  
Screening**Suggested Response:**

- Security screening and rescreening requirements were implemented as a measure to keep organized crime out of the legal, non-medical cannabis market.
- The cannabis security screening process was enhanced in July 2019, leading to a more streamlined process and greater efficiency for screening of workers and businesses.
- Government amended these requirements in July 2020 in response to assessment of risk, based on the first 2 years of the program and feedback received from the legal cannabis retail industry, seeking to ensure that the security screening process for cannabis workers is commensurate with the risk, and is timely and cost effective.
- Security verifications for cannabis workers in a non-medical cannabis retail store now expire every five years instead of every two years.
- To date, more than 6,700 public and private retail cannabis workers have been screened. The current wait for worker security verification is approximately three weeks (80% of workers are screened in less than one month).
- The Policing and Security Branch's Security Programs Division (SPD) is continuously looking for opportunities to gain efficiencies, including the recent implementation of a new electronic case management system, which removes the need for paper files and supports faster processing times.
- Government is continuing discussions to identify further efficiencies, to enhance the security screening and licensing processes while improving processing timelines and maintenance of public safety.

**Background:**

- Currently, all cannabis workers, including licensees, involved in the retail sale of non-medical cannabis must renew their security verification every five years.
- An OIC is in process to remove the requirement for worker security screening.

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**2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE****Cannabis Licensing  
Process and Statistics****Suggested Response:**

- In order to apply for a non-medical cannabis retail store licence, applicants must apply using the online portal. Applications cannot be assessed without fee payment and required supporting business and financial documentation.
- The application review process includes rigorous security screening and robust licensing requirements, necessary to ensure that provincial goals concerning public health and safety are met; such due diligence can be time-consuming in assessing applications thoroughly.
- Extensive changes have been implemented to improve the process based on feedback received from applicants, experience gained working with new systems and a better understanding of risks, now that we are 2 ½ years into cannabis legalization.
- All associates must consent to a robust security screening assessment. These assessments are essential in keeping organized crime out of the legal cannabis retail industry. The security screening process was streamlined in July 2019 and again in September 2020 with the transition to a single statutory decision maker, leading to greater efficiency screening businesses.
- Given process improvement efforts licence numbers have surged to 335 licences and 68 AIP's. Timelines for processing have reduced significantly and the majority of cannabis applicants are receiving their licences within 150 days except in a small number of more complex applications.
- A phased approach to disqualify prolific operators of unlicensed retail stores was instituted in February 2020. All applicants must now submit to an eligibility disclosure and confirm any involvement in an unlicensed cannabis retail store or retailer.
- Applications subject to a Community Safety Unit (CSU) enforcement action prior to March 1, 2020 continue to be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and considered on their own merits, as to whether the applicant is suitable for a licence. Those with CSU enforcement actions after March 1 are evaluated in the fit and proper assessment and this may result in a finding of not fit and proper under the authority of the General Manager as the statutory decision-maker.
- All applications are referred to the local government or Indigenous Nation in the jurisdiction where the store will be located, and a positive recommendation must be received before the Province will issue a licence.
- All licensees are inspected to ensure compliance with all relevant policies and regulations.

## STATISTICS:

- *Table 1: Cannabis Licence Status (as of April 16, 2021)*

Status	Explanation	Number
Paid Applications	Once applicants pay the \$7,500 fee, the application and documentation are reviewed for completeness.	549
Inactive Backlog	Applications not yet sent to Fit & Proper (F&P) either due to being incomplete or Local Government (LG) is not accepting. Applications at this stage can still be refunded.	39
Active Backlog	Applications in F&P, or completed F&P and waiting on LG, or completed LG and F&P and waiting on applicant to submit further documentation.	107
Applications Approved in Principle	Only licence conditions outstanding are inspection and payment of licensing fee.	68
Licences Issued	Licence fee paid.	335

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**2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE****Indigenous Nations and Cannabis Non-Medical Retail Licensing****Suggested Response:**

- As of April 27, 2021, one Section 119 Authorization has been issued to an entity wholly owned by Williams Lake First Nation.
- One licence has been issued to an Indigenous Nation in their own name and on an Indian Reserve under their jurisdiction.
  - Tseshaht First Nation doing business as Orange Bridge Cannabis
- Two licences have been issued to entities affiliated with Indigenous Nations and on land under their jurisdiction (Indian Reserves).
  - Songhees First Nation (recently opened)
  - Cowichan Tribes
- Three licences have been issued to entities affiliated with an Indigenous Nation off Indigenous Nation Land.
  - Cowichan Tribes: Costa Canna locations in Saanich, Colwood, and North Cowichan
- There are five active applications in progress to license entities affiliated with an Indigenous Nation both on and off land under Indigenous jurisdiction.
  - Intergovernmental Communications
  - 
  - 
  -
- There are three active applications and two licences issued to applicants who are indirectly affiliated with an Indigenous Nation. This category includes applicants who are members of an Indigenous Nation but not applying with the Nation's formal involvement.
- Many more Indigenous Nations have expressed interest in being involved in the cannabis market in both production and retail. They have requested a wide range of government actions to ensure they derive economic benefits from this emergent market.

- The Province has a joint Working Group on Cannabis with the First Nations Leadership Council, which serves as a key forum for identifying and engaging on Indigenous interests in cannabis.
- Feedback and perspectives shared help ensure there is consistent and meaningful representation of Indigenous interests as the Province reviews cannabis policies and laws.
- The Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch (LCRB) has reached out to those nations who have expressed interest in becoming retail licensees and assisted them in navigating the application process.
- Legislative provisions allow for government to enter into agreements with Indigenous Nations and potentially modify aspects of the current regulatory regime. Two Section 119 Agreements have been finalized, with Williams Lake First Nation and Cowichan Tribes; resulting in the issuance of an authorization to WLFN for the store on their reserve; and four licences for Cannabis Retail Stores to Cowichan (one on their reserve in Duncan, and three others off-reserve in the Cowichan Valley and Greater Victoria).

If asked about Jurisdiction on Indian Reserves

- Some Indigenous groups have asserted jurisdiction over retail licensing on Indian Reserves. The Community Safety Unit (PSSG) will be assessing these illegal market operators as they will other illegal operations in the province.

**STATISTICS:**

	<b>Applications In-Progress</b>	<b>Licences/Authorizations Issued</b>
<b>Section 119 Authorization</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Applied as an Indigenous Nation</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Indigenous-Affiliated Applicant (On or Off Indigenous Land)</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Applicant Indirectly Affiliated with an Indigenous Nation</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>

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**2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE****COVID-19 Response  
Liquor Industries****Suggested Response:**

- Our government is committed to continue to help liquor licensees to weather the storm of COVID-19 as we progress through the crisis.
- LCRB has worked closely with the liquor industry and responded to urgent requests from the Business Technical Advisory Panel (BTAP) to deliver effective and timely regulatory and policy changes to support licensees.
- Changes have been made to support restaurants, bars and pubs. Government has followed up on its commitment to make some of those changes permanent, including:
  - In February 2021, permanently allowing restaurants, bars and pubs to purchase beer, wine and spirits at the wholesale cost; and
  - In March 2021, authorizing liquor primary (LP) and food primary (FP) licensees to sell and deliver packaged liquor with the purchase of a meal for off-site consumption.
- Significant work has also begun toward our commitment on the making-permanent of service areas which have been temporarily expanded (e.g., patios).
- Government also followed up on its commitment to place a temporary cap on food delivery company fees, by creating a 15% cap on delivery fees and an additional cap of 5% for other related fees associated with use of the service (e.g., ordering and processing fees), to ensure that companies cannot shift their delivery costs to other fees. This will be in effect until three months after the provincial state of emergency is lifted. The order also ensures that delivery companies cannot reduce compensation to their drivers or retain gratuities.
- There are also a number of financial supports available to help individuals and businesses navigate the pandemic. Most recently, Government announced more funding for businesses through the Circuit Breaker Business Relief Grant, which can be used for payment of fees and other business expenses during this time.
- Numerous other temporary support measures have been implemented, including:
  - Allowing LP and FP licensees to package draft beer to sell for off-site consumption from April 7 to June 6, 2021.
  - Allowing LP, FP and manufacturer licensees to apply to expand their service areas until October 31, 2021.
  - Extending the hours of liquor retail sales to 7 a.m. - 11 p.m. to June 30, 2021

- Allowing manufacturers to deliver direct to retail customers from the off-site storage facilities until October 31, 2021.
- Authorizing distillery, brewery and winery licensees to use their establishments to manufacture and package, sell or donate alcohol-based sanitizer until June 30, 2021.

**Background:**

- Since March 20, 2020 orders of the Provincial Health Officer have imposed restrictions on the hospitality industry which have created challenging operating conditions.
- As of March 31, 2021, indoor service at LP, FP and Manufacturer on-site endorsements is prohibited, two metres distance must be maintained between parties, liquor service must stop at 10pm, and nightclubs may not operate.

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**2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE****Liquor Licensing Timelines****Suggested Response:**

- Licensing timelines are a priority for the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch (LCRB)
- The goal of LCRB is to treat all licensees and applicants fairly and provide the best service possible to licensees and the broader public.
- LCRB has been highly responsive to the impacts of COVID on the hospitality industry. With the launch of the temporary Extension of Service Area (TESA) authorizations, licensees have been able to continue to operate. This has been particularly important in the 'circuit breaker' closures of Spring 2021. Over 2000 TESA applications have been submitted; a five-day issuance target has been largely upheld over the last 12 months.
- However, COVID-19 and the priority need to support industry recovery items (i.e. TESAs) has negatively affected licensing timelines overall from previous years.
- The licensing division has initiated several projects to improve licensing timelines and ensure consistency, including:
  - Shifting staff to areas with the highest backlog;
  - Reviewing and revising, where possible, current procedures, to identify improvements for efficient processing, and to ensure they are aligned with a principle-based approach to service;
  - Prioritizing COVID-related applications (i.e. outdoor areas and TESAs); and
  - Streamlining operational policy and conducting ongoing training initiatives with a service delivery focus.
- This year, the LCRB implemented the IM/IT Liquor Modernization project, which shifted the manual and paper processes to an online portal, providing greater automation for both applicants and staff processing licence applications.
  - All liquor licensing types are now available on our online licensing portal.
  - Staff can directly access data uploaded by applicants to enable more seamless, accurate, and streamlined application assessment and licence issuance.
  - The online portal provides greater access for the public, more streamlined and therefore faster turnaround, and ultimately better service quality.
- Licensing timelines are not in the sole control of the Province; application timelines have attached dependencies, such as receiving complete applications, or requiring/awaiting local government (LG) approval or comment.

- LCRB has moved towards a greater degree of concurrent activity between the branch and LGs in the licensing process to reduce application timelines.
- Work with LGs is ongoing, to ensure applicants are being proactive in accessing local information and ensuring familiarity with all requirements, to assess the viability of their temporary patios as permanent permitted structures.

#### STATISTICS:

- Calculated as date application received by LCRB to date of licence issuance, from January 1 to December 31 of year specified.

*Table 1: Annual Average Number of Months to Acquire Licence by Type*

Application Types	2019	2020	Estimated Timeline for 2021**
New Food Primary	3.4	4.2	3.7
New Liquor Primary	10.4	14.76*	12.7
New Manufacturer	12*	14.2*	11.9
New UBrew/Uvin	4.43	None received	2-3
Structural Changes	6.8	7.1	7

*\*Operational impacts with initial lag in moving from a manual system to a new online system and shifting priorities due to COVID-19 (i.e. prioritizing Temporary Expansion of Service Areas) has contributed to an increase in timelines over previous years.*

*\*\*Estimated future timelines are expected to decrease with further staff training on the new online portal and dynamics system along with implementing additional procedural efficiencies.*

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**2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE****Extension of Temporary  
Expansion of Service Area  
(TESA)****Suggested Response:**

- The Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch (LCRB) launched the Temporary Expansion of Service Area (TESA) authorization in May 2020, to support licensees in meeting physical distancing guidelines related to COVID-19 while mitigating impact on patron capacity.
- TESA authorization requests are submitted online, using a simplified application process at no cost to the licensee. As a result, most authorization requests are approved within 5 business days.
- As of May 17, over 2000- TESA authorization requests have been approved by the LCRB or are currently in the queue.
- Some licensees will want to make these temporary approvals permanent to support their economic recovery. That is why my mandate letter commits to making patios and service areas created under TESA authorizations permanent.
- Permanent approvals are much more complicated, as they require greater consideration and due diligence by LCRB and, most importantly, local governments; in terms of the impacts on the surrounding community, and other important municipal requirements like: The use of public lands; upholding building codes, and; assessing parking and traffic considerations.
- I encourage licensees who are interested to both: Get their applications in to LCRB quickly, and; work closely with their local government to ensure their policies, procedures, and all requirements are fully understood. The viability of a permanent structure should be realistically assessed.
- LCRB is considering options to extend TESA authorizations only as far as it provides local authorities and LCRB staff with time to ensure licensees' permanent applications will be reviewed and processed with due diligence while minimizing disruption to licensees.

**Background:**

- This approach will ensure appropriate checks and balances in the application process and will maintain the important role of local authorities, within a modern and efficient licensing framework.

- LCRB will be using the established structural change application process, with service and process streamlining that leverages the success of the TESA program.

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**2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE****Rural Licensee Retail  
Stores****Suggested Response:**

- In January 2021, Government approved the transition of Rural Agency Stores (RAS) authorized by the Liquor Distribution Branch to a new Rural Licensee Retail Store (RLRS) liquor licence, regulated by the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch (LCRB).
- This was a recommendation of the Business Technical Advisory Panel (BTAP), consisting of representatives from both the liquor and the hospitality industries.
- RAS establishments were the only remaining private liquor retailers not yet regulated by the LCRB.
- Introduction of the RLRS liquor licence provides a more consistent regulatory and enforcement approach to liquor store retailing in B.C., ensuring all liquor retailers in the province operate under the same regulatory framework.
- All RAS operators met licence eligibility requirements and were automatically transferred to the new licence class on February 26, 2021. Overall, 225 RAS were converted to RLRS licences.
- Currently, LCRB Inspectors are conducting initial visits to these licensees to ensure compliance through an educational approach.

**Background:**

- The LCRB worked closely with Rural Agency Store Advisory Society on the development of the regulatory framework and terms and conditions of the licence class.
- Government had intended to convert RAS authorizations to licences for several years.

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**2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE****Liquor Business Technical  
Advisory Panel (BTAP)  
recommendations status****Suggested Response:**

- The work our government has done with the Business Technical Advisory Panel (BTAP) over the last few years has resulted in significant measures to both improve liquor policy in B.C., and to deliver timely and necessary support for businesses and workers in the liquor and hospitality industries during the pandemic.
- Through these measures, we have made significant investments in industry, including an estimated \$71 million in annual savings to the hospitality sector with the recent implementation of permanent wholesale pricing for hospitality.
- To date 11 BTAP recommendations are complete, 17 are in the analysis or implementation phase, six are not moving forward<sup>1</sup>.
- Recently, we received BTAP's latest priority list of recommendations, and I'm pleased to say we were able to confirm that government will be allocating resources to all of those priorities in order to review, analyze and, where possible, take action.
- We continue to value the ongoing input and expertise the panel provides to government and will continue to engage with them going forward.

**BTAP recommendations implemented in 20/21**

- In the last year alone, government has acted on many of BTAP's requests and recommendations to support the liquor and hospitality industry, including:
  - delivering on our platform commitments of making hospitality pricing permanent and permanently permitting the sale of packaged liquor with the sale of a meal;
  - enabling distilleries, wineries and breweries to use their establishments to produce and package hand sanitizer;
  - created and began issuing the new Rural Licensee Retail Store licences;
  - allowing for temporary extensions of service areas (patios);
  - temporarily permitting the delivery of liquor to retail customers from offsite storage facilities;

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<sup>1</sup> The total is greater than the original 24 from the report, as some recommendations were segmented and additional emergency recommendations were added subsequently.

- temporarily extending retail liquor store hours;
- temporarily allowing packaging of growlers with meals; and
- allowing Independent Wine Stores to convert to Licensee Retail Stores in their existing location.

**Background:**

- The April 2018 BTAP report contained 24 recommendations. Some recommendations were subsequently broken out into smaller components, and additional Emergency Recommendations (ER) were added during the pandemic, for a total of 34 recommendations.
- Regarding the report, government assesses each recommendation with consideration of the health, economic, trade and revenue implications any changes would have, both on industry and the province as a whole.
- Staff from the LDB, LCRB, Crown Agencies Secretariat and Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries engage with BTAP and participate in the quarterly meetings to ensure a whole-of government approach to liquor policy.
- As a result of COVID-19, analysis and implementation of some measures have been accelerated while others have been delayed.

**Current BTAP priorities**

- In February 2021, BTAP provided government with an updated list of its recommendations it wants to see prioritized.
- In April 2021, government responded, confirming its agreement to allocate resources to those recommendations in order to get to a result (decision, implementation, etc.).
- At that time, government also confirmed both additional BTAP recommendations and general liquor policy items it would be allocating resources to, and indicated to BTAP that all of this work would consume liquor policy resources for 18 months (approximately the end of 2022).
- These items are indicated with shading in the table below.

Financial impact

- Mark Hicken worked for the Ministry of Attorney General on contract from September 1, 2019 to November 1, 2019 to facilitate the first set of quarterly meetings, with the option to extend for a maximum of one year upon mutual agreement.
  - The maximum contract amount for Mark Hicken was \$20,000 at an hourly rate of \$300. A total of \$18,771 pre-tax was invoiced and paid.
  - No additional costs have been incurred related to the coordination of the BTAP panel itself since that time.
- A number of the policy measures implemented resulting from BTAP's work do have financial impacts for government more broadly, including an estimated \$71M annually resulting from the implementation of permanent wholesale pricing.

BTAP recommendation status<sup>2</sup>

Rec	Summary	Status	Lead
<b>COMPLETE</b>			
ER	Enable liquor sales with takeout	Implemented permanently on Mar. 12/21	LCRB
4	Make market data transparent	Enhanced reports developed and new data offerings rolled out Nov 2020	LDB
5	Restore the level of data sharing and reporting that existed prior to April 2015	Enhanced reports developed and new data offerings rolled out Nov 2020	LDB
8	Creation of an advisory board that provides non-binding advice on LDB operations and policy	Quarterly BTAP meetings established	LDB
9	Review and reassess the current mandate instructions for the LDB to provide greater benefits for consumers and industry.	LDB mandate letter amended to reflect direction.	LDB
10	Sell liquor products to hospitality customers at a proper wholesale price	Permanent wholesale hospitality pricing implemented starting Feb. 23, 2021.	LDB

<sup>2</sup> Shading indicates current BTAP and government liquor priorities over the next 18 months where policy resources have been allocated.

14	Expand LCRB education initiatives, particularly web- and social media-based initiatives	LCRB has established a senior level Social Responsibility Committee, updated Serving it Right training materials and has begun roll out of next iteration of Alcohol Sense materials.	LCRB
18c	Implement new reporting requirements for breweries to ensure that contract brewed amounts are included in annual reporting	Changes announced to industry March 2019	LDB
21	Convert rural agency store authorizations to a new form of rural licence tied to the community of operation.	New Rural Licensee Retail Store licence announced in January 2021. Licences have now begun to be issued, with only a few RAS operators (6) where additional information is outstanding	LCRB/LDB
22	Allow the 12 retail stores currently categorized as Independent Wine Stores to convert to LRS licences.	LCRB policy directive issued June 29/20.	LCRB
23	Review and re-evaluate policies related to trade event licensing and purchasing of sample products	LCRB policy directive issued Feb 25, 2019	LCRB
<b>IN PROGRESS</b>			
ER	Enable sales of pre-mixed beverages with takeout	Policy analysis underway. Decision expected in Spring 2021.	LCRB
ER	Options for permitting manufacturers to direct deliver to consumers from offsite storage locations	Originally implemented as temporary authorization Jul.20 – Oct 1, 2020. Reinstated as temporary authorization on Feb. 23-Dec. 31, 2021. <small>Advice/Recommendations</small>	LDB/LCRB
ER	Extension of service areas	Authorization created May 22,	LCRB

		2020 with expiry Oct. 31, 2020. These were later extended to expire Oct. 31, 2021	
ER	Fast-track structural change licensing applications	Advice/Recommendations	LCRB
1 & ER	An alternative distribution system should be established to specifically address the delays in distributing non-stocked products		LDB
2b & ER	Permit BDL to enter into 3 <sup>rd</sup> party distribution arrangements	Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information	LDB
3	Conduct an operational assessment of LDB's new distribution centre to benchmark current processes and IT systems against industry leading practices, and identify improvement opportunities	Deloitte completed an initial review in 2020 (redacted report released publicly). Advice/Recommendations	LDB
11a & ER	Allow hospitality licensees to buy from any licensed source in BC, including private retailers. Restricted to non-stocked wholesale product and single bottle picks.	Advice/Recommendations	LDB
11b	Allow LRS to sell products to special event permit holders	Government direction received and communicated confidentially to BTAP	LCRB

		members. SEPs will be authorized to purchase from LRS and Wine Stores. Expected to be announced publicly in summer 2021.	
12	Change the current minimum floor pricing to take into account the amount of alcohol contained in products and ensure these prices are adjusted for inflation.	BTAP has prioritized this recommendation in its most recent list. Advice/Recommendations	LCRB
16 & ER	Undertake an immediate and comprehensive omnibus review of policies and programs that support local products to create a more rational and equitable approach to defining what a local product is and for harmonizing support for those products.		LDB/LCRB/AFF
17	Continue to support the expansion of direct to consumer (DTC) sales	DTC working group established and continues to explore options in this area.	LDB
18a	Review the minimum requirement for breweries	Advice/Recommendations Government has communicated to BTAP that this item is on its priority list within the next 18 months.	LCRB
18b	Review the rules relating to the eligibility of products sold in an on-site tasting room or lounge	Advice/Recommendations Government has communicated to BTAP that this item is on its priority list to work on over the next 18 months.	LCRB
20a	Eliminate the restriction preventing craft distilleries	Advice/Recommendations	LDB/AFF

	from producing refreshment beverages	Advice/Recommendations Government has communicated to BTAP that this item is on its priority list to work on over the next 18 months.	
20b	Eliminate the restriction preventing craft distilleries from selling to duty free stores	Advice/Recommendations	LDB
24	Provide a reliable source of funding for LCRB	Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information	LCRB
<b>NOT PROCEEDING/NOT UNDERWAY</b>			
2a	Allow BDL to deliver other products (ie. refreshment beverages) manufactured by the companies that own BDL	In Dec 2020, government communicated to BTAP that this recommendation would not move forward and LDB would continue to deliver all refreshment beverages. Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information	
6	Eliminate the conflict of interest at LDB between retail and wholesale	In 2015, LDB's wholesale and retail operations were separated and reside under separate Executive Director leadership.	
7	Alternate LDB governance structure with appropriate separation of each division and oversight of a board of directors or other supervisory body	On hold.	
13	Establish and provide partial funding for a privately run voluntary licensee accreditation program for best practises related to responsible beverage service	Not a priority at this time.	

15	Move all regulatory functions from LDB to LCRB to the extent possible	No changes planned.	
19	Elimination of restrictions preventing common ownership of a commercial distillery/winery and of a craft distillery/land-based winery to make the ownership rules more consistent and equal between categories	No changes planned.	

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**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General  
Estimates 2021/22 Briefing Book**

**Gaming Policy Enforcement Branch  
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**2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE****GPEB Program Summary****Suggested Response:**

- The Gaming Policy & Enforcement Branch (GPEB) regulates all gambling in B.C. and ensures the integrity of gambling industry companies, people and equipment and compliance with policies and standards established under the *Gaming Control Act* and the Gaming Control Regulation.
- This includes regulatory oversight of commercial gambling conducted and managed by the British Columbia Lottery Corporation (i.e. lotteries, casinos, community gaming centres, commercial bingo halls and PlayNow.com), B.C.'s horse racing industry and licensed charitable gambling events.
- GPEB also delivers responsible and problem gambling programs across the province.
- GPEB's core objective is to ensure that a comprehensive and responsible gambling regulatory framework is in place.
- GPEB has six divisions to carry out its core business:
  - The Community Supports Division delivers nearly \$6 million annually in programs related to responsible gambling.
  - The Licensing, Regulation and Certification Division provides gambling worker and corporate registration and certification, and issues charitable gambling licenses.
  - The Compliance Division provides audit services in the Branch's regulatory function. This also includes regulating Horse Racing in B.C.
  - The Enforcement Division provides intelligence and investigation services in the Branch's regulatory function.
  - Strategic Policy and Projects Division provides strategic and operational policy support as well as communications and liaison to government.
  - Operations division provides financial and administrative support to the branch as well as financial administration of gambling revenue distribution to host local governments and charitable gaming grant recipients.

## Program Summary:

	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
<b>Budget</b>	\$19.2 M	\$19.4 M	\$19.4 M
<b>FTEs</b>	142	166	160
<b>Clients Served<sup>1</sup></b>			
Charitable gambling licenses issued	10,490	10,752	2,612
Gambling audits	227	236	109
Gambling Support BC <sup>2</sup>	1,996	2,229	540
Corporate registrations	277	232	144
Personnel registrations	8,086	7,943	2,562
Registration decisions	4,424	4,107	858
Gambling supplies certifications	924	820	894
Horse racing rulings <sup>3</sup>	124	104	99

- In Fiscal 2020/21, 36 GPEB staff were assigned to other branches or ministries to assist with government's pandemic response and other key initiatives.

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<sup>1</sup> 2020/21 figures were impacted significantly by the COVID-19 pandemic. On March 16, 2020, the Attorney General directed the temporary closure of all gaming facilities in B.C. on the advice of the Provincial Health Officer. Facilities remained closed for all of 2020/21.

<sup>2</sup> The BC Responsible and Gambling Program rebranded in 2021/21 to Gambling Support BC.

<sup>3</sup> Horse racing rulings are reported for calendar year 2020.

**2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE****Gaming Policy and  
Enforcement Branch  
(GPEB) Budget and FTE's****Suggested Response:**

- GPEB's programs and expenditures reflect government's commitment to ensure the integrity of B.C.'s gaming industry, license charitable events, distribute gaming revenues to communities across the province and provide responsible and problem gambling treatment services.
- GPEB's proposed operating budget for 2021/22, is \$19.539 million, which includes \$5.916 million for responsible and problem gambling programs and services.
- In 2020/21, due to the pandemic and casinos closure, funding was not available to distribute to local governments that host casinos and/or community gaming centres, as well as payment to the horse racing industry.
- GPEB has maintained staffing levels to continue to meet obligations under German's recommendation and to support the shift to the Independent Gaming Control Office (IGCO).
- GPEB's Gambling Support BC, formally known as Responsible and Problem Gambling Program, delivers its specialized services by way of contracted service provision. Approximately 61 individuals deliver social services under contract through this program.

Finances

- GPEB processes \$140 million in grants to non-profit organizations through the Community Gaming Grant program; the funding is held by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

Host Local Government (HLG) Payments

- Since July 1999, the Province has provided a share of gaming net income to local governments that host gaming facilities (casinos and/or community gaming centres) in their jurisdiction.
- Pre pandemic status, HLG payments were calculated as net win (revenue after prizes) less commission paid to service providers, direct costs associated with the gaming facility, and a percentage of BCLC's overall administrative and operating costs proportional to net win at the facility.
- HLGs can use the revenue for any purpose that benefits the local community. HLGs are required to report annually to the Province on the expenditure of these funds.

- Revenue sharing is set out in signed contracts between the Province and HLGs. Generally, HLGs receive 10 per cent of net gaming income from a gambling facility except for the Casino of the Rockies that receives 33.3 per cent.
- Due to the pandemic, casinos have been closed since March 2020 and as a result there were no HLG payments for fiscal 20/21.

GPEB Budget and Expenditures

<b>GPEB Budget and Expenditures (\$millions), and FTE Staffing</b>					
Budget	2018/19 Budget	2018/19 Actuals	2019/20 Budget	2019/20 Actuals	2020/21 Budget
Branch Core Operations	12.988	13.856	13.187	15.684	13.297
Responsible Gambling Strategy	6.014	5.529	6.016	5.558	5.916
Corporate Services Support	.232	.162	.223	.223	.223
<b>Total Branch Operating Budget/Expenditures</b>	<b>19.234</b>	<b>19.547</b>	<b>19.436</b>	<b>21.475</b>	<b>19.436</b>
Capital Budget/Expenditures	0	0	0	0	0
FTEs	131	140	131	166	131
Gambling Support BC contracts for service provision		80		61	

GPEB Staffing Breakdown

<b>GPEB Staffing Breakdown of FTE's by Division</b>	
Assistant Deputy Minister's Office	3
Operations	18
Strategic Policy and Projects Division	15
Compliance and Horse Racing	31
Enforcement	40
Community Supports	8
Licensing, Registration and Certification	42
C&E Secretariat	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>160</b>

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**2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE****Gaming Control Act  
Amendments****Suggested Response:**

- Government is proposing significant amendments to the *Gaming Control Act* (GCA) to strengthen and modernize the regulatory framework for gambling in B.C.
- To address concerns raised by Dr. Peter German's first Dirty Money report, we are pursuing legislative changes to:
  - Transition GPEB to the Independent Gambling Control Office (IGCO).  
The general manager of IGCO will have the mandate, authority, and independence to determine regulatory requirements for B.C.'s gambling industry and the authority to enforce compliance for all industry participants, including the British Columbia Lottery Corporation (BCLC). IGCO will focus exclusively on regulatory policy matters related to gambling and horse racing.
  - Establish a standards-based regulatory approach that clearly outlines the regulator's authority to set requirements on topics such as handling of financial transactions, security and surveillance, and responsible gambling.
  - Create provisions to safeguard B.C.'s gambling facilities from being used to launder the proceeds of crime by establishing source of funds requirements in legislation. BCLC and service providers will be required to refuse large transactions from patrons who do not provide a source of funds declaration.
  - Modernize the Act by streamlining, clarifying, and updating provisions to account for current and future developments such as online gambling, modern gambling facilities, and evolving technology.
- The new GCA will address 10 remaining recommendations from the German Report.
- We plan to introduce new gaming legislation in spring 2022 to allow us to consider any recommendations on gaming regulation that may be made by the Cullen Commission of Inquiry. The Commission is expected to deliver its final report by December 15, 2022.

