

**Ministry of Municipal Affairs
Estimates Debate Table of Contents 2023/24**

2023/24 ESTIMATES HIGHLIGHTS	
Budget Q & A	1
Estimates Summary	2
Mandate Letter – Honourable Anne Kang	3
Mandate Letter – Honourable Nathan Cullen	4
Mandate Commitments Tracker	5
Ministry Response to Reconciliation	6
IMMIGRATION SERVICES & STRATEGIC PLANNING DIVISION (ISSPD)	
Community Gaming Grants	
Community Gaming Grants – Regular	7
Community Gaming Grants – Capital Projects Sector	8
<i>Intentionally Blank</i>	9
Immigration Policy & Integration	
BC Settlement Services	10
Labour Shortage and Immigration	11
Ukraine	12
<i>Intentionally Blank</i>	13
BC Provincial Nominee Program	
BC Provincial Nominee Program Entrepreneur	14
BC Provincial Nominee Program Skills Immigration	15
Addressing Fraud in Immigration	16
<i>Intentionally Blank</i>	17
LOCAL GOVERNMENT DIVISION (LGD)	
Lytton Response and Recovery	18
Local Governments Emergency Response	19
Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program	20
Ombudsperson Report – Tax Sales and Vulnerable Persons	21
Provincial Highway Interchanges and Development Cost Charges (DCC)	22
Local Government Finance System Review	23
Local Government Engagement	24
Responsible Conduct of Local Elected Officials	25
Local Government-Indigenous Relations	26
Restructure Studies	27
Local Government Boundary Changes	28
UEL Services, Structure and Governance Study	29
Victoria and Saanich Study Process (Amalgamation)	30

**Ministry of Municipal Affairs
Estimates Debate Table of Contents 2023/24**

Islands Trust	31
Local Governments and Climate Action	32
LNG Canada & Coastal GasLink Socio-Economic Management Plans	33
Northern Healthy Communities Fund	34
Metro Vancouver Regional Growth and Transportation Strategies - Joint with MOTI	35
Public Library Funding	36
Community Literacy Funding	37
<i>Intentionally Blank</i>	38
MANAGEMENT SERVICES DIVISION (MSD) – Budget Binder	
Estimates	
Decrease to budget	39
Budget and Forecast over the Next Three Years	40
Summary – Increases to FTEs	41
2023/24 Estimates (Blue Book)	42
Supplement to the Estimates	43
Service Plan	
2023/24 to 2025/26 Service Plan	44
<i>Intentionally Blank</i>	45

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.

.../2

**Office of the
Premier**

Web Site:
www.gov.bc.ca

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

Location:
Parliament Buildings
Victoria

- **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.

- 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.

.../5

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". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke 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.

.../2

**Office of the
Premier**

Web Site:
www.gov.bc.ca

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

Location:
Parliament Buildings
Victoria

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

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

.../3

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

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

- 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.

.../4

- 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 black ink, reading "John J. Horgan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John Horgan
Premier



Mandate Commitment Tracker

Minister Anne Kang - Mandate Letter Commitments 2023	Division Lead	Contact	Completed or Underway	Status Description
<p>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.</p>	<p>Local Government Division</p>	<p>Brian Bedford 778-698-3232</p>	<p>Underway</p>	<p>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</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>2. Explore options to support fast growing municipalities with funding for infrastructure and community amenities.</p>	<p>Local Government Division</p>	<p>Brian Bedford 778-698-3232</p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>3. Continue providing strong supports for newcomers to British Columbia with</p>	<p>Immigration Services and Strategic</p>	<p>Deb Zehr 778-572-5685</p>	<p>Underway</p>	<p>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</p>

Municipal Affairs Mandate Letter Commitments - Tracker

Minister Anne Kang - Mandate Letter Commitments 2023	Division Lead	Contact	Completed or Underway	Status Description
<p>WelcomeBC programs, including the Provincial Nominee Program and settlement services.</p>	<p>Planning Division</p>	<p>Carling Helander Government Financial Information</p>		<p>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</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Local Government Division</p>	<p>Tara Faganello 250-356-6575</p>	<p>Underway/Pending</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Local Government Division</p>	<p>Brian Bedford 778-698-3232</p>	<p>Underway</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>The Working Group meets monthly and provides progress updates quarterly to the UBCM Presidents Committee and the Ministers of Finance and Municipal</p>

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
<p>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.</p>	Local Government Division	<p>Kara Woodward 778 698-3465</p>	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.
<p>9. Support the work of the Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness to co-develop and introduce modernized emergency management legislation.</p>	Local Government Division	<p>Kara Woodward 778 698-3465</p>		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.
<p>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.</p>	Immigration Services and Strategic Planning Division	<p>Chris Jensen 778 698-3316</p>	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
<p>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.</p>	<p>Immigration Services and Strategic Planning Division</p>	<p>Carling Helander Government Financial Information</p>	<p>Underway</p>	<p>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.</p>

Municipal Affairs Mandate Letter Commitments - Tracker

Minister Nathan Cullen - Mandate Letter Commitments 2022	Division Lead	Contact	Completed or Underway	Status Description (100 words max)
<p>1. Work with UBCM and local government elected leaders to support their communities through the COVID-19 pandemic response and recovery.</p>	<p>Local Government Division</p>		<p>Completed</p>	<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>
<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.</p>	<p>Local Government Division</p>		<p>Underway</p>	<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>
<p>3. Work with cabinet colleagues to redouble our government's efforts to streamline</p>	<p>Immigration Services and</p>	<p>PSFS</p>	<p>Underway</p>	<p>Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences</p>

Municipal Affairs Mandate Letter Commitments - Tracker

Minister Nathan Cullen - Mandate Letter Commitments 2022	Division Lead	Contact	Completed or Underway	Status Description <small>(100 words max)</small>
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)
<p>Strategy (ITDS) to ensure greater alignment between transportation and land-use planning.</p>				<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>
<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.</p>	<p>Local Government Division</p>	<p>Kara Woodward 778 698-3465</p>	<p>Complete</p>	<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>
<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.</p>	<p>Local Government Division</p>		<p>Underway</p>	<p>Transferred to Ministry of Housing – December 2022</p>

Municipal Affairs Mandate Letter Commitments - Tracker

Minister Nathan Cullen - Mandate Letter Commitments 2022	Division Lead	Contact	Completed or Underway	Status Description (100 words max)
<p>9. Support the work of the Minister of Finance to establish Property Assessed Clean Energy financing.</p>	<p>Local Government Division</p>	<p>Kara Woodward 778 698-3465</p>	<p>Underway – on hold</p>	<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.**

Honourable Anne Kang

March 2023

- 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 establish 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:

Honourable Anne Kang

March 2023

- 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**.

Honourable Anne Kang

March 2023

- 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.

