

Ministry of Municipal Affairs

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MINISTRY OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS – BUDGET Q&A

1. Supplementary Estimates 2022/23

Question: There is a \$1.495B reduction in 2023/24 due to Supplementary Estimates in 2022/23. Can you please identify why that reduction is occurring and which programs it will impact?

Response:

As part of the Supplementary Estimates process in 2022/23, Municipal Affairs was able to fund the Growing Communities Fund (\$1B), Critical Community Infrastructure (\$450M) and Public Library Grants (\$45M). These one-time government transfers totaling \$1.495B which was part of the base budget in 2022/23 resulted in a corresponding base budget decrease in 2023/24. Excluding the Supplementary Estimates in 2022/23, Municipal Affairs saw an increase of \$12.859M to base budget in 2023/24 compared to 2022/23 (see Q2 for breakdown).

- Growing Communities Fund (\$1B):
 - The population of B.C. has been increasing consistently and is projected to keep growing in the next 10 years.
 - Addressing B.C.'s housing crisis requires a variety of responses, key among which is increasing the supply of available housing which requires investments in community infrastructure and amenities.
 - The Growing Communities Fund will provide immediate support to local governments with the costs of upgrading, adding capacity, and extending core infrastructure and community amenities.
- Critical Community Infrastructure (\$450M):
 - Critical Community Infrastructure will target key projects located in each economic development region in B.C.
 - The projects will benefit all members of the local communities, the environment, public health, and the economy.
 - Projects are driven by the need to meet senior government public and environmental health regulations in a time sensitive manner, alleviate risks, supply reliable, clean drinking water, effectively manage wastewater and solid waste, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Public Library Grants (\$45M):
 - Enhanced public library funding will extend and improve access to collections, programs, spaces, technology and maintain operating hours.

- This funding enables the continuation of provincial programs and augments annual funding.
- Utilizing an established funding profile, libraries will have the capacity to plan and evolve their services and work collectively to reach more people.

2. Significant changes in 2023/24

Question: What were the significant budget changes in 2023/24 compared to 2022/23?

Response:

Excluding the Supplementary Estimates in 2022/23 Municipal Affairs saw an increase of \$12.859M to base budget in 2023/24 compared to 2022/23 (See Tab 01 – 2023-24 Estimates Summary). The changes are as follows:

- \$1.141M increase due to the following Local Government transfers:
 - \$80k increase for Bulkley Nechako / Kitimat Stikine Regional Districts
 - \$1.061M increase for Peace River Agreement
- \$2.897M increase due to a budget lift for the Shared Wage Mandate.
- \$1.296M increase to the University Endowment Lands special account for administration expenses and offsetting recovery due to an increase in revenues in the UEL
- \$64k increase to the Minister's Office resources
- \$7.461M increase for Settlement Support for Newcomers

3. Government Re-org in 2022/23

Question: As part of OIC 658_2022 effective December 7, 2022, some Ministry of Municipal Affairs responsibilities were transferred to other Ministries. What were the implications of those changes?

Response:

- There were two responsibilities that were reallocated as part of OIC 658_2022:
 - The duties, powers and functions of the Minister of Municipal Affairs respecting the development approval process review that were transferred to the Minister of Housing.

- The duties, powers and functions of the Minister of Municipal Affairs respecting foreign credential recognition that were transferred to the Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills.
- Development Approvals Process Review resulted in a transfer of the Policy and Land Use Management branch within the Local Government Division to the Ministry of Housing which included 20 FTEs and a budget of \$2.198M.
- Foreign Credential Recognition resulted in a transfer of the Intergovernmental Relations and Credential Recognition branch within the Immigration Services and Strategic Planning Division to the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills which included 4 FTEs and a budget of \$1.38M.

Ministry of Municipal Affairs

2023/24 Estimates Summary

MINISTRY ESTIMATES BUDGET OVERVIEW

Ministry Operations Vote 40

2023/24 Estimate Budget: \$269.276M (a net decrease of \$1B, 482.141M from the Restated Supplementary Estimates 2022/23 of \$1B, 751.417M)

The net decrease is primarily due to Supplementary Estimates in 2022/23 which resulted in a decrease in 2023/24 of \$1B, 495M related to the following:

- \$1B decrease due to the Growing Communities Fund:

The Growing Communities Fund will support all BC communities with one-time funding for infrastructure and community amenities.

- \$450M decrease due to Critical Community Infrastructure:

Fund existing critical core public infrastructure projects in various communities. The projects support continuing development and compliance with drinking water and wastewater regulatory standards and other provincial priorities.

- \$45M decrease due to Public Library Grants:

Grants to library partners and library systems to meet the rising cost of library services, equitably resource growing communities with expanding service needs, protect services to shrinking communities with declining capacity, and enhance or incent changes to services that align with provincial mandates.

This is offset by an \$12.859M increase due to the following:

- \$1.141M increase due to the following Local Government transfers:

- \$80k increase for Bulkley Nechako / Kitimat Stikine Regional Districts:

Compensation for tax exempt hydroelectric generating facilities owned by Alcan within their jurisdictions. Base budget increase in 2023/24 due to formula for the payments which accounts for inflation.

- \$1.061M increase for Peace River Agreement:

Agreement is to fund local infrastructure, planning and services that support the Peace River region as a service centre for industry and its employees. Base budget increase due to two percent annual compounding escalator as part of agreement.

- \$2.897M increase due to budget lift for Shared Wage Mandate:

Increase to base budget for Shared Wage Mandate which includes BCGEU collective agreement and excluded staff.

- \$1.296M increase to the University Endowment Lands special account:

Increase to the UEL Special Account budget due to increased revenues in the UEL from fees and property taxes to offset increased expenses for managing the UEL.

- \$64k increase to the Minister's Office resources:

Increase to Minister's Office base budget to bring current budgets in line with the approved budgets set by the Office of the Premier.

- \$7.461M increase for Settlement Support for Newcomers:

Expand the capacity of BC settlement service providers to be able to support displaced Ukrainians and other temporary residents through 2023/24.

CORE BUSINESS SUMMARY

Local Government Division \$220.673M

- \$220.673M (\$1B, 492.629M decrease from Restated Supplementary Estimates 2022/23 of \$1B, 713.302M)
 - \$1B decrease due to the Growing Communities Fund
 - \$450M decrease due to Critical Community Infrastructure
 - \$45M decrease due to Public Library Grants
 - \$80k increase for Bulkley Nechako / Kitimat Stikine Regional Districts
 - \$1.061M increase for Peace River Agreement
 - \$1.230M increase due to budget lift for Shared Wage Mandate

Immigration Services and Strategic Planning \$25.717M

- \$25.717M (\$7.937M increase from Restated Supplementary Estimates 2022/23 of \$17.780M)
 - \$637k increase due to budget lift for Shared Wage Mandate
 - \$7.300M increase for Settlement Support for Newcomers

Executive and Support Services \$9.321M

- Minister's Office
\$693K (\$64k increase from Restated Supplementary Estimates 2022/23 of \$629k)
 - \$64K increase to support Minister's Office resources
- Corporate Services
\$8.628M (\$1.191M increase from Restated Supplementary Estimates 2022/23 of \$7.437M)
 - \$1.030M increase due to budget lift for Shared Wage Mandate
 - \$161k increase for Settlement Support for Newcomers

Special Accounts \$13.565M

- University Endowment Lands Administration Account
\$13.565M (\$1.296M increase from Restated Supplementary Estimates 2022/23 of \$12.269M)
 - \$1.296M increase to the University Endowment Special Account for administration expenses and offsetting recovery due to an increase to revenues in the UEL

Ministry Capital Budget

- \$835k (\$1.519M decrease from Restated Estimates 2022/23 of \$2.354M)
 - \$67K decrease for the Local Government Information System
 - \$1.452M decrease to the University Endowment Lands Administration Account



December 7, 2022

Honourable Anne Kang
Minister of Municipal Affairs
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Kang:

Thank you for agreeing to serve as Minister of Municipal Affairs. I trust in your leadership at this critical time to deliver results for the people of British Columbia.

British Columbians continue to recover from and respond to the upheaval caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and climate related natural disasters, while global inflation is driving up costs for more households and the world's economic outlook is concerning. Now more than ever, we need to focus on building a secure, low emission, sustainable economy, and a province where everyone can find a good home – whether you live in a rural area, in a city, or in an Indigenous community. We will continue working toward true and meaningful reconciliation by supporting opportunities for Indigenous Peoples to be full partners in the inclusive and sustainable province we are building together.

Our government is committed to delivering on the mandate British Columbians gave us in 2020. Together we can make life better for people in B.C., improve the services we all rely on, and ensure a sustainable province for future generations.

As we renew our work, my priority as Premier is to deliver results that people can see and feel in four key areas:

- **Attainable and affordable housing:** In the wake of soaring prices and record migration to B.C., we will take on the important work of building new homes that are actually attainable for the middle class, while continuing our work to address the housing crisis for those in distress on our streets.

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**Office of the
Premier**

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Location:
Parliament Buildings
Victoria

- **Safer communities:** To address concerns about public safety, both for the people struggling with mental health and addiction on our streets, as well as the feeling that downtown centres are not as safe as they were before the pandemic, we will work with our partners at all levels of government, the justice and health care systems, the non-profit sector, and community leaders to find solutions for this complex challenge facing our province, and work overtime to seize the assets of high-level criminals.
- **Improved health care:** Amid unprecedented pressures we will continue to work to strengthen our public health care system, from family doctors to new hospitals, so care is there for each of us when we need it.
- **A sustainable, clean, secure, and fair economy:** We will continue our work investing in British Columbians, fighting racism and promoting equity, and building a clean economy that addresses our obligations to combat climate change by driving down emissions, while creating good, family supporting jobs.

Municipalities and Regional Districts are vital partners for our government. As the front lines of service delivery, municipal and regional leaders see opportunities and challenges firsthand in their communities and can help our government ensure programs succeed on the ground. From housing, to healthcare, to public safety, to economic development, municipal and regional partners will help us deliver on the priorities of British Columbians.

Many local leaders are seeing fast growth in their cities and towns thanks to record high numbers of people moving to B.C. from other provinces and around the world. Rural and urban communities are facing challenges with delivering the amenities and infrastructure that this growth requires to ensure livability and efficient service delivery.

Our government will work with these local representatives to ensure that we are strong partners in the growth and development of a resilient and prosperous province. By working together, we can achieve our shared aim of building vibrant and healthy communities and a secure province where everyone can find a good home.

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

- Working with UBCM and local government elected leaders to support communities through the COVID-19 pandemic and to launch the new Strengthening Community Fund.
- Working to bring down the cost of housing for people by streamlining and modernizing development permitting and approvals.

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- Supporting economic recovery in B.C. communities through important infrastructure projects.

As you continue to make progress on items in the previous mandate letter, over the remaining period of this mandate I expect you to prioritize making progress on the following:

- Support municipalities to partner with the federal government to maximize benefits for our province's communities from federal government programming, including through coordination with provincial programs.
- Explore options to support fast growing municipalities with funding for infrastructure and community amenities.
- Continue providing strong supports for newcomers to British Columbia with WelcomeBC programs, including the Provincial Nominee Program and settlement services.
- With support from the Minister of Education and Child Care, work with local governments to identify opportunities to increase child care spaces on municipal property.
- With support from the Minister of Finance, continue to work with UBCM to strengthen local government finance systems to ensure local governments and regional districts have the tools they need to remain resilient in the face of economic change.
- Continue working with the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure to build important infrastructure projects, including through StrongerBC and the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program.
- Work with the Parliamentary Secretary for the Sustainable Economy and with local governments on district energy proposals, including work to seek federal Net Zero Accelerator Initiative funding.
- Support work led by the Minister of Housing to assist municipalities to accelerate development approvals and ensure sufficient housing for provincial growth through continued implementation of the Development Approvals Process Review and implementation of the Housing Supply Act.
- Support the work of the Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness to co-develop and introduce modernized emergency management legislation.

- Support the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure and work with the Minister of Housing to implement transit-oriented development to advance sustainable communities along transit corridors to help achieve our housing and affordability goals.
- Support the Minister of State for Workforce Development to help ensure B.C. quickly removes barriers so new international arrivals can find employment sooner in their field of training.

Our work together must continue to evolve to meet the changing needs of people in this province. Issues not contemplated by this letter will come forward for government action and I ask you to bring such matters forward for consideration by the Planning and Priorities Committee of Cabinet, with the expectation that any proposed initiatives will be subject to the usual Cabinet and Treasury Board oversight and include measurable outcomes for British Columbians. Your ministry's priorities must reflect our government's overall strategic plan as determined by Cabinet.

British Columbians expect their elected representatives to work together to advance the public good. That means seeking out, fostering, and championing good ideas regardless of their origin. I expect you to reach out to elected members from all parties as you deliver on your mandate. Further, you will build thoughtful and sustained relationships both with title holders and through public and stakeholder engagement plans that incorporate diverse perspectives early in the policy development process. Federal partnerships and resources will be particularly important and, on behalf of our government, you will engage with the federal government on advancing priorities to improve the lives of British Columbians.

As a Cabinet, we will uphold the highest standards of ethics, collaboration, and good conduct in service of the public, and as a Minister of the Crown, you are expected to review, understand, and act according to the *Members' Conflict of Interest Act*. You will establish a collaborative working relationship with your Deputy Minister, and the public servants under their direction, who provide the professional, non-partisan advice that is fundamental to delivering on our government's priorities. Your Minister's Office must meet the highest standards for integrity and provide a respectful, rewarding environment for all staff.

The rural and urban challenges that we face are urgent and complex. In response, we must be forward-thinking, strategic, and ready to work across disciplines and old divisions in new ways. Labour shortages are a major issue globally, and British Columbia is no exception, including in the public service. Maintaining the BC Public Service as an employer of excellence will be key to retaining and recruiting the diverse professionals we rely on to deliver essential services, advice, and analysis.

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At the core of this work is listening and responding to the priorities of people in B.C. Together, we can deliver results in very real ways – ways that people can see, feel, and touch, and that change their lives for the better. Thank you for doing this important work with me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Eby", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Eby, KC
Premier



February 25, 2022

Honourable Nathan Cullen
Minister of Municipal Affairs
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, British Columbia V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Cullen:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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British Columbians expect their elected representatives to work together to advance the broader public good despite their partisan perspectives. That means seeking out, fostering, and championing good ideas, regardless of their origin. I expect you to reach out to elected members from all parties as you deliver on your mandate. Further, you will build thoughtful and sustained relationships through public and stakeholder engagement plans that connect with people to incorporate their perspectives early in the policy development process. These plans must include measurable outcomes and ensure active dialogue and ongoing outreach in your ministry's actions and priorities.

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

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

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- Support the work of the Attorney General and Minister responsible for Housing to address the needs of people experiencing homelessness, including those living in encampments.
- Support the work of the Minister of Finance to establish Property Assessed Clean Energy financing.

Our work as a government must continually evolve to meet the changing needs of people in this province. Issues not contemplated in this letter will come forward for government action and I ask you to bring such matters forward for consideration by the Planning and Priorities Committee of cabinet, with the expectation that any proposed initiatives will be subject to the usual cabinet and Treasury Board oversight. Your ministry's priorities must reflect our government's overall strategic plan as determined by cabinet.

All cabinet members are expected to review, understand and act according to the *Members' Conflict of Interest Act* and conduct themselves with the highest level of integrity. As a minister of the Crown, your conduct will reflect not only on you, but on cabinet and our government.

You are responsible for providing strong, professional, and ethical leadership within cabinet and your ministry. You will establish a collaborative working relationship with your deputy minister and the public servants under their direction who provide the professional, non-partisan advice that is fundamental to delivering on our government's priorities. You must ensure your minister's office meets the highest standards for integrity and provides a respectful and rewarding environment for all staff.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "John J. Horgan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

John Horgan
Premier

Mandate Commitment Tracker

Minister Anne Kang - Mandate Letter Commitments 2023	Division Lead	Contact	Completed or Underway	Status Description
1. Support municipalities to partner with the federal government to maximize benefits for our province's communities from federal government programming, including through coordination with provincial programs.	Local Government Division	Brian Bedford 778-698-3232	Underway	Engage in effective negotiations with federal counterparts on two items: 1) to establish the next agreements to ensure continuity of the CCBF from 2024 onward. And 2) engage in discussion with federal government on next iteration of bilateral funding programs In partnership with the federal government and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, continue to implement the Canada Community Building Fund that came into effect on April 1, 2014.
2. Explore options to support fast growing municipalities with funding for infrastructure and community amenities.	Local Government Division	Brian Bedford 778-698-3232	Completed	The Growing Communities Fund (GCF) announced on February 10 will provide \$1 billion in direct grants to municipalities and regional districts, which they can use to address their community's unique infrastructure and amenities demands. Eligible infrastructure includes recreation facilities, parks and water-treatment plants, as well as other community infrastructure. The Growing Communities Fund Grants will be paid to all 188 local government by March 31, and will come from the surplus shown in the Second Quarter Financial Report. The Province is putting this year's surplus to work for people, to support them now and for the long term.
3. Continue providing strong supports for newcomers to British Columbia with	Immigration Services and Strategic	Deb Zehr 778-572-5685	Underway	BC received the requested increase in the Provincial Nominee Program allocation (8,000 nominations in 2023; notional agreement for 9,000 in 2024 and 10,000 in

Municipal Affairs Mandate Letter Commitments - Tracker

Minister Anne Kang - Mandate Letter Commitments 2023	Division Lead	Contact	Completed or Underway	Status Description
WelcomeBC programs, including the Provincial Nominee Program and settlement services.	Planning Division	Carling Helander Government Financial Information		2025). Program policy changes in 2021 enhanced program alignment with key government priorities (caring economy and regional communities). Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences; Government Financial Information Budget 2023 includes substantial increases in provincial settlement programming. The settlement program will be redesigned and undergo procurement in 2023, with new contracts starting April 1, 2024.
4. With support from the Minister of Education and Child Care, work with local governments to identify opportunities to increase child care spaces on municipal property.	Local Government Division	Tara Faganello 250-356-6575	Underway/Pending	The Growing Communities Fund includes childcare as an eligible use of the funds as a needed amenity in growing communities. MUNI will work with MECC for further supports needed with local governments.
5. With support from the Minister of Finance, continue to work with UBCM to strengthen local government finance systems to ensure local governments and regional districts have the tools they need to remain resilient in the face of economic change.	Local Government Division	Brian Bedford 778-698-3232	Underway	The Ministers of Finance and Municipal Affairs signed a Memorandum of Understanding with UBCM to review the Ensuring Local Government Financial Resiliency: Today's Recovery and Tomorrow's New Economy report and recommendations in January 2022. The working group required under the MOU has been established comprised of provincial and UBCM staff, and a 3-year workplan approved by the UBCM Presidents Committee and the Ministers of Finance and Municipal Affairs. The Working Group meets monthly and provides progress updates quarterly to the UBCM Presidents Committee and the Ministers of Finance and Municipal

Municipal Affairs Mandate Letter Commitments - Tracker

Minister Anne Kang - Mandate Letter Commitments 2023	Division Lead	Contact	Completed or Underway	Status Description
				Affairs. The next progress update will occur in early 2023.
6. Continue working with the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure to build important infrastructure projects, including through StrongerBC and the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program.	Local Government Division	Brian Bedford 778-698-3232	Underway	<p>Completed: Intakes and full allocation for Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) for the following streams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community, Culture & Recreation • Rural and Northern Communities • COVID-19 Infrastructure Resilience <p>Underway: Announcements expected for final (3rd) intakes for the following ICIP streams in summer 2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Quality • CleanBC Communities Fund <p>ICIP is fully allocated by March 31, 2023. Ministry will be monitoring approved projects.</p>
7. Work with the Parliamentary Secretary for the Sustainable Economy and with local governments on district energy proposals, including work to seek federal Net Zero Accelerator Initiative funding.	Local Government Division	Brian Bedford 778-698-3232	Pending	<p>Federal Net Zero Accelerator (NZA) Initiative funding is not currently available to local governments. The NZA is focused on the private sector, supporting projects that promote decarbonisation of large emitters, clean technology and industrial transformation, and development of a Canadian batteries ecosystem.</p> <p>MUNI has consulted EMLI and ENV-CAS to determine what federal programs may align with this mandate letter; there are currently no federal programs available for local government district energy projects.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications</p>

Municipal Affairs Mandate Letter Commitments - Tracker

Minister Anne Kang - Mandate Letter Commitments 2023	Division Lead	Contact	Completed or Underway	Status Description
				Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications
8. Support work led by the Minister of Housing to assist municipalities to accelerate development approvals and ensure sufficient housing for provincial growth through continued implementation of the Development Approvals Process Review and implementation of the Housing Supply Act.	Local Government Division	Kara Woodward 778 698-3465	Underway	Leadership of Development Approvals Process Review transferred to Ministry of Housing in December 2022. MUNI staff continue to support work led by the Ministry of Housing.
9. Support the work of the Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness to co-develop and introduce modernized emergency management legislation.	Local Government Division	Kara Woodward 778 698-3465		MUNI is committed to working with the Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness on this important legislation. Ministry staff have been working together throughout the project and will stay connected as EMCR readies the legislation for introduction.
10. Support the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure and work with the Minister of Housing to implement transit-oriented development (TOD) to advance sustainable communities along transit corridors to help achieve our housing and affordability goals.	Immigration Services and Strategic Planning Division	Chris Jensen 778 698-3316	Underway	<p>TOD has a Budget 2023 (approved in principle) of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$94M to advance six existing TOD projects • \$300M Property Acquisition Fund <p>In Spring 2023, TRAN will be seeking Cabinet approval: Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences</p> <p>2. to continue work with MUNI, HOUS and FIN to incorporate transit supportive land use and TOD policies into broader land use planning initiatives. This work will help to: deliver more than 10,000 new housing units; co-locate government services; shape growth to create sustainable communities; and, partner with First Nations.</p>

Municipal Affairs Mandate Letter Commitments - Tracker

Minister Anne Kang - Mandate Letter Commitments 2023	Division Lead	Contact	Completed or Underway	Status Description
11. Support the Minister of State for Workforce Development to help ensure B.C. quickly removes barriers so new international arrivals can find employment sooner in their field of training.	Immigration Services and Strategic Planning Division	Carling Helander Government Financial Information	Underway	Marketing of the Career Paths program is in development to increase awareness and ensure more newcomers can benefit from the program. Ongoing collaboration is occurring with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada to improve pre-arrival information and better align immigration selection criteria with professional regulation requirements.