**Background:****Gaming Control Act Reform**

- In his first Dirty Money report, Dr. Peter German recommended creating an independent gambling regulator, clarifying the roles and responsibilities between the regulator and BCLC,

establishing a standards-based regulatory model and making money laundering the responsibility of the regulator.

- The GCA has not been substantially amended since it came into force in 2002. The proposed changes will streamline the Act and modernize it to be more in line with other BC statutes.
- In December 2019, government announced its intent to establish IGCO and introduce amendments to the GCA in Spring 2021.
- In July 2020, Cabinet approved the Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch's (GPEB) Request for Legislation for proposed amendments to the GCA, rCabinet Confidences  
Cabinet Confidences

- Cabinet Confidences; Legal Information

- The mandate of the Cullen Commission of Inquiry includes examining money laundering in the gaming industry and making recommendations on gaming regulation, which may impact legislation. Government has extended the timeline for the Commission's final report to December 15, 2021.
- Government has therefore amended the timeline for introduction of the new GCA to spring 2022 to allow an opportunity to consider recommendations from the Commission.
- GPEB is also undertaking a full review of the Gaming Control Regulation to modernize the Regulation and ensure it supports the new legislation. In 2021/22, GPEB will undertake stakeholder consultation on amendments to the Gaming Control Regulation.

#### Finances

- GPEB is a branch of government with 160 employees with fiscal 2021/22 budget allocation of \$19.4 million.
- We are currently assessing whether we will need any new resources or expertise for the IGCO and the new regulatory model when it is implemented in 2021/22.

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**2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE****Gambling Support BC****Suggested Response:**

- B.C. is committed to offering gambling in a socially responsible manner by ensuring the integrity of gambling and providing services that support public health and safety.
- In the 2020/21 fiscal year the Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch (GPEB)'s Responsible and Program Gambling Program rebranded to Gambling Support BC (GSBC) in order to destigmatize the program and reduce barriers to access.
- In the 2020/21 fiscal year GSBC's workforce included 54 contracted service providers and nine staff, providing a provincial program with a budget of \$5.916 million.
- GSBC delivers a continuum of support services, including early intervention, culturally safe Indigenous programming, prevention services, as well as outreach support and treatment programs to meet variable consumer needs.
- Support is available free of charge to any resident of B.C. who is directly or indirectly affected by gambling products and can be accessed in a variety of ways, including through the Province's toll-free Gambling Support Line and the program website. All services are offered in a culturally safe manner in multiple languages and are free of charge and without waitlists for counselling.

**Pandemic Impacts to Service Delivery**

- GSBC's services were directly impacted by COVID-19 and the closures of casinos across the province. The program observed a marked decline in referrals to the clinical line of service, to outreach services and, additionally, experienced the cancellation of prevention and community engagement activities due to public health orders.
- The Gambling Support line received 1,754 calls in 2019/20 and 1,998 in 2020/21.
- Clinical and outreach services supported 2,229 individuals in 2019/20 and in 540 in 2020/21. These numbers are related directly to casino closures because the majority of referrals come from GameSense Advisors located in casinos.
- Following the onset of COVID-19 and the subsequent closures of casinos, GSBC moved to implement online and remote service options, including video counselling and outreach services as well as webinar and virtual prevention and community engagement programming.
- Contracted service providers were provided with social marketing training to advertise that their services were available online and by telephone through conventional and social

media advertisements.

- BC211 is contracted to deliver the toll-free Support Line and was engaged to increase its presence online regarding support for those negatively impacted by gambling products.
- Prevention services continue to inform the public about the risks, myths and facts about gambling, where to get support if needed, and to break down the stigma of discussing gambling problems. In 2020/21, presentations were delivered virtually, or in-person based on community needs and in compliance with public health orders.
- Indigenous services provide a train-the-trainer program in Narrative Therapy instructions to allied professionals to build capacity in Indigenous communities. In 2020/21, these services were moved online.

#### Prevalence Study

- GPEB and the British Columbia Lottery Corporation (BCLC) have released a 2020 BC Online Problem Gambling Prevalence Study and a follow-up study on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on online problem gambling. These reports, commissioned by GPEB and BCLC, studied online problem gambling among adults in British Columbia.
- The report includes seven recommendations for BCLC and GPEB. BCLC has implemented a robust action plan in response, including identifying play behaviours associated with risk and problem-gambling levels; proactive interventions when it believes players are actively experiencing harms; and exploring incentives for healthy-play behaviours through play-based rewards.
- GPEB and BCLC are currently addressing all the recommendations, with most fully addressed or underway.
- GPEB is currently updating the public interest standards informed by the findings from the study to set requirements for provincial online gambling that support player health.

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**2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE****Revenue Sharing Impacts  
from Casino Closures****Suggested Response:**

- Government is not currently sharing gambling revenue with host local governments or the horse racing industry because of the temporary closure of casinos. Government will resume sharing revenue when casinos re-open.
- In 2019, government shared gambling revenue with the First Nations Gaming Revenue Sharing Limited Partnership based on the British Columbia Lottery Corporation's (BCLC) estimated net income for 2019/20 and 2020/21. BCLC's net income has been lower than originally estimated. Intergovernmental Communications  
Intergovernmental Communications
- We recognize that the closure of gambling facilities has had significant impacts on communities and the thousands of British Columbians who work in the gambling industry.
- There is no firm date for gambling facilities to reopen. Government continues to follow the advice and guidance of the Provincial Health Officer.
- BCLC is working with gambling facility operators to ensure they are ready to reopen when it is safe to do so.

**Background:**

- On March 16, 2020, the Attorney General (minister previously responsible for BCLC) ordered the temporary closure of all gambling facilities in B.C. on the advice of the Provincial Health Officer.
- During COVID-19, BCLC has continued to generate revenue from lotteries and online gambling on Playnow.com. However, BCLC's 2020/21 net income is estimated to be \$394M, a decrease of approximately \$953M from 2019/20.
- Government shares gambling revenue with three groups: host local governments, the horse racing industry and First Nations. Revenue sharing with all three groups has been impacted by COVID-19.

**Host Local Governments (HLGs)**

- Government shares gambling revenue with 34 HLGs that host gambling facilities.

- Generally, HLGs receive 10% of the net gambling revenue from gambling facilities in their community. Revenue sharing is intended to offset additional costs related to gambling facilities (e.g., policing and traffic management).
- In 2018/19 and 2019/20, shared gambling revenues were \$98.4M and \$93.5M, respectively. No revenue has been shared with HLGs in 2020/21 due to facility closures.
- Shared gambling revenue typically accounts for approximately 1-2% of HLGs' revenues.
- The City of Kamloops and the City of Langley requested that government share online gambling revenue to compensate for lost shared revenue from facilities. Government has stated it is not considering this proposal at this time.
- On April 16, 2020, the Province announced measures to provide temporary financial relief to local governments, including authorizing them to borrow, interest-free, from their existing capital reserves, delaying provincial school tax remittances, and allowing debt to be carried over for an additional year. These measures only applied to the 2020 calendar year.
- In September 2020, the Province announced the Canada-B.C. Safe Restart Fund which provides up to \$540 million in federal and provincial funding (50/50 cost-shared) to support local governments during COVID-19.
- No additional provincial supports have been introduced in 2021.

#### Horse Racing Industry

- In a normal year, the Province shares 25% of slot machine revenue from casinos co-located at the two racetracks (Hastings in Vancouver and Fraser Downs in Surrey) with BC's horse racing industry. This represents approximately \$10.3M annually and makes up 41% of the industry's income.
- The associations jointly requested \$11M in government funding in November 2020 to support a full 2021 race season. Government has decided not to provide funding.
- The horse racing industry has requested that government increase the share of slot machine revenue it shares when casinos re-open. A decision on this request is pending.

#### First Nations Gaming Revenue Sharing Limited Partnership (LP)

- In 2019, government amended the *Gaming Control Act* to facilitate a long-term gambling revenue sharing agreement with the LP. The final agreement was signed on September 16, 2020.
- Under the agreement, government will share 7% of BCLC's net income with the LP for 25 years. First Nations can use the funding for economic and social initiatives.

- In July 2019, government shared \$194M, representing the first two years (2019/20 and 2020/21) of shared gambling revenue.
- Due to the closure of gambling facilities, there will be a significant discrepancy between BCLC's estimated and actual net income for 2019/20 and 2020/21. The estimated overpayment for these two years is approximately \$76.5M.
- Intergovernmental Communications

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**Ministry of Attorney General  
and Minister Responsible for Housing**

**2021/22 Estimates Program Summary**

Last updated Date: April 9, 2021

**ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING - SECRETARIAT**

**Branch Description/Key Deliverables**

- The AMLS is responsible for the implementation of the Provincial AML strategy and all relative work.
- It is also responsible for:
  - the project management, review and implementation of Dr. German's two AML reports provided to government in 2018 and 2019;
  - support to the Ministry of Finance for reporting for the 2019 Maloney report to the Anti-Money Laundering Deputy Ministers Committee (AML DMC);
  - providing coordination of the AML DMC which provides oversight on government actions related to anti-money laundering; and
  - serving as the general government liaison for AML initiatives with other provincial and federal counterparts and related regulators.

**Program Summary:**

- The Anti-Money Laundering Secretariat (AMLS) is currently a part of the Crown Agencies Secretariat (CAS) in the Ministry of Finance and managed within CAS's budget.
- The AMLS is led by an Executive Lead and supported by other executive and policy resources within CAS, the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General (PSSG) and the Ministry of Finance.

**Ministry of Attorney General  
and Minister Responsible for Housing**

**2021/22 Estimates Debates Note**

Last updated Date: April 14, 2021

**GERMAN RECOMMENDATIONS – IMPLEMENTATION  
UPDATE**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- In Dr. German's 2018 report, he outlined the scope of the problem and provided government with 48 recommendations and two interim recommendations.
- Work is underway on all of the recommendations with nearly 80% (38) addressed to date.
- The remaining 10 recommendations will be addressed through legislation.
- While our work on implementing Dr. German's recommendations is now nearly complete, we will continue to build on the actions to date with the goal of making our province the most difficult place to launder money in Canada.

**FINANCES:**

- Not applicable

**STATISTICS:**

- A total of 38 of 48 recommendations, or nearly 80%, have now been addressed.
- Of the remaining 10 recommendations to be address, nine will be addressed by legislation introduced later this year by the Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch.

- The other remaining recommendation relates to money services businesses (MSBs) and is also expected to be addressed through legislation.
- The introduction of a source of funds declaration along with the enhanced presence of government regulators at Lower Mainland casinos, combined with policies implemented by BCLC and the establishment of the Joint Illegal Gaming Investigation Team (JIGIT) have contributed to a decrease in suspicious cash transactions in B.C. casinos.
  - They have gone from a high of over \$27 million in July 2015 – to just over \$450,000 in February 2020, or a decline of 98%.

**BACKGROUND:**

- Work on addressing AML also includes working aggressively to reduce the risk of all illicit behaviour in B.C.'s gambling facilities.
- Key measures that have been put in place include:
  - A requirement that every casino customer who tries to buy-in with \$10,000 or more in a 24-hour period complete a source of funds declaration and provide a receipt, and
  - Enhanced presence of government regulators at Lower Mainland casinos during peak hours.
- As casinos have been closed due to the pandemic since March 16, 2020, there has been no opportunity to monitor the progress of our AML efforts within those facilities. Monitoring progress is expected to resume once the PHO allows facilities to re-open.
- Analysis and work remain ongoing to ensure AML measures are continuously evaluated and strengthened.

## CROSS REFERENCE:

- **Note D2** – German Reports

## APPENDIX: STATUS OF ALL GERMAN RECOMMENDATIONS

Number	Recommendation	Actions Taken
UNDERWAY		
1	That the <i>Gaming Control Act</i> (GCA) be amended to provide for the Recommendations in this Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These will be addressed through legislation Cabinet Confidences</li> </ul>
2	That the GCA clearly delineate the roles and responsibilities of BCLC and the Regulator	
24	That the casino industry transition to a standards-based model.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These will be addressed through legislation.</li> </ul>
25	That the foundational standards of the standards-based model be developed by a cross-sector of industry and government, building upon the Ontario Standards, and that they be periodically reviewed and renewed.	
26	That the CEO/Registrar of the Regulator be the keeper of the standards.	
27	That BC transition to an independent regulator in the form of a Service Delivery Crown Corporation, with a Board of Directors and a CEO/Registrar.	
28	That the Board of Directors of the Regulator be a governance board and not be responsible for appeals from decisions of the Registrar.	
30	That anti-money laundering be a responsibility of the Regulator, and that it institute mandatory training for front-line gaming personnel, including VIP hosts, with consideration of a Play Right program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These will be addressed through legislation.</li> </ul>
31	That the Regulator also be the regulator of BCLC and that the BCLC Board, officers and employees be subject to registration.	
46	That the Province consider a licensing and recording regime for MSBs, similar to the <i>Metal Dealers Recycling Act</i> .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultation paper released in winter/spring 2020.</li> <li>• Legislation anticipated.</li> </ul>

COMPLETE		
Interim 1	Service Providers (SPs) must complete a Source of Funds (SOF) Declaration for cash deposits or bearer monetary instruments of \$10,000 or more. At a minimum, the declaration must outline a customer's identification and provide the SOF, including the financial institution and account from which the cash or bond was sourced. After two consecutive transactions, cash can only be accepted from the customer once it has been determined that it is not of a suspicious or illegal nature.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Since January 2018, all cash and monetary instruments of \$10,000 or more (whether in a single transaction or as the total amount of buy-ins over a 24-hour period) require a SOF receipt by the patron prior to acceptance by the SP.</li> <li>Receipts and SOF declarations must include the patron's name, financial institution that issued the cash, location of the financial institution, and the patron's bank account information.</li> </ul>
Interim 2	GPEB investigators be on shift and available to the high-volume casino operators in the Lower Mainland, on a 24/7 basis. The presence of the regulators will allow for the increased vigilance required in casinos. In particular, it will assist with source of funds issues, third party cash drops and general support for GSPs and BCLC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GPEB uses a risk-based approach to schedule onsite gaming investigators at the five largest Lower Mainland casinos during peak hours.</li> <li>A Gaming Investigator is available by phone 24/7 for the high-volume Lower Mainland casinos.</li> </ul>
3	That BCLC, in conjunction with the Regulator and Service Providers, review the present Source of Funds (SOF) Declaration on at least an annual basis to determine if refinements are required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BCLC added wording from recommendation to their standards.</li> <li>BCLC has committed to arranging a meeting, at least once a year, with the regulator and service providers to review the Source of Fund declaration.</li> </ul>
5	That the Service Providers be responsible for completing all necessary reports to FinTRAC, including STRs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reporting to FinTRAC by BCLC will continue with safeguards addressing Dr. German's recommendations incorporated into the forthcoming legislation.</li> </ul>
6	That discussions with FinTRAC take place with the purpose of designating the Service Providers as direct reports to FinTRAC, failing which that reports from Service Providers be sent in an unaltered form to FinTRAC by BCLC.	
7	That BCLC provide Corporate STRs if its files contain relevant information not contained within an STR from a Service Provider.	
8	That Service Providers develop the necessary capacity to assess risk and perform due diligence on suspicious transactions.	
9	That the service providers copy STRs to BCLC, the regulator (and the DPU) and the RCMP.	

10	That the Regulator / DPU be provided with access to iTRAK in its offices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Workstations installed at GPEB's Burnaby Kingsway office, the GPEB workspace at the RCMP Green Timbers (JIGIT) office and at five other locations. Discussed with Dr. German who had no concerns.</li> </ul>
11	That UFT and SCT reports be eliminated.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SPs will continue to submit UFTs to BCLC and also to GPEB in the form of s. 86 reports.</li> <li>SCT reporting has been eliminated.</li> </ul>
12	That a Transaction Analysis Team be developed to review all STRs and that the team be composed of a representative of the Regulator/DPU, JIGIT and BCLC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>JIGIT, GPEB and BCLC hold weekly teleconferences to share information to share real time incidents from the past week.</li> </ul>
13	That the Transaction Analysis Team meet on at least a weekly basis to review all STRs and develop strategies to deal with each.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monthly meetings focus on identifying overall trends and how current processes should be modified and improved.</li> </ul>
14	That JIGIT be provided continuing support with respect to its investigative mandates.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Solicitor General confirmed support for JIGIT's investigative mandates.</li> </ul>
15	That the Province consider transitioning JIGIT to a permanent, fenced funding model within the RCMP's provincial budget.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>JIGIT was formed as a fenced funded unit and remains a fenced funded unit within the RCMP.</li> </ul>
19	That persons working in VIP rooms be provided with an independent avenue to report incidents of inappropriate conduct by patrons.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A new Public Interest Standard developed and implemented.</li> </ul>
20	That cash alternatives become the responsibility of the Service Providers, subject to their compliance with overarching standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cash alternatives already responsibility of service providers. Significant analysis was undertaken.</li> </ul>
22	That Player Gaming Funds (PGF) accounts be eliminated once responsibility for cash alternatives has transitioned to the service providers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>With SOF policy in place and new limitations, PGFs are one of the safest alternatives and will not be eliminated.</li> </ul>
23	That BCLC implement a chip tracking system for Service Providers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exploration of chip-to-player table tracking system underway.</li> <li>Continue monitoring using risk-based approach, to monitor chip liabilities.</li> </ul>
32	That the Regulator provide a 24/7 presence in the major Lower Mainland casinos, until a designated policing unit is in place.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GPEB is using a risk-based approach to schedule onsite gaming investigators at key locations and times.</li> <li>A gaming investigator is available by phone 24/7 for the high-volume Lower Mainland casinos.</li> </ul>

33	That appeals from decisions of the Registrar be sent to an administrative tribunal constituted for this purpose, or already in existence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GPEB is proposing to amend the GCA to provide a reconsideration process consistent with comparable BC regulatory statutes.</li> </ul>
35	That the Regulator have dedicated in-house counsel.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Legal Services Branch will continue to provide dedicated staff to the regulator.</li> </ul>
36	That investigators hired by the Regulator meet core competencies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Job requirements and related behavioural competencies for gaming investigators were already in place and must be demonstrated as part of the hiring process.</li> </ul>
44	That the Provincial prosecution service (PPS) ensure that it has prosecution counsel familiar with gaming law.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Confirmation provided that the PPS has the necessary resources and training capacity to fully address this recommendation.</li> </ul>
<b>CLOSED</b>		
4	That BCLC re-enforce the importance of Service Providers not accepting cash or other reportable instruments if they are not satisfied with a source of funds declaration.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instruments of \$10,000 or more (whether in a single transaction or as the total amount of buy-ins over a 24-hour period) would require a Source of Funds (SOF) declaration by the patron prior to acceptance by the SP.</li> <li>BCLC has revised its policy to explicitly restate that SPs should not accept cash or other reportable instruments if they are not satisfied with a SOF declaration.</li> </ul>
16	That BCLC not engage in further undercover operations, except in conjunction with the Regulator and/or the police.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BCLC employees conduct due diligence into customers and transactions; BCLC will reiterate that this is the scope of their role.</li> </ul>
17	That no further expense be incurred by BCLC with respect to the SAS AML software system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BCLC has not incurred any expenses in relation to SAS AML since May 19, 2016 and will incur no further expenses, outside of any maintenance required.</li> </ul>
18	That BCLC ensure VIP hosts to not handle cash or chips.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Casino and Community Gaming Centre Standards, Policies and Procedures (CSPP) were revised to more explicitly state that VIP hosts cannot handle cash or chips.</li> </ul>
21	That cash limits not be imposed on buy-ins.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In his report, Dr. German noted that due to implementation of his first interim recommendation related to Source of</li> </ul>

		Funds, limits on cash buy-ins become unnecessary.
29	That regulatory investigators continue to be Special Provincial Constables.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GPEB investigators are currently designated as SPCs.</li> </ul>
34	That funding of the Regulator continue to be from gaming revenue.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr. German's intention was for the government to proceed with funding GPEB through its current process and no change was required.</li> </ul>
37	That a Designated Policing Unit be created to specialize in criminal and regulator investigations arising from the legal gaming industry, with an emphasis on Lower Mainland casinos.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gaming Investigative Intelligence Unit (GIU) created within JIGIT. Collaborative enforcement efforts will be addressed in Provincial AML Strategy.</li> </ul>
38	That the DPU be an integral part of the Regulator.	
39	That the DPU not be responsible for investigating illegal gaming outside casinos.	
40	That the DPU contain an Intelligence Unit.	
41	That the duties of the OPP Casino Bureau and the Nevada GCB Enforcement Division be reviewed in order to determine an appropriate role for the DPU.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research has been undertaken and GPEB will adopt some of the approaches in managing proceeds of crime in BC casinos.</li> </ul>
42	That anti-money laundering be a specific responsibility of the DPU.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gaming Investigative Intelligence Unit (GIU) created within JIGIT. Collaborative enforcement efforts will be addressed in Provincial AML Strategy.</li> </ul>
43	That funding of the DPU be from gaming revenue.	
45	That the Province undertake research into allegations of organized crime penetration of the real estate industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Province commissioned two independent investigations and reports to be generated exploring linkages between organized crime and real estate.</li> <li>Dr. German's "Dirty Money – Part 2" and the "Expert Panel on Money Laundering" were completed and their reports publicly released on May 9, 2019.</li> </ul>
47	That the Province consider researching the vulnerability of the luxury car sector and the horse racing sector to organized crime.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr. German's "Dirty Money – Part 2" was commissioned to research these areas and his report was publicly released on May 9, 2019.</li> </ul>
48	That the Province continue to encourage the federal government to amend the POCMLTFA to broaden the entities subject to reporting, specifically luxury goods of interest to organized crime.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minister Eby presented to the Standing Committee on Finance in Ottawa on March 27, 2018 to speak to amendments to the PCMLTFA.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Minister Eby has written to the federal ministers responsible on two separate occasions and has raised concerns and advocated for the Government of BC's position at multiple Federal/Provincial/Territorial meetings over the past several years.</li></ul>
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**Ministry of Attorney General and  
Minister Responsible for Housing**

**2021/22 Estimates Debates Note**

Last updated Date: March 26, 2021

**ANTI MONEY LAUNDERING - GERMAN REPORTS**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- The Government has entered into four contracts with Dr. Peter German since 2017. There are currently no active contracts with Dr. German.
- The work undertaken by Dr. German has made significant contributions to advancing our understanding of the breadth and depth of money laundering in B.C.'s casinos in the Lower Mainland as well as identifying other vulnerable sectors.
- Dr. German's findings, recommendations and insights have provided our government with valuable information that have enabled us to begin addressing the broader impacts of money laundering and the illicit activities that accompany it.

If asked about compensation for Cullen Commission testimony:

- Government's two most recent contracts with Dr. German specifically stated that the services for which Dr. German was to be remunerated did not include the time spent testifying to the Commission, or preparing to testify, in the event he was called as a witness.
- This was in recognition of the fact that the gathering, assembly, organization and review of the documents in Dr. German's possession would involve significant time and effort on Dr. German's part.

**FINANCES:**

- The total combined value of all four contracts was \$738,175.00.
- As of the most recent payment, the total amount paid to Dr. German to date is \$657,270.33.
  - These payments include Dr. German's payments to sub-contractors, engaging experts in the field and all expenses related thereto.
- Dr. German's second contract was originally \$250,000 and was amended to \$300,000 and ultimately to approximately \$358,000 to accommodate additional research required in the later months of the contract.
- All existing contracts with Dr. German have now expired.

	<b>Original Start &amp; End Date</b>	<b>Extension dates</b>	<b>Total Contract Value</b>	<b>Total Paid</b>	<b>Hourly Rate</b>
<b>Contract #1</b>	September 22, 2017 to March 31, 2018	April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019	\$245,000	\$235,400.96	\$275
<b>Contract #2</b>	September 27, 2018 to March 31, 2019	April 1, 2019 to May 31, 2019	\$358,175	\$358,147.55	\$275
<b>Contract #3</b>	June 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020	Not applicable	\$100,000	\$34,403.98	\$300
<b>Contract #4</b>	July 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020	January 1, to February 28, 2021	\$35,000	\$29,317.84	\$300

**STATISTICS:**

- N/A

**BACKGROUND:**

- Dr. German's first contract was for a review of British Columbia's anti-money laundering policies and practices in the gambling industry, with a focus on the Lower Mainland.

- The final report, titled “Dirty Money”, was delivered to government in April 2018.
- Dr. German’s second contract centred on identifying the scale and scope of verifiable illicit activity in the real estate market and an examination of money laundering in the horse racing and luxury car market.
  - The final report, titled “Dirty Money – Part 2”, was delivered in March 2019.
- The third and fourth contracts with Dr. German were related to retrieval and preparation of documentation in response to requests from the Cullen Commission into money laundering in B.C., and the ongoing consultations with respect to addressing the recommendations from his two reports.

**Ministry of Attorney General and  
Minister Responsible for Housing**

**2021/22 Estimates Debates Note**

Last updated Date: March 26, 2021

**ANTI MONEY LAUNDERING - PROVINCIAL STRATEGY**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- The Anti-Money Laundering Secretariat (AMLS) along with a multi-ministry working group developed a provincial strategy that provides a framework to guide and support AML efforts for government, regulators and non-regulators.
- Our goal is to make B.C. the toughest jurisdiction in which to launder money. We are focusing our efforts on prevention and deterrence so we can reduce our reliance on enforcement and prosecution, which depends heavily on federal support.
- Disruption of money laundering activities is key and our greatest opportunity to do this is through detection, deterrence and prevention of illicit behaviour.
- Integral to the success of this strategy will be the ongoing commitments from key partners, including the private and public sectors, in areas such as intelligence, data collection and analysis.
- This strategy was developed to be agile and responsive to reflect the changing realities of money laundering, as well as any future recommendations stemming from the final Cullen Commission report.

**If asked about progress to date:**

- Actions to address the objectives of the strategy have already begun including:

- The Landowner Transparency Registry legislation came into force with the filing requirements applying as of November 30, 2020 and the search provisions came into force in April 2021;
- New requirements for corporations to keep a registry of beneficial owners in their records offices came into effect on October 1, 2020;
- Legislation to create a single regulator of real estate under the BC Financial Services Authority received Royal Assent on March 25, 2021.

CabinetConfidences

- Consultations were undertaken and completed on:
  - the creation of a publicly searchable registry of beneficial owners of corporations;
  - money services businesses; and
  - amendments to the *Mortgage Brokers Act*.
- The final Cullen Commission report, expected by December 15, 2021, will also serve to inform the broader strategy and will be carefully reviewed and considered.

## **FINANCES:**

- As the AML strategy work crosses multiple branches and ministries, the work underway, including the implementation of action items, is funded through already approved ministry votes instead of a standalone budget line.
- Costs to develop this strategy include \$10,000 which was paid to Deloitte in the 2019/20 fiscal year for a jurisdictional scan and for ongoing advisory services.

## **STATISTICS:**

- N/A

**BACKGROUND:**

- The Provincial AML Strategy looks longer-term with an emphasis on the first three to four years and includes measurable successes within the first year.
- The founding principles of the strategy centre on disrupting the criminal economy and managing the impact for British Columbians.
- These principles underpin the goals and objectives which form the overarching framework for the strategy. These goals are:
  - #1: A coherent and agile approach to the identification and prevention of money laundering;
  - #2: Implementation of a coordinated compliance and enforcement regime to make BC the most difficult jurisdiction in Canada in which to launder money; and
  - #3: Government, partners, and stakeholders prioritize AML efforts and take an integrated and coordinated approach to combat money laundering.
- In implementing this strategy, the Province will work closely with several stakeholders including the Federal Government, regulators and non-regulators within BC.

**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General  
Estimates 2021/22 Briefing Book**

**Consumer Protection  
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**Estimate Notes**

1. High-Cost Credit Products
2. Ticket Sales Act
3. Guide Dogs and Service Dogs

**2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE****High-Cost Credit Products****Suggested Response:**

- Government is committed to strengthening financial protections for consumers and making life more affordable for British Columbians, especially for those most financially vulnerable or experiencing financial hardships due to COVID 19.
- In spring 2019, amendments to the *Business Practices and Consumer Protection Act* were passed to protect British Columbians who use high-cost financial services, such as high-interest loans and lines of credit.
- The changes establish a new framework to licence and regulate high-cost credit lenders. The legislation also creates a new Consumer Financial Education Fund, which will be used to promote financial literacy and ensure compliance with B.C. consumer protection laws.
- Ministry staff are working with stakeholders and the provincial authority on consumer protection matters, Consumer Protection BC, to prepare to bring the legislation and accompanying regulations into force.
- These changes build on previous measures taken as part of B.C.'s Consumer Financial Protection Action Plan. These include strengthening consumer protections regarding payday loans and government cheque cashing services.

**Background:**

- Some companies offer high-cost alternative financial services at higher interest rates than traditional financial institutions. Examples include high-interest installment loans, lines of credit, payday loans and cheque cashing services.
- These services are marketed primarily to financially vulnerable consumers who may not be able to obtain credit from banks and other sources. People who use these products can enter into a cycle of debt that can be difficult to leave.
- The *Business Practices and Consumer Protection Act* contains financial protections for consumers and sets rules for disclosing the cost of consumer credit. The Act also protects consumers from unfair practices in the marketplace.
- The Act is administered by the province's consumer protection authority, Consumer Protection BC. Consumer Protection BC is an independent delegated authority that upholds consumer protections laws in the public interest.

### High-cost credit products

- In May 2019, amendments to the *Business Practices and Consumer Protection Act* were passed to establish a new framework to licence and regulate lenders of high-cost credit products.
- High-cost credit products are financial products that exceed a prescribed rate of borrowing. They include fixed credit products (i.e. installment loans), open credit products (i.e. lines of credit) and leases.
- The amendments require providers of high-cost credit products in B.C. to be licensed and to meet obligations set out in the Act. The legislation also establishes financial protections for consumers, such as:
  - Borrower rights and remedies, including cancellation rights;
  - Limits on the total cost of borrowing;
  - Prohibitions on certain fees, charges and other unfair terms and conditions; and
  - Powers for the regulator (Consumer Protection BC) to enforce the Act and impose penalties for contraventions.
- The ministry is working with industry stakeholders and Consumer Protection BC to prepare to bring the legislation and accompanying regulations into force.

### Consumer Financial Education Fund

- The 2019 amendments provide for the establishment of a new trust fund, the Consumer Financial Education Fund, to be administered by Consumer Protection BC.
- The purpose of the fund is to promote financial literacy respecting high-cost financial services among consumers throughout B.C.
- The fund may be used to promote education of payday loans, high-cost credit products and cheque cashing services. It may also be used to ensure that lenders comply with finance-related consumer protection laws.
- The fund will be brought into force by regulation.

### Payday loans

- B.C. began regulating the payday loan industry in 2009, when amendments to the *Business Practices and Consumer Protection Act* were passed to establish a new licensing and regulatory framework for payday lenders.
- Payday loans are small short-term loans of up to \$1,500 that must be repaid within 62 days. Payday lenders cannot charge more than \$15 for every \$100 borrowed or loan an amount more than 50% of a paycheck.

- Payday loans rules were updated September 1, 2018. The changes include:
  - Lowering the maximum permissible charge from \$17 per \$100 borrowed to \$15 per \$100 borrowed, matching the lowest rate in Canada; and
  - Extending the payday loan agreement cancellation period and adding prohibitions on the use of a borrower's personal information by the lender

**Government cheque cashing fees**

- Government cheque cashing fees were updated September 1, 2018 to cap on fees to cash provincial social assistance and disability cheques at \$2 plus 1% of the value of the cheque up to a maximum of \$10.
- On September 15, 2019, this fee cap was expanded to include on demand (Imprest) cheques issued by the Ministry of Children and Family Development.

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**2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE****Ticket Sales Act****Suggested Response:**

- British Columbians have told us it is extremely frustrating when people can't get tickets to live entertainment events without resorting to tickets sold on the secondary market at highly inflated prices.
- Once live recreational, sporting and cultural events are up and running again, we want to ensure everyone has a fair chance of getting a ticket and access to the details needed to make informed ticket buying decisions.
- The *Ticket Sales Act* was passed in May 2019. It will help create a level playing field by prohibiting bots and improving transparency and refund rules for consumers buying tickets.
- Introducing a new regulatory framework for this industry can have a significant impact on consumers, event organizers and promoters, and ticket selling businesses.
- Implementation of the Act and regulations was postponed in 2020 due to the economic impacts resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and associated public health orders that limit gatherings.
- Government has been doing its due diligence: monitoring the marketplace and consulting with stakeholders to make sure the rules are in place at the right time.

**Implementation of the Act and regulations**

- The Ticket Sales Act and regulations will come into effect on July 1, 2021 – this is when we anticipate seeing an increase in ticket sales for events and consumer demand for tickets.
- We know that British Columbians will be excited about the return of live sports and entertainment – implementing the Ticket Sales Act in July 2021 will clear the way for consumers buying advance tickets to events in late 2021/2022 to be protected by the new rules under the Act.
- Our government made a commitment to providing more clarity to people buying tickets for events in B.C., and we want consumers to benefit from the added protections of the TSA rules right out of the gate as live events resume in our province.

**Background:**

- The results of a 2018 online public questionnaire indicated that British Columbians are

concerned about fairness in the buying and selling of live event tickets. Areas of concern included the use of bot technology, high re-sale prices and unsatisfactory consumer protections against ticket seller misrepresentation and fraud.

- Over the past several years, a number of jurisdictions have modernized their ticket selling laws including Ontario (2018), Alberta (2018), Quebec (2018), the United Kingdom (2017), USA (2016) and New York State (2016).
- B.C.'s *Ticket Sales Act* (TSA), passed in Spring 2019, is consumer protection legislation intended to create a level playing field for purchasers of tickets to cultural, recreational and sporting events in B.C.
- Development of the TSA and regulations was informed by the results of the questionnaire and by engagement with industry and business stakeholders from 2018 – 2021.
- Key features of the Act are:
  - Business disclosure requirements including ticket face value, applicable service charges/fees, and ticket terms and conditions;
  - Mandatory disclosure of information about ticket re-sellers such as business name and contact information;
  - Prohibition against primary ticket sellers withholding tickets from the primary market and diverting them directly to related secondary ticket sellers for profit;
  - Ban on the use and sale of bots and a requirement for primary ticket sellers to cancel tickets purchased using bots;
  - Prohibition on the sale of speculative tickets the seller does not possess or control;
  - Refund guarantees by all businesses re-selling or facilitating the re-sale of tickets including refunds for tickets that are counterfeit or are for cancelled events;
  - A right to civil action for ticket purchasers or ticket businesses that have suffered losses as a result of contravention of the Act; and
  - Rigorous compliance and enforcement powers, including the ability for Consumer Protection BC to impose strict administrative penalties up to \$50,000, and prosecution for offences.
- The Ticket Sale Regulation will:
  - Bring the TSA into force on July 1, 2021;
  - Provide exemptions for events that are a low risk to consumers (e.g., movies in

- theatres, school events);
- Require disclosure of any restrictions on ticket transferability;
  - Identify when administrative penalties can be imposed by Consumer Protection BC for non-compliance (for example, failure of ticket re-seller to provide refund guarantee); and
  - Provide additional administrative powers for Consumer Protection BC.
- The TSA and regulations will be administered by Consumer Protection BC, which already regulates a variety of sectors and consumer transactions in B.C. Consumer Protection BC will monitor and enforce the Act through a progressive compliance and enforcement model that provides a range of tools, from education and voluntary compliance to compliance orders and administrative penalties for more serious contraventions.

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**2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE****Guide Dogs and Service Dogs****Suggested Response:**

- Currently, there are laws in B.C. that provide public access rights for individuals that have a disability and require a guide or service dog to assist with the tasks of daily living.
- The *Guide Dog and Service Dog Act* establishes a voluntary certification process for guide and service dog teams. Under the Act, it is illegal to interfere with a certified guide dog or service dog team when they are trying to access a public place or service, or a tenancy.
- Certified guide and service dog teams can make a complaint to the Registrar of the Guide Dog and Service Dog Program when they encounter access problems. When a person interferes with a certified guide or service dog team's access, the person may receive a \$250 violation ticket or be charged with an offence.
- The Act was amended in 2020 to clarify that it does not interfere with protections for persons with disabilities that already exist under the *BC Human Rights Code*. This amendment was effective in August 2020.
- Other amendments to the Act will streamline certification processes for guide and service dog teams and trainers. These amendments will take effect in 2021. At the same time, the Guide Dog and Service Dog Regulation will be amended to ensure that the certification processes under the regulation are aligned with the changes to the Act.
- These changes will be accompanied by a public awareness effort that will assist business and service providers in recognizing guide and service dogs and understanding their rights and obligations under the law.

**Background:**

- The Act came into force in 2016. Under the Act, an individual with a disability who requires the assistance of a guide or service dog can apply for certification if they wish to do so. The Registrar of the BC Guide Dog and Service Dog program is responsible for making certification decisions.
- Certification under the Act helps facilitate public access and provides a streamlined avenue for individuals to have their access rights enforced by the Registrar.

- Under the B.C. *Human Rights Code*, people with disabilities who rely on guide or service dogs are protected from discrimination when accessing public services, employment, and housing.
- The Act does not affect rights under the *Human Rights Code*. Individuals with disabilities who rely on guide and service dogs for assistance are permitted access to public places and services regardless of whether they are certified under the Act.
- The amendments to the Act regarding the *Human Rights Code* clarify that certification is completely voluntary, and that people with disabilities who use guide dogs and service dogs have the same rights as the general public to access and use public places and services.
- Other changes to the Act streamline certification for guide and service dog teams by deeming service dog teams with valid identification cards issued by accredited training schools to be certified under the Act. These teams will not need to get a BC Guide and Service Dog Program certificate to benefit from the protections under the Act.
- The amendments were informed by consultation with guide dog user groups, organizations that advocate for people with disabilities, and BC guide and service dog training schools. These organizations are also being consulted on the proposed changes to the Guide Dog and Service Dog Regulation.

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**Emergency Management BC  
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## 2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE

## Pandemic Planning

## Suggested Response:

- In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Province activated its two pandemic plans:
  - The BC COVID-19 Response Plan is maintained by the Ministry of Health and is a resource for health care providers and local organizations in planning and responding to a pandemic.
  - The BC Pandemic Provincial Coordination Plan, maintained by Emergency Management BC (EMBC), outlines actions of the provincial government outside of the health system for coordination, communication, and provincial government business continuity.
- On March 11, 2020, the Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre (PECC) operated by EMBC was activated and remains active today. The six Provincial Regional Emergency Operation Centres also activated to coordinate situational awareness and support to First Nations and local authorities.
- The Province has a number of emergency powers available as set out in the *Emergency Program Act* and the *Public Health Act* to apply as required to maintain health and safety and on March 18, 2020 the Province declared a provincial state of emergency to enable these efforts.

## Background:

- In response to the global pandemic, on March 18, 2020, the Province issued Ministerial Order #84 to declare a provincial state of emergency, following the Provincial Health Officer's declaration of a public health emergency on the previous day.
- To support coordination efforts, EMBC hosted daily cross-ministry conference calls to identify issues that required an integrated government approach to planning and collaboration. In September 2020 the cross-ministry conference calls shifted to a bi-weekly schedule.
- As part of the PECC, a Joint Information Centre (JIC) was established as a centralized communications hub where, during an emergency, communications representatives from all impacted agencies gather and disseminate critical public information in a coordinated, effective manner. The JIC stood down in May 2020.
- Working groups were also established to collaborate and support various groups and sectors, such as First Nations communities, vulnerable populations, food programs and industrial camps, etc. These working groups were stood down in 2020 as they were

deemed to have met their objectives or their work was transferred to lead ministries

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**2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE****Activation****Suggested Response:**

- The Emergency Management BC (EMBC) Provincial Emergency Coordination Center (PECC) was activated on March 11th, 2020 and has remained activated in support of First Nations and local authorities.
- All EMBC Provincial Regional Emergency Coordination Centers (PREOC) were activated on March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and have continued to operate in support of First Nations and local authorities.
- Support to First Nations and local authorities is available 24/7 through the EMBC regional and provincial duty managers and Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC).
- EMBC Policy 5.13 was communicated widely on March 18, 2020 to outline the reimbursement eligibility due to the COVID-19 Pandemic following the declaration of a public health emergency under the Public Health Act the day prior and the declaration of a Provincial State of Emergency on March 17, 2020.
- Policy 5.13 has been adjusted throughout the pandemic to meet the changing conditions of the emergency, and First Nations and local authorities' needs.
- Regional coordination calls were held daily for the first month after declaration of the Provincial State of Emergency and then were adjusted in frequency to match local community needs following consultation with First Nation and local authority emergency managers.

**Background:**

- Key elements of the PECC during its peak activation period in 2020 included:
  - Transportation Branch – the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) established a transportation branch to ensure that remote areas maintained the connections that they required as commercial services were reduced or eliminated. BC Wildfire Service provided rapid contracting and scheduling of flights to communities for emergency services. This service was mainly used by the Ministry of Health for the movement of testing equipment, samples and personnel to remote locations.
  - Joint Information Center (JIC) - ensured the rapid creation and dissemination of harmonized provincial messaging, responses to media requests, advisories and other products as well as the collection and sharing of relevant media reports. A daily situation report ensured that provincial actions, key developments and federal announcements were collated and shared across government and with key partners.

- Order Enforcement – Under the lead of the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General a Unified Enforcement Team was established to provide information and interpretation of applicable orders and Public Health Officer guidelines to local bylaw officers and to retailers.
- Cross-ministry Coordination Calls – A daily call with all ministries provided a forum for collaboration and information sharing, and
- Situation Reports – a regular report was issued to summarize all provincial and federal actions, developments in managing the spread of COVID-19 and to capture key actions of all provincial ministries and partner agencies.
- There are two provincial pandemic plans. The first is led by the Ministry of Health who has the lead for pandemic response. The second is for cross-government business continuity where EMBC plays a coordinating role:
  - The BC Pandemic Influenza Response Plan describes the BC Health Sector's strategic approach to and preparations for a novel influenza pandemic. This response is led by the BC Ministry of Health.
  - The British Columbia Pandemic Influenza Provincial Coordination Plan describes the provincial government's strategy for cross-ministry coordination, internal and external communications and provincial government business continuity in response to an influenza pandemic. BCEMS is activated to the degree necessary to deal with the provincial coordination, communication and policy needs of an influenza pandemic resting outside of the health sector. This includes a policy group co-led by EMBC and MoH to address specific pandemic influenza policy issues that may arise.
- Advice/Recommendations; Legal Information

- - Advice/Recommendations; Legal Information
  - EMBC
  - policy 5.13 was issued to provide reimbursement for incremental costs associated with maintaining essential public safety services and for any requirements mandated by a Provincial Health Officer or other direction of the Province, principally by way of a Ministerial Order that would result in costs to a local government.
  - Eligible costs for First Nations are recovered from the federal government as outlined in the 10-year agreement with Indigenous Services Canada to provide equitable levels of emergency management service signed in 2017. This funding is in addition to the

funding that BC First Nations have received \$39,567,000 through the Indigenous Community Support Fund.

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## 2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE

## EPA COVID-19 Orders 2021

## Suggested Response:

- Over 50 ministerial orders and Orders-in-Council were issued under the authority of the *Emergency Program Act* to respond to the public safety impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. About half of these orders are expired or were replaced by subsequent instruments.
- Almost all of the ministerial orders and Orders-in-Council made under the EPA have been added to the schedules of the COVID-19 Related Measures Act (CRMA), which provides an ability for these instruments to continue beyond the end of the state of provincial emergency and ensure an orderly transition.
- Staff in the Ministry of Attorney General and EMBC are working with ministries that have orders under CRMA to identify the transition strategy for every order. Orders will not continue beyond the end of the state of provincial emergency unless they are necessary for an orderly transition.
- Emergency authorities for the Lieutenant Governor in Council to amend or suspend enactments and transition tools to allow the effects of certain orders to extend past a state of provincial emergency Cabinet Confidences

## Background:

- On March 18, 2020, the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General declared a State of Provincial Emergency under the *Emergency Program Act* (EPA) due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- While the *Public Health Act* provides authorities relating to the prevention and control of communicable disease, exercising emergency powers under section 10 and 10.1 of the EPA provides tools to address related issues arising from COVID-19, as well as statutory spending authority for related costs.
  - Under section 10(1) of the EPA the Minister may do all acts and implement all procedures, that the Minister considers necessary to prevent, respond to, or alleviate the effects of an emergency or disaster
  - Under section 10.1<sup>1</sup> of the EPA, Lieutenant Governor in Council may make orders that authorize the temporary amendment or suspension of other statutes, including

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<sup>1</sup> New provision of the Emergency Program Act added in July 2020 as part of the *COVID-19 Related Measures Act*.

limitation periods, subject to an assessment of the proportionality of the benefits and impacts of taking such action relative to the *status quo*.

- As of April 29, 2021, over 50 Ministerial orders and Orders in Council have been issued under the EPA. Some orders have been repealed and replaced to reflect changing circumstances or as issues further developed (see appendix). The orders vary by topic but include variations on the following themes:
  - Prohibitions on evictions by landlords;
  - Enable mandatory meetings to be attended through electronic means, including local government meetings; and
  - Revise limitation periods set by statute.
- Ministerial Orders have also been developed to complement or respond to PHO orders, directives and/or guidance, including:
  - Protective Measures (COVID-19) Order
  - Travel Restrictions (COVID-19) Order
  - Face Coverings (COVID-19) Order
  - Bylaw Enforcement Officer (COVID-19) Order
  - Provincial Compliance Officer (COVID-19) Order
- All EPA orders, whether made under section 10 or 10.1 can only endure as long as the current state of provincial emergency is in place. However, COVID-19 related orders can be extended using the authority of the *COVID-19 Related Measures Act* (CRMA), by 45 or 90 days following the end of the SOE, or as late as December 31, 2021.

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**Appendix: COVID-19 Emergency Program Act (EPA) Ministerial Orders**  
**Currently in Effect – denotes EMBC responsibility – denotes PSSG responsibility**  
(updated June 7, 2021)

- The following *Emergency Program Act* (EPA) Ministerial Orders are currently in effect. These orders, in addition to the Orders in Council also listed, will continue to have effect when the provincial state of emergency (SOE) ends as they are listed by schedule in the *COVID-19 Related Measures Act* (CRMA) which was brought into force July 10, 2020. Some of these orders will expire when the SOE ends, others will expire 45 or 90 days following the end of the SOE, and a number have been extended to July 10, 2021, the maximum time period permitted under the legislation. Amendments to CRMA via Bill 11 received Third Reading on June 1, 2021 and extends CRMA authorities to December 31, 2021.
- COVID-19 related Ministerial Orders under the EPA that were repealed or were contingent on dates that have since passed are not listed.
- There are a number of COVID-19 related orders that have been made under the authority of statutes other than the EPA. These are summarized at: <https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/covid-19.html>

**M082/2020 – Bylaw Enforcement Officer (COVID-19) Order**

(in effect 90 days after the expiry of the SOE)

- Provides authority for local government bylaw enforcement officers to enforce public health orders.

**M084/2020 – Local Authorities and Essential Goods and Supplies (COVID-19) Order**

(in effect 90 days after the expiry of the SOE)

- Provides a range of authorities related to protecting the supply chain, protecting consumers, ensuring critical travel (including minimum service levels), protecting vulnerable people, better co-ordination between the Province and local governments.
- Provisions related to local states of emergency, local emergency plans and BC Ferries were repealed by OIC451 on July 30, 2020.

**M093/2020 – Provincial Compliance Officer (COVID-19) Order**

(in effect 90 days after the expiry of the SOE)

- Designates inspectors under the *Cannabis Control and Licensing Act*, the *Liquor Control and Licensing Act* and the *Gaming Control Act* as Provincial compliance officers and empowers them to support compliance with public health orders made under the *Public Health Act*.

**M098/2020 - Limitation Periods (COVID-19) Order No. 2**

(in effect 90 days after the expiry of the SOE)

- Suspends mandatory limitation periods under the *Limitation Act* within which a civil or family action, proceeding, claim or appeal must be commenced in the Provincial Court of BC, Supreme Court of BC or BC Court of Appeal, as well as granting a person, tribunal or other body that has a statutory power of decision the ability to waive, suspend or extend a mandatory time period.

**M114/2020 – Electronic Attendance at Strata Property Meetings (COVID-19) Order**

(in effect 90 days after the expiry of the SOE)

- Permits electronic attendance for strata meetings.

**Appendix: COVID-19 Emergency Program Act (EPA) Ministerial Orders**  
**Currently in Effect – denotes EMBC responsibility – denotes PSSG responsibility**  
(updated June 7, 2021)

**M115/2020 – Prohibition on Unconscionable Prices for Essential Goods and Supplies (COVID-19) Order**  
(in effect 90 days after the expiry of the SOE)

- Prohibits the sale of essential goods and supplies in a retail environment at an unconscionable price and is enforceable by police officers and enforcement officials through \$2000 violation tickets.

**M121/2020 – Supreme Court Civil and Family Applications (COVID-19) Order**  
(in effect 45 days after the expiry of the SOE)

- Provides authority for the Chief Justice and Associate Chief Justice to vary Supreme Court civil and family rules to be consistent with the orders and guidelines of the Public Health Officer. Also allows applications to the BC Supreme Court to be made by written submissions, telephone, video conference or other communication means rather than in person.

**M133/2020 – Employment and Assistance (COVID-19) Order**  
(in effect 90 days after the expiry of the SOE)

- Varies the *Employment and Assistance Act* and the *Employment and Assistance for Persons with Disabilities Act* to allow verbal communications to confirm eligibility for assistance or to appeal decisions.
- Also suspends the requirement to report other sources of income provided through federal employment insurance.

**M150/2020 – Encampment Health and Safety (COVID-19) Order No. 2**  
(expires when SOE ends)

- Extends the deadline for the City of Victoria encampment disbursement to provide for adequate alternative living arrangements and other health and social supports to be available.

**M152/2020 – Encampment Health and Safety (COVID-19) Vancouver Enforcement Order**  
(expires when SOE ends)

- Outlines enforcement authorities associated with the closure of the Oppenheimer encampment.

**M159/2020 – Local Government Finance (COVID-19) Order**  
(in effect 90 days after the expiry of the SOE)

- Postpones late payment penalties for commercial property taxes and allows local governments to use funds from their 'statutory reserve fund' for emergency expenses.
- Allows local governments to delay the statutory date for property tax sales until 2021 and postpones statutory deadlines for filing requirements with the Province.

**M162/2020 – Electronic Witnessing of Enduring Powers of Attorney and Representation Agreements (COVID-19) Order**  
(in effect 90 days after the expiry of the SOE)

- Permits remote execution of wills.

**Appendix: COVID-19 Emergency Program Act (EPA) Ministerial Orders**  
**Currently in Effect – denotes EMBC responsibility – denotes PSSG responsibility**  
(updated June 7, 2021)

**M166/2020 – Encampment Health and Safety (COVID-19) Victoria Enforcement Order**

(expires when SOE ends)

- Outlines enforcement authorities and the closure of the Pandora Avenue Corridor and Topaz Park encampments.

**M167/2020 – Electronic Attendance at Statutory Meetings (COVID-19) Order**

(in effect 90 days after the expiry of the SOE)

- Allows e-meetings for any entity that is required by statute or bylaw to hold meetings.

**M168/2020 – Electronic Attendance at UBCM Convention (COVID-19) Order**

(in effect 90 days after the expiry of the SOE)

- Allows electronic attendance at UBCM's Convention/AGM.

**M192/2020 – Local Government Meetings and Bylaw Process (COVID-19) Order No. 3**

(in effect 90 days after the expiry of the SOE)

- Provides authority for local governments to hold public meetings while meeting Provincial Health Officer directives and guidance.
- Carries forward authorities related to electronic public hearings and meetings, and deferral of improvement district requirements.

**M220/2020 – Health Care Labour Adjustment (COVID-19) Order No. 2**

(in effect until July 10, 2021)

- Obligates health care employers, its staff, and any bargaining agent for unionized staff of the employer to implement a Single Site Order, pursuant to the *Public Health Act*. The order also requires employers to follow specified labour/employment terms.

**M256/2020 – BC Ferries Medical Travel (COVID-19) Order**

(in effect until July 10, 2021)

- Orders BC Ferries to administer their Medical Assured Loading Program in a way that does not restrict access for eligible patients.

**B.C. Reg. 200/2020 – COVID-19 (Passenger Transportation Act) Regulation**

(in effect until July 10, 2021)

- The regulation exempts passenger transportation licensees, such as tour bus operators, that have ceased operations due to COVID-19 from the requirement to pay an application fee when they submit an application to renew their licence.
- The regulation requires that the application fee must be paid prior to the Registrar renewing the licence. The regulation also requires that the application fee must be paid before the earlier of the date that is one year after the licensee makes the application or June 30, 2021.

**Appendix: COVID-19 Emergency Program Act (EPA) Ministerial Orders**  
**Currently in Effect – denotes EMBC responsibility – denotes PSSG responsibility**  
(updated June 7, 2021)

**B.C. Reg. 267/2020 – COVID-19 (Residential Tenancy Act and Manufactured Home Park Tenancy Act) (No. 3) Regulation**

(in effect until July 10, 2021)

- This Order creates the COVID-19 (Residential Tenancy Act and Manufactured Home Park Tenancy Act) (No. 3) Regulation and repeals the COVID-19 (Residential Tenancy Act and Manufactured Home Park Tenancy Act) (No. 2) Regulation that was made on August 14, 2020.
- The new regulation includes all of the contents of the previous regulation, which was previously reported on July 31, 2020, but with one change: under the previous regulation, rent increase notices with an effective date after March 30, 2020 were frozen until November 30, 2020. The new regulation extends the rent increase freeze until July 10, 2021.

**B.C. Reg. 301/2020 – Food Delivery Service (COVID-19) Order**

(in effect until 90 days after expiry of SOE)

- The Order places a 15 per cent cap on the maximum fees food delivery service providers may charge restaurants for each customer order in respect of the delivery of food from the restaurant to the customer, and an additional cap of 5 per cent for all other related services provided to restaurants for the use of their online platform.
- The Order also prohibits food delivery service providers from reducing the compensation they provide to employees or contractors who perform delivery services or retaining any portion of amounts intended as a tip or gratuity to the person delivering the food or beverages.
- The Order does not include businesses that provide food and beverage delivery services to fewer than 500 restaurants in British Columbia.

**M013/2021 The Protective Measures (COVID-19) Order**

(In effect until expiry of SOE. Not currently part of the CRMA schedules to ensure streamlined ticketing)

- On November 13, 2020, the Minister made the Food and Liquor Premises, Gatherings and Events (COVID-19) Order No 2 under the *Emergency Program Act* (EPA). This order, M416/2020, was incorporated into the *COVID 19 Related Measures Act* (CRMA) and repealed by OIC 1/2021 and replaced by MO 13/2021, The Protective Measures (COVID-19) Order. This order specifies prohibitions found in recent PHO orders for Gatherings and Events and for Food and Liquor Serving Premises.

**M012/2021 Face Coverings (COVID-19) Order**

(In effect until expiry of SOE. Not currently part of the CRMA schedules to ensure streamlined ticketing).

- On November 24, 2020, the Minister made the Use of Face Coverings in Indoor Public Spaces (COVID-19) Order under s. 10 of the *Emergency Program Act* (EPA) in response to a request made by the Provincial Health Officer. This order, M425/2020, was incorporated into the *COVID 19 Related Measures Act* (CRMA) and later repealed by OIC 1/2021.
- M013/2021, the Face Coverings (COVID-19) Order replaces the Use of Face Coverings in Indoor Public (COVID-19) Order. This order makes it mandatory for face coverings to be worn by visitors to public spaces. The replacement order: 1) adds an additional exemption from requirements to allow for masks to be removed for lip reading purposes; and 2) requires enforcement agencies and local governments to provide enforcement info to the Minister upon request.

**OIC061/2021 COVID-19 (Provincial Court Proceedings) Regulation**

(In effect retroactively to March 18, 2020, as provided for under s. 10.1(8) of the EPA, and will be repealed effective July 10, 2021)

- The COVID-19 (Provincial Court Proceedings) Regulation provides authority for the Chief Judge or Associate Chief Judge of the Provincial Court, only where it is reasonably necessary to do so as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic or for consistency with COVID-19 public health advisories, to give directions or make orders relating to 1) how specific proceedings may be conducted, including audioconference, videoconference or by written submission; 2) service, delivery, filing or submission of materials relating to proceedings; and 3) how a hearing or determination for specific procedure may be conducted.

**OIC192/2021 COVID-19 (Income Tax) Regulation**

(in effect to July 10, 2021)

- The regulation under Section 10.1 of the EPA will permit officials to use income tax information that the Ministry of Finance already has in its possession for purposes of administering and enforcing the Increased Employment Incentive and the BC Recovery Benefit, until the Employer Health Tax Act and the Income Tax Act can be amended to provide for these authorities.

**OIC247 COVID-19 (South Coast BC Transportation Authority Act) Regulation**

(in effect to July 10, 2021)

- Provides certainty that TransLink will have the necessary time to complete preparation of its next 10-year Investment Plan, including as agreed to in the June 2020 Memorandum of Understanding between TransLink and the Province, undertaking required public consultations and getting Investment Plan approval from the Mayors' Council.

**OIC310 COVID-19 (Provincial Court Proceeding No. 2) Regulation**

(in effect until CRMA repealed)

- Repeals and replaces the COVID-19 (Provincial Court Proceedings) Regulation. The regulation provides authority for the Chief Judge or Associate Chief Judge of the Provincial Court, only where it is reasonably necessary to do so as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic or for consistency with COVID-19 public health advisories, to give directions or make orders relating to (1) how specific proceedings may be conducted including audioconference, videoconference or by written submission; (2) service, delivery, filing or submission of materials relating to proceedings; and (3) how a hearing or determination for specific procedure may be conducted.

**M172/2021 / M182/2020 / M212/2020 Travel Restrictions (COVID-19) Order**

(Set date of repeal of June 15, 2021)

- The Travel Restrictions order restricts travel into or out of the combined Fraser-Vancouver Coastal Health Authority region, the combined Northern-Interior Health Authority region, and the Vancouver Island Health Authority region to prevent, respond to, and alleviate the recent increase in COVID-19 community transmission. The order provides a listing of exceptions to the travel restrictions for essential purposes. The order authorizes the enforcement of the travel restrictions.

**2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE****Enforcement of PHO and  
EPA Orders****Suggested Response:**

- Throughout the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, front-line police and Compliance and Enforcement Officers (C&EOs) have continued to provide critical services in all areas of the province, including the enforcement of numerous Provincial Health Orders (PHO) issued to help slow the spread of COVID-19.
- C&EOs empowered with enforcing these orders (including Liquor and Cannabis Inspectors and Investigators, Gaming Investigators, Conservation Officers and Community Safety Unit Officers) are supporting police by increasing enforcement during their regular duties or when out in public. Local Bylaw officers have also played a key role in following up on concerns and engaging police departments and WorkSafeBC when encountering possible violations.
- Health Authorities, Police, C&EOs, WorkSafeBC and local government have worked collaboratively to proactively monitor, educate, and use enforcement tools as needed in areas with increased transmission of COVID-19. Enforcement authorities have been well equipped to handle evolving situations in communities and are supported with effective leadership, communication, and guidance throughout the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.

**Background:****Approach to Order and enforcement**

- Police and specified compliance and enforcement officers have been encouraged to engage, educate, provide advice and guidance and aim to achieve voluntary compliance with the Provincial Health Officer Orders.
- Non-emergency contraventions are communicated through local government bylaw offices to follow up on concerns and refer to others as needed. Outside of office hours, reports for PHO violations are sent through police non-emergency lines when appropriate.
- If reasonable efforts to achieve compliance are unsuccessful, police and C&EOs can consider escalating the matter to enforcement action in line with the penalties and deterrents outlined below.

**History of the enforcement scheme and transition**

- BC declared a state of emergency in response to the COVID-19 global pandemic on March 18, 2020, which has been extended regularly. Numerous public health orders have been made and various restrictions have been imposed to stem the spread of COVID-19.