Municipal Affairs Mandate Letter Commitments - Tracker

Minister Nathan Cullen - Mandate Letter Commitments 2022	Division Lead	Contact	Completed or Underway	Status Description (100 words max)
1. Work with UBCM and local government elected leaders to support their communities through the COVID-19 pandemic response and recovery.	Local Government Division		Completed	<p>Completed 40 Ministerial Orders to provide legislative exemptions that allowed individual local governments to run safer elections for voters and election staff.</p> <p>Completed a Ministerial Regulation (under new Bill 10 amendments), to enable over 6 local governments to conduct safer by-elections or assent votes (expires March 31, 2022).</p> <p>Provided advice and published guidance materials on best practices during COVID, including: Open Meetings and Electronic Meetings; Electronic Meetings and Public Hearings; Conducting By-Elections and Assent Voting; Compliance and Enforcement Support under Order M314; Improvement Districts (Holding AGMs, Elections, and Electronic Meetings); and Adapting to the New Electronic Meetings Framework.</p>
2. Improve local communities' ability to respond to the COVID-19 crisis by launching the new Strengthening Community Fund to enable local governments to apply for funding to help them tackle street disorder, cleanliness, and public safety, and improve their ability to respond to challenges posed to businesses and neighbourhoods by homelessness.	Local Government Division		Underway	<p>Transferred to Ministry of Housing – December 2022</p> <p>UBCM is administering the \$100M Strengthening Communities' Services program on behalf of the province to help B.C. communities address the impacts of homelessness and strengthen community health and safety.</p> <p>The first two intakes saw more than \$91M invested in 108 communities. This funding supports initiatives such as outreach, mental health supports, and expanded temporary shelters.</p>
3. Work with cabinet colleagues to redouble our government's efforts to streamline	Immigration Services and	PSFS	Underway	Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences

Municipal Affairs Mandate Letter Commitments - Tracker

Minister Nathan Cullen - Mandate Letter Commitments 2022	Division Lead	Contact	Completed or Underway	Status Description (100 words max)
foreign credential assessments processed by various regulatory bodies and health related colleges to make sure immigrants can more easily strengthen their language skills and access job opportunities in their field of training.	Strategic Planning Division			This portfolio is now the responsibility of the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills (x-ref to item #11 of new mandate letter).
4. With support from the Attorney General and Minister responsible for Housing, work to bring down the cost of housing for people by streamlining and modernizing development permitting and approvals.	Local Government Division		Underway	Transferred to Ministry of Housing – December 2022
5. Work with the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure to support economic recovery in communities across BC by continuing to build important infrastructure projects, including through StrongerBC and the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program.	Local Government Division	Brian Bedford	Underway	<p>Completed: Intakes and full allocation for Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) for the following streams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community, Culture & Recreation • Rural and Northern Communities • COVID-19 Infrastructure Resilience <p>Underway: Announcements expected for final (3rd) intakes for the following ICIP streams in summer 2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Quality • CleanBC Communities Fund
6. Work with the Ministry of Land, Water and Resource Stewardship and Minister responsible for Fisheries, to support the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, on the Integrated Transportation and Development	Immigration Services and Strategic Planning Division	Chris Jensen 778 698-3316	Underway	Completed: 1) 'ITDS in Action' projects including TransLink's Transport 2050 and the City of Vancouver's Broadway Plan; 2) ITDS Framework including vision and goals; 3) rebranded initiative from ITDS to Planning Together BC 4) development of a suite of actions to advance integrated planning goals.

Municipal Affairs Mandate Letter Commitments - Tracker

Minister Nathan Cullen - Mandate Letter Commitments 2022	Division Lead	Contact	Completed or Underway	Status Description (100 words max)
Strategy (ITDS) to ensure greater alignment between transportation and land-use planning.				<p>Underway: 1) Website development including resources such as a guide and integrated planning assessment tool; and, 2) integrated planning projects including the Central Okanagan Integrated Transportation Strategy and proposed SkyTrain extension to UBC.</p> <p>Integrated planning has strong links with Minister Kang's transit-oriented development mandate commitment.</p>
7. Support the work of the Attorney General and Minister responsible for Housing and the Minister of Finance to continue work to provide relief for commercial tenants with triple-net leases who are paying high property taxes.	Local Government Division	Kara Woodward 778 698-3465	Complete	<p>MUNI is supported the work of the Ministry of Finance to address the issue of high taxes for commercial tenants under triple net leases.</p> <p>Bill 28 - Municipal Affairs Statutes (Property Tax) Amendment Act, 2022 added section 198.1 <i>[development potential relief]</i> to the <i>Local Government Act</i> and the similar section 374.6 to the <i>Vancouver Charter</i>, under the direction of the Ministry of Finance. These amendments enable municipalities to address high taxes on properties with development potential, including those with commercial tenants under triple net leases. (Questions on the substance of these amendments should be directed to the Minister of Finance as lead on this work.)</p>
8. Support the work of the Attorney General and Minister responsible for Housing to address the needs of people experiencing homelessness, including those living in encampments.	Local Government Division		Underway	Transferred to Ministry of Housing – December 2022

Municipal Affairs Mandate Letter Commitments - Tracker

Minister Nathan Cullen - Mandate Letter Commitments 2022	Division Lead	Contact	Completed or Underway	Status Description (100 words max)
9. Support the work of the Minister of Finance to establish Property Assessed Clean Energy financing.	Local Government Division	Kara Woodward 778 698-3465	Underway – on hold	<p>Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon is the lead Ministry for confirming Cabinet direction. Although a Request for Direction was drafted, timeline for consideration unknown.</p> <p>Once direction is provided MUNI and FIN will collaborate on the Request for Legislation for the necessary enabling legislation to support Property Assessed Clean Energy financing.</p>



Ministry Response to Reconciliation

ISSUE

- Ministry's *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (DRIPA) Commitments

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- We're working with Indigenous peoples to put into action the principles of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (*Declaration Act*).
- Continuing to encourage strong relationships between Indigenous Nations and local governments is a fundamental aspect of the *Declaration Act* and achieving lasting reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.
- My Ministry is embracing the principles and building capacity and competency, with staff seizing the opportunities for learning and development.
- Each year, my Ministry delivers infrastructure grants to community governments (First Nation governments have been eligible since 2019) and gaming grants to community groups (including Indigenous organizations).
- Through the *Declaration Act* Action Plan, my Ministry has committed to supporting inclusive regional governance and reviewing local processes that guide the naming of local governments.
- We are supporting local governments to develop even stronger relationships with Indigenous Nations to create a B.C. where everyone feels comfortable in their communities.

If asked about what the province is doing to support the re-naming of local governments:

- Local government names that are associated with Canada's colonial past can be a devastating reminder of the mistreatment of Indigenous peoples.

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- In cases where local governments and Indigenous neighbours want to pursue change or restoration, Ministry staff will provide guidance and support to develop processes to emphasize collaboration between local governments and Indigenous Nations, as well as fulsome engagement with area residents.

If asked about the options, the ministry is exploring to include Indigenous representation on regional boards:

- We know there is a strong and growing interest from regional districts and Indigenous Nations for full, voting representation of Indigenous governments on regional district boards.
- We are looking into this. While that work is underway, we encourage other regions to learn from successful collaborations between Indigenous Nations and regional districts in places like the Capital Regional District and Central Okanagan Regional District.
- Opportunities may also exist for Indigenous Nations' representatives to:
 - Participate on boards and committees in an advisory role.
 - Enter into agreements and protocols on matters such as land use, reconciliation, or economic development.
 - Hold regional forums and other events to encourage collaborative discussion, such as Community to Community Forums.
- *If asked why First Nations are not eligible for the Growing Communities Fund (to be updated):*
 - I've reached out to all Mayors, Chairs and CAOs to encourage local governments to work closely with adjacent local First Nations, because we know that we all have roles in implementing the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, and we work better when we work together.
 - We know some of the Modern Treaty First Nations sit at their respective Regional District board table and participate in

decision-making, while other First Nations contribute through advisory committees, helping make decisions about how this money should be spent.

- **We also made the conscious decision to make eligible local government projects that service, directly or indirectly, neighbouring First Nation communities.**
- **We know this for certain: Communities across B.C. are growing quickly (including First Nations communities) creating accelerated demands on infrastructure and amenities. We can not do it alone, we must work together.**

If pressed about why funding wasn't provided to First Nations:

- **The *Local Government Grants Act* provides authority to the Ministry to make direct grants transfer to local governments. However, it does not provide the ministry with a similar authority to provide direct grants to Indigenous groups *(to be updated)*.**
- **Indigenous peoples and communities access and benefit directly and indirectly from local government infrastructure and amenities especially where they are in close proximity.**
- **In many cases, service agreements are routinely established so Indigenous peoples can access local government services.**

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- In 2019, the province passed the *Declaration Act* to establishes a clear framework for moving reconciliation forward. This includes exploring new ways to strengthen government-to-government relationships and work together on good governance at the community level.
- In that same year, Canada and British Columbia agreed to expand eligibility of specific infrastructure grant programs under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (see Estimates Note #20).
- The Ministry of Municipal Affairs has two commitments in the *Declaration Act*, Action Plan:

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- 1) to review the principles and processes that guide the naming of local governments; and
- 2) evolve practices to foster reconciliation and to support inclusive regional governance by advancing non-treaty First Nation participation on regional district boards.
- Ministry staff are working on actions to support both commitments, including researching existing governance systems of regional and Indigenous governments, engaging with Indigenous peoples and other interested parties, initiating projects, and sharing lessons learned to decide if legislative changes are needed, as well as providing funding to some local governments.

Re-Naming Local Governments

- The idea of changing a local government name can be divisive within the community. Ministry staff are working to support local governments and Indigenous Nations to find new practices for community collaboration and engagement to create greater social cohesion for all residents.
- Collaboration between local governments and First Nations, and engagement with area residents to build support for a name change, is critical to the process prior to the local governments seeking a decision from the province.
- Last year, Ministry staff worked with the former Village of Queen Charlotte, and the Haida Nation, to restore an ancestral name by changing the municipality's name to the Village of Daajing Giids (Cabinet decision Advice/Recommendations)
- Staff were also working with the City of Powell River and the Tla'amin Nation who formed a joint working group that produced an interim report after engaging with the community. That work is on hold as the new City Council (coming out of last fall's election) determines its priorities and workplan moving forward.
- The province provided both communities funding (\$25,000 to Powell River and \$15,000 to Queen Charlotte) to support engagement with residents regarding possible name changes. Powell River and Tla'amin Nation have offered to be a pilot to demonstrate a collaborative and inclusive local approach the Ministry can then encourage in other communities to support the DRIPA commitment.

Indigenous Representation on Regional Boards

- The ministry is working to develop a path forward on including Indigenous Nations on regional district boards, including working with other provincial and federal staff to understand how the governance of non-treaty First Nations aligns with the regional district system and what gaps or challenges may exist.
- The Ministry is also providing study grants to some regional districts that have expressed an interest understanding how First Nations can become members of the regional district. For additional information about Indigenous Nations that have access to representation on regional district boards see **Attachment 1**.

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- There are examples of local governments and Indigenous Nations building relationships that support Indigenous Nations' participation in local government. For example, the Capital Regional District's standing committee includes representation from Indigenous Nations on a rotating basis in an advisory capacity. Also, Westbank First Nation participates on the Central Okanagan Regional District board committee of the whole.
- The Union of BC Municipalities' policy on Indigenous Nations relations focuses on building stronger relationships between Indigenous Nations and local governments. A Memorandum of Understanding between UBCM and the province on engagement was renewed at the 2021 UBCM Convention. One component of the Memorandum of Understanding includes engaging on matters of mutual interest including those that will impact local government jurisdictions.
- There are many examples of collaborative relationships between Indigenous and local governments. A collection of resources related to initiatives, agreements, arrangements, partnerships, and the provision of services (such as sewer, water, and fire services) between Indigenous governments and organizations, and local governments in British Columbia is available at: <https://civicinfo.bc.ca/first-nation-relationship-resources>
- A Community-to-Community Forum program is in place to facilitate exploratory discussion between Indigenous Nations and local governments. The program also provides funding for events between the two governments to encourage relationship-building. The Ministry contributes \$50,000 annually towards the program that is administered by UBCM in partnership with the BC First Nations Summit. Further information is available on the Union of British Columbia Municipalities website: <https://www.ubcm.ca/EN/main/funding/lgps/community-to-community-forum.html>

CONTACT: Brent Mueller, Director, Governance and Structure Branch, 250-882-2541.



COMMUNITY GAMING GRANTS – REGULAR

ISSUE

- More than 5,000 not-for-profit organizations representing communities throughout B.C. benefit from \$140 million in Community Gaming Grants (CGG) every year to directly deliver approved programs in their communities.

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- **In 2023/24, Community Gaming Grants will continue to be awarded to a diverse range of not-for-profit organizations representing six sectors: arts and culture, sport, environment, public safety, human and social services and parent and district parent advisory councils. The Capital Projects Sector will return for its seventh year in 2023.**
- **In 2017/18, the program budget increased from \$135 million to \$140 million to accommodate the inclusion of a new Capital Projects Sector grant (\$5 million).**
- **A gaming revenue-sharing agreement between B.C. and First Nations communities was announced in Budget 2019.**
- **This revenue-sharing arrangement does not change the amount of funding that currently goes to B.C.'s not-for-profit sector through the CGG program.**
- **In response to the pandemic and resulting pressures on not-for-profit organizations, temporary changes were made to the program in 2020/21, such as:**
 - **Allowing organizations to redirect program funds for cancelled or postponed programming to any other approved program;**
 - **Extending the permissible timeframe to spend gaming funds from 12 to 24 months, allowing organizations to retain funding for future program delivery;**
 - **Relaxing financial eligibility criteria for returning applicants to ensure organizations can continue to access grants; and**

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- **Opening the Human and Social Services sector two months earlier to support organizations that were facing an increased demand for services due to the pandemic.**
- **Several of the changes were continued throughout the 2021/22 and 2022/23 grant years to support re-start and recovery in the sector. For 2023/24, CGG recognizes that many organizations have implemented the necessary changes to continue their programming; however, flexibility to the financial criteria may be granted to those organizations that can demonstrate they are continuing to be directly impacted by COVID-19.**
- **Additional changes were introduced in 2022/23 to provide more flexibility in the program and will continue for the 2023/24 grant year, including:**
 - **Allowing CGG funding to be used for the creation of new paid positions, which supports organizations to increase staff capacity to replace lost volunteers (introduced 2021/22);**
 - **Funding for programs that have been delivered for less than 12 months (introduced 2022/23); and,**
 - **Allowing organizations to use up to 15 percent of their grant amount toward organization operational costs (introduced 2022/23).**
- **The province is committed to considering input from all stakeholders regarding the program, including ongoing consultation with the British Columbia Association for Charitable Gaming (BCACG).**
- **The Branch has also incorporated stakeholder feedback from the 2018 BC Stats survey, which was sent to all applicant organizations plus a sample of non-applicant not-for-profits. 3,656 survey responses were received.**

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KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- CGG funding level history:
 - 2008/09 pre-economic recession funding was \$156 million.
 - 2009/10, CGG funding was reduced to \$112.5 million.
 - In March 2011, the funding level was increased to \$135 million.
 - In 2017/18 – CGG program funding increased to \$140 million. The \$5 million increase remains dedicated to funding Capital Projects.
- In 2019/20 there was a \$3 million year-end program surplus in the \$135 million regular program that was provided to Food Banks British Columbia to reallocate to food banks throughout B.C. during the provincial state of emergency.
- The primary reason for the surplus was fewer approved applications in the Human and Social Services sector. Fewer applications were largely a result of the uncertainty caused by COVID-19, cancellation of programming and required closures.
- CGG has seen an increase in applications for the 2022/23 grant year and due to the continued need for funding to support programs at non-profit organizations across the province, the Branch expects to see a growing increase in demand.

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



COMMUNITY GAMING GRANTS – CAPITAL PROJECTS SECTOR

ISSUE

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

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- **The Ministry has successfully delivered the Capital Project Grant Program for six years, from 2017/18 to 2022/23. 2023/24 will be the seventh year of the program.**
- **Applications are competitively assessed against the published eligibility criteria by professional public servants in the CGG Branch.**
- **In 2022/23, 49 projects were funded, representing all regions of B.C. and all six CGG sectors.**
- **One Indigenous project was supported: Repairing Cultural and Ecological Relations at Maplewood Flats. The Wild Bird Trust of British Columbia will be working with Tsleil-Waututh Nation members at the site to develop two outdoor classrooms and work spaces, design six interpretive panels, create a Coast Salish Demonstration Garden, install a harvest table, construct an innovation studio, and update their signage.**
- **In 2017/18, 2018/19, 2020/21 and 2021/22, additional capital projects were funded with money that was not fully spent in the regular \$135 million program; the Branch did not fund additional projects in 2019/2020, and due to the increase in regular Community Gaming Grant applications, does not expect to fund additional projects for 2022/23.**

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- **In consideration of the financial challenges faced by non-profit organizations as a result of the pandemic in 2021/22, the Branch continued to allow a reduction in the ‘matching funds’ requirements for COVID-19 related applications for a second year. The matching funds requirement was reduced from 50 per cent to 20 per cent of project costs.**
- **For 2022/23, many not-for-profits had already implemented the necessary changes needed to modify the delivery of programs and services during the pandemic. Due to this, all projects, including COVID-19 related ones, needed a minimum matching funds requirement of 50 percent.**

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- In February 2017, government announced that an additional \$5 million in funding for capital projects was allocated to the CGG program.
- Staff developed detailed assessment criteria with input from other areas of government and key stakeholders such as the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres and the British Columbia Association for Charitable Gaming.
- The Capital Projects Sector Guide is updated each year, providing information on eligibility, the application process, the assessment criteria, and the appropriate use of funds.
- The Manager of Policy and Community Outreach attended thirteen virtual information sessions to share information on the Community Gaming Grant and Capital Project Grant in 2021/22, reaching over 500 people.
- Eligible not-for-profit organizations can be approved for between 20 to 50 percent of the total cost of a project, to a maximum of \$250,000. Applicants are required to have matching funds. Projects have a total cost of more than \$20,000.
- The project categories include the construction of new facilities and renovation of existing facilities, development of public amenities, and purchase of fixed capital assets. All projects are primarily for community benefit and accessible to the public.
- Additional considerations are made to include regional distribution, sector distribution, project size and Indigenous inclusion.
- The Branch received 163 applications in 2022/23, representing a total ask of \$17 million.

2023/24 Estimates Note

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- Recent funding history is as follows:

Year	Projects Funded	\$ Distributed
2017/18	107 projects	\$9.2M
2018/19	88 projects	\$8.3M
2019/20	63 projects	\$4.9M
2020/21	81 projects	\$7.7M
2021/22	96 projects	\$8.9M
2022/23	49 projects	\$5.3M

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



BC SETTLEMENT SERVICES

ISSUE

- Increased provincial services to support the settlement and integration of newcomers.