- On August 21, 2020 new measures were enacted under the provincial state of emergency, using the extraordinary powers of the *Emergency Program Act* (EPA) in ongoing support of the Province's all-of-society approach to the COVID-19 response and BC's Restart Plan. This resulted in numerous provisions under the *COVID-19 Related Measures Act* that allow police and compliance and enforcement officers to issue violation tickets.
- The enforcement scheme evolved over time; major changes include the following:
  - April 20, 2020, police, and other enforcement officers were given authority to issue \$2,000 violation tickets under an EPA Order for price gouging and the reselling of medical supplies and other essential goods during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic;
  - Since the declaration of a Public Health Emergency, the Gathering and Events, Food and Liquor Serving Premises and Prevention Regional Measures Orders have evolved;
  - On Nov. 24, 2020, a face covering enforcement order was introduced under the EPA;
  - On Dec. 16, 2020, enforcement measures were expanded to include C&Eos;
  - On Jan. 8, 2021, the Protective Measures (COVID-19) Order was issued to shift from enforcement under CRMA to enforcement under the EPA. The Face Coverings (COVID-19) Order was also shifted to enforcement under the EPA. This transition simplified the enforcement regime and administrative changes that need to occur going forward and provided greater clarity on what constitutes a contravention; and
  - On March 25, 2021, the Violation Ticket Administration and Fines Regulation to increase fines to \$575 (\$500 plus \$75 victim surcharge levy) for those promoting attendance at a non-compliant event (S. 4(3)) or attending a non-compliant event (S. 4(4)).
  - The Travel Restrictions (Covid-19) Order No. 2 of April 30, 2021 was repealed and replaced with the current Travel Restrictions (Covid-19) Order No. 3 on May 25, 2021. Current travel restrictions are in place until June 15, 2021. This Order aims to reduce non-essential travel between defined regions and functions as a tool for preventing, responding to and alleviating the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in BC. This Order includes authorities for police to conduct planned road checks and to require stopped drivers to provide limited information, such as their name, address, drivers licence and purpose of travel. During these checks, police can direct a driver to leave (or not enter) the health authority region that they were prohibited from entering if there is reasonable belief the driver is contravening the Order.

#### Enforcement authorities and tools

- Provincial Public Health Orders
  - Contraventions for Public Health Order Violations fall under the *Emergency Program Act* – Protective Measures Order and Face Coverings (COVID-19) Order which are enforceable under the Violation Ticket Administration and Fines Regulation.

- Police and C&EOs can recommend charges by long form information to the BC Prosecution Service in relation to offences under the EPA. Upon conviction, a fine of up to \$10,000 and/or 1-year imprisonment can be imposed as per section 27 of the EPA.
- Price Gouging and Secondary Selling
  - April 20, 2020, police, and other enforcement officers were given authority to issue \$2,300 violation tickets for those who:
    - Exceed the quantity limits on the sale of specified items; and
    - Do not comply with the requirement for hotel and other lodging operators to provide accommodation at the request of the Province to serve as self-isolation facilities or to support essential workers.
  - Concerns around price gouging are reported through Consumer Protection BC.
- *Quarantine Act*
  - On April 14, 2020 the federal government announced local and provincial police forces to issue tickets to returning travellers who do not comply with the requirements of the federal *Quarantine Act*.
  - Fines for violating the *Quarantine Act* increased February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 to deter Canadians from engaging in non-essential travel and re-emphasize the seriousness and severity of contravening these offences.
  - As of May 15, 2021 ICBC, has 460 Federal *Quarantine Act* on file with a value of \$1,233,888.
    - 22 Tickets for federal fines have been paid totalling \$48,060 (to May 15, 2021)
    - 220 are currently in dispute
    - 41 have been categorized as guilty
    - 177 have been categorized as “other” (includes cancelled tickets, not guilty tickets, and in-progress tickets)

Provincial and Operational Coordination:

- Policing and Security Branch (PSB) of the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General is leading several activities to ensure approaches to enforcement are coordinated and appropriate guidance and support is provided. PSB also facilitates coordination in response to new and emerging issues that arise bringing together relevant partners to develop strategies to prevent and respond to situations as needed (e.g. Whistler, Big White).
- Regular (bi-weekly) meetings are held with Police Leaders to provide situational updates, discuss and plan around new and emerging issues and to support development of new guidance to support enforcement of orders.
- A BC COVID-19 Interagency Enforcement Working Group has also been established and is

comprised of Health Authorities, Provincial Compliance and Enforcement, WorkSafeBC, Police, Municipal Bylaw Officers, and other provincial government Ministries. The working group meets bi-weekly to identify trends, discuss emerging issues and strategies and to help inform and influence approaches.

- In addition, a Provincial Orders Support Team Call Centre (POST-CC) continues to be available to local bylaw officers, police and Provincial C&EOs to provide the most up to date information and guidance on Provincial Orders. The call centre continues to be staffed by personnel from Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch and supported by other Provincial C&E resources.
- Enforcement efforts have included various multi-agency responses to local issues, for example the rise in COVID-19 cases in Whistler and Big White, Police, C&EOs, bylaw, WorkSafeBC and health authority partners have organized coordinated, timely and targeted inspections of establishments as needed. This has included areas demonstrating increased transmission of COVID-19 such as restaurants as well as in response to holidays or events, to inform, educate and monitor establishments for compliance with public health orders.
- Through the Travel Restrictions (COVID-19) Orders, BC Ferries has been directed by the Province to ensure people travelling on the ferry system are doing so for essential reasons only. Ticket agents have been asked to confirm this with travelers and escalate issues when necessary. PSB receives daily situational reports from BC Ferries which are consistently showing low traffic volumes, generally no issues/concerns. The RCMP have set up periodic road checks at planned locations over the course of the Travel Restrictions Order to educate and raise awareness of travel restrictions. PSB monitors and maintain regular contact with the RCMP as road checks are set up and implemented.

#### Results: COVID-19 Violations Recorded by Police and Compliance and Enforcement Officers

- Between August 21, 2020 and May 14, 2021, 2005 violation tickets were issued including:
  - 371 \$2300 tickets to owners or organizers contravening the PHO's order on gatherings and events, totalling \$853,300.
  - 54 \$2300 violation tickets for contravention of the PHO Food and Liquor Serving Premises Order, totalling \$124,200.
  - 1528 \$230 tickets to individuals who refuse to comply with PHO Orders, totalling \$351,440.
  - 51 \$575 tickets to individuals using the increased violation fines who promote or attend a non-compliant event, totalling \$29,325: and
  - 1 \$575 ticket to an individual for failing to comply with the travel restrictions, totalling \$575.

COVID-19 Violations Recorded by ICBC

- Between August 21, 2020 and May 15, 2021 ICBC has recorded 1834 provincial tickets on file. The total fine amount is \$1,272,720 and the total value of provincial fines paid to date is \$174,030. Of the provincial tickets:
  - 347 have been paid
  - 600 are currently in dispute
  - 762 are guilty (i.e., the ticket has passed the 30 days to dispute, or was in dispute but the alleged offender did not show for their court date, or the dispute was heard and led to a guilty judgement decision)
  - 125 are classified as “Other” (includes cancelled tickets, not guilty tickets, in-progress tickets)
- ICBC sends unpaid provincial tickets directly to collections shortly after the initial 30-day payment or dispute period ends, or after a recipient is found guilty in court.

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**2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE****Travel Restriction Order****Suggested Response:**

- On April 23, 2021, on the advice of Dr. Bonnie Henry, B.C.'s Provincial Health Officer (PHO), I implemented an order under the *Emergency Program Act* to prohibit non-essential travel within British Columbia. It applies to everyone in the province, including people who come into BC from outside the province.
- The order was initially in effect from April 23 through to midnight on April 24th. I then extended this order until June 15 and added exemptions to voting in local government elections and to visit secondary properties for the purpose of inspections or maintenance.
- The Travel Restrictions order restricts travel between three regional zones in the province, using health authority boundaries to prevent, respond to and alleviate the increase in COVID-19 community transmission and cases. The regional zones are: the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley (the combined Fraser-Vancouver Coastal Health Authority region), Northern and Interior British Columbia (the combined Northern-Interior Health Authority region), and Vancouver Island (the Vancouver Island Health Authority). The order provides a listing of exceptions to the travel restrictions for essential purposes.
- The order authorizes police officers to conduct Counter Attack style road checks at locations that have been approved by the local police agency (the RCMP). Police agencies will establish these road checks on major transportation routes between the Lower Mainland and the Interior/North region.
- When a vehicle is stopped at a road check the authorizes police to request:
  - the driver's name, address and driver's license;
  - any available documentation regarding the driver's name and address (for example, secondary identification that confirms a driver's residential address if recently moved); and
  - the purpose of the driver's travel (documentation regarding travel is not required).
- To clarify, the order does not authorize police to stop British Columbians on the streets (i.e. street checks) or to arbitrarily stop vehicles. The road check authority is limited to locations that have been approved by the local police agency (i.e. the RCMP).
- The order only allows personal information to be collected when an enforcement action is taken.
- Enforcement of the order via violation tickets is authorized under the *Offence Act*. At the discretion of police, a contravention of this order is subject to a fine of \$575 for violating the

travel order and \$230 fines may be issued for failing to stop for a police officer, failing to provide information to a police officer, failing to follow direction of an enforcement officer, and for engaging in abusive or belligerent behaviour in relation to the order.

- It's clear that the public got the message about limiting travel. Only a handful of vehicles have been turned around during the road checks.
- The order has been successful in reducing traffic on BC Ferries and on major routes between regions. However, it was prudent to extend the restrictions until June 15 in order to continue to curb transmission of the virus between regions of the province.

**Background:**

- B.C. declared a state of emergency in response to the COVID-19 global pandemic on March 18, 2020, which has been extended regularly.
- On April 12, 2021, the PHO stated that B.C. was in its third wave of the pandemic due to an increase in community transmission and COVID-19 cases – including variants of concern. Many cases are linked to people engaging in non-essential travel from the Lower Mainland to other parts of the province.
- On April 23, on the advice of the PHO, the Travel Restrictions (COVID-19) Order was made under the *Emergency Program Act* ("EPA"). The order provides a list of what is considered travel for essential purposes. On April 30, the list was expanded to include travel to avoid the risk of abuse or violence and to allow social visits in long-term care or assisted living facilities.
- On May 25, the Travel Restrictions Order (COVID-19) No. 3 was made, extending the restrictions until June 15 and allowing exemptions to vote in local government elections and to visit secondary properties for purposes of inspections or maintenance.
- Essential purposes include:
  - moving to a different principal residence or assisting a person to move for that purpose;
  - carrying out a work-related purpose, including volunteer work;
  - commercially transporting goods;
  - receiving health care services or social services or assisting someone to receive those services;
  - attending court;

- complying with a court order;
- exercising parental responsibilities, including spending parenting time with a minor child;
- accessing childcare;
- attending classes or receiving training through a post-secondary institution or school;
- responding to emergencies or critical incidents, including incidents that involve search and rescue operations;
- providing care or assistance to a person who requires care or assistance because of:
  - a psychological, behavioural or health condition, or
  - a physical, cognitive or mental impairment.
- visiting by an essential visitor or a social visitor as provided in the guidance of the Ministry of Health set out in a document titled "Ministry of Health - Overview of Visitors in Long-Term Care and Seniors' Assisted Living" that was in effect on April 1, 2021;
- attending a funeral service;
- travelling under the authority of a variance of an order issued by the provincial health officer under the Public Health Act if the variance was made before this order comes into force;
- travelling for the purpose of avoiding the risk of abuse or violence;
- travelling by residents of the local health area of Bella Coola Valley or Central Coast to Port Hardy to obtain essential goods and supplies;
- travelling by residents of the local health area of Hope to Chilliwack to obtain essential goods and supplies;
- travelling by residents of the Northern Health Authority region into the Nisga'a Health Authority region;
- travelling by residents of the Nisga'a Health Authority region into the Northern-Interior Health Authority region;
- returning to a person's own principal residence;

- voting in local government elections; and
- visiting a property which is not a principal residence to conduct inspections or maintenance.

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Government Financial Information

**2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE****Mandatory Face Coverings****Suggested Response:**

- On November 19, 2020, Dr. Bonnie Henry announced that she had asked me to implement an order under the *Emergency Program Act* to limit the spread of COVID-19 by mandating masks in indoor public places across the province. On November 24, 2020, the order was put into place.
- The order recognizes that some people have legitimate reasons for not being able to wear masks and provides exemptions including persons who are unable to remove their own mask due either to physical, cognitive or mental impairment or medical conditions. Those who are exempt are not required to explain the nature of their exemption and we ask proprietors to take customers and visitors at their word to avoid stigmatization. To be clear, operators of indoor public spaces may implement their own policies and procedures but must comply with the BC's Human Rights code to ensure that their policies are not based on discrimination.
- Although the order does not apply to common areas in private dwellings that are not accessible by the public, it is strongly recommended that masks be worn in common areas like elevators, hallways, and stairwells.

**Background:**

- BC declared a state of emergency in response to the COVID-19 global pandemic on March 18, 2020, which has been extended regularly.
- On November 24, 2020, a Face Covering (COVID-19) Order was made under the *Emergency Program Act* and added to the schedule under the *COVID-19 Related Measures Act* (CRMA).
- The order makes it mandatory for a person to wear a face covering that covers the nose and mouth while visiting an indoor public space subject to exceptions.
- On January 8, 2021, an amended Face Coverings (COVID-19) Order was made. It added an exemption of wearing a mask when communicating with a person who is hearing impaired.  
Legal Information
- On May 17, 2021 the order was amended again to align the exemption for lip reading with new, more expansive wording in the Provincial Health Officer's (PHO) Gathering and Events Order and align the exemption for sport and fitness activities with the more restrictive

approach in the PHO's Indoor Individual Exercise Requirements document, which now requires face coverings to be worn at all times in fitness facilities.

- Public spaces include:
  - Malls, shopping centres, coffee shops, and retail and grocery stores.
  - A place of public worship.
  - Service businesses (e.g. insurance broker's office, barbershop).
  - Airports, libraries, community and recreation centres.
  - Restaurants, pubs and bars when not seated in a designated area.
  - On public transportation, in a taxi or ride-sharing vehicle.
  - Indoor common areas of office buildings, post secondary institutions, court houses and hotels.
  - Indoor common areas of sport and fitness centres when not engaged in physical activity.
- Explicit exemptions from the requirement to wear a face covering are:
  - Children under the age of 12.
  - Persons who are unable to wear face coverings due to physical, mental or cognitive disabilities or medical conditions.
  - Persons who cannot put on or remove a face covering on their own.
  - When a person's identity needs to be verified
  - When removal of the face covering is necessary to receive a personal service or care from a health professional.
  - While a person is present in a court room.
  - When consuming food or beverage in a café, restaurant or pub in a designated customer area.
  - While taking part in sport at a sport facility.
  - While inside a vehicle aboard a ferry.

- While communicating with a person who has a hearing impairment or relies on visual cues.
- While not explicitly exempted, the order does not mandate face coverings for K-12 schools, worker safety/workplace requirements or the common areas of an apartment or strata condominium property.

Contact: Heather Brazier (EMBC)	Mobile: <small>Government Financial Information</small>
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**2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE****Supply Chain****Suggested Response:**

- In response to disrupted supply chains as a result of COVID-19, the Province established the Provincial Supply Chain Coordination Unit (PSCCU) to ensure ministries, fire departments, essential service providers, and communities had the critical supplies they needed to sustain services through the pandemic.
- On March 30, 2020, BC launched the COVID-19 Supply Hub initially to act as a single point of entry to triage donations and offers of personal protective equipment (PPE) to the health sector. The Supply Hub subsequently shifted its focus on supporting the Province's pandemic response by providing a platform to sell PPE and cleaning supplies to the broader public sector and essential service providers who were having difficulties securing these supplies through their normal supply chains.
- The PSCCU secured a significant inventory of PPE and cleaning supplies to support those delivering public services and serving vulnerable British Columbians. These goods were sold on a cost recovery basis to eligible entities (list in background) in collaboration with the Ministry of Citizens' Services and Provincial Health Services Authority.
- The critical supplies and PPE that are sold on the Supply Hub use a cost recovery model, incorporating the product cost and an additional 20% that accounts for warehousing, shipping, and IT support. Government Financial Information  
Government Financial Information
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- The Province continues to work to ensure all inventory is deployed to support the ongoing COVID-19 response and recovery. This is expected to include all medical grade PPE being directed towards the health sector need and the remaining inventory being deployed within the broader public sector to the greatest need.
- Questions related to quality assurance, expenditures, and current valuation of the Supply Hub inventory can be directed to the Ministry of Health.

**Background:**

- On March 18, 2020 the Province announced the use of extraordinary powers under the Emergency Program Act, in support of a government-wide approach to COVID-19 response and recovery. This included the establishment of the PSCCU to ensure critical supply chains are maintained throughout the response and recovery to COVID-19.
- Entities eligible to purchase supplies include:
  - First responders (such as fire departments, police services, ambulance services);
  - Local governments;
  - Federal government and all provincial and territorial governments;
  - First Nation governments and Indigenous organizations ;
  - Entities in the Government Reporting Entity, as defined in the Budget Transparency and Accountability Act;
  - Broader public sector and other entities, including public and private social service providers:
    - Contracted social service providers;
    - Substance use and addictions services including outreach;
    - Residential and care facilities for substance use, addictions, and mental health services;
    - Transitional, social and supportive housing;
    - Single-room occupancy housing (SROs) and emergency shelters;
    - Food banks, community kitchens, voluntary and community service providers;
    - Childcare providers;
    - Independent schools (private (K-12) education);
    - Critical incident service responders and workplace inspection entities;
    - Victim services organizations;
    - Community services and outreach for immigrants, refugees, vulnerable populations;

- Funeral services sector; and
  - Suppliers and Wholesalers of critical supplies.
  - The PSCCU is led by Emergency Management B.C. and is an integrated team across four ministries that has worked in partnership with the Provincial Health Services Authority to:
    - source and procure critical supplies to ensure essential service providers and communities have what they need during the COVID-19 pandemic.
    - develop local manufacturing capability of critical supplies such as hand sanitizer, face shields, and masks.
    - co-ordinate the distribution of critical supplies in partnership with industry.
    - ensure the transportation of critical supplies by land, air, marine and rail.
  - The warehousing and distribution of all critical supplies for essential services outside the health sector is managed by the Procurement and Supply Division at the Ministry of Citizens Services. Additional warehousing capacity has been provided by 18 Wheels in the lower mainland.
    - 18 Wheels is currently holding approx. 5800 pallets of supplies.
    - CITZ warehouses currently hold approx. 500 pallets of supplies.
  - Warehousing costs at 18 Wheels cost approx. \$117,000 per month for 5,800 pallets of COVID-19 Supply Hub Inventory.
  - The Ministry of Citizen's Service's have applied a 20% cost to all product sold on the Supply Hub. This expenditure includes:
    - Warehousing and Staff
    - Administration
    - Picking and Packing
    - Packaging Materials
    - Distribution
    - Freight and Shipping
    - IT systems
    - IT support staff
  - Government Financial Information
  - The PSCCU has introduced substantial bulk discounts for all eligible entities, ranging from 14% - 54% discounts when eligible entities procure supplies by the pallet. Government Financial Information
- Government Financial Information

- Government Financial Information
- Cabinet Confidences
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- The PSCCU has developed a quality assurance program to provide confidence in the PPE and cleaning supplies that are being sold and to mitigate the risk of inadequate products being distributed. This includes coordinating the vetting of PPE by health authority clinical teams and testing by independent labs.
- BC companies of all sizes have been repurposing their manufacturing capability to address the increased need for PPE and cleaning supplies. Some examples include local distilleries producing hand sanitizer, and garment factories manufacturing gowns and masks.
- Wherever possible the PSCCU procured from BC-based business, for instance:

Supplier	Product
<b>Parallel 49</b> Vancouver Brewery	660k litres
<b>AG Hair</b> Vancouver	1.8M bottles
<b>Breathe Medical</b> Kelowna	30M masks
<b>Packright Manufacturing</b> Vancouver	15K face shields
<b>WestBond Industries</b> Delta	1.8M cannisters
<b>Project Clean Inc</b> Delta	332K liters
<b>BNAC Environmental Solutions Inc.</b> Coquitlam	10k litres
<b>FAST</b> Delta	960k gowns
<b>Total:</b>	

### Supply Chain Estimates Note Topics

Topic	Lead
PPE Expenditures / Purchases	Health
Pricing Strategy – Supply Hub	PSSG/EMBC
Supply Hub Strategy (Including Redistribution)	PSSG/EMBC

Supply Hub Sales	PSSG/EMBC
Warehousing / Distribution	CITZ
Quality Assurance	Health
Technology (Sales Force)	CITZ
Non-Health Inventory Levels	CITZ
Procurement from BC based companies	PSSG/EMBC

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**2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE****Support to First Nations Communities****Suggested Response:**

- In March 2020, the Province adopted a collaborative approach to addressing the identified needs of urban, rural and remote Indigenous communities. An Indigenous Agency Working Group (IAWG) was formed with Emergency Management BC (EMBC), the Ministry of Health (MoH), the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR), the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA), Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and more than 40 cross-ministry and cross-agency partners. The outreach and coordination included three levels: provincial, strategic, and operational.
- At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Ministry of Health implemented a new collaborative framework to help ensure that people living in Indigenous, rural and remote communities in BC have access to health care options that meet their unique needs. EMBC supported components of the framework.
- The framework and regular outreach at the three levels has resulted in a stronger relationship between EMBC, First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) and other key emergency management partners while also demonstrating that First Nations emergency management issues are being heard and addressed.
- Consistent with other emergencies First Nations governments are eligible to be reimbursed for many COVID-19 related emergency response costs under the emergency program act as outlined in EMBC's *Policy 5.13: COVID-19 Pandemic Response Task Number*.
- Key actions eligible for funding under the policy include incremental response costs:
  - for activating an Emergency Operations Centre (EOC);
  - related to any actions required to support additional health capacity that may be requested or directed by a health authority; and
  - related to the implementation of any provincial measures to restrict activities, movement to manage COVID-19 impacts
- The province has approved approximately \$6 million in COVID-19 response related reimbursements for First Nations communities. The province will be reimbursed for these costs by the federal government.
- In partnership with First Nations communities, provincial and territorial governments and non-government organizations, Indigenous Services Canada's (ISC) Emergency Management Assistance Program (EMAP) helps communities on reserve access emergency

assistance services and funding through the 4 pillars of emergency management including mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery.

- In addition to the bi-lateral Service Agreement delivered by Emergency Management BC on behalf of ISC to support on-reserve emergency management, ISC has a separate bi-lateral Service Agreement delivered by BC Wildfire Service for fire suppression services on reserve.
- The Tripartite Emergency Management MOU between Canada (ISC), British Columbia and the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC), recognizes First Nations as full partners in both the governance and operations of emergency management, including collaboration on modernizing the *Emergency Program Act* (EPA).
- EMBC works very closely with ISC to ensure First Nations are well-equipped in their response to COVID-19. The Government of Canada has invested over \$1 billion towards the Indigenous Community Support Fund. Budget 2021 proposed an additional \$760.8 million for the Indigenous Community Support Fund for ongoing support in the response to COVID-19.
- EMBC also works in collaboration with the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) who are responsible for planning, management service delivery and funding of health programs, previously provided by Health Canada's First Nations Inuit Health Branch Pacific Region. FNHA is responsible for supporting the development of pandemic plans in Indigenous Communities.
- The strength of the collaborative approach was evident in the response to the COVID-19 outbreak reported in April 2020 on Cormorant Island, a small island east of Port McNeill. EMBC, ISC, FNHA, and the Provincial Health Office (PHO) brought together their provincial, federal, and regional resources to support the two First Nations (Namgis and Whe-la-la-U) communities, and the local authority (Village of Alert Bay) to successfully lead the containment of the outbreak. The lessons learned from this response are already influencing local pandemic planning and being shared with First Nations and local authorities across the province.
- EMBC, FNHA, ISC and community partners mobilized to coordinate COVID-19 response supports for several other Nations during 2020-2021, including: Nuxalk Nation, Council of Haida Nation, Nisga'a Lisims Government, Tsilhqot'in National Government, Nuuchahnulth Tribal Council, Esketemc First Nations and many more communities who faced outbreaks and public safety crises.
- In Fall 2020, EMBC also worked directly with representatives from the Tsilhqot'in National Government and Nuuchahnulth Tribal Council to revise and co-develop components of EMBC's *Policy 5.13: COVID-19 Pandemic Response Task Number*. These efforts enshrined

the role of Nation's to self-determine when to implement measures, such as public health checkpoints, to restrict access into communities to reduce the transmission of COVID-19.

- The collaborative efforts to revise Policy 5.13 was pointed to as a success of government-to-government partnership in the COVID-19 report titled: *Tsilhqot'in in the Time of COVID: Strengthening Tsilhqot'in Ways to Protect Our People*.

#### Background:

- EMBC under the Bilateral Emergency Services Agreement with Indigenous Services Canada delivers emergency management service and supports to First Nations Communities across the province.
- The Regional Health Authorities (RHA) and FNHA, are responsible for the provision of emergency acute and critical care hospital services, as well as public health services. In addition, health authorities also work to ensure the continuity of community-based services such as residential care, home care and support, mental health and addictions services.
- In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, under the authority of the *Public Health Act* and the Emergency Program Management Regulation, MoH is the lead agency and authority in public health emergencies and human diseases and is responsible for providing critical incident stress debriefing and counselling services. MoH and FNHA work closely to provide support to Indigenous communities.
- EMBC regularly engages with First Nations and First Nation organizations at three levels senior leadership, strategic and operational:
  - At the senior leadership level, the Province, Canada ISC and FNHA hold regular dialogue with the FNLC, FNESS and other provincial-level working groups and partners.
  - At the strategic level, the cross-agency and cross-ministry Indigenous Agency Working Group (IAWG) addresses emerging issues in a timely and coordinated way.
  - At the operational level, EMBC's Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centres (PREOC) support incoming resource requests from communities as well as coordination of efforts with partners to address emergent needs during the response to the pandemic.

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**2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE****Response Cost  
Reimbursements including  
COVID-19**

- Local Government and First Nations  
Emergency Response Funding Update
- COVID-19 Response Cost (Policy 5.13)
- Financial Guidelines

**Suggested Response:****Local Government and First Nations Emergency Response Cost Reimbursement**

- Disasters can be expensive, the cost of responding to events can quickly reach hundreds of thousands of dollars. Safeguarding the public, protecting property, and implementing other response objectives can require substantial short-term expenditures that may present a financial challenge for local governments and First Nation governments.
- Provincial legislation and policies are designed to help offset local authority expenditures incurred during an emergency or disaster. However, not all emergency response costs qualify for financial reimbursement. Local Authorities and First Nations pay their emergency response costs first and then submit claims to EMBC for reimbursement of eligible expenses.

**COVID-19 Response Costs (EMBC Policy 5.13)**

- As the COVID-19 pandemic was considered an emergency under the Emergency Program Act incremental emergency response costs incurred by local governments and First Nations were eligible for reimbursement by EMBC similar to seasonal disaster such as floods and wildfires.
- After the provincial state of emergency concludes, any ongoing Local Government and First Nations COVID-19 response related costs will no longer be eligible for reimbursement by EMBC.
- This does not impact the eligibility of items approved through expenditure authorization forms throughout the pandemic, all existing commitments to be honoured.
- In the event of any emergent COVID-19 related needs EMBC will continue to work with communities and First Nations to address their needs.

**Financial Guideline Updates**

- EMBC is in the process of updating the financial guidelines for emergency response cost to provide better consistency and clarity particularly in respect to documentation requirements.

- This work supports the timely review and payment of response claims which has been identified by Local Government and First Nations as an important priority.
- EMBC appreciates the valuable feedback received on the proposed changes from communities across the province and the opportunity to engage with members of the UBCM Flood and Wildfire Committee on this topic.

**Background:****Local Government and First Nations Emergency Response Cost Reimbursement**

- Response costs are those incurred by a local authority to protect lives, property, animals, and the environment from an active threat of injury or damage. The costs may include those taken to address the “imminent threat” of an emergency event before it has human consequence impacts, or to address the actual impacts of an emergency in progress.
- This includes efforts related to evacuation, such as ESS Reception Centre operations, and all functions coordinated through the Emergency Operations Centre. Some emergency and temporary repairs of critical infrastructure fall into this category when such actions reduce further damage and loss from the same event. Direct response costs and incremental overtime for staff engaged in the response are also eligible for reimbursement.
- Typically, local authorities through their Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) submit an Expenditure Authorization Form (EAF) to the local Provincial Regional Operations Centre (PREOC) to confirm the Province will fund specific response expenses. Once an EAF has been authorized by the PREOC, the local authority is assured the province will provide assistance to the dollar limit identified provided the proper supporting documentation is submitted with the resultant claim.
- Local authorities do not need an EAF approval before taking response actions when immediate action is appropriate to reduce the immediate threat. However, local authorities are advised to obtain authorization whenever practical to check assumptions about which response costs the province considers eligible for financial assistance, especially when dealing with large cost items.
- Following the event, the local authority submits a claim through the PREOC for reimbursement of eligible costs by EMBC. Eligibility for financial assistance does not depend on a declaration of a state of emergency by the province or local authority.
- Claims from local authorities must include supporting documentation which confirms the rationale for the expenditure, the costs of the items, date the materials/services were used, and proof the local authority paid the supplier or contractor.

- Claims are assessed by EMBC against approved EAFs and local authorities are reimbursed accordingly. It is not unusual for there to be interim payments made in the event initial claim submissions are incomplete. EMBC recovers costs associated with First Nations related reimbursements from Indigenous Services Canada.

#### COVID-19 Response Costs (EMBC Policy 5.13)

- The COVID-19 pandemic event is considered an “emergency” within the meaning of both the Public Health Act and Emergency Program Act (EPA). Consistent with other emergencies local and First Nations governments may be reimbursed for eligible COVID-19 related response costs.
- EMBC put Policy 5.13 into place early in the pandemic to provide greater funding certainty for local and First Nations government to ensure response actions could be undertaken without delay caused by eligibility concerns.
- This was particularly important early in the COVID-19 pandemic as defined funding through the Health sector and through other ministries/agencies to support the health
- As the legislative authority to fund Local Government and First Nations COVID-19 emergency response costs is tied to the Provincial State of Emergency once it concludes any ongoing Local Government and First Nations COVID-19 response related costs will no longer be eligible for reimbursement by EMBC.
- 2020/21 costs related to Local Government and First Nations related COVID-19 response reimbursements funded under the EPA are estimated at over \$40 million.
- 2020/21 annual operating results, including these COVID-19 related expenditures, are being prepared and audited. Final results will be available when the Minister of Finance releases the Public Accounts.

#### Financial Guideline Updates

- The Financial Assistance for Emergency Response Costs: A guide for BC First Nations and Local Authorities provides guidance to communities in respect to what costs may be reimbursed by the province in the events of an emergency.
- EMBC is in the process of updating the guidelines to provide better consistency and clarity particularly in respect to documentation requirements and the reasonability of costs.
- The updates are primarily administrative in nature and do not materially change the level of financial support available to Local Authorities and First Nations.

- Examples of updates include linking maximum reimbursement for meals to provincial per diem rates and providing more guidance in respect to what is considered excessive wages/overtime.
- This work supports the timely review and payment of response claims as they are received which has been highlighted by Local Government and First Nations as an important priority.
- EMBC is working through feedback received from Local Government and First Nations on the draft guidelines and will be finalizing in the coming weeks.
- EMBC expects to be able to communicate next step to within the next month. The implementation plan will include sharing the new guidelines well in advance of their effective date to allow Local Government and First Nations to changes their process if required.

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**2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE*****Emergency Program Act  
(EPA) Modernization*****Suggested Response:**

- The *Emergency Program Act* (EPA) was enacted in 1993. The Act focuses on the preparedness and response phases of emergency management. Modernization of the Act will allow greater emphasis on all phases of emergency management, including mitigation and recovery. The new Act will also broaden the range of partners who are critical for effective disaster risk reduction and emergency management.
- In 2019, the provincial government initiated a full-scale review of the EPA, with the intention of developing new, modernized emergency management and disaster risk management legislation to replace the EPA.
- The discussion paper that was released in late October 2019 generated 239 written responses. Overall, there was strong support for the proposals in the discussion paper.
- The full-court press necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic response has impacted the modernization initiative in two ways.
  - First, it has delayed our timelines. Cabinet Confidences  
Cabinet Confidences
  - Second, there are lessons we have extracted from the pandemic response that are being incorporated in the new legislation. Cabinet Confidences  
Cabinet Confidences

**Engagement:**

- We are committed to continue engaging with Indigenous peoples, local government and regulated entities on the modernization work. Indigenous engagement and legislative development will reflect the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*.
- Feedback on the Discussion Paper informed the What We Heard Report, which was released on August 31, 2020. This report summarized feedback received from our partners and outlines the legislative path forward.
- To account for additional lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic, our partners were invited to respond to the What We Heard Report in Fall 2020. The additional feedback confirmed the issues that had been identified by provincial staff.

**Background:**

- The EPA provides the legislative framework for the B.C. Government and local authorities to plan for, respond to and recover from emergencies. In particular, the EPA provides for the use of extraordinary powers if a state of provincial emergency or state of local emergency is declared.
- In the fall of 2018, Cabinet directed EMBC to prepare new emergency management legislation to align with the UN Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.
- Along with the 2017 and 2018 flood and wildfire seasons, the COVID-19 pandemic has provided many lessons that are being incorporated in the new legislation.
- In view of the pandemic, the modernized legislation will be <sup>Cabinet Confidences</sup>  
Cabinet Confidences
- Engagement plans have been developed to support feedback and collaboration from all levels of government, Indigenous rights and title holders and key partners to ensure a comprehensive approach to modernization.

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**2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE****Central Region Systemic Flooding****Suggested Response:**All Flooding Challenges

- Climate change has increased the incidence and impact of systemic flooding in several areas in BC particularly those prone to repeated flood events.
- The Province continues to work with communities that face systemic flooding concerns to ensure they are both prepared and are aware of mitigation funding opportunities.
- In preparation for freshet 2021, Emergency Management BC (EMBC) has supported communities by providing sandbags, and prepositioning sandbag machines and other flood control assets as necessary.
- EMBC also works closely with the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Development and Rural Development (FLNRORD) to coordinate other provincial supports including flood assessment flights and the deployment of BC Wildfire Service Crews to assist with the filling and positioning of sandbags as required.

Stump Lake (Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD)) Flooding Challenges:

- Stump Lake, located south of Kamloops, has no natural outflow. The lake level rises when inflows increase and evaporation is suppressed, which can result in flooding. (Stump Lake is in the Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD) between Merritt and Kamloops along Highway 5A.)
- In Spring 2020, Highway 5A which runs alongside Stump Lake, was closed due to flooding.
- A major concern is that any measures to redirect the water will negatively impact property owners downstream. Specifically, pumping or diversion of the lake water into Stump Creek, where it would flow unabated to the downstream dams and communities, is not a viable option due to the inability of the structures to cope with those flows, and to potential impacts on ecosystems and fish that support the angling activity on the lake.
- For the 2021 freshet EMBC has supported the TNRD with coordination of assessments with FLNRORD to view requests for protective works to ensure they will work for the intended purpose. Where appropriate, sand and sandbags are being supported.
- Stump Lake levels dropped approximately 60 cm over the winter. The lake will continue to rise slightly in response to snow melt but will not likely reach the maximum level attained in 2020.

Village of Lumby (Regional District of North Okanagan) Flooding Challenges:

- The Province has provided funding to the Village Lumby and continues to work with Lumby

by ensuring they are aware of mitigation funding opportunities.

- For freshet 2021, EMBC is maintaining regular contact with the Village of Lumby and will support flood planning efforts.
- Significant flooding is not expected in the Village of Lumby, the South Thompson River snow basin index showed 100% of normal. However, snow conditions are not the only cause of flooding, weather (specifically rain) plays a significant role.

Newsome Creek (Columbia Shuswap Regional District (CSRD)) Flooding Challenges:

- The Province has provided funding to the Columbia Shuswap Regional District (CSRD) and has shared the mitigation funding opportunities that are available.
- For freshet 2021, EMBC is maintaining regular contact with the CSRD and will support flood planning efforts or response to slope instability that may arise.
- Significant flooding is not expected in the Newsome Creek area, the South Thompson River snow basin index showed 100% of normal. However, snow conditions are not the only cause of flooding, weather (specifically rain) plays a significant role.

**Background:**

Stump Lake:

- Stump Lake water levels have been rising since 2017, impacting 10 permanent homes and over 11 ancillary buildings.
- Since April 2020, EMBC has supported the TNRD with over \$55,000 in sandbags and sand to respond to the flooding of the private residences. This support ceased as of Nov. 23, 2020 as the sandbags were being placed to protect landscaping.
- September 25, 2020: The results of a water balance and feasibility study identifying risks to downstream values were presented to the residents, the TNRD and provincial representatives. This study was co-funded by FLNRORD (\$20,000) and TNRD (\$28,000).
- The study concludes that a technically feasible long-term solution would be provided by the installation of an outlet pipe with a manual gate (estimated cost \$2.5M) and construction of a channel through Guichon's pasture (estimated cost \$2.8M) to mitigate downstream impacts, notwithstanding potential environmental implications.
- Residents are requesting the lake level be lowered to prevent further flooding in the interim. The TNRD has advised residents that they need to apply to FLNRORD to move water/lower the lake level.

- The TNRD board approved a motion (Nov 2020) not to proceed with flood mitigation on Stump Lake, due to liability concerns, and continue to lobby provincial government in support of residents.
- There were no applications received from the TNRD for flood mitigation projects or to the Community Emergency Program Fund (CEPF) regarding Stump Lake during the 2018, 2019 or 2020 intakes of the CEPF.

Village of Lumby:

- In May 2017, Lumby saw significant flooding and installed 7.2 km of temporary berm for flood protection measures. These works were not overseen, permitted, or approved by the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD) or Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO).
- In March 2017 the Village of Lumby received a grant of \$150K through the provinces' End of Year Funding initiative to complete a flood risk assessment, flood mapping and develop a flood mitigation plan.
- In January 2018, the DFO advised Lumby of their 'Duty of Corrective Actions' under the Fisheries Act for permanent alteration and/or destruction of the environment. In August 2020, DFO provided Lumby legal direction to address fish habitat that was permanently altered or destroyed.
- EMBC has approved supporting only the works associated with removing the temporary berm, which is only a portion of the total cost to address the environmental damage cited by DFO.
- Since 2017, EMBC has provided \$1.4M in funding to Lumby for berm removal and restoration work.
- In 2019, Lumby was approved for \$750,000 under the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) for the Structural Flood Mitigation funding stream for the area along Shield Avenue.
- During 2020 Freshet, the Village of Lumby saw no significant flooding.
- In November 2020, Lumby submitted to EMBC a request for reimbursement estimated between \$1.2M and 1.6M for Lumby to undertake the remediation works cited by the DFO.
- This request for financial reimbursement was not approved by the EMBC's statutory decision maker (SDM) as it would essentially be paying a fine incurred by Lumby based on the DFO legal direction towards Lumby under the Fisheries Act.

Newsome Creek:

- There are twelve residential properties and one motel adjacent to the Newsome Creek ravine along Caen Road, between Dieppe Road (adjacent to Shuswap Lake) and the Trans-Canada Highway (TCH) in the town of Sorrento, BC located in the Columbia Shuswap Regional District (CSRD). Eight of the twelve properties have structures at risk should the ravine slope fail.
- EMBC provided funding for three geotechnical studies in 2017 and 2018 and for a danger tree assessment in 2018 to understand risks and identify mitigative works.
- On April 5, 2019, CSRD placed two of these properties on evacuation alert. EMBC has approved two months of engineer monitoring of the erosion (\$15K) to ensure that residents are adequately warned or advised if changes are observed.
- EMBC supported a geotechnical assessment in Spring 2020 but have not seen further impacts.
- All mitigation options exceed the total value of the properties at risk and it is likely that a combination of the mitigation options will be required. (BC Assessment scan indicate values range from \$105K to \$350K).
  - Options and estimated costs for construction, engineering and management, environmental compensation/enhancement and contingency are:
    - Rock-lined Channel - \$4.8M
    - Culvert (2700m diameter) - \$5.0M
    - Sheet Pile Wall with Bed Stabilizers - \$6.2M
- The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) has indicated they would support an application to the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund (DMAF) to protect the provincial highway but CSRD is unlikely to contribute funds. DMAF projects require a minimum of \$20M and the provincial portion could be expected to be at or above \$12M.
- The CSRD recently applied to the Adaptation, Resilience & Disaster Mitigation (ARDM) funding program but was not successful with that application due to a variety of reasons:
  - Proposal was not as shovel ready as other applications. Uncertainty in service area arrangements to fund maintenance and operations, as well as uncertainty in ongoing land tenure / access to properties to conduct and maintain the works.
  - Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommendations
  - Also, additional information on the causal link between the sediment load from Newsome Creek with turbidity that affects the Sorrento water intake (vs historical seasonal turbidity along the lake from all sources) could strengthen project rationale.
  - The program was heavily oversubscribed and there was not enough funding available to

support all eligible proposals.

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**2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE****Cariboo Region  
Flooding and Freshet 2021****Suggested Response:**

- The current high groundwater table in the Cariboo has led to saturated soils likely due to impacts from numerous emergency events over the past several years, specifically, the 2017 and 2018 wildfires, 2018 flooding, 2019 heavy rainfall event, and prolonged flooding in 2020 from multiple heavy rainfall events and rapid melt of the heavy snowpack.
- This spring the high ground water has resulted in early season flooding as well as a significant number of landslides and washouts. This has impacted individual residences as well as community access where roads have been closed.
- EMBC continues to work with First Nation communities, local authorities, provincial ministries, Indigenous service Canada and the First Nations Health Authority to coordinating the provision of essential goods, food and fuel, as well as to support the essential travel and health needs for communities where access has been impacted.
- EMBC continues to support First Nation communities and local governments within the Cariboo Regional District by coordinating the deployment of flood assets and resources including sand, sandbags, sandbag machines, BC Wildfire crews and incident management teams, and deploying EMBC staff to Emergency Operations Centres to support advanced planning.
- EMBC also provides emergency funding for life safety geotechnical and flood assessments as necessary, including the Cariboo Regional District (CRD) request for LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) to support the Northern area of the CRD, (Quesnel), and the Williams Lake and surrounding areas in partnership with FLNRORD and MOTI.
- EMBC has deployed emergency managers to the Cariboo to support and partner with the MOTI Department of Operations Centre (DOC) to ensure communities are supported when provincial roads are closed.
- With respect to federal assistance for costs linked to impacts in the Cariboo, EMBC is coordinating a request to Public Safety Canada for financial assistance through the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA).

**Background:**

- Impacts in the Cariboo as of June 2, 2021:
  - CRD continue to receive calls related to slope instability and high water.

- Landslide impacts to varying degrees within the City of Quesnel (see City of Quesnel Estimates Note) and throughout the CRD, including Williams Lake and surrounding areas. At present there is one business and five homes that are uninhabitable. A few homes are on Evacuation Alert, while others continue to be monitored.
- Detours are in place for roads closed due to flooding or landslides other than the Kersley Dale Landing Road where there is no access to 5 residential properties (see Kersley Dale Landing Road Estimates Note). Detours add on additional travel time and often are in substandard condition.
- The Tl'etinqox, Ulkatcho, Tl'esqox, Tsq'escen and Nazko First Nation communities experienced impacts due to high water levels this Spring 2021.
- Areas within the CRD such as Hawks Creek, Bridge Creek and 93 Mile also experienced high water and impacts to property.
- EMBC supporting a geo assessment for life safety for a home, church and graveyard on Church Road near Alexandria.
- Additional slides impacting roads and homes reported, (Durrell Rd, Hodgson Slide complex, Red Bluff slide complex, Church Rd, Baker Creek Rd, Quesnel-Hixon Rd); EMBC will be continuing to review assessments when they are complete along with Geotech reports.
- EMBC is facilitating weekly coordination calls related to landslides within the CRD. Participants include Local Government, First Nations, FLNRORD, MOTI, AGRI and critical infrastructure.

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## LEGISLATIVE SESSION - FACT SHEET

Prepared by the Ministry of Health

## Wandering and Silver Alert

## TOPIC

Wandering is a common issue amongst those with dementia and is a serious safety concern.

## CURRENT SITUATION

- The Minister's Mandate Letter (2020) includes the following commitment:  
*With support from the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, lead work with community groups and the B.C. Seniors Advocate to develop a made-in-B.C. "silver alert" system to help assist first responders in locating missing seniors, particularly those with dementia and Alzheimer's disease.*
- Individuals with cognitive impairment living in the community are at risk of harm if they wander. As such, a provincial system that engages the public in supporting these individuals to return home would be of great value in B.C.
- There are various options for provincial silver alert system. A silver alert can function much like an Amber Alert, where law enforcement agencies and various partners increase collaboration to safely recover missing persons that meet strict criteria such as age or cognitive impairment. The public is also notified via radio, television, highway signs, and/or opt-in SMS messages, or other means.
- A citizen-led society called BC Silver Alert, is currently supported by donations, and provides subscriber based public alerting in the lower mainland by:
  - scanning local police websites for news about missing persons,
  - assessing that information against Silver Alert Criteria; and
  - alerting subscribers via various alerting channels (email, Facebook, twitter)
- The Ministry of Health (MOH) will examine different types of alert programs and technology, in partnership with key stakeholders, to recommend a made-in-B.C. province-wide system.
- The Ministry will commence work on a made-in-B.C. silver alert system in Fall 2021. Initial work will include conducting a jurisdictional review and developing a detailed stakeholder engagement plan.
- Both Emergency Management BC and the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General have experience in alerting systems and will offer expertise on this important project.
- Cultural preferences and safety will be taken into consideration in the development of the silver alert system.

## KEY FACTS

- MOH has monitored the development of silver alert type systems across Canada, and will prioritize this work in Fall 2021, as the COVID-19 response becomes less demanding.
- February 2014, MLA Selina Robinson (Coquitlam-Maillardville) introduced *Bill M20- Silver Alert Act 2014* to create a silver alert system in B.C., however, the Bill was not passed.
- February 2014, the Ministry of Justice proposed The Missing Person's Act,<sup>1</sup> which was given assent in March 2014, and has a similar goal of safe, swift recovery of missing adults. The Missing Person's Act outlines criteria under which a missing individual's information may be accessed. The Act does not outline what information is permissible to provide to the media.

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/14002\\_01](https://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/14002_01)

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION - FACT SHEET

### Prepared by the Ministry of Health

- In 2014, a citizen-led initiative called the BC Silver Alert program was launched in Vancouver by the family of Mr. Shin Noh, an individual whose disappearance in September 2013 was the impetus behind Bill M20.<sup>2</sup> Mr. Noh was never found. This program employs social media to share information provided by family and friends of the missing individual. Volunteers then contribute their time to search on an ad-hoc basis.
- Following 2014, MOH worked collaboratively with the Ministry of Justice and consulted with Ontario, the Alzheimer Society of BC and the Missing Persons Centre (RCMP) on the issue of wandering. At that time, it was determined that proactive steps to prevent wandering (including education for families) would be more appropriate than a provincial “Amber Alert” type system. Ontario also decided against a silver alert type of program and introduced the “Finding Your Way” program, which is a safety awareness initiative for people with dementia that wander.
- The Alzheimer Society of BC (ASBC) website hosts a wandering kit similar to Ontario’s “Finding Your Way” program which includes:
  - Information about wandering and strategies to reduce the risk of wandering.
  - An identification kit to record information helpful to police in the case of a wandering incident.
  - Information about MedicAlert® Safely Home® - Wandering Registry. This program provides seniors who wander with identification (medic alert bracelet), which allows police and other responders to quickly identify the person who has wandered and reunite them with their family. Information on potential wanderers submitted by a caregiver is stored on a secure database that is available to RCMP anywhere in Canada.
  - ASBC also provides information directed to first responders about how to recognize, communicate, respond, and search for someone living with dementia.
- In late 2017, Alberta and Manitoba passed legislation that enables law enforcement organizations to work with the media to issue silver alerts. Alberta’s *Missing Persons (Silver Alert) Amendment Act, 2017*<sup>3</sup> and Manitoba’s *The Missing Persons Amendment Act (Silver Alert)*<sup>4</sup> focus on cases in which a vulnerable or at-risk person has not been seen by, or in contact with, the people who are normally involved in their lives. Both laws weigh safety requirements against privacy rights – requiring police to obtain a court order to issue a silver alert in all but emergency circumstances when time is critical.
- On May 31, 2018, a motion by Senator Pamela Wallin encouraging the federal government to institute a national silver alert was unanimously adopted in the Senate.<sup>5</sup>

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- The Ministry and the Provincial Health Services Authority have provided up to \$32.6 million to the Alzheimer Society of BC to support its First Link® and other programs for individuals and families affected by Alzheimer’s disease and dementia. Government Financial Information Government Financial Information
- Future costing specific to Silver Alert will be dependent upon the selected model/approach.

### Approved:

<sup>2</sup> Story <https://bcsilveralert.ca/Story/>

<sup>3</sup> Missing Persons (Silver Alert) Amendment Act, 2017  
[http://www.qp.alberta.ca/documents/Acts/2017ch23\\_unpr.pdf](http://www.qp.alberta.ca/documents/Acts/2017ch23_unpr.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> The Missing Persons Amendment Act (Silver Alert)  
<https://web2.gov.mb.ca/bills/41-2/b214e.php>

<sup>5</sup> Motion to Encourage the Government to Institute a National Silver Alert Strategy  
[https://sencanada.ca/en/content/sen/chamber/421/debates/212db\\_2018-05-31-e#90](https://sencanada.ca/en/content/sen/chamber/421/debates/212db_2018-05-31-e#90)

## **LEGISLATIVE SESSION - FACT SHEET**

**Prepared by the Ministry of Health**

April 28, 2021 – ADM Teri Collins, Health Services Division

May 5, 2021 - Gordon Cross obo Philip Twyford, ADM, Finance and Corporate Services Division

**2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE****First Nations Emergency  
Management - Funding****Suggested Response:**

- In April 2017 Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and British Columbia signed a ten-year, \$29.6 million bilateral Emergency Management Service Agreement to deliver emergency management services and support on behalf of ISC to First Nations communities in BC.
- Under this agreement, EMBC provides First Nations emergency management practitioners with the same level of support as local authorities receive, in a consistent and equitable fashion.
- First Nations are also eligible for reimbursement for eligible emergency response costs under the Emergency Program Act. In 2020/21, the province approved approximately \$6 million of COVID-19 response related reimbursements for First Nations communities, in addition to the approximately \$1.1 million for 2020 flood response. These costs will be reimbursed by the federal government.
- First Nations communities have also been eligible for mitigation and preparedness funding in recent year through programs including:
  - the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund program delivered by UBCM on behalf of the province. This program helps enhance the resiliency of local governments and First Nations in responding to emergencies.
  - The National Disaster Mitigation Program which supports non-structural mitigation, such as flood risk assessments and flood mapping, or for small-scale structural mitigation, such as upgrading existing diking structures to improve flood resilience.
  - The Adaptation, Resilience and Disaster Mitigation Program under the COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream of the Investing in Canada Program to increase structural capacity to mitigate the impacts of natural disasters and/or extreme weather events.
- The federal government delivers additional disaster mitigation programs for First Nations through Indigenous Services Canada including:
  - the First Nation Infrastructure Fund which provides up to \$10 million per recipient towards Structural Mitigation projects; and
  - the Emergency Management Assistance Program which supports mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery projects to a maximum of \$10 million per recipient.

- To ensure First Nations are well-equipped in their response to COVID-19, the Government of Canada has invested over \$1 billion towards the Indigenous Community Support Fund
- Budget 2021 (federal) proposed an additional \$760.8 million for the Indigenous Community Support Fund for ongoing support in the response to COVID-19
- The Province also recognizes the need to provide funding to support engagement with Indigenous Partners on the modernization of BC's Emergency Management legislation through the EPA Sub Committee of the Tripartite MOU Emergency Management Working Group.

**Background:**

- With respect to the bilateral agreement with ISC, the shared understanding of both the province and ISC is that any costs associated with the Province's work to modernize emergency management legislation are outside of the scope of these funds and fall within BC's duty to consult with Indigenous partners.

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## **2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE**

## **Grand Forks Flood Recovery - Mitigation and Adaptation Project**

### **Suggested Response:**

- The Province has been very supportive of the City of Grand Forks as they recover from catastrophic flooding that occurred on May 10, 2018.
- In addition to providing initial recovery supports in the year following the event, the Province has been the major funder of significant mitigation and adaptation projects, which involve mitigative works as well as allowing some areas to return to natural floodplain.
- The City has made significant progress in the land acquisition required to return some areas to natural floodplain and the conceptual design work for the flood mitigation program.
- We continue to learn from this event and are actively applying the collective experience to inform the Province's approach to disaster recovery, mitigation and our emergency management modernization.

### **Background:**

#### Project Contribution Funds

- The Contribution Agreement for the Mitigation and Adaptation Project was signed on December 13, 2019. The City of Grand Forks is leading the project, which consists of work proposed under the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Program, as well as additional mitigative work in the Grand Forks downtown core area.
- The flood mitigation project funded through the federal Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund program totals almost \$50 million funded with contributions of:
  - \$28.9 million from British Columbia;
  - \$19.9 million from Canada, and
  - \$1 million from Grand Forks.
- The Province provided additional funding of \$2.6 million toward the \$3.1 million downtown flood mitigation project. The City of Grand Forks funded the remainder of costs through direct contributions and in-kind supports.
- Canada and Grand Forks signed their contribution agreement in late 2020.

- The Province has provided contributions of \$23.194 million towards the projects to date to enable the City to expedite delivery recognizing the importance of these works in reducing future flood risk.

#### Land Acquisition Program

- In order to allow properties with the highest priority to return to natural floodplain, 98 properties need to be acquired and buildings removed or demolished.
- As of February 2021, 92 of the 98 properties have been acquired by the City. The pandemic has slowed down negotiations for the remaining properties.
- The City team anticipates that by May 2021, 80% of the conceptual design work for the flood mitigation program will be complete.

#### Freshet 2021

- The April 1<sup>st</sup> snow bulletin indicates the Boundary region snowpack is reported as 103% of normal.
- EMBC is working with the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary to review flood plans and preparations for Freshet 2021, including required Provincial assets (tiger dams).

#### First Nations Consultation

- The Province is supporting the City of Grand Forks in meeting the First Nation consultation and accommodation requirements of the project. First Nations are being invited to participate directly in the regulatory review process as detailed design is completed. First Nations as represented by the Okanagan Nation Alliance and the Osoyoos Indian Band have expressed a long-term interest in the project.

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**2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE****Coastal Flooding 2020 –  
Response and Recovery****Suggested Response:**

- As the result of significant rainfall in late January 2020, there was significant flooding in BC's south coast, and the Province worked quickly to support impacted communities during the response and into the recovery phase following this event.
- EMBC has provided \$65,000 of funding to date to support hiring community recovery managers for the Cowichan Tribes and Halalt First Nations on Vancouver Island to assist in identifying and addressing unmet needs. The funds will be reimbursed by Indigenous Services Canada.
- EMBC's Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) staff have assessed all residential properties impacted by the flooding and over \$1.1M in payments have been made to individuals.
- Two First Nations communities and 13 local governments have applied for DFA support. Recovery is underway for communities and to date \$301K has been paid to restore and repair damaged essential infrastructure. Forecast estimates for remaining projects total approximately \$1.5M.
- Going forward, the Province will continue to work with impacted communities to assist with long term recovery, preparation, and mitigation.

**Background:**

- On January 31, 2020, an atmospheric storm impacted the south coast of BC bringing significant rainfall in a very short period of time. As a result, there was flooding and wide-spread damage across southern Vancouver Island, the Sunshine Coast, Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley.
- The Cowichan Tribes and Halalt First Nations were particularly hit hard with many residents unable to return to their homes. To support these communities, EMBC worked with Indigenous Services Canada, First Nations Health Authority, and non-governmental organizations to provide direct community support.
- While much of the damage and impacts were to local government infrastructure, many residents were also impacted.

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**2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE****Emergency Support Services  
(ESS) Modernization****Suggested Response:**

- Emergency Management BC (EMBC) is continuing to work with partners to modernize the Emergency Support Services (ESS) program through a comprehensive project that includes changes to the branding, legislation, policies, procedures and training, as well as the creation of an online system for delivering ESS.
- In 2019, a proof of concept for the online ESS system was successfully piloted in four communities. The results of this supported the decision to proceed to develop a digital ESS system – which has been named the Evacuee Registration and Assistance (ERA) tool.
- The ERA tool is being developed using an iterative process so that functionality can be added over time. The first release of the ERA tool was launched on April 1, 2020 with an online portal that provided evacuees with self-serve digital registration. This function eliminated in-person lineups to ensure a physically distanced process in light of COVID-19.
- In June 2020 a Supplier Portal function was added, which enabled digital submission of referrals and invoices to EMBC. This means that there is no longer a requirement for hard copies to be mailed to EMBC for reimbursement, improving efficiency and expediting the time it takes for suppliers to be reimbursed.
- The ERA tool has now been used in a number of events, including 2020 Flood evacuations in the Regional District Kootenay Boundary and Cariboo Regional District and Wildfire evacuations in the Regional District South Okanagan (the Mt. Christie Fire). The ERA tool has also been used for apartment fires in the cities of Victoria, Nanaimo and Kamloops.
- There are 82 communities, including 11 First Nations, that have received training and are ready to use the ERA tool for the 2021 fire and freshet season. The ESS program office will continue to provide just-in-time training and implementation to any communities who want to use ERA during an active event.

Advice/Recommendations

**Background:**

- Historically, the ESS program has achieved its mandate by supporting hundreds of thousands of evacuees in large- and small-scale emergencies; however, the flood and wildfire events of 2017 and 2018 revealed that the program in its previous paper-based form was inefficient and did not meet the expectations of British Columbians.
- EMBC is modernizing the ESS program by reviewing policies and procedures and by supporting steps to ensure cultural safety for indigenous British Columbians who must leave their communities due to a disaster event.
- One major goal towards improving the ESS program has been the creation and implementation of a digital tool for ESS delivery that allows ESS teams to provide in-person or virtual support to citizens affected by disasters.
- This Evacuee Registration and Assistance (ERA) tool, and the ESS Modernisation Project as a whole, will meet the needs of British Columbians for access, timeliness and convenience of government services.

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**2021/2021 ESTIMATES NOTE****Government Wildfire & Flooding Readiness 2021****Suggested Response:**Readiness

- Community seasonal readiness workshops were hosted in all Emergency Management BC (EMBC) regions from March to June (based on the seasonality of hazards for each region) to prepare for the 2021 freshet and wildfire seasons. Due to COVID-19, all sessions were held virtually.
- Joint Freshet and Wildfire Technical Briefings were provided for all Members of the Legislative Assembly on April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and for the First Nations Leadership Council on May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021.
- The Provincial Flood/Fire Readiness Group has been meeting bi-weekly since March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021, to maintain enhanced situational awareness of seasonal flood and wildfire conditions and provincial preparedness and response activities. Multiple provincial ministries participate in these meetings along with federal representatives and other emergency management partners, including: Public Safety Canada, Indigenous Services Canada, the Canadian Armed Forces, the First Nation Health Authority, and the Canadian Red Cross.
- Training is being provided to ministries and emergency managers on the use of the provincial Common Operating Picture, which provides access to real-time situational awareness, imagery, mapping, and planning information.
- EMBC held readiness exercises in all six Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centres (PREOCs) and the Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre (PECC) through the spring of 2021 to ensure staff preparedness.
- EMBC Temporary Emergency Assignment Management System (TEAMS) members, surge support from other provincial ministries, are receiving annual recurrency training to ensure all personnel have the required skills to deploy to PREOCs and the PECC when requested.

Emergency Support Services (ESS) Modernization

- EMBC continues to work with partners to modernize the entire Emergency Support Services (ESS) program through a comprehensive project to digitize the delivery of ESS that includes improvements to the branding, legislation, policies, processes, and training.
- The Evacuee Registration Assistance (ERA) tool has been implemented province-wide over a series of six releases. The first release went live in April 2020 and the next is scheduled for Fall 2021.

- To respond to the impacts of COVID-19 on ESS programs, EMBC accelerated the phased provincial roll-out, including training, of the ERA tool by providing province-wide access to the tool by April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020. This access ensured that ESS could be delivered digitally across the Province to protect the health and safety of evacuees and ESS responders. Training is available for communities on request during the 2021 freshet and wildfire seasons.
- Additional staffing has streamlined and improved ESS payment processes for both suppliers and EMBC finance staff.