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- We recognize that when newcomers thrive, our communities become stronger.
- That is why Budget 2023 includes historic new investments in settlement services for newcomers.
- This year, we will be building a new and expanded BC Settlement and Integration Services program to better help temporary residents, refugee claimants, displaced Ukrainians, and naturalized citizens achieve their full potential in our province.
- The new and improved program will launch next spring with funding of \$26.6 million, over double last year's budget and more than five times the program's original budget in 2017.
- We are increasing this funding because the temporary resident population in B.C. is rapidly growing and their needs are getting more complex.
- Increasingly, temporary residents go on to become permanent residents. Investing in supports for these newcomers will help them to thrive in our communities and the labour market for the long term.
- Additionally, the province continues to invest in the Career Paths for Skilled Immigrants program, which helps skilled newcomers get their credentials recognized and find employment in their field.
- This provincial funding complements federal funding to ensure newcomers have supports across their immigration journey.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- The province has two signature settlement programs: BC Settlement and Integration Services (BCSIS) and Career Paths for Skilled Immigrants.
- BCSIS provides services to approximately 26,000 vulnerable clients, such as refugee claimants, international students, foreign workers and naturalized Canadian citizens, per year in over 60 communities across B.C.
- Over the past years, annual client targets in the program have been exceeded by approximately 56 percent.
- The province provided a temporary program funding lift over FY 22/23 and FY 23/24 to address the continued and growing demand for services as well as expand supports to displaced Ukrainians. This increased the program budget from \$6 million per year to \$12 million per year.
- Budget 2023 provides for a further funding increase when current BCSIS contracts expire on March 31, 2024. The program budget will increase to \$26.578 million in FY 2024/25 and \$27.937 million in FY 2025/26.
- The ministry will redesign and procure an enhanced and expanded BCSIS program throughout FY 2023/24, including consultation with key stakeholders. New program contracts will be in place by April 1, 2024.
- Career Paths for Skilled Immigrants (\$6.025 million) helps skilled permanent residents to find employment commensurate with their pre-arrival skills, education and experience. On average, 70 percent of clients in the program achieve employment in the field.
- Additionally, the Province continues to deliver the Refugee Readiness Fund to support people fleeing Afghanistan, Ukraine and other displaced populations. This investment will ensure that B.C. communities are ready to respond to the needs of refugees arriving from other countries.
- Funding was also provided for one-time projects such as the homestay database run by United Way BC that matches B.C. residents offers of housing supports with Ukrainians in need of shelter.

2023/24 Estimates Note

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Settlement Budget

Program	2022/23 Budget	2023/24 Budget	2024/25 Budget	2025/26 Budget
BC Settlement and Integration Services Program	\$12M (increase of \$6M from FY21/22)	\$12M	\$26.578M	\$27.937M
Career Paths for Skilled Immigrants Program	\$6.025M	\$6.025M	\$6.025M	\$6.025M
Refugee Readiness Fund	\$1M	\$1M	N/A	N/A
One-time projects (United Way BC, etc.)	\$850,000	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Funding	\$19.875M	\$19.075M	\$32.603M	\$33.962M

CONTACT: Rachel Holmes, ADM, Immigration Services & Strategic Planning, 250 356-7325



LABOUR SHORTAGE AND IMMIGRATION

ISSUE

- Employers across B.C. are experiencing labour shortages. Immigration can be part of the solution, but on its own cannot solve these labour shortages.

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- I recognize that employers across the province are struggling with labour shortages and that it is challenging for businesses.
- With the number of immigrants coming to B.C. expected to be at historic highs, immigration will continue to play a significant role in growing our labour force.
- We continue to press the federal government on behalf of B.C. employers and stakeholders to make rapid progress on reducing processing delays and reducing the inventory of applications for admission.
- To help business owners throughout B.C. benefit from immigration, we recently introduced incentives under the BC Provincial Nominee Program for immigrants to settle in regions outside Metro Vancouver. These changes follow those made in early 2022 to support the immigration of healthcare workers and early child educators to B.C.
- We utilized our PNP allocation of 7,000 nominations in 2022 and will increase to 8,000 in 2023. We expect to grow to 10,000 by 2025.
- While immigration is a part of the solution to skills and labour needs across B.C., it cannot solve all labour challenges on its own. That is why B.C. is introducing Future Ready, a skills-training action plan to help prepare British Columbians for the jobs of today and tomorrow.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- In December 2022, B.C. employment rose by 2.3% from the previous year and was above the national level of 2.0%. Most of these gains were driven by higher participation rates of women and a significant decline in unemployment numbers (-22.7%). However, labour force growth is weakening and nearly 40,000 workers left the labour force in 2022 for retirement. B.C.'s labour market remains tight with the unemployment rate at 4.2% at the end of 2022.
- The number of new immigrants coming to B.C. has increased in recent years. Canada admitted over 430,000 new permanent residents in 2022 and plans to increase annual admissions to 500,000 by 2025, which is the highest amount ever. By 2025, B.C. may receive up to 85,000 new immigrants per year, over double the number from 2017.
- B.C. is the second-largest immigrant-receiving province after Ontario, having surpassed Alberta and Quebec in recent years.
- The number of temporary residents (e.g. foreign workers, international students and refugee claimants) coming to Canada and participating in the labour market is also growing rapidly and is above pre-pandemic levels. Temporary resident arrivals to B.C. are disproportionately high (over 175,000 in 2021) compared to other provinces, with the exception of Ontario, and are likely to increase in the coming years.
- The federal government has announced several policy changes to make it easier for temporary foreign workers and international students to come and stay either longer temporarily or to apply for permanent residence in the country in response to labour market needs.
- Processing delays are being felt across all aspects of the Canadian immigration system due to increasingly higher admissions targets, special policy initiatives and some lingering operational impacts from the pandemic. Improving processing times is a stated priority for Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. They have ramped up processing capacity through hiring new staff, streamlining processes, and leveraging technology and these initiatives are beginning to show results.

CONTACT: Rachel Holmes, ADM, Immigration Services & Strategic Planning, 250 356-7325



UKRAINE

ISSUE

- B.C.'s response to the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine.

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- **We stand in solidarity with the people of Ukraine.**
- **B.C. provided safe harbour to more than 11,000 displaced Ukrainians and counting.**
- **We've taken an all-of-government approach to ensure that Ukrainians have access to the services and supports they need as bona-fide refugees.**
- **We have expanded eligibility for key health and social programs to displaced Ukrainians where feasible and appropriate.**
- **Provincial supports include: date-of-arrival Medical Services Plan coverage, PharmaCare, hardship assistance, settlement and WorkBC services, K-12 education, funding for community organizations, the creation of a homestay database, and more.**
- **We continue to work in collaboration with settlement agencies, non-profits, and the Ukrainian community to make sure that we are doing everything we can to house, protect and care for newly arrived Ukrainians.**

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- On February 24, 2022, the Russian Federation launched an invasion of Ukraine.
- On March 17, Canada introduced the Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel (CUAET) program, a temporary pathway for displaced Ukrainians to enter Canada and remain for up to three years. The program provides visitor visas to an unlimited number of Ukrainians and their family with the option to apply for a study or work permit.
- CUAET is administratively distinct from Canada's refugee programs and does not provide permanent resident, protected person or refugee status in Canada.
- As of January 24, 2023, Canada has received 805,626 CUAET applications and approved 514,020. The gap between applications and approvals is due to

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processing delays and some applications having incomplete paperwork, as completed applications have a 99.4 percent approval rate.

- Service Canada data indicates that B.C. has consistently received around 11 percent of all CUAET visa holders who travel to Canada. As of January 3, 2023, 10,863 Ukrainians in B.C. have been approved for federal financial assistance.
- As of December 27, 2022, a total of 10,375 Ukrainians have completed enrolment with the Medical Services Plan (MSP). 9,604 arrived under CUAET.
- Ukrainians who arrive through CUAET are free to settle in any community of their choosing. They are eligible for an open-work permit and can seek employment in any region of the province.
- MSP enrolment data indicates that as of December 16, 2022, 42 percent of CUAET arrivals are settling in Fraser Health Authority, 31 percent in Vancouver Coastal Health Authority, 12 percent in Vancouver Island Health Authority, 12 percent in Interior Health Authority, and 4 percent in Northern Health Authority.
- The federal government provides CUAET visa holders with one-time financial assistance, 50 hotel rooms in Vancouver for 14-day emergency stays, and access to national settlement and language programming. These services and supports are time-limited to March 31, 2023.
- Provincial supports include: 76 hotel rooms for emergency stays with meals and onsite settlement services, date-of-arrival MSP, one year of PharmaCare Plan C, K-12 education, one year of hardship assistance, provincial settlement supports and trauma counselling, WorkBC services, BC211 supports in Ukrainian and Russian, ServiceBC mobile outreach, community capacity building through the Refugee Readiness Fund, and a volunteer/homestay database (with expedited criminal record checks).
- BC will continue to work closely with the federal government to coordinate our efforts so that the right supports are in place for Ukrainians.

CONTACT: Rachel Holmes, ADM, Immigration Services & Strategic Planning, 250 356-7325



BC PROVINCIAL NOMINEE PROGRAM ENTREPRENEUR

ISSUE

- Entrepreneur Immigration is open to new candidates, after a temporary pause on intake. The Regional Pilot continues until March 2024, and a third party performance audit is currently underway to inform future program development.

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- **The Entrepreneur Immigration stream facilitates immigration for foreign entrepreneurs who bring their business expertise and investment dollars to manage businesses in B.C.**
- **The Entrepreneur Base category is for candidates who wish to establish a business anywhere in B.C. After a review of the program to ensure it continues to support B.C.'s economic priorities and recovery needs, the stream reopened in July 2022.**
- **The Regional Pilot focuses on connecting entrepreneurs to local economic development priorities. The pilot is currently in its second phase with 48 communities participating. Last year, 14 new applications were received from entrepreneurs proposing businesses in smaller communities.**
- **A full third-party performance audit is underway as required under the Canada-BC Immigration Agreement.**

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- In 2022, the Ministry supported 38 work permits for entrepreneurs to come to B.C. and start their businesses, and issued 36 nominations for permanent residency. Final 2022 statistics for the program will be posted publicly in May.
- The Regional Pilot is scheduled to end in March 2024. A decision on continuing this initiative will be made with input from participating communities.
- The Regional Pilot has created a collaborative network between communities and the province, which can be leveraged for economic recovery efforts and development of new opportunities to attract international talent (workers) to regional communities.

CONTACT: Rachel Holmes, ADM, Immigration Services & Strategic Planning, 250 356-7325



BC PROVINCIAL NOMINEE PROGRAM SKILLS IMMIGRATION

ISSUE

- Addressing labour shortages through strategic targeting of international workers in priority sectors for the province.

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- **Skills Immigration allows the province to attract and retain workers with the skills we need by facilitating their immigration to B.C.**
- **In 2022, the ministry implemented changes to prioritize workers in healthcare, childcare, animal health and workers outside of Metro Vancouver.**
- **These changes resulted in an increase of 99 percent in nominations in the healthcare sector, a 300 percent increase of vets and vet techs and almost 400 percent increase in nominations in the childcare sector compared to 2021.**
- **Additional changes were introduced to prioritize applicants working in smaller communities.**
- **As the only immigration program within provincial control, we continue to adjust our approach to better support labour market needs throughout the province.**
- **We utilized our allocation of 7,000 nominations in 2022 and will increase to 8,000 in 2023. We expect to grow to 10,000 by 2025.**

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- The 7,000 nominations in 2022 include:
 - 346 workers in the healthcare sector – a 99 percent increase
 - 427 early childhood educators and assistant – a 374 percent increase
 - 28 veterinarians and vet technicians – a 300 percent increase
- 1742 of Skills Immigration nominations in 2022 – or 25.01 percent – were working in smaller communities and contributing to local economies.

CONTACT: Rachel Holmes, ADM, Immigration Services & Strategic Planning, 250 356-7325



ADDRESSING FRAUD IN IMMIGRATION

ISSUE

- Efforts to prevent fraud in the BC Provincial Nominee Program.

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- **We are aware of the risk of fraud and corruption within the immigration systems and continue to strengthen our approach to detect and mitigate this behaviour.**
- **We established an Anti-Fraud and Investigations Unit in 2020, which currently has five staff dedicated to investigating fraud and misrepresentation in the program. To date, this unit has completed more than 1,000 reviews or investigations, with appropriate actions taken when fraud and misrepresentation have been established. All costs are covered through BC PNP application fees.**
- **We educate our clients and the public about immigration fraud and how to report it.**
- **We provide a dedicated email address for the public to report fraud in our program which is triaged by our Anti-Fraud and Investigations Unit.**
- **We continue to strengthen our internal processes and systems to track and carry out investigations and to monitor fraud tips and concerning trends.**
- **We continue to collaborate with external agencies such as Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, and the Law Society of B.C. to increase collaboration on investigations, improve communication and share information.**

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- The Ministry has established a fraud risk management framework and risk registry to identify risks and prioritize actions to address based on risk level.
- This year, the Ministry will further strengthen formal information sharing to enable easier communication with Government Financial Information and plans to



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establish additional formal information sharing agreements with other organizations as well.

- Numerous investigations have been completed or are underway related to tips or identification of fraud, many resulting in sanctions against applicants or other parties involved.

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Lytton Response and Recovery

ISSUE

- A fire swept through the Village of Lytton and across Nlaka'pamux territory on June 30, 2021, prompting an immediate evacuation.
- Widespread damage to the Village resulted in near total loss of buildings and public assets, displacement of residents, and the death of two people.
- Recovery has been ongoing and, with supports provided by the province, by spring 2023 the Village of Lytton will be in a position to move forward with rebuilding.

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- **Together with the leadership of the Village of Lytton, the Province continues to support the people and Village in their recovery activities.**
- **The significant destruction of critical municipal infrastructure and community resources makes Lytton's recovery journey complex.**
- **The archaeological work to date has confirmed the rich Indigenous heritage underlying the Village site and this work continues to move forward in a thoughtful manner.**
- **While the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) is the lead provincial agency for recovery and emergency management supports to the Village, Municipal Affairs continues to support needs relating to municipal infrastructure, finances, and governance.**
- **On these matters, Municipal Affairs also supported the Parliamentary Secretaries appointed to lead recovery and coordinated with other ministries and agencies as necessary (FOR/Archeology Branch, MOTI and CITZ).**
- **At this time, Lytton's recovery efforts have seen important progress and the Village will be in a position by spring 2023 to begin to move forward on rebuilding a resilient, sustainable community.**

- **To date the Province has demonstrated its commitment to Lytton with over \$50 million towards the Village's recovery operations work. This includes:**
 - **\$21 million to help re-establish essential infrastructure and services like water treatment and sewer infrastructure, municipal and fire services (EMCR).**
 - **\$8.3 million to support ongoing village operations and staffing (MUNI).**
 - **\$1 million to support community economic recovery through rural development program funding (JEDI).**
 - **\$23.4 million to enable debris removal, archeological work and soil remediation for uninsured and underinsured properties in the Village (EMCR).**
- **By working closely with officials in Lytton, MUNI and EMCR are supporting the Village to fully implement its Short-Term Recovery Plan and consider longer term planning needs including a new building bylaw and an updated Official Community Plan.**

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- The fire damaged an estimated 90 percent of the structures in the Village site (including 124 residences) and most of the commercial and public services, as well as the Village administrative office (and all of its physical and digital records).
- The ADM and MUNI staff (and other provincial agencies) are in direct contact with Lytton staff. Staff attend meetings with Village staff, and observe Council meetings and scheduled community Town Halls and other meetings hosted by the Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Development.
- MUNI provided a total of \$8.36 million in two grants to Lytton. The Wildfire Response Funds grant provided \$6.26 million for response and recovery costs. The Core Operations Funds grant provided \$2.1 million to support the day to day operations and administration of the Village.
- Over the last year, the Village has worked to re-create and update their key bylaws, hired a permanent Chief Administrative Officer and Corporate Officer to support the Village council and conducted a successful general local election in October 2022 with over 50 percent voter turn-out.

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- Debris removal is complete, and the Village recovery team is forecasting that site remediation will be completed early in 2023. In order to complete debris removal and site remediation for all uninsured properties, the Province contributed an additional \$5 million in December 2022.
- The archaeological work has required the clean-up to move forward in a measured manner to meet the Province's commitment to protect archeological heritage under the *Heritage Conservation Act*, while assisting the Village to prepare for the next phase of rebuilding.
- Procedures agreed to by the Village are in place to minimize work stoppages or slowdowns related to archeological work and new measures are being implemented in 2023 in coordination with building permitting and the conclusion of the remediation process.
- The Village continues to work to have all key infrastructure (hydro, water, etc.) and municipal building application processes in place by Spring 2023 to support homeowners to begin reconstruction.
- The Village recovery team is forecasting that site remediation will be completed early in the new year by mid-February with a target to commence backfill of properties in May 2023.
- The Province will support the rebuild of municipal infrastructure through the Disaster Financial Assistance program and other longer-term funding programs. Insured property owners will have their rebuild funded through their insurance, and uninsured property owners will be supported through donations and corporate commitments.
- Within the \$21 million funding provided in July 2022, an allocation was made for the cost of supplying interim housing for essential service personnel; the Village is still considering whether to advance a funding request to the Province for interim housing for property owners to facilitate the rebuild process and for renters currently displaced by the fire.
- In June 2022 the federal government announced funding of over \$77 million to support the rebuild of infrastructure, homes and businesses (\$64 million funding through Infrastructure Canada as well as \$13 million through PacifiCan towards fire-resistant homes and small- and medium-sized businesses). The Province is collaborating with the federal government to help define the programming for these funding envelopes.

CONTACT: Tara Faganello, ADM, Local Government Division, 250-365-6575



Local Governments Emergency Response

ISSUE

- Local governments in B.C. have faced the residual effects of a pandemic, a heat wave, wildfires, and an atmospheric river precipitation event since 2021.
- Recovery from these events – which caused numerous emergency evacuations, flooding, highway closures, infrastructure damage, capacity shortages, structural damage, and other negative impacts to local communities – is still ongoing.

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- **\$53.6 million was announced in April 2022 to support 10 local governments impacted by the November 2021 atmospheric river and flood event.**
- **A further \$61.9 million was approved towards the Abbotsford Drinking Water Resilience Project in September 2022.**
- **Local and First Nations governments determine the direction of response and recovery in their communities.**
- **The Ministry of Municipal Affairs supports local governments in emergency response and recovery by assisting them in sustaining public infrastructure, local governance, corporate operations, disaster mitigation and community planning.**
- **The Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) is the lead coordinating agency for emergency management.**

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- Emergency management encompasses planning for emergencies and natural disasters, efforts to mitigate impacts of anticipated events, response to emergencies, recovery and adaptation.
- Response costs from emergency events have the potential to be financially devastating for local governments, as are infrastructure and property losses suffered in some cases by local governments, residents and businesses.
- When an event has been declared eligible for Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) under the *Emergency Program Act*, the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) reimburses local governments for

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100 percent of eligible costs associated with emergency response actions and shares the costs of local government infrastructure repair in recovery.

- In April 2022 the cost sharing formula was changed to improve local governments' ability to recover from disaster events. The new approach permits EMCR to provide a portion of a project's estimated cost up front, and the local share is less onerous. These changes are expected to accelerate local recovery planning.
- The province has been guided by the Interim Provincial Disaster Recovery Framework. Under the Framework, EMCR is responsible for recovery coordination and facilitating a one door provincial government approach, while respecting community leadership of local recovery.

MUNI's Role

- MUNI provides a range of supports for local governments in emergency response and recovery.
 - MUNI staff engage directly with local governments and community recovery teams and may listen to or participate in town halls and dedicated meetings.
 - In the aftermath of the 2021 wildfire and atmospheric river events, the Minister and Deputy Minister hosted calls with Mayors, Chief Administrative Officers and Corporate Officers of several wildfire and flood impacted communities.
- MUNI's role in infrastructure recovery is evolving. Recovery efforts have typically sought to use existing programming and funding supports (including at the federal level) but have also required additional funding requests.
 - After flooding events in 2021, MUNI surveyed affected local governments to assess whether there were additional needs to rebuild infrastructure so as to be more prepared to handle impacts from climate change beyond potential supports through their insurance coverage and DFA assistance. This resulted in \$53.6 million being approved to assist 10 impacted local governments.
 - Flooding also highlighted vulnerabilities in Abbotsford's drinking water supply, resulting in \$61.9 million being approved towards the Abbotsford Drinking Water Resilience Project in September 2022.
 - The project will add source capacity on the south side of the river where the majority of the population resides, with: installation of up to 15 vertical groundwater wells along the south bank of the Fraser River; installation of watermains including a tie-in to the regional

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system; and, construction of a water treatment plant for a the new water source.

- MUNI also provides governance supports, such as helping to identify funding sources and advising on administrative and fiscal operations during response and recovery. MUNI also supports other needs such as Mayor/Council functions and corporate operations (meetings, space, staffing supports, communications, financing and Municipal Financing Authority supports, etc.).
- In unusual circumstances, MUNI can explore legislative solutions that can ease the burden on local governments dealing with an emergency. For municipalities with council vacancies, such as Merritt or Lytton, this has included a ministerial regulation to enable them to choose not to proceed with a by-election.
- Emergency borrowing provisions under s.13(6) of the *Emergency Program Act* presuppose the ability to collect taxes and fees to cover the costs of debt. If larger events reduce the revenue collection capability of a local government, it may require additional financial support to ensure the continuity of operations.
- For more information on MUNI supports for the Village of Lytton, see Estimates Note 18.
- More broadly, MUNI facilitates sound decision making and supports for local communities to reduce future disaster risk for all hazards, promoting community resilience, hazard mitigation, and disaster risk reduction. Under the umbrellas of the *Emergency Program Act* modernization and the Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy, MUNI is working with provincial partners on tools for local authorities to support greater consideration of natural hazard and climate change risks in their activities.