#### Policy and Procedures

- Revised processes and procedures have been created for implementing, maintaining, and rescinding evacuation orders. These procedures have been modified to include the COVID-19 public health event.
- EMBC has developed and distributed guidelines for a Local Authority or First Nation to authorize persons to re-enter an evacuation order area. Authorized purposes include tending to or evacuating livestock, maintaining critical infrastructure and other activities the jurisdiction of authority deems appropriate.
- EMBC continues to work with the Provincial Health Officer to provide information on dealing with wildfire smoke. EMBC has developed communications to increase public education regarding the risks of evacuating solely due to wildfire smoke. These communications also outline the precautions that can be taken by individuals and communities to provide relief from the smoke without evacuating. This work has even greater priority due to the increased effect of wildfire smoke on COVID-19 symptoms.
- Simplified procedural guidelines for accessing support have been developed for use by Local Authority and First Nations Governments.
- Guidelines for identifying and managing evacuees confirmed to have, or suspected to have, COVID-19 have been developed in consultation with the Ministry of Health.

#### Office of the Fire Commissioner

- The Office of the Fire Commissioner is working on an expanded Structural Protection Program response model, which will add resources to suppression efforts in rural and wildland urban interface areas. The focus continues to be on integration efforts including BCWS Structural Protection Specialists and Office of the Fire Commissioner command staff capacity to liaise onsite with BCWS and to support Local Government EOC's.

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**2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE****Avalanche Funding and Support****Suggested Response:**

- In spring of 2021 the Province announced a \$10M grant to the Avalanche Canada Foundation to provide funding certainty for future years.
- This investment supports long-term planning and will allow Avalanche Canada to leverage the federal endowment provided in support of a National Avalanche strategy.
- The Provincial contribution will support the expansion of avalanche forecasting to popular winter backcountry recreational areas that are not served by other forecasts and will allow for more comprehensive snowpack and automated terrain modelling in addition to avalanche safety and public awareness activity.

**Background:**

- On July 8, 2019, the Government of Canada announced a one-time endowment of \$25M (based on a 15-year business plan) to support Avalanche Canada's long-term sustainability and expansion of services.
- This funding was targeted to expand the size and scope of Avalanche Canada's safety program to new areas, including northern British Columbia, parts of Quebec, Newfoundland and Labrador, and the Yukon, with the understanding each Province/Territory would provide matching funding for services delivered in their jurisdiction.
- Avalanche Canada subsequently requested the Province increase its annual contribution from \$400,000 to \$1M to allow it to leverage the federal endowment to expand services delivered within BC.

**Avalanche Programing:**

- Currently Avalanche Canada produces daily forecasts for 12 regions in B.C. The South Rocky region spans the B.C.-Alberta border.
- Emergency Management British Columbia (EMBC) works in partnership with Avalanche Canada and industry representatives to disseminate province-wide information when conditions call for a Special Public Avalanche Warning (SPAW)
- Industry and government sources (Heli Ski, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, BC Hydro, and the mining and rail sectors etc.) provide the information (weather, snowpack data) to a system (INFOEX) that supports Avalanche Canada with forecasts. The estimated value of this system is over \$5M annually.

- Avalanche Canada delivers the Avalanche Skills Training (AST) program, which provides the public and workers, including BC Government staff, with avoidance, preparedness, and companion rescue instruction. The delivery of this program has grown significantly in recent years (with over 10,000 individuals trained annually) and is likely a contributor to the reduction and severity of avalanche incidents. This program and curriculum are developed by Avalanche Canada and licensed to private training providers.
- The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) provides a province-wide program to ensure safety from avalanches for motorists on the highway. MOTI's program manages more than 60 avalanche areas, including almost 1,400 individual avalanche paths.
- The BC Coroners Service and Avalanche Canada collaborate under an interagency MOU to support the investigation of fatal avalanche incidents, the timely release of appropriate information, engagement in public education programs; and to stress the need for proper training, equipment and knowledge of terrain when venturing into the backcountry.
- Avalanche fatalities are linked to a wide variety of outdoor activities. The number of fatalities in BC that occurred from 2010 to 2019 are divided by outdoor activity as follows: snowmobiling with 45, backcountry skiing with 26, out of bounds skiing with 3, snowshoeing and hiking with 12, mountaineering with 5, guided skiing with 10; and "other" with 8.

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**Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General  
Estimates 2021/22 Briefing Book**

**ICBC  
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**2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE****Financial - Capital Levels****Suggested Response:**

- Government and ICBC continue to focus on the urgent task of implementing significant reforms to our vehicle insurance system, to make life more affordable for British Columbians.
- Basic capital levels are currently well under ICBC's management and regulatory capital targets. Capital levels have been depleted by several years of consecutive losses, where Basic insurance rate increases were not sufficient to cover the rapidly rising claims costs, followed by the significant adverse impact to investment income in 2019/20 from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Optional capital levels are also well below the approved Management target due to the past transfers to Basic insurance and greater emergence of large and complex claims in recent years.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant favourable impact on crash and injury claim frequency, which reduces claims costs and provides income which can be used by ICBC for the benefit of policyholders, either through rebates to eligible customers or to bolster capital levels and support rate stabilization.
- In February 2020, Government announced a fundamental change to auto insurance in BC. In 2021, ICBC will shift away from a tort-based model to a care-based model that prioritizes the recovery and treatment of all British Columbians injured in a motor vehicle crash.
- The shift to an Enhanced Care Coverage (ECC) model will remove approximately \$1.5 billion of claims costs from the system, while significantly improving accident benefits and making rates more affordable and sustainable for customers over the long term.
- The April 1, 2019 product reform and the implementation of ECC in 2021 are major changes to ICBC's auto insurance model, focusing on improving customer care and affordability. These changes will have significant positive impacts on claims costs and therefore ongoing capital requirements.
- In December 2020, Government directed ICBC to include a capital build provision of 11.5 percentage points in its corresponding Basic rate application to the BCUC. These measures are expected to relieve pressure on capital and allow ICBC to slowly re-build capital over time.
- Our government is working to ensure that ICBC returns to financial stability and is financially sustainable, in the long term, for the benefit of all British Columbians.

**Background:**

- The Minimum Capital Test (MCT) is a federal regulatory solvency test to assess whether an insurance company has adequate capital for the level of risks undertaken by the company. MCT is a ratio of capital available to capital required and is not expressed as a dollar value.
- Capital available, simply put, is the net equity position of the company less the intangible assets. Capital required is calculated using specified risk margins on certain assets and liabilities. The riskier the asset or liability, the larger the margin. As such, it's important to note that MCT is not a ratio of assets to claim liabilities (100% MCT does not mean that for every \$1 of claims liabilities, ICBC has \$1 of assets).
- The higher the ratio, the more an insurance company is able to withstand unforeseen risks and unexpected events. These risks include unexpected changes in crash rates, injury claiming rates, significant increases in large and complex claims or unexpected variations in investment values, the adverse trends that have impacted ICBC in the past.
- For the nine months ended December 31, 2020, ICBC's corporate MCT was 52% and Basic insurance MCT was 72%. These MCT amounts are before the COVID-19 rebate that was approved February 2, 2021, which will be reflected in the Q4 numbers.
- ICBC's MCT and capital levels are expected to build as a result of ECC and more stability in the claims costs, as well as a capital build in the Basic rate.
- The improvement in capital from March 31, 2020 to the March 31, 2021 outlook is attributed to favourable net income primarily resulting from COVID-19 related and non-COVID-19 related lower claims costs and higher investment returns, partially offset by the COVID-19 rebate to eligible customers. Favourable claims trends not related to COVID-19 include a continuation of a general downward trend in crash frequency and a lower frequency of injury claims than expected under the April 1, 2019 product reforms. The global investment markets have rebounded from the low point experienced at March 31, 2020.
- With provincial restrictions responding to the COVID-19 pandemic being in place to varying degrees over the year, there have been about 30% fewer crash claims than would have been expected without the pandemic, up to the end of Q3 on December 31. There has also been a reduction in premium income over this time, as drivers cancelled or made changes to their policies, which partially offsets the favourable impact of lower claims to ICBC's bottom line. The estimated impact of the net COVID-19 savings for the first six months of

the fiscal year was distributed as a COVID-19 rebate to eligible customers, which is reflected in the 2020/21 Outlook and Q4 financials.

- Product reforms were implemented effective April 1, 2019 that introduced a limit on payouts for pain and suffering on minor injuries, introduced resolution of certain claims through the Civil Resolution Tribunal, and increased accident benefits. Although the jurisdiction of the CRT has been impacted as a result of the BC Supreme Court decision on March 2, 2021, and subsequent partial stay of proceedings on April 8, 2021, overall the product reforms have delivered benefits to net income, contributing to ICBC's capital levels.
- On February 12, 2021, the BC Government implemented changes to the Evidence Act Regulations, limiting the amount of disbursements that may be recovered in a motor vehicle personal injury lawsuit. This will have a favourable impact to ICBC's bottom line, which will be reflected in the Q4 financials.
- The 2020/21 investment income forecast has a high likelihood of being achieved as the global markets have recovered from the COVID-19 pandemic. ICBC's investment income forecast for future periods is still subject to volatility in the global financial markets. ICBC maintains a diversified strategic asset mix constructed to help mitigate volatility.
- The Enhanced Care coverage ("ECC") model implemented on May 1, 2021 will shift the focus to providing access to medical care and recovery benefits while removing legal costs from the insurance system. The introduction of ECC is also estimated to save drivers who purchase full Basic and Optional coverage from ICBC approximately 20 per cent or \$400, on an average annual basis, on their auto insurance.
- In December 2020, Government directed ICBC to include a capital build provision of 11.5 percentage points in its corresponding Basic rate application to the BCUC. These measures are expected to relieve pressure on capital and allow ICBC to slowly re-build capital over time.
- It is important to note that ICBC continues to have positive operating cash flow and sufficient investment assets to cover its claims liabilities.

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**2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE****ICBC Executive, Board and Employee Compensation****Suggested Response:**Executive Compensation:

- I understand British Columbians are concerned about executive compensation at Crown corporations. This is something our government has been working very hard to address.
- Our government has eliminated the holdback structure set up by the previous government, and all “bonuses”, from executive compensation at ICBC. On our watch, compensation for all executives was down by 17 per cent in 2018/19, as compared to the previous fiscal year. In 2019/20, total compensation for all executives was essentially flat with an increase of less than 1% from the previous year.
- Executive salaries make up a very small portion of ICBC’s costs. Total operating expenses represent 11.6% of ICBC total costs. Executive compensation is only 0.3% of operating expenses (*source: 2019/20 annual report*).
- Ultimately, Crown corporations set compensation within a framework to maintain consistency across the BC Public Sector, and at the same time to try and maintain a competitive total compensation program with comparable external labour markets to ensure they can attract and retain talented staff.
- On August 31, 2020, the government provided direction to public sector organizations to implement the Executive Compensation Freeze Policy for all executive positions for the 2020/21 performance year. ICBC is complying with this direction.
- ICBC has to pay fair and competitive compensation in order to attract and retain the right people – the people needed to realize the transformative changes underway to make auto insurance more affordable and sustainable in the long term.
- Releasing information on remuneration and expenses at all Crown corporations is part of government’s commitment to being open and accountable.
- For reference, the CEOs of Intact Financial and Economical received annual compensation of approximately \$9.1M and \$4.05M respectively in 2019.

Why CEO compensation was higher in 2019/20:

- Nicolas Jimenez was appointed President & CEO of ICBC in July 2018, making this the first full year reporting of his President & CEO salary.
- The increase in the CEO compensation in 2019/20 was also tied to a vacation payout and a

roll-in impact of the Salary Holdback Program, which has been eliminated.

- Information available from 2019 indicates that the CEO's salary is on par with a select group of comparable companies, comprised of public sector and Canadian insurance companies.
- Total maximum earnable for the CEO role has remained largely unchanged in recent years. In 2020, the CEO received a modest salary adjustment of 2% in respective of the 2018 and 2019 performance years.

### **Background:**

#### 2019/20 Executive Compensation Disclosure

- On June 4, 2020, ICBC filed its 2019/20 Statement of Executive Compensation with the Public Sector Employers' Council Secretariat (PSEC), in accordance with that body's requirements.
- The *Public Sector Employers Act* requires that total compensation for the CEO plus the next four highest-ranking/paid executives at each Crown corporation be disclosed. The Statement of Executive Compensation reports total compensation earned in the 12 months from April 1, 2019, to March 31, 2020. The Statement of Executive Compensation also includes benefits, pension contributions and vacation payouts.
- For 2019/20, ICBC's CEO plus the next four highest-ranking/paid executives were:

<b>NAME</b>	<b>TOTAL COMPENSATION</b>
N. Jimenez (CEO)	\$474,680
K. Parslow	\$378,648
B. Carpenter	\$377,522
G. Eastwood	\$341,688
P. Leong	\$328,043
- The CEO, Nicolas Jimenez received higher compensation in 2019/20 because his 2018/19 salary was a combination of his prorated salary as VP Insurance and his salary as CEO, to which he was appointed in July 2018.
- As per the Statement of Executive Compensation, total earned compensation for ICBC's CEO plus the next four highest-ranking/paid executives in 2019/20 decreased by 3.7% from the previous year (\$1,900,581 in 2019/20 down from \$1,972,771 in 2018/19; a difference of \$72,190.
- This is due to lower pension values reported in 2019/20. Pension values in 2019/20 decreased from 2018/19 as a result of a recent valuation of the plan's assets and liabilities where the pension fund's investment performance produced gains that decreased ICBC's

cost of pension benefits.

- Total compensation for 2019/20 for all executives, not just those named in the disclosure, is essentially flat with an increase of less than 1% from the previous year (\$3,043,874 in 2019/20, up from \$3,025,196 in 2018/19; a difference of \$18,678). This increase is the result of staffing changes and salary adjustments for newly appointed executives.

#### Make-up of ICBC's executive team and senior management

- ICBC has made significant strides in getting its executive compensation down over the last five years. ICBC's executive team has decreased since 2012 – from 11 members 2012 to just eight as of March 31, 2021.
- There have also been reductions in the number of senior management roles overall – since 2012, senior management roles (VPs, Senior Directors and Directors) have been reduced by 44 per cent (72 in 2012 to 40 in 2020/21). It should be noted that the headcount number reported for 2020/21 represents active incumbents (39) plus 1 vacant Director position for which ICBC is presently recruiting.

#### Employee remuneration

- ICBC's total employee compensation increased by 5.2% year over year, going from \$422,691,574 in 2018/19 to \$444,873,304 in 2019/20.
- The number of employees earning more than \$75,000 increased from 1,781 in 2018/19 to 2,023 in 2019/20 due mainly to overtime and acting pay; the number of employees earning more than \$150,000 increased from 93 in 2018/19 to 96 in 2019/20 due to promotions and acting pay linked to changes in executive leadership.
- There were 47 employees with earnings that exceed \$150,000 for the period of April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017 increasing to 149 in 2017/18. However, the number of employees earning more than \$150,000 decreased over the past three fiscal years, going from 149 in 2017/18, to 96 in 2019/20.
- The reason for the high number in 2017/18 was that ICBC had a Salary Holdback Program roll-in in 2017 that resulted in a higher than average number of people in the \$150,000 category. The numbers normalized in subsequent years. The reasons for the changes can be attributed to the following:
  - An overall increase in full-time equivalent employees of 2.3% compared to the previous year. A number of full-time equivalent employees were hired in the 2018/19 fiscal year, but they only counted for partial full-time equivalent positions at that time. These employees counted for whole full-time equivalent positions in claims and claims-related areas in the 2019/20 fiscal. This was due to managing claims volumes and complexity, and to support product changes which benefitted customers on April 1, 2019.

- The number of full-time equivalent employees who work in areas other than claims was higher than the previous fiscal to support customer volumes in driver licensing, as well as staffing needs during ICBC's product reform.
- Bargaining unit employees saw annual increases to their compensation in line with the collective agreement. There were increases to general salaries and the Economic Stability Dividend in May 2019, as well as length-of-service increases for eligible employees.
- There are also increases to the CPP and EI employer contribution rates every year.
- Eligible ICBC management and confidential employees received a performance-based increase of 2% effective Jan. 1, 2020 related to the 2018/19 performance year. This was their first merit increase since 2012, totaling an annualized cost of \$2 million.
- Because the merit increase was effective Jan. 1, 2020, the total impact of the performance-based increase on the 2019/20 fiscal year is approximately \$500,000.
- See Appendix for total earners breakdown over \$75k+.

#### Board remuneration and expenses

- In 2019/20, total board member payments decreased to \$289,353, down from \$316,418 in 2018/19. Total board expenses increased to \$16,815, up from \$11,601 the year prior.
- The decrease in board member payments is primarily due to one less quarter of payments paid in 2019/20 (four) compared to 2018/19 (five). This decrease was offset somewhat by the appointment of an additional board member in July 2019, partway through the fiscal year who also lives in Fort St. John and has higher travel expenses.

#### Other compensation matters

- In October 2020, ICBC's Board of Directors approved a salary increase of 1.5% for Management and Confidential (M&C) employees based on performance in respect of the 2019/20 performance year.
- The performance salary increases were effective November 1, 2020 and are in line with PSEC's 2018 updated policy guidelines when it comes to salary increases for public sector M&C staff.
- The program is intended to recognize performance and assist with internal pay equity while managing the costs of salary increases.

- Employees were not eligible for this adjustment if:
  - they had a 'needs improvement' performance rating;
  - they were hired after November 1, 2019;
  - they received a salary adjustment due to promotion or job reclassification after November 1, 2019; or
  - they are paid higher in their salary band (above 105% of salary band midpoint).
- The annual on-going cost of these adjustments is \$1.69M. For the fiscal year 2020/21, the cost of the increase is \$703K.
- Approximately 75% (or 974) of all M & C employees received a salary adjustment under these guidelines, of which 53% of those are in leadership roles (managers who have direct reporting staff).
- The cost of \$1.69M represents 1.31% of the 2020 M&C payroll (excluding executives).
- The cost of salary adjustments for those whose base pay exceeds \$150K accounts for approximately 12% of the annual ongoing cost of \$1.69M.
- Following the increases, there will be 91 people (previously 87) whose base pay will exceed \$150K, and 17 people (previously 15) making over \$200K.
- In addition to the November 1, 2020 performance increases, a further salary increase effective January 1, 2021 was approved by the Board of Directors to address talent risk cases. The annual ongoing cost of these adjustments is \$223K, for the fiscal year 2020/21 the cost of the increase is \$56K. Approximately 8% (or 110) of all M & C employees received this salary adjustment.

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## APPENDIX 1 – TOTAL EARNERS TABLE

Year		Total Earners Over \$75K	\$100K+ Earners	\$150K+ Earners	\$200K+ Earners	\$300K+ Earners
2008	Count	1005	386	62	24	6
2009	Count	1213	468	76	32	7
	Increase/decrease	20.7%	21.2%	22.6%	33.3%	16.7%
2010	Count	1338	584	105	53	13
	Increase/decrease	10.3%	24.8%	38.2%	65.6%	85.7%
2011	Count	1460	645	138	56	15
	Increase/decrease	9.1%	10.4%	31.4%	5.7%	15.4%
2012	Count	1354	613	121	47	10
	Increase/decrease	-7.3%	-5.0%	-12.3%	-16.1%	-33.3%
2013	Count	1378	537	92	38	7
	Increase/decrease	1.8%	-12.4%	-24.0%	-19.1%	-30.0%
2014	Count	1720	657	145	40	9
	Increase/decrease	24.8%	22.3%	57.6%	5.3%	28.6%
2015	Count	1346	459	74	19	3
	Increase/decrease	-21.7%	-30.1%	-49.0%	-52.5%	-66.7%
2016	Count	1401	387	47	11	2
	Increase/decrease	4.1%	-15.7%	-36.5%	-42.1%	-33.3%
2016/17 <sup>(1)</sup>	Count	2512	1036	158	36	7
	Increase/decrease over 2015	86.6%	125.7%	113.5%	89.5%	133.3%
2017/18	Count	1696	675	149	32	6
	Increase/decrease over 2016/17	-32.5%	-34.8%	-5.7%	-11.1%	-14.3%
2018/19	Count	1781	565	93	21	4
	Increase/decrease over 2017/18	5.0%	-16.3%	-37.6%	-34.4%	-33.3%
2019/20	Count	2023	668	96	29	7
	Increase/decrease over 2018/19	13.6%	18.2%	3.2%	38.1%	75%

## Notes:

(1) 2016/17 is for a 15 month fiscal period

2) Employee counts shown in the higher pay earning bracket will also be included in the lower earning bracket count. For example \$300K earners are included in the \$200K+ count, \$200K earners are included in the \$150K+ count and so on.

3) Based on an employees taxable earnings for the respective year.

4) Variances which can influence an employees earnings in a given year include variable pay (incentive pay) and other one-time payments such as vacation payouts, overtime payments, etc.

5) The number of pay periods for a specific year can also influence the increase/decrease of an employee's earnings.

6) Total earners over \$75K counts includes temporary, regular and active status employees only.

## 2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE

## ICBC Financial Update

## Suggested Response:

- As of Q3 2020/21, ICBC was projecting to earn a net income of \$709 million in the 2020/21 fiscal year. This is a significant improvement over the 2019/20 net loss of \$376 million, which was primarily the result of a significant impairment loss due to the sudden and severe global market downturn as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- In 2020/21 global investment markets have rebounded and COVID-19 impacts for ICBC have been favourable. Results for fiscal 2020/21 are expected to meet or exceed the Q3 projection of \$709 million and will be released as part of the Public Accounts.
- ICBC's 2020/21 net income is expected to be higher than Budget and prior year as a result of higher investment income and favourable COVID-19 and non-COVID claims trends, partially offset by the COVID-19 rebate to eligible policyholders.
- There were fewer crashes on BC roads in 2020/21 resulting in fewer claims. Lower frequency of claims in 2020/21 is the result of the COVID-19 impacts on crashes as well as the continuation of a general downward trend in crash frequency that preceded COVID-19, and a lower frequency of injury claims than expected under the April 1, 2019 product reforms.
- Investment income in 2020/21 is forecast to be higher than expected due to continued recovery of the financial markets, higher-than-expected capital dividends and realized gains from the sale of bonds and other investment assets.
- On February 12, 2021, the *Disbursements and Expert Evidence Regulation* under the *Evidence Act* established a limit of 6% of an overall judgment or settlement on the amount recoverable from an unsuccessful litigant for disbursements related to motor vehicle personal injury litigation. As a result, ICBC will recognize associated claims savings of approximately \$276 million, which is reflected in the 2020/21 net income.
- On March 2, 2021, the B.C. Supreme Court struck down portions of the *Civil Resolution Tribunal Act* with respect to the minor injury definition and jurisdiction of the Civil Resolution Tribunal ("CRT") as unconstitutional. The impacts as a result of the BC Supreme Court decision are a possible increase in the number of claims that may be represented by lawyers and subsequently litigated in B.C. Supreme Court, possible increased operational pressure to handle an increase in litigated claims, and a financial impact of additional represented/litigated claims. On April 8, 2021, the BC Court of Appeal granted a partial stay of the decision, pending the Province's appeal of the court's decision.

**Background:**

- ICBC expects net income for fiscal 2020/21 (April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021) to be favourable to plan by \$623 million. Contributing to favourable net income for 2020/21 are lower claims costs as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and also the continuation of a general downward trend in crash frequency that preceded COVID-19, a lower frequency of injury claims than expected under the April 1, 2019 product reforms. These favourable claims savings were partially offset by the COVID-19 rebate of \$600M paid to policyholders in April. ICBC's fiscal 2020/21 year ended March 31, which will include final claims savings, will be available when ICBC's year end financial results are released in July/August in alignment with government's public accounts.
- Another factor contributing to the increase in net income is investment income which is higher mostly due to lower interest rates that led to higher bond gains from trading activity, the disposition of investment properties and higher dividend income.
- From the start of our fiscal year on April 1 to the end of Q3 on December 31, there were approximately 30% fewer crashes than without the pandemic, including fewer injury claims. The frequency of crashes in B.C. was already trending lower before the pandemic, the COVID-19 restrictions are credited for a further reduction in crashes. This resulted in an opportunity for ICBC to provide a significant COVID-19 rebate to policyholders.
- Based on the latest available data that has been published, ICBC's Statement of Operations for the nine months ended December 31, 2020, with prior year comparatives, is attached below. ICBC posted a net income of \$1,276M for the first nine months of its fiscal year (April 1 to December 31, 2020), which is \$1,256M better than the net income of \$20M posted for the same period last year. The \$1,276M is a net income figure and is before the impact of a \$600M COVID-19 rebate to eligible customers paid in April. The COVID-19 rebate will be reflected in the Q4 results.
- Final results for fiscal 2020/21 are currently in the audit process and will be released as part of ICBC's 2020/21 Annual Service Plan Report.
- Current year claims incurred are better for fiscal 2020/21 YTD compared to prior year, mainly due to lower frequency of crash and injury claims that is expected to continue through the forecast period as a result of COVID-19 and a lower frequency trend preceding COVID-19, in addition to better than expected claims savings from product reform.
- Prior years' claims costs adjustments are better as compared to 2019/20 for YTD December 31, 2020 financial results. The YTD December 31, 2020 prior years' claims costs adjustment is favourable due to the favourable emergence of Bodily Injury claims from both the Minor Injury Cap Product and Full Tort Product. The 2019/20 prior years' claims costs adjustment was significantly unfavourable reflecting the emergence of large claims during the first six

months and reversal of the estimated benefits from the Rules of Court (“Crowder Decision”).

- ICBC’s investment income is relied on to help mitigate the pressure on insurance rates. ICBC’s 2020/21 YTD investments have rebounded since the global market downturn at end of fiscal 2019/20. The 2020/21 investment income is higher than expected due to higher equity gains and capital dividends and gains on disposition of investment properties.
- ICBC continues to manage the company efficiently as indicated by the low expense ratio of 19.4% in 2019/20, which continues to be significantly lower than the industry benchmark of 29%. ICBC’s operating expense ratio is inclusive of 2.2% for non-insurance services, which other insurance carriers do not have. The 2020/21 operating costs are favourable primarily due to lower than expected Full-Time Equivalent levels as a result of decreased claims intake and reduced operating levels throughout the year as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ICBC’s Minimum Capital Test (“MCT”) ratio is an industry measure used to determine whether a company has sufficient capital levels. The 2020/21 MCT ratio is expected to improve as compared to 2019/20 ratio, which was impacted by the global investment meltdown. The increase in MCT can be largely attributable to the recovery of the financial markets and improved net income for 2020/21.
- Several years of consecutive losses, where rate increases were not sufficient to cover the rapidly rising claims costs, depleted capital levels over time. This, coupled with the suspension of capital maintenance and capital build since 2015 (effective up to and including policy year 2020), resulted in capital levels that were well under ICBC’s management and regulatory capital targets. The COVID-19 pandemic also had a significant and adverse impact on the 2019/20 MCT.
- Capital levels for fiscal year end 2020/21 are expected to recover significantly due to the recovery of investment markets, and a favourable net income. Looking forward, capital levels are expected to continue to rebuild due to a capital build component in the Basic rate and ICBC’s transition to ECC. The impact of ECC will result in lower and more stable claims costs, more affordable insurance rates and enable ICBC to set rates to cover costs.



## Statement of Operations

For the Nine Months Ended December 31, 2020 and 2019<sup>1</sup>

	Basic		Optional		Corporate	
(\$ Millions)	2020/21	2019/20	2020/21	2019/20	2020/21	2019/20
Premiums written	\$ 2,728	\$ 2,833	\$ 2,328	\$ 2,160	\$ 5,056	\$ 4,993
<b>EARNED REVENUES</b>						
Premiums earned	2,653	2,714	2,165	2,054	4,818	4,768
Service fees and other income	62	65	47	44	109	109
Total earned revenues	2,715	2,779	2,212	2,098	4,927	4,877
<b>CLAIMS AND RELATED COSTS</b>						
Current year claims	1,960	2,180	1,461	1,410	3,421	3,590
Prior years' claims adjustments	(234)	521	52	171	(182)	692
Net claims incurred	1,726	2,701	1,513	1,581	3,239	4,282
Claims services, road safety and loss management services	218	230	106	115	324	345
Total claims and related costs	1,944	2,931	1,619	1,696	3,563	4,627
<b>EXPENSES</b>						
Administrative and other	40	48	45	55	85	103
Insurance expenses	51	50	57	51	108	101
Transformation Program	-	-	18	22	18	22
Premium taxes and commissions	167	174	443	409	610	583
Deferred premium acquisition costs adjustment	-	(34)	-	-	-	(34)
<b>TOTAL CLAIMS AND EXPENSES</b>	2,202	3,169	2,182	2,233	4,384	5,402
<b>INVESTMENT INCOME</b>	582	474	257	193	839	667
<b>INCOME - INSURANCE OPERATIONS BEFORE IMPAIRMENT LOSS</b>	1,095	84	287	58	1,382	142
<b>NON-INSURANCE EXPENSES</b>						
Administrative and other	21	24	-	-	21	24
Driver licensing	56	56	-	-	56	56
Commissions	24	24	-	-	24	24
Non-insurance other income	(3)	(5)	-	-	(3)	(5)
Total non-insurance expenses	98	99	-	-	98	99
<b>NET INCOME (LOSS) BEFORE IMPAIRMENT LOSS</b>	997	(15)	287	58	1,284	43
Impairment loss	(6)	(16)	(2)	(7)	(8)	(23)
<b>NET INCOME (LOSS)</b>	991	(31)	285	51	1,276	20
<b>Insurance Industry Ratios</b>						
%	2020/21	2019/20	2020/21	2019/20	2020/21	2019/20
Loss ratio	73.3	108.0	74.8	82.6	74.0	97.0
Expense ratio <sup>2</sup>	13.6	13.8	25.2	25.3	18.8	18.8
Combined ratio	86.8	120.6	100.7	108.7	93.1	115.5

<sup>1</sup> The financial results are unaudited and contain a number of estimates and assumptions regarding claims costs and savings. Final year end results will be subject to audit.<sup>2</sup> Excludes RAAP and ACE costs.

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**2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE****2021 BCUC Rate  
Application****Suggested Response:**

- With the introduction of ICBC's new Enhanced Care coverage in May 2021, drivers will begin seeing average savings of 20% on their full Basic and Optional vehicle insurance.
- As a key part of these savings, ICBC has applied to the British Columbia Utilities Commission for a 15% decrease to Basic insurance rates – its largest decrease in more than 40 years.
- ICBC's 2021 rate application for a 15% rate decrease also takes into account an 11.5 percentage point rate offset to help rebuild capital.
- Government has directed that ICBC's Basic insurance rate application cover a 23-month period which will help provide British Columbians with predictability on the Basic insurance rates through to at least early 2023.
- In addition to ICBC's application for a reduction in Basic insurance rates that will be seen by the vast majority of customers, in February ICBC also substantially reduced its Optional product third party liability coverage rates for most customers in response to Enhanced Care.
- With Enhanced Care having taken effect in May, millions of British Columbians have already or will receive a one-time, pro-rated refund.