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Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program

ISSUE

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

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- Our government is committed to making life more affordable for British Columbians and improving the services people count on.
- That is why we are partnered with Canada on the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP), a 10-year program investing \$3.9 billion of federal funds in B.C.
- We work closely with the ministries of Transportation and Infrastructure, and Environment and Climate Change Strategy on delivering this funding.
- There are five Municipal Affairs-administered programs under ICIP underway that will fully allocate their funding:
 - The third and final intake for Environment Quality Program (EQ) closed February 23, 2022; final decisions subject to federal timelines are anticipated in Spring 2023.
 - The third and final intake of CleanBC Communities Fund (CCF) closed May 25, 2022; final decisions subject to federal timelines are anticipated in Summer 2023.
 - Second and final intakes for the Community, Culture and Recreation (CCR) and Rural and Northern Communities (RNC) programs closed in October 2020; both programs are complete and fully allocated.
 - There are 244 approved projects from previous intakes of EQ, CCR, RNC and CCF.
 - There are also 137 approved projects under the COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream (CVRIS).

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- The federal government announced its 11-year \$81.2 billion Investing in Canada Plan in February 2017. ICIP is delivered through an Integrated Bilateral Agreement (IBA) between the federal and provincial governments. It is a core program within the Plan.
- The ICIP IBA (signed March 22, 2018; announced April 2, 2018) is a \$3.929 billion federal investment in B.C.
- An amendment to the agreement (signed March 14, 2023) will extend it until 2034 and provide access to an additional \$5.58 million federal funding towards CVRIS ventilation projects.
- The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure is the primary interlocutor with the federal government on infrastructure funding agreements. Ministry of Municipal Affairs (MUNI) leads/co-leads program development and holds the budget for most, if not all, community-based projects. The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV) and Emergency Management & Climate Readiness (EMCR) are key participants.
- Under ICIP, the Province's commitment includes:
 - A commitment that participation will include all five of the funding streams;
 - A commitment to a minimum of 33.33 percent cost share for local government projects (except CVRIS stream);
 - An equitable balance of investment between provincial and local government;
 - Consideration of projects that benefit Indigenous peoples, on and off reserve;
 - Reporting on targets outlined under each funding stream; and
 - Finalizing ICIP projects by March 31, 2023 (recent federal change from March 2025 deadline; does not require full expenditure, only project identification and submission).
- Under the IBA, the federal commitment to B.C. includes 5 funding streams:
 - Public Transit Infrastructure (\$2.7 billion); Green Infrastructure (\$858 million); Community, Culture and Recreation (\$157 million); Rural and Northern Communities (\$102 million) and CVRIS (\$122 million). With \$212 million federal funding already committed to Northshore Wastewater Treatment Plant, total is \$4.1 billion.
- The newer CVRIS stream was funded by reprofiling federal allocations from two existing ICIP streams (transfer \$45 million from Green Infrastructure – Adaptation, Disaster Mitigation and Resilience stream, and \$64 million from Rural and Northern Communities Infrastructure stream).

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- CVRIS intake December 1, 2020, to January 27, 2021; final decisions in April and May 2021. \$79.5 million combined federal/provincial (combined) funding to support 87 projects that will result in upgrades to local government and Indigenous buildings, improve health and educational facilities, increase access to active transportation and increase resilience/adaptation to natural disaster events.
- The Ministry of EMCR administered a parallel \$55.88 million (combined) intake to support 24 structural flood mitigation projects.
- Ventilation - \$12,144,856 (federal funding) to support 26 projects approved in January 2023.
- The EQ Program, a component of ICIP – Green Infrastructure, will provide funding towards reliable drinking water and wastewater systems.
 - There are 41 approved projects being monitored from the first two intakes approved in early summer 2019 and summer 2021, with one project previously approved in fall 2018. Projects represent \$441.77 million in combined funding.
 - Third application intake (up to \$270 million combined funding) closed February 23, 2022.
- The CCR Program provides up to \$241.09 million combined funding towards projects that improve access to or quality of cultural, recreational, or community infrastructure.
 - There are 97 approved projects being monitored. Approvals were in summer 2019, summer 2020 and winter 2022 (federal election delayed approvals).
- The RNC Program provides \$153.29 million combined funding towards projects that support infrastructure priorities in rural communities with populations under 25,000.
 - There are 75 approved projects being monitored. Approvals were in spring 2020 and winter 2022.
- The CCF, a component of ICIP – Green Infrastructure, will provide funding to community infrastructure projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions using clean or renewable energy or that improve energy efficiency.
 - The CCF is co-led with Climate Action Secretariat, ENV and is aligned with the CleanBC plan.
 - The first two intakes represent \$88.63 million in federal-provincial funding. 30 projects, approved in 2020 and early 2021, are being monitored.
 - Third application intake (\$134 million combined) closed May 25, 2022.

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- The Electricity Program, a component of ICIP – Green Infrastructure, supports provincial priorities in greenhouse gas emission reductions. BC Hydro projects are approved at a 50/50 cost share:

- The Peace Region Electricity Supply Project received approval on December 7, 2018, for \$83,680,825 million in federal funding.

Government Financial Information

- The CleanBC Facilities Electrification Fund is the final component of this program. It has a federal allocation of up to \$84 million, is administered by Energy Mines and Low Carbon Initiatives. Five projects have been approved for \$30.15 million in federal funding with more to come.
- All merit-based programs are claims based, which means that provincial funding will be required in out years as projects are constructed. Proponents incur and pay costs prior to submitting claims to the Province for reimbursement.

The following table outlines the estimated provincial funding flows of the approved ICIP intakes at Q3. It does not include the Public Transit component, Electricity Program, or EMCR Programs:

Provincial Funding (\$ millions)	Actuals	Forecast	Budget 2023 Fiscal Plan Period			Fiscal Plan Total	Estimate		Total
	Past Years	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26		2026/27	2027/28	
Approved Program 1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd Intakes									
Environmental Quality Program	92.994	8.570	41.081	56.465	50.911	148.457	33.279	41.288	324.588
CleanBC Communities Fund	11.620	0.733	13.810	25.805	19.385	59.000	16.877	14.020	102.250
Community, Culture and Recreation Program	22.603	10.700	23.881	12.923	2.583	39.387	0.000	0.000	72.690
Rural and Northern Communities Program	21.052	4.825	15.310	9.480	2.380	27.170	0.000	0.000	53.047
COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure (MUNI)	1.689	5.490	6.839	1.690	0.000	8.529	0.000	0.000	15.708
Sub Total Approved Programs	149.958	30.318	100.921	106.363	75.259	282.543	50.156	55.308	568.283

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Ombudsperson Report

Tax Sales and Vulnerable Persons

ISSUE

- The Ombudsperson's investigative report, December 8, 2021, into municipal property tax sales and vulnerable people contains five recommendations to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs that the ministry continues to implement.

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- **Ministry staff have been working to implement the five recommendations that were made to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs in the Ombudsperson's investigative report into tax sales and vulnerable people.**
- **Specifically, best practices and guidelines have been developed to assist municipal staff to reduce the likelihood of tax sales, especially for vulnerable individuals. These materials will be made available to local governments following comment from the Ombudsperson's office.**
- **This year, our government introduced legislation that requires municipalities to provide additional notice of tax sale to property owners. This amendment satisfies a recommendation to enhance the tax sale notice provisions in the *Local Government Act*, and I expect it will be in force before the tax sale in 2024.**
- **I am pleased that all recommendations will be implemented, and I appreciate the ongoing dialogue between the Office of the Ombudsperson and ministry staff as we work to minimize incidents of tax sale in the province.**

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- The Ombudsperson conducted an investigation into a circumstance where a homeowner lost her property for unpaid property taxes when she did not redeem it within the redemption period after a tax sale of the property. The owner may not have had the capacity to understand the process and her sister brought the complaints forward.

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- The investigation resulted in one recommendation to the City of Penticton, five separate recommendations to MUNI which have been accepted and responded to.
- The recommendations and their status are as follows.
 - **Recommendation 2:** By June 30, 2022, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs develop, as part of a best practices guide, plain language template letters for use by municipalities that include all applicable timelines, reference the statutory authority for the step being taken, and explain in plain language each action the municipality intends to take or has taken. At a minimum, the ministry develop template letters to:
 - (a) advise the property owner of the steps they must take to prevent the sale of their property at auction
 - (b) advise the property owner of the steps they must take during the redemption period to prevent the transfer of their property to the tax sale purchaser
 - (c) advise the property owner, in cases where the property is not redeemed, about the calculation and payment of surplus funds

Status: Final draft complete and with Ombudsperson for review.

- **Recommendation 3:** By June 30, 2022, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs issue best practice guidelines for municipalities to notify a property owner by personal service or registered mail before holding a tax sale in relation to their property.

Status: Final draft complete and with the Ombudsperson for review.

Once finalized, the content will be made available on MUNI's website and via educational programs for local government staff that MUNI participates in.

- **Recommendation 4:** By October 31, 2022, the Minister of Municipal Affairs reconsider the *Local Government Act* by introducing amendments to require a municipality to provide notice of the pending tax sale to the owner of a property subject to a tax sale by a set time frame prior to the sale, and to provide notice by personal service or registered mail.

Status: Legislation was introduced on February 8, 2023 that will require municipalities to mail or serve notice to a property owner and any registered charge holder. The requirements will come into force by regulation and can be in force ahead of the 2024 tax sale.

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An example would be a mortgage holder of their intent to sell the property to recover unpaid taxes at the municipal tax sale auction. The notice must be delivered at least 60 days before the date of the tax sale auction. The notice will serve as a warning to a property owner in advance of the event that their property will be offered at the auction unless the debts are paid.

- **Recommendation 5:** By October 31, 2022, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs complete, and provide to our office, a report examining whether the *Local Government Act* should be amended to establish an upset price that better reflects the assessed value of a property subject to a tax sale. In completing the review, the ministry should obtain data about the sale prices and assessed values of properties sold at tax sales in B.C., and in provinces that require a minimum bid based on fair market value or similar measure.

Status: Final draft complete and with the Ombudsperson for review.

The *Local Government Act* sets out a process for mandatory tax sales to recover taxes that are owing and outstanding. The minimum amount a property may be sold for is the 'upset price', which is the sum of taxes owing, plus interest, a penalty, and fees. Following the tax sale, the property owner has a one-year period to redeem the property by paying the sum of the upset price, maintenance costs incurred and taxes advanced by the purchaser, and interest, before it is conveyed to the successful tax sale bidder.

Data that MUNI obtained from the Land Title Survey Authority and municipal tax collectors shows that the scale of residential tax sales in B.C. is very small. A large majority of class 1 (residential) properties that go to tax sale are redeemed.

- **Recommendation 6:** By June 30, 2022, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, in consultation with the Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee (PGT), issue best practice guidelines about how municipalities may protect vulnerable property owners within the tax sale scheme, including inquiring about whether a property owner's failure to pay their property taxes is due to some aspect of vulnerability or disability and if so, notifying a person or authority that can assist that individual.

Status: Final draft complete and with the Ombudsperson for review.

A survey of municipal tax collectors conducted by the ministry indicates that many municipalities work actively to minimize the risk of a property going to tax sale. This includes providing notice above the legislated minimum requirements, informal outreach (phone calls to property owners, financial institutions) and entering into repayment plans.

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Ministry of
Municipal Affairs

2023/24 Estimates Note

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Provincial Highway Interchanges and Development Cost Charges (DCCs)

ISSUE

Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences



2023/24 Estimates Note

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Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences

Background

Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences

- For context, between 2000-2020, MoTI entered into cost-sharing agreements with thirteen different municipalities on twenty-four different highway projects valued at \$526.6 million. Municipal contributions towards these projects totalled \$195.8 million and primarily funded the development of new interchanges, but also included roundabouts, intersections, sidewalks and cycling improvement projects.
- The *Local Government Act* and *Vancouver Charter* currently restrict the use of monies collected under the “Roads” category of DCCs to municipally owned and controlled capital infrastructure. For the same reason, borrowing through the Municipal Finance Authority is also not an option.
- As a result, municipalities are reliant on property tax revenues to fund their portion of the cost-shared agreements, which is often challenging due to the amount of funding involved, thus putting the full scope of the provincial highway project at risk.

Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences

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



Local Government Finance System Review

ISSUE

- UBCM and local governments have suggested that the current local government finance system is inadequate to address modern fiscal pressures. They have made calls for the province to provide them with new and/or expanded financial and non-financial tools (including legislation, regulation, policy and/or best practices).

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- **Government remains committed to having frank, open conversations with UBCM about local government finance and how we can partner to serve the people in our communities.**
- **The provincial commitment to discussing local government finance issues is reflected in the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Local Government Financial Resiliency in January 2022.**
- **This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) brings us together to review the local government finance system and discuss matters of mutual interest.**
- **It is important to start with gaining a solid shared understanding of both the issues and the recommendations made in UBCM's report "Ensuring Local Government Financial Resiliency – Today's Recovery and Tomorrow's New Economy."**
- **We are committed to having open, honest conversations with local governments about their finance system, and how we can work together to better serve British Columbians.**
- **From the COVID-19 pandemic to recent extreme weather events, we are all facing new challenges that did not exist a decade ago.**
- **The province and UBCM have established a workplan and are making progress in reviewing and considering each of the 20 recommendations contained in the UBCM's report.**

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- On September 15, 2021, the UBCM members endorsed the report entitled *Ensuring Local Government Financial Resiliency – Today's Recovery and Tomorrow's New Economy*, aimed at strengthening the local governments finance system in BC.
- The Report identifies three key cost drivers (attainable housing, community safety and climate change) and the impact of the new economy as significant factors in the local government finance system, and makes 20 recommendations.
- At the 2021 convention, former Premier Horgan committed to working towards developing an MOU between UBCM and the province to guide a collaborative review of the recommendations within the Report.
- On January 26, 2022, the province and UBCM entered into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) reflecting the commitment of the Parties to engage through a meaningful working relationship in order to meet the respective interests of strengthening the local government finance system.
- The MOU established a Working Group of provincial (FIN and MUNI) and UBCM staff to work collaboratively in reviewing matters related to local government financial resiliency. The Working Group has met regularly to discuss each of the 20 UBCM Report recommendations and, through consensus, agreed to a short (0-6 months), medium (7-18 months), or long-term (19-36 months) timeline to review and consider each of them.
- The Working Group has collectively recognized that the workplan and activities of the Working Group is an iterative, collaborative process and will evolve as information and analyses progress and the workplan evolves. It is further acknowledged that the workplan should be flexible and amenable to change on the announcement of provincial and UBCM priorities that are relevant to and aligned with the recommendations in the Report.
- As per the Terms of Reference, the Working Group is to provide the next written update to the Ministers and UBCM President's Council by no later than August 1, 2023.
- March/April 2023 – Working Group will update medium workplan items (most or all short-term items will have further medium or long-term actions), potentially returning to the UBCM Presidents Committee and Ministers for further direction.

CONTACT: Tara Faganello, ADM, Local Government Division, 250 365-6575



Local Government Engagement

ISSUE

- Ongoing interactions with local governments beyond the COVID-19 pandemic and the 2021 climate emergencies.

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- **The province's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the 2021 climate emergencies was built on collaboration and communication, and we will continue this approach beyond these events.**
- **We built a strong foundation of collaboration with UBCM, and we have seen that engaging in dialogue leads to better decisions.**
- **No matter how challenging the issues we are currently facing such as the housing crisis, mental health and addictions, or the public health care crisis, I know that we can have difficult conversations with local governments.**
- **That's why I will continue regular meetings with local governments either in person or via teleconference, providing a safe space for local elected officials to share their concerns, ideas and best practices.**
- **I am impressed by the flexibility and resilience of local government elected representatives, staff and organizations key to our local government system.**
- **And I thank them for their willingness to collaborate on everything from vulnerable populations, to housing needs and their tireless efforts for communities and people throughout B.C.**
- **We will be able to tackle whatever comes by working together.**

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Minister's teleconferences with local elected officials

- Since March 2020, the Ministers responsible for local government held over 120 teleconferences with municipal mayors, regional district chairs and senior staff on a province-wide, regional, or other group basis.
- Teleconferences evolved from a focus on pandemic response to engagement calls with local governments. Teleconferences now provide a venue to inform and hear directly from local government leaders on issues such as affordable housing, mental health and addictions, Indigenous relations and reconciliation, emergency management, and more.
- Teleconferences with mayors and regional district chairs supplemented regular meetings with UBCM Executive and meetings with individual local governments at the annual UBCM Convention.
- Attendees have told Minister and staff how helpful these regional teleconferences have been and expressed their appreciation in having a safe place to have a voice into – and be heard – by government.

Minister's in-person outreach

- Starting in 2022 the Minister responsible for local government resumed in-person outreach with local governments as in-person meetings were considered safe again after the COVID-19 pandemic.
- In April 2022 the Minister held in person meetings regarding the Resource Benefit Alliance (RBA) with the full RBA membership in Terrace, B.C. As a follow-up to these in person meetings, the minister and RBA Co-Chairs signed an MOU at the 2022 UBCM Convention to establish a joint working group to work towards a long-term funding agreement for the northern region.
- The Minister responsible for local government also visited individual communities across B.C. and met in person with local elected officials and senior local government staff.
- After the general local elections in the fall of 2022, the minister conducted in-person meetings with councils to meet the newly elected council members and to hear about community priorities for the next four-year term.
- In January ^{Advice/Re}_{comment} the Minister responsible for local government commenced a series of in-person engagements and meetings starting with interior communities and the lower mainland.

Other points of engagement with local governments include:

- Day-to-day staff-level advice/problem solving with specific local governments (e.g., by-elections; public hearings; funding eligibility); and



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- Regular and ad hoc engagement with partner organizations (e.g., Minister's meetings with UBCM Executive; staff meetings with Municipal Finance Authority and Local Government Management Association);
- Agreements on program design/delivery.

CONTACT: Tara Faganello, ADM, Local Government Division, 250-365-6575



Responsible Conduct of Local Elected Officials

ISSUE

- The conduct of locally elected officials remains of interest to the provincial government and local governments across B.C.; the Working Group on Responsible Conduct continues to explore ways to strengthen the local responsible conduct framework.

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- **I am encouraged by the continued collaboration of staff from the Union of BC Municipalities, the Local Government Management Association, and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, through the Working Group on Responsible Conduct as they undertake work that advances the responsible conduct of B.C. local government elected officials.**
- **As most of you are aware, responsible conduct broadly refers to issues respecting the conduct of local government elected officials between themselves, with staff, and with the public.**
- **I am heartened to see many elected decision-makers continue to strive to provide for good governance and engage in responsible conduct for their communities.**
- **Over the past year, the Ministry, informed by the work of the Working Group on Responsible Conduct, have implemented additional tools to support responsible conduct of local government elected officials.**
- **These new legislative and educational tools will further support the responsible conduct of local government elected officials, and includes:**
 - **a new legislative requirement for councils and boards to consider reviewing or adopting a code of conduct;**
 - **updates to the oath of office prescribed by regulation; and**
 - **a new online education module on the foundational principles of responsible conduct.**

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- **The Working Group on Responsible Conduct continues to explore ways to strengthen the responsible conduct framework, which will include a review of the effectiveness of the new tools provided to local governments.**
- **While there are no ‘silver bullet’ solutions to complex and sensitive matters of conduct, the working group continues to explore future tools and initiatives to further promote and strengthen the principles of responsible conduct into the local government system.**

If asked about an integrity/ethics commissioner:

- **The work to strengthen the responsible conduct of elected officials continues to be a long-term, challenging, and complex issue that involves making fundamental cultural shifts.**
- **There is an interest on all sides in understanding more clearly the current framework for encouraging accountable behaviour for locally elected officials.**
- **Further research and policy work is necessary to understand where the gaps may be and what alternative approaches might be available, understanding other jurisdiction’s experience with mandatory codes of conduct and integrity/ethics commissioners is part of this work.**

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- Responsible conduct refers to how government elected officials conduct themselves with their elected colleagues, with staff, and with the public.
- Ministry staff and the Local Government Management Association (LGMA) continue to support specific communities that may be experiencing responsible conduct issues (e.g., Wells, Lions Bay, Tahsis).
- The Working Group on Responsible Conduct (with staff from the Ministry, UBCM and the LGMA) was created in response to a 2016 UBCM resolution calling on the province to empower local governments to appoint local independent integrity commissioners. The working group was formed to explore approaches to deal with the spectrum of conduct-related matters that occur primarily while elected officials are at the council/board table and carrying out their duties of office.

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- A key focus this year has been on implementing the tools outlined in UBCM Resolution 2021-SR3 (Strengthening Responsible Conduct), which included a legislative requirement to consider reviewing or developing a code of conduct, updates to the oath of office prescribed by regulation, and the creation of an online, assessable education module on the foundational principles of responsible conduct.
- The Ministry delivered on these tools in 2022 and with legislative amendment and regulatory changes, has developed a monitoring and evaluation plan in collaboration with the Working Group on Responsible Conduct to review and assess the impact of these tools on local governments in 2023.
- In addition to research, outreach and policy work, the working group has published a range of guidance and resources, including a Model Code of Conduct, and a guide (“Forging the Path to Responsible Conduct in Your Local Government”) that supports compliance and enforcement of local codes of conduct. These resources were updated in 2022 to reflect the introduction of new tools, including the new legislation on codes of conduct.
- At the 2022 UBCM Convention, Resolution EB77 (Ethics Commissioner) was endorsed. This resolution calls on the Ministry to create a provincial ethics commissioner office to oversee local government conduct complaints.
- There is continuing interest and media attention on the implementation of more regulatory tools to address conduct-related issues in local governments, such as mandatory codes of conduct or a provincial integrity/ethics commissioner.
- As conduct issues raise complex and sensitive issues, Ministry staff will continue to work through the working group to thoughtfully collaborate and explore the nature and impacts of proposed solutions and what additional tools may be appropriate.

CONTACT: Tara Faganello, ADM, Local Government Division, 250-365-6575



Local Government-Indigenous Relations

ISSUE

- Local Government Relations with First Nations and Indigenous Peoples.

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- **Encouraging strong local government - First Nations relations is an important part of our government's commitment to lasting reconciliation with Indigenous peoples and implementing the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*.**

Advice/Recommendations

- **Administered by the Union of BC Municipalities, this program helps local governments and First Nations meet and build collaborative relations.**
- **I hope by expanding the funding scope for projects we can help address local government and First Nation requests for additional financial resources to support community level reconciliation. While there is more to do, the list of local governments and First Nations working together is growing.**
- **Many local governments shared examples of collaboration with First Nation partners on: culture, arts and heritage; developing service agreements and MOUs; and incorporating Indigenous languages into signage and public spaces, to name a few.**
- **We actively encourage relationship building by providing advice, assistance and partnering with other organizations to share working relationship examples on CivicInfo BC's website.**
- **Under the Province's Action Plan for implementing the *Declaration Act*, the Ministry has committed to supporting inclusive regional governance and reviewing local processes that guide the naming of local governments.**

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- **This will take time – examining the opportunities for increasing Indigenous participation on regional district boards and evolving naming processes will require additional engagement, collaboration and assessment.**
- **Also, the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) renewed in 2021 between the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) and the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, supported by Municipal Affairs is critical to this commitment.**
- **The MOU strengthens the partnership between the Province, UBCM and local governments to encourage collaboration with Indigenous peoples in B.C.**

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- The Ministry of Municipal Affairs (MUNI) uses various ways to encourage and assist local governments to build positive relationships with First Nations.
- The Ministry has two items to lead under the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* Action Plan, which was approved by Cabinet on February 23, 2022 and released publicly on March 30.
 - Theme 1: Self-Determination and Inherent Right of Self-Government
 - 1.11 Support inclusive regional governance by advancing First Nations participation in regional district Boards
 - Theme 4: Social, Cultural and Economic Well-being (Cultural Heritage)
 - 4.27 Review the principles and processes that guide the naming of municipalities and regional districts and evolve practices to foster reconciliation in local processes. (Ministry of Municipal Affairs)
- Local governments have no constitutional obligation to consult on the potential impacts to Indigenous interests arising from local government decisions. They are encouraged and supported to engage with their First Nation neighbours.
- The C2C program is administered by UBCM and First Nations Summit funds relationship building events between local governments and First Nations. Typically, the Province and federal government provide funding. MUNI is considering boosting its annual \$50,000 contribution for 2023-24 to address growing pressure for more funding.
- MUNI has already supported the move to 100 percent funding coverage for the program (previously 50 percent cost sharing formula), recognizing the

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unprecedented times local governments and First Nations faced during the COVID-19 pandemic and to support implementation of the *Declaration Act*.

- Other recent program changes the partners have made to improve the C2C program include:
 - UBCM contributing additional resources;
 - ensuring events with a reconciliation focus are within the program scope;
 - expanded the eligibility so that events between staff are also in focus; and
 - ensuring ceremonial contributions to events are funded.
- Of the 300+ events held since 2008, 85 percent identified relationship building as the primary outcome. Other outcomes included advancement of formal agreements, protocols and MOUs in relation to community well-being, economic development, environmental stewardship and emergency management.
- MUNI also supports and works with other partner organizations including CivicInfo BC, the Local Government Management Association (LGMA) and the Local Government Leadership Academy (LGLA), and the Fraser Basin Council to help build relationships.
- The Province, the First Nations Summit, and UBCM have developed a new Indigenous and Local Government Initiatives and Relations research tool.
- Located at civicinfo.bc.ca/first-nation-relationship-resources, this resource collects examples of Indigenous communities and local governments working together. In this searchable database you can find: Pathways to Collaboration economic development case studies; materials that highlight MOUs and partnerships; information about service provision agreements and more.

CONTACT: Brent Mueller, Director, Governance and Structure Branch, 250-882-2541



Restructure Studies

ISSUE

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

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

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

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

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

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- The Ministry uses a formal program of incentives and disincentives without forcing change. These incentives include Restructure Planning and Implementation Grants under the Local Government Grants Regulation.
- It is estimated in 2022/23, the Ministry will dispense \$570,000 in restructure study grants.
- When a community considers restructuring, the process must account for the unique characteristics and issues in that community, while meeting the legislative requirements for the type of change that might address those issues.
- Changes to local government structures are enacted by Cabinet (Order in Council to issue Letters Patent), generally on recommendation of the Minister.
- Major municipal restructuring (significant boundary extension, incorporation, amalgamation) must involve engagement with local citizens, as the *Local Government Act* establishes assent of the electors as a pre-condition to Cabinet approval of municipal incorporation.
- In addition to the brief description of the local government restructure process (**Attachment 1**), also attached as background are current and requested restructure projects and pending proposals (**Attachment 2**).

CONTACT: Karen Lynch, Director, Governance and Structure Branch, 778-698-3229

Attachment 1

Local Government Restructure Process

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



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- If the committee wishes to proceed, the Minister offers a restructuring assistance grant and orders a referendum on restructuring. If the vote passes, the implementation process begins.
- Ministry staff prepare the Letters Patent, which are then considered by Cabinet. If the Letters Patent are approved, Ministry staff then coordinate the implementation of the restructuring.

Attachment 2

Current Restructure Projects

Nanaimo – Electoral Area F (Coombs-Errington-Hilliers) initiated February 2022
\$60,000 in 2021/22

- Ministry staff have received a request from Regional District of Nanaimo for a governance study in Electoral Area F. Early indications are that the communities are interested in building a case for municipal incorporation.
- Rather than focus on incorporation, the study will highlight governance matters in Electoral Area F and gauge residents' interests through a series of engagement activities.
- The study's terms of reference were confirmed in late January 2022. Regional District of Nanaimo anticipates convening a study committee and hiring a consultant to undertake the work.
- Throughout 2022 the consultant met with the community-based study committee and held open houses for residents.
- The final report on the issues facing residents, and potential next steps is due in late May 2023.

Proposed Restructure Projects

Saanich-Victoria (Citizens' Assembly to examine amalgamation) \$250,000

- See separate Estimates Note #30

Okanagan-Similkameen (*Okanagan Falls Incorporation Study*) \$150,000

- Okanagan Falls is a former forestry community located at the south end of Skaha Lake on Highway 97. Located in the south Okanagan, its economy is in transition, and it is home to several significant wineries and to the mass timber producer, Structurlam.
- The possibility of incorporating Okanagan Falls has been raised many times over the years. It was last rejected by residents in 1989. A governance study process in 2016 led to creation of an additional Electoral Area with more focus on the Okanagan Falls just before the 2018 local election.

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- Based on continuing local discussion of incorporation, funding was approved in March 2021 for an Electoral Area D Services and Boundary Configuration Study.
- The Study was completed in summer of 2022 and recommended that Okanagan Falls and the surrounding area undergo an incorporation study. The new Board of Directors for RDOS support the initiative.

Columbia Shuswap Regional District – Electoral Area “F” North Shuswap Community Assessment and Engagement Project – Restructure project to examine the issues facing the communities within Electoral Area “F” – the North Shuswap. \$40,000

- Regional District’s Board of Director support the engagement of citizens and the provision of educational materials on local government systems in Electoral Area “F” – which is made up of Scotch Creek and other communities along the North shore of Shuswap Lake.

Columbia Shuswap Regional District – Secwepemc and the CSRD Relationship Agreement Planning \$40,000

- The CSRD and members of the Secwepemc nations are working together on building their relationships with the CSRD.

Squamish-Lillooet Regional District – Governance Overview for the Pemberton Valley Dyking District \$30,000

- This study examines the governance model of the Pemberton Valley Dyking District, along with the SLRD the Village of Pemberton and the Lil’wat Nation will be participating in the study.
- The purpose of the Study is to help assist in strategic planning for the Pemberton Valley Dyking District.

Regional District of Central Kootenay – Governance and Community Engagement for the Nasookin Improvement District \$60,000

- This will be a study that examines the governance model for improvement districts, engages the community in discussion regarding services and highlights the possible paths forward for NID.



Local Government Boundary Changes

ISSUE

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

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

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

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

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

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

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

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- Municipal boundaries are set and changed in Letters Patent by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, on the recommendation of the Minister and with approval from Cabinet. The Ministry works in advance of those decisions to reduce potential conflicts and adverse impacts through consultation and referral processes.
- Changes to a municipal boundary must be completed well in advance of the local general election, so that both election officials and electors know the boundary of the jurisdiction.
- Attached as background information, is a brief description of the local government boundary change process and a list of current projects (Appendix 1).

CONTACT: Karen Lynch, Director, Governance and Structure Branch, 778-698-3229

Appendix 1
Municipal Boundary Change Process and Active Projects

Municipal Boundary Change Process

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

Recent Municipal Boundary Changes

Village of Pemberton (South Hwy)

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

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City of Chilliwack (properties Electoral Area “F”)

- minor extension brought in several properties as the land owners wanted to access City services such as water and land use planning.

Town of Oliver (Civic property)

- boundary redefinition which brought in a civic owned property into the Town's boundary.

City of Kelowna (Civic property)

- boundary redefinition which brought in a civic owned property into the Town's boundary.

Active Municipal Boundary Change Files

Town of Osoyoos (Lakeshore Drive)

- minor extension, including two properties interested in accessing municipal services and potential future development.

City of Port Alberni (Johnston Road)

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

City of Castlegar (Campus of Selkirk College)

- extension to include lands associated with Selkirk College and adjacent Crown land, request to access City services.



University Endowment Lands (UEL) Services, Structure and Governance Study

ISSUE

- Between January 2020 and October 2022, the Ministry undertook a study to examine the services, structure and governance of the UEL.

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- The UEL is the only urban area in B.C. that is run directly by the province rather than by a local government.
- The UEL faces many pressures due to development, demographic shifts and the community's interest in change and representation.
- The province recognizes the need for a long-term solution, and in January 2020 launched a services, structure and governance study to explore the impacts of change.
- The study, completed in October 2022, documented current and future service needs, identified alternative governance scenarios, reviewed the technical impacts of any change, and explored the perspectives of the community through engagement.
- This study lays the groundwork for the next phase of the province's work to address the governance issues of the UEL.
- The Province will continue to gather information and perspectives to complement the Study analysis.
- This includes undertaking additional research and engaging directly with key interests to assess the feasibility of some of the presented governance options.
- In the interim, the province is exploring opportunities to enhance the UEL services and governance framework, including

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**exploration of the application of more modern enforcement tools
for the UEL.**

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- The UEL has operated under the *University Endowment Land Act* for nearly 100 years and is the only urban area in B.C. not directly run by a local government.
- Today the UEL faces a number of pressures including new development (e.g. the *leleən* development by Musqueam Nation), redevelopment, population growth, demographic shifts and demands for more local representation.
- In January 2020 the Ministry retained Urban Systems to lead the UEL Services, Structure & Governance Study.
- The Study explored the UEL's current state, its projected pressures and needs, as well as the costs, impacts and transition considerations from shifting to other forms of local governance. The Study did not recommend options.
- The study process was open and inclusive and included opportunities for engagement and input from the community and other interested parties. The consultant did not engage directly with Musqueam and other First Nations, although they were invited to participate in the Study. Instead, Ministry staff were responsible for leading this engagement.
- The Study concluded in October 2022 and provides a comprehensive overview of the facts, a summary of the perspectives gathered through engagement, and an outline of the considerations relevant to a potential governance change.
- The Province will continue to gather information and perspectives on the future governance of the UEL, including outreach with Musqueam and the City of Vancouver to assess the feasibility of some of the identified governance scenarios.
- The Ministry will also undertake additional research to understand the existing state of the UEL (assets, infrastructure, boundary), review the legislative framework, assess the impact of a potential transition (labour issues, crown land), and undertake further engagement with key interest groups (Musqueam First Nation, UEL Community Advisory Committee, Metro Vancouver, UBC). Consideration also needs to be given to the community's role in this process.
- In the interim, the Ministry continues to explore ways to enhance the UEL's existing governance and service structure

Cabinet Confidences

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



Victoria and Saanich Study Process (Amalgamation)

ISSUE

- Victoria and Saanich are taking steps to establish a Citizens' Assembly to study the feasibility of municipal amalgamation.

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- **Voters in Saanich and Victoria signalled their support for a study on amalgamation in 2018.**
- **The City of Victoria, District of Saanich and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs continue to be committed to exploring our citizens' views on amalgamating the City of Victoria and the District of Saanich.**
- **We have agreed to each contribute \$250,000 for a total of \$750,000, toward the cost of a Citizens' Assembly and to explore the possible outcomes, costs, benefits and disadvantages of amalgamation so that residents have a more complete understanding of what amalgamation may involve.**
- **We look forward to the launch of the Citizens' Assembly in the near future and the work that will come out of it, including technical information gathering and public information sessions.**

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- Voters in both Saanich and Victoria supported a 2018 non-binding ballot question to explore potential costs, benefits and disadvantages of amalgamation through a Citizens' Assembly (Assembly), receiving 66 percent support in Victoria and 56 percent support in Saanich. The ballot question quoted each municipality spending up to \$250,000 on the study.
- Since 2018, work on the project has been interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, a local by-election in Victoria, the reconsideration of the project by Saanich council and the general local elections.
- In late June 2021, Saanich and Victoria submitted a joint proposal for an Assembly that would examine amalgamation and a request for \$250,000 in Provincial funding to support it.
- In March 2022, the Minister signalled commitment to the project through the awarding of up to \$250,000 for work associated with the Assembly. It was agreed

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that work on the Assembly would not start until after the October 2022 general local elections.

- Minister Kang recently followed up with a letter to both councils reconfirming the province's support for the Assembly and indicating that the full \$250,000 could be paid out in fiscal year 2022/23.
- To allocate the funds in one fiscal year, the work is being split into three component projects: 1) Work of the Assembly (\$60,000 each), 2) technical information gathering (\$30,000 each), and 3) public information sessions (\$35,000 each). For a total of \$125,000 to each local government.
- The expectation is that the funds will be spent over the next few years and the work of the Assembly will be wrapped up prior to the 2026 general local election.

CONTACT: Arielle Guetta, Senior Planning Analyst, Governance and Structure, 778-698-3216



Islands Trust

ISSUE

- The Islands Trust is continuing its update of the Policy Statement and review of its governance and management under the direction of the new Trust Council.

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- **The Islands Trust has an important role in preserving and protecting B.C.'s Gulf Islands so they can be enjoyed for generations to come.**

Policy Statement Review

- **The Islands Trust is continuing its update of the Policy Statement under direction of the Trust Council, engaging with First Nations, residents, local authorities and other partners.**
- **Once the Islands Trust has completed its work, I will receive the Policy Statement to consider approval of the bylaw.**

Internal Governance and Management Review

- **The new Trust Council is continuing its internal governance and management review based on recommendations provided to the Islands Trust by an independent consultant in 2022.**
- **I look forward to ongoing engagement with the Islands Trust as the Trust Council continues its important work in this area.**

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Policy Statement Review

- The Islands Trust Policy Statement is a general statement of the policies of the Trust Council to carry out the object of the trust, and may establish different policies for different parts of the trust area. Official community plans within the trust area must be consistent with the Policy Statement, and in that regard it is similar to a regional growth strategy.
- The Trust launched its Islands 2050 Policy Statement update in 2019 to better address Trust council's commitments related to reconciliation, climate change,

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and protection of the natural environment. The current Policy Statement has not been updated in nearly 30 years.

- The Policy Statement is approved by the Minister of Municipal Affairs after the Minister is satisfied that the provincial interest and the duty to have early and meaningful consultation with First Nations have been satisfied.
- The Trust has undertaken multiple rounds of engagement with First Nations, residents, local authorities, and other partners in response to significant public pushback on certain elements of the updated draft Policy Statement, including in relation to foreshore development and forests on private lands.
- The outgoing Trust Council passed a number of resolutions in June and September 2022 requesting staff to undertake further work on the Policy Statement and bring a new draft back to the newly elected Trust Council for review in early 2023.
- A revised project timeline for the remaining stages of the project is expected. <https://islandstrust.bc.ca/programs/islands-2050/>
- There will be another referral period and possibly further public engagement before the Islands Trust submits the Policy Statement to the Minister.

Internal Governance and Management Review

- The Trust Council commissioned an internal review of its governance and management policies and practices in 2021/22. The outcome of this review recommends a variety of actions by the Trust, including on the Trust's core service, local planning that the Trust can undertake within its existing authorities.
- The Islands Trust wrote to the Minister of Municipal Affairs in July 2022, asking that the province undertake a comprehensive review of the Islands Trust's governance model, claiming the Islands Trust does not have the capacity and resources to implement the recommendations, adapt to contemporary challenges, including climate change, commitments to reconciliation with Indigenous Nations, and meet the expectations of its mandate.
- This request was reiterated in a meeting of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and members of the newly elected Trust Council in December 2022.
- Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

- MUNI is monitoring the internal governance and management review of the Islands Trust and will continue to engage with the Islands Trust on this matter.



First Nations Engagement

- Interests of an Indigenous People; Intergovernmental Communications
- Provincial staff review the consultation records of all bylaws and plans requiring Ministerial approval to determine whether further consultation or accommodations are required and seek legal counsel to assess the impacts of Trust decisions on Section 35 rights.
- Provincial staff continue to work with Trust staff to improve the engagement process with First Nations while considering the *Declaration Act*.

CONTACT: Tara Faganello, ADM, Local Government Division, 250-365-6575



Local Governments and Climate Action

ISSUE

- Expectations and roles for local governments in climate preparedness, adaptation, and mitigation are set out in the CleanBC Roadmap to 2030, the Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy (2022-2025), and the 2022 Local Government Climate Action Program.

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- **Government recognizes that communities play a critical role in strengthening climate resilience in B.C. and the importance of supporting local governments in adapting to a changing climate.**
- **The Province is working with Indigenous Nations, local governments, and other organizations to reduce risks from heatwaves, flooding and wildfires, as well as enhance climate resilience, health and wellness.**
- **Through the Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy (CPAS) and CleanBC Roadmap to 2030, the Province is working with local governments to enhance climate resilience.**
- **Last year, \$76 million was dedicated to the Local Government Climate Action Program, providing local governments and modern treaty First Nations with funding to direct local climate action initiatives.**
- **The Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program has two climate related approvals:**
 - **CleanBC Communities Fund final intake will approve \$134 million to projects later this year. This funding follows \$88.6 million committed in the earlier intakes.**
 - **Adaptation, Resilience and Disaster Mitigation will approve \$81.8 million to structural flood mitigation projects. This is in addition to the \$55.9 million approved for flood projects through the ICIP-Covid-19 Resilience Infrastructure stream. Both are administered by Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness.**

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- **The Ministries of Housing, Water, Land and Resource Stewardship, and Emergency Management and Climate Readiness, are working on initiatives to provide local governments with better information on hazard mapping, to support better decisions on land use and infrastructure placement.**
- **The \$10 million Complete Communities Fund in September 2022 is being developed by Ministry of Housing with the Union of BC Municipalities to support local governments and modern Treaty Nations in creating more complete communities to meet the goals of the CleanBC Roadmap to 2030.**

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- Local governments are showing increased ambition as climate leaders, as demonstrated through the recommendations from the UBCM Special Committee on Climate Action and local or regional declarations of climate emergencies, net-zero commitments, and climate plans.
- The province is supporting local governments to become more resilient in the face of climate change through a range of related initiatives.

CleanBC Roadmap

- Key programs for local government included under the CleanBC Roadmap to 2030 announced in 2022 were the CleanBC Communities Fund and the Local Government Climate Action Program (LGCAP).
- See Estimates Note #20 *Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program* (page 3) for more information about the CleanBC Communities Fund.
- LGCAP was allocated \$76 million in Budget 2022, to be delivered over 3 years: All local governments and Modern Treaty First Nations are eligible, if they sign-on to the Climate Action Charter and complete a survey on mitigation and resilience activities. Initial payments were made in September 2022 and funding is in place through 2024/25, with an expectation of extension.

Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy (CPAS)

- The goal of CPAS for local governments is reduced community climate risks and enhanced resilience to climate-related extreme weather events by 2025, so that community infrastructure, economy and health system are better prepared for a changing climate.

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- CPAS connects government initiatives to support safe and healthy communities under five themes:
 1. *Community adaptation planning and implementation* – Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (delivered by Union of BC Municipalities [UBCM]), Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability Analysis Toolkit, LGCAP;
 2. *Indigenous-led climate adaptation knowledge and capacity building* - Indigenous climate research and data portal (delivered by the First Nations Emergency Services Society [FNESS]);
 3. *Wildfire prevention and mitigation* - Community Resiliency Investment Program (delivered by UBCM and FNESS), wildfire risk reduction and cultural and prescribed burning;
 4. *Enhanced flood management* – commitment to a B.C. Flood Strategy and Resilience Plan, and floodplain mapping; and
 5. *Health and wellness* - extreme heat preparedness, low-carbon climate resilient health system, and food security.

Complete Communities

- Minister Cullen announced the \$10 million Complete Communities Funding Program at the 2022 UBCM Convention, to support local governments and modern Treaty Nations in undertaking community assessments to understand their strengths, challenges, and opportunities to create communities that are more walkable, accessible, age-friendly, equitable, and economically resilient.
- The Ministry of Housing is working with UBCM to develop the funding program and a Guide, which will support local governments and modern Treaty Nations in advancing the goals of the 'Communities' and 'Transportation' pathways set out in the CleanBC Roadmap to 2030.

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



LNG Canada & Coastal GasLink Socio-Economic Management Plans

ISSUE

- The Ministry of Municipal Affairs (MUNI) is collaborating with provincial agencies, including the government's Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Canada Implementation Secretariat, to ensure the socio-economic effects of LNG Canada and Coastal GasLink's projects on B.C. communities are identified and appropriately addressed.

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- **Building a strong, sustainable, innovative economy is a priority for our government.**
- **LNG Canada and Coastal GasLink are expected to provide \$23 billion in direct provincial revenue, and lasting, multi-generational benefits to B.C. and Canada.**
- **Large projects like these can also have adverse direct and indirect impacts on host communities, affecting community utilities, housing, health care, social services, childcare and emergency services.**
- **We are working to ensure effective delivery of provincial programs and services to support communities impacted by LNG projects.**
- **The Northern Healthy Communities Fund is available to northern communities who are facing increased and/or specific needs due to the social impacts of economic growth in this region.**
- **We are also monitoring the implementation of Environmental Assessment Certificate conditions that require LNG Canada and Coastal GasLink to mitigate community socio-economic effects.**

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- LNG Canada and Coastal GasLink's Environmental Assessment Certificates require the development of socio-economic effects management plans to address the potential effects of the projects on services and infrastructure delivered by provincial agencies, Indigenous Nations, and local governments.

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- LNG Canada and Coastal GasLink are implementing plans in consultation with MUNI:
 - LNG Canada - Community Level Infrastructure and Services Management Plan (CLISMP) includes actions to mitigate the project's adverse direct effects on community level infrastructure and services; approaches to engagement, monitoring and reporting; and an adaptive management process for mitigation of effects not previously anticipated.
 - Coastal GasLink - Socio-Economic Effects Management Plan (SEEMP) includes actions to engage affected parties, mitigate potential adverse effects on regional and community infrastructure and services, monitor and report on effectiveness of mitigation and adaptively manage where monitoring indicates a mitigation action is not achieving its intended outcome.
- MUNI is one of 20 provincial agencies that work with the government's LNG Canada Implementation Secretariat on the Social and Economic Management Committee (SEMC). The SEMC monitors socio-economic effects from LNG Canada and Coastal GasLink construction and operations activities on communities and supports the effective delivery of provincial programs and services to mitigate those effects.
- MUNI has also met with Indigenous and local government communities on a semi-annual basis over the last three years.
- The province has established a Deputy Minister LNG Steering Committee and the ADM of the Local Government Division sits on the LNG Canada Executive Project Board to oversee the implementation of the LNG Canada and Coastal GasLink projects.
- Where applicable, MUNI also helps ensure consideration of non-regulatory matters related to local governments that fall outside of the scope of the CLISMP or SEEMP, by directing matters such as local government concerns about lack of LNG-related employment activities to the SEMC/appropriate provincial agency.

CONTACT: Tara Faganello, ADM, Local Government Division, 250-365-6575



Northern Healthy Communities Fund

ISSUE

- Status update on the Northern Healthy Communities Fund.

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- **Twenty-nine (29) new projects received support from the Northern Healthy Communities Fund (Fund) in 2022/23, investing more than \$5.3 million in the long-term resilience of northern communities experiencing major economic development.**
- **The \$25 million Fund was established in February 2021 and is available to local governments, First Nations and non-profit organizations near the LNG Canada and Coastal Gaslink that are facing increased and/or specific needs due to social impacts of rapid economic growth.**
- **The Fund can provide up to \$300,000 per application for capacity-building projects and up to \$500,000 for capital projects, to help communities meet increased demand for key social services.**
- **The Fund is administered by the Northern Development Initiative Trust, which reviews projects and awards funding quarterly.**

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- The Province entered into an agreement with the Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT) on March 31, 2020, to establish a \$25 million funding program for communities adjacent to the LNG Canada and Coastal GasLink projects.
- The eligible communities named in the agreement have been directly impacted by the ongoing construction of the LNG Canada and Coastal GasLink projects, or have been deemed, through the Environmental Assessment or Pipeline Benefit Agreement processes, to be impacted by the projects. There are 22 local governments and 27 First Nations eligible.
- Over six years (2020-2026) the Fund will support those communities to remain healthy, sustainable and resilient while facing rapid and large-scale economic development.
- The program is providing two funding streams:

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- Capacity Building Stream: Applicants are eligible to receive up to 90 percent of the eligible budget, to a maximum of \$300,000, for projects such as expanding hours for childcare centres, hiring more employees for mental health services or supporting small business recruitment, retention and resiliency.
- Capital Stream: Applicants are eligible to receive up to 80 percent of the eligible project budget, to a maximum of \$500,000 for projects such as renovating a childcare facility, a mental health services building, multi-unit housing, or undertaking upgrades to an Indigenous cultural space.
- Applications are received on a rolling basis, with applications reviewed and approvals announced after each quarterly application deadline. Since 2021, 65 projects have been approved for a total of \$9,463,656 for capacity building and capital projects (see Attachments A and B, respectively).
- Under the funding agreement, NDIT administers and manages the fund, and is entitled to deduct an administrative fee equal to 4 percent of the funding payment to defray its actual costs.
- The NDIT is implementing a marketing program to ensure that all eligible communities are better aware of the program and its possibilities to support community needs. In the fall of 2022, the NDIT hired an Indigenous Liaison Officer to work with First Nations Communities to increase update of the program.

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Attachment A: Northern Healthy Communities – Funded Capacity Building Projects

Proponent	Project Name	Eligibility Area	Approved Amount
2022/23			\$3,389,630
Innovation Central Society	Training for the Northern Workforce	Prince George	\$68,706
Ksan House Society	Mental Health Coordination and Support	Terrace	\$99,999
Kitimaat Valley Education Society	Leadership Training Initiative	District of Kitimat	\$76,750
Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine	Communications Coordinator	Kitimat Stikine	\$86,060
Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine	Junior Planner	Kitimat Stikine	\$62,561
Prince George Hospice Palliative Care Society	Hospice at Home	Prince George	\$100,000
Regional District of Bulkley Nechako	First Nations Engagement	Bulkley Nechako	\$76,948
Northern British Columbia Tourism Association	Northern BC Tourism Resiliency Program	Prince George	\$99,750
Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine	Emergency Services – fire prevention coordinator	Kitimat Stikine	\$82,260
De K'ant Friendship Centre Society	First Aid	Houston	\$45,150
Governing Council of the Salvation Army in Canada	Additional Food Bank Worker	Fort St. John	\$36,223
Town of Smithers	Smithers Childcare Plan Implementation	Smithers	\$27,000
District of Mackenzie	Childcare Project Manager	Mackenzie	\$106,312
District of Kitimat	Kitimat Bound – Business and Workforce Retention Program	Kitimat	\$289,565
Village of Telkwa	Emergency Services – Emergency Program Coordinator	Telkwa	\$51,663
City of Terrace	Community Safety Officer - 1	Terrace	\$210,897
City of Terrace	Community Safety Officer - 2	Terrace	\$210,897
City of Terrace	Development Permit Review Support	Terrace	\$299,997
City of Terrace	Engineering Project Management and Design Consulting	Terrace	\$299,977
City of Terrace	Planner 1 position	Terrace	\$179,668
City of Terrace	Public Works Management Consulting	Terrace	\$299,977
City of Terrace	Road Design Works Capacity	Terrace	\$93,240
City of Terrace	Social Services Capacity Support	Terrace	\$243,000
City of Terrace	Housing and Development Planning and Support	Terrace	\$243,000



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Proponent	Project Name	Eligibility Area	Approved Amount
2021/22			\$2,209,409
Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine	First Nations Liaison	Kitimat-Stikine	\$100,000
Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako	First Nations Engagement Capacity Building	Bulkley-Nechako	\$62,934
Nawican Friendship Centre	Nawican Family Wellness Program	Dawson Creek	\$100,000
Ksan House Society	Mental Health Coordination & Support	Terrace	\$79,722
Kitimaat Valley Education Society dba Kitimat Valley Institute	Kitimaat Valley Education Society Leadership Training Initiative	Kitimat	\$86,153
Dze L K'ant Friendship Centre Society	Healthy Children, Healthy Families, Healthy Communities	Smithers	\$95,517
Doig River First Nation	Tsaa Natsadle Programs Manager - Capacity Building	Doig River	\$98,000
Connexus Community Resources Society	Mental Health and Addiction Services	Fraser Lake	\$98,797
Connexus Community Resources Society	Child and Youth Mental Health and Addiction Services	Fort St. James	\$99,617
City of Terrace	City of Terrace Social Development Program	Terrace	\$100,000
Canadian Mental Health Association of Northern BC	Peer Support Expansion for Northern BC	Prince George	\$82,000
Mackenzie Counselling Services Society	Rest of Us Counselling Program	Mackenzie	\$80,097
Positive Living North	Support Service and Mental Health Department Expansion	Prince George	\$46,980
South Peace Art Society	Dawson Creek Art Gallery Program Expansion	Dawson Creek	\$87,120
Terrace & District Community Services Society	Family Peer Support Worker Program	Terrace	\$50,815
Kitimat Community Services Society	Community Resource Worker	Kitimat	\$76,627
District of Kitimat	District of Kitimat	Kitimat	\$93,600
Peace River Regional District	First Nations Liaison	Peace River	\$100,000
Prince George Sexual Assault Centre Society	Healthy Thriving Communities	Prince George	\$79,500
Dunne Za Ventures Limited Partnership	Workforce Transition Pilot	Fort St. John	\$94,930
Wilset First nation	Industry and Lands Engagement	Morice town	\$100,000
Regional District of Kitimat Stikine	Incremental Staffing in Development Services	Kitimat Stikine	\$97,000
Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine	Thornhill Sewer System Expansion Master Plan	Kitimat Stikine	\$100,000
Regional District of Kitimat Stikine	Thornhill Zoning Bylaw and SDC Bylaw updates	Kitimat Stikine	\$100,000
Total Capacity Building Projects			\$5,599,039

Attachment B: Northern Healthy Communities – Funded Capital Projects

Proponent	Project Name	Eligibility Area	Approved Amount
2022/23			\$1,940,750
Tamik Status of Women Association	Transitional Housing and 24 hour daycare	Terrace	\$500,000
Campus Kids Daycare	Daycare Building Expansion Furnishings	Dawson Creek	\$20,750
Village of Fraser Lake	Fraser Lake Curling Rink Upgrade	Fraser Lake	\$500,000
Ksan House Society	Shelter Renovation and Upgrades	Terrace	\$420,000
Terrace and District Community Services Society	Terrace Foundry Centre	Terrace	\$500,000
2021/22			\$1,923,867
Village of Fraser Lake	Fraser Lake Emergency Services Expansion-Fire Engine	Fraser Lake	\$300,000
Bulkley Valley Little Horizons Child Care Association	Little Horizons Childcare Centre Renovations	Smithers	\$232,000
Nawican Friendship Centre	Nawican Emergency Temporary Shelter - Facility Upgrades	Dawson Creek	\$120,000
Fort St. James Primary Care Society	Primary Care Center - Mental Health and Addictions Program	Fort St. James	\$87,000
Carrier Sekani Family Services	Healing/Treatment Centre	Prince George	\$300,000
Fort St. John Friendship Society	Building Expansion Project	Fort St. John	\$213,520
Lakes District Family Enhancement Society	Link Food Centre Renovation	Burns Lake	\$57,372
South Peace Health Services Society	Bultery's Community House	Dawson Creek	\$300,000
Smithers Community Radio Society	Building Sustainability for a Safer Community	Smithers	\$13,975
Total Funded Capital Projects			\$3,864,617



Metro Vancouver Regional Growth and Transportation Strategies (Joint with MOTI)

ISSUE

- Metro Vancouver Regional District (Metro) adopted the Metro 2050 Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) on February 24, 2023, which complements the Transport 2050 Regional Transportation Strategy (RTS) approved by TransLink in early 2022.

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- **I am pleased that Metro Vancouver and TransLink worked closely to ensure alignment between the *Metro 2050* Regional Growth Strategy and the *Transport 2050* Regional Transportation Strategy.**
- **The Province appreciates being involved as a partner in developing *Metro 2050* and *Transport 2050*.**
- **Cooperation in the Metro Vancouver region is more important than ever to manage growth and address many complex challenges and interrelated goals.**
- **Regional cooperation is essential to making progress on reconciliation with First Nations, affordable housing, equity, climate action, transportation and economic development.**
- **The alignment of community plans with the RGS and RTS are a key way that these plans shape future land use, transportation and development in Metro Vancouver to the benefit the region and the province.**

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Metro 2050

- Metro Vancouver Regional District (Metro) recently updated its Regional Growth Strategy (RGS), *Metro 2050*.
- The previous RGS, *Metro 2040*, was adopted in 2011, and the 2050 update process addressed identified policy gaps while responding to emerging trends, such as refining land use policies built around the regional transit network to help shape future growth.

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- Metro circulated the RGS bylaw and draft *Metro 2050* to the councils of its member jurisdictions (21 municipalities, one electoral area, TransLink, and the Tsawwassen First Nation) for acceptance between April and July 2022, as part of the legislative process to adopt the RGS bylaw.
 - While the majority were prepared to accept the RGS, the Metro Board indicated in September 2022 that further work was needed to resolve objections from the City of Surrey and Township of Langley.
 - Following the general local election, the new councils in both municipalities reconsidered the previous objections.
 - Surrey has now fully accepted *Metro 2050* and Langley has accepted subject to discussions of several technical matters with Metro. Metro discussions with Langley are underway.
- With member acceptance now complete, Metro adopted the RGS bylaw on February 24, 2023.

Transport 2050

- *Transport 2050* was approved by the TransLink Mayors' Council in early 2022.
- The RTS long-term vision sees active transportation and transit as competitive choices, accounting for at least half of all passenger trips by 2050 that matches *CleanBC Roadmap* objectives to reduce distance travelled by car and shift travel mode share to 50 percent walk, bike and transit by 2050.

Provincial Involvement

- The Province contributed to both the RGS and RTS at the executive/elected official level through the Policymakers Coordination Forum (PCF) and at the staff level through a cross-ministry Provincial Working Group (PWG).
- The PWG gave feedback on *Metro 2050* and *Transport 2050* as they worked toward a range of provincial priorities such as affordable housing; integrated land use and transportation planning; climate action, community resilience.

Coordination and Implementation

- Metro has worked closely with TransLink to align the updated RGS with the RTS, *Transport 2050*.
- As *Transport 2050* and *Metro 2050* move into implementation, the province will continue working closely with the region to deliver on the long-term goals and targets of the strategies.
- Once adopted, municipal official community plans must be aligned with the RGS, giving the policy objectives of the RGS (and RTS) local impact in the region.

CONTACT: Tara Faganello, ADM, Local Government Division, 250-365-6575



Public Library Funding

ISSUE

- Campaign to increase provincial funding for public libraries.

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- **Libraries are a vital part of supporting people, wherever they live in British Columbia.**
- **The Province contributes \$14 million annually to public libraries.**
- **The pandemic highlighted people's need for digital access, lifelong learning services and programs, and with our \$8 million investment last year, we are helping libraries recover and providing targeted supports.**
- **We are aware of the social and economic pressures facing libraries and communities.**
- **The Province reinvested in public libraries with an additional \$45 million in 2022/23 to public library and literacy initiatives to provide targeted supports and build capacity across libraries.**
- **With those funds, we are also investing in provincial digital collections—ensuring that digital content is available through all public libraries.**
- **The Ministry continues to work with the library community to identify priorities and make smart investments through planning and collaboration.**

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- Local governments provide the majority of funding to public libraries (95 percent on average, but there are significant differences between libraries in smaller versus larger communities).
- Government has committed \$14 million in funding for public libraries within the Ministry's budget in 2023/24, which has been the level of funding since 2009/10.
- This annual provincial investment focuses on increasing the reach of services and collections and supporting libraries in smaller communities (provincial funding ranged from 2 to 67 percent of libraries' operating budgets in 2021).

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- The public library community, local governments and CUPE BC continue to call on government to increase the provincial portion of funding for public libraries, calling for an annual increase of \$9 million to \$23 million per year. Local governments are also asking the province to increase its investment in recognition of the libraries important community role.
- In March 2023, MUNI distributed \$45 million in one-time grants to libraries and sector organizations. This funding helps:
 - Address changing demands for local services, life-long learning and workforce skills, more accessible spaces, and digital collections.
 - Help libraries adapt physical and virtual library spaces to make them safer, more inclusive, and accessible.
 - Extend services developed during the pandemic.
 - Build a core provincial public library collection of digital resources that people can access with their library card.
 - Strengthen capacity of libraries to serve people and plan for the future.
- In 2023, libraries received their annual provincial library grants in March instead of June. We are also accelerating some annual grants to library partners.
- All the funds were distributed using a well-established framework and way of managing the grants to libraries and partners.
- The \$45 million investment is the third one-time investment in public libraries in four years.
- In March 2022, MUNI allocated \$8 million in COVID-19 Relief and Recovery funding to public libraries and sector organizations. This funding is helping to:
 - adapt physical and virtual library spaces to make them safer;
 - address changing demands for virtual programs/activities, Internet broadband and digital collections;
 - extend or continue services developed during the pandemic (takeaway, lendable computers);
 - build upon local emergency planning and response efforts.
- In March 2020, a one-time investment of \$3 million was made to improve access to digital collections and technology.
- Annual funding is distributed in June:
 - Four grants are provided directly to public libraries: *Per Capita Operating, Resource Sharing, BC OneCard, and Literacy/Equity.*

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- Four grants are provided to partner associations and library federations for operations, technology and alternate formats that deliver support of provincial services/programs, training and system-wide support.
- Grants to public libraries were kept the same in 2022 as in 2021, ensuring that no library system experienced a provincial funding reduction, despite significant population changes in some communities since the last allocation calculation.
- The \$23 million by 2023 advocacy campaign calls for increased and sustainable funding—so that libraries are better able to plan for core operations as they face strained budgets due to inflation and other social/economic pressures.
- Ministry staff continue to review the funding framework (distribution) as part of actions under the Strategic Plan; also, as part of that work, a plan will be developed for Minister's consideration on the approach and next steps.

CONTACT: Tara Faganello, ADM, Local Government Division, 250-356-6575
Mari Martin, Director, Public Libraries Branch, 250-886-2584



Community Literacy Funding

ISSUE

- Funding for Community Literacy Programs.

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- **Literacy is one of life's essential skills and is connected to living a longer and a healthier life. It opens the doors to meaningful work and new learning opportunities.**
- **The province provides \$2.185 million annually to Decoda's *Literacy Outreach Coordination Program*.**
 - Decoda supports 100 Literacy Outreach Coordinators, who provide literacy programming support in 400 communities.
 - Decoda uses a community-based, local approach to literacy, as learning happens in the context of home and community.
- **The province is also pleased to continue its support of the Vancouver Sun's annual *Raise a Reader* campaign, with its \$500,000 contribution in 2022.**
- **The *Raise a Reader* campaign plays a vital role in increasing literacy awareness, community involvement and much-needed funding for literacy programs.**

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- Community literacy programming develops literacy and learning skills for individuals and groups outside of the formal education system.
- Ministry of Municipal Affairs funds community literacy through the *Literacy Outreach Coordination Program* and the *Raise a Reader* campaign.