**Background:**

- On December 15, 2020, ICBC filed its 2021 Revenue Requirements Application (RRA) with the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC). The BCUC provided interim approval for ICBC's proposed overall 15% Basic insurance rate reduction until the BCUC decides on the permanent rate later this year.
- The Basic insurance rate request filed with the BCUC has not been directed by government; however, other directions including those on rate stabilization fund (capital rebuilding) and the start and length of the policy year (PY) were made. The BCUC is required to approve rates that are set in accordance with accepted actuarial practice and must follow government directives.
- With the introduction of Enhanced Care, the actuarially indicated cost of the new model is 26.5% lower than the modified tort model that Enhanced Care replaces. ICBC's 2021 rate application for a 15% rate decrease takes into account an 11.5 percentage point rate offset

to build a rate stabilization fund to act as a cushion to help ICBC manage potential unexpected volatility in costs and keep rates as stable as possible for B.C. drivers into the future.

- The anticipated savings from Enhanced Care is heavily based on the model and data from Manitoba Public Insurance (MPI), therefore there is a level of uncertainty in the estimates supporting this rate indication as BC customers may respond differently to the new enhanced care model. It will take several years to fully measure the true impacts on Enhanced Care.
- At the time of the rate application, ICBC's estimate of the COVID-19 impacts on PY 2021 was zero percentage points of rate given the range of potential impacts, both positive and negative, and their associated uncertainty from several influencing factors such as: the timing of vaccines; the length of restrictions; and, customer behaviour on the use of their vehicles. For additional details on COVID-19 impacts, see Note # 1.6.
- Through Cabinet direction to the BCUC, ICBC is not required to submit another rate change application until December 2022 (for new rates starting April 1, 2023) in order to facilitate a smooth transition to Enhanced Care and to secure stability in Basic insurance rates.
- The most significant factor influencing rates for PY 2021 is Enhanced Care. The costs associated with the tort-based system, such as costs for lawyers and legal fees, are largely removed with Enhanced Care. ICBC anticipates an overall savings of approximately \$1.5 billion through Enhanced Care.
- The Enhanced Care refund is for those policyholders who purchased a policy between May 2, 2020 and April 30, 2021, for that portion of the policy that extends from May 1, 2021 onward. This method allows customers minimum inconvenience since they will not have to cancel their insurance certificate before their expiry date and start a new policy to get the immediate premium savings. ICBC anticipates that the vast majority of customers will receive their ECC refunds by end of July 2021.

Key statistics:

- ICBC's requested rate reduction – 15%
- Average Basic Savings with the rate reduction -- \$150
- Enhanced Care savings directed to a Rate Stabilization Fund – 11.5 percentage points of rate
- Actuarially indicated rate reduction due to Enhanced Care – 23.5%
- (15% of that to reduce rates, 11.5 percentage points to rate stabilization)
- Overall annual savings through Enhanced Care -- \$1.5 billion.

- Number of Enhanced Care refunds – 3.95 million policies

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**2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE****ICBC – 2021/22 - 2023/24  
Service Plan****Suggested Response:**

- The net income for fiscal 2020/21 is forecast to be \$709 million as compared to a net loss of \$376 million for fiscal 2019/20. The forecasted net income for 2020/21 is significantly higher than the prior year, mainly as a result of favourable COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 claims trends, as well as improved investment income.
- The 2020/21 net income forecast includes a COVID-19 rebate for customers as part of an overall favourable COVID-19 net underwriting impact. This rebate is separate from the refunds ICBC customers are getting because of the shift to the Enhanced Care, which began on May 1.
- However, as with any projections, the achievement of these results will depend on factors and future trends that are difficult to predict and which make long-term forecasts uncertain. The challenge and uncertainty for forecasting future years have been exacerbated with the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Favourable claims trends not related to COVID-19 include a continuation of a general downward trend in crash frequency and a lower frequency of injury claims than expected under the April 1, 2019 product reforms.
- The 2020/21 investment income forecast has a high likelihood of being achieved as the global markets have recovered from the COVID-19 pandemic. ICBC's investment income forecast for future periods is still subject to volatility in the global financial markets. ICBC maintains a diversified strategic asset mix constructed to help mitigate volatility.
- Enhanced Care launched on May 1 to deliver significantly lower premiums, provide even more generous care and recovery benefits and improve the long-term affordability and stability of auto insurance for British Columbians.

**Background:**Corporate Strategy

- Enhanced Care came into effect on May 1, 2021 and brings lower premiums and more care for British Columbians injured in a crash, as well as making ICBC more financially sustainable.
- Enhanced Care allows more claims costs to go directly to customers and less toward legal fees. See Note 2.1.

- ICBC is working toward greater accessibility with online options to purchase and renew insurance in Fiscal Year 2022-23.
- ICBC's transparency is being improved with a new, externally appointed Fairness Officer. See ICBC Estimates note .
- ICBC is exploring opportunities for usage-based products to help meet customer's needs. ICBC aims to be a leader in crash prevention through key partnerships, telematics, and participation in B.C.'s Intersection Safety Camera program.
- ICBC plans to attract and retain talent, while also reducing traffic congestion, through the adoption of flexible workplace practices that reduce commutes.

#### Finances

- See ICBC Estimates note 3 for ICBC's financial update.
- Summary financial outlook of ICBC's 2020/21-2022/23 Service Plan:

## Financial Plan

(\$m)	2019/20 Actual	2020/21 Forecast	2021/22 Budget	2022/23 Budget	2023/24 Budget
Premiums earned	6,286	5,608 <sup>1</sup>	5,085	5,048	5,242
Service fees and other	148	142	108	110	112
<b>Total earned revenues</b>	<b>6,434</b>	<b>5,750</b>	<b>5,193</b>	<b>5,158</b>	<b>5,354</b>
Provision for claims occurring in the current period	4,728	4,528	3,939	4,019	4,160
Change in estimates for losses occurring in prior periods	1,180	(242)	(101)	(166)	(171)
<b>Net claims incurred</b>	<b>5,908</b>	<b>4,286</b>	<b>3,838</b>	<b>3,853</b>	<b>3,989</b>
Claims service and loss management	464	456	552	539	538
Insurance operations expenses	275	272	306	295	303
Transformation Program	29	24	23	22	16
Premium taxes and commissions	741	786	643	585	611
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>7,417</b>	<b>5,824</b>	<b>5,362</b>	<b>5,294</b>	<b>5,457</b>
<b>Underwriting loss</b>	<b>(983)</b>	<b>(74)</b>	<b>(169)</b>	<b>(136)</b>	<b>(103)</b>
Investment and other income	1,058	918	480	495	495
<b>Income (loss) - insurance operations before impairment loss</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>844</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>392</b>
Non-insurance operations expenses	110	108	130	130	135
Non-insurance commissions	31	32	35	35	36
Non-insurance - other income	(7)	(5)	(8)	(8)	(8)
<b>Net income (loss) before impairment loss</b>	<b>(59)</b>	<b>709</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>229</b>
Impairment loss	(317)	-	-	-	-
<b>Net income (loss)</b>	<b>(376)</b>	<b>709</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>229</b>
Other comprehensive income					
Pension and post-retirement benefits re-measurements	214	(517)	-	-	-
Net change in available for sale financial assets	(503)	1,420	339	83	250
<b>Total comprehensive income (loss)</b>	<b>(665)</b>	<b>1,612</b>	<b>493</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>479</b>
Total equity – beginning of year	119	(547)	1,047	1,538	1,823
Non-controlling interest disposition	(1)	(18)	(2)	-	-
<b>Total equity – end of year</b>	<b>(547)</b>	<b>1,047</b>	<b>1,538</b>	<b>1,823</b>	<b>2,302</b>
Represented by:					
Retained earnings	(396)	302	455	657	886
Other components of equity	(165)	738	1,077	1,160	1,410
Non-controlling interest	14	7	6	6	6
<b>Total equity – end of year</b>	<b>(547)</b>	<b>1,047</b>	<b>1,538</b>	<b>1,823</b>	<b>2,302</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>22,119</b>	<b>22,976</b>	<b>20,047</b>	<b>18,066</b>	<b>16,257</b>
<b>Capital Expenditures<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>62</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>46</b>

<sup>1</sup> The 2020/21 premiums earned forecast includes a COVID-19 rebate for customers totalling \$600 million.

<sup>2</sup> Major categories of capital expenditure include: facilities (land, building, and leasehold), furniture and equipment, IT systems (computer equipment and software). Looking ahead, ICBC expects capital expenditures will change in the planning period as the company maintains or replaces aging infrastructure, including replacement or upgrade of facilities, and as critical business systems are renewed.

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**2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE****COVID-19 Rebate and Interim Measures****Suggested Response:**

- As of April 14, 2021, ICBC has mailed out all 2.86 million cheques to customers eligible for a share of \$600 million in COVID-19-related rebates.
- Most customers who had vehicles insured for all or part of the six-month period between April 1 and Sept. 30, 2020, are receiving a COVID-19 rebate. The rebate is approximately 19% of the premium a customer paid for coverage during the six-month period. The average rebate will be approximately \$190 which will vary from customer to customer depending on the cost of their policy and other factors.
- The distribution originally scheduled to begin March 15 was delayed due to a cyber attack on a third-party vendor contracted by ICBC to print and distribute the rebate cheques. An investigation of the cyber attack confirmed that no ICBC customer information was obtained by unauthorized parties and there were no impacts to ICBC's systems, which remain secure.
- ICBC's COVID measures (which were in place from April to August 2020 for insurance-specific measures) provided that all commercial fleets could temporarily suspend their insurance on a vehicle basis (by going into ICBC's 919 insurance rate class which has no associated premium) but maintain their vehicle licence and number plate.
  - ICBC has had requests from various customers to reinstate the 919 option – at this time, ICBC is not looking to reinstate this initiative. [See note 5.1 for more info on Taxis and Motor Coach operators].

**If pressed about a second rebate:**

- Government and ICBC are working together to arrive at a final decision on the use of additional net income of ICBC for the year due to lower claims resulting from the pandemic.
- ICBC and government have been clear that any positive net impacts to ICBC's financial results due to COVID-19 will benefit customers.
- ICBC's fiscal 2020/21 year ended on March 31 and it typically releases its year-end results in alignment with government's public accounts in July or August.

**Background:**

- The COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact ICBC and its customers.

- The COVID-19 pandemic has had a favourable impact on claims costs, through reduced crash and injury claim frequency as fewer cars are on the road. From the start of ICBC's fiscal year on April 1 to the end of Q3 on December 31, there were approximately 30% fewer crashes than without the pandemic, including fewer injury claims. The frequency of crashes in B.C. was already trending lower before the pandemic, the COVID-19 restrictions are credited for a further reduction in crashes. This resulted in an opportunity for ICBC to provide a significant COVID-19 rebate of \$600 million to policyholders.
- ICBC's equity investments recorded a significant drop at the end of fiscal year 2019/20 as result of a significant impairment loss due to the sudden and severe global market downturn as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2020/21 global investment markets have rebounded and COVID-19 impacts for ICBC have been favourable. Investment income in 2020/21 is forecast to be higher than expected due to continued recovery of the financial markets, higher-than-expected capital dividends and realized gains from the sale of bonds and other investment assets.
- Also due to COVID-19 impacts, premium revenue has been lower due to higher cancellations, fewer renewals and reduced coverages. However, the COVID-19 impact of reduced premium revenues has been more than offset by the reduction in claims costs.
- ICBC's fiscal 2020/21 year ended March 31. Final claims savings and impacts of COVID-19 will be available when ICBC's year end financial results are released in July/August in alignment with government's public accounts.

#### Premium Rebates for Customers

- Government's platform commitment and the Minister's mandate letter commits to delivering a fair deal to BC drivers by providing COVID-19 premium rebates from any surplus ICBC delivers during the pandemic.
- On February 2, 2021, Government announced that ICBC customers will receive rebates averaging \$190 this spring – their part of \$600 million for the first six months of the fiscal year that was saved due to a major decrease in crashes and costs as the COVID-19 pandemic took hold.
- As a result of the province-wide restrictions that were reinstituted in mid-Q3, driving activity has remained low in December and January, leading to lower crash and injury claim frequency with a further favourable impact on claims costs. Final COVID-19 savings incorporating experience from February and March will be available when ICBC's fiscal year-end numbers are published.
- The impact of COVID-19 is expected to continue into 2021/22 but the forecasted impact is expected to be significantly lower in 2021/22 than 2020/21 and a return to normal is currently modeled in the remaining forecast period after December 2021. There is significant risk and

uncertainty when forecasting a COVID-19 impact, which depends on numerous factors including when restrictions are lifted, the timing and effectiveness of a full vaccine rollout, and customer driving behaviours. If claims remain lower than expected beyond December 2021, savings will be higher than estimated and vice versa should claims be higher.

- The approximate processing costs for the COVID-19 rebate are as follows:

Cheque Processing Costs	\$ 2,936,000
Envelope, postage and mail out costs	\$ 2,550,000
Project and development costs	\$ 138,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 5,624,000</b>

#### Eligibility for the rebate

- Most customers who had ICBC policies during the eligibility period of April 1, 2020 to September 30, 2020 were eligible for the rebate, with some exceptions.
- Exceptions included short-term policies (TOPs), storage policies, and distance-based policies. However, the fixed portion of a distance-based policy were eligible for a rebate. The premium paid for these policies already accounts for less driving.
- The Driver Risk Premium, like Driver Penalty Points, is separate from ICBC insurance premiums, therefore they are not included in the calculation of the COVID-19 rebate.

#### Cheque Mail-Out Delay

- As of April 14, 2021, ICBC has mailed out all 2.86 million cheques to customers eligible for a share of \$600 million in COVID-19-related rebates.
- The distribution originally scheduled to begin March 15 was delayed due to a cyber attack on a third-party vendor contracted by ICBC to print and distribute them.
- An investigation of the cyber attack confirmed that no ICBC customer information was obtained by unauthorized parties and there were no impacts to ICBC's systems, which remain secure.

#### Financial Relief for BC Drivers

- ICBC implemented a number of measures to help customers facing financial hardship stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic. Those measures included:
  - Offering 90-day deferrals with options for customers to set up extended payment plans. From March to December 2020, this allowed approximately 93,175 customer to defer \$48.7 million in payments.
  - Temporarily waiving cancellation fees, saving British Columbians approximately \$6.0 million; temporarily allowing fleet customers to suspend insurance on vehicles they

were not driving; and, providing a temporary exemption to customers insured for personal use to allow them to deliver food and medical products.<sup>1</sup>

- Waiving re-plating fees, saving British Columbians approximately \$10.4 million.<sup>2</sup>
- Waiving the fee for the first knowledge test required for customers whose Class 5-8 Learner Driver's Licences (LDLs) expired saving British Columbians approximately \$1.0 million.<sup>3</sup>
- As a result of these measures, along with additional steps taken in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, ICBC customers have saved millions of dollars.

#### Customer Service Measures

- In addition to financial relief for BC drivers, ICBC has also been working closely with its broker, collision and glass repair shop, medical service provider, and government partners to implement a number of measures to help British Columbians through this difficult time, including:
  - Enabling customers to renew and make adjustments to their insurance by phone and email.
  - Providing on-line and phone-based service delivery options that helped reduce the need for BC residents to have physically visited a driver licensing office during the initial months of the pandemic.
  - Offering telehealth services in place of standard in-person treatments and extending pre-authorized health treatments, as well as increasing grants to community non-profit organizations providing support to injured British Columbians.
  - Paying for vehicle cleaning at repair shops, which continue to operate, helping to get vehicles back on the road in a timely manner.
  - Following enhanced safety measures at all ICBC driver licensing offices, including during road tests.
  - Developing a new online appointment booking system for in-person driver licensing visits to help maintain physical distancing measures at driver licensing offices.

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<sup>1</sup> These measures ended on August 20, 2020.

<sup>2</sup> This measure ended on October 19, 2020.

<sup>3</sup> This measure ended on December 31, 2020.

**2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE****Marketing/Advertising  
Spend****Suggested Response:**

- ICBC's advertising this past year has primarily focused on increasing public awareness of changes to the insurance system in BC, and road safety.
- For awareness of Enhanced Care, ICBC spent \$900,000 in media to promote the changes in the 2020/21 fiscal year.
- Enhanced Care, launching May 1, 2021, represents the largest change to auto insurance in our province's history. It's important ICBC reach all British Columbians to inform them of the change.
- Enhanced Care will save British Columbians on average 20% on their auto insurance as well as provide more care to anyone injured in a crash.
- ICBC will continue to focus its media spending this year on providing information to British Columbians about Enhanced Care, along with educational messages on road safety to champion a safe driving culture.

**Background:**

- In 2019/20, the provincial government introduced Enhanced Care legislation to transform ICBC, deliver lower auto insurance rates and substantially improve care benefits, and make ICBC more accountable to British Columbians.
- ICBC spent \$900,000 for Enhanced Care media in 2020/21. This is in addition to \$989,500 spent in 2019/20.
- Given the significance of the change, it is important that information is available to customers and all interested parties through multiple channels and in multiple languages.
- ICBC spent \$660,000 for road safety media in 2020/21. This is below the five-year average of \$920,000.
- ICBC spent \$175,000 on media to promote service changes ICBC implemented in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020/21.

- The following table summarizes ICBC's media spend since 2016:

<b>ICBC Media Spend by Fiscal Year</b>	
<b>Year</b>	<b>Amount Spent</b>
2020/21 (12 Months)	\$1,773,346
2019/20 (12 Months)	\$1,934,392
2018/19 (12 Months)	\$1,792,389
2017/18 (12 Months from Apr 1, 2017 to Mar 31, 2018)	\$2,088,053
2016/17 (15 Months from Jan 1, 2016 to Mar 31, 2017)	\$2,488,535
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,076,715</b>

Notes:

- Spend is calculated for media items only and does not include planning & development, production, amendment planning & development, amendment production, or research, etc.
- The above data includes media spend for all advertising topics: Corporate, Claims, Insurance, Driver Licensing and Road Safety.
- It is normal for media spend to fluctuate somewhat from year to year.
- In 2016, ICBC's fiscal year was transitioned from January 1-December 31 to April 1-March 31 to align with the government fiscal year. As a result, 2016/17 was a 15-month transitional year.

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## 2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE

## Enhanced Care Model

### Suggested Response:

- On May 1, 2021, all B.C. drivers automatically shift to Enhanced Care, lowering the price of insurance by about 20% for those who buy their Basic and Optional insurance from ICBC.
- After many years of a system focused on costly litigation, we've removed the adversarial approach of an injured person suing the at-fault driver in order to potentially receive the care they need or to cover all their income loss.
- Under Enhanced Care, there is no overall limit to the care and recovery benefits available to any British Columbian injured in a crash in Canada or the United States – they will get all the care they need, when they need it, for as long as they need it.
- The Enhanced Accident Benefits are available to any British Columbian injured in a crash – whether a driver, passenger, pedestrian or cyclist – regardless of fault.

### How will government/ICBC will know if Enhanced Care is working

- ICBC will be monitoring their existing customer experience surveys to measure the impact of Enhanced Care on customers' claims and insurance transactions. However, it may take a full year of surveying before there is enough data to complete a statistically relevant, accurate analysis.
- In order to fill this gap and get an earlier indicator of how things are going, ICBC will be conducting interviews with injury claimants in Q2-Q4 of fiscal year 2021/22 to seek feedback on their experiences, with results available in the second half of the year.

### Enhanced Care refunds

- Along with average savings of 20% on their annual insurance premiums, many ICBC customers are also eligible for a refund for however long their current policy extends past May 1, 2021. These Enhanced Care refunds are being issued starting later in May.

### Improved care and recovery benefits

- Enhanced Accident Benefits will pay for medical care, treatments, income loss and more to support recovery with no overall limit to the coverage available.
  - This includes treatment such as physiotherapy, occupational therapy, chiropractic care, dental care, counselling, medical equipment and other supports and services.
  - Enhanced Accident Benefits will pay 90% of your net income up to \$100,000 in gross income if you're too injured to work after a crash. (Optional coverage is available for those who earn above the benefit limit.)

- A new permanent impairment benefit provides lump sum cash compensation of approximately \$265,000 for anyone catastrophically injured in a crash.
- The new system is undeniably better for those who sustain serious or permanent injuries that significantly impact their daily living.

#### Care led by medical professionals

- Anyone injured in a crash will have their care and recovery plan led by their own doctor and healthcare providers of their choice, and will be provided with access to a full spectrum of care, counselling and financial supports for both themselves and their dependents.
- ICBC claims injury staff will be available to support each customer's individualized recovery plan and help coordinate with their health care providers (physiotherapists, chiropractors, etc.) using the most up-to-date research to help ensure the best possible recovery.

#### Stakeholder support

- Government and ICBC worked closely with a wide range of healthcare providers, disability advocates and other stakeholders last year to ensure the value and effectiveness of the care and recovery benefits offered under Enhanced Care.
- The results of more than 50 engagement and consultation meetings helped to develop and inform the final benefits and amounts available under Enhanced Care. More details are available in this public engagement report called, "[What we heard](#)".

#### Improve fairness and transparency

- The Enhanced Care changes support ICBC's goal of being transparent and accountable. It also gives British Columbians greater confidence that the corporation is treating customers fairly when challenges arise, while better supporting people injured in crashes.
- In addition, as part of this commitment, government is creating a new Fairness Officer position focused on customer fairness and greater independence. The officer will be responsible for reviewing and responding to escalated concerns when customers feel they have been treated unfairly by ICBC. [See note # 2.3]

#### If asked about the role for lawyers

- Anyone will be free to hire a lawyer to represent them on their claim but most disputes with ICBC should be able to be effectively resolved without need for legal advice.
- If there is a dispute of benefit entitlement or any other aspect of their claim, the customer can file a dispute with the Civil Resolution Tribunal (CRT). The CRT allows for an individual to retain legal counsel.

Driver accountability

- If you cause crashes, you will still be held accountable through higher rates. The most dangerous drivers who are convicted of certain Criminal Code offences, such as impaired driving, can also still be sued in a civil claim. These individuals may have specific Enhanced Care benefits curtailed (e.g., income replacement benefits (IRB) curtailed fully or partially for one year depending on whether they have dependent children).

Basic Vehicle Damage coverage

- Basic Vehicle Damage coverage means that the cost of repairs or replacement of an ICBC insured's vehicle is covered under its own policy when the driver is not at fault for the crash with another vehicle in B.C. Most drivers shouldn't notice any change when they make a vehicle damage claim.

**Background:**

- The table below in the Appendix highlights many of the key Enhanced Accident Benefits available under Enhanced Care. For specific details on all of the Enhanced Accident Benefits, refer to the regulations.

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## Appendix - Enhanced Accident Benefits Key benefits comparison

Accident Benefits	Former system	Enhanced Accident Benefits proposed in February 2020 Intentions Paper	Final Enhanced Accident Benefits*
<b>Overall care and recovery benefits</b>	\$300,000	\$7.5 million	No limit
<b>Income replacement</b>	75% of gross income, up to \$740 per week	Up to 90% of net income based on a maximum of \$93,400 in gross income, with option to purchase higher limits	Up to 90% of net income based on a maximum of \$100,000 in gross income, with option to purchase higher limits
<b>Loss of studies</b> Kindergarten to grade 8 Grade 9 – 12 Select post-secondary studies	N/A	\$5,000 \$10,000 \$20,000	\$5,693 \$10,550 \$21,100
<b>Family enterprise</b>	N/A	\$800/week	\$837/week
<b>Permanent impairment compensation</b> Catastrophic Non-catastrophic	N/A	\$250,000 \$800 to \$160,000	\$264,430 \$836 to \$167,465 (depending on severity of impairment)
<b>Personal care assistance:</b> Not-catastrophic  Catastrophic Catastrophic - 24/hr care	Attendant care part of \$300,000 limit. Primary homemaker benefit up to \$280/week. Same as above. Same as above.	\$4,800/month  \$5,700/month \$10,000/month	\$5,033/month  \$6,018/month \$10,000/month
<b>Reimbursement of care expense benefit</b> 1 person 2 people 3 people 4 or more people	N/A	\$120/week \$160/week \$200/week \$240/week	\$146/week \$186/week \$226/week \$266/week
<b>Caregiver benefit</b> 1 person 2 people 3 people 4 or more people	N/A	\$465/week \$515/week \$565/week \$600/week	\$584/week \$634/week \$684/week \$719/week
<b>Recreation benefit</b>	N/A	\$500 to \$4,000/2 years (depending on severity of impairment)	\$500 to \$4,000/2 years (depending on severity of impairment)
<b>Transitional expense</b>	N/A	\$1,200,000	\$1,229,910
<b>Death Benefits</b> Spouse  Dependant Dependant with disabilities (additional amount) Non-dependant child or parent	\$30,000  6,000 each N/A N/A	\$60,000 minimum  \$30,000 to \$60,000 each \$28,000 \$14,000 each	\$66,987 minimum (maximum is limited by the cap on gross yearly employment income up to \$500,000) \$31,817 to \$60,000 each \$29,306 \$14,918 each
<b>Funeral expenses</b>	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$9,130
<b>Grief counselling</b>	N/A	\$3,500 total (per deceased)	\$3,818 per eligible person per deceased
<b>Travel expenses to attend insured in critical care</b>	N/A	\$4,600	\$4,974 if 1 individual \$2,487 per individual if 2

\*Limits are inclusive of indexing for 2021 and rounded to the nearest dollar, where applicable

**2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE****Civil Resolution Tribunal –  
BC Supreme Court  
Decision****Suggested Response:**

- The B.C. Court of Appeal granted a partial stay of the B.C. Supreme Court’s decision regarding the jurisdiction of the Civil Resolution Tribunal. This means for motor vehicle accidents that happen between April 1, 2019 and April 30, 2021, people have a choice of having disputes resolved through the CRT or by filing a claim in court if the dispute is about whether an injury is a minor injury, or liability and personal injury and property damage of up to \$50,000.
- While ICBC is still assessing the impact of the decision, it anticipates that as a result of the decision on the CRT there will be an increase in the number of claims that become represented by lawyers and subsequently litigated in the BC Supreme Court. ICBC will be monitoring the volume increase both short and long term.
- Litigated claims will take longer to resolve and cost more to manage under the BC Supreme Court as compared to those handled by a simplified CRT process.
- The estimated financial net impact of the additional represented and litigated claims will be quantified for ICBC’s year-end financial reporting. The impact is expected to be no more than \$390M on the bottom line in this fiscal year.
- The B.C. Supreme Court decision has already been taken into account and it will have no impact on the announced COVID-19 rebate or the savings from Enhanced Care.

**Background:**

- Effective April 1, 2019, the Civil Resolution Tribunal (CRT) was provided jurisdiction over motor vehicle accident disputes of \$50,000 or less, accident benefit determinations, “minor injury” determinations within the meaning of the *Insurance (Vehicle) Act*, and to assess liability and damages (section 133 CRT Act). The Trial Lawyers Association of British Columbia (TLABC) subsequently filed a notice of civil claim challenging the constitutional validity of the amendments providing jurisdiction to the Civil Resolution Tribunal over motor vehicle disputes and setting a limit for non-pecuniary pain and suffering damages for minor injuries.
- On March 2, 2021, the British Columbia Supreme Court (BCSC) reached a decision in *The Trial Lawyers Association of B.C. et al v. The Attorney General of B.C. et al* 2021 BCSC 348 and held that the CRT’s jurisdiction to determine whether an injury is a minor injury and to

determine liability and quantum up to \$50,000 is unconstitutional.

- On April 8, 2021, the B.C. Court of Appeal temporarily suspended part of the earlier BCSC ruling which means the CRT can resume deciding, for motor vehicle accidents that happened on or after April 1, 2019 if an injury is a “minor injury” for the purposes of the *Insurance (Vehicle) Act* and claims for liability and personal injury and property damage of up to \$50,000.
- As a result of these two decisions, a determination of whether a claim meets the definition of minor injury will now fall within the jurisdiction of the BCSC as well as the CRT. The issue of the constitutional validity of the CRT jurisdiction was severed from that of the minor injury cap and proceeded to a hearing on an expedited basis. The hearing over the constitutional validity of the minor injury cap remains outstanding.
- The impacts as a result of the BCSC decision, even with the partial stay granted by the BC Court of Appeal, are an expected increase in the number of claims that may be represented by lawyers and subsequently litigated in BCSC, expected increased operational pressure to handle an increase in litigated claims, and a financial impact of additional represented/litigated claims.

Increase in the number of claims represented by lawyers:

- There are approximately 15,000 represented, but not litigated files, today, of which a large portion are expected to become litigated because of the Court’s decision. It is assumed that an additional 12,000 to 17,000 customers may obtain legal representation, from which there will also be some increase in the number of actions brought to the BCSC. These additional customers have claims with varying dates of loss and given the 2 year limitation period for commencing an action in the BCSC, not all would result in an immediate influx of Supreme Court Actions

Increased operational pressure:

- Any increase in the volume of represented claims will put operational pressure on several ICBC departments/groups. Although it is difficult to predict the impact at this time, increased representation and/or litigation would slow down the rate at which adjusters handling these types of files transition to handling Enhanced Care claims, and conversely, also allow more adjusters handling unrepresented files to transition quicker to handling Enhanced Care claims. Assuming a 30% uptake in representation rates, the additional volume of litigated claims would create only a minor disruption in the above groups which can be managed by adding short term capacity. Any long term impact is largely offset by the introduction of Enhanced Care and lawsuits largely being eliminated for vehicle accidents after May 1, 2021.

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**2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE****ICBC Fairness Officer****Suggested Response:**

- Creating a more independent body to consider customer complaints about ICBC processes is part of our broader effort to build public trust in the corporation.
- The Fairness Officer will have the authority to review and make recommendations to resolve customer complaints about the policy and process ICBC used to make a decision in their case. As well, the Fairness Officer may make broader recommendations to enhance fair decision-making.
- To ensure transparency, the legislation outlines that the Fairness Officer must report each year on the number of complaints received as well as those determined to be within scope and heard by the Fairness Officer.
  - ICBC will also be required to submit an annual report to the minister responsible for ICBC, outlining its response to any recommendations made by the Fairness Officer.
  - As the minister responsible for ICBC, I will also be required to table both the Fairness Officer's report, and ICBC's response to the report, in this House.
- The Fairness Office is expected to be up and running later this year.