Decoda Literacy Outreach Coordination (LOC) Program (\$2.185 million)

- Decoda is B.C.'s key provincial literacy organization and coordinates the LOC program and other provincial programs, such as Community Adult Literacy Program funded by the Ministry of Post Secondary Education and Future Skills.

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- The province has provided \$2.185 million each year since 2015 to Decoda's LOC Program in support of coordination across 400 communities through 100 literacy task groups.
 - Beyond coordination of the LOC program, Decoda provides professional development, learning resources and support for 100 Literacy Outreach Coordinators.
 - Task Groups identify literacy needs and priorities, then develop action plans to deliver literacy programs and services that best serve people in their communities. The local coordinators help the task group collaborate and report on their progress.
 - Task Groups are made up of representatives from various community organizations, including libraries, family resource programs, employment agencies, business community, K-12 school system, and literacy organizations.
- LOC Program outcomes include:
 - Increased awareness of need for essential literacy skills at the community level;
 - Better linkages between formal and informal education programs;
 - Growth of professional development opportunities for community-based literacy practitioners; and
 - A stronger community-based network of literacy organizations.

Raise a Reader Campaign (\$500K)

- The awareness and fundraising campaigns are held in September, during Literacy Month and communities raise approximately \$400,000 annually.
- Decoda manages the funding and distribution on behalf of the Vancouver Sun (Postmedia), fund raising communities and the province. Communities receive different grants each year depending on the total funds raised and their communities' contributions.
- Funds are used by communities to build literacy awareness, host family programs and purchase literacy materials.

CONTACT: Tara Faganello, ADM, Local Government Division, 250-356-6575
Mari Martin, Director, Public Libraries Branch, 250-886-2584



Summary – Decrease to Budget

ISSUE

- Changes to budget in 2023/24.

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- **Overall Municipal Affairs (MUNI) saw a budget decrease in 2023/24 compared to 2022/23 of about \$1.5 billion.**
- **The majority of that decrease was based on Supplementary Estimates in 2022/23 (\$1 billion 495 million).**
- **Excluding Supplementary Estimates in 2022/23, Municipal Affairs saw an increase of almost \$13 million (\$12.859 million) to base budget in 2023/24.**
- **Budget for an additional 4 FTEs will support programs and initiatives related to the Ukraine response.**

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- Overall MUNI saw a budget decrease in 2023/24 compared to 2022/23 of \$1 billion 482.141 million:

2023/24 Estimates Budget (000s)	2022/23 Restated with Supplementary Estimates	2023/24 Estimates	Variance
Local Government	218,302	220,673	2,371
Local Government (Supplementary Estimates)	1,495,000	0	-1,495,000
Immigration Services and Strategic Planning	17,780	25,717	7,937
Executive and Support Services	8,066	9,321	1,255
University Endowment Lands Administration	12,269	13,565	1,296
Total	1,751,417	269,276	-1,482,141

- The decrease was primarily due to the Supplementary Estimates process in 2022/23 that MUNI's base budget increased \$1.495B which included Growing Communities Fund (\$1B), Critical Community Infrastructure (\$450M) and Public Library Grants (\$45M).
- Offsetting that decrease was a base budget increase of \$12.859M which included:

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- \$1.141M increase to Local Government Transfers including \$80k for Bulkley Nechako / Kitimat Stikine Regional Districts and \$1.061M for Peace River Agreement.
- \$2.897M increase due to budget lift for Shared Wage Mandate.
- \$1.296M increase to the University Endowment Lands Special account.
- \$64k to the Minister's Office resources.
- \$7.461M increase for Settlement Support for Newcomers
- Budget for additional 4 FTEs are to support programs and initiatives related to the Ukraine response under Settlement Support for Newcomers.
- The funding for programs related to COVID, Ukraine settlement supports and floods flowed through contingencies funding in 2022/23.

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Budget and Forecast over the Next Three Years

ISSUE

- Breakdown of the budget and forecast for Municipal Affairs over the next three fiscal years.

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- Breakdown of the Municipal Affairs budget and forecast over the next three years, including operating and capital expenditures are as follows:
 - Estimates budget of \$269.276 million operating in 2023/24 with an additional \$835k in capital;
 - Forecast of \$281.878 million operating in 2024/25 with an additional \$2k in capital;
 - Forecast of \$283.237 million operating in 2025/26 with an additional \$2k in capital.

Municipal Affairs	2022/23 Restated Estimates ¹	203/24 Estimates	2024/25 Plan	2025/26 Plan
Operating Expenses (\$000)				
Total	256,417	269,276	281,878	283,237
Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000)				
Total	2,354	835	2	2

¹ For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2022/23 have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2023/24 Estimates. This does not include Supplementary Estimates for 2022/23.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Financial Summary:

Core Business Area	2022/23 Restated Estimates ¹	203/24 Estimates	2024/25 Plan	2025/26 Plan
Operating Expenses (\$000)				
Local Government ²	218,302	220,673	219,058	219,058
Immigration Services and Strategic Planning ³	17,780	25,717	38,706	40,065
Executive and Support Services	8,066	9,321	9,535	9,535
University Endowment Lands Administration Account	12,269	13,565	14,579	14,579
Total	256,417	269,276	281,878	283,237
Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000)				
Executive and Support Services	69	2	2	2
University Endowment Lands Administration Account	2,285	833	0	0
Total	2,354	835	2	2

¹ For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2022/23 have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2023/24 Estimates. This does not include Supplementary Estimates for 2022/23.

² Local Government includes University Endowment Lands (UEL)

³ Immigration Services and Strategic Planning includes Strategic Planning, Immigration programs, Provincial Nominee Program and Community Gaming Grants

- The capital budget of \$835k in 2023/24 is for the University Endowment Lands Administration Account for the Westbrook Mall road capital project and this is the final year for this project.
- The capital in 2024/25 and 2025/26 of \$2k is a placeholder for office equipment that is capitalized.

CONTACT: Alana Best, ADM/EFO, Management Services Division 250-507-8461



Summary – Increase to FTES

ISSUE

- Increase to FTES.

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

- **As of February 28th, 2023, Ministry of Municipal Affairs (MUNI) saw a Full Time Equivalent (FTE) average burn increase of 6 FTEs compared to Restated 2021/22 average.**
- **The reduction of 7 FTEs in Local Government Division was related to hiring lags.**
- **The increase of 12 FTEs in the workforce and Immigration was related to the Ukraine response (4 FTEs) to administer the Settlement Support for Newcomers program, Provincial Nominee Program (7 FTEs) for nominee application review, and additional work in Strategic Planning related to the above items (1 FTE).**
- **Executive and Support Services saw an increase of 1 FTE that was related to additional corporate services support for MUNI.**

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- Average burn is based on the average number of FTE's working during the fiscal year. This takes into account staff starting or leaving partway through a fiscal year and gives an average of the total FTE's each month.
- 2021/22 average burn was restated to include the reduction for Development Approvals Process Review (DAPR) and Foreign Credential Recognition (FCR) transfers in 2022/23 for comparative purposes.
- DAPR responsibilities transferred to Ministry of Housing resulting in a decrease of 20 FTEs in MUNI but are not reflected in the year over year change due to the restatement of 2021/22 average burn.
- Foreign Credentials Recognition responsibilities transferred to Ministry of Post Secondary Education and Future Skills resulting in a decrease of 4 FTEs in MUNI but are not reflected in the year over year change due to the restatement of 2021/22 average burn.

Breakdown of the FTE average burn year over year change from 2021/22 to 2022/23:

	FTE Average Burn as at March 31, 2022 Restated ¹	FTE Average Burn as at February 28, 2023	Year over year change
Local Government	87	82	-5
University Endowment Lands	22	20	-2
Subtotal Local Government	109	102	-7
Strategic Planning	6	7	1
Workforce and Immigration	95	106	11
Community Gaming Grants	18	18	0
Subtotal Immigration Services and Strategic Planning	119	131	12
Ministers' Offices ²	5	5	0
Deputy Minister's Office	7	7	0
Corporate Services ³	74	75	1
Subtotal Executive and Support Services	86	87	1
Total MUNI FTE's	314	320	6
JEDI Management Services FTES ⁴	33	36	3
Total Including JEDI Management Services FTE	347	356	9
Notes: 1 March 31, 2022 FTE count restated to MUNI's current organizational structure - 20 FTEs transferred out from Planning and Land Use Management & 4 FTEs from Intergovernmental Relations and Credential Recognition 2 Ministers' Offices salaries and benefits budget supports a staffing complement of 5 FTEs 3 Corporate Services includes ADMO office and Management Services supporting the 4 Economy Sector Ministries 4 Includes management services FTEs supporting 4 Economy Sector ministries (36 of these FTEs are on JEDI's payroll)			

CONTACT: Alana Best, ADM/EFO, Management Services Division 250-507-8461

MINISTRY OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

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

MINISTRY SUMMARY

(\$000)

	Estimates 2022/23 ¹	Estimates 2023/24
VOTED APPROPRIATION		
Vote 40 — Ministry Operations.....	244,148	255,711
STATUTORY APPROPRIATION		
University Endowment Lands Administration Account.....	12,269	13,565
OPERATING EXPENSES	<u>256,417</u>	<u>269,276</u>
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES ²	2,354	835
LOANS, INVESTMENTS AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS ³	—	—
REVENUE COLLECTED FOR, AND TRANSFERRED TO, OTHER ENTITIES ⁴	—	—

NOTES

¹ For comparative purposes, figures shown for the 2022/23 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 2023/24 *Estimates*. A reconciliation of restated operating expenses and capital expenditures is presented in Schedule A.

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

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

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

MINISTRY OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

SUMMARY BY CORE BUSINESS

(\$000)

	2022/23	2023/24 ESTIMATES		
OPERATING EXPENSES	Net	Gross	External Recoveries	Net
Core Business				
Local Government.....	218,302	410,359	(189,686)	220,673
Immigration Services and Strategic Planning.....	17,780	175,419	(149,702)	25,717
Executive and Support Services.....	8,066	9,324	(3)	9,321
University Endowment Lands Administration Account Special Account.....	12,269	13,565	—	13,565
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	256,417	608,667	(339,391)	269,276
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	Capital Expenditures	Capital Expenditures	Receipts and P3 Liabilities	Net
Core Business				
Executive and Support Services.....	69	2	—	2
University Endowment Lands Administration Account Special Account.....	2,285	833	—	833
TOTAL	2,354	835	—	835

MINISTRY OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

VOTE DESCRIPTIONS

(\$000)

Estimates
2022/23Estimates
2023/24

VOTE 40 — MINISTRY OPERATIONS

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

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Voted Appropriations

Local Government Services and Transfers.....	212,102	214,473
University Endowment Lands.....	6,200	6,200
	<u>218,302</u>	<u>220,673</u>

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

IMMIGRATION SERVICES AND STRATEGIC PLANNING

Voted Appropriations

Strategic Planning.....	530	605
Workforce and Immigration.....	15,568	23,198
Community Gaming Grants.....	1,682	1,914
	<u>17,780</u>	<u>25,717</u>

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

EXECUTIVE AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Voted Appropriations

Minister's Office.....	629	693
Corporate Services.....	7,437	8,628
	<u>8,066</u>	<u>9,321</u>

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

VOTE 40 — MINISTRY OPERATIONS

244,148

255,711

MINISTRY OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

STATUTORY DESCRIPTIONS

(\$000)

Estimates
2022/23Estimates
2023/24

STATUTORY APPROPRIATIONS

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

UNIVERSITY ENDOWMENT LANDS ADMINISTRATION ACCOUNT

Statutory Appropriation

University Endowment Lands Administration Account.....	12,269	13,565
--	--------	--------

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

MINISTRY GROUP ACCOUNT CLASSIFICATION SUMMARY

GROUP ACCOUNT CLASSIFICATION

Salaries and Benefits	29,240	32,795
Operating Costs	14,382	15,303
Government Transfers	558,614	560,336
Other Expenses	12,506	13,802
Internal Recoveries	(12,273)	(13,569)
External Recoveries	(346,052)	(339,391)
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES.....	256,417	269,276

MINISTRY OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

SPECIAL ACCOUNTS¹

(\$000)

	Estimates 2022/23	Estimates 2023/24
UNIVERSITY ENDOWMENT LANDS ADMINISTRATION ACCOUNT		
This account was established as a Miscellaneous Statutory Account by authority of the <i>University Endowment Lands Administration Act</i> and was continued under the <i>University Endowment Land Act</i> in 1979. This account provides for services to residents of the University Endowment Lands. Revenue is derived from University Endowment Lands resident ratepayer contributions, including fees, licences, and property taxes. Other revenue sources (net of direct costs) include land sales, rent from land tenures, fees, and the recovery of costs associated with a redevelopment/rezoning process. Expenses include the ratepayer's portion of costs transferred from the Ministry Operations Vote for services provided.		
SPENDING AUTHORITY AVAILABLE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE FISCAL YEAR ².....	24,697	22,708
OPERATING TRANSACTIONS		
Revenue.....	12,269	13,565
Expense.....	(12,269)	(13,565)
Net Revenue (Expense).....	—	—
FINANCING TRANSACTIONS		
Receipts.....	—	—
Disbursements.....	—	—
Capital Expenditures.....	(2,285)	(833)
Net Cash Source (Requirement).....	(2,285)	(833)
Working Capital Adjustments and Other Spending Authority Committed ³	296	327
PROJECTED SPENDING AUTHORITY AVAILABLE AT THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR ².....	22,708	22,202

NOTES

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

² The Spending Authority Available at the Beginning of the Fiscal Year 2022/23 is based on the 2021/22 *Public Accounts*. The Projected Spending Authority Available at the End of the Fiscal Year represents the cash and temporary investments projected to be available at the end of each fiscal year.

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

MINISTRY OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS (\$000)

[↑ TOC](#)

VOTE 40 Ministry Operations

Description	Total 2022/23 Operating Expenses	50	51	52	54	Total Salaries and Benefits	55	57	59	60	63	65	67	68	69
Local Government	218,302	9,314	87	2,365	—	11,766	—	220	655	3,814	250	509	—	2	6,291
Local Government Services and Transfers	212,102	7,642	55	1,941	—	9,638	—	213	545	664	221	224	—	2	—
University Endowment Lands	6,200	1,672	32	424	—	2,128	—	7	110	3,150	29	285	—	—	6,291
Immigration Services and Strategic Planning	17,780	10,162	14	2,581	—	12,757	—	91	95	19	653	194	30	—	—
Strategic Planning	530	449	2	114	—	565	—	16	—	14	3	9	—	—	—
Workforce and Immigration	15,568	8,235	8	2,092	—	10,335	—	71	95	5	617	166	30	—	—
Community Gaming Grants	1,682	1,478	4	375	—	1,857	—	4	—	—	33	19	—	—	—
Executive and Support Services	8,066	6,500	40	1,674	58	8,272	—	136	23	120	326	335	—	—	7
Minister's Office	629	415	—	129	58	602	—	58	—	—	10	20	—	—	—
Corporate Services	7,437	6,085	40	1,545	—	7,670	—	78	23	120	316	315	—	—	7
Total	244,148	25,976	141	6,620	58	32,795	—	447	773	3,953	1,229	1,038	30	2	6,298

Statutory Appropriations

Description	Total 2022/23 Operating Expenses	50	51	52	54	Total Salaries and Benefits	55	57	59	60	63	65	67	68	69
University Endowment Lands Administration Account	12,269	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	12,269	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

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 2023/24 Operating Expenses
750	—	408	9	12,908	195,971	1,123	202,140	399,234	—	—	17	17	(13,565)	(1)	(13,566)	(1,000)	(188,686)	(189,686)	220,673
—	—	81	9	1,959	195,971	1,123	194,158	391,252	—	—	11	11	—	(1)	(1)	—	(188,386)	(188,386)	214,473
750	—	327	—	10,949	—	—	7,982	7,982	—	—	6	6	(13,565)	—	(13,565)	(1,000)	(300)	(1,300)	6,200
—	—	—	275	1,357	140,000	—	21,102	161,102	—	—	204	204	—	(1)	(1)	(1)	(149,701)	(149,702)	25,717
—	—	—	—	42	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(2)	605
—	—	—	275	1,259	—	—	21,102	21,102	—	—	202	202	—	—	—	—	(9,700)	(9,700)	23,198
—	—	—	—	56	140,000	—	—	140,000	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	(140,000)	(140,000)	1,914
16	—	42	33	1,038	—	—	—	—	—	—	16	16	—	(2)	(2)	(2)	(1)	(3)	9,321
3	—	—	—	91	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	693
13	—	42	33	947	—	—	—	—	—	—	16	16	—	(2)	(2)	(2)	(1)	(3)	8,628
766	—	450	317	15,303	335,971	1,123	223,242	560,336	—	—	237	237	(13,565)	(4)	(13,569)	(1,003)	(338,388)	(339,391)	255,711

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 2023/24 Operating Expenses
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13,565	—	—	13,565	—	—	—	—	—	—	13,565
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13,565	—	—	13,565	—	—	—	—	—	—	13,565

Ministry of Municipal Affairs

2023/24 – 2025/26 Service Plan

February 2023



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Published by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs

Minister's Accountability Statement



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

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Anne Kang".

Honourable Anne Kang
Minister of Municipal Affairs
February 13, 2023

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Strategic Direction

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

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

Purpose of the Ministry

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

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

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

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

Operating Environment

Demand for workers across British Columbia and the rest of Canada continues to increase. In response, the federal government has set ambitious national immigration targets in the coming years to help meet the labour needs of employers, including a target of 500,000 new

permanent residents coming to Canada by 2025. In this context, British Columbia will welcome an increasing number of immigrants, and has requested the federal government allow the B.C. Government to make more BC Provincial Nominee Program nominations to select immigrants with the skills that are needed by B.C. employers.

Local governments continue to be challenged by inflation, labour and supply chain markets impacting affordability as labour markets and material shortages escalate costs. These pressures are expected to continue driving up capital project costs. Climate-driven events like the atmospheric rivers and drought conditions continue to prioritize the need for resources to restore and rebuild local and provincial infrastructure. Housing supply and affordability continues to be a priority in every community around the province.

The importance of this issue is reflected in the establishment of the Ministry of Housing in December 2022, consolidation of policy resources that support housing policy, and assignment of responsibility for the Development Approvals Process Review to that ministry. The Ministry of Municipal Affairs will continue to support the renewed Housing Strategy, while maintaining responsibility for core local government land use regulation oversight.

The Ministry will approach these challenges by strengthening relationships with local governments individually and collectively through the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, by deepening understanding of the needs and realities of indigenous communities, by renewing partnerships with provincial agencies involved in development of urban and rural communities, and by seeking opportunities for increased partnerships with the federal government.

Economic Statement

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

Performance Planning

Goal 1: Strong, sustainable, and well-governed communities

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

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

Provincial and local governments have responsibilities that often overlap, interact and intersect. Governments at both levels are, therefore, most effective when policies and services are coordinated to meet the needs of communities, regions, and the province.

Key Strategies

- Work with the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) and other local government partners, to ensure the annual UBCM Convention provides a comprehensive exchange of ideas and optimizes cooperation and collaboration among the Province, UBCM, individual local governments, and UBCM First Nations members.
- Support local governments in building respectful relationships and fostering meaningful and lasting reconciliation with First Nations, consistent with the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (Declaration Act)*, as the Province's framework for reconciliation. Collaborate with UBCM on providing advice to local governments. Under the *Declaration Act*, continue to meet, engage, and collaborate with First Nation communities and Indigenous partners and organizations.
- Review and enhance the policy, legislative and education framework for local governments where needed, including working with key stakeholders and partners to move forward on provincial priorities.
- Provide advice, resolve problems, and give targeted support and oversight on a range of local and regional governance matters of local government and provincial interest, both directly, and in partnership with others.
- Work with public library partners to sustain a public library system that is effectively governed and accountable, where provincial funding helps extend local services and improve access throughout B.C.

Discussion

The general local elections held in October 2022 mark the beginning of a four-year term for local elected officials, and trigger appointments to related agencies and organizations, such as public libraries. Establishing relationships and developing capacity and skills are critical in the first year of the term and achieved through meetings and other opportunities for dialogue as

well as support for more structured educational initiatives like the Local Government Leadership Academy.

Evolving provincial initiatives under the *Declaration Act* impact the context of land use management, services and representation for local governments. As independent governments, municipalities and regional districts in British Columbia are engaged in implementing the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action](#), and look to the Province for guidance on implementation of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, to understand emerging obligations.

The province will continue to follow the principles of the local-provincial relationship that are enshrined in local government legislation. These principles serve all British Columbians and include acknowledgement and respect for each others' jurisdiction, fostering consultation in matters of mutual interest, and work towards harmonization of provincial and local government legislation.

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

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs supports local governments with their legislated financial responsibilities to promote the long-term sustainability of the local government system. This includes support for a system of joint borrowing that results in significant savings on interest costs, benefiting local governments of all sizes. The Ministry also recognizes the need to examine economic issues that currently impact local governments, and to consider the financial system in light of these issues.