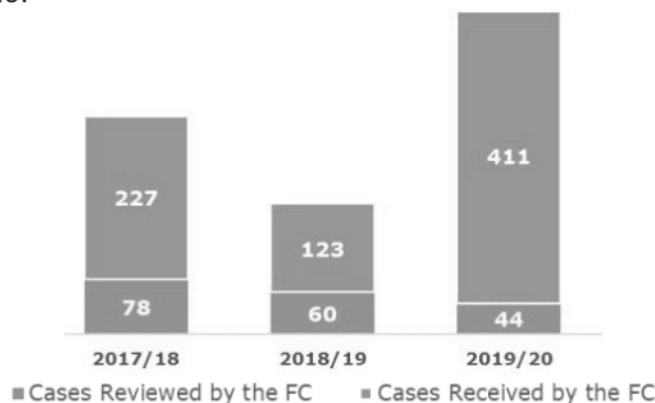
**Background:**

- The Fairness Officer is established by Bill 5, the *Insurance Corporation Amendment Act*, which received Royal Assent on March 25, 2021 and will come into force by regulation.
  - The requirement to table both the Fairness Officer's report, and ICBC's response to the Fairness Officer's report, in the legislature was introduced through a House amendment.
- ICBC's annual report to the minister responsible for ICBC will detail how ICBC has responded to issues raised and recommendations made by the Fairness Officer, including actions taken and changes in policies and procedures. This report is due to the minister responsible for ICBC no later than August 31 of each year.
- Supporting regulations will be required and can be anticipated in the coming weeks.
- The Fairness Officer will be appointed by government. Currently the existing ICBC Fairness Commissioner is appointed by ICBC's Board of Directors. This change ensures a greater level of accountability to government and to the public.

- The current ICBC Fairness Commissioner has an annual budget of up to \$215,000, which is funded by ICBC. Going forward, the Fairness Officer will be responsible for establishing their own budget which they will submit to ICBC's Board for approval.
  - There is no cost to government to implement or operate the new Fairness Office.

Statistics

- Current Fairness Commissioner's applications received and number of cases reviewed from 2017/18 to 2019/20:



- Current Fairness Commissioner volumes, by business area (2019/2020 closed files):



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**2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE****Broker Commissions****Suggested Response:**

- Through ICBC's extensive network of over 900 private sector brokerages across British Columbia, ICBC delivers an efficient, customer accessible distribution system with costs below insurance industry benchmarks and high levels of customer satisfaction with brokers.
- Customers across BC are routinely surveyed throughout the year about their broker experience and in February 2021, 96 per cent of them rated that experience as positive.
- The shift to the Enhanced Care model will enable ICBC to address unprecedented cost pressures in the auto insurance system, and help improve affordability for British Columbians by driving down insurance premiums. Since broker remuneration is tied to completed insurance transactions and Optional premium revenues generated, the significant decline in insurance premiums will also lead to a significant reduction in overall broker remuneration, estimated to be a loss of approximately \$132.6M. Brokers are contributing that to the overall savings that customers are enjoying.
- With this in mind, Basic fees were increased by 8 per cent on policies effective January 1, 2021 onwards. This translates into approximately \$1 per transaction or about \$2 per year, per policy. ICBC's broker remuneration strategy also acknowledges that the fee paid to brokers on a Basic insurance policy had not increased since 2016. The increase is also in anticipation of the introduction of online sales in May 2022.
- Through economies of scale of having a public auto insurance system in B.C., the total commission paid by ICBC on Basic and Optional policies average out to 8 per cent, which compares to the industry average of 12-15 per cent. For Optional insurance, ICBC is competing with other insurers to sell its products, through brokers, to customers. ICBC needs to be competitive in price for customers and also competitive in the compensation it pays brokers for that business.
- ICBC is conscious that commission rates have a direct impact on insurance rates and compensation paid to business partners must be fair and affordable for ratepayers.

**\$25 million transition payment made to brokers in March 2021**

- Enhanced Care is the biggest change to auto insurance in B.C.'s history. Brokers are critical in helping customers navigate this transition successfully and are relied upon to relate the changes, from the current tort model to a care based model, to their customer's individual needs. Basic fees alone are insufficient to cover a broker's operating costs. As such, the delivery of the Basic insurance product, as well as the vehicle registration and licensing services, is subsidized by Optional product commissions. In acknowledgment of these

factors, brokers were issued a one-time transition workload payment of \$25 million (paid from Optional) which was paid as a lump sum in March 2021. The amount of the payment to each active broker agency was calculated based on transaction volumes. The payment per transaction was \$3.80.

### Background:

- ICBC's model is efficient and cost effective, most notably on the Basic and vehicle licensing side where 'one-stop' services are provided by brokers for approximately 3 per cent of Basic premium. Optional commissions act as a subsidy to basic to make up for insufficient basic service fees paid to brokers. Any reduction in commissions comes with the inherent risk of losing ICBC's most profitable customers, as brokers may actively move customers to competitors who offer similar coverage, but at a higher commission rate.
- Total Optional commissions paid have increased annually due to rising premiums, population growth, and movement of customers to more favourable levels of risk. Commissions are designed to be competitive with private carriers and to allow brokers to cover their costs and ensure a return on their investment.

### Fees paid to brokers

- Total compensation in 2019/20 totaled approximately \$550 million across Basic fee-for-service and Optional commissions. Basic fees total about \$120 million, or 3 per cent of premium. Fees-for-services paid to brokers include vehicle registration and licensing functions, which are often conducted directly by government in private insurance jurisdictions. Optional commission represent approximately \$430 million, or 15 per cent of Optional premium, and are calculated as a percentage of premium based on the customer's risk level.
- In some other public auto jurisdictions, collision and comprehensive coverages form part of their mandatory (Basic) insurance product, which results in lower average commission expense ratios than BC where these coverages are part of ICBC's Optional insurance product. Below is a table comparing commissions with other public and private insurers:

Insurance Company		Auto Commission
		National
ICBC	Basic 3%   Optional 15% (on average)	N/A
MPI	Basic 3%   Optional 19.75%	
SGL	Basic 4%   Optional 15%	
Intact	BC: n/a	10% to 12.5% + 3.2% (average profit sharing)
Economical	BC: 18%	10% to 12.5% + 3% (average profit sharing)
RSA Canada	BC: n/a	10% to 14% + profit sharing said to be typical of other insurers
Aviva	BC: n/a	10% to 13.5% = 1.5% (average profit sharing)

**Confidential**

**ICBC 11**

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**2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE****Online Insurance  
Renewals and Licence  
Plate Decals****Suggested Response:**Online Insurance Renewals

- In coordination with government, ICBC will be offering their customers the convenience to renew their auto insurance online starting in May 2022.
  - Initially, ICBC customers will be able to renew personal insurance with some restrictions<sup>1</sup>. Further products are expected to be made available in the future.
- ICBC's preparation has included assessing potential business, operational and financial requirements, and seeking input from stakeholder groups.
- This priority is consistent with ICBC's 2021/22-2023/24 Service Plan commitment to offer digital options to purchase and renew insurance.
- ICBC will continue to engage partners throughout 2021/22 in an effort to fairly and accurately design a system for online personal renewals, while maintaining the support of stakeholders.

**Background:**Online Insurance Renewals

- ICBC has received feedback through various customer testing initiatives that customers want the ability to renew their auto insurance policies online.
- In order for ICBC to meet customer expectations and continue to modernize its services, ICBC is leveraging technologies and working with partners to deliver online insurance services, starting with personal insurance renewals. Being responsive to customers' needs by providing more online services supports broader efforts to build customer confidence and trust in ICBC's services.
- A task force made up of members from the Insurance Brokers Association of British Columbia (IBABC), Credit Union Insurance Service Association (CUISA) and ICBC are working on a roadmap to allow for online insurance options for customers by the spring of 2022. This Online Task Force meets monthly to discuss topics that include, but not are limited to, design principles, support model, broker selection, and branding.

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<sup>1</sup> Some of ICBC's customer segments will not be able to renew or purchase insurance online. These customer segments will be determined through further design research.

- ICBC moved to email and phone-based insurance transactions in the initial weeks of the COVID-19 pandemic, and have continued to offer this service through brokers.
- The online initiative will add to the many services ICBC already offers online, including; reporting and checking the status of claims, booking driver licencing tests, ordering driver abstracts, and using the insurance estimation tool.

#### Licence Plate Decals

- Validation decals, a sticker applied to a vehicle's licence plate, have been used on B.C. number plates since 1970 as a visual identifier that the vehicle's licence (and by extension, insurance) is valid until the date shown. Prior to that, the valid until date was stamped on the physical licence plate itself.
- As ICBC finalizes plans to allow for personal policy renewals online, consideration is being given to the manner in which the validation decal is used, including the possible elimination of the decal.
- On August 14, 2020, the *Motor Vehicle Amendment Act (No.2)*, 2020, received Royal Assent, enabling changes to validation decal requirements. ICBC is working with government on options for the decal requirements.
  - ICBC held consultation sessions with brokers and solicited written feedback from front-line police representatives. Consultations with BC's law enforcement senior leaders is ongoing.
  - ICBC has also met with government ministries representatives to ensure impacts of decal changes on other ministries are identified and addressed. The results of these consultations are informing policy decisions, as well as ICBC's internal business and operational planning processes.
- In January 2021, Alberta joined Saskatchewan (2012), Manitoba (2016), Quebec (1992) and the Northwest Territories (2015), as jurisdictions no longer requiring a validation decal on their licence plates. Other jurisdictions have seen savings from the elimination of the decal and have improved the customer experience. These jurisdictions have not experienced an increase in unlicensed or uninsured vehicles.

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**2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE****Average Written Premiums****Suggested Response:**

- With the introduction of ICBC's new Enhanced Care coverage in May, British Columbians who buy both their Basic and Optional automobile insurance from ICBC will see, on average, a 20% reduction in their insurance premiums.
- As a key part of these savings, ICBC has applied to the British Columbia Utilities Commission for a 15% decrease to Basic insurance rates – its largest decrease in more than 40 years. The average Basic premium is expected to be \$847 for personal customers with full coverage in FY 2021/22.
- Typically, no insurance company provides their competitive pricing information, including ICBC with their Optional insurance side of the business.

**Background:**

- Written premium is an accounting term in the insurance industry used to describe the total amount that customers are required to pay for insurance coverage on policies issued by a company during the policy period. For example, if an insurance company over the course of the policy period sells 1,000 new contracts that require each customer to pay \$1,000 in premiums, its written premiums for that period would be \$1 million.
- Written premiums factor in the amount of premium charged for a policy that has already become effective, regardless of what portions have been earned. Written premiums are the principal source of an insurance company's revenues and appear on the top line of the income statement.
- During the past several Estimates debates, opposition MLAs have requested the average written premiums for different time periods dating back as far as 2003, as well as a breakdown between Basic and Optional coverage. Typically, no insurance company provides their competitive pricing information, including ICBC with their Optional insurance side of the business.
- Written premiums are different from premiums earned, which are the amount of premiums that a company books as earnings for providing insurance against various risks during the year. Insured policyholders pay premiums in advance, so insurers do not immediately consider premiums paid for an insurance contract as revenue. The insurer can change the status of the premium, from unearned to earned, only when its full obligation is fulfilled.

- The table below in Appendix 1 provides the historical average premiums, earned premiums, rate changes and claims costs.

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## Appendix – Historical Basic Average Written Premiums, Basic Rate changes, Changes in Premium Costs, Net Premiums Earned, Claims Costs (2002-2022)

Year	Basic Average Written Premium <sup>1,2</sup>	Change in Basic Premium Cost	Basic Rate Change	Implementation dates	Net Premiums Earned <sup>3</sup> \$(M)	Claims Costs <sup>4</sup> \$(M)	Year/Year increases	Basic Rate Required	Basic Rate Approved	Revenue Cap \$(M)	Mitigation
2002	601	n/a	6.6%		2,628	2,169	1.9%				
2003	613	12	2.0%	1/1/2003	2,852	2,219	2.3%				
2004	616	2	0.4%	1/1/2004	3,026	2,238	0.9%				
2005	616	0	0.0%	6/1/2005	3,117	2,525	12.8%				
2006	656	40	6.5%	3/1/2006	3,257	2,643	4.7%				
2007	677	22	3.3%	5/1/2007	3,482	2,613	-1.1%				
2008	677	0	0.0%	7/1/2008	3,631	2,510	-3.9%				
2009	677	0	0.0%	10/1/2009	3,650	2,651	5.6%				
2010	661	-16	-2.4%	11/1/2010	3,667	2,752	3.8%				
2011	661	0	0.0%		3,673	2,866	4.1%				
2012	735	74	11.2%	2/1/2012	3,811	2,953	3.0%				
2013	773	38	5.2%	11/1/2013	3,928	3,113	5.4%	11.5%	5.2%	147	OIC to exclude loss cost variance
2014	813	40	5.2%	11/1/2014	4,159	3,560	14.4%	5.2%	5.2%		
2015	858	45	5.5%	11/1/2015	4,448	4,042	13.5%	11.2%	5.5%	147	OIC to exclude 2015 loss cost variance
2016	900	42	4.9%	11/1/2016	6,051	5,966	47.6%	15.5%	4.9%	298	Income transfer from optional of \$300M to offset 10.7% rate
2017	958	58	6.4%	11/1/2017	5,329	5,647	-5.3%	20.0%	6.4%	415	Announce RAAP
FY2018/19	953	(5)	0.0%	2/9/2019	5,824	6,529	15.6%	N/A	N/A		
FY2019/20 <sup>5</sup>	985	32	6.3%	4/1/2019	6,286	5,908	-9.5%	6.3%	6.3%		
FY2020/21 <sup>6</sup>	934	(51)	0.0%	4/1/2020	5,608	4,286	-27.5%	0.2%	0.0%		
FY2021/22 (est) <sup>7</sup>	847	(88)	-15.0%	5/1/2021	5,085	3,838		-26.5%	-15.0%		

<sup>1</sup> Average premium is shown on a written basis for Basic coverage only, for the group of personal customers carrying full Basic and Optional coverage.

<sup>2</sup> Basic average premium up to 2017 is derived using the historical rate changes. This excludes all other facts that could have an impact on average premium (e.g. changes in abusiveness mix and changes in average discount level). From FY 2018/19, the Basic average premium is based on actual premium written in the year, which is influenced by rate design change and COVID-19.

<sup>3</sup> Net premiums earned includes both vehicle and driver premiums.

<sup>4</sup> Claims cost includes current year claims incurred and prior years' claims adjustments.

<sup>5</sup> Average premium includes impact of the rate design changes implemented on September 1, 2019 and the implemented basic rate change for April 1, 2019.

<sup>6</sup> The reduction in Basic average premium is mainly driven by COVID-19. Net Premium Earned after 1st COVID-19 rebate of \$600M.

<sup>7</sup> Projection based on ICBC's financial outlook. The Basic rate is approved by BCUC on interim basis, pending for BCUC final decision. Net Premium Earned after the Enhanced Care refund.

<sup>5-7</sup> Basic Average Premium is based on annual policyholder mix, which does not reflect any seasonality in business mix throughout the year.

<sup>1-7</sup> Data may contain small differences due to rounding.

**2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE****Road Test Wait Times****Suggested Response:**

- I understand people become frustrated when there are long wait times for road tests, and I know this challenge was intensified on March 17, 2020 due to COVID-19, when road testing services were suspended.
- To ensure citizen and staff safety, ICBC resumed road testing in a phased manner:
  - Road testing bookings for commercial drivers resumed on June 17, 2020.
  - Road testing bookings for non-commercial drivers fully resumed on August 24, 2020.
- To gain efficiency and help ease some of the burden created by COVID-19, ICBC recruited additional temporary driver examiners, and adapted ten claims centres to support road testing services for Class 5 and 7 (passenger vehicle) drivers.
- In addition to COVID-19 related demand pressures, unprepared drivers who repeatedly fail delay appointments for drivers who are adequately prepared and are adding to the pressures.
  - In 2020, approximately 17% of road test appointments were taken up by customers who were on at least their 3rd road test attempt.
- I urge people to ensure they are adequately prepared before they attempt a road test.

**Mandatory Entry Level Training (MELT) for Class 1 drivers**

- Current demand for road testing service is predominantly for class 5 and 7 (passenger vehicle).
- The March 31, 2021 announcement of Mandatory Entry Level Training (MELT) is anticipated to increase demand for class 1 commercial road tests from now until MELT is implemented on October 18, 2021. The increased demand is expected to taper off up to 12 months after MELT is implemented.

**Background:**

- In the years prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of annual road tests conducted by ICBC continued to increase due to improved operational efficiencies and higher driver examiner staffing levels.
- The current demand for road tests was further intensified due to the suspension of road tests because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- With the resumption of road testing, approximately 100 additional driver examiners were added over a period of four months.
  - Due to employee turnover, this number has declined to approximately 60 driver examiners.
  - ICBC continues to recruit driver examiners on an ongoing basis
- For the year 2020, the number of drivers and wait time period for a road test are:

ICBC Region	Number of drivers and wait time period												Grand Total
	1-10 Days	11-20 Days	21-30 Days	31-40 Days	41-50 Days	51-60 Days	61-70 Days	71-80 Days	81-90 Days	91- 100 Days	Other Days	Over 100 days Days	
Fraser Valley	6,437	3,493	2,085	2,050	3,800	1,439	1,140	682	582	600	2	11,471	33,781
Greater Vancouver	3,812	2,382	1,610	1,511	3,035	962	628	429	391	351	1	7,618	22,730
Northern Interior	330	260	380	255	174	191	224	197	262	155	0	888	3,316
Southern Interior	736	556	375	391	446	387	387	256	318	357	0	2,957	7,166
Vancouver Island	1,158	696	478	459	610	234	209	186	205	192	0	3,587	8,014
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>12,473</b>	<b>7,387</b>	<b>4,928</b>	<b>4,666</b>	<b>8,065</b>	<b>3,213</b>	<b>2,588</b>	<b>1,750</b>	<b>1,758</b>	<b>1,655</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>26,521</b>	<b>75,007</b>

- Unprepared drivers who fail repeatedly drive the increased demand for road tests. In 2020, 7% of drivers needed 4 or more attempts to pass their tests.
- In July 2018, ICBC implemented a policy requiring longer waiting periods between retests for people who fail their road tests. The change was intended to incentivize customers to be adequately prepared and safe on the road, while also freeing up road test appointments for customers who may pass on their first or second attempts.
- Waiting periods between retesting attempts:

Failed Attempt	Waiting Period between Attempts			
	Knowledge Test	Motorcycle Skills Test & Commercial Pre-Trip	Road Test Classes 1-4	Road Test Classes 5-8
1 <sup>st</sup>	7 Days	7 Days	14 Days	14 Days
2 <sup>nd</sup>	7 Days	7 Days	30 Days	30 Days
3 <sup>rd</sup> +	7 Days	7 Days	30 Days	60 Days

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**2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE****Enhanced Driver's Licence  
and Identification Card  
Program Termination****Suggested Response:**

- On January 18, 2021, government announced the Enhanced Driver Licence and Enhanced Identification Card (EDL/EIC) Program will begin phasing out immediately.
- Introduced in 2008, the EDL/EIC Program was intended to ease cross-border travel. However, there was an ongoing decline in new applicants, including the number of renewals.
- This change will not interrupt cross-border trade or travel.
- BC residents have access to other travel document alternatives that offer additional benefits such as the 10-year passport and the NEXUS expedited border control card, both of which can also be used for air travel, unlike the EDL/EIC.
- The wind-down process will occur over a five-year period, with the last card scheduled to expire in September 2025. No new or replacement cards will be issued, and existing cards will remain valid until they expire.

**Background:**

- B.C. is phasing out the enhanced driver's licence (EDL) and enhanced identification card (EIC), originally offered to ease entry into the U.S.
- The decline in program applications and the popularity of other cost-effective travel documents that are valid longer and allow for air travel are among the reasons for the discontinuation.
- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, ICBC, which administers the program on behalf of government, suspended the application process in March 2020, due to the requirement for an in-person appointment. No new cards have been issued since. Applications for new cards are no longer being accepted.
- Introduced in 2008, B.C.'s EDL served as a single piece of identification allowing the bearer to enter the U.S. through ports and land crossings only. It cost \$35 more than a regular B.C. driver's licence. Non-drivers and youth could obtain an EIC with similar benefits. These options coincided with a then-new law requiring travellers to present a valid passport or other secure document when entering the U.S.

- Since then, Canada has simplified its passport application process and introduced a 10-year passport option. As well, the NEXUS expedited border control card has grown in popularity, since it was introduced shortly after the EDL/EIC was implemented. With either of these alternatives, the bearer can also enter the U.S. by air, which is not possible with the EDL or EIC.
- Interest in B.C.'s EDL and EIC had continued to wane: in January 2021, 26% fewer cards were active than in January 2018, and in 2019, only four in 10 holders of expiring cards chose to renew. As a result, the program – originally envisioned as self-funding – has run deficits consistently since 2014 and in all but two years of its operation. To date, the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General has provided over \$7.5 million to cover costs incurred by ICBC for administering the program.
- Phasing out the EDL and EIC Program will occur over a five-year period, ending in September of 2025, when all current cards will have expired. Active licences and ID cards will remain valid through their expiry, and existing cards will not be renewed.
- In addition to B.C., an EDL program was offered in Ontario, Quebec and Manitoba. Ontario began winding down its program in July 2019, Quebec retired its program in 2014 and Manitoba has recently announced it will be winding down its program in 2022.

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**2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE****Ride Hailing, Taxi Usage-Based Insurance, and Motor Coaches****Suggested Response:**Taxis

- Government worked closely with ICBC and the taxi industry to launch a distance-based insurance product for taxis in May 2020.
- Since May 2020, taxi companies have had the option to move to a price per kilometre product or maintain their same current flat-rate insurance product.
  - To date, approximately 1/3 of all taxi fleets, which accounts for about 2/3rds of all taxis in BC, have moved to the new distance-based product.
  - The distance-based product provides flexibility for taxi companies to more effectively manage their insurance costs. It also helps to provide flexibility for their operations, including part-time operations.
- Distance-based pricing for taxis is providing a means for this essential service to manage their insurance costs during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- With the introduction of ICBC's new Enhanced Care in May 2021, like most other British Columbians, taxis will begin seeing average savings of 20% on their full Basic and Optional vehicle insurance. These savings will apply both on the flat-rate and usage-based portion of taxi's premiums.

Ride-Hailing (Transportation Network Services)

- In September 2019, ICBC launched a new blanket distance-based insurance product to provide for Transportation Network Companies entry into the BC market. So far, ICBC has issued 12 of these policies to ride-hail companies now operating in BC.
- Ride-hailing companies must be authorized by the Passenger Transportation Board to operate. They also must purchase an ICBC blanket Basic insurance certificate, which provides Basic insurance coverage during ride-hailing use.
- Ride-hailing companies can choose to purchase a blanket Optional insurance policy that includes extended third-party liability, collision and comprehensive coverages.

Motor Coaches

- We recognize that COVID-19 has hit the motor coach industry especially hard. In mid 2020, we had short term measures to allow a vehicle to be taken off the road without having to incur additional fees.
- Looking forward, ICBC is working with motor coach operators to help them find ways under the existing framework to pay appropriate insurance costs recognizing that their vehicles are only operated sporadically.

Class 4 Driver's Licences for Ride-Hail and Taxi

- During the COVID-19 pandemic, ICBC continues to provide for the Class 4 Knowledge Tests in its offices. Since ICBC resumed road testing in June 2020, Class 4 road tests were available with an average wait time throughout the province of 29 days.
- As ICBC built its road test resumption plan during the COVID-19 pandemic, resuming commercial driver licence testing received the highest priority. As of today, those looking to book a class 4 road test can expect to be able to take a road test within 20 days.

**Background:**Taxi insurance

- Effective May 1, 2020, taxi companies have had the option to purchase a distance-based insurance product (for both Basic and Optional coverages).
- The pricing for the distance-based insurance product aligns with the TNS insurance product, both for the flat rate portion and usage-based portion of their policy. This aligns with the goal of having taxi premiums align with what a ride-hail driver pays.
- Taxis that purchase a distance-based insurance product pay a per-km rate during the period where they have been dispatched to a fare or have a paying customer(s) in their vehicle. During all other times, they pay a flat rate (in alignment with rates a TNS driver would pay).
- Taxi fleets are not required to switch to the distance-based product. Instead, they can purchase the product that makes the most sense to them – either flat-rate for all use, or distance-based.

Ride-hailing insurance:

- Ride-hailing companies, also known as transportation network services (TNS), connect drivers with paying passengers through the use of an online platform or app.
- In September 2019, ICBC made available a blanket insurance policy that must be purchased by ride-hailing companies to provide mandatory Basic insurance coverage when a vehicle is

being operated under their online platform.

- For Basic insurance, the blanket policy takes the place of the owner's vehicle insurance policy during certain phases of ride-hailing.
  - The blanket Basic policy will take over when the driver is en-route to pick up a fare or if they have a fare in their vehicle. Otherwise, the vehicle owner's insurance policy applies.
- For Optional insurance, if the ride-hailing company chooses to purchase Optional coverage (collision, comprehensive and/or extension third party legal liability) from ICBC, then the blanket Optional coverage will also apply during ride-hailing use.

#### Motor Coach

- Current state options for motor coach operators to save in their insurance costs:
  - Cancel their coverage and place their vehicle in storage – if a temporary business arises, they can purchase a short term policy.
  - To help in managing up front cost pressures, they can go on an ICBC payment plan which allows customers to make easy-to-manage, scheduled payments to help with their monthly budgeting and can spread the cost over equal monthly or quarterly payments.
  - Purchase an annual or short term policy, then cancel it if not required and receive a full prorated refund.
  - Reduce and/or remove optional coverage to reduce premium on vehicles that are not operating.
- ICBC's COVID measures (which were in place from April to August 2020 for insurance-specific measures) provided that all commercial fleets could temporarily suspend their insurance on a vehicle basis (by going into ICBC's 919 insurance rate class which has no associated premium) but maintain their vehicle licence and number plate.
  - ICBC has had requests from various customers to reinstate the 919 option – at this time, ICBC is not looking to reinstate this initiative.
  - The 919 measure was a temporary measure meant to reduce administrative burden and allow the "suspension" of their insurance on an extended basis until the lockdown measures ended and business resumed, not to be a long term solution for customers.
  - The temporary 919 COVID measure was intended for fleets that had no business operation during the COVID period, not for fleets to turn on and off their insurance coverage so they only pay for the days they use (de facto usage-based insurance).

- Generally, any future rate design would need to ensure that the overall premiums charged equate with the overall costs of servicing these policies across a customer segment.

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**2021/22 ESTIMATES NOTE****Post Implementation  
Business Review****Suggested Response:**

- In 2020, ICBC initiated a Post Implementation Business Review (PIBR) to better understand glass and collision repair industry costs and to help inform compensation decisions. Led by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC), this independent third-party review examined in detail the financial health of the collision and glass repair industries in BC. ICBC released the PIBR to industry on March 5, 2021.
- Compensation for the glass and collision repair industry will be reviewed each year by looking at appropriate industry benchmarks to determine if adjustments are required. ICBC has committed to updating the PIBR in 2023.
- With respect to the collision repair facilities, the report showed that over the last three years, direct costs for collision repair facilities in BC have increased by 2%. In response, ICBC is increasing the labour rate by 2.58% in April 2021.
- PwC did not receive sufficient data from BC's auto glass industry to understand if, and how, their costs may be changing. As such, ICBC is unable to consider rate changes for glass suppliers at this time.
- ICBC is committed to fair compensation and pays in the middle of Canadian insurers.

**Background:**

- The Competition Act restricts ICBC from negotiating rates with industry associations.
- The PIBR was led by PwC. It used internal data to understand supplier spend and patterns to identify cost drivers. It also included a separate external market analysis and future industry outlook, and used information provided by suppliers themselves to better understand the industry's financial situation and assess long term viability.

**Glass repair results and next steps**

- Insufficient data were provided by glass repair facilities to understand their costs and assess whether rate adjustments are needed. Despite that, ICBC recognizes that the industry faces some challenges and has committed to the following improvements:
  - Continued review by ICBC and industry of opportunities to improve administrative efficiencies (for ICBC, shops and customers) via industry liaison meetings.

- ICBC will continue to determine the appropriate compensation for the glass industry by analysing data from various benchmarks, appropriate market indices and reports to determine the appropriate compensation amounts and make adjustments as necessary.

#### Collision repair results and next steps

- There was good participation from the collision repair industry. Collision repair facilities experienced steady increases in direct costs over the past three years, primarily due to labour. In B.C., direct costs (which represent almost 60% of total shop revenue) rose by 2 percentage points between 2017 and 2019.
- Average profitability ranged between 9-13% in 2017, and decreased to a range of 5-8% in 2019. Average profitability is slightly below the Canadian average by about 1.7%. According to industry, this reduction is largely associated with labour costs.
- While there has been a reduction in average profitability, there is no indication that this has impacted the supply of these services, with the number of shops remaining constant in B.C. since 2017. B.C. continues to have a higher proportion of independent and dealership facilities relative to the rest of Canada.
- ICBC is increasing the collision labour rate by 2.58% to \$75.30 p/hr (based on a 2% increase on direct costs in the last three years). And while outside of this PIBR, ICBC will also increase labour rates for commercial collision repairers by the same 2.58% given the applicability of the broader industry costs to commercial repairers.

#### Other

- ICBC has committed to work with government partners and industry to develop strategies to increase the supply of skilled workers in the broader MD industry. Examples include the use of ICBC expertise in marketing and outreach to promote the MD trades, possible financial incentives such as scholarships and providing salvage vehicles for educational purposes.
- Industry will be invited again to participate in the follow up PIBR in 2023.
- While outside of PIBR, ICBC communicated to industry on March 31 that they will compensate collision repair shops for feather, prime and block (FPB). FPB is typically required on all major exterior panels repaired in order to complete a proper refinish. ICBC had been reviewing this item as a result of industry concerns. ICBC expects a solution in place and that repair shops will be able to invoice for the procedure by the end of April.
- ICBC has also committed to an independent review with the towing industry this year to better understand their costs and financial health. An industry working group has been established, comprised of 17 representatives from across the province and the ARA.

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