Key Strategies

- Support ministries and other partners in reviewing the local government financial system, including pressures related to costs, revenues, and property tax impacts.
- Provide advice on local government finance and statutory approvals to support sound financial management practices and stewardship, ensuring fiscal viability.
- Deliver stable, predictable, and timely grant funding for professional administration to smaller and rural local governments throughout B.C. through the Small Community Grants and Regional District Grants.
- Provide targeted funding to municipalities with over 5,000 people for community safety initiatives, through the Traffic Fine Revenue Sharing Program.
- Support the Municipal Finance Authority (MFA) in obtaining a high credit rating, and low rates for borrowing, through oversight of the *Municipal Finance Authority Act*. Support includes setting local government borrowing limits; reviewing and approving loan authorization bylaws and setting financial reporting requirements; and ensuring local government financial data is available to the MFA and the broader public.
- Work with UBCM through the established Memorandum of Understanding further to the province's commitment to the [Ensuring Local Government Financial Resiliency: Today's Recovery and Tomorrow's New Economy](#) report and recommendations.

Discussion

The emerging economic context of climate change impacts, housing affordability and increases in demand and cost for certain services have put some communities and their local governments under tremendous pressure for additional revenue.

Local governments are primarily reliant on property tax and fees to recover the costs of critical services. As costs of these services and related infrastructure have significantly increased, it has become apparent that communities throughout B.C. have varying levels of capacity to address these costs without impacting service levels.

Community growth and increased housing supply mean local governments will need to fund expanded services and infrastructure. This envisioned future will rely on cost recovery from developers that benefit from growing communities, in addition to property taxes, fees, and grants.

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

Local government responsibilities for community planning, building and maintaining community infrastructure and approving developments influence the shape of communities for decades, and shape the environmental, social, and economic context for future growth and health.

Key Strategies

- Encourage resilient, efficient and effective community planning and fiscal and asset management practices to support the development of sustainable communities.
- Support local governments to make effective, integrated and collaborative choices through problem solving, guidance and program support for delivery of local and regional services such as water, recreation and economic development, and integrated sustainable land use, resiliency and infrastructure planning.
- Support the Ministries of Housing, and Transportation and Infrastructure, in advancing the refreshed provincial Housing Strategy and the elaboration of the Transit-oriented Development Framework by supporting local government implementation of measures to accelerate development approvals.
- Support the implementation of the [CleanBC Roadmap to 2030](#) and Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy by enabling local government land use planning and infrastructure projects through initiatives such as the CleanBC Communities Fund and development of the Complete Communities Program.
- Partner with the federal government and other ministries to develop and implement community capital funding programs for local governments and First Nations that build

and upgrade local infrastructure including drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, clean energy, recreation facilities and community centres.

- Support ministries and other partners to develop initiatives related to integrated planning, transit-oriented development, clean transportation, regional growth strategies, energy and the environment, and housing supply and affordability.

Discussion

Local governments face pressure to manage immediate concerns while also considering long-term impacts of development and infrastructure decisions. The choices local governments make in the form, quantity and location of development approvals and scale, placement and technology of infrastructure have impacts that last for decades, while also meeting urgent needs for affordable homes, a healthy and clean environment, community safety and an economy that supports local jobs.

Provincial and federal resources have traditionally been accessible for major capital projects that support the current scale of population, to make renewal more affordable. Development and growth has been expected to cover the cost of meeting the additional demand placed on services. In response to the urgency of the housing crisis, approaches to fine-tune development finance and provincial investment in infrastructure for anticipated housing is being explored.

Performance Measures

Performance Measure	2022/23 Forecast	2023/24 Target	2024/25 Target	2025/26 Target
1.1 Minister of Municipal Affairs meetings with UBCM Executive, and UBCM member local governments and First Nations, and regional meetings with local government leaders.	155+	155+	155+	155+

Data source: Meeting schedules (calendar meeting invites) and agendas for senior staff and Minister's meeting. Meetings with Ministry staff that occur at UBCM Convention are included, but other meetings are not counted.

Discussion

The ministry meets with local governments on a wide variety of topics throughout the year to hear their experiences and perspectives and look for opportunities to align interests and priorities and resolve pressing concerns.

The relationship between the Minister of Municipal Affairs and the UBCM Executive highlights the role of the Minister as a conduit of communication between local governments collectively and the provincial Cabinet. The Minister typically joins the UBCM Executive for a portion of their meetings quarterly, and collaborates with them on bringing together local and provincial government leaders for the annual UBCM Convention.

The UBCM represents 196 municipalities, regional districts, First Nations and the Islands Trust, and is a key partner in the province's relationship building with local governments. The UBCM provides a common voice for local government elected officials. In addition to advocating policy positions of its members, the UBCM represents the local government perspective in consultations on changes to key provincial legislation and policies, and delivers grant programs and other services to local governments on behalf of the province.

As the host Minister for the UBCM Convention, the Minister of Municipal Affairs meets directly with over a quarter of the UBCM members local governments and First Nations in discussions on local matters. The ministry also manages over 250 meeting requests and scheduling for other ministries and agencies at UBCM Convention, assisting local governments with pathfinding to ensure they meet with the right agency to discuss the topics they wish to raise.

Meetings with individual local governments and with regional local leaders also occur throughout the year as interest and issues arise, with both the Minister and with senior executives and program staff. These meetings create a reciprocal opportunity to better understand the interests of UBCM members and to ensure policy and programs are meeting the needs of communities.

Performance Measure	2022/23 Forecast	2023/24 Target	2024/25 Target	2025/26 Target
1.2 Municipal Finance Authority's Credit Rating	AAA	AAA	AAA	AAA

Data source: [Municipal Finance Authority](#) Ratings provided by the Moody's, Standard & Poor's, and Fitch rating agencies

Discussion

A strong credit rating of the MFA results in more affordable borrowing for major projects and reflects the sustainability of the local government financial system which gives local governments the freedom to engage in capital projects that touch the lives of people in B.C. every day.

The impact of the strong MFA credit rating increases as interest rates rise, allowing infrastructure that is financed over a 30-year term to be significantly more affordable for local governments. This measure reflects both the effectiveness of provincial financial oversight and the design of the financing model that ensures regional and provincial-scale support to make payments in the unlikely event that an individual local government is unable to raise sufficient revenues to service its debt.

Goal 2: Communities and regions are resilient, with economies that work for British Columbians

Communities and regions in British Columbia are in the midst of cultural, social, environmental and economic shifts. Changing contexts for community and regional governance require both near-term adaptation and long-term thinking about a desirable future state.

Objective 2.1: Local governments are implementing strategies to improve community sustainability and affordability

Key Strategies:

- Continue to leverage ministry infrastructure funding programs to encourage local governments to innovate, and to prioritize projects that deliver environmental, economic and/or social benefits.
- Partner with other ministries and other levels of government to support opportunities for local governments that improve their social and economic development. This could include urban/rural economic development, First Nations' relationships, emergency preparedness, viable transit options and reducing homelessness, as well as addressing mental health and addictions, childcare and poverty reduction.
- In collaboration with the Union of British Columbia Municipalities and the Climate Action Secretariat, renew the work of the joint Provincial-UBCM Green Communities Committee to support local governments in achieving local and provincial climate objectives.
- Support and work with local governments to advance integrated and sustainable land use, infrastructure and transportation planning.
- In partnership with the federal government and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, continue to implement the Canada Community Building Fund that came into effect on April 1, 2014. Engage in effective negotiations to establish the next agreement to ensure continuity of the Fund from 2024 onward.
- Promote the effective development, adoption, and implementation of Regional Growth Strategies.

Discussion

Local governments can make significant impacts on community sustainability and affordability through sustainable land use decisions to create complete, compact and energy efficient communities and regions, with more diverse housing, greenspace and renewable energy and transportation. Investing in efficient and innovative infrastructure reduces borrowing and operating costs into the future, leaving more resources and flexibility to respond to emerging community needs.

Objective 2.2: Communities have the water and waste management infrastructure to thrive

Local and regional economies rely on homes and businesses having access to clean, safe drinking water and adequate waste management. This critical infrastructure provides a basis for affordable communities, public health and environmental protection, and is a priority for creating effective recovery conditions in the wake of natural disasters.

Key Strategies:

- Administer funding for local governments to help them achieve provincial water and waste management objectives (for example, the joint federal/provincial Environmental Quality Program helps communities to fund essential infrastructure).
- Monitor approved projects and advise on strategies to ensure project completion.
- Provide tools and resources to local governments to assist them in conserving and protecting water resources.
- Encourage local governments to use liquid and solid waste as a resource and maximize the recovery value.
- Promote the use of effective life-cycle cost approaches to support local government land use and infrastructure planning resulting in sustainable service delivery.

Discussion

Funding water and waste management projects supports communities with achieving senior-government initiated health or environmental standards. They assist in driving best practice in infrastructure management in line with provincial objectives, including efficient use of resources, environmental protection, and responsible infrastructure management practices for sustainable service delivery. These policies influence local government practice beyond those projects that are directly funded. Water and waste management are core community services that support all other services, businesses, and the public health of residents.

Objective 2.3: Communities impacted by extraordinary emergencies are resilient and their governance, financial, planning and infrastructure are supported to recover

Given the broad impacts of the pandemic and natural disasters such as extreme heat, wildfires, and floods on communities, this area of focus is on monitoring and supporting as communities work to re-establish services, adjust financial plans, and ensure good governance.

Key Strategies

- Monitor targeted funding, including with the federal government, to respond to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on communities and their operations.
- Work with local governments, UBCM and other partners to share information, monitor local government system impacts and respond to issues that arise.

- Provide guidance, advice and problem solving for communities, including initiating actions when required (e.g., Minister's orders; policy and legislative change), and collaborate with the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness in the development of modernized emergency management legislation.
- Ensure infrastructure projects approved through economic recovery funding meet reporting requirements and achieve completion.
- Support specific communities impacted by emergencies, to coordinate governance, infrastructure, operations, finances, and planning activities to bridge from response into recovery and beyond from events with severe environmental and economic impacts.

Discussion

The layering of widespread and regional or local emergencies leads to differing degrees of disruption and challenges for communities and their civic institutions. Developing resiliency and collaborating on recovery require partnership among multiple orders of government and across sectors to bring communities back from extraordinary emergencies.

The Ministry is continuing to consolidate the learning and experience of supporting local governments through the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent extraordinary emergencies into its ongoing program and policy work.

Performance Measures

Performance Measures	2022/23 Forecast	2023/24 Target	2024/25 Target	2025/26 Target
2.1a Funded water and wastewater projects reaching completion. ¹	7	29	28	31
2.1b Funded community, culture, or recreation projects reaching completion. ²	28	47	26	5
2.1c Funded energy efficiency projects reaching completion. ³	4	11	20	12
2.1d Funded community recovery infrastructure projects reaching completion. ⁴	41	82	1	0

Data source: Program applications and approvals.

¹ Water and wastewater infrastructure may be funded under the ICIP Green Infrastructure (Environmental Quality program) or Rural and Northern Communities streams.

² Community, culture and recreation infrastructure may be funded under the ICIP Community, Culture and Recreation, or Rural and Northern Communities streams.

³ Community infrastructure that reduces greenhouse gas emissions using clean or renewable energy or that improve energy efficiency may be funded under the ICIP Green Infrastructure (CleanBC Communities Fund) stream.

⁴ ICIP COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure stream projects must be substantially completed by December 31, 2023, or by December 31, 2024, for projects in designated remote communities. Project scope may include retrofits/repairs/upgrades to local government and Indigenous buildings, health or educational infrastructure, COVID-19 resilience infrastructure, active transportation, and disaster mitigation and adaptation infrastructure projects.

Discussion

The Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) cost-shares infrastructure investments between the governments of Canada and British Columbia, local governments and other partners over 10 years. Ministry of Municipal Affairs administers four of the five infrastructure funding streams: COVID-19 Resilience; Community, Culture and Recreation; Rural and Northern Communities; and Green Infrastructure (CleanBC Communities, Environmental Quality, and Adaptation, Resilience and Disaster Mitigation). Although application intakes have closed, construction of funded projects is expected to continue through 2027.

Projects typically take multiple years for planning, design and construction to be completed, with outcomes occurring after work has been completed. In the interim, the Ministry monitors funding and ensures accountability of projects through the review of regular progress reports, budget forecast reports and claims.

Performance Measure	2022/23 Forecast	2023/24 Target	2024/25 Target	2025/26 Target
2.2 Funded projects from local governments, indigenous communities, and non-profits funded under the Northern Healthy Communities Fund.	37	28	24	20

Data source: 1.3 Northern Development Initiative Trust (Deliver Agency) Program Tracking Documentation, Program Budget Allocation and LNG Canada/Coastal Gas Link Construction Schedule.

Discussion

The application-based \$25 million Northern Healthy Communities Fund (NHCF), administered by the Northern Development Initiative Trust, supports initiatives that assist communities to remain healthy, sustainable, and resilient in the face of rapid and large-scale economic development and associated need for enhanced social service readiness. Given the immediacy of the current economic development activities, the NHCF is focusing on communities adjacent to the LNG Canada and Coastal GasLink projects.

The Northern Healthy Communities Fund has recently funded an Indigenous Liaison Officer to work directly with Indigenous Communities that have previously not applied for or received funds from the program. The appointment of this position, as well as the implementation of a more formalized outreach program has resulted in an increase in the forecast number of projects.

Performance Measure	2022/23 Forecast	2023/24 Target	2024/25 Target	2025/26 Target
2.3 Funded Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program, Community Economic Resilience stream (CERIP-CER) projects that attain completion of community recovery-targeted infrastructure within program timeframe	20	10	N/A ¹	N/A ¹

Data source: Program applications and approvals

¹The Targets for 2024/25 and 2025/26 are N/A as this program was designed to respond to COVID-19 pandemic and only run from 2020/21, completed by March 31, 2024.

Discussion

While the overall number of CERIP projects remains consistent with the 2021/22-2023/24 Service Plan, targets were adjusted as project progress has been impacted by external factors (supply chain delays; labour issues; unexpected 3rd & 4th waves of pandemic; natural disasters) which have compromised proponents' ability to meet forecasted completion dates. Due to

these factors, the program committee sought to give extension to projects with rationale; this year's (23/24) performance metric wraps up projects. Projects are still operating within the established program parameters. Prior to completion, the Ministry monitors funding and ensures accountability of projects through the review of regular progress reports, budget forecast reports and claims.

The ICIP COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream (CVRIS) funding is focused on building infrastructure that will help British Columbians with the significant health and socio-economic challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic by responding to the specific needs of communities. Once approved projects are completed, the new infrastructure will provide community members with expanded or improved services, as well as increased public safety. This will be achieved by encouraging outdoor activities through improvements to active transportation networks and recreation sites, and by completing upgrades to local government buildings to increase the ability to provide services while socially distancing during the pandemic.

Following completion of CERIP projects, the performance measure will be replaced with another metric supporting Goal 2, that communities and regions are resilient, with economies that work for British Columbians.

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

Objective 3.1: International talent helps to address B.C.'s skills need and support sustainable economic development in communities across the province.

Key Strategies

- Align immigration policies and programs to provincial priorities and community needs.
- Work with the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills to identify how immigration can best meet the skills needs of B.C.'s economy.
- Use B.C.'s Provincial Nominee Program (BC PNP) to help build a sustainable economy that creates opportunities for everyone by supplementing the workforce in occupations that the domestic workforce cannot fully supply by itself.
- Use the BC PNP to select nominees who will encourage regional development by settling in communities outside of major urban centers.
- Through B.C.'s PNP Entrepreneur Immigration Regional Pilot, support regional communities to grow their economies and create jobs by attracting international entrepreneurs.
- Employ targeted initiatives to enhance attraction and retention of newcomers in communities throughout B.C.

Discussion

The BC PNP is the only tool available to the Province to directly select economic immigrants who will be coming to live and work in B.C. and create economic benefit.

The Province has prioritized applications from tech sector workers for the BC PNP since 2017. In 2022, this practice was expanded to support other sectors with skill shortages, such as workers in “care economy” (health care and early childhood education) occupations.

Historically, immigrants are attracted to major urban centres, but their skills and talents are needed across the province. Recent changes to the BC PNP enable the Province to focus more on meeting B.C.’s labour market needs in areas outside of the Metro Vancouver Regional District.

In addition, the BC PNP Entrepreneur Regional Pilot supports the attraction of foreign entrepreneurs proposing a new business in areas with less than 75,000 population. Communities from across the province are participating in this initiative, which will be in operation as a pilot program to March 2024.

Fully integrating newcomers into B.C.’s economy is essential for meeting the labour market needs over the coming decade. The Ministry supports the integration of newcomers through settlement programs that help immigrants contribute their full potential to the province (see Objective 3.2).

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

Key Strategies

- Distribute \$140 million in Community Gaming Grants to not-for-profit organizations throughout B.C. to support their delivery of ongoing programs and services that meet the needs of their communities.
- Help skilled newcomers achieve employment in their field through the Career Paths for Skilled Immigrants program.
- Support newcomers to integrate into communities and workplaces through the BC Settlement and Integration Services program.

Discussion

The Community Gaming Grants branch monitors its progress in distributing grant funds requested by not-for-profit organizations that have demonstrated community support over the course of the fiscal year so that all eligible applicants may benefit wherever they are located in the province. Past grant expenditures are reviewed for compliance with the terms and conditions as well as the intended use under which it was supplied.

Newcomers can face barriers when they first arrive in BC, ranging from labour market entry to connecting with their local communities. Services provided by the BC Settlement and

Integration Services program support newcomers across the province to overcome these hurdles, with a particular focus on the most vulnerable newcomers such as refugee claimants and temporary workers. The Career Paths for Skilled Immigrants program seeks to address the issue of underemployment for skilled immigrants, ensuring that their pre-arrival skills and experience are utilized and key labour market occupations are targeted.

Performance Measures

Performance Measure	2021/22 Baseline	2022/23 Forecast	2023/24 Target	2024/25 Target	2025/26 Target
3.1 Percentage of BC Provincial Nominee Program nominees living and working in regional communities outside Metro Vancouver	24%	24%	26%	28%	30%

Data source: Internal Ministry of Municipal Affairs tracking

Discussion

The Province is planning for a long-term increase in the proportion of immigrants who live and work outside of Metro Vancouver.

An increase in the overall number of BC PNP nominations is anticipated over the next few years. Therefore, the absolute number of regional immigrants will increase even if the percentage share does not. For example, in the 2021-22 Fiscal Year, 1556 out of 6506 nominations made up the 24% regional share. In the 2022-23 Fiscal Year, the total number of nominations is expected to be approximately 6800, so a 24% regional share will amount to about 1632 nominations.

Performance Measure	2022/23 Forecast	2023/24 Target	2024/25 Target	2025/26 Target
3.2 Percentage of Career Paths Clients employed in their field upon program completion	70%	70%	70%	70%

Data source: Internal Ministry of Municipal Affairs tracking

Discussion

The impacts of COVID-19 on the immigration system began to stabilize in 2022, along with strong labour market growth but increased cost of living in BC. This impacted enrollment in the Career Paths for Skilled Immigrant program as some clients focused on immediate higher wage employment opportunities rather pursuing sometimes lengthy recertification processes. New, five-year contracts were put in place for the program in April 2022 and it is anticipated that this long-term stability will allow service providers delivering the program to

build strong expertise to support clients. Through the changing landscape, the program continues to show strong client outcomes as outlined in the performance metric.

Financial Summary

Core Business Area	2022/23 Restated Estimates ¹	203/24 Estimates	2024/25 Plan	2025/26 Plan
Operating Expenses (\$000)				
Local Government ²	218,302	220,673	219,058	219,058
Immigration Services and Strategic Planning ³	17,780	25,717	38,706	40,065
Executive and Support Services	8,066	9,321	9,535	9,535
University Endowment Lands Administration Account	12,269	13,565	14,579	14,579
Total	256,417	269,276	281,878	283,237
Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000)				
Executive and Support Services	69	2	2	2
University Endowment Lands Administration Account	2,285	833	0	0
Total	2,354	835	2	2

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

² Local Government includes University Endowment Lands (UEL)

³ Immigration Services and Strategic Planning includes Strategic Planning, Immigration programs, Provincial Nominee Program and Community Gaming Grants

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

Appendix A: Public Sector Organizations

As of February 10, 2023 the Minister of Municipal Affairs is responsible and accountable for the following organizations:

Islands Trust Conservancy

The Islands Trust is a federated body established in 1974 under the *Islands Trust Act*. The Trust is responsible for planning and regulating land use and protecting special places throughout the Islands Trust Area. The Islands Trust Conservancy Board consists of three Islands Trust trustees and up to three members of the public appointed by the Minister of Municipal Affairs.

Board of Examiners

The principal goal of the provincial Board of Examiners is to improve the professional skills of local government employees throughout British Columbia. The Board is responsible for awarding scholarships and certificates to local government employees who meet the standards of qualification in local government administration. The Board is appointed by the Lieutenant Governor on the recommendation of the Minister, based on the nomination of one member by each of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, the Local Government Management Association and the Minister of Municipal Affairs.